

council

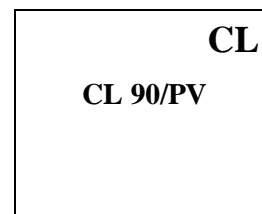
FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

conseil

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

consejo

ORGANIZACION DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS PARA LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION



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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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(17 November 1985)

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council

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

conseil

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

consejo

ORGANIZACION DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS PARA LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION

CL

CL 90/PV/1

Ninetieth Session

Quatre-vingt-dixième session

90º período de sesiones

FIRST PLENARY MEETING
PREMIERE SEANCE PLENIERE
PRIMERA SESION PLENARIA

(17 November 1986)

The First Plenary Meeting was opened at 10. 15 hours

Lassaad Ben Osman, Independent Chairman of the Council, presiding

La première séance plénière est ouverte à 10 h 15 sous la présidence
de Lassaad Ben Osman, Président indépendant du Conseil

Se abre la primera Sesión Plenaria a las 10. 15 horas bajo la presidencia
de Lassaad Ben Osman, Presidente Independiente del Consejo

LE PRESIDENT: Honorables délégués, Mesdames, Messieurs, il me revient l'honneur et le plaisir de vous souhaiter la bienvenue et de déclarer ouverte la quatre-vingt-dixième session du Conseil de la FAO. Le Conseil n'accueille aucun nouveau membre à cette session. Huit membres quitteront notre Conseil à la fin de l'année. Il s'agit des pays suivants: Autriche, Bulgarie, Congo, Ouganda, Sao Tomé-et-Principe, Tchécoslovaquie, Tunisie, République démocratique populaire du Yémen.

I. INTRODUCTION-PROCEDURE OF THE SESSION

I. INTRODUCTION-QUESTIONS DE PROCEDURE

I. INTRODUCCION-CUESTIONES DE PROCEDIMIENTO

1. Adoption of the Agenda and Timetable

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

1. Aprobación del programa y del calendario

Nous passons au point No 1 de notre agenda, à savoir l'ordre du jour et le calendrier. L'adoption de l'ordre du jour est traitée dans le document CL 90/1. Je voudrais attirer à cet égard l'attention du Conseil sur le fait que le point 12.1 est maintenant divisé en deux points: 12.1 a) et 12.1 b). Comme cela apparaît d'ailleurs dans le calendrier. Le point 12.1 a) s'intitule: "Perspectives budgétaires et situation de trésorerie: incidences possibles sur le programme de travail et budget 1986-87". Le point 12.1 b) s'intitule: "Les incertitudes budgétaires et financières: approches possibles". Avec cette précision, est-ce que le Conseil approuve l'ordre du jour? Le délégué du Royaume-Uni demande la parole.

Ronald F. R. DEARE (United Kingdom): I would like to say a word or two about the provisional timetable if I may and in particular the proposal to move Item 12 to tomorrow afternoon. My delegation understands the desire of the Council to tackle the very urgent problem that faces us under Item 12. 1 as soon as possible, and we are no less anxious than others to embark on this task but we do believe that there would be much merit in postponing this item until the second week of our deliberations and I say this for two very specific reasons. The first is that it seems to my delegation not logical to move into this major debate without first having an opportunity to examine at least one other very relevant item on our agenda and I refer to Item 12. 2, the Report of the Finance Committee and the Audited Accounts of the Organization which contain very important information which we believe to be relevant to consideration of the Organization's current financial position. So we believe that that debate should precede the debate on Item 12. 1.

Secondly, I-am given to understand that our colleagues from the United States may well be, and very much hope to be, in a position next week to be rather more specific about the financial contribution that they will be able to make to the Organization in the current year and if I may say so, having the debate this week is a bit like Hamlet without the Prince of Denmark. So we would very much urge that the Council give consideration to this revision of the timetable.

LE DIRECTEUR GENERAL: Je n'ai pas très bien compris l'intervention du délégué du Royaume-Uni. S'agit-il de discuter d'abord le point 11 de l'ordre du jour et le point 12. 1 a) la semaine prochaine?

Ronald F. R. DEARE (United Kingdom): What I have in mind is that before we discuss Item 12. 1 we should discuss Item 11 which, according to my agenda, are the Reports of the Finance Committee and Item 12. 2 the Audited Accounts, before we discuss Item 12. 1 and my second comment related to the possibility, or the more than a possibility, I hope, that we may have better information in our second week of deliberation about the United States position. I hope that is clear, Mr Chairman.

LE DIRECTEUR GENERAL: Je vais demander à mon collègue de clarifier la question. Je pense qu'il appartient aux Etats-Unis de nous dire s'ils sont prêts à annoncer leur position la semaine prochaine. De toute façon il convient de dire que le point 12. 1 est le plus important. Je voudrais demander instamment qu'il soit discuté la première semaine. Ce pourrait être mardi, mercredi ou jeudi; cela donnerait le temps aux Etats-Unis, à d'autres pays et aux plus grands contributeurs de parler avec leurs capitales. Il faut leur donner le temps de consulter leurs autorités pour des décisions financières et budgétaires importantes et leur permettre de continuer la discussion la semaine prochaine, après avoir pu communiquer par télex avec leurs capitales. Il y a peut-être malentendu. Nous pouvons discuter du rapport (et ceci est prévu) des deux sessions du Comité financier avant de commencer le point 12. 1 a). Ceci ne nous empêchera pas de discuter la première semaine, afin de profiter du privilège d'entendre les ministres présents, et je pense que la

question est importante; je voudrais qu'elle soit discutée dès la première semaine afin d'avoir le temps de se concerter et d'obtenir un consensus. M. Shah pourra répondre, si vous êtes d'accord, afin de vous donner plus de précisions.

V. J. SHAH (Director, Office of Programme, Budget and Evaluation): Item 12 is intended to begin with the reports of the last two sessions of the Finance Committee, the sessions which were held in May and September of this year, and the two documents which are referred to are CL 90/4 with its corrigendum and CL 90/17. Those two reports would begin the consideration of item 12 with the Chairman of the Finance Committee reporting to the Council on those matters which require Council decision, discussion or merely to be noted for information. It is only following that that it was intended that item 12. 1 (a) would be taken up with the documents CL 90/23 and its two supplements dealing with the issues relating to the Programme of Work and Budget for this biennium and following that with the alternative approaches dealing with uncertainties in the longer term. So I think, as has been clarified by the Director-General, the wishes of the delegate of the United Kingdom are met by the reports of the Finance Committee being considered before we move on to the other documents.

LE PRESIDENT: Si j'ai bien compris le Secrétariat, on commence par lire les rapports des comités financiers qui éclaireront le Conseil sur la situation financière de l'Organisation, à la suite de quoi nous ouvrirons un débat général cette semaine (qui ne videra pas la question) et nous reprendrons au cours de la seconde semaine, au vu des premières discussions, la question, pour essayer de l'étudier aussi bien que possible. Est-ce que cette proposition est acceptée par le Conseil? Y a-t-il d'autres observations sur l'ordre du jour et le calendrier? Nous discutons les deux en même temps.

Mrs Millicent M. FENWICK (United States of America): The United States is not able to tell this Council what the economic contribution will be, not because we have a secret but because we do not know, since it depends on the actions of the Congress. That is a very difficult position, very difficult for us and for everybody in this room, not to know what will be the base of the financial picture. We hope to receive direct and clear firm figures during the course of the next week or so and that is about the best we can say.

As to in what order these are taken up, whatever the Council feels will be appropriate. We certainly . hope that by some time next week we will have a firm figure, if it is felt that that firm figure is needed for further debate.

LE PRESIDENT: Donc, nous commencerons, si vous êtes d'accord, par une discussion générale sur le Comité financier au cours de la seconde semaine et au vu des éléments complémentaires que vous nous aurez fait parvenir. Cela nous permettra d'améliorer ou de confirmer ce qui a été fait la première semaine.

It was so decided

Il en est ainsi décidé

Así se acuerda

Nous passons alors au calendrier provisoire. C'est un point que je voudrais signaler. Ce calendrier signale le point 7.2 "Election de cinq membres du Comité des politiques et programmes d'aide alimentaire: pour décision". Ce point 7.2 sera examiné le mardi 25 novembre au cours de l'après-midi. Pour que les bulletins de vote puissent être préparés en temps utile, il serait souhaitable que le Conseil puisse fixer une date limite pour la remise au Secrétariat général du Conseil, des formulaires de candidatures, fournis en annexe du document CL 90/11. Si l'élection a lieu mardi après-midi, le-Conseil accepterait comme date limite de candidatures le vendredi 21 novembre à midi. A ce moment-là la liste pourrait être donnée dans le programme de séances lundi 24 novembre à la veille des élections. Y a-t-il d'autres propositions? Donc, nous pouvons retenir la date limite de présentation des candidatures pour le Comité des politiques et programmes d'aide alimentaire comme étant le vendredi à midi. Maintenant, nous souhaitons passer au problème des horaires. Il est proposé que les horaires du Conseil soient de 9 h 30 à 12 h 30 et de 14 h 30 à 17 h 30. Cette proposition soulève-t-elle des objections?

It was so decided

Il est ainsi décidé

Así se acuerda

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

Le point 2 prévoit l'élection de trois vice-présidents, la nomination d'un président et des membres d'un comité de rédaction. Nous allons commencer par l'élection des vice-présidents. Nous commençons par l'Italie.

Elio PASCARELLI (Italy): I would like to propose for one of the posts of Vice-Chairman the name of the Honourable Tan Sri Dato' Alwi Jantan, Secretary-General of the Ministry of Agriculture of Malaysia. I am sure his experience and his attendance at the meetings of the Council will highly benefit the operations. Therefore in the name of my delegation I propose Mr. Alwi Jantan.

Leopoldo ARIZA HIDALGO (Cuba): Queremos unirnos a la proposición que ha hecho la distinguida representación de Italia para la Vicepresidencia de su excelencia Alwi Jantan, Secretario General del Ministerio de Agricultura de Malasia; su experiencia en los asuntos agrícolas de su país puede ayudar mucho a este Consejo; por lo tanto, queremos apoyar esa proposición.

LE PRESIDENT: Nous considérons que la Malaisie est élue au poste de Vice-Président de notre Conseil pour la session actuelle.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

Pour le second poste de Vice-Président y a-t-il des propositions?

Jacques POSIER (France): La délégation française a l'honneur de présenter pour le second poste de Vice-Président la candidature de M. Terael Iskit, chef de la délégation turque. Nous connaissons maintenant tous fort bien M. Temel Iskit; et nous savons quelle grande activité il a déployée et quelle est sa connaissance profonde du fonctionnement de notre organisation. Nous avons pu remarquer en particulier l'efficacité avec laquelle il a préparé et organisé la Conférence régionale de la FAO à Istanbul.

Pour toutes ces raisons, la délégation française souhaite appuyer profondément la candidature de M. Temel Iskit.

Atif Y. BUKHARI (Saudi Arabia, Kingdom of) (Original language Arabic): I would like to support the proposal for the candidature of Mr. Iskit as second Vice-Chairman. His contribution will be of the highest importance especially since he represents two regions in this Council. We are very proud to have him representing us, the Near East regional group, and we would like to stress his wide experience in all the fields of interest to the FAO.

LE PRESIDENT: Nous sommes saisis de la candidature de M. Temel Iskit, délégué de la Turquie, pour le second poste de Vice-Président de notre Conseil; nous pouvons le considérer comme élu, et nous lui adressons tous nos compliments.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

Pour ce qui concerne le troisième poste de Vice-Président, des contacts sont en cours actuellement parmi les délégations; nous allons les laisser continuer à travailler et je vous propose de reporter l'élection de ce troisième poste à cet après-midi, afin de laisser les délégations continuer leur travail. Si vous n'avez pas d'objection je vous propose de passer maintenant à l'élection du Président du Comité de rédaction.

Gonzalo BULA HOYOS (Colombia): La delegación de Colombia se complace en presentar como candidato para Presidente del Comité de Redacción al distinguido colega y amigo José Ramón López-Portillo-, representante de México ante la FAO. El colega López-Portillo es bien conocido por su inteligencia, dinamismo y consagración en el cumplimiento de sus actividades. Por ello, la delegación de Colombia está segura de que bajo la presidencia del colega López-Portillo el Comité de Redacción cumplirá la importante labor que le corresponde.

Horacio CARANDANG (Filipinas): La delegación de Filipinas tiene el honor de apoyar la candidatura del representante de México, José Ramón López-Portillo, para la presidencia del Comité de Redacción. Todos los miembros del Consejo conocen la capacidad y experiencia del representante de México. Estoy seguro que él será un buen presidente, ya que tendremos una sesión muy difícil. La tarea del Comité de Redacción tiene una importancia vital para poder cumplir su función.

Joseph TCHICAYA (Congo): La délégation congolaise, par ma voix, souhaite appuyer la candidature présentée par l'Ambassadeur de Colombie, à savoir que le représentant du Mexique auprès de la FAO, M. Lopez-Portillo, soit désigné au poste de Président de notre Comité de rédaction.

Tout a été dit sur M. Lopez Portillo, et je pense que tout le Conseil peut lui faire confiance pour conduire les travaux du Comité de rédaction.

LE PRESIDENT: Je pense que notre Conseil est unanime pour souhaiter la bienvenue à M. Lopez-Portillo au poste très important de Président du Comité de rédaction. Tous nos vœux l'accompagnent ainsi que nos remerciements.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

En ce qui concerne les membres du Comité de rédaction, je propose de reporter leur élection à cet après-midi, tout en soulignant que nous souhaiterions que toutes les régions et toutes les langues de la FAO y soient représentées, afin que nous puissions avoir un Comité aussi représentatif que possible, je voudrais maintenant passer au point 16.5.

V. CONSTITUTIONAL AND LEGAL MATTERS

V. QUESTIONS CONSTITUTIONNELLES ET JURIDIQUES

V. ASUNTOS CONSTITUCIONALES Y JURIDICOS

16. Other Constitutional and Legal Matters, including:

16. Autres questions constitutionnelles et juridiques, notamment:

16. Otros asuntos constitucionales y jurídicos, en particular:

16.5 Invitations to Non-Member Nations to attend FAO Sessions

16.5 Invitations à participer à des réunions de la FAO adressées à des Etats non members

16.5 Invitaciones a Estados no miembros para las reuniones de la FAO

Ce point de l'ordre du jour est inscrit à notre programme de ce matin, car il comprend pour décision une demande de l'Union soviétique tendant à assister à la présente session du Conseil en qualité d'observateur. Les paragraphes 1 à 3 du document CL 90/INF/8 donnent toute précision à ce sujet. Sauf objection de la part d'un membre du Conseil, nous pourrions considérer affirmativement cette participation.

Gonzalo BULA HOYOS (Colombia): La delegación de Colombia desea apoyar la solicitud que se ha hecho y señalar el hecho de que ojalá éste sea el primer paso para que ese importante país entre a ser miembro de la Organización y se consolide así el carácter universal de la FAO.

LE PRESIDENT: Nous pourrions considérer la participation de l'Union soviétique à cette session comme autorisée par ce Conseil. Je vous remercie.

It was so decided

Il est ainsi décidé

Así se acuerda

Il y a d'autres demandes inscrites aux paragraphes 4 et 5 du même document CL 90/INF/8 également pour décision. S'il n'y a pas d'objection, nous pourrions également considérer que le Directeur général est autorisé à inviter les non-membres cités aux réunions indiquées dans ce document.

It was so decided

Il est ainsi décidé

Asi se acuerda

I. INTRODUCTION-PROCEDURE OF THE SESSION (continued)

I. INTRODUCTION-QUESTIONS DE PROCEDURE (suite)

I. INTRODUCCION-CUESTIONES DE PROCEDIMIENTO (continuación)

3. Statement by the Director-general

3. Déclaration du Directeur general

3. Declaración del Director General

LE DIRECTEUR GENERAL: Monsieur le Président, Mesdames, Messieurs les délégués, Mesdames et Messieurs, chacune des sessions du Conseil marque un moment essentiel. dans la vie de la FAO, car elle nous offre l'occasion de mesurer le chemin parcouru et de tracer la route à suivre. De plus, lorsque l'Organisation doit affronter des problèmes importants et opérer des choix difficiles, cette interrogation périodique prend un relief exceptionnel. Ce sera très certainement le cas pour la 90ème session qui s'ouvre aujourd'hui. J'ai un très grand plaisir à vous y accueillir et vous y souhaite la bienvenue. Je salue, en particulier, Leurs Excellences les Ministres de l'agriculture qui ont fait à cette session l'honneur exceptionnel de leur présence.

Je suis également heureux de saluer deux érainents collègues: M. James Ingram, Directeur exécutif du Programme alimentaire mondial, qui est certainement bien connu de vous et n'a pas besoin de présentation, et M. Gerald Trant, Directeur exécutif du Conseil mondial de l'alimentation, qui a pris ses fonctions récemment et assiste pour la première fois à une session de notre Conseil. Je me félicite de leur présence et leur souhaite cordialement la bienvenue.

Oui, pour de nombreuses raisons, il est aujourd'hui indispensable de s'assurer de la route à suivre; plus encore que d'habitude, vos conseils, vos décisions seront déterminants pour l'avenir de la FAO. En effet, nous devons faire face à des contraintes financières sans précédent, et vous aurez à vous prononcer sur des mesures difficiles mais inévitables. Par la force des choses, cette question sera au centre de vos travaux. Les autres points de l'ordre du jour sont également importants, et je souhaite que vous puissiez leur consacrer aussi toute votre attention.

Si nous essayons de distinguer l'arrière-plan de la situation difficile que nous connaissons aujourd'hui, que trouvons-nous? Essentiellement, un malaise généralisé de l'économie mondiale, légèrement nuancé par une transition encore incertaine pour sortir de la crise.

Il y a certes un léger mieux: l'inflation a régressé dans la plupart des pays industrialisés, les taux d'intérêt sont nettement plus raisonnables, les investissements semblent reprendre. Mais ces améliorations restent encore bien insuffisantes pour transformer le panorama économique. La croissance des pays industrialisés est demeurée décevante, le chômage persiste, et les déficits budgétaires de nombreux pays sont alarmants.

Cette contraction de l'économie n'a pas manqué de se répercuter sur le commerce international: la lutte pour les marchés s'est exaspérée; le protectionnisme, déjà largement pratiqué, représente une tentation grandissante. Comme il fallait s'y attendre, les pays du tiers monde sont touchés de plein fouet: la part de leurs exportations dans les achats des pays industrialisés, qui était déjà faible, tend à diminuer tandis que les prix et les termes de l'échange leur deviennent encore plus défavorables.

A cela s'ajoutent d'énormes difficultés financières. L'endettement prend des proportions gigantesques; il n'épargne pas non plus certains des pays les plus riches. Dans les pays du tiers monde, il est devenu proprement insupportable: le service de la dette absorbe près du quart de leurs exportations. Cette pression s'accroît alors que leurs possibilités de financement se réduisent d'une manière inquiétante: les banques commerciales se retirent de plus en plus; les prêts à des conditions de faveur, comme ceux de l'AID ou du FIDA, sont devenus très problématiques car les refinancements se font attendre; enfin, l'aide au développement stagne, quand elle ne diminue pas. Voilà même que, dans de nombreux pays en développement, les flux financiers s'inversent et que les sorties de capitaux tendent à dépasser les apports.

Avec l'aide des institutions financières internationales, des plans de redressement sont mis en oeuvre dans les pays les plus endettés: les dépenses des Etats sont réduites, les monnaies dévaluées, les salaires bloqués. Mais, sans une forte reprise de la croissance, ce ne sont là que des palliatifs. Or, quelles perspectives de croissance peut-on envisager quand les importations sont freinées, faute de devises? Quand les investissements stagnent, faute de financement? Quand les perspectives d'exportation du tiers monde sont mal rémunérées, en butte au protectionnisme et sans débouchés sûrs?

Oui, c'est bien là le tableau d'un malaise grave, et je vois mal comment la situation pourrait s'améliorer sans un assainissement profond de l'environnement économique international. A cet égard, il n'y a qu'une seule note d'espoir- et encore bien ténue: ce sont les négociations du GATT. Pour la première fois, les parties contractantes ont accepté d'examiner certains problèmes de fond sur les matières premières et, en particulier, de discuter des restrictions et des distorsions qui affectent les produits agricoles. Je m'en réjouis, et j'ai d'ores et déjà engagé la FAO à apporter toute l'aide possible, sous forme d'informations et de statistiques, pour que ces discussions puissent progresser.

La situation de l'agriculture dans le monde est fortement marquée par ce difficile contexte. Vous aurez à l'examiner avec attention, car il s'agit là d'un des points importants de votre ordre du jour; je ne m'y attarderai donc pas.

Un mot pourtant sur la situation alimentaire en 1986. Elle est globalement satisfaisante, bien que les récoltes soient un peu moins abondantes qu'en 1985. Le principal problème reste celui des excédents de céréales que les marchés mondiaux ne parviennent pas à absorber. Cette année, ce problème se pose aussi pour de nombreux pays du tiers monde, accablés par des invendus qui dépriment leur marché intérieur et qui ne trouvent aucun débouché à l'exportation: est-ce là une juste récompense de leurs efforts de production? N'y a-t-il pas là une anomalie quand certains de leurs voisins sont fortement déficitaires?

Voilà un paradoxe qu'il nous faut méditer, mais ce n'est pas le seul. En effet, le monde est encombré d'excédents alimentaires alors que la malnutrition reste encore très largement répandue. Les populations malnourries sont trop pauvres pour constituer un marché; cela montre bien, s'il en était besoin, que la sécurité alimentaire n'est pas seulement un problème de production mais aussi un problème de revenus. Pour mieux nourrir le monde, c'est le combat contre la pauvreté qu'il faut gagner.

Cette situation de l'économie mondiale ne pouvait manquer d'affecter les organisations internationales. Quand les déficits budgétaires deviennent insupportables, il faut répondre par l'austérité, par la compression des dépenses; et je comprends bien que les hommes politiques qui doivent accomplir cette tâche ingrate et la justifier devant leur opinion publique s'en prennent d'abord aux dépenses périphériques, celles qui concernent le moins la vie immédiate de leurs électeurs.

Parmi ces dépenses, il n'est que trop tentant d'inclure l'aide au développement ainsi que les contributions aux organisations internationales qui s'en occupent. Ces coupes sont plus facilement acceptées, car les opinions publiques, si promptes pourtant à manifester leur solidarité lors d'une famine ou d'un tremblement de terre, n'ont malheureusement pas une très haute idée du travail accompli par les organismes d'aide au développement. N'ont-elles pas, de ces organisations, l'image excessive d'une lourde bureaucratie? Celle d'une aide gaspillée? Ou encore celle d'experts au train de vie mirifique? Et n'est-il pas trop fréquent que des hommes politiques soient les premiers à propager ces images pour bien montrer leur détermination en matière budgétaire?

Oui tout cela peut se comprendre: les politiques intérieures ont leurs exigences. Mais permettez-moi de le déplorer profondément: il y a là de profonds malentendus et surtout, je le crois, une information très insuffisante. Pour ma part, je suis fier d'être à la tête de notre Organisation, et je souhaiterais que soit mieux partagée l'admiration que j'éprouve envers ceux qui travaillent pour elle avec acharnement et modestie, afin de vaincre un jour la pauvreté dans les campagnes et la faim dans le monde. Oui, je voudrais que tout cela soit mieux connu, comme je voudrais que l'aide au développement, la solidarité avec le tiers monde deviennent des thèmes de mobilisation politique, et non plus des raisons de repli sur soi-même.

Quant à ces remarques acerbes sur les bureaucraties, croyez bien que je suis le premier à les partager, et j'aimerais que l'on connaisse mieux les efforts qui ont été faits à la FAO pour en combattre les nuisances. Par exemple, dois-je rappeler que les dépenses de personnel, qui représentaient 77 pour cent du budget en 1975, n'en représentent plus maintenant que 55 pour cent? De même, les coûts administratifs ne sont-ils pas tombés, au cours de la même période, de 24 pour cent à 16 pour cent du budget de la FAO? Il va sans dire que cette gestion a permis de consacrer aux programmes de terrain une part croissante des ressources: pouvait-on mieux répondre aux besoins des Etats Membres?

Je souhaite ardemment que l'opinion publique comprenne mieux le rôle de la FAO et des autres organisations internationales d'aide au développement. Je veux espérer que cette compréhension grandira et qu'elle portera ses fruits. Mais, dans l'immédiat, ce sont les faits qui commandent: les difficultés financières sont là, et il nous faut les affronter avec réalisme et lucidité. Permettez-moi de vous en brosser un tableau sommaire avant que vous n'en débattiez en profondeur.

Comme vous le savez, la situation financière est déterminée, pour l'essentiel, par le montant et le calendrier de versement des contributions des Etats Membres. Lorsque votre Comité financier a examiné cette situation en septembre dernier, celle-ci est apparue très préoccupante: il était devenu évident que les retards de paiement, malheureusement habituels, seraient fortement aggravés par un retard et une réduction de la plus importante des contributions. A cela s'ajoutait une diminution des autres revenus, en raison surtout de la baisse des taux d'intérêt. Au total, on prévoyait un manque à recevoir de 58 millions de dollars, soit environ 13 pour cent du budget de l'exercice. On ne s'attendait cependant pas à des problèmes de liquidités. De plus, on estimait qu'il serait possible de faire face aux conséquences de la chute du dollar, les ressources du Fonds de réserve étant tout juste suffisantes pour tenir jusqu'en novembre-décembre 1987.

Pour affronter cette réduction imprévue des ressources, le Comité m'a demandé de prendre des mesures appropriées. En même temps, constatant que les arriérés seraient, à la fin de l'exercice, de l'ordre de 65 millions de dollars, le Comité a fait appel à tous les Etats Membres pour qu'ils honorent leurs engagements envers l'Organisation.

Entre-temps, cette situation déjà inquiétante s'est aggravée avec le vote, dans le principal pays contributeur, de la loi qui fixe les contributions à la FAO et aux autres organisations internationales. Les informations à ce sujet ne cessent d'ailleurs de se modifier et les estimations que je vous donne aujourd'hui diffèrent déjà dans le sens d'une aggravation des chiffres annoncés dans les documents du Conseil. Les dispositions législatives prévoient de ramener la contribution annoncée bien en deçà de ce qui était attendu, si bien que le manque à recevoir de l'exercice atteindra au total quelque 92 millions de dollars, soit 34 millions de plus de ce qui était envisagé en septembre.

Est-il possible, dans ces conditions, d'éviter des problèmes de liquidités d'ici la fin de l'exercice? J'ai examiné les options possibles, et je vous propose une stratégie dont je pense qu'elle permettrait d'y faire face. Mais je tiens à vous dire que je m'y résous à contre-cœur. Vous aurez à l'examiner et à vous prononcer sur sa mise en oeuvre.

Mon souci a été de porter le moins possible atteinte au Programme de travail adopté par la Conférence. Je n'ai donc proposé que des ajustements; certes, l'exécution de certains éléments du Programme, s'en trouverait ralentie, mais rien d'essentiel ne serait remis en cause. En tout cas, comme les activités du Programme de coopération technique sont, sans nul doute, les plus importantes pour les Etats Membres, j'ai veillé à ce qu'elles ne soient en rien affectées par ces mesures. Ce plan permettrait des économies de l'ordre de 16 millions de dollars. Pour financer les besoins restants-quelque 13 millions de dollars-il me faudra recourir aux prélèvements sur le Fonds de roulement. Comme vous le savez, les règlements en vigueur m'y autorisent.

Ces mesures nous permettraient d'éviter une situation vraiment grave d'ici décembre 1987. Il n'en resterait pas moins que nous aborderions le prochain exercice biennal avec des obligations, correspondant à des dépenses de l'exercice précédent, de l'ordre de 60 millions de dollars. Je dois également préciser que les contributions encore dues à l'Organisation représenteraient, au début de 1988, un arriéré de 98 millions de dollars. Si leur versement échelonné venait à faire défaut, je n'aurais alors, pour faire face aux besoins de trésorerie, plus d'autres choix qu'un emprunt d'environ 30 millions de dollars.

A court terme, on peut donc se sortir de cette mauvaise passe: il y a des solutions, même si elles sont peu satisfaisantes. Mais je ne vous cacherais pas que mon inquiétude va bien au-delà, car rien, pour le moment, ne m'indique que la situation sera meilleure lors de l'exercice suivant. Qu'advient-il des prochains budgets si les retards de paiement se multiplient, si les reports d'arriérés continuent à s'accumuler, si les lois de tel ou tel pays modifient en chemin les engagements déjà pris, si les taux de change sont soumis aux fluctuations que nous avons connues?

Notre Organisation est à l'image de l'agriculture dont elle s'occupe: elle a besoin de temps et de continuité. Il lui est difficile de travailler si elle doit constamment faire face à l'insécurité de son budget, à l'incertitude de ses programmes et à l'incertitude du paiement des contributions de nos Etats Membres. Ce qu'il faut, c'est une bonne solidité financière.

Cette solidité financière, vous savez l'importance que j'y attache: je crois pouvoir affirmer que, depuis plus d'une décennie, les gestionnaires de la FAO en ont fait leur souci essentiel. D'ailleurs, les résultats sont là pour attester la grande prudence de notre gestion. Qu'il me suffise, pour l'illustrer, d'évoquer l'importance des excédents de trésorerie qui ont été régulièrement redistribués aux Etats Membres, une fois réalisés les programmes de travail.

Maintenir cette solidité financière, la mettre à l'abri de l'insécurité budgétaire, telle est, pour le moment, ma préoccupation majeure. Voilà le problème de fond qu'il me paraît indispensable de soumettre à la prochaine session de la Conférence de la FAO. Mais il serait bon que nous commençons à y réfléchir dès la présente session du Conseil, car les contraintes financières sont là pour nous aiguillonner. Les documents dont vous êtes saisis émettent quelques idées sur des approches possibles. Pour pouvoir aller plus loin, je souhaiterais vivement recevoir vos avis et être éclairé de vos conseils. Avant de clore ce sujet, je voudrais encore ajouter ceci: les difficultés financières que connaît la FAO concernent l'ensemble du système des Nations Unies. Mes collègues des autres institutions ont à y faire face comme moi-même. Je ne doute pas que leurs approches contribueront aussi à une solution effective du problème.

Au cours de cette session, vous aurez à examiner les activités de l'Organisation. Je ne voudrais donc pas m'étendre sur ce point. Vous me permettrez cependant d'attirer votre attention sur quelques-unes des activités qui m'ont plus particulièrement occupé au cours de l'année écoulée.

Je voudrais tout d'abord vous parler des actions d'urgence, car il n'y a malheureusement pas d'année où ne se produise quelque drame qui exige une intervention rapide de la FAO.

Cette année-et c'est bon signe-je n'ai pas eu à placer au premier plan la lutte contre la famine. Les sécheresses nous ont accordé un répit, et quelques pays seulement, tous situés en Afrique, connaissent une situation difficile. La communauté Internationale devrait être en mesure de faire face à leurs besoins. A cet égard, il me paraît important de vous signaler que nous devrions être de mieux armés pour intervenir à temps quand de tels problèmes se présentent. Comme vous le savez, la FAO met progressivement en place un système mondial d'information et d'alerte rapide qui permet de suivre en permanence l'évolution de la situation alimentaire. J'entends bien, malgré les difficultés financières, poursuivre l'établissement et renforcer les moyens d'action de ce système.

Les situations de pénurie ne constituent pas le seul type de difficultés que connaissent les politiques d'aide alimentaire; en effet, je dois appeler votre attention sur un autre problème: celui des excédents céréaliers qui sont apparus cette année dans quelques pays africains, notamment au Zimbabwe-et même, dernièrement, on m'a signalé le Burkina Faso, qui a un excédent de 200 000 tonnes de mil et de sorgho qu'il voudrait bien vouloir vendre; et il y a également d'autres pays africains. Ces excédents ne trouvent pas de marché, et il me semblerait tout indiqué que cette production soit utilisée afin d'approvisionner des pays déficitaires. C'est pourquoi j'ai suggéré que les pays donateurs fassent un effort pour acheter certains de ces excédents au profit de pays qui sont dans le besoin. Je suis heureux de constater que cette formule est bien accueillie, et j'espère que l'on y aura de plus en plus recours.

Cette année, la situation d'urgence est venue d'un fléau oublié: les acridiens. Avec le retour des pluies, leur menace s'est abattue sur de très nombreux pays africains. Pour y faire face, il fallait mobiliser des moyens considérables, et la FAO a fait tous les efforts possibles dans ce sens. Une campagne internationale de 35 millions de dollars a pu être montée; comme vous le savez, la cellule d'urgence que j'ai créée au sein de la FAO en a été le véritable centre nerveux. Qu'il me soit permis, à cette occasion, de remercier chaleureusement les donateurs-et ils sont nombreux-qui ont répondu si généreusement aux appels de la FAO et ont rendu possible cette action d'urgence.

Aujourd'hui, je suis heureux de vous annoncer que le péril est très largement conjuré et que des pénuries alimentaires graves ont été évitées en Afrique de l'Ouest et de l'Est. Pour autant, nos efforts ne doivent pas se relâcher: dans plusieurs pays, il faudra encore intervenir l'année prochaine et, d'une façon générale, la vigilance reste nécessaire car l'éradication de ce fléau n'est jamais définitive.

Cette année nous a aussi apporté un autre sujet d'inquiétude, celui de la contamination par la radioactivité. L'accident de Tchernobyl, vous le savez tous, a été cause de graves soucis pour l'agriculture européenne: il a fallu retirer de la consommation les produits qui pouvaient être contaminés, exercer des contrôles sur les pâturages, sur l'élevage, et cela n'a pas été sans de grosses difficultés. Pour éviter de nouvelles erreurs et mieux connaître les risques dans le domaine agricole, les gouvernements ont ressenti le besoin d'une action internationale, et ils se sont tournés vers la FAO. J'ai aussitôt pris des dispositions, dans le cadre de notre Division mixte avec l'Agence internationale de l'énergie atomique, pour que des programmes soient mis en place afin de définir des normes de contamination, d'étudier les pratiques agricoles dans les zones touchées, de préciser les mesures à prendre dans l'agriculture en cas de nouvelle alerte et d'autres sujets encore. J'espère que vous serez d'accord avec moi sur la priorité qu'il convient d'accorder à ces programmes.

Au cours de la période écoulée, les forêts ont occupé une grande place dans les activités de la FAO. La tâche essentielle dans ce domaine est de mettre en oeuvre le Plan d'action forestier tropical, préparé avec l'assistance de notre Organisation. Cette tâche est actuellement en cours, et je suis particulièrement heureux de constater que la préparation des programmes et des projets détaillés fait l'objet d'une très large coopération internationale. La FAO y joue un rôle crucial, notamment

en matière de coordination. De plus, il m'est agréable de rappeler la part prise par la FAO dans l'organisation de la Conférence sur l'arbre et la forêt qui s'est tenue cette année à Paris. J'ai moi-même participé à cette conférence que plusieurs chefs d'Etat ou de gouvernement ont honorée de leur présence.

Nos activités ont également été marquées par d'importantes réunions et plus particulièrement par les cinq Conférences régionales de la FAO auxquelles j'ai tenu à prendre part personnellement. Ces conférences ont offert l'occasion de riches débats sur des sujets propres à chaque région; je suis certain qu'elles serviront de réservoir d'idées pour la préparation du prochain programme de travail. A cet égard, la Conférence régionale pour l'Afrique s'est distinguée des autres, car j'avais à lui soumettre les résultats d'une étude sur le développement agricole en Afrique que la Conférence régionale de Harare m'avait demandée deux ans plus tôt. Je vous en dirai quelques mots tout à l'heure. La Conférence pour l'Afrique a déjà été honorée par la présence du Président du Conseil ainsi que celle du Secrétaire Général de l'Organisation de l'unité africaine. A la Conférence pour l'Amérique latine et les Caraïbes, les Etats participants ont demandé une étude en profondeur des perspectives agricoles à long terme de la région. J'espère que la FAO pourra répondre favorablement à cette demande. Pour ma part, je souhaite que les résultats soient aussi riches qu'ils l'ont été dans le cas de l'Afrique.

Enfin, je voudrais évoquer la dernière session du Comité des politiques et programmes d'aide alimentaire. Cette session a fourni l'occasion d'un examen très approfondi de nos activités, et je crois pouvoir dire que la collaboration entre la FAO et le PAM en est sortie puissamment renforcée. J'en augure une efficacité accrue au service des Etats Membres. Au cours de cette même session et après consultation avec les membres du Comité, j'ai eu le plaisir, au nom du Secrétaire général des Nations Unies et en mon nom personnel, de confier à M. Ingram un nouveau mandat comme Directeur exécutif du PAM. Son efficacité, son dynamisme, son dévouement à la cause du développement sont connus de tous; je sais qu'il continuera de déployer ces qualités et de les faire passer dans toutes les activités du Programme qu'il dirige depuis bientôt cinq ans. Qu'il sache bien qu'il peut compter sur mon soutien dans son importante tâche.

Au terme de ma déclaration, je voudrais revenir brièvement: sur notre étude de l'agriculture africaine, car j'en ai tiré quelques conclusions générales touchant les politiques d'aide à l'agriculture, et j'aimerais les soumettre à votre réflexion.

L'Afrique a été cette année un important sujet de préoccupation pour l'Organisation des Nations Unies. Comme vous le savez, son Assemblée générale a tenu une session extraordinaire sur ses problèmes, et elle a adopté à cette occasion un Plan de redressement qui insiste tout particulièrement sur la priorité de l'agriculture. Invitée, comme les autres institutions des Nations Unies, à tout mettre en œuvre pour traduire ce plan en programme concret, la FAO s'est attachée à préparer un Programme d'action couvrant le domaine de sa compétence.

Ce programme d'action, essentiellement fondé sur les résultats de l'étude de la FAO, j'ai eu l'honneur de le présenter à la quatorzième Conférence régionale de la FAO pour l'Afrique, qui s'est tenue en septembre dernier. J'ai eu la très grande satisfaction de le voir adopté et de constater que, pour la Conférence, le programme proposé s'inscrivait dans le droit fil des résolutions de la session extraordinaire de l'Assemblée générale des Nations Unies. Je ne crois pas exagéré de dire qu'il en constitue, très probablement, la première application concrète.

Je suis heureux de noter que Son Excellence Denis Sassou Nguesso., Président en exercice de l'OUA, a bien voulu confirmer l'approbation donnée par la Conférence régionale de la FAO lorsqu'il s'est adressé, au nom de l'OUA, à l'actuelle session de l'Assemblée générale des Nations Unies.

De plus, il m'a fait le grand honneur de m'inviter à présenter nos propositions d'action devant le Comité directeur de l'OUA qui examinera en décembre prochain à Brazzaville la mise en œuvre de Plan de redressement. Vous le voyez, le mouvement est donné.

J'ai tenu à entretenir plus particulièrement le Conseil de l'une des recommandations du Programme d'action: il s'agit d'un appel aux pays donateurs pour qu'ils élargissent considérablement l'aide en nature qu'ils apportent déjà ponctuellement à l'agriculture des pays pauvres. Pour produire-comme chacun sait-il faut des" intrants, des équipements, des moyens de transport et beaucoup d'autres biens manufacturés. Le tiers monde, étranglé par ses dettes, à court de devises, n'est guère en mesure de faire les efforts financiers nécessaires. Je pense, en revanche, que les pays développés, dont les capacités industrielles sont souvent sous-utilisées à cause de la crise, pourraient envisager un effort exceptionnel pour fournir de tels biens à des conditions de faveur. Je suis persuadé qu'ils y trouveraient un intérêt à long terme.

Je vois dans cette forme d'aide l'une des clefs de la relance agricole et un moyen privilégié pour contourner les obstacles auxquels se heurtent actuellement les aides financières et les programmes d'investissement. La Conférence régionale pour l'Afrique, soucieuse de voir cette idée se matérialiser, m'a demandé de l'étudier plus avant. J'ai indiqué que je serais heureux de le faire si

le Conseil m'en donnait mandat et si un consensus se dégagait, tant du côté des pays donateurs que de celui des pays bénéficiaires. C'est cette proposition que je soumetts à votre examen; vous en trouverez la présentation dans les documents dont vous êtes saisis.

Je tiens cependant à préciser que cette proposition touchant l'élargissement de l'aide en nature, je l'ai conçue et développée par rapport au seul contexte africain. Maintenant qu'elle est portée devant le Conseil de la FAO, je crois indispensable de lui donner une portée plus large. En effet, si les besoins de l'Afrique sont énormes, il n'est pas possible, pour autant, de négliger ceux que connaissent de trop nombreux pays du tiers monde. Aussi est-ce sur la possibilité de formuler une aide de portée globale que je vous invite à réfléchir.

Cette 90^{ème} session s'ouvre donc sous de graves auspices: situation encore incertaine de l'économie mondiale, crise de l'aide et problèmes croissants pour les pays les plus démunis, difficultés financières de notre Organisation et menaces sérieuses sur ses programmes.

Dans ces mers agitées, la FAO se doit de tenir le cap. Depuis quatre décennies, elle est devenue une institution indispensable pour l'alimentation et l'agriculture. Certes, dans les pays, développés où foisonnent les services et les entreprises, son rôle n'est pas primordial et ses activités n'intéressent pas toujours l'opinion publique, sollicitée par tant d'autres problèmes.

Mais dans les pays pauvres, si nombreux sur la planète, il en va tout autrement. L'agriculture y occupe encore la majorité de la population, la malnutrition et la pauvreté rurale sont des réalités de tous les jours. Vous ne le savez que trop, ces pays ont peu de moyens pour enseigner, vulgariser, chercher, administrer. Chaque aide reçue y prend donc une importance que seul le dénuement permet de mesurer.

Vous comprendrez alors mon inquiétude lorsque je vois la situation financière de l'Organisation menacée. Vous comprendrez mon souci de mettre en place des mécanismes pour la consolider à long terme. Vous comprendrez qu'il n'est pas possible de faire défaut à tous ces pays qui attendent nos services et n'ont aucune solution de rechange.

Cette session du Conseil de la FAO appelle donc toute votre diligence. En raison des retards dans le paiement des contributions, nous sommes confrontés à de graves problèmes de trésorerie, qui risquent malheureusement de durer. Ce qui est en cause, je ne crains pas de le dire, ce n'est rien de moins que les activités de la FAO pendant sa cinquième décennie et son aptitude à maintenir son rôle en matière de sécurité alimentaire et de développement agricole. Je ne doute pas un instant que vous partagerez mon souci sur ce problème. Mais je ne doute pas non plus que vous trouverez les solutions appropriées.

LE PRESIDENT: Je voudrais, au nom du Conseil, remercier le Directeur général pour sa déclaration qui est très importante et qui va nous permettre de dresser un tableau général de la situation mondiale et les problèmes auxquels est confrontée la FAO, et sur lesquels nous aurons l'occasion et le loisir de nous pencher très attentivement.

James C. INGRAM (WFP): I did not want the Committee to adjourn without the opportunity to express my thanks to the Director-General for his very gracious welcome this morning and for the kind remarks that he made about my reappointment.

I will not repeat what I have said in the Committee on Food Aid but I would like to say that I am deeply honoured to have the opportunity to go on working in the service of developing countries and that I shall, of course, continue to do everything I can to discharge that task. Much of what WFP does, much of our work is in the field of agricultural development in support of agriculture and it is indeed essential that in that task WFP and FAO should cooperate; not only cooperate but cooperate closely and I am personally strongly committed to close cooperation and working very closely with FAO and its Director-General in the years ahead and I would particularly like to thank Mr Saouma for the statement you made a moment ago for your personal support for me in my work. I do appreciate that and I look forward to, as I say, a very close cooperation between our two Organizations.

Gerald I. TRANT (WFC): Mr Director-General, Mr Executive Director, Ministers, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen, the Secretary-General of the United Nations, Mr Perez de Cuellar has requested me to convey to you his best wishes for a successful session of the FAO Council at a moment when the whole United Nations system is looking into new ways and new means to meet adequately the enormous challenges which are confronting the international community.

In my capacity as Executive Director of the World Food Council I am also grateful to have this opportunity to be introduced to the FAO Council and on the occasion of the opening of this important meeting. Let me assure you I look forward to working not only with the members of the Council but with the Member Countries of the FAO as well. I intend to develop a closer relationship with FAO and I am grateful to the Director-General for having welcomed me in Rome and for having offered his support.

As you are all aware the World Food Council has a specific role to play within the United Nations system but we all share common objectives to speed up the solutions to the hunger and malnutrition problem. As head of the Secretariat to the World Food Council I will do my best to work in cooperation with my colleagues in all the United Nations Organizations.

LE PRESIDENT: Au nom du Conseil, je remercie le Directeur exécutif du Programme alimentaire mondial et le Directeur exécutif du Conseil mondial de l'alimentation pour leurs interventions remarquées. Je voudrais dire que toute action internationale est basée en premier lieu sur une attention efficace et constructive de tous les instants entre tous les organismes concernés.

The meeting rose at 11. 30 hours

La séance est levée à 11 h 30

Se levanta la sesión a las 11. 30 horas

council

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

conseil

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

consejo

ORGANIZACION DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS PARA LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION

CL

CL 90/PV/2

Ninetieth Session

Quatre-vingt-dixième session

90º período de sesiones

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

(17 November 1986)

The Second Plenary Meeting was opened at 14, 45 hours

Lassaad Ben Osman, Independent Chairman of the Council, presiding

La deuxième séance plénière est ouverte à 14 h 45 sous la présidence
de Lassaad Ben Osman, Président indépendant du Conseil

Se abre la segunda sesión plenaria a las 14, 45 horas bajo la presidencia
de Lassaad Ben Osman, Presidente Independiente del Consejo

- I. INTRODUCTION-PROCEDURE OF THE SESSION continued)
- I. INTRODUCTION-QUESTIONS DE PROCEDURE (suite)
- I. INTRODUCCION-CUESTIONES DE PROCEDIMIENTO (continuación)
2. Election of Three Vice-Chairmen and Designation of The Chairman and Members of the Drafting Committee (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 de los Miembros del Comité de Redacción (continuación)

LE PRESIDENT: Je voudrais annoncer en ce début de séance que nous avons reçu à ce jour les candidatures suivantes pour le Comité de rédaction: Tanzanie, Cameroun, Bangladesh, Philippines, Egypte, Liban, Colombie, Mexique, Australie, Canada, France, Italie, Japon et Etats-Unis d'Amérique. Nous retenons ces noms, et si d'autres candidats se présentent, nous pourrions les prendre en considération. Y-a-t-il une observation?

Joseph TCHICAYA (Congo): J'ai écouté avec beaucoup d'attention la liste des membres du Comité de rédaction que vous venez de nous livrer. Je note une petite erreur concernant l'Afrique: les membres du Comité de rédaction désignés pour l'Afrique sont le Cameroun et la Gambie et non la Tanzanie.

LE PRESIDENT: Donc pour l'Afrique: Cameroun et Gambie. Y-a-t-il d'autres remarques? Je remercie le Conseil.

- II. WORLD FOOD AND AGRICULTURE SITUATION
- II. SITUATION MONDIALE DE L'ALIMENTATION-ET DE L'AGRICULTURE
- II. SITUACION MUNDIAL DE LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION
4. State of Food and Agriculture 1986
4. Situation de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture en 1986
4. El estado mundial de la agricultura y la alimentación, 1986

N. ISLAM (Assistant Director-General, Economic and Social Policy Department): You have before you two documents for discussion on this Agenda Item. The first document, the State of Food and Agriculture CL 90/2, which is based on information available in early August. The second document, CL 90/2 Sup. 1, updates and supplements the earlier document. Both these documents devote some attention to the overall economic environment surrounding agriculture. This is because many of the problems now facing agriculture are closely related to the paradoxes in, and witnesses of, the current economic situation, namely, failure by industrial countries despite lower inflation and interest rates to resume and transmit the momentum of economic growth, disappointing trade performances and low international commodity prices, a worsened debt situation for many developing countries, reduced capital inflows, and lower interest rates, adjustments of which are costly in terms of human welfare.

The current world food supply situation, while ample at a global level and greatly improved in some critical areas, still presents enormous aspects. Despite a slowdown in world "food production growth 1986, particularly in some developed exporting countries to a rate of 1.5 percent per annum, the problem of global over-supply of many agricultural products has not subsided. This is because demand remains weak, while stocks remain high as a consequence of relatively high production levels in previous years. As a consequence of both these factors, international prices are low. Agricultural markets have become-distorted by fierce competition between export markets through export subsidies and other market incentives.

In 1986 growth in food production slowed in the developing market economies with the recovery in food production in Africa and acceleration in Latin America, as compared to the performance in the previous year. Food production remained unchanged for the developing countries as a whole, including centrally planned economies because food output growth in China accelerated. I must point out here a typographical error in Table 1 of the Supplement. The last line of the table refers to "Total

World Food Agriculture Crop and Livestock production" including China. However the text discussing the Table is correct. In addition, since the Supplement document was prepared official estimates of USSR cereal production in recent years have been released. These serve to increase the original enhanced world estimates shown in Table 1. These changes will be incorporated in the final version of the State of Food and Agriculture now being prepared.

Ironically, the continued high rate of growth in food and agriculture production also served to exacerbate the difficulties in the few agricultural commodity markets as some countries reduced dependence on food imports while others generated export surpluses and faced problems in their disposal.

The case of Africa, which has achieved a cumulative growth of over 8 percent in food production in 1985/86 is a most welcome one. However, this remarkable recovery should not conceal the persistence of abnormal food shortages in seven African countries. Also the sudden emergence of localised surpluses and the difficulties in marketing; them underlines how the equilibrium of Africa's food systems is precariously poised. It is both paradoxical and regrettable that at the time countries succeed in improving their production performance, they are deprived of market opportunities that would permit them to benefit from their success.

The latest reports of the situation regarding grasshopper and locust infestations in Africa indicate the threat has receded in western and eastern Africa and major food losses have been averted. The danger still exists of desert locust upsurge in the Arabian Peninsula and brown locusts remain a threat in South Africa, thus requiring continuing control effort. Nevertheless, one year after FAO's first warning of a grasshopper and locust upsurge, the prompt response of African governments and the international community can already be credited as largely successful.

The early eighties were a period of serious economic stress for many developing countries. Per capita calorie intake declined by one-half in nearly one hundred or so countries reviewed in the document. The greatest losses in nutritional levels are found in Africa and Latin America, another third only showed modest gains in per capita calorie intake. Countries in the Near East achieved some gains in calorie consumption but only through increased imports. On the other hand, the improvement in food availability in some Asian countries accounting for a major share of all the developing countries populations may be regarded as a creditable accomplishment. The losses or gains in calorie intakes or food availability were related to changes in income, per capital GDP, food production performance and food imports.

The second section of the document CL 90/2 which reveals the agricultural performance of the different regions is complemented by discussion of the emerging issues and problems in each region, in particular the policy response to challenges and constraints faced by different regions.

Concerning the recent food and agriculture situation in Africa, I should like to mention that in addition to the treatment in this document the subject is also taken up for further discussion in Agenda Item 8. 2. We have in the document a special section on the financing of agricultural development. This is a preview of the special chapter to be published later on in the fuller document on the State of Food and Agriculture. It is not an easy subject to deal with, partly because of severe limitations of data and partly because concepts and definitions used in different countries and over time often differ significantly. However, we have presented the preliminary results of our efforts in this direction for your review and comments with a view to improving the final treatment of the subject to be published later on. How, and from what sources, to mobilise the resources for financing agriculture development and how to use them in rural development is a challenge confronting developing countries. The relative role of domestic finance is of critical importance, especially in view of the changes which have already occurred and are underway in the external economic environment including the availability of external economic assistance to the agricultural sector.

The document discusses sources both domestic and external, public and private as well as users of funds for agricultural development. Three major inter-related areas are taken up for analysis. One concerns the financing of agriculture in relation to overall economic development. The emphasis here is on the effective use of limited government resources to relieve the critical constraints on agricultural development, for example on government policy which affects the incentive to save and invest in the agricultural sector; as well as on a coherent fiscal policy for the sector, especially in times of rapid technological change or windfall economic gains.

The second main area of focus is on the role of rural financial markets, to mobilise rural savings and to act as an intermediary between savers and investors for investment in rural areas both by agriculture and related activities. The major issues relating to the development of rural financial markets are: interest rate policies, justification or otherwise for credit subsidies, loan recovery, transaction costs and organisation of rural financial institutions, both formal and informal. There are many unsettled questions on each of these issues and experiences among the countries over time differ widely.

The third area relates to international markets, and external sources of financing. Foreign exchange restraints facing many countries not only inhibit overall economic development, but also development of the agricultural sector. The lack of imported inputs prohibits and frustrates the use of domestic savings. Imported inputs are needed to complement domestic savings in investment projects. The depressed, or unfair available markets for exports seriously jeopardise the ability to borrow especially in private capital markets for agricultural development.

Turning to external sources of finance the issues revolve around the effectiveness of development assistance to agriculture as well as the recent levelling off of data flows which have an increasingly negative impact on the growth of disbursements later on in the decade. For external private borrowing the key words are dependable sources because, "as the experience of recent years has shown, these flows can collapse very rapidly. Furthermore, foreign direct investment in the agricultural sector as an answer remains a hotly-debated issue. Domestic policies towards agriculture remain critically important in stimulating not only domestic investment and savings in the agricultural sector but also in attracting external sources.

Ahmed Ali MUQBEL (Yemen, People's Democratic Republic of:) (original language Arabic): I should like to preface my remarks by saying how pleased I am to be at this Ninetieth Session of the Council. I should like to extend to all members of the Council the wishes of the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen that we manage to bring this session to a successful conclusion. We should also like to commend the role played by FAO under the stewardship of Mr Edouard Saouma.

On this occasion, we should like to congratulate you and we should like to congratulate all the officers of the Council who have been elected. We are convinced that this Session under your leadership will bear fruit and will lead us to resolutions which will allow us to promote agriculture in developing countries.

Please allow me to give you our remarks on this document The State of Food and Agriculture 1986. My delegation has studied this report very carefully indeed. We are particularly concerned because of the current situation pertaining to agriculture and to the economy in many developing countries, and particularly in the low-income food-deficit developing countries, most of which are in the arid and semi-arid regions of the world. Also, the situation is exacerbated by the uncertainties in the NIEO, which is unjust.

The Documents show that agriculture has had somewhat deceiving results recently, that weather conditions are still unfavourable and that drought is going to remain with us for some time. There have also been the problems with locusts and grasshoppers which have infested many regions.

On the other hand, many developing countries have to face up to the financial difficulties which have been very bad since the beginning of the 1980s. These have had an adverse effect on agriculture, since this sector has not been able to benefit from the necessary inputs and adequate investment levels. All these factors have constituted a very serious threat to agriculture and to food production.

We have to add to this that when developing countries have to turn to outside financial sources so that they can find their way out of these difficult situations they find a world confronted with an economic crisis, with a shrinkage of bilateral aid and with a decrease in the amount of aid provided by regional and international organizations, and at the same time a decrease in Governments' Commitment to Agriculture. This crisis has particularly affected many African sub-Saharan countries. We should like to praise the African countries which, with the help of donor organizations and donor countries, especially the FAO and the World Food Programme, have been able to face up to the very serious crisis. In other developing countries it would appear that the crisis will continue. So it really depends on the Governments of those countries to find the necessary solutions, i. e. domestic funding, and optimum aid from use of international organizations so that they can find a solution to this crisis. "Certainly, these countries are going to need more aid to enable them to get out of this deadlock. It is for that reason that aid has to be given from rich countries to poor countries, and there has to be cooperation between them. That is why it is essential to provide the necessary funding to international organizations, particularly to the FAO, the World Food Programme and IFAD, because these are the three main institutions that have the necessary experience and that are able to develop the agricultural and the rural sectors. Indeed, providing funds to these organizations would be proof of the solidarity between the developed and the developing world to get out of the crisis and to develop their agricultural sector, and of a better future with peace and stability.

It would be futile to talk about peace when we have seen that billions of dollars are being spent on arms while millions of people are dying of hunger. We do not understand why the funds of international organizations such as the FAO should be restricted whilst at the same time huge sums are being spent on arms and means of destruction. Therefore the solution of food problems in the world is linked to a fairer international economic order which would allow the developing countries fairer relations with the developed countries.

Gonzalo BULA HOYOS (Colombia): Como siempre la declaración del profesor Islam fue excelente. Nos complace intervenir después de la exposición que ha hecho nuestro colega de la República Democrática del Yemen porque compartimos algunos de los aspectos de esa declaración.

En cada sesión de este Consejo, en los años pares, el primer tema de fondo que se discute siempre es éste: "El estado de la agricultura y la alimentación". El sentido de las discusiones es siempre el mismo y las conclusiones son siempre las mismas: aumento global de la producción, pero limitada a los países industrializados; incremento del comercio, de productos agrícolas, pero con beneficios sólo para los países desarrollados; mayor número de personas hambrientas y malnutridas, naturalmente en el Tercer Mundo. Las perspectivas son siempre inquietantes. Proteccionismo, aumento y diversificación del proteccionismo, como lo dijo esta mañana con su gran autoridad el Director General, proteccionismo que ahora se nos presenta bajo la nueva condena de los subsidios.

Hoy, noviembre de 1986 estamos revisando esa situación después de las graves crisis en el África subsahariana, principalmente en los años 83 a 85.

Del 12 al 16 de julio de 1976, este Consejo celebró su 69º período de sesiones, excepcional en los años pares, dedicado especialmente a la consideración de las dos innovaciones más importantes y afortunadas, propuestas por la nueva administración, que, bajo la dirección del doctor Edouard Saouma, había comenzado en enero de 1976: la descentralización, designación de representantes en los países, funcionarios propios de la FAO y la creación del Programa de Cooperación Técnica; iniciativas del Director General que han sido ambas muy positivas.

El lunes 29 de noviembre 1976 este Consejo, yo era su Presidente Independiente, en el 70º período de sesiones estaba analizando esa situación de la agricultura y la alimentación, después de la Conferencia Mundial de la Alimentación celebrada dos años antes y cuando teníamos la pretensión imaginaria de que habíamos superado definitivamente la grave crisis alimentaria de principios de los años 70 que afectó considerablemente siempre al África.

Decoro de diez años, el lunes 30 de noviembre 1996, quienes hoyamos concado con vida y apoyo político seguramente escaremos de nuevo en esta sala roja en el 110º período de sesiones y el primer tema de fondo será la situación de la agricultura y la alimentación, después de la crisis de principios de los años 90 y en atención a que va a llegar el año dos mil y la situación de los países en desarrollo será siempre frágil y preocupante, con millones de seres humanos hambrientos y malnutridos en una y otra crisis decenal.

Este recuento escueto que corresponde a la realidad de los hechos confirma el carácter cíclico de las crisis debido indudablemente a la misma forma cíclica y discontinuada como los países desarrollados ofrecen su asistencia, que alcanza el máximo nivel sólo cuando se declaran las crisis y la comunidad internacional denuncia graves hechos de muertos por hambre y malnutrición.

Ese cuadro, según la delegación de Colombia, impone una vez más el llamado a los países desarrollados para que no sólo en los años de crisis ofrezcan su ayuda alimentaria y financiera, sino que con decidida voluntad política la asistencia financiera y técnica se suministre continuamente en volúmenes, términos, condiciones y oportunidades que hagan realmente eficaz la cooperación internacional y permitan a los países del Tercer Mundo, progresivamente, sentar las bases sobre las cuales pueda lograrse el aumento de su propia producción.

La difícil situación alimentaria y agrícola por la que atraviesa el Tercer Mundo y la inquietud que se manifiesta en muchos lugares deberían encuadrarse en el ofrecimiento de esa cooperación por parte de los países desarrollados, en la frase reciente del honorable Bettino Craxi, Primer Ministro del Gobierno de Italia, quien dijo: "La asistencia a Los países en desarrollo no es solamente un acto humanitario, sino una necesidad para lograr el equilibrio económico y la paz mundial. "

Una primera hojeada al documento Análisis Mundial, la coyuntura económica, demuestra, como lo dijo el Director General esta mañana, que el proteccionismo sigue siendo el mal tremendo de nuestra época, incorregible.

En efecto, los párrafos 1, 3 y 12 se refieren a la constante extensión del proteccionismo comercial, a la necesidad de que los principales países importadores frenen las medidas proteccionistas y a que "la escasez de divisas y las medidas de ajuste de los países endeudados se deben a la introducción o intensificación de medidas proteccionistas".

Siempre que va a celebrarse una reunión de importancia renace cierta esperanza, aunque después esa esperanza desaparezca entre el espejismo y la ingenuidad óptica. Ese fue el caso de la Conferencia Ministerial del GATT, realizada a mediados de septiembre pasado en Punta del Este, Uruguay.

Colombia tuvo el honor de asociarse con un importante país desarrollado, como Suiza, y juntos llevaron a esa Conferencia un plan que estaba dirigido en el campo agrícola a eliminar gradualmente los funestos subsidios que particularmente la Comunidad Económica Europea aplica a la producción y exportación de productos agropecuarios, con graves perjuicios para los países exportadores del Tercer Mundo y muy altos costos para las poblaciones consumidoras de los propios Estados de la C. E. E.

La propuesta suizo-colombiana fue llamada "Café con Leche" en referencia al excelente café de Colombia y a la deliciosa leche producida por Suiza. Teníamos la ilusión de que esa combinación de esfuerzos provenientes de dos países con niveles de desarrollo diferentes pudieran comenzar a cambiar esa lamentable situación de los subsidios; pero la oposición de varios miembros de la C. E. E., apegados a su política agrícola común, no hizo posible lograr ningún avance hacia el cambio que es indispensable porque sus consecuencias están afectando gravemente la economía de numerosos países en desarrollo.

En efecto, el párrafo 13 dice que "América Latina experimentó una disminución del 1.2 por ciento en el volumen de sus exportaciones y un fuerte deterioro del 3 por ciento en su relación de intercambio en 1985.

El párrafo 38 indica la causa principal de esa desafortunada situación: "Los subsidios a las exportaciones han proliferado y se han acentuado".

Exactamente un mes después de haberse iniciado la Conferencia del GATT, en Uruguay, el 16 de octubre, Día Mundial de la Alimentación, el señor Pandolfi, Ministro de Agricultura de Italia y miembro prominente de la CEE, en este mismo edificio, dos pisos más arriba, dijo textualmente: "Hoy hay más barreras comerciales en la agricultura que en 1973, antes de la ronda de Tokio. Grandes cantidades de productos agrícolas son vendidas en los mercados mundiales a precios inferiores a los practicados en el mercado interior. Todos estamos llamados a cumplir un esfuerzo de prudencia, de equilibrio y coraje", concluyó el Ministro italiano Pandolfi. La delegación de Colombia espera que esa manifestación honesta sea un buen principio de rectificación en la política de la CEE, a cuyos doce Estados el gobierno colombiano reitera su admiración y simpatía. Pedimos que este Consejo reiterare, una vez más, su llamado a la CEE y a los demás países industrializados que practican el proteccionismo para que reduzcan el proteccionismo y sobre todo eliminen los subsidios.

Ojalá que la CEE Y los demás Estados industrializados que practican las diversas formas de proteccionismo oigan las voces como las que el Ministro de Relaciones Exteriores de Colombia hn dicho en la reciente Asamblea General de la Organización de los Estados Americanos: "Si realmente se quiere asegurar un proceso de crecimiento económico sostenido que asegure el empleo y la esta-bilidad social política en los países en desarrollo, las naciones industrializadas tendrán que abrir de nuevo sus mercados y permitir el acceso de las exportaciones provenientes del Tercer Mundo. Si no exportamos, moriremos, si no existen mercados para nuestros productos, América Latina y el Caribe verán frustradas sus expectativas de desarrollo y progreso social".

Indica este documento básico que entre 1980 y 1986 el PIB real per cápida en Africa ha disminuido en más del 11 por ciento y es probable que se reduzca el ritmo de crecimiento económico del Lejano Oriente, y de manera más considerable el de América Latina y el Caribe.

Esto justifica la afirmación del párrafo 15 según el cual "las primeras estimaciones con respecto a 1986 son poco alentadoras para la mayoría de los países en desarrollo".

La extensión de la pobreza, del hambre, de la malnutrición abarca todos ios rincones del mundo en desarrollo, mientras que los Estados industrializados siguen disfrutando de su opulenta sociedad de consumo.

Todo este documento confirma cómo la inmensa deuda externa del Tercer Mundo y las políticas proteccionistas de los Estados desarrollados han afectado considerablemente el crecimiento econó-mico y la vida misma de los países en desarrollo.

Aunque en ocasiones bajen los precios, ios países del Tercer Mundo no están en condiciones de importar alimentos; tienen que escoger entre el servicio de la deuda externa o las importaciones para sobrevivir, ya que del aumento de su crecimiento económico notienen ninguna esperanza, tienen que decidir entre el hambre y un mínimo de desarrollo.

Esos hechos conforman el contenido del párrafo 30, según el cual, las importaciones de cereales 1986/87 alcanzarán una cifra muy inferior a la de 1984/85. "Algunos importadores no podrán comprar cereales, debido a ios problemas financieros" concluye el párrafo 30.

Como ha dicho el profesor Islam, los recursos externos para la agricultura descienden considerablemente.

El párrafo 35 habla del Fondo Internacional de Desarrollo Agrícola (FIDA). Esta referencia señala brevemente la crisis del FIDA, organismo que nació bajo tan buenas esperanzas a fines de 1977 para beneficio de pequeños y medianos agricultores, y que ahora está declinando lentamente. El FIDA está adelantando una intensa campaña para tratar de que sobreviva. El Gobierno de Colombia viene apoyando esos esfuerzos.

La delegación de Colombia propone que este Consejo apoye toda iniciativa seria, realista y positiva para que el FIDA logre sobrevivir sobre bases estables.

La parte final del párrafo 35 hace referencia al nuevo servicio de préstamos del Fondo Monetario Internacional, con relación a la asistencia para equilibrar la balanza de pagos sobre los préstamos hechos en condiciones de favor a los países de bajos ingresos. Ese nuevo Servicio se ha llamado de Ajuste Estructural.

Seguramente este nuevo Servicio del FMI tendrá tantastrabas y limitaciones como el llamado Servicio Cerealero que sólo pudo ser utilizado por un número muy limitado de países en desarrollo, cinco solamente,

En efecto, se dice que 60 Estados tienen acceso a ese Servicio, que en gran parte se utilizará para apoyar actividades agropecuarias, pero ya dos grandes países en desarrollo, China e India, han dicho que no utilizarán ese Servicio.

La frase final del párrafo 39 afirma que el Convenio Internacional del Trigo y el Convenio sobre Ayuda Alimentaria se renovaron sin cambios ni disposiciones económicas importantes por otros tres años. De nada valió la insistencia de los países en desarrollo para que el Convenio Internacional del Trigo contenga cláusulas económicas que lo hagan verdaderamente operante y no inútil como en su forma actual.

Vanos también fueron los esfuerzos, los reconocemos, de la Comunidad Económica Europea para que eso se lograra a través del llamado Grupo de Reflexión que propuso la CEE.

Como se puede ver todo es negativo para los países en desarrollo en este estudio de la Situación de la Agricultura y de la Alimentación.

El párrafo 51 dice que "para muchos países en desarrollo 1980/84 fue un período decepcionante en lo que respecta a su situación nutricional".

El párrafo 53 señala que africanos y latinoamericanos fueron los más afectados.

En síntesis, el hambre y la malnutrición aumentan.

El Papa Juan Pablo II ha dicho que "resulta intolerable que se logren grandes progresos en el espacio mientras en la tierra millones de seres humanos padecen hambre".

El nuevo Presidente de la República de Colombia, doctor Virgilio Barco, declaró ante el 41 período de sesiones de la Asamblea General de las Naciones Unidas, en curso, que: "la humanidad puede si se lo propone desterrar el hambre. Quiero solicitar a la Comunidad Internacional, dijo el Presidente de Colombia, que reafirme su compromiso con la erradicación de la pobreza absoluta. Entre las múltiples amenazas a nuestro mundo ninguna ha sido tan permanente como la pobreza".

El Presidente de Colombia ha propuesto una reunión que se celebraría en nuestro país el próximo año dedicado a buscar fórmulas para erradicar la pobreza absoluta en América Latina y El Caribe.

Los 26 países integrantes del Sistema Económico Latinoamericano, SELA, en su última reunión, así como la Asamblea General de la OEA que se celebra en Guatemala han manifestado que "acogemos con entusiasmo la iniciativa formulada por el Presidente de Colombia en la Asamblea General de las Naciones Unidas a fin de emprender una lucha activa y coordinada para erradicar la pobreza absoluta de nuestra región, con la cooperación de los Organismos y Agencias Internacionales competentes". Es una idea que está apenas en formación. En la medida en que se concrete, el Gobierno de Colombia espera contar con la valiosa cooperación y asistencia de la FAO en los campos de la agricultura y de la alimentación, Organización que tantos y tan eficaces servicios viene prestando a nuestra región.

Joseph TCHICAYA (Congo): Je ne rivaliserai pas ni en éloquence ni en longueur avec mon collègue et cher ami de gauche. Au moment où nous intervenons sur ce point de notre ordre du jour, je voudrais vous dire combien ma délégation est heureuse de vous "voir parmi nous présider cette importante session. Je profite de l'occasion pour féliciter les autres membres élus ou à élire du Bureau. Nous sommes certains qu'ils vous apporteront le concours nécessaire pour assurer le succès des travaux de cette quatre-vingt-dixième session.

La délégation de la République populaire du Congo accueille avec le plus grand intérêt l'analyse détaillée de la situation de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture qui est présentée dans le document CL 90/2 et son supplément. Elle remercie le Prof. Islam pour son excellente introduction. C'est, il faut le dire, l'un des documents le plus complets que le Conseil ait jamais examinés sur ce sujet. Que le secrétariat en soit félicité. Je me réjouis de l'amélioration de certains paramètres économiques au niveau mondial depuis notre dernier examen de la situation. Mais lorsque l'on connaît l'interdépendance des différents secteurs de l'économie, l'on ne peut s'empêcher de se montrer inquiets de la situation dont plusieurs paramètres révèlent un climat d'incertitude quant à l'avenir de l'économie mondiale. En plus, les recettes d'exportations, sources de devises susceptibles de contribuer de manière décisive sur l'évolution des investissements dans le secteur qui nous concerne, ont stagné voire régressé; il ne faut pas oublier les dimensions prises par un phénomène partout décrié, à savoir le protectionnisme, devenu pratique courante par ceux-là même qui reconnaissent ses méfaits et exaltent la liberté de marché.

Même si les taux d'intérêt internationaux ont baissé, la plupart des pays en développement sont dans des situations qui ne leur permettent plus d'emprunter, le coefficient du service de leur dette ayant atteint des pourcentages record, incompatibles avec une nécessaire relance des activités économiques soutenues. Il est normal que dans ces conditions nombre de pays en développement aient enregistré un taux de croissance décevant de la production. Certes, on prévoit que des régions, comme celle à laquelle appartient mon pays, devraient voir leur production augmenter à un rythme assez élevé mais prévisible au regard de niveaux bas. En outre, il est signalé que ce rythme aura du mal à suivre celui de la croissance démographique dans l'état actuel des choses, et le tableau 1 sur la variation annuelle de certains indicateurs économiques et financiers est suffisamment éloquent car il montre qu'il ne faut pas s'attendre, sans une action d'envergure de la communauté internationale, à ce que cette situation s'améliore en Afrique où le coefficient du service de la dette a connu un accroissement accéléré passant de 13, 6 en 1980 à 32, 3 en 1986. Il va sans dire que les importations ont souffert non seulement de la faiblesse des recettes d'exportation et du coût du service de la dette, comme il est dit au paragraphe 15, mais aussi des mesures imposées par le FMI qui, on le sait, loin de guérir les économies de nos pays, y créent des tensions sociales et politiques déstabilisatrices. Les exemples pour illustrer cela ne manquent pas dans notre région.

Ce qui est dit au paragraphe 17 semble juste en partie, car il-faut également dire que les mesures radicales d'ajustement dictées par le FMI ont souvent entraîné des hausses de prix insupportables dans les pays concernés où les prix de biens et services étaient jusque là contenus par des politiques de subvention de certaines denrées de première nécessité, ainsi que des services publics, pendant que les salaires étaient bloqués.

Avec ce point, je voudrais aborder la situation de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture en 1985 et 1986. Il est réjouissant de constater que la croissance de la production agricole dans les pays en développement s'est maintenue en 1985 et surtout qu'elle a été mieux répartie. L'Afrique, après ses graves pénuries alimentaires engendrées notamment par la sécheresse, a amélioré sa production. Mais si cette hausse de la production reste encore soumise aux aléas climatiques et autres, que faut-il en penser ? Il est cependant regrettable que cette hausse de la production qui accroît la capacité d'exportation de nos pays se soit heurtée à une demande plus vigoureuse entraînant la baisse des cours internationaux des produits agricoles, réduisant ainsi les possibilités d'importation des intrants agricoles susceptibles d'agir positivement et durablement sur la production agricole, et ce, malgré des prix à l'exportation des engrais azotés et potassiques en baisse. C'est ici où l'aide en nature, préconisée par le Directeur général, et dont l'étude a été recommandée par la 14ème Conférence régionale de la FAO pour l'Afrique tenue en septembre dernier à Yamoussoukro prend toute sa dimension. Nous aurons l'occasion d'y revenir lorsque sera abordé ce point de notre ordre du jour. Nous ne cesserons jamais d'insister sur les effets bénéfiques des transactions triangulaires comme actions susceptibles de promouvoir la production, surtout dans pareilles situations. Devant une telle situation le paragraphe 33 concernant l'aide extérieure à l'agriculture nous semble justifier les plus vives inquiétudes. En effet, la baisse des engagements d'aide extérieure publique à l'agriculture-qui a connu une chute de 12 pour cent en prix courants en 1984, même si ce taux est plus faible en ce qui concerne les engagements d'aide multilatérale à des conditions de faveur qui n'ont fléchi, elles, que de 2 pour cent aux prix de 1980-cette inquiétude est d'autant plus partagée qu'il s'agit là de la troisième baisse consécutive. Même si l'on s'attend à un redressement de la situation en 1985, qui constitue en fait une année où le volume d'aide s'est exceptionnellement accru en raison de la grave situation qu'a connue l'Afrique et dont les effets restent encore sensibles, et même en tenant compte de la vague de solidarité internationale sans précédent qu'elle a entraîné, nous émettons le voeu que malgré le faible niveau de reconstitution des ressources du FIDA, les pays développés mettent tout en oeuvre pour atteindre l'objectif des 300 millions nécessaires pour financer le Programme spécial du FIDA en faveur des pays subsahariens, victimes de la sécheresse et de la désertification et surtout qu'ils parviennent à mobiliser des ressources suffisantes pour appuyer les efforts de redressement économique et de développement des pays africains, dont le programme d'action est centré sur l'agriculture et les secteurs connexes, conformément aux résultats de la session extra ordinaire de l'Assemblée générale des Nations Unies.

Pour ce qui concerne le commerce international' des produits agricoles, il convient de dire que s'il est utile de réorienter les politiques agricoles en adaptant la structure de la production à la demande mondiale pour éviter un excédent structurel qui a contribué à la dégradation des conditions du commerce mondial des produits agricoles, disons tout de suite que si les pays développés ont les moyens de les mettre en oeuvre, la communauté internationale devra apporter une assistance de tous

ordres pour la favoriser dans les pays en développement. Le moment nous semble approprié pour lancer un appel en direction des grands pays qui n'ont toujours pas ratifié l'Accord commun portant sur la création d'un fonds commun pour les produits de base, pour qu'ils le ratifient.

Enfin, nous tenons à saluer les efforts déployés par le Directeur général pour mobiliser les ressources nécessaires, pour faire face aux attaques de criquets et de sautériaux en Afrique et au Proche-Orient et remercions tous les donateurs qui ont généreusement répondu à son appel. De même nous encourageons les efforts visant à mettre en place des mécanismes susceptibles d'aider à faire face aux accidents du type Tchernobyl. L'examen de la situation, région par région, nous amène à nous apesantir sur l'Afrique pour reconnaître que si la sécheresse a pris fin, nous venons de le voir, les criquets et les sautériaux ont pris le relais, au point où l'Afrique reste une zone fragile qui devra continuer à faire l'objet d'une surveillance soutenue et d'un traitement spécial.

Nous savons tous que les dirigeants africains au plus haut niveau ont analysé cette situation et nous sommes heureux que la FAO ait contribué à cette réflexion suscitée par la dégradation continue de l'agriculture africaine dont la production vivrière par habitant n'a cessé de se dégrader depuis près de vingt ans. Ces mauvais résultats de notre agriculture ont fait l'objet d'examen approfondis et suscité des initiatives souvent hardies que cela soit Harare où la 13^{ème} Conférence de la FAO pour l'Afrique avait non seulement adopté une résolution courageuse mais aussi demandé une étude sur l'agriculture de la région ou son relèvement, que cela soit dans le cadre du programme prioritaire de redressement économique de l'Afrique 1986-1990, approuvé par l'OUA en 1985, le tout consacré par la session extraordinaire de l'Assemblée générale des Nations Unies du 27 mai au 1^{er} juin 1986.

Nous savons que le retard de la croissance agricole en Afrique est la résultante de causes endogènes et exogènes; même si les gouvernements africains sont déterminés à s'attaquer aux premières, les secondes y jouent un rôle déterminant, relèvent de la réponse qu'elles obtiendront de la communauté internationale. Et à cet égard, nous regrettons de n'avoir pu obtenir un engagement ferme et unanime de tous les pays donateurs dans l'accroissement de leur aide et l'allègement de la dette pour laquelle, on le sait, l'Afrique réclame une conférence spéciale, étant donné que sans une solution radicale de ce côté, les ressources d'exportations du reste en constante diminution ne serviront qu'à faire face au service de la dette alors qu'elles devraient être investies pour accroître la capacité de production, de stockage, de commercialisation et de transformation de son agriculture. Les programmes d'ajustement structurel actuellement mis en oeuvre à l'instigation du FMI ne servent que de palliatifs dont les effets risquent de s'avérer aléatoires et sans portée réelle. La délégation de mon pays a été surprise de voir ou de ne pas voir au paragraphe 126 qui parle de la situation alimentaire de 1986 en Afrique australe, qu'on nous cite parmi les causes de la mauvaise campagne céréalière les conflits intérieurs sans que mention ne soit faite d'une raison aujourd'hui unanimement acceptée, à savoir les actions déstabilisatrices de l'Afrique du Sud; car les conflits intérieurs dont il est fait état ici, sont créés et entretenus par l'Afrique du Sud, avec, hélas, l'appui de certains gouvernements présents au sein de ce Conseil qui, on le sait, se refusent à appliquer des sanctions obligatoires au régime de l'apartheid.

Ce que nous venons de dire précédemment montre que le financement du développement agricole est certes avant tout affaire des gouvernements des pays en développement, mais, étant donné le faible poids de ces pays sur les facteurs exogènes, l'appoint adapté et suffisant de la communauté internationale est plus que requis.

Certes, nous sommes d'avis qu'il importe de mobiliser l'épargne intérieure mais si certains pays en développement en possèdent une relativement importante, dans nombre de nos pays elle est inexistante puisque chacun sait que l'agriculture de subsistance ne peut guère la favoriser. Et même chez les petits exploitants qui produisent pour l'exportation, étant donné les cours mondiaux extrêmement bas et la détérioration des termes de l'échange, il n'y a guère de possibilité d'épargne; et l'Etat est parfois le seul organisme susceptible d'intervenir tout en veillant aux équilibres macro-économiques indispensables. Ainsi les sources extérieures restent-elles un appoint sérieux à condition que de telles ressources soient judicieusement utilisées, et, ici, les donateurs et les bénéficiaires doivent être invités à entretenir un dialogue franc pour veiller à ce que les coûts liés à cette aide n'engendrent pas d'obligations financières insupportables pour le pays bénéficiaire, obligations qui pourraient être génératrices de dettes, pendant que le gouvernement est invité à réduire les dépenses de l'Etat tout en cherchant à accroître ses recettes.

L'analyse faite sur l'évolution de l'aide publique au développement de l'agriculture montre clairement qu'il n'y a pas une orientation précise de celle-ci liée à une volonté politique suffisamment prononcée. On semble plutôt réagir à des circonstances du moment, à en juger par l'évolution de l'aide publique à des conditions de faveur.

Le paragraphe 254 et le tableau 14 montrent qu'un effort doit actuellement être fait dans le domaine des engagements d'aide publique à l'agriculture, notamment dans le domaine de la production locale en intrants, tout en continuant à approvisionner les pays en développement en intrants afin d'élargir leur utilisation et de justifier l'implantation d'unités viables de production d'intrants. En effet, tant que l'épargne intérieure (et l'épargne rurale en particulier) a constitué la source principale de financement du développement agricole, suivant son importance on a assisté soit à de réels progrès quand celle-ci était importante, soit à une stagnation, voire un recul de la productivité agricole dans les pays en développement et le cas de l'Afrique s'inscrit dans cette seconde situation. Il est clair que dans tous les cas les apports extérieurs en ressources financières constituent un complément indispensable pour accroître la capacité d'autosuffisance alimentaire et de sécurité alimentaire dans nombre de pays en développement qui assistent impuissants au déclin continu des recettes d'exportation, en raison de la conjugaison de plusieurs facteurs défavorables. Nous partageons à cet égard ce qui est dit au paragraphe 297 sur la nécessité d'accorder de plus en plus d'attention à l'organisation des marchés intérieurs qui tendront à se substituer aux marchés extérieurs comme moteur de la croissance du secteur agricole et ce faisant, sur le reste des activités économiques; cette politique autocentrée et autodynamique nous semble répondre à la présente situation. Certes le rôle des gouvernements consiste à favoriser l'instauration d'un climat économique favorable aux producteurs mais il devra tenir compte du pouvoir d'achat des consommateurs si l'on veut que la demande intérieure s'élargisse et surtout si l'on ne veut pas sacrifier une des composantes du concept élargi de la sécurité alimentaire, à savoir l'accès économique de tous aux approvisionnements.

Comme on le voit, plus que jamais la FAO doit déployer toute son expérience et toutes ses ressources pour apporter une réponse appropriée aux différents problèmes qui se posent au monde en développement dans son domaine d'activité. Aussi est-ce avec inquiétude que nous allons suivre la situation financière de notre Organisation.

Nous osons croire que les pays membres mettront tout en oeuvre pour améliorer cette situation en payant intégralement et dans les délais leur contribution. C'est dans cet esprit que nous lançons un appel au plus grand contributeur pour qu'il épargne à notre Organisation de ces difficultés sans précédent pour lui permettre de continuer à accomplir sa mission constitutionnelle pour laquelle le Programme de coopération technique joue un rôle des plus positifs, comme l'a reconnu ce matin le Directeur général dans sa brillante et courageuse intervention.

Zhu PEIRONG (China) (Original language Chinese): I would like to thank the Secretariat for providing us with up-to-date information on the world economy and on the world agricultural development. I am sure that such background knowledge will facilitate our deliberations on this subject. We have taken note of the fact that although this year has witnessed increases in the agricultural production and the world economy as a whole, most of the developing countries are still facing a critical situation in their economy and agricultural development. The problems of food and trade for agricultural commodities as well as the problem of debt-servicing in many developing countries need to be addressed with greater efforts in the coming years.

We are happy to learn that fairly good harvests have been recorded in the African continent over the past two years and as a result the severe food shortage has been eased to a modest extent. However, they still have the arduous task of rehabilitating and developing their agriculture to accomplish. Under a grave economic situation, Latin America has not made remarkable progress in food production. Though Asia has achieved some progress in food production over the past two years, restricted by high population density and limited land resources, it is faced with a heavy task of achieving sustained growth by increasing inputs and investment and improving technology. All this indicates that the development of food production is closely related to that of the overall social economy, and also depends on whether the developed countries can transfer funds and technology in fair terms to the developing countries. Therefore the issue of food will remain a high priority to be solved in a long period ahead.

What concerns us most is that the international trade for agricultural commodities has experienced no improvement. The developing countries are hit by the growing tariff and non-tariff trade barriers, the continuous decline of the price for raw materials and the deteriorating terms of trade. When considering the agenda item on the state of food and agriculture at the 23rd session of the FAO Conference last year, we expressed the hope that the international community would give this issue serious thought and eventually find a solution. Not long ago, ministers from 74 GATT member countries met in the Uruguayan seaside resort of Punta del Este and adopted a declaration, calling for reduced barriers on imports, minimizing the adverse effects that sanitary and phyto-sanitary regulations can have on agricultural trade, improving the environment for competition and eliminating the varied forms of subsidies affecting agricultural trade so as to gradually achieve the objective of liberalizing trade. All these measures will have a positive impact, and therefore we welcome this progress. At the same time, we wish to emphasize that although this part of the declaration has expressed the common wish of the participating countries, the most important thing is to translate it into action. We sincerely hope that FAO and other relevant UN agencies will continue to hold consultations on this issue in the future.

The United Nations Assembly has recently adopted a resolution on food and agriculture, which shows that the issue of food and agriculture has once again attracted the attention of the international community. We welcome such a move.

As we have expressed our views on the issue of food and trade for agricultural commodities touched upon in the resolution, we now would like to highlight the issue of financial resources used for agriculture which stands as a separate point in the document. We have noted with concern the declining trend of both the multilateral resources and private investment. The Chinese delegation has always held that the economy of all countries is interdependent. Today the developed countries assist the developing countries by providing funds and technology in promoting their agricultural production and in turn they will benefit by obtaining raw material and markets from the developing countries. Now the paradoxical phenomenon that the supply of agricultural products exceeds demand is rooted in the economic difficulties facing many developing countries. It neither means that the world demand for agricultural products has already been fully met, nor does it mean that investment in agriculture will not achieve satisfactory returns. If we look at this problem with a wise and farsighted view, we believe that with the economic development in the developing countries and with the rehabilitation of agriculture in particular, the newly increased purchasing power will be tremendous. What is left for us to do is to tap this potential and seek markets in development. We hope that development should be our common objective.

On the other hand, we should not lose sight of other problems in development worthy of our attention such as overreclamation and overgrazing in some regions which have accelerated soil erosion and desertification; the exhausting fishery resources due to overfishing or pollution and the near extinction of some plant germplasm resources and animal breeds. All this suggests that we are faced with the urgent task of ensuring sustained growth of agriculture by conserving and regenerating agricultural resources. We suggest that study on this issue be included in the next biennial programme of work of FAO, and discussed in due course and that decisions be made accordingly.

China's agricultural development in recent years is mentioned in the document. Now please allow me to make a few additions. This year, though hit by frequent natural calamities, we have produced fairly good harvests. The latest information reveals that food production will increase over last year but will be still lower than the peak year of 1984. Livestock and fishery production and township enterprises continue to grow. However, the production of cash crops such as cotton and sugar-bearing crops will drop compared to last year due to enlarged sown area under grain crops, and reduction of the area under cash crops. In general, China still has a low level of per capita foodgrain consumption, and food production performance varies among provinces. The problem of feeding and clothing the people in the areas with about 10% of the total population still needs to be solved. Therefore in the 7th Five-Year Plan period starting from this year, food production is listed as a priority for development. Great efforts will be made to strengthen the construction of commodity grain bases, build up a service network for agriculture, implement reforms in rural circulation and help the remote and poor areas to raise their agricultural productivity by providing funds and technology in an effort to improve the general performance of food and agricultural production in the country.

As more than 20 items will be discussed at the current Council session, we have a heavy task before us. We shall join efforts with the other delegates and strive to make the session a success through full consultation.

Vanrob ISARANKURA (Thailand): First I wish to join the other delegates in expressing our happiness in seeing you again in the Chair of this important meeting of FAO. I can assure you of the cooperation of my delegation in accomplishing the goals of this Council. I would also like to congratulate the two vice-chairmen on their election.

My delegation has listened with great interest and deep concern to the excellent introduction made by DrIslam of the current world food and agriculture situation. We have also carefully studied the documents CL 90/2 and CL 90/2-Sup. 1 and we find that they give a very comprehensive and important report. However, we also find that on the Chapter of Regional Review, in the Asia Section of the document CL 90/2, there is no report about the situation in Thailand. To provide more information at this juncture my delegation wishes to submit to this Council a brief comment on the food and agriculture situation in Thailand.

The situation in our country can be described as having both a positive and a negative aspect to it. On the positive side Thailand is experiencing, as never before in its recent history, a super abundance of food resources. However, on the negative side sharply declining prices combined with weak world demand for agricultural commodities are posing a serious threat to the economic survival of our farmers and have already contributed to a substantial slowdown in Thailand's economic growth.

In 1985, agricultural production in Thailand recorded an overall growth rate of 3.8 percent. Whilst this figure is somewhat lower than the 4.5 percent target set by the fifth Five Year Plan, 1985 is the third consecutive year characterised by high crop production. The production of rice, corn and sugar cane, (to mention just some of the major crops) have reached new high levels, previously unattained. Fisheries have also recorded a substantial rise in production, while the livestock sector continued to expand and develop.

Turning to the documents now before us. My delegation fully agrees with the view contained in paragraph 8 of document CL 90/2 Sup. 1 that countries in South East Asia suffered the most serious setback in export earning in 1985. This conclusion can be confirmed by the situation in Thailand. To give one glaring example, exports of rice, our top foreign exchange earner, the value of such exports dropped as much as 25 percent due to the sharp decline in prices. But agriculture is the backbone of the Thai economy and will remain so for the foreseeable future. Our agricultural products must be able to fetch reasonable prices on the world market to ensure the economic survival of the farmers and to maintain the incentive for sustained high productivity. Too low commodity prices will, sooner or later, drive farmers out of business. Therefore, world agricultural trade conditions should be improved and readjusted in such a way as to assure free and fair competition. In particular, national measures such as subsidies, which result in trade distortions and artificially low export prices, should be abandoned. In the same spirit the rich, industrially-advanced countries should liberalise trade and facilitate, rather than restrict, access to their

domestic markets. This implies the lifting of non-tariff barriers and the elimination of protectionist measures. The foregoing suggestions would, no doubt, necessitate some short term sacrifices, but given the necessary political will and courage the rich countries could surely afford to make such sacrifices.

Victor HJORT (Denmark): The State-of-Food and Agriculture 1986 provides, as in earlier versions, a comprehensive and balanced description and analysis of the world food and agriculture situation in the first half of the eighties up to 1986. The document testifies to the paramount role that FAO plays in collecting, analysing and presenting information to enable the international community to monitor and understand world agriculture. Indeed, it enhances the policy making of the international community with regard to food and agriculture. The State of World Food and Agriculture, particularly in the developing countries, presents some aspects which are duly recorded and systematised in the FAO review, first and foremost through the regional focus especially on Africa, although the situation in the other important development regions is by no means overlooked. It also highlights the central role of agriculture in stimulating and supporting overall economic development. This implies discussion on the most adequate ways and means of improving agricultural production. In this context due accent is given to rural development, domestic policies and financing.

The document emphasises that the main source of agricultural development also with regard to financial resources is generated in the developing countries themselves. This seems a very obvious fact, but by stating it we are reminded that the international donor community can only be a catalyst in a development process implemented by the developing countries. In this respect we wish to commend the analysis carried out by FAO on the causes of the African agricultural crisis as well as the policy implications already carried out by a number of African states.

The general picture of the economic environment and the state of food and agriculture is not very encouraging. It is true that a series of indicators testify to a positive development in fields such as lower inflation, increasing production in developing countries and improved nutrition standards in a number of countries. With respect to earlier sessions we can finally also note a step forward in terms of the agreement on the second replenishment of IFAD and the holding of the General Assembly's Special Session on Africa. However, the Report shows that the constraints are heavier than the improvements. In spite of market food output increases in the developing countries the growth in production does not (as in Africa) keep pace with population growth. Farm productivity is not improving and the gap in nutritional status between lower and higher income countries is widening.

Another gap is produced by the growing contrast between countries with an increasing domestic demand and strongly export dependent countries, the latter being penalised by weakening commodity prices. Africa, in particular, is faced with a serious deterioration in terms of trade and with increasing debt problems. In general net capital flows to developing countries fell drastically in the first half of the eighties but growth in official commitments is recovering, namely in terms of concessional contributions. At a special session on Africa, Denmark, together with other donors, announced higher commitments and initiatives to limit debt burdens.

The Report also records the locust and grasshopper problem in Africa which, thanks to ready donor support, also by my Government, has been so far successful. We commend our Secretariat's intention to secure in the future a more coordinated prevention against locust upsurges.

In conclusion, I should like to express my satisfaction with the present state of the Food and Agriculture Report, which is more than a statutory report. By reason of the longer term analysis and the special chapter on financing, it will provide a number of nations with a more efficient and critical information when presented to the next Conference. The Report helps member states in assessing and shaping their policies to improve food and agricultural production.

Finally, I should like to refer to the European Community statement on this matter later on.

J. R. LOPEZ-PORTILLO ROMANO (Mexico): Mexico se congratula de que dirija usted, señor Presidente, tan eficazmente nuestros trabajos; asimismo expresamos nuestra felicitación de agradecimiento al Director General por la magnífica intervención que nos hizo esta mañana. Agradecemos al doctor Islam su presentación y a la Secretaría la preparación del documento que ahora estudiamos.

Señor Presidente, la pobreza es sin duda, y así se reconoce universalmente, la causa fundamental de la inseguridad alimentaria y por tanto el aumento en el ingreso es el factor más importante en el mejoramiento de las dietas y en el combate del hambre.

En esta década se ha reducido o estancado el ingreso promedio de gran parte de la población mundial. La pobreza absoluta se ha extendido, como nos lo ha recordado el delegado de Colombia, y con ello el hambre y la malnutrición se han exacerbado.

Los excedentes de los países industrializados se acumulan, deprimen precios, cargan sus economías e inducen a prácticas desleales y proteccionismos que se prevén cada vez más agresivos.

A pesar de la afluencia de alimentos, los hambrientos no pueden traducir sus necesidades en demandas efectivas. La reactivación económica de muchos países desarrollados y la virtual recesión en otros no han estimulado la economía de los países subdesarrollados, por el contrario el empeoramiento de la carga de la deuda externa, la ausencia de créditos y de financiación externos, los movimientos incontrolados de los tipos de cambio, las tasas de interés elevadas, la reducción de los términos del intercambio, el proteccionismo, la contracción de los mercados y la sustitución de productos de exportación del mundo subdesarrollado, así como la fuga de capitales y cerebros y las estériles y peligrosas políticas de austeridad, todo ello ha impuesto severos retrocesos al crecimiento económico, al empleo y al nivel y distribución de los ingresos entre regiones y entre grupos poblacionales.

Se cuestiona, inclusive, la posibilidad misma del desarrollo futuro y lo acertado de los modelos de desarrollo adoptados. Difícilmente se puede seguir hablando de países en desarrollo. Cabe, quizás, otra expresión que califique su atraso y que denote la necesidad de transitar en otro sentido.

Se hace cada vez más patente la irracionalidad que desperdicia recursos económicos escasos en la producción de bienes y servicios socialmente innecesarios o de baja prioridad. Baste recordar que unas cuantas horas del derroche en el ejercicio del presupuesto armamentista anual de algunas potencias es equivalente a su contribución total bianual a la FAO.

Recordemos también que las empresas agroalimentarias están en el negocio no para satisfacer necesidades básicas, sino para obtener máximas ganancias. De ahí que no deba sorprendernos que busquen, mediante todas las técnicas, ampliar mercados, moldear viejas necesidades, imponer nuevas técnicas que promuevan un consumo de todo tipo de productos alimenticios. Así, por ejemplo, se usan aditivos que atentan contra la salud, colorantes que engañan, o se aplican plaguicidas que permiten una máxima producción, pero cuya toxicidad contamina el medio ambiente y envenena al consumidor.

Recordemos también la acumulación costosa y el derroche de excedentes alimentarios frente a la indigencia y la muerte por hambre de millones de seres humanos. Muchos son, sin duda, los ejemplos y todo esto tiene también su propia lógica que explica la visión cíclica y discontinua que veía el delegado de Colombia. En todo caso, podemos calificar esa lógica o ese sistema de irracional e injusto.

Esa irracionalidad e injusticia priva en los países subdesarrollados como efecto de su dependencia económica y a intereses geopolíticos de las potencias.

El subdesarrollo del sector agrícola y su baja prioridad en los planes y presupuestos nacionales, así como el cambio desventajoso, la estructura de cultivos y patrones alimentarios promovidos a la par de la urbanización en sustitución de alimentos tradicionales, son muestra de esa irracionalidad. Son en buena parte causa de la crisis agrícola y alimentaria vigente en muchos países.

La situación de África es particularmente precaria y nadie debe sentirse tranquilo de que en el último año su crisis no haya sido tan grave. Apoyamos en todo lo que valen las iniciativas que esa región adopte y los esfuerzos del Director General de responder a las prioridades de ese Continente; pero un cambio cualitativo en su forma de enfrentar el futuro se hace imperativo. Reformar estructuras como las propuestas en el documento que estudiamos, junto con una cooperación internacional más generosa y menos condicionada a obtener ventajas económicas o políticas es necesario.

Sin duda, la superación de conflictos internos y regionales, particularmente la política desestabilizadora que fomenta Sud África es condición para un porvenir más estable y justo.

No nos deja de preocupar tampoco el deterioro de la seguridad alimentaria en otras regiones, particularmente en América Latina. Lo explican razones estructurales internas, como se recoge en los párrafos 135 a 139 y en el 142, pero también obedece a factores externos, como bien lo identifica el documento, como la propia crisis financiera, las deudas, la recesión internacional, el proteccionismo, la inestabilidad de precios, el deterioro de los términos de intercambio y, en fin, el menor flujo de la asistencia externa.

En estas condiciones, subrayamos la prioridad absoluta que debe recibir el sector agrícola a nivel nacional e internacional como fórmula indispensable para la sobrevivencia del mundo en que vivimos y como sustento de todo crecimiento económico en los países del Tercer Mundo.

Puntualizamos la necesidad de crear cambios cualitativos en las estructuras de cultivo y en los patrones del consumo de alimentos, impulsando prioritariamente los productos y alimentos autóctonos, y aquellos que conlleven una menor dependencia externa y que mejor se adapten a las condiciones agro-climáticas y socioeconómicas, particularmente de las zonas de temporal.

Los mal llamados cereales secundarios, como el maíz, y por otra parte las raíces tubérculos, plátanos y otras frutas y legumbres deben de reivindicarse en la economía agraria y en las dietas de nuestros países; la disponibilidad de insumos agrícolas suficientes y adecuados es esencial para aumentar la producción agrícola y la suficiencia alimentaria. De ahí que proponemos, de nuevo, que en el concepto ampliado de seguridad alimentaria se adicione a los insumos agrícolas, tales como semillas, fertilizantes, plaguicidas, maquinaria agrícola, crédito, etc. como factores indispensables para la consecución de tal objetivo y que se contemplen adecuadamente en toda estrategia de seguridad alimentaria.

En vista de que en un mundo interdependiente como el que vivimos, la seguridad alimentaria es una responsabilidad colectiva, debemos promover la cooperación multilateral y el carácter multilateral de la ayuda. Sólo así se puede prever una respuesta congruente a los intereses fundamentales de cada país beneficiario. Nos preocupa, por tanto la tendencia a bilateralizarla. Rechazamos cualquier tipo de condicionamiento de la asistencia externa y de la ayuda en función de prejuicios en todo caso, ideológicos e intereses contrarios al propósito mismo de la cooperación internacional.

En vista de lo que se indica en el párrafo 33 y de la situación precaria del FIDA, descrita en términos muy sencillos en el párrafo 35, hacemos un nuevo llamado a la Comunidad Internacional para que incremente la totalidad de las corrientes de fondos internacionales destinados al aumento de la producción agrícola y sus compromisos oficiales de asistencia externa a la agricultura por la vía multilateral.

Tomamos nota y agradecemos la calidad del apartado tercero del documento 90/2 y de que la financiación del desarrollo agrícola en este decenio se ha visto seriamente afectada. Ello responde a causas coyunturales y a razones estructurales que invitan a fomentar la confianza colectiva, la cooperación Sur-Sur, la cooperación técnica y económica entre países en desarrollo con usos más prudentes de los recursos disponibles, y una intervención más eficaz del Estado para organizar los mercados internos que estimulen el crecimiento agrícola. Debe, sin duda, crearse un clima económico más favorable a los productores del campo, a la inversión productiva pública y privada y al uso de técnicas, variedades e insumos que reduzcan la dependencia del exterior, promuevan el consumo de alimentos autóctonos y respeten y consideren las necesidades y las posibilidades de los consumidores.

Pedimos a la FAO que profundice en este estudio y que nos lo presente con todos los beneficios de esa profundidad en la próxima Conferencia de la FAO.

Debemos advertir, sin embargo, que el peso de la deuda externa impide, y muy probablemente impedirá, la recuperación económica y específicamente agrícola en la mayoría de los países subdesarrollados.

Subrayamos que difícilmente habrá solución a la crisis económica internacional hasta que no se resuelva el problema de la deuda. Sus efectos en la agricultura, la alimentación y las importaciones seguirán condenando a la mayor parte del mundo a un estado permanente de inseguridad alimentaria.

Rechazamos, pues, las prácticas proteccionistas que han mermado el valor y la posibilidad de exportación de los países subdesarrollados y que han alimentado el círculo vicioso del financiamiento al desarrollo agrícola y del subdesarrollo en general.

Instamos a la Comunidad Internacional a que encuentre las fórmulas para estabilizar los precios y mercados internacionales mediante convenios, acuerdos de productos básicos, la ratificación del Convenio constitutivo del Fondo Común y la incorporación de cláusulas en el Convenio Internacional del Trigo y otros sobre, ayuda alimentaria.

Insistimos en que se incorporen las cuestiones relativas al comercio agrícola en el programa de negociaciones comerciales y multilaterales del GATT. Pedimos al Director General que nos mantenga informado de la evolución de tales negociaciones y de la situación de los acuerdos y convenios internacionales de productos básicos.

Finalmente, reclamamos de nuevo la presentación de un estudio que ha venido preparando la FAO a solicitud de varios países sobre la participación de las empresas transnacionales en este sector, en vista del dominio preponderante que tienen en el comercio exterior de productos básicos, en la transferencia de tecnología agrícola y alimentaria y en el comportamiento y volumen del crédito y la inversión externa e interna. No queremos que pruritos técnicos permitan posponer la presentación de tal estudio. Hoy solicitamos enfáticamente que se presente en la próxima reunión del Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria en abril del próximo año.

Octavio Rainho da SILVA NEVES (Brazil): We are very glad to see you again in the chair. We should also like to congratulate the Director-General on his statement this morning.

To begin with, I should like to make mine the views expressed by Saudi Arabia, Colombia and Congo in particular. My delegation wishes to thank Dr Islam and the Secretariat for the presentation of a very important and well balanced analysis on the state of food and agriculture. My delegation is prepared to give general support to the findings and the conclusions of the study under consideration.

The first chapter of the document pays attention to the problem of external debt, and rightly points out-and I quote-"It is a major obstacle to a resumption of growth in many developing countries. "

However, the document fails to mention, as has already been stressed in other documents prepared by this Organization, that the servicing of the external debt has led the developing countries to play a new role in the international scene:the role of net exporters of capital to the industrialized world.

According to the Inter-American Development Bank, Latin America has transferred more than \$100 billion to wealthier creditors in the last four years. My country alone has been transferring around \$11 billion a year for the service of its debt. We have made considerable efforts to honour our engagements through the expansion of our exports and reforms in our economy. As a great part of the developing world, Brazil has been confronted, on the one hand, with the need to increase its exports in order to service the external debt and, on the other hand, with a decline in the price of its main products, the shrinkage of developed countries' markets, the overall shortage of credit and financing, and the widespread protectionism of the industrialized world. In order to be able to honour their commitments and as well to ensure socially acceptable rates of economic growth, the developing countries must count on fairer arrangements in regard to their external debt and as well on a better access free of artificial competitiveness of subsidized goods of their products to international markets. Debt payments relief will as well permit us to import the goods we need to sustain our growth and eradicate the areas of absolute poverty. In regard to absolute poverty, I am pleased to inform the Council that my delegation fully supports the proposal made by Mr Virgilio Barco, President of Colombia, at the United Nations Assembly for a conference on this question.

The prospects shown by the document under review for economic growth in developing countries in 1986 are not promising at all. For Latin America there is a forecast of a pronounced deceleration in economic growth and a continuing fall in its terms of trade. Whilst considering useful the chapter dedicated to Latin America and the Caribbean, my delegation believes that not enough attention has been given to the concerns expressed at the Nineteenth Regional Conference held last August in Bridgetown, Barbados. In this connection, I should like to recall two paragraphs of the Report of the Nineteenth Regional Conference for Latin America and the Caribbean.

Paragraph 13 of that report, just distributed, states that the Regional Conference highlights the fact that Latin America and the Caribbean were undergoing a serious and unprecedented economic crisis intensified by the heavy burden of external debts, the fall in export prices, adverse terms of trade, and by a large transfer of resources out of the region which had led to a reduction in per caput income in food supplies and an increase in poverty and malnutrition, especially in the most vulnerable population groups.

In paragraph 20, the Conference expresses its satisfaction for the Director-General's acceptance in his statement of the suggestion made by the representatives of the countries of the region to FAO that the Organization conduct a specific study on the economic situation, as well as its implications for the long-term development of the region in what pertains to food and agriculture. In this respect, they request the Director-General to allocate the necessary resources to initiate this study as soon as possible. They also request that the study contemplate the formulation of a Plan of Action including the role of FAO, as well as that of governments themselves, and the cooperation of other international organizations interested in the development of the region.

My delegation wishes, once again, to appeal for increased cooperation among the developed and the developing countries in trade matters. Not only in relation to a more rational and stable international trade, as stressed by the representative of Mexico, particularly in connection with Africa, but as well in relation to the suspension of domestic measures that adversely affect world markets. As to the question of protectionism, Mr Chairman, let us hope that the Economist's this well-known British Magazine's prediction-the Economist, the last one I believe, on November 15th, becomes true.

That magazine stated that in the rich and mainly industrial countries, farmers are paid too much so they produce too much. In the poor and mainly agricultural countries farmers are paid too little so they produce too little. Europeans trample cognac grapes into industrial alcohol. Americans fill rock mountain caverns with butter. Japanese pay eight to ten times the world price for their bowl of rice. Meanwhile, many millions of Asians and Africans live in real poverty and go hungry to bed. They end by saying "do not despair, the mistakes are so large that this contrary policy will soon collapse. Properly staged and handled, that collapse will leave the world better off. "They may be optimistic but we hope that this prediction will come true.

Temel ISKIT (Turkey): We would like to begin by complimenting the Secretariat for the well prepared and, at *the* same time, thought-provoking and stimulating document before us. In our opinion CL/90/2 and its supplement not only gives a very accurate picture of the state of food and agriculture in 1985 and the first half of 1986, but they also contain interesting analyses on major issues confronting agriculture and economic development in general. We think that these analyses deserve some comments and we shall try to do so later in our intervention. We would also like to congratulate Dr Islam for his very clear, concise but comprehensive introduction to the item, although his well-known mastery of the matter and his skills of presentation are beyond praise. The state of food and agriculture in the period under consideration contains, as in the past, positive and negative elements and, alas, again, as in the past years, reasons for satisfaction are by far out-numbered by the causes for concern. The list of the causes for concern which stem mainly from the still deteriorating overall economic environment is quite long : slowdown in the world output of goods and services and a more dramatic slowdown in the growth of world trade and especially in agricultural trade; the ensuing stagnation of the export earnings of developing countries; the uncertainties still plaguing the medium-term prospects for the resumption of growth because of unpredictable exchange rates and interest rates, the current trends in prices of oil and other commodities and the momentum of growth in industrial countries. And, last but not least, the unresolved debt question.

To these we can add negative factors especially affecting the agricultural sector such as the ever-increasing agricultural surpluses, ever falling commodity prices, and ever shrinking export markets caused mainly by shortsighted policies that foment practices based on protectionism and subsidies. Certainly there are light spots too. Despite the deteriorating economic environment developing countries as a whole could maintain their food production growth and this growth was more evenly spread than in the past. The emergency situation in Africa has largely abated. Substantive steps have been taken and programmes adopted towards the rehabilitation of the agriculture in this continent. Among the reasons for satisfaction we could have mentioned the slowing down of the inflation almost worldwide, were it not caused by the sharp drops in commodity prices and the contraction of the world trade which, by themselves, are graver than any single negative factor I have mentioned.

Indeed, we believe that trade is the key to the overall growth and consequently a vital factor in development. We still think that exports, and in particular, agricultural exports constitute the major means for a developing world to ensure its growth. To deprive the developing countries of the only means to pay for the capital goods they need, will not only doom these countries, but also, given the reality of interdependence, will affect the world economy as a whole, thereby further endangering world peace and security. To give an example, how can we try to solve the indebtedness problem when the debtors only possibility for reimbursement is "shrinking more and more."

We do not believe either that there can be a substitute for growth of developing countries' exports or for the ensuing growth in world trade. There is no doubt that development rests mainly on the efforts of the developing countries themselves. The optimization of their country's own resources should be, and most of the time, is the main aim of developing countries' governments. It is also obvious that whatever effort a developing country spends, its measure of success is limited by the world economic conditions, trade playing a crucial-role in this regard.

It is with these thoughts in mind, that we would like to make a few brief comments on the analysis ; and conclusions, in our opinion, seem to emanate from the document before us. We would like to refer, in particular, to the section D, namely Major Issues of the document, starting from paragraph 294. In this section it appeared to us that the document considers the reduction of export markets due to various reasons as a given fact and concludes that, and I quote from paragraph 315, "the long-term viability of agricultural exports as a major source of growth is not promising". Starting from this point, the document concentrates on the idea that developing countries should more and more depend on the domestic resources and markets and restructure their policies accordingly. In fact, the section we are referring to contains a series of suggestions for structural adjustments, in particular in the agricultural sector of the developing countries in view of the shrinking hopes before international markets and external sources of financing. The broad message of the Secretariat to the developing countries is, it seemed to us, "since the neighbourhood has gone wrong, put your own house in order".

As we said earlier, we agree entirely with the last part of this proposition. Developing countries should put their own house in order. Indeed, most of them are undergoing a process of adjustment despite its painful hard-to-bear social costs. But, what about the neighbourhood? Don't the actions of the neighbours affect your house? Isn't there a limit to developing countries' self-help efforts since they have to rely so heavily on external factors such as world financial systems, trade, transfer of technology? How is it possible to generate sufficient income to absorb domestic production and even accumulate a surplus to finance development without external outlets? The document does not elaborate upon the positive adjustment measures and structural changes that need to be adopted by the developed world. It does not mention the policy approaches to be pursued by the industrialized countries in attenuating protectionist practices and dismantling subsidies which, distort and contract world trade, flagrantly breaking the principles of comparative advantage and free competition. We are certain that the Secretariat's intention was not to ignore this side of the question. Perhaps it was a matter of emphasis or style, and it can be argued that such negative practices and policies are sufficiently emphasized and criticized in almost all the organs and papers of the Organization.

In his brilliant address this morning, the Director-General himself has forcefully dwelt on that point. Dr Islam; also in his presentation has underlined these unfair practices. All we wished to see in the documents was a more balanced presentation between the duties and obligations of both parts of the world, since, as I have said, we believe that no solution can be found to the issues of development and sustained world growth without the concerted action of the whole community of nations.

Speaking of trade, we should not fail to mention our satisfaction in seeing that the following GATT round of negotiations may be off to a good start with the agreement to discuss the problems of trade in agricultural commodities. This slender ray of hope, (as the Director-General has put it this morning) should be jealously kept alive and should give way to concrete improvements towards the liberalization of trade. We note also with satisfaction the pledge of the Director-General to commit FAO to provide all the assistance that may be required to further the GATT discussion. We submit that FAO can be of great help to developing countries in particular, not only by way of producing statistics and furnishing information, but also through a closer cooperation with the GATT Secretariat on all matters falling within its expertise.

Before concluding I would like to touch briefly upon an entirely new danger confronting world agriculture, namely the risk of contamination by radioactivity. The grave example of the Chernobyl accident emphasized the need for urgent and comprehensive international action to minimize the effects of such disasters in the future. We congratulate FAO for its quick response to this need. Among the measures to be considered we attach particular importance to the definition of common standards since the actual inconsistent application of standards started to create an additional barrier to trade in agricultural goods, especially in Europe. Many countries, including my own, have suffered export losses due to such, often arbitrary practices by the importers. We hope that work on common standards will be speedily concluded and common agreement will be soon reached so that such damages can be limited.

Malikana Mike LISWANISO (Zambia): In the first instance, my delegation would like to welcome you back to the chair and to congratulate your Vice Chairmen on their election to the bureau. We have no doubt that you will, as usual, steer our deliberations to a successful conclusion.

My delegation has studied very carefully the document CL 90/2 and its supplement and I must congratulate the Secretariat for producing a detailed document which will give us a lot of food for thought.

Despite various measures taken especially by developing countries, it is worrisome to my delegation to note that the world food situation is still far from satisfactory.

The document under consideration has attempted to give a clear analysis of the global food situation. It has also highlighted some of the major factors which have contributed to the current unsatisfactory world food situation.

I shall very briefly comment on some of the points contained in the report before us.

The elements of, and the increased trade protectionism coupled with export subsidies practised in developed countries, have created a number of hardships in many Third World countries, putting their national economies in disarray. As the export earnings of the developing countries continued to decrease largely because of lack of access to the world markets, more and more have they failed to finance their agricultural development projects. This is mainly so because most of the agricultural inputs required for boosting agricultural production, such as fertilizers, insecticides, animal drugs, machinery, to mention but a few, have to be imported and paid for in convertible currencies, the serious scarcity of which needs no elaboration here.

Under these prevailing circumstances, many developing countries have resorted to cash crop production thereby neglecting the staple foods. The long-term effects of this approach, is that it leads to widespread famine as evidenced in Africa 1984/5. The African food crisis of the 1980s was a bitter experience and a lesson to all of us here. The International Community should not allow such an incident to happen again anywhere on this globe.

It is my delegation's view that the formulation and adoption of national food strategies is the answer to the creation of viable economies in the developing countries. These strategies should be aimed at reducing the bias against agriculture in the policy framework and should aim at maximising the use of the available scarce resources for increased agricultural output and productivity. Effective implementation of the strategies calls for structural adjustments and internal reforms. In the case of Asian countries, for instance, India and China, these policy changes brought about rapid increases in food production and agricultural output. In Africa and many other developing countries, the macro-economic policy reforms brought a lot of hardships to the governments and the people in that their implementation required large investment capital; it brought about massive currency devaluations, increased costs of local foods and services, unemployment and, in some cases, political unrest. I wish to add that, apart from structural adjustments and internal reforms, the developing countries will also need considerable external aid to attain self sufficiency in food production. It is therefore my hope that the developing countries will get more external aid than what is currently available.

It is unfortunate that at a time when the prospects for economic recovery in many developing countries are promising, at such a critical moment, we are at the same time witnessing a fall in most of the official commitments for external assistance to agriculture (OCA). At this state of development, when the Third World countries are overburdened by foreign debts and with their debt servicing payments rising, more concessional assistance is required.

The problems facing the International Development Association (IDA) and in particular the way the second replenishment of the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) was concluded, are phenomena which should be a source of concern to the entire International Community. IDA and IFAD all give concessional development assistance to least developing countries, and in the case of the latter, it specializes in the plight of the disadvantaged rural communities. The role IFAD has played in raising the standard of living of the peasants, the rural poor, the landless and the small scale fishermen in the countries in which it is operating cannot be doubted. Besides, IFAD projects have fully incorporated the element of peoples' participation in project planning, implementation and decision making. Its technical skills and experience in dealing with the small scale farmers and its efficiency in executing development projects have been recognised the world over. My delegation is therefore appealing to all the countries represented here today to support IFAD not only morally but also financially. We do hope that, as the 10th Governing Council meets this December, agreement will be reached on the future funding of IFAD.

Let me now turn briefly to the question of externally funded projects. As the number of reported failures in externally funded projects is growing, the question of aid effectiveness calls for close scrutiny and review. I do not deem it necessary to catalogue all the possible causes for the failure of some externally funded projects. Suffice to mention only a few and these are:-(a)the project planners, mostly from the donor countries, have often overlooked the customs, traditions and the values of those on the receiving end;(b)at times no proper mechanisms are worked for the nationals to take up the management of the schemes when the foreign experts pull out at the end of the contract;(c)the training element is sometimes not seriously incorporated in the project;(d)project equipment is often delivered late and in some cases such equipment is not suitable to local conditions;(e) at the end of the project period the equipments are taken away by the donor or executing agency;(f)a number of projects have more than 60% of the projects's funds allocated for administrative requirements, only a trickle is left for the execution of the project itself.

If developing countries have to pick up in productivity from where they are now, this issue of aid effectiveness requires attention. My delegation is requesting FAO to undertake a study on this subject and report to this Council accordingly. Indeed if a similar study has already been done, we would like to be informed of the problems and the suggested remedies.

Another area which needs to be addressed here is the question of Fertilizer Aid. It has been documented in many FAO documents and elsewhere that in the countries where large amount of fertilizers are being used per hectare there is more productivity than in areas where less fertilizers are being applied. Africa has now the lowest average fertilizer application rate and consequently it has the least food productivity. The lack of foreign exchange to import the required amounts of fertilizers is the major reason for the under-utilization of this product. In this context, Fertilizer Aid would go a long way to boosting agriculture production in many countries. In the case of my own country, Zambia, we would very much appreciate offers of this commodity, we are ready to receive and use it profitably. The donors are called upon to seriously consider this request.

The return to normal or nearly normal rains in Africa in 1985 and the creation of favourable economic conditions in many countries brought two undesirable effects, namely the locust and grasshopper infestation which threatened many crops in the region and the food surpluses which have created disposal problems.

The average to above average of good harvests with exportable surpluses which were recorded in Africa this year is an encouraging development especially so when one considers the fact that, it is only a year ago when Africa had the worst famine ever. However, without the timely initiative of the FAO Director-General Dr Edouard Saouma who alerted the International Community to the seriousness of the locust and grasshopper plague which had invaded Africa at the time, the above mentioned bumper harvests would not have been there. The good response from the donor community on this problem and their willingness to help fight the invasion was most commendable and very much appreciated.

Allow me at this juncture to convey my government's gratitude to FAO and those countries who came to Zambia's aid when the red locusts threatened our survival. As far as we are concerned, the war is not yet over. Now that the rains have come, these pests are likely to multiply and by early next year another havoc is expected. Surveillance equipment and pesticides and other logistics are now urgently required in Zambia to effectively control red locust invasion. As locust and grasshopper infestations respect no national boundaries, regional and sub-regional approach is the only guarantee to the ultimate control and eradication of these pests.

Let me turn to the disposal of surplus food. The disposal of the surplus food in some parts of Africa and elsewhere in the developing countries is causing a lot of concern. These surpluses, if not looked after properly, will in the short run depress prices which will in turn become a disincentive to the farmers for increased production. The question of occasional surpluses requires a three-pronged approach, namely triangular transactions, sub-regional and regional cooperation and liberalization of world markets.

In the majority of the developing countries the triangular transactions would work wonders. Firstly, it will generate foreign exchange for the country with surplus stocks and secondly it will provide the neighbouring needy country with the right type of food for its people. Where other logistics get into the way of triangular transactions, special programmes and projects should be worked out to get rid of the obstacles.

Since not all countries within and between regions have the same type of surpluses and needs, intra-and inter-regional cooperation would go a long way in minimizing and solving the problem. In other words the solution to the profitable disposal of the occasional surpluses lies in the promotion of regional cooperation in agricultural production and trade.

In conclusion, let me state this. Whatever the approach to profitable disposal of occasional surpluses, the most important ingredient for progress on the world market is the political goodwill among partner countries. It is only through this that the current multilateral trade negotiations under the GATT could be successful. It should be regrettably stressed that the food surpluses which have built up in the developed countries due to excessive export subsidies coupled with protectionism have brought a lot of uncertainty and hardships to the developing countries. If famine and malnutrition are to be eradicated and world food security attained in each and every country of this planet, then we have to liberalize the world market, we have to do away with export subsidies and protectionism. It is only at this stage that the state of food and agriculture in the world will be bright for all.

Kosei SHIOZAWA (Japan): I have listened with special interest to the excellent introduction made by Dr Islam on the current world food and agricultural situation, which the Director-General also touched upon in his opening statement.

The document CL 90/2 presents to us a comprehensive illustration of the main features of the world food and agricultural situation. The world food production in 1985 has increased compared to the previous year almost all over the world except for Western Europe. However, the rate of increase against the previous year was 2.1 percent which is less than half that of the previous year, which was 4.7 percent. This change came about from the downfall in the rate of increase for developed countries—that is, from 6.5 percent to 0.8 percent, while the rate of increase for developing countries went up from 3.0 percent to 3.3 percent. We would like to express a sigh of relief that the food production in Africa has recovered considerably by 7.0 percent since the previous year.

We are pleased about the increase in food production in the food deficit developing countries, particularly in the African countries, and we hope this is not just a temporary phenomena due to the good weather, but rather a sign that further steps are being made by the developing countries in order to achieve a sustained food production level for both middle-and long-term arrangements. While there is a clear indication that the critical food situation in Africa is improving, at the same time the problem of locust and grasshopper infestation has become our new concern. FAO has been making efforts to collect and disseminate related information promptly throughout the world and these efforts made by FAO in trying to mobilize resources and coordinate international assistance are highly appreciated. It goes without saying that the quick response of the western developed countries to contribute the necessary funds should be highly valued.

Japan has also been extending active assistance to locust control projects through the FAO/ Japanese Government Cooperation Programme as well as through the bilateral cooperation programmes and will continue to make these contributions. We hope to see that FAO continues to play an important role in monitoring the infestation during the early stages and coordinating the implementation of the comprehensive measures on a regional scale.

The Chernobyl nuclear accident in April 1986 caused substantial adversary effects in various respects; not only in respect of the domestic distribution and consumption in the affected regions, but also the international trade of agricultural and livestock products.

In my country a widespread anxiety among consumers concerning the level of contamination of imported foods and domestic milk and other foods had been provoked. My delegation believes that the utmost efforts should be made to prevent such accidents in the future and precise information should be disseminated urgently in case of another accident.

Before concluding my statement, I would like to make some brief comments on the useful financial analysis of agricultural development in the developing countries which was described in Section III of this document.

A comprehensive analysis of this sort has not been conducted so far despite the fact that it is important to raise the efficiency level of agricultural development and external cooperation relating to it. This analysis is quite useful and interesting and highly worthwhile.

As it has been indicated in the document, the major resources for agricultural development in the developing countries are the domestic savings, government revenue from taxes and external investment and assistance. It has also been pointed out that the share of the domestic savings among agricultural development resources has been growing since the early 1980s in the developing countries and this trend will further continue to advance through the last half of the present decade.

We can agree with the idea stated in the document that it is very important to make the best out of the domestic savings as a resource for agricultural development. With regard to the external financial flow for agriculture, the developing countries are expected to pursue measures to maximise effectiveness in the use of the resources.

In this connection, my country hopes that the resources available from the counterpart funds which Japan promotes in connection with food aid and aid for food production will be effectively

utilized by the recipient developing countries.

Mohammad Hasan PAIMAN (Afghanistan): I am greatly privileged to extend my good wishes to you and wish FAO and its Member Nations success in developing agriculture and providing more and more diversified food for the people and in eliminating malnutrition, hunger and poverty from our planet.

First of all, I would like to thank His Excellency the Director-General for his good speech giving much attention to underdeveloped countries.

I would like to give some short information about agricultural land and water reform in Afghanistan. Agriculture as a main production sector is the backbone of the economy of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan. Around 85 percent of the population of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan, directly or indirectly, is engaged in different sectors of agriculture, animal husbandry, and forestry. Agricultural products contain more than half of the domestic gross annual products and contain more than 64 percent of the national income. Around 50 percent of the income from exports is the share of agricultural products which is of great importance from the viewpoint of gaining foreign currency.

In 1985, the worth of gross products of agriculture has been estimated to be around 88 milliard Afghanis in which the share of crop products was about 70 percent, and the remaining 30 percent was from animal husbandry and products from forestry.

Parallel to the share of agriculture sector in our economic development, animal husbandry and forestry sectors also contribute an important role.

Sheep husbandry is one of the traditional businesses in our rural areas. Our nomads, with a population of around 2.5 million are mostly busy with sheep husbandry since the Karakul sheep is one of our famous breeds and one of the confident sources of earning foreign exchange.

Based on these mentioned facts and having in mind that our economic development mostly depends on the agricultural sector, the integrated socio-economic rural development is the priority of our Party and Government's goals. Today, in our country, the policies and economic strategies of development are formulated with the target of rural development.

In this connection, I want to point out some of our main achievements in providing technical and economic assistance to our peasants.

The implementation of land and water reforms is considered as a basic action and step towards rural development. In our country before the victory of the national and democratic Saur Revolution (April revolution) 35 000 landlord families owned around 28.6 percent of agricultural land, which was more than one million hectares. 11.5 million farmers were living in rural areas, almost all of them did not own land, or had only a small area of land.

The farmers who were recruited by big landlords owned only 25 percent of the products as their wages, while the farmers were using their own old traditional farming equipment. Therefore land reform was identified as an immediate need. It was cleared and approved by our Revolutionary Council and was implemented in 1978.

The main objectives of implementing land reforms in our Country are to eliminate feudalistic and pre-feudalistic relations from our socio-economic system; to raise the living standards of farmers' families; to increase the level of production; to bring facilities of Government economy and technical assistance to farmers; and to unite the farmers in the up-grading of their social and cultural life.

Since the start of the land reform, we have distributed a total of 754 228 hectares of land to 334 845 landless farmers' families, free of any charges. Also hundreds of councils of village farmers have been established.

The process of land reforms has not ended with the completion of land distribution. The Government provides all agricultural inputs such as fertilizers, improved seeds, pesticides and insecticides, veterinary drugs, agricultural machinery, advisory services in different fields of agriculture and animal husbandry to new settlements' and farmers who acquired the land recently.

With the assistance of other governmental organizations, rural health centres, schools and other institutions are established in the villages. The Government also assists the farmers in establishing their own cooperatives. Through these cooperatives, production, marketing and other economic and social affairs of the villagers are managed. Economic and technical assistance from the Government is provided through these cooperatives.

We are on the threshold of elimination of illiteracy. Illiterate peasants are not only enrolled in literary courses in their villages, but they are also educated at their farms by literary brigades and volunteers.

Our Government has also adopted an effective plan of irrigation reforms. As recently as 1985, 1 100 hectares of land have been newly cultivated, which show a 22 percent progress over the previous year, 1984. In 1985 sufficient irrigation water has been provided for 750 000 hectares. 72 farmers committees have been established in villages for managing the water distribution to rural areas. Nine governmental offices have been established for irrigation affairs. Also a number of deep wells have been constructed in range areas. Due to the great importance of land and water reforms in the rehabilitation of our economy our party's Politburo recently has concluded that new measures and practical procedures should be adopted for accelerating the process of land and water reforms all over the country to increase its effectiveness especially in the economic development of rural areas.

Unity of farmers, peasants, and cooperatives is a significant progress in our country to ensure satisfactory agricultural development. Before the revolution, the number of registered agricultural cooperatives was only 135 whilst in 1986, we have 472 agricultural cooperatives. These cooperatives not only bring satisfactory benefit to their members but also benefit the farmers by cutting out the middleman from the markets, by stabilizing the prices of agricultural products, and by enabling the consumers to receive the products directly from the cooperatives.

In order to raise the living standards of farmers, the Government performs all agricultural extension services in the villages. The District Agricultural Extension Units serve the farmer with cropping systems, introduce new crop varieties through demonstration plots, demonstrate plant protection practices, land preparation, soil management, animal health services, and use machinery and modern agricultural practices.

We have planned to establish extension units all over the country. In this connection 100 new extension units have been planned to be established next year, and as a result we need financial resources and foreign assistance.

In our country, there are 1.9 million hectares under forest. The main forestry products are timber, fruits such as pistachio, medicinal plants and firewood. The income from forestry products in 1985 has been estimated at about 350 million Afghanis. Our findings in securing the needs of wood for construction have led us to intensify the plantation of fast-growing tree species.

In 1985 we had considerable achievements in veterinary services. About 10.1 million head of cattle have been treated or vaccinated against animal diseases and 9.5 million doses of different animal vaccines have been produced.

To improve the services to farmers, chemical fertilizers and improved seeds are sold at subsidised prices, although the price of cotton and sugarbeet (which are mainly purchased by governmental enterprises) has been raised several times during the last few years.

Our country is in a state of undeclared war on imperialism and regional reactionaries. The machinery of this destructive war is fed through the organization of an integrated economic, social and psychological struggle against our hard-working people which is being implemented by armed counter-revolutionaries. This counterrevolution destroys irrigation dams and networks, burns and destroys

agricultural constructions, machinery and equipment, transportation, seed and fertilizer stocks, mosques, schools, and further terrorises and threatens the farmers and technical employees, preventing them from cultivation.

In spite of all these disruptive efforts by the counterrevolutionaries, our industrious farmers do not spare in their endeavours in the way of production of foodstuffs for their countrymen. I hope everyone will agree with me that instead of producing all kinds of destructive means, it would be better to work towards producing agricultural products, to contribute to a worldwide struggle against hunger and poverty, and to assist agricultural development especially for the under developed countries.

In this connection, a review of our Country's production last year would reveal that we had 3.8 million hectares under cultivation of permanent and seasonal crops. This figure shows a one hundred percent implementation of the plan and an increase of 4.7 thousand hectares of cultivated land.

In accordance with the estimate of the full cultivation campaign of 1985 and the spring campaign, of this year, 99.7 percent of the cultivation plan for cereals was under implementation. However, in the current year, in many parts of our country, (especially, in the north) the drought is still prevailing, and we are greatly concerned about this fact.

As I mentioned, our economy is suffering from the effective undeclared war against our people. Undoubtedly, normally no nation could perform its economic activities alone, and would have to call on the assistance of one of its powerful friendly countries. In this connection, we appreciate the impartial brotherhood and internationalist economic and technical assistance of the Soviet Union in our agricultural affairs. Every year, the Soviet Union grants a great amount of chemical fertilizers, improved seeds, veterinary drugs, and chemicals for the control of the desert, locust. In addition to that, the Soviet Union assists us in establishing and equipping agricultural mechanisation centres, and agrochemical laboratories, in artificial insemination and in constructing and equipping modern agricultural farms.

A number of on-going United Nations' agricultural development projects are operational because of the cooperation of FAO with our country. The output of these fruitful projects has an effect on our agricultural development. In this connection, on behalf of our people and my delegation I want to thank FAO, especially Dr Saouma, the Director-General, for its cooperation in maintaining our agricultural development every year. In the meantime, I also request the technical divisions concerned in FAO to kindly approve those pipeline projects which are requested by our Government for UNDP's assistance.

The meeting rose at 17.30 hours.

La séance est levée à 17 h 30.

Se levanta la sesión a las 17.30 horas.

council

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

conseil

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

consejo

ORGANIZACION DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS PARA LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION

CL

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Ninetieth Session

Quatre-vingt-dixième session

90º período de sesiones

THIRD PLENARY MEETING
TROISIEME SEANCE PLENIERE
TERCERA SESION PLENARIA
(18 November 1986)

The Third Plenary Meeting was opened at 10.00 hours,
Lassaad Ben Osman, Independent Chairman of the Council, presiding
La troisième séance plénière est ouverte à 10 heures sous la présidence
de Lassaad Ben Osman, Président indépendant du Conseil
Se abre la tercera sesión plenaria a las 10 horas bajo la presidencia
de Lassaad Ben Osman, Presidente Independiente del Consejo

- I. INTRODUCTION-PROCEDURE OF THE SESSION (continued)
- I. INTRODUCTION-QUESTIONS DE PROCEDURE (suite)
- I. INTRODUCCION-CUESTIONES DE PROCEDIMIENTO (continuación)
2. Election of Three Vice-Chairmen and Designation of the Chairman and Members of the Drafting Committee (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 de los Miembros del Comité de Redacción (continuación)

LE PRESIDENT: Mesdames, Mesdemoiselles, Messieurs, nous déclarons ouverte la session d'aujourd'hui de la quatre-vingt-dixième session du Conseil. Comme vous le savez il nous reste à terminer la composition du Bureau par les élections d'un troisième vice-président et par le parachèvement de la composition des membres du Comité de rédaction.

Vous vous souvenez qu'hier on a demandé au Conseil de vérifier s'il y a d'autres propositions afin de finaliser la composition du Comité de rédaction. Ceci étant, y a-t-il des observations sur ce point précis?

José Ramón LOPEZ-PORTILLO ROMANO (Mexico): Más que para proponer y resolver los asuntos pendientes de la Mesa es para hacer una reflexión en este Consejo y para exhortar a las diversas regiones a que lo consideren.

Señor Presidente, ha sido tradición en el Consejo que el Comité de Redacción tenga cuanto más doce miembros y en ciertas ocasiones ha llegado hasta trece miembros. En esta ocasión, y por lo que leyó usted el día de ayer, inclusive ciertas informaciones un tanto ambiguas que recibimos ayer mismo por la noche, el número del Comité de Redacción parece expandirse hasta quince, es decir un tercio o casi un tercio de lo que es nuestro Consejo. En tal caso, el Comité de Redacción es ya prácticamente un grupo de negociación y no un Comité de Redacción más, y como Presidente de tal Comité me parece que un número tan grande de miembros lo haría francamente inmanejable y por tanto poco efectivo.

Señor Presidente, a estas alturas solicito a las diversas regiones que se atengan al número que tradicionalmente ha integrado el Comité de Redacción y que se reconsidere, lo repito, que se reconsidere la membrecía del mismo con el propósito de establecerlo en doce miembros, o en caso de que no se pueda evitar en trece miembros.

LE PRESIDENT: La liste des pays porte sur 14 noms. Y a-t-il d'autres délégués qui veulent prendre la parole?

Octavio Rainho da SILVA NEVES (Brazil): I quite agree with what has been said by the Ambassador of Mexico. In fact we are all aware that we are here in order to try to deal with a serious crisis. My feeling is that such a large and unorthodox drafting committee is not going to help matters. In fact we are almost facing a Sub-committee of the Whole. In this connection I would like to endorse the views advanced by the Ambassador of Mexico and suggest that the Council refers this matter back to the regions and that we then try to see if we can make something more orthodox and in accordance with tradition and not a negotiating committee.

Humberto CARRION M. (Nicaragua): Deseamos asociarnos con la inquietud que han planteado los delegados de México y Brasil. Particularmente la delegación de México presidirá el Comité de Redacción y, por lo tanto, son legítimas y justificadas las preocupaciones de que en un Consejo tan importante como éste un Comité de Redacción muy amplio, con gran número de miembros, dificultará más bien los trabajos del mismo. Por lo tanto, nosotros apoyamos las propuestas hechas por México y Brasil de que el Comité de Redacción de este Consejo quede en doce miembros como se ha hecho en el pasado y tradicionalmente.

Gonzalo BULA HOYOS (Colombia): La delegación de Colombia espera que no habrá ninguna dificultad en que se logre lo que ha propuesto el colega de México.

Los informes de los últimos cinco periodos de sesiones demuestran claramente, y esto es fácil de confirmar, que la tradicional composición del Comité de Redacción ha sido la siguiente: Dos miembros por cada una de las cuatro regiones de países en desarrollo, o sea Africa, Asia, Medio Oriente y América Latina y El Caribe; dos miembros por Europa occidental, y a veces, y esto es muy justo, un miembro por Europa oriental; un miembro por América del Norte y un miembro desarrollado por Asia y el Pacífico. Esto es lo que ha sucedido en las reuniones del Consejo y a ese patrón es al que debe ceñirse la composición del Comité de Redacción. Por lo tanto, yo creo que no es necesario prolongar este debate, sino que, a la luz de lo que hemos hecho siempre, los representantes de las regiones informen a usted sus respectivos candidatos.

Joseph TCHICAYA (Congo): Effectivement, nous sommes ici depuis un certain temps et notre petite expérience au niveau des comités de rédaction auxquels nous avons souvent participé nous montre que nous ne dépassons, nous n'avons jamais dépassé le nombre de 12 ou 13 membres avec le Président, au niveau du Comité de rédaction pour le Conseil. C'est pour cette raison que nous demandons pour quel motif le nombre des membres s'est brutalement accru au cours de cette session. Nous savons bien sûr que des problèmes importants, certainement, vont être débattus au cours de cette session mais cela ne peut pas être une raison valable pour faire en sorte que le Comité de rédaction soit le plus large possible. Nous savons tous que plus ce comité est large, plus ses travaux peuvent se paralyser: pour cette raison je voudrais appuyer la proposition faite par le Président de ce Comité de rédaction pour que le nombre soit réduit au nombre traditionnel. Je crois que mon collègue de la Colombie vient de donner la composition traditionnelle de chacune de nos régions; composition que nous appuyons formellement.

Khalil MAKKAWI (Lebanon): I should like to take the floor to support fully what has been said by the distinguished representative of Mexico, as Chairman of this Drafting Committee. Lebanon is a member of this Drafting Committee and from experience shares the views which have been put forward by all the distinguished delegates who have preceded me. For this reason I support fully what has been said by the distinguished representatives, in particular, the specific proposals made by His Excellency the Ambassador of Colombia.

LE PRESIDENT: Il semble donc qu'il y ait une convergence vers une proposition tendant à réduire le nombre des membres du Comité de rédaction de 14 à 12, en essayant de respecter, autant que faire se peut, les représentations régionales. Il est donc proposé que les régions se réunissent à nouveau pour voir dans quelle mesure on peut réduire de deux unités les membres proposés pour le Comité de rédaction et ceci dans le but de faciliter la tâche au Président du Comité de rédaction. Est-ce que cette proposition peut recueillir l'agrément du Conseil? Sommes-nous autorisés à vous prier de bien vouloir revoir vos propositions dans le cadre des différentes régions de la FAO et de faire les propositions au secrétariat aussitôt que possible?

Sra. Mercedes FERMÍN GOMEZ (Venezuela): Solamente quiero responder a su pregunta de si esta propuesta tiene apoyo, y Venezuela dice que apoya la proposición del embajador de México, Presidente del Comité de Redacción, y especialmente aclarar la representación por regiones.

Jacques POSIER (France): Je voudrais simplement poser une question pour avoir un éclaircissement sur les régions qui sont concernées. Doit-on se pencher sur ce problème afin de réduire le nombre total des candidats à la composition du Comité de rédaction?

LE PRESIDENT: Les nombres par région sont: 2 pour l'Afrique, 2 pour l'Asie, 2 pour le Proche-Orient, 2 pour l'Amérique latine et 6 pour l'OCDE. Voici la composition actuelle du Comité de rédaction. Voici ce qui est proposé par le secrétariat. Deux pour chaque région en voie de développement. Cela fait 8. Deux pour l'Europe occidentale, 1 pour l'Europe orientale, 1 pour l'Amérique du Nord, 1 pour l'Asie et le Pacifique développés.

Jacques POSIER (France): En ce qui concerne le Groupe de l'OCDE, il est parvenu à un accord et a proposé 6 membres: 6 candidats au Comité de rédaction.

La question posée est: quelles sont les régions que vous appelez à se pencher à nouveau sur la question pour faire un nombre total de candidatures qui permette de revenir au nombre habituel? J'ai tendance à considérer que notre groupe régional n'est pas concerné par cette révision.

LE PRESIDENT: Voilà le schéma proposé par le secrétariat... par le délégué de la Colombie: 2 pour l'Afrique, 2 pour le Proche-Orient, 2 pour l'Amérique latine, 2 pour l'Asie, 2 pour l'Europe occidentale, 2 pour l'Europe orientale, 1 pour l'Amérique du Nord, 1 pour l'Asie et le Pacifique développés. Ceci est la proposition du délégué de la Colombie.

José Ramón LOPEZ-PORTILLO ROMANO (Mexico): Señor Presidente, que a nadie le sorprenda que yo haya levantado esta cuestión, las razones son obvias. Esta es una ocasión extraordinaria donde el Comité de Redacción propone que tenga 15 miembros. Tradicionalmente-y eso se puede revisar caso por caso-la distribución ha sido como la que ha señalado el distinguido delegado de Colombia y en la mayor parte de las veces el Comité de Redacción no ha tenido más de 12 miembros, se ha limitado a 12 miembros, . y, en ciertas ocasiones excepcionales, así es, cuando por razones de interés para Europa Oriental se ha visionado con un miembro de esa región, de manera que monta a 13. Y para contestar directamente al distinguido delegado de Francia, no solamente la propuesta que hemos hecho sino la tradición, la forma de resolver la integración del Comité de Redacción implica que Europa debe limitarse a dos miembros y América del Norte a un miembro. Esas son las dos regiones que deben limitar su membresía en el Comité de Redacción.

LE PRESIDENT: Nous sommes saisis de propositions précises de la part de la délégation de la Colombie. Est-ce que cette proposition peut servir de base à une réflexion pour la composition du Comité de rédaction? Est-ce que le Conseil peut retenir cette proposition qui découle de l'usage concernant la composition du Comité de rédaction? Si tel est le cas, je propose que l'on retienne cette proposition qui porterait la composition des membres du Comité de rédaction à 13 et nous verrons si nous pouvons aboutir à quelque-chose de représentatif de l'ensemble des régions de la FAO pour ce Comité de rédaction.

Nous passons maintenant au second point sur la composition du bureau, à savoir l'élection du troisième Vice-Président de notre Conseil.

A. K. M. Kamaluddin CHOUDHURY (Bangladesh): I have great pleasure in proposing the name of His Excellency Paul Bomani, Minister of Agriculture and Livestock Development of Tanzania, for the third post of Vice-Chairman of the Council.

Mr Bomani is already quite well known for his dynamic role and long experience in the various committees of FAO and other United Nations Organizations. I feel that his inclusion in the bureau will be of very great help and assistance for the success of the Council.

Joseph TCHICAYA (Congo): Je souhaite prendre la parole pour appuyer la proposition faite par le représentant du Bangladesh. Nous pensons également que M. Paul Bomani, Ministre de l'agriculture et du développement et de l'élevage de son pays, la Tanzanie, serait un excellent Vice-Président qui vous aidera dans l'accomplissement de votre tâche. Pour cette raison, nous souhaitons que le Conseil approuve sa candidature.

Sra. Mercedes FERMIN GOMEZ (Venezuela): Es simplemente para dar el apoyo de Venezuela a la candidatura propuesta.

LE PRESIDENT: Nous avons une proposition concrète tendant à élire Son Excellence M. Paul Bomani, Ministre de l'agriculture et de l'élevage en Tanzanie au poste de Vice-Président de notre Conseil. Je pense que le Conseil est d'accord et je le félicite de ce choix.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

II. WORLD FOOD AND AGRICULTURE SITUATION (continued)

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

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

4. State of Food and Agriculture 1986 (continued)

4. Situation de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture en 1986 (suite)

4. El estado mundial de la agricultura y la alimentación, 1986 (continuación)

LE PRESIDENT: Nous passons maintenant à la suite du point 4 de l'ordre du jour, intitulé: Situation de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture en 1986. Les délégués qui ont demandé de prendre la parole aujourd'hui sont les suivants: Tunisie, Ouganda, République fédérale d'Allemagne, Australie, Arabie Saoudite, Philippines, Bangladesh, Canada, Iraq, Tanzanie, Sénégal, Bulgarie, Yougoslavie, Royaume-Uni, CEE, Malaisie, Autriche, Egypte, Etats-Unis d'Amérique, Zimbabwe, Cuba, Inde, Argentine, Libéria; et j'avais recueilli hier la proposition d'un observateur: Alliance coopérative internationale.

Je suggère dans toute la mesure possible aux honorables délégués qu'ils veuillent bien tenir compte du fait que nous avons deux heures et demie à trois heures pour 26 interventions; je leur demande d'être aussi concis que possible.

Mohammed ABDELHADI (Tunisie): Je vais essayer d'être bref, conformément à votre recommandation, je voudrais pour commencer, au nom de la délégation tunisienne, remercier M. Islam pour l'excellente présentation qu'il nous a faite hier sur un sujet très important et que nous avons l'habitude de passer en revue au sein du Conseil; je le remercie également des documents intéressants soumis à notre examen.

Nous avons également écouté hier avec beaucoup d'attention l'importante déclaration du Directeur général de la FAO, où il a passé en revue tous les problèmes et préoccupations du moment, ainsi que la situation mondiale de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture. Ma délégation a par ailleurs apprécié à sa juste valeur les efforts intenses du Directeur général durant les dernières années pour améliorer d'une façon efficace la gestion et le fonctionnement de l'Organisation, tels la compression dans une proportion des frais de personnel ou des coûts administratifs, et l'affectation de davantage de ressources aux programmes de terrain.

La délégation tunisienne a étudié soigneusement les documents qui sont soumis à notre examen, et voudrait faire quelques brefs commentaires sur un certain nombre d'éléments et formuler quelques observations.

En ce qui concerne la situation alimentaire en général, nous constatons qu'elle continue d'être marquée par un contexte difficile et défavorable; le chômage persiste ainsi que les déficits budgétaires dans de nombreux pays; l'endettement devient pour de nombreux pays du tiers monde insupportable, à tel point que le service de la dette absorbe une proportion importante des revenus de l'exportation. Dans ce contexte, nous constatons toujours la persistance du paradoxe d'une abondance alimentaire dans certains pays et d'une pénurie dans d'autres, qui se trouvent quasiment dans l'incapacité d'acheter, faute de ressources financières.

Le paragraphe 15 du document traduit, comme l'a souligné hier le représentant du Congo, une note quelque peu pessimiste, puisqu'il est mentionné que les premières estimations pour 1986 ne sont guère encourageantes pour la plupart des pays en développement. La baisse du prix des produits de base va se poursuivre et entraîner, selon le FMI, une détérioration de 12 pour cent de leurs termes de l'échange; cette situation influera certainement, à notre avis, sur les recettes d'exportations qui vont diminuer. Mais ceci ne nous empêche pas de constater une amélioration globale dans la situation alimentaire en Afrique en 1986. En effet, le nombre des pays où sévissait la famine a

notablement diminué, et la production agricole a enregistré dans de nombreux pays, après les années de vaches maigres, une augmentation sensible. C'est pour nous un motif de satisfaction que de constater que la conjugaison des efforts à l'échelle nationale et internationale-et notamment les diverses actions de la FAO-a commencé à produire ses effets. Il n'en demeure pas moins que, si certains pays africains-et ceci a été souligné par le Directeur général dans sa déclaration d'hier-ont pu réaliser des excédents-céréaliers, ils n'ont pu les écouler faute de marchés. Ces excédents auraient pu être utilisés pour approvisionner des pays déficitaires. A cet égard, la délégation tunisienne est heureuse d'appuyer la suggestion du Directeur général, qui a appelé les pays donateurs à faire un effort pour acheter certains de ces excédents au profit de pays dans le besoin.

Dans le cadre des informations très utiles sur la situation alimentaire mondiale, le document CL 90/2 nous a permis de passer en revue cette situation, région par région, et même sous-région par sous-région; c'est une bonne initiative que le Conseil devrait encourager.

Concernant la région à laquelle appartient mon pays, à savoir l'Afrique du Nord, le paragraphe 123 du document a signalé de bonnes perspectives pour les récoltes en 1986, au moins pour une bonne partie de la sous-région. Toutefois, en ce qui concerne la Tunisie, compte tenu de facteurs climatiques défavorables, la production céréalière en 1986 a été très inférieure à celle enregistrée en 1985, durant laquelle nous avons pu obtenir une production céréalière globale record. Je voudrais saisir cette occasion pour évoquer très brièvement notre stratégie agricole qui a conféré à l'agriculture une priorité absolue. Cette stratégie est basée sur les principes suivants:

Allocation de près de 20 pour cent des investissements au secteur agricole; encouragement des investissements dans l'agriculture par la promulgation du code des investissements agricoles qui accorde des avantages financiers et fiscaux spécifiques; création d'un environnement favorable au développement agricole, par exemple, amélioration des prix à la production, un meilleur approvisionnement en intrants; meilleures conditions d'écoulement des produits; politique de crédits à des conditions de faveur; renforcement des services de recherche et de vulgarisation agricoles; établissement de priorités dans la politique de développement de la production agricole; une mention particulière est accordée aux produits stratégiques, plus particulièrement aux céréales, et à cet égard, avec le concours de la FAO, au travers d'un projet de coopération technique TCP, un plan de développement du secteur céréalière est sur le point d'être achevé; ce plan a permis d'identifier toutes les potentialités, ainsi que les mesures d'accompagnement nécessaires à la mobilisation des ressources en faveur de ce secteur. Il est à espérer que ces mesures, d'ordre institutionnel, juridique, financier et économique, permettront à la Tunisie d'aspirer à une amélioration tangible de sa production céréalière et permettront notamment d'assurer sa sécurité alimentaire.

Le paragraphe 123 m'a amené à parler brièvement de notre stratégie agricole; je ne voudrais pas laisser échapper la possibilité d'évoquer un événement qui a d'ailleurs été mis en relief dans le document ainsi que dans la déclaration du Directeur général, compte tenu de son importance. Il s'agit du programme de redressement de l'économie africaine 1986-90 adopté par la session extraordinaire de l'Assemblée générale des Nations Unies au mois de mai dernier. Ce programme constitue un haut lieu, un des faits marquants de cette année, compte tenu du consensus qui s'est dégagé en faveur de l'Afrique, et notamment du fait que l'agriculture africaine a été reconnue par la communauté internationale comme étant le secteur prioritaire dans tout effort de développement économique du continent.

Les Ministres africains réunis à Yamoussoukro lors de la Conférence régionale de la FAO au mois de septembre dernier ont unanimement reconnu le mérite et les efforts de la FAO, de son Directeur général, pour avoir contribué efficacement à l'élaboration de ce programme dont la Conférence régionale constitue à nos yeux la première initiative de sa mise en oeuvre.

Dans le même ordre d'idée, la délégation tunisienne a exprimé sa reconnaissance pour les efforts considérables que la FAO ne cesse de consentir à l'Afrique. Parmi ces efforts couronnés de succès, on peut citer la campagne de lutte antiacridienne, menée avec énergie, avec le concours de plusieurs pays donateurs que je voudrais ici saluer. Ces efforts et ces actions de la FAO sur le terrain illustrent à notre sens l'efficacité du rôle de l'Organisation dans des domaines aussi importants que la préservation et la protection des récoltes dans des pays qui en ont grandement besoin.

Il s'agit là de quelques brefs commentaires et de quelques observations que les documents CL 90/2 et CL 90/2 Sup. 1 ont suscités à ma délégation.

Augustine K. OSUBAN (Uganda): Mr Chairman, my delegation is delighted to see you again chairing this Session. I extend our compliments to the members of your bureau who have been elected to assist you.

On behalf of my delegation and on my own behalf I wish to extend my congratulations to the Director-General for his comprehensive appraisal of the world food and agriculture situation in his opening statement, and to Professor Islam for his excellent introduction of this agenda item.

Going through the documents before us, it is clear that world trade in agriculture has stagnated; but the situation in developing countries is more pathetic. In these countries the situation has greatly deteriorated owing to the continuing decline in export prices of their commodities and the protectionist policies of several developed countries, severely restricting possibilities of generating export earnings. In addition, in many cases large burden of debt and debt servicing charges and declines in official external assistance have also greatly contributed to the worsening economic situation of many developing countries.

We learn from the documents before us that preliminary estimates for 1986 indicate a minor increase in world agriculture production of 0.8 percent as a net result of 1.5 percent growth in food production. While food output growth in developing countries in 1986 is reported to be of the order of 3.3 percent, the growth in Africa is reported to be only 1.1 percent compared to the 7 percent increase achieved in 1985. This is a very disheartening situation given the fact that the region's rapid population rate of growth is more than 3 percent a year and is coupled with a rapid urbanization rate.

Political awareness and concern for the disturbing, deterioration in the performance of the agricultural sector in Africa has been at the focus of the African leaders. The Lagos Plan of Action (1980), the Harare Declaration (1984) and the Addis Ababa Declaration last year, which was a precursor to the UN Programme of Action for African Recovery and Development, are all clear manifestations of the commitment of the African leaders to prevent the deteriorating food situation from getting worse. A major component of this UN Action Programme calls for internal reforms to guarantee priority to agriculture. Since then, many countries on the continent have introduced policy reforms which have embodied those essential reforms.

The FAO study "African Agriculture: The Next 25 Years" presented to the FAO Regional Conference for Africa, September 1986 gave a clear analysis of the causes of retarded agricultural growth. We shall not dwell on it at this point, as the Council will have an opportunity to discuss it under Agenda item 8, 2. Nevertheless, we would like here to reiterate our endorsement of the four-point programme of action for Africa's agricultural progress as proposed by FAO (CL 90/2 Sup. 1 para. 28).

Mr Chairman, we welcome the second replenishment of IFAD. Although the target has fallen short of what was required, we feel it is a very positive trend.

Regarding fertilizers we believe that fertilizers along with improved seeds and water are indispensable inputs in bringing about increased productivity and food production to enable countries to become more food self-reliant. We therefore welcome this 'temporary' fall in prices of fertilizers, we hope prices will not go up in sympathy with oil prices which will be now going up any moment.

The resurgence of locusts and grasshoppers in West Africa and of migrating locusts of all species in Africa are a great concern at a time when we are struggling to become food self-reliant. We welcome the establishment of the Emergency Centre for Locust Operations created to help mobilize funds and equipment and coordinate action. We thank FAO and the international community for assistance in effecting control campaigns. We request that as the emergency phase is tapering off, mechanisms should be worked out to assist national and regional plant protection Organisations both financially and materially to enable them to cope with future invasions of this nature. This will ensure a more lasting solution. In this connection the Ugandan Delegation would like to propose that the Council pass a resolution concerning those matters.

Regarding forestry in developing countries the fact that fuel wood accounted for more than 66 percent of the total energy consumption in a sample of 24 tropical countries, is an indication of the need to pay more attention to forestry conservation and afforestation programmes. There is also a need to explore other sources of renewable energy.

We are encouraged to note that there is an increasing tendency in developing countries to expand the manufacture of processed products such as paper, sawnwood and plywood, instead of transporting of unprocessed tropical logs for export.

Finally, I would like to thank the FAO for the work it is doing to promote increased food production and the international community for the assistance they have offered in implementing Africa's Priority Programme for Economic Recovery and Development.

Joachim WINKEL (Germany, Federal Republic of): My delegation welcomes the presentation of this year's Report on the State of Food and Agriculture, document CL 90/2 which contains in a clear form a wealth of data and facts. As last year the report starts with an examination of the current world economic situation, paras. 1 to 23.

We especially welcome the fact that growth in food production in the developing regions in 1985 was even more spread than in previous years, para. 24.

In contrast to paras 33 and 34 of the document CL 90/2, the Federal Republic of Germany during the previous years increased the share of official commitments of external assistance to agriculture, which now amounts to more than 30 percent of our total economic cooperation with developing countries.

With regard to the international agricultural trade, paras. 36 to 42, we welcome the results of the Ministerial Meeting at Punta del Este for the preparation of the forthcoming GATT negotiations. Moreover, agricultural imports of my country from developing countries increased at substantial growth rates during previous years.

In Chapter D, "Recent Developments in Fisheries and Forestry" we would have welcomed some remarks on the increasing role of aquaculture in securing nutrition for a growing population.

We share the views expressed in paras. 123-127 of the document CL 90/2. In this regard we welcome the improvements in the African situation, especially the policy reforms as described in paras. 105-121. We look forward to the publication of the up-to-date situation report on Africa mentioned in para. 127. In this connection, allow me to stress that we would welcome a new edition of FAO's publication "African Agriculture: The Next 25 Years", which had been published on the occasion of the last Regional Conference for Africa.

I refer to the representative of the Commission of the European Economic Community who will express the Community's view with regard to paras. 192-195.

We gladly notice that according to para 4 of document CL 90/2-Sup. 1, inflation rates continue to recede and nominal interest rates are at their lowest level since the early 1980's.

The documents stressed to a large extent the problem of indebtedness of developing countries. The Federal Republic of Germany is making efforts to ease the difficulties which developing countries have arising out of their very high debt servicing. Recently my country, in fact, has written off a total of DM 4.2 billion of debt coming from official development cooperation to a number of developing countries with a low gross national product. With this very high amount, allow me to say that the Federal Republic of Germany is on top of all developed countries.

My delegation shares the view expressed in the Report that world economic difficulties have not yet been eliminated. Many world economic indicators, however, meanwhile show a vigorous upward trend, particularly in favour of developing countries. We welcome these signals and we are convinced that the international community can tackle now, with greater confidence, the tasks than it could last year.

LE PRESIDENT: Je donnerai la parole au représentant de la CEE, afin qu'il puisse parler au sujet du paragraphe 95, lorsque nous aurons épuisé la liste des Membres du Conseil. Je donne maintenant la parole au délégué de l'Australie.

David Lawrence COUTTS (Australia): I would like to say that Australia finds the Report on the State of Food and Agriculture a very useful document for the information it provides and we are thinking carefully about the issues it raises and the policies that will be needed to address them.

I was interested to note the Director-General's remarks yesterday about the problems which Third World producers are facing in the present situation of world surpluses of some major agricultural products, especially grains. This is a problem which is particularly difficult also for countries like Australia which is a low cost producer of those products and the income of our farmers has dropped dramatically this year as a result of low world market prices for these products.

Australia feels very strongly that an essential part of any solution to the problems of agricultural development in developing countries is effective reform of the world market system for agricultural products. The key factor in this regard is the need to address the role played by domestic policies in major producing and consuming countries and to create a situation where world prices are more responsive to the underlying forces of supply and demand. Countries which have a comparative

advantage. In producing these products, they can expect to sell their products under fairer conditions than at the present time.

In this context, I would like to emphasise the importance, in our view, of the outcome of the GATT meeting at Punta del Este in September 1986 to launch the Uruguay Round of Multilateral Trade Negotiations. As the Director-General pointed out yesterday, and a number of other speakers have indicated, this MTN round is particularly significant in that the Contracting Parties have agreed, for the first time, to hold substantive negotiations on agriculture. There has been agreement to look at the real causes of the agricultural trade problem by holding substantive negotiations on all direct and indirect subsidies and other measures affecting agricultural production and trade.

The Australian Government has already devoted considerable effort to the process of focussing attention on the problems caused by policies followed in some major producing and consuming countries and to the long and undoubtedly arduous process of achieving necessary reforms. There have been intense and continuing representations and dialogue for some time, both within GATT and directly with key producing and consuming nations. It is pleasing to note that there are fundamental pressures in all these countries for change and that we may hope that this will lead to real efforts to wind back the use of subsidies that distort agricultural production and trade. Australia has been very active in this regard and played a key role in the establishment of the Cairns group of fair traders. This particular initiative played an important role in the Punta del Este meeting and the coalition of interests represented by this group (comprising both developed and developing countries) should continue to be an active force as the negotiations get under way in earnest. In particular, this group has provided a focus for countries which are competitive producers and traders of agricultural products to bring pressure to bear on the countries whose domestic policies have been largely responsible for the current surplus problem, or which need to consider some opening up of their markets for imports of agricultural products, namely the United States, the EEC and Japan.

Australia acknowledges that the agreement in Uruguay is only the beginning and that real changes may take some time to achieve. As indicated earlier, we feel that achieving meaningful reforms must be tackled in a multilateral framework and I am heartened to hear the widespread conviction, as expressed by many speakers at this meeting, that the impetus of these negotiations must be maintained.

The process of agricultural trade liberalization will not be painless, for developing countries as much as for developed countries, and we trust that these expressions of support will be carried through to the multilateral trade negotiations themselves. I would note in passing, that document CL 90/2 does not accurately summarize the results of the Punta del Este meeting, referred to in paragraph 40. This is understandably because it was drafted, I presume, before that meeting but I think it is important that the report of this session of the Council makes appropriate reference to the very significant initiatives agreed at that meeting.

I was also pleased to note, in the Director-General's speech, that FAO will be doing what it can to assist the GATT negotiations to be successful in relation to agriculture by providing assistance in the form of information and statistics. Australia feels strongly that multilateral institutions, such as FAO, must play a vital part in solving these problems and to do this they must be as efficient and flexible as possible in their operations. In this context I would like to mention a general principle that Australia feels is most important; namely that Heads of major international and national organizations including UN Specialized Agencies be limited to a maximum of two terms in office. Australia is firmly committed to the United Nations and its Specialized Agencies, including FAO. Where appropriate, however, we have been critical of inefficiency and ineffectiveness. We have consistently argued the need for periodic re-invigoration of the UN family. The central element of this re-invigoration must be leadership. Large institutions benefit from re-assessment and periodic injections of enthusiasm and new ideas and need dynamism in its senior management and regular changes in leadership to combat rigidity and encourage leaders to operate within a corporate team and make organizations more responsive to current needs. Australia supports the two-term principle in a wide variety of situations and takes the view that the two-term principle is as applicable to FAO as to other institutions.

Lastly, I would like to emphasize that we should not forget the area of fisheries when considering the question of achieving higher nutrition standards in developing countries. Fisheries are referred to in paragraphs 72 to 79 of document CL 90/2 and I would underline that development of fisheries, particularly in the area of aquaculture, should be taken into account in any discussion of the world food situation. In this way FAO's own assessment (made at the World Conference on Fisheries and Management and Development in 1984) of the contribution of fisheries to food supplies and nutritional standards would find greater acceptance by Member countries, particularly those where aquaculture offers opportunities for alternative land use.

LE PRESIDENT: Je remercie le délégué de l'Australie de sa communication. Je me permettrai cependant de noter que, dans sa déclaration, il a abordé une question qui ne figure pas à l'ordre du jour du Conseil, à savoir les conditions de réélection du Directeur général, conditions établies par l'Acte constitutif de notre Organisation. Si un débat doit s'Ouvrir sur ce point précis, je ne vois pas comment on pourra insérer cette discussion dans le rapport du Conseil. Nous ne pouvons pas faire état de ce genre de vues-qui ne peuvent être qu'informelles-dans le rapport du Conseil. La seule façon d'aborder cette question, c'était de l'inscrire à l'ordre du jour du Conseil qui a été adopté hier.

José Ramón LOPEZ-PORTILLO ROMANO (México): No quise interrumpir al distinguido delegado de Australia cuando introdujo un tema que no estaba en el orden del día. Este tipo de actos, señor Presidente, creo que dificultan los trabajos de un Consejo que no está deliberando sobre cuestiones que se tratarán mucho más adelante, el próximo año. No comamos ansias, ya que esto solamente complica nuestros trabajos, esto es irregular y, como bien ha señalado usted, señor Presidente, no se puede incluir en nuestros trabajos. No provoquemos, facilitemos, y si tanto se respeta y se quiere en estos organismos internacionales, como se ha declarado una y otra vez, una solución para los problemas de la humanidad, no metamos asuntos que solamente vienen a deteriorar la atmósfera, ya difícil, por las graves implicaciones financieras que ahora enfrentamos. Esperamos cordialidad de parte de todos los miembros, sensatez y, sobre todo, señor Presidente, apoyamos su declaración y esperamos que no se nos complique la vida en el futuro inmediato.

Jacques POSIER (France): La délégation française considère qu'il n'y a pas lieu à débattre de cette initiative et ceci pour les raisons suivantes:

- 1) Cette question n'est pas à l'ordre du jour de cette session du Conseil;
- 2) Les statuts de la FAO ne prévoient pas la limitation du nombre des mandats du Directeur général à deux. Si le Conseil se prononçait en faveur de cette limitation, cela aboutirait à procéder à une modification des statuts de l'Organisation et le Conseil n'est pas compétent pour le faire.
- 3) Je considère que cette initiative est inopportune et ferait courir le risque d'introduire dans nos débats des éléments polémiques inutiles, déplaisants et déplacés alors que notre attention et nos travaux devraient être exclusivement consacrés à la solution des graves problèmes, particulièrement ceux financiers, auxquels l'Organisation doit faire face.

Je me borne à mettre en avant des données touchant à cette question de procédure et à cette question statutaire ainsi qu'à des considérations d'opportunité car je voudrais être logique avec moi-même en refusant de débattre sur le fond d'un problème dont je considère que nous n'avons pas à discuter.

Joseph TCHICAYA (Congo): Après votre intervention, je pensais ne plus pouvoir prendre la parole sur ce sujet. Je crois que nous avons reçu un ordre du jour suffisamment lourd pour que notre temps puisse être consacré essentiellement à résoudre les problèmes qui nous sont posés. Je crois moi aussi que la déclaration faite par le délégué de l'Australie sur la durée du mandat des chefs des agences des Nations Unies et, tout particulièrement pour ce qui concerne la FAO, est inopportune.

Elle est inopportune parce que nous pensons qu'il s'agit là d'un point très important qui doit être débattu au niveau de nos gouvernements et que nous aurions dû avant de nous présenter ici à cette session recevoir des instructions de la part de notre gouvernement. Or, en l'absence de ces instructions, nous ne voyons pas comment nous pourrions débattre d'une question aussi importante et je crois que vous avez bien fait de vouloir tirer au clair cette question en demandant à ce que rien ne figure dans notre rapport sur ce sujet.

Point of order

Point d'ordre

Punto de orden

Sra. Mercedes FERMIN COMEZ (Venezuela): Simplemente voy a decir que ésta es una moción de orden; yo no creo que puede haber lugar siquiera para comenzar a intervenir sobre el contenido de la sugerencia del delegado de Australia. Los oradores que me han precedido en el uso de la palabra están perfectamente de acuerdo con la opinión de Francia, pienso que no debe haber lugar ni siquiera para continuar interviniendo en el asunto y que, por consiguiente, el señor Presidente con todo respeto debe declarar eso fuera de orden puesto que no está en la agenda. Es mi proposición.

LE PRESIDENT: D'autres délégués désirent prendre la parole. La proposition de point d'ordre tend à ce que l'on n'aborde pas cette question et je voudrais par principe soumettre ce point d'ordre à l'analyse de nos amis du Conseil. Est-ce que le Conseil est d'accord pour considérer ce point est un point d'ordre et que cette question ne peut être évoquée devant le Conseil. Par conséquent si cette question n'est pas évoquée, elle ne figurera pas dans le rapport du Comité du Conseil et je souhaite vivement, compte tenu de la complexité de nos travaux et de leur importance pour la vie de l'Organisation et de notre mission à accomplir ici, que notre tâche soit simplifiée et qu'elle se fasse dans la sérénité et que la sérénité domine les débats afin de nous permettre d'aboutir à un consensus. Nous avons charge d'âmes et une mission à poursuivre.

K. Robin HIGHAM (Canada): Your last comments give me some difficulty because ray instructions from Ottawa are very clear on this point: that is I have very clear instructions that at some time during the Council meeting the Canadian delegation should endorse the two term principle as well. Where do you think it would be best for us to make that declaration?

LE PRESIDENT: Nous vous remercions de votre intervention. Il y a une question de procédure légale; nous sommes une organisation qui comporte des règlements intérieurs et des actes constitutifs. Tout peut être présenté sous la seule réserve que cela soit dans le respect de la procédure et du règlement. Je ne suis pas disponible pour travailler dans des conditions qui ne respectent pas la réglementation et le règlement de la FAO, de sorte que, si, avec vos conseillers juridiques, vous avez une formulation conforme avec le règlement de la FAO, il vous appartient de trouver une formulation qui aille dans le sens du règlement de la FAO.

Je reviens au point d'ordre. Le Conseil a retenu le point d'ordre en question. Je souhaite encore une fois vivement que nous puissions avancer dans les travaux. Une tâche ardue nous attend, des problèmes financiers graves aussi. Je souhaite vivement que nous puissions, en dehors de toute pensée électorale, travailler pour le bien de l'Organisation et j'émetts le voeu que tous les membres du Conseil ici présents soient conscients de leurs responsabilités et qu'ils puissent aider le Conseil à préparer un avenir financièrement stable, pour l'Organisation.

David Lawrence COUTTS (Australia): I just wanted some clarification. I raised a matter in my intervention, as I was instructed to do. That particular intervention merely raised a point that Australia still feels strongly about in the context of how international organizations such as FAO may play a part in the very serious problems of food and agriculture facing us. Now, as I understand it, you are saying that it is ruled out of order, that intervention can be referred to in any way so that other delegations may raise that matter. Now I am quite new to FAO and I am not familiar with the legal aspects, but delegations raise all sorts of issues, many of which we may not agree with, and I find it a little puzzling that a point of that nature can be ruled out of order only in the sense of a general intervention and nothing else, and I would like some clarification please.

Ronald F. R. DEARE (United Kingdom): I share some of the puzzlement of ray colleague from Australia because my understanding is that he was not suggesting that the question he raised should be debated. He simply made a statement on behalf of his authorities of an opinion which they held. I gather that the delegate of Canada would wish to do the same thing, and I might add that we would wish to touch on the subject, but simply in a factual way in our statement, not to introduce it for debate under this item. We accept that it is not a subject for debate under this item, but we are representatives of sovereign countries and I assume that we are free to make our statement and have it recorded in the report of the Council in the same way as any other statements are recorded. So I would appreciate your guidance on that point.

LE PRESIDENT: Je crois que nous avons pris note de ce qui vient d'être dit. Il est normal que chaque gouvernement puisse, et c'est tout à fait son rôle, faire état de son point de vue sur toute question. Je remercie le délégué du Royaume-Uni ainsi que ceux du Canada et de l'Australie pour avoir informé le Conseil sur un point de vue, un point précis. La seule chose qui me gêne personnellement c'est que ce point ne figurant pas dans l'ordre du jour, le rapport du Conseil doit se limiter à l'ordre du jour. Si la question avait été posée hier au moment de l'adoption, on aurait vu dans quelle mesure les procédures auraient autorisé l'ouverture d'un tel débat de l'ordre du jour. Comme cela n'a pas été fait, nous ne pouvons noter le point de vue très légitime de pays tels que le Royaume-Uni, le Canada et l'Australie. Nous ne pouvons avoir un débat sur une question qui n'est pas à l'ordre du jour. Nous en prenons note mais elle ne peut pas faire l'objet d'un débat et être insérée. De mon point de vue, il faut poser la question au conseil juridique si elle va figurer dans le rapport de notre Conseil du fait qu'elle ne figure pas à l'ordre du jour.

LE DIRECTEUR GENERAL: Je n'ai pas à intervenir mais plusieurs délégués ont été empêchés de le faire en raison de ces interventions de dernière minute. Je sais que ce n'est pas à l'ordre du jour, mais vous avez vous-même vu la liste des délégués qui désireraient peut-être exprimer le même avis ou un avis contraire à celui du Canada, du Royaume-Uni et de l'Australie. Je fais ces remarques mais je suis froid dans cette affaire, je remarque seulement.

Guillermo Enrique GONZALEZ (Argentina): Mi delegación había solicitado la palabra sobre el punto de orden que había presentado la Embajadora de Venezuela. Consideramos que ése era el procedimiento más adecuado frente a un comentario que mi delegación, con todo respeto, considera inadecuado, inapropiado, para la discusión del tema 4 de nuestra agenda. En todo caso nos encontramos ahora en una situación paradójica porque si aquellas delegaciones que no coincidimos con esas tres representaciones que nos han hecho conocer su parecer en la mañana de hoy sobre un tema que no hace a la cuestión que estamos debatiendo, nos encontraríamos en el Comité de Redacción y posteriormente en este plenario con una gran duda: esas delegaciones han hecho, efectivamente, sus declaraciones; otras delegaciones no han expresado un punto de vista contrario y entonces cuando la Secretaría deba informar cuántas delegaciones hablaron a favor y cuántas lo hicieron en contra nos encontraremos en que un grupo mayoritario de delegaciones habló sobre este tema que está fuera de orden; por lo tanto, señor Presidente, con todo respeto, yo creo que debemos volver a la moción de orden de Venezuela en el sentido de declarar fuera de orden, esta cuestión, de lo contrario, comenzaremos un nuevo debate en el que estoy seguro todos los miembros de este Consejo vamos a referirnos con toda tranquilidad y con la extensión que se quiera a este tema.

Igor KIPMAN (Brazil): Very briefly, I would like to say that my delegation endorses the preposition made by the delegate of Venezuela and which was supported by Argentina.

Chavaly SRINIVASA SASTRY (India): Like the delegate of Australia, I am also a first-timer to the FAO Council. I have four submissions to make.

As far as my comprehension would seem to guide me, the suggestion that has been made by the delegate of Australia has no direct or cognate relationship with the agenda item which the Council is now discussing, which is entitled "State of Food and Agriculture 1986".

The second submission which I would make is that the procedure, discussions, deliberations, resolutions and decisions of the FAO and its bodies are governed by well laid out rules, procedures and conventions and we have to respect these rules and conventions when we make any suggestions or proposals which have some significant impact on the functioning of the Organization.

Thirdly, should you at this time make a departure from the well-established procedures, with due respect to you I would submit that it would be open to all of us during the rest of the Council Session to raise a number of issues which might or might not be directly related to the subjects which are carefully chosen to be placed on the agenda and in support of which elaborate documentation has been tabled.

I would therefore submit with due respect that I agree entirely with the point of view very cogently and legitimately argued by the delegate of France and I would submit that the proposal by Australia be ruled out of order.

LE PRESIDENT: Nous avons une proposition de point d'ordre. Le point d'ordre est le suivant: on nous propose de ne pas discuter de cette question dans le Conseil. Je pose la question au Conseil: est-ce que cette motion présentée par le Venezuela est retenue ou non? Quels sont ceux qui sont contre? Ceux qui sont pour la motion d'ordre? Je répète, ceux qui sont en faveur de la motion d'ordre? Je considère que le Conseil a admis à la majorité la motion présentée par le Venezuela.

K. Robin HIGHAM (Canada): I believe two delegates are permitted according to the text of the Organization to speak against a proposition before it is voted on. We have already cast the vote. My point is that you should have invited delegates to speak for and against the proposal before It was voted on.

LE PRESIDENT: J'aimerais avoir l'avis du Conseil juridique qui doit nous éclairer: Est-ce qu'un point d'ordre doit donner lieu au préalable à un débat?

LEGAL COUNSEL: The relevant rule on the question of a point of order is Rule XII paragraph 20 of the General Rules of the Organization, and I will read it slowly: "During the discussion of any matter, a delegate or representative may rise to a point of order and the point of order shall be immediately decided by the Chairman."

That is the first sentence, and it is my understanding that the Chairman took a decision. Rule XII 20 continues as follows: "A delegate or representative may appeal against the ruling of the Chairman, in which event the appeal shall immediately be put to the vote and the Chairman's ruling shall stand unless overruled by a majority of the votes cast. A delegate or representative rising to a point of order may not speak on the substance of the matter under discussion. "

My interpretation is that the Chairman of the Council ruled that he considered that the subject that had been raised was out of order. Some delegates, including I believe the delegate of Australia, objected to this ruling. A vote was then taken and the ruling of the Chairman was upheld. Therefore I think that is where the matter ends.

K. Robin HIGHAM (Canada): I am sorry to pursue this so far but could I ask for clarification. Have we a ruling that the subject is out of order for the whole Council Session or for the debate under this agenda item, because we have two agenda items where it would seem to me to be most appropriate: 16.1, appointment of the Director-General, and 19, Any other Business. I think your ruling, if I understand it correctly, is that we are out of order for this agenda item, but I would appreciate your clarification.

LEGAL COUNSEL: The basic ruling was clearly that the matter was out of order under this particular agenda item. But it is also implicit that it was out of order because it was a matter that was not on the agenda. If the matter is to be added to the agenda there is a perfectly clear rule, under Rule XXV, paragraph 7 (c) the Council may in the course of its session include a new item by a vote of two thirds of its membership. If the delegate of Canada, or any other delegate concerned, wishes to raise the matter again under "Any other Business" the question will have to be decided at that time, and may or may not be decided in exactly the same way. However, I should make one specific observation on the item "Any other Business". In view of the fact that there is a very clear rule governing the addition of items in the course of a Council Session, it is equally clear that "Any other Business" is not a "hold-all" under which a delegate may raise any particular item that comes to mind. It is generally used for formalities such as votes of thanks, or expressions of sympathy to a country which has suffered some natural disaster. It is not an item under which Members of the Council may raise entirely new and eminently substantive items.

Gonzalo BULA HOYOS (Colombia): Señor Presidente, la delegación de Colombia estaba en primer lugar entre la lista de oradores que usted leyó. Comprendemos muy bien que el curso del debate no le haya podido permitir a usted concedernos la palabra, pero no podemos permanecer en silencio porque consideramos inoportuno y desafortunado el hecho de que, durante la discusión de un tema que interesa esencialmente al Tercer Mundo, se haya provocado discordia, con intenciones que preferimos no calificar.

El delegado de Australia se refirió a la eficiencia y capacidad de los jefes de los organismos internacionales. Nosotros no podemos aceptar esa insinuación sibilina. El Gobierno de Colombia se ha reiterado una vez más en la admiración que siente por la excelente administración del Doctor Edouard Saouma como Director General de la FAO por la inteligencia, la capacidad y la consagración con que él cumple sus altas responsabilidades.

Quisiéramos rogarles a los colegas de Australia, Canadá y Reino Unido, que no nos sigan perturbando, que nos permitan continuar la discusión de este tema.

Afif Y. BUKHARI (Saudi Arabia, Kingdom of) (original language Arabic): I have listened to this lengthy discussion with great patience. I should like to say that my delegation feels a certain bitterness and sadness at what the Delegate of Australia has just said. He knows very well that his statement was going to lead to the atmosphere we have now, an atmosphere which we should avoid in order to maintain the respect due to our Council. We have come here to consider and to face very serious responsibilities, responsibilities which have enormous repercussions particularly on the

Situation of developing countries. Therefore it seems to us that this discussion is rather out of place. In fact, what was said by our colleague has no bearing on any agenda item. We consider that the statement tends to disrupt the smooth running of our Council and distracts its attention from the acute and major problems which we have to face.

Our delegation categorically rejects discussion on this matter under this agenda item (or under any other item) and we believe that the very fact it has been raised, is out of order. We cannot accept it. However, we must say that we support all the proposals which have been made particularly those put forward by France and Venezuela.

Finally, I should like to say that we cannot forget the great achievements of the Director-General, Dr. Saouma, which have been of particular benefit to developing countries and have provided them with the necessary aid for their agricultural development. We should also not forget the achievements within the administration itself and the smooth running of the Organization. We owe him a great deal of respect and admiration. I believe that our Council should have made a statement thanking the Director-General for these achievements instead of making a statement which raises unnecessary problems from all points of view.

I would like to finish with this item as soon as possible and continue to deal with the items which are on our agenda.

Horacio, CARANDANG (Philippines): I should like to congratulate you, Mr Chairman on the way you have handled this matter. I think your decision is, just. As any civilized gathering of human beings we are governed by rules, which are very clear. If it is not an agenda item we cannot discuss it. It takes thirty days before anybody can request the Director-General to circulate the matter, or, during the Session one needs a two-thirds vote in order to insert an agenda item. This has not been complied with so the matter cannot be discussed. I concur with your decision. I congratulate you on your wisdom and precision, and do not think the item can be included in the report.

LE PRESIDENT: Je vois que d'autres délégués demandent à prendre la parole; puis-je leur demander de m'autoriser à considérer que ce point d'ordre soulevé a été résolu, car nous devons avancer dans l'examen du point 4. En effet, notre ordre du jour est chargé; je voudrais que nous passions au point 4, ne serait-ce que pour pouvoir parler de la crise alimentaire et des points soumis à notre point du jour.

Leopoldo ARIZA HIDALGO (Cuba): Señor Presidente, discúlpeme por utilizar la moción de orden, pero considero que debo usarla porque de otra manera usted me iba a cerrar el punto. Ahora, yo quiero expresar no sólo la sorpresa porque estamos perdiendo un tiempo necesario y precioso para la discusión de lo que estábamos realmente profundizando, sino también quiero expresar que, si hay instrucciones de gobierno, todos los que estamos aquí sentados tenemos instrucciones de gobierno, yo también tengo instrucciones de gobierno para no excluir la posibilidad de reelección del Director General y puede pasar también que en estos momentos en que las dificultades financieras hacen necesario tener al frente a una personalidad decidida, yo también puedo dar argumentos y puedo hablar también de que si la FAO no ha hecho más es por los mecanismos financieros que le han restado y porque estamos sometidos a un crecimiento cero desde hace siete años. Podíamos hablar de esto mucho; por lo tanto, yo le pido disculpas, pero quería expresar que no debemos entrar en esta discusión, pero que no se nos ponga como condición el que durante el Consejo no lo podamos hacer, porque nosotros tenemos instrucciones de hacerlo también.

Ivan TONEV (Bulgaria): Probably this is an explanation after the vote, however I shall be very brief. My delegation supported the motion raised by the delegate of Venezuela and also the explanations given by the delegates of France, Colombia and others.

Humberto CARRION M. (Nicaragua): Lamento intervenir, señor Presidente, puesto que comparto la opinión de que tal vez tomamos mucho tiempo en esta cuestión que ha perturbado nuestros trabajos de esta mañana. Sin embargo, como usted recordará, Nicaragua estaba también en la lista de oradores original que usted tenía antes de que Venezuela hiciera el punto de orden sobre un punto de orden anterior. Ese punto había sido apoyado por Argentina, que fue ya votado con el resultado que ya conocen. No obstante, yo no podía pasar como delegado de Nicaragua esta oportunidad dado que aquí, y con todo respeto debo mencionarlo, tres delegados de países desarrollados prácticamente han introducido un tema provocatorio en este Consejo que no estaba relacionado con el tema 4 del documento 2 del trabajo de este Consejo.

Deseo simplemente mencionar lo que ya he hecho, digamos, en grupos regionales y en el grupo de los 77. Nicaragua, nuestras más altas autoridades, han dado ya un apoyo específico y oficial al señor Director General Edouard Saouma para su reelección para un tercer mandato como Director de esta Organización. Por lo tanto es una obligación de parte mía como representante de mi país reconocer la autoridad que tiene el Director General en cuanto a la conducción que ha tenido, dinámica, sabia y efectiva.

En este sentido deseo reiterar que lamento haber tenido que prolongar las deliberaciones, pero era para mí un deber motivado por las intervenciones que han hecho representantes de países amigos y colegas de trabajo.

Danilo VUJICIC (Yugoslavia): I have tried a few times to get the floor to discuss the matter which has been raised, but I was not successful in catching your eye. I had thought that by the solution of the point of order we could settle the matter, but since the discussion has continued on the subject I should like also to express the surprise of my delegation and to deplore that some delegations have injected a totally alien subject into the useful and constructive debate which we have had so far on the food and agriculture situation in the world. This provoked reactions from many delegations, and I consider it was really unnecessary and is to be deplored.

I would say that my delegation would not accept at any time during this Council a debate on the proposal to consider the subject proposed by the representative of Australia because we do not think there are good reasons for this, especially bearing in mind that even in his statement he said we have to apply the principle prevailing in the United Nations to have a limit of two terms. I do not know in which organizations this rule is implemented. I could mention at least four specialized agencies and other organizations where the executives are from developed countries and where they have three or more terms in office.

I am not going to discuss the subject of efficiency or non-efficiency, but I would say from my own experience and I have been in touch with this Organization for at least 12 years, since the time of the World Food Conference which was called because of the difficulties and inefficiencies in FAO—that since Mr Saouma has taken office in this Organization there has been much improvement, and I think his best work has been done in this Organization, particularly during the last food crisis and especially concerning the situation in Africa.

LE PRESIDENT: Je remercie le délégué de la Yougoslavie. J'espère que le débat est terminé et que le Canada voudra bien nous aider car nous avons réellement beaucoup de travail et, le Conseil ayant adopté le point d'ordre, il n'y a pas lieu de poursuivre ce débat. Je vous prie de bien vouloir m'autoriser à poursuivre la discussion du point 4 de l'ordre du jour.

A. K. M. Kamaluddin CHOUDHURY (Bangladesh): Mr Chairman, let me begin by complimenting Dr Islam for presenting an excellent document containing detailed information on the current state of food and agriculture.

In his report, Dr Islam raised a number of important issues like the decline in the level of external assistance for agricultural development, the continuing fall in commodity prices and consequential deterioration in the terms of trade for developing countries, the worsening external debt burden of the LDCs, protectionism, and the need for increased cooperation among the developed and developing countries.

The Bangladesh delegation generally endorses the report, but in certain areas we have a few comments to make.

The world food and agriculture situation today is characterized by a paradox of ample supplies on a global basis and abnormal food shortages occurring in a number of low-income developing countries of Asia and Africa. Although in recent years the availability of food has improved due to higher production and larger imports, for many developing countries there has been a decline in the nutritional standard, which is highly disappointing. The document itself points out that the per capita calorie intake has declined in 46 countries out of 102 developing countries. That is a matter of great concern because the sharpest losses in calorie intake have been suffered by countries with the lowest level of DES. Poverty, hunger and malnutrition continue to be the most critical problems faced by the world community.

The report on the State of Food and Agriculture reinforces our view that agricultural development, particularly production of food grains, is of the utmost importance for the low-income developing

countries. Development of agriculture is of vital importance for the economic survival of the LDCs, but these countries, because of their limitations, budgetary and otherwise, cannot release adequate funds or resources for investment in agricultural development. Therefore, they are still in need of support from the developed countries who are in a more fortunate situation. Funds are needed to supply essential inputs such as seeds and fertilizers, to achieve increased production and to achieve food security for these nations. Therefore, resources are needed for agricultural development in the LDCs. We note with great concern that the level of multilateral assistance and bilateral assistance for agricultural development is going down. This trend of declining assistance has to be arrested to improve the level of nutrition and eradicate hunger in the low-income countries.

We would appeal to the donor countries, particularly the developed countries, to step up their level of assistance for multilateral agencies like IFAD and for funding development projects in the food and agriculture sector. This will help in the better utilization of land and in improving the level of productivity.

K. Robin HIGHAM (Canada): In his preparation and presentation of the document, Dr. Islam has delivered nothing less than the excellence we have come to expect from him and his staff, and for that we thank him. We have a small technical amendment to propose for paragraph 200 concerning Canada, but my delegation will pass that directly to the secretariat.

This morning I should like to respond to the paper on three levels: first, the prospects for international trade in agriculture; secondly, resources for development assistance; thirdly, the challenge before FAO.

Concerning prospects for international agriculture trade, removing restrictions to a further liberalization of world trade is, for Canada, a vital element in ensuring economic growth for all countries, I believe. Canada views the successful launch of the new multilateral trade negotiations as an important and positive element in the outlook for international trade in agriculture. Our common efforts and success at Punta del Este forged a new sense of cooperation among trading nations. Canada will be working hard, together with both developed and developing countries, to achieve these common objectives. Of particular concern to us is the deteriorating agriculture trade situation which is plagued by structural surpluses and by massive trade distortions through production and export subsidies. It is devastating the smaller economies, both developed and developing, which rely heavily on agricultural exports. Clearly, increases in agricultural disciplines are needed urgently, and the multilateral trade negotiations must reform the rules for agricultural trade and bring them under a discipline similar to the GATT.

Depressed commodity prices are seriously affecting the economies of many developing countries and some producers such as Canada. For this reason, we attach particular importance to the fullest liberalization of trade in natural resource-based products and in natural resource based commodities, including their processed and semi-processed forms. The MTNs must effectively deal not only with tariffs but also with escalation on non-tariff measures.

In many developing countries domestic reform and structural adjustment policies are being implemented with much emphasis on the agriculture sector. As the most recent-World Bank Development Report points out, international discipline in trade subsidies and trade restrictions can have a large and positive impact on developing economies. It is important, therefore, that agricultural adjustments in developing countries are supported by parallel adjustments in the conditions for international trade.

Secondly, on development assistance: development assistance remains a critical complement to national efforts to realize human aspirations in the developing countries. We can today reaffirm Canada's commitment to efficient and effective multilateral development institutions through which more than 40 percent of Canadian assistance is provided. Sustained and adequate flows of financial, technical and emergency assistance from official sources is both imperative and catalytic. Governments, through well conceived overseas development assistance, encourage their private sectors and Individual citizens to participate as well. The African Emergency Response in Canada manifested clearly the potential impact of such synergy. Globally, Canada concentrates its aid on agriculture, energy and human resource development. In the multilateral context we are placing particular emphasis on three areas: the need for greater international support for the poorest countries, especially those in Africa; secondly, the sustainability of development, which we consider critical; and thirdly the pervasive and important role which women play in development.

The third and final point I have to make is perhaps the most important one in the context of this Council. It is to reiterate Canada's belief that there is a growing need to rejuvenate this

Organization's capacities for assisting its members in dealing with the difficulties growing out of the current state of food and agriculture.

Canadian delegates have often spoken for some years now in FAO governing bodies of their concern over such basic activities as selection of priorities, accounting in budget procedures, personnel management and the management of field activities. We are also convinced that there is a need for a hard look at the decision making process in governing bodies and how we set programmes and priorities. We believe that the rejuvenation of FAO via a variety of reforms will benefit all member states and by doing so will strengthen the Organisation itself. We are convinced that it is essential for the success of organisations such as FAO that they are constantly exposed to, and will welcome, new ideas in the approaches to developing new ideas and new approaches for dealing with new problems.

I terminate by mentioning this now, Mr Chairman, only because we believe that it is an important point to keep in mind as we consider the documents before us and those other papers coming up for study this afternoon and later on in the week. We believe we must be looking not only to the future of the state of food and agriculture, but also to the future state of the key UN agency which is responsible for helping us deal with agriculture. Similarly, in our discussions on reform of national and international food production and trading systems we must not turn away, however uncomfortable it may be, from a consideration of parallel efforts to reform the multilateral institutions which serve that rapidly evolving agricultural sector.

To conclude I want to emphasise it is specifically because we in Canada are convinced of the importance of the UN system and most particularly of the FAO within that system that we are prepared to tolerate discomforts which sometimes accompany any efforts for change. Perhaps it would be worthwhile to repeat that still 40 percent of Canadian development systems go through multilateral channels so their efficient functioning is almost as important to us as it is to the development assistance of recipient countries.

Atif Y. BUKHARI (Saudi Arabia, Kingdom of) (Original language Arabic): First of all I would like to thank you for the effective way of conducting the work at our Council, which has made it possible for us once again to entrust you to conduct in the appropriate way our activities. I would also like to thank Dr. Islam and the FAO in general for having submitted these documents to us. This broad-ranging Report, which is so rich in information, is particularly useful in terms of future projections of the situation, in particular of developing countries. This report has displayed the difficult situation of the economic burden of developing countries, and while these countries are suffering from the difficult economic problems, we see how many countries are maintaining a passive position when faced with these serious problems, the major problems, facing developing countries. This problem is something of which everybody is fully aware-the fact that the south is calling the north and the north is calling the south, but the two remain immobile, and maintain a passive stance. We cannot be overly optimistic and say that we can solve the world economic crisis within the space of one year, but what we can do is reaffirm that if there is sufficient goodwill to establish a new and just international economic order, we think that this task can be achieved and both south and north will be able to embrace it.

The economic structure of our world as we see it is an integrated circuit of circle which, whenever one of its links is weakened, causes the whole chain to fail in consequence. Nor should we fail to mention the problems of the developing countries and, in particular, the increase in their external debts and the protectionist measures which their exports are having to face. We think that this has negative repercussions also on the developed countries. Nonetheless, we should try to ensure that this massive chain continues to work correctly for the benefit of everybody. This Report refers to a self-evident truth, the fact that economic interdependence between countries, particularly when they are countries of the same region, is something of absolute importance, which is why countries should persevere and work hard in order to relaunch and integrate this economic inter-relationship between each other irrespective of beliefs or ideological schemes. They should be doing this for the benefit of all their peoples.

As for the developing countries in general, the enormous gap between food production and consumption is increasing, therefore achieving agricultural developments and improving the food situation seems to us to be crucial and can only be achieved by giving high priority to the agricultural sector, which would require particular improved and maintained imported inputs which seems so vital to us for the improvement of agriculture production in these countries.

Finally, I would like to mention that we expressed our pleasure at the fact that so many countries in Africa, Asia and Latin America had managed to improve and increase their agricultural products and foodstuffs, had given greater priority to the agricultural sector, and had carried out specific and intensive improvements. As far as we are concerned, we would like to make an appeal to other countries to continue working fruitfully to ensure that with God's help, these countries and their

people would achieve food self-sufficiency. We also hope that what has been achieved in these developing countries has not just been a fluke or an exception. We hope that this has been the fruit of a new logical structuring so that over time it will continue to strengthen this trend. I believe that I have a duty to mention paragraphs 171 and 178 where references are made to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia facing certain difficulties in exporting its wheat surplus. We believe that this is an improvement of what we were able to achieve in agricultural production particularly when we consider that there has only been a ten year period involved. Here, I should mention, agricultural production has increased in our country of the order of 14 percent. We think this is a major step forward and this is the fruit of collaboration between our political leaders and managers for carrying out projects on behalf of our people, particularly when the primary objective of agricultural developments within our Kingdom is to achieve self-sufficiency in all areas. As for the modest surpluses in wheat production in the last year, it gave rise to no kind of problem, since the majority of these surpluses have been distributed as food aid to friendly countries in need, or they were used for international trade with other countries in our region.

Badr Jassim ALAWI (Iraq) (Original language Arabic): Please permit me to express my congratulations on behalf of the delegation of the Republic of Iraq on your re-election to the Council Chairmanship. I am sure that this will guarantee the success of our meeting and will lead to practical recommendations in order to deal with the issues listed in the agenda.

I would also like to express my gratitude to the Director-General of FAO, Dr. Saouma, for the efforts he has made and will continue to make. These efforts have a major effect on FAO's work in achieving its humanitarian objectives.

We support this report. All the issues listed on the agenda reflect the capacity of the Organization in dealing with urgent problems that are closely linked to the improvement of the nutritional level of the peoples of the world and particularly the peoples of the Third World.

The documents submitted to us have reflected the food problems and the widening economic and food gap between the developed and developing countries despite the improvement of food production in some countries. This makes it even more necessary for us to reconsider the international economic order in order to ensure a more equal distribution of economic resources among countries. Due to the importance of the agricultural sector and in order to achieve food self-sufficiency, the assistance provided should primarily aim at developing production potentials within the countries themselves. Convinced of the importance of this sector, the Government of Iraq has taken a great deal of measures aiming at exploiting its natural resources in order to improve the productive capacity of the country. This is clearly reflected in the annual financial allocations for investment in the field of agricultural infrastructure.

These investments were devoted to the construction of dykes and dams for the optimal use of water resources. Vast amounts of saline land were reclaimed and others were transformed from rainfed land to irrigated land in order to better control the factors of production.

Emphasis has been placed on agricultural research which has a direct effect on the increase of production. We have also focused on extension as well as the provision of credit facilities and mechanization.

Given that the human being is the primary objective and tool of the revolution in Iraq, our country paid particular attention to the development and training of human resources through training programmes within and outside the country. Importance was also given to the training of women. The role of women in agriculture was stressed.

As to the provision of services to the rural areas, the Government of Iraq supplied housing, water, electricity, schools, health and social care and the construction of roads in most rural areas.

Immigration from the rural areas to the cities, which prevailed before the revolution, has completely stopped and has even been reversed in some aspects.

Despite the war imposed on Iraq for more than six years, a great deal of progress has been achieved in the agricultural sector during the last few years. Various agricultural projects have been implemented.

In view of the world food problem, we insist on the necessity to provide and increase technical assistance to developing countries to enable them to produce their own food.

To allow FAO to carry out its mission to increase agricultural production in developing countries through the strengthening of its technical programmes, all Member States must support the Organization.

I wish this meeting every possible success.

Paul A. BOMANI (Tanzania): Mr. Chairman, let me at the outset express my deep appreciation to you for your wise leadership and firm but fair judgement, which was a moment ago displayed, in dealing with the complicated situation which almost created a kind of pollution of the atmosphere of our deliberations. We feel fond confident that under your leadership this Council will succeed in achieving what the billions of people we represent here expect of us.

I wish also to associate myself with the previous speakers, first to congratulate, second to thank the FAO Director-General Dr. Saouma and his staff for the excellent analysis on the State of Food and Agriculture as contained in document CL 90/2 and its Supplement. The document is comprehensive and accurately reflects the problems surrounding agricultural production in the world. In short, problems facing agricultural production are summed up as protectionism, trade imbalance, debt servicing and over supply in developed countries which result in depressed prices for agricultural commodities. Permit me to add that the low per unit cost production of agricultural products in the developed countries make the low prices offered in the world markets an advantage to those countries. Thus in one way it helps to provide foods to poor communities but also it causes some problems for the developing nations. The fact that through technological methods and improved techniques and approaches employed by the developed countries and more superior approaches than those used by developing countries creates a very queer set of imbalances. The situation in a way creates a serious problem for deficit countries and developing countries to be able to participate even when they have small surpluses in the export market. We know in the developing countries that we would only be able to compete if we emphasized quality, and quality of our products has been a major focus but we will not be able to achieve this unless the idea that has been discussed at the Regional Conference of African Countries in Côte d'Ivoire, Yamoussoukro, and that is aid in kind which we consider to be the very best and the right approach unless this idea is carried through the strategy for Africa's agriculture may not be able to attain the expected results.

The state of external assistance to agriculture from both multilateral and bilateral is shown on Table 8 of the document, explains very clearly what the situation is; while developing countries have been urged to institute reforms in their countries the transfer of technical know-how from developed countries has been lagging behind, in other words the transfer of technology and, perhaps I may add, appropriate technology to be able to help developing countries cope with the new development programmes has not been in keeping with the rhetoric. The capital aid material assistance through multilateral and or even bilateral is too slow and too little and just frittering out to reach the developing countries. Here we see very clearly some political problems which interfere with the flow; some interference based on domestic policies of donor countries have manifested presently to be an impediment in the process of reviving assistance to developing countries. So this kind of atmosphere does not encourage the newly independent countries, the new upsurge and the new awareness developed and manifested itself in the developing countries and communities to provide priorities to agriculture. I believe it is high time that these questions and issues should be re-examined. It is not enough to ask countries to institute reforms when those reforms can not be reinforced by serious follow-up of technical contribution and material support. I believe the assistance to developing countries should take a new face to enable production and productivity in agriculture to increase in the developing countries.

It is very vividly reflected in the document before us that one of the problems affecting the efforts of developing countries is the serious problem of debt servicing which is becoming very stormy and is an impediment to the progress being made in the developing countries. Structural and policies adjustments have been made and these have been suggested by donor countries with very good intentions and some changes have been realized in the economies of some of the developing countries. I can cite an example of my own country, that the use of fertilizer which was unknown just a few years ago, and for which we have now a demand we cannot cope with. The best techniques of husbandry are now becoming normal procedures in the countryside but the capability of providing inputs, incentive, including incentive goods, is lagging behind. This shows very clearly that unless external assistance is restructured to address the priority needs of recipient countries we shall only be preparing studies year after year which will just be an exercise in futility, for no meaningful economic recovery will be achieved that way.

It is no secret that in the area I come from the political destabilization caused by the situation in Southern Africa is a great impediment to our smooth work towards development and has contributed to low production in some countries in the front-line states. These states require assistance and, more than that, they need to be ensured of peace and stability in the areas so that they can get on

with their development work, so that they can produce food to feed their people, so that they can earn income to improve their standard of living, so that they can earn foreign exchange for the necessary imports and sustain their own growth, their own development.

The Tanzanian delegation wishes to affirm its position on the noble role which is being played by FAO and IFAD, but the present financial position of these two prominent and important organizations is a major concern to us. As you will see when you examine the budgetary allocation and financial resources for these two organizations, it is very clear that there is nowhere that we can see a balance between expectation and goals and the availability of resources.

We would like to appeal to the major donors to reconsider their position, especially on provision of financial resources committed, that they should be made available in keeping with the appropriate financial year. The funding of these institutions by instalment and in arrears does not really help in having proper planning for these institutions and, worse still, makes the allocation of funds which are intended to reach the recipient countries an almost impossible job. We would like to seek the understanding and support of the donor countries to change their approaches so that the work that we all intend to achieve can be realized by proper funding and proper timing for the allocation of resources.

Mr Chairman, we will have an opportunity later on to make a contribution on the resource question. Meanwhile I would like to thank you for giving me the opportunity to air these few remarks.

Henri Pierre Arphang SENGHOR (Senegal): Je voudrais tout d'abord au nom de ma délégation adresser mes plus vives félicitations à vous-même Monsieur le Président, ainsi qu'à l'ensemble des membres du Bureau et du Comité de rédaction, pour votre brillante désignation pour présider nos travaux. Ma délégation ne doute pas que ceci constitue pour nous un gage de réussite quant à l'issue de nos débats. Ma délégation saisit l'occasion que vous lui offrez pour renouveler ses chaleureuses félicitations au Directeur général de la FAO pour la clarté et la concision, ainsi que le courage avec lesquels il nous a présenté les différentes facettes de la situation agricole mondiale ainsi que de celle de la FAO et de ses activités. Nos félicitations s'adressent également à M. Islam pour sa brillante présentation de la situation de l'agriculture mondiale, situation qui sera complétée et actualisée pour être soumise à la prochaine assemblée.

Permettez-moi, à ce stade des débats, de porter quelques brefs commentaires sur trois points soulevés dans la déclaration du Directeur général de la FAO et dans le document portant sur la situation mondiale de l'agriculture. Suite à la situation acridienne qui a prévalu sur le continent africain en 1985 et 1986, ma délégation voudrait apporter un témoignage de l'intervention décisive, diligente et efficace de la FAO pour contenir et juguler les attaques des criquets et des sauteriaux au Sénégal et dans les pays de la sous-région. C'est avec célérité que la FAO, sous l'impulsion de son Directeur général, a répondu aux appels de détresse, dont le premier a été lancé par le Président en exercice du CILSS lors de la Conférence des chefs d'Etat de cette organisation qui s'est tenue à Dakar en janvier 1986. C'est l'occasion de remercier l'ensemble de la communauté internationale qui n'a ménagé aucun effort pour matérialiser les espoirs qu'une reprise des pluies régulières avait suscités dans le Sahel. Ma délégation note avec satisfaction que la FAO a démarré des concertations afin de renforcer les capacités d'interventions des services phytosanitaires nationaux et des organismes régionaux antiacridiens de l'Est, du Centre et du Sud de l'Afrique pour les campagnes de lutte 1986-88. Or en Afrique occidentale et dans le Sahel les organisations sous-régionales de lutte antiacridienne n'ont cessé de se débattre dans de grandes difficultés telles que l'Organisation inter-Etats de lutte contre le criquet africain (OICMA) a dû être dissoute au début de l'année 1986, tandis que l'Organisation de lutte antiacridienne et antioviaire connaît une paralysie croissante du fait du manque de ressources.

Rien n'indique que la situation qui a prévalu en Afrique de l'Ouest et dans le Sahel soit éradiquée définitivement; voilà pourquoi ma délégation invite la FAO à engager des concertations afin de mettre en oeuvre un programme à moyen terme de renforcement des capacités d'intervention des services phytosanitaires nationaux de cette sous-région et de l'OCLALAV. Une telle action revêt aux yeux de ma délégation un caractère d'urgence.

Il ressort du document portant sur la situation de l'agriculture mondiale que la situation alimentaire de l'Afrique reste dans l'ensemble favorable. En Afrique occidentale plus précisément, le rapport note avec pertinence que dans les zones sahélosoudaniennes et sahéliennes, les premières prévisions sont moins favorables et les récoltes risquent de beaucoup souffrir des infestations de criquets et de sauteriaux.

Je voudrais confirmer ces estimations et noter que le profil pluviométrique de 1986 n'a pas été homogène pour tout le Sahel. En effet, les Etats côtiers du Sahel ont connu un retard de un à deux mois dans l'installation des pluies qui se sont réparties essentiellement sur le mois de septembre. C'est le facteur essentiel qui explique les déficits céréaliers enregistrés dans certains Etats dont

le Sénégal. Je voudrais en concluant relever et dire toute notre satisfaction pour la qualité de l'étude présentée à Yamoussoukro en septembre dernier ainsi que la pertinence des propositions du Directeur général de la FAO à qui ma délégation renouvelle ses félicitations pour cette belle et utile oeuvre.

Ma délégation note avec satisfaction qu'un effort louable est entrepris pour élargir le champ des propositions à des considérations dont ma délégation s'est faite largement l'écho à Yamoussoukro. Ma délégation reviendra plus en détail sur ce point lorsqu'il sera soumis à notre examen.

Ivan TONEV (Bulgarie): Our delegation examined the documents CL 90/2 and CL 90/2-Sup. 1 on the world food and agriculture situation, submitted then for our consideration and followed with great attention the statement by the Director-General.

The problem of food production has always been of great importance and it has been included in the agenda at all Sessions of the Council. The statistical data submitted by the FAO Secretariat shows increases in the annual production of foodstuffs, while distribution remains uneven among continents and countries. The discrepancy between production and need in foodstuffs in developing countries still exists. Obviously, the crisis in food supplies is part of the main problem, namely the economic backwardness and dependence of some countries.

One subject of our attention during the last decade has been the problem of uniting the efforts of the world community to provide resources for investments in, and the training of specialists for seeds, machines, fertilizers and technology for the modernization and intensification of agriculture in a number of developing countries. At present, international aid is considerable but not sufficient. There is a need for large quantities of resources, part of which can be found in the countries themselves.

The solution to this problem is bound up with the state of international economic relations, which does not contribute to the growth of the national economic potential of the developing countries.

A serious obstacle to overcoming this problem is the use of food as a means of exerting political pressure. The protectionist trends in some western industrialized countries are causing grave harm to international trade. Only the establishment of a new economic order on a just and democratic basis will promote rapid economic development of the poorer countries. The problem with the indebtedness of the developing countries is of the most serious concern to the international community. The accumulated indebtedness goes well beyond reasonable boundaries. In our judgement this cannot be maintained. The problem can be solved by eliminating all the obstacles to foreign trade, in particular their protectionist character. There is a need to establish normalization of the conditions for submitting loans with a low interest rate.

The solution of the food problems is based on the development of industrial capacity within individual countries, agricultural modernization and the improvement of the social conditions in the rural regions. Probably, It is very difficult to elaborate a universal model for agricultural development, applicable in every country. Obviously the problems of malnutrition and hunger must be solved "in all their complexity. We should like to stress the necessity for structural changes in production on the basis of progressive forms of management in the economy and better use of the available resources.

The experience of the socialist countries in establishing agro-industrial complexes is significant. This is why thousands of young people from the developing countries are graduating from the universities in the countries of the world socialist system. The Peoples Republic of Bulgaria is expanding the economic and scientific and technical cooperation with developing countries on the basis of long-term planning. Many measures have been undertaken on our side to stimulate foreign trade with the developing countries. We have initiated a system of preferential duties on their imported goods, for some imported goods it is 50 percent and some are duty free.

We should like to state our readiness to share our experience and knowledge with all who are interested.

My delegation is deeply concerned about the financial situation of our Organization which is due to the reduction of contributions and the delay of payments to the regular Budget by some Member Countries.

Before I conclude I should like to point out that only through general and complete disarmament and reduction of military spending can the enormous financial, human and material resources be provided, part of which can be used for the development of agricultural production and the elimination of malnutrition and hunger throughout the world.

Joint FAO/IAEA Display

Panneau d'exposition FAO/AIEA

Panel de exposición FAO/OIEA

Bjorn SIGURBJÖRNSSON (IAEA): I have been given the opportunity to draw your attention to a display which is on the ground floor of this building just opposite the entrance from building B. This display consists of photographs of a new laboratory facility which was constructed jointly by FAO and the International Atomic Energy Agency and also is operated jointly by the two agencies.

When the joint FAO/IAEA division, which as you know is located in Vienna, became twenty years old two years ago the Director-General went to Vienna and addressed the General Conference of the IAEA, and on that occasion he suggested that the occasion be marked by the two agencies joining hands in constructing a laboratory for the training of agricultural scientists from developing countries and for supporting and assisting research in developing countries in the fields of plant and soil sciences.

Exactly two years later the new laboratory was inaugurated by the Director-General of IAEA. This is part of a large complex of laboratories operated by IAEA and quite a large proportion is devoted to agriculture. The activities there are operated jointly by FAO and IAEA and often carried out in collaboration with the Government of Austria.

This laboratory is rather unique. There are not many laboratories operated by the UN system, and it has greatly assisted the joint division in transferring rather advanced technology to scientists in developing countries. The laboratory, as I said, was funded by joint contributions of FAO and IAEA for the construction. But I am very pleased to acknowledge here generous donations by other Member Nations. I am pleased to acknowledge the donation by the Government of Poland of all the furnishings of the laboratory. I am also grateful to the Government of the United States of America who donated a research training greenhouse which is now being constructed and to the Government of Canada, which donated a radiation source for use in plant breeding in etymology and so on and for training of young scientists.

The meeting rose at 12. 30 hours.

La séance est levée à 12 h 30.

Se levanta la sesión a las 12. 30 horas.

council

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

conseil

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

consejo

ORGANIZACION DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS PARA LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION

CL

CL 90/PV/4

Ninetieth Session

Quatre-vingt-dixième session

90º período de sesiones

**FOURTH PLENARY MEETING
QUATRIEME SEANCE PLENIERE
CUARTA SESION PLENARIA
(18 November 1986)**

The Fourth Plenary Meeting was opened at 14. 45 hours,
Lassaad Ben Osman, Independent Chairman of the Council, presiding
La quatrième séance planiere est ouverte à 14 h 45, sous la présidence
de Lassaad Ben Osman, Présidentindépendant du Conseil
Se abre lacuarta sesión plenaria a las 14.45 horas bajo la presidencia
de Lassaad Ben Osman, Presidente Independient e del Consejo

III. ACTIVITIES OF FAO and WFP

III. ACTIVITES DE LA FAO ET DU PAM

III. ACTIVIDADES DE LA FAO Y DEL PMA

7.2 Election of Five Members of the Committee on Food Aid Policies and Programmes

7.2 Election de cinq membres du Comité des politiques et programmes d'aide alimentaire

7.2 Elección de cinco miembros del Comité de Políticas y Programas de Ayuda Alimentaria

LE SECRETAIRE GENERAL: Je voudrais attirer l'attention des délégués sur le document CL 90/11, "Composition du Comité des politiques et programmes d'aide alimentaire". En annexe à ce document figure un imprimé pour la présentation des candidatures au Comité. Il semble que le libellé de cet imprimé a donné lieu à quelques malentendus que je voudrais dissiper. On lit en effet dans la première partie que "le délégué de...propose la candidature de..." et dans la deuxième partie que "le délégué de...accepte cette proposition de candidature". Ce que l'imprimé veut dire, c'est que le délégué d'un pays A présente la candidature du délégué d'un pays B et c'est le délégué du pays B qui doit signifier s'il accepte d'être proposé comme candidat, et non pas que la proposition doit être secondée par le délégué d'un pays C. Lors de "nos prochaines sessions, nous modifierons le libellé pour éviter toute ambiguïté. Mais j'espère qu'avec les éclaircissements que je viens de donner, la situation est simplifiée.

LE PRESIDENT: Ces éclaircissements sont-ils suffisants ou il y a-t-il d'autres observations? Je pense que ces éclaircissements sont suffisants. Nous passons à la suite de notre travail, à l'analyse du point 4.

II. WORLD FOOD AND AGRICULTURE SITUATION

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

II. SITUACION MUNDIAL DE LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION

4. State of Food and Agriculture 1986

4. Situation de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture en 1986

4. El estado mundial de la agricultura y la alimentación, 1986

Phillip JUICO (Philippines): Mr Chairman, first of all, I should like to apologize for passing up our turn. I was indisposed this morning. Nevertheless, on behalf of the government of the new Republic of the Philippines allow me to express our deepest appreciation for the opportunity you have given our delegation to contribute our own thoughts on the state of food and agriculture.

We attach special significance to this Ninetieth Session, not only because of the important matters to be discussed but also because of the fact that this is the first Council meeting to which the new government is sending representatives.

Before I give you our brief comments on document CL 90/2, permit me quickly to go over the present situation in the Philippines in macro-economic terms and in the food and agriculture subsector in particular. The Philippines views with great concern the issues raised in the documents and which were amplified by our colleagues from other member countries.

I will not attempt to provide you with details of how we managed to topple the dictatorial regime of a man and a woman who have brought our country to a state of near collapse. I will not give you a personal account of what my role was and the role of millions of Filipinos in bringing about change in the Philippines. That duty, noble and inspiring as it is, will be left with the many historians who have been recording and analysing the dynamics of what we call "people's power" and what President Corazon Aquino called in her speech before the Joint Session of the US Congress as "the cheapest revolution in the history of mankind". Suffice it to say the Philippines, after

20 years of mismanagement faces enormous problems. Consider, Mr Chairman, the following: first, foreign debt that tops US\$ 26 billion with debt servicing approximately 50 percent of export earnings. A large portion of this debt has disappeared and evidence shows it has ended up in foreign shores.

Second, even with the new measures of reduced expenditures and increased revenues, the Government is still facing US\$ 1.3 billion deficit in its budget.

Third, we have been experiencing negative GNP for the last several years.

Fourth, about 70 percent of the population is living in poverty.

The current economic factors resulted from the confluence of other factors including policies biased against agriculture and overly protective of manufacturing and industry. The previous government's policies tended to be concentrated on economic and political power in its hands and selected individuals in the private sector. Increased intervention in market and monopolistic structures promoted large scale waste and inefficiency, mismanagement and corruption—all of these at the expense of enhancing farmers' incomes.

During its relatively short tenure, the present administration has lifted government controls on the markets and on trade restrictions. It has encouraged truly democratic consultations and the participation of all sectors in policy formulation. The new government is committed to private enterprise and respect for human rights. The private sector is to serve as the prime mover in national economic recovery. It is deeply committed to implementing fundamental economic and political reforms. The major development priorities are to stimulate rural development and increase agricultural output and rural employment. As stated by President Aquino the highest priority will be given to agriculture, not only to realise the goal of equitable distribution of benefits and opportunities, but also to enable 70 percent of the population who live in the countryside to maximise their contribution to the economy.

Government also aims to dismantle crony monopolies and privileges and divest itself of public corporations and non-productive assets and implement measures to institute genuine public accountability and effect meaningful trade liberation. It is this last item, trade liberation, which we are very concerned about. As mentioned earlier, we have a huge foreign debt which we can service only if we are given freer access to markets by countries, and groups of countries, which are sympathetic to the situation of the Philippines and other developing countries.

A case in point is coconut oil which comes from copra, the product of the poorest of the poor of millions of our countrymen. Whilst we are grateful for the assistance given us by our friends, we are strongly convinced that trade concessions represent a much more meaningful and long lasting measure than outright monetary grants. In short we believe in the principle of more trade than aid. One way of implementing this is looking at the many possibilities that barter or counter-trade schemes can offer.

In concluding we once again express our hope that despite some reports of our well-meaning friends that tend to portray a country about to disintegrate, we shall, with the support of the international community and organisations like FAO, overcome the crisis in which we find ourselves. As in the February revolution, our faith in ourselves, people's power and most importantly, our faith in God, remains unshaken and forever strong.

Danilo VUJICIC (Yugoslavia):-At the very beginning of my statement I would like to compliment FAO's Secretariat for providing us with a very useful, comprehensive, analytical and realistic document on the state of food and agriculture in the world. The enlightening statement by the Director-General yesterday further clarified the picture of the world food agricultural situation in the world as well as problems and difficulties faced by the Organization itself. The introductory statements by Mr Islam have assisted us very much in better understanding the situation and problems faced by food and agriculture in the world. The general world economic situation has improved somewhat during the last two years. Compared to the serious global economic crisis which prevailed only three to five years ago, however, improvements in the economic situation were only measured by statistical averages. In fact, this recovery has been extremely uneven among countries, regions and economic groupings. On one side the recovery of economic growth and general position of developed countries have improved.

On the other side, the situation of most developing countries remains very unsatisfactory and unfavourable. There is, in fact, also a limited number of developing countries mainly from Asia which by great efforts and sacrifices by themselves succeeded in having a relatively good economic development during the last few years. However, the great majority of developing countries, because of internal difficulties and unfavourable external environments, continue to have extremely low economic performance since the beginning of the 1980s and their relative position in the world economy has weakened considerably.

I will not take the precious time of the Council to elaborate in detail on various data and assessments concerning the world economic situation and the deteriorating position of developing countries. This has been sufficiently and clearly presented and proved by figures in the reports of all international organizations dealing with trade, financial and development problems including UNCTAD, GATT and IMF, World Bank as well as by analysis of the OECD and by many scientific economic institutions of the world. On the basis of all these analyses and the data published, it is obvious that the position of developing countries in the world economy has been drastically worsened during this decade. In addition to international internal problems, difficulties and some weaknesses in management, the external economic environment has been particularly unfavourable. I will mention only some of the obvious and broadly recognised factors.

Expanding protectionism and discrimination of the imports of the developing countries to the markets of some developed countries significantly reduced the volume, and particularly export earnings, of developing countries. This, as a consequence, diminished their ability to import necessary goods for their production, development and consumption, including food. Prices of agricultural commodities of developing countries fell in 1985 by 41 percent compared to the level of 1980, according to the Trade and Development Report of UNCTAD. The collapse of commodity prices of the developing countries resulted in huge export earning losses amounting to tens of billions of dollars annually. The negative terms of trade of developing countries during this period resulted in a very significant real transfer of resources from developing to developed countries which, according to some reliable estimates by Western economists, goes far over a hundred billion dollars annually. This transfer of resources from developing to developed countries has been a significant blood infusion into the so-called policy of non-inflationary growth of the economies in developed countries.

In addition the development of the international monetary and financial system was also the source of great difficulties and losses for developing countries. Volatility of exchange rates, and increased high degree of uncertainty and insecurity caused financial losses to developing countries. Historically high and long-lasting rates of interest exhausted a substantial share of the export values of developing countries from one-third to one-half of the total export value. An accumulation of debts of developing countries reached US \$1 000 billion. The servicing of this debt is the biggest burden for most of the developing countries. As a result of such an unfavourable external environment the growth of production of most of the developing countries contracted and many of them had negative growth rates when measured in terms of per capita. A further logical consequence was the deepening of the gap in the development between the developed and the developing countries. Even in such a general economic situation it could hardly have been expected for the conditions of food and agriculture performance to have been much better. The world food production increased by an average 2.6 percent since the beginning of this decade. That is far behind the target of 4 percent growth established by the World Food Conference 1974 and the strategy for the third development decade.

The regional analysis shows further that even this average was due to the relatively successful performance of a few countries in Asia. Many African and other less developed countries, and others, are still in a very difficult situation. Other important indicators of the general picture of the state of food and agriculture, particularly of developing countries, are not encouraging. As a result of economic, and particularly balance-of-payments difficulties, the average annual growth in use of agricultural inputs has decreased sharply. This is well-illustrated by the data presented in Table 7 of the document CL 90/2 which shows that the growth rate of the use of fertilizers dropped from 11 percent in the 1970s to 3 percent in the beginning of the 1980s. In the same period the use of tractors per arable land dropped from 8 to 5 percent and that of irrigation from 1.1 to 0.2 percent.

The flow of resources to agricultural developing countries, after some recovery in 1981/82, demonstrated a downward trend. The concessional OCA, which is of particular interest for the least developed and other low-income countries, dropped from 8.2 billion dollars in 1982 to 7 billion

dollars in 1984, or by 15 percent. The same trend prevailed in non-concessional assistance while direct foreign investments, which by the way have never been much interested in food production of developing countries, have also shown a declining tendency.

It is unfortunate that the developed countries which have gained much through improvement of their terms of trade, particularly by promoting extremely cheap prices in commodities and energy, have not shown more understanding by keeping or increasing the level of assistance for food production in developing countries. But at the same time it would be unfair not to recognize that the developed countries did show a high degree of solidarity and generosity in assisting the drought and hunger stricken countries in Africa during the last two years. This assistance helped African, particularly Sahelian countries, to overcome for the time being the acute food shortages and hunger. This also contributed to the fulfilment for the first time of the 10 million tonnes aid grain target set by the World Food Conference in 1974 and of the target of 500 000 tonnes of grain in IEFER. While these facts have to be welcomed and praised, attention has to be drawn to the fact that food assistance is necessary and helpful, but only a short-term solution.

All efforts by the developing food-deficit countries and by the international community have to be concentrated in finding a lasting solution to the food problem by increasing their own food production and achieving the level of basic self-sufficiency. This period in which the pressure for emergency food assistance was eased somewhat, should be used to concentrate efforts and means for creating conditions for the growth of food production. The document which we are analysing contains a useful assessment of the resources invested in agriculture which shows that in the poorest countries the bulk of investment in agriculture comes from the savings of the individual farmers themselves. These efforts have to be encouraged, supported and complemented by governments and international communities if we really wish to accomplish the set objectives. My delegation would encourage further and more comprehensive studies and suggestions by the FAO Secretariat in this report.

Turning to the question of world food trade and security, there is for the time being on one side an abundance of food, much higher supply than real demand; high stocks and historically low prices of grains. On the other side there is great need for food by more than a half billion of undernourished people in the world, but this need for food is not considered as a real demand because it lacks foreign currency resources to buy it. At the same time some important developed food producing and exporting countries are spending tens of billions of dollars annually to subsidize food production and exports.

According to the latest assessment of GATT in its document CV 502 published just two weeks ago, only the United States and EEC are directly or indirectly subsidizing their food exports by 50 billion dollars annually, competing with each other and bringing world market prices to the level below the cost of production. This has some temporary benefits for buyers but it has or may have long lasting negative consequences for agricultural producers and exporters both in developed, including those that I mentioned; and developing countries. It is high time for the parties concerned and for the international community to take adequate steps to get rid of this anomaly and structural deficiency and to create conditions for normal and reasonable competitive agricultural production and trade in the world. This would better serve the objectives of the world food security in the long run than the temporary illusion of abundance of food and low prices which prevail for the time being. As the first step to a lasting solution of the food problem and a stable world food trade security, the parties involved in the food competition with food export subsidies may decide voluntarily to channel only a small part, let us say one quarter of these amounts which they are spending annually for subsidies, less the additional assistance to the improvement of food production in developing countries.

I would not dwell any more on various aspects of the state of good food and agriculture because it would probably be repetition of facts which are contained in the documentation or which have already or will be stated by other delegates. At the end I would like to mention only two elements, the first that my delegation would like to stress the importance and to encourage our Organization as well as member countries to support the economic and technical cooperation among developing countries in all aspects of food and agriculture, namely in food production, processing, marketing as well as in the food security activities.

Last but not least, I would say just a few words and only to mention that agricultural production in Yugoslavia this year was, according to the latest assessment, 5 percent higher than a year ago but it should be kept in mind that the previous year 1985 was lower by 7 percent than the record 1984. In fact, we could consider the crop of 1986 as a good average year.

John R. GOLDSACK (United Kingdom): The United Kingdom holds the Presidency of the European Community at the present time and as such I would like to give way to the Commission Observer to make a statement on behalf of the Community. With your permission I request that following the statement of the Commission Observer I may have the floor again to make the statement on behalf of the United Kingdom.

Jean-Jacques RATEAU (Communauté économique européenne): Monsieur le Président, c'est un honneur pour moi de vous exprimer, au nom de la Communauté européenne que préside actuellement le Royaume-Uni, notre satisfaction de participer aux travaux de la quatre-vingt-dixième session du Conseil de l'Organisation des Nations Unies pour l'alimentation et l'agriculture.

Jean Jacques RATEAU (Observateur de la Communauté économique européenne): Monsieur le Président, c'est un honneur pour moi de vous exprimer, au nom de la Communauté européenne que préside actuellement le Royaume-Uni, notre satisfaction de participer aux travaux de la quatre-vingt-dixième session du Conseil de l'Organisation des Nations Unies pour l'alimentation et l'agriculture.

Bien que quelques documents n'aient pu être communiqués à la Communauté et que d'autres l'aient été avec un certain retard, ce qui nous a empêché de procéder à une étude aussi approfondie que nous l'aurions souhaité, l'examen des documents disponibles auquel ont pu se livrer les services de la Communauté témoigne du grand intérêt des sujets abordés et des propositions faites. Au nom de la Communauté, je tenais à souligner cet aspect des choses et à vous en féliciter.

Avec votre agrément, Monsieur le Président, je souhaiterais, au stade actuel de nos travaux, vous faire part de quelques remarques sur le document CL 90/2 relatif à la situation de l'agriculture en 1986.

Au paragraphe 38 de ce document, la Communauté regrette qu'à la cinquième ligne du texte français, on ait utilisé les termes "subventions à l'exportation" plutôt que les termes "subventions et pratiques analogues affectant les exportations". Compte tenu de l'importance du problème abordé, il convient en effet de prendre en considération toutes les subventions et toutes les pratiques analogues qui affectent les exportations d'une façon ou d'une autre, même lorsque celles-ci se situent dans l'ordre chronologique des opérations propres à la production et à la commercialisation très en amont des opérations commerciales d'exportation proprement dites. Faute de tenir compte, dans la suite de nos travaux, de cette correction apparemment anodine mais en fait fondamentale, le Conseil ne semblerait se préoccuper que de l'un des aspects de cet important problème, ce qui ne manquerait pas de limiter, voire de fausser, les conclusions auxquelles il pourrait aboutir. Une telle proposition serait en outre contraire à la Déclaration ministérielle de Punta del Este. Par ailleurs, à propos de ce paragraphe 38, je voudrais souligner combien j'ai apprécié, hier, l'excellent exposé du Représentant de la Colombie. Mais je voudrais dire aussi qu'il n'est pas possible d'accepter les critiques qu'il a formulées à l'encontre de la Communauté sur cette question des exportations, observation reprise d'ailleurs aujourd'hui par le Représentant de l'Australie. La Communauté est d'accord pour reconnaître qu'il y a là un problème majeur, mais aussi que ce problème affecte tous les pays exportateurs de produits agricoles. Aussi convient-il que, tous ensemble, les pays concernés s'efforcent de le résoudre dans le cadre des négociations GATT plutôt que de chercher à nous accuser inutilement dans le cadre de ce Conseil.

Au paragraphe 40, la Communauté doit vous signaler que le texte qui nous est soumis est, pour des raisons notamment de calendrier, tout à fait dépassé. Comme vous le savez en effet, Monsieur le Président, une réunion spéciale du GATT s'est tenue au niveau ministériel à Punta del Este, en Uruguay, en septembre 1986. Il serait souhaitable qu'on puisse en tenir compte. La Communauté souhaiterait en conséquence qu'on oublie, en quelque sorte, le paragraphe 40 qui nous est soumis pour prendre en considération la Déclaration ministérielle qui a été adoptée à l'issue de la réunion du GATT à Punta del Este.

Au paragraphe 42, la Communauté vous signale, Monsieur le Président, que les trois mots "des produits agricoles" qui figurent à la première ligne du texte français risquent d'induire le lecteur en erreur. En effet, le Groupe de travail qui a été constitué au sein du GATT et auquel il est fait référence dans ce paragraphe, concerne les effets de l'entrée de l'Espagne et du Portugal dans la Communauté sur le commerce de tous les produits et non sur celui des seuls produits agricoles.

En ce qui concerne le paragraphe 192, je dois vous faire part, Monsieur le Président, d'une certaine déception de la Communauté au sujet du texte proposé au Conseil. En effet, le texte qui nous a été soumis ne semble pas apprécier à leur juste valeur les efforts considérables décidés par la Communauté pour assainir et équilibrer le marché agricole sans léser les revenus déjà bien modestes de nos agriculteurs. La réduction de 1 à 2 pour cent des quotas appliqués sur certains produits pour les deux années à venir, la taxe de corresponsabilité renforcée dans les secteurs des produits laitiers et des graines oléagineuses et maintenant étendue au secteur des céréales, la politique respective des prix agricoles qui se traduit depuis plusieurs années par leur réduction en termes réels et la réforme du régime d'intervention sont, à titre d'exemple, des réformes qu'il a été très difficile de décider et surtout d'appliquer. Tout autant que les agriculteurs américains, australiens ou canadiens, pour ne citer qu'eux, les producteurs européens souffrent de la situation dépressive des marchés mondiaux. Cette année encore, les revenus des producteurs diminuent dans la Communauté; les agriculteurs âgés ne sont plus remplacés et les jeunes, malgré le chômage qui affecte les villes, se détournent du métier d'agriculteur. Voilà pourquoi la Communauté aurait souhaité que le Secrétariat de la FAO marque plus d'intérêt et de compréhension à l'égard de la réforme de la politique agricole commune qui a été décidée et entreprise.

Au paragraphe 193, la Communauté signale qu'il est tout à fait inexact d'affirmer que certaines difficultés s'exacerbent à mesure que l'Espagne et le Portugal s'intègrent plus étroitement dans la Communauté. Les difficultés liées à l'entrée de ces deux pays dans la Communauté ont en effet été analysées au cours de négociations et pendant la période intérimaire entre la signature du traité d'adhésion et sa mise en oeuvre. Depuis que l'adhésion est devenue effective, c'est-à-dire depuis le 1er janvier 1986 ou plutôt, si vous préférez, depuis le 1er mars 1986 pour ce qui concerne les produits agricoles, de nombreuses mesures ont été prises pour les résoudre, de telle sorte qu'on peut affirmer que les difficultés liées à l'élargissement ont été résolues dans certains cas ou sont en voie d'amélioration.

Au paragraphe 195, la Communauté vous signale que les dernières études conduites dans ce domaine montrent que le montant de 3 milliards d'ECU indiqué dans ce paragraphe n'a aucune réalité, et nous nous demandons sur quelle base le Secrétariat de la FAO a pu établir une telle estimation.

Telles sont les remarques que la Communauté souhaitait faire sur le document CL 90/2 qu'elle estime, par ailleurs, excellent.

En conclusion, la Communauté voudrait souligner l'importance qu'elle attache à l'action que la FAO conduit dans le monde, et appuie dans toute la mesure du possible l'action de la FAO pour lutter contre la faim, la malnutrition et la misère qui, malgré les progrès signalés dans quelques pays, sévissent encore dans trop de pays du tiers monde.

Comme vous le savez, la Communauté a elle-même engagé des moyens, notamment financiers, importants pour essayer de résoudre ces problèmes avec tous les pays du tiers monde, et plus particulièrement avec les pays signataires de la Convention de Lomé. Aussi comprendrez-vous, Monsieur le Président, que la Communauté étudiera avec le plus grand intérêt les actions et propositions qui ont été faites ou qui le seront dans cette enceinte.

John R. GOLDSACK (United Kingdom): You will have noticed that we have a new Commission observer, and in welcoming Mr Râteau I would like to thank the retiring observer, Mr Desesquelles, for his past contribution to our endeavours.

I would like to congratulate the Secretariat on the production of document CL 90/2 and the supplement, and I wish to make some observations, particularly on the forestry and fisheries sectors.

In the section on international agricultural trade, paragraphs 39-42, it is surprising to see no reference to the International Tropical Timber Agreement and the recent decisions on the effective establishment of the International Tropical Organization. Although the usefulness of this organization is yet to be proved it has great potential for securing greater benefit to both producer and consumer countries. This can be achieved through more efficient market information and assistance to conservation and development of the forest resource in tropical countries. This, incidentally, is the first such commodity agreement to include such a provision. We should like to draw the attention of Council to the need to recognize this important development and to encourage close collaboration between FAO and the International Tropical Timber Organization. This is required with regard to information on tropical timber demand and supply and to assistance for the improved regeneration, management and conservation of tropical forests through support for research.

In the section on recent development in fisheries, paragraphs 72-79, the report confirms the virtual levelling off of conventional fish catches and by implication confirms the forecast of an increasing shortfall of fish in the future. Accepted strategy do deal with this procedure is three-pronged: through the reduction of waste and losses, the development of aquaculture and the catching of unconventional resources.

The report also notes the decline of catches in Africa. While this, as suggested, is partly due to faulty statistical reporting, there are real and quite familiar reasons for the general stagnation. Important to the United Kingdom aid programme is the almost complete failure of aquaculture in Africa to date. FAO proposes drastic measures to deal with this but will need major support.

Although the Director-General in his statement yesterday drew attention to the Tropical Forestry Action Plan it is surprising to see no reference to this in paragraphs 80-86. The plan is important for its detailed quantification of the need for a massive increase, twice the current level, in both national and external investments in forestry.

I would like therefore to draw the attention of Council and of the governments of member countries, both donor and recipient, to the plan and to the need for FAO and aid recipient countries to review their own priorities for the allocation of resources. Whereas investment in agriculture generally has increased over the past two decades, more than 95 percent of aid agency agricultural investment has been channelled into products aimed at short-term food production and less than one percent into forestry conservation.

We should like to congratulate FAO on the production of their study "African Agriculture, the Next 25 Years". We largely agree the analysis and we see the need to support the four i's identified in the study. I refer to incentives, inputs, institutions and infrastructure. We feel that although the study has been discussed at the regional African conference in September 1986 it is of crucial importance and should be on the agenda for further discussion at COAG in March 1987 and before any final decision is taken to pursue the proposed study of aid in kind.

In the field of policy reform, dealt with in paragraphs 105-122, we commend countries that have carried out the range of these politically difficult measures. The greater involvement of the private sector is now much to the fore in many countries and, despite traditional resistance in others, is likely to gain further credence.

Tan Sri Dato Alwi JANTAN (Malaysia): I take pleasure on behalf of my delegation to welcome you in the chair and to congratulate the other members of your bureau on their election. I should like also to commend the Director-General for his very inspiring address yesterday and Professor Nurul Islam for his splendid introduction of this agenda item.

I agree with those distinguished delegates who have spoken before me that the documents before us are both very comprehensive and thought-provoking. However, their message is worrying. The economic outlook for the developing countries is bleak and filled with uncertainties. They are still being saddled with the untenable debt problems, depressed rock bottom commodity prices and restrictive markets. The West or the North have changed the rules for free trade which they once expounded. Comparative advantage is thrown overboard. The dividing line between trade and aid is being continuously blurred. The rich are getting richer and the poor poorer. Taken to its logical conclusion I shudder to think what would become of this world.

Some countries in Asia, for example, have managed to overcome their food deficiency situation to the stage of self-reliance and even have enough for export. But then it seems the more we produce the less we get.

The order of the day as practised by developed economies seems to be in simplistic terms just to increase restrictions on imports and increase subsidies for exports. There is no way fledging economies of the Third World could match the billions of dollars allocated by the developed economies to shut out their markets.

It seems that such condemnation of protectionism, both tariff and non-tariff, is becoming a routine for us. However, I must say that we view this as the most critical issue in agriculture due to the inextricably close linkage between international commodity markets and the economic health of developing countries.

What are the solutions? I think this is the one big challenge facing the world community and this august body of ours. There are no easy answers. We have to watch for every glimmer of hope. I therefore share the optimism of the Director-General and welcome the recent decision of the Punta del Este GATT Conference to include agricultural products in its new round of negotiations. I note that the FAO Secretariat will provide every assistance to these negotiations. But I begin to wonder. Would such a supportive role be sufficient? As the specialized agency on food and agriculture with a rich reservoir of knowledge and experience at its disposal, I would suggest that it could play a more meaningful and effective role by giving expert advice to these negotiations. In view of the already critical situation, perhaps there is even justification to hold an international round exclusively devoted to agricultural trade, policies and issues.

Turning to food aid, my delegation does not believe that handouts in the form of food aid, however generously given, would in the long term be the correct substitute for trade.

We also believe that there should be a distinction between food aid and aid to produce food as frequently voiced out by the Director-General. For the sake of developing self-reliance the balance should tilt towards more aid to produce food. My delegation therefore considers that increasing food aid, other than during emergencies, could kill effective demand and incentives to producers. It distorts markets and allows the justification by countries which produce huge surpluses to use these not solely for humanitarian reasons.

It was Confucius who once said give man a fish, he will eat it; but teach him how to fish, it will last him a lifetime. It is remarkable that such eastern wisdom can still bear relevance to present day international relations.

I should like to conclude by saying that economic health and food security are closely linked to trade, especially in agricultural products. The famine and suffering so far endured could have been minimized, if not avoided altogether, if those countries affected were in sound economic state. Therefore, it is not just a moral duty, but rather a matter of logic that the international community should work more diligently towards the restoration of a healthy international market for agricultural products in order to allow for a decent and dignified existence for those less fortunate among us.

Hermann REDL (Austria): Before I comment upon the document before us, with your permission I should like to say a few words concerning the statement of the Director of the Joint FAO International Atomic Agency Division in Vienna. My country is happy that this Division is situated in Vienna. We support the activities of this Division. We believe the training is of the utmost importance, especially for the developing countries. Therefore, my Government has decided on a contribution of US\$ 750 000 for the training centre in Seibersdorf within the period of the next three years.

Perhaps I may now turn to the statement on food and agriculture which is in front of us. First of all, I would like to thank Professor Islam for the introduction of the document The State of Food and Agriculture 1986. However, the document before us should also be seen in connection with other FAO publications and studies such as Food Outlook. In the edition of October 1986, it is stated that the world grain harvest 1986 amounts to US\$ 1.82 billion, only one percent below the bumper crop of 1985, owing to a production increase by some three percent in the industrialized countries.

Worldwide, grain stocks will rise from 396 million tons at the end of the crop year 1985/86 and reach for the first time the level of 431 million tons in the current crop year. Thus, supplies would reach some 26 percent of the consumption expected for 1987/89. In view of the considerable export availability of grains on the one hand, and the restricted rise of the demand on the other, we will have to face a fierce competition in the world market. We have noticed with satisfaction the updated document CL 90/2 Sup. 1.

With a certain satisfaction it was further noted that the situation in Africa is considered to be predominantly good. We fully agree with what is stated in paragraph 36 of this document. This document and recent information confirms earlier assessments that growth in global food and agricultural production has tended to slow down. The given outlook, for cereals is in our opinion a realistic one. The agricultural trade in 1985 and the first half of 1986 was generally more depressed than other sectors. Furthermore, a continued fall in the US dollar unit value of agricultural commodities brought about an overall deterioration in the agricultural terms of trade, and contributed to a sharp fall in the value of agricultural exports.

Financing agricultural development in the first part of the eighties has been affected by the difficult economic and financial situation, and this will remain in the near future.

Finally, I should like to mention the problem of unemployment and all its consequences. This problem is not included in the document before us. We would be pleased if in the future this could be included in the "State of Food of Agriculture".

Adel Helmy EL SARKI (Egypt) (original language Arabic): Mr Chairman, first of all I should like to say that we are pleased to see you chairing this Council, and we hope that you will be successful. We should also like to thank the Secretariat for preparing this document. We would also like to thank Dr Nurul Islam for presenting it.

My delegation is still somewhat optimistic despite the data contained in this document and especially in paragraphs 1 to 23 referring to the deterioration of the world economic situation in 1985 and the first half of 1986. What makes us cautiously optimistic are the projections of FAO as to the possibility of an increase in the agricultural production in the developing countries which will have a positive impact on the economies of the developing countries because agricultural production in the developing countries is still dependent, to some extent, on the aid extended, and investments made, by the developed countries. We note that in this document the size of the multilateral assistance has increased by 16 percent as mentioned in paragraph 34 of this document. However, we are still concerned by the deterioration of the systems of agricultural products exchange and the increase of protectionism as mentioned in paragraphs 38 and 39. Therefore, we hope that the multilateral trade negotiations will be successful and hope that they will be carried on a realistic basis as this is the only way to avoid fierce competition in the case of agricultural surpluses.

The data contained in Table 6 shows an increase in the productive capacity, labour force, and the arable land in the Near East for the period 1980 to 1984, as compared to the period 1970 to 1981. We hope that this trend will continue.

Concerning the economic rehabilitation programme for Africa, the document shows that many interested parties are willing to provide financial and technical assistance. However, we would like to say that this assistance is not the only way to solve the food crisis in Africa. We think that self-dependency, hard work and regional cooperation are the most important factors to increase production. Against this background Egypt has asked during a meeting of the Union of African Agricultural Trade Unions held in Egypt October 1986 for a recommendation to establish a technical assistance fund in order to help the African countries solve their problems.

There is another point I should like to mention and that is the increasing indebtedness and debt servicing costs which led to a slow down in agricultural growth in most of the developing countries. We hope that the efforts aimed at rescheduling these debts and reducing interest rates will be successful. This will enable the developing countries to devote most of their national income to agricultural development.

The document mentions in paragraph 171 an increase in the level of food production in Egypt amounting to 4.2 percent. I should like to inform your august assembly that this increase applies also to most of the other agricultural crops reaching 12% in some cases during the last four years. This is due to the importance given by the Government to the agricultural sector because we have given the upmost priority to agriculture, so we agree with the contents of paragraph 274 which shows the important role national savings can play in agricultural development.

Finally, after listening to the statement made by Dr Saouma, the Director-General of FAO, my delegation would like to thank him for this frank and objective statement and for the way he presented the problems and how we can tackle them.

Mrs MILLICENT M. FENWICK (United States of America): I have a short paper that expresses my Government's position. We should like to thank you, Mr Chairman, and Dr Islam for the excellent report that we were given. This report correctly notes the existence of unusually large food supplies around the world. Cereal stocks at the end of 1985/86 were a nearly unprecedented 24 percent of total world consumption. Consequently, the Secretariat has devoted less space in this report to short-term food security concerns, and focused more upon the broader economic factors affecting agricultural development. The Secretariat documents have correctly characterized the US agricultural situation. To save time, we will not duplicate FAO's very fine summary. Presenting indicators of both internal and external resources in the section on financing agricultural development helps to begin to fill a very large gap in our knowledge of a crucial determinant of agricultural development. We recognize that FAO is breaking new ground in the assessment of internal resource flows and we urge continuing focus in this area.

We were particularly interested in the finding that private savings, and more particularly rural savings, are the main source of funds for investment in agriculture. (This is set out in paragraph 230). The discussion of the relatively greater impact of "implicit" tax policy as opposed to "explicit" taxes upon the creation of a favourable environment for agricultural investment appeared particularly important.

Also a major issue at the end of the report (paragraphs 294 to 319) we found to be especially thought provoking. We were impressed by its discussion of a realistic approach to adjusting to the potentially slower expansion of external resource flows in the near future. The recognition that future agricultural growth will more likely come from the stimulation of internal, rather than external, demand seems an important practical consideration for agricultural policy makers. The discussion of various policy tools for promoting agricultural development are also well worth reading for policy makers attempting to bring both private and public resources to bear most efficiently upon agricultural development.

The United States is acutely aware of external debt problems hampering economic development (I may say we have a very handsome debt problem of our own) in many countries.

We strongly believe that the IMF and World Bank are the appropriate fora for consideration of external debt issues. Detailed treatment of such issues should be confined to these established, technically competent bodies. We share the optimism voiced by several previous speakers concerning the positive start of the new GATT rounds. There are substantial opportunities for liberalizing agricultural trade in those GATT rounds.

Now I should like to say a few personal remarks. Many of us are gathered here again, year after year, hoping to be useful in a tremendous endeavour to try and strike a substantial blow against terrible suffering in the world. The fact is that there are some 600 000 million people with absolutely no purchasing power at all. What have we learned? We have learned a few things. One is that the other name for famine, for hunger, is poverty. We know that in every country without exception the rich, the people who have money very seldom suffer that kind of hunger, and it does not matter which country we are talking about.

It is poverty which is the terrible enemy here and the lack of any individual resources. How do you increase agricultural production and well-being at the very bottom of the line, at the end of that long road? You increase it by allowing the individual small farmer to produce and sell irrespective of fixed prices, to sell and put money in his pocket. That is the answer. We have seen it everywhere. Nations are turning to it one after the other. Where they had thought there were perhaps other better ways, they are now turning to this if they really want production. If we really want to see the end of this kind of helpless poverty, as somebody had said it must be "trade not aid".

How can you put people in the position of being able to choose for themselves what they want in the way of food or anything else? This can only be done if they can produce, sell, and become part of the world of production. We may have some good ideas about technology and how we could help them to make a more bountiful harvest, but there is something else which I think who have learned. You can go with that kind of information in your head, but if you have no respect for people in your heart you are not going to persuade them. The minute that you turn your back, without respect for the people you are trying to help, you are talking to the wind. We have to understand that people have ways which are precious to them. Their grandfathers did certain things, and we cannot just say "You are foolish. We know better. We have some wisdom from on high". We must come with ideas, but they must be carefully, and with respect, eased into the ways of people, not saying "Nothing that you do is worth listening to".

I have a friend here, a member of delegation, going back to Papa who lives on a farm. Papa had said to him "Something is wrong with the crop", and he had said "Well, I have just come out of agri-cultural college. I will tell you, Papa, what we have to do for that crop". Papa listened and began to smile and said "I tried that three years ago. It doesn't work". He knew. He had lived with that farm, with that crop, with that land, with that soil and that moisture, and if he had not known he would not be alive.

You cannot just throw away all these things. You are not going to convince people if you do not care about them. I think that is one of the first things we have to learn.

We talk about unemployment here. What do I say about unemployment? I say: let these farmers have a little something, some agro-based industries, "and they will grow. When we had Mr Hamdi here from Egypt he told us about the remarkable thing FAO had done with the strawberry planting. All the people who had gone into strawberry planting had made some money, so they were able to produce a little employment locally because they had some cash. We have to be firm about the cash component. If people are working on state roads, if they are landless, perhaps, and happy to work on state roads they have to have a cash component in their wages. You cannot treat people badly and expect them to produce as happy and independent citizens.

Nehru said a wonderful thing once which I think we all ought to remember. Nehru asked: "What is progress?" He answered it himself: "Progress is giving a man who has a wooden plough the opportunity to get himself a metal plough, not just because you get more production but because you get the attitude and the belief of an independent man who is able to do something for himself and his family. "That is progress. That is the way I see it. I think that is what we have to concentrate on, and then all the big global business will take care of itself.

Robbie Matongo MUPAWOSE (Zimbabwe): This meeting is taking place at a time when many countries in Southern Africa are preparing for their new cropping seas. On, having come out of a reasonable production season in 1985/86 which has greatly improved the food supply situation in the region.

As a result of increase production by small scale farmers in the case of Zimbabwe, coupled with favourable rains over the last two years, and reasonable producer prices and other support services, the production of maize, sorghum and millets has increased substantially in relation to domestic requirements.

Deliveries of maize to the grain marketing boards reached the order of 1.8 million tonnes in 1985/86, with an additional 1.6 million tonnes in the current 1986/87 marketing year. In both years the small scale sector contributed 45 percent of the national intake of maize-about 800 000 tonnes

in addition to a quarter of a million tonnes of sorghum and millets. These quantities alone without including the commercial farmers, are in excess of the national off take, that is the national sales from the marketing boards.

We are therefore facing a situation where large stocks of these grains have accumulated, giving rise to high storage costs and considerable pressure on the facilities of the marketing institutions. Grain stocks at the commencement of the next intake season, excluding wheat, will be in excess of two years' requirements at the current level of domestic sales, that is 1.5 million tonnes of stocks. Local sales have declined to only 650 000 tonnes per annum due to the increased availability of food in the country, compared with 1 million tonnes during the peak of the drought in 1984 when many families had exhausted their food reserves.

Concurrently, export prices for these grains have fallen to a level which would result in very substantial trading losses on the disposal of surplus grains into overseas markets.

We have had to take stringent measures to reconcile the future production of grains with domestic demand and viable export opportunities by encouraging farmers to adjust their cropping programmes for next year and reduce maize plantings to about 50 percent of last year's deliveries.

Small scale farmers have, however, been exempted from the restrictions in view of the fact that maize is their staple food crop, and we would not want to destabilize the food production base that has been successfully established in that sector over the past five years. Drought is an endemic phenomenon in our region, and this is a fact to bear in mind when designing agricultural policies.

Efforts are being made to broaden the productive base in this sector and expand the present production of oilseeds, horticulture, cotton, sugar, tea, coffee, and also expand fisheries and possibly introduce other crops which can be readily absorbed by the market. Great priority is being given to the question of nutrition at the household level by encouraging the correct balance of crops grown by small scale farmers.

In addition to that, cattle and dairy production are being encouraged with emphasis on increasing the off-take of cattle from the small scale sector, not only in order to improve income for the farmers and beef supplies on the market, but also in an effort to control stocking rates and protect the environment. Efforts are being made in afforestation and in combatting soil erosion.

It is our policy not to produce grains for the overseas market, but at times, even with the best of plans, farmers react positively and produce surpluses. We aim at self-sufficiency and reasonable security stocks. Anything beyond our requirements, we are keen to export to our neighbours.

We were pleased and would like to support and restate the views of our Zambian colleagues expressed yesterday. Last year we expressed the same sentiments on triangular transactions especially for grains. We would like to reiterate them. The Director-General, Dr Saouma, has often made reference to the importance of triangular arrangements. Mr, Chairman, we are conscious of the surpluses in the donor countries and their farmer lobbies. But, it should be recognized that shipment of food commodities be they maize, beef or milk products, into our regions at subsidized costs only stifle our modest attempts to improve our agriculture. In our SADCC region, in the current period Malawi and Zimbabwe have been disadvantaged in disposing of surpluses. Instead of shipments from overseas into our region, we would plead that donor assistance be sourced from within the region and at realistic exchange rates. We appreciate the efforts by Australia, EEC, the United States and the World Food Programme, but the quantities involved have been very small. Further, it has been a battle to persuade some of these countries positively to commit themselves.

Major problems with the triangular transactions are caused by fluctuations in the supply of required commodities, the difficulty in finding willing donor partners, problems in fixing acceptable exchange ratios, the existence of cheap food in donor countries and the lack of information on demand projections in recipient countries.

The need for such support will become even greater in Southern Africa, especially in the case of landlocked countries, given the continued threat of South African destabilization activities and the possible impact of economic sanctions on agricultural production in neighboring states.

I thank you for the opportunity to highlight some of the critical issues related to food supply and marketing, and at the same time remind delegates of the increased need for international assistance for agricultural and transport projects to combat the current plight being faced by frontline states in Southern Africa.

It should also be appreciated that some of our countries live in a hostile region, with neighbours like South Africa who control our routes to the ports and destabilize the frontline states. Positive efforts should be made to help us wriggle from the South African clutches. Some developed countries, due to self interest, still play hide-and-seek on the issue of sanctions against South Africa. Until our region is rid of the South African apartheid scourge, we shall continue to spend resources on security which otherwise would be best used for meaningful development.

There are developed countries which continue to assist dissident activities in our region. Such assistance leads to making the life of farmers very insecure and interferes with their agricultural activities, resulting in poor food production and hunger.

I would like to compliment FAO on a fine document on The State of Food and Agriculture (1986). Further, I wish to express our gratitude for support on projects in Zimbabwe, and also to the SADCC regional programmes. There are many efforts which can only be meaningful if tackled on a regional front. The document SADCC Agriculture Toward 2000 was well done and very much commended, and Combat on the Red Locust by assistants from the FAO. Also, we wish to draw attention to the menace by Army worm and qualea birds which often devastated a crop and also the problems we have had with the tsetse fly.

It is hoped that FAO, IFAD and the World Food Programme will receive meaningful resources to effect development assistance in our region and in other developing countries.

Guy FRADIN (France): Je ne reviendrai pas sur les problèmes que connaît l'économie mondiale: de nombreuses délégations ont fait état de leurs soucis-que nous partageons-à cet égard, et il a été maintes fois rappelé les menaces que font peser sur le développement des pays une économie qui n'arrive pas à sortir de la crise, les difficultés financières des pays en développement dues, en particulier, au fardeau de leur dette et à la stagnation de leurs recettes d'exportation, la contraction de l'aide, y compris dans le domaine de l'agriculture.

Ma délégation réaffirme l'importance qu'elle accorde à ces problèmes, mais souhaite aujourd'hui se pencher sur quelques motifs que nous avons de fonder notre espérance dans le combat contre la faim et pour le développement.

Je note en premier lieu, la deuxième reconstitution du Fonds international de développement agricole. On m'objectera qu'il a fallu de nombreux mois d'efforts pour y parvenir et que le niveau de la reconstitution est de moitié inférieur à la précédente dotation. Mais c'est justement parce que ce résultat a été si difficile à obtenir et parce que nous avons eu de nombreuses fois des raisons de douter d'une issue favorable que je me félicite donc de l'aboutissement de cette négociation. La France attache une grande importance à l'existence et au bon fonctionnement de ce Fonds. La spécificité de ses objectifs et de son mode de fonctionnement en fait un outil indispensable du système multilatéral d'aide au développement.

Je rappelle ensuite la Session extraordinaire de l'Assemblée générale des Nations Unies consacrée à l'Afrique au printemps dernier. Là encore, on pourra regretter que des engagements plus précis n'aient pas été pris. Ce n'est pourtant déjà pas un mince succès que d'avoir, d'une part, tenu cette session, reconnaissant par là même la spécificité du problème africain et, d'autre part, dégagé un consensus sur l'analyse des causes de la crise économique africaine, sur la priorité du développement de l'agriculture et sur certaines orientations essentielles qui en découlent, à prendre par les gouvernements africains. Ma Délégation est convaincue que cette session extraordinaire de l'Assemblée générale a été un moment important pour l'Afrique, comme le montrent les suites concrètes que la FAO a commencé à lui donner lors de sa 14^e Conférence régionale pour l'Afrique à Yamoussoukro.

En troisième lieu, et au risque d'être accusé de faire preuve d'optimisme forcé, je constate avec une certaine satisfaction que la situation alimentaire mondiale est globalement satisfaisante: je note en particulier que la croissance de la production alimentaire a été mieux répartie et qu'elle s'est améliorée au Proche-Orient, en Afrique et en Amérique latine. Le Directeur général-nous a même parlé d'un répit dans la lutte contre la famine en confirmant qu'à côté de situations de pénuries toujours présentes, certains pays ont vu apparaître sur leurs marchés des excédents. Même si la menace subsiste encore, je crois qu'il faut se féliciter de tels résultats qui pourront nous permettre, au cours des prochains mois, d'être moins préoccupés par les problèmes d'urgence et de pouvoir ainsi nous tourner à nouveau vers les problèmes de développement.

S'agissant des excédents que connaissent certains pays africains, le Directeur général n'a pas manqué de souligner la situation paradoxale où sont ces pays dont la production maintenant excédentaire ne trouve malheureusement pas de marché, et notre collègue du Zimbabwe l'a rappelé à l'instant. Nous estimons qu'il est fondamental d'aider ces pays à gérer ces excédents sous peine de voir leurs efforts de production réduits à néant. A cet égard, il est indispensable que les pays donateurs participent à la répartition de ces excédents entre pays du Sud par le biais d'opérations dites triangulaires et qu'il soit parallèlement apporté à ces pays une aide à l'organisation de leurs marchés, seul moyen à terme de résoudre durablement ce problème. Je peux vous assurer que les efforts de coopération de la France se porteront tout particulièrement dans ce domaine.

Je voudrais maintenant vous faire part de quelques réflexions que nous a inspirées le document que nous examinons. Je partage tout d'abord l'inquiétude du Secrétariat en ce qui concerne la concurrence de plus en plus féroce qui se livre sur les marchés nationaux et mondiaux des produits. Le Président de la République française, M. François Mitterrand, rappelait il y a un an à la tribune de la Conférence l'opposition de la France au protectionnisme et son souhait de voir se développer les échanges. Il soulignait aussi, toutefois, que la libération non contrôlée de ces échanges ne ferait que tourner au profit des économies les plus fortes. Qui ne connaît, aujourd'hui, les différences importantes qui existent entre les économies des pays en développement, et comment ne pas voir que d'appeler à la libération des marchés sur un mode incantatoire ne pourra que mener à l'étranglement des économies les plus faibles, celles des pays africains en particulier. Je le rappelle une fois de plus, nous plaidons pour le droit de ces pays à protéger leurs économies et en particulier leur agriculture des aléas des marchés internationaux.

S'agissant de l'Amérique Latine, le document note que traditionnellement l'Etat a privilégié les villes au détriment de l'agriculture. C'est en réalité un fait que l'on peut constater dans beaucoup de pays. C'est en tout cas pour nous l'occasion de rappeler ce que ma Délégation a déjà souligné lors de la Conférence régionale pour l'Afrique à Yamoussoukro à propos de la complémentarité des développements des secteurs urbain et rural. Dans 20 ans la population sera essentiellement urbaine dans beaucoup de pays du Tiers Monde; l'agriculture de ces pays, pour faire face à cette demande, doit donc impérativement passer d'un stade de subsistance à un stade marchand. Il est, par conséquent, tout à fait essentiel de s'attacher à développer une agriculture susceptible de produire des surplus pour alimenter le marché local, et reconquérir ce marché au détriment des importations.

La deuxième facette de cette complémentarité entre secteur urbain et rural concerne la demande: il faut qu'elle soit solvable. Cela signifie une politique d'emplois et de revenus en milieu urbain.

Je voudrais maintenant attirer votre attention sur le para. 139: il est très important de noter que dans les pays ayant appliqué avec le plus de vigueur une politique économique libérale, la nécessité d'un plus grand pragmatisme est apparue et qu'ainsi beaucoup de formes traditionnelles d'intervention de l'Etat se sont rétablies. J'y vois, pour ma part, la confirmation de ce que je disais à l'instant: la libération des échanges ne peut se faire sans contrôle, tout particulièrement au sein des économies fragiles. Il ne s'agit évidemment pas de tout réglementer, mais il faut, surtout dans le secteur des produits agricoles, organiser et gérer les marchés. C'est une idée que nous appuyons depuis longtemps et nous apprécions d'en avoir souligné les fondements.

Enfin, je voudrais appuyer fermement les conclusions du paragraphe 235 sur l'importance de l'épargne intérieure et notamment rurale comme source d'investissements pour l'agriculture même si, au départ, cette épargne est modeste. Cela signifie que, d'une part, des revenus supplémentaires soient dégagés, d'autre part, soit accru l'intérêt pour le paysan d'investir cette épargne. C'est, je crois, une des principales questions auxquelles doivent répondre les politiques agricoles.

Pour terminer, je voudrais appuyer fermement la déclaration du Représentant de la Communauté. Nous sommes, je dois le dire, une fois de plus déçus de la façon dont sont présentés les problèmes communautaires dans l'examen des grands pays exportateurs. Ma Délégation apprécierait énormément que le Secrétariat prenne mieux en compte, désormais, les spécificités de la politique agricole commune.

Leopoldo ARIZA HIDALGO (Cuba): La delegación de Cuba ha analizado con sumo cuidado el documento CL 90/2 que nos presenta la Secretaría de la FAO.

En primer término quiero felicitar al Director General por su intervención en la mañana de ayer en la cual nos ofreció la ocasión de analizar el camino recorrido y trazar la futura ruta de la organización, embarcada ahora en las dificultades financieras y el endeudamiento creciente de la economía y el desarrollo. Sobre estos dos aspectos tendremos oportunidad de referirnos específicamente durante la sesión de este Consejo.

El tema que analizamos sobre "El estado de la agricultura y la alimentación 1986", que nos ha sido presentado brillantemente por el profesor Islam, en una primera observación de nuestra parte, es la síntesis que nos facilita el análisis sobre su principal función en base de datos para una reflexión seria del tema. Como aparece en el párrafo 15, que para nosotros es una síntesis bastante objetiva, la estimación con respecto al 86 es poco alentadora para la mayoría de los países en desarrollo. Se prevé la caída constante de los precios de los productos básicos lo que causará un deterioro de su relación de intercambio, la reducción resultante de los ingresos de exportación, disminución inevitable de las exportaciones, menoscabará la capacidad de pago de la deuda y retrasará inevitablemente su crecimiento económico.

Esto puede ser el compendio de un análisis inicial, según nos plantea en esta parte el informe, que se llama Análisis Mundial. A nuestro entender no existen elementos que nos indiquen el inmediato cambio importante en la producción y la satisfacción de la demanda de alimentos, por lo cual la vulnerabilidad de las economías de los países subdesarrollados irán aumento. Podemos expresar que estamos en presencia de una crisis permanente del sistema económico imperante.

Como usted bien conoce, señor Presidente, la llamada crisis alimentaria no es un fenómeno correspondiente a los últimos años. Para la mayoría del mundo subdesarrollado la crisis económica debe entenderse como una condición secular permanente de sus precarias vidas. Para ellos no tiene apenas sentido la hipotética recuperación de las economías desarrolladas, pues ni siquiera los más vigorosos auges económicos han sido capaces de evitar la presencia del hambre y la subalimentación en el Tercer Mundo. Para los centenares de millones de hambrientos que habitan en este mundo, la crisis alimentaria no es una simple referencia conceptual, sino una presencia diaria y una afrentosa realidad para toda la humanidad. La magnitud de las personas afectadas por la pobreza rural que cada decenio es redescubierta por las mismas corrientes de pensamiento que se aferran a un orden económico injusto donde el hambre y la malnutrición tienen un sostenido crecimiento, a pesar de lo relativamente satisfactorios niveles de producción. Esta es la palabra que siempre aparece en términos económicos en los informes. Por lo general, señor Presidente, este grupo de problemas se interpreta a través de expresiones como inflexibilidad de la oferta agrícola, de formación estructural del sector agrícola, son insuficientes como explicación comprensiva de un papel de crecimiento sin que desconozcamos que existe esta situación.

Esto, señor Presidente, no lo entienden las grandes mayorías ¿se puede entender la insuficiencia de producción agrícola para mitigar el hambre, si la confrontamos con la potencialidad de los recursos disponibles y con la necesidad de millones de mujeres, niños, hombres y ancianos en Asia, Africa, América Latina y en Oriente? Pasan hambre crítica, no desnutrición. Hambre crítica y desnutrición son distintos factores. Nos preguntaríamos nosotros ¿Son realmente estos problemas consecuencia del desarrollo deficiente de la agricultura? O, por el contrario, ¿tendría que empezar a decirse que es precisamente dicho desarrollo con sus modalidades específicas del orden económico actual lo que ha contribuido a su persistencia?

Por otra parte ¿la insuficiencia de la producción y de la demanda de alimentos y las consecuencias asociadas a los patrones de la utilización y control de los recursos básicos han constituido efectivamente problemas, obstáculos o distorsiones dentro de la lógica del funcionamiento de la agricultura del sistema económico en su conjunto? O, más importante aún, ¿hasta qué punto las estructuras económicas actuales son compatibles con la superación de dichos problemas e insuficiencias? Es evidente que estas preguntas no son pertinentes entre los esquemas del orden económico actual, pero ¿cómo explicamos a las masas de obreros, campesinos, mujeres y jóvenes la contradicción de que la penetración del progreso técnico provoca el empeoramiento de la condición de vida?

¿Cómo explicamos a una zona rural, a un campesino, que un tractor le puede hacer pasar hambre? Mientras hay más tractores hay más hambre. ¿Y cómo explicamos que la expansión de la producción se hace a costa de la permanencia de las deficiencias nutricionales. ¿Cómo explicamos que la disponibilidad de nuevos recursos productivos se hacen tanto que disminuyen relativamente la capacidad ocupacional agrícola?

En este Consejo, señor Presidente, se ha dicho que este tema se repite, se repiten los análisis de Consejo a Consejo, de Conferencia a Conferencia; que los problemas de la agricultura y la alimentación no se resuelven con los mismos análisis de 1984, cuando la Conferencia Mundial Alimentaria. Esto lo expresó sabiamente nuestro colega el Embajador Bula Hoyos, de Colombia.

Nosotros pensamos, señor Presidente, que todos conocemos los esfuerzos que ha hecho la FAO y su Director General durante su gestión para racionalizar el funcionamiento, reducir los gastos administrativos, conseguir fondos al Programa Ordinario para utilizarlos directamente con los Estados miembros, sobre todo con los más necesitados. En estos momentos en que las dificultades financieras de la Organización hacen necesario tener frente a ella una personalidad decidida y con experiencia; ¿podríamos hablar de imposibilidad de reelección? ¿Por qué? Cosa más grave aún, ¿podríamos privar a la Organización, cuando más lo necesita de la guía de una persona competente, de una persona que conoce a fondo todos sus problemas y sabe lo que es necesario para resolverlos y que si no los ha resuelto en alguna medida es porque está sometido su presupuesto hace muchos años al crecimiento cero? Cuando crece demográficamente el mundo, cuando crecen las necesidades, cuando crecen las Naciones miembros del sistema de Naciones Unidas el crecimiento cero impone restricciones que no le permiten aplicar la ayuda necesaria. Entre los mecanismos excepcionales de los que podríamos hablar hay uno que se llama Programa de Cooperación Técnica. Este es un mecanismo excepcional, operativo, expedito, de transferencia tecnológica a través de los pequeños proyectos, pequeños proyectos que llegan a juicio del que lo solicita, cada país; la FAO da la transferencia del apoyo y la ayuda de técnicos, en su mayoría técnicos del mundo desarrollado.

Estamos conscientes del nivel de desarrollo y de la diferencia del nivel de desarrollo y son los técnicos de los países desarrollados los que llegan a nuestros países con estos pequeños proyectos que no han creado deuda en ningún país y que garantizan una transferencia tecnológica limpia.

Ahora, señor Presidente, después de dicho esto creemos que si la ley fatídica del intercambio desigual del que aquí se ha hablado mucho, persiste, si los precios de nuestros productos básicos continúan deteriorándose hasta niveles nunca conocidos, si se incrementan las medidas proteccionistas, si se reconocen las prácticas del dumping que arrebatan mercados a nuestros productos, si continúan altas las tasas reales de intereses, si no se realiza la corriente de recursos financieros en condiciones apropiadas al desarrollo económico a que aspiramos, si se aplican políticas monetarias que encarecen el dólar estadounidense, moneda en la que tenemos establecida la mayoría de nuestras deudas, y si no se desestimula la fuga de capitales nacionales hacia los Estados Unidos de Norteamérica, si no se revierte la irracional tendencia de convertir a nuestras regiones en exportadoras netas de recursos financieros y no se nos da acceso a los productos agrícolas, en el Tercer Mundo, en los mercados internacionales con precios justos no podremos ni siquiera mitigar nuestra tragedia económico-social dentro de la guerra de los aranceles que se desarrolla en todos nuestros despojos.

Con tendencia feroz se acaba de expresar nuestro colega de Francia; y nosotros en el medio. Actualmente uno de los problemas más graves que tiene el mundo, que considero que en el documento se ha tratado en algunos párrafos con un poco de ambigüedad, pero con bastante objetividad en todo su análisis, es el de la deuda externa. Esta deuda externa que tiene el mundo subdesarrollado hoy, debido al hecho de que por imperiosa necesidad de desarrollo, en ocasiones incluso de supervivencia, los países subdesarrollados se vieron en la necesidad de ir adquiriendo progresivamente compromisos que han traído como consecuencia un incremento notable de su deuda exterior y de su dependencia. Las estructuras económicas de nuestros países débiles y subdesarrollados se deforman aun más a causa de la deuda. Abundantes y fáciles créditos otorgados por la Banca Internacional, han convertido a los países subdesarrollados a través de la deuda y del pago de sus servicios, en un conjunto de países cautivos, rehenes y tributarios de ese capital financiero sin perspectiva de pagar los intereses de esa deuda.

Ante este panorama creemos que más que analizar posibilidades y alternativas debemos pensar seriamente en revalorizar la lucha por un nuevo orden económico internacional. Un nuevo orden económico internacional que nos ayude a suprimir las diferencias, a suprimir el desequilibrio en el desarrollo, el hambre, la miseria, la marginación por la pobreza, todo lo cual genera violencia; la violencia individual del hambriento que tantas inquietudes políticas produce, no sólo es la amenaza de la guerra nuclear, que nos tiene que concitar a defender una paz precaria; hay que crear una convivencia humana, saludable, educada y nutrida. Estos son los problemas primarios para un nuevo orden económico que elimine también todo vestigio de violencia, de subversión, de racismo, de apartheid, de guerras locales. Con guerras nucleares el mundo ecológicamente se hace inhabitable. ¿Cómo podremos resolver eso si el egoísmo económico no nos permite ver más allá de nuestras fronteras?

Señor Presidente, un mundo técnico y científicamente en condiciones de grandes empresas extraterrestres que insume miles de millones pero que no es posible dar algunos millones para apoyar a la FAO, Organismo del Sistema de Naciones Unidas, especializado en la agricultura y la alimentación, ¿por qué se ataca al sistema multilateral?. Este mundo tiene que cargar también con la afrenta de no ser capaz de resolver el hambre de más de setecientos millones.

Creo que la expresión económica bajo este orden económico financiero no permite la utilización de recursos y riquezas, sometido por un mecanismo de endeudamiento. Señor Presidente, si las Naciones Unidas deciden que el primer paso para liberar al hombre de la necesidad es liberarlo de la necesidad de alimentos ello requerirá una rigurosa acción nacional en cada país y una, igualmente fuerte, de carácter internacional para asistir a los países que carecen de conocimientos y medios financieros necesarios para mejorar la producción de alimentos.

Este párrafo es producto de la mente fecunda de Mc Dougall en su famoso memorandum. ¿Por qué en vez de mantener una posición intransigente no recordamos su grandeza, su dedicación a la causa del desarrollo, cumpliendo con sus postulados?. Hay que crear la verdadera solidaridad libre del egoísmo económico que es el que nos ciega fuera de nuestras fronteras.

Para finalizar, porque sobre las virtudes del documento y sobre la situación incierta los colegas han hablado con bastante objetividad, queremos finalizar diciendo que la delegación de Cuba apoya la propuesta del Presidente Barco, de la República de Colombia, sobre la convocatoria de una conferencia para erradicar la pobreza absoluta en América Latina y el Caribe. Esperamos que la FAO pueda participar en esa Conferencia para apoyar los esfuerzos de nosotros, los latinoamericanos.

Queremos también apoyar la petición de la delegación de México para que la FAO termine el estudio sobre la actuación y participación de las transnacionales en la agricultura y la alimentación. Estas son cuestiones muy importantes para Latinoamérica en estos momentos.

Chavaly SRINIVASA SASTRY (India): Permit me to join the other delegates in complimenting the Economic and Social Policy Department of the FAO Headquarters for the outstanding report in the two documents presented to the Conference. These cover not only food and non-food production but also forests and livestock and fish. Indeed they present the primary sector as a whole in its global dimensions.

The analysis presented in the report is all the more praiseworthy when we consider the limitations in terms of availability of data and variations in definitions over space and time. The two footnotes on page 49 of the document CL 90/2 succinctly sum up the difficulties that Dr Nurul Islam and his colleagues must have had to contend with in preparing this report. The quality of this documentation has been bettered, if I might say so, only by the masterly presentation yesterday by Professor Nurul Islam while introducing his report for the Conference.

I might add that, on certain aspects where our definition for agricultural statistics have been different from those of FAO standards, we have recently decided to adopt the FAO pattern.

Before I deal with some of the aspects covered by the report I would like to congratulate and compliment the developing countries from Africa on their agricultural success in 1985 and 1986. One could regard this effort as testimony, if testimony were needed, for the efficiency and effectiveness of FAO in helping the developing countries tackle their food production problems.

As paragraph 30 of supplement 1 points out, there has been a growth of over 8 percent in food production in 1985 and 1986 combined. In the context of the drought and the scarcity prevailing over large areas in Africa in the recent past, it is heartening to note that seven African countries have an exportable surplus of 2.5 million tons of coarse grains, while six others have localized surpluses. This welcome development clearly proves that given reasonable weather conditions with the national will and effort, coupled with the international cooperation, the problem of food shortages, at least in terms of production, if not in terms of distribution and availability, can be solved in most developing countries. We should also note that seven African countries are still facing abnormal shortages and that there is a serious risk of widespread starvation in Southern Sudan.

We have no doubt that through the efforts of FAO, World Food Programme and other international organizations and also through triangular transactions and swap arrangements, the shortage situation would be tackled effectively in the short term. We also hope that in the long term, programmes will be drawn up and implemented to augment agricultural production aiming at self-reliance, if not self-sufficiency, wherever possible.

Reading the report leaves me with some uneasiness with the trends and portents in world trade in agricultural commodities. While on the production front, or on the supply side, the signal could be regarded as cautiously optimistic, on the demand or distribution side, whether it is in terms of trade in international markets or the purchasing power of vast multitudes in the developing countries, the signs are somewhat disturbing.

As the report says, the production gains have been greater in the traditional importing food countries, while deceleration in output has been more marked in the developed country exporters, particularly North America, and in the main exporting regions among the developing countries in Latin America. As we are all aware, in the developing countries the base of the datum line is relatively low. As a result even small increases in absolute terms could look impressive as percentages and proportions. In contrast, in the developed countries, where the levels attained are already high, even a decelerated growth rate could in absolute terms be rather impressive.

The report goes on to underline a fact which is causing worry to developing countries, namely export earnings of virtually all agricultural exporters continue to deteriorate while low prices have failed to stimulate agricultural products. The report also points out that developing regions, the Far East in particular, are severely affected by adverse movements in agricultural terms of trade in 1985. What is, however, more worrying is that the report points out in paragraph 58 that with the lone exception of coffee a further fall in agricultural terms of trade is expected in 1986.

However, many developing countries can draw some comfort from the fact that largely due to the de-cline in petroleum prices, prices of fertilizers which many developing countries, including India, have to import to step up agricultural production have declined steeply. The fall ranges from 50 percent over one year for urea and ammonium sulphate to 12 to 16 percent for phosphatic and potassic fertilizers. This, in a manner of speaking, is some consolation.

We all know the compulsions, the complexities and the intricacies of international trade, particularly in agricultural communities, and the various factors which influence the fluctuating terms of trade. We are aware that in various international agencies and fora, whether it is GATT, FAO or the United Nations, efforts are being made to sort out these complicated problems. One does wish that these efforts will succeed in forging a solution that is just, fair and equitable. But what is really more worrisome is the long-term view, what is likely to happen in the next ten to twenty years on the world food front. As more and more developing countries increase their agricultural production and productivity and more and more carry-over food supplies have to be stacked in godowns, how is the situation going to be tackled?

As the report points out, the most troubling issue for agricultural trade in recent years has been the escalating competition in the world markets and the mounting agricultural surpluses, low commodity prices and shrinking export markets. Export subsidies have deepened and proliferated. As the years go by the chances are that this issue might assume larger proportions. In that event, how does one deal with the world order if, as the report says, even low cost producing countries cannot compete in world markets.

The second major policy issue, as so ably summed up by the Director-General, DrSaouma, in his address yesterday, is that food security is not just a problem of production but of income as well. As the report points out, in 1980 to 1984 the per caput calorie intake declined in 46 out of the 102 developing countries for which data is available.

Referring to the widening nutritional gap, the report observes that countries with already relatively high levels of dietary energy supplies were those where most significant progress was achieved during 1980-1984. Conversely, the sharpest losses in per caput calorie intake were suffered by countries with the lowest level of DES. In terms of the long-range perspectives for world order this is an aspect which calls for careful and serious consideration.

The other major issue is the level and extent of subsidies to agriculture to make it competitive in international markets. This is the only way in which, if the current trends continue, exports in the future would seem to be possible. However, in terms of proportions and in terms of capacity to afford subsidies, the position varies vastly from the developing to the developed countries. In a country like India where about 70 percent of the population is engaged in agriculture and agriculture contributes over 50 percent of the gross domestic product, any substantial subsidies to agriculture will cast a burden on the non-agricultural segment of its economy and the other sections of population, a burden that might well-nigh become unbearable over a period of time. In contrast, in the developed countries with the percentage of population in agriculture being often in the single digits and the contribution of agriculture to the GDP not of significant magnitude, cross subsidization could possibly be an expedient which one could live with.

In this context it is significant and it is very interesting that the United States has to lower the price support levels for cereals for the 1986 crops. Predictably, however, this step has led to a further reduction in the wheat and maize prices.

In the long-term perspective how can this problem be tackled? One solution that is being tried out is to have more trade bilaterally so that imports and exports get tied up and matched. It is arguable whether in terms of international trade this is a healthy or desirable development, but this practice does seem to have some advantages at least in the short term.

I am sure that these larger issues must be bothering all the members, whether they are the developed countries or the developing countries, and one does hope that despite the inherent difficulties and the built-in conflict of interests some pragmatic solutions could be hammered out in the world fora so that the comity of nations get a feeling that the problems have been tackled fairly and justly.

I would now make a few observations on the aspects relating to India in the section relating to the Regional Review. We are happy to note from paragraph 62 of the report that in the 1980s growth rates in land and labour of productivity have increased in India, though with a score of 4 percent in labour and 5 percent in land we are well behind the Republic of Korea with 7 percent. While this is an area in which we have achieved some progress, the ways by which the farmer can be given flexibility in cropping patterns are now engaging our attention.

Similarly, as the report observes in paragraphs 151 and 155, India achieved a 5 percent growth in food and agricultural output resulting in plentiful supplies of cereals, cotton, tea and a substantial increase in the production of edible oils. However, despite the drought of 1985, we were able to maintain the record production levels of 1983 and 1984. In 1986 this was also the case despite the current drought and floods, and we are confident of reaching the production levels of 1983 and 1984, if not marginally exceeding them. But the real problem, as highlighted in paragraph 158, is that the grain surpluses can neither be exported without subsidies nor be disposed of internally without reduction in market and support prices.

The dilemma of the policy makers, as the report so perceptively observes in paragraph 160 is the immediate concerns for food security, remunerative returns to farmers and alleviation of poverty and the long-term achievements needed by the economy.

We have as indicated in paragraph 161, increased grain distribution to target groups through enlarged food-for-work programmes. Simultaneously we have liberalized cereal trading. Now rural flour mills purchase their wheat requirements directly from the market and not through the

Food Corporation of India. Agricultural prices constitute an important factor in increasing production. We have also recently tabled a policy document in parliament setting out our approach to the long-term agricultural price policies. The pressures and the competing demands have been delineated, and it is hoped that the policy document charts a course of action which would make for a speedier and more balanced growth and development of agriculture with a rational cropping pattern consistent with the national priorities.

Another very perceptive observation made in the report in paragraph 162 is that in particular until recently a biased attitude existed against rainfed production technology and non-cereal crops in general. Under Prime Minister Rajat Gandhi's 20 point programme of 1986 a special programme has been launched in India to increase production and productivity in rainfed farming. Simultaneously efforts are being made for a viable technology package, a responsive extension service, and for a delivery system and pricing policy to diversify agricultural production, laying greater emphasis on oilseeds, pulses, vegetables, horticulture and floriculture.

Coming to Section III of the paper, dealing with financing agricultural development, I was fascinated by the turn of the phrase in paragraph 224 that there have been signs of "aid fatigue" in some donor constituencies. On behalf of the developing countries, may I express the hope that this fatigue will be temporary and will be overcome quickly and effectively.

We would wholeheartedly agree with the observation in paragraph 228 that agriculture both complements other economic sectors and also competes with them for financial resources. Yesterday, when the Director-General, Dr-Saouma, was referring to the financial state of the FAO which we shall be discussing here in the next few days, my mind went back to India where due to a sudden resource constraint an exercise is on to prune our developmental expenditure. Predictably the cuts are likely to be heavy on agriculture, rural development and welfare programmes.

We also agree with the findings summarized in paragraph 235 about rural savings and agricultural investments. It is heartening to note that rural savings are often higher than conventionally believed, but the problem really is how to mobilize such savings and once mobilized how to effectively channel them for agricultural progress and development.

Referring to taxes on agriculture, it is true as observed in paragraph 240 that explicit taxation of agriculture is not a major source of revenue. The reasons for this situation are not far to seek. In a country with a large majority engaged in agriculture, if one tries to keep the "constituency" satisfied the segment of the economy likely to be least taxed is agriculture. An off-shoot of this tendency is the policy towards land tax. More and more States in India are abolishing land tax, although in terms of incidence it has been getting progressively light. A fall-out to this measure, however, has been that land revenue records which provide authentic proof about ownership tenure, mutations, etc., and which had to be kept up to date when land taxes were being levied, tend to become neglected and gradually become outdated. In the long term this could have repercussions in extending developmental credit to rural farmers based on security or pledge of the land.

As regards the dualistic development strategy referred to in paragraph 245 and 246, and the explicit and implicit taxes, based on Indian experience permit me to differ from the view presented in the report. With a predominant and vocal lobby of agriculturalists it would be difficult to slap on implicit taxes which the farmers lobby would not become wise to in a matter of days, if not hours. On the other hand, there is a feeling that the agricultural sector is heavily subsidized. The fertilizer subsidy in India alone totals up to Rupees 2 billion per year. In flow irrigation from canals in Government projects the farmer pays precious little as an extra for access to water, although the State invests an average of Rupees 37 500 per hectare to extend it.

Similarly, power to agricultural pumpsets is supplied at rates which are one third to one quarter of the cost of generation and distribution. In another area of the report I find this aspect has been touched upon in a different context in paragraph 303. In this context we feel that the observations in paragraph 245 and 246 do not seem to be applicable to the Indian situation.

As regards external sources as a means of funding agriculture it is gratifying to note that the OCA (Official Commitment to Agriculture) from the FAO as indicated in Table 13, page 55 is all concessional. May I express the hope on behalf of the developing countries that despite the resource constraints which the FAO is facing the Director-General, Dr Saouma, would be able to maintain the annual growth rate of 4.8 percent.

As far as foreign direct investment in agriculture is concerned, we in India have very little experience to be able to comment. However, the long range aim of all external sources of assistance should ideally be, first, strengthening the infrastructure and extension service in the donee country. Secondly, to provide the necessary inputs in terms of technology, seeds, fertilizers, and pesticides, etc., wherever required. Lastly, to build up science and research capabilities to innovate, adapt and improve what has been made available through the external assistance programme. Against this background our delegation would support the suggestions made in paragraph 317, 318 and 319 of the document.

May I conclude by saying that we eagerly look forward to the fuller report promised in paragraph 225 of the document.

Guillermo Enrique GONZALEZ (Argentina): Siendo ésta la primera oportunidad en que mi delegación hace uso de la palabra, quiero expresar mi satisfacción por verlo a usted nuevamente presidiendo nuestras deliberaciones. Felicito, asimismo, a nuestros tres vicepresidentes, que estoy seguro sabrán ayudarle en su difícil misión. Agradecemos también al Dr. Islam por la presentación en la tarde de ayer que nos hiciera del documento pertinente para este tema. El mismo constituye un excelente análisis de la situación actual de la agricultura y la alimentación y, en general, mi delegación coincide con sus apreciaciones y conclusiones, que estamos en condiciones de apoyar.

He escuchado las excelentes intervenciones de los señores delegados y en este sentido deseo dejar constancia de nuestra total coincidencia particularmente con lo expresado por los señores Gonzalo Bula Hoyos y José Ramón López-Portillo, representantes de Colombia y México, respectivamente.

A fin de no extenderme en esta intervención me referiré sólo a algunos de los aspectos más importantes para mi delegación, pero en el entendimiento de que a los efectos de las estadísticas que suele llevar la Secretaría se cuenta a mi delegación apoyando lo dicho por los referidos representantes de Colombia y México.

Mi delegación no puede dejar de reiterar los perniciosos efectos de las políticas proteccionistas, de la subvención a las exportaciones y de las otras prácticas análogas que algunos países industrializados llevan a cabo. Estas políticas, miopes a nuestro juicio, están causando un daño irreparable a países en desarrollo y particularmente a aquellos productores de bajo precio con vocación ecológica que no sólo hemos perdido mercados tradicionales, sino que debemos enfrentar hoy competencias desleales en terceros mercados.

El sistema de promoción aplicado tiene además, a nuestro juicio, características en las que cabría una consideración a nivel moral. Se incentivan producciones que se sabe que son excedentarias ahora y en el futuro. Los agricultores siembran y cosechan sabiendo que sólo el Estado absorberá en buena parte los productos, y que parte de ellos terminarán siendo destruidos. El sistema, evidentemente, ha avanzado de manera tal que ya casi no es sistema el riesgo comercial para muchos sectores agrícolas de países industrializados, pues éste está cubierto, al menos en gran parte, por el Estado. Todo ello contrasta seriamente con la situación y con los problemas de los países en desarrollo con sana vocación agrícola. Allí se produce sin apoyos, sin subsidios, sin protecciones y, en definitiva, siempre con la incertidumbre de saber si se podrá vender. Por ello, cuando el documento que comentamos habla de la reducción y debilidad de los precios, de la disminución y del crecimiento de la producción mundial y de las perspectivas futuras, creemos que sería conveniente identificar y poner con mayor evidencia las causas de todo esto y las graves consecuencias que esas actividades tienen y tendrán en forma creciente para el desarrollo de muchos países.

En lo, que concierne a la Argentina, estamos sufriendo con intensidad estos problemas afectando desde un punto de vista económico y social a importantes áreas de nuestra población rural. Es claro, Sr. Presidente, que nuestros países difícilmente puedan continuar haciendo frente a los pesados servicios de la deuda externa si no se producen cambios importantes en esta materia, si nuestros productos no reciben un precio razonable, y en definitiva, si no se alcanza un orden económico internacional más justo.

Como resultado de los factores climáticos adversos y del contexto internacional negativo, hubo en el período 1985-86 una menor área sembrada en la Argentina y con rindes inferiores. Durante dicho ciclo agropecuario 1985-86 se experimentó un descenso del 3, 4 por ciento general respecto al año precedente, atribuibles a un deterioro en la rama agrícola del 4, 1 por ciento y un leve ascenso en la pecuaria del 0, 6 por ciento. Este leve incremento que manifestó el sector pecuario debe exclusivamente imputarse a la reactivación de la producción láctea en un 5 por ciento, o sea, que los demás componentes reflejaron importantes declinaciones, que en el caso de ganado vacuno se debió a la forma en que ciertos países industrializados manejaron sus excedentes y que causaron el estancamiento y la descapitalización de todo el sector en Argentina.

Durante el mencionado ciclo agrícola 1985-86, la producción triguera disminuyó en un 27 por ciento respecto al año anterior, y en un 12, 9 por ciento respecto al último quinquenio, alcanzando un volumen por debajo de los 10 millones de toneladas.

La producción de maíz, por el contrario, aumentó en un 25, 3 por ciento respecto al ciclo precedente y un 25, 5 respecto a la media del quinquenio, alcanzando un volumen del orden del 11, 9 millones de toneladas. Esta cantidad que constituye un segundo récord histórico debe atribuirse en gran medida a un mayor rendimiento de la superficie cultivada que superó los 3 560 kilogramos por hectárea.

La producción bruta de algodón disminuyó en un 8 por ciento respecto al año anterior, pero fue significativamente superior al promedio del último quinquenio.

La uva para vinificar alcanzó un volumen de 2, 2 millones de toneladas, lo que implica una sensible reducción en cualquier comparación.

Cabe señalar, por último, que las previsiones para la presente campaña 1986-87, no permiten ser muy optimistas como consecuencia directa de las crecientes dificultades en el contexto internacional que, lógicamente, afectan a nuestros productores rurales. Confiamos en que este round de negociaciones que se abre en el seno del GATT, constituya un "turning point" de estas políticas y estas tendencias que han caracterizado al comercio internacional en los últimos años y que, sin duda, hoy limitan severamente toda posibilidad de crecimiento en los países en desarrollo, profundizando así el problema de la pobreza. Es por ello, Sr. Presidente, que con todo entusiasmo mi delegación apoya la iniciativa del Presidente Virgilio Barco de Colombia para librar una verdadera batalla contra el flagelo de la pobreza extrema.

Por último, reiteramos también nuestro respaldo a la cooperación técnica y económica entre los países en desarrollo en el campo de la agricultura y a la labor de coordinación y apoyo que estamos seguros la Organización puede prestar.

Dominic D. BALLAYAN (Liberia): My delegation highly commends the FAO secretariat for the preparation of documents CL 90/2 and its sup 1; we are also pleased with the comprehensive picture presented on food, agriculture, forestry, fishery and trade.

My delegation also compliments the Director-General, Edouard Saouma, and Professor Islam for giving excellent previews to our deliberation, and it is our hope that we will amicably reach unanimous consensus in resolving some of the pressing issues facing the organization on agricultural and rural development.

Although the increase in food production shows more modest progress in 1986 than in 1985, and even shows significant recovery specifically in some developing countries, my delegation is still displeased because of the growing threat of food shortage or starvation still confronting some of the regions of the world, especially those of Africa, as we see in paragraph 31 of document CL 90/2 Sup 1. We therefore support paragraph 36 of Sup 1 and its sub items in this line.

My delegation will not dwell on impediments to food production and economic growth in all regions facing malnutrition, starvation or even death since many have elaborated on these issues. Moreover, we are aware of these calamities some of which causes are natural and unnatural, or internal and external.

My delegation is appealing to the international community and other organizations and donors to continue giving both moral and financial support to all initiatives put forward by the Director-General and FAO in fully achieving better agriculture performance in those regions facing food shortage or starvation. We must also commend IFAD, WFP, the World Bank and other donor agencies providing continuous assistance to remedy Africa's food problem:

We also support the ideal of an in-depth study of African agriculture with respect to aid in kind as we feel this may remedy some of our immediate problems in promoting agriculture recovery. Furthermore, there are countries within the region producing surpluses, and my delegation feels that with this study of aid-in-kind, donor nations may be able to purchase these surpluses to be used as aid to other food deficit countries. We also agree that aid-in-kind will cover other inputs, including fertilizer.

My delegation also stresses that technical cooperation programmes and early warning systems are key areas that deserve unanimous support for they have continued to play an effective role in handling some of the worst food problems in Africa and other developing countries.

My delegation is also appealing to all developing countries, especially African countries who are receiving moral and financial aid, to continue giving agriculture high priority, and in that respect my delegation highly supports paragraph 300 of CL 90/2, including its subsections.

Mr Chairman, my delegation is gratified to see you chairing this 90th Session of FAO Council and we congratulate those Vice-Chairmen elected to aid you guide our deliberations in the cause of FAO's future and including suffering humanity.

Robert SEVCOVIC (Czechoslovakia): Mr Chairman, since this is the first time my delegation has taken the floor, I should like to follow up on some of the principal problems to which the Director-General has drawn our attention. As for our position on all the secretariat documents prepared for consideration in the Council, we should like to express a tribute for the generally thorough preparation of these documents.

Document CL 90/2 is undoubtedly of fundamental importance. Together with document CL 90/10, it provides a relatively balanced and well-rounded overview of the world food and agricultural situation. It has already become a matter of tradition as well as of FAO's prestige that the Organization's statistics, analyses and other documents on the food situation offer a valuable source of information to Member Governments on the state and development of world output and consumption of food. However, what the documents on the world food situation lack, in our view, is a more profound socio-economic and political look at this set of problems.

Whereas we live at a time when the world stocks of cereals have surpassed by several percentage points the recommended size of stocks for world food security and, at the same time, three-quarters of a billion people suffer from hunger and malnutrition, this situation may rightly be called a paradox and the food problem may justifiably be included among the gravest global problems facing mankind.

The report shows one significant trend: while in the developing countries the food problem basically no longer exists, in the developing countries the agricultural output, the redistribution of food and agricultural products, their consumption as well as trade with them are highly vulnerable. Neither the current situation nor the outlook can be described as satisfactory despite certain positive trends in world economy, particularly with regard to the development of interest rates and inflation. As the document states, in our view correctly, certain encouraging trends in the world economy cannot be generalized and it would be a grave mistake to overestimate their significance, particularly with regard to their impact on the development of agriculture. All the more urgently arises the need for an analysis of the broader socio-economic aspects of the food problem.

We regard the food problem as a special form of underdevelopment of the developing countries. Its vast complexity consists in the fact that it represents a set of deeply interwoven internal and external economic, social, technical, demographic, as well as political, aspects of the production, exchange and consumption of foodstuffs.

Despite some positive shifts that have occurred in the implementation of national agricultural policies in many developing countries, not only in Asia but also, as the document states, in the Middle East, Africa and Latin America, the problem of hunger and malnutrition remains a pressing one in many other countries, particularly the least developed ones. It is precisely this trend that we consider to be extremely unfavourable and we are gravely concerned about the continuous growth of the disproportions between the level of agricultural development in the advanced countries and in the least developed ones.

The socio-economic conditions allowing an outbreak of starvation in many parts of the world date back to the period before the gaining of political independence by the majority of today's developing countries. We are entitled to ask: what stands today in the way of solving the food problem? We are convinced that the problem cannot be successfully tackled and solved without an overall restructuring of the whole system of international economic relations on a democratic basis and without the establishment of a new international economic order.

The economic and, as a result, frequently also political dependence of the developing countries on capitalist economic centres, the continuing exploitation of the human and natural resources of the developing countries along with a number of other neocolonialist practices and the unjust and unequal division of labour between the developed capitalist states and the developing countries in the field of food production represent a serious hindrance to the economic development of the developing countries. This division of labour is imposed on the developing countries by the international market mechanism and by the actions of the transnational corporations. Very often a situation arises in which a country produces not what is urgently needed by its inhabitants but what is in demand on the world market. The priorities of that market are the decisive and determining factor in relation to the vast majority of the liberated territories. At the same time, the impact of that market leads in many cases to a distortion of the production profile of many countries and has thus a considerable share in the complicated food situation in the developing countries.

In enumerating the causes and the interrelations of the food problem it would be a mistake not to mention the impact of bad weather on agriculture and on poor crops. The document contains a sober and, at the same time, matter-of-fact assessment of the consequences of the rains in Africa and the Middle East which followed the disastrous droughts of the first half of the 1980s. This year in particular FAO has been giving particular attention to the problem of locusts and grasshopper attacks in Africa and in the Middle East, and it has already undertaken a number of steps towards the solution of these problems. The common denominator of the climatic and natural factors is the fact that neither is insurmountable. We are convinced that their impact can be mitigated if the right agricultural policy is designed and implemented. It is necessary to see to the elaboration of such economic programmes that would utilize both domestic and other resources, closely match the reconstruction of obsolete agriculture with the activities of other economic branches, with decisive assistance being provided by the state, which plays an irreplaceable role in economic development. Today agricultural development also represents a broad field of activity on the international scale involving operational and technical assistance including the transfer of technologies and know-how. We believe that this aspect of the development of agriculture would deserve greater attention in the document.

As far as the evaluation of the situation of agriculture in the region as well as individual countries is concerned, we are of the view that document CL/90/2 assesses the situation on the whole objectively and in a balanced manner. With regard to the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic it should perhaps be added to the stated evaluation that in the course of the last two years Czechoslovakia not only managed to reach self-sufficiency in the output of cereals but also, at the same time, to fully satisfy the demand for meat and dairy products and to produce also certain surpluses which have been exported to other countries of the world.

The Czechoslovak delegation is convinced that in order to overcome the current food situation it is important for a number of developing countries to strengthen their sovereignty over their natural resources, to limit the undesirable activities of the transnational corporations, to increase the role and the share of the state and cooperative sectors in agriculture, to utilize their own food resources and the experience of those developing countries which have succeeded in reaching self-sufficiency in staple food stuffs, and to strengthen their regional independence in food.

We are deeply concerned about the unprecedented financial situation in FAO, especially in light of the shortfall in resources caused by delayed or reduced payments from the largest contributors.

The social and economic development of the developing countries in the broadest sense is related to progress in international negotiations on securing universal peace, gradual reduction of military budgets and disarmament.

My country will continue, insofar as it can, to extend assistance to developing countries, as well as its tried and tested experience from the development of state and cooperative sectors in agriculture. We have again a great deal of valuable experience in that respect, and we have successfully resolved the question of self-sufficiency in the output of the principal agricultural commodities.

As a founding and long-standing member of FAO, we shall continue to provide aid to the developing countries and to give support to their demands aimed at attaining their independence in food.

Javed MUSHARRAF (Pakistan): The most striking aspect of this commendable document and of the deliberations that ensued on it have been to highlight, (as stated in paragraph 4 of the document) how an essentially external factor, namely the overall economic environment of the world, can exert an influence on agricultural production and trade comparable to the factors and policies within the sector itself.

The inter-dependence between the various parts of the world have been pointed out by everyone--the massive chain (to quote the Ambassador of Saudi Arabia) linking South and North in the matter of growth and trade etc. At the cost of over-simplification, I would like to confine my intervention to a cursory look at the relation of the developing to the developed countries as a whole (labelled as North and South) and what prospects the South can be said to have for growth, development and for trade in a world that has come to be organized along North/South lines--a world in which growth and trade have stalled and protectionism and indebtedness have become endemic.

In a way, I would like to start where the delegate of Turkey left off in a statement on this item yesterday when he said that we in the South seem to be getting the advice that, "since the neighbourhood has gone a bit awry, put your own house in order". The delegate of Turkey went on to say, and one would like to ask, "What about the neighbourhood? Doesn't the neighbourhood affect the household as well?"

In my statement I would like to explore, in a wider and longer context than focused in our discussions, the relationship between that household and that neighborhood. What it perhaps is, what it might be, and what it may mean for trade, growth and development.

The bleak situation, which the Director-General in his eloquent introductory statement described as a worldwide economic malaise, has been described at length by almost every delegation. Therefore, without repeating that part of the picture, I will confine my comments to, and remind the delegates of, certain not unknown broad and general aspects of a global and historical nature against which the overall prospects and tasks before the developing countries may be assessed.

Since the vast range of specific issues arising from the documents have already been gone into, I wish to address a few broader, and I hope not too trivial, or irrelevant, aspects. It has commonly been accepted that growth in the developed parts of the world acted, through the mechanism of trade, as the engine of growth, pulling the less developed countries ahead on the growth path. Now, as we are informed by this document, that engine seems to have run out of steam. The question, and an important one for us, therefore, is when is the engine likely to speed up again? And what will happen if it does not? Can the "train" of developed countries keep going forward fast enough under its own steam or momentum? Looking at the first of these questions, namely when is the engine likely to speed up again, no one can be so bold or rash as to say definitely when. One may, however, perhaps look at the historical record in awareness, of course, of any rigid "historicism".

Over the last 200 years or so there have been with a striking, (and not fully explained) regularity, four long periods or cycles of roughly fifty years or so—the second half of each cycle of twenty to twenty-five years being the downswing or depression. The four periods of depression, one may recall, were: firstly the 1830s and 40s, (those 25 years); then again from 1873 to the end of the 19th century which came to be called "The Long Depression"; thirdly, the "Great Depression" of the late 20s and 30s of this century; and, finally, this one since the last decade (and if one date is to be given—maybe since 1973). The question is, will it go on to the end of the century? Who can say? Whether what we have at present is such a "long wave" or Kondratieff Cycle, or whether belief in the existence of such cycles is in any case a sham (like the Babylonian exercises in numerology) is a matter for nervous speculation.

On the second question, namely what will happen if growth does not accelerate? One may recall and take heart from the fact that Germany, France, and the USA had developed their industry during the "long" depression in the end of the 19th century. Later, Japan, USSR, Canada, and Australia industrialized during the "great" depression of this century. Therefore (with due caution again, given the historical and other differences) we may ask, could not the less developed countries also develop during the downswings, as did the other countries, and have an autonomous engine growth to ultimately pull the stalling engine of the North and then both engines might work together in tandem?

Are the tropical countries too hot (in climate) to develop? Are people too lazy and unenterprising? One may dismiss all such prophecies by remembering how, only a few centuries ago, Ibn Khaldun, the Tunisian philosopher (from your country, Mr Chairman), perhaps the most original historiographer of all times, had declared that Europe could never develop since it was too cold. But at that very time, the Renaissance was about to surface in Europe.

The safest bit of speculation is that people anywhere, at all times, of all cultures and climes, have the equal potential and possibilities to develop given the right circumstances, environment, policies and so on. To point to one historical episode, there was, in fact, an incipient industrial revolution in Bengal when the British came to India. Had it not been thwarted through colonial commercial policy, the history and position of what is now Bangladesh could have been very different. Thus, an optimistic answer to the second question (and we do seem to need under this Agenda item a dose of optimism), is that it can in principle be done i. e. an autonomous, independent growth

momentum for the South (independent of the North), should be possible -- the mechanism for South / South, cooperation and. South/South arrangements. The developing countries can, in fact, import their food, their fertilizers, their cement, their steel, their machines from other developing countries and make their own later. Some developing countries, the fast-growing ones, can, to start with, take the position of the present developed countries as. the engine of growth to pull the rest along. Preferential arrangements, however, on a global South/South level will have to be worked out, or perhaps a more restricted "customs union" route can be tried once again (although, for certain reasons, that route had not fulfilled its earlier promise).

The really difficult position, of course, for some time to come will be that of the "least developed" countries. For them, special support arrangements and frameworks will have to be necessary -- including, in particular, aid during the transition period. Internally, the developing countries will have to build up their own indigenous technological, organizational and policy making capacities as did some of the late developers amongst the developed countries, such as Japan. They will have to reduce their technological dependence and embark on a rapid training of the skilled personnel, even avoiding perhaps foreign investments in their major industries. Even a little "turning-in" the reduction of too much interdependence, at least for some time, may be called for.

Some of the leading developing countries are already embarked on that route. The others have to be sucked in, as it were, into this age-old process, through South/South cooperation (what we now call ECDC/TCDC).

Of course there are complicating factors not experienced before by the earlier late developers. For example, the existence of the transnational corporations. In a world in which two-fifths of world trade is conducted by transnational corporations and their subsidiaries, where developing country imports of food and technology are controlled by transnational corporations, and a world in which the exports of these countries are controlled by, or dependent for their market access upon, these corporations, it may be difficult to change flows from the current North/South pattern to new South/ South routes.

To take some UNCTAD figures, corporate control of the global commodity trade is such that in 1980 a handful of transnational traders, (as few as four or five in each case) accounted for 60 percent of the sugar market; 70 percent of bananas, rice and natural rubber; 80 percent of tea; 85 percent of wheat, coffee, corn, cotton, rubber, cocoa, pineapple; and 90 percent of forest products. There are, of course, both positive and negative aspects of the role of the transnational corporations. One cannot, and should not, paint things black and white. It depends on the specifics of the situation and the type of arrangements worked out with them. There is a need for carefully worked-out terms and conditions, agreements and negotiations with transnational corporations by host countries. I would agree with the delegate from Mexico when he proposed yesterday that there is an urgent need for a study by this Organization on the role of trans-national corporations and their position in the world trade of commodities. In addition to the transnational corporations, there are other daunting and complicating factors facing the developing countries. To cite only one is the reverse flow of technology called the "Brain Drain".

Having briefly looked at, as above, some aspects of the position on the side of the developing countries, one may now turn to the side of the developed countries and ask, "What can or should the North be (hopefully) expected to do?"Perhaps the answer is two things: first, put its own house in order; second open its windows; and if one may add a third, even help the less developed countries to put their house in order, including their efforts at South/South cooperation.

In the matter of putting their own house in order, the developed countries should perhaps tackle their own "structural" problems (which may, pending reliable research, be at the root cause of their present crisis). Their crisis is, in some respects, "structural" (apart from, or in addition to, being "cyclical"). The over-capacity in what are called their "ailing industries", (such as motorcars, shipyards, steel and plastics)-industries that are sick due to technological and economic reasons. For example, in the case of steel, development of substitutes, use of lighter construction materials, saturation of demand, and competition from new industrial countries.

In such a structural situation, recovery of the overall demand when the general recession is over may still not be enough to restore the demand for such industries. Their malaise is structural, not cyclical. The answer therefore is "structural adjustment", something which in many respects is far easier in a developed country than in developing countries.

The developing countries, especially the poorest among them, do not have the capacity to adjust. Their capacity to adjust is more limited. Even if the will is there, the capacity to respond and to adapt is less. The capacity to shift resources towards tradeable production, to curb domestic expenditure and to "reposition" themselves, as it were, in new directions at high cost in terms of austerity. All this is far more difficult for an underdeveloped country with underdeveloped organizations and structures than for a developed country. The aggravating factors (for the developed countries) in the situation, however, are that the structural problems have over time to (through perhaps a perverse form of development), become regional problems as well, with regional, political and economic dimensions. Whole regions have become specialized in some of the ailing industries--for example, the steel regions or districts of certain European countries. The regionalization has been brought about by, I believe, an historical process of a few large organizations, concerns or firms entrenching themselves in a locality, sucking in all the labour and factors of production into its vortex, and driving out other industries and activities from the locality. The original local networks of economic activity therefore decayed and were replaced by a monolithic "steel frame", as it were, (literally in some places, figuratively in many more). Once such a situation has been established, changing the ailing structure (and if possible restoring older harmonies) may be like trying to replant the desert. But still, it is easier to undertake such structural adjustments in developed countries than in developing countries, even if need may see fit to have the IMF assist them in this respect.

As regards the second task of the developed countries, namely what I referred to as the "opening of their windows", both morality and mutual interest dictate the doing away with protectionism -- "morality", from the point of view of alleviating human suffering in the developing countries (granted that morality has never cut much ice since Adam, Abel and Cain), but "mutual interest" should be a more potent argument. Twenty percent of developed countries exports go to developing countries. Of course, in the long run, it may be true (as was said by Arthur Lewis) that even if the whole Third World sinks under the sea, it will really not make any difference to the "North". But that will be in the long run. In the short, or medium run, as Brandt has pointed out, plainly there is a mutuality of interest. The delegate of Colombia has quoted leaders of the North, Mr. Craxi, Mr. Pandolfi, and members of delegations who attended the recent Punta del Este meeting as saying that it was not just an act of humanitarianism but one necessary to achieve economic balance and peace in the world and so on. Yet all such declarations have never led to action. What is the explanation for this puzzle? Neither "morality" nor "mutual interest" really seem to cut the ice. I think the explanation lies in the politico-economic facts of life in developed countries, namely that appeals to remove protectionism, etc., would not cut ice because though they might be in the "general" interest, the things which are operational, which spur action, emanate from "particular" interests. Powerful "particular" interests dictate what action is taken, and not the "general" interest.

Now that explanation has to be grasped and acted upon because it has implications for policy and how the matter is to be approached. Even in the 19th Century when free trade was accepted in Britain, and in the post-First World War free trade period in the USA, it was "particular" interests which had spurred action in the direction of both; "particular" interests of industry and trade in Britain in the 19th Century and "particular" interests of industry and trade in the United States in the post war period had led to free trade. But now the powerful "particular" interests in these countries are for protectionism. Therefore, given that fact, the arguments for "mutual benefit" and "morality" will have to be watered down and perhaps one has to use other methods in approaching these particular interests. The approach that can be taken is a sort of "bargaining approach" where the objective would be to identify a "particular" interest and bargain with it. In fact, examples are available where in the recent past this approach has worked. An example, in fact, can be given of several member countries sitting here, without naming any. In one case a restriction on textile exports was successfully removed by the withdrawing of orders of textile machinery. In the case of another pair of countries, a better treatment for the students of one country were sort of "extracted" through a boycott of that country's goods. In the case of another set of countries, an IDA replenishment was facilitated when one country threatened to withhold certain major contracts in order to get the support of another country for the replenishment.

In the case of yet another set the reduced grain purchases led to the removal of restrictions on textile imports. And so on.

The point is that, of course, such bargaining methods and such an approach may have a distorting effect, may escalate economic wars, and may really be further in the nature "beggar-thy-neighbour" policies. The possibility of retaliation and so on would also be there. But it would not be the worst off policy in every case. In a situation which is already not the first-best or the second-best, but perhaps the third-or the fourth-best, an additional distortion may in fact improve the situation, as indeed in the examples where I cited it did. Another example of a worthwhile second best policy, which would be bad in a free trade situation but would be all right in a protectionist environment, is the example of counter trade (now accounting for almost 20 percent of total trade). So the point is that second-or third-best policy, in an already second-or third-best environment, may in fact improve the situation.

The sources of such bargaining powers could be "buyer power", "debtor power", "political power", and "contract power", (contracts especially, since contracts touch upon particular interests). The least developed countries, of course, will find the least potential in the use of such an approach. But then the answer is collective bargaining. But, of course, caution has to be exercised in all this, as it may lead to situations where ultimately everyone is worse off. It cannot be predicted in individual situations. Therefore there is a need to play by the ear but best, of course, to avoid it altogether, that is to avoid such an approach of "bargaining" and "beggar-thy-neighbour" policies. For this the initiative, of course, lies with those who hold the cards, namely, the developed countries.

Finally, since it is already too long, to touch upon the third aspect which the developed countries could do, namely try to promote South-South cooperation, the North could try to promote this South/ South cooperation through technical and financial assistance for the necessary structural adjustments through assistance for human resources development and through the creation of infrastructure and information networks which would facilitate true South/South cooperation.

Sra. Mercedes FERMIN GOMEZ (Venezuela): Aunque en primer lugar debemos expresar nuestro apoyo al informe en discusión, quiero comenzar por manifestar mi congratulación al doctor Islam por la eficiente labor que revela este informe, y asimismo debemos expresar aquí algunas reflexiones a que nos han movido el estudio de ese informe.

Este informe pone en evidencia de manera clara una nueva realidad, la interdependencia económica, independientemente de las posiciones ideológicas y políticas de los países en referencia.

La interdependencia, sin duda, es un concepto nuevo que supera aquel cuadro tradicional de los países dominantes y países dependientes en el plano internacional, ciertamente, en el hecho subsistente por una diferencia en cuanto a la capacidad productiva de unos y las necesidades de otros.

Hoy tenemos, por cierto gracias al Sistema de las Naciones Unidas, y muy en especial de esta Organización para la Agricultura y la Alimentación en la cual estas relaciones pueden ser discutidas en el plano multilateral, una oportunidad en que todo puede ser discutido sin mengua de la soberanía de los países pobres, o como algunos los denominan países subdesarrollados o países en vías de desarrollo.

Esta interdependencia significa que no pueden subsistir países capaces de bastarse a sí mismos sin estar aislados de la Comunidad Internacional, por más poderosos que ellos sean política y económicamente. Los dominantes sin duda necesitan la solidaridad y las relaciones externas que es la base para llegar a su posición con base a la producción y necesitan además quienes consuman esta producción; esto es, necesitan un mercado. Es este justamente el punto que nos conduce al problema de la ayuda alimentaria, problema que concierne a la FAO y al cual se refiere el informe que hoy debemos aprobar. Y es este problema el que ha dado lugar al nuevo concepto de seguridad alimentaria, el cual no debe considerarse de otra manera que no sea el cumplimiento de la responsabilidad de velar por la supervivencia de poblaciones que por múltiples razones no disponen de medios propios para atender sus necesidades de supervivencia. Estas poblaciones son dependientes de tal ayuda alimentaria que necesariamente debe venir de aquellas naciones privilegiadas, por decirlo así,

privilegiadas por la naturaleza, por su situación geográfica, su clima y, ¿por qué no decirlo también? porque el devenir histórico les ha permitido las condiciones político-sociales propicias para su desarrollo cultural mientras que a los otros les han sido negadas las condiciones mínimas para la superación de su atraso y las posibilidades de acceder a otros estadios del desarrollo, o lo que es lo mismo medido en términos modernos, la capacidad de producir para autoabastecer sus necesidades esenciales.

Si analizamos este hecho de la interdependencia nos preguntamos: ¿podrían subsistir, podrían haber alcanzado el desarrollo que hoy ostentan los países industrializados, es decir los principales productores, sin haber tenido un mercado para sus productos y que, en consecuencia, son sus clientes consumidores?. No son precisamente los países en vías de desarrollo, los países del Tercer Mundo, unos porque es de aquéllos de quienes dependen para el intento de desarrollo de su agricultura y su industria, otros, los del Tercer Mundo, porque precisamente gracias a este programa de la ayuda alimentaria han encontrado una oportunidad para que de una manera muy eficiente puedan disponer de sus excedentes, en suma los países desarrollados son también beneficiarios de este Programa de Ayuda Alimentaria.

Es, pues, un juego de intereses el que se produce en esta relación de interdependencia, en el cual la parte débil es la de los que por efectos del subdesarrollo han llegado a unos niveles de pobreza extrema de los cuales es difícil, y será muy difícil, levantarse sin la cooperación de todos, y es precisamente este el programa de mayor excelencia que posee la Organización de las Naciones Unidas para la Agricultura y la Alimentación es decir la FAO, que con sus programas de cooperación técnica cumple de un modo eficiente esa tarea de asistencia a los miembros de la Organización que aspiran a mejorar sus condiciones de vida y de supervivencia; por ello queremos dejar constancia de manera expresa muy en especial nuestro respaldo a la permanencia de este Programa de Cooperación Técnica del cual tantos beneficios derivan los países pobres.

Asimismo queremos apoyar la idea expresada en este Consejo por nuestro Director General, doctor Saouma, para extender este Programa de Ayuda Alimentaria, para que incluya además de alimentos insumos tales como semillas, fertilizantes, maquinaria, etc. al mismo tiempo que el Programa pueda extender su cobertura no sólo al Continente Africano, sino al Medio Oriente, a Asia y América Latina y el Caribe. Sería de esta manera la forma en que la ayuda alimentaria y la coordinación de esta ayuda alimentaria con el desarrollo de estos países pudiera ser realmente efectiva.

Queremos ratificar aquí la posición de Venezuela expresada en la Asamblea General de las Naciones Unidas frente al proteccionismo agrícola y otros medios de discriminación contra los países en desarrollo que son exportadores de productos básicos.

Finalmente, porque quiero ser breve, debo recordar que está pendiente el estudio hace tiempo solicitado sobre las corporaciones transnacionales que no ha sido presentado todavía. Quiero apoyar la solicitud de la delegación mexicana sobre este punto a fin de que sea conocido tal documento.

Y por último, queremos dejar constancia del apoyo de Venezuela ya expresado por nuestro Canciller en el foro de las Naciones Unidas a la proposición del Presidente de Colombia sobre la Conferencia sobre la pobreza absoluta a realizarse en fecha próxima.

No quiero agregar nada más porque todo lo han dicho quienes me antecieron en el uso de la palabra.

Haris ZANNETIS (Observer for Cyprus): Being an observer and following so many statements I will be very brief. Nevertheless I would like to express my delegation's satisfaction for the comprehensive document and its supplements and to commend Professor Islam for his introduction.

The state of food and agriculture in 1986 in general can be said to represent a positive picture. Production of cereals and other major foodstuffs increased globally. What is more important is the even distribution of this increase between developed and developing countries. As a result of this increase in production carry-over stocks are rising and world prices are dropping. This by itself would have been a positive factor if developing countries, and more importantly the poorest of them,

were financially able to import the food that they need. But the ever growing burden of debt servicing of these countries associated with the declining prices of their agricultural export commodities result in worsening the balance of payments problem and reducing the financial resources of these countries, making it increasingly difficult for them to finance commercial inputs. The result is the reduction of food availability in these countries and the reduction in per caput food consumption.

This brings me to paragraph 52 of the present document, where we read with concern that in the countries with relatively high levels of per caput dietary energy supplies the most significant progress was achieved during 1980-84 and conversely the sharpest losses were suffered by countries with the lowest levels of DES. This is very worrying and represents, we believe, the major tasks for the international community. Massive efforts should be made so that low-income food-deficit countries would be helped to be able to produce or import the food they need for their people. We recognize that efforts have been made but perhaps they should be intensified. We conceded the agreement reached early this year for the second replenishment of IFAD's resources to be a positive step. Although the agreed level of resources is well below our expectation it will nevertheless enable the Fund to be operative for a few more years. We hope that negotiations for the aid replenishment of the resources of the International Development Association will also be successful and resources will keep flowing through this body for the agricultural development of less developed countries.

Mrs Malgorzata PIOTROWSKA (Observer for Poland): Our delegation cannot be neutral on the point raised this morning by the Australian delegation. The future leadership of FAO is of extreme importance to member countries. We fully agreed with the Chairman, who decided that a discussion on this subject was out of order at that time. It was the reason why we did not raise our hand in protest and since we are here in the observer capacity. However, we cannot miss the opportunity to express our full support for Dr Saouma. The very difficult situation that FAO is facing now calls for the best man with a lot of experience to head the Organization. Dr. Saouma proved to be such a man. The interests of the Organization require that we profit from his knowledge and experience during his further term of office.

Coming back to the item on the agenda, I would like to say that an analysis of the document under discussion indicates that it correctly reflects the progress in world agricultural production and in the rural life of most continents. The favourable trend of production and rural development growth in most countries of Asia, South America, socialist countries and some Africa countries is being consolidated. Also for Poland food self-sufficiency has been restored and the basis for further agricultural development consolidated. The progress, however, is dominated by intensification of alarming and unjust development in the proportions North/South. In part of the developing countries, particularly part of African countries, the agricultural food situation is aggravated dramatically without a real outlook for averting that dangerous trend.

It is emphasized rightly in the document that a reason equally important as the drought, and maybe more important, is the worsening credit relations between South and North and insufficiently effective aid granted to those countries. Those unfavourable conditions of exchange exercise a stronger checking effect on the agriculture of developing countries and the international aid programmes can act favourably. Also there is increasingly subsidized food production. It brings out ever growing economic social problems, not only in the agricultural environment but also among the consumer. The reluctance of taxpayers is also growing. On the other hand it also hinders the export of agricultural raw materials and food surpluses on the part of developing countries.

All the above indicates that there is necessary radicalization of thinking of the international community and of our Organization in this respect. New ways and instruments have to be found for regulating production and for improving rural development by single countries, groups of countries, FAO and other organizations dealing with those problems. Such a new favourable example of that approach to the difficult problems of world agriculture can be the recent initiative of the Director-General on agricultural development of Africa. Poland welcomes that initiative with appreciation and satisfaction. It will be important for the future aid, the acknowledgement of the need and the acceptance of the possibility of assistance in kind that will facilitate to many countries, Poland included, a wider joining of those aid programmes to other countries.

Poland expects that the FAO Council will devote considerable attention to the working out of effective forms of mobilization and use of the assistance in kind, which is more difficult than mobilization, and particular spending resources in cash which has been dominating so far.

The programme "Africa" also synthesises the experiences of the past years of the expert work of FAO and the instruction of specific features of the countries such as minor crops, traditional models of consumption and technologies of food preparing in households in social areas, women's role etc., which might increase the effectiveness of both multilateral and bilateral assistance.

Difficult problems of world agriculture, its dependence on conditions of general and trade development, make it necessary for FAO to join, especially, actively the new round of GATT. Without progress in improving general conditions of exchange there can be no improvement in the agricultural and food situation, not only in Africa but in Europe as well.

Poland expects the FAO Council to handle those issues with great care and activity in the coming years.

By way of conclusion, let me emphasize the satisfaction that in the document under discussion the agricultural questions of socialist countries were treated with more insight than they have been in the previous report of the State of Food and Agriculture.

We wish to thank Mr Hjort and his colleagues for so cooperative an approach and for efforts undertaken to provide the Council with an objective picture of the Polish agriculture. We are willing to cooperate with respective services in the future in improving those analyses.

Carlos DINATOR (Observador de Chile): Es para mí un honor asistir por primera vez a este 90° Consejo de la FAO. Nos complace mucho, señor Presidente, verle presidir nuestros trabajos, al intervenir a propósito del tema 4 de nuestra agenda sobre la situación mundial en la agricultura y la alimentación, tema sin duda difícil en los tiempos que corren.

El Sr. Director General de la FAO en la sesión inaugural destacó en breve síntesis la situación mundial poniendo énfasis, en opinión de mi delegación, en los problemas de comercio que, sin duda, cobran crucial importancia en estos momentos.

Poseemos para nuestros trabajos una buena herramienta en el interesante y valioso documento de la Secretaría CL 90/2 presentado acertadamente por el Dr. Nurul Islam.

El Sr. Director General nos ha complementado su texto haciendo referencia a las tendencias actuales en torno al proteccionismo, agregando una nota de moderado optimismo que genera el inicio de una nueva ronda de negociaciones del GATT comenzada con los acuerdos de Punta del Este. Seguimos, por cierto, muy atentamente tales negociaciones y, en especial, en materia silvoagropecuaria, complaciendo a mi delegación el anuncio de la contribución que de la FAO para el éxito de las mismas. Mi país cree firmemente en que la decidida liberalización del comercio agrícola y el consiguiente crecimiento del mismo traerá beneficios para todos y será, asimismo, una verdadera contribución a la cooperación y a la paz mundial.

Al igual que otros países presentes, creemos en los esfuerzos en estas materias.

Cabe recordar respecto al problema de las barreras al comercio que, según revelara un reciente estudio del Banco Mundial, el proteccionismo agrícola en arroz, carnes, productos lácteos y azúcar reduce el ingreso nacional tanto de los países desarrollados como de los países en desarrollo. Estos últimos pierden por este concepto 18 billones de dólares al año y los desarrollados 46 billones en el mismo período.

Demás está decir, Sr. Presidente, que mi país participó decididamente en los acuerdos adoptados en las reuniones celebradas en los países en los que no se subvencionan sus producciones agropecuarias, que tuvieron lugar en Pattaya (Tailandia) y en la ciudad australiana de Cairns en julio y agosto del año en curso, respectivamente.

Debo señalar al Consejo que en mi país la balanza comercial arrojó en 1985 un superávit de 586 y medio millones de dólares, es decir, 67,5 por ciento superior al año precedente, a lo cual cabe agregar otro superávit en el sector de la pesca por 500 millones de la misma moneda. Pero de igual forma, el informe de la Secretaría nos alerta por el deterioro de los términos de intercambio que llegaría al orden del 3 por ciento en el año recién pasado y que afecta por igual a todos los países.

También, a pesar de que la CEPAL estima en su estudio sobre el "Panorama Económico en América Latina" que las exportaciones chilenas crecieron un 19 por ciento, es motivo de reflexión la tendencia mundial negativa que menciona la Secretaría en cuanto a volúmenes exportados (en el párrafo 13), especialmente si consideramos que se nos indica que para América Latina hubo un descenso del 1, 2 por ciento.

Es asimismo inquietante la tendencia a una mayor baja que se observa en los precios de productos silviagropecuarios en relación a los manufacturados, variable que nos obligará a ser particularmente atentos respecto a los factores que generan tal situación.

De gran interés para mi delegación ha sido, Sr. Presidente, examinar el Informe en lo relativo a los sectores de pesca y silvicultura en los cuales se cita a mi país como de aquellos ribereños en el Pacífico sudoriental en los cuales la pesca ha crecido (en el párrafo 72). En tal sentido quisiera expresar ante este Consejo que los 5 millones de toneladas desembarcadas por mi país representan el 13 por ciento de las exportaciones. Es interesante agregar que en mi patria la tasa de crecimiento del sector pesquero es en los cinco últimos años del 14 por ciento anual situándose por cierto como primer país pesquero cuyas capturas tienen lugar dentro de su propia zona económica exclusiva.

También mi delegación ha visto con detención el capítulo dedicado a las políticas de ajuste y el sector agrícola en el decenio de 1980 contenido en los párrafos 138 y siguientes, que se refiere a América Latina. Mi delegación observa con algún desconsuelo que en este párrafo se ha mencionado por ejemplo los programas nutricionales que se han suspendido y reanudado, pero que no se haya considerado una alusión de estímulo para aquellos que pese a cualquier contingencia han sido mantenidos en el tiempo, como el caso de mi país. Puesto que estamos apoyando la Organización de las Naciones Unidas para la Agricultura y la Alimentación, especialmente en este último aspecto de la alimentación, nos complacería mucho ver en los documentos de esta naturaleza algunos antecedentes sobre la evolución de los índices nutricionales más importantes.

Para completar este documento CL 90/2, mi delegación tiene el placer de poner en conocimiento del Consejo que en Chile el índice de nutrición escasa bajó del 15, 5 por ciento en 1975 a un 8, 1 por ciento en 1985. Por otra parte, el índice de nutrición seria bajó de un 0, 7 por ciento a un 0, 1 por ciento en el mismo período. El notable repunte del nivel nutricional se tradujo por ejemplo en una impresionante baja en los índices de mortalidad infantil, partiendo de un 95, 4 pro mil en 1965 bajó a un 55, 4 por mil en 1975 y a sólo un 20 por mil en 1984.

En el documento CL 90/2 apreciamos asimismo el párrafo 3 relativo al financiamiento del desarrollo agrícola y en especial la letra "c" referente al uso de los fondos. Sin embargo, ya en el Consejo Mundial de Alimentación mi país expuso sus reservas respecto al exagerado significado que en algunos sitios se tiende a dar a ciertos parámetros tales como el gasto público en el sector silvoagropecuario, que no nos parece un índice significativo ni valedero para medir la dedicación de un país al sector social y agrícola, debiendo prestarse tal vez más atención a los resultados y muy especialmente a los conceptos más modernos, como es el del porcentaje del gasto social en el presupuesto, que coadyuva a entender mejor el efectivo apoyo en áreas rurales en pro de los sectores de población más necesitados.

Tengo el honor de informar a este Consejo que en mi país este porcentaje del gasto social en el presupuesto, excluido el servicio de la deuda, se ha elevado de un 40 por ciento en 1970 a un 5 por ciento en el año 1980, y al 57, 9 por ciento en 1985. Este gasto se utiliza principalmente en salud, asistencia social, previsión, educación y desarrollo regional en un proceso calificado como exitoso en el reciente informe del Banco Mundial sobre la pobreza en América Latina y al cual agradecemos su dedicación y tendencia innovadora en esta materia social tan importante para mi Gobierno.

Los aspectos de la deuda y del financiamiento externo mencionados al concluir el informe son sin duda importantes, por la trascendencia de la materia en todos los planos de la vida de los países. Creemos que siempre será posible la acción nacional al respecto y mi delegación desea hacer notar que es posible disminuir la deuda principalmente como resultado de las operaciones de compra de pagarés de la deuda externa en el mercado secundario, materia en la cual mi país ha obtenido ya algunos resultados.

Concluyo estas palabras renovando la satisfacción de mi delegación por la preocupación de la FAO por la situación general de la agricultura y de la alimentación en el mundo, y en especial en el África subsahariana en la lucha contra los saltamontes en ese mismo continente, igual que respecto a la contaminación originada por Chernobyl. Asimismo, confiamos en que llegue a ser una realidad el estudio sobre América Latina que se recomendó en Barbados y que el señor Director General alentó en su declaración en el día de ayer en este Consejo.

Lino VISANI (Observateur de l'Alliance coopérative internationale): Monsieur le Président, Messieurs les délégués, je vous remercie de m'avoir donné la parole au nom de l'Alliance coopérative internationale. Je serai très bref.

J'ai déjà eu l'occasion de dire que la moitié des cinq cents millions de membres des mouvements de coopératives associées à l'Alliance coopérative internationale demeurent dans les pays en développement. Ce nombre de membres des mouvements des coopératives augmente toujours, bien que très souvent la situation des coopératives soit très difficile. Toutefois, ces éléments montrent que, dans de nombreux pays, ce n'est pas seulement l'idée mais l'action coopérative qui représente l'un des facteurs de développement.

Nous retenons qu'il faut considérer les tendances de ces facteurs de développement lorsqu'on examine la situation de l'agriculture.

Je remercie le Directeur général de la FAO du très intéressant exposé sur la situation mondiale de l'agriculture qu'il nous a fait.

La situation de l'agriculture et du marché agricole mondial est parvenue à une crise complexe et difficile. Aussi le GATT, à sa dernière réunion, a-t-il examiné la gravité de cette crise. Celle-ci n'affecte pas seulement la situation de la production agricole et le marché agricole, mais aussi les rapports du secteur agricole et alimentaire avec la société dans son ensemble. Il faut donner beaucoup plus d'importance à l'homme et aux valeurs créatives de l'humanité sur la voie du progrès. Dans ce cadre, il n'est pas possible de séparer les problèmes de l'agriculture de ceux du développement rural, condition primordiale du développement de la société tout entière.

A ce propos, il est fondamental de tenir compte, dans le domaine agricole, du rôle joué par les divers mouvements de coopératives dans toutes les formes d'association rurale pour la participation au développement, surtout dans les pays en développement. Il faut augmenter les efforts pour favoriser le développement des coopératives grâce au soutien actif donné aux mouvements de coopératives.

Le PRESIDENT: Nous arrivons ainsi au terme des interventions. Je voudrais simplement rappeler, pour information, que le nombre des orateurs qui ont bien voulu contribuer à enrichir le débat s'est élevé à quarante.

Je donne la parole à M. Nurul Islam afin qu'il puisse répondre aux questions qui lui ont été posées. Elles sont nombreuses et j'espère qu'il pourra répondre à toutes ces demandes d'explication.

N. ISLAM (Assistant Director-General, Economic and Social Policy Department): Mr Chairman, distinguished delegates, I thank the distinguished delegates for their valuable comments and suggestions which will help us improve and expand the final version of the State of Food and Agriculture. In my remarks I shall only cover a few of the queries made by distinguished delegates.

First, a request is made that the indepth study of the financing of agricultural development should be presented at the next Conference. I must point out for the distinguished delegate that in fact this section in the present document is a preview (as I mentioned in my introduction) of the special chapter in the full SOFA (State of Food and Agriculture). This section therefore will be expanded in coverage and in depth both empirically and analytically for this purpose. The comments and suggestions made by the delegates will certainly help us in improving this section.

A point was made that the document does not refer to the net outflow of capital from developing countries and its adverse impact on agricultural development. It is true that this issue, even though referred to in passing on page 6, paragraph 22, has not been dealt with in depth. The emphasis in this particular section was on the flow of external resources to agriculture, (gross flow rather than net flow) to the entire economy. The chapter does however refer to two issues of equally great importance, such as the fall in terms of trade, to two issues of equally great importance, such as the fall in terms of trade and debt service payments, which in some countries constituted almost thirty percent of the export earnings in 1985.

It was pointed out by some delegates that the document seems to emphasise the importance of domestic market resources to the neglect of external market resources. This was certainly not the intention of the document. The choice is not between one or the other but one of optimum combination depending on the particular circumstances in each country.

The report emphasises in various places the role of liberalization of trade as a factor in the growth of the developing countries. It was stated that not enough attention has been given to fisheries especially as a source of nutrition in developing countries. Indeed, the particular section on fisheries does concentrate on production and trade aspects, but in a separate section where we discussed dietary and energy supplies, fisheries do come in as an importance source of nutrition and dietary supplies.

Some distinguished delegates, including the delegate from the UK, mentioned that the document does not refer to the International Timber Organization recently established. It is a unique organization. This was covered in the State of Food and Agriculture 1985 and the details are given in the Commodity Review and Outlook of 1984/85.

Similarly with the Forestry Plan of Action to which reference was made, to those who mentioned the earlier State of Food and Agriculture we do not necessarily cover all these issues in every State of Food and Agriculture. In fact, one must recall that the International Timber Organization is not the only organization of the type which concentrates on research and development, diversification processes, etc. The International Jute Organization had exactly the same purpose, and it has also been covered earlier.

Delegates from the EEC, Australia and a few others referred to paragraph 40 of the main document and considered that this was out of date. Indeed, it was, but the supplement does bring it up to date in paragraph 16 of document 90/2 Sup. I. Of course, the updating is also very brief necessarily in view of the size of the document itself.

We also agree that in the future we should provide greater space for treatment of EEC policy, not only because of its internal importance but also because of its importance for the rest of the world; but we hope in this context that we would be able to get access to various EEC publications to which at the present moment we do not have access. Reference was made to the need for preparing and implementing medium and long term action proposals to strengthen planned protection capabilities in African countries. This work has already been initiated. An informal consultation was held at FAO Headquarters in October to discuss the appropriate strategies. Plans will now be developed in close cooperation with each country concerned and the donor community. The proposals developed will cover both the immediate needs as well as the medium and long term requirements. Plans for this will be submitted to technical and donor meetings that will be held between 15 and 18 December this year at FAO Headquarters.

The delegate of Mexico and a few others asked a question about the state of progress of the study on the role of transnational corporations in the agricultural sector which has been undertaken by the secretariat at the request of a few delegations. The study, based on a survey of existing literature and studies undertaken by various international institutions, is at an advanced stage. We have sent it to the UN Center for Transnational Corporations for review and comments on it. As delegates are aware, this centre is the unit responsible in the UN system for the study of transnational corporations in all its various aspects and in all sectors. In the meantime, the study can be made available to delegations informally at the time of the next meeting of the Committee on Food Security.

LE PRESIDENT: Pour conclure cette discussion extrêmement intéressante, je voudrais adresser mes vifs remerciements à tous les délégués qui ont bien voulu l'enrichir par une contribution efficace et constructive. Je voudrais également me joindre aux délégués pour féliciter M. Islam du document très important qu'il nous a présenté et qui a été apprécié, et notamment de l'introduction d'une nouvelle composante relative au financement dans le secteur agricole.

J'ai été très intéressé par le débat et par un élément positif important: en effet, de nombreux délégués ont parlé davantage de problèmes découlant de la surproduction que de pénurie. Cela est en soi un élément très positif que je me permettrai de souligner. Malgré cet élément positif-l'augmentation de la production dans les pays en développement-, malgré l'amélioration de la conjoncture internationale que représente la réduction de l'inflation et celle des taux d'intérêt, la situation, d'après ce qu'ont souligné de nombreux délégués, semble rester préoccupante en raison de facteurs économiques généraux tels que l'effondrement des prix des produits agricoles et de certaines pratiques protectionnistes.

Il semble donc que de nombreux pays en développement soient préoccupés, d'une part en raison des difficultés d'écoulement de leur production excédentaire dans certains cas et, d'autre part, de la difficulté d'obtenir les devises indispensables pour investir dans l'agriculture, le secteur prioritaire reconnu par tous.

J'ai noté avec beaucoup d'intérêt ce qu'a dit le Directeur général hier, à savoir que désormais la sécurité alimentaire ne doit plus être traduite en termes de produits et de production, mais en termes de revenus. Cela introduit donc la composante commercialisation ou vente dans le domaine de la sécurité alimentaire.

J'ai également remarqué que de nombreux délégués ont relevé, dans le rapport de M. Islam, la notion d'interdépendance économique. Je pense que si nous arrivons à retenir ce principe d'interdépendance économique entre pays en développement et pays développés, nous aurons avancé d'un pas car les intérêts bien compris de la communauté internationale dépendent évidemment de cette interdépendance. Personne n'a intérêt à voir sombrer économiquement les pays sous-développés car cela aurait automatiquement des répercussions sur l'économie des pays développés. Pour avoir un équilibre global, pour procéder à un commerce sérieux et méthodique, il faut être deux.

J'ai noté, en particulier, que certains délégués de pays développés ont souligné le fait que les pays développés se considèrent comme le catalyseur d'un effort de développement et de production qui, au départ, doit être de la responsabilité des pays en développement. Je pense que l'amélioration de la production que l'on a pu constater n'est pas due uniquement à des facteurs climatiques mais également à un effort constructif des pays en développement. La Déclaration de Harare, notamment, et toutes les occasions où les chefs d'Etat et de gouvernement ont eu la possibilité de proclamer la priorité de l'agriculture, sont la manifestation d'une prise de conscience au plus haut niveau de l'intérêt et de la priorité accordés au développement de l'agriculture par les pays en développement. Je crois que cette prise de conscience au niveau le plus élevé est la meilleure garantie pour cet effort commun des pays développés et des pays en développement visant à sortir de la situation actuelle.

Un élément important a été évoqué, à savoir que les pays en développement devraient pouvoir continuer leur action en matière de cultures vivrières pour ne pas être uniquement tributaires des cultures de rente. Je crois que la Conférence sur l'Afrique a été essentiellement axée sur les cultures vivrières.

D'autre part, j'ai noté une recommandation importante: celle de stimuler la demande intérieure tout en développant le commerce intérieur. Il me semble que cette recommandation mérite d'être soulignée car cela permettrait d'asseoir sur des bases plus stables les économies agricoles des pays en développement.

De nombreux délégués ont souligné l'importance de l'épargne rurale privée en tant que composante des investissements agricoles. Je crois que tout le monde en est conscient, tant il est vrai que l'agriculture est une action propre aux pays eux-mêmes.

Un paragraphe a été souvent souligné: celui de l'ajustement économique qui est demandé aux pays en développement. Ces pays ont commencé avec la volonté politique de développer leur production; beaucoup de pays ont adopté des mesures de réajustement économique sur la base des recommandations d'organisations internationales. Mais, le rapport l'a souligné-ainsi que certains pays, dont la France qui l'a fait avec beaucoup de clarté-ces mesures de réajustement économique doivent être corrigées par des mesures d'accompagnement de manière à éviter qu'elles ne se traduisent par un coût politique et social qui risque de les rendre inopérantes ou même négatives pour les pays en développement. Il reste que des mesures exogènes ont été suggérées par de nombreux pays en développement. En particulier, on a souligné l'intérêt d'étudier la possibilité d'analyser le problème de la dette et de voir dans quelle mesure il peut être traité de manière à soulager les économies en crise des pays en développement et à leur permettre d'établir leur système agricole sur une base plus dynamique. D'autre part, on a souligné l'immense espoir né de la réunion du GATT à Punta del Este et de l'Accord de principe pour entamer une négociation sur le commerce des produits agricoles, tant il est vrai que la pierre d'achoppement de tout le système économique international est l'assainissement du commerce des produits agricoles, lequel ne doit pas connaître les soubresauts que de nombreux pays ont connu, notamment les pays en développement.

Je pense que notre rapport pourrait faire état du vif intérêt accordé par toute la communauté internationale au lancement de négociations dans ce domaine et pourrait peut-être demander que la FAO, d'une manière ou d'une autre, contribue à ces travaux.

Il est possible que, du point de vue des pays développés, une amélioration de ce commerce international consisterait à progresser dans le domaine des opérations triangulaires. Le délégué de la Zambie l'a souligné, de même que de nombreux autres délégués. De même que la coopération Sud-Sud, cette coopération triangulaire permettrait d'écouler les surplus éventuels dans les pays en développement.

En ce qui concerne l'aide internationale, tout le monde a souligné avec beaucoup d'intérêt ce dont le rapport de la FAO a fait état, à savoir que l'aide extérieure s'est accrue de 12 pour cent et l'aide aux conditions de faveur de 16 pour cent. Il faut rendre hommage aux pays développés qui ont maintenu cet effort contre vents et marées mais il faut également insister pour que soient suivies et accélérées les directives énoncées ces derniers temps pour alimenter l'aide à l'agriculture dans les pays en développement. Je songe notamment à la caution de 300 millions de dollars de l'IFAD. C'est un point très important.

Nous pensons également au suivi de la réunion des Nations Unies qui a eu lieu à New York fin mai, qui se traduirait par l'engagement des pays africains à contribuer à ce plan de développement de l'Afrique pour une somme de l'ordre de 85 milliards de dollars. Il serait bon d'insister sur la nécessité de suivre l'évolution de cette opération.

Je pense également à cet effort entamé par le FMI pour accorder des crédits à des conditions plus favorables pour permettre de soutenir les actions de réajustements économiques. Nous pensons également à d'autres actions importantes dans le domaine international qui pourraient alimenter cette aide publique et la coopération publique entre pays en voie de développement et pays développés. Je crois qu'un point a été largement souligné outre l'aménagement du commerce international des produits agricoles, et c'est l'aide à la production. A cet égard, beaucoup de délégués ont souligné l'intérêt qu'ils, accordaient à une analyse plus en profondeur de la proposition du Directeur général relative à l'aide en nature, ou plutôt, en moyens de production pour développer la production. Beaucoup de délégués, me semble-t-il, ont souligné la priorité à accorder à l'aide au développement, l'aide à la production, plutôt qu'à l'aide alimentaire qui devrait peu à peu être limitée aux seuls cas d'urgence. Malheureusement, il en reste quelques-uns.

Enfin, je crois que le Pr. Islam a répondu à la demande de certains délégués d'Amérique latine au sujet de l'étude sur le rôle des transnationales. Peut-être pourrait-on évoquer également la proposition formulée par le délégué de la Colombie et d'autres délégués sud-américains pour cette Conférence sur la pauvreté absolue qui a été proposée aux Nations Unies. Mais je voudrais souligner une remarque faite par le délégué de la CEE et par le délégué de la France. Je pense qu'elle devrait pouvoir être examinée par la FAO, c'est celle qui consiste à ce que l'on puisse avoir une meilleure appréhension des motivations de la politique agricole de la CEE. Je ne sais pas comment le Secrétariat de la FAO pourra réfléchir à cette proposition et voir si elle pourra faire l'objet d'un examen attentif avec les parties intéressées.

Voilà ce que j'avais à dire. Je voulais apporter quelques contributions personnelles à ce débat. J'espère ne pas vous avoir retenu trop longtemps mais les problèmes étaient de taille et importants. J'espère que le Secrétariat de la FAO rédigera son rapport en tenant compte de ces suggestions et enrichira nos connaissances et nos informations dans ce domaine.

The meeting rose at 18. 30 hours

La séance est levée à 18 h 30

Se levanta la sesión a las 18. 30 horas

council

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

conseil

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

consejo

ORGANIZACION DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS PARA LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION

CL

CL 90/PV/5

Ninetieth Session

Quatre-vingt-dixième session

90º período de sesiones

**FIFTH PLENARY MEETING
CINQUIEME SEANCE PLENIERE
QUINTA SESION PLENARIA
(19 November 1986)**

The Fifth PLenary Meeting was opened at 09. 45 hours,

Lassaad Ben Osman, Independent Chairman of the Council, presiding

La cinquième séance plénière est ouverte à 9 h 45, sous la présidence
de Lassaad Ben Osman, Président indépendant du Conseil

Se abre la quinta sesión plenaria a las 09. 45 horas bajo la
presidencia de Lassaad Ben Osman, Presidente Independiente del Consejo

- I. INTRODUCTION-PROCEDURE OF THE SESSION (continued)
- I. INTRODUCTION-QUESTIONS DE PROCEDURE (suite)
- I. INTRODUCCION-CUESTIONES DE PROCEDURE (continuación)
2. Election of Three Vice-Chairmen and Designation of the Chairman and Members of the 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 de los Miembros del Comité de Redacción (continuación)

LE PRESIDENT: Comme vous le savez, nous avons convenu hier que, selon l'usage, le Comité de rédaction comprendrait au total 13 personnes dont le Président et que la répartition géographique déterminée par l'usage serait la suivante: deux représentants pour l'Afrique, deux pour l'Asie, deux pour le Proche-Orient, deux pour l'Amérique latine, un pour l'Asie/pays développés, deux pour l'Europe occidentale, 1 pour l'Europe orientale et 1 pour l'Amérique du Nord.

Les candidatures présentées jusqu'à présent sont au nombre de 14. La seule différence avec la répartition faite selon l'usage, c'est que l'Amérique du Nord aurait deux représentants au lieu d'un: les Etats-Unis d'Amérique et le Canada. Le Conseil accepte-t-il cette composition pour que nous puissions la rendre définitive?

José Ramón LOPEZ-PORTILLO ROMANO (México): En primer lugar, sobre esta cuestión que acaba usted de plantear, yo propuse y he pedido como Presidente del Comité de Redacción que se respete una tradición de equilibrio, de balance y también de limitación del tamaño del Comité de Redacción. Yo solicité a todas las regiones que se atengan a ello, que nos permitan evitar que, si se rompe esta regla, otras regiones desborden también su número, que eso es también la intención hasta donde yo he podido apreciar; ojalá podamos respetar el numero tradicional.

Gonzalo BULA HOYOS (Colombia): Sinceramente, espero que no vayamos a prolongar el debate sobre este asunto y que podamos entrar a discutir los temas de fondo. Según la lista que usted nos ha leído, todas las regiones se han adaptado a la constante histórica en la composición de los miembros del Comité de Redacción, salvo una. Yo creo, Sr. Presidente, que como el Comité de Redacción sólo se reunirá posiblemente mañana por la noche, para no forzar los acontecimientos y con espíritu flexible de comprensión podíamos dar todavía el día de hoy a los dos respetables países que integran la región de América del Norte, Estados Unidos y Canadá, ya que ellos son buenos vecinos y se entienden bien, para que tomen la decisión sobre cuál de los dos habrá de estar en el Comité y esto lo decidiremos al final de esta mañana o al final de la tarde de hoy.

Jacques POSIER (France): Je prends la parole simplement pour remercier M. Bula Hoyos de son intervention. C'est précisément dans le même sens que j'allais intervenir.

LE PRESIDENT: Si le Conseil est d'accord, nous allons laisser la question en instance jusqu'à la prochaine réunion ou, plus tard, la réunion de demain.

- II. WORLD FOOD AND AGRICULTURE SITUATION (continued).
- II. SITUATION MONDIALE DE L'ALIMENTATION ET DE L'AGRICULTURE (suite)
- II. SITUACIÓN MUNDIAL DE LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION (continuación)
4. State of Food and Agriculture 1986 (continued)
4. Situation de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture en 1986 (suite)
4. El estado mundial de la agricultura y la alimentación, 1986 (continuación)

José Ramón LOPEZ-PORTILLO. ROMANO (Mexico): El día de ayer, en vista de que era tarde y de que usted hizo un magnífico resumen de los acontecimientos en torno al debate del tema 4, no me atreví a intervenir y a interrumpir el cierre de la sesión para hacer una aclaración a la Secretaría en relación a una interpretación que hicieron de la propuesta de varios países en torno al estudio que ya ha terminado-lo subrayo, que ya ha terminado-la FAO en relación a las empresas transnacionales y que ahora ha enviado al Comité de empresas nacionales de Nueva York.

La razón por la cual intervengo es porque se mencionó que tal estudio se presentaría de manera no oficial en la próxima reunión del Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria y yo no recuerdo a nadie que pidiera tal cosa. Yo solicité, igual que otros, que se presentara en el Comité de Sanidad Alimentaria, pero parece que no dije la palabra mágica o, por lo menos, no se interpretó así en inglés, y la palabra mágica es " que se incluya en el programa y calendario del Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria. Lo que yo digo ahora es, si esa palabra mágica tiene algún efecto claro y preciso, pues, entonces ahora la menciono, la subrayo, y esa es la solicitud que estábamos haciendo.

Esperamos que esto quede muy claro y, por tanto, se suprima la interpretación que le dio la Secretaría a nuestra palabras.

DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL: On the Secretariat side we had not understood that what the distinguished representative of Mexico was asking for was the inclusion of an item on trans-national corporations in the agenda of the next session of the Committee on Food Security. There is no difficulty at all about doing so. For the record, the rule is that any Member Nation may request the inclusion of an agenda item on the agenda of the Committee at least thirty days before the Committee meets. The Committee will be meeting next spring so we shall be happy to include the agenda Item requested by the Government of Mexico.

As for striking the reply from the record, I think the reply of yesterday was on the record. If there was any misunderstanding we apologise for it. However, I think the matter is entirely clear now and we shall go ahead as I have indicated.

IV. PROGRAMME, BUDGETARY, FINANCIAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

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

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

12. Financial Matters, including:

12. Questions financières, notamment:

12. Asuntos financieros, en particular:

12.1 Financial Position of the Organization including Measures to Deal with Problems of Delayed Payment of Assessed Contributions

12.1 Situation financière de l'Organisation, y compris les mesures visant à régler le problème des retards dans le versement des contributions

12.1 Situación financiera de la Organización, especialmente medidas para afrontar los problemas del retraso en el pago de las cuotas

(a) Budgetary and Cash Flow Forecast relating to the Programme of Work and Budget for 1986-87

(a) Perspectives budgétaires et situation de trésorerie: incidences possibles sur le Programme de travail et budget 1986-87

(a) Pronostico presupuestario y de flujo de fondos en relación con el Programa de Labores y Presupuesto para 1986-87

Atif Y. BUKHARI (Chairman, Finance Committee) (Original language Arabic): We have two reports from the Finance Committee. We have the report of the 57th Session which was held in Rome from 12th to 20th May 1986, and the report of the 58th Session of the finance Committee which took place from 22nd September to 2nd October 1986.

As per the agenda for today you are referred to certain paragraphs in these documents for discussion this morning, and the rest of the report will be reviewed later if you agree and if the Members of

the Council think that that is the best way of proceeding with our business, namely that we should most usefully follow the Order of the Day as given to us.

As for the report of the 57th Session of the Finance Committee, the matters for discussion refer to paragraphs 10 to 32. Paragraph 10 refers to the financial position of the Organization. This paragraph gives the results of 1984/85. Before I go over the content of those paragraphs, I should like to thank the FAO Secretariat for the information which has been supplied to the Finance Committee. We have never had any difficulties whatsoever in carrying out our dialogue with those representatives in the department of the FAO concerned with these matters.

Paragraph 10 deals with the financial position of the Organization: the out-turn, 1984/85 gives us figures which are to be understood as provisional because they were given to us in May at the time of the discussion which is herein reported upon.

Therefore, please understand that these figures are not definite. As you can see, the cash surplus is \$34 758 000.

Paragraph 11 refers to the factors which have led to the generation of that cash surplus.

Paragraph 15 shows that at 31 December 1985 the cash balance of the Working Capital Fund amounted to \$13 253 975.

Paragraph 16 first of all shows the status of contributions to the FAO budget. There is a comparative table, that is a comparison of the years 1985-1986. That is on page 4. The amounts outstanding at 12 May 1985 were also given to us. Consequently, amendments must be made to them because those figures are certainly not up to date.

If you turn to paragraph 17, current receipts, and the amounts outstanding in 1986, you will see a comparison for the four previous years, at the same date of course.

In paragraph 18 you will see a table which indicates the percentages of current assessments received. This is the usual presentation of these figures.

Paragraph 19 gives receipts to date of 1986 which were only \$63 461 670, that is, almost 32 percent of the assessed contributions for 1986. Still on paragraph 19, you will observe that 105 member nations had made no payments for their 1986 assessment. Still on paragraph 19, there is a diagram of the percentages of current assessments received.

Paragraph 20 refers to the possibility of a shortfall. The situation is described in paragraphs 20-22 which refer to the position of the Organization in the future.

Moving to paragraph 25, the FAO indicated that the amount of shortfall in contribution of the largest contributor would be known only towards the end of 1986, which is why the members of the Committee felt at the time that it would be premature to make proposals to Council.

In paragraph 26, the Committee appealed most strongly to all Member Nations-and we meant all-to make a special effort to remit their outstanding contributions without further delay.

During its 57th Meeting, the Finance Committee examined a series of measures which could be implemented to try and settle this matter of delayed receipt of assessments. The question was again discussed at the 58th Meeting of the Finance Committee, in fact in this document we have indicated that the matter was going to be dealt with during the 58th Meeting.

Paragraphs 29 and 30 provide further information on the financial situation, and particularly on the Allocations for the Technical Cooperation Programme.

Paragraph 31 deals with the cash flow of the General Fund. At 31 March 1986 the balance for the 1986/87 biennium was \$21. 5 million. In paragraph 32 we refer to the status of the Special Reserve Account, which is there for information. When it reviewed these matters, the Committee took note that the dollar exchange rate was 1 613 lira, whereas the exchange rate for the budget calculation was 1 760 lira to the dollar.

These are the paragraphs which require particular attention from Council this morning, and having introduced them I am here to answer any further points of information which you may care to raise.

LE PRESIDENT: Je remercie Le Président du Comité financier pour cette introduction au rapport de la situation financière de l'Organisation. Il a suggéré que nous pourrions l'examiner point par point

et, si le Conseil est d'accord, nous allons commencer par l'analyse de la situation financière de l'Organisation, aux paragraphes 10 à 15 de ce document.

Je pense donc, si le Conseil en convient, que nous pourrions commencer par ces paragraphes, qui traitent des résultats de l'exercice 1984-85. Puis nous passerions à l'étude des contributions et enfin aux mesures envisagées par le Comité financier.

James D. AITKEN (United Kingdom): The United Kingdom's statement will be in two parts. First, I should like to address the issues arising from the reports of the Finance Committee which have relevance to the Organization's financial position, and with your permission, Mr Chairman, this will be slightly broader than the paragraphs we have referred to earlier since we think these are relevant to the very important problems before us. Secondly, I should like to set out the position of my government on the proposals contained in document CL 90/23.

We have read the reports of the Finance Committee with considerable interest. Once more we have to be grateful to the Committee for its guiding wisdom and the manner in which its work stimulates our desire to learn more about the issues which its reports bring before this Council meeting. The report gives us a rich menu. Time permits us the choice of only a few items at this meeting.

In any comment on the financial position of the Organization we must begin by endorsing the comments of the Committee in paragraph 24 of document CL 90/4 "that other Member Nations should not be called upon to compensate for the deficit caused by reduced payments by any contributor". At this point we should like to make our position on this very clear. In common with other members of the European Community my government takes the view that all member states should meet their financial obligations in full and promptly in accordance with the constitution.

Turning again to the report of the Finance Committee, we were, however, slightly surprised that in its consideration of the financial situation no mention was made by the Committee of what we take to be the very high level of liquidity in FAO which, according to the figures in the financial statement, stand at nearly \$300 000 000. This is the amount of money that FAO has in liquid assets in the bank on short deposit or in cash. Of course, this amount is in addition to the working capital and other funds held by FAO, so there is a lot of money already in the Organization. We consider this high level of liquidity poses serious questions about the style of financial management within the Organization. These are questions which call for examination by the Committee, by Council and by Conference.

We were also surprised to see no mention of the very slow rate of disbursement on the Technical Cooperation Programme where again, according to the financial statement, only \$26. 8 million was spent out of a budget appropriation of \$72. 4 million-this is in the 1984/85 biennium-leaving \$45 million to be rolled over into the 1986/87 biennium.

We would submit that these are significant items in any consideration of both the financial health and the financial management systems of the Organization, and they are factors which have to be taken into account when examining spending and income.

At the beginning of this session the Director-General referred to the fall in administrative costs and establishment costs. These falls are very commendable,-but when we look at the overall programme delivery costs, that is all the costs FAO incurs to deliver the programmes, including statistical programmes, the global information and early warning system as well as the Technical Cooperation Programme, we believe there is scope for further savings. We think that these further savings could, in fact, enable the Organization to live within the current financial provisions without the need to reduce any programmes. I think this is a very salient point. Normally, in these circumstances we would expect an agency to reduce its programmes when faced with a shortfall, but we believe in the case of FAO that the delivery costs and the liquidity of the Organization put it in a very fortunate position it can afford to live within its means and not reduce its programmes, and do so by saving on overheads.

We were very interested to read the information about the level of project support costs on page 13 of the Finance Committee's report. Since the exchange in Conference on administrative costs we have been examining the information contained in the Programme and Budget document. This is an FAO document C 85/3 which we all received at the last Conference and we find this document permits us to undertake a calculation of FAO's programme delivery costs. We have written to the Secretariat about this and, in the interests of transparency and to help with this discussion, we have given details to Council Members of our analysis of the real level of the FAO programme delivery costs. I should emphasise that these are calculations which have not been agreed with the Secretariat, but they are entirely based on FAO's own figures, and figures published in the Budget

Our analysis leads us to believe that the figures given in the Finance Committee Reports are a considerable underestimate of the true programme delivery costs i. e. the cost of FAO's operational activities whether they are in project or programme form. Our analysis based on FAO figures puts the overall cost of delivery for all programmes (that is the Regular Programme, UNDP and the Trust Fund) at over 36 percent of the delivered programme. The figures for the actual budgetary fund from the information contained in the Budget is approximately 14 percent, that is close to the maximum that the FAO can charge the UNDP and Trust Fund donors, but the figures for the Regular Programme appear to be 97 percent, in other words, if we are to believe the Budget on the Regular Programme it costs FAO 97 cents to spend a dollar! This cannot be correct and it does suggest to us that there is a greater element of cross-subsidy between the programmes than revealed in the figures put to the Finance Committee. The cost of delivering the Trust Fund Programme and the UNDP Programme has, in fact, been put to the Regular Programme. Even then, at over 36 percent of the overall level of programme delivery costs, we think the overhead costs in the FAO are far too high. We would expect that a reasonable level of costs would be in the region of 15 to 20 percent. In the face of the financial crisis we believe that it is of crucial importance that the Organization reduces its overheads and we believe that the time has now come for the question of programme delivery costs to be considered in depth by the Finance Committee and subsequently by the Council and Conference.

The question of transparency discussed by the Finance Committee is also relevant to this discussion. We are sure that the Committee is correct when it says that it is satisfied that such information, as it needed to fill its mandates, had been, and would continue to be, made available to it. In our dealings with the Secretariat we have found them extremely ready to supply us with information and at this point it would be appropriate particularly to thank Mr. Shah for the information that he has provided us with in terms of the documentation which is always made available to this Council. The problems in our experience stem from the nature of the information available in FAO itself. In our view there is a clear distinction between the nature of the information which is necessary for accounting purposes and the nature of financial information which is necessary if senior management is to manage the programme effectively. Unfortunately, our experience has been that such information is often unavailable within the FAO. It is not simply a question of transparency, it is a question of the absence of basic information necessary for senior management to manage programmes effectively. For almost a year now we have not been able to obtain information regarding spending under the Technical Cooperation Programme. We have obtained information of commitments, and this has its uses, but we have not been able to obtain information about hard cash transactions. Effective programme management requires information of hard cash transactions. Every day I know how much money I spend. I also know how much money I am obligated to spend. It seems sensible that FAO should have the same information. This does not appear to be available in FAO. Coupled with such issues as the auditors' criticism regarding the purchase of word-processing equipment, and our own examination of delivery costs, its absence must raise grave reservations about the effectiveness of the financial and management information systems within the Agency.

In view of the considerable financial crisis faced by the Agency, we consider as a matter of urgency, the financial and management systems of the Organization should be subject to full scrutiny and consideration by Council in Conference.

Turning now to document CL 90/23 I would like to make the following observations on behalf of the United Kingdom. The estimated shortfall of budgetary contribution which is largely brought about by the present financial crisis is as a result of a default by a Member Nation. It must therefore be treated differently from the normal delayed payments which occur in every biennium. We believe that the Director-General must make further reductions in expenditure by imposing additional economies, postponements and transfers to other financing to deal with a realistically assessed shortfall. The shortfall cannot be bridged by recourse to the Working Capital Fund or by mortgaging the financial future of the Organization beyond the current biennium. We do not agree with any proposal that involves borrowing by the Agency. First and foremost, as the Director-General has already recognized, the Organization must seek significant administration economies borrowing ideas from other organizations which have already formulated strategies to face similar difficulties, for example, in the United Nations, in UNIDO and in Unesco.

To be more specific we invite attention to the potential for achieving further savings in the following areas of financial management and budget. There should be a once and for all tightening up of financial management systems to ensure that the Agency makes optimum use of the money it has. For example, more effective financial management would enable use to be made of the 300 million dollars shown as liquid assets on page 27 of document C 87/5. It must be noted that this amount is in addition to the special funds and as such there is no reason why it cannot be managed more effectively to reduce it to a more realistic level. Closer scrutiny is obviously needed of programme delivery costs. The budget appropriation for programme management in the Regular Programme in the 1986/87 biennium is for 209 million dollars, yet the proposed savings on page A. 9 CL 90/23 is only 59 000. This is relatively insignificant and there must be scope for a greater reduction. Similarly, savings of only 1.8 million dollars have been found from appropriation of 45 million dollars for FAO Representatives. Given the magnitude of this provision it does seem to my delegation that in the face of the financial pressures of the Organization it is necessary to seek greater economies here.

Document CL 90/23 is vague on the savings made in spending by Regional Offices yet the appropriation in the Budget for Regional Offices is nearly 38 million dollars. We would have expected far more specific treatment of this item.

Last but not least, the Technical Cooperation Programme. We appreciate the importance attached to this Programme and we believe that with improved financial management it should be possible to maintain the Programme and, at the same time, make a substantial contribution to the further economies which the present situation demands. We believe that this can be achieved by a more realistic approach to financial forecasting and better cash-flow management. It is clear from the financial statement that this Programme is slow spending. In 1983/84 on a 72 million dollar programme, 45 million dollars remained unspent at the end of the biennium. We have no reason to believe that this slow rate of spending will not be repeated and compounded in the current biennium. Better management of the Programme would clearly ease the Organization's cash flow problems. The Secretariat should also identify sources of voluntary funding to fund TCP projects in the future so the momentum of the Programme can be maintained. We have already referred to the very high programme delivery costs associated with all FAO programmes. We remain convinced that there is further scope for savings in such items as field programme support, administration and common services.

To conclude, we believe that the economies proposed in CL 90/23 are a beginning, but they are not more than that. 16 million dollars is not a significant saving when we see that programme delivery costs amount to more than 200 million dollars on the Regular Programme alone. We think it is essential for the Director-General to come forward with additional savings. The Organization like all other parts of the UN system must adapt to the new financial realities. None of us can live beyond our resources and it would be irresponsible of this Council not to acknowledge this basic fact.

LE PRESIDENT: Je souhaiterais proposer au Conseil, s'il en convient, de scinder la discussion en deux points tel que l'a annoncé le calendrier: le point 12. 1 qui est la photographie de la situation actuelle et une autre discussion sur le 12. 1(a) c'est-à-dire "Perspectives budgétaires et questions de trésorerie". En d'autres termes, il s'agit du document CL 90/23, ainsi que ses suppléments 1 et 2, qui pourrait faire l'objet d'une analyse spécifique qui permettrait de clarifier les débats.

DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL: I do not want to infringe in any way on your ruling which will, I believe, permit the Council to have an orderly debate on a very complicated subject. Before hearing I would, nevertheless, like at this stage, if I may, to make one or two general comments on the statement by the United Kingdom, not dealing, however, specifically with the measures dealt with in document CL 90/23. He questioned, in the first place, the whole concept in the way of transparency. What he appeared to be saying was that the concept of transparency so far applied is not enough. If it is not enough, we would like to know how and in what way it is inadequate.

This was discussed, as he pointed out, in the Finance Committee. The Director-General has made every effort to provide the information requested by Member Governments and he is willing to provide systematically and on an across-the-board basis such information as may be required collectively by the organs of the Organization.

In more general terms also FAO has applied extremely prudent and careful managerial standards in the handling of its resources. Indeed, it is thanks to a very prudent approach in the management of resources that the management is not in a very much worse financial state now than it might have been.

There are one or two additional points of a somewhat more technical nature which may help the Council to appreciate the general background to the Finance Committee Report and the other related matters which will be coming up in the course of today and if you agree, Mr Chairman, perhaps Mr Shah could give one or two additional explanations without at this stage broaching the actual measures proposed under document CL 90/23.

LE PRESIDENT: Nous nous en tenons, par souci d'une analyse plus approfondie du document, au point 12. 1 et dans ce contexte je demande à M. Shah de bien vouloir nous fournir des explications complémentaires en guise d'introduction aux débats du Conseil.

V. J. SHAH (Director, Office of Programme, Budget and Evaluation): As desired by you and by the Deputy Director General may I at this stage respond only to two matters among those raised by the delegate of the United Kingdom. Firstly, I would like to deal with comments he offered on programme delivery costs in FAO. We have listened with attention to the points made by the delegate regarding his administration's assessment of programme delivery costs in FAO. It had been my personal pleasure to see the Permanent Representative of the United Kingdom and his advisor a few months ago when they came to discuss the subject with me. They requested clarifications on our Programme of Work and Budget document which my colleagues and I gave, and I appreciate his kind remarks on the matter. We never heard a word more until the day before yesterday. Because it was then somewhat of a surprise to receive Mr Deare's letter to me of the 17th of November forwarding ODAs assessment and conclusions which I never had the opportunity to comment on. If I had had a chance to discuss the paper and the conclusions with its author, I would have been able to say in private rather than in public that it is based on faulty assumptions and therefore arrives at wrong conclusions.

The paper divides the bulk of our expenditure under the Regular Programme into two categories, the delivery programme and the programme delivery costs. Putting it in different words one would speak of our substantive output and our overhead. Now it is pretty clear that in the case of projects executed in the field what is a substantive output and what is the overhead. The delivery programme and the programme delivery costs can be identified and measured without much controversy and in fact this is the information we regularly supply to the Finance Committee and which appears in its report. The output under a field project may be a laboratory, an irrigation scheme or a training institute. The overhead consists of the costs in Rome for technical and managerial and administrative services provided to the project. However it is much more difficult in the case of the Regular Programme to distinguish between the substantive output and the overhead. For instance, a large part of the delivery programme under the Regular Programme consists of publications drafted and produced in Rome. The dividing line between the programme cost of a publication and its overhead costs is much less obvious and consequently more difficult to define. Again, individual staff members may be devoting part of their time to substantive activities and part of it to activities that could be considered as overhead. It is perhaps surprising that the British analysis has fallen into a number of basic errors in attempting to separate programme costs from delivery costs. The first series of mistakes is in counting as delivery costs our expenditure on activities which are actually substantive in output and let me give one or two examples. Programme 1.3 Legal is counted entirely as a programme delivery cost. This includes the offices of the Legal Counsel and the legislation branch. Seventy percent of this programme consists of the work of the legislation branch which has a programme content dealing with agriculture, forestry and fisheries, legislation, advice to Member Nations on its formulation, on its application.

I am sure members of the Council will be personally acquainted with the substantive work done particularly in the field of water and fisheries legislation. Now, how can this be categorized as a programme delivery cost. The same can be said about our documentation systems like AGRIS which are counted as a programme delivery cost, and yet this is a technical programme with an output in publications, magnetic tapes, services provided to the member countries. They are certainly not overhead, or in the United Kingdom phraseology, programme delivery costs.

I could go right on through the United Kingdom analysis picking out parts of the Programme of Work and Budget which are actually substantive and which have been put down as overhead.

There is another series of fundamental errors in this analysis. Certain expenditures are common to both the Regular Programme and the Field Programme. The analysis has treated them entirely as a cost of delivering the Regular Programme. For instance, the full cost of our Assistant Directors-General, our Division Directors, our Regional Representatives is counted as a Regular Programme cost. Now as we all know they and their senior staff spend at least as much time on field activities as they do on Regular Programme activities. Even more striking is the fact that the full cost of the FAO country offices is counted as if it were an overhead of the Regular Programme. Yet the functions and activities of these offices relate almost entirely to the support of projects in the field in our field activities.

Another major error is to put down the regional offices in their entirety as a programme delivery cost, in other words, as an overhead. However, as you well know, most of the activities of the regional offices are substantive in nature. There are technical officers working in the regional offices, visiting countries and working with them. These are programme activities and not an overhead.

I could continue but I fear that I might confuse the Council even more than it might have been confused already. I would merely like to add that I must emphatically reject the conclusion of the analysis that 49.4 percent of the Regular Programme budget is the Regular Programme delivery cost. The true figure might be a fraction, maybe about one-third of what is alleged.

I would like to invite the authors of this paper, this analysis to come to Rome for a few days to sit down with me and my colleagues. In this way we could agree to methodologies and definitions and arrive at soundly based conclusions. If the objective is to compare FAO with other organizations and the United Kingdom's own bilateral programme we would be able to see the comparative figures for the United Kingdom bilateral aid programmes and for the other organizations with which a comparison was attempted to be made. As far as we know FAO compares very favourably with other institutions, both multilateral and bilateral.

In a broader context the United Kingdom analysis-calls for two things. The first is "for more detailed information", and I am quoting from this analysis, "for more detailed information to be given to member states on the calculation and allocation of such costs". The Director-General has said immediately, and the Deputy Director-General echoed his words and sentiments a few moments ago, the Director-General said also in his closing statement to the last session of the FAO Conference that he is willing to give any explanation that Member Nations want. All that is necessary for the members to agree on what is required; for instance, in the format of the Programme of Work and Budget document. Member Nations should also be aware of any extra cost involved in providing any additional information. This is surely a matter that needs to be discussed freely in a technical body such as the Programme Committee, the Finance Committee, before it comes to the Council. Some relevant issues were, in fact, discussed by the Finance Committee at its 57th Session in May under the heading "Transparency of FAO Activities" and attention has already been drawn to paragraphs 74 to 77 of the Finance Committee report which is before you.

In the second place the United Kingdom analysis calls for "A continued attempt by the secretariat to reduce delivery overheads". It is not necessary for me to summarize now all that we have done in the last ten years or all that we are doing now to achieve this objective. On this issue the paper, the analysis can only be described as preaching to the converted, or what is sometimes referred to in the United Kingdom as carrying coals to Newcastle.

I would now like to deal with the second subject of the Technical Cooperation Programme. Some fairly strong statements were made about the amount of the TCP appropriation which is alleged to be unutilized and for which the funds from 1984/85 have been carried over into the present biennium. To some it may be a little surprising but this subject is raised with such regularity because it was something which was considered not only by the Council but by the Finance Committee and by the Conference itself when the Technical Cooperation Programme was established in 1976.

In fact, the Conference amended the financial regulations of the Organizations to provide for the TCP funds to be available over two biennia. Why was this? It was quite simply because the TCP is a programme consisting of projects which are approved during the entire course of a biennium right up to the last day of 1985 in the case of the 1984-85 biennium, and these projects then had to be executed, implemented, and the related expenditures effected during 1986 and to some extent even in 1987. There has been complete transparency on this principle and on all the financial and accounting information related to it. What are the funds carried out from the TCP appropriation from one biennium to another? In 1976/77 they were 63 percent. There was a reason for it. The TCP was just starting. In fact the first projects were not approved until the end of 1976, so the percentage was fairly high: in 1978/79-42 percent, 1980/81, 1982/83-43 percent, 45 percent, always around the same order, in the case of 1984/85 the \$15 million for the African Rehabilitation Programme for Africa in addition to the normal TCP provision, which was only approved in the spring of 1985.

If we are going to consider what is used and what is not used of the TCP appropriation let me share with the Council figures which were shared with the Finance Committee. If we take the 1984/85 appropriation of \$56. 5 million, to which was added the \$15 million, which raised it to \$72. 5 million, those were the total funds available for the TCP in 1984/85. How much of that amount was approved for projects? It is the amount approved for projects, projects signed by member governments and signed on behalf of FAO, which constitute our commitments. The amount approved for projects at the end of 1985 was \$72 290 000 out of \$72 470 000. This does not strike me as an underutilisation of the TCP. Take the appropriation for the TCP for this biennium, \$61. 4 million, how much has been approved so far from that appropriation for projects on the approved projects which have been signed and to which we are committed? As at the end of October, \$30. 7 million, almost a good half by the end of October. How many requests are pending? There are 247 valid requests, not counting requests which are discarded because they do not meet the criteria of the TCP, and our resources permit us to approve only about 30 a month, whereas new requests come in at the rate of at least 45 a month.

I will with your permission stop there. I felt that the point raised was substantial enough that if it also raised questions in the minds of other Council members it may assist in providing this explanation at the outset.

James D. AITKEN (United Kingdom): Normally it has been my experience in FAO meetings that interventions have been dealt with at the end of the debate. I am very grateful for the explanatory introduction by the Deputy Director-General and by Mr Shah and I hope that in this spirit you will permit me to reply immediately to their comments. In connection with Mr. Shah's comments about delivery costs, I would emphasise that all our figures have been taken from FAO's own published documents and that they have been distributed between the Regular Programme and the Extra-Budgetary Fund exactly in the way they are distributed in the budget document, so if there is any confusion, it is a confusion which must come from the presentation of that document.

To turn to specific items, Mr Shah said that we included legal costs and the costs of documentation as project delivery, when, in fact, these were substantive programmes. I am glad to hear this. This information is not in the budget document. Treating them all as substantive programmes still means that the delivery costs amount to over \$270 million as these are relatively minor programmes. We appreciate the point about publications. This is why we did not include them at all as programme delivery costs.

Turning now to the question of the resident FAO representatives, we are very grateful to Mr Shah for his statement that resident representatives are deployed on the Field Programme under extra budgetary funds because, quoting from the budget, we see that the cost for resident representatives under extra budgetary funds is only \$2.6 million, while under the Regular Programme the cost for resident representatives is listed as \$45 million. I understood from Mr Shah that within this \$45 million the resident representatives are undertaking work in the Field Programmes. It would have been better if this had been made clear from the budget. This comes back to our original point that there is cross subsidy between the Regular Programme and the Field Programme and the extra budgetary funds. Mr Shah has confirmed this himself by his statement. My first comment on this would be that we hope that the budget document would correctly reflect this cross subsidy.

Turning to the TCP, I would simply say that we are very impressed by Mr Shah's presentation and his knowledge of the cash flow payment in the Programmes. Given this knowledge of the spending in the Programme that he displayed, we continue to be surprised that in the circumstances there is such a large roll-over. Our experience has been that normally financial managers are expected to keep the roll-over to a minimum. We are therefore very surprised, given this clear knowledge of the spending profile of the Programme, that so much money goes to another biennium. We are questioning not the level of the programme but the way it is managed.

John GLISTRUP (Denmark): I am getting slightly confused. I came here prepared to discuss Agenda Item 12.1 Financial Position of the Organization including Measures to Deal with Problems of Delayed Payment of Assessed Contributions, with a number of documents. I have listened very carefully to the intervention by the Chairman of the Finance Committee. I have listened to an interesting intervention by the United Kingdom. I have listened to a statement by the Deputy Director-General and Mr Shah commenting upon a document which is unknown to me.

Mr Chairman, may I request you to help us direct our debates in such a way that we can deal with this important issue in front of us. I was waiting to hear from the Secretariat on the measures to be taken in the difficult financial position that we have and I was prepared to comment on that.

LE PRESIDENT: En fait, un document annoncé par le délégué du Royaume-Uni a été distribué. Il s'agit donc, si vous voulez une réponse, d'un document qui ne figurait pas parmi les documents du Conseil. Ce débat a quand même été utile mais- et je vous prie de m'excuser de cette interférence- j'insiste pour que l'on s'en tienne au point 12.1. Par conséquent, je propose aux Membres du Conseil qui veulent intervenir de bien vouloir s'en tenir au point 12.1, c'est-à-dire à l'intervention du Président du Comité financier.

Lorsque nous aurons épuisé ce point, nous passerons au point 12.1a), à savoir les mesures à moyen terme ou les mesures proposées pour essayer d'améliorer la situation financière de l'Organisation.

Octavio Rainho da SILVA NEVES (Brazil): I cannot say as well that I enjoyed the private and bilateral exchange of views between Mr Shah and the United Kingdom representative on this question of programme delivery costs. I must recognise on the other hand that I enjoyed the quite excellent introduction that Mr Shah made of the TCP. But I agree with your views, Mr Chairman, that the

discussion was clearly out of order and that we should try to concentrate on the Agenda as it has been put to us. On the other hand, it is not exactly too easy to try to deal with the performance of the Agenda as it is. It is difficult to deal with the Report of Finance Committee without dealing to some extent, or to a large extent, it depends on the speaker, with the point raised in 12. 1(a), Budgetary and Cash Flow Forecast relating to the Programme of Work and Budget. I should like to go along with your ruling and to deal with the report of the Finance Committee in a broad context, and to deal later on with point (a) concerning the approach necessary to deal with the budgetary financial uncertainties.

My delegation deeply regrets that an important shortfall in the payment by a large contributor against its assessed contribution has brought insecurity to FAO and is leading the Organization towards a financial interbudgetary crisis. As has been said already, the worst features of the present situation are (a) the uncertainty that such a Member is not going to pay its full contribution due to FAO; and (b) the uncertainty regarding the timing and amounts of present and future payments by that Member.

In spite of severe economic and financial problems, a year ago developing countries gave their full support to the modest increase proposed by the Director-General in the Programme of Work and Budget for 1986-87 biennium and this was approved by the Conference. Therefore, it is with great concern that we envisage embarking now on a revision of the Programme of work whose approval resulted from a commitment of all Member Nations.

Returning to the main question envisaged in the report of the Finance Committee, I should like to say that shortfalls in the payments of contributions have occurred previously but where as a whole confined to the rules of international organizations and justified by economic conditions and currency costs in developing countries. However, shortfalls have never constituted a major problem to FAO activities as they have represented around 5 percent of each annual budget. For 1986-87 the delayed contributions from Members, other than the largest, are estimated not to depart in any significant way from the average of recent years, namely around US\$20 million. This in itself is an extraordinary performance, given the financial uncertainties faced by developing countries and I should like to stress this point which we consider to be quite important.

Special cases of contributions to be paid in installments by less developed countries were previously authorised by the Conference. However, in our view the present situation is completely different because it relates to a very important amount of resources representing almost 72 percent of all delayed contributions in 1986. The 72 percent results also from a unilateral and arbitrary decision of a Member State and is the reflection of a political decision. Actually; if the debt contribution of that Member State is paid, the financial situation of the Organization will improve in relation to the situation over the five preceding years. The percentage of current assessments received in 1986 would then rise to 89. 84 percent, about 90 percent of the current contributions received, (the highest in many years) and, not about 65 percent as mentioned at page 3 of the document CL 90/LIM/1.

I should like to stress a point concerning the report of the Finance Committee, and this point in broad terms is that the liquidity crisis is not in itself attributable to the arrears or delayed payments by developed member countries or any other members. The crisis revolves around the financial decision by the main contributor regarding its contribution. Let us not disguise the issue.

Taking into account your ruling I will refrain now from commenting upon the proposals made to deal with the situation, and I shall ask your indulgence to speak later on concerning the specific proposals made by the Director-General as to the ways and means of eventually redressing the situation.

LE PRESIDENT: Je demande aux orateurs suivants de m'autoriser à donner la parole à M. Le Président du Comité financier, dans le cadre du point 12. 1, afin qu'il nous présente le document CL 90/17.

Atif Y. BUKHARI (Chairman, Finance Committee) (Original language Arabic): This document which we have-CL 90/17, is the latest report of the Finance Committee. It highlights the realities and the somewhat harsh truths which were less clear in previous meetings of the Finance Committee. This report (CL 90/17) therefore contains a certain number of points which were discussed and which are up before this Council for review. What we have to do is to look particularly at paragraphs 13 to 45, which are the paragraphs for particular attention this morning by Members of the Council. Other items will be contained in other points which we are called upon to examine.

Paragraph 13 refers to the financial position of the Organization and the status of contributions as it stood at the meeting. Some of the sums still outstanding on 25th September, which is the reference date, are large sums. For the period 1986 these are, I repeat, amounts which are quite considerable.

If you refer to paragraph 14 you will observe a table which gives the current status of contributions and amounts paid in during previous years. The percentages are given in the following tables. These sort of percentages are presented on a regular basis to highlight what was paid in January, February, March, April and so on up to the end of the year. In September (paragraph 15) we have in 1986-63. 35 percent; 1984-60. 66 percent; 1983-55 33 percent; and so on.

In paragraphs 18, 19 and 20 we have the statement of arrears which are in arrears status. In paragraph 18 you will note that there is reference to receipts of the Organization-US\$9 841 273, a sum which is reasonably satisfactory as compared to what was paid in 1985 or in previous years.

In paragraph 20, once again the Committee as usual, appeals strongly to all Member Nations to match up to their financial responsibilities namely to pay in what is currently due and their arrears. The Member States must be fully aware of the difficult situation of the Organization in order to understand the strength of that appeal which is made to them.

I will stop at that paragraph and be ready to answer any questions which Members of Council may raise, if that would be satisfactory to you, or perhaps you would like me to continue with the presentation of the rest of the paragraphs in this document.

LE PRESIDENT: Si vous voulez bien nous le permettre, nous pourrions répondre également aux questions des Etats Membres du Conseil. Est-ce que vous êtes d'accord ou voulez-vous que je continue la présentation des documents et ce qu'il reste des paragraphes? Le Conseil est saisi d'une proposition pour analyser ce rapport paragraphe par paragraphe ou dans son ensemble. Pourrions-nous, t pour gagner du temps, terminer l'exposé du document CL 90/17 et nous passerions ensuite la parole aux orateurs?

Joachim WINKEL (Germany, Federal. Republic of): On this point, you ask whether or not we are content that the Chairman of the Finance Committee should continue. I think that now there is confusion in the room. Do you consider your proposal to change the agenda as taken by the majority of the Council, and that we can follow this rule because with regard to our agenda I should like to draw your attention to the fact that we have already separated agenda item 12. 1. In our view we should not continue to separate the agenda items. We are prepared to bring everything together in our statement. The Danish and Brazilian delegates are of the same opinion.

LE PRESIDENT: Ma proposition était que le président du Comité financier termine la lecture du document CL 90/17. Sans plus. Terminons le CL 90/17 qui se trouve dans le point 12. 1. Après quoi, nous passerions la parole à M. Crowther qui lira le document qui reste toujours dans le calendrier du point 12. 1, à savoir CL 90/LIM/1. Nous aurions donc lu ou écouté tous les documents introductifs relatifs au point 12. 1 et nous passerions la parole aux orateurs sur le point 12. 1. Si le Conseil préfère que l'on fasse les deux en même temps, nous pouvons le faire. Si le Conseil décide que l'on lise le document CL 90/23 en même temps que le CL 90/17, nous sommes prêts à le faire sous le couvert d'un unique débat. Ce sera comme vous le désirez.

David Lawrence COUTTS (Australia): I should like to say that the Australian delegation is also getting a little confused. We would certainly prefer to hear the introductions to the document now from the Secretariat and then to have the opportunity to make a statement in a general way covering agenda items 12.1 and 12.1 (a). This would be much easier for us and, I suspect, for other delegations.

Humberto CARRION M. (Nicaragua): Deseo opinar, señor Presidente, sobre la consulta que usted hace al Consejo en relación con -- el modo de proceder. Estoy de acuerdo con el delegado que me ha precedido en el uso de la palabra en que se ha creado una confusión que, obviamente, es evitable. Si bien recuerdo, el haber dividido los temas, el 12, digamos, como el documento que nos ha presentado el Presidente del Comité de Finanzas, habla sido solicitado por la delegación del Reino Unido. El y su delegación han expuesto ya su punto y ha sido incluso aclarado éste por la Secretaría.

Creo que conviene en este caso, y además es inevitable, que nos centremos en el problema principal, el tema financiero que es la incertidumbre de la misma, ya que sería artificial e innecesario evitar llegar al punto concreto que está contenido en el documento 23.

LE PRESIDENT: Si vous le permettez, nous allons aborder le problème globalement avec le point 12. 1 Nous aurons la lecture du point 12 à concrétiser par le document 90/23 avec ses suppléments 1 et 2. Lorsque nous en aurons terminé, nous aborderons le débat.

Atif Y. BUKHARI (Chairman, Finance Committee) (Original language Arabic): I find it a little difficult to see where the misunderstanding is because the items which we have to deal with this morning particularly are from paragraphs 13 to 45 of this document. I did propose to subdivide these, but as Council seems to wish an overall presentation, I will go on.

The question which still requires introduction on these paragraphs is the measures examined by the Finance Committee to deal with delays in payment of contributions. We have dealt with these matters in previous sessions, and in the latest session of the Finance Committee, that is in September, we came back over this ground again and looked particularly at seven possible solutions-six alternatives if you like-which could help to see a way out of this impasse of assessments in arrears. These options were all put to Council, and three were particularly highlighted which we thought would be the best offered way to try and get out of the present situation. I refer you particularly to paragraph 31: "Notwithstanding the difficulties and complexities inherent in the alternatives, the Committee felt that it should continue to pursue this matter at a subsequent Session, focusing particularly, on solutions which respond to the following criteria. "

Three alternatives are listed. Council, therefore, will take decisions on the most judicious measures and refer them back to the Finance Committee, and if necessary to the General Conference. These solutions will serve to encourage member states to pay up their contributions. At least, that is what the Finance Committee thought. Of course, there is no punitive thinking here; it is a question of trying to provide encouragements, incentives, to the Member Nations to pay their contributions. The Committee also wish that these three alternatives should in no way harm the contributions of the Member Nations concerned.

I move on to paragraph 32 which introduces a section on Other Information on the Financial Position. It refers to the expenditure and obligations up to the time of that meeting-i. e. the September session of the Finance Committee.

In paragraph 34 we have a statement on the Cash Flow of the General Fund. You will see that we had \$31. 5 million up to 31 August 1986-for the biennium 1986-87.

In paragraph 35 we make a statement on the status of the special reserve account. Again, up to 31 August the sum was \$16. 8 million.

In paragraphs 36 and 37 we have a forecast on budgetary and cash flow status during the biennium. These paragraphs are very important as they do refer to the budgetary situation in the future and we draw your attention particularly to them. In paragraph 44, we should like to invite you to bring your attention to bear on all of this section. It states that the Director-General in the meeting of the Finance Committee announced what savings he proposed to make in programme delivery. The measures which he proposed are quoted here. Staff costs are involved. This is based upon a meeting which was held before we were fully aware of the situation involving the non-payment of a large assessment to the Organization.

Paragraph 45 also states that the Committee welcomed what the Director-General had proposed, and the proposal is quoted in the preceding paragraph 44. In fact, the Director-General has asked for a special session of the Finance Committee to be held next month on 15 to 16 December so that a final review of the financial situation of the Organization may be made.

Mr Chairman, members of the Council, that concludes my introduction. I stand ready to answer any questions which may be raised by Council members. I thank you for your attention.

Dean K. CROWTHER (Assistant Director-General, Administration and Finance Department): I will refer to document CL 90/LIM/1, and at the same time in comparison with the information which was just reported by the Finance Committee Chairman, would you have available document CL 90/17 and particularly page 3, because document LIM/1 updates page 3 from the period of 25 September up to.

last Saturday and gives you the status of contributions up to last Saturday. It is important to note the changes which have occurred since the reporting to the Finance Committee to give Council the latest information.

Would you look first at page 3 of document CL 90/17 on which the Chairman of the Finance Committee was reporting and note the third underlined heading "Amounts outstanding at 25 September". You will see that current assessments together with contributions in arrears totalled \$87, 138, 947 at that date. That represents the amount owed to the Organization by the Member Nations in current assessments and contributions. Since that time, as shown on the face of document CL 90/LIM/1, you will see that we received a sum of \$3, 480, 000 since 25 September and as of 15 November, last Saturday.

If you will turn over the page of CL 90/LIM/1 you will see the 1986 column again which compares with the same information reported to the Finance Committee on 25 September, and you will see that the amount owed as of 15 November has been reduced now to \$83, 730, 609. That compares with the figure opposite for 1985 of only \$62 million—a substantial difference. There are two reasons for the difference. One was that there was a distribution of surplus in 1985 that applied heavily against the arrears in current contributions. That makes a substantial difference, therefore, in the receipt of arrears. Secondly, Member Nations were paying faster in 1985 than they are in 1986.

If I can call your attention to the following page, and particularly paragraph 5, you will note there is a comparative schedule for 1986 and the previous four years as to the receipt of current assessments. This does not include arrears. This is current assessments only. I should particularly like to call your attention to the September/October figures, and note a particular pattern, because it is an important point, to show that there are many Member Nations who are not paying this year at the same rate as they have been paying in prior years.

The largest contributor has normally paid in November, and if you look across the percentages and compare October with November for the prior four years you will see a substantial jump in the percentages. For the most part, that represents the payment of the largest contributor. But now look at the October figures. In October the largest contributor had not paid, and you see the respective amounts paid by the remainder of the members, the amounts which have been received at that point. For 1986 we are comparing in October 64.75 percent with 73 percent in 1985, 86 percent in 1984, 75 percent in 1983, and 56 percent in 1982. It was only the year 1982 in which receipts were coming in slower than they are in this year. It is important to note that receipts are not coming in as rapidly from many Member Nations at this point.

LE PRESIDENT: Avec votre permission, je vais passer la parole à M. Shah pour exposer le document CL 90/23 Sup. 1 et 2.

V. J. SHAH (Director, Office of Programme, Budget and Evaluation): It is my pleasure to introduce this item on behalf of the Director-General. We face a serious problem of liquidity affecting the implementation of our Programme of Work and Budget for 1986/87. This has led the Director-General to submit a document for the consideration of the Council, document CL 90/23 with its supplements 1 and 2, and to invite the Council to deal with this matter at the earliest time during this Session.

In November 1985 our Conference approved the Programme of Work and Budget for 1986/87 on an amount of \$437 million, and requested the Director-General to implement it up to that amount. The fact that we currently have to face is that contributions are not paid in on time and up to the amounts due. The assessment of the income shortfall is a difficult and fluid matter when we are not certain what each Member Nation will pay and when it will pay the amounts due. The situation has worsened considerably since the Finance Committee met in September and considered the matter. It has even worsened since the document before you was prepared. We now estimate the income shortfall for 1986/87 at \$92 million. There are three factors responsible. Firstly, we face, as always, the fact that all Member Nations do not find it possible to pay their shortfall contributions during the biennium. For 1986/87 we estimate the arrears in contributions from six Member Nations at \$26 million. Secondly, because of the sharp decline in interest rates and a lower level of our investible funds, because of the lower contributions, our miscellaneous income is expected to be some \$19 million less than was estimated in the Programme of Work and Budget. The third factor is that we face, for the first time, the prospect of a shortfall in the payments by our largest contributor.

This shortfall is totally different from the arrears of other Member Nations, because it is based on legislative action not to pay the full contribution due to the United Nations and some specialized.

agencies, including FAO. Consequently, it is a real cut in our income and it will represent, and it will be treated as, arrears due to the Organization. We have no way of knowing when these arrears would be settled. In the circumstances a full implementation of the Programme of Work and Budget as authorized would inevitably lead to a cash flow problem before the end of this biennium if no corrective measures were taken. The problem is not a legal one. It is not a question requiring submission to the Conference to amend the Programme of Work and Budget which it has approved. We are not debating whether the question requires submission to the Conference, it is a fact of force majeure of the Director-General not receiving the resources required needed to implement the full Programme of Work and Budget.

In the circumstances he does have the option of making use of the authority to borrow which was conferred on him by the Council in 1981 and reconfirmed by the Conference in 1983. However, the Director-General has rejected this option for the time being so as not to create an additional burden on Member Nations. He prefers to take managerial action to contain expenditures where possible in order to avert a cash flow problem for as long as possible. His policy aim in the circumstances is two-fold. Firstly, on the one hand, to implement the approved Programme of Work and Budget to the maximum extent possible and, on the other hand, to avoid problems of cash flow. He has studied the situation in all its aspects and considered all options.

The first course of action is to make programme savings from postponements, interruptions, reductions, slow downs and even cancellation of certain activities. We should not close our eyes to the fact that all these measures have programme implications. In the circumstances, these are managerial measures to preserve to the maximum extent possible the programme content, particularly in the economic and technical areas. In particular, the Technical Cooperation Programme is not proposed to be affected at all. We do have precedents for programme savings. We were obliged to make them in 1972/73 by as much as 7.6 percent of the then budget. We were also obliged to make them in 1980/81 at a level of 2.5 percent of the then budget. The proposals now total 3.7 percent of our current budget. Other organizations in the United Nations system affected by the same problem are also forced to make similar adjustments ranging from 4 percent in the case of the United Nations to around 7 percent in the case of the International Labour Organization (ILO) and the World Health Organization (WHO).

Despite the measures which I have just indicated and in addition to them, it will be necessary to draw on the Working Capital Fund for the maximum extent of its resources of \$13 million. The Working Capital Fund exists precisely to deal with the present situation and its use would be fully in accordance with the financial regulations. With the implementation of the measures proposed we estimate that we would avoid a cash flow problem during this biennium. We would begin 1988 with a credit of \$98 million, a credit representing outstanding contributions, legally due to the Organization. Unless a significant part of this amount is settled promptly we will not have the resources to meet our financial obligations in the first month of 1988 arising from commitments incurred in 1987.

It is entirely normal that the expenditures relating to the activities of one biennium are not spent entirely within the same biennium. There are expenditures, for instance, for supplies or contractual services, the invoices for which are only received in the year following the biennium. In 1988 we would need to meet financial obligations of some \$60 million relating to the present biennium of 1986/87. However, the funds would not be available because of the shortfall in contributions. We would, therefore, have to borrow. The exact amount required and for what duration will be directly determined by the contributions actually paid. At the present time we have indicated an estimate of some \$30 million.

In recent days a number of Representatives have raised the question of withholding distribution of the 1984/85 cash surplus amounting to \$34.7 million which will be distributed to Member Nations on 1 January 1987. The withholding of the distribution of this cash surplus, which would indeed require a special session of Conference to be convened at thirty days notice before 31 December 1986, would not resolve the problem. The Council will realise that the share of each Member Nation in this cash surplus is automatically applied to the arrears outstanding and the contributions due in 1987. As regarding countries with arrears of contributions there would thus be no net cash flow benefit. There would only be a benefit if those Member Nations who are not in arrears and pay their 1987 contributions in full are prepared to relinquish their share of the cash surplus. This can be done voluntarily. There would be no need for a special session of the Conference to be convened to deal with this matter.

The Council is invited to consider and note the serious situation regarding the liquidity and urge Member Nations to pay their contributions due in full and on time. In the circumstances, the Director-General has no alternative to the programme adjustments on the lines and on the scale proposed, as well as the other measures he has indicated. The situation will remain fluid. We cannot be held to the estimates given today. The prospects will change according to the contributions actually received. It is precisely for this reason that the Director-General has convened, as you have just heard, a special session of the Finance Committee to meet on 15 and 16 December of this.

year. The Programme and Finance Committees will have their usual two sessions in 1987 and the Council itself will have the opportunity of reviewing the situation and requirements in June and November of next year.

LE PRESIDENT: Je voudrais passer la parole au délégué du Brésil qui se proposait de parler du document CL 90/23.

Octavio Rainho da SILVA NEVES (Brazil): I would just like to recall briefly the main points, perhaps if you would allow me, of my previous intervention that are now somewhere lost in this difficult discussion. I would like as well to thank both the Chairman of the Finance Committee and Mr Shah for the very helpful explanations and contributions. One of the points that we tried to develop in our previous intervention concerned this overall question of this liquidity crisis facing the organization is that the Worst features of the present situation are the certainty that the largest contributor is not going to pay its full contribution due to FAO and the uncertainty regarding the time and announcement of present and future payments by that member.

Another point, and I will be quite brief, that we tried to stress is that shortfall in payments of contributions have occurred previously but, whereas the whole conformed to the rules of the international organizations and were justified by the commodity of goods and by the currency scarcity in developing countries, they have never, never, however, constituted a major problem to FAO's activities as they represent only around 5 percent of each annual budget. For 1986/87, delayed contributions from members other than the largest, making up to the past in any single way to the contribution of recent years of around 20 million dollars, and I would suggest once more that we consider this in itself an extraordinary performance given the financial uncertainty faced by the majority of the developing members of this organization.

The point is that if the contribution by the main contributor to the organization is paid the financial situation of the organization will improve in relation to that of the five preceding years. The liquidity crisis is not of itself in our view attributable to the arrears or the delayed payment by developing countries. That is why we take some exception with the suggestions in the report of the Finance Committee in document CL 90/17 paragraph 31 when they suggest some three specific measures to take and they would examine those measures at a subsequent session to take care of the matter in connection with prompt payment of contributions. I do not see how any of those suggestions, any of these ideas by the Finance Committee is going to solve the main point, our main problem and the problem that we are concerned with, the probable non-payment of the future contribution, or a large part of the future contributions by the main contributor. All the measures envisaged here by the Finance Committee, let us say they have an historical connotation but they do not adjust themselves to this new situation. So from this point of view, with all due respect to the Finance Committee I take exception to those measures.

Taking into account the seriousness of the situation we appreciate the prompt proposals presented by the Director-General in order to curb the most immediate difficulties faced by the organization. At this point we wish to present our support for the programme adjustments proposed of the order of 16.4 million dollars, or 3.7 percent of the budget for 1986/87. As the Director-General pointed out with document CL 90/23 we would prefer as well to have no adjustments at all but as they are necessary we prefer that they address themselves to delays in filling posts, to reductions of meetings, publications, consultancies, contractual services and travel where they would do the least damage to the approved Programme of Work.

We deeply appreciate that the technical and economic programmes have not been touched. Brazil, as well as all the other developing member countries of this organization, has been a strong supporter of the Technical Cooperation Programme: a very flexible and universal programme that enables FAO to intervene rapidly and give the necessary relief in the case of emergency and support to development-oriented projects.

Once more I think the intervention made by Mr Shah in connection with TCP was once more quite helpful. In order to facilitate the needed consensus and to help the Director-General to overcome the present difficulties, my delegation would make no additional comments on the total savings proposed or on the specific programmes affected by the adjustments. We prefer to offer our unconditional support to the proposal, considered that the Director-General is sufficiently aware of FAO's needs at present and the person best suited to monitor programme adjustments.

We support also the proposal for drawing on the working capital fund for an estimated 9 million dollars.

Finally my delegation wishes to reiterate Brazil's commitment to multilateralism, to a strong United Nations system and to FAO. We do believe that all member countries should participate in equal terms in the work of United Nations international agencies and no country or group of countries should be allowed to have an undue influence on their decision-making mechanisms. We must preserve the integrity of rules and principles we have constructed during the course of more than 40 years.

In accordance with your ruling, Mr Chairman, we will come later on to the next point of the agenda concerning this financial situation.

Eiichi KAWAHARA (Japan): I should here like to make a very few brief remarks on the subject of the utmost importance which has exercised the minds of many of us in recent months. I wish to give my government's view on how we might deal with the substantial shortfall that is foreseen in contributions and the assessment for 1986 and 1987. I should like to refer to the matter of contributions first.

According to the report of the 58th Session of the Financial Committee the position at the end of September 1986 regarding 1986 assessments of Member Nations indicated the best performance for the last five years. This is no mean achievement given the fiscal difficulties facing all countries. However, seventy, or now 64 members, according to the recent information that is available, these Member Nations, including the largest contributor, had still not made contributions under their 1986 assessment. I fully support the Finance Committee's earnest appeal to all Member Nations with contributions in arrears to honour their obligations to the FAO and to take urgent action now to give the amount due so as to ensure effective implementation of FAO activities in the financial period 1986/87.

Japan is unable to support any proposals for adjustments which would entail additional contributions by member countries which, notwithstanding the severe budgetary constraints confronting all the governments, have already fulfilled their obligations. We should vigorously pursue further economic measures, including not only programme savings measures, as proposed by the Director-General, which amount to \$16 million, but also additional expenditure reduction efforts relating to the total current budget. In this connection I wish to refer to the relationship of the TCP appropriations to the FAO budget as a whole. We recognize that the Technical Cooperation Programme can play valuable roles as a rapid action measure to meet unforeseen needs in the developing countries. Nevertheless, reservations and the hopes that there will be a review of the rapid growth of the TCP budget item have been expressed. I wish to draw the attention of the members of the Council to page 23 of the 1984/85 financial report and statement of the FAO Regular Programme document C 87/5. Statement one gives the budget appropriations for TCP during the year as around \$72 million, but actual disbursements amounting to no more than an approximate amount of \$26 million. An unutilized balance of 45.6 million dollars has consequently been carried forward for use in the current financial period. If one adds these transferred financial resources to the TCP budgetary appropriations already approved for the current period, which is 61.42 million US dollars, the total TCP appropriation thus available for the current financial year exceeds 100 million US dollars.

We congratulate the Secretariat on the efforts made for TCP programme savings of around 45 million dollars in the preceding financial period, savings which are greatly to be welcomed. I believe, however, that given the unprecedented shortfall envisaged for contributions to FAO for the fiscal year 1986/87, we should consider the advantages of using those savings to ensure that FAO may continue to maintain a sound and solid financial foundation across the board.

I should also like to mention the need in this connection for the evaluation of TCP programmes already implemented in order that TCP may achieve its objectives as effectively as possible. We would greatly appreciate it if the Secretariat would give us at a later stage its views on concrete proposals for such evaluation now being studied.

Regarding alternative approaches in the medium and long term, we would at a later stage like to express our views.

Mohammed ABDELHADI (Tunisie): Avec votre autorisation, Monsieur le Président, je me propose de scinder mon intervention en deux parties: une première partie où je ferai quelques commentaires sur les rapports du Comité financier et une deuxième partie consacrée au document CL 90/23 et à ses suppléments. Comme on le sait, ces documents sont consacrés aux perspectives budgétaires et à la situation financière de l'Organisation.

Mais auparavant, je voudrais saisir cette occasion pour exprimer, au nom de la délégation tunisienne, mes vifs remerciements à M. Bukhari, Président du Comité financier, pour les éclaircissements fort utiles qu'il nous a donnés sur la situation financière et budgétaire de l'Organisation et sur les travaux du Comité financier dont nous voudrions louer ici l'ardeur et la clairvoyance.

Mes remerciements vont également à M. Crowther pour les éclaircissements qu'il nous a donnés tout à l'heure sur des questions financières.

Ma délégation a pris note de tous les éléments des rapports du Comité financier. Nous avons constaté avec une certaine inquiétude, au paragraphe 19 du document CL 90/4, que 105 Etats Membres n'ont fait aucun versement sur leur contribution de 1986 malgré les dispositions claires en la matière du Règlement financier. Toutefois, nous avons noté une certaine amélioration dans le règlement des arriérés des contributions, fait mentionné dans le paragraphe 18 du document CL 90/17.

Dans le passé, nous avons eu l'habitude d'affronter une telle situation mais, cette fois-ci, la situation s'est aggravée en raison de la décision du principal contribuant de limiter le montant de sa contribution et d'en différer le paiement à une date ultérieure non précisée. Nous regrettons sincèrement cette situation. Le paragraphe 25 du document CL 90/17 est d'ailleurs édifiant à cet égard. C'est pourquoi ma délégation souscrit sans réserve à l'appel lancé par le Comité financier, au paragraphe 26 du document qui fait l'objet de notre examen. Il est donc à espérer que les pays membres entendent cet appel du Comité financier et règlent le plus rapidement possible leur participation en honorant leurs obligations.

En ce qui concerne les observations faites par le délégué du Royaume-Uni sur les coûts d'exécution des programmes de la FAO, qu'il a estimés élevés, les éclaircissements fournis par le Directeur général adjoint de l'Organisation et les explications de M. Shah, notamment, nous paraissent convaincants. Je ne voudrais donc pas entrer dans le détail; d'autant plus que les efforts considérables déployés par la FAO depuis plusieurs années pour compresser les frais de gestion en général et les dépenses en personnel en particulier sont connus de nous tous. D'ailleurs, le Directeur général l'a très clairement mentionné avant-hier dans sa déclaration liminaire.

En ce qui concerne le Programme de coopération technique, les explications de M. Shah sont claires, nettes et exhaustives.

Le problème des crédits inutilisés à la fin de l'exercice précédent et reportés à l'exercice en cours a été effectivement examiné par le Comité financier, par le Conseil et par la Conférence, à sa dernière session. Il n'est donc pas question pour nous de revenir sur cette question et les explications de M. Shah, chiffres à l'appui, nous satisfont.

Enfin, pour revenir aux rapports du Comité financier, ma délégation souscrit à toutes les propositions formulées et félicite le Comité financier et son Président pour l'excellent travail accompli. Voilà pour la première partie.

En abordant la deuxième partie, je voudrais tout d'abord saisir cette occasion pour remercier M. Shah, au nom de la délégation tunisienne, de l'exposé clair et précis qu'il nous a fait et de son introduction aux excellents documents soumis à l'examen du Conseil.

Les problèmes que nous examinons sont très importants dans la mesure où le fonctionnement et l'efficacité de l'Organisation se ressentiraient des solutions retenues par le Conseil.

La situation financière consécutive à une conjoncture imposée à l'Organisation nous paraît effectivement préoccupante, dans son ensemble, pour des raisons largement analysées dans les documents soumis à l'examen du Conseil. J'en retiens toutefois une qui me paraît prépondérante en ce sens qu'elle est à l'origine du problème, à savoir que les perspectives budgétaires et financières de l'Organisation pendant l'exercice dépendent fondamentalement du montant et de la date des versements effectués par les Etats Membres pour le Programme de travail et budget approuvé par la dernière Conférence générale de la FAO.

Autrement dit, la situation et les perspectives budgétaires et de trésorerie sont provoquées notamment par la décision unilatérale du principal contribuant au budget de l'Organisation de limiter et retarder le versement de ses contributions qui ont fait l'objet, comme on le sait, d'engagements conventionnels antérieurs. Pour faire face à cette situation qui risquerait de s'aggraver davantage à l'avenir, le Directeur général nous a présenté des propositions de mesures de nature à limiter les effets néfastes de cette situation. De prime abord, nous voudrions dire que ces propositions de mesures nous ont paru cohérentes et de moindre mal en ce sens qu'elles pourraient permettre à l'Organisation de fonctionner quasi normalement moyennant quelques ajustements dans ses programmes de travail jusqu'à la fin du biennium actuel. A cet égard, nous sommes heureux d'apprendre que la situation de trésorerie de la FAO ne rendra pas nécessaire pour le moment du moins, et durant le biennium actuel, le recours à un emprunt. Nous savons que cela a été rendu

possible grâce à une gestion saine de l'Organisation due aux efforts considérables du Directeur general. Toutefois, le problème se poserait avec acuité en 1988 si la situation persistait et si les retards et la limitation des contributions de certains membres étaient maintenus. En tout état de cause, je pense qu'il serait impératif, au moins pour l'actuel programme de travail, qu'il n'y ait pas de coupe ou de diminution importante qui le dénaturerait. En tout cas, nous sommes soucieux au plus haut point du maintien, tel qu'approuvé par la Conférence générale, du Programme de coopération technique (PCT), auquel les pays en voie de développement attribuent la plus grande importance. Par ailleurs, et outre les propositions de mesures formulées par le Directeur général, ma délégation pense que le Conseil devrait lancer un appel à tous les pays, et notamment au principal bailleur de fonds, à faire preuve de compréhension afin de faire en sorte que les engagements conventionnels en matière de contributions au budget de l'Organisation soient scrupuleusement respectés et éviter ainsi à la FAO, dont l'efficacité n'est plus à démontrer, des problèmes inextricables qui pourraient limiter dangereusement les activités, surtout au moment où une organisation comme la FAO est appelée par la communauté internationale à continuer à jouer un rôle primordial dans la lutte contre la faim et la malnutrition partout où cela est nécessaire dans le monde.

Leopoldo ARIZA HIDALGO (Cuba): Nosotros tenemos un problema para el enfoque de la discusión. Después de la presentación del informe del 57 y 58 periodo de sesiones del Comité de Finanzas, creo que lo que nos corresponde es aprobar o rechazar lo que nuestros representantes en ese Comité han aprobado ya previamente y no entrar en un análisis de auditoría, que no se puede llamar externa, sino auditoría de Consejo.

Creemos que la presentación por parte del Embajador Bukhari constituyó un análisis muy sencillo y muy claro de la real problemática que presenta la Organización con respecto a la situación financiera. De aquí se sacan las conclusiones, de aquí se sacan problemas fundamentales que nos ha presentado con brillantez y objetividad el señor Crowther y el señor Shah. Con estas tres presentaciones nosotros quisieramos hacer solamente un compendio con enfoques objetivos; a que se ha compendiado la situación de crisis financieras provocadas, podemos aclarar que no hay una crisis financiera de la Organización, que es una crisis provocada.

Nosotros queremos insistir, apoyando totalmente lo expresado por el Embajador del Brasil, en el sentido de que es necesario ver diferencias, y que esta crisis que se atraviesa la provoca uno sólo de los contribuyentes, precisamene el más importante, esto es una pequeña casualidad, por lo que creemos que debemos hacer diferencias a la hora de enfocar los problemas.

Hay precedentes de cómo se vienen retrasando o difiriendo los pagos y cómo se van también llegando a pagar; pero en el caso que se nos presenta de unilateralidad de uno de los grandes contribuyentes, del principal contribuyente, que inclusive presenta como condición de su no pago la legislación de su país, legislación que está en función de problemas internos de su país, nos hace pensar dos veces la situación que tenemos enfrente. Creo que esto es lo principal, analizar. O sea, que estamos en la obligación de reprobar la actitud unilateral del principal contribuyente.

Queremos aclarar, sin embargo, que para nosotros sin un análisis, diríamos directo de esta situación, no podemos analizar la problemática del no pago de ese contribuyente. Se nos hace muy difícil juzgarlo sin oírlo. Por lo tanto quisieramos que nos hablara específicamene sobre el problema del no pago de un contribuyente. Nos reservamos el derecho de volver a intervenir cuando ese contribuyente hable porque es difícil juzgarlo si no oímos las razones que debe tener.

Independientemente de esta situación, ya esta mañana se han expresado opiniones sobre los otros temas. Queremos decir que nuestra delegación apoya en todas sus partes, después de analizados, los documentos que nos ha presentado la FAO y después de múltiples discusiones, que hemos hecho inclusive en el seno de nuestro Grupo Latinoamericano y del Caribe, apoyamos en todas sus partes las medidas propuestas por el Director General para evitar la crisis de liquidez de inmediato, sin afectar a las bases fundamentales del Programa que es el objetivo.

Apoyamos, además, esas alternativas que el Director General nos propone y que se analizaron brillantemente por el señor Shah, donde se expresa claramente que no se va a tocar el Programa de cooperación técnica. Esto no es un capricho del Director General. El Director General es persona dinámica, valiente, audaz, pero nunca lo he visto en el plano caprichoso, siempre ha sido realista y el realismo está en función del PCT, es una realidad de la transferencia tecnológica directa, fácil y oportuna que piden los gobiernos, que no nos impone nadie. Nosotros hemos oído algunos criterios contrarios a los Programas de Cooperación Técnica, lo venimos oyendo desde hace algunos años. No creo que la coyuntura de esta crisis ha alentado a querer enfrentar el Programa de Cooperación Técnica. Tenemos experiencia de otras sesiones del Consejo y Conferencias en que hemos tenido que defender los Programas y no había crisis de liquidez en aquellos momentos. Por lo tanto no creo que debemos unir esto con la crisis.

Queremos decir, que creemos que hay una pequeña diferencia entre los que consideramos que los proyectos de cooperación técnica son útiles, que deben seguir incrementándose y los que niegan su existencia y su mecanismo. Esta pequeña diferencia es la de los que la necesitamos y la de los que no la necesitan. Los que los necesitamos, y utilizamos, y pedimos a FAO que los aumente y que no se toquen, son los países del Tercer Mundo. Los que niegan su utilidad, todavía no me han convencido con razones, porque no saben explicar las razones, porque expresan criterios eminentemente teóricos, fuera del programa, porque ellos ni han implementado ni han sido sujetos de proyectos de cooperación técnica.

Si la situación crítica mundial llegara a tal punto de que fueran sujetos, nosotros estaríamos de acuerdo en que la FAO les diera proyectos de cooperación técnica para que salieran de su crisis económica. Queremos decir que a veces el alto coeficiente de inteligencia nubla los sentidos y hay que ser más objetivos. No podemos ligar cuestiones que no están en estos momentos en discusión.

Posteriormente, después de que hable la distinguida representante de Estados Unidos, daré mi criterio para poder calificarle de unilateral, aunque ya hay un principio que puedo adelantar, porque hay una cifra que aprobó el Comité de Finanzas y esa cifra nos dice que hay unos 83 millones pendientes de cuentas corrientes y de esos 83 millones, de acuerdo con la cuota que le corresponde a ese gran país que es de 51,5, se mantiene la proposición que planteaba nuestro querido Embajador de Brasil de que solamente el 20 por ciento corresponde al resto de los países.

Esta es una cifra que yo quisiera que se me aclarara si no es real como está en los documentos.

Esto es todo por ahora.

Mrs Millicent M. FENWICK (United States of America): I cannot resist saying a few words now but I hope that we can reserve for later a more technical response to some of the most important and interesting interventions that we have been listening to. Concerning this particular intervention, I must say in good friendship and good humour that it is pretty hard to be scolded because you have been giving too much money over all these years. I mean, that is the trouble. In times of difficulty we do not expect to find strong things said against those who do not give anything or those who want to be Members and still never make up their arrears. To me that would be something very understandable. Of course, I am joking now because I understand how people feel. It is hard. It is also hard for some countries where one person can say "give, I sign", to understand how difficult it is in another country where 435 people are in charge of the money, 435 people who have to get elected every two years, and this is a problem also. We have to have understanding-one of the other. I understand that there is a certain amount of resentment obviously that we who have been, we may say, the major support in all this, have found this I hope, temporary, difficulty-although we do not know what Congress will say. I hope that they too will understand that we sit in a different seat and we have different powers and different abilities to respond. So, you scold people, dear friends, who do not give. Stop scolding us.

LE PRESIDENT: Je remercie Mme la déléguée des Etats-Unis pour avoir respecté son droit de réponse. Nous tâcherons de garder au niveau de ce Conseil la sérénité à laquelle j'avais fait appel hier et nous tâcherons d'éviter les interventions trop personnalisées.

Benjamin KOUESSEU (Cameroun): Permettez-moi d'abord de vous féliciter pour le tact et le calme avec lesquels vous dirigez nos travaux. Je voudrais, sur ce point concernant la situation financière de notre Organisation pour l'année 1986-87, après le brillant exposé qui nous a été fait par le Président du Comité financier ainsi que les explications complémentaires données par M. Shah, dire que nous apprécions à sa juste valeur la situation de la crise dans laquelle notre organisation risque d'être plongée.

Ma délégation exprime ici sa satisfaction au Directeur général pour avoir bien voulu prendre l'initiative courageuse et hardie de saisir notre conseil pour lui demander son avis sur la situation et les perspectives des finances de la FAO. La situation actuelle nous montre que sur un budget de 437 millions de dollars, les contributions attendues des Etats Membres s'élèvent à 394 millions de dollars, soit plus de 90 pour cent de ce budget. Or, il apparaît que le déficit total des contributions pour 1986 et 1987 est estimé à 60 millions de dollars, déficit qui sera aggravé par un manque à gagner de près de 19 millions de dollars sur les recettes accessoires prévues. Ces quelques chiffres soulignent à l'évidence la situation préoccupante et inquiétante dans laquelle se trouve la FAO à la fin du biennium en cours. Cette situation préoccupe d'autant plus notre délégation qu'elle intervient à un moment où la situation agricole et alimentaire de nombreux pays en voie de développement, et en particulier ceux d'Afrique, est des plus critiques et

appelle plutôt une action coordonnée et vigoureuse de l'ensemble de la communauté internationale au sein de laquelle la FAO tient une place irremplaçable. Devant cette situation que nous ne pouvons que déplorer vivement, nous tenons à marquer notre plein appui à l'opinion émise par le Comité financier à sa cinquante-septième session en mai dernier, à savoir que les autres Etats Membres ne devraient pas être appelés à compenser un déficit dû à la réduction par certains contributeurs de leur quote-part librement consentie.

Nous souhaitons pouvoir partager par ailleurs l'optimisme du Président du Comité financier ainsi que les assurances données par le Secrétariat concernant les économies possibles dans l'exécution du programme du biennium en cours, tout en sauvegardant la possibilité financière et budgétaire du biennium de l'Organisation. Parmi ces mesures proposées dans ce sens par le Secrétariat, c'est avec regret et une grande amertume que ma délégation a parcouru la liste des publications et des activités destinées à être réduites. Dans certaines de ces publications, certaines de ces activités, paraissent importantes, voire déterminantes pour l'amélioration de la situation agricole et alimentaire des populations des zones rurales de mon pays. Je ne citerai pas toutes les publications et toutes les réunions qui mériteraient d'être maintenues car ce serait reprendre pratiquement toute la liste des propositions, mais, à titre d'exemple, comment expliquer et justifier que dans le domaine de la pêche par exemple, après la célébration, il y a un mois, de la Journée mondiale de l'alimentation consacrée à la pêche et aux petits pêcheurs (célébration qui a été ponctuée dans presque tous les pays du monde par des déclarations solennelles et des engagements en faveur d'une plus grande attention vis-à-vis des problèmes des petits pêcheurs) la réduction des activités relatives à la technologie des pêches, à la planification des pêches. Au total, c'est près de 23 publications concernant la pêche que sont proposées à la suppression.

Notre délégation fait confiance au Directeur général et à ses collaborateurs pour réaliser une évaluation objective de l'impact de ces réductions sur les populations bénéficiaires. Nous recommandons du tact et de la souplesse dans la mise en oeuvre de ces mesures de réduction d'activité, notamment compte tenu de l'environnement physique et économique très instable et très incertain où évoluent les économies fragiles de nos pays. C'est une situation qui peut à tout moment conférer une importance capitale à une activité ou à une réunion désignée comme devant être supprimée.

En ce qui concerne le programme de coopération technique, ma délégation souligne que sa souplesse et son efficacité ont permis tout récemment encore au Cameroun de bénéficier d'une aide rapide pour organiser avec diligence la lutte contre l'invasion soudaine des sauteriaux et des criquets pèlerins dans la partie Nord de mon pays. A ce sujet, nous sommes de l'avis du Directeur général sur le fait que le PCT doit être intégralement maintenu, et garder tout son caractère de souplesse qui a toujours permis à la FAO d'intervenir avec une particulière rapidité chaque fois qu'un Etat bénéficiaire l'a sollicité.

M. Shah a donné tout à l'heure des explications pour confirmer que les reliquats de crédits qui apparaissent au PCT ne sont pas des économies réalisées sur ces programmes; il a indiqué le nombre d'engagements par mois et qui prouvent que les crédits de PCT seraient insuffisants si la FAO pouvait répondre à l'appel de tous nos pays. Il ne faudrait donc pas faire une lecture comptable du Programme et considérer que ces fonds sont gelés et ne sont pas engagés. Nous espérons vivement que les projections financières actuellement pessimistes de la FAO seront très vite démenties grâce à un sursaut d'adhésion des contributeurs actuellement en retard de paiement, grâce également à l'adhésion de ces pays aux idéaux multilatéralistes qui, ne l'oublions pas, constituent la plus grande conquête du vingtième siècle en matière d'organisation de la société internationale.

Le fait accompli devant lequel nous placent certains contributeurs est pour le moins embarrassant pour nous. Tout en respectant la souveraineté de chaque Etat Membre dans la mise en oeuvre de sa législation interne, nous pensons que les engagements internationaux, antérieurement pris, devraient pouvoir être assumés.

En affirmant combien mon gouvernement apprécie le dynamisme que M. Saouma a imprimé aux activités de la FAO, vis-à-vis de l'Afrique en général et du Cameroun en particulier. Nous souhaitons que les pays lui facilitent l'accomplissement de sa tâche en mettant à sa disposition les moyens budgétaires nécessaires et indispensables librement souscrits.

Les explications de M. Shah, en réponse à la note sur les coûts de prestation de la FAO présentée par la délégation du Royaume-Uni, ont donné entière satisfaction à notre délégation. Nous pensons qu'une rencontre entre les experts de la délégation du Royaume-Uni et ceux du Secrétariat général, permettrait d'apprécier les coûts de prestation de la FAO à partir des mêmes paramètres.

En réalité la FAO ne connaît pas de crise de gestion. Tous les pays membres devraient l'aider à accomplir sa mission dans une totale sérénité, à commencer par les plus grands contributeurs, en la mettant à l'abri d'une crise de trésorerie qui pourrait être évitée.

John GLISTRUP (Denmark): On this matter I am speaking on behalf of the Nordic countries, Finland, Norway, Sweden and Denmark.

We have noted the wish of the Secretariat and of you, Mr. Chairman, to divide the debate into two parts. We would have preferred more broadly to comment on both short-term and long-term measures since we believe they are somewhat interrelated and that it may also save some time. However, we shall comply with your ruling.

May I start by thanking the Chairman of the Finance Committee, Mr Crowther and Mr Shah, for their introduction to this important agenda item on which we have received a number of documents, some immediately before this meeting. We accept that the financial situation of FAO is difficult, but at this stage not yet to the extent as described by the Secretariat.-It is, however, an excellent opportunity to have a thorough and comprehensive discussion of the situation in the Council, FAO's governing body, in order to provide guides to the Finance Committee and to the Secretariat on appropriate measures to be taken within the next year as well as in the long term.

Parts of the problem have existed for some time. As stated in the documentation, unpredictability of payments from a number of contributors, including the largest one, is an important factor in influencing the liquidity of FAO and other UN agencies. Fluctuations in exchange rates as well as interest rates also play an important role. However, these are short-term problems. We are living in a world subject to violent and unpredictable changes. Therefore, member states should refrain from adding to these uncertainties and instead support United Nations agencies in their longer-term aim of carrying out their approved programme of work. We cannot accept unilateral decisions not to meet international financial obligations.

Turning now to the short-term measures proposed by the Director-General, I will concentrate on two issues: the programme adjustment in the 1986/87 biennium and the transfer from the Working Capital Fund of \$13 million.

Like other United Nations agencies, FAO is undoubtedly forced to make some programme adjustments. Let me say at once that the Nordic countries are not impressed by the proposals concerning the proposed programme saving of \$16.4 million. It is impossible for us to judge from the documentation whether it is the appropriate level, and I want to stress that it is the responsibility of the Director-General to make the necessary savings proposals. However, the proposals seem to reflect the philosophy of a linear adjustment of the whole programme of work rather than a conscious setting of priorities.

Freezing of posts and weakening of the general technical backstopping and servicing of programmes are measures which have only very limited justification. In the short term FAO may save some money by reducing its servicing activities in relation to the volume of technical assistance. However, what matters is the long-term impact of activities rather than short-term results in terms of transferred resources. What we require is a deliberate and visible choice between programmes. In the future, we must insist on that kind of priority saving. We agree to the proposed transfer of \$13 million from the Working Capital Fund. It goes without saying that we cannot accept TCP as a high priority goal in itself. It should rather be an ad hoc support for achievement of the more long-term goals of the Organization's programme of work. Therefore, non-obligated funds for TCP should not be considered sacrosanct in the process of making economies.

In connection with the cash situation of FAO, we have some difficulties in fully understanding the stated gravity of the problem. This might be due to lack of information. From the financial statement, document C 87/5 Vol. 1, we note that the total cash of FAO at the end of the biennium 1984/85 amounted to some \$300 million. Taking into consideration the level of miscellaneous income and making some backward calculations, we would assume that FAO's cash disposal is in the range of \$300-400 million, which is a rather large amount, probably too large in normal circumstances. While we acknowledge prudent cash management, we feel there is a need for having a detailed breakdown of the bank deposits in order to know about their composition and degree of liquidity, and before being able to take any position on short-term measures. We would appreciate further clarification on that point.

In closing, let me stress that the matter before us is of direct concern to each and every Member State. It is not an East-West nor a North-South issue; it is a matter of common interest and concern, and the Nordic countries wish to underline that whatever measures of reform one undertakes, the financial liability of our Organization can only be fully restored and secured if all member states pay their assessed contributions in full.

The meeting rose at 12.45 hours

La seance est levée à 12 h 45

Se levanta la sesión a las 12.45 horas

council

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

conseil

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

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ORGANIZACION DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS PARA LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION

CL

CL 90/PV/6

Ninetieth Session

Quatre-vingt-dixième session

90º período de sesiones

SIXTH PLENARY MEETING
SIXIEME SEANCE PLENIERE
SEXTA SESION PLENARIA
(19 November 1986)

The Sixth Plenary Meeting was opened at 14. 45 hours.

Lassaad Ben Osman, Independent Chairman of the Council, presiding

La sixième séance plénière est ouverte à 14 h 45, sous la présidence
de Lassaad Ben Osman, Président indépendant du Conseil

Se abre la sexta sesión plenaria a las 14. 45 horas bajo la
presidencia de Lassaad Ben Osman, Presidente Independiente del Consejo

- IV. PROGRAMME, BUDGETARY, FINANCIAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS
(continued)
- IV. QUESTIONS CONCERNANT LE PROGRAMME, LE BUDGET, LES FINANCES ET L'ADMINISTRATION (suite)
- IV. ASUNTOS DEL PROGRAMA Y ASUNTOS PRESUPUESTARIOS, FINANCIEROS Y ADMINISTRATIVOS (continuación)
 - 12. Financial Matters, including:
 - 12. Questions financières, notamment:
 - 12. Asuntos financieros, en particular:
 - 12. 1 Financial Position of the Organization including Measures to deal with Problems of Delayed Payment of Assessed Contributions (continued)
 - 12. 1 Situation financière de l'Organisation, y compris les mesures visant à régler le problème des retards dans le versement des contributions (suite)
 - 12. 1 Situación financiera de la Organización, especialmente medidas para afrontar los problemas del retraso en el pago de las cuotas (continuación)
 - a) Budgetary and Cash Flow Forecast relating to the Programme of Work and Budget for 1986-87
 - a) Perspectives budgétaires et situation de trésorerie: incidences possibles sur le Programme de travail et budget 1986-87
 - a) Pronóstico presupuestario y de flujo de fondos en relación con el Programa de Labores y Presupuesto para 1986-87 (continuación)

Le PRESIDENT: Nous reprenons le débat. Il y a déjà douze orateurs inscrits plus deux observateurs, donc quatorze au total.

Avant de donner la parole au premier orateur inscrit, l' Italie, je rappelle que la discussion doit porter sur le point 12. 1 a) et qu'il serait bon que nous connaissions l'opinion des délégués sur le rapport du Comité financier présenté par M. Bukhari afin de permettre au Comité de rédaction de refléter l'opinion du Conseil sur ce rapport. Je suggère donc aux orateurs de faire porter leurs interventions sur les perspectives de financement de l'Organisation à court et à moyen terme.

Elio PASCARELLI (ITALY): Let me briefly thank the Chairman of my committee, Mr Bukhari, for his introduction to the subject, as well as Mr Shah for his clarifications. I hope that all the members of this Council now know as much as we know, as members of the Finance Committee, about the situation. Usually in Italy, as in many other countries, we say that the host should take care of the guest's health, so that if the guest has a headache or something the host should call the doctor. As Mrs Fenwick was speaking a few hours ago I was just thinking of what would happen if the host country were still the same as it was at the beginning of the life of this Organization and I would like, as many of us, to recall how important and how determining the aid of that LC has been, the largest contributor, for the life and activities of this organization; so as she did, I would also remind the Council that many countries have their own parliament and sometimes the executive cannot change what parliaments will decide: the legislative power is the real power to determine what has to be done.

Now it is not our task to decide what has caused what; but we have to face the reality that has been given in very crude terms to us as members of the Council, and before that to the few who have the privilege to serve in the Finance Committee. As a member of the Finance Committee my delegation has no major comments on the report that our Chairman Bukhari summarized and we have to concentrate

on the shortfall that in September was not as tragic as it appears today. The expected shortfall in September did not imply any cash flow problem at all, so that at that time we just suggested, apart from the appeal we launched to the countries in arrears, that the Director-General by managerial means present to us some proposals of savings in order to face any turn of events. I will repeat that at that time there was no cash flow problem which arose when the Director-General told us about the career shortfall expected from the largest contributor. Now the uncertainty at the present stage is still there. We do not know exactly, as the ambassador of the largest contributor told us, we do not know yet what will be the real contribution; but let us face reality and the reality shows that, according to the figures that were projected for us in that spirit of transparency that the Secretariat has always shown, we immediately got the projection until the end of 1987 of what would be the situation in the various branches and funds of the Organization.

At that time the projection was for a cash balance general fund active of 9.3 million dollars. And by that time the special reserve account, on account of the dollar lira fluctuating rate, was minus 0.9. I have never seen a special reserve fund in the minus in my life, in the red, but it happens here. The situation changed when the Director-General told us that he had to find a way to offset the expected problem of cash flow of over \$25 million. He has proposed savings of 16.4 dollars and a shift from the working capital fund of 9 million dollars to the cash balance general fund and, according to my calculations, (I do not know whether Mr Shah finds them correct or not). I see it as 9.3 plus, offset by 34.7 minus, which would bring about 25.4 millions. So to offset this figure the Director-General is proposing these savings and a shift from the working capital fund. I think if these figures are correct, it is not a minor problem, and, as a conscientious member of this Organization, may I say for the delegation of my country, as host country for the Organization, that we must take these needs into consideration. It happened to FAO in 1983, to ILO in 1986. In both cases the deciding body, the sovereign body had to decide. Unfortunately the Council does not have the power to change the budget or change the regulations of any time. We can give very competent advice, but that is all, we can recommend, but nothing else. So we have to give the advice that the Director-General is asking of us and we cannot follow the example of 1983. Let me just mention the case: in 1983 there was a resolution which has been mentioned in our documents, Resolution 14/83 which took as its first consideration the arrears of a certain number of countries. By and large we are in the same situation with one change, one difference, that the situation now is affected by the arrears plus the miscellaneous income fall because of the diminishing rate of interests and partly by the emptying of the special reserve account because of the fluctuation of the dollar. So the reasons why that resolution adopted for a biennium and giving the Council the power to suspend certain regulations in 1963 is practically the same, however the problem was minor vis-à-vis our difficulties of today.

Only three or four months ago, ILO had to face another situation which was due to another reason, the tremendous depreciation of the US dollar in terms of Swiss francs and the ILO Council, they call it governing body, made a recommendation to the Assembly which met a month later and the Assembly took a decision to use the whole cash surplus to offset the tremendous loss of power of the dollar vis-à-vis the Swiss franc.

Now none of these occasions is at hand for us because our Conference is one year away. My delegation had thought that it would be the case to call for an extraordinary Conference; but no consensus was reached, so I do not dare to re-propose it here. We promoted the idea because the Conference could have taken the necessary measures. So we are facing this situation of a cash flow problem and the Director-General has made some proposals and expressed his approach, which we support.

Our first worry is to limit the extent, the possible extent of damage to any of the expectations by the developing countries that are counting on programmes to be regularly developed, or on the implementation of technical cooperation projects. It is a very difficult exercise for the Secretariat to find a way not to touch them, but I see these are also the intentions of the Director-General not to impair or compromise any of these programmes. And coming to what the Director-General suggests, I must say very frankly as I am used to doing in this body, that we, like the Nordic countries, are not very much impressed by the amount of these savings, 16.4 million dollars, of which 6.5 for not filling vacant posts, etc.

If I recall rightly, in the last meeting of the Finance Committee, we had asked the Director-General to present us a programme of savings by managerial means without the need to cut anything

in the programme substantially, and that was before the bad news of further shortfalls had reached us. I mean the bad news of a cash flow problem which was not yet envisaged at that time. So I would first of all, in the name of my delegation, encourage the Secretariat and personnel assisting the Director-General to find all possible managerial means to present other savings, possibly before the Finance Committee meets again, and again I am also very glad to find in this list of savings a little contribution by my country. Now and here immediately I can say that we have the approval of the Italian Government for the utilization of part of the balance of the Italian special contributions. As you know, we are not obliged to spend any money for the additional premises that the Organization needs. This applies to all international organizations, such as the United Nations, UNICEF, etc. when they want more space, they pay for it, and not the least is the host country obliged to pay for it. Nonetheless we have been giving for 15 years special contributions and in document CL 90/23 you have the figure, "Chapter 6", "Common Services", "Charges to be made of extrabudgetary resources", "Italian contribution, 2 million 163 thousand dollars", so as of now, I say if Italy will agree to this by an exchange of letters.

In addition, the Italian special contribution that is mentioned page 10, document CL 90/17, paragraph 57 of the Report of the Finance Committee for the month of September, and I quote, "The Committees expressed its satisfaction that the Italian Government had remitted a supplementary one-time allocation for 1986 of Lire 1 billion", which is approximately 700 thousand dollars. We also agree that this amount be treated as part of the budget; part of the miscellaneous income, whatever is the financial means to use it in the budget for relief.

So it is another way to relieve. But we will not stop at that. I think that as responsible donor countries in this body, we should go beyond that. So I would refer to a paragraph of the same report of our beloved Finance Committee, page 6, paragraph 24. The last sentence of this paragraph reads:

"The Committee noted that Member Nations individually had the prerogative of renouncing or delaying the receipt of their share of the cash surplus in order to permit its use by the Organization".

I think that in addition to the almost 3 million dollars that I just mentioned, we could inform the Council, as a contribution of ideas, that the Italian delegation is strongly considering that possibility. We just need the green light. The Director-General thought that it would be better to have this discussion in two phases this week-telex to the Government, answer by the Government, and answer to the Council-and next week we will be in a position *to* tell you whether this consideration will be approved by the Ministries concerned. As Mrs Fenwick was remarking for her country, we are also not a country in which one man decides. We have a parliament and we have many persons who decide on measures of this kind. So the measure of coming in aid of the situation of the cash flow of the Organization, so that the Organization may be relieved somewhat, is to say that we do not pretend that the 1987 assessed contribution of Italy would be diminished by the amount that is owed to us by the Organization on account of the cash surplus of 1984/85. This is what we are expecting to be allowed to tell the Organization. It is not a multilateral affair, because we are not asking Council backing, or permission, or prohibition: we are just announcing it as a contribution to the ideas that we are trying to shape up here. It will be a bilateral affair, Italy/FAO.

Finally, we are also going to accelerate the full payment of our 1987 contribution. Usually it is paid in April, but we would like to do our very best so that the necessary procedures be completed before in order for the Organization to have this cash in 1987 earlier than in previous years.

I hardly need to say that we have no arrears, we are in the lucky position of having no arrears, so Mr Shah will be glad to notice that our offer is not just 'blah-blah-blah': it is a real offer, because this cash contribution will be handed over to the Organization with no cuts if our proposal is approved by the beginning of next week in this way.

But, until then, Mr Chairman, will our cash surplus share be left with FAO?

Our sovereign body is called the Conference of FAO, and the Conference is meeting in November of next year. One way or another we must find a way to restore the 100 percent contributions. Now if you add the percentage of the quotas, you do not reach 100. When I hear Mr Shah saying that this is a real cut, this is what we mean: it is a real cut and we think it is wrong to carry out this shortfall in contributions by whatever country as arrears. In a case where a legislative

body by enacted law has decided to cut, no human being can redress the situation: that will be a cut-period. So the 100 percent budget for 1986/87 is cut-I do not know, to 83 or 84 percent. We shall have, one way or another, to revise the quotas to reach 100 if we want to maintain the healthy operation of this indispensable Organization for the benefit of the agricultural and food situation in the world.

Le PRESIDENT: Je remercie l'honorable délégué de l'Italie. Le Directeur général désire prendre la parole.

Le DIRECTEUR GENERAL: Excusez-moi, ce n'est pas classique de répondre immédiatement, mais le sujet est tellement important, tellement complexe... Comme nous l'avons dit, nous allons passer peut-être une journée et demie à discuter de cette question. Je crois donc qu'il est utile de vous donner des éclaircissements à ce stade. Je ne réponds pas au représentant de l'Italie mais je le remercie de son intervention car j'y vois l'intervention d'un pays qui attache une grande importance à la FAO et qui est conscient de ses responsabilités comme pays hôte, et qui d'ailleurs fait tout pour lui permettre de fonctionner dans les meilleures conditions. Je veux dire merci pour tout ce que le délégué de l'Italie a proposé aujourd'hui. Tout est positif et je le remercie aussi pour sa promesse de payer la contribution italienne aussitôt que possible. Je dois souligner aussi que c'est certainement le plus grand contribuant de la FAO. Je voudrais, à ce stade, avec vous et le plus simplement du monde, décrire la situation dans laquelle nous nous trouvons. De quoi est fait le budget de la FAO?

Il est fait du salaire des fonctionnaires. Il est fait du Programme de Coopération technique, il est fait aussi des publications et des réunions, des frais de voyages et des honoraires des consultants. Des sommes couvrent aussi les frais nécessaires pour les bâtiments que le Gouvernement italien a mis à notre disposition: l'électricité, le téléphone, les ascenseurs, le chauffage, etc. Il s'agissait donc pour moi et pour mes collègues de choisir parmi ces différents chapitres. Où trouver l'argent et comment faire des économies? Je crois que l'Ambassadeur de l'Italie a bien expliqué pourquoi nous avons pris le chiffre de 29 millions: 13 millions à retirer du Fonds de roulement et 16 millions de dollars qui ne sont pas des économies, mais des ajustements imposés par ce cas de force majeure. Si j'avais tout l'argent nécessaire, j'exécuterais tout le programme, ... et si malgré cela je proposais de couper une partie de ce programme c'est la Conférence qui devrait alors décider. Mais je n'ai pas tout l'argent nécessaire; il me manque 16 millions. Je ne peux pas réaliser tout le programme c'est donc dû à un cas de force majeure. Il n'y a pas de miracles. Le coût de ce programme, approuvé par vous-mêmes, (et vous êtes d'accord avec ses différentes composantes), est de 437 millions. Nous n'avons pas tout l'argent nécessaire. Nous n'avons pas les 437 millions. Il faut sacrifier comme on dit, ce n'est pas par choix, j'y suis obligé. "Per forza..." Nous n'avons pas le choix. Ce serait illégal si nous avions d'autres solutions à notre disposition. Il y a le PCT; 30 millions de dollars qui restent, pour l'année 1987. J'ai l'impression, avec le nombre de demandes que nous avons de nombreux pays membres, la majorité, que c'est un article qu'on demande beaucoup. Supposez que la FAO soit un supermarché... C'est un article très demandé.

Si le Conseil décide qu'il faut couper dans le PCT, je suis prêt à le faire. Je suis là pour exécuter les décisions du Conseil. Seulement j'ai vu que, au BIT par exemple, ils ont un programme d'assistance technique que l'Assemblée générale vient de refuser de couper. ... Le Directeur Général, M. Blanchard, avait proposé de couper 2 millions de dollars dans le PCT, précisément pour faire face aux difficultés: nous avons les comptes rendus: la majorité écrasante a dit non. Au BIT, on n'a pas voulu couper dans le PCT. Finalement ils ont accepté de couper 500 000 dollars. Ici, le Conseil décidera. Il est souverain. En tant que Directeur général, je vous donne le choix de faire des propositions. Il y a des postes vacants; environ 5 à 7 pour cent des postes vacants, soit que les gens aillent à la retraite, soit que les gens démissionnent... Et c'est vraiment là qu'il y a une possibilité de trouver de l'argent, car, comme vous le savez, un poste coûte cher. Il y a parfois un poste de secrétaire attaché au poste principal; il y a les voyages. En coupant les postes, nous coupons dans les voyages. C'est automatique. Il y a les publications et les réunions. Nous pouvons aussi couper dans les postes de consultants. Il en faut parfois pour réaliser les réunions et préparer certaines publications. Je n'ai pas pu trouver plus d'une trentaine de réunions et de publications qui sont d'importance mineure. Pour répondre au représentant du Cameroun et au représentant du Danemark, cela fait 8 à 10 pour cent de l'ensemble. Nous n'avons pas fait ça à la manière d'une loterie, nous avons choisi les priorités, nous avons suivi des critères: c'est le rapport. Nous avons consulté toutes les divisions pour voir dans tel domaine les réunions importantes et qui en sont les demandeurs.

Je n'ai pas du tout proposé de supprimer des réunions des comités statutaires tels que le Comité du Programme ou le Comité de l'agriculture; j'ai simplement dit ce qui, à nos yeux, et sur la base de ce qui avait été dit par vous-mêmes à la Commission II, à la Conférence, en 1985 était le moins important. C'est un jugement; si l'on propose de laisser une réunion, il faut me dire laquelle. Les réunions et les publications représentent à peu près 10 millions de dollars; le reste, les postes, 6 millions et quelques. Dans certains cas il s'agit de geler un poste pour deux ou trois mois... c'est très complexe: il y a 240 postes vacants à peu près: 160 professionnels, 80 services généraux. Hier on m'a parlé d'un poste qui serait gelé jusqu'en avril parce que l'on en a besoin en avril; on va faire toutes les formalités pour que la personne vienne, non pas en janvier mais en avril: nous ferons un jugement cas par cas, avec beaucoup de flexibilité. Il se peut qu'un poste que je propose de geler devienne tout à coup très important: supposons qu'il y ait la peste bovine en Amérique latine par exemple. Il faut que je le remplisse immédiatement même s'il est gelé. C'est pour cela que nous avons besoin de flexibilité.

Je ne vais pas faire d'économies sur l'électricité ou le chauffage, comme on l'a fait, je crois, aux Nations Unies: cela ne donnerait pas grand chose.

Il faut savoir que ces réunions, ces publications, ces postes n'ont pas été choisis sans un examen très minutieux des priorités telles que nous les voyons; j'aurais souhaité avoir une réunion du Comité du programme pour examiner tout cela. Mais je sais qu'au BIT le "Governing Body" a accepté l'ensemble des mesures proposées.

J'ai eu personnellement des réunions avec tous les groupes régionaux et je leur ai dit: un groupe régional, ou trois ou quatre pays viennent me dire "telle réunion est très importante, il faut la conserver bien qu'elle soit sur la liste des suppressions" je serais prêt à voir si grâce à la flexibilité que vous m'accorderiez l'économie pourrait se faire ailleurs. C'est dans ce sens que nous avons travaillé en nous appuyant sur les priorités. Seize millions c'est un chiffre; cela pourrait être 17..., 18..., 19..., je ne sais pas, puisque nous ne connaissons encore ni la décision du plus important contribuant, ni si les 158 pays vont verser leur contribution selon le rythme suivi l'année précédente; c'est une estimation, car il fallait bien se baser sur quelque chose.

La discussion doit continuer mais nous sommes tout à fait prêts à clarifier et à exécuter ce qu'on a décidé; je vous demande de m'accorder la flexibilité.

Il n'y a pas d'autres endroits pour supprimer certaines activités; il me semble que ce chiffre de 16 millions permet de limiter les dégâts causés au programme de travail; si l'on devait supprimer davantage, il y aurait certainement plus de dégâts, mais nous sommes ici pour vous écouter; nous avons mis les choses, devant vous, sur la table; nous sommes prêts à vous répondre et à faire ce que vous aurez décidé. Le Programme de travail intéresse les gouvernements, et nous sommes là pour les servir.

Le PRESIDENT: Je pense que les explications du Directeur général vont nous aider dans notre réflexion et je passe la parole au délégué du Mexique.

José Ramón LOPEZ PORTILLO ROMANO (México): La delegación de México agradece al Presidente del Comité de Finanzas la forma en que nos presentó a los dos informes de dicho Comité. Asimismo felicitamos y agradecemos al señor Crowther y al señor Shah por la presentación de este tema y por las aclaraciones que recibimos en la mañana de hoy.

Es lamentable que hoy, cuando millones de seres humanos se enfrentan con el hambre crónica y que la crisis económica condena a la miseria la mayor parte de la humanidad, este Organismo, el Consejo de la FAO, deba dedicar su actitud prioritaria a resolver problemas de liquidez que se prevén en el futuro. Esos problemas surgen en buena parte y unilateralmente por leyes promulgadas en un país que determinan incumplir con las obligaciones internacionales y que violan así la Constitución de los Organismos de Naciones Unidas.

Esas decisiones llevan consigo la pérdida de credibilidad en la seriedad de ese país que al votar la Constitución de este Organismo admite la superioridad de su ley internacional.

La crisis económica en aquel país, su alto déficit presupuestario, su enorme deuda se extiende y castiga las economías y la efectividad inclusive de los organismos creados por la humanidad para resolver precisamente esos y otros problemas. Pero no hay disculpa cuando sí se pueden aumentar alarmantemente los recursos armamentistas.

Por otro lado, países subdesarrollados, con situación financiera cualitativa y proporcionalmente más grave, están haciendo un gran sacrificio para responder a sus compromisos, a pesar de que flujos multimillonarios netos de capital son succionados hacia economías industrializadas; o bien alabamos la actitud de otros países industrializados que hacen el mejor de sus esfuerzos por responder noble e incondicionalmente a los altos objetivos de Naciones Unidas.

Que nadie se equivoque, los problemas de liquidez que probablemente enfrentaremos no conforman una crisis en FAO porque se origina fuera de nuestra Organización y en muy buena medida en las decisiones, como he dicho, unilaterales de aquel país y de sus objetivos. Son precisamente esos objetivos los que deben distinguirse de las razones que han llevado a otros países a retrasar o a suspender sus pagos a esta Organización. Se busca y se ha declarado imponer un castigo al sistema de Naciones Unidas a fin de ejercer un control mayor sobre él y debilitar o eliminar los programas operativos que no respondan directamente a intereses o a un manejo directo. Ciertos países se han unido también a esa actitud.

En época de crisis es fácil coincidir en que deben racionalizarse recursos y hacer mas eficientes los programas; de hecho, conforme más radical se hace ese criterio más superfluo, innecesario o inconveniente puede aparecer y puede convertirse la ejecución de programas y actividades; en el extremo de los absurdos todo puede suprimirse.

Nos oponemos a la intención de esos pocos países que proponen como programa la reducción de la atención efectiva que da esta Organización a las necesidades precisamente de aquellos que hoy enfrentan el hambre y la muerte, y buscan como solución atropellar los derechos de los gobiernos que hoy puedan hacer valer su voz y su voto equivalente para que se respete aunque sea su opinión.

Si he dramatizado, señor Presidente, ha sido como respuesta a la impotencia. Buena parte del fanatismo que recorre hoy el mundo seguramente así se explica.

El hecho es que debemos aceptar economías y hacer previsiones financieras para el futuro; el objetivo, pues, consiste en afectar lo menos posible aquellos programas o actividades que beneficien más directamente a los que deben ser beneficiados.

Hemos revisado el ejercicio hecho por el Comité de Finanzas y el paquete de recortes propuesto por el Director General. Tal paquete descrito en el documento CL 90/23 y que monta 16, 4 millones de dólares previsibles nos parece aceptable y, lo apoyamos, no porque coincidamos con una política de contracción de los programas de la Organización, ni tampoco con cada propuesta de recorte, sino porque tales economías son, como lo dijo el Director General, una necesidad de facto. Lo apoyamos también porque una discusión sobre detalles entre más de 50 Estados Miembros aquí reunidos sería inconveniente, interminable y confusa. Lo aprobamos también porque tenemos confianza en la actitud responsable de la Secretaría y del Director General.

En todo caso, nos interesa conocer con antelación todo recorte o reestructuración futura a fin de estudiarlo y dar nuestra razonada respuesta. Es imperativo hacer respetar el principio de universalidad y de equilibrio entre todas las regiones en las actividades y asistencia que otorga la FAO.

Esperamos que los Comités de Programa y de Finanzas evalúen a fondo los impactos de los recortes propuestos y nos mantengan informados, particularmente sobre futuras necesidades de hacer economías; pero subrayo: hay programas que están en el corazón mismo de la FAO y que nos oponemos a que se toquen; tal es el caso del PCT en vista de que su impacto en los países subdesarrollados es tan importante.

Desearíamos, inclusive, que esta asistencia por parte de FAO siguiera creciendo y que respondiera más a las prioridades que le hemos dado los países beneficiarios y también que se le diera una mayor agilidad a su aprobación y ejecución.

Asimismo apoyamos, y no entraré en detalles, otros programas que están ligados íntimamente a la promoción de la seguridad alimentaria mundial.

Observamos, sin embargo, que si la FAO no se encuentra en una situación financiera inmanejable es precisamente porque se ha llevado a cabo una política eficiente, cautelosa y transparente. Esa actitud responsable nos permite ahora prever con toda calma las medidas más adecuadas para cumplir lo mejor posible con el Programa de Labores y Presupuesto aprobado por la Conferencia de 1985, respetando prioridades.

Hemos tomado nota de los análisis hechos en los documentos CL 90/4, 90/17, 90/23 y observamos que tales recortes no afectan sensiblemente las prioridades, pero diferimos con aquellos delegados que afirman que estos recortes de todas maneras permitirán a la FAO ejecutar sus programas normalmente; no es así. Sentimos que sí los afecta, así como la asistencia a nuestros países.

Reconocemos que la negativa a pagar de un país, las demoras de otros, montan 93 millones de dólares en este bienio; se nos informa también que además la reducción de las tasas de interés y de fondos invertibles conlleva una reducción del capítulo de ingresos diversos de 19 millones de dólares. También que la devaluación significativa del dólar frente a la lira ha hecho descender la Cuenta Especial de Reservas.

Coincidimos con el objetivo de utilizar 13 millones del Fondo de Operaciones.

Tomamos nota de la necesidad de enmendar los procedimientos actuales para la aplicación del superávit de tesorería, y lo apoyamos en tanto que todos los países aquí reunidos y por consenso renunciemos voluntariamente al reintegro de tales excedentes calculados en cerca de 34 millones de dólares; esto lo trataré de nuevo cuando pasemos al siguiente tema.

En relación al párrafo 31 del documento CL 90/17 coincido con lo expresado por el delegado de Brasil en el sentido de que no creemos que lo dicho ahí resolverá nuestros problemas necesariamente.

Apoyamos al Comité de Finanzas cuando insta a todos los contribuyentes en mora a que hagan sus pagos lo más pronto posible con el fin de evitar la necesidad de nuevas economías o, en última instancia, de recurrir a créditos. Pedimos al Director General que nos mantenga informados sobre tal situación y lleve el exhorto ya expresado aquí por muchos países a todos aquellos que aun se encuentran en tal situación de mora. En todo caso, reconocemos la facultad del Director General de recurrir al crédito a corto plazo en vista de lo dispuesto por la Conferencia y en espera del pago de las contribuciones que a principios de 1988 se calculan en 95 millones de dólares.

Finalmente, volvemos a exhortar al mayor contribuyente a esta Organización a que busque fórmulas para honrar los acuerdos constitutivos de nuestra Organización y a que corrija lo que consideramos debido a la falta de credibilidad que conlleva un error histórico que, sin duda, la conciencia de su noble pueblo sancionará.

Horacio CARANDANG (Philippines): The Philippine delegation fully supports the proposals of the Director-General regarding the use of the amount of 9 million from the Working Capital Fund and the programme adjustments which would yield economies of some 16.4 million. The Council is empowered by FAO's Basic Texts to authorize withdrawals from the Working Capital Fund and to finance budgetary expenses pending receipts of contributions to the budget on the basis of the proposals of the Director-General.

The Philippine delegation believes that the conditions defined for the use of the Working Capital Fund have been met. Therefore the Council can authorize withdrawals from that Fund.

With regard to the programme adjustments envisaged, the Philippine delegation believes that the Director-General and his competent collaborators have done their best to limit the damage to the Programme of Work, particularly to the economic and technical programmes. As the Director-General said, these adjustments have not been made at random. However, we regret that adjustments are now being made to the Programme of Work which all member countries approved during the Conference last year. It is not perhaps entirely true that adjustments have no implications on the Programme of Work. What the document is saying is that care has been taken so the damage to the economic and technical programmes is limited to the minimum extent. Such activities may be important to some member countries, namely technical back-stopping to projects, field activities, training courses, and planning assistance, just to name a few. As the other delegations have said, the adjustments are the least evil. If a doctor has to make a choice between letting a patient die or cut off a finger, an eye, a nose or a toe, he would certainly amputate.

The Philippine delegation has already indicated we are not opposing the proposed adjustments. We are saying that we regret such adjustments are being made on a Programme of Work approved by all members of this Organization principally because of the unilateral action by one member country.

The Philippine delegation attaches paramount importance to the Technical Cooperation Programme. FAO is primarily a technical aid-giving agency, and one of FAO's primary functions, as defined in Constitution Article I, 3(a), is "to furnish such technical aid as the governments may request". The Technical Cooperation Programme enables the Organization to respond to the most urgent unforeseen, felt and expressed needs of developing countries and has direct field impact. The Technical Cooperation Programme represents the most important needs for the translation of all FAO programmes into action. Therefore, the Philippine delegation recommends that the Technical Cooperation Programme be given absolute priority and that programme allocation be preserved in its entirety.

Mr Shah has already answered the objections raised by some member countries regarding the Technical Cooperation Programme. I believe that the record of disbursement of the Technical Cooperation Programme is very favourable in comparison with other financial institutions. I do not believe that the old proposals already rejected regarding the nature of the contributions to the TCP should again be raised now.

One member proposed another evaluation of the TCP, but we have just had an evaluation programme of the TCP at the 88th Session of the Council. I do not think that another evaluation is warranted, particularly in view of the financial crisis of the Organization.

The Philippine delegation cannot but express its concern that the financial difficulties of the Organization are being caused by arrears in payments of assessed contributions by member countries, particularly by its largest contributor which has passed legislation not in conformity with its international commitments. The Philippine delegation therefore appeals to all members, in particular the largest contributor, to honour their obligations to the Organization. Finally-and at this stage I am not making a proposal, I am just thinking aloud-the only sanction against late payment of assessments is denial of voting rights, after being in arrears of payment to the Organization, after payments equivalent to the assessment of four full years; but even that is avoided if the member pays just a part of that money at that time. Everybody is aware of the time value of money. Let us suppose that interest rates were at 5 percent and a member owed the Organization \$100 on 1 January but paid the money only at the end of the year, actually that member country has deprived the Organization of the opportunity of earning interest on that money over the duration of a whole year. If it paid it after two years, the value of that contribution would only be something like \$90. 25; if it paid it three years later the value of the money that it owed would only be something like \$85. 74; and in four years' time the value of that money is only \$81. 45. In other words, there is such a thing as a time value of money. Therefore, there should be a premium on early payment of dues and a penalty for late payment of assessed contributions. As I have said, this is just a thought which I am throwing out, but if a member pays all its contribution at the beginning of the biennium, I think that member is worthy of all praise and at the same time I think it should be given some incentive; but if a member country voluntarily delays payment over a long period of years, probably that member country merits some kind of sanction. But that is up to the member countries, to the Director-General and all to think about whether that might be appropriate in the future.

Milutin TAPAVICKI (Yugoslavia): First of all, I should like to congratulate Ambassador Bukhari and Mr Shah for their very interesting and useful introductory statements.

The Yugoslav delegation would like to express its satisfaction with the findings and conclusions on financial matters at the last two sessions of the Finance Committee. In this connection, the problems of delayed payment of assessed contributions give rise to grave concern, especially with regard to the impact of the recent unprecedented legislative action by the largest contributor on the financial situation of the UN system, including the FAO.

The Finance Committee rightly emphasized that the full payment of assessed contributions represents a treaty obligation of all Member Nations and that other Member Nations should not be called upon to compensate for the deficit caused by reduced payment by any contributor.

My delegation fully shares the appeal made by the Finance Committee to all Member Nations to make a special effort to remit their outstanding contributions to alleviate the impact on the Organization of the unilateral action of the largest contributor.

In this connection, allow me to inform the members of the Council that the Yugoslav government has made such an effort and, despite grave economic and balance-of-payment difficulties, decided to respond to the Committee's appeal. A week ago, our assessed contribution for 1986 was paid in full. Therefore all delegations are kindly requested to remove the name of Yugoslavia from the list of outstanding contributions in document CL 90/17, Appendix A5. Unfortunately, this does not solve to a significant extent FAO's financial crisis.

We have before us the document on the Budgetary and Cash Flow Forecast Relating to the Programme of Work and Budget for 1986/87. Part 2 of the document indicates clearly the magnitude and, indeed, the nature of the crisis. Let me emphasize that we are not faced with a resource crisis but with the likelihood of severe cash flow problems towards the end of the biennium.

Given the nature of the crisis, the most logical step should be to resort to the existing mechanism devised for such a purpose, including the use of the authority to borrow. However, while we very much regret that the Director-General has been forced to propose programme adjustments-in fact, programme cuts-we appreciate the proposal as a sign of prudent management; in other words, we believe that the package proposed in the document is appropriate. We appreciate that a reduction in TCP has not been proposed, and we share the view that TCP represents an indispensable instrument for translating FAO's programmes into action.

Without going into detail, our delegation considers reasonable and acceptable the proposed measures through the delayed filling of vacant posts and through the reduction of meetings, publications, consultancies, contractual services and travel. Having in mind that in the present circumstances programme adjustments cannot be avoided, the Yugoslav delegation could not but support the approach and proposals made by the Director-General.

Finally, as to the part of the United Kingdom statement about the ratio between programme delivery and delivery costs, I trust that Mr Shah's explanation has fully settled the issue.

Malikana Mike LISWANISO (Zambia): Let me begin by expressing my deep appreciation to the Chairman of the Finance Committee and the Secretariat and for the lucid manner in which they introduced the documents before us. I do not want to sound alarmist, but going through documents CL 90/4, 90/17 and 90/23, one is left with a clear impression that the crisis of multilateralism is approaching the stage where the very existence of the UN system is threatened. The financial position of our Organization, as amply given in paragraphs 13 to 45 of document CL 19/17, is a source of grave concern to my delegation. The question that comes to mind is: what do we do next?

In his address to the Council and, indeed, in the documents before us, the Director-General came up with specific proposals aimed at steering our organization from the current financial storms, at least in the short term. My delegation warmly welcomes the timely and effective measures proposed to deal with the current situation. However, I have a few comments and observations to make.

First, the FAO effective budget for the 1986/87 biennium should, as far as possible, be maintained. Secondly, this Council should make a passionate appeal to the largest contributor to repeal the two pieces of legislation which it recently passed limiting its contributions to the United Nations and its specialized agencies. It will be noted that the largest contributor took this action long after the Conference had approved the FAO budget for the 1986/87 biennium. This has put us in a quandary. By depriving FAO of funds we are not only jeopardizing its operation but indirectly making it also difficult for it to carry on with its noble task of fighting poverty, hunger, malnutrition, social and economic injustice.

The importance of food need not be over-emphasized. Food comes first in all walks of human life. Any country needs well fed and healthy nationals to drive the wheels of economic, industrial and social development. It is in this context that I once again call upon the largest contributor to pay its share of the contribution due to FAO.

As I mentioned earlier it is encouraging that the Director-General has already used his usual foresight and initiative in proposing to us what possible measures should be taken to cushion the undesirable effects of the current financial crisis. The Zambian Delegation supports his initiative in the proposals as laid down in document CL 90/23. However, we should like to stress that in trying to make savings no programme, which has a beneficial effect and impact on the peasants of the developing countries, should be cut. In this context my delegation has specifically in mind the Technical Cooperation Programme (TCP). The TCP is a saviour to developing countries. It is an effective quick action and positive programme in a time of human and natural disasters. Secondly, there should be no substantive revision of the Programme of Work and Budget approved by the Conference. The Director-General should use his usual managerial and administrative ability to cushion the serious effects of the financial crisis. Across the board cuts should be avoided. A case by case approach is the best under the circumstances. The proposed programme adjustments, as shown at Appendix A of document CL 90/23, should only be used as a guide but not as an authority. Should the situation become worse than anticipated, the Director-General could call on this august body for further guidance.

Thirdly, my delegation also sees no objection to the proposal to use the Working Capital Fund to cover delayed Member State payments. The idea that this Fund should in future be increased needs further consideration. Under these circumstances, it is imperative that FAO should work out measures to reduce future financial crisis. The proposals should be submitted to the 91st Session of the Council for further study and consideration. We should begin to look beyond the 1986/87 biennium.

Fourthly, my delegation also welcomes the proposal to delay the filling of vacant posts. However, should the situation continue to deteriorate, then harsh measures, like the abolition of certain posts, may have to be taken in concert with what the mother body has already done in New York.

In conclusion, I feel that time has now come for self-inspection and criticism. My delegation's appeal is that no other Member State should withhold its contribution to FAO this biennium. It is in times of crisis such as this when we all need to work together to overcome the challenges before us. The Director-General should, where possible, personally contact the various governments who are defaulting on their contributions so that they can clear the arrears of contributions to FAO as a matter of urgency. My experience with international organizations is that we spend a lot of time discussing about our contributions, but do very little to honour our obligations. This negative approach should come to an end if the international organizations, in which we are members, are to deliver the goods. With these few remarks, I wish to thank you once again for giving me the floor.

Hermann REDL (Austria): I would like to thank the Director-General and his staff for a clear presentation of the financial situation of FAO. In particular, for referring to the difficulties ahead of us. I would also like to thank Ambassador Bukhari for his additional remarks. At the Conference in November, last year, not only the Programme of Work and Budget but also the shares of the Member Nations' contributions were decided upon. In this connection, I would like to draw your attention to Resolution 8/85. It is now our duty to stand up for this decision and to support the Director-General in his work. One prerequisite for this is the timely compliance with our financial commitments. Furthermore, I would like to refer to the provisions in the Financial Regulations C/5. 4 of the Basic Texts, reading as follows: "At the beginning of each calendar year the Director-General shall: (c) request Member Nations and Associate Members, as the case may be, to remit all contributions and advances due. "

As can be seen from the latest FAO document CL 90/LIM/1-The Financial Position of the Organization-a number of Member Nations have, in line with the pertinent regulations of the Constitution, paid their contribution on time. Those Member Nations should not be punished for their orderly payments. I would like to take the opportunity of pointing out that we all have not only adopted FAO's budget 1986/87, but also the respective regulations of the Basic Texts. I may therefore, remind the defaulting debtors of those provisions and ask them to implement their obligations in line with our rules. The proposals submitted by the Director-General to solve the financial problems deserve our full attention. The most recent developments show that FAO activities have not only to be continued in the future, but also strengthened. The measures of programme adoption suggested by the Director-General are undoubtedly a matter of high priority which will meet with our full support. We hope that TCP activities will continue as proposed by the Director-General, and approved by the Conference last year, for the benefit of the developing countries.

In concluding, I may therefore remind the individual members once more of their reliability with the FAO for the biennium 1986/87 and ask them to discharge these liabilities, if it has not yet been done, and to support the Director-General in the implementation of the budget adopted by all of us.

Sjarifudin BAHARSJAH (Indonesia): Allow me to take the floor not only on behalf of my delegation, but also to represent the Group of 77. On this occasion I would like to present to the Council comments and suggestions with regard to the topics on hand and also to the statements made by the Director-General, in particular, concerning the financial crisis faced by the FAO, adjustment of the Programme of Work for the biennium 1986/87 and follow-up action of the Special Session of the General Assembly of the United Nations.

Firstly, may I express my appreciation and admiration to Ambassador Bukhari and Mr Shah for their very lucid and useful report and explanation. Allow me to comment on the financial crisis of FAO which has grown to such proportions that it calls for a speedy and efficient solution. It is the responsibility of all members of the Organization to help find a solution. We all know that a smooth functioning of FAO in performing its task as formulated in its Constitution is, to a very large extent, dependent upon the availability of adequate financial resources which are obtained from contributions paid by its member countries. As clearly stated by the Director-General the financial crisis affecting FAO at present is caused primarily by the fact that the member country with the largest contribution is going to reduce its contribution to FAO. There is also the drop in interest rates and the fact that the US dollar has weakened throughout the year and there remains, of course, the problem of arrears of contributions by member countries.

The solution to the financial crisis should, first of all, be sought in the timely fulfillment of the financial obligations by all the member countries, considering that the payment of contributions should be regarded as a commitment which they have assumed before FAO started implementing its Programme of Work in the 1986/87 biennium, which was approved by the Conference in its Plenary Session in November 1985. It is only logical that the contributions should be paid in full within the shortest possible time. Should a member country, under the stress of domestic problems be compelled to reduce its contribution to the international organizations, such a move should not be applied to the present biennium. The reason is that the Programme of Work in 1986/87 was approved during the Conference in November 1985, on the assumption that the member countries have committed themselves to the timely payment of their respective contributions for amounts determined by the scale of their contributions. For this reason any substantial drop in the total of contributions to FAO, relating to the current biennium would, understandably, give rise to grave difficulties in the implementation of the Programme of Work, and the developing countries as a whole would feel the harmful effects of the sudden incapability of FAO to proceed working according to schedule.

In this regard the suggestion of the Director-General deserves serious consideration and he should be praised for the manner in which he dealt with the financial problem which is now a grave concern to the Organization. In connection with the foregoing, on behalf of the Group of 77, allow me on this occasion to appeal to all member countries of FAO to fulfill, in due time, their obligations in respect of their contributions. In particular to appeal to the member country with the largest contribution assessment, at least to postpone its plan to reduce its contribution to FAO, so that the work of the 1986/87 biennium would not be affected. We have been told that this is almost impossible, but it is only reasonable that we expect that all commitments large and small once made should be honoured.

With regard to the strategy proposed by the Director-General in coping with the financial problem faced by FAO on a short-term basis involving the investment of programme of work to affect the savings, by postponing recruitment to fill existing vacancies, by reducing the number of meetings, publications, consultancies and travels which are less urgent and through the use of the working capital fund, the Group of 77 considers these strategies acceptable with the understanding that these measures would not give rise to other problems. For instance, in the case of the postponement of the recruitment of staff, it should not in any way hamper the work of one unit or another. The same applies to the reduction of the number of publications, meetings, consultancies and travels which should be effected with the greatest care. After the Council has given its approval to the proposed strategies, their implementation should be left to the discretion of the Director-General.

After having dealt with the financial difficulties of FAO and with adjustment of the Programme of Work 1986/87 to the shrinking financial resources allow me to draw your attention to the necessity for maintaining the Technical Cooperation Programme as it is now. To be specific I am suggesting that the TCP should not in any way be subjected to cuts in its financing. The reason is that TCP plays an important role in accelerating agricultural development in many developing countries. Since it came into being some ten years ago, the TCP has shown its usefulness in developing countries with agricultural training, preparation for investment, emergency aid, technical advice, formulation of agricultural projects. Not less than 2 044 projects were implemented under this programme during the period 1976 to 1984; twenty-seven projects a year in developing countries of Africa, Asia, Latin America, the Near East and Europe. The advantages derived from those projects must by now have increased manifold. For instance, in the case of training, those workers who have once been trained under the programme are now organizing

training courses for others. There are also large projects which are to be considered as a follow-up to TCP projects. Recognizing the positive impact we welcome the statement by the Director-General to ensure the continuation of the TCP in the course of the biennium in accordance with the approval given to it in its session in 1985.

With regard to the follow-up of the Special Session of the United Nations General Assembly on the economic crisis in Africa, in particular with respect to the proposal of the ministers of agriculture in African countries for the Director-General to undertake a study on aid-in-kind, the Group of 77 is pleased to support the proposal and suggests that the study should be extended to include other regions and donor countries as well. It is necessary to know the amount of need for aid-in-kind and its utilization in the recipient countries, but it is equally important to know in detail the availability of staffs in donor countries. These data are essential for the programming and for obtaining the highest results of the programmes in the recipient countries, and the Director-General should therefore be requested by the Council to make provisions for undertaking such a study.

Khalil MAKKAWI (Lebanon): Allow me first to say how delighted we are to see you back in this important Chair conducting our deliberations in the most efficient way. We are confident that under your wise leadership this Council will achieve positive and successful results. Equally I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate His Excellency the Chairman of the Finance Committee and Mr Shah for the excellent presentation they have made this morning and I am sure this is going to help to a great extent our deliberations.

In reference to the item under discussion, which is the budgetary and cash flow forecast relating to the Programme of Work and Budget 1986/87, my delegation appreciates the fact that the Director-General has drawn this serious matter to our attention. We share his concern. We are firmly of the opinion that the problems affecting the implementation of the Programme of Work and Budget for 1986/87 stem from Member Nations not honouring their commitments agreed at our Conference, the highest governing body in this organization. We are aware that a number of Member Nations are not always in a position to pay their contributions each year according to the financial regulations of FAO. This happens in every biennium and they pay their contribution as soon as they can, either during the biennium or after. As a matter of fact, if I may say so, this is the case of my country, Lebanon. Everybody in this room is undoubtedly aware of our great difficulties, but in spite of this my government has taken the necessary steps to pay its full contribution for 1986, and I hope in the very near future.

However, the problem that we are now facing arises from the fact that a shortfall in contributions is expected from the largest contributor. When this contribution represents one-fourth of our total budget it is no wonder that with any significant shortfall in its payment the organization faces a serious problem. We therefore join in the appeal made by the Finance Committee to all Member Nations and in particular to the largest contributor to honour their contribution obligations and to make their contribution as early as possible. We would face no problem if we were certain that this appeal would be heeded. However, the chances are most probably that it will not. What aggravates the problem moreover is the fact we are in an entirely fluid situation, not knowing what amount will be paid for 1986 and when it will be paid. We are even more in the dark as regards 1987. We thus appreciate how the Director-General has exercised a constant vigilance in order to foresee all possibilities. We appreciate as well the change in the situation as discussed by the Finance Committee barely two months ago from the prospects as seen today. In the circumstances we welcome the strategy proposed by the Director-General and give it our full support. We regret that in order to ensure the financial viability of the organization he has been forced to propose programme adjustments which would yield savings of 16.4 million US dollars. We are sure that every Member Nation who looks to FAO for support and assistance regrets this. The Director-General himself regrets this too. However, under the circumstances his proposal is a wise one, and one we should accept as a package. He has formulated this package with all due care, examining the possibilities for adjustment and the likely impact on programmes. We cannot possibly undertake such a review with an intergovernmental body. He has our confidence as the chief executive elected by us.

We also accept the fact that he will need to draw on the working capital fund for an amount of 9 million US dollars pending receipt of the contributions. This is precisely one of the main purposes of the working capital fund and it will be done entirely according to the organization's resolutions.

Finally we take note of the possibility that should the present estimate of income by the end of the present biennium not improve, the Director-General would need to borrow some 30 million US dollars in early 1988 to cover the usual obligations arising from commitments in 1987. The Director-General, we are certain, has no desire to borrow. If he is forced to do so, it will be because Member Nations will not have paid their contributions. The remedy, therefore, is in the hands of these Member Nations. It is those who have created this problem who have the means of resolving it. We hope that wisdom will prevail. Failing that, should the prospects indicated by the Director-General materialize, we give him full support in implementing the measures that he proposes.

Temel ISKIT (Turkey): I think we can be very brief since most of the delegates have already emphasized the points we want to make. But first of all, of course, I want to congratulate His Excellency Mr Bukhari and thank Mr Crowther and Mr Shah for their introduction to the item. I especially thank Mr Shah for the clarifications he has given this morning on the occasion of the debate we have all heard. Perhaps I will have the occasion to refer to his clarifications later on in my intervention.

The situation is difficult. We all know it and I think most of us here are dealing with this problem, at least thinking about it since many days, if not weeks now and we thank the Director-General for the transparency, the very clear transparency on this subject which he provided us by briefing us, by giving all the necessary information beforehand. We reiterate our thanks.

So at least my delegation is well informed on all aspects of the question. Let us say that I do not want to dwell much on the causes of this financial difficulty. In our minds it is very clear that there is a single factor which induces us today to discuss this subject. It is the internal legislation of the largest contributor. There are, of course, two other factors; there are arrears in the contribution of other Member States and a shortfall in the miscellaneous income but in our eyes these arrears of other Member States are a recurrent situation and we completely agree with our colleague from Brazil when he said that it would not change the situation much if we made an appeal. Of course, we are for an appeal but even if everybody else has paid the situation will remain the same unless the largest contributor, let us say, takes back his step.

Well, as for the miscellaneous income, the fluctuations in this I think are a conjectural factor and they would not, again, much change the situation. So with due respect to Madame Fenwick, of course, scolding did not cross our minds but perhaps if we cannot help, we are unhappy about the situation. So let me again not dwell too much on the causes but concentrate on the proposals of the Director-General.

My delegation considers that these proposals are timely, they are logical and reasonable and we can accept them, agree with them en bloc, including all the elements of the strategies, that is the cuts, the adjustments of 16 million, having recourse to the working capital fund and, if the situation is not better by the end of the biennium, of resorting to borrowing. So we agree with all the points in the strategy and we thank the Director-General for these wise proposals.

As many other delegations, we of course regret that you have to go along with these cuts in the programme, but we are confident that the Director-General has chosen the right economies-"economies" is not the right word, as we do not consider these cuts as economies, but necessary adjustments. So we trust him and his staff to have found the less hurting solution and we do not think discussion on the content of these cuts is advisable. In any case, my delegation is not in a position to do so and we do not think it will be useful. We understand that it will hurt. But we also want to say, as again, many other delegations have said, that we welcome the pledge of the Director-General not to reduce operations under the Technical Cooperation Programme. We all know that this is not a Programme by itself, but the main tool of all FAO programmes to be put into action. So we think that these will be the funds which will be less touched, if at all, and we welcome this pledge again.

As I said, we completely endorse these short-term measures which are proposed by the Director-General. But our worry is not for this biennium. We think that the problems are serious and radical and we will face the most difficult situation not this biennium but starting from 1988, but of course we will reserve our comments on this longer term perspective until we discuss Item (b).

George Henry MUSGROVE (Canada): To begin my intervention perhaps I could make just a few remarks on our Agenda Item 12. 1, which covers the business of matters in addressing delayed contributions. I think that Item refers to the Finance Committee Report 90/17 which was so ably delivered to us by its Chairman, my good friend Atif Y. Bukhari.

Within that report there is a few paragraphs and some tables which indicate that the Finance Committee has been considering a number of alternatives for the encouragement of members to pay their contributions in a timely way. This was referred to only briefly by one or two speakers today. Notably I remember the delegate from the Philippines. We too believe that there should be instituted a system which rewards those who pay their contributions in a full and timely fashion, not necessarily to punish those who do not do so but to give value for money when countries do pay those contributions. We think the Organization has had this matter under consideration for three or four years and perhaps it has been somewhat dilatory in not coming forward on the clear and substantive proposal before this time. We would certainly encourage this Council to give this matter some consideration, all the more so because of the great unlikelihood that we shall see surplus situations in any nearby term and therefore it might be much easier to address the issue when there is not money at stake.

Finally I would like to draw your attention to the belief that the International Civil Aviation Organization has adopted such a formula in September/October of this year. The document we have in front of us outlines in short terms that particular system but indicates that it has not as yet been adopted.

With those few remarks perhaps I should turn to the matter of the financial situation as we are addressing it under Item 12. 1 (a). We believe that the financial crisis facing our Organization is not entirely a surprise. The looming threat of shortfalls in assessed contributions, particularly by the biggest contributor, has been with us for some 18 months or more and certainly prior to the establishment of our present Programme of Work and Budget almost a year ago. This fact has not been lost on the United Nations itself, or indeed many of our sister agencies, who over the last number of months have been addressing measures, including substantive programme savings, to address the crisis which would otherwise inevitably undermine their continuing longer term liability. We are therefore grateful to the Secretariat, and to the Director-General in particular, for documents CL 90/23 and CL 90/24 which have been put before us and for the briefing which was provided to us some two weeks ago which provides a very solid basis for us, the shareholding membership of the corporation, as it were, to express our views of the actions we should and could take to meet the financial stringency and to best ensure the longer term continuity of the Organization and its important programmes.

We hope our consideration of this issue can continue to be conducted in the best spirit of collaboration and open expression of views. We do not feel that it should in any event be a partisan or divisive issue in spite of the brief wisps of this unfortunate atmosphere which have drifted in from one quarter or another. We, as members, will have differences of views, some very marked, but our guidance obviously will be sought by the Secretariat looking for a middle ground on which to base its proposals for future action. In this respect I shall address myself solely to the short-term measures as outlined in document CL 90/23 and perhaps return later to discuss the longer term measures under Section B of our Agenda.

On the best short-term estimates that the Secretariat has very usefully provided it would appear that we have a shortfall of some \$92 million in revenue to meet the budgeted expenditures through the end of the current biennium, of which only some 13 months is left to us. Of this \$92 million our largest contributor it is conservatively estimated will withhold, due to internal legislative requirements, some \$64 million. We very much regret this and should like to underline both our view that the payment of assessed contributions is a solemn legal treaty obligation and to join our appeal with others even at this late date that our neighbours do their very best to honour this obligation.

We should also like to add that if the stance of the withholding contributor is, in the parlance of North America, to deliver a message to us at FAO we should very much like to encourage them to give us a clear articulation of that message to see if there is some way that we can assist them.

Be that as it may, our first hard reality is the \$92 million shortfall based on the evidence that we have in front of us, a number which if left untended is bound to cause major damage to a programme budget expenditure of some \$400 million in the current biennium and/or to create/a longer term mortgage on future biennia, most particularly that of 88/89.

We have in front of us as a preliminary reaction a Secretariat proposal to effect programme savings of \$16.4 million and to draw on the Working Capital Fund to the extent of its holdings of \$13 million and to bequeath to the 1988/89 biennia some \$60 million in unliquidated obligations. Set against this of course will be bookkeeping credit of \$98 million I believe was the figure given to us today, comprised almost entirely of contributions in arrears of which the major contributor withholding will be the aforementioned \$64 million. We have grave doubts on this proposal on several grounds. We do not know if the \$64 million withholding, should that be the figure, can correctly be categorised as arrears. Does the withholding country recognise this as an obligation? Several speakers have indicated various doubts as to the ultimate collectability of this money.

Secondly, the preliminary proposal would seem to assume that this major withholding is only a temporary aberration which will not recur in the 1988/89 and subsequent biennia. Our own perusal of budgetary prospects and legislative prerequisites in the major contributor would not support this view. There may also be a muted presumption that at the end of the day sometime in 1988/89 or later, the other members of the Organization will step in to pick up the unsettled financial obligations, whether through increased assessments, through our shares and working capital funds or of surpluses left to us, to pick up the immediate major obligations left us by the major withholding country. While our country is always timely in paying its obligations and not infrequently generous in other respects, we do not in principle agree to paying directly or indirectly the obligations of our collaborators in the experiment of multilateralism.

Finally, it seems to be implicit in the proposals before us that should all else fail it is better to spend big now and if the anticipated revenues do not materialise to make sudden and drastic programme reductions at some point in the future. We for one are reluctant to gamble with the longer term stability of the FAO in that way.

Taken together these four scenarios lead us to the inevitable conclusion that a much greater attempt must be made now while we have a year at least in our current biennium to effect economies which will balance the financial hardship between the present and a mortgage on the future. In this regard my authorities indicate that the United Nations itself has proposed programme reductions of 7.5 percent, the International Labour organization savings of 7.5 percent, the World Health Organization 6.5 percent, UNESCO 6 percent, UNIDO 11 percent, all of which seem to be in excess of the programme proposal that is in front of us at 3.7 percent.

I know that those figures that I have just read, given to me by my authorities, do not jibe in their entirety with those used by others, or forecast by the Organization, however, I believe there are different sets of figures in play. Nevertheless, we might have a quick look at the 3.7 percent reduction, a figure of some \$16.4 million, composed, we believe, of six and a half million in staff costs and 9.9 in other postponable or lower priority activities. We hope we are not uncharitable in suggesting that a very large part of the 6.5 million in staff savings on the delayed filling of 250 vacant positions reflects to some large extent to an ongoing reality of a vacancy rate which runs somewhat in excess of the budgetary estimate. We have had occasion in the past to point to this anomaly which has, if we are correct, thrown considerable discretionary funds to the hands of the Secretariat.

Be that as it may, we would propose that at minimum the Secretariat very seriously look at its figures once again with a prospect, we would suggest, of moving some further \$22 million from the \$64 million of debit envisaged in 1988/89, and translate that into a like amount of economies in the present biennium. Due to the complexities of the budget we would listen carefully to Secretariat suggestions on how this might best be done while at the same time conserving the priority elements of the programme creating the least dislocation and hardship to personnel and preserving the essential elements of the Organization for its future benefit.

It is our belief that this can largely be addressed in looking carefully at discretionary or nonemergency expenditures. In this category dare we mention the Technical Cooperation Programme, Chapter 4 of the budget, Contingencies, Chapter 7, as well as Potential Savings in Other Operations

such as those of the regional offices whose activities might to some very large degree be subsumable by country offices and/or Headquarters. We are not unaware, of course, that the Technical Cooperation Programme is extremely popular with most Members of the Organization but would draw to their attention that its expenditures are largely unprogrammed. I believe between only 20 and 25 percent of its expenditures are directed to emergencies, while the remainder of its expenditures are directed to those of less urgent activities.

We should also like to point, if we could, to the very substantive remarks made by the United Kingdom today in its proposal on areas in which further savings can be made. We appreciate the views expressed by the Secretariat that there may be differences within the United Kingdom in the calculation of figures but we do hope that the message has not been lost and that there may well be virtue in looking again at some of the very substantive and profound things that were said.

Our colleague from Japan also mentioned the Technical Cooperation Programme. I might say that Japan is our largest contributor ad interim, I believe, whose views therefore might take on a weight commensurate with that particular station and in particular, our colleague in Denmark made some very useful points which I would also commend to the Council.

Having said that, there is one matter that I have overlooked at this point, and that is the matter related to the drawing on the Working Capital Fund, I think to the extent of its capacity some 13 million being proposed. Whilst we appreciate that ready access to available cash resources is tempting in time of a crisis such as we are facing now, we feel on the other hand that recourse to this Fund in the circumstances is somewhat dubious. Our understanding is that the Working Capital Fund was largely designed for use early in a financial year when contributions or assessments were arriving at a somewhat slower rate than expenditures. The Working Capital Fund was to be replenished almost immediately, certainly if not within the current fiscal period then in the very next. We feel that our present crisis is not caused so much by slow contributions or even by arrears. It is caused by something called "withholding", something sui generis, as it were, whose ultimate bank ability is very much an unknown quantity.

We should also like to point out that the observation made in the Finance Committee report (paragraph 20 of document CL 90/4) that the UN's rather massive financial crisis can be attributed in part to the demise of its Working Capital Fund on the basis of using them when contributions were withheld by Members for one particular reason or another. Lest we think that the \$13 million from the Working Capital Fund is ready money, I believe that it should be underlined that it is, in fact, a loan which according to the regulations must be repaid at the earliest possible moment. In this connexion we would be pleased to have confirmation from the Secretariat that the \$13 million loan from the Working Capital Fund is part of the \$60 or \$61 million projected unpaid obligations for the 1988/89 year. If it is not (and I see some shaking of heads up there) then we are looking at \$73 or \$74 million in unliquidated obligations in 1988/89, plus another 20 million—we can round it at 100 million perhaps.

In summing up, I should like to say we deeply regret the prospect of the financial crisis facing our Organization and deplore the withholding actions which cause it, as being contrary to treaty obligation. While we know it is not quantifiable at this stage, we have the gravest doubts that we shall see such withheld monies at any early date, and perhaps even ultimately. Therefore, in our view, they cannot be regarded as arrears for credit bookkeeping purposes. In common with the Finance Committee, as stated in their document (paragraph 24 of document CL 90/4) we do not feel that other members should be called on to compensate for this deficit. In this connexion, we did note the very generous, forward, outgoing remarks put forward by the delegate of Italy with respect to its contributions to the Organization. Extra budgetary contributions of some \$2 million are listed in our particular document CL 90/23. A further extra budgetary contribution of 750 000 to 800 000 in the present budgetary period. We note that such contributions have been a feature for the last fifteen years, I believe, according to the distinguished delegate of Italy. We should welcome some indication of what those particular budgetary contributions have been used for in periods other than this financial crisis period, and information as to whether they were directed for a specific purpose such as a subsidy of rent in one or other of the buildings around the city. If the delegate of Italy would be kind enough at some stage, to indicate privately or otherwise, the source of such funds from within his Government's budget (from the overseas Development Assistance portion, perhaps) I would be pleased of advice so I can advise my Government to see if some similar proposition would be entertained. I have my doubts that they would be appreciative of lowering our Overseas Development Fund by making additional special contributions for institutional purposes.

In further summary, the proposals before us in document CL 90/23 are in our view deficient, in so far as the proposed inadequate programme savings, and thus have far too great an adverse consequence for the future financial health of the Organization. We believe that additional savings can be made and that these can be found, in large part, in discretionary expenditure portions of the existing budget.

Finally, we feel the use of the Working Capital Fund should be clarified, and particularly as indicated the provision for repayment of the loan we will be making from that Fund.

Guillermo Enrique GONZALEZ (Argentina): Deseo agradecer las presentaciones que en la mañana de hoy tuvieron a bien hacernos el Presidente del Comité de Finanzas, Embajador Bukhari, y el Director de la Oficina de Presupuestos, Sr. Shah. Ambos han sido claros, precisos, y nos han ayudado a ver la verdadera magnitud del problema que hoy debemos enfrentar.

Pretendo ser sumamente breve en mi intervención puesto que numerosas delegaciones se han referido en extenso a puntos que mi delegación deseaba tratar. Por ello, subrayaré fundamentalmente la posición de mi delegación ante las principales alternativas que hoy debemos estudiar en este Consejo. En primer lugar, creo que están suficientemente claras nuestras mentes, pero quizá sea oportuno repetir que la crisis que estamos enfrentando no es de la Organización. No se trata de que en la Organización haya habido una mala o una deficiente administración, ésto se debe subrayar. En todo caso, la crisis proviene de la falta de entusiasmo, de la falta de prioridad, de la falta, de un apoyo sincero de algunos miembros de la Organización a la misma.

Las dificultades financieras-cash flow, como se dice en inglés-que se prevén a corto plazo reconocen varias causas. Se trata de una conjunción de hechos y acciones que nos llevan a esta situación. Las fluctuaciones en el tipo de cambio han tenido un gran impacto negativo. Lo mismo ha sucedido con los menores ingresos recibidos en concepto de Varios como consecuencia de la baja de intereses, pero, de todas maneras,-y esto no podemos desconocerlo-la situación que desencadena la crisis está referida concretamente a la perspectiva de que el primer contribuyente disminuya sus aportes en forma sustancial. Mi delegación se permite con todo respeto unirse a las que ya lo hicieron para hacer un llamamiento al primer contribuyente para que realice un reanálisis de la situación evitando causar un daño irreparable al proceso de desarrollo en el que esta Organización tanto contribuye. Confiamos en que habrán otras ocasiones durante el próximo año para volver a discutir este tema en el caso de que esta irregularidad no se haya logrado corregir. Mientras tanto, el Director General de la FAO asume su responsabilidad y nos propone una serie de ajustes presupuestarios del orden de los 16, 4 millones de dólares y que, aparentemente, serían suficientes para superar el problema del cash flow durante el presente ciclo presupuestario.

Mi delegación apoya el paquete de medidas sugeridas y se permite, al mismo tiempo, proponer que no entremos a discutir el detalle de las mismas ya que ello llevaría mucho tiempo y estoy seguro que no podríamos llegar a un resultado mejor que nos deje a todos igualmente satisfechos o, mejor dicho, igualmente insatisfechos, pues estas medidas se adoptan exclusivamente frente a una emergencia. En este sentido, mi delegación, por lo menos, no tiene inconveniente en que la Secretaría continúe estudiando el tema y pueda eventualmente hacer otros ajustes adicionales, siempre que los mismos no afecten sustancialmente a las labores de la FAO.

En este sentido, quiero aprovechar la oportunidad para ratificar el más decidido apoyo del Gobierno argentino al Programa de Cooperación Técnica del que somos beneficiarios. Nuestra delegación solicita expresamente que el Programa de Cooperación Técnica no se vea afectado en este proceso de ajustes que nos vemos obligados a efectuar. El PCT, lo reitero, tiene alta prioridad para mi Gobierno.

Respecto al superávit correspondiente al período 1984-85 con un volumen superior a los 34 millones de dólares, mi delegación estima conveniente que se proceda a su distribución conforme a las disposiciones reglamentarias vigentes. Creemos que adoptar una medida de excepción, como lo ha sugerido por lo menos una delegación, crearía mayores dificultades de las que se tratan de evitar. Hemos escuchado al Dr. Shah y sabemos que adoptar una medida de excepción de esta naturaleza requiere la convocatoria de una conferencia extraordinaria, lo que de por sí implica gastos y, en el mejor de los casos, dicha conferencia extraordinaria sólo podría adoptar medidas que, en definitiva, tampoco incidirían excesivamente a resolver el problema del cash flow.

Mi Gobierno cree firmemente en el multilateralismo y en la función de las Naciones Unidas cuyos principios ratificamos una vez más.

La difícil situación financiera por la cual atraviesa mi país es bien conocida; dificultades que afectan nuestro comercio, a nuestra balanza de pagos y que se suman al pesado servicio de la deuda externa. Todo esto limita seriamente nuestras posibilidades de crecimiento, pero, a pesar de ello, tratamos de cumplir con todos nuestros compromisos internacionales.

En lo que va del año 1986 hemos podido abonar las cuotas pendientes hasta ese entonces y continuaremos en este camino a pesar del sacrificio que ello implica. Confiamos en que quienes más tienen también puedan cumplir con sus compromisos, los cuales tienen un doble carácter: jurídico y moral.

LE DIRECTEUR GENERAL: Puisque l'atmosphère est sereine, j'aurai peut-être une remarque importante à faire sur la base de ce que le délégué du Canada vient de nous dire (et je regrette qu'il ne soit pas là). Il est plus pessimiste que moi car il dit que les Etats-Unis pourraient ne pas payer leu arriérés.

If I know that this information is confirmed, I will certainly propose an adjustment of much more than \$16 million. If there is a statement by the United States that they will not pay their arrears, and do not consider them as arrears due legally, then in 1988/89 there will still be \$66 million unpaid by our major contributors, and we will have to consider the situation in a different manner. This is why I say the situation is fluid. We will consider the same important problem in December, and I will come back to you in June. Maybe in June we will propose something different. I am not optimistic, but if I have to be more pessimistic—and as Canada is very near to the US they may have a better appraisal of the situation—we shall start 1988 with about \$96 million arrears.

How will we function in 1988 when our Special Reserve Account is zero? If there is a difference in the dollar rate in 1988 in comparison with the exchange rate approved by the Conference in 1987, where would I find the difference? Now, under the FAO rules, I use the Special Reserve Account. The working Capital Fund will also be zero at the beginning of the year. \$13 million plus \$21 million in the Special Reserve Account makes \$34 million, and with the US contribution it would be nearer \$100 million. But I trust very much that the US Administration will do everything possible to make a supplementary allocation or whatever. I do not think they can tell us today that they will never pay this amount. Therefore I have to take the optimistic attitude that the US, in the case of FAO and other organizations, will eventually honour their obligations. They have never said that they will not pay, so I assume that they will pay. This is the option I have chosen. But the other option will certainly be very bad: and we will continue to follow the situation closely. The subject is going to be with us for some time.

Mohd. Mazlan BIN JUSOH (Malaysia): On behalf of my delegation I should like first of all to compliment Ambassador Bukhari and Mr Shah on their introduction to this agenda item. The matter of budgetary and financial shortfall is, indeed, a very serious problem faced by this Organization. As a member of the Finance Committee, we are fully aware of the magnitude of the problem and would like to fully support the short-time measures and programme adjustments as proposed by the Director-General. The freezing of posts, cuttings in publications and meetings, would inevitably hurt the work of this Organization, but under the present circumstances we would have to face the reality of the situation.

On the Technical Cooperation Programme, we fully support the call made by many developing countries to maintain the level of allocations already agreed in the last Conference. My delegation also wishes to join other delegations who have spoken before me to appeal to member countries who have yet to meet their obligations in full to do so as soon as possible as this would greatly alleviate the problem that this Organization is facing.

We understand that many nations, especially developing countries, are facing great financial difficulties of their own, but in the face of difficulties that FAO is having now this is the time to show solidarity with this Organization. In this respect, we would like also to urge member countries not to take unilateral decisions not to pay out in full, as this would create a very dangerous precedent in international organizations such as the FAO.

On the alternative to borrow, my delegation feels that at this stage it may be premature to take such steps. Nevertheless, if the situation warrants it at a later stage, we would like to suggest that member countries be advised well in advance before such a step is taken. This would enable us to fully appraise the gravity of the situation and be able to consider its implications and prepare for its consequences.

At this stage I wish to state that in view of our serious financial situation we are not in a position to agree any proposal that might entail any increased contributions from Member Nations.

David Lawrence COUTTS (Australia): Australia thanks the Chairman of the Finance Committee for his presentation of the reports of the 57th and 58th Sessions of that Committee. Australia was represented on the Committee by Mr. John Sault, and I can say we are in a position to endorse both reports.

In relation to the budget and cash flow forecast given in document CL 90/23, I would underline Australia's concern at the serious financial situation facing the Organization caused mainly by the shortfall in contributions of Member Nations—a subject that most speakers have already covered.

Australia has always taken its financial obligations to the FAO very seriously. Its record of payment of contributions demonstrates that sincerity.

We have taken note of the estimates by the Secretariat of the possible size of the shortfall. We are of the view that this is, unhappily, a realistic assessment on the basis of what is known at the present time and what the real position may turn out to be. However, given our understanding of the way events are moving in the United States, we do not see any reasonable likelihood that the bulk of those arrears will be paid in the 1988/89 biennium, if at all. However, we will be interested to hear the United States views on that point. If we are correct though it means that FAO is faced with a long-term shortfall in its income which as we have heard from the Director-General a little while ago, could be something like one hundred million dollars at the beginning of the 1988/89 biennium. In these circumstances, Australia is firmly committed to the position that it is not acceptable to postpone the hard decisions that must be taken by FAO to adjust its expenditure to the level of resources that will be available over the next few years. While we recognize the need for the budget cuts proposed by the Director-General, we fear that they are not adequate to address the situation and would result in FAO entering the 1988/89 biennium in an extremely precarious financial situation. Looking at the components of the 16.4 million dollar savings proposed by the Director-General, I would like to see clarification in relation to the figure of 6.5 million dollars, mentioned in connection with staff savings, as to whether that is a result of a freeze on recruitment for other than absolutely essential vacancies. My impression is that it is not. If it is not, then my delegation feels that such a policy should be examined to see if further savings could resolve the problem. They also observe a saving of 9.9 million dollars in non-staff expenditures, against a total budget of 437 million dollars; this seems fairly modest: in the circumstances although I don't mean in any way to belittle the efforts the Director-General has made. I understand how difficult it is to find such cuts.

In suggesting that further consideration should be given to finding further savings in this area, we are assuming that a substantial portion of the budget of the Organization would not yet be obligated against programme expenditure. In relation to the proposal to withdraw 9 million dollars from the Working Capital Fund we would note that such a withdrawal, as Canada mentioned, according to Financial Regulation 6.5, must be repaid in the 1988/89 biennium by Member States, presumably, through an assessment above that required for the biennium itself or by programme adjustments. We would obviously be very concerned if that is a correct interpretation.

If the difficult decisions are postponed until next year we feel that they will be all that much more difficult. Other major specialized agencies have already made cuts, or 'have plans for substantial reductions in administrative and programme expenditures, to meet substantial expected shortfalls. We feel that FAO has no alternative but to face reality and take the same approach. We will make more specific comments on the alternative approaches proposed by the Director-General when that matter is under discussion. I should indicate that we are unable to accept proposals which shift the burden of shortfalls to other donors and seek to identify more revenue by technical adjustments in exchange rates and reserve funds.

Turning for a moment to the proposals for dealing with various problems of delayed payment of assessed contributions given by the Finance Committee, we would note that any changes which might be adopted in these procedures would be unlikely to have any effect in the 1986/87 biennium, as no financial surplus presumably will be available for distribution. It would not be until the question of distribution for any cash surplus from the 1988/89 biennium comes up in January 1991, that there might be some real incentive in relation to encouraging earlier payments at least in regard to most of the alternatives put forward by the Finance Committee. Having said that, we would endorse the recommendation of the Finance Committee that they should explore this matter focusing particularly on alternative 3, 4 and 5.

Just summing up, the objectives that Australia feels should be uppermost in the Council's mind in its consideration of this matter are, that the FAO must meet the projected shortfall in the 1986/87 biennium by much more substantial cuts in Regular Budget expenditure. We do not exclude a consideration of expenditure on the Technical Cooperation Programme if that should prove appropriate, relative to other priorities. Although, we have noted with interest the very strong feelings of my delegation on that matter. Moreover, that FAO must not begin the 1988/89 in heavy debt. Also, that the financial burden of arrears is not transferred to members who have fulfilled their obligations. Our feelings would be that Council should ask the Director-General to go from this meeting and prepare a range of cuts including substantive programme cuts, if necessary, that would meet these objectives. Such a set of proposals could be considered by the Finance Committee at the special session in December. We do not accept that the Director-General does not have the authority to make much more substantial programme adjustments than proposed.

To finish I would like to say, as Canada did, that I was pleased to hear the United Kingdom intervention earlier in this discussion. I found it to be very interesting and it demonstrated that a great deal of work had been put in by that delegation to analyse the budget situation. Out of that I would form the conclusion that it would be opportune to address the question of what it actually costs FAO to deliver a dollar of programme. As I understand it, the UK delegation has calculated a figure of about 36 percent for the whole programme. Mr Shah in his response raised the difficulties that always arise when you try to allocate overheads to programmes. He assessed that the figure given by the UK might be better expressed as something like 13 percent (he said about one-third the UK figure). I have some misgivings about some of the allocations he was suggesting. I think this matter needs closer attention and all members of FAO should be concerned that as much money as possible goes to programmes rather than to maintaining and supporting bureaucracy. We would support the suggestion that this issue of programme delivery costs be the subject of a detailed study, possibly by outside experts, to come up with a formula that all can agree on.

Lastly, in looking at the resources available to the Organization in dealing with this financial crisis, I have been a little puzzled by what the liquid funds represent. If you look at the budget statements you will see that some 300 million dollars of liquid assets were in existence at the start of the biennium, (this was mentioned by the Danish Delegation) which are equivalent to 70 percent of the annual budget. We would be interested to know, like the Nordic countries, what these funds are used for, where they are held and why they cannot be run down to somewhat lower levels to assist in meeting the present financial crisis.

Gonzalo BULA HOYOS (Colombia): Nuestro distinguido colega y amigo el Embajador Bukhari, de Arabia Saudita, merece el pleno y sincero reconocimiento de la delegación de Colombia por la inteligencia, competencia y la consagración con que cumple sus santas funciones de Presidente del Comité de Finanzas.

El Sr. Shah hizo una excelente presentación y luego en las respuestas que dio a través del animado dialogo de esta mañana confirmó la claridad y la forma documentada como pudo despejar dudas y ambigüedades que habían sido planteadas.

El Sr. Crowther hizo también una presentación lúcida y completa.

Empezaremos por decir que compartimos los aspectos sobresalientes-de la declaración hecha esta mañana por nuestro colega Da Silva, del Brasil, sobre todo en cuanto a la necesidad de delinear claramente responsabilidades, no confundir el proceso rutinario a través del cual se había venido creando un déficit bienal promedio del 5 por ciento, sin que ello afectara la adecuada adecuación del programa. Ahora el hecho bien conocido es otro.

Esta circunstancia nos induce también a destacar cómo los países en desarrollo hacen grandes esfuerzos, sacrifican inversiones vitales para su crecimiento económico a fin de poder pagar sus contribuciones en divisas, que tanto escasean en nuestros países por la inmensa deuda externa, el proteccionismo y la falta de voluntad política de algunos estados industrializados que no ofrecen asistencia técnica y financiera adecuadas.

Brasil es un gran país en desarrollo cuya contribución es superior a la de algunos estados industrializados, y por ello apoyamos la clara posición de nuestro colega brasileño en el sentido de que sería injusto involucrar por igual a todos los países en la determinación de la crisis.

Brasil, Camerún y México, entre otros, reiteraron su apoyo al multilateralismo; la delegación de Colombia considera que en este momento difícil es necesario consignar en nuestro informe la concepción diáfana e inmodificable de que el multilateralismo sigue siendo la base irremovible de la existencia de la FAO y de la propia cooperación internacional.

Otro aspecto importante que debe quedar muy claro es que sería inaceptable que se prospectara siquiera la más mínima duda sobre la forma transparente, eficaz y dinámica como se cumple la excelente administración de la FAO.

Se ha hecho reiterada referencia a lo que sucede en otros Organismos del sistema de las Naciones Unidas; ya e 1 Director General dijo esta mañana que sigue con seriedad y toda atención ese proceso, pero pensamos que no se puede generalizar, que será necesario tener en cuenta los objetivos, los fines, los campos dentro de los cuales están enmarcadas cada una de esas Organizaciones. La FAO ocupa un lugar preponderante dentro de ese contexto por la alta significación que la agricultura y la alimentación tienen para los países en desarrollo y por la grave crisis que afecta todavía a los países africanos y también a algunos otros países del Tercer Mundo.

Se ha criticado el hecho de que en Caja existan 300 millones de dólares. Nosotros pensamos que eso es signo de buena administración, de prudencia y austeridad. ¿Qué tal si esta crisis se hubiera presentado sin que existiera un mínimo de disponibilidad líquida en las arcas de la FAO? Todo iba muy bien, no es culpa de la administración si a la mitad del camino se le niega el combustible para seguir adelante.

A la delegación de Colombia le ha llamado particularmente la atención el hecho de que algunas delegaciones, pocas afortunadamente, hayan pedido que se apliquen reajustes justamente en los dos aspectos más positivos del programa de la FAO a partir de 1976, la descentralización y el Programa de Cooperación Técnica.

Con los recortes propuestos por el Director General ya se afectan por reflejo las Oficinas Regionales y los representantes en los países, pero no podemos aceptar ninguna reducción ulterior que afecte la descentralización porque no queremos volver a la época ingrata, que yo viví, superada ya afortunadamente, durante la cual actuaba en Roma la FAO como rueda suelta, aislada, encerrada en una torre de marfil, desvinculada de los problemas y de las necesidades que existen allá en nuestros países, en las regiones en desarrollo.

El Programa de Cooperación Técnica no podrá tocarse; los gobiernos de los países beneficiarios diariamente realizan la evaluación del PCT y son testigos directos de los beneficios de ese programa, además de la evaluación que ya se realizó con participación de representantes de países desarrollados y con buen éxito, ampliamente reconocido.

Queremos dar acto al distinguido colega y amigo John Glistrup, de Dinamarca, quien habló en nombre de los altruistas y generosos países nórdicos y también al delegado de Australia, quienes esta tarde han manifestado que son sensibles a la opinión unánime de los países en desarrollo en favor del PCT.

Nosotros pensamos que el PCT no es popular por demagogia, sino por la eficacia, por el efecto multiplicador que cumple en nuestros países, particularmente al estimular el mayor flujo de las inversiones.

Se esgrimió aquí el argumento de que el mayor contribuyente ad interim de la FAO había expresado reservas sobre el PCT. Nosotros creemos que esa referencia está fuera de orden porque afortunadamente nuestra Organización funciona en un marco multilateral dirigida al beneficio de los países en desarrollo; no existe aquí, ni aceptaremos jamás, la implantación del voto ponderado; los programas y las políticas de la Organización son decididos por la Conferencia, en la cual participan todos los Estados Miembros sin ninguna diferencia.

Los 45 millones del PCT arrastrados del bienio anterior corresponden a una disposición expresa de la Conferencia, y esto lo recuerdan muchos colegas, después de negociaciones en las cuales prevaleció el interés de los países en desarrollo.

Se ha dicho que el PCT debería existir sobre la base de contribuciones voluntarias. ¿Es acaso otro intento de hacer ineficiente ese Programa sometiéndolo al dominio, a la discriminación y a los vetos de los grandes donantes y a los vaivenes y las incertidumbres de organismos como el FIDA y el PNUD, para citar sólo dos casos?

Si son sinceros quienes proponen cambiar el PCT a contribuciones voluntarias, pues bien, que hagan esas contribuciones voluntarias para sumarlas a los recursos que ya han sido asignados en el Programa Ordinario y fortalecer así el PCT.

Este Consejo debe ser consciente de que el Programa 1986/87 fue aprobado por la Conferencia de 1985; debemos ser muy cuidadosos en relación con la función de este Organismo subalterno de la Conferencia.

El Director General ha hecho propuestas que aceptamos con sacrificios. Ciertamente no estamos complacidos porque vayamos a vulnerar la voluntad del máximo Organismo reduciendo el Programa aprobado; es fácil decir para los representantes de los países desarrollados que no es suficiente lo que se propone, que se puedan hacer más reajustes, porque todo ello no les afecta, porque todo ello hace víctimas inocentes a los países del Tercer Mundo, pero nuestra actitud de comprensión tiene sus límites, no podemos aceptar ninguna reducción más allá de los 16, 4 millones propuesta; ir más allá sería correr el riesgo no sólo de incurrir en la ilegalidad, sino de comprometer seria e irreparablemente la ejecución de un programa que ya en 1985 estuvo sometido al funesto crecimiento cero impuesto por los países desarrollados.

Nosotros compartimos con el Director General la serenidad, la altura y responsabilidad dentro de las cuales se ha enmarcado este debate, porque sería verdaderamente lamentable y triste que proliferaran intenciones y propósitos que no fueran sanos a la sombra de una situación deplorable, de la cual no es responsable el Director General ni la gran mayoría de los estados miembros. Pensamos que la actitud común debe ser positiva, unánime, solidaria.

Esta mañana nos dolió oír hablar a la distinguida delegación que inició el debate que esos 60, 90 ó 100 millones no eran nada. Claro que esa cifra no es nada para los países desarrollados, pero es mucho para los países en desarrollo y estamos seguros de que los demás países industrializados así

lo entienden. Es inconcebible que se propicie la paralización de la organización diciendo que el Director General no debe recurrir a préstamos. El Consejo en 1981 y la Conferencia en 1983 aprobaron resoluciones que autorizan al Director General a pedir préstamos. Por la prudencia que le caracteriza y el excelente criterio de administración con que actúa el Director General hasta ahora no ha hecho uso de esta autorización, pero si al comenzar 1988 o la situación es la misma de hoy o peor el Director General deberá recurrir a préstamos y tal vez convendrá observar que este Consejo no puede derogar una resolución de la Conferencia.

El gobierno de Colombia ha reivindicado siempre la posición de respeto que deben ocupar los representantes de gobiernos en los organismos internacionales, pero cuando elegimos al jefe de una organización como ésta es porque merece nuestra confianza, por ello en los reajustes propuestos, que apoyamos, sabemos que el Director General ha procedido con el sano y acertado criterio que le distingue siempre.

Acogidos a la amplitud con que él se ha referido a las reducciones propuestas, sin entrar en detalles, solo quisiéramos declarar que en cuanto a las reuniones ojalá se tenga en cuenta el caso particular de América Latina y El Caribe que padecen una tremenda deuda externa y que está afectada por el proteccionismo en su comercio, por lo cual dentro de lo posible sería conveniente mantener aquellas reuniones que estén dirigidas a impulsar la CPTD y la CPT para incrementar la producción y aumentar nuestras exportaciones.

Nos hallamos ante una grave situación lamentable, deplorable pero que es necesario afrontar con realismo. No podemos alegrarnos de que unilateralmente se hayan violado obligaciones contractuales, obligaciones contractuales adquiridas al adoptar la Conferencia el Programa de Labores y Presupuesto 1986/87; pero tampoco podemos en esta sala roja cambiar dos leyes de un país ni invertir el curso de las relaciones del cambio dólar/lira. Por ello corresponde rodear solidarios al Director General para que nuestra Organización sufra lo menos posible en esta Crisis.

La delegación de Colombia se suma al llamado que debe ser firme y decidido de este Consejo al más alto contribuyente para que cumpla con su deber y honre el compromiso que adquirió con la Comunidad internacional.

En nuestro informe deberemos también consignar la esperanza expresada esta mañana por nuestra colega y amiga la embajadora Fenwick, de los Estados Unidos, en el sentido de que este Consejo entiende que se trata de una situación provisional, temporal y de que ese gran país pagará cuanto antes la totalidad de su contribución para 1986/87, y de que esto no se repetirá en los bienios futuros.

Este Consejo debe también pedir al más alto contribuyente que además de pagar la totalidad de su contribución renuncie voluntariamente a recibir el reembolso que le corresponde por los excedentes de Caja en 1984/85. Lo mismo deberían hacer todos los demás estados miembros, renunciar voluntariamente a recibir los excedentes proporcionales que les corresponde y así, sin conferencias especiales, se lograría el buen propósito del colega y amigo embajador Pascarelli, de Italia.

Señor Presidente, habíamos solicitado intervenir entre los últimos en este debate porque esta mañana compartimos la inquietud del colega embajador Ariza Hidalgo, de Cuba. Creemos que en este debate ha hecho falta la declaración del más alto contribuyente al presupuesto de la FAO.

Esperamos que ésta se produzca aunque sea a hora tardía en el curso del debate, porque confiamos sinceramente que esa declaración va a disipar el pesimismo de nuestros colegas de Canadá y de Australia y nos va a devolver la confianza en el respeto y la admiración que merece esa gran nación.

El Comité de Finanzas se reunirá en diciembre; los Comités del Programa y de Finanzas tendrán sus sesiones normales en la primavera de 1987 y luego en el Consejo de junio de 1987 revisaremos de nuevo la situación. Eso es todo cuanto corresponde hacer a este Consejo por el momento. Lo demás sería derrotismo inaceptable; no es constructivo ni aceptable que algunos distinguidos colegas, no quiero nombrar a sus países por respeto, pero colegas que están situados en esta misma fila hacia mi izquierda, que esos colegas, repetimos, se conviertan en casandras del desastre, que no se conviertan en pregorenos del apocalipsis, que no se conviertan en impulsores de la paloma que vuela con su pico hacia el infinito con 102 millones de dólares, que no sean mensajeros desafortunados de consecuencias que más o menos veladamente podrían representar en cierta medida amenazas que no prosperarán en el seno de esta Organización democrática integrada por estados soberanos e independientes.

LE PRESIDENT: Pour éclairer les membres du Conseil, je voudrais demander à M. Crowther de bien vouloir parler des 300 millions de dollars qui ont été évoqués ce matin par le délégué du Royaume-Uni, puis par celui de l'Australie et enfin par celui de la Colombie. Je crois qu'il serait bon que M. Crowther donne au Conseil des précisions sur ces liquidités de 300 millions de dollars.

Ensuite, je voudrais donner la parole au Président du Comité financier, M. Bukhari, qui souhaite donner une précision sur un point important du rapport: du Comité financier.

Dean K. CROWTHER (Assistant Director-General, Administration and Finance Department): If I can take just a moment to clarify the issue that has been raised concerning the apparent liquidity suggested by our financial statements as audited by the External Auditor and included in a document that will be discussed next week, C 85/5, in it there is reference to our cash balance as of 31 December 1985, the end of the last biennium, which was the end of the period the accounts were audited for. It shows a cash balance of approximately \$300 million. Like any balance sheet you have to take into account both sides of the balance sheet. You cannot select one figure off the top and say it is available to be spent. It is certainly not surplus. The use of that \$300 million has already been determined, as shown by the balance sheet. If you read down the liabilities side you will see that there is not enough cash to support the entire list of liabilities that are there. I wish it were the case that we had so much cash that we could pay all our liabilities immediately. We have to depend on contributions which have not been received as you will see from accounts payable—that is, we have incurred bills that we have literally not received, there are purchases that have been made that are in transit and the final settlement has not been made—\$29 million.

Similarly we have other outstanding obligations of a longer term nature amounting to \$45 million. We have a portion of the roll-over of the TCP programmes that is recognised by the \$300 million, but a very small portion unfortunately because we do not have sufficient cash to fund the TCP programme at the end of any particular year. To date of that \$45 million in roll-over we show an obligation of over \$20 million through October. At the end of December we did not have sufficient cash to pay for the entire amount of the TCP programme.

The next figure you see is the excess of income over expenditure, 34. 7. That is the very important 34. 7 of surplus that will be distributed on 1 January which was set aside in the accounts and is a liability recognised. Certainly that forms part of the cash.

Next in Trust Funds, \$114 million that we were holding at 31 December to fund those projects operated under Trust Funds. Those projects were operating in conjunction with member governments and payments have been made and obligations of one nature or another have been incurred. But we cannot use that for any purpose other than those specific Trust Funds. No other use can be made of that money, it is held in trust.

There are approximately \$22 million in support costs which is the overhead that we received from UNDP and others to pay for the FAO share of that amount. That presents a liability to the Organization because those amounts have been incurred within the Organization, and are due and payable.

In addition, we have the Special Reserve Account. I believe it was mentioned in one of the interventions this morning that the \$300 million did not include money for the working capital fund and the Special Reserve Account. Unfortunately it does. There are no extra funds to provide cash for those accounts. So you see listed the Special Reserve Account which at 31 December represented 5 percent of \$21, 850, 000. The Working Capital Fund at that point was \$13, 253, 975. If you take the entire amount in that column you see it adds to \$388 million. The cash is roughly \$300 million. Obviously there is not a sufficient amount of cash to cover that entire amount. It is always a bit dangerous to select the cash figure of major liquidity. The Organization has in effect two sources of revenue, contributors and other income. Once contributions are received we invest them immediately, in fact the same day, at interest to attempt to draw as much interest as we possibly can. That source of revenue is certainly important and estimated in assessing the amount of contributions at the beginning of each biennium. Against those we have the Programme of Work and Budget. We cannot incur a deficit per se, that is not authorised. Therefore our cash inflow will never exceed our cash outflow. But, more important'ly, our cash outflow cannot exceed our inflow. We have to balance out. At the end of the year we zero out our entire operation. If there is any cash surplus whatsoever, as the Council well knows, it is then refunded in the following year. So you can look at all the accounts, at all the income and the expenditure, and if there is a surplus it will be refunded. At any one moment the amount of cash could fluctuate significantly depending upon which member countries have paid or not paid, but in assessing that amount we must look at the liabilities that are owed at that point in time.

The audited accounts have always very clearly shown the entire picture both of the income and the expenditure, and the audited accounts this time, as has always been the case, showed that we have both received the income accounted for and expended it in accordance with the rules of the Organization. Therefore I must conclude that we cannot measure the liquidity of the Organization by looking at the cash balance at the end of lasy year. As Mr Shah has indicated, the projections are that by the end of the biennium we will either be out of cash or very near out of cash. How we cover all the liabilities has been the purpose of the discussions here. Unfortunately that measure is very difficult to look at.

Atif Y. BUKHARI (Chairman, Finance Committee) (original language Arabic): I wanted to give you some very important information which has given rise to a good deal of discussion, but as Chairman of the Finance Committee I should like to draw the attention of my colleagues in the Council to the Report of the 58th Session of the Finance Committee, in particular to paragraphs 22-31. This concerns the delays in contributions, the measures which have been raised by delegates of Canada and Australia. I just wanted to say that these measures are not the solution to the financial crisis being experienced at the moment by the Organization but these are corrections to the distribution of the surplus liquidity starting from the years 1988/89.

This is what we said in paragraph 26, about the eventual cash surplus for 1988/89. We say that during the 86/87 biennium there will not be any cash surplus. These are measures which we are proposing for detailed consideration so that these measures can be put into practice in the future. But these measures do not in any way refer to solutions for the present crisis being experienced by the Organization.

Another point which I wanted to raise, the Finance Committee deals with this question and gives it a very considerable amount of time in its work. As the Council is the superior body it should give us some guidelines concerning the measures which we propose. Are we satisfied with the level which we have reached so far in the study of these measures or should we continue to study these measures and in particular the alternatives which were mentioned by the delegate of Australia? This is why I wanted to have the Council's view on that. It is not perhaps necessary to have the views of all members of the Council but if possible the Drafting Committee could indicate to us what the Council's attitude is on that specific point-that is, the measures to cope with the arrears in contributions. That is what I wanted to raise.

LE PRESIDENT: Le délégué du Royaume-Uni a demandé la parole pour compléter ce qu'a dit M. Crowther.

James D. AITKEN (United Knigdom): As we do seem to be conducting this meeting in a way in which there is a series of questions and answers perhaps I can take advantage of this to continue this process on the question of the Organization's liquidity.

I am very grateful to Mr Crowther for his reply which one could say perhaps facetiously is in the nature of a bikini, it reveals a lot but also conceals some things as well, in a very interesting manner, I should add.

First, I do not think anyone expects the Organization's cash assets to cover its liabilities. So while it is interesting to hear a comparison between cash assets and the liabilities it is perhaps not necessarily the most useful measure when one is looking at cash flow problems. A more useful measure in terms of dealing with liquidity is trying to find out the agency's actual cash outgoings over a period and comparing them with its liquidity the amount of money it holds in the bank and in cash.

We find it very difficult to establish a figure for the actual money spent by FAO in any period, as distinct from the money committed or obligated. We have estimated that in a year FAO probably spends in the region of \$460 million. On that basis if FAO spends \$460 million the liquidity it has, the ratio of its spending to its assets, is somewhere in the region of 60 percent. We checked with another multinational organization, the Commonwealth Fund for Technical Cooperation.

You will have to forgive me because the figures we have are in pounds sterling rather than dollars. The Commonwealth Fund for Technical Cooperation spends approximately £22 million per year-a very small fund. Their liquidity (money they have in the bank) is one million pounds. There is a considerable difference between that, which we think is probably on the low side, and the money held by FAO. I think there is certainly something there that one could look at. More interestingly, and we are very grateful to Mr Crowther for making this point, it would be very useful to see a statement showing the monthly level of cash and liquid assets held by the Organization over the past biennium. We would find this very useful in terms of either figures, or in terms of a graph showing how liquidity fluctuates from month to month. We would then have a better idea of the projections that we are being asked to consider.

Dean K. CROWTHER (Assistant Director-General, Administration and Finance Dept.): To continue the dialogue, we do have an expenditure statement which is shown in the document I made reference to earlier. In fact, on the opposite page from the Balance Sheet, it shows the total amount of expenditure and the total amount of income. I think the Organization has been as transparent in listing those items in any great detail as it has every been requested to do. So if there are other additional needs we certainly can meet those. The expenditure statement has been audited. I think you can see the total amount of our expenditure is clearly set forth in the Statement of Income and Expenditure.

A. Daniel WEYGANDT (United States of America): After the long build-up to our statement I feel somehow that I am destined to disappoint, but we will do our best. I should also like to keep my remarks as brief as possible in view of the late hour, and in view of the fact that the time of the Council is worth something itself.

I should like to begin by thanking Dr Bukhari for his introduction and both Mr Crowther and Mr Shah for their information; and also the Director-General for his most recent intervention and comments. I think I should preface my remarks by referring to what he has just mentioned namely the answer to the two questions-yes, it is true that the United States has not renounced its obligations, but no, we cannot say what our situation is going to be with respect to 1988 or 1989. In fact, we cannot say what our situation is going to be with respect to 1986, and we clearly do not know what the situation is going to be with respect to 1987. I cannot comment on whether other delegates have been overly optimistic or overly pessimistic about what our United States Congress will decide to do with respect to its contribution level. I would, however, remind delegates that this is an extremely complicated issue and is not just with respect to FAO, by any means whatsoever, and it is not just with respect to the Specialized Agencies of the UN system. It is a matter of policy towards the UN system as a whole and is intricately involved with the whole budgetary situation within the United States itself.

The United States delegation regrets that we are not able to provide more information and we hope to be able to do so as soon as we can. The United States delegation has listened with great interest and attention to the interventions of previous speakers and we will be sure to convey the spirit of these statements to the Government and to the Congress.

As has been pointed out, the shortfall in the US contribution is the result of Congressional action affecting the whole of the UN system. It is not directed at FAO alone.

It has been encouraging to hear that most speakers take this financial crisis seriously. With respect to the United States contribution, the most effective action (perhaps unfortunately) that any Member of the Council could take at this time would be to urge its Government to support the reforms proposed for the United Nations in New York by the High Level Group of Eighteen which is looking at UN issues of reform and budgetary progress.

This is because, for better or worse, the concerns of the United States Congress centre on the UN rather than the Specialized Agencies.

As I said, we are not in a position to say at this time what our contribution is going to be either for the present period or for next year's period, either with respect to level or timing. However, I must say in candour that the outlook for next year is not much different than the outlook for the present year. I cannot dispute the estimates that the Organization has made with respect to the US \$64 million shortfall for this present biennium, nor can I confirm them. However, it may be reasonable to believe that this is of the rough order of magnitude that can be expected.

With respect to the Director-General's proposals in document CL 90/23, let me just address one point on them, that is, that the United States believe it would be harmful to the Organization in the long term to resort to external borrowing.

I should like to refer briefly to a point made by the Chairman of the Finance Committee, Dr Bukhari, with respect to proposals for the Finance Committee report. My delegation would like to associate itself with the statement of a previous delegate-I believe it was Brazil-who indicated that this is not a solution in itself. My delegation feels that this is not perhaps the best time to consider such measures. It may be advisable to take into account the experience of other organizations.

The United States does not take the present situation lightly. Whilst it is true that some 40 percent of the membership has not paid any part of its contributions, the United States does not relish becoming a member of this relatively large group.

We look forward to working with the Secretariat and all other members of the Organization in trying to resolve the present difficulties.

We welcome the decision to have a special session of the Finance Committee in December and we are optimistic that by that time the level of the 1986 United States contribution will be clear. However, it is regrettable that there will be no representative of North America at that meeting.

The present crisis should provide an occasion to reflect on the benefits all members derive from FAO. The shortfall in the United States contribution is not a complete surprise. For some years United States delegations to various UN organizations have been urging the need for economy and the concentration of agencies' activities on priority programmes.

My delegation can only hope that with proper seriousness on the part of all members, FAO and the UN system will emerge from the current crisis stronger and better able to meet the needs of the international community.

Le PRESIDENT: Nous avons encore beaucoup d'orateurs inscrits. Dix orateurs et quatre observateurs. Actuellement, il est 17 h 50, soit nous continuons comme hier, soit nous continuerons demain matin. Nous continuons. Les deux orateurs inscrits sont la Chine et la France. Pour pouvoir gagner du temps, nous allons passer la parole à la Chine.

Li ZHENHUAN (China) (original language Chinese): Some of the delegations have just elaborated on the current budgetary and financial uncertainties. The Chinese delegation would like to join other delegations in discussing the issue and state our view.

Over the years most of the Member Nations have earnestly fulfilled their financial commitment, providing FAO with a solid foundation for its budget and finance. The management of the Secretariat is also efficient. Here I should like to cite two figures from the Director-General's opening speech. The FAO expenditure for personnel has been cut down from 77 percent of the budget in 1975 to the present 55 percent. During the same period the expenditure for administration has decreased from 24 percent to 16 percent, while the proportion of technical and economic programmes in the Programme of Work has increased, which ensured the success for the

implementation of the FAO Programme of Work, and contributed to the food production and agricultural development throughout the world. Nevertheless, starting from the current biennium, uncertainties have been hovering over the FAO's budget and general financial status. Apart from world economic and monetary factors, the failure of some Member Nations, especially the largest contributor, to fulfill its financial commitment, should also be considered as one of the major factors.

However, since the restoration of the legitimate Membership in FAO of China in 1973, China has faithfully carried out its financial duties. Therefore, the Chinese delegation hopes that the Director-General will once again appeal to countries who have not yet fulfilled their financial obligations to pay their delayed contributions for the current-assessments and arrears so as to ensure the implementation of the current biennium Programme of Work and Budget approved by the 23rd Session of the FAO Conference.

The Chinese delegation has studied the proposals and approaches suggested by the Director-General to ease the potential shortage of funds and to deal with the budgetary and financial uncertainties. We appreciate the Director-General's efforts in adjusting the programme and taking such measures. We also render our support for the Director-General's endeavours to maintain the technical and economic programme to the maximum extent possible, and the Technical Cooperation Programme in particular.

I will elaborate further on the approaches to dealing with the budgetary and financial uncertainties when item 12. 1 (b) is discussed.

Jacques POSIER (France): La délégation française voudrait tout d'abord remercier le Président du Comité financier pour son exposé clair et documenté qui nous a été très utile. D'autre part, nous avons examiné, avec la plus grande attention et beaucoup d'intérêt, les documents qui sont soumis au Conseil sur les difficultés financières auxquelles l'Organisation doit faire face pour poursuivre ses activités avec des moyens réduits. Je dois dire tout d'abord que cette situation suscite de la part de mon pays de très vives préoccupations au moment où, comme nous l'avons vu à l'occasion de l'examen de la situation alimentaire mondiale, c'est au contraire un effort accru en faveur du développement agricole qui serait nécessaire. Aussi, ma délégation appuie-t-elle fermement le Directeur général dans son effort de collectes des contributions auprès de tous les Etats Membres.

Je ne m'attarderai pas sur la question de savoir jusqu'à quel point précis le Conseil peut se considérer comme habilité à décider des mesures à prendre. Certaines mesures d'ajustement proposées par le Directeur général nécessiteraient, normalement, une délégation de pouvoir de la Conférence au Conseil. Mais nous savons aussi qu'une convocation de la Conférence en session extraordinaire serait d'un coût élevé pour l'Organisation, ce qui irait directement à l'encontre de l'objectif poursuivi. Il ne me semble d'ailleurs pas, au regard de certaines dispositions prises dans le passé, qu'une délégation formelle préalable soit indispensable pour permettre au Conseil d'arrêter dès maintenant certaines mesures de sauvegarde. Dans la situation présente, ma délégation est moins préoccupée par la procédure à suivre pour effectuer les ajustements nécessaires que par la signification et le montant de ses ajustements. Je pense tout d'abord qu'une distinction doit être opérée entre les mesures rendues nécessaires pour des raisons techniques, comme les fluctuations du marché des changes, et celles qui peuvent résulter des décisions de nature politique prises par certains Etats Membres concernant leurs propres contributions. D'autre part, dans l'état actuel des informations fournies par le Secrétariat, la plus grande incertitude demeure sur le montant des économies nécessaires pour faire face, au mieux, aux difficultés prévisibles, dans la mesure où elles seront prévisibles.

Il n'est pas aisé de savoir si les mesures proposées seront suffisantes car de nombreuses incertitudes demeurent. Quels seront le montant et le calendrier du versement de la contribution du principal contributaire ? Quand les autres contributions nationales qui restent impayées seront-elles versées ? Comment vont évoluer les taux de change et les taux d'intérêt ? Il est difficile d'autre part, au seul examen des documents du Conseil, d'évaluer avec précision l'ampleur des difficultés de trésorerie à résoudre. Une présentation vigoureuse des documents financiers permettrait certainement de mieux apprécier le montant de l'impasse ainsi que le solde prévisible de l'exercice en cours dans différentes hypothèses. Que pouvons-nous faire, face à ces incertitudes ? Les mesures proposées vont-elles trop loin ? Sont-elles au contraire insuffisantes ? Dans l'immédiat, ma

delegation n'estime pas souhaitable de réduire plus sensiblement les activités opérationnelles de la FAO et je pense plus particulièrement à celles qui relèvent du PCT (Programme de coopération technique) dont l'utilité est incontestable et qui sont hautement appréciées par les pays bénéficiaires. Avant de renforcer les mesures d'économie, il serait certainement préférable d'attendre quelques mois de façon à orienter et à quantifier les nouvelles mesures susceptibles d'être adoptées. La question qui nous occupe aujourd'hui devra donc certainement être à nouveau débattue au sein du Comité financier et lors des réunions ultérieures du Conseil en tenant compte des indications nouvelles qui pourront être recueillies d'ici là. En attendant, la délégation française estime qu'il est possible dès maintenant d'autoriser le Directeur général à procéder aux mesures d'ajustement envisagées à court terme. Je pense en particulier aux dépenses de fonctionnement et aux diverses économies qu'il apparaît possible de réaliser sans remettre en cause l'ensemble du programme approuvé par la dernière Conférence.

LE PRESIDENT: Nous allons, si vous voulez bien, arrêter nos débats. Nous reprendrons nos travaux à 9 h 30 demain matin. Je voudrais indiquer la liste des orateurs inscrits à ce jour et qui prendront la parole demain. Nous avons 10 orateurs et 4 observateurs: Inde, République fédérale d'Allemagne, Egypte, Equateur, Bangladesh, Niger, Nicaragua, Thaïlande, Congo, Cuba, Ouganda, Libéria. Comme observateurs: Kenya, Pologne, Chili, Ethiopie, Algérie...Panama, Pérou, Rwanda, Gabon, Belgique. Y a-t-il d'autres délégués désirant prendre la parole ? Espagne. Nous considérons la liste comme étant définitive.

The meeting rose at 18. 00 hours

La séance est levée à 18 heures

Se levanta la sesión a las 18. 00 horas

council

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

conseil

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

consejo

ORGANIZACION DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS PARA LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION

CL

CL 90/PV/7

Ninetieth Session

Quatre-vingt-dixième session

90º período de sesiones

**SEVENTH PLENARY MEETING
SEPTIEME SEANCE PLENIERE
SEPTIMA SESION PLENARIA
(20 November 1986)**

The Seventh Plenary Meeting was opened at 9.45 hours,
Lassaad Ben Osman, Independent Chairman of the Council, presiding

La septième séance plénière est ouverte à 9 h 45, sous la présidence
de Lassaad Ben Osman, Président indépendant du Conseil

Se abre la séptima sesión plenaria a las 09.45 horas, bajo la presidencia
de Lassaad Ben Osman, Presidente Independiente del Consejo

- I. INTRODUCTION-PROCEDURE OF THE SESSION (continued)
- I. INTRODUCTION-QUESTIONS DE PROCEDURE (suite)
- I. INTRODUCCION-CUESTIONES DE PROCEDIMIENTO (continuación)
- 2. Election of Three Vice-Chairmen and Designation of the Chairman and Members of the Drafting Committee (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 de los Miembros del Comité de Redacción (continuación)

LE PRESIDENT: Mesdames, Messieurs, nous reprenons le cours de nos travaux. Je vais pour commencer vous donner la composition du Comité de rédaction telle que suggérée par différentes régions, ceci afin que ce Comité commence ses travaux au plus vite. Le Comité de rédaction est constitué de 13 membres dont le Président; ces 13 membres sont les suivants: Cameroun, Gambie; Bangladesh, Philippines; Egypte, Liban; Colombie, Mexique; France, Italie, Bulgarie; Etats-Unis; Australie.

Si, vous n'avez pas d'observations sur cette composition, nous pouvons considérer qu'elle est retenue par le Conseil.

It was so decided

Il en est ainsi décidé

Asi se acuerda

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

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

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

- 12. Financial Matters, including:
- 12. Questions financières, notamment:
- 12. Asuntos financieros, en particular:
- 12. 1 Financial Position of the Organization including Measures to Deal with Problems of Delayed Payment of Assessed Contributions
- 12. 1 Situation financière de l'Organisation, y compris les mesures visant à régler le problème des retards dans le versement des contributions
- 12. 1 Situación financiera de la Organización, especialmente medidas para afrontar los problemas del retraso en el pago de las cuotas
- (a) Budgetary and Cash Flow Forecast relating to the Programme of Work and Budget for 1986-87
- (a) Perspectives budgétaires et situation de trésorerie: incidences possibles sur le Programme de travail et budget 1986-87
- (a) Pronóstico presupuestario y de flujo de fondos en relación con el Programa de Labores y Presupuesto para 1986-87

LE PRESIDENT: Je voudrais signaler à l'aimable attention du Conseil que notre calendrier initial prévoyait que nous devrions terminer aujourd'hui la première analyse de la situation financière avec également les perspectives budgétaires et les approches financières possibles à long terme. Je propose donc que les orateurs qui veulent bien prendre la parole aujourd'hui essayent de tenir compte de cette contrainte de temps, afin de ne pas trop nous éloigner du calendrier initial. D'autre part, afin d'aider le Comité de rédaction dans l'élaboration de son rapport, ainsi que le Comité financier qui se réunira les 16 et 17 décembre, je suggère aux orateurs de continuer dans le même sens que les orateurs d'hier afin que nous puissions connaître leurs appréciations sur le rapport du Comité financier de la 58ème session (qui s'est tenue du 22 septembre au 2 octobre) et de nous faire part de leurs appréciations sur les mesures suggérées par le Comité financier pour faire face au problème du retard des paiements des contributions. Ces mesures figurent dans le rapport CL 90/17, paragraphes 22 à 31. Il est à noter également que le Comité financier a fait une suggestion dans le paragraphe 31 indiquant "qu'il a noté que les mesures III, IV et V exposées à l'annexe C sont celles qui correspondent le mieux aux principes et conclusions qu'il a adoptés". Ce

que vous demande le Comité financier, c'est de lui donner des instructions pour qu'il puisse faire avancer ses travaux à la réunion des 16 et 17 décembre. Le Président du Comité financier souhaite donc que, lors de la discussion, les membres du Conseil lui donnent des instructions précises afin de lui permettre de poursuivre son travail.

Point of order

Point d'ordre

Punto de orden

Octavio Rainho da SILVA NEVES (Brazil): Following your ruling yesterday we just addressed ourselves in a very brief manner to the Report of the Finance Committee to some extent and to 12. 1 (a). We did not address ourselves to 12. 1 (b), so following your ruling we understand that we are free to ask for the floor to address ourselves to that point.

LE PRESIDENT: Pour être clair, nous espérons finir ce matin, si possible, l'examen du point 12. 1, c'est-à-dire les instructions à donner au Comité financier, puis les mesures à moyen terme. Je propose d'achever la discussion sur ce point et d'entamer l'examen du document CL 90/24, lequel n'a d'ailleurs pas encore été présenté par le Secrétariat.

Jusqu'à présent, le Secrétariat nous a présenté les documents CL 90/4, CL 90/17 et CL 90/23. Ce sont ces trois documents que nous examinons actuellement et, dès que nous en aurons terminé, le Secrétariat présentera le document CL 90/24; nous aurons alors une discussion sur les mesures à long terme.

Ce que souhaite le Président du Comité financier, c'est de recevoir les instructions du Conseil au sujet des suggestions faites par le Comité aux paragraphes 22 à 31 de son rapport afin d'être en mesure de poursuivre ses travaux, les 16 et 17 décembre, en tenant compte des vues des membres du Conseil.

Atif Y. BUKHARI (Chairman Finance Committee) (Original language Arabic): I think the Chairman has entirely cleared up everything that I tried to indicate yesterday. The fact of the matter is that I do not wish to repeat this and I certainly do not want to ask for the floor specifically to go over the same ground. This is a matter which will have important repercussions in time. What you have before you is a series of alternatives which we in the Finance Committee thought might be useful for the future work of the Committee and yesterday I said I wished them to be considered.

In fact, the Drafting Committee itself-this might be the best solution to avoid a second debate on this second section-could orientate the discussion along those lines. In any case, the members of the Council have the final word on this matter.

R. G. PETTITT (United Kingdom): Some of our speakers yesterday spoke before we had had this very strong plea from the Chairman of the Finance Committee to focus on the proposals in paragraphs 22 to 31 of document CL 90/17, so we did not actually cover this. Of course, we could come back again and cover this, but I wonder whether it would simplify matters if our observations on this point, which are probably short, could be included in statements on the Alternative Approaches to dealing with Budgetary and Financial Uncertainties in document CL 90/24 under (b). Then it is only a question of the Secretariat being alert and putting them under the right Agenda item and feeding them in to the Chairman of the Committee and the Drafting Committee.

José Ramón LOPEZ-PORTILLO ROMANO (México): Muy brevemente. Sólo para aclarar que como Presidente del Comité de Redacción estimo que sería un tanto inconveniente, inclusive difícil, que se llevara el tipo de auscultaciones o de negociaciones que recomienda el Presidente del Comité de Finanzas en el seno del mismo. En última instancia, si fuera necesario y en el caso de que no tuviera usted Sr. Presidente y por tanto tampoco el Presidente del Comité de Finanzas una idea clara de lo que piensan sus miembros, que se constituya un miembro de contacto o un grupo de apoyo específico, pero solamente si usted no tiene tal consenso. Pero si quiero dejar a un lado los trabajos de redacción del Comité de Redacción; éste solamente debería encargarse de tal cosa. Yo repito, muy atentamente, que por favor se cumpla con tal propósito.

Octavio Rainho da SILVA NEVES (Brazil): In connection with this question of the Report of the Finance Committee I share the views of the representative of Mexico. We do not think that the Drafting Committee is a negotiating committee so we would not be prepared to give this power to the Drafting Committee. On the other hand, as far as the Report of the Finance Committee is concerned yesterday we expressed formally our reservations about paragraph 31 in particular and the suggestions contained therein. So unless you allow us to come back to this point eventually, Mr Chairman, we would like to stress once again our reservation in connection with paragraph 31 in the context of the observations we made yesterday.

Leopoldo ARIZA HIDALGO (Cuba): Nosotros queremos compartir el criterio que han presentado los distinguidos representantes de México y de Brasil referente a la función del Comité de Redacción y al párrafo 31. Además, Sr. Presidente, queremos expresarle que tenemos la palabra solicitada desde ayer porque considero que no podemos desviar la discusión ni cortar la discusión en el momento preciso en que acabamos de conocer realmente que cambian todas las condiciones aquí para la discusión del futuro financiero de la Organización. Por tanto, yo no me podré ajustar específicamente a lo que usted plantea y voy a intervenir específicamente sobre lo que le anuncié en mi primera intervención, mis reservas a discutir y analizar la situación del primer contribuyente.

George Henry MUSGROVE (Canada): I did want to draw attention to this particular matter which has been brought to us by the Chairman of the Finance Committee. I did note in the interventions yesterday that too few speakers addressed this particular issue, I think because it is of very much less importance than the major crisis which is facing us and most speakers wanted to move along to the short-term measures that might address our financial crisis.

The second element is the fact that I do feel we have a mixture of issues here. This is being discussed in the same item as short-term measures to address the financial crisis. This particular measure designed to deal with the problems of delayed contributions is not only of a different order but is a different topic altogether. It is something that has been discussed for three or four years. It is something that if a decision is taken it will not be in effect for three or four years and, in light of the prospects for surplus, may not be in effect for the next eight or ten years. It is a small thing financially relative to the issues that drew the attention of speakers yesterday. If I were to judge whether it is a short-term or a longer-term measure, I would say that it is more of a longer-term measure, and perhaps, with your indulgence, Mr Chairman, when we get to point (b) speakers might be encouraged also to address this particular item as a long-term measure so that we could give guidance to the Finance Committee.

Gonzalo BULA HOYOS (Colombia): Los debates sobre procedimiento suelen ser útiles porque rompen un poco la monotonía de la serie de declaraciones, sin embargo, creemos que ya hay elementos suficientes para que se prosiga nuestro debate y las delegaciones que quieran hacerlo podrán referirse al informe del Comité de Finanzas cuando se discuta el documento CL 90/24 como lo han sugerido el Reino Unido y Canadá, o en cualquier otro momento. Este es un debate amplio, hay una interrelación indiscutible entre todos los aspectos financieros; luego, como es de costumbre, la Secretaría preparará un texto del primer proyecto del informe, lo pasará al Comité de Redacción en el cual están representadas todas las regiones y todas las tendencias y luego veremos qué se le presenta al pleno del Consejo el proyecto de informe. Creo que esto es lo que hay que hacer y proseguir nuestros trabajos.

LE PRESIDENT: Je pense que nous allons pouvoir poursuivre nos travaux et entendre les orateurs en leur laissant assez de flexibilité pour qu'ils choisissent le moment opportun pour communiquer au Conseil leur opinion au sujet des propositions du Comité financier, qu'il s'agisse de mesures à court ou à long terme.

Chavaly SRINIVASA SASTRY (India): The detailed and somewhat bulky documentation on the subject under discussion tends to appear, at first sight, as rather complicated and intricate. The letter from the distinguished Permanent Representative of the United Kingdom to the FAO of the 17th November to Mr Shah, whilst adding to the bulk of the documents and without if I may say so simplifying the Information and data, raises a number of questions based on certain assumptions of a financial and accounting nature. As we know, Mr Shah has questioned the assumptions of the distinguished UK delegation and also the conclusions. That apart, how I wish this letter of the United Kingdom delegation had been made available to us in our capital, New Delhi, so that I too could have had

this examined by competent financial experts without relying exclusively on whatever inhouse talent could be commandeered by us in Rome in the last two days.

Despite these complications, thanks to the lucid expositions given by the Chairman of the Finance Committee, His Excellency Bukhari, the position has become clearer. As a result, the issues for decision stand posed before us with no equivocation.

The brief interventions made by the Deputy Director-General, Mr Walton, and the Assistant Director-General, Mr Crowther, have clarified the position further. May I specially compliment Mr Shah for the information he has furnished, and the incisive analysis he has presented, in throwing light and thereby enhancing further the transparency of the financial data in relation to the issues specifically raised by some of the distinguished delegates. Overhanging our discussions in the Council during this session, is the issue of financial uncertainty arising out of a policy change which has recently become effective in one of the member countries of the FAO. The fact that this member also happens to be the single largest contributor to the FAO imparts a special seriousness to the emerging situation.

All of us do understand the imperatives which come into play in the decision-making processes of governments elected on adult suffrage. The Director-General, Dr Saouma himself, has referred to this in his statement on 17th and observed that "domestic policy has its own demands".

However much we in FAO Council might wish that we did not have to contend with these reductions and uncertainties, we have to recognize the realities and consider at this stage what changes are necessary, in the short term, in the FAO budget and programmes.

It is clear, as was stated by the distinguished delegate from the USA yesterday, that the uncertainties and reductions in relation to US contributions are not confined to the FAO alone, but are applicable to the entire UN System across the board. India believes that this is contrary to the principles of sovereign equality and to constitutional obligations and is detrimental to multilateral cooperation.

Speaking of timely remittances, I find that my country figures in the list of countries from whom contributions are outstanding. May I mention, in passing, that this remittance has been cleared by my government on the 7th November. Hopefully, our remittance should be reaching the FAO before this meeting of the Council concludes on the 28th. May I also briefly draw Mr Shah's attention to page 4 of document CL 90/4 and enquire whether in the footnote (a) for Appendix A, we should read Appendix B.

Permit me to refer briefly to the intervention made by the distinguished delegate of the United Kingdom yesterday, about the programme delivery costs of the FAO.

With the nodding acquaintance I acquired in a British university, where I had the opportunity of studying financial management and based on what little experience I subsequently had in management in government in India, which is also a developing country, I tried to understand the points made in the United Kingdoms delegate's letter based on the analysis of Mr Aitken and the ODA.

In the British analysis a number of assumptions have been made. For example, the TCP programme delivery costs have been shown as "nil" in the itemized analysis on page 4 of the document. Similarly, in arriving at the programme delivery costs of Extra Budgetary items, certain assumptions have been made about the imputed costs. The summary of estimates by programme, which is page 11 of the document, (although I find that all the pages are not serial numbered) would show that while budgetary funds are estimated at 159. 68 million US dollars, the extra-budgetary funds are estimated at 467. 846 million dollars, a proportion of nearly 1: 3. The lowest contribution of extra-budgetary funds is in nutrition, food and agriculture, information and analysis and programme management.

In presenting the allocation of costs by the ODA by the UK, would it be incorrect to assume that some discrepancies might have crept in inadvertently? To quote an example, whilst I am in Rome for the Council meeting, for attending which, I understand, the FAO pays me the fare, if I also attended to some of the "programme delivery" work of my government, I would submit that the programme delivery costs to my government for that programme would be relatively very low. On the other hand, if my government chooses to send me here exclusively for the "programme delivery" work alone, I would submit that the programme delivery costs of my government would be much higher.

I am, however, obliged to the distinguished delegate from the United Kingdom for the table extracted on the last page of his document which gives the region wise summary. This statement, according to me, would appear to be very significant and also possibly explains some of the stances being taken by the various Member Nations in this Council meeting.

Whilst on the subject, permit me to make a point. which is somewhat related. The British delegation has made certain cost comparisons in programme delivery costs with the ODA and other international

organizations. I would respectfully submit that whilst cross comparisons can be valid, we must make them with caution and some circumspection. The comparisons really depend on the nature of activity in which that Organization is engaged, the nature of the projects which it is dealing with and, what is most important, the scale of the projects. I would submit, if I am dealing with the World Bank or the IMF, which is dealing with banking operations, the criteria would be different. If I am dealing with the International Finance Corporation which funds large industrial projects, the criteria for programme delivery costs would be different. If I am dealing with large irrigation projects which involve massive investments once the details and programmes and plans and designs are finalized, or with hydro or thermal powered projects the criteria will again be different. I would also submit that if I am dealing with the World Bank to borrow 200 million dollars for a single project in India, in agricultural extension or in irrigation, I would contend that the project programme delivery costs would be low. On the other hand, with a budget of only 61 million dollars for TCP spread over about one hundred countries and each programme being the order of less than US\$ 300 000, understandably, in terms of project formulation, project appraisal, implementation, and supervision, the delivery costs are likely to be higher. Therefore, I would submit that in agricultural programmes, particularly at the field level, such distinctions between the programme delivery costs and programme costs might not be always very easy to make, or valid.

We in the Government of India, whilst dealing with our own agricultural development programmes, come face to face with this problem rather frequently, when we interact with own financial experts. As all the distinguished delegates are aware, the contributions to agricultural development by the State (that is the Government) is mostly in terms of (a) extension staff and (b) laying of demonstrations. All inputs, and I emphasise all, and investments which contribute largely to agricultural development are paid for by the farmer himself, either from his own or loaned funds. Often, our Finance Committee tells us that our programme delivery costs are very high, ranging up to over 90 percent in some cases. Such high programme delivery costs are more than balanced by the benefits which the farmer reaps in terms of increased agricultural production and income through technical advice and services.

I do not know to what extent this analogy would be applicable at "country level" to the FAO programmes. May I suggest that this aspect could be gone into when the distinguished delegate from the United Kingdom and Mr Shah meet again to discuss these issues. I would once again reiterate that we must exercise caution in making cross comparisons.

As Mr Shah had explained with examples and illustration, with such telling effect yesterday, the figures arrived at by the distinguished delegate from the United Kingdom would seem to suffer from some lacuna in terms of definitions, methodology, classification of certain items of expenditure and also the classification of activities of certain divisions and posts in the FAO and the Regional Offices. I would submit that these issues which involve questions of exhibition in the statements of accounts are so specialized, complex and complicated that they should be tackled not by us, the generalists in this Council, but by specialists in finance, accounts and O & M.

In our view the question raised is really a "question of fact" and does not involve any "value judgement". As with all "questions of fact" this matter could and would have only one right answer. As Mr Shah has explained, the United Kingdom analysis has placed the programme development costs at 300 percent of the figure arrived at by Mr Shah himself. I do hope that the delegate from the United Kingdom will avail himself of the offer made by Mr Shah and be able to sit down with him so that at the specialist and professional level there can be unanimity about the classification of the activities and costs in computing the programme delivery costs.

The letter from the delegate of the United Kingdom, paragraph 15, ends by emphasizing the need for detailed information to be given to the Member States. As all of us know just as "programmes involve delivery costs", information also involves "gathering" costs and "information delivery costs". This point has been made by the Chairman of the Finance Committee, as also by the Director-General himself, that consistent with cost-effectiveness, there will be no hesitation on the part of the FAO headquarters to provide all the information. Those of us who are working in parliamentary democracies and who are called upon to furnish information for answering parliamentary questions do not require any further proof about the costs of information gathering and delivery.

Another aspect which I would like to refer to is the slow pace at which agricultural activities tend to move in developing countries. In this setting we are dealing with segments of society which are tradition bound and yet are willing to change provided the benefits of modern agricultural practices are demonstrated to them. The process of change is slow and often painfully slow. I am mentioning this in the context of observations made by the delegate of Japan who, while talking of the TCP, referred to the large roll-on or carry-over funds of the order of about 47.7 million dollars by the end of March 1986 and went on to suggest that perhaps for this reason the TCP could make do with some cuts.

As far as I understand from the budgetary documents-Mr Bukhari is a better authority on this, chairing, as he does, the Finance Committee-in the FAO we go by the concept of an appropriation for

the biennium, which is followed by the identification of the programmes and once the identification is completed, comes the third stage of commitment and linking of allocations with the approved programmes. Based on this and the pace of expenditure over the period of 24 months, over a period of time, we have "expended funds", "obligated funds" and "unobligated funds carried over". In this context I would find it difficult to agree with the suggestion by the delegate from Japan. On the contrary the comfortable cash position of the FAO to which references were made by some delegates is, I would imagine, a direct follow-up of the budgetary procedures and the funding methodology followed by the FAO.

Some of the members have referred to an evaluation of the working of the TCP. I find from the report of the 57th Session of the Finance Committee, document 90/4 on page 2, paragraph 5, there is a reference to evaluation of Technical Cooperation Programme and the organization of the Agricultural Rehabilitation Programme for Africa. What is more satisfying is that this particular evaluation has been funded from savings that have accrued from some of the on-going programmes.

Another reference which we have heard throughout the discussion in this Council has been about the efficiency, effectiveness, responsiveness and image of the FAO, I would contend the TCP as conceived and implemented is a programme which has enhanced the effectiveness and efficiency of the FAO, which has revved up the responsiveness of the FAO and which, if anything, has improved the image of FAO. On top of this, the United Kingdom document, if I am permitted to quote from that, notes that the TCP has apparently the lowest programme delivery costs. TCP in my view has been of immense and direct relevance to the countries who require advice and assistance. We would therefore strongly oppose any curtailing of the funds for TCP. On the other hand we would request the Director-General to find a way of maintaining the annual growth rate in the allocations for the TCP.

Before I turn to the financial aspect I would like to mention a couple of aspects of the World Food Programme in document CL 90/17. I would particularly refer to paragraphs 64, 65 and 66. It is somewhat odd that an organization should find itself in a situation where it enters into a contract for the sum of 3 million from which it was not able to get much of a benefit. It is also somewhat surprising that at the end the Organization finds it "advisable to use its available financial and staff resources to develop and implement a viable alternative computer strategy rather than to pursue complex and uncertain litigation". This I would submit is an area which possibly requires some attention considering it involves millions of dollars, at least 3 million in this case.

The second item is that in paragraph 65 there is a reference to an Asian country, which I presume is not India. However I do hope that the explanation furnished by the Committee to the External Auditor has been satisfying and there will be no modification of the assistance that India has been getting from the World Food Programme considering the important role that this programme has been playing in India.

Lastly, I will deal with some of the financial aspects. When a crunch of this nature comes for any organization, cuts become inevitable. What to cut and by how much are difficult and often painful decisions. In imposing cuts we are all aware that there cannot be any soft options.

Before I react to the propositions contained in the document, may I venture to suggest that all the programmes included in the schedule of the FAO for the biennium 1986-87 deserve to be so included and implemented and would indeed have been implemented had there been no unilateral decision by the single largest contributor. Against this background we realize that in these programmes which are considered to be important and vital, due to the resource crunch, we have to make certain cuts.

If we try to go through the list item by item and try to decide which item has to be cut and by how much, we would be hard put to decide where and by how much to put the axe. I would therefore submit that the proposals contained in the document which have been tabled indicating the type of activities that are to be cut must be accepted by the Council.

As regards the ways and means figures, the Director-General has emphasized in the course of the document which is placed before us, (I am referring to the document CL 90/23) that he is committed to maintain the continuing financial and budgetary solidarity of the Organization beyond the perspective of this biennium. He also goes on to say that the situation is fluid, as we all know and requires constant monitoring, and the Director-General has assured us he continues to accord this situation his close attention. I would suggest that since the situation is dynamic and changing we should adopt all the suggestions that have been made in the documentation of this Conference about the reductions to be made in the funding of programmes of this biennium.

LE PRESIDENT: Je remercie le représentant de l'Inde pour les questions qu'il a soulevées concernant le Programme alimentaire mondial. Ces questions pourraient être analysées plus en profondeur la semaine prochaine lorsque viendra le moment de l'analyse du Programme alimentaire mondial.

Joachim WINKEL (Germany, Federal Republic of): Let me first express our gratefulness to the Secretariat for having presented these numerous documents mentioned in the agenda on this item. My delegation largely agrees with the analytical part of these documents. We are here to discuss possible solutions to the pending problems, thus to give guidance to further meetings, especially of the Finance Committee. We welcome the fact that the Director-General has examined the financial situation and informed us about the results of his considerations. In this respect we have come to the following conclusions ourselves. We share the attitude adopted by the Director-General and reflected in paragraph 35 of the document CL 90/23 to implement the Programme of Work and Budget for 1986-87 only to the maximum extent possible. This means to us that the Organization has to restrict itself under the present circumstances to an extent which is not yet exactly measurable at the present moment. We also share the opinion expressed in paragraph 38 of document CL 90/23 that the situation requires constant monitoring. We welcome the Director-General's proposal for savings of US\$16.4 million as paragraph 30 of document CL 90/23 reflects. In this respect we share the Finance Committee's view that the financial situation of the Organization in the biennium 1986-87 and beyond that assumed in document CL 90/23, depends upon whether and to what extent the assumptions will evolve in reality.

We also share the Director-General's view that in the case of shortfalls in the budget to the amount of about US\$ 90 million small economies will not be sufficient. The conclusion we draw therefrom is that adjustments of expenditures to receipts will be necessary to an even greater extent than so far is reflected in paragraphs 27 to 31 of document CL 90/23. This may lead us to programme adjustments which go beyond the scope suggested by the Director-General in Appendix A to document CL 90/23.

In addition to the adjustment of expenditure to the receipts available, which seems absolutely necessary to us, we believe that shifts in the budget itself could also make a contribution to solving a possible financial crisis in our Organization. In this regard we see for example chances for shifts from the TCP to other items of higher priority. It was pointed out that the Conference could only amend the Programme of Work and Budget 1986-87. We feel that this is not the problem. In our opinion the Programme of Work and Budget legally authorizes the Director-General to effect the expenditure approved by the Conference. We do not, however, believe that the approval of the Programme of Work and Budget by the Conference also implies at the same time a commitment to spend the appropriations.

Therefore we share the opinion of Mr Shah that there is no use in convening a special Conference session of FAO, especially since the Finance Committee will have one special and two normal meetings and the Council will meet twice again before the next FAO Conference.

We consider the balancing between lower income and expenditure through programme adjustment a procedure which is in line with the Constitution. Its application can ensure the functioning and working capacity of the Organization without requiring an amendment to the Basic Texts of the Organization.

For the future, however, we should examine in greater detail the different alternatives to deal with delayed payment of assessed contributions, as spelled out in Appendices C and D of document CL 90/17. In particular alternatives III, IV and V in Appendix D of this document seem justifiable to us.

This is a crisis of the United Nations system as a whole. Therefore in our opinion in the short-term the United Nations Secretary General and the heads of the various agencies should present specific proposals for reducing the Organization's expenditures in line with the anticipated shortfall in their revenues and these shortfalls should not be bridged by recourse to supplementary assessments, the use of Working Capital Funds or loans. As we learnt yesterday from Mr Shah, other organizations have already followed this line.

My Government deplores the critical situation to which our Organization has come, which is of great concern to all of us. We hope however that this will be a short-term problem only. Meanwhile we should not purely stick to thinking about technical means to overcome this problem. We should all together use the time to define our own role as members of the Organisation, to define the aims we have and to examine whether we consider our Organization sufficiently well-equipped to meet the demands of the future. It is of no use arguing about opposite opinions. Let us instead in the time to come make additional efforts to keep FAO on top of its vocation as the leading global forum for agricultural policy.

Abdel Azira EL-GAZZAR (Egypt) (original language Arabic): I would like at the outset to express my sincere thanks and appreciation to Dr Atif Bukhari and Mr Shah for the clear presentation of such important documents.

My delegation, having carefully read the relevant documents, wishes very briefly to express its full support for the proposals made by the Director-General of FAO to overcome the Organization's financial difficulties, which we all hope will be of a temporary nature.

we particularly support the Director-General's proposal to generate the necessary internal funding by drawing on the Organisation's safety net, **at** it were, or through external borrowing if need be.

we are also fully convinced of the efficiency of the financial management of this Organization and are also keen on not jeopardising technical programmes approved by the General Conference in its last session. Such funds should not be touched except within the narrowest limits.

We should like also to refer here to our full support to maintain the current levels of allocations for the Technical Cooperation Programme in view of the significant role assumed by the Programme in accelerating agricultural development in our respective countries.

A. K. M. Kamaluddin CHOUDHURY (Bangladesh): Against the backdrop of the financial crisis that FAO is facing, we express our thanks to the Director-General for presenting the issues in a comprehensive and realistic manner. we would also like to thank the Chairman of the Finance Committee for his excellent presentation of the report and Mr Shah for his useful clarification.

We fully share the concern of the Director-General about the budgetary and financial uncertainties which the Organization is facing and we endorse the measures proposed by the Director-General to improve the situation.

The proposals for programme adjustment and drawing on the working Capital Fund as well as the alternative approaches made in document CL 90/24 will, we believe, will improve the budgetary financial situation and at the same time they will help to generate savings to ensure the implementation of the Programme of Work of the Organization.

We are somewhat concerned about the Technical Cooperation Programme, which in our view represents the most important means for translating FAO programmes into action. Bangladesh, like many other developing countries, finds TCP most responsive to the urgent unforeseen needs in difficult circumstances and feels that it produces effective field results. Therefore Bangladesh would support the proposed plan for the implementation of the Programme and would urge that TCP should not be curtailed to generate savings. However, if the Programme can be arranged in a more efficient manner, we will have no objection in the matter.

We appreciate that certain activities need to be curtailed in the present biennium to tide over the present financial crisis. While proposing the programme adjustment for the remainder of the biennium it was stated in paragraph 30 in document CL 90/23 that there will be no cancellation of any statutory requirement, such as obligatory meetings of an intergovernmental body. In this connection we would like to draw your attention to document CL 90/23, where we notice that a proposal has been made to cancel the meeting of the IGG on Jute--that is the Intergovernmental Group on Jute, Kenaf and Allied Fibres--as an economy measure. As far as my knowledge goes, there are a number of other intergovernmental groups, but none of them seems to have been affected by this economy measure. Therefore we feel that while we appreciate the need for some economy measures we do not understand isolating only the IGG on Jute, Kenaf and Allied Fibres and we think that this programme should not be curtailed.

I would like to inform you that the Government of Bangladesh has always given special importance to the activities of this Group. Jute plays a very important role in the economy of Bangladesh and it accounts for 60 percent of its foreign exchange earnings, and the delegation of Bangladesh would be happy to see that the meetings of the Intergovernmental Group on Jute, Kenaf and Allied Fibres take place as usual. We think if some deferment has to be made it can be done but perhaps these activities should not be disturbed. We suggest therefore that the activities of the IGG on Jute should continue and the proposed cut on the meetings of the IGG on Jute should be reconsidered. We propose that this item should be deleted from the list of programmes which have been cut.

Guillermo G. GUERRERO HERNANDEZ (Ecuador): Quiero sumarme primero **a** las felicitaciones y agradecimientos formulados equi por la presentación de los documentos sobre el tema que nos ocupa.

Mi delegación no ha hecho uso de la palabra **a** fin de no repetir conceptos enunciados por otras delegaciones; sin embargo no quisiera que su silencio pueda interpretarse como desinterés por parte del Ecuador ante el análisis de un problema tan serio como es la crisis financiera que enfrenta la

Organización, Por tanto, me veo en el caso de insistir en lo ya expresado, en el sentido de que la crisis se debe a factores ajenos al funcionamiento y manejo de la FAO y que las medidas propuestas para combatirla por parte del Director General merecen el apoyo total de mi país.

Adicionalmente, algunas delegaciones han propuesto recortes en el Programa de Cooperación Técnica; inclusive, si he entendido bien, se ha insinuado que solamente serían prioritarios y urgentes un 20 ó 25 por ciento de las actividades del PCT, porque quería recortarse alrededor de un 75 u 80 por ciento. Sobre el tema, señor Presidente, mi delegación se opone enfáticamente a recortar el PCT ya que este Programa constituye si no la naturaleza misma de la FAO o su razón de ser, por decirlo así, por lo menos el medio más práctico de acción para combatir el hambre y la desnutrición que azotan a gran parte de la humanidad.

Finalmente, a nombre de mi país formulo un llamado para que quien unilateralmente ha disminuido su contribución a la FAO busque y encuentre la fórmula que pueda dejar sin efecto esa decisión, sobre todo considerando que el monto de tal contribución resulta de un compromiso responsablemente asumido por ese país en el marco multilateral de esta Organización Internacional y en base de la cual se ha elaborado el plan de acción ya aprobado de la FAO para el actual bienio.

Bava SAHADOU (Niger): Le point 21 dont nous débattons depuis hier traite un sujet fort important, certainement l'un des plus importants de l'ordre du jour de cette session.

A la lecture des documents qui nous ont été soumis, et à la lumière des exposés qui nous ont été livrés-exposés consolidés par la brillante intervention du Directeur général hier soir-notre délégation n'a en réalité que peu de choses à ajouter.

Cependant, nous commencerons tout d'abord par féliciter tous ceux qui ont pris part à l'élaboration de ces documents bien fournis. Autour de l'équation complexe Programme/Budget de notre Organisation, nous sommes surpris de constater qu'il se crée un paradoxe difficile à expliquer. Nous avons cependant adopté une programme de travail dont la mise en oeuvre est, vous le savez, subordonnée à la mise à disposition de la FAO d'un budget approprié et conforme à l'ambition modeste dudit programme.

Mais à quoi assistons-nous aujourd'hui? La réponse est claire. Nous assistons au paradoxe qui se traduit par la volonté d'exécuter un programme de travail, avec le désir d'en limiter les ressources nécessaires. Aucune organisation, dans ce monde par ailleurs difficile, ne peut oeuvrer avec l'efficacité voulue si elle ne dispose des ressources nécessaires.

C'est pourquoi notre délégation estime qu'il est à la fois dangereux et dangereux de recourir à des mesures draconiennes tendant à limiter les capacités d'interventions de la FAO au moment même ou plus que jamais nos pays en ont le plus besoin. A cet égard, notre délégation se plaît à féliciter toutes les délégations qui, jusqu'ici, ont milité en faveur de la non-diminution du budget de l'Organisation afin de lui permettre d'exécuter les programmes qu'elle a reçu mandat de mettre en oeuvre.

A la lumière des éléments internes que le Directeur général de la FAO nous a livrés hier soir, et en particulier de ses propositions de remèdes qu'il nous a suggérées, il convient de l'en féliciter et de l'aider à réussir son plan de sauvetage. Nous ne saurions suffisamment insister sur le danger qu'il y aurait à amener la FAO dans une situation telle que celle qu'a connue le Fonds international de développement agricole au cours de sa seconde reconstitution. Nous sommes heureux de constater que beaucoup de pays ont reconnu que le mauvais paiement des contributions est, en fait, la principale cause du mal financier qui risque d'affecter notre Organisation. Etant donné que la cause du mal est connue, la thérapeutique appropriée devrait suivre.

Permettez-moi de terminer mes propos avec une petite illustration quelque peu humoristique. Si nous considérons la FAO, notre Organisation, comme une vache laitière et donc nourricière, nous nous devons de reconnaître que dans son programme de distribution du lait elle devra surtout tenir compte de son besoin en fourrage. Ce lait, ce sont les actions consignées dans le programme d'action biennal 1986-87; et ce fourrage, c'est le budget nécessaire, approuvé, pour effectuer ce programme. A chacun de nous maintenant de méditer en son âme et conscience sur ce paradoxe.

Pour ce qui nous concerne, nous n'avons d'autre plaidoyer que celui portant sur la survie de la FAO à laquelle nous avons adhéré aujourd'hui depuis exactement 25 ans et trois jours, car nous avons cru et nous croyons encore à la noblesse de la mission qui lui a été attribuée: combattre la faim et la malnutrition dans le monde. sans considération de région, de couleur, de race ni de religion.

Humberto CARRION M. (Nicaragua): Nuestra delegación desea ahora abordar específicamente el tema de la situación financiera de la FAO. Somos conscientes de que el análisis hecho por el Comité de Finanzas en su 57 y 58 período de sesiones en mayo y septiembre pasados, respectivamente, ha variado a partir de la información contenida en el documento 90/23, parte 2 "novedades recientes, perspectivas actuales y propuestas del Director General".

Sin embargo, deseo referirme brevemente a algunos de los párrafos de los documentos 4 y 17 introducidos por el embajador Bukhari, de Arabia Saudita, antes de entrar a comentar el documento 90/23.

En el párrafo 20 del documento 90/4 se dice que "se informó al Comité de Finanzas de que la legislación promulgada en 1985 por el gobierno del mayor país contribuyente afectaría considerablemente a sus cuotas de pago al sistema de Naciones Unidas, incluyendo a la FAO".

En el párrafo 23 el Comité expresó profunda preocupación por esta situación y subrayó que el pago íntegro de las cuotas asignadas de contribución constituía una obligación de los estados miembros, para después manifestar en el párrafo 24 que no se debía pedir a los estados miembros que compensaran el déficit ocasionado por la reducción de pagos de cualquier país contribuyente.

Lo que el Comité de Finanzas no sabía en mayo pasado era la magnitud de la retención del pago del mayor contribuyente para el bienio 1986/87.

Por otro lado, en el documento 90/17 se menciona en el párrafo 16 que el porcentaje de las cuotas corrientes recaudadas hasta el 25 de septiembre de 1986 fue el más favorable registrado hasta esa fecha en los últimos cinco años. Pero esta tendencia decrece notablemente a partir de octubre debido a la falta de pago del mayor contribuyente. Esto que menciono está en el párrafo 5 del documento 90/LIM 1, y demuestra, junto con los párrafos 38 y 42 del documento 90/17 que los atrasos en el pago de los países de menor contribución no producen crisis financiera en la Organización. La crisis es provocada por la falta de pago del mayor contribuyente.

Pasando ahora al documento 90/23, parte 2, y a la luz de la intervención hecha ayer por la delegación de los Estados Unidos, nos encontramos con que no se puede ejecutar íntegramente el Programa de Labores y Presupuestos para el presente bienio sin tropezar con un serio problema de liquidez; y que además, una vez adoptadas las medidas de ajuste sugeridas por el Director General, la FAO tendría de todas maneras una crisis de liquidez en 1988.

Nuestra delegación considera que la retención del pago de la cuota debida por el primer contribuyente obedece a razones políticas, su sistemático ataque al multilateralismo es evidente. Si la justificación para no pagar sus cuotas es de orden económico interno, entonces en vez de pagar 100 millones de dólares aprobados recientemente para continuar financiando la brutal agresión externa en contra de Nicaragua se debería entregar ese dinero a la FAO. Cien millones son los que el principal contribuyente debe a la FAO para el bienio 1986/87. Sería más beneficioso para la humanidad entera financiar a la FAO y no a los mercenarios.

Nuestro país atribuye a la FAO una gran importancia porque la considera una Organización transparente, indispensable y eficaz en el campo del desarrollo agrícola y de la producción de alimentos; por esto lamentamos que dé manera unilateral e ilegal el mayor contribuyente retenga pagos debidos a la Organización.

Nicaragua pagó ayer, 19 de noviembre, a la Oficina del representante de la FAO en mi país, la cantidad total debida a la FAO hasta la fecha, a pesar de los daños económicos y los daños a la producción que nos ha producido la agresión externa. Estos daños se calculan ya en más de 2 500 millones de dólares, es decir 25 veces más de lo que el principal contribuyente debe a la FAO.

Nuestra delegación desea asociarse con las intervenciones hechas ayer por los representantes del Brasil, México, Cuba, Colombia y Argentina, y apoyamos las propuestas hechas por el Director General contenidas en el documento 90/23 para hacer frente al déficit financiero del bienio en curso, en el entendido que el Programa de Cooperación Técnica no será modificado en lo más mínimo y que el Director General podrá recurrir a créditos a corto plazo para hacer frente al problema de liquidez a principios de 1988.

Vanrob ISARANKURA (Thailand): My delegation wishes to join other previous speakers in commending the Director-General, the Chairman of the Finance Committee, Mr Crowther and Mr Shah for their very clear presentation of the financial position of our organization.

On this item, my delegation would like to express our position as follows:

First, like other previous speakers we support the view expressed by the Finance Committee that other Member Nations should not be called upon to compensate for the deficit caused by reduced payments by any contributor, as each and every Member Nation had accepted the obligation of payment of assessed contributions as a condition of membership in the organization. We also agree that this Council should strongly appeal to all Member Nations to make a special effort to remit their outstanding contributions without further delay.

Secondly, we fully agree with the feasible solution as indicated in paragraph 22 of the document CL 90/23, that is to allow the Director-General to make programme adjustments of an amount of US\$ 16, 4 million and to draw on the working capital fund for the amount of US\$9 million.

Thirdly, we are pleased to note that the Director-General did not propose to reduce operations under the Technical Cooperation Programme. As a representative of a recipient country, the Thai delegation has always emphasized that TCP is an important instrument enabling the FAO to respond promptly to urgent requests for assistance from member countries. The TCP also helps in filling the gap in the range of the technical assistance that is so important for the developing countries.

Today, my delegation wishes to confirm again that this programme has always responded promptly to emergencies and to the needs and priorities of my government. If we need to make a further adjustment, my delegation strongly opposes the idea of reducing the operation under the TCP. We are of the view that we should maintain the budget for TCP as it was approved by the last Conference.

Finally, to endorse the measures proposed by the Finance Committee as indicated in paragraph 31 of the document CL 90/17 and recommend the Committee should continue to pursue this matter at the next session.

Joseph TCHICAYA (Congo): La délégation congolaise, à l'instar de toutes celles qui se sont exprimées avant elles, souhaite féliciter notre collègue et ami, l'Ambassadeur Bukhari, pour l'excellente présentation qu'il a faite des rapports des cinquante-septième et cinquante-huitième sessions du Comité financier qu'il a l'honneur de présider. En effet, il a su, en termes clairs et appropriés, faire partager à notre Conseil les préoccupations du Comité financier sur la crise financière unilatéralement créée par un Etat Membre.

Ma délégation, qui fait siennes les principales recommandations du Comité financier, souhaite s'associer à l'appel qu'il a lancé en direction de tous les pays membres qui ne l'ont pas encore fait pour les exhorter à s'acquitter d'urgence des contributions courantes et des arriérés dont ils sont redevables à l'Organisation afin que celle-ci continue à disposer des liquidités nécessaires pour mettre en oeuvre le Programme de travail approuvé pour le biennium 1986-87.

Je suis heureux de constater, à l'examen du document CL 90/LIM/1 Annexe A, que tous les pays développés, à l'exception d'un, se sont acquittés de leurs obligations; je pense qu'il s'agit là d'un fait positif qui, à nos yeux, se devait d'être relevé. Il s'agit, en effet, d'un fait significatif qui marque l'attachement de ces pays à notre Organisation et, partant, au multilatéralisme.

Le Congo pour sa part, malgré ses difficultés économiques et financières, a honoré la quasi-totalité de ses engagements vis-à-vis de notre Organisation, et c'est fort de cela que nous déplorons que le plus grand contribuant se soit délibérément et unilatéralement mis en position d'empêcher l'Organisation d'accomplir son programme de travail. En effet, si nous comprenons que certains pays, en raison de difficultés financières indépendantes de la volonté de leurs dirigeants, ne soient pas présentement en mesure de s'acquitter de leur contribution, il est difficile d'imaginer que, pour de seules raisons de politique intérieure, le plus grand contribuant-dont on sait par ailleurs qu'il accroît le montant d'autres dépenses qui, dans bien des cas, n'ont rien d'humanitaire-ne puisse s'acquitter de sa contribution.

La délégation de mon pays respecte sans doute la décision de ce grand pays souverain qui non seulement réduit sa contribution mais en diffère le paiement pour asphyxier l'Organisation.

La délégation de mon pays est heureuse de l'unanimité qui s'est faite sur la principale cause de la crise que nous analysons en ce moment. Nous espérons simplement que les représentants du plus grand contribuant de notre Organisation seront nos fidèles interprètes auprès du Gouvernement et du

Congrès de ce pays pour exprimer la désapprobation unanime de ce Conseil et sauront expliquer l'attachement de tous à la FAO au multilatéralisme comme mécanisme de dialogue et de concertation irremplaçable. Nous nous réjouissons du fait que la délégation de ce pays a accepté de jouer ce rôle.

Mais si l'on peut se satisfaire du fait que cette délégation a dit qu'il n'était pas dans les intentions de son pays de ne jamais honorer ses engagements, notre déception a été grande d'apprendre que cette délégation n'était pas actuellement en mesure de nous communiquer les montants et les dates des prochaines échéances de versement. Cependant, nous gardons l'espoir qu'elle sera à même de nous les communiquer avant la fin de cette réunion.

A l'instar d'autres délégations, nous pensons que notre rapport devra mentionner clairement que la crise financière de l'Organisation n'est pas imputable à des problèmes de gestion mais qu'elle est imposée de l'extérieur par le plus grand contribuant qui a unilatéralement et simultanément décidé de réduire sa contribution et d'en différer le versement à des dates dont il est le seul juge. Une telle attitude est proprement inacceptable et moralement intenable. Une telle incertitude dans le versement des contributions du plus grand bailleur de fonds de notre Organisation plonge le Secrétariat dans un brouillard dont l'issue est incertaine et ne laisse au commandant du navire FAO que la possibilité d'une navigation à vue avec tous les risques que cela comporte pour les pays en développement.

La délégation de mon pays partage l'avis exprimé par notre ami du Danemark pour dire que chaque Etat doit se préoccuper de la viabilité de notre Organisation; et c'est pourquoi l'appel du Comité financier en direction des Etats Membres en retard pour leur contribution nous préoccupe au plus haut point. De même, sans vouloir proposer au Conseil de prendre une décision, en raison de son incompétence à ce sujet, un appel devrait être lancé pour que l'excédent de trésorerie de l'exercice 1984-85 qui doit être distribué aux Etats Membres au début de 1987 fasse l'objet d'une cession gracieuse et volontaire de tous les Etats Membres, y compris, bien entendu, le plus grand d'entre eux. En effet, la convocation d'une session extraordinaire de la Conférence pour trancher la question serait inopportune et trop coûteuse pour l'Organisation, ce qui, par ailleurs, irait à l'encontre des économies sur lesquelles nous sommes appelés à nous prononcer.

Voilà pourquoi le Conseil devrait suivre le Directeur général dans la stratégie qu'il a arrêtée pour faire face à la crise bien que, il faut bien le dire, nous ne le fassions pas de gaieté de coeur. Certes, on a dit et redit, chiffres à l'appui, que les autres agences des Nations Unies, y compris l'Organisation des Nations Unies elle-même, ont dû opérer des coupes sombres dans leur programme et budget. Mais il faut reconnaître que nous ne traitons pas des mêmes questions. Il s'agit ici de la vie des hommes et nous avons admis que le premier droit de l'homme est celui de se nourrir; dès lors, la FAO devrait être épargnée par ces réductions de programme qui n'auront pour conséquence que d'engendrer davantage de victimes de la faim et de la malnutrition.

Le moment est critique, comme l'a montré l'examen du document CL 90//2 que nous avons effectué lundi et mardi-et, dans son exposé, l'Ambassadeur de France l'a si bien rappelé hier. Oui, Monsieur le Président, contrairement à nos collègues des pays développés qui n'ont pas été impressionnés par les ajustements de programme préconisés et qui s'élèvent à plus de 7 millions de dollars, vous l'avez senti, les pays en développement, premiers intéressés parce que bénéficiaires de ce programme, le sont sérieusement et n'ont, hélas, d'autres recours que de les accepter avec l'espoir que le Directeur général veillera à ce que l'essentiel soit sauvegardé et que nos pays ne paient pas un tribut trop lourd à la suite de ces ajustements de programme qui vont toucher 3, 7 pour cent du budget de l'Organisation.

Enfin, les mesures proposées par le Directeur général nous semblent suffisamment cohérentes et raisonnables pour rencontrer notre agrément, surtout qu'il semble que leurs conséquences aient été mesurées à en juger par le fait que le PCT-le "populaire" comme l'a si bien dit le représentant du Canada-, dont l'ensemble des pays en développement qui en sont bénéficiaires pensent le plus grand bien, a été épargné. La récente évaluation menée par une équipe d'experts, dont a parlé hier l'Ambassadeur de Colombie et dont l'un des membres provenait du plus grand contribuant, n'a fait que confirmer l'efficacité du PCT. En effet, contrairement à ce que disent nos partenaires de pays développés, c'est précisément parce qu'on est en période de crise qu'il convient de garder le PCT intact car il est certain qu'on y recourra davantage encore et que son rôle sera donc capital en cette période d'incertitude.

Quant aux représentations régionales dont on souhaite réduire les ressources et les activités, la délégation de mon pays voudrait dire ici qu'elle est attachée à la décentralisation presque autant qu'au PCT. Ce sont deux innovations capitales qu'il convient de mettre à l'actif de M. Saouma, Directeur général de l'Organisation.

A cet égard, nous devons regretter que la présente situation ne nous permette plus d'exiger que ces bureaux régionaux, notamment celui de notre région, puissent être renforcés en rapport avec le rôle qu'ils devraient jouer au regard des missions rendues nécessaires par la situation agricole du continent.

Pour terminer, vous me permettrez de dire quelques mots sur la discussion qui s'est engagée hier entre le représentant du Royaume-Uni et M. Shah dont chacun de nous respecte la compétence et le sérieux dans le travail en tant que membre du Comité du Programme, je peux vous l'assurer.

Je tiens avant tout à remercier M. Shah pour les explications courtoises et claires qu'il a données en réponse au document distribué par le représentant du Royaume-Uni. En effet, ce document a, il faut bien le dire, failli jeter le trouble dans nos esprits, semer le doute parmi nous et perturber notre conscience collective. La leçon qu'il faut tirer de cet épisode est qu'il convient que les Etats Membres entretiennent des relations franches et sincères avec le Secrétariat pour un dialogue constructif susceptible de se répercuter positivement sur notre Organisation.

Cependant, nous pensons que ce dialogue devra éviter de faire perdre du temps au Secrétariat car aujourd'hui et demain plus qu'hier "time is money" et à cet égard le Comité financier et le Vérificateur extérieur des comptes (qui est un excellent sujet de Sa Majesté) rendent depuis des années de précieux services à notre Organisation et tous ont jusqu'ici bénéficié de notre confiance. Pour conclure, nous voudrions dire que nous prenons note du rapport du Comité financier tout en espérant que ce dernier trouvera dans ces prochaines sessions la meilleure manière de récompenser les bons payeurs, même si les mauvais, toutefois, doivent être invités à honorer leurs engagements.

Nous appuyons les mesures à court terme préconisées par le Directeur général pour faire face à la crise financière de l'Organisation tout en veillant que dans le gel des postes soit sauvegardée l'efficacité des services techniques et administratifs conformément au vœu exprimé lors de la dernière conférence.

Enfin, le Comité financier doit être invité à aider le Directeur général dans la mise en oeuvre du Programme de travail tel que nous l'avons accepté pour 1986-87 et notre délégation espère que la crise actuelle sera de courte durée.

LE PRESIDENT: Je voudrais me permettre deux suggestions. La première consiste à signaler aux orateurs, afin de préserver la sérénité de nos débats, d'éviter les questions politiques qui sont extérieures au débat qui nous intéresse aujourd'hui. D'autre part, serait-il possible, pour la poursuite de nos travaux, de nous limiter aux documents du Conseil pour la clarté des débats. Beaucoup d'orateurs ont fait référence au document distribué par le Royaume-Uni. Peut-être certains ne l'ont-ils pas reçu et d'autres l'ont reçu. Les membres du Conseil ne profitent pas tous de ces échanges de vues, puisque pas tout le monde a reçu ces documents. Voilà les deux suggestions que je voulais faire: préserver la sérénité de nos débats en évitant les questions politiques et essayer de se cantonner dans les documents qui ont été distribués par le Secrétariat et qui sont les documents officiels de la Conférence.

Leopoldo ARIZA HIDALGO (Cuba): Primeramente, señor Presidente, antes de darle las gracias como se acostumbra, quiero reconocer que usted es una personalidad de gran prudencia, prudencia que a veces hay que reconocer en los hombres, pero hay veces que esta prudencia puede traer consecuencias muy peligrosas para el futuro. Por lo tanto, yo voy a cumplir con usted, voy a referirme como miembro soberano de este Consejo a lo que se discute aquí, a lo que se ha expresado en la sala. En función de esto voy a hablar.

Ayer, señor Presidente, expresé mi preocupación de que la generalidad de los miembros del Consejo que hablaron antes que nosotros se refirieron al problema planteado por el primer contribuyente; y nos preocupaba que estuvieran hablando del primer contribuyente sin que éste hubiese hablado. Nos parecía que respetábamos a ese contribuyente esperando que hablara para poder saber cuáles son los problemas, los problemas que puede confrontar ese gran contribuyente que fue uno de los grandes países que crearon el Sistema de las Naciones Unidas; que fue en los Estados Unidos donde surgió el Tratado de las Naciones Unidas firmado por el Congreso y aprobado por el Congreso de Estados Unidos. Ese Tratado de Naciones Unidas que ese gran país firmó, ahora lo quiere destruir, según lo expresaron ayer, yo no estoy afirmando nada; nos expresaron que ellos no tenían nada contra la FAO, que era una reacción de Estados Unidos contra el sistema de la familia de Naciones Unidas. Así lo expresaron ayer los representantes de la Administración actual de Estados Unidos.

Nosotros, señor Presidente, queremos entrar en el fondo del problema en lo que realmente afecta a la FAO. Nos preocupa la forma prepotente, nos preocupa porque aquí no se ha utilizado nunca por los representantes habituales de ese país, sin embargo ayer en forma prepotente se nos ha dicho, además amenazando, que no pagarán y que no lo harán hasta que los 18 sabios decidan el futuro de las Naciones Unidas. Nosotros conocemos la función de los 18 sabios que están estudiando cuidadosamente las necesidades de que después de 40 años de estructurar esta gran obra, que tiene entre su principal función evitar otra catástrofe universal, esos sabios están tratando de perfeccionar el sistema, recoger errores, sí, naturalmente somos hombres y en el devenir del tiempo los errores se cometen; pero si tenemos valentía podemos tratar de rectificar. Esos sabios están estudiando eso. Esos sabios nunca han recomendado que hay que destruir primero para después construir. Ellos están rectificando en los mismos cimientos que se ha construido durante 40 años. Por lo tanto nos preocupa que un representante de un gran país como ese nos diga aquí que hasta que no se estudie el futuro de las Naciones Unidas el Congreso de Estados Unidos no podrá aprobar nada para la FAO.

Nosotros queremos decir, señor Presidente, que hay algunas contradicciones. Primeramente esto que digo de que los sabios no están estudiando para destruir, sino para rectificar. Pero también nos preocupa que ese país invoque al Congreso para decirnos que leyes de su Congreso le impiden pagar. Repito que en los países donde hacen valer sus poderes del Cuerpo Legislativo, este Cuerpo aprueba los Tratados Internacionales, y este Acuerdo está por encima de las leyes de ese Cuerpo, porque sino, señor Presidente, dónde podemos encontrar credibilidad de ese gobierno; a dónde van a parar los compromisos internacionales cuando cada cuatro años puede cambiar un grupo gobernante y decidir no seguir pagando, e interpretar unilateralmente que la sociedad tiene que cambiar completamente. Nosotros queremos, señor Presidente, y esa es nuestra intención, decir hoy que la actitud asumida demuestra con dramática realidad que el centro de todos los ataques al Sistema de las Naciones Unidas y sus Organismos especializados se encuentra en Estados Unidos de Norteamérica. He dicho esto despacio porque voy a ejercer mi derecho como estado soberano para que en el informe aparezca, aunque se diga una sola delegación.

Nosotros queremos expresar en esta situación que Cuba insta a denunciar los hechos para impedir que el afán estrecho y unilateral de Estados Unidos destruya la obra estructurada durante 40 años. Si hay crisis financiera en los organismos del Sistema tiene su origen en la cruzada de Estados Unidos contra el multilateralismo.

Para terminar, señor Presidente, no vamos a referirnos más a este punto, vamos a tranquilizarnos. Voy a referirme a las consecuencias de esta situación, y le pido a la distinguida representante de Estados Unidos que tenga tranquilidad, que ya tendrá oportunidad de responder. Nosotros, cuando llegamos en la mañana de hoy, esperábamos otro ambiente y nos sorprendió realmente el ambiente que habla, ya que esperábamos una atmósfera dinámica para tratar de salvar lo que tenemos; sin embargo nos encontramos un poco con temor a que se trataran las cuestiones tratando de cambiar los mecanismos de discusión.

Nosotros en la intervención de ayer apoyamos las medidas aportadas por el Director General, porque consideramos que son totalmente justas y que son las únicas que en estos momentos pueden ayudar a resolver el problema durante 1986/87, independientemente del pago del gran contribuyente. Sin embargo, ayer omitimos apoyar la petición de crédito. Creemos que la FAO está totalmente en condiciones jurídicas de solicitar los créditos que necesite y sería totalmente apoyado por los países del Tercer Mundo, que saben que esos créditos van a revertir en cumplir un programa hacia el Tercer Mundo. Por lo tanto queremos unir nuestras voces a los muchos delegados que nos han precedido y que se han referido a este punto de los créditos.

También me preocupó oír que iba a participar en el Grupo de Redacción los Estados Unidos de Norteamérica. Es una decisión regional que no la voy a cuestionar, pero me preocupa la participación de un país que plantea que no va a estar sentado aquí en 1987, como dijeron ayer.

Finalmente, voy a plantear que nos ha parecido muy completa en la mañana de hoy la intervención del representante del Congo, así como la declaración que hizo la distinguida representación de la República Federal de Alemania en la que dijo que tratemos de buscar fórmulas que nos permitan salvar a la FAO. En ese sentido creo que hay que buscarlas, pero hay que buscarlas con posiciones de negociación, no con barreras unilaterales que no van a permitir una discusión sana en el seno de esta Organización.

Mrs Millicent M. FENWICK (United States of America): I too would like to hear dialogue rather than confrontation. I wonder, hearing what I have just been hearing, whether to be angry or sad. Of course, it is always a mixture of both. I remember in a context in earlier days when something like this happened, and again I said that I didn't know whether to be angry or sad. A good friend of mine, the delegate of India, said, "You know, this reminds me of an old proverb" (I think a Chinese proverb) "I don't know why that man hates me. I never did him any good". That was the comfort that my good friend brought to me. I am not going to trouble or take the time of this distinguished

meeting to describe my feelings, but I think that there are one or two things that have to be said. For God's sake don't give us lessons to say, "Give little, then you will never be blamed if you come to a time when you have to give a little lees. Do not be the major donor. "For God's sake, do not get into that position or you will be the target for every arrow. What is our position? We speak of debt. We have a tremendous debt, an Incalculable debt, in addition to which we have a tremendous trade deficit. We buy from the developing, and all other countries, 148 billion more than we sell. We are in a very serious financial situation. No one says that we are going to abandon FAO. If there is any such suggestion, I can give you a letter that came only today. We recognize what FAO has done-not just in the financial or commercial ends, with all this information used by NASA and NOAA on fishing and so on, but in the humanitarian aspects of FAO which, as those who know me here know, that that is what I care about the most. I am not an expert on any financial or business field but I have spent my life in civil rights in my own country and I am concerned about human beings everywhere. I would like to say to some of our dear friends that I was in Congress when one of the countries, that has now attacked us very severely, managed to somehow persuade the dictator to leave. I immediately voted for \$150 million so that that country would move into free elections, free press and everything that we had hoped the departure of this dictator would mean. We make mistakes. Every country makes mistakes and, of course, we must say that we do too. There is no doubt about it, it is a mistake to have so huge a deficit, to have so huge a trade Imbalance, but we are trying to live in a world in which people have many different ways of looking at things. As I said the other day, we cannot in our country have one man say, "This is the way it shall be". We are not trying to destroy the UN. The only reason we feel that 18 wise men studying, as has been wisely said by the distinguished delegate who spoke not long ago, there are ways of improving matters there and it is that hope, that what they come up with as a recommendation for improvement, will be adopted. It would have a great effect on our public opinion.

Our public opinion is what is going to make the votes possible in the House-where the money comes from. It does not come from the Senate. It does not come from the Administration. And what we count on the 18 wise men for is to show that the United Nations are prepared to accept the study of a reform for the improvement that has been mentioned here. If that is done, that will have a big effect on public opinion. If it has an effect on public opinion it will effect the votes of the House, where the money starts. I beg of you, let us try to discuss these things in some kind of friendly and understanding spirit. I do not mean attack anybody, rebut anything, or say anything rude, but I do think we have very important business. I am like many people here. I have been in these countries and I have seen these people struggling to find some way to preserve the harvest they work so hard for to feed their families for the whole year.

I have seen what FAO can do in the way of making suggestions to preserve the maize from the larger grain growers and our other enemies in these countries. This is what is important about what we are doing here. It is an effort together to help the people who need the help most and we do not dignify it with politics and with hard words and with misunderstandings that are aggravated by more hard words. We do it with reaching out. It was Gandhi who said "You want to help the people, go to the smallest and poorest village you can find. Sit down and listen. See what they want. "-That is Number 1-"See what they need, there may be a little difference. Bring everything that is resources, human and material, together to reach that goal and when you have done all you can, go to the next poorest village. "And that is what I am talking about here, that is what is our business and I do not mean to enter into angry controversy, but I do think a little bit that the record has to be set straight.

Augustine K. OSUBAN (Uganda): The Uganda delegation would like to compliment the Chairman of the Finance Committee for the manner in which he Introduced the Financial Committee report.

Many speakers have spoken on this subject very clearly. The causes of the crisis have been analysed and suggestions have been advanced to meet the crisis. I only want here to place on record the concern of my delegation about the state of the finances of the Organization. Our position is, as was stated yesterday by the Chairman of the Group of 77, and that is we endorse the Director-General's proposal for bailing the Organization out of its predicament in the short run. Secondly, we are of the view that in the long-run as true believers we have to renew our vows to the organization and fulfill them.

Finally, we are concerned that the Director-General's proposals have not suggested any curtailment of the Technical Cooperation Programme. The TCP in our view has been the most effective instrument in the hands of FAO for stimulating agricultural development in developing countries and if there was reduction in any way it would render the Organization largely impotent for fulfilling its mandate.

Dominic D. BALLAYAN (Liberia): My delegation warmly appreciates the lucid presentation of Mr Bukhari, Chairman of the Finance Committee, and Mr Shah in all respects. I would not spend time reiterating the elements of the document but in short appeal to all Member Nations of FAO and most especially to the main donor of the largest contribution in arrears to make every effort in making payment in order to guarantee the future of our Organization. My delegation has also realized that the FAO Programme of Work totalling 437 million dollars cannot be fully implemented to its mandate because of a shortfall in the budget as a result of delayed payments of the main contribution. My delegation therefore supports the following measures to help remedy some of the financial problems. One, that the Director-General borrow funds and use them in the interests of the Organization and suffering humanity. Two, that the Director-General make programme adjustments due to delayed payments to enable him to continue the implementation of his mandate; my delegation does not view the exercise on the programme adjustment as a result of bad management of policy but as one of those business and financial norms that we live with whenever emergencies arise and FAO is no exception.

In his programme adjustment my delegation also supports that there should be no reduction in the programme of TCP. TCP is very important to us developing countries, especially Africa, and everyone can attest to that, and we even want to see it improved. We do not support any further cut beyond the saving realized by the adjustment. My delegation would appreciate if many feel optimistic for the situation to improve but on this unpredictable situation on financial programmes facing FAO in the future we would not hesitate to give full support to the Director-General on those measures proposed.

Again my delegation thanks all donors and multilateral agencies for their continuous support both morally and financially to eradicate malnutrition, hunger and starvation and it is in that spirit my delegation hopes that we will all carry through a unanimous atmosphere of consensus to appeal to all those in arrears to do so in the interests of suffering humanity of developing countries, most especially Africa. We hope that the largest contributor will find a new strategy for remitting quickly their contribution which we believe will help the Organization a lot.

Abdullah M. K. BOJANG (Gambia): As my delegation takes the floor for the first time I would like to seize this opportunity to congratulate you and your bureau and to assure you of our full cooperation. Our thanks go the Chairman of the Finance Committee, the Director-General and his staff for the well prepared working documentation which they have presented and for their responses to our queries, so far at least.

Speaking at the end of a long debate I am obliged to be brief since most of the observations of my delegation on this item have been adequately expressed by previous speakers. I intervene only to place on record that my delegation shares the concern of members on the precarious and desperate financial crisis our Organization faces. In this regard we support the proposals advanced by the Director-General in a bid to temporarily contain the situation and we share the view that the TCP which plays a vital role in many developing countries should not be affected by this exercise of cuts.

Sra. Mercedes FERMIN GOMEZ (Venezuela): Es una lástima, voy a comenzar por decirlo y sin violar su petición, una lástima que el término "política" esté tan desacreditado y que los demagogos hayan contribuido a prostituirlo, cuando su verdadero origen se refiere a una noble misión que es la relación humana en su más alto nivel para el entendimiento filosófico y de las ideas, si no ¿cómo podemos tener en las Naciones Unidas un Comité de Políticas y Programas nada menos que para la ayuda alimentaria-uno de los programas que realmente está cumpliendo una misión y nos reunimos en él sin que todavía haya llegado la sangre al río?

Digo esto porque voy a dedicarme a lo que realmente quiero plantear en mi intervención.

Comenzaré por decir que nos complace felicitar al amigo embajador Bukhari por la presentación del documento, cuya parte analítica nos satisface plenamente.

Escuchamos en su oportunidad con mucha atención la declaración del Director General y respaldamos totalmente las medidas que él propone en materia de reajustar el presupuesto de la FAO.

De la misma manera queremos expresar nuestro respaldo a las propuestas del documento presentado por el Comité de Finanzas, en cuyos detalles han abundado ya los oradores que nos han precedido en el

uso de la palabra y que en aras de la brevedad que nos pide el señor Presidente yo ahorraré repetirlo aquí, pero deseamos insistir expresamente en que estamos de acuerdo con la necesidad de hacer algunas reducciones en el presupuesto, pero que ellas no deben afectar al Programa de Cooperación Técnica.

El PCT, como familiarmente lo llamamos, es el Programa a través del cual la acción eficiente de la FAO alcanza los mayores beneficios para los países en desarrollo y para aquellos mal llamados subdesarrollados.

Estamos de acuerdo con el delegado que dijo que el PCT ha mejorado notablemente la imagen de la FAO en el mundo y por ello queremos unir nuestra voz a las de las numerosas delegaciones que han expresado la necesidad de mantener la existencia del Programa, más aun, de procurar su crecimiento y ampliación a un mayor número de poblaciones necesitadas que no cuentan con otra esperanza que la acción de la FAO a través del PCT para salir de su atraso y de su condición de hombres y mujeres que puedan aspirar a disfrutar de los derechos humanos que les garantiza la Carta de las Naciones Unidas.

Queremos y pensamos que el apoyo expresado por muchas de esas delegaciones en relación con este programa revela aquí no sólo la bondad del programa, su efectividad, sino sobre todo su necesidad, y es por ello que queremos expresamente mantener nuestro respaldo y su ampliación.

En aras de la brevedad también queremos hacer nuestro, y expresar nuestro apoyo a lo expresado por la delegación de la República Federal de Alemania, especialmente en cuanto se refiere a nuestro papel de países miembros de esta Organización y en cuanto a que debemos hacer todos los esfuerzos por mantener la FAO para que pueda continuar su labor.

Finalmente, queremos mencionar el punto en cuanto a instar a los países que se hallan con cuotas atrasadas para que se pongan al día; y en esta oportunidad quisiera hacer una observación de que en el documento CL 90/14 como fue publicado en mayo aparece Venezuela como pendiente de su cuota total para 1986 de 1 306 800 dólares y nos complace decir que en este momento ya ha aparecido el CL 90/LIM/1, fecha 17 de noviembre, en el cual se corrige esa cifra puesto que Venezuela ha aportado la mitad de su cuota, lamentablemente por la situación que todos sabemos que atravesamos, y que su deuda pendiente es sólo de 789 333 dólares. Hemos enviado un telex a nuestro gobierno para solicitar que se nos confirme si para antes de fin de año esa deuda será saldada definitivamente, y por eso quiero dejar constancia de ello aquí.

Para satisfacer la petición del señor Presidente termino mi intervención esperando que realmente la situación de aprobación del documento del Comité de Finanzas llegue a hacerse por pleno consenso y esa es la posición de Venezuela.

LE PRESIDENT: Nous en avons terminé avec les interventions des membres du Conseil et passons maintenant aux observateurs.

Raphaël RABE (Observateur de Madagascar): Nous sommes heureux de pouvoir intervenir sur ce point important de l'ordre du jour. Nous partageons entièrement ce qui a été dit par le Président du Groupe des 77, et par les très nombreux délégués qui ont déploré la situation actuelle des finances de l'Organisation, et qui ont lancé de vibrante appels à l'endroit du plus grand contributeur pour que ce dernier cherche et trouve les moyens d'honorer ses obligations volontairement consenties, afin de donner à la FAO-cette Organisation dont l'utilité et l'efficacité mondiales sont connues et appréciées-la possibilité de remplir le rôle crucial qui est le sien en ces périodes critiques pour les pays en développement en général et pour l'Afrique en particulier. Nous aurons d'ailleurs l'occasion au cours de cette session d'examiner ce que l'Organisation de l'unité africaine, la Session spéciale des Nations Unies et la Conférence régionale de la FAO pour l'Afrique ont fait pour relancer l'économie de cette région. En tant que membre du Comité financier, nous voudrions faire quelques réflexions à l'endroit d'une déclaration effectivement faite tout au début de l'examen de ce point de l'ordre du jour. Il est aisé de comprendre et d'admettre que les documents CL 90/4 et CL 90/17 qui constituent les rapports du Comité financier, ne contiennent que les principales conclusions auxquelles ce Comité est arrivé dans ses travaux. Le sérieux de ce Comité impose cependant qu'il travaille sur la base d'informations complètes et dignes de foi, ce qui est fort heureusement le cas à toutes les sessions. Le Comité financier a toujours exigé du Secrétariat des documents détaillés sur les chapitres importants du budget; et il les a eus. Nous pensons que les membres devraient exploiter les nombreux documents, très explicites d'ailleurs, qui existent sur le Programme de coopération technique, qui lèvent toute ambiguïté quant à son intérêt primordial pour les pays en développement, à son utilisation, et à l'application fidèle et rigoureuse des règles qui le régissent. Pour la transparence du Programme de coopération technique, le Directeur général a d'ailleurs déjà fait entreprendre deux évaluations de ce programme et les conclusions sont

édifiantes: Le Programme de coopération technique est un outil indispensable pour relancer l'agriculture dans les pays en développement, et les ressources qui lui sont affectées sont nettement insuffisantes eu égard au nombre de requêtes qui ne sont pas satisfaites alors que répondant bien aux critères et sélection des projets. Dans ces conditions, il nous semble illogique de vouloir procéder à une quelconque réduction de ce programme, et nous faisons nôtres toutes les observations formulées par les délégués allant dans ce sens.

Revenant aux remarques faites sur les coûts de support des programmes, nous pensons qu'on ne peut pas exactement comparer les coûts de support des programmes de terrain avec ceux de la mise en oeuvre du Programme ordinaire car ce sont en fait deux choses tout à fait différentes, comme l'a d'ailleurs si bien démontré le délégué de l'Inde. Je me félicite de ce que M. Shah ait pu donner les explications appropriées pour bien situer les dépenses réalisées dans ces programmes car cela a contribué à lever définitivement certaines incertitudes.

Pour les programmes de terrain, le support consiste surtout en un appui technique, en contrôle et en suivi de la réalisation des projets de terrain tandis que, pour le second, le Programme ordinaire, le support vise essentiellement à l'exécution du rôle principal de l'Organisation défini par ses Textes fondamentaux, à savoir la maîtrise des problèmes agricoles mondiaux et nationaux par l'assistance technique, la formation, la recherche et autres prestations d'une importance incommensurable.

L'on sait ce que d'autres organismes réclament pour réaliser de telles prestations et l'on doit se féliciter de constater que le Secrétariat de la FAO peut à bien moindre coût satisfaire les besoins des pays membres dans ce domaine.

Enfin, il nous semble qu'il est plus que jamais opportun de rappeler, comme l'ont fait d'ailleurs les délégués du Congo et de l'Inde, que les questions financières doivent être traitées avec prudence. Fort heureusement, le Conseil a confié cette tâche à un comité composé de membres qui doivent posséder une compétence et une expérience particulières en administration et en finances.

Par ailleurs, il n'est peut-être pas superflu d'attirer l'attention de certains Membres sur les dispositions de l'Article XII des Textes fondamentaux quant à la désignation par le Conseil d'un vérificateur de comptes et à l'obligation de ce dernier de présenter un rapport financier détaillé au Comité financier.

Nous pensons que la transparence des comptes de l'Organisation est indéniable et Incontestée. Les règles financières ont toujours été observées dans leurs moindres détails.

Stanley Mukindia GUANTAI (Observer for Kenya): My delegation is very thankful for this opportunity to make our views known to this assembly.

We have felt obliged to add our voice to those of the other member delegates because the matter under discussion is very important and one that touches and threatens the very functions of FAO that we regard cardinal.

Having gone through the various documents dealing with finances and having listened to the very clear and balanced introduction by Ambassador Bukhari and to Mr Shah's comments that were clear, explicit and very distinctive, I have had time to digest that and the concern of the member delegates who have vehemently stood their ground on the need to ensure that FAO is not decapitated in any way.

Even more explicit has been the interventions of the Director-General who has indeed taken the trouble to make known to all members the situation facing FAO and his moves to arrest the situation.

The Director-General has given this august assembly his proposals on measures and adjustments that in the abort-run will steer the Organisation through the crisis by the end of this biennium. My delegation wholeheartedly supports these steps.

It is not every day that any major organization accepts and resorts to such measures as those proposed by the Director-General.

In his proposals the Director-General has tried to ensure that services to the developing countries are maintained and especially the continuity of the Technical Cooperation Programme. We add our voice to commend this approach.

We fear that if further cuts on programmes such as TCP and other important services were to be effected this would affect the effectiveness and the function of FAO to the developing countries. I believe this would not be the wish of this Council, nor of the FAO.

The crisis facing the developing countries is well-known to all the delegates here and need not be repeated.

The developing countries look up to the International community and to the multilateral cooperation for support and would therefore not wish an organization like FAO to be crippled.

The contributions of FAO in the field of food and agriculture cannot be surpassed by any other organisation and as such we must ensure that its efficiency and role is not compromised.

My delegation agrees with the delegations who have appealed to Member Nations to ensure that the FAO Programme is not reduced.

My delegation feels that an organization the size and magnitude of FAO does require regular re-examination and streamlining to ensure that the creation of sections or offices that are of no direct input to its functions does not take place. The proposals of the Director-General are therefore a welcome idea to initiate such management clean-up.

My delegation wishes to reinstate the stand of my country with regard to the United Nations organizations. We are strong believers in the United Nations cooperation and other international organizations, regional and sub-regional organizations, that are established by Member Nations for a common goal and for bettering the standards of human life. We believe that every effort must be made to maintain these organizations, especially the specialized organs, such as FAO, which deal with the basic human elements and requirements, such as food and agriculture.

We would not wish to throw the first stone at any Member Nation, especially in the light of prevailing financial and economic constraints facing all countries globally. We nevertheless feel that the level of seriousness is not the same and that many Member Nations can be and are in a position to meet their obligations in time, while there are a few who have to scrape the very bottom of the pot to meet their obligations.

We know that a few major member countries have maintained this Organization and many other United Nations organizations out of their magnanimity and generous contributions. We also understand very well that the governments of Member Nations are obliged to account for the financial expenditures and obligations to the taxpayers. We believe that these countries have the ability and capacity to continue supporting the United Nations bodies. We therefore appeal to these Member Nations to reconsider and review the need to give the FAO their full-pledged contributions, whose humanitarian role cannot be replicated by any other organization.

We believe that FAO has a major duty to play and we hope that its role is accepted even more widely.

In the light of the statements made by a number of major contributors, we believe that there is a need for FAO to be more prudent on borrowing and hope that such a move will, not be necessary if all Member Nations can meet their obligations. However, we would like to support the Director-General if this had to be found necessary as a last resort.

We would wish to endorse the statement of the Group of 77 and other delegates who have supported the Director-General's proposals to bail out FAO from the present crisis. We hope that FAO will continue to provide services for the benefit of the suffering humanity.

Ms Malgorzata PIOTROWSKA (Observer for Poland): Our delegation supports the approach indicated by the Director-General in the document CL 90/23, page 5 to deal with the financial problems the FAO is facing now.

We also wish to join those delegations which stressed the necessity of a safe-keeping attitude towards the TCP. The TCP constitutes the most efficient form of assistance the FAO can afford for countries in need, even in the very difficult situation that FAO is facing now. The TCP should be kept operational at least at its present level.

Document CL 90/23, Appendix A lists the proposed cuts in the 1986/87 biennium as a result of the financial crisis. One of them concerns a reduction in fishery planning activities. We consider these activities of basic importance and warn against a reduction in this area.

The importance of this activity was underlined by the FAO World Conference on Fisheries and was the subject of a special resolution. Without sound fisheries planning it will be difficult for fishing nations to properly exercise the use of their newly acquired Exclusive Economic Zones.

It will not be easy for the Director-General and his staff to weather this financial crisis without damage to some valuable FAO activities, especially in the developing countries.

However, we still trust that these difficulties are temporary and we have full trust and confidence in the Director-General to take such measures which will ensure the continuation of the most valuable activities and to set clear lines of priorities which can guide the Organization through this crisis.

Carlos DINATOR (Observador de Chile): Sr. Presidente, mi delegación en representación de un Estado fundador de esta Organización de las Naciones Unidas para la Agricultura y la Alimentación tiene el deber de hacer uso de la palabra a propósito de este tema 12. 1 y 12. 1(a) de la agenda relativo a la situación financiera y de liquidez de la Organización. Confieso, Sr. Presidente, alguna perplejidad de mi delegación por la multiplicidad de los documentos producidos sobre este importante aspecto que ha motivado asimismo varias presentaciones. Los últimos documentos han aparecido momentos antes de iniciar el debate.

Me complace indicar que mi país es uno de aquellos que están al día en el pago de sus contribuciones en los organismos internacionales de que somos miembros, incluso en el caso de la FAO.

Con esta perspectiva también estamos confundidos al comprobar que la FAO ha empezado a tener problemas serios de no pago de contribuciones. Así, Sr. Presidente, esta Organización inicia su quinto decenio de vida con inquietudes similares a las del resto del sistema de las Naciones Unidas.

Parece que se está desdibujando la decisión de cooperación en la acción individual y colectiva mencionada en el preámbulo de la Constitución de la FAO libremente consentida por los países fundadores citados en la página 19 de los textos fundamentales de la FAO que en tiempos fue suscrita y ratificada sin reservas.

Quisiera mi delegación, Sr. Presidente, que esta crisis en ciernes fuera solamente financiera y no involucre también a la confianza en ella y a su destino.

Mi país ha proclamado en Naciones Unidas y expresa igualmente en este Consejo que la responsabilidad de la crisis financiera recae en tres clases de países: a) en los Estados que no hacen sus aportes de forma oportuna, b) en aquellos que adoptan la inaudita actitud de hacer pagos selectivos favoreciendo los programas que coinciden con sus objetivos políticos y c) en aquellos que han asumido la actitud ilegal de reducir unilateralmente sus contribuciones violando sus obligaciones libremente pactadas. Resulta así afectada la buena fe internacional y la credibilidad en los causantes voluntarios e involuntarios de la crisis. Hablamos de causantes voluntarios e involuntarios por cuanto nos asombran por igual diversas actitudes. En primer lugar, algunos intentos de vincular los recursos de los organismos con el principio de la igualdad jurídica de los Estados. En igual forma no comprendemos a quienes consciente o inconscientemente, abierta o soterradamente, trabajan por la politización de los organismos internacionales de carácter técnico con prácticas nefastas que hay que extirpar de todas partes en beneficio de la imagen de las organizaciones, recordando que la crisis del multilateralismo se originó en situaciones objetivas y conocidas de todos, pero que hoy pesan duramente sobre toda la comunidad internacional.

La delegación de Chile recuerda que los únicos motivos que justifican la falta de pago oportuno de las contribuciones a la FAO son aquellas mencionadas en el Artículo III. 4 de la Constitución y éstas son las circunstancias fuera del alcance de un Estado Miembro, y mi delegación no ha conocido a nadie que invoque esta situación.

Todos los países y sus respectivos ciudadanos deben hacer sacrificios con sus impuestos para pagar las cuotas en tiempo oportuno. No sería justo que ciudadanos de determinados países tuvieran el poder de sustraerse al pago de las contribuciones y menos aún para anunciar el incumplimiento de las respectivas normas de derecho internacional cuya aplicación involucra a la responsabilidad de los Estados y el honor en la palabra empeñada por los mismos.

Señor Presidente y distinguidos colegas, en comentarios fuera de la sala un amigo me insinuó que este caso es de índole política y no jurídica. Con todo, para mi delegación causa verdadero estupor conocer ayer, día 19, que un contribuyente importante indique que no sabe cuándo, cuánto y cómo pagará. Si se acepta tal actitud, no sobrevivirá el derecho internacional como instrumento regulador de la vida de relaciones entre las naciones civilizadas. Es una lástima constatar esto en Roma, (una remota de tal derecho de hace más de dos mil años).

Sr. Presidente, mi delegación se asocia a la del Brasil para expresar su insatisfacción por algunas proposiciones del Comité de Finanzas contenidas en el documento CL 90/17. Dicha delegación y otras se refirieron específicamente al párrafo 31 íntimamente vinculado al párrafo 30 y al anexo C, que plantea cinco alternativas. Sin duda alguna, algunos miembros del Comité de Finanzas tuvieron tiempo para estudiar esta compleja materia, pero la decisión de este documento CL 90/17, en noviembre de 1986, no nos ha permitido a todos los Estados evaluar debidamente esta compleja situación.

Decía, Sr. Presidente, que, sin duda, algunos miembros del Comité de Finanzas deben haber tenido tiempo para estudiar esta compleja materia, pero la edición de este documento CL 90/17 en noviembre del año 1986 no ha permitido a todos los Estados evaluar debidamente esta compleja situación, y mi delegación lamenta no estar en condiciones de pronunciarse en forma alguna al respecto. Igual que otras delegaciones, la mía debe tomar nota de las medidas de ajuste y austeridad ya decididas por el Sr. Director General, respaldando especialmente el anuncio de que no se afectará el Programa de Cooperación Técnica (PCT). Señor Presidente, volviendo al tema central de este debate, permítame recordar dos circunstancias: En primer lugar, que la mora de uno no purga ni justifica la mora de otros según un principio de derecho muy conocido; y, en segundo lugar, cabe hacer presente que no hay deudores importantes y menos importantes.

El gran poeta español, Jorge Manrique, canto en las trágicas coplas dedicadas a la muerte de su padre, que la vida es el río que va a dar a la mar, que es el morir. Que allí van los ríos caudales, y los otros medianos y más chicos, y que "allegados son iguales los que viven por sus manos y los ricos".

Con Jorge Manrique debo decir ante este Consejo que ricos y pobres tienen igual deber de colaborar en armonía para alcanzar los nobles fines de la FAO evitando que ésta vaya a dar en el mar de la esterilidad y de la inoperancia que todos decimos querer evitar.

Mlle Faouzia BOUMAIZA (Observateur de l'Algérie): C'est la première fois que notre délégation prend la parole au cours de cette session du Conseil et vous nous permettrez de vous exprimer nos félicitations les plus chaleureuses ainsi qu'aux membres du Bureau. Nous tenons également à remercier le Président du Comité financier ainsi que M. Crowther.

Nos remerciements vont également à M. Shah qui est toujours prompt à nous aider à mieux comprendre les chiffres. Notre délégation tient à faire connaître son point de vue sur ce point précis de l'ordre du jour. Sans verser dans la dramatisation, le manque de liquidités auquel l'OAA doit faire face nous inquiète beaucoup. Tout d'abord, l'expression "crise financière" est impropre car elle signifierait une mauvaise gestion financière. Malheureusement, tel n'est pas le cas. Nous sommes confrontés à une gêne de trésorerie provoquée par le non-versement de la contribution du principal bailleur ou, si les optimistes préfèrent, à une retenue de celle-ci. Nous comprenons fort bien les motivations de politique interne et chacun de nous se voit dans l'obligation de respecter la souveraineté de chaque Etat Membre à condition qu'elle ne contrevienne pas aux règles du droit International dont la déontologie élémentaire est le respect des engagements auxquels un Etat souscrit. Il est bien difficile de faire comprendre à plus de 2 milliards de personnes des pays en voie de développement les réticences de 435 députés. C'est pourquoi, nous nous joignons à tous les orateurs qui nous ont précédés pour lancer un appel à ce grand contributeur afin qu'il honore ses engagements surtout dans le domaine si sensible, et en tout cas vital, de l'agriculture et de l'alimentation. Bien sûr, nous invitons tous les Etats Membres à s'acquitter de leur dette envers l'Organisation bien que le problème pour ces pays ne soit pas de même nature et qu'il découle justement de grandes difficultés financières et n'est pas dicté par des motivations politiques. Nous sommes fort aises d'évoquer cette question d'autant que l'Algérie s'est efforcée de régler sa contribution malgré une conjoncture économique particulièrement difficile pour l'ensemble des pays en voie de développement et notamment des pays exportateurs de pétrole, qui avaient commencé à fournir une aide appréciable aux pays les plus démunis et qui, aujourd'hui, subissent une forte chute de leurs recettes d'exportations.

Il ne faudrait en aucun cas que les pays qui s'acquittent de leur devoir soient lésés dans leurs droits et subissent les conséquences d'une situation créée par la loi unilatérale d'un seul pays.

Nous souhaitons également commenter la série de mesures proposées pour faire face aux problèmes de trésorerie. Bien sûr, nous aurions préféré que le Programme de travail et budget pour 86/87, voté par la vingt-troisième session de la Conférence, soit entièrement réalisé, mais comme tel ne peut plus être le cas, nous pensons que les mesures d'économie envisagées sont raisonnables et que la proportion de 3, 7 pour cent d'économie nous semble le maximum que nous puissions effectuer au sein de cette Organisation.

Toutefois, nous tenons à ce que le Comité de rédaction souligne la nécessité du maintien intégral des ressources affectées au Programme technique et de développement ainsi que celles réservées pour le Programme de coopération technique comme cela a été demandé par la majorité des orateurs.

Quant au Programme de coopération technique nous rejetons totalement l'idée d'une éventuelle contraction car celui-ci est l'un des rares instruments où le transfert de technologie s'exprime un peu et de toute manière l'évaluation du Programme a permis de constater des résultats globalement satisfaisants.

Il serait vivement inquiétant que les programmes les plus positifs soient restreints notamment en Afrique où les effets dévastateurs d'une succession de fléaux commencent à peine à être jugulés. Ce tout nouveau répit devrait permettre enfin la mise en oeuvre des programmes d'aide au développement aux effets à long-terme.

C'est pourquoi nous pensons que le Conseil devrait autoriser le Directeur général à exécuter les ajustements qu'il nous a soumis d'autant que sa charge de Gestionnaire de l'OAA lui confère la latitude d'apporter les corrections qui s'imposent au cours de son mandat.

Enfin, nous terminerons par donner notre avis sur l'éventuelle convocation d'une Conférence extraordinaire. Nous pensons que cette suggestion est inopportune car, au moment même où nous

discutons de mesures d'économie, il ne serait pas logique de dépenser des sommes importantes pour l'organisation de cette conférence dont l'utilité par ailleurs reste à démontrer.

Alfredo ACUÑA HUMPHRIES (Observador de Panamá): Por ser nuestra primera intervención en este nonagésimo Consejo de la FAO, permítame, señor Presidente, saludar su conducción de estos debates, y le ruego a usted me permita en mi condición de observador preocupado de este Consejo que me refiera en forma general al tema 12.

Con mucha atención ha seguido esta delegación el curso de los debates de este tema de trascendencia durante toda el día de ayer y durante esta mañana y, sobre el mismo, deseamos aprovechar la oportunidad y no dejarla pasar por alto para puntualizar lo siguiente:

Primero, apreciamos la exposición del Embajador Bukhari, Presidente del Comité de Finanzas, así como la del señor Shah, Director de la Oficina de Presupuesto, por la debida claridad sobre ciertas dudas que fueron planteadas en esta reunión.

Segundo, compartimos la opinión sostenida ya por muchísimas delegaciones, entre ellas Brasil, Túnez, Cuba, México y Colombia entre otras, en el sentido de que estamos en presencia de una crisis financiera no producida o provocada por la Organización, sino por el actual retardo y futura disminución en sus contribuciones por parte del principal donador.

Debido a estas circunstancias y conforme a lo expresado por el Director General en su declaración Inicial, se ha visto en la obligante necesidad de proponer ajustes en los programas por la suma de 16, 4 millones de dólares así como en plantearse la necesidad de realizar empréstitos en el futuro por hasta 30 millones de dólares.

Nuestra delegación, como una salida necesaria apoya esta propuesta; pero, a fuerza de ser honesto consigo y con este Consejo, tiene que expresar muy claramente que al examinar los detalles de las actividades que serán aceptadas, conforme el contenido de los suplementos 1 y 2 del documento CL 90/23, siente preocupación porque considera que existen muchas de las correspondientes a los programas de recursos naturales y cultivos y pesca que esta delegación tiene que manifestar que le concede importancia significativa.

Sobre el programa de Cooperación Técnica, PCT, coincidimos con las numerosas delegaciones que se han expresado en el sentido de que éste no debe ser en absoluto alterado. En torno a este programa, nuevamente se han intentado diversas críticas adversas, como en anteriores oportunidades, pero a nuestro juicio han carecido a todas luces de sustentación. Nuevamente se ha vuelto a explicar con toda claridad lo referente al aparente saldo no utilizado al pasarse de un bienio a otro. De este programa hablamos, señor Presidente, con la autoridad que nos da el ser beneficiarios del mismo en diversos casos, ya sean proyectos de alcance nacional y algunos de alcance regional. Consideramos que la efectividad de este programa de la FAO está fuera de toda duda y discusión. Nos permitimos manifestar que en torno al PCT las reiteradas observaciones que vienen formulándose en torno al mismo permiten que apliquemos el refrán que dice "que no hay peor ciego que el que no quiere ver".

Finalmente, señor Presidente la delegación de Panamá es partidaria de que este Consejo formule un firme llamado a todos los Estados Miembros de esta Organización, a fin de que cumplan con sus compromisos contraídos. Esto como un gesto solidario y colectivo para con la Organización, que contribuya a la solución de la actual situación financiera, por la cual atraviesa.

Javier Gazzo FERNANDEZ-DAVILA (Observador del Perú): Por ser nuestra primera intervención permítame, señor Presidente felicitarle, no sólo por su designación, sino por lo acertado y ágil en la forma en que dirige usted los debates. Un reconocimiento especial también, a nuestro eficaz Presidente del Comité de Finanzas, Bukhari, por lo claro de su exposición, así como al señor Crowther por las aclaraciones-hechas que nos han permitido dar agilidad al debate dando explicaciones claras a las interpretaciones financieras involuntariamente erradas de algunos países participantes. En esta explicación quiero mencionar el hecho de que en el caso de los gastos del PCT, la aparente economía que ellos consideraban de los fondos, se trata de fondos que existen físicamente en los libros, en los balances, pero que estos fondos están obligados por cuantiosas solicitudes que se hallan en proceso de priorización para su ejecución. Desgraciadamente no se puede cortar con una tijera el 31 de diciembre de cada año acciones que están bajo proceso y aprobación de ejecución.

Después de un análisis minucioso y en profundidad de los documentos CL 90/4 y anexos, así como el CL 90/23 y CL 90/24, hemos podido percibir con toda claridad que, por primera vez, estamos atravesando una crisis financiera profunda. Inicialmente pensamos que sólo era una posibilidad, pero ahora al conocer los últimos acontecimientos y declaraciones de la mayoría de los países, especialmente del país que constituye el mayor contribuyente, vemos que esta crisis es ya una realidad.

Es obvio y es necesario definir enfáticamente que hay una serie de hechos que injustificadamente se consideran como componentes de esta crisis, pero que no lo son. El hecho, por ejemplo, del retraso del pago de algunos países no constituye más del 5 por ciento del presupuesto, y esto se viene sucediendo repetidamente en los últimos diez años. Por consiguiente, es un hecho permanente que no tiene nada que ver con la crisis que se ha generado en la actualidad. La crisis se ha generado, pues, exclusivamente por el hecho de que el principal contribuyente de esta Organización, motivado por dos leyes internas, está disminuyendo su contribución e inclusive el día de ayer nos ha dicho que no sabe cuánto, cómo, ni cuando lo van a pagar.

Valdría la pena que en forma muy somera, por si acaso los miembros de este Consejo no han tenido oportunidad de profundizar estas leyes, podríamos mencionar que la primera limita el pago a Naciones Unidas y sus Organismos especializados a un 20 por ciento de sus presupuestos, a menos que las Organizaciones establezcan un sistema para los acuerdos en materia presupuestaria, en el que el voto del país tenga un peso proporcional a su contribución financiera. Como los canales para pedir estas cosas, estas solicitudes, que son muy loables y cada país es soberano de pedir las, son los canales normales del Consejo y de la Conferencia que fueron agotados sin éxito y se ha recurrido a esta ley que es una especie de coacción poco elegante porque, al haber perdido en los niveles normales de Consejo y de Conferencia, recurren a la fuerza del dinero y esto es, como digo, poco elegante.

Estoy seguro de que si se hiciera un plebiscito en ese noble pueblo de los Estados Unidos, desaprobarían a esos 400 legisladores mediocres, porque han puesto en juego el prestigio de una nación, que es modelo de democracia, en un acto bastante discutible.

La segunda ley prevé reducciones progresivas hasta la total eliminación del déficit mastodóntico del presupuesto nacional de ese país en el lapso de unos cinco años.

En esto los países en desarrollo no tenemos ninguna culpa de que se hayan excedido en gastos de armamentismo, que hemos siempre desaconsejado, y que hayan agotado cuantiosos dineros de los contribuyentes en medidas proteccionistas, las cuales no sólo hemos desaconsejado sino combatido, y entonces para enjugar este mastodóntico déficit en todo sentido estamos pagando justos por pecadores porque nosotros no tenemos culpa de ese déficit, es más, lo hemos sufrido en diversas circunstancias.

Hemos analizado con toda vocación y con todo cuidado los documentos CL 90/23 y CL 90/24 y encontramos que estos documentos responden con toda claridad y con toda oportunidad a la solución de una emergencia que inclusive se ha producido por leyes casi dadas a posteriori, o sea a posteriori de la elaboración de nuestros programas y del presupuesto, o sea que vienen a tener un efecto retroactivo para la FAO que tiene que enfrentarlas con cierta sorpresa y, digamos, con cierta rapidez.

Después de haber oído las interpretaciones y haber tomado la palabra todos los miembros aquí presentes del grupo latinoamericano me complace, en mi condición de presidente del Grupo Latinoamericano, manifestar el pleno respaldo incondicional al contenido de las mismas conclusiones y recomendaciones de los documentos 23 y 24, solicitando del Director General que no se toque en lo más mínimo el PCT, pues concordamos con las conclusiones que emanaron de un estudio hecho por un grupo de consultores de alto nivel en el que incluso participó un ciudadano de uno de los países Mayores contribuyentes que evaluaron al PCT concluyendo que era la herramienta más valiosa, versátil y efectiva con que contaba la Organización, y así lo entendieron también los gobiernos quienes respondieron a este estudio, y sobre todo los pueblos receptores de los beneficios del mismo, con esa profundidad e intuición que tiene el alma popular del bien que se le hace.

Finalmente, y siempre en nombre del Grupo Latinoamericano, el cual me honro en presidir, en ocasión de este momento histórico de lucha y de sacrificio le renovamos al Director General nuestro voto más amplio de confianza, no sólo como un acto protocolario, sino como un reconocimiento profundo y amistoso de su entrega incondicional y total a los nobles postulados de la Organización de la FAO. Esta Organización que con tantos desvelos fue soñada, con tanto desprendimiento e ilusión por Eleanor Roosevelt y Mac Dougall, y otros, ellos desde sus tumbas estarán juzgando, como así lo hará la historia, lo infeliz y desagradable de esta coyuntura, que esperamos sea superada cuando vuelva la razón a imponerse sobre los impulsos emocionales de índole netamente política.

Point of order

Point d'ordre

Punto de orden

A. Daniel WEYGANDT (United States of America): I would simply like to take the floor on a point of order, because I understood that you had previously requested speakers to refrain from political characterization. I think that is a very wise judgment and I would like to see that this particular point of order be maintained because, if not, our deliberations are going to become extremely

difficult throughout this meeting. We have some important business on our plates and I would like to see it discussed in a technical manner.

LE PRESIDENT: Je remercie le délégué des Etats-Unis pour sa remarque et je pense que nous pourrions en tenir compte.

Célestin KAREKEZI (Observateur de Rwanda): C'est la première fois que je prends la parole, et je voudrais tout d'abord vous féliciter, Monsieur le Président, pour la façon dont vous dirigez notre Conseil. La délégation rwandaise a suivi avec beaucoup d'attention l'excellente présentation du rapport du Comité financier présenté par son président, M. Bukhari, ainsi que les informations complémentaires présentées par le Directeur général à propos des difficultés financières occasionnées par un regrettable retard des contributions de certains des pays membres qui ont pourtant approuvé l'année dernière le Programme et le budget en cours d'exécution.

Compte tenu de ce que les prévisions de recettes sont insuffisantes, ma délégation est favorable aux réajustements du budget proposé par le Directeur général, d'autant plus que ceux-ci ne réduisent pas le budget affecté au Programme de coopération technique qui, à notre avis, est d'une importance incontestable pour stimuler la production.

Antoine SAINTRAINT (Observateur de Belgique): Comme observateur, j'ai suivi avec attention et intérêt le débat sur la situation financière de la FAO. Je n'interviendrai pas dans le détail de la difficile situation de trésorerie et des perspectives budgétaires, mais mon pays estime utile de souligner que le rôle de la FAO reste prioritaire dans les actions menées par les Nations Unies et ses organisations spécialisées.

Dans les enceintes internationales, et les opinions publiques, il se dégage actuellement un très large consensus sur la priorité à donner à l'alimentation et à l'agriculture. Tous les pays sans exception ont souscrit aux conclusions de la réunion de New York sur la situation économique de l'Afrique. Il faut que nous pensions, en discutant des problèmes financiers, au caractère prioritaire de l'action de la FAO. Il y va de l'avenir du monde et d'un développement harmonieux des relations entre les peuples.

Je voudrais à cette occasion souligner l'importance de la tâche du Directeur général en cette période difficile. La Belgique lui a toujours fait confiance depuis le début de son premier mandat. Elle continue à le faire en cette période particulièrement difficile.

Nous désirons dans la mesure de nos moyens apporter tout l'appui possible à une Organisation à laquelle nous tenons beaucoup. C'est dans les périodes difficiles que les liens doivent être raffermis et renforcés. Le but de mon intervention se limite à souligner le rôle irremplaçable de la FAO. Toutes les organisations peuvent et doivent bien s'améliorer. La FAO l'a fait, et très bien fait, dans le passé; elle le fera encore dans l'avenir. Je voudrais souligner ainsi dans le cadre des perspectives d'avenir le rôle de "leadership" que doit jouer la FAO vis-à-vis des organisations soeurs centrées sur les problèmes agricoles.

Compte tenu des objectifs de la FAO, nous estimons que la priorité à réserver à l'agriculture, déclarée par tous, doit se concrétiser par la mise à disposition des moyens voulus pour les atteindre.

The meeting rose at 12. 45 hours.

La séance est levée à 12 h 45.

Se levanta la sesión a las 12. 45 horas.

council

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

conseil

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

consejo

ORGANIZACION DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS PARA LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION

CL

CL 90/PV/8

Ninetieth Session

Quatre-vingt-dixième session

90º período de sesiones

**EIGHTH PLENARY MEETING
HUITIEME SEANCE PLENIERE
OCTAVA SESION PLENARIA
(20 November 1986)**

The Eighth Plenary Meeting was opened at 14. 45 hours,
Lassaad Ben Osman, Independent Chairman of the Council, presiding
La huitième séance plénière est ouverte à 14 h 45, sous la présidence
de Lassaad Ben Osman, Président indépendant du Conseil
Se abre la octava sesión plenaria a las 14. 45 horas, bajo la presidencia
de Lassaad Ben Osman, Presidente Independiente del Consejo

- IV. PROGRAMME, BUDGETARY, FINANCIAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS (continued)
- IV. QUESTIONS CONCERNANT LE PROGRAMME, LE BUDGET, LES FINANCES ET L'ADMINISTRATION (suite)
- IV. ASUNTOS DEL PROGRAMA Y ASUNTOS PRESUPUESTARIOS, FINANCIEROS Y ADMINISTRATIVOS (continuación)
- 12. Financial Matters, including:
- 12. Questions financières, notamment:
- 12. Asuntos financieros, en particular:
- 12.1 Financial Position of the Organization including Measures to Deal with Problems of Delayed Payment of Assessed Contributions (continued)
- 12.1 Situation financière de l'Organisation, y compris les mesures visant à régler le problème des retards dans le versement des contributions (suite)
- 12. 1 Situación financiera de la Organización, especialmente medidas para afrontar los problemas del retraso en el pago de las cuotas (continuación)
- (a) Budgetary and Cash Flow Forecast relating to the Programme of Work and Budget for 1986-87 (continued)
- (a) Perspectives budgétaires et situation de trésorerie: incidences possibles sur le Programme de travail et budget 1986-87 (suite)
- (a) Pronóstico presupuestario y de flujo de fondos en relación con el Programa de Labores y Presupuesto para 1986-87 (continuación)

Antonio BROTONS DIE (Observador de España): La delegación española agradece a los señores Shah y Bukhari la excelente presentación de los documentos CL 90/4, CL 90/17 y CL 90/23 que ponen de manifiesto la preocupación de la FAO por la situación financiera actual y futura de la Organización.

Las causas actuales de la grave situación financiera quedan perfectamente señaladas en estos documentos y las posibles soluciones a corto plazo están propuestas por el Director General de la FAO en el documento CL 90/24 "Alternativas para afrontar las incertidumbres presupuestarias y financieras".

Del análisis en conjunto de tales documentos, la delegación española, como país observador en este 90° período de sesiones del Consejo de la FAO quiere hacer las siguientes observaciones. En primer lugar, está totalmente de acuerdo con el contenido del párrafo 24 del documento 90/4 en el que el Comité de Finanzas expresa su opinión de que no debe pedirse a los Estados Miembros que compensen el déficit ocasionado por los menores pagos de cualquier país contribuyente. La delegación española se ve complacida con los esfuerzos del Director General de la FAO para reducir gastos generales de los programas de Labores y Presupuestos para el bienio 1986-87 en la línea emprendida ya por la FAO en estos últimos años y que pretenden ahora paliar los efectos de la situación financiera de la Organización a corto plazo sin retocar partidas presupuestarias de programas en el campo.

En cuanto al tema de los efectos del tipo de cambio lira-dólar con respecto a la situación de tesorería de la Organización, parece razonable que la presupuestación de bienios futuros se realice en las dos monedas de pagos principales, el dólar y la lira, presupuestando cada partida en la moneda en que haya de ser realizada. De esta manera, la contribución de los países miembros de la Organización estará ajustada en cada momento y se evitarán las fluctuaciones por tipo de cambio que hoy crean dificultades financieras a la Organización.

Somos partidarios, por último, Sr. Presidente, que se recuerde una vez más a los países con contribuciones pendientes el abono de sus cuotas y se profundice en el estudio de las medidas generales que hagan más rápidos y efectivos los abonos de las mismas.

Lazare GANSORE (Observateur du Burkina Faso): A ce stade des discussions, notre délégation ne voudrait pas s'étaler dans sa déclaration. Toutefois, l'importance du sujet nous commande d'intervenir pour soutenir la déclaration faite par le Groupe des 77, ainsi que celles d'autres délégations, comme la Colombie, Congo, Cuba, la République fédérale d'Allemagne et Nicaragua.

La décision prise par le plus gros contribuable de réduire et de reporter le paiement de ses contributions nous préoccupe profondément tant il est vrai que, pays en développement, et de surcroît sahélien, le Burkina Faso a toujours bénéficié des interventions et de l'appui de la FAO. Au cours des débats qui ont lieu depuis l'ouverture des travaux, on a fait état de l'amélioration de la production vivrière dans plusieurs pays, notamment ceux du CILS. Cette amélioration mérite d'être soutenue pour éviter que viennent encore des crises alimentaires. Mais la FAO peut-elle faire face à une telle situation? Pourra-t-elle soutenir de façon également efficace à l'avenir ses pays membres? Nous aurions préféré, et cela sans vouloir donner de leçon à personne, que soient réduites les sommes monumentales consacrées à la course aux armements, plutôt que les ressources consacrées à l'Organisation. Enfin, nous renouvelons l'importance que nous accordons au PCT et nous approuvons les propositions du Directeur général pour faire face à la situation alimentaire.

Antonio RODRIGUES PIRES (Observateur du Cap-Vert): Je vais suivre l'exemple de mon voisin, le délégué du Burkina Faso, en intervenant de manière très brève. Tout d'abord, qu'il me soit permis d'adresser mes remerciements au Président du Comité financier, l'Ambassadeur Bukhari, pour la présentation de ce programme. Il me revient l'honneur, à juste titre, de remercier le Président pour l'excellente présentation et la clarté de cette présentation au début de ce point de l'ordre du jour. Le Cap-Vert renouvelle au Directeur général sa totale confiance et il souscrit, appuie et soutient les propositions faites par le Directeur général et son équipe. Je ne veux pas m'étendre, étant donné que le Président du Groupe des 77 a déjà dit dans son intervention ce que nous souhaitions dire. De même, les délégations du Burkina Faso, de Madagascar, du Congo, de l'Inde, de la Belgique, de l'Algérie, qui nous ont précédés, ont déjà dit ce que le Cap-Vert tenait à dire. Tenant compte de l'importance du Programme du PCT qu'est un programme vital, je tiens à dire quelques mots. Selon nous, le Programme a démontré, en pratique, sa raison d'être. Je pense que son rôle de catalyseur n'a pas besoin d'être mentionné. Toutefois, en ce qui concerne les décentralisations, la délégation du Congo qui m'a précédé a déjà dit ce que nous voulions dire. J'en ai terminé.

Assefa YILLALA (Observer for Ethiopia): As Observers during this 90th Session of the Council and also this being the first time that the Ethiopian delegation is requesting the floor we have not had the chance to express our pleasure at having benefited from your clear guidance in the deliberations of this Session. Now that we have the opportunity, our delegation, like all other delegations who we have heard yesterday and this morning, wishes to indicate our positive view and regard for your clear guidance. In this connection, we would also like to thank Ambassador Bukhari and Mr Shah for the excellent introduction to the agenda item under discussion, which has enriched our understanding of the matter and background. Also our delegation would like to congratulate the Director-General for his detailed analysis and summary of the major issues in the area of food production as related to the Food and Agriculture Organization during the opening Session of this Council meeting and indicate our due regard.

After the detailed analysis and discussion by the Council members yesterday and also today it would be highly improbable, or even very difficult, for me to introduce new dimensions to the discussions. However, our delegation would like to indicate its support, like the Chairman of the Group of 77 and also other delegations who spoke in support of the measures proposed by the Director-General in order to overcome the financial shortfall that is being faced by the Organization as a short-term measure, with regard to staff savings and programme adjustment for a saving of some \$16.4 million, recognizing the realities existing and also what seems to be prevailing in the near future.

FAO, as a technical agency of the United Nations with responsibilities for the area of agriculture and food production comprehensively and with its technical capability which was developed during the last forty years of service to the international community, will have a very important role to play in the aspirations of achieving increased food production, particularly at a time when the major global and dominating issue is related to food and becoming increasingly so.

The present financial shortfall or variance between budgeted and estimated sources of revenue due to arrears of membership contributions and obligations due will seriously hamper the activities of the Organization over and above depleting the Working Capital Fund and reserves which have always been maintained at a reasonable level in the past.

Proposals presented by the Director-General are in anticipation of the uncertainties that are prevailing and therefore we consider it to be a commendable effort and a sign of good management. The views presented will in any case require serious consideration, even more so today than at any other time in the past, due to the critical food shortage situation that was created and is still prevailing in most of the African countries.

The area of food being the most important area as far as the well being of mankind is concerned. Direct or indirect support to food production deserves the utmost attention. The uncertainties of financial revenue faced by the Organization during this biennium and also in the immediate future will reduce the support that needs to be given to food production which is considered as a priority area of concern on a global level.

The need to ascertain a source of revenue, at least in the level of the Programme of Work and Budget which was approved by the 23rd Conference for the present biennium, is both a moral and legal commitment which will have to be considered with the utmost care.

With regard to the TCP, which, according to us, is a means of bridging the activities of food production (which are essential) and otherwise not covered due to matters arising, or which have not been anticipated earlier, would also require a different consideration. This situation will always continue to prevail in the future and therefore increases the need for a TCP kind of resource. In the past this has always been useful and has always supported unforeseen shortfalls.

It was reported very clearly during the course of this session that over 240 requests were received, and quite a large number were in the process of approval. We see no possibility that there will be funds left over (or even available) for all their requests. The financial resources budgeted for the TCP should therefore be left unaffected as a consequence of the present financial shortfall.

As to the long-term financial situation, this will require further measures outside this Council. Our delegation indicates its serious concern and appeals to all those who are in a position to do so to honour their commitments. In this regard a coordinated effort should be exerted towards overcoming the present financial shortfalls and avoiding a recurrence of this kind in the future, with the objective of ensuring the viability of this organization whose role has always been considered vulnerable.

Jaafaru LADAN (Observer for Nigeria): As this is the first time my delegation has taken the floor I would first of all like to congratulate you Mr Chairman for the manner in which you have been conducting this Council Session, which is, in many respects, a very special session. I should also like to congratulate the Secretariat on the excellent analysis presented on the financial situation of the Organization, and to Ambassador Bukhari for the seriousness with which he has been guiding the Finance Committee and his clear introduction to this agenda item.

As my delegation is speaking as an observer we are taking the floor only to echo the support expressed by the members of the Council to the proposals made by the Director-General of FAO, and responding to the induced crisis created for the organization. I said "induced crisis" because if member countries had not created the crisis in which the FAO finds itself now, there would have been no need to discuss this agenda item, especially as the Conference has approved the Director-General's proposal of Programme of Work and Budget for the biennium 1986/87. It is the hope of my delegation that the Council should be more unanimous in its support of the Director-General's proposals for meeting the present crisis.

My delegation also hopes that the situation created for FAO will be of a temporary nature, and that in the future FAO will count on Member Nations to fulfill their obligations to the organization to enable it to discharge the mandate given to it by the same Member Nations during the Conference, which is the governing body of FAO,

Javed MUSHARRAF (Pakistan): I apologise I missed some of the debate in the morning and since this is only the second time I have taken the floor I hope to seek your indulgence if I take slightly longer. I hope you will stop me if I am speaking for too long.

Having listened carefully to the rather long debate on the subject, I may be sharing a feeling with others, of being a little lost, or rather dazed, but more fascinated at the alternating ups and downs in the debate, the frequent swings from one side to the other, its changing colours and moods, the loss of clarity and certainty at one moment, and the regaining of clarity and certainty at another. A true debate, the rich contributions to which both from the podium and all corners of the hall, can be justly admired. So much has been said, so much has flown over in so many contrary directions that for the dazzled few, or many, (like me) it might be a good idea just to recall what has been said or asked, what may still need to be said and asked; and what has been settled and what may still be unsettled in many people's minds. I propose to recall the debate in a partial and nonpartisan manner and, as you will notice, in a slightly different language will be in a sort of fictional, or if you like, allegorical manner hoping throughout that it will not be misunderstood and will be taken in the same friendly and light-hearted, but nevertheless serious, spirit in which it is intended.

The situation which is now being faced by this Organization, and indeed some elements of the situation that we have faced in this Council Session whilst discussing the overall situation, can perhaps be depicted as that of an ancient ship embarked on a long and noble journey but suddenly caught by extremely bad weather. The ship started off calmly full of passengers, faced due East first to admit a new passenger, the USSR, but then soon got caught in that terrible storm-lightning, wind and thunder all coming from the West. The ship is tossing up and down, sometimes going North sometimes going south. The captain raises the alarm. There is panic on deck, the passengers huddle together, all hopes pinned on the dynamic captain and his competent crew. But there are mutterings of discontent on board, even a show of a little agitation, perhaps mutiny. "Force majeure" cries the captain. But the agitators mutter "Well yes, but how are the crew and the captain doing? Is the ship really being kept in good shape?"

An underlying discontent builds up with a few open mutineers (if I may say so). But the bulk of people-peaceful passengers-still admire and look up to the captain and the crew and cheer at every word and action of theirs to deal with the situation. In the meantime, some exchange takes place between malcontents and the crew-what one of the leading passengers (who is the oldest passenger on board and who has no sympathy with the mutineers) describes as an "animated dialogue". The passengers listen to this dialogue-sometimes mute, sometimes dazed, sometimes very enthusiastically and sometimes a little sheepishly cheering every move and action of the crew. It is not yet really a "mutiny on the bounty". Virtually all agree, (passengers, crew, captain, and even the mutineers) that it is really the weather that is the immediate problem. They all curse the weather, and the weather gods. All fingers point to one god-the Almighty of the West.

The crisis on board is described as an induced crisis. The God has betrayed an earlier promise. A unilateral betrayal of a heavenly promise, a designed force majeure. The situation is described as sui generis. The like of it was never seen before, it is said. An everlasting storm, perhaps the dawn of an ice age. There is a messenger of the God on board as well (or rather a messengeress-in this case, a charming one). She protests and complains that it is too bad scolding the poor God who is always giving you so much good weather but just this once not giving it. Scold instead the other small Gods around the world who have never given you much. Besides, ours in the United Heavens is not just one God but several of them, in fact 453 of them: Thor, Woden, Saturn, Mercury, Apollo, Zeus, and all. All of them together have to decide the future, whether to give you good or bad weather. It is not like the single lucky chap down in your heaven who just has to sign a check. Our 453 Gods have to first deliberate what sort of weather they will give you. And they are still deliberating. We just have to wait. To quote, "scold, dear friends, those who do not give you, not those who have given you. "

In the meantime the mice on board the ship, hearing this argument mutter "What a perfect argument this would be for the rich in the country to justify stopping paying all their taxes and stop all progressive taxation". But would that ever happen? No, it would be considered absurd and horrendous. But, not here, simply because it is still a situation of "We" and "They" between the heavens. All human beings are the same, but the Gods are not universal. A cry is also raised in one quarter that this is not a North-North South issue. But why not? "In the ultimate analysis", we heard from one of the messengers of the Almighty, "the whole matter is a basic policy issue concerning the stance towards the whole UN system. " The mice again can be heard speculating whether this really means bad weather for all of the UN for all time to come. That would be the end of the agency through which North and South collectively meet; and the South, if nothing else, is able to express its voice. Leaving aside everything else, the question of "voice" alone being a major North-South issue, how is this all not a North-South issue? Or is it, (as it seems to be) that unless the rich who pay can have some control over the voice of the poor who receive, they will not pay? The general feeling on ship, therefore, is that some scolding (in fact, a lot of scolding) is justified.

In fact, however, not much scolding is heard on board. The valiant Turk springs up and says "Certainly, we don't want to scold (and we should not scold) our heavenly colleagues here on board". This is a sentiment with which almost everyone on board agrees-including the Pakistani passenger. Why? Because although most feel that the scolding is deserved and justified, they also feel that this particular messenger, and the smaller messengers, which the Almighty has so wisely chosen to represent Him on this particular ship, should be spared such a treatment. Why? There is a rather special reason. The messenger of God in Roman mythology is Mercury the same Mercury with wings on his feet and on his cap. If my mythology is correct, Mercury is also supposed to be the Roman God of eloquence, merchandise and theft. Without sounding too ridiculous in trying to raise the ordinary to the sublime, may I venture to suggest-in humour but in earnest-that Mrs Fenwick is God's own ideal Mercury with all those three attributes. She has the greatest of eloquence, a supreme demonstration of which we just heard in that absolutely disarming impromptu little speech of hers on "scolding". She is the goddess of Merchandise or at least we regard her to be so, expecting from her assistance to deliver the "merchandise" which the Heavens have chosen to withhold from us. Above all, she is the goddess of Theft ! Throughout her stay here, she has stolen all our hearts on board the ship. Her assistant messengers are not much less. I will mention only one-J. R., the very opposite of the calculating villain with the same initials in the popular American TV serial of a few years ago on Texas oil magnates. May I venture to say that, were it not for the personal presence here of messengers such as J. R. and our Lady Mercury and the hearts that they have stolen, a far louder shriek and outcry would have emanated today from this ship, against the gods.

I wonder whether the big R in the Western heavens (Mr R. R., that is) knows what his small Rs and Mercuries have thus achieved for him here on this small ship in the distant seas. He probably does not. As far as our problem and predicament here is concerned, we can only pray to the gods and request these friendly messengers of his to convey to them, the group of 453, our appeal, our prayer and even a modicum of disappointment and disgust.

What may also be conveyed is-and this may perturb the United States Congress quite a bit-that the Japanese are the ones who are happy in the whole situation! As the Canadian passenger acutely observed, they become the leading contributors to this Organization ad interim. If Congress hears that the Japanese are going to take over even this "market" from the United States, they will, we are sure, take the most prompt protectionist measures, in this case paying up their contributions and cutting out the Japanese from yet another market conquest.

In the whole commotion on board and the buffeting and battering that the ship is undergoing in the billowing seas, apart from the Japanese who are happy, for the reason mentioned, there is another remarkable group of passengers who turn out to be, not really happy, but placid and unworried. These are the Vikings! Their leader, the Great Dane, declared amidst all the panic that the sea was not very stormy at all; actually it was far calmer than the Captain and the passengers could see. So while everything was helter-skelter with panic, the lordly Vikings were coolly advising such things as having the deck chairs arranged in a more artistic fashion, and so on. Their calm was not really surprising, since it is known what great and brave sea-farers they have always been. They were also heard to be advising the Captain on two more things: that whilst steering the ship to its goal, he should not take just a "linear" view but rather look far and wide and choose, from among the many directions, those which may be the best of all; and secondly that he should look far ahead

into the distance rather than just gazing at the waves around him. Again, this was not at all surprising because everybody knows that the Vikings, the great Norsemen, the Jutes, Swedes and Goths had been doing this sort of thing throughout much of their history. They never adopted a narrow, "linear" path; they went to the British and the French coasts, turned into the Straits of Gibraltar, landed in Italy, travelled up to Naples. One branch even zig-zagged on land from the north, down the great rivers of the Russian Steppes, reaching the Black Sea area successfully weathering, throughout all these journeys in their long-boats, all sorts of storms and crises. They never took the close view; they always looked far ahead. Leif Eriksson reached America five centuries before Columbus. They perhaps do not even recognise Columbus. Nevertheless, what the great Vikings declared on board our ship the other day leaves a lingering doubt that what they said may have some element of truth. The passenger from Canada thought the opposite. We in the middle are left a little confused.

Talking of Columbus, we come to our great friends the Italians, the eternal lovers and liars. Their love, as is known, knows no bounds and can extend beyond the human dimensions. And true enough, the Italian passenger on ship, amidst all the tension and terror on board, was found busy passionately declaring love to Lady Finance. "My beloved Finance Committee" he cooed-there is no mistake, it must be in the verbatim record. And while all the cooing and wooing was going on, someone alleged (I think it was the ever-clever British with all their old skill and subtlety) that the lady on ship, that is the much wooed Lady Finance, was wearing only a bikini-which revealed a lot, but also, unfortunately, concealed quite important bits. To which, smack, came the reply from the Lady's patrons, the crew of the ship, that "No, in fact the dress she was wearing was quite "transparent". It was not intended to, and in fact did not, conceal anything", which of course explains the Italians' well-founded infatuation. The crew also said that if some passengers thought that even more needed to be revealed, they would like to be suitably guided so that they could make the clothes even more "transparent". This suggestion was of course gleefully supported by all, and everyone candidly stated that the more "transparent" the Lady became, the more they would fall in love with her and her bikini.

After this slight and rather inappropriate diversion into the erotic field, which was all precipitated by the irresistible Italians who cannot desist from this activity even in the most dire of circumstances, all the beings on board woke up again to the danger surrounding them and the cry went out that the ship was becoming grounded! There was no liquidity left on which it could float; all the water was apparently drying out. While the situation was still being surveyed, out came a cry-again from the crafty British-that no, in fact there was too much liquidity around, and we were, in fact, in danger of drowning! This created the utmost confusion for quite some time. And whilst the multitude of the poor passengers could not decide whether to believe their own eyes, the crew's eyes or the British eyes, the crew and the Captain divulged the mysterious secrets of certain adjoining sheets of water and land called "balance sheets" and declared that in fact there was, for the present, neither too much liquidity nor too little liquidity, and everything was quite safe! Of course, although much of that sounded mysterious and hocus-pocus to non-accountants, everyone believed the Captain and the crew in whom they had a religious trust. In any case, in the state of panic and confusion, such comforting thought was immediately accepted.

However, still worrying about the ability of the ship to keep afloat, some of the more apprehensive and dissatisfied passengers pointed to a number of other danger signals. They thought that the ship was too heavy and had, in fact, always been too heavy with too many people on it, and therefore in the interests of the survival of everybody some people must be thrown overboard. For this they made an elaborate estimate of the useful crew and equipment and the less useful-those who were engaged in real work, and those who were merely in some way supporting them. The direct workers, whom they called field workers, were the oarsmen who with their oars were doing all the work of pulling the ship along, while there was a large body of people and equipment used merely to "oversee" or cheer the workers along-like playing the drums, the bagpipes and so on. Of the latter category they thought there were too many, that there was too high a "delivery cost" in the programme as opposed to the programme itself, and that many of the drummers could be thrown overboard. However, the Captain and the crew came quickly to the rescue of these hapless people by saying emphatically that the drummers and the bagpipes were also sometimes engaged in pulling the oars, and that in the

case of one particular overseer, for example, although he never pulled the oars himself he was indispensable in drafting day-to-day rules and laws which prevented the oarsmen from leaving their job and clashing with the others. It was finally concluded that at this stage it was not clear exactly how many were real workers and how many were not. The passengers were left expecting that someone would work out soon what each of these two categories meant and their proper enumeration.

Another idea emanating from the Captain was that some of the additionally needed staff or crew members might not at this stage be recruited to the ship, at least for some time to come. But the Canadian passenger pointed out that the decision hardly meant much since such workers do not normally exist anywhere; they are sort of ghost people only in the books, and the saving of \$9.5 million was therefore only a notional figure and hardly a real saving. Therefore, some real people might well be added to the list and they might considerably expand the list of postponed vacancies for which scope may exist without damaging the programme in a major way.

Mr Chairman, I had a number of other points in a similar vein regarding the proposals emanating from the ship's bridge such as the proposed cuts in programme expenditure, the TCP, the Working Capital Fund, and the possibility of borrowing. But in view of the paucity of the time resources, I may here impose a "programmed cut" on it and refer to them, if possible, at some other opportune moment.

To conclude now, Mr Chairman, may I suggest firstly, that the ship is good enough. It has many poor people on it, and it should be saved and helped, and not abandoned. Secondly, the Captain and the crew are also good. Their dynamism and dedication is well acknowledged even though some passengers may have legitimate grounds to think that, as a matter of principle, Captains everywhere should be confined to some finite period of captaincy. Thirdly, that as far as the present debate is concerned, the Captain and the crew will no doubt answer and clarify (now or in due time) the many interesting and pertinent questions which have arisen in the debate always keeping in mind the interests of the deprived communities and nations of the world whose interests FAO is mandated to serve.

LE PRESIDENT: Avant de passer la parole au délégué de la Tchécoslovaquie, je voudrais, au nom du Conseil, souhaiter la bienvenue à M. le Ministre de l'agriculture du Sénégal et M. le Ministre de l'agriculture du Niger, qui sont venus renforcer nos rangs.

Vaclav DOBES (Czechoslovakia): I shall be very brief since many of the delegates have already emphasised the importance of the item for agenda. Allow me on behalf of Czechoslovakia and Bulgaria as Council Members to thank His Excellency Dr Bukhari and Mr Shah for their introductions and clarifications. All of us are aware of the financial difficulties in the whole United Nations System, FAO included. We know of the efforts of the Director-General and the FAO Secretariat and we know various proposed ways and means which aimed at overcoming the contemporary problems. Our proposals are simple and clear. First of all, we appeal to all Member Countries, both large and small, rich and poor, to take all necessary measures in order to pay their contributions to the FAO budget as soon as possible. We support the intention to preserve the technical and economical programmes of the Organization to the maximum extent possible, especially in the activities regarding the Technical Cooperation Programme which enables us to meet overseen requirements and unexpected needs in the developing countries and which has direct field impact.

Eventually, as to the economies suggested in the document CL 90/23 we especially fully promote the intentions connected with effective reductions in meetings, publications, consultancies, contractual services and travel. At the conclusion of my speech, I would like to refer to document CL 90/LIM/1, page 5, and to inform the Council that since 15th November when this document was published Czechoslovakia has already paid a second part of its contribution to the FAO budget.

LE PRESIDENT: Je tiens à remercier tous les délégués et observateurs qui ont bien voulu enrichir le débat par leur contribution constructive. Je signale à l'attention du Conseil qu'au total, 58 délégués et observateurs ont bien voulu prendre la parole. Cela montre, s'il en était besoin, l'importance de la question que nous sommes en train d'examiner pour la vie de l'Organisation et sa pérennité. Je me devais de remercier tous les participants pour avoir apporté, chacun selon son approche et sa sensibilité, une contribution à ce débat.

Avec votre permission, je vais donner la parole à M. Shah, pour qu'il puisse répondre aux observations qui ont été formulées, puis à M. Bukhari. Je me permettrai ensuite de terminer moi-même en faisant une synthèse aussi fidèle que possible de nos débats.

V. J. SHAH (Director, Office of Programme, Budget and Evaluation): As I am given the floor to respond to some of the comments which have been made and which require clarification, or call for clarification, may I, first of all, be permitted to express on behalf of the Director-General, despite his presence here, his appreciation for the very careful consideration given by the Council to the matters which you have just considered. The reaction of the Council is extremely clear.

There is no doubt, and indeed there is total agreement, of the serious situation affecting the implementation of the Programme of Work for this biennium and the fact that it requires corrective measures. Secondly, it is equally clear that the situation is fluid. It is subject to change, and will change, but we cannot stand by impassively and that has led to the measures which have been proposed by the Director-General. The debate concentrated very much on the nature the scope and the level of the proposed adjustments. It might help the Council if I were to distinguish between the two terms which were used at times synonymously. On the one hand economies and on the other hand, adjustments leading to economies-induced savings. The Director-General has always been a prudent manager of this Organization. This is not the opinion of one who serves him but it is the opinion of his governing bodies. Biennium after biennium there have been programme savings, deliberately-made programme savings. If it were felt that these savings occurred by chance, or by good fortune, let me draw attention, very briefly, to the views of the Council when it considered the Annual Report of budgetary performance dealing with the biennium 1982-83 where there were savings of over \$15 million. The report of the Council of the 1986 session says, in paragraph 145, "The Council expresses its appreciation of the attention paid to enhancing both economy and efficiency and commended the Director-General on his prudent management of the resources at his disposal. "

The Director-General has always made it clear that he is a prudent manager and intends to be so. What we are now dealing with, however, and what is represented by the programme adjustments is, in fact, induced savings. Induced savings which have a programme effect. A number of distinguished delegates have commented on the fact that these adjustments affect programme activities to which they attach importance. Quite so, if they do not affect programme activities in this way, then there would be something doubtful about the adjustments.

There has been considerable debate about the level of these adjustments. Should they be more, or should they be less? We then listened attentively to all points of view. I can only recall what the Director-General himself said yesterday. I do not need to repeat it, except to say that there are advantages and disadvantages. There is a limit to what is possible and what is not possible. A number of distinguished delegates have asked about whether any criteria were used at arriving at these proposals for adjustment. Some have questioned "Why a cut. The level of adjustment is not even at the same rate across all programmes. " This is essentially a question of what is possible pragmatically and what is not, for example, the posts.

We review a total of 248 posts vacant now and expected to be vacant in 1987. This list is not permanent, it is not unchangeable. Developments in 1987 will show whether other staff will retire, resign or pass away. What is important is that there is a system for looking at every such vacancy as it arises. Every such vacancy was individually examined and discussed with the Programme Managers involved, my senior colleagues, Assistant Directors-General, and Division Directors. This examination took into account the duration of the vacancies, the recruitment action under way and,

most important of all, the programme implications of delayed filling. As was pointed out yesterday by the Director-General, this requires managerial judgment. A judgment which he exercised and in which we, his colleagues, helped him to exercise as to what it would mean not to fill a post for two, four or five months. To realise that certain work would be affected but to accept that it would be affected. In other cases to stay firm and say, "No, we cannot allow it to be affected. " Therefore, out of the total number of posts examined, there are some 170 which are affected. Some might argue that every post should have been frozen. To our minds, and this reflects also the comments of many, many distinguished delegates that have spoken, that such an indiscriminate total freezing would have meant a paralysis of certain programmes which cannot be accepted in the circumstances. A complete paralysis at this stage would have even longer term implications. At meetings a similar pragmatic and careful approach was exercised.

The review covered a total of 146 meetings, expert consultations, seminars and training workshops. What did we consider? We considered the impracticalities firstly of cancelling certain meetings on which commitments were too far advanced-a pragmatic measure. Secondly, the extent of preparation under way, what country visits were in course, what consultancies or studies were being undertaken, sometimes by participants themselves, which, if abruptly stopped would endanger the possibility of resuming it in the foreseeable future. Meetings involving joint sponsorship with other Agencies which form part of an established series of consultations, par contre, we gave lower priority to meetings involving long preparation with an impact which was either indefinite or which did not have any urgency in terms of time.

The distinguished delegate of Bangladesh was the only one who referred to a specific meeting, a meeting of the Inter-Governmental Group on Jute and requested clarification as to why this was among the list of adjustments. I think it gives a good example. One meeting of the Inter-Governmental Group on Jute is already planned for December of this year. The meeting which is now included in the adjustments list was a session which was planned for December 1987. Our colleagues dealing with the subject felt that it was reasonable to postpone it into the next biennium.

It may be held early in the next biennium and they took into account particularly the fact that there are also meetings of the International Jute Organization. I give this as an example but I felt also as this particular meeting had been raised as a query I should comment on it.

On publications, the criteria employed were the status of the preparation of the document, the extent of the work already completed, the commitment made and the work undergoing through consultancies and contracts and the degree of urgency for the issuance of a publication, whether in relation to a forthcoming meeting or to another programme commitment. All this has resulted in what the Director-General referred to as a package and it is a package in which he himself has emphasized the need for flexibility, flexibility in adjusting the package to respond to the needs as they are felt with the possibility of raising the level of the package if the situation so demands and if it is possible and with the possibility of restituting some items if the situation were more favourable.

The last aspect, if I may comment on it, is the question of programme adjustments in some of our sister organizations. I should firstly like to say that we have tried to follow these developments very closely, not only to learn from them but also to see whether the experiences are comparable. Let me take firstly the example of the International Labour Organization. The budget of the ILO for this biennium is 253 million dollars, just a little more than half our biennial budget. The programme adjustments proposed by the Director-General to his governing body, that is the governing body of 66 Member Governments and their representatives was for a package of 18. 8 million dollars, but as the Director-General recalled yesterday this package was reduced by one and a half million dollars to 17. 3 million dollars because the governing body did not accept that the ILO's Technical Cooperation Programme should be cut as had been proposed. So out of the total of 17. 3 million dollars let us look at what is involved. It is quite openly admitted in the ILO document that of this 17 million, 10 million are savings which would have occurred in any case because of an excessive provision for staff costs. So the real adjustment, the real programme adjustment is 7. 3 million dollars, 2. 77 percent of the ILO budget. The fact that the ILO budget included such

an excessive provision may raise a similar query in the minds of some members so let me try and forestall that. The cost increases in our budget for this biennium were pruned very sharply to what we consider the absolute minimum. When you consider that our budget for the last biennium was 421 million dollars and the budget now is 437 million dollars, an increase of 16 million dollars, of which 5 million was programme increase, the cost increase was 11 million. In the ILO budget proposal the cost increase was almost double. This explains the reason for the change.

Before I conclude on ILO, as was mentioned, the ILO budget which was submitted to the governing body has been approved by its committee as a package.

In the case of the World Health Organization an amount of 35 million dollars has been set aside and this compares with the WHO budget of 543 million dollars, 6.45 percent. There is no description of this package which has yet been submitted. The description will be submitted to the World Health Organization Executive Board in January.

I hope these few remarks have clarified the main questions which were raised and I would like to thank you again.

Dean K. CROWTHER (Assistant Director-General, Administration and Finance Department): There were a couple of additional questions that were focused specifically that I think should be responded to. One was the question of whether or not the working capital fund would have to be repaid and the answer is, very simply, yes, it must be repaid. I would like to refer you to the basic text under Section 6.2 of the Regulations which are the financial regulations which makes reference to the Working Capital Fund and the fact that it is provided for advancing monies to the general fund to finance budgetary expenditures pending receipt of contributions to the budget. Then in 6.5 of the same regulation it makes reference to the fact that advances from the Working Capital Fund to finance budgetary expenditure under Regulation 6.2(a)(i), which is the one I just read to you, shall be reimbursed from the general fund as soon as feasible but in any case within the next financial period by programme adjustments if necessary. So again very simply, yes, it must be repaid.

Secondly a question was raised with respect to the special Italian contribution. The Italian host government has voluntarily provided additional contributions to the organization since 1972. During this period of time there have been differing amounts that have been provided, mostly for purposes that were specifically identified in the exchange of letters that originally established this voluntary contribution. The Italian Government made such funds available to the organization under trust agreements that there would be an agreement on the use of the funds and they have been used for rather specific purposes, particularly earlier on. Then during a period of about four years the fund continued to receive contributions but no expenditure was made and a balance had begun to develop. At that point of time the Italian Government expressly said in the 1985 contribution that it would be used to offset the cost of rent, which it was, and now through an agreement with the Italian Government we are going to have an exchange of letters for the distribution of the balance of the fund. Since it is a voluntary contribution, certainly it is at the behest of the contributor as to the specific use since that is the way the fund was originally set up. The organization is very appreciative of receiving those funds and they have been most useful for the purposes they have been intended for. I think that responds to the question that was raised.

Atif Y. BUKHARI (Chairman, Finance Committee) (original language Arabic): In fact I have not much to add to what has been mentioned here, especially as we have sufficiently discussed the reports of the Finance Committee. I think that all those present have expressed their agreement with what was mentioned in both reports. In fact this reflects the confidence the Council places in the Finance Committee which saved no effort to carry out its activities to the benefit of all. The Finance Committee with all its members have tried to work very candidly in a transparent

fashion in its dealings with the Secretariat of this organization. I would like to assure you all, members of the Council, that cooperation and frankness were the main characteristics of our relationship with the Secretariat of the organization as is evidenced by those reports. We are most appreciative of the fact that you have accepted both reports.

Atif Y. BUKHARI (Saudi Arabia, Kingdom of:) (original language Arabic): If you allow me to express myself as a member of the Council, namely as the delegate for the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia who is not in his seat, for he is with you under another hat, as it were, as the head of the Finance Committee. Please allow me then to express my opinion as regards document CL 90/23 and make a few comments on it. I repeat I am addressing you in my capacity as the representative of Saudi Arabia. I would like to say that it is unjust to ask the Director-General to implement the totality of the Programme of Work and Budget for 1986/87 without providing him with the necessary liquidity as has been agreed in the Conference. I would like also to say that it would be unnatural and illogical to ask him to make reductions as regards the most important programme of all, i. e. the TCP, which is the very backbone of the organization's activities and which benefits greatly the developing world, simply because we do not want to honour our financial contributions for one reason or another. If we do not respect the integrity as it were of the TCP, then what remains for the developing countries and for FAO by the same token?

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia places its full confidence in the person of the Director-General, Dr Edouard Saouma, and through this august assembly my delegation would like to reaffirm its confidence. We are reaffirming our confidence in fact because we have been watching closely the degree of efficiency of the activities of this organization during the mandate of our Director-General. We are most aware of his capacity and his wisdom at the helm of this organization. Therefore, and because we are most confident that this organization is pursuing appropriate objectives, we have signed a protocol of agreement, between our government and FAO. This cooperation agreement is the most important ever signed by our government.

We unreservedly support the proposals put forward by the Director-General as well as the reductions regarding administrative activities. We hope that this reduction will not detract from the efficiency of this organization. We are confident that the Director-General is very aware of what he is doing and that in fact he is very able to guide our path.

LE PRESIDENT: Si vous n'y voyez pas d'objection, je voudrais contribuer pour ma part à ce débat très important et renouveler mes remerciements à tous les intervenants, quelles que soient leur position et leur sensibilité pour l'apport précis qu'ils ont apporté à ces débats. Le moment est important et il justifie largement ce débat qui était à notre ordre du jour de la présente session. J'ai noté que le Conseil a fait part de sa grande préoccupation pour la situation financière actuelle de l'Organisation, situation qui n'est pas due, qui n'est pas imputable à des problèmes internes de gestion de l'Organisation mais à des retards de versements de certains contributeurs et notamment des nouvelles dispositions qui sont envisagées par le principal contributeur. Cette préoccupation paraît aggravée par l'incertitude qui règne sur le montant et le calendrier exact des versements du principal contributeur. Cependant, le Conseil a noté avec satisfaction que le principal contributeur a confirmé son intention de poursuivre sa contribution au financement de la FAO et que sa contribution n'est pas remise en cause. A cet égard, le Conseil formule l'espoir que cette situation ne devrait être que provisoire et qu'elle devrait pouvoir être rapidement normalisée. Je note que le Conseil, dans sa quasi-totalité, a rappelé que le versement des contributions découle d'un engagement contractuel librement consenti par les Etats Membres et que l'accomplissement de la mission de l'Organisation est strictement tributaire de la régularité des versements. Le Conseil lance donc un appel solennel aux Etats Membres pour qu'ils s'attachent à verser leurs contributions dans les délais impartis et apurer dès que possible les arriérés existants compte tenu de la situation financière actuelle de la FAO. Compte tenu de cette situation, le Conseil considère que des mesures urgentes doivent être prises pour s'adapter à la situation ainsi créée. Cependant, cette situation est fluide et nécessite, d'une part, des mesures financières évolutives en fonction de l'évolution de la situation financière, et d'autre part, un suivi de la situation financière. C'est dans cet esprit que le Conseil a fait part de son approbation pour les rapports présentés par le

Comité financier au cours des cinquante-septième et cinquante-huitième sessions et a noté l'importance de la réunion du Comité financier qui a été décidée pour le 16 et le 17 décembre prochains. C'est toujours dans cet esprit que le Conseil, dans sa très grande majorité, a approuvé le paquet de mesures proposées par le Directeur général de la FAO (dans le paragraphe 35 du document CL 90/23 tendant à réviser une économie de l'ordre de 16, 4 millions de dollars) et lui laisse la flexibilité nécessaire pour réaliser avec le moins de réductions possible le programme des travaux de l'Organisation sans créer de problèmes de trésorerie. A cet égard, le Conseil, dans sa quasi-totalité, a noté que la quasi-totalité des Etats Membres ont insisté pour que le Programme de coopération technique qui rend grand service aux pays en développement et qui a amélioré l'image de marque et l'efficacité de la FAO ne soit touché en rien.

Enfin, le Conseil demande que la situation financière de l'Organisation, dans cet esprit évolutif, puisse continuer à être analysée, notamment lors du Conseil du mois de juin 1987, de manière à prendre, le cas échéant, les mesures éventuelles qu'exigerait la situation.

R. G. PETTITT (United Kingdom): I raised my flag because I was hoping to hear in your summary, Mr Chairman, or some other part of the concluding session a reflection of my delegation's suggestion, which was supported by at least one other delegation, that the issue of overhead costs should be referred to the Finance Committee. You may have chosen to omit this because of the offer made by Mr. Shah that he would be happy to receive representatives of the United Kingdom to talk over misunderstandings and so on, and indeed we are very happy to accept that invitation and will arrange for a meeting at Mr. Shah's convenience, but I do not expect that such a meeting will do more than make it possible to do some more accurate commentary on this question. It seemed from the discussion that there are issues on overhead costs and allocations which ought to be drawn to the attention of the Finance Committee for further consideration. I do agree with the delegates who said it was perhaps unfortunate that we went into this in a straightforward way initially here rather than in the Finance Committee. So if it is necessary to do it I would now propose that it be put to the Finance Committee as its next regular meeting, not the December one obviously.

As to papers for this, my delegation will be very happy to produce a paper after discussing it with Mr. Shah, and while I am on papers perhaps I might say that the paper which we circulated, and which was criticised for not having been in all pigeon holes at the right time, I just give warning that my delegation proposed to refer to it again under another agenda item in a quite different context.

Perhaps to make our interventions more comprehensible I might be permitted to give further copies to the Secretariat. Perhaps it could be circulated as a Conference Room paper to avoid difficulty over this.

George Henry MUSGROVE (Canada): I had asked for the floor before you began your summing up, Mr. Chairman, but perhaps it is more appropriate that I come in at this time to make comments. The reason I asked for the floor earlier was that the interventions by Mr. Shah, and shortly before that by the delegate of Pakistan, Mr. Musharraf, had reminded me of the information that I had received some time ago that there was a manager to emulate, and I think Mr. Shah's quotation from his paper was drawing attention to the Council's views on the good management practices of our Director-General. But I had once been told that the world's best manager was a chap called Noah, Noah being the only man ever to float a company when the whole world was in liquidation.

I had asked to take some issue with the I thought somewhat discursive approach that Mr. Shah took to the ILO budget by suggesting that it was only a 2.77 percent reduction rather than a 7+ percent that had been made and on the grounds that some \$10 million of their saving was gratuitous saving, and admittedly so because of over-estimation or one such thing. If one wants to be argumentative one can take issue with any figure quoted throughout the UN system, including the FAO figure of 3.7 percent, insofar as we may say that the vacancy rate itself provides the gratuitous \$6.5 million saving and therefore if we divide the residual \$9 million it is only a two point something percent saving. You will agree of course, but that nevertheless would be one calculation that I could make.

Be that as it may, with respect to your summing up I take it that you have found the Council endorsing three specific points. Those points were that the measures proposed in document CL 90/23 were accepted by the Council. Our delegation and a number of others did not find them necessarily sufficient for the purpose and I thought I had made our views known quite clearly in that respect.

You decided that the Council would take further measures in June. In June the Organization will only have six months left in the biennium and I think we could despair of taking any meaningful additional measures in six months time, whether salary savings or operational savings; I think there would be too little time left to us. We have made the view that further measures should if not be taken at this time be put in place to be taken at a much earlier date than that.

The third point I noticed was that the Council had unanimously supported the TCP. I think there were a number of suggestions that this was a Programme which, amongst others, might bear some further scrutiny.

There were a number of other issues which were raised that you have not touched on and of course it is impossible for you to do so, and doubtless these matters will be reflected in the report. But I think one particular measure that might bear mentioning is the fact that it was the suggestion of the Finance Committee, and endorsed by a number of candidates, that under no circumstances should other members be called upon to compensate for withholding actions by another country. Whether the decisions we take here have implicit or explicit commitments in that direction I think is important to know.

LE PRESIDENT: Je me permettrai d'intervenir sur deux points. En premier lieu, je n'ai pas dit la totalité mais la quasi-totalité qui a insisté pour que le PCT... Cela veut dire que quelques membres n'ont pas accepté, cinq ou six. Le terme de quasi-totalité ne veut pas dire totalité: par conséquent je maintiens ce que j'ai dit: la quasi-totalité.

En ce qui concerne le second point, nous devons parler de cette volonté du Conseil de ne pas retenir le principe de compenser le non-paiement d'un contribuant défaillant; c'est tout à fait exact et je souscris à cette proposition.

En ce qui concerne le paragraphe 23, effectivement certains membres ont demandé des mesures plus fortes; je crois avoir parlé de la très grande majorité, je n'ai pas dit la totalité. Dans la rédaction, on peut très bien ajouter que certains membres ont demandé des mesures plus énergiques, je n'y vois pas d'inconvénient.

David Lawrence COUTTS (Australia): I will not take the time of the Council for more than a moment or two, however I thought I should underline the support of the Australian delegation for the comment made by the United Kingdom. I do not think this gives rise, as I read the mood of the Council, to any difficulty. I suggested yesterday that such a study be done, so I think my assessment is correct.

Concerning the comments made by Canada, and your response, Mr. Chairman, and relating to your summing up, I note what you say but I still feel that: I must underline again that the Austelinn delegation, as everybody knows, is one that has some misgivings about the proposals of the Director-General. We would certainly be hoping, expecting, that a balanced view be seen when the report of the Drafting Committee be put forward. I note the comments that you made in response to Canada, and I thank you for that.

LE PRESIDENT: Nous souscrivons à la proposition du délégué de l'Australie.

José Ramón LOPEZ-PORTILLO ROMANO (México): En primer lugar, deseo señalar que ciertamente muchos o la totalidad de los delegados de este Consejo escucharon las palabras pronunciadas por algunas delegaciones en relación a un estudio que se suponía habían hecho, pero este Consejo no puede darse por enterado de la existencia de tal estudio en vista de que no es un documento oficial que se había presentado y no podemos emitir consejo ni recomendación alguna al Comité de Finanzas para que haga tales o cuales evaluaciones o análisis.

La recomendación hecha por la Secretaría nos satisface en el sentido de que la delegación interesada en discutir esos temas lo haga con la Secretaría, de manera que posteriormente y a propuesta hecha por tal delegación, o algunas otras, en el Comité de Finanzas ese Comité estudie tal asunto en un momento posterior; pero este Consejo no puede reconocer que tal cuestión, no incluida en el programa y calendario de los trabajos de este Consejo, fue tratada. Y quiero ser muy claro porque hubo varias delegaciones que así se pronunciaron; debemos atenernos a las reglas en los debates de este Consejo.

Por otra parte, nosotros deseamos agradecer a usted, señor Presidente, el resumen que ha hecho de las distintas cuestiones; nos parece ponderado, claro y sintético, ciertamente, y debemos subrayarlo. Tal resumen no impone ninguna obligación al Comité de Redacción para utilizarlo en su totalidad o en parte; es solamente una indicación, una orientación que a todos nos ayuda porque nos permite ver la forma en que usted refleja los debates aquí llevados.

Nos parece, y le agradecemos a usted, justas las aclaraciones en relación a la forma en que ponderó usted las declaraciones hechas por los diversos delegados en relación a la discusión y las consideraciones del paquete puesto en el documento CL 90/23 en relación a medidas posteriores que podrían evaluarse en el Consejo de junio, e igualmente al apoyo de la casi totalidad de las delegaciones concedido al PCT. .

Gonzalo BULA HOYOS (Colombia): Después de haber oído a nuestro colega y amigo López Portillo, de México, casi nos abstenemos de intervenir porque estamos plenamente de acuerdo con él, pero ya que habíamos solicitado la palabra queremos utilizar esta ocasión para descargarnos de una inquietud que no es trascendental porque tal vez es de orden social.

Ayer en la mañana, en la primera intervención del distinguido delegado del Reino Unido estuvimos muy agradecidos porque él nos aclaró de qué se trataba el contenido de un sobre que encontramos el lunes en la tarde en el casillero de nuestra delegación. Era un texto en inglés, idioma que no conozco, trabajo orgullosamente en mi propio castellano. Sólo alcancé a distinguir dos nombres propios: el del Sr. Deare, mi gran amigo y colega representante del Reino Unido en Roma, y el del Sr. Shah, distinguido funcionario de la Organización. Tal vez por la prisa con que abrí el sobre y porque, repito, no entiendo ese idioma, creí que se trataba de una invitación, de un acto social, de un coktail que el Sr. Deare quería ofrecer a su cuasi compatriota el Sr. Shah como reconocimiento a la competencia, a la capacidad y a la inteligencia del Sr. Shah. Pasé a la segunda página del sobre y encontré unos cuadros y unas rayas y pensé que eran las indicaciones, el mapa, el plano para llegar hasta el sitio donde los colegas británicos agasajarían al Sr. Shah.

Para hablar seriamente creo que hechos como éste constituyen precedentes desafortunados. Ya hoy el Reino Unido, tal vez un poco alertado por nuestro silencio, llegó a proponer que ese documento se convirtiera en un documento del Consejo. Creemos que esto no es aceptable. ¿Qué tal si en el futuro cada delegación distribuyera aquí documentos propios en chino, en árabe, en indio, en bengalesí, por ejemplo?

Ahora, nadie puede desconocer el derecho de cada delegación de hacer conocer su punto de vista a la Secretaría. El Director General recibirá el documento que el Reino Unido envió al Sr. Shah, podrá analizarlo, considerar si algunos elementos merecen ser tramitados al Comité de Finanzas, pero que no se nos distribuya un documento de cada propia delegación en un idioma que, repetimos, no es el nuestro y no corresponde a la práctica de distribución de los documentos en esta Organización.

Sobre su resumen, ya el colega de México explicó claramente el carácter de orientación, que no es vinculante. Usted dijo varias veces "la gran mayoría" esperamos que esto se refleje en el proyecto de informe que el Comité de Redacción presentaría a la Plenaria y, una vez más, al colega del Reino Unido que no nos vuelva a mandar documentos en inglés.

R. G. PETTITT (United Kingdom): Just for the sake of clarity, although, I have not actually asked, and would not be so bold as to ask, that a paper by the United Kingdom should be considered by the Finance Committee, I should ask that the subject be taken up by the Finance Committee. I have offered a paper if the Finance Committee would like it.

David Lawrence COUTTS (Australia): I am very sorry to ask for the floor again. However, for the second time in four days I confess myself to be a little puzzled with what is happening here. Am I to take it that it is not possible for the Council to note a suggestion that a delegation makes in the course of the discussion? I felt that the United Kingdom suggestion was based on a genuine concern. It was not in any way destructive in its intent. I would have thought it would be quite in order for the Council to note in its report that this was raised and it is something which may be pursued. If we could carry this to its extreme it seems to me that when we look at the report of the Drafting Committee we will have to look very closely at a number of things which are not on the agenda in specific terms. Personally, I should have regarded it as perfectly satisfactory that these things be raised because they are relevant to the discussion and could be reflected as Council notes- "The Council was informed" that sort of formula. Am I to take it that indication such as the United Kingdom have given cannot be reflected in the report of the Drafting Committee?

LE DIRECTEUR GENERAL: Nous serons contents d'examiner cette question au Comité financier, comme nous sommes prêts à examiner toute question présentée à l'ordre du jour de ce Comité; c'est un comité du Conseil, par conséquent si le Conseil décide que cette question doit être examinée par le Comité financier à sa session du printemps 87, il en sera ainsi. Mais il faut évidemment que le Conseil décide.

Cela dit, de quoi voulez-vous discuter? M. Deare a produit un document qui est là; au cours d'une rencontre informelle, M. Deare se référait au point 12. b) sur les mesures à long terme. Après quoi, ce document a été commenté ici. Maintenant, vous demandez que le sujet: "Estimated Programme Delivery Costs in the FAO Regular Programme and Programmes Financed by Extra-Budgetary Funds on the basis of the FAO Programme of Work and Budget for 1986/87" soit discuté au Comité financier. Si le Conseil en décide, il sera traduit, discuté, etc.

Mais nous venons également d'entendre le distingué délégué du Royaume-Uni qui voulait discuter de ce même document à l'occasion d'un autre point de l'ordre du jour. S'agit-il du point 12?

J'ai dit à M. Deare que nous avons été surpris de recevoir ce document dans la boîte aux lettres. Nous avons répondu, M. Shah a fait ses commentaires. Si le sujet est à nouveau soulevé, nous ferons des commentaires. Autant que possible nous répondrons aux questions ici.

Ce matin, le délégué de l'Inde a également fait des commentaires. Allons-nous discuter maintenant du point 12, de ce document, et au printemps prochain de ce même document? Ou nous arrêtons-nous maintenant pour en discuter au printemps prochain au Comité financier, si le Conseil en décide ainsi? C'est ce qu'il nous faut éclaircir. Et puis, de quel document s'agit-il? Celui du Royaume-Uni tel qu'il est, ou un document nouveau qui sera préparé en janvier, ou, selon la pratique habituelle, ce document et nos commentaires?

Je voudrais m'assurer du libellé du sujet. Si le Conseil veut en discuter, quel titre faut-il lui donner? Est-ce ce document-là que nous devons traduire et présenter au Comité financier avec nos commentaires? Ou le Royaume-Uni souhaite-t-il un nouveau document, élaboré à la suite de vos discussions? Ce sont autant de questions à éclaircir.

R. G. PETTITT (United Kingdom): I think there are two stories to this. One is the simpler one, which is that our interventions on another Agenda item-which is not 12 (b) today but would be 11 I think-would make more sense to delegates if they actually had before them the paper which we have already circulated. That is the end of that story.

The second story is that we would like to have the subject of programme delivery costs taken up, as it is part of its normal responsibility, by the Finance Committee in the spring. We offer towards that consideration a paper. That paper would be a paper we would prepare, which might well draw upon this paper but would be after further discussions with Mr Shah. That paper docs not yet exist.

To go back to my other story, the other paper I suggest might be distributed in such a way that nobody would object on the grounds that they have not seen it. I suggest it could be issued as a Conference Room paper if this is the way of operation of the Organization that people prefer.

DIRECTOR-GENERAL: What do you wish to discuss under Item 11?

R. G. PETTITT (United Kingdom): In my Agenda, Item 11 is described as "Reports of the Fifty-Seventh and Fifty-Eighth Sessions of the Finance Committee. " There is a separate item, 11. 1 "Developments Regarding Headquarters Accommodation".

LE PRESIDENT: Je voudrais séparer la question en deux parties. La première question posée par le représentant du Royaume-Uni au Conseil, c'est de savoir s'il est possible pour le Conseil de retenir le principe d'une étude sur le coût des opérations qui serait présentée à la Direction générale de la FAO par le délégué du Royaume-Uni pour faire l'objet d'une analyse par le Comité financier, au printemps prochain. Voilà la première question. Le Conseil retient-il cette proposition? Nous passerons ensuite à l'autre question. Je crois qu'il est de notre devoir d'étudier toutes les suggestions. Quel est le titre proposé par le délégué du Royaume-Uni?

R. G. PETTITT (United Kingdom): The title would be "Programme Delivery Costs".

LE PRESIDENT: Si le Conseil est d'accord, nous pouvons continuer. 11 reste la deuxième question posée par le Royaume-Uni.

Le délégué du Royaume-Uni envisage, à l'occasion de l'examen du point 11 de l'ordre du jour, de soulever d'autres questions concernant le rapport du Comité financier. Quelle est la nature de ces questions?

R. G. PETTITT (United Kingdom): There were other points arising from the Finance Committee Report which did not seem relevant to the discussion under Item 12, "Financial Matters". It may well be there is no call for discussion under Item 11, and rather than waste people's time we will work out with the Secretariat under which Agenda Item it is best that we make the particular points that we have to make. But the issue of whether we may offer the paper as a CRP remains.

LE DIRECTEUR GENERAL: Nous sommes à la disposition du Conseil. Si un document doit être distribué à tous les délégués il faut qu'il soit traduit dans toutes les langues, en français, en anglais, en espagnol, en chinois et en arabe. C'est une question de principe et il faut du temps. C'est au Conseil de décider.

Gonzalo BULA HOYOS (Colombia): Repetimos que no hemos podido leer el documento porque está escrito sólo en inglés, pero ante la insistencia de nuestros colegas del Reino Unido y conociendo el carácter pragmático y el ánimo constructivo que les anima, siempre pensamos que, sin duda, ellos están inspirados en un deseo de servicio, de contribuir al mejor funcionamiento de nuestra Organización. Por ello, a la luz de lo que se acaba de decir y que yo había ya insinuado también de paso, el hecho de que sólo existe un texto en inglés, no puede ser así considerado como documento oficial. Creo que la situación es muy clara, Sr. Presidente, y que podemos estar de acuerdo en lo siguiente: en el tema de la agenda en el cual el delegado del Reino Unido podrá referirse a su propio documento y dar todas las explicaciones que él considere convenientes porque está en su derecho, pero que no se distribuya el documento. Luego, en el documento aparecerá lo que se considere necesario y el Director General, a la luz de la discusión de los miembros del Consejo, juzgará si es oportuno o no dar traslado a algunos de esos elementos a la reunión del Comité de Finanzas de la primavera de 1987.

Akbar Mirza KHALEELI (India): We are inclined to go along with the recommendations of the representative of Colombia. We are impressed by the determination with which the United Kingdom representative wishes to place on record certain reservations regarding the overheads of FAO, but I thought that right at the beginning you had taken a decision, Mr. Chairman, that it was not to be a Conference document. I feel, rather than this matter being raised again and again under some other issue or some other head, it would be best to decide now as to how it should be dealt with.

Secondly, in the Finance Committee, which has distinguished representatives and also the representative of Australia, I think various reservations or opinions could have been expressed and can again be expressed. I think this matter should be decided strictly according to the rules on the basis of your ruling, rather than continuing a discussion on a matter which has really lasted too long.

Mrs Millicent M. FENWICK (United States of America): We are not just inclined to accept the recommendation of Colombia. We say for heaven's sake let us accept it and get on. We should have finished this long ago, and so we heartily endorse what the delegate has said.

R. G. PETTITT (United Kingdom): I am not pushing this further. If the interventions we make do not make sense without our paper, we apologize.

LE PRESIDENT: Si le délégué du Royaume-Uni est d'accord avec la proposition du délégué de la Colombie confirmée par le délégué des Etats-Unis, nous pouvons considérer que cette procédure est retenue, à savoir que, dans ses interventions, le délégué du Royaume-Uni va faire état de tous les éléments du rapport qui l'intéresse.

Gonzalo BULA HOYOS (Colombia): Sí, y yo creo que es hora de terminar este debate y pasar al tema siguiente.

- b) Alternative Approaches to Dealing with Budgetary and Financial Uncertainties
- b) Les incertitudes budgétaires et financières: approches possibles
- b) Alternativas para afrontar las incertidumbres presupuestarias y financieras

LE PRESIDENT: Nous pouvons maintenant passer à ce point non moins important. Je m'excuse d'avoir été obligé de séparer les mesures à long et à court terme car elles sont liées. Le document CL 90/24, qui concerne les mesures à long terme, est très important et devra faire l'objet d'un examen approfondi par le Conseil.

Pour la clarté de notre travail, nous allons demander à M. Shah de bien vouloir présenter ce document.

V. J. SHAH (Director, Office of Programme, Budget and Evaluation): It is my pleasure again to introduce this Item on behalf of the Director-General.

The financial liquidity problems which we are having to face in this biennium it is clear will be with us for some time. Therefore, this Item on your Agenda is as important as the one with which you have just dealt relating to the Programme of Work and Budget for 1986/87. In essence, we are dealing with FAO's capacity to survive in order to accomplish the objectives set by the Member Nations and to fulfill the tasks for which you look to FAO.

The document submitted to you, document CL 90/24, proposes a number of measures which are for your preliminary consideration-and I emphasise that. The Council need not take any decision on any of them, but its guidance to the Finance Committee and the Director-General, in his own view, is crucial for the formulation of such measures as he may wish to consider in due course and eventually submit to the Conference.

I do not wish to repeat what is in the document. On the contrary, permit me to convey the Director-General's assessment of the likely future problems that we shall have to deal with as he sees them. In so doing, we do not need to indulge in any fanciful futurism. The Director-General has asked me only to share with you as soberly as possible his assessment of the key factors and indicate where his assessment logically leads him.

There are three sets of policy factors involved: first, the legislation adopted by the **largest** contributor; secondly, measures to deal with shortfalls in income; and thirdly, measures to deal with exchange rate fluctuations.

I will address myself, quite separately, to each set of facts. Firstly, the legislative action in the case of the largest contributor. Here, may I be permitted to refer by name to the largest contributor without any disrespect, for it will make the consideration of the matter much easier. There are four issues I wish to comment on here. Firstly, the Kassebaum amendment. This amendment incorporated in Section 143 of the Foreign Relations Authorization Act, Public Law 99/93, limits US payment to the United Nations and Specialized Agencies to 20 percent of their budgets, unless the organizations institute a decision-making system for budgetary matters providing voting strength proportionally to the size of the contributions. In considering this measure soberly we face the fact that this legislation reflects a certain dissatisfaction with these organizations and has a clear intent to change the budget approval process. This would amount to a Charter amendment in the case of the United Nations and in our case our Constitution. The present General Assembly has not yet consented to envisage such changes. The legislation seems to have no time limit and our logic would lead us to conclude that we face its effects indefinitely. Certainly, there is no visible move to repeal this legislation.

Secondly, there is the Grann-Rudman Hollings legislation which formed the basis of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985, Public Law 99/177, when requires that the total U. S. Federal budget deficit be reduced to zero over the next five years. It is striking that this law requires the Federal budget deficit to be brought down to \$144 billion for the fiscal year 1987 yet, it seems that the present estimates, which we are aware of, would be of a deficit of a much higher figure-perhaps, some \$200 billion. This measure can therefore be expected not only to continue, but to increase in the intensity of its application. Thirdly, we face the action taken at the time of the annual preparation. It appears to us that the application of the two pieces of legislation, to which I have just referred, is intensified by measures which increase our difficulties. Thus, although the amount of \$385 million was appropriated for contributions to international organizations for the fiscal year 1987, one third of that amount, that is to say \$130 million, is frozen until October 1987. Moreover, this Appropriation Act includes the provision, and I quote, "A provision which prohibits the funds in this appropriation from being used to pay the U. S. share of interest costs and loans to international organizations from commercial lending institutions." This provision is stated, and I quote again, "As a deterrent against international organizations borrowing funds from commercial lending institutions in order to compensate for budgetary shortfalls or short-term cash flow problems." Fourthly, we face the effects of decisions resulting in even lower contributions than could be expected. The payment due to FAO by the major contributor for 1986 is \$50. 1 million, fifty million seventy five thousands to be correct.

We have still not been officially notified, as was confirmed yesterday by the distinguished representative of the U. S., of when and what amount we will receive this year. However, as you are aware we have to monitor the situation and make the best estimates that we can with the best intelligence and the best information that is available to us. According to this preliminary and unofficial information, we understand that the payment this year may be only \$5 million. We understand that we may be favoured with another twenty million in October 1987. I still refer to the 1986 contribution. How can we make any estimate of what we will receive against the 1987 contribution? Our logic would lead us to conclude that we should not expect anything-a very harsh lesson. All this amounts to facing the fact that in the foreseeable future the largest contributor does not appear to be likely, or will not be in a position, to meet its obligation to our Organization. According to our Rules and Regulations, these contributions will represent amounts outstanding as arrears. There is nothing said or guaranteed about whether, or when or how these arrears will be settled. We now expect the arrears from this contributor to amount to some \$67 million for this biennium, three million more than the figure that was indicated in document CL 90/20. At this rate we may reach a level of some \$135 million in contributions due from the Member Nation in three years time.

This reduction in our resources evidently creates such problems of liquidity that it makes somewhat of a farce of the Programme of Work and Budget approved by the Conference. But what of the future? One conclusion would be to have a Programme of Work and Budget which is dictated and determined by the level of payments we can expect to receive from one or other Member Nation. Is this what our Member Nations want? The answer will have to be given by the Conference. The Conference will have to consider measures to deal with the prospects which threaten the very survival of our strong Organization.

Let me now deal with those matters relating to budgetary income shortfalls. The virtual certainty of shortfalls in our budgetary income, increasing beyond anything we have experienced so far, leads the Director-General to suggest that a number of measures are needed to strengthen or to sustain even our viability. How can a Working Capital Fund of just over \$13 million cope with delays and shortfalls in contributions five and ten times that amount? How can we continue to provide for miscellaneous income when world interest rates plunged to reduce it to half the provision that we were able to make? How can we deal with obligations of some \$60 million in early 1988 and have contributions outstanding of one and half time that amount?

The third set of factors are the exchange rate effects. We used to think that our Special Reserve Account was a very safe device to deal with exchange rate fluctuations. There was no problem when exchange rates moved in our favour and led to a surplus of almost \$14 million in 1982-83 and a surplus of almost \$14 million in 1982-83 and a surplus of \$10 million in 1984-85, ail of which went into the cash surplus. However, the Lire/dollar rate has fallen by 20 percent since our Programme of Work and Budget was approved by the Conference at this rate. As Council will have

noted from the documentation the Special Reserve Account of \$22 million will be moved by the end of the biennium, if not before. These are the hard facts, the brutal reality and the sad prospects, (mind-boggling prospects) which we have to face.

The Director-General is convinced that the Member Nations of this Organization want the Organization not only to survive but to continue as a solid and a valuable and effective organization. If the difficulties we now confront are unexpectedly severe and unprecedentedly severe, then the measures for our survival will have to be correspondingly brought into their concept and in their scope. The Conference will be called upon to take measures of foresight and wisdom. The Director-General is certain that the discussion in this Council will help the Finance Committee and help him in formulating specific proposals in accordance with your wishes and will help the Conference in eventually taking the necessary action.

Le PRESIDENT: Je remercie M. Shah pour son exposé. Nous ouvrons donc la discussion autour de ce point très important et qui concerne la pérennité financière de la FAO.

Vanrob ISARANKURA (Thailand): May I start by thanking Mr Shah for his introduction to this important item. I have carefully studied all alternative approaches for dealing with budgetary and financial uncertainties as indicated in the document CL 90/24. Before we express our view on these approaches I would like to thank the Director-General for his efforts to find the ways and means to solve the budgetary and financial uncertainties and problems of our organization. He has proposed to us several solutions which may provide a reasonable assurance that the programme and budget which was decided upon by the FAO Conference can be protected.

Regarding possible alternative approaches now under our consideration my delegation is of the opinion that only the first two alternative approaches can be feasible, namely amending present procedures for application of cash surplus and adjusting the treatment of miscellaneous income. If we are going to amend financial regulations as mentioned in paragraphs 13 and 15 my delegation thinks it should not harm the member countries since it does not require extra contribution from the government and it will not cause any problem of budgeting of member nations whereas other approaches might bring difficulty to the member nations. Therefore my delegation would like to propose that the Finance Committee or the Director-General should make further study on the two alternate approaches which I have mentioned.

I would like to conclude that we could accept the fact.

R. G. PETTITT (United Kingdom): I propose to deal with the proposal for possible alternative approaches in the order set out in paper CL 90/24 and will give my comments as was agreed this morning on the proposals for dealing with delayed payments separately at the end of this intervention.

I was grateful for Mr Shah's presentation on the question of the problem arising from the withholding of the United States subscription. I do not propose to comment substantially on this since the paper CL 90/24 is not dealing specifically or particularly with this problem and the measures in it, of course, do not meet it at all. The answer is either that the United States pays up or that we reduce our expenditure to meet the realistically likely receipts.

To revert to the paper, starting with paragraph 10, we cannot agree to the termination arrangements set out in Financial Regulation 6.1 for automatic distribution of cash surpluses. We have, of course, no objection to the voluntary surrender of a country's cash surplus if such an arrangement suits the financial situation of that country.

There are precedents for this. In the case of UNESCO in 1985 and the delegate of Italy has raised the possibility from the point of view of his government in helping the present situation in FAO, but such acts of generosity must be considered exceptional voluntary contributions and not become obligations.

As regards the suggestion that member countries should be asked to contribute against an assessment which ignores miscellaneous income, again I am afraid we would not agree to this. It would involve the acquisition by FAO of a reserve, which if acquired should be consciously voted by the relevant governing body.

As regards the suggestion that the level of the Working Capital Fund should be assessed against the passage of expenditure and receipts ignoring the special complications brought about by the default of the largest contributor. Such withholding for which, in a sense, ample notice has been given should be treated as shortfalls for which anticipatory action must be taken.

Still on the subject of the Working Capital Fund comparison with other organizations may be helpful, but to check the validity of our findings. They cannot be a determining factor and they may be misleading if the purposes to which the Working Capital Fund may be properly put if the organizations concerned are not properly understood. For instance, UNIDO is quoted as an organization with a working capital fund proportionately higher than that of the FAO. In fact, the actual level agreed at the Conference, rather than the maximum level was \$6 million and not \$9 million and was about three weeks expenditure, actually very much the same as FAO and in UNIDO the working capital fund also has to deal with currency fluctuations for which FAO has other arrangements.

It is true the Industrial Development Board recently increased the Working Capital Fund to its maximum of \$9 million but this was because of the increased costs in the programme in dollar terms resulting from the change of the rate of exchange between the dollar and the Austrian schilling. When adequate and specific arrangements for currency fluctuations have been agreed in UNIDO the working capital fund is likely to be reduced again to some three weeks expenditure. I speak at length on this point because there is a danger of simple comparisons, as perhaps we have learned before in this meeting.

Now as regards the proposal for the budget to be set annually, we would not wish to see the delegation from the Conference to the Council which this proposal would seem to involve. We prefer the other suggestions which involve the continued control by the senior body.

We see no objection to further work being carried out by expressing the budget in a basket of currencies and perhaps our attitude here reflects our increasing familiarity with this arrangement through our dealings with the European community. However, this is not our preferred arrangement. This is the appropriation of budget in two parts, one in dollars and one in lira, with assessments in both currencies. We do hope that unfamiliarity with such an arrangement would not immediately lead to doubts about its workability. It is the arrangement which has recently been started by the International Atomic Energy Authority. The Director-General of UNIDO who has a budget which is perhaps more similar to ours than the IAEA's has indicated recently that it is a preferred arrangement as well as that preferred by a majority of member countries and is likely to be adopted at the March meeting of the UNIDO body, which is looking at this issue. I suggest that the difficulties mentioned in paragraph 24 of the paper CL 90/24 could be overcome; expenditure in currencies other than dollars and lira would need to be allocated to one or other budget, according to whether the currency concerned tends to move more with the dollar than the other European currencies and for most countries contributions are made in a currency which fluctuates against our own and it should be no real problem to provide contributions in two currencies.

Now as to the suggestion of an amendment to the Basic Text to submit supplementary budgets except for emergency purposes, we would agree with the constitution drawn up more recently, for instance, that of UNIDO, that had provision for supplementary budgets without the requirement for it to be an emergency. We would not see any fundamental objection to modification of the Basic Text but these would need to be envisaged in the constitution of UNIDO, handled in the normal way by the Council and Conference. We would see objections to the delegation of this responsibility to the Council alone.

Finally, and this is a different subject now, I turn to the suggestions for providing incentives for prompt payment discussed in paragraphs 22-31 in document CL 90/17 Appendix C. We have doubts whether any of the proposals will have any significant effect upon the pattern of receipts but some fairly simple arrangements on the line suggested would be more equitable than those in force at present. My delegation considers the separation of the treatment of interest income has practical problems in its application and we would prefer one of the rather similar solutions II or VII set out in Appendix C.

A. Daniel WEYGANDT (United States of America): Before I address the subject of the various alternatives proposed in document CL 90/24 I would like to respond very briefly to some of the comments made by Mr Shah in his introduction.

My delegation appreciates the fact that the Secretariat is by no means underestimating the seriousness of the situation that we find ourselves in here. However, I would like to emphasize, as I stated before, that the United States delegation has not been in a position to consult with the Secretariat on the level of the contributions. Therefore we can neither confirm nor take issue with the estimate made by the Secretariat. The position of my delegation is perhaps somewhat more optimistic with respect to 1987 than that outlined by Mr Shah, but as we noted before, this is really in the realms of speculation at this point.

So let me turn then to the proposal in document CL 90/24. It is the basic position of the United States that it would be inappropriate for the Council to make any definitive or final recommendations at this time bearing in mind that at least with respect to my government this document was only received the working day before the Council began which did not allow adequate time for analysis of the document whose proposals, all of which have some sweeping modifications and financial implications.

We would also like to support what was said by the previous speaker that we are reluctant to see a delegation of authority from the Conference to the Council and we feel that if the issue should be considered in any fashion they should be postponed until at least the June Council. In fact the preliminary observations of my government are that with perhaps the exception of the fourth alternative which would be to set the budget rate, the exchange rate annually, we would have profound difficulties with any alternatives proposed and I would like simply to put on record at this point we would simply like to see these issues developed and have a fuller discussion on the basis of a further analysis by my government.

Khalil MAKKAWI (Lebanon): My delegation would like first to thank the Director-General for submitting this matter for preliminary discussion in the Council. We also thank Mr Shah for the excellent presentation and the explanation which we have just heard from him on this subject.

We recognize that no decision is required from the Council now. We agree with the Director-General, however, that our discussion would provide valuable guidance to the Finance Committee and to the Director-General on possible measures which might be examined in greater depth and formulated, for the eventual consideration of the Council and the Conference.

It is abundantly clear that the measures which are presently available to our Organization are no longer adequate to deal with the budgetary and financial uncertainties of the scale which we are now witnessing.

What is more paradoxical than to have to face a financial crisis during this biennium while at the same time a cash surplus of US \$30.7 million from the last biennium will be distributed to Member Nations on 1 January 1987?

What could be more striking than the fact that the miscellaneous income which the Organization may expect to earn during this biennium will be some US\$ 19 million less than that estimated in the Programme of Work and Budget for 1986/87 because the Organization, like all others, is at the mercy of interest rates?

What is more glaring than the fact that the Working Capital Fund of FAO as a percentage of the budget level is half that of any comparable organization in the UN system?

All these factors indicate clearly that we need to reinforce this mechanism and envisage additional mechanisms to protect this Organization and its programmes from the violent and unforeseeable financial fluctuations which we are increasingly required to face. If strengthened and additional mechanisms need a greater commitment from Member Nations and a willingness to bear the additional burden involved, we for our part are prepared to do so and we are certain that all who care for this Organization will be equally prepared.

We therefore urge the Council unanimously to request the Director-General to develop and submit his proposals to the Finance Committee at its Spring session in 1987 so that we may consider what needs to be done at our own session in June and submit them to the Conference in November.

John GLISTRUP (Denmark): On this subject my delegation is again speaking on behalf of the Nordic countries-Finland, Norway, Sweden and Denmark. May I start by thanking Mr Shah for his introduction. I must say that I admire the way he is able in a very clear and concise manner to explain complicated matters. He does it so well that even I think that I understand the issues better after his introduction.

In the Nordic statements on agenda item 12. I(a) it was emphasized that there is an urgent need for having a current and conscious priority setting in FAO's Programme of Work. The setting of priority is a relevant issue, regardless of whether there is a net increase or a net decrease in the flow of resources. This fact should not be over-shadowed by the equally important but hopefully short-term issue of unpredictability of the payments from the major contributor. We will elaborate further on priority setting in our intervention on agenda item 10, Reports from the Programme Committee.

I shall now give our comments on the longer-term proposals contained in document CL 90/24. These comments are made to advise the Finance Committee in their further deliberations on this matter. We find the number and variety of ideas put forward a bit confusing and would have preferred more coherent proposals for a long-term solution. We believe that if clearer structures of priority setting in FAO had been developed, then a more convincing set of solutions could have been put forward.

In general, the Nordic countries are opposed to any amendment of the financial regulations entailing a transfer of power from the Governing Bodies to the Director-General, as suggested in the document. With two exceptions, therefore, the Nordic countries cannot give support to the ideas contained in document CL 90/24. In particular we cannot accept the proposed amendment of present procedures for application of the cash surplus.

Let me add in this context that we still do not have sufficient information on the composition of the cash deposits, in particular on the degree of liquidity of these accounts. Without that information we are not in a position to endorse the proposal to borrow some \$30 million in order to cover short-term needs. However, the Nordic countries do see some merit in the proposal pertaining to the Working Capital Fund and to establishing a basket of currency rates. In common they may provide further flexibility and stability to the process of channelling funds to FAO.

As to the Working Capital Fund, we realise that in order to support the General Fund we find some merit in the argument that the level of the Working Capital Fund is too low in relation to the budget, especially when comparing it with other UN agencies. Since we have many times argued for consistency within the UN system, we are willing to give the proposal in that direction further consideration.

The second proposal which in our opinion helps to solve some of the problems concerning the uncertainty of exchange rates is to use a basket of currency when preparing the budget. This kind of solution is already known in other areas, like ECU in the European Community.

Speaking of longer term problems, I feel there also is a need for improving the financial transparency within FAO. It was interesting to listen to the bilateral exchange of views between the United Kingdom and the Secretariat. The Secretariat showed through Mr Shah that it possesses a wealth of information not contained in our documentation. The Secretariat should, on its own initiative, provide such information. That would be a sign of good management which in turn would help member countries and the Secretariat to avoid the occurrence of some short-term problems in the future. It could save time for the benefit of a constructive dialogue on the more long-term issues which we would like to discuss.

LE DIRECTEUR GENERAL: M. le délégué du Danemark, en ce qui concerne la transparence, si vous lisez le rapport du Comité financier et le rapport du Comité du programme, vous y verrez que cette question a été traitée par ces deux comités, à la demande du Directeur général; et vous verrez que les membres du Comité financier, ainsi que ceux du Comité du programme ont exprimé leurs points de vue, en disant que tout était transparent, lucide, et qu'ils n'avaient pas besoin de documents supplémentaires.

Si un délégué nous dit que la FAO n'est pas transparente, il faut qu'il nous dise quel document, quelle information il souhaite; nous sommes prêts à vous les fournir, dans les cinq langues; mais ne dites pas que nous ne sommes pas transparents.

En ce qui concerne l'autorisation d'emprunter cette autorisation a été accordée par la Conférence; il appartient à la Conférence de la retirer; et si la Conférence ne la retire pas en 1987, cela voudra dire que nous pourrions emprunter; mais de toute façon, si l'on n'emprunte pas, il faudra couper 30 millions de dollars en plus des 16; mais tout cela est une estimation.

Tout dépend de la position des Etats-Unis; elle n'est pas encore tout à fait officielle; mais nos informations semblent corroborer le chiffre que nous avons avancé concernant la contribution des Etats-Unis.

Ne revenons pas sur ce qui a été discuté; c'est une simple clarification; il appartient à la Conférence en novembre-période où il y aura des chiffres encore plus exacts, car la situation sera encore plus claire-de décider s'il ne faut pas emprunter. On peut ne pas emprunter en 1988; on peut à ce moment-là faire des ajustements de programme; on peut couper le programme 88-89; tout est possible.

Il se peut que nous entrions dans un cycle d'ajustement sur plusieurs années.

Personnellement, je ne souhaite pas du tout emprunter; je serais content que la Conférence en discute en 1987 à la lumière des derniers chiffres; et si la Conférence décide de ne pas emprunter, on peut réduire encore le programme de 1988. Même en ce qui concerne le versement des 13 millions du fonds de roulement qui doit être effectué immédiatement au début du prochain exercice, le règlement financier indique que l'on peut également faire des ajustements de programme en vue de dégager ces 13 millions.

Soit on fait des ajustements de programme maintenant, soit on temporise pour en faire en 1988. Mais tant que la contribution du principal bailleur de fonds n'est pas totalement versée, nous aboutirons à des ajustements de programme; c'est ce que nous faisons maintenant. Il a été dit qu'en juin ce serait trop tard, effectivement, et je prends quelques précautions; je tiens compte de votre point de vue, M. le délégué du Canada, et nous allons essayer de faire en sorte qu'il y ait encore des possibilités de coupures après la réunion du Conseil de juin; la chose sera encore possible entre juin et décembre. Evidemment il serait préférable d'en décider maintenant, mais je vous assure que nous en tenons compte.

Pour revenir à l'autorisation d'emprunter, les délégués ont exprimé leurs points de vue; il faudra à nouveau examiner la question en juin, mais de toute façon c'est à la Conférence elle-même d'en décider. Je vous confirme à nouveau que nos estimations concernant la principale contribution semblent se confirmer.

Mohammed ABDELHADI (Tunisie) (langue originale arabe): Je voudrais tout d'abord féliciter M. Shah de son excellente présentation du document. Son analyse nous a permis de nous faire une idée beaucoup plus claire des différentes mesures possibles pour faire face aux incertitudes financières de la FAO.

Bien entendu, il n'est que naturel, raisonnable et sain de la part du Directeur général de présenter au Conseil les problèmes financiers et de proposer en même temps des solutions afin d'assurer une continuité et d'éviter tout déséquilibre financier à la FAO en raison d'un certain nombre de problèmes auxquels elle doit faire face aujourd'hui.

En fait, le problème auquel nous nous heurtons est dû à une question de législation au sein du pays qui est le plus grand contribuant de la FAO, question législative qui affecte le montant et les modalités de paiement de la contribution de ce pays.

Nous sommes heureux que le Directeur général ait pu faire des propositions pour régler cette situation financière de la FAO. Il a ainsi donné la preuve de sa volonté et de son désir d'assurer la survie de la FAO et de mettre en oeuvre le Programme approuvé sans que celui-ci soit affecté par les difficultés financières.

La délégation de la Tunisie est prête à appuyer toute mesure qui aurait pour effet de réduire les fluctuations financières du type de celles qui se sont produites au cours de cette année. Elle estime que les solutions proposées par le Directeur général aux paragraphes 13, 16, 19, 21 et 25 du document permettraient de résoudre les difficultés financières de l'Organisation.

Afin d'enrichir la discussion, nous voudrions faire brièvement connaître notre point de vue sur ces différentes approches possibles. Celle mentionnée au paragraphe 13 concerne l'excédent de trésorerie. Nous pensons, en fait, que ce sont le Conseil et la Conférence qui doivent se prononcer sur cette solution visant à réduire le fardeau financier de la FAO dû au non-versement de leur contribution par certains membres de l'Organisation.

Le paragraphe 16 concerne le paiement des contributions "brutes", c'est-à-dire sans déduction des recettes accessoires prévues. La délégation de la Tunisie estime que cette suggestion peut également permettre de résoudre partiellement le problème. Cependant, il est probable que cette solution sera pour certains pays un encouragement à retarder le paiement de leur contribution. Afin d'éviter de se trouver dans cette situation, selon moi, cette solution devrait être assortie d'une condition, à savoir que les excédents soient remboursés aux contribuants qui auront payé sans retard leur contribution.

Pour ce qui est de la proposition relative à l'augmentation du fonds de roulement, la délégation de la Tunisie estime qu'elle mérite d'être approfondie et en appuie le principe.

Au paragraphe 22, il est proposé d'utiliser une unité monétaire sur la base d'un panier de devises. Nous pensons que cette solution pourrait être prise en considération à condition d'être étudiée plus avant. Cela nous permettrait de résoudre certains problèmes tels que, par exemple, celui du taux de change.

Quant aux propositions concernant la préparation de budgets supplémentaires que l'on trouve au paragraphe 25, nous sommes en sa faveur car elle nous permettrait d'ajuster le budget en cours d'exécution. Il se peut d'ailleurs que cela soit rendu inévitable par les circonstances.

Enfin, ma délégation estime que ces propositions sont dignes d'être retenues et elle demande au Directeur général de bien vouloir les examiner de façon plus approfondie et détaillée. Bien entendu, il ne faut pas perdre de vue notre objectif principal qui est de garantir la viabilité de l'Organisation et d'éviter qu'elle soit soumise à plus de fluctuations financières. Nous avons entrepris des études portant sur l'agriculture et nous pensons que la situation financière de la FAO ne devrait pas les affecter, et surtout celle concernant l'Afrique.

LE PRESIDENT: Je dois dire au Conseil que nous avons reçu une communication de la délégation de Sao Tomé-et-Principe, qui demande que nous inscrivions celle-ci au procès-verbal.

Antonio Albertino ALFONSO DIAS (Sao Tomé-et-Principe): Monsieur le Président, étant donné que c'est la première fois que je prends la parole au sein du Conseil, je tiens à vous remercier de la façon dont vous conduisez les travaux du Conseil.

Monsieur le Président, la délégation de Sao Tomé-et-Principe remercie le Président du Comité financier pour les éclaircissements budgétaires de l'Organisation et sur les travaux du Comité financier.

Elle appuie sans réserve ce programme et fait siennes les interventions favorables du groupe des 77, ainsi que la plupart des délégations. ^{1/}

The meeting rose at 17. 30 hours

La séance est levée à 17 h 30.

Se levanta la sesión a las 17. 30 horas

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

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CL

CL 90/PV/9

Ninetieth Session

Quatre-vingt-dixième session

90º período de sesiones

NINTH PLENARY MEETING
NEUVIEME SEANCE PLENIERE
NOVENA SESION PLENARIA
(21 November 1986)

The Ninth Plenary Meeting was opened at 09. 45 hours,
Lassaad Ben Osman, Independent Chairman of the Council, presiding
La neuvième séance plénière est ouverte à 9 h 45, sous la présidence
de Lassaad Ben Osman, Président indépendant du Conseil
Se abre la octava sesión plenaria a las 09. 45 horas, bajo la presidencia
de Lassaad Ben Osman, Presidente Independiente del Consejo

LE PRESIDENT: Nous poursuivons nos travaux mais, avant d'ouvrir les débats sur la suite des interventions sur le point 12, je voudrais faire une communication au Conseil. A 11 h 30, nous recevrons une délégation du CILSS, envoyée par Son Excellence le Président Abdou Diouf du Sénégal et Président du CILSS. Cette délégation prononcera au nom de Son Excellence le Président Diouf une allocution par l'intermédiaire du Président Messaoud Ould Boulkheir, Ministre du développement rural de la Mauritanie et Ministre coordonnateur du CILSS. Nous passons à la suite des interventions.

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

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

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

12. Financial Matters, including:

12. Questions financières, notamment:

12. Asuntos financieros, en particular:

12. 1 Financial Position of the Organization including Measures to Deal with Problems of Delayed Payment of Assessed Contributions (continued)

12. 1 Situation financière de l'Organisation, y compris les mesures visant à régler le problème des retards dans le versement des contributions (suite)

12. 1 Situación financiera de la Organización, especialmente medidas para afrontar los problemas del retraso en el pago de las cuotas (continuación)

(b) Alternative Approaches to Dealing with Budgetary and Financial Uncertainties

(b) Les incertitudes budgétaires et financières: approches possibles

(b) Alternativas para afrontar las incertidumbres presupuestarias y financieras

Temei ISKIT (Turkey): At the end of our intervention on item 12. 1(a) the day before yesterday we said that the real difficulties for our Organization will arise not in the short term, that is until the end of 1987, but in the medium and longer term. Indeed, we believe that the measures proposed by the Director-General and endorsed yesterday by-to use your words, Mr Chairman-the quasi-totality of the members of our Council, will bring us almost safely to the end of the present biennium. What will happen then, is the big question. The role of Casandra is not a pleasant one but preferable to acting like an ostrich, burying its head in the sand in the face of a threat. The hard bitter facts and prospects are there. Uncertainties are more likely to continue than the other way around. Mr Shah, in his presentation yesterday, confirmed, with his customary clarity, the worst of our affairs. The central cause of our financial difficulties and the main issue for the medium, if not longer-term future of our organization, will remain the uncertainty about the status of the United States assessed contribution. His explanation about the effects of the two pieces of United States legislation, explanations confirming what we already knew about them and confirmed by the United States delegation, to a certain extent, leave no doubt about what will happen in the next years. If no new developments occur it is likely that the FAO, together with the rest of the United Nations institutions, can only expect to receive a fraction of the United States contribution in the foreseeable future. The fluidity of the situation is compounded by the fact that the United States legislation does not imply that the United States will not honour their obligations.

The United States do not say that they will not pay their dues on the basis of assessed contributions. They just say they will withhold a large part of the payment of these contributions until the time when certain conditions will be fulfilled. We do not know precisely how and when these will be fulfilled.

We are in the face of a grave dilemma. When the next programme and budget will be prepared and discussed, the Director-General and indeed the member countries, will be in the paradoxical position of either assuming that the United States will pay its full contribution and determine the scope and expenditures of the programme and field activities on this basis, or they will have to elaborate a programme and budget that would take into account the foreseeable shortfall in the United States payments. In the first case the programme and budget will be most certainly a lame one and it is inevitable that not only programme "adjustments" but drastic cuts will have to be made, perhaps leading to the complete transformation of the programme initially agreed upon. Such a programme and budget, to use Mr Shah's words, will be a farce. As to the second case, we do not see how the member countries, other than the United States, will be able to accept the de facto revision of the burdening share which the rules set so long ago. At least I am pretty sure that the Turkish

Parliament and the Government will not. For the same reason that we would not be able to agree with a de facto reassessment of contributions, we do not think it is advisable to resort to further heavy borrowing, in addition to the borrowing which the Director-General may have recourse to at the end of this biennium, further borrowing, as I was saying, to offset the shortfall in the United States contributions. This will have the same results of increasing other members obligations in addition to risking the financial health of the organization. In any case, this question will clearly constitute the main concern of our next Conference. Furthermore, even at that time we do not believe that the FAO will be able to find isolated solutions independent from the United Nations system as a whole, unless, of course, the present situation changes. In essence, we fear that the medium and longer-term crisis of the United States will not remain simply a financial one but is liable to acquire political proportions affecting the whole set of international relations. We confess, at this point in time, and especially in view of the uncertainties besetting the future, that we are not in a position to venture even a guess on the possible solution, or on the probable shape of things in the years after 1987. We can only launch a plea to the largest contributors and, in particular, to the United States public opinion and legislative organs trying to draw their attention to the inherent dangers of undermining multilateralism for world peace and security.

The day before yesterday the United States delegate, in his very reasonable intervention, mentioned, as a possible approach, the support by all nations of the reforms proposed by the Group of 18 in the hope, or at least that is what we understood, that if these reforms are adopted and implemented the United States attitude would change and the crisis would be overcome. Firstly, we hope that this is not an "or as" position. It is not easy to prejudge the decision of 160 nations. We are sure that these proposals will be carefully studied and debated. For one, my country will give the utmost attention to them. However, reforms of such a scope cannot be decided, nor implemented, in a short time prospective. Moreover, even if we supposed they are immediately put into effect it appears that this will not take care of the domestic budgetary considerations of the United States. What will happen in the meantime? Shall the whole of the United Nations institutions withhold their programmes and budgets in the next years, or will they survive only through heavy borrowing, jeopardizing the soundness of their financial base? Would this not weaken these institutions further, finally resulting in the collapse of the whole system? We want to believe that this is not, that this cannot be the wish of the United States. Hence our appeal to them. An appeal meant exactly in the spirit, so eloquently emphasized by the Honourable Mrs Fenwick.

Having thus expressed our main views on the central issue of the financial difficulties of the FAO and the United Nations system in the medium and the longer term, we should make it clear that our analysis in no way implies every UN institution, including FAO, should not seek solutions, with at least a view to alleviating, to some extent, the impact of the budgetary and financial uncertainties facing them. That is why we welcome the initiative of the Director-General to prepare and present alternative approaches related to this issue. This step is another proof of his foresight and managerial capabilities. We could not, unfortunately, study these proposals in depth so as to be able to give our detailed and effective response to them. In any case we understand that these proposals are meant rather to initiate a discussion on the basis of which more comprehensive proposals will be presented. At first glance, these alternative approaches, as a whole, appear to address perhaps, inevitably, other issues than the delays or withholding the payments of contributions which form the sole revenue of the organization.

Again, inevitably, their positive effects depend on the fate of these contributions. For example, the proposals related to the cash surplus can only serve a purpose if there is a cash surplus. Moreover, as it is pointed out in paragraph 14 this measure will only transform an actual implementation in an ongoing solution. Similarly, the suggested solutions relating to miscellaneous income may not mean much in the face of the drastic drop in the level of this income related to the shortfall in the revenues.

As to the set of alternative proposals, aimed at alleviating the effects of exchange rates fluctuations, they will be of a certain help, but we need a closer look to be able to assess their implications. Having said this, my delegation reiterates its appreciation for the Director-General's move and supports, in particular, the further study of the following proposals. Amending present procedures for application of cash surplus. Increasing the level of the working capital fund and using a budgetary unit based on a basket of currencies. We expect that the Finance Committee, in its next session, will proceed to an extensive review of these proposals, and others, so that our Council will be seized with a more comprehensive and detailed package at its summer meeting.

Finally, before concluding, please allow me to make a few brief remarks on the question of what we can call "efficiency" raised by certain delegations yesterday and the day before under the headings such as programme delivery costs, further economies, and priority setting, etc. In our intervention on point 12(a) we deliberately refrained from commenting on these subjects, because we believe that a debate on such matters was clearly out of order since the short term financial difficulties of the organization have nothing to do with efficiency problems. You made the same judgements in your summing up.

We are not facing a managerial crisis, but a financial one caused by the withholding of contributions by the largest contributors. On the contrary, we think that our organization can claim to be one of the most efficient institutions within the United Nations system. Now that we are discussing a longer-term perspective we are still of the opinion that the question of efficiency does not fit well into our agenda since we continue to deal with a cash flow problem rather than managerial issues. We do not see how it is possible to continue discussing it in a fruitful manner, but since there have been so many allusions to the subject and since you ruled yesterday that these matters may be discussed further, we deemed it opportune to state once and for all the position of our delegation, in a very few words without however wishing to rekindle the debate.

As I stated earlier we are convinced that FAO is an efficient, and one of the best managed, institutions of the United Nations, if not the best. We share, of course, the idea that any organization can be further improved. However, we believe that this is a continuous process requiring the full concertation and even osmosis of both the member countries and the Secretariat. The increasing improvements in the management and the efficiency of the FAO in the past years proves that here in FAO we are progressing in the right direction. My delegation is convinced that this progress should and will continue. In this, the responsibility should be shared between both the Secretariat and the members. FAO should certainly make extra efforts to deliver more with the same or even less resources and it is striving to do so but the members also should be able to give better guidance adapted to the circumstances. For instance, we believe that in the question of priorities of the Organization, members have a certain responsibility. It is up to the members more than the Secretariat to agree on the priority programmes and projects which after all are addressed to the member countries. We cannot expect Dr Saouma and his staff to state preferences among the myriad, the thousands of demands put forward by the countries for project studies, etc. It is up to us to sift or screen our requirements and make proposals within the possibilities of the Organization, especially in these times of financial difficulties. What I am suggesting here is a closer consultation between member countries before tabling proposals.

To sum up, our delegation is fully ready to contribute to the process of increasing the efficiency of the Organization thinking at the same time that this on-going process can be more fruitfully served by debating these matters on appropriate occasions in appropriate organs, such as the Finance Committee or Programme Committee, rather than this present occasion, but in any case by strictly observing the procedures established by our Organization.

Ugo SESSI (Italie): Permettez-moi avant tout de remercier M. Shah pour la présentation qu'il nous a faite du document CL 90/24. Il a présenté de manière très claire et exhaustive comme d'habitude les problèmes que la FAO est appelée à résoudre dans le proche avenir et dans un futur à moyen terme. Dans les jours précédents nous avons parlé des problèmes immédiats; maintenant, par l'intermédiaire de ce document, nous examinons les solutions à moyen terme pour chercher à résoudre la situation de crise financière de la FAO.

Comme le disait notre collègue de la République fédérale d'Allemagne hier, ce problème ne concerne pas seulement la FAO mais également d'autres institutions et agences des Nations Unies, et l'Organisation mère, c'est-à-dire les Nations Unies elles-mêmes.

Ce problème a donc été examiné par d'autres instances des Nations Unies et toutes solutions à ces problèmes de la FAO devraient être étudiées en parallèle avec ce qui a été fait dans d'autres institutions des Nations Unies.

Concernant les approches possibles pour résoudre la crise à moyen terme, il y a un double aspect. En effet il y a un aspect plus général des politiques et des philosophies à travers lesquelles la FAO voit son futur, et qui devra être examiné par la Conférence l'année prochaine. Aujourd'hui, je me limiterai à examiner seulement les solutions techniques envisagées dans ce document. Ces solutions techniques sont au nombre de sept; elles varient d'un cas à l'autre et ont été pour quelques-unes d'entre elles déjà adoptées par d'autres institutions, et pour d'autres ce sont des idées nouvelles.

En ce qui concerne la première solution-c'est-à-dire la modification des procédures d'allocation de l'excédent de trésorerie-plusieurs orateurs ont déjà fait valoir que cette solution pouvait être utilisée dans le cas où il y a un excédent de trésorerie, en sus comme l'a souligné le délégué du Royaume-Uni hier. Dans ce cas, et dans d'autres aussi, nous serions appelés à modifier la réglementation financière.

Comme l'a rappelé le chef de ma délégation dans son intervention l'autre jour, nous sommes prêts à examiner cette possibilité cas par cas; je veux dire par là que dès lors qu'il y a la possibilité d'allouer des excédents de trésorerie pour soulager un déficit financier, on pourrait en prendre la décision cas par cas.

Par contre, nous ne serions pas très favorables à ce qu'une délégation permanente soit donnée au Conseil en vue de décider automatiquement d'allouer des ressources financières additionnelles sur un prélèvement de l'excédent de trésorerie. Selon nous, il faudrait nous en tenir à la règle qui existe actuellement, à savoir que la décision doit être prise par la Conférence.

Concernant la seconde hypothèse-c'est-à-dire des recettes accessoires-je dois dire que l'un des aspects de cette crise financière est lié au fait que l'on envisage non seulement une diminution considérable des recettes provenant des contributions des Etats Membres mais également une diminution des recettes accessoires. Nous avons trouvé assez singulière cette révision de la part du Secrétariat de la FAO à un moment où le taux d'intérêt réel dans le pays hôte correspond à une moyenne de 5 pour cent, tout au moins si l'on considère que les titres les plus sûrs-c'est-à-dire ceux de l'Etat-ont un rendement entre 10, 5 et 11 pour cent et que le taux d'inflation actuellement varie entre 5 et 5, 5 pour cent.

En tout état de cause, nous préférons nous en tenir à la solution actuelle, c'est-à-dire celle des contributions nettes. Concernant la troisième hypothèse-l'accroissement du fonds de roulement-nous entrons là dans un cas très classique; je veux dire par là que lorsqu'une organisation internationale connaît une crise financière ou de liquidité, la première solution à laquelle l'on pense est celle de l'augmentation du fonds de roulement. Cela s'est vu ailleurs, par exemple à l'Unesco ou au BIT et même maintenant c'est une hypothèse qui est en discussion au GATT. Mais lorsque l'on parle du fonds de roulement, il faut être très prudent; en effet, le fonds de roulement a une nature particulière; ce n'est pas un fonds de réserve comme les autres; c'est un fonds de réserve constitué de ressources extrabudgétaires versées par les Etats Membres en sus des contributions au budget, et qui juridiquement restent la propriété des Etats Membres.

Par conséquent, bien que nous ne soyons pas opposés à l'étude d'une augmentation du fonds de roulement, il faut le faire de manière posée en ayant à l'esprit le fait que la situation de la FAO n'est pas une situation de crise financière temporaire; comme l'a dit M. Shah, c'est un problème auquel nous devons faire face pendant encore quelques années; or le rôle du fonds de roulement est de faire face à des crises temporaires, conjoncturelles, et non pas structurelles comme c'est le cas actuellement; et si l'on examine la possibilité d'une augmentation du fonds de roulement, il faut le faire en fonction du véritable cash flow de l'Organisation, c'est-à-dire sur la base de ce que l'on peut attendre des contributions ordinaires des Etats Membres, et sur la base des versements réels faits par les Etats Membres dans les années passées. En outre, nous pensons que si une étude doit être faite au sujet de l'augmentation éventuelle du fonds de roulement, elle devrait se fonder sur une approche progressive, c'est-à-dire une augmentation par étapes successives et non pas une augmentation soudaine, d'une année à l'autre.

En ce qui concerne la quatrième approche, à savoir la fixation annuelle, plutôt que biennale, du taux de change budgétaire, nous pensons que c'est une solution valable qui mérite d'être étudiée. Elle ne permettrait pas de résoudre le problème dans son ensemble, mais consentirait peut-être à l'Organisation, après une année de l'exercice, de se pencher sur le taux de change réel sur le marché et d'apporter les modifications nécessaires.

En ce qui concerne la cinquième approche, nous pensons qu'elle mérite également d'être étudiée d'une manière plus poussée. Il s'agit de l'utilisation d'une unité budgétaire fondée sur un panier de monnaies.

A propos de la sixième approche, nous sommes favorables à la réalisation d'une étude approfondie. Comme d'autres délégués l'ont fait valoir, cette solution est déjà utilisée par d'autres institutions du système des Nations Unies. Mon pays, dès l'exercice 1987, commencera à payer une partie de sa contribution à l'Agence Internationale de l'énergie atomique en dollars et l'autre partie en schillings autrichiens, la monnaie du pays hôte.

Nous avons pris note des difficultés exposées au paragraphe 23. Toutefois je crois qu'avec le système informatisé toujours plus poussé que l'on utilise à la FAO, il serait peut-être possible de surmonter ces difficultés.

Quant à la septième approche, à savoir la préparation de budgets supplémentaires, je dois dire que nous ne l'aimons pas beaucoup. Je reconnais que l'accord financier actuel ne prévoit le recour aux budgets supplémentaires que pour couvrir des dépenses de caractère exceptionnel, tandis que d'autres organismes du système des Nations Unies ont une attitude plus libérale. Mais je dois faire remarquer que, dans les cas où il a été nécessaire d'avoir recour aux budgets supplémentaires, la seule conséquence a été une contribution additionnelle des Etats Membres; on n'a jamais connu le cas de recettes supplémentaires.

En conclusion, je dois dire que ce problème mérite d'être étudié de façon approfondie par le Comité financier. Nous attendons avec beaucoup d'intérêt l'étude qui sera faite par le Secrétariat sur les moyens que devrait utiliser le Comité financier pour inciter les Etats Membres en retard dans le versement de leur contribution à payer leur part.

Je ne peux que confirmer la position exposée par le représentant de l'Italie au Comité financier, position qui figure au paragraphe 31 du rapport du Comité financier.

George Henry MUSGROVE (Canada): As I believe the delegate of the United States said yesterday, the issue that faces us under this item has cropped up quite suddenly and the paper that has been prepared and introduced by Mr Shah has not been with us that long. Therefore I think our discussion of this item must be preliminary, and of course I think it was the Secretariat's intention to see these items discussed at length in Finance Committees and at subsequent Councils and indeed perhaps within the framework of the Programme of Work and Budget.

Nevertheless, there have been some very thoughtful interventions made on this item, and I think particularly of the statement made yesterday by the delegate of Denmark on behalf of the Nordic countries and the very thoughtful statement we had even this morning from the delegate of Italy. Given the very legitimate concerns expressed by virtually all Members of Council at the crisis that is facing our Organization, it would seem only wise that we begin to note such lessons as may be derived from it, and although our notes at this stage can only be preliminary, it occurs to us that there are a number of distinct elements for consideration.

The first of these is what caused our problem and why. Is there something that has prompted our largest contributor to contemplate withholding a substantial part of its assessed contribution? If so, are there responses that we as an organization can give that would improve the situation? This question is of course in large part rhetorical, although we have a feeling that there are some thoughts and some pieces of the puzzle known to a few of us in this room.

The second element is to devise methods to increase the financial certainty. In this we have to thank the Director-General for document CL 90/24, which stimulates our thinking with no fewer than seven proposals designed to alleviate financial distress or uncertainty due to withholding delayed contributions and/or currency fluctuations. We commend the Director-General for his presence of mind in seizing an opportunity from our present adversity by proposing four measures, namely the application of cash surplus, the treatment of miscellaneous income, the level of the Working Capital Fund, and the prospects for supplementary budgets that would increase the Organization's access to financial resources. Our government will of course give each of these due and mature study with a view to commenting on them more substantively at future meetings. To be fair, however, we should inform Council that our first impressions of these four suggestions are not entirely positive, and for the following reasons.

First, there are some short-term but substantive costs associated with each of these proposals that would be reflected in increased Member Country assessments at a time when virtually all of us are looking to the multilateral institutions for austerity measures.

Secondly, the increase in resources available to the Secretariat and the quasi automaticity in access to these funds would substantively enhance the independence of the Secretariat while reducing Member Country management judgment. This would exacerbate what is already perceived by some as a significant problem.

Thirdly, we feel the ready access to new sources of money would significantly reduce the incentive and/or the necessity of organizations to seek economies and to tailor programmes or operations down to meet available resources. We see these three points as being major obstacles to the envisaged changes proposed by the Director-General to increase his access to resources.

On the remaining three proposals, those dealing with the treatment of currencies and/or exchange rates, we have less hesitation in expressing our willingness to join with the Secretariat in looking at these particular proposals, or indeed others of a similar nature, designed to reduce the impact of adverse exchange rate variations. In this we would also hope and expect that there are useful lessons to be learned from the experience of our sister agencies in the Common System.

We believe that organizations must unfortunately live with the resources available to them and not expect to be able to maintain programmes and activities when resources are not available to pay for them. Put another way, we very strongly feel that good management demands some prioritization of programmes. Here I would like to apologize to my good friend the delegate of Turkey for deviating into an area which he has designated as inappropriate at this particular time. By prioritization, of course, we mean some ranking of more important activities' to the lesser important so that when finances fall short of aspiration or expectation, then scarce resources can be devoted to the areas

most in need. We have been expounding this rather Calvinist gospel for some years in the FAO, as well as throughout the UN system as a whole, and we hope that incrementally it would find its way into the Programme of Work and Budget process. We do not pretend it is an easy process nor indeed a non-contentious process, depending as it does on clear objective setting based on the accumulated wisdom of past assessment in evaluation.

However, we would clearly welcome proposals from the Secretariat, perhaps drawn in the first instance on the experience of other Agencies, on how such a process could be started. We have no brief for this particular suggestion, but one idea might be to start with a core budget-that is, the more essential elements of the programme and organization-which would occupy some 80 to 85 percent of the normal budget, to which could be added the 15 to 20 percent of desirable activities or programmes which would be undertaken as finances permit. Should this idea have merit, the process in the fullness of time could become more sophisticated and various layers of programme added to this core budget. We do not pretend that this proposal will or should solve all conceivable financial crises, but we do feel that something like it would very greatly complement proposals for financial certainty.

There is another matter affecting the financial health of our organization, and particularly the Regular Programme, and that is the matter of cross subsidization by the Regular Programme of the Field Programme. This matter was referred to by the delegate of the United Kingdom when speaking of its in-depth look at delivery costs of the Organization. We believe that this useful study should be pursued in the Finance Committee or elsewhere, first to clearly establish the level of these delivery costs, secondly to explore the prospects of reducing them, and thirdly to ensure that the Regular Programme is not paying costs that should be laid elsewhere.

Finally, I would like to assist the Finance Committee and its Chairman, who I notice is not with us this morning, by returning to the matter rather confusingly called "Measures to Deal with Problems of Delayed Payment of Assessed Contributions." This is a longstanding matter predating our present financial crisis and, as some delegates have pointed out quite rightly, it is a matter which will do little to help us in our present situation. Delegates will want to refer to paragraphs 22 to 31 of document CL 90/17, as well as to the Appendices B and C at the end of that document. This matter appears to be very complex and indeed is regularly and repeatedly described as such by documents presented to the Finance Committee, the Council and the Conference over the last several years. In our view the issue is extremely simple. Our Organization is made up of members who pay their assessments in a full and timely fashion, many more members who pay late or only in part, and some members who do not pay at all. As the delegate of the Philippines clearly pointed out to us yesterday, there is a substantial opportunity cost here for the Organization in the form of lost interest earnings.

Our present system actually encourages late payment. Countries may delay their payments until the end of a financial period, thereby earning interest income and depriving the Organization of that same income and still be rewarded with a pro-rata share of distributed cash surplus. It has long been felt that the system is unjust and should be changed and that cash surplus, when such exists, should be distributed to members not only pro rata but weighted by the time and quantity in payment of assessed contributions. This apparently simple intention can be confused in a fog of complexity.

In our view the matter can and should be settled quickly, and the appropriate amendments made to the financial regulations should be ready for Conference approval in November 1987. To do less would imply that we are not only an organization of delinquent payers, but that it is in the interests of the majority to remain so. We, as a timely payer in the past, would have to draw some necessary conclusions from this. Therefore, we would like to suggest that this Council direct the Finance Committee (in the light of the work that they have done to date, and of the developments at the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) to come forward with a single proposal.

we should also like to suggest that the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters (CCLM) (if that is appropriate) prepare the consequent amendments to the financial regulations, and that these proposals, taken as a unit, be ready for Council in June 1987 and consequently for accepting by the Conference in November 1987. Of course, we would be grateful for comments from the Secretariat on this proposed schedule.

David Lawrence COUTTS (Australia): In relation to the specific suggestions by the Director-General for alternative approaches to assist in dealing with the financial crisis facing FAO (set out in document CL 90/24) we appreciate the opportunity to consider those proposals and to give our views on them. However, I should qualify my following remarks by saying that we have had little time to consider the proposals before the meeting of Council. Therefore, our views at this stage should be taken only as a preliminary reaction.

Before turning to the specific proposals, as I said on Wednesday under item 12. 1(a) of the Agenda, our general reaction is that Australia is not able to support solutions which are likely to result in contributors who have a good record of payment to FAO being asked to pay more for the purpose of filling the gap left by non-payment of assessed contributions by other members.

In that context, we should underline that the proposals in document CL 90/24 did not seem to us to be particularly relevant to the immediate problem facing FAO, namely the likelihood of a shortfall in funds of \$90-100 million at the start of the 1988/89 biennium. We do not disagree that the existing mechanisms available to the Director-General may be inadequate to cope with this crisis. For that reason I must emphasize again that a major option which must be investigated is the setting of programme priorities which can be considered at the earliest opportunity, so that FAO does not enter the 1988/89 biennium faced with a shortfall of the magnitude described. I noted the Director-General's remarks yesterday afternoon that he understands the possibility that this may be necessary if the shortfall turns out to be of this magnitude.

At the risk of labouring this point I can see only three possibilities emerging by the end of the 1986/87 biennium. These are: (1) that the USA will pay a large part of its arrears in contributions. This appears most unlikely to us, unfortunately; (2) that other contributors will be prepared to make up a large part of the USA shortfall, or under other measures such as borrowings, so that the programme can be largely maintained. I have already said that we have difficulties on that score; or (3) that the Council or Conference accept the need for adjustments to the programme so that the expenditure of the Organization more closely matches the actual contributions received or likely to be received in the near future.

What concerns Australia is that the last of these possibilities (the need for which we regret as much as any delegation here) is not being seriously addressed by a number of delegations to this Council meeting. I should like to digress a little here, with your indulgence, lest it be thought that Australia is being unreasonable or uncaring with the problems of developing countries in urging a series of programme priorities. Let me draw the attention of Council to the fact that we have our own difficulties in Australia which make it very hard to maintain our levels of commitment to FAO and other international bodies. The current agricultural trade crisis has hit Australia very heavily. About 40 percent of our export income is derived from the agricultural sector. With the exception of New Zealand we are unique amongst developed countries in this respect. The decline in international commodity prices has had a severe effect on our balance of payments and has contributed significantly to the dramatic devaluation of the Australian dollar which, in turn, has added to inflationary pressures. Our continuing problem is illustrated by the fact that our inflation rate is now several times higher than our major trading partners. The level of international debt is at very high levels.

In relation to farm incomes Australia is looking at a drop in the real net value of rural production of around 37 percent in just two years, leading to the underlying economic position of the farm sector being now the worst ever recorded in Australia.

I have given this information to make the point that when we plead for the Council to address the financial crisis of FAO in a meaningful way (hard as I know that is for many delegations), Australia is not just being selfish and uncaring. We are merely trying to bring an air of reality to this discussion so that if the funds expected to be available when the current programme was agreed, are not fully available, then we can report back to Canberra that the Council of FAO is prepared to recognize the situation, and not just dismiss it as something which will somehow go away. If it does just go away, then Australia will be as happy as anyone here. Unfortunately however, I do not think that that will happen.

I have said that we did not have the opportunity to look in any depth at the Director-General's proposals in document CL 90/24. Our preliminary reactions, however, are as follows:-In relation to the first suggestion, that is the elimination of the distribution of the cash surplus, and the second suggestion, removing the netting up of miscellaneous incomes, we are not favourably inclined, for the reasons I gave earlier, as this will result in an increase in member countries' contributions.

In relation to the third suggestion, increasing the level of working capital, we feel that further consideration needs to be given to what is an appropriate level of working capital should be, with references to what approaches are followed elsewhere and what the appropriate use of this fund should be.

In relation to suggestions 4, 5 and 6, which all apply to the way exchange rates are applied to contributions, or exchange rate fluctuations are covered, we have not fully considered the implications at this stage. I would only observe that these measures would seem likely to have only a marginal effect on the overall financial problem. In any case exchange rate fluctuations being so unpredictable the net effect of these measures seem quite hard to assess. If the Finance Committee is to look further at these suggestions, I suggest there might be merit in also looking at forward exchange purchasing as an additional option.

On recommendation 7 we have no particular views at this stage.

Finally, I omitted to mention on Wednesday our views on the question of borrowing by the Director-General, as a means of coping with the cash-flow problem which seems likely to exist by the end of the 1986/87 biennium. While acknowledging that this is a possibility under the regulations of the Organization, Australia would be strongly opposed to this course of action as a substitute to finding meaningful ways to fit the programme of work of FAO within the levels of contributions available to us.

I should also like to add Australia's support to the general remarks of Canada on the payments of arrears in contributions. We should also see some substantive recommendations being brought forward from the Finance Committee to Council in June 1987 and the Conference at the end of 1987.

Eiichi KAWAHARA (Japan): The Japanese delegation wishes to express preliminary views at this stage. Regarding the alternative measures in the medium and long term touched upon in the document CL 90/24, for example, the establishment of a programme reserve, a change in treatment of miscellaneous incomes in the budget, and the increasing of working capital funds. I should like to ask what does it mean to us in the light of present circumstances? It seems impossible to carry out these measures without calling upon additional financial compensation from Member Nations who have duly implemented their obligations so far, because most people here want to keep to the present level of expenditure. Whereas, there is a continuing major uncertainty on the scale of income resources from Member Nations. As with all the alternative measures, of varying degrees of importance, now briefly touched upon in the same document we have to consider carefully what are their implications to us based upon our own past experiences and the experiences of the other organizations within the United Nations system, on this aspect. However, because of late delivery of the document, the Japanese delegation does not wish to make further comments relying only on policies.

Danilo VUJICIC (Yugoslavia): First of all I should like to thank Mr Shah for his very clear introduction of the problem-how to deal with budgetary and financial uncertainties in the short and long-term of this Organization. The ideas contained in the document CL 90/24 dealing with the long-term approach are very interesting and could serve as a good basis for consideration by the Council at this stage, and by the Finance Committee next spring and probably by the Council next June and maybe the Conference itself.

After the long experience that FAO has had in this field, and particularly during the years of strong volatility of exchange rates of currencies within which the FAO Programme of Work and Budget has been planned and executed, it is obvious that some measures are to be taken to ensure a more sound basis and to enable our Organization to work and execute its duties in more certain conditions than it has been able to do so far.

we received the document dealing with possible alternative approaches only two days before the delegation left Belgrade. Therefore, we have had no time to consider the matter and consult the government authorities concerned. For this reason my comments on the possible approaches will be very brief and of a preliminary nature. To make things short and clear I will avoid discussing the proposed possible approaches on which I am not quite certain, or where we have some doubts on their possibility or usefulness. That is why, again on a preliminary basis, I would express our positive thinking only on two basic elements in this paper.

This is concerning paragraphs 17, 18 and 19 dealing with the necessity of increasing the level of the Working Capital Fund which is needed for normal and stable work of the Organization and to bring it to the relative level of other similar specialized agencies or organizations of the UN system.

The second, on which we also have a positive opinion, is a very useful proposal to use a budgetary unit which be based on a basket of currencies. To be more specific, we think that the most convenient basket of currencies would be that which is internationally and almost universally recognized, that is the Special Drawing Rights unit. We would not be in favour of making a new basket of currencies, two or more, or using units which are used already for the purpose of accounting of payments within certain international integration groupings. By using the basket unit of currencies or, as we prefer, the SDR unit, the Organization would be less dependent on only one or two currencies, the exchange rate of which are not always the result of monetary market and free exchanges but more often the result of national policies of the governments concerned which, on the other side, have brought macro economic consequences worldwide, including the international organizations and FAO itself.

While this Organization is independent and the governing bodies are sovereign to decide how it will function, including the method of budgeting and financing, we would suggest that the Secretariat should consult the other organizations within the UN system to see what are their problems, experiences and intentions in this field, so as to take them into account in making final proposals to the Finance Committee and to the governing bodies.

Badr Jassim ALAWI (Iraq) (original language Arabic): First of all, I should like to thank you, Mr Chairman, for the great patience that you have shown in the way in which you have chaired this Session, because of course we want to reach recommendations which would be in the interest of all member countries of our Organization. I should also like to thank you for giving me the opportunity of commenting on document CL 90/24, but I would mention that we did get this document somewhat late.

Over the past few days we have discussed a number of issues, studied the documents and received information from the Secretariat; we have heard what member countries have had to say regarding the financial statue of the Organization; similarly, we have heard what the Director-General has said; and we have also heard directly from the Chairman of the Finance Committee. Recommendations have been made to avoid a more serious financial crisis. The situation witnessed by the Organization has several reasons. We have problems of arrears on the part of Member States and we have lowering interest rates; we have the drop in the exchange rate of the dollar against the lira. All of this is part of the crisis which we are now facing. Therefore, I should like to make a number of comments on the alternatives proposed in document CL 90/24.

Regarding the cash surplus and paragraphs 10 to 13, I do not think this would solve the problem in a manner we deem appropriate. This could aggravate the problem of payment of contributions from members. This would involve changing Article 6. 1 of the Financial Regulations, and I do not think we would be able to solve the problem in that way. We know that a General Conference resolution in 1985 allows for the amendment of this article, however we do not see a negative aspect in maintaining it.

Looking at paragraph 15 and 16, the amendment would have financial repercussions on a lot of member countries, this is why, in our view, financial Regulation 5. 2 should not be amended.

I think we can look at the question of increasing the level of the Working Capital Fund. I believe that this would allow us to look into matters in more detail. This could allow the organization more flexibility in examining and settling financial problems in the future.

Looking at paragraph 22, we do not believe that using a budgetary unit based on a basket of currencies would really solve the problem because the financial situation of the Organization is particularly difficult at this specific moment as a result of fluctuations in exchange rates. This might well mean that the contributions of certain countries would be increased.

We do not think that paragraph 23 is useful at all because this would exacerbate the difficulties faced by the Organization.

Regarding supplementary budgets, we disagree with that as well as we feel that that could well lead to financial confusion. However, looking at paragraph 26, what can be done is to give authority to the Council to use supplementary budgets when the need arises.

Joseph TCHICAYA (Congo): La délégation de mon pays a examiné avec toute l'attention voulue le document CL 90/24 que M. Shah nous 8 excellemment présenté. Nous partageons les préoccupations du Directeur général sur les incertitudes budgétaires que va connaître notre Organisation au cours de l'exercice prochain et de ceux qui vont suivre; et toutes les mesures visant à accroître l'accès de l'Organisation à plus de ressources pour accomplir sa mission requièrent notre appui. Aussi avons-nous étudié les sept approches susceptibles d'apporter des solutions, aux yeux du Secrétariat, aux difficultés que va affronter l'Organisation à moyen et long termes, étant donné qu'il ne s'agit pas d'une situation passagère car certaine paramétrée risquent d'être durables ou cycliques.

L'approche sur l'allocation de l'excédent de trésorerie exposée au paragraphe 13 nous semble raisonnable; mais elle présente le désavantage de traiter les bons et les mauvais contributeurs de la même manière. Nous aurions plutôt tendance à partager le point de vue déjà exprimé ici, tendant à ce que tout soit mis en oeuvre par le Comité financier afin que des solutions justes puissent être trouvées, solutions qui devront éviter le retard de paiement de nombreux pays et encourager les Etats Membres de notre Organisation à verser leurs contributions dans les meilleure délai. Cette approche ne nous semble pas susceptible de régler le problème.

Pour ce qui concerne le traitement des recettes accessoires, nous sommes d'accord avec ce qui est dit au paragraphe 16; et nous sommes surpris que certains pays, notamment le pays hôte, puissent s'opposer à une telle disposition.

De même, il convient de demander au Comité financier d'examiner la question du relèvement du niveau du fonds de roulement de l'Organisation de manière à l'aligner sur un taux comparable à celui pratiqué par des agences semblables à la FAO.

Ma délégation n'a aucune objection à ce qui est dit au paragraphe 21 concernant la fixation annuelle du taux de change budgétaire par le Conseil. Pour ce qui concerne l'utilisation d'une unité budgétaire fondée sur un panier de monnaies, le Comité financier devrait être invité à approfondir l'examen de cette question sous tous les angles, mais, à priori, le choix d'une unité budgétaire telle que le DTS, déjà adopté ailleurs, pourrait peut-être aider à la solution.

Par contre, nous ne pouvons retenir l'approche par laquelle les contributions des Etats Membres seraient exprimées partiellement en dollars et en liras italiennes; cette solution n'offre aucun avantage ni à l'Organisation, ni aux Etats Membres.

Nous sommes d'avis d'envisager que la FAO, à l'instar d'autres organisations du système, ait parfois recours aux budgets supplémentaires, pour lesquels la Conférence déléguerait certains de ses pouvoirs au Conseil.

Bref, nous sommes d'avis que le Conseil devrait inviter le Comité financier et le Directeur général à approfondir l'examen de ces approches dont la plupart peuvent contribuer à amoindrir les difficultés financières qui attendent notre Organisation les prochaines années.

Les mécanismes actuels étant incapables de faire face à la situation que nous vivons, il faut absolument rechercher d'autres moyens. Modifier le programme pour tenir compte de la situation actuelle semble une solution facile; et il est normal que ce soient les pays qui n'ont rien à perdre et certainement tout à gagner qui recommandent la réduction de ce programme. Les pays en développement en ont un très grand besoin et il est souhaitable que ce programme puisse, au contraire, être accru. Ceci en effet relève à notre avis d'une fuite manifeste des pays développés devant leurs responsabilités.

Hermann REDL (Austria): First of all, I would like to thank Mr Shah for his introduction to the document before us. We all know that FAO is facing serious budgetary and financial problems as a result of multiple factors like delayed payment of contributions, exchange rate fluctuations, decline of miscellaneous income, and so on. In view of the importance of the issues and the fact of the financial crisis which the Organization is facing, we believe that the proposals by the Director-General before us should be sent immediately to the Finance Committee. I am sure that the members of the Finance Committee, and especially Ambassador Bukhari, will take notice of the comments of this Council in the course of the next meeting of the Finance Committee.

The results of the discussion of the Finance Committee should be known to the Member Nations as soon as possible, so that we can discuss them during the Council meeting in June of next year to *then* decide the measures for follow up at the Conference.

Rainer PRESTIEN (Germany, Federal Republic of): The document before us gives information on the causes which have led to the present unfavourable financial prospects of the Organization. Firstly, there is the possible shortfall in contributions by the most important contributor, as well as delays in payment by other Member States; secondly, the prospective decline in interest rates with related income losses for our Organization; and thirdly, the anticipated total depletion during the biennium of the special reserve account caused by changes in the exchange rate. In document CL 90/24 the Secretariat outlines a number of alternatives to solve budgetary and financial uncertainties with the aim of providing guidance to the Finance Committee and the Director-General on which alternatives should be studied more closely (paragraph 28).

Our opinion of the document is that the proposals submitted do not yet represent a suitable basis for discussion. We believe, that the compilation of possibilities for a greater financial security of the Organization must be orientated more specifically to the problems to be solved. The document mentions a number of possibilities which do not however allow us to see clearly enough in detail which specific problem is to be solved by which measures. First of all, we should get a better overview of the issues to be solved before starting to elaborate possibilities for solutions. We believe that the special session of the Finance Committee in December should first be awaited.

In detail, we adopt the following attitude towards the second alternative approaches described in the document. In the first mentioned alternative (paragraph 10 of the document), we understand the amendment suggested a conversion of the cash surplus, so far repayable to Member States, into a non-repayable grant of Member States to the Organization. We have doubts insofar as the cash surplus to which Member States are entitled being made available to the Organization. In our opinion, Member

States are, in the last analysis, entitled to these shares. We, however, have no reservations if the Member Nations put their shares of the cash surplus at the disposal of the Organization on a voluntary basis, as proposed by the distinguished representative of the host country.

In the second alternative it is not, in our view, one of the self-evident principles of budgets, to enter all income and expenditure in the budget. This also applies to miscellaneous income and we are, therefore, of the opinion that this income has also to be properly budgeted in the budget. In connection with the third alternative, paragraph 17, we consider that an increase in the working capital fund is less suited to solve the present difficulties. Fourthly, with regard to the possibility of setting the budget rate of exchange annually instead of biannually, it is in our opinion, a fundamental budget question. It should not be ignored that such an annual setting would practically lead to changing from a biennial budget to an annual budget. This very short budget period does, however, not seem adequate to us. Fifthly, the proposal of budgeting on the basis of a basket of currencies (as reflected in paragraph 22) is, in our opinion, not aimed at the problem *per se* which is caused by shortfalls in contributions. Tills possibility seems unsuitable to us to solve the present difficulties. This also applies to the possibility of making budget contributions in dollars and Italian lira. Sixthly, in our opinion the drawing up of a supplementary budget for the Organization is no means to solve the present or possible later difficulties. The supplementary budget for the Organization could not be brought into line with the national budgets of Member States, because their budgets would have already been adopted when drawing up a supplementary budget of FAO. We therefore propose to obviate financial risks for the Organization through the existing financial safety instruments and to abstain from its establishing new instruments. Adel Helmy EL SARKI (Egypt) (original language Arabic): I would like to thank Mr Shah for his clear and excellent presentation of document CL 90/24. My delegation wishes to say that the possible approaches which have been proposed for solving the Organization's financial problems are approaches which we can accept. They will, in fact, enable the Organization to carry on its task for the benefit of all Member Nations. However, we do not accept the increase in annual contributions from Member States to the Budget. We should like, and hope, that the Council will be able to give the necessary guidelines for this to the Finance Committee to allow it to take the right decisions on this subject.

Li DACHUN (China) (original language Chinese): My intervention will be brief concerning the long-term alternative approaches to dealing with budgetary and financial uncertainties as proposed by the Director-General in his document CL 90/24. Due to the complexity of the proposals, we did not have sufficient time to study them thoroughly. However, we believe that the document has provided a sound basis for the deliberations of the Council. The Chinese delegation is prepared to consider any positive measures to deal with budgetary and financial certainties and uncertainties.

I wish to make a few preliminary remarks regarding increasing the level of FAO's Working Capital Fund. In view of the fact that FAO has a low percentage of working capital funds in the total budget, as compared with other UN agencies, we agree to increasing as appropriate the level of FAO's Working Capital Fund. Regarding the treatment of the 1984/85 cash surplus, the Chinese delegation suggests that the FAO draw on the practice in ILO.

Finally, we hope the Director-General and the Finance Committee will take into account all the comments made by the Council where they proposed concrete measures when dealing with the budgetary and financial uncertainties for consideration for the session of the Council in June 1987.

Robbie Matongo MUPAWOSE (Zimbabwe): Allow me to make a number of comments on this important item. Proposals in document CL 90/24, as we understand it, are as a result of FAO being forced to take possible action due to the shortage of funds, shortages caused by deliberate non-payment by some member countries. It is conceded that the major input is due to non-payment by the largest contributor. Even if the contributions by other defaulters are as small as 5 percent, if that little bit was paid, it would help, and would also show a genuine willingness by all members to support our Organization. The majority of members present here have budgetary and deficit problems. We do not believe that individual national financial difficulties should be an excuse for not meeting responsibilities towards our Organization. Considering this point would result in the majority of members here not paying at all. In introducing this document CL 90/24, Mr Shah made reference to some implied gymnastics contemplated by the largest donor. If there is truth in those references we can only say that could be a dangerous trend. The specific proposals need careful consideration and comments can only be preliminary. The proposal on procedures for application of cash can only be preliminary. The proposal on procedures for application of cash surpluses (item 10) does not

convince us to be a long-term solution. We do not, therefore, support it. There is some merit in the Finance Committee further examining a possible increase in the level of the working capital. We also believe the annual statement of the budget rates of exchange may be further examined. However, the authority of the Conference should be maintained and not diluted by delegation to the Council, let alone to the Director-General. Using the basket of currencies, even if it may not substantially improve the financial position of FAO, would be a positive move. The Finance Committee may be asked to examine this further and in some details. Use of the double currencies, that is dollar and lira, does not appeal to us. We would not like to see the budget reduced because we benefit from the assistance of FAO. However, if there are no funds because members do not want to meet their commitments, FAO will have little alternative but to reexamine the budget, and if possible, to modify the budget and institute possible measures.

Chavaly SRINIVASA SASTRY (India): In the document tabled for discussion seven alternative approaches have been proposed for consideration by the Council in order that the Council could provide some guidance to the Finance Committee and to the Director-General.

I would submit that the first one dealing with amending present procedures for application to cash surpluses would seem to have the effect of accumulating the funds with the FAO, without being applied to current contributions. This would possibly result in increased cash inflows to the FAO, though this will affect different member countries differently. This would also, I find, require a decision by the Conference to amend the Financial Regulation 6. 1.

The second suggestion relating to adjusting the treatment of miscellaneous income, I would submit, would seem to result in no net increase in cash inflows. Only it seems to have some significance for tackling the ways and means position of the FAO, though this would also require a decision from the Conference to amend Financial Regulation 5. 2. a.

The third suggestion for increasing the level of the Working Capital Fund does not increase the cash inflows though it increases the cash availability to the FAO. On this also the Conference has to take a decision.

Coming to Item A, Setting the Budget Rate of Exchange Annually instead of Biennially, this does not in any way increase the cash inflows though it has certain positive and negative aspects, as mentioned in the document and here, it would also be necessary for the Conference to delegate its power to the Council.

Item 5, Using a Budgetary Unit Based on a Basket of Currencies, does not effectively alter the cash inflows and the FAO itself has several reservations about the efficacy of this proposal.

Item 6, dealing with Contributions Partly in Dollars and Partly in Italian Lire, also does not significantly affect cash inflows and this also is not recommended in FAO documents.

I would submit that suggestions 4, 5 and 6 really have no direct bearing or relevance to the financial crunch, as it were, which we are facing. These are meant to tackle more the situation that is arising out of the fluctuations in the international currency exchange rates than the reductions in the inflows from member countries.

The last suggestion about preparing and obtaining approval for financial budgets is really a procedural matter which does not again affect the Inflows: it only results in better financial and budgetary management so that the matching of funds and programmes can be more properly done. This also requires the delegation of powers from the Conference to the Council.

To sum up, of the seven suggestions, two are not recommended by FAO Headquarters: these are Items 5 and 6. Of the remaining five, all require decisions by the Conference; one suggestion, No. 3, a decision only by the Conference. Two items, 1 and 2, decisions by the Conference followed by amendment of Regulations; and two items, Items 4 and 7, which require decisions by the Conference and also delegation of powers to the Council.

Prima facie our approach to this problem would have to be finalised based on our assessment of the periods in the terms of a time to come for which we have to live with this problem. Do we envisage that this problem would last only for a year or two or, at the worst, until November 1988? November once in every two years, as all of us know, is an important milestone in the democratic process of our largest contributing member. In that case do we expect the position to change for the better from the FAO's point of view by January 1989 and would also have a retroactive effect for the biennium 1986/87. If this is our appreciation we are only to contend with the ways and means problem which might last only for about 24 to 36 months.

If, on the other hand, we expect this position not to alter significantly even after 1988, there can be only two possible alternatives. Firstly, if the levels of expenditure are to be kept up, to find a way by which member countries would increase their contributions to make up for the shortfalls

caused by the cutbacks imposed by the single largest contributor. Secondly, in the alternative, to reduce and cutback the expenditure levels to match the total contributions which are expected to flow in from the member countries, particularly allowing for the reductions in the contributions from the single largest contributor.

While dealing with the second alternative permit me to refer to two of the observations made by the delegate from Canada. He has referred to certain aspects of the puzzle relating to the reduction in the inflows from the single largest contributor and seemed to imply that some member countries know the answer to the puzzle. We for one are not privy to the solution to this puzzle.

Secondly, the delegate from Canada also referred to a need for prioritisation, especially in the context of the possible reductions in the Budget. With due respect, may I submit that prioritisation has no specific relationship with reductions in budget *per se*. I would submit prioritisation of programmes and expenditure is an essential constituent and is indeed a *sine qua non* of all prudent financial management and budgetary exercises. If we take a hypothetical position and imagine for the moment that there is no financial crunch facing us, even then if it is a budget of \$461 million or US\$600 million, inevitably there are more demands for programmes competing in and to be funded from the budget than the budget would allow. This would inevitably mean that some programmes could be included and some programmes excluded. Therefore I would submit that prioritisation is something that is normal and I am sure has been followed throughout by the FAO, which, as we have noted in the last few days, is an Organization into whose working prudent budgetary and financial management procedures are fully integrated.

The present financial problem is applicable to the entire United Nations system. As you are aware, in the Government of India, besides the Ministry of Food and Agriculture, we have the External Affairs Ministry, the Finance Ministry and the Industrial Development Ministry which are concerned with various UN organizations. Since the Council is only being asked to provide guidance to the Finance Committee as to how and which of these approaches should merit further study, I would submit that after due consultation in the Government of India with the concerned Ministries, we will advise our Ambassador to Rome and to the FAO who will convey our views to the Finance Committee and the Director-General.

Mrs Millicent M. FENWICK (United States of America): We have had final news from Washington in a cable which arrived this morning. The news is not very good, but at least it is very clear.

The United States will send US\$4, 800, 000 now and more later for a total of US\$25, 400, 000 by October 1st 1987. I would like to point out that the other United Nations organizations for which we also have a high regard, such as WHO and ILO, have received similar news from our country in the same identical cable this morning.

I have spoken to the Director-General about this but I wanted to share the news as quickly as possible with my friends and colleagues here.

Paul A. BOMANI (Tanzania): My delegation wishes to intervene on this Agenda Item, not because we have anything substantial or new to add to what has been stated but more because we feel the need to take this opportunity to register our views and seriously appeal to the major donor countries of FAO to reconsider their stand regarding the stop-gap measures intended to keep the Organization afloat. However much I do appreciate the arguments and reasons leading to some reservations by some member countries, I still feel that we have no viable alternative at present and if we do not go along with the recommendations made by the Finance Committee then we are rendering ourselves to a more myopic and chaotic situation, however short the duration of such a situation may be.

It is therefore my considered opinion that the well-thought out approaches recommended by the Finance Committee and what has been stated by a number of speakers here, and in particular the statement made by India just a moment ago, would be the only way to deal with this problem. I think we need to allow ourselves time to look very closely at the measures recommended and in the meanwhile we should go along with the stop-gap measures so that we do not bring the Organization to a grinding halt.

LE PRESIDENT: Nous allons suspendre la séance pour recevoir la délégation du CILSS.

MESSAGE FROM H. E. PRESIDENT ABDOU DIOUF (SENEGAL) CHAIRMAN OF CILSS, DELIVERED BY H. E. MESSAOUD OULD BOULKHEIR, MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT OF MAURITANIA AND MINISTER COORDINATOR OF CILSS

MESSAGE DE S. E. LE PRESIDENT ABDOU DIOUF (SENEGAL) PRESIDENT DU CILSS, PRONONCE PAR S. E. MESSAOUD OULD BOULKHEIR, MINISTRE DU DEVELOPPEMENT RURAL DE LA MAURITANIE ET MINISTRE COORDONNATEUR DU CILSS

MENSAJE DEL EXCELENTISIMO SEÑOR ABDOU DIOUF, PRESIDENTE DEL SENEGAL Y PRESIDENTE DEL CILSS, LEIDO POR EL EXCELENTISIMO SEÑOR MESSAOUD OULD BOULKHEIR, MINISTRO DE DESARROLLO RURAL DE MAURITANIA Y MINISTRO COORDINADOR DEL CILSS

LE PRESIDENT: Nous avons l'honneur et le privilège de recevoir la délégation envoyée par Son Excellence Abdou Diouf, Président de la République du Sénégal et Président en exercice du CILSS pour prononcer une allocution en son nom au Conseil de la FAO. Cette allocution sera prononcée par Son Excellence Messaoud Ould Boulkheir, Ministre du développement rural de la Mauritanie et Ministre coordonnateur du CILSS. Avant de lui donner la parole et écouter cet important message, je me permettrai de passer la parole au Directeur général.

LE DIRECTEUR GENERAL: En souhaitant la bienvenue aujourd'hui à M. le Ministre coordonnateur du CILSS, je me conforme à une tradition solidement établie.

Le Président en exercice du CILSS ou le Ministre coordonnateur nous ont fait l'honneur de venir, de façon régulière, s'adresser à la Conférence ou au Conseil depuis 1978.

Qu'il me soit permis de rappeler le vibrant message du Président de la République du Niger, alors Président en exercice du CILSS, Son Excellence le Général Kountché, lors de la quatre-vingt-sixième session du Conseil, le 27 novembre 1984.

Je saisis cette occasion pour vous prier de transmettre au Président de la République du Sénégal, Président en exercice du CILSS, Son Excellence M. Abdou Diouf, l'hommage respectueux du Directeur général de la FAO pour son oeuvre en faveur de l'Afrique et aujourd'hui en faveur des pays du CILSS.

Je voudrais aussi saluer Son Excellence M. Famara Ibrahima Sagna, Ministre du développement rural du Sénégal, Son Excellence El Hadj Habibou Allélé, Ministre de l'agriculture du Niger, ainsi que Son Excellence M. Brah Mahamane, Secrétaire exécutif du CILSS, qui se sont jointe à vous pour assister à cette quatre-vingt-dixième session du Conseil.

La semaine prochaine, nous aurons également le plaisir d'accueillir au Conseil Son Excellence M. Saihou Sabally, Ministre de l'agriculture de la Gambie.

Votre présence parmi nous, Monsieur le Ministre coordonnateur, est la preuve de la solide coopération qui s'est établie entre la FAO et le CILSS depuis sa création en 1973.

Cette coopération avec le CILSS s'est renforcée ces dernières années, alors que les pays du Sahel subissaient l'une des plus dures épreuves de leur histoire.

Le programme intensif dont j'ai annoncé le lancement à la septième Conférence des chefs d'Etat du CILSS, à Dakar, en janvier dernier, marque à mes yeux une étape importante dans cette coopération. Ce programme est en cours d'exécution en étroite coopération avec le Secrétariat du CILSS.

Au moment où les conditions climatiques favorables permettaient à vos pays d'atteindre des niveaux record de production, elles favorisaient dans le même temps la pullulation des sauteriaux.

La FAO, avec l'appui de la communauté internationale, a pu mobiliser les ressources suffisantes et coordonner les efforts de tous grâce au Centre d'urgence pour les opérations antiacridiennes que j'ai établi dès le début de l'alerte.

Je suis heureux de dire aujourd'hui que cette campagne a été couronnée de succès, et permettez-moi de saisir cette occasion pour renouveler mes remerciements à tous les pays donateurs qui ont participé à cette entreprise.

Mais, prenons garde, notre vigilance ne doit pas se relâcher et nous devons être prêts pour la prochaine campagne. La guerre contre les acridiens ne se termine pas après la première bataille.

Le répit qui nous est accordé dans les pays du Sahel met en évidence la vulnérabilité des économies sahéliennes. De faibles variations de la production conduisent ainsi soit à des excédents considérables, soit à des pénuries aiguës.

Aujourd'hui, des excédents dans certains pays coexistent avec des pénuries dans d'autres et il est hélas difficile de réduire les uns en comblant les autres. Les surplus qui apparaissent ici et là peuvent difficilement être commercialisés ou transportés dans les zones déficitaires faute de moyens de transport et de communications adéquats, de facilités de stockage, de moyens de financement.

Combien j'aurais souhaité, par exemple, que, dans le secteur céréalier, les 200 000 tonnes dont dispose aujourd'hui un pays comme le Burkina Faso puissent trouver un acheteur qui les achemine au Sénégal par exemple, qui, justement cette année, a un déficit important.

J'ai appelé l'attention de la communauté internationale sur le rôle essentiel des opérations triangulaires pour faciliter l'écoulement des excédents.

Ce répit doit être mis à profit pour mettre en oeuvre une stratégie à plus long terme pour consolider les économies sahéliennes-et d'une façon plus large, les économies rurales africaines-et les engager dans un processus de développement soutenu.

Les ministres africains de l'agriculture avaient déjà pressenti cette nécessité dès 1984, lors de la Conférence régionale de la FAO pour l'Afrique qui s'est tenue à Harare.

L'étude sur L'agriculture africaine les 25 prochaines années, que la FAO a préparée à leur demande, a servi de base au Programme d'action que j'ai eu l'honneur de présenter lors de la dernière Conférence régionale de la FAO pour l'Afrique, en septembre dernier, à Yamoussoukro.

Ce programme d'action, approuvé par le Sommet agricole africain de Yamoussoukro, contient des mesures concrètes nécessaires à la mise en oeuvre des nouvelles politiques de développement agricole décidées par les gouvernements africains.

La FAO ne relâche pas ses efforts en faveur du CILSS et des pays du Sahel pour mener à bien un combat commun au service du développement des populations sahéliennes.

Comme je le disais en janvier dernier à Dakar devant le sommet des chefs d'Etat et de gouvernement des pays du CILSS, "Le Sahel est un double symbole pour l'Afrique. Il est le symbole douloureux de la crise africaine, mais il est aussi le symbole de l'espoir, car c'est là que la solidarité Internationale s'est manifestée avec le plus de force et de persévérance. "

LE PRESIDENT: Je donne maintenant la parole à M. le Ministre coordonnateur du CILSS; il va prononcer son allocution au nom de Son Excellence Abdou Diouf.

Meseaoud Ould BOULKHEIR (Ministre du développement rural de la Mauritanie et Ministre coordonnateur du CILSS): Qu'il me soit permis, tout d'abord, de m'acquitter d'un agréable devoir pour vous dire toute l'attention et l'intérêt particulier qu'accorde aux présentes assises du Conseil exécutif de la FAO Son Excellence M. Abdou Diouf, Président de la République du Sénégal, Président en exercice du CILSS qui, pour des raisons de calendrier chargé, me fait le redoutable honneur de le représenter en tant que Ministre coordonnateur du CILSS.

En invitant Son Excellence Abdou Diouf, Président de la République du Sénégal et Président en exercice du CILSS, vous respectez de ce fait une tradition ancienne qui veut que le Président en exercice du CILSS s'adresse à votre auguste assemblée qui demeure pour nous la meilleure tribune internationale pour traiter des questions importantes et prioritaires de lutte contre la faim et la malnutrition qui, malheureusement, restent encore d'actualité dans notre sous-région.

En me dépêchant, en compagnie des Ministres sahéliens des Etats Membres du présent Conseil et du Secrétaire exécutif du CILSS pour porter son message, message de gratitude et d'appréciation pour tout ce que vous, personnellement, Dr Edouard Saouma, et l'Organisation que vous dirigez si sérieusement ne cessez d'accomplir au profit de notre sous-région sahélienne considérée par tous comme étant le polygone de la faim. Son Excellence M. Abdou Diouf, Président de la République du Sénégal et Président en exercice du CILSS a tenu tout spécialement à réaffirmer son attachement au maintien de l'heureuse tradition instaurée, tout en vous renouvelant sa disponibilité et son souhait d'effectuer le voyage à Rome pendant la bienné en cours.

Soyez assuré de l'esprit de coopération et de disponibilité qui anime tous les responsables sahéliens présents à Rome. Ils sont venus à Rome poussés par le vent d'espoir des 35 millions de Sahéliens décidés à relever le défi de la sécheresse et de la désertification.

L'homme est l'enjeu de l'avenir, qui lui-même dépend de l'homme. Cette loi immuable de l'histoire, de l'évolution des sociétés humaines, s'est toujours vérifiée.

Plus que partout ailleurs, les peuples du Sahel sont confrontés à cette loi et vivent les vicissitudes de leur sous-développement qui en est la conséquence. C'est forts de cette conviction que les chefs d'états pays membres du CILSS, réunis à Dakar lors de leur septième sommet, tout en adoptant la stratégie révisée de lutte contre la sécheresse et la désertification, ont tenu à signer la déclaration appelée "L'appel de Dakar". Les chefs d'Etat des pays membres du CILSS ont réaffirmé avec force et détermination leur commune volonté de tout mettre en oeuvre pour commander les événements plutôt que de les subir.

-Commander les événements par une politique commune de valorisation de nos ressources humaines.

-Commander les événements par une politique hardie de maîtrise et de valorisation de nos ressources en eaux (eaux de surface et eaux souterraines).

-Commander les événements par une farouche politique de lutte contre la désertification et tous ses effets pervers.

-Commander les événements par une claire et nette volonté de réforme des politiques afin de créer les bases saines d'un développement économique durable des Etats membres du CILSS.

Convaincus, ils le sont, de ce que le développement économique durable de nos pays devra être nécessairement soutenu par celui de notre agriculture pérennisée grâce à la mise en valeur de nos ressources naturelles.

Toutes ces orientations constituent la trame tissée dans la stratégie révisée, suite à la première génération de nos projets, qui nous auront appris au cours de leur mise en oeuvre que le développement au Sahel se fera par une approche globale et intégrée et aura pour epicentre l'homme sahélien lui-même.

Dès lors, comment ne pouvons-nous être attentifs à tout ce que fait et continue d'entreprendre la FAO, notre Organisation, qui aura été de toutes nos réunions et participé à nos côtés à notre réflexion commune pour assessor cette stratégie.

Ainsi, la FAO nous a enrichis de son expérience, et ce depuis la création du CILSS.

Le Sahel, forgé dans l'épreuve, a vécu des calamités naturelles répétées dont les sécheresses dramatiques sur plus d'une décennie qui ont anéanti le cheptel et ruiné l'agriculture.

La lueur d'espoir de ces deux dernières années, née à la suite de deux saisons des pluies proches de la normale, a été ternie cette année par le péril acridien.

Nous saluons à cette occasion l'initiative que la FAO et son Directeur général, Le Dr. Edouard Saouma, ont prise et qui est venue amplifier celle de notre Président en exercice en direction de 1^a communauté internationale.

Grâce au concours des donateurs, des fonds importants ont été mobilisés et le péril acridien a été enrayer.

Cependant, nous savons que cette situation n'est qu'un répit et que le péril couve et sera certainement plus explosif à la prochaine saison des pluies si rien n'est entrepris d'ores et déjà.

C'est pourquoi nous devons persévérer dans l'effort, asseoir nos mécanismes nationaux de lutte en renforçant nos services nationaux de protection des végétaux pour les rendre plus opérationnels et créer des systèmes d'alerte rapide interconnectés à travers notre région.

Aussi, nous restons convaincus que la FAO ainsi que la communauté Internationale resteront à nos côtés et que le Centre d'intervention de lutte antilacridienne d'urgence poursuivra ses actions.

Parlant de la présente campagne agricole 1986/87, nous venons d'en dresser le bilan lors de la réunion du Conseil extraordinaire des ministres du CILSS tenue à Dakar les 17 et 18 novembre.

S'il est vrai que les pluies ont été au rendez-vous dans nombre de nos régions, elles ont été tardives dans leur installation et ont été marquées par des périodes de sécheresse prolongée dans certaines zones.

D'où des résultats inégaux, particulièrement pour la production céréalière en raison des nombreux resemis et des attaques des prédateurs.

S'il est vrai également: que nous avons enregistré des excédents céréaliers dans certains pays membres, d'autres accusent des déficits d'inégale importance d'une zone à l'autre.

Symbole de crise et d'espoir, le Sahel connaîtra donc cette année une situation des plus paradoxales.

Dans les pays excédentaires existent certaines zones déficitaires qui ne pourront être approvisionnées en céréales faute de ressources, de mécanismes efficaces, de commercialisation, ou tout simplement du fait de leur enclavement.

Dans d'autres pays déficitaires, les échanges intrarégionaux seront entravés par l'absence de systèmes de commercialisation fiable, du manque d'infrastructures, de stockage; en un mot l'absence d'un véritable marché céréalier régional.

Cette situation aura pour conséquence la baisse des prix dans les zones excédentaires alors que la spéculation continuera de prévaloir dans les régions déficitaires.

Tout ceci démontre que les incitations à la production des céréales de base, l'organisation du marché céréalier national et régional demeurent les préalables à tous les développements de notre agriculture visant l'objectif d'une véritable autosuffisance alimentaire.

Aucun développement de notre agriculture ne saurait être possible sans une politique des prix adéquats, c'est-à-dire rémunérateurs pour inciter à produire plus.

Nous devons nous convaincre que l'agriculteur sahélien, au même titre que ceux des autres continents, est un agent économique qui garde toujours présente à l'esprit une équation à 4 variables: prix, charges, risques et revenus. Or, dans la situation présente, l'agriculteur sahélien ne maîtrise aucun de ces paramètres et se trouve confronté à une fluctuation souvent à la baisse du fruit de ses efforts.

Comment, dès lors, minorer les risques auxquels il est constamment exposé? Une des solutions serait tout au moins l'écoulement de sa production excédentaire grâce à l'instauration d'un système de commerce triangulaire privilégiant l'absorption des excédents régionaux aux aides alimentaires. Il y a là une étape nécessaire pour la mise en place d'un système de marché céréalier interrégional.

L'aide de la communauté internationale et l'appui de la FAO nous sont nécessaires pour notre commune volonté de créer ce cadre régional d'échange.

Bien qu'étant considéré comme le polygone de la faim, le Sahel recèle des potentialités agricoles aptes à garantir la sécurité alimentaire de ses populations. Faut-il encore le rappeler? Nos fleuves et nos rivières charient chaque année l'équivalent de 160 milliards de mètres cubes d'eau qui se jettent dans l'océan. La maîtrise de ces eaux pourrait permettre d'irriguer l'équivalent de 2 500 000 ha; à ce jour seuls 250 000 ha, c'est-à-dire le dixième, sont aménagés.

Nos nappes souterraines identifiées présentent une disponibilité de 3 500 milliards de mètres cubes capables de générer une agriculture et un élevage pérennes; l'exploitation de telles ressources reste dans le domaine du possible si l'investissement public, prévu pour l'agriculture dans le cadre du programme d'action des Nations Unies, pour le redressement économique et le développement de l'Afrique, étaient réalisés.

L'engagement solidaire pris par les pays africains et la communauté internationale nous interpelle dans nos consciences quant à la priorité accordée à l'agriculture pour sa relance, et exige de nous-mêmes et de nos partenaires plus de confiance et d'engagement car, pour relever le défi, le

contrat qui nous lie doit être de longue durée. En cela, nous vous félicitons de toutes les initiatives que vous-même Monsieur le Directeur général et votre Organisation avez eu à prendre dans cette direction, notamment l'importante étude, "L'agriculture africaine: les 25 prochaines années. "

C'est à cela que nous convient la solidarité et l'interdépendance nécessaires entre les nations nanties et celles déshéritées du monde pour la survie de l'humanité. Car aucune paix, aucune stabilité ne résisteront dans une oasis de prospérité lorsqu'elles se trouvent dans un désert, symbole de famine et de désolation.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

Antonio RODRIGUES PIRES (Observateur du Cap-Vert): Monsieur le Ministre coordonnateur du CILSS, Monsieur le Secrétaire, Messieurs les Ministres, Monsieur le Directeur général, Mesdames, Messieurs, au nom du Président du Groupe africain que j'ai l'honneur de représenter ici, et en tant que représentant d'un pays membre du Sahel et membre du CILSS, c'est pour moi un grand honneur et un privilège, Monsieur le Ministre coordonnateur et cher frère, de vous souhaiter la bienvenue parmi nous.

Monsieur le Ministre coordonnateur, votre présence dans cette auguste assemblée pour représenter le président en exercice du CILSS, Son Excellence le Président du Sénégal Abdou Diouf, à l'occasion de cette importante session des travaux de notre Conseil, témoigne encore une fois, Monsieur le Ministre, de l'importance très privilégiée que les pays du CILSS témoignent pour la coopération entre la FAO, notre Organisation, son Directeur général et le CILSS depuis sa création.

Monsieur le Ministre, vous avez très bien dit dans votre intervention, et si clairement que je n'ai pas besoin de faire de commentaires, tous les atouts de cette coopération fructueuse qui existe depuis la fondation du CILSS.

Le Groupe africain de Rome souhaite que cette coopération puisse se maintenir dans le futur, coopération qui a déjà été couronnée de fruits et de progrès.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

LE PRESIDENT: Je voudrais à mon tour remercier Son Excellence le Ministre coordonnateur du CILSS pour le remarquable message qu'il vient de nous lire au nom de Son Excellence le Président de la République du Sénégal, Abdou Diouf, Président en exercice du CILSS. Je voudrais lui dire que le Conseil a été très attentif à son allocution; qu'il a été très impressionné par l'ampleur du travail qui nous attend dans la communauté internationale au Sahel, et qu'il a également été impressionné par les potentialités importantes installées par M. le Ministre coordonnateur du CILSS, et je voudrais, au nom du Conseil, lui réitérer la disponibilité de notre Conseil pour accorder attention au programme pour l'Afrique, programme qui figure à notre agenda. Je suis persuadé que les délibérations qui auront lieu bientôt au cours de ce Conseil nous permettront d'ajouter une pierre supplémentaire dans la corbeille de la coopération internationale.

Je voudrais, au nom de tous les membres du Conseil, réitérer nos remerciements pour cette attention du Président Abdou Diouf vis-à-vis de la FAO et lui dire que nous sommes très honorés de cette visite.

Gonzalo BULA HOYOS (Colombia): Señor Presidente, sin duda ya usted ha interpretado adecuadamente el sentimiento de todos los miembros del Consejo; sin embargo, la delegación de Colombia debe cumplir el honroso encargo de pronunciar unas breves palabras a nombre del Presidente del Grupo de América Latina y de el Caribe y de los latinoamericanos que integramos este Consejo para manifestar nuestra complacencia por la presencia en este reunión de tan altos funcionarios representativos de los honorables gobiernos de Africa que, con el excelentísimo señor Presidente de Senegal a la cabeza, están empeñados tan tesoneramente en la noble tarea de hacer frente a la sequia y a las demás dificultades que vienen entorpeciendo el mejoramiento de la agricultura y la alimentación en Africa y causando problemas de hambre y de malnutrición, que nosotros lamentamos muy de veras.

Queremos simplemente decir que los latinoamericanos y del Caribe todos somos plenamente solidarios con nuestros hermanos de Africa en el Tercer Mundo, que apreciamos los esfuerzos que el Director

General de la FAO viene ofreciendo en favor de las aspiraciones, de las necesidades y de los derechos de los pueblos africanos y que pedimos a los distinguidos ministros africanos que hoy nos honran con su presencia que al regresar a sus países testimonien al Presidente del Senegal y a todo el pueblo africano la más plena solidaridad y el apoyo más sincero y entusiasta de todos los gobiernos y pueblos de América Latina y del Caribe.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

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

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

IV. ASUNTOS DEL PROGRAMA Y ASUNTOS PRESUPUESTARIOS FINANCIEROS Y ADMINISTRATIVOS (continuación)

12. Financial Matters, including:

12. Questions financières, notamment:

12. Asuntos financieros, en particular:

12.1 Financial Position of the Organization including Measures to Deal with Problems of Delayed Payment of Assessed Contributions (continued)

12.1 Situation financière de l'Organisation, y compris les mesures visant à régler le problème des retards dans le versement des contributions (suite)

12.1 Situación financiera de la Organización, especialmente medidas para afrontar los problemas de retraso en el pago de las cuotas (continuación)

(b) Alternative Approaches to Dealing with Budgetary and Financial Uncertainties (continued)

(b) Les incertitudes budgétaires et financières: approches possibles (suite)

(b) Alternativas para afrontar las incertidumbres presupuestarias y financieras (continuación)

Sra. Mercedes FERMÍN GOMEZ (Venezuela): Vamos a ser muy breves porque creemos que es de nuestra responsabilidad decir unas palabras con relación a los asuntos que están en discusión, y comenzaremos por decir que en relación al documento que nos ocupa deberemos expresar nuestra satisfacción por su excelente presentación y felicitar al señor Shah, quien ha hecho un trabajo excelente. Nos referimos luego al contenido de las alternativas presentadas en el documento, las cuales, como ya varios delegados han expresado, deberían ser realmente objeto de un estudio profundo en el Comité de Finanzas para luego ir a los organismos que realmente corresponde en cuanto a tomar decisiones, es decir la Conferencia y-un Consejo especial en el caso de que esto ocurriera. Pero no quisiéramos dejar pasar por alto el hecho de que en la intervención del delegado de Canadá se diga que hay que buscar las causas, y habló de prioridades jerarquizadas.

En primer lugar, el concepto del delegado de Canadá de que esta es una Organización de gente que paga, dicho así textualmente, y que no puede ser una Organización de gente que no paga nos parece un criterio tan,-todavía la palabra "pragmático" es fina para calificarlo-, nos parece realmente, como dicen los italianos, un bruto criterio, porque ésta no es una Organización de gente que paga o no paga.

Cuando nosotros escuchamos hablar y expresar el criterio con que el creador de la FAO, el hombre que dió sus ideas-para la creación de esta Organización, y cuando nosotros escuchamos en el día de la Alimentación y en las Conferencias de la FAO expresar los fines para los cuales la FAO fue creada, por ningún lado aparece el pragmático criterio de pagar o no pagar. Esta es una Organización para asistir a países necesitados en desarrollo y para países que están en el estadio de lo que se llama Tercer Mundo, que es el preetadio de la situación humana porque todavía no han podido alcanzar la condición de hombres y mujeres. libres, porque no pueden ser hombres y mujeres libres los que tienen necesidades, los que tienen hambre, los que no han podido llegar todavía a satisfacer sus necesidades más elementales de supervivencia, esa es la gente para la cual nació la FAO y con la finalidad de asistirlos-esto no es una empresa comercial en la cual se contribuye o se invierte para obtener beneficios-, y las personas, países u organizaciones que contribuyen a ella lo hacen con la finalidad de servicio, no de negocio. Por eso, pues, la expresión de pagar o no pagar está sobrando cuando hablamos en la FAO; por eso hablamos de "contribuciones".

Es cierto que tiene que haber prioridades, pero cuando fijamos estas prioridades ¿cuál es el criterio?. ¿Es el criterio de que los organismos hayan pagado y no hay dinero o es el criterio de que hay necesidades que atender?.

Acabamos de presenciar y de escuchar a este Ministro que ha llegado de muy lejos en donde nos ha demostrado cómo la FAO ha sido verdaderamente la Organización que ha salvado del hambre a un conjunto de países del Africa Saheliana, y cómo ha venido especialmente a agradecer la atención con que la FAO acudió a prevenir esta peste de langostas y saltamontes que iba a afectar gravemente esos países que salían por primera vez del hambre y que felizmente, según sus propias palabras, ha sido conjurada aunque sea temporalmente.

Estos son hechos imprevistos a los cuales atiende la FAO, a los cuales debe atender la FAO, y si nosotros nos sujetamos de una manera rígida, rigurosa a estas prioridades jerarquizadas, situaciones como ésta se quedarán porque no están en la jerarquización que se presume, que debe existir en la FAO, por eso no voy a entrar en la alternativa 1, 2, 6 3 porque creo que todas van a ser estudiadas en el Comité de Finanzas por gente con capacidad suficiente para decidir y por éso no entramos en estos pormenores; pensamos sí que esta es una situación que no hay que resolverla con un criterio económico y aquí, me excusa el Señor Presidente, aquí si hay que aplicar la Política, con mayúscula, es decir aquéllos criterios que establecen relaciones entre los hombres de acuerdo con sus necesidades, de acuerdo con sus capacidades sin que sean contabilizadas en dólares o en ninguna cesta de monedas, sino sencillamente en capacidad de contribuir.

Si nos atenemos a las prioridades que presumo yo tiene en su mente el delegado de Canadá ¿cuáles serían las que pertenecen a ese núcleo de programas que él considera primordiales?. Pues tendríamos que empezar por las más urgentes y esas más urgentes no tienen espera. Cuando el año pasado se nos decía aquí que en Etiopía estaban muriendo cien niños diariamente de hambre ¿quién hubiera podido estar pensando si habla que atenerse a las regulaciones específicas que conceden o no conceden al Director General capacidad para pedir préstamo o para tomar el dinero de aquí o de allá?

Yo creo que debemos dejar en cierta manera a un lado el criterio de los negocios y de las inversiones cuando se trata de las operaciones de la FAO y atender entonces a los medios que podemos disponer para atender esas necesidades.

Yo estoy de acuerdo con que los países que tienen sus cuotas atrasadas deben hacer todo el esfuerzo posible por comenzar a ponerse al día, y ya dije ayer mismo cómo me dirigi a mi gobierno y estoy cumpliendo con ese criterio, sobre la necesidad de terminar de pagar la cuota de este año; pero los países que están un poco más atrasados podrían comenzar a hacerlo poco a poco de manera que en un período no muy distante la FAO pueda comenzar a vivir una situación menos angustiosa de la que actualmente vive.

Hemos recibido con beneplácito, pienso yo, la información que nos da la distinguida embajadora de Estados Unidos con relación a la decisión tomada por su país en cuanto a la contribución de la FAO. Yo pienso que esto nos va a permitir que nosotros en la FAO, con todas las dificultades que esta crisis significa, vamos a colocarnos en una situación más democrática, que ya no vamos a tener el "principal país", el miembro más importante, el miembro que da el tanto por ciento, vamos a ser ahora como una familia en donde el hijo mayor no tiene todos los privilegios, no vamos a tener derechos de primogenitura, pero si lo vamos a tener para contribuir, pero tampoco para pensar y pedir, vamos a llegar a una situación de Igualdad que es la que establece el principio democrático y que entonces no vamos a reclamar esto ni lo otro porque somos el país que da más, sino que todos vamos a tener iguales derechos.

Por esa razón yo, como felizmente no soy ni economista ni financista pero sí soy política, puedo mirar esto con criterio político, pero Político con p mayúscula, no politiquero y entonces pensar que no vamos a colocarnos aquí en el Consejo de la FAO con otra posición y que todos en igualdad vamos a buscar, cada quien en la medida de sus fuerzas, la posibilidad de contribuir lo más que pueda a la salvación de esta Organización, que, sin duda, nadie lo ha puesto en duda, es útil, ha sido importante para los países que están en necesidades y también ha sido útil para aquellos países que teniendo excedentes que no saben dónde colocarlos, gracias al Programa Mundial de Alimentos pueden colocar sus excedentes. Por esa razón yo pienso que todo no se ha perdido todavía para la FAO, tal vez soy ingenua, tal vez soy idealista, tal vez. soy ignorante de lo que es la economía y loa juegos económicos.

Hablaba el Canadá de que hay que comenzar a buscar las causas, por qué causas Estados Unidos reduce su contribución. Lo ha dicho ya aquí su delegado, porque ellos tienen problemas allí, pero si cada uno de nosotros nos ponemos a reducir la contribución por los problemas que tenemos dentro, la situación entonces es de cerrar el negocio e irse cada quién a su casa. Yo confío en que esa no es la situación, en que vamos a encontrar un camino, en que estas alternativas que presenta el Director General, bien estudiadas por el Comité de Finanzas, van a poder encontrar una posibilidad y que con la voluntad decidida de todos los países, por más pequeños que ellos sean, de cumplir con sus cuotas atrasadas para no tener que depender de un país, a lo mejor ese va a ser el comienzo y ejemplo de lo que todos nosotros soñamos, de que exista en nuestra humanidad un nuevo orden económico internacional y la FAO comenzará por dar el ejemplo de cómo va a funcionar ese nuevo orden económico internacional, de igualdad, de gente que no tiene todos los poderes pero que posiblemente puedan resolver sus problemas entre ellos mismos.

Gonzalo BULA HOYOS (Colombia): Debemos reconocer que, después de la declaración que hicimos durante la discusión del primer punto relacionado con la crisis financiera, la situación ha cambiado desfavorablemente. Desgraciadamente, se han confirmado las informaciones oficiosas que tenía el Director General sobre los niveles del pago de las contribuciones del primer contribuyente. Esta situación nos preocupa profundamente. No obstante, por nuestra relativa comprensión realista que ya expresamos, no podemos imaginar que el futuro de una organización como la FAO va a seguir sometida a estas incertidumbres.

Mi colega y amigo, el Vicepresidente Sr. Iskit, de Turquía, planteó en la primera intervención de esta mañana un asunto que merece mucha atención: las incertidumbres que pesarán sobre el Director General en la preparación del Programa de Labores y Presupuesto para el año 1988-89. ¿Se va a modificar la escala de contribuciones? ¿Vamos de nuevo a incluir en ese presupuesto contribuciones semejantes a las del presente bienio para que luego afrontemos una situación semejante en 1988-89?

Esto nos inquieta sobre todo porque, como lo demostramos en la discusión del tema A, la situación de la agricultura y de la alimentación naturalmente en los países en desarrollo sigue siendo sombría según los términos que usó anoche el distinguido colega de Australia en el Comité de Redacción. Y ante ese hecho, no podemos consolarnos sencillamente con seguir lo que se haga en otros organismos de las Naciones Unidas. No debemos resignarnos a que es necesario someternos a las consideraciones de la crisis, sin asumir actitudes que preserven el funcionamiento eficaz de esta Organización que

(illegible)

LE PRESIDENT: Monsieur le délégué de la Colombie, je crois que nous pourrions clore ce débat au début de l'après-midi, à moins que vous n'ayez à dire quelque chose de précis.

Gonzalo BULA HOYOS (Colombia): Yo tenía razón, señor Presidente, cuando yo preguntaba por el resto no me refería al año 1986, porque el presupuesto en la FAO no es anual. Me refería al resto del bienio. A cuándo se va a pagar la totalidad de la contribución del bienio, pero no prolonguemos el debate.

The meeting rose at 12. 30 hours.

La séance est levée à 12 h 30.

Se levanta la sesión a las 12. 30 horas.

setenta en la que acuñamos como delegado de Colombia un slogan en el cual decíamos que en las Naciones Unidas la FAO era la organización más conservadora, la menos sensible a los cambios que se estaban cumpliendo en la comunidad internacional. La FAO era una organización anquilosada, se hacían muchos estudios, se adelantaban intensas actividades académicas, se producían informes en idiomas que ni siquiera eran accesibles a la mayoría de los Estados Miembros de la Organización; la FAO no tenía representantes propios en los países, todo estaba concentrado en Roma; los consultores viajaban fugazmente a nuestros países, volvían rápidos porque no hablaban nuestros idiomas y les hacía daño nuestras comidas autóctonas; volvían a Roma, aquí ocupaban sus flamantes escritorios y desde la capital de la cristianidad del mundo hacían recomendaciones sin conocer la realidad socioeconómica del Tercer Mundo, recomendaciones teóricas que obviamente no eran aplicables.

Era la época también, Sr. Presidente, en que se vendían los proyectos aunque esos proyectos no correspondieran a las prioridades establecidas en los programas de los países en desarrollo. Era la época, Sr. Presidente, de la dolce vita: los burócratas internacionales invadían los bares y restaurantes con sus pipas humeantes en la boca y el periódico debajo del brazo; en los últimos años, progresivamente, de manera ordenada, seria, estricta, con pulso firme, pero sin trauma ni distorsiones todo ello ha venido cambiando favorablemente. Y debemos reconocer, Sr. Presidente, que estos cambios se han producido gracias también a los países desarrollados, a sus representantes que han aportado no sólo sus contribuciones que son la base esencial del programa de la Organización, sino también sus ideas y sus iniciativas a través de un excelente capital humano con quienes yo he compartido mis actividades en la FAO durante 27 años. Ahora se ha logrado una descentralización moderada, pero que ha permitido asegurar la presencia viva y actuante de la FAO en las regiones, particularmente por medio de los representantes en los países funcionarios propios de la FAO. Ahora, nuestra Organización responde con dinamismo y eficacia a las solicitudes de nuestros gobiernos. Se han agilizado los mecanismos para la identificación, la preparación y la ejecución de los proyectos que ahora corresponden a las prioridades fijadas por los gobiernos. La imagen de la FAO se ha fortalecido en el contexto de las Naciones Unidas y los países beneficiarios recurren a ella con la seguridad de que se les asistirá de manera práctica y eficiente.

Claro que volvemos a estar de nuevo relativamente de acuerdo con Canadá y Australia en el hecho de que nada es perfecto, de que, si bien la FAO ha logrado progresos notables, aún se puede refinar algo más su eficacia y fortalecer el empeño intenso del Director General porque la FAO sea cada vez más eficiente.

Algunos pocos de quienes están en esta sala recordarán al profesor francés Michèle Cépède, mi inmediato antecesor como Presidente independiente del Consejo de la FAO, cuyo retrato aparece al pie del mío, sobre la pared de la izquierda. Hace 27 años, Sr. Presidente, - algunos de los que están en esta sala no habían nacido todavía - cuando yo comenzaba a ser un fogoso delegado colombiano, porque ese mal o esa virtud es congénita en mi temperamento, y yo criticaba acremente el funcionamiento de la FAO, el Profesor Cépède me respondía: "el gran estadista francés Leon Blum decía: cuando me analizo a mí mismo, me desprecio; cuando me comparo con los demás, roe admiro."

Esa cita concuerda con el hecho de que si la FAO trabaja excepcionalmente bien es cierto que aún puede ser susceptible de otras mejoras; esto se está logrando; nuestro colega Iskit de Turquía, lo dijo muy bien esta mañana: ese proceso se seguirá cumpliendo. Pero es obvio que en este Consejo no estamos en capacidad de profundizar debidamente en la consideración de estos asuntos y, por ello, sabiamente quienes han venido construyendo los textos básicos de nuestra Organización han asignado a nuestro Consejo organismos asesores importantes como los Comités de Programa y de Finanzas.

Como conclusión de este debate, se consignará en el informe la opinión del Consejo, todo ello pasará a los Comités del Programa y de Finanzas, nos reuniremos nuevamente en junio y debemos estar todos seguros de que la FAO se salvará, de que unidos continuaremos aquí a trabajar en un club, en una hermandad de sincera y fraternal cooperación entre todos los representantes de todos los países sin distinciones porque estoy seguro de que todos nos identificamos en el objetivo común de que la FAO debe seguir al servicio del Tercer Mundo.

LE PRESIDENT: Je remercie le délégué de la Colombie de son apologie de l'Organisation.

Mrs Millicent M. FENWICK (United States of America): I was not as clear as I hoped to be. The point is that US\$4 800 00 will be paid now, pretty soon now. The remainder of the 1986 contribution, which will when totalled amount to US\$25 400 00, is frozen until October 1, 1987. In other words, although it is the 1986 contribution that I am talking about, apart from the US\$4.8 million which is going to be paid now, the remainder, which will add up to a total of US\$25.4 million as the figure for the year, is frozen until October 1, 1987. Now, this does not refer in any way to the 1987 contribution. We have no news on that. We do not know what it will be.

LE PRESIDENT: Monsieur le délégué de la Colombie, je crois que nous pourrions clore ce débat au début de l'après-midi, à moins que vous n'ayez à dire quelque chose de précis.

Gonzalo BULA HOYOS (Colombia): Yo tenía razón, señor Presidente, cuando yo preguntaba por el resto no me refería al año 1986, porque el presupuesto en la FAO no es anual. Me refería al resto del bienio. A cuándo se va a pagar la totalidad de la contribución del bienio, pero no prolonguemos el debate.

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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 90/PV/10

Ninetieth Session

Quatre-vingt-dixième session

90º período de sesiones

TENTH PLENARY MEETING
DIXIEME SEANCE PLENIERE
DECIMA SESIÓN PLENARIA
(21 November 1986)

The Tenth Plenary Meeting was opened at 14. 45 hours,
Lassaad Ben Osman, . Independent Chairman of the Council, presiding

La dixième séance planiere est ouverte à 14 h 45, sous la présidence
de Lassaad Ben Osman, Président indépendant du Conseil

Se abre la décima sesión plenaria a las 14. 45 horas, bajo la presidencia
de Lassaad Ben Osman, Presidente Independiente del Consejo

- IV. PROGRAMME, BUDGETARY, FINANCIAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS
(continued)
- IV. QUESTIONS CONCERNANT LE PROGRAMME, LE BUDGET, LES FINANCES ET L'ADMINISTRATION (suite)
- IV. ASUNTOS DEL PROGRAMA Y ASUNTOS PRESUPUESTARIOS, FINANCIEROS Y ADMINISTRATIVOS (continuación)
 - 12. Financial Matters, including:
 - 12. Questions financières, notamment:
 - 12. Asuntos financieros, en particular:
 - 12. 1 Financial Position of the Organization including Measures to Deal with Problems of Delayed Payment of Assessed Contributions
 - 12. 1 Situation financière de l'Organisation, y compris les mesures visant à régler le problème des retards dans le versement des contributions
 - 12. 1 Situación financiera de la Organización, especialmente medidas para afrontar los problemas del retraso en el pago de los cuotas
 - (b) Alternative Approaches to Dealing with Budgetary and Financial Uncertainties (continued)
 - (b) Les incertitudes budgétaires et financières: approches possibles (suite)
 - (b) Alternativas para afrontar las incertidumbres presupuestarias y financieras (continuacion)

Almir F. de Sa BARBUDA (Brazil): I am sorry that I was not able to be here this morning when you gave the floor to my delegation.

First let me congratulate Dr Shah for the very useful and constructive introduction of this item of the agenda.

My delegation also fully shares the Director-General's concern mentioned at paragraph 1 of document CL 90/24 about the budgetary and financial uncertainties at present being faced by FAO. All efforts should be made at this point to help him implement the main programmes of the Organization and as well to demonstrate that the spirit of real multilateralism is still alive.

With few exceptions we have, however, listened to disturbing interventions of some of the larger contributors to the FAO budget. While recognizing that the main problem today is the shortfall of payment by the larger contributors, some of these Members have attempted to disguise the situation, requesting measures that will result in punishment to developing countries in arrears, not showing much disposition to face the difficulties and support the measures proposed by the Secretariat, and as well attempting to blame FAO's management for the present problems, with which we do not agree.

It is regrettable as well that the Organization and all member countries, including the least developed ones, be penalized for a unilateral decision to withhold legal payments of the contribution by the leading world economy.

We have been discussing for two days the financial crisis but we do not have precise elements to evaluate its impact and exact extension in the future stability of the Organization.

This morning it was confirmed that the amounts to be paid are the same, or almost the same, as foreseen by the Secretariat. We have now learned that up to next year the largest contributor will pay less than half of its legal contribution. The United States' intervention was not therefore too helpful. We still do not know what is going to be paid in relation to the 1987 contribution, nor what will be done with regard to arrears in the future.

Taking into account the seriousness of this crisis, a crisis provoked by this most important shortfall, my delegation cannot see the relevance for the Finance Committee to keep up discussions of alternatives as presented in paragraph 31 of document CL 90/17 and its Appendix C, alternatives that do not contemplate the main problem now faced and that will further penalise the developing countries most affected by an unfavourable international environment. Our opposition is greater in relation to the Canadian proposal which would actually aggravate the situation without inducing the major contributor to honour its obligation. We recognize however that it is always easier to disguise the real problem by overreacting to secondary difficulties.

Developing countries such as Brazil have already paid disproportionate contributions in relation to their capacity to pay and to the share of certain industrialized Members of this Organization. We have traditionally maintained this position when discussing scales of contributions and budgets in UN aid agencies. The huge amount of resources annually drained to service our external debt and the protectionist measures that prevent the free flow of our products into developed markets render it difficult sometimes for us to pay in time our very high contributions to international organizations. It can be no surprise to us that among the ten largest debtors to FAO, in US dollars, not percentages, there are some developing countries, actually the main exporters of capital to the industrialized world today. What really surprises us is that today there are developed countries among these ten debtors and that the main debtor is the wealthiest nation in the world.

The Secretariat knows that my government has never challenged our legal obligations, and has tried to do its best to reduce our arrears. I assure you further efforts will be made in this regard.

Most of the alternative approaches presented by the document CL 90/24 have implications on the rate and amount of actual resources to be disbursed by member countries. In this respect my delegation believes that the Secretariat could have provided us with more precise information on their direct impact in terms of US dollars on our contributions. However, we are assured that these additional elements will be presented later for deeper discussion. On this point my delegation wishes to state, in a very preliminary way, that we look forward to additional and in-depth studies and discussions on each proposal presented.

If it is possible to reach a consensus in this Council we would be prepared to support the non-distribution of the cash surplus and the non-deduction of forecast miscellaneous income to the contributors. Unfortunately, wealthier member states, with few exceptions, are not ready to give a good example of their commitment to multilateral organizations. We would be prepared by consensus to support the amendments proposed to the financial regulations which would leave no room for doubts about the transitory nature of the measures which would be revoked when FAO's financial situation improved. We are still prepared to support the increase in the level of the Working Capital Fund, which has already proved to be insufficient to support the general fund and should be increased to the level of other agencies. However, we have doubts as to whether the increase in costs and administration work would justify budgets in US dollars and Italian lira, or a currency based on a basket of currencies. We are not prepared at this moment to support budgets not restricted to emergency expenditure.

Antonio Albertino AFONSO DIAS. (Sao Tomé-et-Principe): Le document CL 90/24 montre combien la situation, déjà difficile, risque de devenir plus grave si un geste positif, vis-à-vis de l'Organisation, n'est pas fait de la part des contributeurs. En fait, la plupart des pays qui n'ont pas pu acquitter leurs devoirs sont les pays les moins avancés et les pays en développement. Ce sont les pays, dont le mien, qui à plusieurs reprises ont demandé l'assistance de la FAO.

Compte tenu de cette situation et nonobstant les difficultés dont nous sommes tous victimes, je demande, si le Conseil est d'accord, qu'une fois de plus le Directeur général fasse un appel pressant, par les canaux appropriés afin que les riches et les pauvres effectuent leurs paiements dans un délai à convenir.

Abdel Azim EL-GAZZAR (Egypt) (original language Arabic): I asked for the floor only to inform the Council that I have received today a letter saying that Egypt has transferred its annual contribution to the budget of the Organization.

José Ramón LOPEZ-PORTILLO ROMANO (México): Deseo agradecer a nombre de México al Doctor Shah por la presentación de este tema. La delegación de México agradece al Director General la forma cautelosa y eficiente como administra los recursos de esta Organización. Ello ha evitado que las perspectivas que hoy enfrentamos sean más negativas. La FAO hubiera podido hacer frente a todos los inconvenientes financieros menos, como se ha hecho ver, a la decisión unilateral del principal contribuyente. Por eso queremos que quede constancia en las actas y en nuestro informe de la responsabilidad directa de ese país, del principal contribuyente, en el sensible debilitamiento de la FAO y su transcendental función en beneficio de la humanidad. Repetimos, esta decisión de no pagar la totalidad de la contribución la consideramos un error histórico que todos los pueblos del mundo sabemos sancionarán.

La situación futura es ambigua e incierta, como quedó claro hoy en la mañana, en vista de que no podemos saber cuánto y cuándo pagará aquel país de lo que resta de su contribución bianual. Frente a esa situación nos pronunciamos en contra de que se imponga un castigo más severo a la ejecución del Programa de Labores y Presupuesto aprobado para este bienio. Esto no implica, señor Presidente, que estemos de acuerdo en conducir a la FAO a una situación financiera inmanejable. Por el contrario, nos obliga a hacer un ejercicio serio, maduro y, sobre todo, oportuno, en el que respetemos prioridades; pero como ya varios delegados lo han cuestionado ¿quiénes y cómo se interpretan esas prioridades?

Esta es una Organización orientada a la asistencia y apoyo al desarrollo agrícola y alimentario y al logro de la seguridad alimentaria mundial. Esas son las prioridades que por lo menos la gran mayoría de los Estados Miembros reconocemos. Y esas prioridades, como lo ha escuchado usted, señor Presidente, por parte de la mayoría de los países aquí representados, se plasman fundamentalmente en el PCT y en otros programas ligados a la seguridad alimentaria.

Debemos, por supuesto, propugnar por mayor eficiencia, pero no al extremo de que ésta afecte la eficacia, es decir la capacidad de cumplimiento de metas en FAO.

Deseo aclarar también que no podemos aceptar que para resolver los problemas financieros de FAO y de las Naciones Unidas en general debamos aceptar los objetivos de cambio estructural que busca imponer el principal contribuyente y otros países. Ello sería tanto como reconocer que ése y otros países tienen prevalencia sobre los intereses de la mayoría de los Estados Miembros que estamos representados en condiciones de igualdad.

México reafirma los principios de objetivos de nuestra Organización y defiende su Constitución; es más, mantendremos vivos y vigentes esos principios y objetivos antes de ceder a cualquier tipo de condicionamiento.

En la escala de cuotas que se aplica a los miembros de FAO resulta que hay un contribuyente mayor, pero también que hay países en desarrollo ahora con grave crisis financiera, como nos lo han recor

dado varios delegados, que pagan más que varios países industrializados. Esta Organización, por tanto, no es de quien paga, y menos de quien paga más; la humanidad no pertenece a los poderosos, sino los poderosos a la humanidad.

En este contexto, y ante la incertidumbre de largo plazo, me remito al párrafo 28 del documento CL 90/24 donde se indica claramente que el ejercicio que ahora hacemos y en relación a las siete propuestas es preliminar y deberá profundizarse concienzudamente en el Comité de Finanzas.

Agradezco, por tanto, al Director General de que actúe con prudencia y que no nos haya presentado un paquete de pánico y de desmoralización, sino una estrategia flexible que irá adecuando a la certidumbre financiera que se conozca en el futuro.

Por eso quiero concluir observando que las siete propuestas nos resultan interesantes y dignas de que el Comité de Finanzas las estudie a fondo; por lo pronto, no queremos emitir nuestra opinión detallada respecto de cada una de ellas.

Asimismo queremos expresar que reconocemos que el Director General tiene facultad para contratar empréstitos de corto plazo aunque subrayamos nuestra opinión de que esa debe ser una opción de última instancia.

El Comité de Finanzas se reunirá dos veces por lo menos hasta que este Consejo vuelva a encontrarse. Estoy seguro que ahí se tratarán con responsabilidad y profundidad las propuestas hechas aquí y otras que respondan a las exigencias.

Pedimos al Director General que nos mantenga informados de toda novedad y que podamos conocer con toda antelación la confirmación o proposición de nuevas decisiones para emitir nuestro juicio razonado con toda calma.

Terminamos haciendo un llamado a todos los países a que cubran sus pagos lo más pronto posible y a todos los miembros de esta Organización a que fortalezcan con altruismo el espíritu y los cauces del multilateralismo.

LE PRESIDENT: Nous arrivons a la fin ces interventions et je voudr'is donner la parole au Directeur général adjoint pour qu'il contribue à ce débat.

DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL: The Council has given preliminary, but very thorough, consideration to the various proposals put forward in the document that we have just been discussing. Many comments have been made on each of the various options. There has been a wide range of opinion, some for, some against. As might have been expected, reactions have been extremely mixed.

I would suggest that it is not necessary for the Council to strive to reach any consensus at this stage on which of these various options should be pursued. I would suggest that when the Finance Committee meets, in just over three weeks time, we should look with the Finance Committee at the verbatim records of this discussion and take into account the many points of view that have been expressed when we take a decision as to whether any, or all, of these options should be studied in depth. That would be only a procedural discussion at the Finance Committee in mid-December. A substantive examination of the various options which it is felt desirable to pursue would then go to the Finance Committee when it meets again in May.

In case any doubts remain, I should like to emphasize that these options are long-term measures to tackle long-term problems. There is no thought in our minds, and I hope not in the minds of any

delegations, that these various options are going to solve the critical situation which we face in the rest of this biennium, and certainly at the beginning of the next biennium. What we are looking at are the possible ways to minimize or avoid a recurrence of such problems and on such a magnitude on future occasions.

As for the short-term critical situation both in this biennium and more particularly at the start of the next biennium, there have been a number of comments made, in the debate, by delegations commenting upon the options in this document. These comments too will be useful when the Finance Committee meets. The perceptions of the financial short and medium-term crisis are still evolving. As the Council is well aware, we only had the final official figures from our largest contributor this morning. When the Finance Committee meets in mid-December perhaps some aspects will be a little clearer. I should like to emphasize that these are not problems that are special to FAO. They are affecting virtually all organizations in the UN system. Of course, we shall be working extremely closely with other participants, other members, other organizations in the UN system as we attempt to tackle the crisis that confronts us.

I have nothing further to add on the options for long term solutions, but there was one specific question put to the Secretariat by the Representative of Canada. It related to the measures put forward by the Finance Committee in paragraphs 22 to 31 of its Second Report, document CL 90/17, where a series of alternatives are suggested for the handling of the cash surplus at the end of a biennium essentially with a view to rewarding the virtuous and not the virtuous and the sinners equally.

The Canadian suggestion was that the Finance Committee's conclusions on these matters be referred to the CCLM for the drafting of an appropriate modification in the Financial Regulation concerned and that from there the matter go to the Council and the Conference. He requested the comments of the Secretariat, and I can only say that in logic and procedure-wise this certainly is correct; this would be the way to handle the matter. However, the question of substance reverts to the Finance Committee and it will be for the Finance Committee to decide whether the guidance given to it by the Council is sufficient to narrow down the alternatives which have been put forward in its report and to come up with a narrower range in the form of perhaps a specific decision to be taken by the higher organs of FAO.

LE PRESIDENT: Je remercie le Directeur général adjoint de ses éclaircissements.

Ce qui compte pour nous, à ce stade de la discussion, comme l'ont dit de nombreux délégués, c'est de parvenir à préserver l'avenir et la pérennité de l'Organisation. Il faut trouver des solutions stables qui permettent de prévoir tous les cas. C'est la raison pour laquelle la proposition de faire analyser le dossier de façon approfondie par le Comité financier est tout à fait opportune, d'autant plus que de nombreux Etats Membres n'ont pas eu matériellement la possibilité de faire examiner par leurs services compétents les propositions avancées et qu'ils ont dû se limiter à une réaction préliminaire. Je crois donc que le travail qui attend le Comité financier sur ce point précis, le 16 décembre, est important. Je pense qu'il aura la possibilité d'approfondir la question et d'éclairer par la suite le Conseil sur les incidences de ces mesures - et surtout sur les tenants, les aboutissants et les applications de ces mesures - de manière à permettre aux Etats Membres de prendre une position circonstanciée à toute connaissance de cause.

De nombreux pays ont suggéré que l'on analyse ce qu'ont "fait, dans des circonstances analogues, d'autres organisations. Je crois que c'est là une suggestion intéressante qui permettrait de mieux étudier la question. Je n'en dirai pas plus à ce stade et nous pourrions peut-être passer au point suivant de l'ordre du jour.

George Henry MUSGROVE (Canada): Mr Chairman, I did just want to thank the Deputy Director-General for his response to our question. I quite agree with what he has said, but there is one slight qualification. I had asked that the Finance Committee be charged with selecting a single proposal from amongst the three preferred alternatives they have suggested and in the light of the action taken by the International Civil Aviation Organization, so in a sense there are four options that I have suggested might be usefully considered by the Finance Committee, and insofar as the Finance Committee is the best qualified, most expert, and would have the ability to make that choice, they could choose one of those and then follow on with the CCLM and the presentation to Council. I would hesitate to leave the point on the grounds that there may not be sufficient guidance and therefore the Finance Committee is unable to take such action, so I wonder if that could be included in the summing up.

Secondly, the Deputy Director-General's suggestions are very wise indeed about the seven proposals that have been put forward by the Director-General in the sense that the Finance Committee might usefully take a look at those to decide which, if any, would merit further study at subsequent meetings. I wonder if I could also ask that the additional two proposals which we have put forward in this regard might be taken into consideration by the Committee so that there were not just seven put forward by the Secretariat but at least others derived from the discussion. I think particularly we have drawn attention to the prospect of reviewing the problem of cross-subsidization between the Regular Programme and the Field Programme; secondly, the prospect that there could be a priority or core budgeting involved as a longer term measure to address financial stringency.

Gonzalo BULA HOYOS (Colombia): Yo reitero mi impresión sincera expresada ya en varias oportunidades en el sentido de que considero que todas las delegaciones que se están preocupando por proponer soluciones concretas están inspiradas en el mejor de los deseos. Sin embargo, nos preocupa que a este tema se le pretenda dar una situación particular algo excepcional. Yo creo que la consideración de este tema debe ser como la de todos los demás: reflejar en el informe el sentido de las discusiones y, naturalmente, el informe del Consejo contendrá aquellas orientaciones para su organismo asesor que es el Comité de Finanzas. No quisiera que en el informe del Consejo tratáramos de encerrar en una camisa de fuerza ciertas propuestas o ciertas actividades.

En dos ocasiones hoy mi distinguido colega y amigo Musgrove de Canadá ha hablado de algo que ha pasado en la Organización de la Aviación Civil. No tengo idea de qué se trata; mi vecino de la derecha tampoco lo sabe y por eso estamos preocupados, estamos aquí en tierra y no sabemos lo que esta pasando en esa organización, si él nos ilustra un poco, o a través de sus declaraciones transmita a la Secretaría esa información fuera del curso normal de cada tema.

George Henry MUSGROVE (Canada): My good friend the Colombian Representative is seldom caught not having read his documents, but there is a report of the Finance Committee, document CL 90/17, and in Annex B to that report there is a description of the process that has been adopted by the International Civil Aviation Organization. It is a matter that has been reviewed by the Finance Committee to some extent, but only in a very cursory sense, but now that the matter has been adopted by ICAO it is an example of what has happened in the UN international system. We are not necessarily an advocate of it; we are only suggesting that they have taken a look at it in a cursory sense; it is described in a cursory form in the document before us, and perhaps it is worth a second look.

Chavaly SRINIVASA SASTRY (India): I am speaking with specific reference to the point made by the delegate of Canada. He has suggested that in the summing up of the discussion it should specifically be mentioned that the two suggestions that they made, in addition to the seven contained in the documentation to this Council meeting, and also something else that occurred in another UN-associated body, should be considered by the Finance Committee.

If I heard the Deputy Director-General correctly, when he was summing up he did say that the verbatim reports of the discussions in the Council along with the documentation would be placed before the Finance Committee. Therefore, all these suggestions would specifically be before the Finance Committee.

Secondly, we are dealing with a situation which is changing very rapidly and which is dynamic. It is therefore conceivable that between now and the next meeting of the Finance Committee, some other steps might have been thought about and implemented in several other UN organizations and bodies. Surely all this relevant information will be placed before the Finance Committee by the FAO Head-quarters Secretariat.

Therefore, with due respect I would submit that it would neither be appropriate nor advisable in the summing up specifically to name any suggestions made by any delegation during the course of the discussion.

LE PRESIDENT: Y a-t-il d'autres délégués qui veulent prendre la parole? Je pense, qu'au benefice de ces remarques, nous pouvons passer à la suite de notre ordre du jour, si vous en convenez.

III. ACTIVITES OF FAO AND WFP

III. ACTIVITES DE LA FAO ET DU PAM

III. ACTIVIDADES DE LA FAO Y DEL PMA

8. Recent Developments in the UN System of Interest to FAO

8. Faits nouveaux survenus dans le système des Nations Unies et intéressant la FAO

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

8.1 Review of Recent Developments

8.1 Examen des faits nouveaux

8.1 Examen de las novedades recientes

A. REGNIER (Director, Office for Inter-Agency Affairs): It gives me great pleasure to introduce before this Council the agenda item entitled "Recent Developments in the UN System of Interest to FAOM. The document before you is CL 90/12 which attempts to review the most recent developments. Of course, the document does not cover those items which are considered elsewhere in the agenda of the Council, for example agenda item 8.2 concerning Africa and its related documents which will be introduced later on.

Throughout 1986 FAO has continued to cooperate fully with the other organizations of the United Nations system in the inter-secretariat machinery established under the aegis of the Administrative Committee on Coordination. For example, at the October session of ACC the executive heads had a full exchange of views on the social and human impact of structural adjustment policies and on a proposal by the Director-General it was decided that the matter should be pursued and discussed further by the ACC Task Force on Longer-Term Development.

FAO has continued to provide leadership for the United Nations system in its chairmanship of the Task Force on Rural Development, as well as its significant role in the ACC Sub-Committee on Nutrition. This type of activity ensures a close cooperation of effort among the organizations of the system, particularly at a time when member governments are devoting more attention to the efficiency of the system and the optimum use of its resources.

In view of the fact that the document before you is rather exhaustive and was prepared recently, and includes matters up to September of this year, there are only a few further developments on which I would like to report at this time. These include developments in the General Assembly of the United Nations, the Annual Meeting of the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund, the launching of the Uruguay round of the GATT and the preparations for UNCTAD VII.

Among the many issues before the General Assembly at this session, I should like to draw to the attention of this Council two Resolutions which have been approved by the Assembly on the recommendation of the Second Committee.

The first resolution deals with the fight against the locust and grasshopper infestation in Africa. Recognizing the important work achieved by the Global Information and Early Warning System of FAO, it urges this Organization to strengthen its coordinating mechanisms and its technical and field

operational support for locust and grasshopper control. It requests the Secretary-General, in close consultation with the Director-General of FAO, to take catalytic action in raising the consciousness of the world community regarding this potentially disastrous situation and invites the Director-General of FAO to report on the locust and grasshopper infestation to the Economic and Social Council at its summer session of 1987.

The second resolution concerns the emergency situation in Africa and deals with the follow-up to the work of the Office for Emergency Operations. I should like to bring to your attention that hereto the role of FAO with regard to the early warning systems is fully recognized in the resolution. As you may know the Secretary-General has announced separately new arrangements for the follow-up to the Office for Emergency Operations which closed at the end of October. These new arrangements are defined to ensure that the experience gained in responding to the recent drought-related emergency in Africa is preserved, and to enhance the capacity of the United Nations to respond to future emergencies in a timely, effective and coordinated manner. The Secretary-General has designated a Director for Emergencies in Africa, who will also serve, at the same time, as Director of the office of UNDRO in New York. FAO will continue to cooperate closely with this mechanism and to respond quickly and effectively in the areas of its mandate and competence.

I should also like to mention the 1986 United Nations Pledging Conference for Development Activities, which took place in New York on 13 and 14 November. For UNDP, 90 countries pledged a total of almost \$600 million, with estimates for additional pledges of \$208 million. Total UNDP general resources for 1987 would thus exceed \$800 million, the highest level in UNDP's history, and 4 percent higher than the actual 1986 funding level. For UNICEF, 79 governments pledged \$170 million, and for UNFPA, 77 governments pledged \$100 million.

The annual meeting of the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund stressed the need for coordination of international economic policies. Cooperation and co-responsibility were seen as essential to stimulating non-inflationary growth, in order to make progress on the debt problem and in order to improve the functioning of the international monetary system. Structural adjustment policies were felt to be untenable in the absence of steady growth.

Slow growth was being recorded in the industrial countries, the annual meeting noted, and balance-of-payments problems remained in several industrial countries. Developing countries faced a marked deterioration in terms of trade and a deceleration of rates of growth. A deterioration was continuing both in the external environment and as a result of the drop in oil prices. Raw material producers continued to see an erosion in their terms of trade and consequently rising debt, as well as a reduction of net capital inflows. There has been no decision to undertake a new allocation of special drawing rights, despite the fact that conditions under the Statute had been met •

The meeting of GATT at Punta del Este, which launched the round, was quite successful. Regarding the structure of the round, a decision was reached by ministers, not by the contracting parties, in a declaration on trade in goods and trade in services. Trade in goods falls under the existing framework of GATT, but services remain as you know outside it.

Concerning trade in services, two approaches are envisaged. First to create a possible moderating instrument governing trade in services and second, to develop other instruments. In this regard, two new areas for discussion are trade-related investment and counterfeit and intellectual property. Looking at the more general context of the round, the declaration adopted at Punta del Este notes the importance of an improved trade environment to help the debt situation of many countries, as well as of the monitoring of the flow of resources to developing countries.

As far as follow-up to Punta del Este is concerned, the declaration included a calendar. On 27 October, three negotiating committees began their work: the trade negotiations group, the negotiating group on goods, and the negotiating group on services. FAO has requested Observer Status in the GATT negotiations, in view of the issues under discussion which are central to its mandate and areas of competence.

A few words on UNCTAD VII. UNCTAD VII will take place in Geneva in July 1987. It will have a single agenda item focused on the revitalization of growth and international trade. The role of the private sector will be taken into account in assessing trends. The competence of other

institutions, especially financial, will be respected, and the centrally-planned economies will be included in the review. At this time, two basic documents are envisaged: one being an analytic report on the issues, the other a series of policy proposals by the Director-General of UNCTAD. FAO will continue to follow these developments closely.

Before closing let me also briefly mention two other matters.

Firstly, the United Nations Conference on the Law of Treaties between States and International Organizations, or between International Organizations, took place in Vienna in March this year. The Conference adopted a convention. Signature of the convention should take place before the end of June 1987, prior to the disposition of instruments of formal confirmation, I am informed that, in those cases where a governing body of an organization of the United Nations system will not meet before that date, arrangements are in process for signature of the convention ad referendum and subject to a decision of the competent organs.

Second and last point, let me bring to your attention the two conventions which were adopted by the General Conference of IAEA at its first special session in September 1986. These conventions concern early notification of nuclear accident and assistance in the case of nuclear accident or radiological emergencies. The convention on early notification entered into force on 27 October, having received the required number of signatures of states. Several other states are applying the conventions provisionally, pending their entry into force.

At this point, I should like to bring my brief presentation to an end. I shall of course be happy to provide any information or clarification which members of the Council may wish to have.

Gonzalo BULA HOYOS (Colombia): Sr. Presidente, la delegación de Colombia admira sinceramente el hecho de que nuestro colega y amigo Andrés Régnier-no obstante, está dedicado ahora a tiempo pleno a otras actividades-haya elaborado adecuadamente este documento del cual ha hecho una excelente presentación.

Parece que el nuevo administrador del PNUD empezó bien. El párrafo 5, aunque un poco ambiguo o reflejo de espejismo, habla de que el aumento de las promesas para 1986 "superará los 745 millones de dólares, más del 10 por ciento, superior al 8 por ciento convenido para incremento de las contribuciones voluntarias". Como dijo el Sr. Régnier en el párrafo 5 se afirma que esa es la cantidad mayor jamás prometida en la historia del PNUD.

Sin embargo, la ducha de agua fría viene al final de ese mismo párrafo, que dice: "Por lo que respecta a los recursos del PNUD en 1987 y los años futuros, la situación se presenta un poco sombría"-sombria, éste es un término que se está poniendo de moda ahora-"debido a las contribuciones del mayor donante"; así dice este párrafo.

Este documento que tiene fecha de septiembre, o sea, hace ya casi dos meses, pensábamos que sería actualizado por la presentación del Sr. Régnier, pero tenemos la impresión de que no, que tal vez no tuvo tiempo de actualizar esas cifras porque nos ha hablado de 800 millones de dólares y la traducción nos llegó correctamente.

Quisiéramos saber si ahora, cuando ya se conocen dos leyes del importante país mayor donante, aera posible preguntarnos si la expresión SOMBRÍA de ese párrafo corresponde a la realidad y a cuánto ascenderán realmente los recursos del PNUD en 1987 y cuales son las perspectivas para los años siguientes. ¿Se puede ya saber cómo ha influido o cómo van a influir las decisiones del mayor donante de los recursos del PNUD?

La delegación de Colombia senala como hecho positivo la frase final del párrafo 8, según la cual "varios países tanto desarrollados como en desarrollo, destacaron la necesidad de quo el PNUD aumente sus adquisiciones de insumos, como equipos, en países en desarrollo".

Esperamos que esa recomendación sea refrendada plenamente por este Consejo y que se incluya en el informe.

El párrafo 10 indica además que el PNUD parece que va a aproximarse de nuevo en la distribución de sus recursos en favor del sector agropecuario a los niveles anteriores, después de que éstos habían bajado considerablemente. Creemos que entre el 20 y el 30 por ciento de esos recursos, en la mayoría de los países, para el sector agrícola, es un buen índice que en nuestro informe debemos estimular con la esperanza de que aumente aún más en la medida en que así lo soliciten los países beneficiarios de acuerdo con las prioridades que establezcan sus gobiernos.

La delegación de Colombia está segura de que en la FAO se pondrá en práctica la recomendación contenida en el informe del Director General de las Naciones Unidas de Desarrollo y Cooperación Económica Internacional, según la cual, párrafo 24, se insta a las Organizaciones del Sistema a que recurran en mayor medida a las capacidades de los países en desarrollo para la ejecución de los programas y proyectos y fomenten la cooperación sur-sur a través de la CTPD y mecanismos afines. Ojalá que esto conste en nuestro informe.

La Duodécima reunión ministerial del Consejo Mundial de la Alimentación, celebrada excepcionalmente en Roma, en junio pasado, fue poco movida. El informe está pleno de reservas.

El nuevo Director Ejecutivo del CMA, Sr. Trant, ha llegado muy silencioso. Afortunadamente ya ha comenzado a moverse un poco y tiene el propósito de entrevistarse con los representantes de los gobiernos, lo cual es muy positivo. El gobierno de Colombia está ansioso y complacido de encontrar al Sr. Trant para reiterarle nuestro apoyo a las labores del CMA. Sin embargo, todavía tenemos dudas sobre si en realidad el CMA ha encontrado un rumbo cierto y positivo. Puede ser que a lo mejor ahora, a la luz del párrafo 55 se podrá lograr el fortalecimiento de la función del CMA a la luz de las recomendaciones hechas por el grupo Asesor que se ocupó de ese Consejo.

Del mecanismo de coordinación, como se definió en la Resolución de la Conferencia Mundial de la Alimentación, al CMA; ahora ese Consejo podría pasar a ser, pero ojalá de verdad y muy en serio, un catalizador político, un foro para el examen de ideas, y propuestas normativas, mediante su trabajo de seguimiento de los problemas alimentarios en el mundo. Pensamos que ya también la Resolución de la Conferencia Mundial habló de que el CMA debería funcionar dentro del marco de la FAO, situación ambigua que nunca hemos podido definir exactamente; de todos modos convendrá que el CMA colabore con la FAO expresamente sin duplicar actividades.

El apéndice A contiene las conclusiones y recomendaciones de la Duodécima reunión ministerial del CMA, de las cuales convendrá destacar el párrafo 2 porque coincide con los resultados de la discusión de nuestro tema 4 sobre la situación de la alimentación y la agricultura en el mundo.

La delegación de Colombia apoya la frase final del párrafo 2 del citado anexo A, sobre el hecho de que "la eliminación del hambre y la malnutrición se podrá lograr mediante un proceso mundial de reestructuración de las relaciones entre gobiernos, sobre una base justa, equitativa y democrática y con el establecimiento de un nuevo orden económico internacional".

Finalmente, señor Presidente, el párrafo 133 del documento 12, indica que en 1985 el total de los préstamos multilaterales en el sector de la agricultura aumentó algo en relación con 1984, pero se quedó aún por debajo de las cifras que ya se habían logrado en 1983.

En la sección de las Relaciones con las Instituciones Internacionales de Financiación, se hace referencia al Banco Mundial, a los Bancos Asiático y Africano de Desarrollo y, sólo muy de paso, se habla del Banco Interamericano de Desarrollo, BID, en el párrafo 133 para señalar una disminución en los créditos agrícolas concedidos por el BID. Convendrá que la Secretaría actualice esa información, pues tenemos noticias según las cuales el Banco Interamericano de Desarrollo está aumentando sus créditos al sector agropecuario.

Al final del párrafo 140 aparece un cuadro que contiene los principales organismos de créditos que cooperan con la FAO y con los cuales el Centro de Inversiones ha ayudado a formular numerosos proyectos en el sector agrícola. En ese cuadro aparecen el Banco Mundial, el FIDA y los Bancos Asiático y Africano de Desarrollo. ¿y el BID? ¿El BID no aparece en ese cuadro? ¿Acaso no ha asistido el Centro de Inversiones de la FAO al BID en la preparación de proyectos agrícolas?

Hacemos esta pregunta porque luego, después del párrafo 142, aparecen las regiones beneficiadas con los proyectos apoyados por el Centro de Inversiones, y como podrá verse en ese párrafo 142, América Latina y el Caribe ocupan el último lugar entre las regiones en desarrollo.

Creemos que la FAO debe estrechar cada vez más sus relaciones con nuestro Banco Regional y no olvidarlo completamente.

Vaclav DOBES (Czechoslovakia): I would like to congratulate Mr Régnier on his introduction. We consider the presented document CL 90/12 very lucid and important for the Council's work. We have studied it carefully because in a number of United Nations General Assembly bodies and at the Sessions of General Conference of Agencies we often happen to hear questions concerning the coordination, inter-relation and cooperation within the whole system of the United Nations. Allow me to raise a few very brief questions, answers to which are of interest to us.

First of all we think that the Thirty-Third Session of the UNDP Governing Council preparing the UNDP fourth programme cycle for the years 1987/91 was of fundamental importance to the FAO field programme. I would like to ask the Secretariat what share the FAO is expected to take in the developing projects of the next cycle. Of course, the following estimation could serve for orientation only if already forty-four of the projects the value of which amount to more than one billion dollars have already been approved and the share of agriculture will be 22 percent to 30 percent. Then it may be of interest to the Council to know whether the projects are supposed to be realized by FAO or whether there are some other ideas too.

With respect to the forty-four country programmes, the review of FAO's participation should be known relatively exactly.

As to the part of the Report concerning recent developments in UNIDO, we believe that the issue of the UNDP Technological Centre should be of extraordinary interest to FAO. Could the Council be informed of the FAO intentions concerning the problem of cooperation with UNIDO in the field of agriculture and food technologies ?

As to the part concerning the achievements of the United Nations Decade for Women, I would like to say that we appreciate that FAO does not consider the programme of the advancement of women finished by the United Nations Decade. I am convinced that the Council will further support the FAO efforts in this field.

The Development of New and Renewable Sources of Energy mentioned on page 15 of the document is long term and at the same time the practical problem, the general importance to agriculture of which is hardly underestimated by anybody.

We appreciate that in the European region the cooperation network of European institutes and the UNDP regional project yield very helpful result). I would like to ask therefore whether the projects are related to the follow-up activities on the implementation of the Nairobi Programme of Action of the Development of New and Renewable Sources of Energy.

The document contains only a few short paragraphs concerning the International Year of Peace and the problem of decolonization. However, on this occasion I would also like to emphasize that the issue of peace and disarmament and that of the development and struggle against poverty and the need for the elimination of hunger from our planet are communicating vessels. It is in the interest of our Organization to contribute within its possibilities to the relaxation of international tension and support all the United Nations efforts aimed at the strengthening of peace directed against further armaments in earth and in outer space as well.

Marc-André FREDETTE (Canada): Let me first note with satisfaction that CL 90/12 includes a new section on decisions of the UNDP Governing Council as requested at the last Conference, as well as expanded coverage of relevant activities of ECOSOC and the United Nations General Assembly. Better reporting and acknowledgement is a logical first step for the improved follow-up to the decisions and requests of the United Nations central organs.

In the interest of brevity I will not reiterate in detail Canada's well known views on the need for improved coordination. It is indeed a statement in itself to be able to refer to ten years of frustrating appeals in this regard. Suffice it to report that firstly this is an objective Canada has persistently pursued, not only in FAO but throughout the United Nations system. I might point out also that it is not Canada's desire but the desire of ECOSOC and the United Nations General Assembly to improve coordination to which I will now refer. I wish to point this out because it is not a point we would like later to be recorded as a Canadian concern but clearly as a concern that has been recognised and decided upon by several organs of the United Nations, that is the United Nations General Assembly and ECOSOC, to which all members of this Council here belong, and decisions to which they have all participated.

Secondly, I wish to recall that the benefits of improved coordination would go primarily to the recipient countries in the form of increased programme impact for a given cost. This is specially crucial in these days of budgetary restraint and more than ever relevant to FAO now in the light of its financial crisis. Indeed, Canada has become so disillusioned in this regard that we probably would not have raised this matter if it were not for the critical financial situation of our Organization. Even in this carefully drafted document by the Secretariat no coordination emerges as a major and recurrent theme. The UNDP Governing Council made decisions on the new round table mechanisms, for LDCs. For instance the role of resident coordinators in the field was underlined at the last ECOSOC. United Nations General Assembly Resolution 14/177 stressed the need for effective and improved coordination in the UN system. Ideally these things would go without saying. However, they must be said.

In my statement I will refer to and quote from documents already approved by central United Nations organs, which incidentally are available in all official United Nations languages and I hope this will prevent any points of order or other obstacles from preventing the expression of their use.

ECOSOC Resolution 1986/74 underlines clearly the importance of UNDP country programmes as the central framework for promoting more coherent and coordinated approaches to all the UN systems technical cooperation activities, therefore including those of FAO. Indeed that Resolution invites governing bodies, including this Council, to reaffirm their full support for improved coherence of action by the UN system at the country level and for the role of resident coordinators in accordance with UN General Assembly Resolution 32/197. If I may digress briefly, I would submit that there is very little indeed unfortunately that this whole Council could probably agree to, but perhaps one of them might be the primacy of food and agriculture, and I hope another is the need for improved coordination.

That Resolution 1986/74 further invites governing bodies, like this one, to provide views and comments on the implementation of the present Resolution, in particular, and I quote, "On the role of resident coordinators, the use of UNDP country programming process as the framework for operational activities, the co-location of field offices and further harmonization of operational procedures. "

May I point out as well, given the debate here in the past two days, that the same Resolution, once again adopted by all of us, gave a mandate to the UN Secretariat, "To conduct further comparative analyses of the relationship between programme delivery on the one hand and administrative and support "costs on the other hand. " Despite the obvious ambivalence of this body to pursue the matter, there is clearly a signal from the central UN organs to which we all agreed that this matter does deserve our attention, once again, particularly in these days of financial constraints.

Finally, we must bring the Council's attention to an oversight in the coverage of the document under this agenda item. I refer to the report of the JIU on Structure and Coordination of Field Representatives at UN Agencies in document A/41/A24. This interesting document states *inter alia*, and I quote "that there is an excess of field establishments, that it is sometimes doubtful whether all Country Representatives are fully occupied in the field, and that the overall pattern of representation does not make complete sense. " Such bluntness is rare in UN language. It therefore strikes us that this issue is serious enough to warrant an independent review, perhaps conducted by the JIU, particularly in light of the FAO current financial crisis. Indeed we should heed the recommendation of the JIU in that report, and I quote, "The governing body of each organization should (a) put a stay on new arrangements for the establishment of field representation, (b) test the cost effectiveness and efficiency of its field representation by reviewing the following..."-I will not read to you all the criteria but I will highlight a few. One is whether the cost of field representation in all individual cases is justified by the quantum of services delivered, whether representatives have the required authority to take necessary decisions in the field, whether all representatives have the professional and managerial talents necessary for the conduct of their responsibilities, the extent to which UNDP services are used in the field. I will save you the boredom of the other criteria, but certainly there is a proposal there that deserves serious consideration.

As an example of the relevance of such a review to the current financial situation here in FAO, may I quote one last time from that report. Paragraph 41 of the JIU report "FAO began setting country offices in 1977. There are now some 70 of them. At the end of 1983..."-which is when the report stops-"country offices had a total staff..."-and I presume it has increased since 1983-"...of 117 international professionals and 543 General Service staff, " During the corresponding period the number of FAO experts, the heart of this Organization, declined from 1964 to 1719. I therefore submit that there is here an issue of priorities and that there is at least sufficient material to warrant a review from the point of view of considering economies in this Organization by looking at this JIU report and its impact in FAO.

In conclusion, I believe we simply cannot afford not to look seriously and objectively at these issues, particularly in the light of possible economies at a time when FAO resources are most stressed.

Igor KIPMAN (Brazil): Document CL 90/12 enabled us to have a comprehensive and in-depth review of the relevant recent developments in the United Nations system of interest to FAO and once again reflected procedures and careful work of the Secretariat.

Among all the information therein included, there are some aspects of the Twelfth Ministerial Session of the World Food Council which I would like to comment upon for their relevance and importance, and here I will be perfectly in line with the observation made by his Excellency Bula Hoyos regarding this subject.

Among the many important conclusions and recommendations produced by the Council, special remark is to be attributed to its paragraph 12, which underlines the conclusions reached at the Buenos Aires consultation held last April when Latin American Caribbean Ministers explored practical ways of encouraging regional cooperation in food trade and food security, especially the initiative of the Presidents of Argentina and Uruguay for a regional treaty for assistance in emergency food situations.

Furthermore, I want to recall the request made to the Council to bring the critical problems that affect the agricultural economy of the countries of the region to the attention of the industrialized countries and international financial and credit organization and also the request to point out with the-greatest possible emphasis the destructive effects of the unfair and strongly protectionist trade practices employed by the developed countries on the production systems of the developing countries and the need for the former to introduce drastic adjustments in their agricultural policies.

To conclude, a special reference should be made to the fact that the question regarding the future of the Organization has remained unresolved since the Working Group report on the strengthening of the role of the World Food Council was not examined with the attention and care that its important findings and suggestions deserved.

A last remark that I cannot refrain from uttering relates to the extensive number of delegations involving some very important paragraphs of the document, paragraph 18 for example. The unusual issuance of so many reservations should lead us all to careful meditation and consideration of the present and future role of the Organization.

Rainer PRESTIEN (Germany, Federal Republic of): My delegation would like to thank the Secretariat for the comprehensive compilation of recent developments in the United Nations system of interest to FAO in document CL 90/12. We have gathered from the document that FAO participates in a wide range of activities within the United Nations system and makes in all cases a qualified contribution from its field of work. We particularly welcome the noticeable efforts towards increased coordination in the United Nations system, as mentioned in particular in paras. 72 and 73, but also in many other paragraphs of the document. An intensive cooperation between the individual organizations in the UN system is also in our opinion of special importance. We, therefore, particularly welcome the close cooperation of FAO with WHO, as stated in paras. 26 to 31. We feel that FAO can make a valuable contribution under the aspect of nutrition to the world health strategy of WHO. In the chapter on the ACC Task Force on Rural Development we particularly welcome the publication, as mentioned in para. 45, "Guiding principles for the design and use of monitoring and evaluation in rural development projects and programmes". The increased attention given by the Task Force to the role of women is also in our opinion of importance. In the chapter on UNDP we particularly welcome the increase in UNDP resources to the highest level so far (para. 5). In this respect, we likewise welcome the high share of 20 to 30 percent of UNDP funds to be earmarked for the agricultural sector. In our national bilateral development cooperation the share for agriculture and rural development is even slightly over 30 percent.

We welcome ECOSOC Resolution 1986/74 as it appears as Appendix. B to the document before us. We consider para. 19 of this Resolution of particular importance.

Tomofumi KUME (Japan): We appreciate very much document CL 90/12 prepared by the Secretariat. That document provides us with a very brief review of the recent activities of the UN system of particular interest to FAO. We feel that such a review is very useful for the FAO in order to manage the Organization's activity effectively and to establish FAO's closer cooperation with the other Agencies so as to avoid possible duplication in its activities. In particular we recall the Twelfth Ministerial Session of the World Food Council in Rome which made useful suggestions with regard to the food centre development in Africa. It is desirable that FAO should take into account these suggestions in implementing its activities.

Waliur RAHMAN (Bangladesh): My delegation would first of all like to express its sincere appreciation to the Secretariat and Mr Renier in particular for his presentation of document CL 90/12. It is a comprehensive paper which incorporates references to efforts in various UN fora directed towards assisting the developing countries in improving the quality of life of their people. Pioneering work of the multilateral agencies including FAO in fighting the scourge of hunger and malnutrition was almost foreshadowed by that great humanist and noble laureate, Ralph Bunche when he said "Peace must be translated into bread and rice, shelter, health and education as well as freedom and human dignity". The efforts of the international community to ensure better coordination amongst the UN agencies has been on the agenda as long as the UN system itself. In this connection the document CL 90/12 presented by the Secretariat, which is under discussion, assumes a special significance under this effort.

My delegation has noted with satisfaction the level of cooperation that FAO maintains with other organizations of the UN system. In particular we noted with satisfaction the leading role that the FAO is giving the ACC Sub-Committee on Nutrition. I should also like to mention the work done by the ACC task force on Rural Development which is headed by FAO.

The conclusions and the recommendations of the 12th Ministerial Session of the World Food Council held in Rome in June 1986 have inter alia rightly stated that in respect of the world food situation there were reasons for both satisfaction and concern. There are nations that have food surpluses but a number of developing countries have experienced a deterioration in their food situation. To add to their miseries these countries suffer adversely in respect of trade in food and agricultural commodities.

We agree with the World Food Council that national food objectives cannot be achieved without the support of increased international solidarity and cooperation. We note that the present food and agricultural situation is not in the interests of either developed or developing countries.

I should now like to refer to the 33rd Session of the Governing Council of UNDP. It is heartening to note that the Governing Council approved 44 country programmes over the next five years at a total allocation of about \$1 billion of which about 20-30 percent are in the agricultural sector.

We are also pleased to note that UNDP continues to lend its active support to the technical assistance activities. We welcome the stress given on the need for UNDP to make increasing use of inputs, including equipment, from developing country sources. We are confident that FAO derived better benefit from the UNDP fund and cater for the needs of developing countries. In my country we particularly appreciate the decision of the UNDP and the emphasis given on the utilization of local expertise in implementing the programmes undertaken.

In the context of urgent need of cooperation between various international organizations, we welcome the discussion on "the Role of Inter-Sectoral Cooperation in National Strategies for health for all" held during the 39th World Health Assembly at Geneva in May 1986. The formation of the Working Group of WHO on Agriculture, Food and Nutrition stressed the need for integrated policy and planning in respect of agricultural and development policies. The working group recommended that governments should formulate comprehensive agriculture and health policies keeping in mind issues of equity and the special needs of identified target groups.

It is really heartening to note that FAO and WHO have agreed to have consultations to discuss the practical application of the recommendations and to draft a plan for joint action. It is known to all that the General Assembly at its 40th Session stressed the need for effective and improved coordination in the United Nations system. It gives us pleasure to know that FAO has been maintaining a close working relationship with the relevant UN agencies such as UNDP, UNIDO, WHO. Apart from those, the investment centre of FAO has established a close relationship with almost all the multilateral financing institutions for giving investment support to the developing countries. My country is a beneficiary of that. In this connection the sharp decrease in the second replenishment of IFAD gives us cause for concern. My delegation has noted with satisfaction that the FAO maintains close cooperative relations with UNDP and UNDRO with special reference to economic and disaster relief assistance. It continues to assist the affected countries and regions as part of its normal field activities and also as part of its emergency operations.

A number of countries in Asia, Africa and Latin America, including my own, are prone to be periodically affected by natural disasters. In a rare demonstration of solidarity the United Nations General Assembly adopted a resolution in its 40th Session pledging support for long-term solutions to the economic problems that my country faces as a result of natural disasters.

The observance of an International year of peace gives us satisfaction. In my own country in pursuance of the General Assembly resolution we have formed a national committee to observe this year in a befitting manner and we have given all cooperation to UN to make this year a success.

Before I conclude I should like to compliment Mr Regnier again for his reference to some important meetings which are not included in this report such as the meeting at Punta del Este, UNCTAD VII, and the pledging conference in New York with particular reference to the Punta del Este meeting. It has been our opinion that developing countries, and of course the least developed among them, should be given special dispensation in any future decisions or resolutions which are going to take place as a follow-up to the Punta del Este meeting.

My last, but not the least, point is a query to the Secretariat. Very recently, as a result of the big debate of the 2nd Committee in New York, (I believe it is still going on but I do not know) according to the report of the Committee of eighteen wise men certain far reaching decisions are likely to be taken. Is there any relevance in the recommendations of the 18 wise men which could have been reflected in this report, but were not?

Robbie Matongo MUPÁWOSE (Zimbabwe): Our delegation agrees with the comments which the previous speaker from Bangladesh has made and we agree with some of the comments made by speakers as to the relationship between FAO and other sister organizations. However, if you will bear with me, there is an item which I feel needs some comment from us.

In the document which we examined, CL 90/12, there are sections of it which so far other members have either ignored or are happy to delete. I am talking specifically about sections 126 to 131. which apply to areas of decolonization and related matters. Lest it is cried foul that one is talking politics in a food production arena, let me dispel those sentiments because I am treating this issue on the basis of food production. You will be aware recently at the UN and the Non-Aligned Countries Conference, and also the Commonwealth Conference issues of apartheid in South Africa and the issue of the independence of Namibia and the destabilization of the southern African region have been discussed. I think it will be very unfortunate if members of this Council do not take note of the fact that in these regions there are people, small farmers, who are being deprived of an opportunity to carry out their daily activities. It was very interesting yesterday to listen to the representative of the United States expressing her sentiments and pleading for small farmers, and we very much agree with those sentiments.

One wonders whether some of these sentiments are also in sympathy with some of the activities of some of our larger contributors. I am not talking here specifically of one contributor but of the first, second and following^ who themselves have a role to play in the response of the United Nations and some of these organizations as far as responsibility towards the plight of citizens of member countries is concerned. We know that people are suffering daily because organizations are being supported and maintained and sustained financially, materially and morally by large organizations in large countries, as a result of situations depriving small farmers from going about their daily work.

Over the last few days we have been preoccupied here in discussing the issue of finances to FAO and how this will assist farmers. Yet there are people in the countries who themselves do not even have the opportunity of using these resources from FAO because they are deprived as a result of destabilization within their country. We think it is important that those members of this Organization should take cognizance of this. The issue of giving food assistance, whether through WFP or whatever organization, of assisting some of the hungry people in these areas, is not necessarily enough. I think people should go beyond that, by examining their consciences and ensuring that they are assisting the legitimate desires and wishes of members in those countries.

I also want to note the fact that in these areas one finds people who have become refugees from their countries. As a result, they have had to be assisted by neighbouring countries. We would appeal to organizations like FAO to assist some of these people in the refugee camps by developing and assisting programmes which will help them not to become merely helpless refugees, but active individuals who will participate in those resources so that they can prepare themselves for when they eventually go back to their countries.

There is the question of sanctions which I have made mention of. This question has been raised in different fora. Yet we are aware of the many sanctimonious pleas by many large countries on the ineffectiveness of sanctions. Who are we to question the effectiveness when the very citizens of South Africa and these countries have decided what they want and they are prepared to die for their country. It is said that a pittance of sanctions will not be effective. Of course, sanctions were never intended to solve the plight of people in South Africa, but anything that can be done to dissociate and isolate that obnoxious system of apartheid in Africa will be very much welcomed.

So I would like it recorded and noted that whilst we are talking of food and food assistance and development programmes there are some who are being deprived not because they do not want to work, not because they are lazy, but because the activities of some of our member countries are assisting in making life very difficult for them.

Adel Helmy EL SARKI (Egypt) (original language Arabic): We are pleased to see that the cooperation between FAO and the various UN agencies is increasing, especially in the area of supplementing, strengthening and coordinating the developmental activities, as shown in this document. For example, the document refers to the cooperation with UNIDO in the field of analysing the social and economic researches and policies, the follow-up and evaluation of the achievements of the UN Decade for Women, and the UN Conference on Science and Technology for Development. My delegation would like to commend the close cooperation that exists between FAO and the multilateral financial institutions for the benefits which the member countries can reap from this kind of cooperation. We fully appreciate the role played by the investment centre in helping countries prepare investment projects.

We would like to reiterate our support for the important role FAO is playing in Africa. We appreciate its contribution to the economic recovery of Africa through global agricultural development. Finally, we should like to thank Mr Régnier who presented this document.

R. G. PETTITT (United Kingdom): I too should like to thank Mr Régnier for document CL 90/12 and his presentation, as well as the additional news he gave us. These accounts of the activities of sister organizations and cooperating groups are well written, interesting and, as far as I am able to see from my knowledge of the few of the meetings covered, accurate and objective. Like the delegate of Canada, I was pleased to note that the coverage now included meetings of the UN Development Programme Governing Council.

I start, however, with a question which I hope will not be regarded as a rude one. Are all these interesting reports necessary for the Board or for us as the Board members? I have in mind that governments should be aware of the developments in most of these bodies since governments nowadays are normally either members or observers. For some institutions or groupings reported on, such as the ACC Task Force, I can see that information is less readily available and here the document is providing a service. But how are the rest selected for presentation to us? Obviously, they are ones that happened recently since the last report and, I was told, are about things not on the agenda elsewhere. Perhaps the reports have other uses, to inform staff or the public, and the work in preparing them for us is marginal. If so, my point falls away, but having cast doubts on the need for some of these reports, perhaps I should say what I see as the real reporting requirement.

This is a report on those meetings and decisions taken within the UN system which have significant implications for FAO or, in the case of decisions, are addressed directly or indirectly to FAO, together with what response is to be made and the action required of the Director-General or the governing bodies. This second is not only desirable for reasons of courtesy and efficiency; it is also needed to meet one of the key points in that important resolution of ECOSOC referred to by our colleagues from Canada at Annex B of CL 90/12. I have particularly in mind paragraph 14 which reads:

"Decides... and, in this context, stresses that efforts should be undertaken to strengthen the necessary dialogue and inter-action between the governing bodies of the United Nations system concerned with operational activities for development so as to ensure consistency between decisions taken by policy-making bodies. "

In commending reports under this item on what response is recommended or planned to developments in other organizations, I am not suggesting that FAO organs should always accept and implement decisions emerging elsewhere in the system. Indeed, for some purposes we expect a spirited defence of our sectoral interests, but if the Secretariat believes that the suggestions are misconceived they should say so and the delegations will seek to attain consistent policies in the different parts of their own governments.

An example of what I have in mind of the way that a report should be written is CL 90/19, which we are going to discuss under the next item on the follow-up to the UN Special Session on the critical economic situation in Africa, where the report to Council outlines for discussion or decision future action by the FAO. There are other examples I could quote, such as the verbal reports just given on locusts and on the future replacement of the IAEA, where we were told of the implications for FAO and what we had to do. An example of the weakness I am drawing attention to is in the report of the UNDP Governing Council which, though a good report of the meeting, does not pick up the several points for decision which are directed to the agencies covering such matters as the inclusion of information on agency projects in the UNDP country policy papers and on procurement as mentioned by my colleague from Bangladesh.

I could make the same point and go on grumbling about the report of the policy review by ECOSOC of operational activities for development, but I will not do so because CL 90/12 does quote the very important resolution fully and I would prefer now to comment definitively on this. I am saved extensively from doing this by the remarks of my colleague from Canada, and I can shorten my remarks because I agree so fundamentally with what he said.

Perhaps I could say that for years we have admired the intellectual effort which has been put in by Canada to the subject of coordination and the skill and sensitivity with which the Canadian delegation, and other delegations here too modest to come forward I think, has steered it through the UNDP Governing Council, and these ideas form the basis of the ECOSOC resolution. The ECOSOC resolution calls for very specific action by the specialized agencies or organizations in the UN system. I will not list them but just refer in passing to the operative paragraphs.

Paragraph 8 is about procurement; paragraph 12 about assisting governments to strengthen their capacity for coordination at the overall and sectoral level, which concerns us all; paragraph 14 I have already mentioned; paragraph 16 is about providing resident coordinators with authority to carry-out their role; paragraph 17 is about field administration and collocation of field offices. In this regard I would support the proposal of the delegate of Canada for an independent consideration of this issue. Paragraph 23 is about harmonization of operational procedures in such areas as project presentation, monitoring, evaluation and procurement. Those are particularly clear signals sent out about support for the UN resident coordinator, support for him from governments and agencies alike. Like the delegate of Canada, I particularly draw attention to paragraph 15 which is directed at bodies such as ourselves, which invites the governing bodies of the organization of the United Nations system to reaffirm their full support for improved coherence of action by the system at the country level and for the role of the resident coordinator in accordance with General Assembly resolution 32/197..." I would suggest that this Council reaffirm this at this Session.

Finally, as the delegate of Canada mentioned, the governing bodies are invited to provide ECOSOC at its second regular session next year with views and comments on the implementation of the resolution, in particular on the role of the resident coordinators, the use of the United Nations Development Programme country programming process as a framework for operational activities, the collocation of field offices and the further harmonization of operational procedures. "

I should like to ask for information from the Director-General as to what the current plans are for responding to this request, and at what stage it is proposed that the membership would be involved in this, since the invitation is addressed to the governing bodies.

As I seem to recall the Director-General's submission last year was based on views expressed by the Programme Committee. Without wishing to criticise this Committee, I observe that the response seen from the perspective of Geneva, didn't seem to be particularly helpful on this. I had hoped that both "content of the handling could be different on this occasion and that our response will be positively framed. My own suggestion is that the response for ECOSOC should be considered at our meeting next spring, if this fits the relevant timetable.

Finally, my other comments are on paragraphs 26 to 31 and 32 to 40 of the report. My colleagues, in the part of our ministry concerned with health matters, have specifically requested me to welcome the efforts seen in the collaboration between the FAO and WHO to encourage comprehensive agriculture and health policies involving a coordinated approach by the UN agencies and to welcome the plans to improve exchange of experience and provide appropriate training.

As to the work of the ACC Subcommittee on Nutrition, I am not sure if this is the place to say this but I am not sure where one does give comments on an ACC Subcommittee, to whose budgets the specialized agency contributes. However, I am encouraged by the news that FAO has a leadership role here. I just have to say that the UK will continue to make the point made as an observer at the last meeting in Tokyo, that if the SCN hopes to obtain additional funding it should bring donors properly into consultation by admitting them to regular participation in meetings and reveal to them the budget of the Subcommittee.

M. Afzal QADIR (Pakistan): We admire the document, but even more so, the author who prepared it. I know Dr Regnier. I worked with him and I am fully aware of the motivation and dedication with which he conducts his responsibilities. Having said this, I would like to raise one or two very minor issues. My first observation relates to paragraph 138 of the document relating to IFAD-International Fund for Agriculture and Development. I think the paragraph stops short of saying that the contributions have so far been placed for about 200 million. I think it should have been expanded to reflect the situation that now apparently obtains. We are all aware of the fact that a special programme for Africa has already become effective and that five projects involving a total outlay of 110 million dollars have been approved and these projects are going to benefit over 15 countries. I do not know why this information was withheld. I am absolutely sure that it is not wilful, because we are all aware that FAO and IFAD are close partners for progress. They are close partners in a great human endeavour in Africa. I think, therefore, that this FAO document should have reflected the good work that IFAD is doing. This is my first observation.

The second observation that I am going to make, I might even suggest, is that the scope of the document could be broadened a little more in order to reflect FAO's consultation with some inter-governmental bodies. My reason for saying so is that earlier this year three of us, the distinguished Ambassador of Turkey, the distinguished Ambassador of Iran and I had gone to see Dr Saouma saying that a new economic cooperation organization has been established between the three countries. Between these three countries agriculture plays a dominant role, or an important role in their economies for which the FAO should be willing to provide such assistance, as the organization might require, in advancing the agricultural activities and prospects of these countries. Dr Saouma was kind enough to assure that he will extend his fullest cooperation.

This is a nascent organization-this ECO-Economic Cooperation Organization between Turkey, Pakistan and Iran. It is a new organization therefore I would like to see in future reports what the FAO is doing to assist this organization in its endeavours to advance the agricultural sector in the three countries in a regional context. Beyond this I do not think I would like to add anything further, I would like to thank Dr Régnier once again for the very excellent document he has produced and the way in which he has introduced it to us.

James E. ROSS (United States of America): My comments pertain to paragraphs 50-56 of document CL 90/12. The US delegation would like to note the appointment of a new Executive Director for the World Food Council. We want to express our confidence that he will be able to guide the Council in a manner which will make it a highly effective organization, capable of making a very significant contribution to international agricultural development. The US delegation believes FAO and WFC should closely coordinate their efforts in order to make the most use of the limited resources available to the two organizations.

Joseph TCHICAYA (Congo): Je souhaite féliciter M. Régnier pour l'excellent rapport qu'il a soumis à notre Conseil. Nous sommes reconnaissants à la FAO d'avoir fait dans ce document le recensement des activités menées par les autres organisations et qui ont un rapport avec elle.

Je voudrais tout d'abord intervenir sur le paragraphe 138 pour relever qu'il est dommage que la seconde reconstitution des ressources du FIDA ait été retenue à ce niveau justement au moment où de multiples problèmes se posent dans les zones rurales les plus pauvres de notre planète.

Je voudrais d'autre part me féliciter du fait qu'au niveau du FIDA on ait pu retenir un programme spécial pour l'Afrique subsaharienne dont les pays ont été victimes de la sécheresse et de la désertification. Nous nous réjouissons qu'à ce stade on ait pu enregistrer 200 millions de dollars sur les 300, et nous espérons que les 100 millions de dollars restants viendront compléter ce que nous avons déjà.

Je voudrais également intervenir sur le point important évoqué par notre ami du Zimbabwe. Il me semble primordial que la FAO puisse aider les peuples victimes de l'agression de l'Afrique du Sud; nous l'avons déjà dit; j'appuie entièrement toute la déclaration faite à ce sujet.

Leopoldo ARIZA HIDALGO (Cuba): Yo voy a ser más breve, señor Presidente, que nuestro colega del Congo.

Queremos también felicitar al señor Régnier por la presentación del tema y a la Secretaría de la FAO una vez más por darnos la posibilidad de conocer todas las incidencias del mundo de Naciones Unidas en relación con las actividades de esta Organización. Sobre el tema han hablado con bastante autoridad y conocimiento del desarrollo de todo lo que se informa los colegas de Checoslovaquia y Colombia; pero nosotros queremos en esta intervención apoyar en todas sus partes la intervención de la representación de Zimbabwe y específicamente, lo que acaba de expresar nuestro colega del Congo.

Akbar Mirza KHALEELI (India): I would like to place on record the full support of India to the points raised by my distinguished colleague from Zimbabwe. The Non-Aligned Summit in Harare mandated eight foreign ministers to visit a number of developed countries, including Italy. A delegation which included our External Affairs Minister, the Foreign Minister of Zimbabwe and a number of other distinguished foreign ministers, started a tour of a number of developed countries, industrialized countries, with a visit to Rome. Naturally, at this meeting there was a great sense of cooperation and mutual understanding. It is not our intention to politicize the matter which is already highly politicized, but we should bear in mind that the type of problems that are created, and likely to be created around South Africa are going to place an additional burden on the FAO and the WFP at a time when their resources are already stretched.

The distinguished representative of Zimbabwe mentioned the problems of small farmers. We also know that Zimbabwe has had a flourishing agriculture. It has surpluses in maize. It is a front line state, just like a number of other front line states. The UN has expressed its opinion and its decisions a number of times regarding South Africa. I think we should take note of the fact that if refugees are created by South Africa's actions with nobody to help and small farmers who are productive are to be thrown out of their land, they become a liability. They become a liability not because they wish to be a liability, but because they have no choice. Perhaps one should start thinking of steps to assist them.

A point raised by my distinguished colleague from Pakistan is important. There should be some reference to the committed projects. Here also, it is a matter of concern that the funds available for IFAD have fallen. Here is an organization which is really helpful to developing countries.

Developing countries do not like to be on the dole. They like to develop. Political and military pressures which are being exercised in Southern Africa and the neighbouring states (should not become factors or reasons for the trend towards development of agriculture in the developing world to be impeded. Otherwise, the pressures on WFP for emergency assistance become greater rather than allowing the real world food programme for development to develop. This is a point which we have to bear in mind and whilst we would not like to politicize, we cannot keep everything in watertight compartments.

Paul A. BOMANI (Tanzania): I had indicated my desire to take an option on speaking later and I feel that we have exhausted the discussion on this very important subject. I only wish to endorse very strongly the remarks made by my colleagues with regard to problems of destabilisation in Southern Africa caused by and perpetrated by the apartheid regime of Pretoria. Coming from front line states, as we are, we have first-hand experience in the problems that engage and affect the people of that area. As my colleague from Zimbabwe stated, that despite the fact that Zimbabwe

has been fortunate in having a good record crop this year, the neighbouring country, Mozambique, is facing a serious problem of starvation; nearly one and a half million people are facing serious problems of starvation because they were not able to cultivate and produce food for themselves. It is in this regard that I would add my voice to the points that have been expressed effectively by my colleagues.

Now, the question of destabilisation of independent countries in southern Africa must not be neglected and we do have responsibility in making sure that those people enjoy freedom, enjoy opportunity to produce and feed themselves.

Evlogui BONEV (UNDP): Thank you for giving me the opportunity to address the Ninetieth Session of the Council of FAO on behalf of the Administrator of UNDP, Mr Draper III, who wishes you every success in your important work.

FAO is the largest executing agency for UNDP-financed projects and we therefore attach a great importance to our cooperation with this agency. The document prepared by the FAO Secretariat on the various issues of cooperation and collaboration activities of this Organization with other organizations within the United Nations system during the period under review can serve as a good basis for the deliberations of the Council.

We are very pleased to see the document CL 90/12 information on proceedings on important decisions of the last session of the Governing Council of the UNDP which we interpret as a testimony of the importance the FAO attaches to its cooperation with UNDP. We welcome this initiative of FAO as we consider it a very important element for strengthening the cooperation between the two organizations and for ensuring better consistency by their governing bodies in dealing with common issues.

Allow me to give you some fresh figures on the delivery by FAO of technical assistance financed by the UNDP. It is worth noting the total expenditure on the UNDP-financed FAO projects in 1985 amounted to US\$ 122.3 million, or one million more than in 1984. Logically, a substantial share, over 40 percent of these resources, went to the African region where most of the needs are. We expect a substantial increase in the delivery of technical assistance in the current year for which the total approved budget for the UNDP finance and FAO executed project has already reached US\$ 191 million. Again the share of the African region of the total approved budgets maintains its level of over 40 percent, as a computer printout just before my arrival here showed. This trend may continue during the next programming cycle of 1987/1991 as well if recipient governments maintain the priority they give to the technical cooperation activities in the field of competence of FAO. You may recall that for that cycle, the share of the African region in the central resources of UNDP rises to over 40 percent of the total in comparison to below 37 percent in the present cycle. The share of the LDCs alone goes up 41.4 percent in comparison to the 37 percent in the current cycle and a major number of the LDCs, as we well know, are in this region.

Allow me to give you some more details on the outcome of the last June session of the Governing Council of the UNDP. This Session was considered of special significance as it was a session during which the first package of country programmes for the fourth cycle 1987/1991 was approved. The Council approved forty-four country programmes for which the total resources programme amounted to US\$ 3 023 million. Agriculture represented 25 percent of the overall expenditure for these programmes.

It is important to note also that in 1987 the Governing Council of the UNDP will approve over 80 more country programmes in the various regions of the globe. The share of FAO in the implementation of the programmes will depend on the rate of priority the recipient governments themselves give to the sectors coming within the competence of this Organization.

Another important event during this Session was the deliberations during the high level segment of the Session, the theme of which was the role of UNDP in human resources development and development cooperation in the 1980s. I refer to this issue in view of the particular interest of the FAO in it and its role as specialised agency in assisting developing countries in building up their human resources in the fields of agriculture, forestry, fisheries, etc. We are pleased to note how this matter is highlighted in the FAO document CL 90/12. A challenge as multi-

dimensional as this calls for closer cooperation across the board. Human developments strategies involve multiple partners in many different sectors. We could not agree more that this is an area in which FAO has been actively engaged for many years and we will look forward to enhancing our cooperation.

With regard to the role foreseen for the UNDP I would like to draw your attention to the decision 86/14 adopted by the Governing Council after the high level deliberations.

Another issue of considerable importance and relevance to FAO dealt with by the Governing Council of the UNDP at its last Session is the issue of coordination, which is referred to in paragraph 8 of the document CL 90/12. This issue was mentioned by several delegations at this meeting as well. The UNDP Governing Council addressed this important issue taking fully into account the triennial report of the Director-General for International Economic Cooperation and Development and the recommendations contained therein. In decision 86/17, the Governing Council emphasises the need to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of operational activities for development of the United Nations systems; expresses its concern at the decline in the share of UNDP in total technical cooperation expenditures of the United Nations system engaged in operational activities for development; reaffirms the central role of the United Nations Development Programme in funding technical cooperation activities for development within the United Nations system; and emphasises the need to provide the Programme with increased and adequate resources to fulfill its role.

Some of the specific points raised in the UNDP Governing Council decision 86/17 on issues of importance in the context of the triennial review of operational activities for development referred inter alia to the following: developing a coherent strategy for long-term action; strengthening of the role of the Resident Coordinator (UN General Assembly Resolution 32/197) and responding constructively to host country requests to play a broader coordinating role; promoting collaboration between UNDP and the specialised agencies to improve project implementation; developing comprehensive surveys of technical cooperation needs within the framework of the countries' objectives; encouraging the use of the country programme by governments and specialised agencies for promoting a more coherent approach to technical cooperation activities; streamlining of procedures; encouraging better utilisation of resources of technical assistance supplies from developing countries and under-utilised donor countries; promoting harmonisation of project presentation, monitoring activities, evaluation and procurement among others, of UNDP and the agencies; encouraging the use of national and regional input and expertise in the implementation of projects whenever possible; facilitating the transfer of skills promoting the strengthening of dialogue between governing bodies so as to achieve consistency between decisions taken by central and sectoral policy bodies; and encouraging, promoting and supporting TCDC in compliance, in particular, with the Buenos Aires Plan of Action and other relevant decisions. Lastly, it was stated that the Secretary-General should consider further measures to promote coherence of action and to mobilise increasing resources for UN operational activities.

I would not go into further details of other decisions adopted by the Governing Council. I should, however, mention decision 86/25 which strongly supports procurement from developing countries and under-utilised donor countries. Very importantly, concern for the more effective integration of women in development was the focus of several statements. The Council adopted two important decisions, 1986/19 and 86/20, on this subject. Other decisions of relevance in FAO are those on: technical cooperation among developing countries; evaluation; assistance to the National Liberation Movements; the IPF of Namibia, the Special Needs of the Island Developing Countries, and the substantial New Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries. All of them can be found in the report of the Governing Council to ECOSOC, document E/1986/29 which is also a document placed before the current session of the General Assembly for its consideration.

I was very pleased to hear the updated information by Mr Regnier, to whom I am very grateful, updating the last events related to the pledging conference for UNDP at the present General Assembly session. I do not want to repeat the figures which he correctly mentioned. I would like, however, to say that if achieved, this total amount of US\$ 800 million, which partly is pledged and partly will come as it was indicated by governments which were not in a position to pledge now due to their internal legislation.

I would like to refer here to the statement of the Ambassador of Colombia who asked specifically whether the major donor contribution of UNDP is also included. I would like to inform him that in the best estimates, which are in the figure of US\$ "800 million, according to the information

I have received from UNDP, the donation, the contribution, of the major donor is also included, as it was informally unofficially indicated to the Administrator and which of course is subject to confirmation later on.

I should not miss this opportunity to express the profound thanks of the Administrator of UNDP, Mr Draper III, to all those countries, developed and developing alike, which have contributed to this outstanding result, to Finland first for a breathtaking 48 percent increase, and that is after last year's splendid 46 percent like, to Denmark and Italy out in front with 19 percent increase, to Spain and France with 18 percent and 16 percent increase, respectively, to the Federal Republic of Germany and the Netherlands with 13 percent and 10 percent increase, respectively, to Sweden with 11.6 percent increase, to Switzerland and Austria with 9 percent and 8 percent increase respectively, and Norway and Canada with 7 percent and 6 percent, just to name a few of them.

We cannot help mentioning that when it comes to UNDP, recipients are donors as well. Among many remarkable performances, let me single out the thirteen recipients whose contributions increase, meet or surpass the Governing Council 8 percent target. They are Barbados, Bhutan, Bolivia, China, Cook Islands, Cuba, Guatemala, Maldives, Paraguay, Poland, Republic of Korea, Somalia and Yugoslavia. The Administrator's profound thanks and special gratitude goes to them as well.

Closing my statement, Mr Chairman, I would like first to tell you that I have taken very careful note of all comments here by the Council and these comments will be duly transmitted to the Administrator of UNDP, and I was gratified to hear those comments.

I would like finally to reiterate the readiness of UNDP to further strengthen its cooperation with the executing agencies and particularly with FAO in the common task of assisting the efforts of the developing countries towards their better future.

DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL: I would like if I may to comment on just two points before handing over the microphone to my colleague, Mr Regnier, to reply to a number of other issues that came up during the course of the debate.

My first point relates to the queries that were raised about how FAO will respond to operative paragraph 35 of the ECOSOC Resolution on Operational Activities for Development. This appears as Appendix B in the document which the Council is now discussing. Paragraph 35 invites the governing bodies of the organizations of the UN System to provide ECOSOC with—and then follows a list of points on which information is requested. A somewhat similar request was made by the Economic and Social Council a year ago, and FAO was one of the few agencies that made a specific response through the Programme Committee. The response came only from the Programme Committee because there was no meeting of the Council this year in mid-year. This will not be the same position in 1987 and consequently the orderly procedure will be for this matter to go first to the Programme Committee in the Spring and then to the Council at its session in the Summer. The Council report can then be forwarded to ECOSOC.

The second point I want to comment on relates to a proposal that there be an independent evaluation of the FAO country offices. The Director-General has been rather forthcoming in responding to requests for external evaluations. He took the initiative following a number of requests from individual governments to organize an evaluation of the Technical Cooperation Programme and he is currently organizing an evaluation by an external panel of three of the FAO Action Programmes. These external evaluations do cost quite a lot of money. The Council has before it as Appendix A to one of the reports of the Finance Committee, the Annual Report of Budgetary Performance to Member Nations, in which a notation is made that \$700 000 was transferred to cover the evaluation of the TCP and of the Agricultural Rehabilitation Programme for Africa. About half of that covered the cost of evaluating the TCP. The current evaluation exercises now in progress will also involve a substantial amount of expenditure. In the present financial situation, the Director-General is unlikely to be forthcoming in taking the initiative and going ahead with an evaluation of the country offices in response to individual requests, precisely because of the financial situation. However, if such an evaluation is decided by the governing bodies of the Organization, it will of course be carried out. I will now give the floor to Mr Regnier.

A. REGNIER (Directeur, Bureau des affaires interinstitutions): Je voudrais tout d'abord remercier les délégués pour leur participation à ce débat. Nous avons noté avec grand soin tous les commentaires et toutes les suggestions qui ont été faites. Ils nous serviront très certainement dans nos contacts et discussions avec les autres organisations de la famille des Nations Unies visant à renforcer la cohérence du système. Vos commentaires et suggestions nous aideront également à préparer à l'avenir les rapports que nous présenterons sur ce même sujet.

Je voudrais peut-être dire quelques mots concernant la portée du document, puisque la question a été posée de son utilité et de son objectif. Il appartient cependant au Conseil de définir si ce genre d'information est intéressante, c'est bien vrai que pour la plupart, je suis persuadé, d'entre vous avez, par vos positions dans vos propres pays, les informations concernant le système des Nations Unies et ses développements. Toutefois, par tradition, ce document a été préparé avec un double objectif. D'une part, d'informer les Etats Membres présents au Conseil de certains développements, pour le cas où ils n'auraient pas été informés, et parfois ce sont des développements très intéressants. Je me suis permis tout à l'heure d'annoncer en quelques mots les annonces de contributions qui ont été faites il y a deux ou trois semaines à New York. C'est relativement récent. Le second objectif de ce document est aussi de décrire les relations de travail et de coopération que la FAO entretient avec les autres membres du système des Nations Unies. Nous pensons que ce document peut avoir un intérêt; il nous permet de faire rapport sur les travaux de l'ECOSOC J'ai constaté qu'un certain nombre de délégations ont noté avec intérêt, et même commenté, la résolution de l'ECOSOC sur les questions opérationnelles (c'était au mois de juillet) et il est sans doute intéressant que vous ayez ce texte devant vous aujourd'hui.

Mais il est bien évident que ce document doit rester sélectif. Vous savez mieux que quiconque la portée, je di rai s presque universelle, des travaux des Nations Unies. Nous avons un document qui doit être synthétique et nous ne pouvons pas tout aborder. Nous nous efforçons d'attirer l'attention sur les points qui ont une relation directe avec la FAO, ses travaux et ses programmes. A cet égard, je voudrais également ajouter que la chose n'est pas toujours facile: par exemple, le distingué représentant du Bangladesh a demandé si les travaux du Groupe des 18 auraient pu ou dû être traités dans ce document. Au moment où nous avons rédigé ce papier (à la fin du mois de septembre), le document n'était pas encore comme dans toute sa portée réelle. Maintenant, nous ne pouvons pas faire rapport en détail non plus sur les résultats des travaux du Groupe des 18. Je suis persuadé que vous êtes au courant; ce groupe a fait l'objet d'un premier débat à la séance plénière de l'Assemblée générale; il a ensuite été référé à la Commission V de l'Assemblée. Il fait maintenant l'objet de discussions informelles. A ce stade, nous savons que si conclusions il doit y avoir, elles peuvent avoir une incidence pour le système des Nations Unies dans son ensemble. Nous ne sommes pas en mesure de vous donner les détails précis. Par conséquent, c'est la raison pour laquelle non seulement dans le texte écrit il n'y a pas de détails, mais, en même temps, dans mon introduction, je n'ai pas pensé qu'il était possible d'aller dans le détail.

En réalité, ce document doit être lu, non pas isolément mais comme une série continue. A chaque session, vous avez un document et au bout d'un certain nombre de sessions ceci doit vous donner une certaine idée de l'ensemble des activités des Nations Unies, qui ont un intérêt pour la FAO, de manière à vous permettre de réagir. Bien entendu, c'est au Conseil de nous dire si ce type de document présente un intérêt et une portée suffisants pour être placé à l'ordre du jour de notre Conseil. Un certain nombre de délégations dans le passé ont insisté pour que le document soit fourni régulièrement, et ont même demandé des informations additionnelles. On a demandé récemment que les délibérations du PNUD soient incluses et on avait demandé précédemment de faire le point des relations avec les organisations financières et internationales. Nous nous efforçons de le faire dans les limites d'un document lisible pour notre Conseil.

Je voudrais en venir peut-être à certaines questions plus précises qui ont été posées. Je voulais répondre à une question du représentant de la Colombie concernant le PNUD, mais mon collègue du PNUD lui-même a déjà répondu. Je ne vais pas m'y attarder. En ce qui concerne la Banque interaméricaine de développement, effectivement les chiffres n'apparaissent pas. Nous souhaitons en ce qui nous concerne accroître au maximum la collaboration avec la Banque interaméricaine, qui peut-être n'est pas jusqu'à présent d'un import extrêmement élevé et n'a pas fait l'objet de chiffres. Nous nous efforcerons de communiquer les informations lors de la prochaine session.

Le distingué représentant de la Tchécoslovaquie a posé certaines questions de portée générale et une ou deux questions spécifiques. La question de portée générale à laquelle je répons concerne la part de la FAO dans le programme du PNUD. La part de la FAO dans les fonds centraux du PNUD présentement est de l'ordre de 21 pour cent. Elle était, je dois dire, de 25 pour cent en 1980 et de 30 pour cent en 1975. Il y a là un certain effritement. Mais, pour le quatrième cycle, il est évidemment trop tôt pour se prononcer.

Comme vous le savez, seulement une quarantaine de programmes indicatifs ont été arrêtés. A peu près 80 devront l'être en 1987. Il semble qu'il y ait un certain redressement, peut-être du fait de l'importance particulière, attachée à l'agriculture, en particulier en Afrique et dans les pays les moins avancés. Dans l'ensemble des programmes, actuellement approuvés par pays, on peut dire que la part serait de l'ordre de 23 pour cent. Comme je le disais, il y a un léger redressement.

Pour ce qui est du Centre de l'ONUDI sur les biotechnologies à établir à Trieste et à New Delhi, la FAO a offert sa pleine collaboration dès que ce centre sera fonctionnel. Nous sommes tout disposés à collaborer au maximum avec lui. D'ailleurs, déjà, la Division conjointe FAO/AIEA a proposé au moins deux projets de portée pratique pour considération dès que le Centre deviendra opérationnel. En ce qui concerne le projet sur l'énergie en Europe, je pense qu'il doit s'agir d'un projet des Nations Unies pour l'environnement. Il n'est donc pas directement lié au suivi de la Conférence de Nairobi sur les sources d'énergie nouvelles et renouvelables.

Le représentant du Canada a indiqué qu'il manquait dans ce document une référence au rapport du Corps commun d'inspection sur la représentation dans les pays. A cet égard, je voudrais dire que le système des Nations Unies n'a pas encore arrêté ses commentaires sur ce rapport. Le Comité administratif de coordination s'est abstenu, à sa session d'octobre, d'arrêter ses commentaires dans la mesure où le Groupe des 18 touche également cet esprit. Mais il faudra d'abord que la session de l'Assemblée générale soit terminée. Il reviendra sur ce point à la session de printemps 87. Bien entendu, à ce moment-là, le rapport en question sera présenté au Comité du Programme et au Comité financier avec, d'ailleurs, les commentaires du Directeur général, commentaires qui, individuellement, ont déjà été communiqués aux inspecteurs; à la session de mai donc de ces deux comités. Le Conseil recevra bien entendu les rapports du Comité du Programme et du Comité financier, comme il se doit, en juin 1987. Par conséquent, il n'est pas opportun, ni réellement possible, de traiter de ce point dans ce document à cette session-ci du Conseil et je suis persuadé que l'honorable délégué du Canada apprécie des circonstances. Le représentant du Canada a également fait de nombreuses remarques concernant la résolution de l'ECOSOC sur la coordination. Je voudrais lui dire que la FAO attache une extrême importance à la coordination en matière opérationnelle. D'ailleurs, le rapport triennuel présenté à l'ECOSOC en juillet dernier par M. Ripert, Directeur général à la coopération internationale et au développement a fait l'objet de consultations, non pas sur le texte final mais dans ses grandes orientations, avec les organes du système des Nations Unies et la FAO avait eu l'occasion de s'exprimer sur ce texte. Nous pensons cependant qu'il existe, au sein du système des Nations Unies un mécanisme assez complexe de coordination à la tête duquel se trouvent le Secrétaire général, le Président du Comité administratif de coordination, et ceci permet en quelque sorte de traiter de tous les problèmes de coordination, lorsqu'ils apparaissent. Au niveau de la coordination des pays, la FAO a également participé avec les représentants résidents à tous efforts de consultation. Nous sommes, par exemple, en contact avec les représentants résidents dans les pays pour la préparation du quatrième cycle du PNUD. Je ne veux pas entrer dans les détails, car ma réponse doit rester courte et nous pourrions donner des exemples, mais ceci a permis d'aider les pays à présenter le Programme indicatif de leur pays au PNUD en mettant un accent particulier sur le secteur agricole.

Nous pensons notamment que la FAO, avec une cinquantaine de projets de planification, aide les pays à définir leurs priorités sectorielles, et, dans cette mesure, cette coordination au niveau sectoriel est un élément de préoccupation continue de la FAO.

Avant de quitter cette résolution de l'ECOSOC, une question particulière a été posée concernant les équipements, l'achat des équipements, dans les pays en développement. Je voudrais signaler que la proportion des équipements achetés par la FAO dans le cadre des projets mis en oeuvre en provenance des pays en développement, est de l'ordre de 25 pour cent et a tendance à augmenter.

En réalité, nous en sommes presque à pratiquer une espèce de discrimination positive lorsque cela est possible et, bien entendu, en tenant compte des types de spécifications et des coûts des équipements en question. D'ailleurs, nous utilisons notre réseau de représentants dans les pays, mais également des informations pour obtenir d'autres sources pour obtenir des informations concernant les fournisseurs éventuelles dans les pays en développement.

Un dernier point sur la coordination. Le représentant du Canada a parlé des tables rondes et des groupes consultatifs. Ce n'est un secret pour personne et, le Directeur général l'a dit à plusieurs reprises, combien, dans cet effort de participation à la définition et à l'aide des pays, et à la définition des secteurs, nous attachons de l'importance à la participation de la FAO dans ces tables rondes et dans ces groupes consultatifs et nous sommes en train d'explorer avec le PNUD les voies et les moyens permettant d'optimiser l'apport possible de la FAO dans leur préparation.

Une question également a été posée par le délégué de le Zimbabwe et appuyée par plusieurs collègues concernant l'action de la FAO dans la lutte contre l'apartheid. Je voudrais dire que le système des Nations Unies est parfaitement conscient de ce problème et le comité administratif de coordination s'y est référé à plusieurs reprises. Je voudrais dire que la FAO assiste les réfugiés sur le plan des techniques agricoles, et notamment pour l'amélioration du niveau nutritionnel-surtout les femmes - dans le cadre de l'économie domestique et de la formation des cadres. C'est donc une activité dont l'importance humanitaire ne nous a pas échappée. Je voudrais aussi remercier le représentant du Pakistan pour les mots aimables qu'il a prononcés à mon égard et, lui répondre sur les deux points qu'il a soulevés.

Effectivement, en ce qui concerne le FIDA, les chiffres cités sont arrêtés à la fin du mois de septembre. Il faut tenir compte des développements. Des engagements ont été pris depuis lors et cela aurait du être mentionné dans mon introduction, j'ai essayé d'être bref et je ne l'ai pas fait. D'autre part, il a demandé que le document à l'avenir soit élargi pour tenir compte et faire rapport sur les consultations entre la FAO et les organismes intergouvernementaux. En ce qui concerne l'IEO, il s'agit d'une nouvelle organisation, il l'a dit lui-même; des consultations ont été commencées avec la FAO et, bien entendu, nous espérons qu'une collaboration pourra intervenir. Sur le plan du rapport, les relations entre les organisations intergouvernementales et la FAO font l'objet à chaque conférence biannuelle. d'un point spécifique de l'ordre du jour. Nous soumettons à ce moment-là un document qui fait le point des collaborations nouvelles depuis la précédente édition du document (lors de la Conférence précédente), et il serait probablement trop long dans le document que nous soumettons à chaque session du Conseil de faire de même. Nous pensons qu'une revue biannuelle de ces collaborations devrait pouvoir suffire, sauf exceptions, pour lesquelles nous sommes disposés à donner les informations additionnelles, soit par écrit, soit oralement, si c'est souhaité par quelques membres du Conseil.

Je crois avoir été plus que long. J'espère avoir répondu à l'essentiel des questions.

LE PRESIDENT: Je remercie M. Régnier et M. Walton pour les éclaircissements et les informations données au Conseil à la suite des interventions des orateurs. Je dois dire que nous avons maintenant une vue panoramique des activités de la famille des Nations Unies, notamment, du Programme des Nations Unies pour le développement.

L'intérêt et la nécessité d'une coordination des activités des diverses agences des Nations Unies n'échappent à personne et tout effort dans cette direction doit être encouragé. Nous avons pris note de la réponse de M. Walton au sujet de l'application des résolutions de l'ECOSOC et je pense que le Comité du programme et le Conseil suivront cette réponse et cet effort de près.

Nous avons également pris note des efforts faits par la FAO dans le groupe consultatif ou à la table ronde pour essayer d'améliorer un peu les procédures et d'harmoniser les efforts. Cependant il faudrait quand même souligner que contrairement à ce qui est dit dans le rapport, bien que la programmation des aides ou des programmes de développement puisse être effectuée en coopération ou par l'assistance technique d'une organisation quelconque des Nations Unies, celle-ci doit rester du ressort exclusif des Etats Membres. Il serait également malsain (et c'est mon opinion) qu'on vende des projets et que l'on se substitue aux Etats Membres pour définir des programmes de développement dans n'importe quel secteur, même agricole; il faut laisser aux Etats Membres le soin, dans le cadre de la politique sectorielle, de retenir leurs priorités et de définir leurs choix. C'est un point important qui mérite d'être souligné.

Le rapport a fait état de l'amélioration de liquidité et du montant global des crédits réservés à l'agriculture. Par rapport à l'année dernière, il y a eu 6 800 000 000 de dollars contre 6 milliards 100. Ce montant important est inférieur à celui de 1983 et au moment où le monde est sensibilisé sur l'agriculture et son développement, il serait éminemment souhaitable que la dotation globale ou l'effort global réservé à ce secteur soit le plus important possible.

Les remarques faites par un grand nombre de délégués au sujet de telle ou telle région méritent d'être prises en considération et tout effort - qu'il vienne des Nations Unies ou d'organisations financières internationales - devrait être recherché.

Pour en revenir à la part des projets agricoles dans les efforts du Programme des Nations Unies pour le développement, M. Régnier a souligné qu'après une chute assez importante, une petite reprise s'amorce. Nous devons appeler de tous nos vœux un renforcement de ce pourcentage qui est actuellement de l'ordre de 23 pour cent; il est bon qu'il soit aussi élevé que possible, et arrive au maximum de la frange des 20 à 30 pour cent définis dans le programme du PNUD.

Nous devrions - et c'est très important - continuer à rechercher l'intégration des ressources humaines et matérielles des pays en développement, dans ces projets, d'abord en essayant de faire appel au plus grand nombre possible d'experts de ces pays dans le cadre de la ligne tracée pour la coopération technique entre pays en développement; d'autre part, il faudrait limiter le rôle des experts des pays développés à celui de consultant à temps partiel, ceci afin de faire le maximum de projets avec le minimum de dépenses. Enfin, il faudrait utiliser au mieux les équipements des pays bénéficiaires.

Enfin je pense que notre Conseil devrait faire droit à la demande manifestée par plusieurs délégués pour que nous puissions inscrire dans notre rapport l'importance primordiale attachée à ce que l'on contrecarre tous les effets négatifs sur le développement agricole des pays de première ligne, de la politique d'apartheid de l'Afrique du Sud; c'est un point important qui devrait prendre sa place dans notre rapport.

Je laisse au rapporteur le soin d'avancer autre chose.

R. PETTITT (United Kingdom): I should like to thank Mr Regnier and Mr Walton for their replies, which satisfy me; they are very full. However, I should like to pick up one point made by Mr Regnier. When he used the expression in relation to procurement "positive discrimination" I hope that was his shorthand for the conventional wording of this which is in paragraph 8, which is "widen the geographical distribution of [developing countries'] sources of procurement consistent with the principle of competitive international bidding through, inter-alia ...". Is that right?

A. REGNIER (Director, Office of Inter-Agency Affairs): Yes.

The meeting rose at 17. 30 hours.

La source est levée 17 h 30.

Se levanta la sesión a las 17. 30 horas.

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FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

conseil

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

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ORGANIZACION DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS PARA LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION

CL

CL 90/PV/11

Ninetieth Session

Quatre-vingt-dixième session

90º período de sesiones

**ELEVENTH PLENARY MEETING
ONZIEME SEANCE PLENIERE
11ª SESION PLENARIA
(24 November 1986)**

The Eleventh Plenary Meeting was opened at 9.45 hours,
Lassaad Ben Osman, Independent Chairman of the Council, presiding

La onzième séance plénière est ouverte à 9 h 45, sous la présidence
de Lassaad Ben Osman, Président indépendant du Conseil

Se abre la 11ª sesión plenaria a las 9.45 horas, bajo la presidencia
de Lassaad Ben Osman, Presidente Independiente del Consejo

- III. ACTIVITIES OF FAO AND WFP (continued)
- III. ACTIVITES DE LA FAO ET DU PAM (suite)
- III. ACTIVIDADES DE LA FAO Y DEL PMA (continuación)
- 8. Recent Developments in the UN System of Interest to FAO (continued)
- 8. Faits nouveaux survenus dans le système des Nations Unies et intéressant la FAO (suite)
- 8. Novedades recientes registradas en el sistema de las Naciones Unidas de interés para la FAO (continuación)
- 8.2 FAO Follow-up of UN General Assembly Special Session on the Critical Economic Situation in Africa
- 8.2 Suite à donner à la session extraordinaire de l'Assemblée générale sur la situation économique critique en Afrique
- 8.2 Medidas complementarias en relación con el periodo extraordinario de sesiones de la Asamblea General de las Naciones Unidas sobre la situación económica crítica de Africa

LE PRESIDENT: La question inscrite à l'ordre du jour de ce matin est le point 8. 2, à savoir la suite à donner à la session extraordinaire de l'Assemblée générale sur la situation économique critique en Afrique (CL 90/19 et CL 90/21).

Je vais donner la parole à M. D. Walton, Directeur général adjoint, pour une introduction de cette question.

DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL: There are two reasons for the Council to give particular attention to this agenda item. The first derives from the concern of the international community regarding the African food problem. This concern was articulated by the FAO Conference last November in a resolution on "The Critical Situation of Food and Agriculture in Africa". In the second place, there is a practical issue for decision by the Council referred to it by the Regional Conference for Africa. The question is whether the Director-General should be given a mandate to carry out a feasibility study for stepping up aid-in-kind in the form of agricultural inputs. Perhaps I can first briefly sketch in the background. There have been two separate series of actions over the last couple of years, centred, respectively, on the United Nations and FAO. Separate streams of action, but meeting each other at many points along the way.

The first of these two series of events is reported in document CL 90/19. It relates to the General Assembly's Special Session of last May devoted to the critical economic situation in Africa. This is the first time a Special Session has been devoted by the General Assembly to the problems of a particular region. The session was elaborately prepared with documentation drawn up in both Addis Ababa and New York. FAO provided a major input to the agricultural sections of both documents. The General Assembly adopted a Programme of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development 1986/1990. Within the Programme of Action agriculture is by far the most prominent sector. Cost estimates are included, within the General Assembly's resolution, for the resources, both domestic and international, required to implement the various components of the programme of action.

For the record, I would mention that the total figure is about 128 billion dollars over five years of which African countries would themselves provide almost two-thirds. However, I would like to direct the particular attention of the Council, not so much to the absolute figure, as to the way in which it is made up. About 45 percent is for agricultural development. A slightly greater proportion, slightly more than another 45 percent, is covered by the heading "Other Sectors in support of agriculture".

On top of this-and we have already passed the 90 percent mark-further substantial amounts are estimated for "Drought and desertification" and "Human resources development"-both of them areas which of course are very closely connected with agriculture. It is thus no exaggeration to say that the UN Programme is completely dominated by requirements related directly or indirectly to agriculture. Agriculture is recognized as the priority of priorities.

The follow-up of the UN Programme will take place mainly at national level. African Governments are free to choose their own mechanism for this purpose, but it is understood that this will be the World Bank Consultative Group or UNDP Round Table in countries where one or other of these mechanisms exist. The importance attached to the Consultative Groups and Round Tables illustrates the fact that one of the most important facets of follow-up is the stimulation, coordination and monitoring of large-scale flows of aid.

At the Secretariat level within the United Nations, a Steering Committee has been established under the Chairmanship of the Director-General for Development and International Economic Cooperation. Membership of the Steering Committee is limited to the various components of the United Nations itself, but specialized agencies are invited to participate on an ad hoc basis, and I myself attended the first session last September.

One of the problems which arise from these arrangements is that FAO has so far had only a limited and intermittent role in the organization of UNDP Round Tables, and has had little contact with the Consultative Groups which I may recall are to be the main follow-up mechanisms at the national level. This problem was recognized by the UN Steering Committee which, as recorded in document CL 90/19, has recognized the fact that specialized agencies have an important role to play in sectoral meetings of Round Tables and Consultative Groups.

The UN Programme of Action, although focussed on agriculture, does not, tackle directly the many technical problems associated with a faster growth of agriculture and food production in Africa. These problems have, however, been dealt with exhaustively in the course of the second chain of events which I referred to earlier. This second stream of action dates from FAO Regional Conference for Africa in 1984 at Harare, and is covered in document CL 90/21.

The Regional Conference at Harare requested the Director-General to carry out an in-depth study of the continent's agricultural problems. This was the subject of intensive work over a period of two years.

The preliminary findings of the study were made available for the preparation of the New York and Addis Ababa documentation for the Special Session of the General Assembly. As members of Council are aware, final results were submitted to the last Regional Conference for Africa in Yamoussoukro under the title "African Agriculture: the next 25 years".

In his opening address to the Council the Director-General reported on the endorsement by the Regional Conference of the study's findings.

The Council is not called upon to consider in depth the findings of the study. However, it may be pertinent for me to recall the overall approach which was recommended by the Director-General in the form of a four-pronged Programme of Action. Of these four components, three depend on action by African countries. They are:

1. Changes in the structure of national economies, so that higher priority is given to agriculture.
2. Improvements in the four "is" of agricultural development-incentives, inputs, institutions, infrastructure
3. Adoption of a conservation strategy to ensure that ever-increasing pressures on natural resources do not result in irreparable damage to the environment.

The fourth component depends on international action, and is defined as

4. Improving the external economic environment, through increased aid and better trading opportunities, so that Africa can earn its own way in the world.

Within this broad framework, the Director-General has suggested-and the Regional Conference has agreed-that it would be useful to concentrate initially on building up agricultural production through the expanded use of inputs.

The reason is simple. African agriculture has to grow 50 percent faster than in the past if serious food shortages are to be avoided in the future. This acceleration cannot be achieved by simply expanding the area under cultivation. Most countries have only limited reserves of suitable land left and cultivation of the remaining marginal land would carry substantial environmental risks. The bulk of additional production will therefore have to come from the use of modern technologies. These technologies are dependent on inputs of fertilizers, pesticides, seeds, and veterinary medicines together with appropriate farm machinery, irrigation pumps, and so on.

Debt and financial problems have prevented African countries from importing all of their input needs: for example, fertilizer and pesticide imports have fallen sharply since 1980, largely because of foreign exchange constraints.

The approach endorsed by the Regional Conference consists of three complementary actions: expansion of aid-in-kind; enhancement of local production of inputs; and promotion of intraregional trade in inputs. The proposed study would focus on the feasibility of expanding the flow of aid-in-kind. There is nothing new about input aid as such: indeed fertilizer aid has been flowing in recent years at a rate of about a million tons of material per annum. However, it is now suggested that the time may have come to intensify such aid, and place it on a systematic medium-term basis.

Input aid-directed towards food production-would thus move in parallel to food aid directed towards consumers. A balanced approach of this nature has, I may add, been advocated recently by a number of public figures in the industrialized countries.

The primary objectives of the proposed feasibility study could be two-fold. Firstly, to determine likely input needs for the next five years. Secondly, to assess the potential role of aid-in-kind in meeting these input needs, and the possible modalities for doing so.

The main focus would be on Africa, but there is no logical reason why stepped-up input aid should be restricted to one continent. The study will therefore take a world-wide view, though dealing primarily with African problems.

The study is conceived as a collaborative exercise involving recipients, industry and donors. The preliminary reaction of the African countries was favourable. Some first tentative contacts with industry have been made through FIAC, the FAO Fertilizer Industry Advisory Committee, and GIFAP, the Group of National Associations of Agro-Chemical Manufacturers. These, too, have been positive. The most important function of the Council, at the present stage, will be to give the donor representatives a chance to express their views-which, of course, we hope will be positive.

I would like to assure both donors and recipients that there is no intention of proposing a new bureaucracy. We are assuming that input aid-in-kind can be handled effectively by existing institutions, both bilateral and multilateral. In the case of FAO, for instance, we already have the International Fertilizer Supply Scheme, which has been running at a modest level in recent years but which has the capacity-demonstrated in the mid-seventies-to handle a large volume if the need arises. Agricultural requisites are often purchased under World Bank loans: would it not be an achievement if, as a result of efforts to systematize aid-in-kind, the same number of World Bank dollars could buy a larger quantity of inputs?

While I am advocating Council approval for the suggested feasibility study, I do not wish to convey any impression that we are under-estimating the difficulties, or taking an over-simplified view of the problems. It will be necessary, for instance, to look at the capacity of national delivery systems. We shall also have to be clear about the extent to which a higher level of aid-in-kind would be truly additional, and the extent to which-on the contrary-it would merely represent a shift from one type of aid to another.

We shall aim to complete the study within twelve months, for submission to the Conference in November 1987. Further action would then be up to the Conference. An interim progress report would go to Council in June 1987.

I would like to anticipate questions regarding the cost of the feasibility study. If it is to be carried out at all, it must surely be done properly-despite the Organization's extremely difficult financial situation. The budgetary authority would be given by the provision in the Programme of Work and Budget for Contingencies-we are not asking for any special decision by the Council on the financial aspects of the exercise. Our best estimate of the total cost is \$400 000. This allows for a number of country case studies. If the financial crisis were to worsen, we might be obliged to cut out the case studies. The value of the study would be reduced, but the cost would go down to about \$200 000.

The basic question before the Council is whether there is sufficient support among the donor community to justify our launching the exercise. It is indispensable that the donor countries and programmes be ready to share with us their data on existing flows of aid in the form of inputs, to let us have information on the successes and problems they have encountered. We look to the donors also to give us their considered views on the possible advantages and disadvantages of stepping up the level of aid in this form. Participation in the study, and I would like to be quite clear about this, does not at all imply a commitment to participate in any arrangements to which the study may ultimately lead.

The potential recipient countries-at least in Africa-have already given us a favourable indication at Yamoussoukro. They, and developing countries from other regions, may now have some further thoughts that would help us to arrive at a decision.

No one imagines that stepping up aid-in-kind is going, by itself, to produce miracles in African food production-or in solving the problems of other food-deficit areas. On the other hand, it is also clear that the long-term food problems of Africa are not going to be solved without the adoption of more intensive methods of production.

This means more advanced technology, and more advanced technology requires inputs: in the present state of agricultural science, there is no viable alternative. So arrangements to step up aid-in-kind could be a spearhead.

Increased aid-in-kind would need to be closely associated with other measures. I am thinking particularly of the other components of our overall programme of action, including policies to give higher priority to agriculture, and measures to strengthen the three other "is": incentives, institutions and infrastructure. Input aid would also need to be flanked by the suggested arrangements, which I mentioned a few minutes ago, for enhancing the local production of inputs, and for promoting trade in inputs within the region.

Within a total picture of some complexity, we believe it is essential to concentrate on one straightforward problem of basic importance. We hope there will be a consensus on the desirability of launching the proposed feasibility study of stepping up input aid, and we look forward to hearing the reactions of the Council.

LE PRESIDENT: Je remercie Monsieur le Directeur general adjoint de la FAO pour son exposé préliminaire. Il s'agit là d'une question très intéressante et importante et nous sommes persuadés que le Conseil pourra enrichir les débats et permettre de prendre une option claire et efficace.

Anwar Mohammed KHALED (Yemen, People's Democratic Republic of) (original language Arabic): I also would like to thank the Deputy Director-General for his very clear presentation. I would like to express the appreciation of my delegation for the interest that the international community has shown in the economic recovery of Africa through a series of measures and meetings and arrangements crowned by the decision of the General Assembly S-13/2 by which the United Nations Programme of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development 1986 to 1990 was adopted.

I would like to express our appreciation to the Director-General of FAO who ever since the beginning of the crisis, and even before it worsened, continued his efforts to provide an incentive for the General Assembly to convene its special session for Africa and, last but not least, the fact that FAO followed up the activities of the special session as well as its technical experience reflected in the documents of this session.

The main thrust of this session can be summarized under one heading: agricultural development is the primary force for longer term economic recovery and development in Africa.

I would like to refer to document CL 90/21 concerning the in-depth study for agricultural and food problems in Africa. The document referred to the study submitted by the Director-General to the 14th African Regional Conference in September 1986 in Côte d'Ivoire under the title: African Agriculture: the Next Twenty-Five Years. The document summarized the main points of the study, which have shown the sound analysis and vision of the African crisis. The suggestions in this study show a positive approach for achieving agricultural recovery and development in Africa.

I would like to refer here to the contents of paragraph 29 of the document concerning the stepping up of aid-in-kind. We agree with the analysis of the document concerning the use of agricultural inputs as a primary factor in increasing production. The decisive factor in this is foreign currencies, which are very limited in Africa.

I would also like to refer to paragraphs 40 and 41 concerning the adoption of the aforementioned Conference of the suggestions of the Director-General and entrusting him to carry out this study.

Here we suggest that the Council give a mandate to the Director-General to carry out the feasibility study in order to step up aid-in-kind in the form of agricultural inputs. We also agree with the approach suggested by the Director-General and the general directions of the study contained in paragraphs 43-46. We highly appreciate the interest of several donor parties in the feasibility study and we hope that they will agree to participate in it. Since the determining factor in the use of inputs in a great many low income food-deficit developing countries is the limited availability of foreign currency, we suggest that the study be extended to all countries facing problems in the supply of these inputs. We hope that the Council will agree to this.

Václav DOBES (Czechoslovakia): In considering this question elaborated in the submitted documents CL/90/19 and 21 it would surely serve no purpose to repeat the facts characterizing the critical economic situation in Africa. The Special Session of the United Nations General Assembly on Africa held at the turn of May and June of this year was devoted to a broad consideration of the consequences and manifestations of the critical situation in Africa, whether it be the chronic malnutrition and hunger, deadly diseases and infections, high infant mortality or a multitude of negative economic problems, such as slow growth of the gross domestic product, the deep drop of agricultural output in a number of developing countries, the continuing high foreign indebtedness, etc. The socialist countries formulated an overall evaluation of the results of the UNGA Special Session in a joint statement.

The concluding document of the UN General Assembly Special Session S-13/2 gives a concrete outline of the basic programmes and projects for the development of Africa in 1986-90. But the elimination of the critical situation in Africa and the securing of its long-term balanced and stable development must be approached in a broader context than that covered by this document.

The solution of the problems of African countries must be linked as closely as possible with economic decolonization, with the elimination of racism and apartheid, with the restructuring basis, the establishment of a new international economic order and the strengthening of universal peace and the creation of international economic security, the concept of which consists in the adoption of set of measures aimed at a radical improvement of the economic relations among countries along with the establishment of political guarantees of security and economic stability.

The experience gained so far shows that partial measures in the solution of the economic situation in Africa merely mitigate the acute problems of the African continent and, from the long-term point of view, only postpone their solution indefinitely. As long as the current neocolonialist system of exploitation reflecting the unequal status of the developing countries in the international division of labour is maintained, and as long as the current unequal international economic relations are not restructured on a just and democratic basis, there will not be created the prerequisites for a comprehensive, principled and just solution to the critical situation in the continent of Africa.

Today's critical situation in Africa must not be resolved at the cost of conditions relating to the independent and secure development of the African countries in the future. We are of the view that particularly in the consideration of the economic situation in Africa there arises the need for such an approach which will guarantee genuine security in the economic, military, as well as political fields.

At the thirteenth Special Session of the United Nations General Assembly we witnessed a moderate attitude of many countries on a number of fundamental issues relating to the effective solution of economic problems of developing countries, notably African ones. We are convinced that only joint efforts aimed against the neocolonialist predatory policy and the unjust character of international economic relations will create conditions for the solution of Africa's problems, including foreign indebtedness which not only hampers economic development and aggravates poverty, but also condemns African countries to a yet more inferior status and represents another source of their political liability.

Surely the fact need not be emphasized here that the pursuit of a policy aimed at creating tension and mistrust in international relations will have an immediate negative impact on the economic sphere. It is necessary to keep constantly in mind the interdependence of peace, disarmament and development. This interdependence applies fully also in Africa which is relentlessly being afflicted by economic, military and political instability and by the consequences of apartheid. Ever more inexorable is the burden of military expenditures of individual countries which are ever more deeply drawn in the arms race. The growth of the volume of financial funds spent on military purposes generated by world imperialism has a negative impact on the standards of living in the individual African countries and hampers the solution of their social and economic problems, including food and health related ones and others. In weighing the various aspects of the utilization of external sources to overcome the critical situation in Africa, we have never underestimated the irreplaceable role played by genuine foreign aid, be it in the humanitarian, economic or other fields. Such aid, however, must be granted under just conditions and must not become a means of political and economic dictate and the underpinning of an imperialist neocolonialist policy.

In the past period we have developed equal and mutually advantageous co-operation with the African countries on both a multilateral and bilateral basis. At this year's Special Session of the United Nations General Assembly we published the whole extent of our assistance. In granting it, we have always proceeded and shall continue to proceed from our economic possibilities and the nature of the tasks facing our economy. We have granted, and also in the future we shall continue to grant, assistance in the awareness that we bear neither historical nor current responsibility for the situation in Africa. We shall continue to provide extensive political, moral, as well as material support. The Czechoslovakian delegation would like to emphasize that the comprehensive solution to the situation in Africa is a task that is closely related to the demand for an equitable restructuring of economic relations within the framework of the world division of labour. The assertion of equitable economic relations receives the unequivocal support of all the progressive forces rejecting the senseless frenzy of armaments. That is also the path leading to a just and effective solution to the current situation in the African countries.

Leopoldo ARIZA HIDALGO (Cuba): Nuestra delegación ha estudiado con bastante cuidado y dedicación el documento sobre el estudio a fondo de los problemas agrícolas y alimentarios en Africa.

El Gobierno de la República de Cuba ha seguido siempre muy de cerca la difícil situación que viene atravesando desde años el continente africano y participó muy activamente en el período extraordinario de sesión de la Asamblea General de Naciones Unidas sobre la crítica situación de

Africa. Nuestra delegación ha analizado con sumo interés los documentos que nos presenta la Secretaría de la FAO para el análisis de este tema, que fue muy acertadamente presentado por el señor Walton.

Queremos, antes de comenzar a hacer un análisis del documento y de la situación africana, felicitar al Director General por estos documentos, estas ideas y esta estrategia del desarrollo para Africa. Consideramos que ha sido muy acertada la intención de tratar de centrar la atención de toda la Comunidad Internacional en forma completa e integrada en los problemas y retos que la cuestión de la rehabilitación del desarrollo a mediano y largo plazo plantea a los países africanos. El hecho de que todos tratemos de lograr los mejores resultados para el continente africano, es una muestra más de la gran preocupación existente por el práctico deterioro de la actividad económica en Africa, cuya manifestación más evidente es la difícil situación agrícola y alimentaria en el continente y como resultado de la cual ha aumentado de forma alarmante el número de personas expuestas al hambre, la malnutrición e, incluso a la inanición, en tanto que en otras regiones del mundo o se almacenan o se destruyen alimentos para mantener sus precios en el mercado

Asimismo la grave situación económica internacional que continúa afectando adversamente a los países en desarrollo, ha tenido particularmente un efecto devastador sobre las zonas, sobre las ya frágiles economías africanas, manifestándose en el deterioro de las relaciones del intercambio, en la fuerte disminución de los ingresos por concepto de exportaciones, en la fuerte carga de la deuda externa y en una corriente de recursos externos no suficientes para las necesidades de los países africanos.

La delegación cubana reitera que la responsabilidad de la humanidad con el continente africano es total y especialmente de aquellos que tienen una gran responsabilidad histórica con el atraso de este continente al que sometieron a siglos de explotación y saqueo de sus valiosos recursos naturales y a prácticas de colonialismo, racismo y apartheid. No satisfechos con esta triste historia, mantienen actualmente asediados a países que han elegido su propia línea de gobierno, apoyando acciones vandálicas y retrógradas y medidas de desestabilización, especialmente en el Cono Sur africano.

Nuestra delegación apoya todas las acciones que se tomen para solucionar la situación económica y alimentaria del continente africano, lo cual incluye, como es lógico, la rehabilitación de su agricultura, así como también instamos al cumplimiento de las resoluciones que han sido aprobadas por las Naciones Unidas en favor de la independencia incondicional de Namibia que es otro país africano que necesita, merece y debe ser libre para poder desarrollarse por sus propias fuerzas. Creemos, señor Presidente, en la necesidad de entablar un diálogo constructivo entre donantes y los países afectados, a fin de elaborar un criterio conjunto teniendo presente las características y problemas concretos de cada país, sin injerencias internas.

Como ya hemos expresado en otros foros, reiteramos que Africa es una reserva inagotable de inteligencia, pericia y energía y, consecuentemente, no necesita que desde fuera se le trate de dictar cómo manejar su propio destino. Africa más bien requiere que se eliminen las trabas que impiden su desarrollo integral que son, entre otras, el intercambio desigual, las barreras proteccionistas, las políticas financieras y monetarias leoninas y, en general, que se ponga fin al sistema de relaciones económicas injustas que le fueron impuestas al igual que al resto de los países en desarrollo.

Consideramos imprescindible también que se brinde la asistencia técnica y financiera indispensable en cantidades suficientes para lograr la rehabilitación de los sectores agrícolas y ganaderos de los países afectados como condición indispensable para la recuperación social y humana de esos países.

Creemos que es necesario hablar de recuperación social y humana y no sólo de recuperación física. Estamos seguros de que sus gobiernos no solamente darán un hecho eficaz a esos recursos, sino que tal y como lo están haciendo, aportarán contribuciones nacionales indispensables para que la asistencia y la cooperación de la comunidad internacional produzca los mejores resultados.

Esto ya lo discutimos en la pasada Conferencia Regional Africana y el compromiso surgió espontáneo. Estamos convencidos también de que al hacer frente a las necesidades críticas de los países africanos, existen muchas áreas en que la FAO puede desempeñar una importante función tanto en la movilización de los recursos necesarios como en la realización de actividades específicas en la planificación, reestructuración y reforma agraria que necesitan esos países. Quisiera expresar en tal sentido la complacencia de mi delegación por la forma en que se está llevando a cabo la labor de la FAO en favor de la rehabilitación de la agricultura africana en estrecha coordinación con los gobiernos de los países necesitados y que claramente se expresa en este documento CL 90/21. Todas estas acciones, señor Presidente, pueden hacerse con más agilidad y más precisión si no estuviese presente la guerra que han emprendido algunos países contra el multilateralismo incluyendo sus esfuerzos por reducir al sistema de las Naciones Unidas y por someter a la FAO a una crisis irreversible. Esto ha tomado mucho tiempo a este Consejo; es una prueba evidente que hemos discutido sobre los problemas que nos plantean ciertas políticas más que sobre el desarrollo de nuestras

actividades para que la FAO cumpla con su mandato en la comunidad internacional. Igualmente, señor Presidente, no debemos olvidar que para resolver la situación económica en la región africana, junto con los acuciantes problemas de la alimentación y la agricultura, no bastaría con la concesión de recursos de emergencia, de naturaleza eminentemente coyunturales, sino dedicar los mayores esfuerzos a la reactivación de un diálogo internacional, repetimos, coherente e integral, que al enaltecer la cooperación económica internacional cree las condiciones que faciliten la reestructuración del injusto y desigual orden económico internacional vigente.

Debemos reconocer la necesidad de efectuar las reformas internas que realicen la interacción de la justicia social y que hagan de Africa no un mero espectador, sino un protagonista del proceso de desarrollo de su región y del mundo en que viven. Es necesario poner atención a las necesidades básicas inmediatas, pero es imprescindible, insistimos, la rehabilitación y desarrollo integral del continente africano; y esta colaboración, señor Presidente, y señores miembros del Consejo, como expresaba nuestro Ministro de Colaboración en la Asamblea General sobre Africa, debe ser ofrecida desinteresadamente, sin pedir nada a cambio ni en término económico ni en término político. Así entendemos nosotros lo que es la ayuda.

El estudio de viabilidad propuesto, para que sea elaborado por la FAO, puede ser un elemento de gran validez. Este estudio cuenta con el apoyo de nuestra delegación. Apoyamos específicamente la estrategia del párrafo 16 hacia la agricultura. Igualmente, el párrafo 17 es muy elocuente en cuanto a la necesidad del estudio y del compromiso de los estados africanos en asignar del 20 al 25 por ciento de las inversiones a la agricultura. El párrafo 29 tiene validez, y aunque se crea el aporte de insumos y de especies sea una ayuda inmediata, para nosotros constituye en sí un apoyo estratégico para que los programas de ajustes puedan mantener el ritmo de desarrollo que están llevando a cabo en algunos países.

No nos resta más que expresar que apoyamos las medidas propuestas por la FAO, así como el estudio que se presenta, y felicitamos una vez más al Director General por esta acción de apoyo al continente africano.

Dong QING SONG (China) (Original language Chinese): Last May, the United Nations General Assembly held a Special Session on the critical economic situation in Africa and adopted the action programme of UN for the economic recovery and development of Africa from 1986-1990. This demonstrates the grave economic situation in Africa and reflects the serious preoccupation and great importance which the entire world expresses in the light of this situation. The task which the international community has before it is to implement the Action Programme for Africa.

We are very happy to see over the last few years that a large number of African countries have made praiseworthy efforts in seeking solutions geared to the recovery and development of their economy, particularly in the agricultural food production sectors. They have taken positive steps to realize the objectives defined in the Lagos Plan of Action, in the Harare Declaration and in the Priority Programme for the Economic Recovery of Africa.

At the same time, the International community has provided a considerable quantity of aid, including emergency food aid, to the African countries in an attempt to help them promote their agriculture and food production. Once again this year the FAO has undertaken most useful activities to help the African countries in their attempt to control locust and grasshopper invasions, all of which activities have been a most positive contribution to the development of agricultural production in Africa and to the relief of the serious consequences of natural disasters.

The Government and the people of China would like to express their solidarity with the African countries as they have to deal with the challenge of rehabilitating their economic development. Our country, both multilaterally and bilaterally, has provided economic and technical assistance and food aid to Africa. In order to help the African countries to control the locust invasion, this year our country has twice supplied through the intermediary of FAO 50 tonnes of pesticides to the African countries. Although the aid of our country is modest because of our own limited capacity, our country will nevertheless actively participate in economic and technical cooperation with Africa, both multilaterally and bilaterally, in support of the implementation of the African Programme of the United Nations.

The Chinese delegation has studied with much interest the proposal of the Director-General in document CL 90/21 on a feasibility study based upon aid-in-kind assistance, and has listened with great attention to Mr Walton's presentation of these matters. The Chinese delegation thinks that although the aid-in-kind assistance programme is presented against the background of the Regional Conference for Africa, its significance, in fact, is to be understood as universal. As we all know, the provision of aid-in-kind assistance in soft terms could greatly help the developing countries to reinforce their agricultural capacity and would, therefore, constitute an important factor in the solution of the food and agriculture problem.

The Chinese delegation supports the FAO in undertaking a feasibility study, upon that basis so that Council may examine this matter in greater depth and make a decision.

LE PRESIDENT: Avant de donner la parole aux autres orateurs, je voudrais rappeler que, dans son exposé introductif, M. Walton a posé au Conseil des questions précises. Le Conseil désire-t-il autoriser la FAO à réaliser cette étude de faisabilité? Il serait bon que, dans toute la mesure du possible, nous fassions connaître nos points de vue sur cette question.

Augustine K. OSUBAN (Uganda): I should like to echo the complements paid to the FAO and the Deputy Director-General for his clear introduction of the paper.

As has already been said by previous speakers, the study African Agriculture: The Next 25 Years was carried out at the request of the 13th FAO Regional Conference for Africa which met in Harare in 1984 with the specific object of discovering the root causes of the African food crisis. The 14th Regional Conference for Africa which met at Yamoussoukro found the study very balanced, very valuable and comprehensive. The findings of the study were in accord with the Africa priority programme for economic recovery 1986-1990. The Conference concluded that the study should be followed up. I will not repeat here the findings of the study which have been stated quite clearly. I will move on to the question of aid-in-kind.

The study made it clear that most countries in Africa can only reverse their decline in food production through substantially greater use of production inputs, especially fertilizers, pesticides, seeds, agricultural implements, etc. However, the debt burden and foreign exchange constraints of many countries cannot allow them to import these vital inputs. The concept of aid-in-kind could appropriately fill this gap.

As reported in paragraph 29 of the document before us, the advantages of this concept of aid-in-kind are many. It may be noted that it played a significant role in the launching of Asia's green revolution.

In recalling the sentiment of the 13th FAO Regional Conference for Africa, my delegation wishes to endorse the Director-General's proposed feasibility study to explore the practicability of aid-in-kind. However, I should like the study to be limited to agriculture in Africa for the time being as the paper is, in fact, concerned with the food crisis in Africa. This makes sense also because of the present financial crisis of the Organization.

I should also like to mention here that my delegation welcomes IFAD's creation of a Special Programme for Sub-Saharan African Countries Affected by Drought and Desertification. The Programme, initially for twenty African countries, six of which have had their programmes approved, is in line with the sentiments which we have already expressed in connexion with the crisis in Africa. In the same vein, we welcome the creation of the Intergovernmental Authority on Drought and Development embodying countries of the Eastern Africa region to combat drought and desertification. This body will need international support also in order to strengthen the efforts of African countries in the region to feed themselves.

With these few remarks we support the study.

Mohammed ABDELHADI (Tunisie): La délégation tunisienne souhaite exprimer sa gratitude à M. Walton, Directeur général adjoint de la FAO, pour l'introduction claire et complète qu'il nous a faite de la question importante qui nous préoccupe actuellement et qui a fait l'objet de deux excellents documents (CL 90/19 et CL 90/21) consacrés à l'examen des problèmes agricoles et alimentaires de l'Afrique.

Dans le même ordre d'idées, je voudrais saisir cette occasion pour dire combien la délégation tunisienne a apprécié l'initiative de Son Excellence Abdou Diouf, Président de la République du Sénégal et Président du CILSS, qui a pensé à nous entretenir, par l'intermédiaire du Ministre coordonnateur du CILSS, d'une question importante qui, depuis quelques années, est au centre de nos préoccupations, notamment dans toutes les instances de la FAO.

Cela dit, la délégation tunisienne souhaiterait faire quelques commentaires sur les deux documents en question, que nous avons étudiés avec attention et intérêt. Comme tout un chacun le sait, la FAO a joué un rôle primordial dans le redressement de la situation agricole en Afrique. Les nombreuses initiatives du Directeur général à cet égard témoignent de l'intérêt sans cesse croissant accordé

par la FAO à cette situation. Nous nous réjouissons, à cet regard, de la contribution efficace de l'Organisation à l'élaboration de l'important Programme d'action des Nations Unies pour le redressement économique de l'Afrique où la composante agricole constitue la pièce maîtresse dans le développement économique de la région. Il en découle évidemment que le rôle de la FAO en tant qu'institution spécialisée des Nations Unies dans la contribution de la mise en oeuvre et du suivi nous paraît très important.

C'est pourquoi il est tout à fait primordial qu'aussi bien la FAO que les gouvernements concernés et, d'une façon générale, la communauté internationale n'épargnent aucun effort pour que ce programme soit mis en oeuvre dans tous ses aspects. Les dispositions prises à cet effet pour le suivi de son exécution sont précises en ce sens que les responsabilités de chacun des intervenants, aussi bien à l'échelle des pays concernés qu'à l'échelle régionale et mondiale, sont bien délimitées. Et nous formulons l'espoir que le système de suivi mis en place soit aussi efficace et opérationnel que possible.

Toujours dans le cadre du suivi, ma délégation voudrait exprimer sa reconnaissance au Secrétaire général des Nations Unies pour toutes les initiatives qu'il a prises dans ce domaine, et notamment la mise en place d'un Comité directeur pour l'exécution du Programme d'action.

Au niveau africain et, dans le cadre du suivi de ce Programme d'action, la 14^{ème} Conférence régionale de la FAO pour l'Afrique qui a eu lieu au mois de septembre à Yamoussoukro, en Côte d'Ivoire, nous a paru constituer une suite logique de la session extraordinaire de l'Assemblée générale que nous pourrions situer également dans le cadre du suivi du Programme d'action des Nations Unies pour l'Afrique.

C'est dans ce contexte que ma délégation considère que le Programme d'action d'aide en nature proposé par le Directeur général, programme fondé, comme on le sait, sur les résultats de l'importante étude de la FAO sur l'agriculture africaine pour les vingt-cinq prochaines années, est pleinement compatible avec les objectifs et les recommandations du Programme des Nations Unies pour l'Afrique.

Ma délégation accueille donc très favorablement les propositions d'action qui y sont contenues et, en particulier, l'étude des moyens de développement, des fournitures d'intrants et d'autres biens, au titre de l'aide en nature, dans le but essentiel de stimuler la production agricole.

Il nous paraît donc très indiqué que le Conseil recommande notamment au Directeur général d'entreprendre les études de faisabilité nécessaires.

A cet égard, ma délégation ne voit aucun inconvénient à donner une portée plus générale à ce Programme d'action, comme il est proposé au paragraphe 44 du document CL 90/21. Il est toutefois très souhaitable que cet élargissement ne soit pas à l'origine d'un éventuel prolongement des délais nécessaires à l'élaboration de l'étude en question, à savoir douze mois, comme l'a annoncé tout à l'heure le Directeur général adjoint dans son intervention.

En conclusion, la délégation tunisienne appuie les propositions du Directeur général et exprime l'espoir qu'un consensus se dégage à cet effet au sein du Conseil pour permettre notamment au Directeur général d'entreprendre l'étude de faisabilité en question et surtout de faciliter ultérieurement la mise en oeuvre des recommandations qui se dégageraient de cette étude.

Eiichi KAWAHARA (Japan): I should first like to refer to the United Nations Special Session on Africa in May this year. It was the first time in the history of the United Nations that a special session was devoted to the economic problems of one continent. Japan, which felt the most profound sympathy for Africa, played an active role in the Special Session, and particularly welcomed the unanimous adoption of the Programme of Action, which it believes contains very useful medium-and long-term guidelines for the self-reliant development efforts of the African countries, and for international support for those effort.

It is important and encouraging that the countries of Africa confirm in the programme that the primary-responsibility for the development of the continent rests with them. It would seem clear that there could be no need to stress the fact that, in order to solve Africa's food problems, it is essential for those African countries, which have suffered from food shortages, to confront the problems by giving the very highest policy priority to development in the food and agricultural sector and to implement programmes and measures accordingly.

Furthermore, in order that developing countries may achieve such objectives, the international community should support those self-help efforts of the African countries. Since the fiscal year of 1977 Japan, in its bilateral ODA, had been promoting "aid for food production", which provides agricultural inputs, such as fertilizers, insecticides, farm implements and machinery. In recent

years, aid for food production has been increasing steadily. The amount of such aid by Japan in the fiscal year 1983/84 and 1985 was 32.5 billion yen, 34.5 billion yen, and 38 billion yen, respectively. With regard to a feasibility study on "stepping up aid-in-kind", proposed by the FAO Director-General, I consider it very useful to undertake such a study and carry out assessments of probable needs in areas and countries concerned. We have no objection to the carrying out of such a study in the African region within the present available resources of the Organization.

In undertaking the study of agricultural input needs, we should get better results if a clear distinction is made between food production uses and other agricultural production uses and also if emphasis is made on the need for food production uses. We hope the result of this study can provide both multilateral and bilateral donors and recipient countries concerned with a kind of framework for harmonizing international action.

Philippe PIOTET (France): La délégation française, qui a eu l'honneur de participer à la Conférence régionale pour l'Afrique de Yamoussoukro, en septembre dernier, se félicite de voir le Conseil examiner aujourd'hui les recommandations des pays africains sur l'avenir de leur agriculture.

L'Afrique est confrontée à un double défi: tout d'abord le défi de la démographie. Les projections démographiques nous indiquent que, dans les vingt-cinq ans qui viennent, l'Afrique au sud du Sahara atteindra le milliard d'habitants. Comment faire, dans ces conditions, pour que le taux d'augmentation de la production suive celui de la population? Les projections nous indiquent aussi que cette population bien plus nombreuse sera aussi fortement urbanisée. Comment, dans ces conditions, parvenir à ajuster l'offre à la demande?

L'Afrique est également confrontée au défi de la nature. Depuis toujours, l'augmentation de la production est liée à l'accroissement des superficies cultivées.

Comment répondre à la raréfaction des terres disponibles? Comment accroître les rendements? La réponse est simple tout au moins dans son principe. Il faut passer d'une agriculture vivrière d'autoconsommation, qui ne produit aucun surplus, à une véritable agriculture commercialisée capable d'assurer la reconquête, (au moins partielle dans un premier temps), des marchés intérieurs, et tout spécialement des marchés urbains. Pour atteindre cet objectif, ce sont les politiques agricoles vigoureuses qu'il faut mettre en oeuvre et la France se félicite à cet égard des orientations retenues par les plus hauts responsables des pays africains. Lors de la session spéciale de l'Assemblée générale des Nations Unies, la France, dans le cadre du Plan d'action adopté à Yamoussoukro, en septembre dernier, appuie fermement ce plan d'action et souhaite qu'aucun effort ne soit épargné dans sa mise en oeuvre. La possibilité d'accroître en nature, sous la forme d'intrants agricoles, constitue sans nul doute un élément concret très important des actions à entreprendre. La France apporte son soutien à l'aide de faisabilité demandée par la Conférence de Yamoussoukro et tente à coopérer à sa collaboration. Mon pays estime aussi que cette étude doit s'attacher en premier lieu aux problèmes de l'Afrique en raison des besoins considérables et urgents de ce continent, ainsi que de sa situation sur le plan industriel.

Ceci n'exclut pas bien entendu l'extension ultérieure de l'étude à d'autres régions du monde. Il me semble important d'ailleurs, dans la réalisation de cette étude, de ne pas perdre de vue, comme l'a fait observer M. Walton, que les intrants ne constituent qu'un élément certes important d'une approche plus globale des problèmes de développement agricole. Il est clair, en particulier, que l'utilisation massive d'intrants ne peut seule faire sauter les obstacles à l'accroissement de la production, comme par exemple l'insuffisance de la fertilité organique, malheureusement trop répandue, dans les sols africains.

En conclusion, je pense que l'année qui bientôt s'achève, si elle a heureusement fourni un répit attendu avec impatience, elle a aussi permis de réaffirmer avec vigueur la nécessité de concentrer les efforts sur le développement agricole et elle a mis en lumière les points d'application concrets sur lesquels faire porter ses efforts.

Allele ELHADJ HABIBOU (Niger): Suite à l'exposé préliminaire qui vient d'être fait, nous pouvons dire que nous sommes en mesure, en raison de tout ce qui a été dit sur l'Afrique, de nous féliciter du diagnostic toujours permanent qui reconnaît la situation exceptionnelle de ce continent. Il est inutile de s'appesantir sur cette situation. Loin de se clarifier. Nous ne sommes pas prêts de voir le bout du tunnel; mais il faut que nous, Africains, tant que nous n'aurons pas terminé l'étude, il nous faudra nous battre sur le terrain afin de prendre davantage nos responsabilités. C'est d'ailleurs ce que nous faisons par la mobilisation quasi permanente de nos populations à travers des structures socioprofessionnelles conformes à nos aspirations et à nos réalités culturelles. Il nous faut continuer à mobiliser les consciences, africaines et extra-africaines, et c'est d'ailleurs ce a

quoi on s'attelle. Il nous faut féliciter par conséquent tous les efforts de la communauté internationale pour ses travaux inlassables, efforts que nous menons tous ensemble afin de permettre à l'Afrique de trouver la place qui est la sienne au concert des nations.

Ma délégation estime que le Programme d'action des Nations Unies pour le redressement économique de l'Afrique est un engagement que tout un chacun se doit de respecter. L'Afrique d'abord, qui doit mobiliser toutes ses ressources. Elle a pris l'engagement de financer 64, 4 pour cent de ce programme, qui fait une place importante au secteur de l'agriculture et de l'alimentation. Je peux affirmer que l'Afrique prend conscience que son développement, c'est d'abord l'affaire de ses fils. Cette prise de conscience s'est affirmée avec éclats lors de la 14ème réunion régionale de Yamoussoukro, où des exposés des ministres de l'agriculture et le ressort que la résolution prise par mon chef d'Etat en juillet 1985 de consacrer de 20 à 25 pour cent des ressources publiques au secteur de l'agriculture est déjà en application dans la plupart des Etats. L'agriculture africaine, comme le confirme l'étude de la FAO, dans les 25 prochaines années est le moteur de développement de l'Afrique. Nos Etats l'ont bien compris à présent et ils attendent que la communauté internationale donne une assistance massive sur la base d'une coopération véritable. Le Programme d'action demande en effet à la communauté internationale 9 millions de dollars par an. Cette somme est importante, mais elle n'est en fait que dérisoire par rapport aux montants consacrés à l'armement chaque année par les pays développés. Or, ce qu'il faut bien admettre aujourd'hui est que le danger réel pour la paix et la sécurité internationales viendra de l'expression des régions déshéritées sur notre planète. Ma délégation approuve l'importante contribution de la FAO dans l'élaboration de ses plans d'action et elle encourage à apporter un appui décisif à sa mise en application. A cet égard, le Plan d'action pour l'agriculture africaine, élaboré par le Directeur général, doit voir sa concrétisation dans les meilleurs délais dans l'esprit de la 14ème Conférence régionale de Yamoussoukro. Nous souhaitons enfin que le mécanisme de suivi, mis en place à l'Assemblée générale, à sa remise extraordinaire, soit des plus efficaces afin que ce programme de redressement de l'économie africaine puisse être réalisée dans les délais souhaitables.

Ma délégation voudrait également féliciter le Directeur général pour la qualité de l'étude de la démarche de son élaboration et il s'agit du rapport sur l'étude approfondie des problèmes agricoles et alimentaires de l'Afrique. Il a en effet su associer les experts africains et appuyer l'analyse par une approche par pays et sous-région. Le document principal et ses annexes ont reçu un écho unanimement favorable à la Conférence régionale pour l'Afrique à Yamoussoukro. Les conclusions données par le document CL 90/21 donnent un résumé de la substance de cette étude. La 14ème Conférence régionale a donc appuyé cette étude, ainsi que le Plan d'action présenté par le Directeur général. C'est une étude qui doit, comme le précise le document, s'effectuer de concert avec les bénéficiaires et les donateurs et elle mérite l'attention de notre Conseil. Elle doit autoriser le Directeur général; ma délégation en tout cas lui donne son plein appui.

Les objectifs donnés à cette étude de faisabilité prennent en compte nos préoccupations, mais l'énumération des intrants nous paraît incomplète. Au lieu "d'herbicides", nous préférons "pesticides" pour couvrir toute la gamme de produits phytosanitaires. Je crois qu'il faudrait faire une mention spéciale à la FAO aux pays amis de l'Afrique, à ce moment de crise. Je veux parler de l'inflation, des sauteriaux et tout autre prédateur qui, en cette période de récolte, et même la période de l'hivernage, ont envahi l'Afrique, que la communauté internationale, grâce à l'action de la FAO, a su mobiliser les moyens importants afin de nous aider à combattre ce fléau qui, malheureusement, demeure un fléau permanent. Nous voudrions, également sur ce plan, attirer l'attention de l'Assemblée sur la présence quasi permanente des autres prédateurs, je veux parler des rats, gerboises, souris blanches, de toute cette gamme de bestioles pour lesquelles nos moyens sont insuffisants face à la grandeur du fléau et à sa permanence. Nous voudrions donc mobiliser toutes les consciences, comme je l'ai dit tantôt, et que nous-mêmes, Africains, puissions prendre nos responsabilités, ce que nous avons fait au Niger, dès le mois de mars, en formant plus de 3 000 brigades villageoises et nous sommes, en ce moment, en train d'élaborer un autre document afin de former au moins 5 000 brigades villageoises sur les deux années à venir, ce qui nous permettrait, à travers nos institutions, à travers nos coûts socioprofessionnels, d'amener nos paysans à protéger eux-mêmes leur récolte, leurs exploitations agricoles, car personne d'autre ne viendra à notre place prendre en main la protection et la défense de nos intérêts. Toute aide qui ne permettrait pas de nous passer de l'aide serait pas dérisoire mais nous consoliderait davantage dans une situation de nature à rester toujours à la traîne des autres. Donc, ce problème de lutte phytosanitaire est un problème extrêmement important auquel la présente session du Conseil exécutif doit consacrer et accorder une attention particulière. La proposition de cette étude de faisabilité d'aide en nature fait suite à l'étude sur le programme agricole de l'Afrique. Il serait alors judicieux que cette étude s'en tienne à ce continent. Si l'étude s'avère faisable, l'Afrique pourrait être un cas pilote à étendre à tous les pays en développement. Nous appelons les membres de cette Assemblée à donner

leur accord pour la réalisation de cette étude dans l'immédiat, de façon à ce que son application éventuelle soutienne la réalisation du volet agricole du Programme d'action des Nations Unies pour le développement et le relèvement des économies africaines. Programme que nos Etats ont tous soutenu.

M. M. LISWANISO (Zambia): My delegation has studied very carefully the document CL 90/19, together with document CL 90/21. The first document CL 90/19 is a report on the FAO Follow-up of United Nations General Assembly Special Session on the Critical Economic Situation in Africa. The document has also tried to bring out FAO's role in this important programme. This Council should record its appreciation to the FAO Director-General and his staff for the active part they have played in the preparation of both the New York paper and the African paper. This is what it ought to be because from the very beginning there was a clear realization and a recognition that agricultural development is the main agent for recovery of development in Africa.

Let me now turn to document CL 90/21, this also does not call for a long debate because many delegates who are in this hall were debating the same issues at the Fourteenth Regional Conference for Africa in Yamoussoukro only a couple of months ago and nothing much has changed since then. In fact, the main purpose of this document, as clearly stated at paragraphs 42 to 49, is to seek the Council's mandate for the Director-General to carry out a feasibility study to explore the practicability of aid-in-kind. The Zambian delegation wishes to give full support to the request by the Fourteenth Regional Conference for the Director-General to undertake a feasibility study on the practicability of aid-in-kind. The study should initially be conducted in Africa and it could be extended to other regions in due course.

My delegation agrees with and supports the Director-General's proposal of increased aid-in-kind to the African countries, as paragraph 44 of document CL 90/21 puts it "Increased aid-in-kind could play a major role in the implementation of the second and fourth points of the Director-General's strategy", popularly known as the four "i's" of agricultural development. The stepping up of the aid-in-kind in areas like fertilizers and seed cleaning and the process equipment would have an immediate impact on agricultural development in the region. The other areas, such as herbicides and veterinary medicines, and drugs, need a thorough investigation as experience has shown that occasionally inert and ineffective drugs have been given to developing countries under the auspices of aid-in-kind. Equally some developing countries have received agricultural implements which are not suitable to their local situation. These points should be taken into account in the Director-General's study on the logistics and the effectiveness of the stepped up aid-in-kind in Africa.

The African Ministers of Agriculture requested this study, and it is thus proper and appropriate that the Director-General be given the mandate to go ahead. Due to the importance my delegation attaches to this study we would propose that workshops and expert consultations on this matter be held early next year. Thereafter the experts from both the donor community and the African sub-continent should meet to determine logistics and what could work. Of course, experts from other developing countries and institutions such as IFAD could be included in these dialogues. The preliminary report on the issue should be submitted to the ninety-first session of the Council for consideration.

I need not repeat that Africa is ravaged by famine, poverty and under-development. Our salvation lies in increased food production and I maintain that the four "is", inputs, incentives, infrastructure and institutions provide the answer. The increased aid-in-kind, if it were properly executed, could tremendously help African rural populations in enhancing their agricultural production.

Finally, as we discuss these issues, we should always be action-oriented. Our programme runs from 1986 to 1990; already one year has almost passed. History and mankind will judge us harshly if we allow this important programme to gather dust. We cannot afford to fail. We should succeed.

José Ramon LOPEZ-PORTILLO ROMANO (México): Felicitamos a la Secretaría por la preparación del documento y al Doctor Walton por la excelente introducción que nos hizo esta mañana.

La delegación de México le ha otorgado y le otorga un apoyo irrestricto y solidario a África. En ese contexto apoyamos firmemente el estudio propuesto por la FAO y su plan de Acción para contribuir a

resolver los problemas agrícolas y alimentarios en la región africana y, en particular, la posibilidad de que se otorgue mayor ayuda en especie que contribuya al desarrollo agrícola de los países receptores.

Consideramos que un estudio dirigido a la inclusión de este tipo de ayuda en especie, debe analizarse y proyectarse cuidadosamente conforme a las características de cada país y su región y conforme a los aspectos que mejor se adapten a su estrategia de seguridad alimentaria. México considera por tanto, que deben cuidarse los siguientes criterios: que el estudio propuesto no duplique otros estudios en marcha y, en todo caso, que se integre a ellos. Que la transferencia de tecnología implícita en la disponibilidad de insumos agrícolas se estudie en sus consecuencias a fin de evitar que se genere mayor dependencia y se optimice el aprovechamiento de insumos nacionales o regionales. El papel de las empresas transnacionales debe por tanto merecer toda la atención. Que se adapte el uso de tales insumos a las características de cada zona y a los planes nacionales de desarrollo. Que la inclusión e incremento de la ayuda en especie no conlleve a la disminución de la ayuda alimentaria bilateral o multilateral, sino que se adicione a ella; que tal ayuda en especie se pueda extender por plazos suficientes para hacerla efectiva.

Coincidimos con las conclusiones básicas del estudio presentado por la FAO sobre Africa, las recomendaciones y acuerdos de la 14ª Conferencia Regional de Africa y la sesión especial de la Asamblea General de las Naciones Unidas para Africa. Pedimos, pues, al Director General de la FAO que realice ese estudio como se propone en los párrafos 42 y 48 con las características que hemos citado. Sabemos, como se recoge en el documento, que muchas de las decisiones y acciones están en manos de los propios países africanos y les sugerimos que le den prioridad a la reforma agraria y a los cambios estructurales propuestos. Hemos escuchado aquí interesantes y trascendentes expresiones en ese sentido.

Como bien se observa en el documento, Africa requiere de la asistencia externa para lograr resultados satisfactorios en su empeño. Exhortamos a la Comunidad Internacional a que amplíe los cauces de la ayuda y de la asistencia destinadas a Africa a fin de consolidar un proceso de desarrollo que solamente el tiempo y un esfuerzo permanente puede llevar a resultados sólidos concretos.

La asistencia financiera y técnica externa es indispensable, sobre todo para que con este apoyo, con la ayuda en especie, se llegue al nivel requerido para producir en Africa los alimentos y no sólo para cubrir pasajeramente las necesidades que por ahora son crónicas.

Apoyamos, y lo reiteramos de nuevo, la ampliación de la ayuda en especie y la cooperación mayor de los países industrializados para otorgarla dentro de un plan bien estructurado que permita alcanzar las metas de desarrollo.

Algunas delegaciones han hecho mención a la conveniencia de que un estudio similar en vista del deterioro de la situación de la seguridad alimentaria en otras regiones, se extienda hacia esas otras regiones. México considera que eso podría ser interesante, pero en la medida en que no distraiga ni los recursos ni la atención prioritaria al continente africano. Nosotros consideramos que, inclusive, ese estudio para Africa podría servir en su elaboración y en su ejecución para que una acción similar se extienda hacia otras regiones. Por tanto le solicitamos al Director General que en la medida de esta prioridad reconocida, nos pueda presentar en un futuro un extenso análisis hacia otras regiones.

Mohd. Mazlan BIN JUSOH (Malaysia): My delegation wishes to welcome the report of the Special Session of the United Nations General Assembly on the critical and economic situation in Africa and we thank Mr Walton for his excellent introduction. We wholeheartedly support the programmes as proposed in the OAU's Africa priority programme of economic recovery, as it is fundamental to the dignified existence of the countries in Africa.

The programme is testimony to the resolve and determination of the African nations themselves towards attaining the goal of self-reliance. It is only appropriate that agriculture be given top priority in the proposed programme. Perhaps the world community has not braced itself regarding figures of financial commitments that are required for the implementation of the programmes. If the African nations themselves, despite the present difficult situation, are willing to mobilize up to 82.5 billion dollars within the next five years there is no cause for the international community to balk at the mere sum of 9 billion dollars a year to help the continent recover fully from the famine situation. The amount of 9 billion dollars a year is just a trickle compared with the exorbitant sums spent on supportive export policies and the wasteful expenditure on armaments.

As members of the international community it is our moral duty to give our fullest support to all efforts towards the recovery of Africa. Admittedly the road ahead is filled with difficulties, especially with regard to the current difficult economic problems faced by the nations of the continent.

Debt-servicing obligations were reported to amount to between 14.6 billion dollars and 24.5 billion dollars yearly. Therefore for the African nations to mobilize up to 82.5 billion dollars additional to these difficult commitments would appear to be a formidable, if not an insurmountable task. It is therefore of the utmost importance that financial institutions reappraise the problem of debt servicing faced by African nations and not merely prescribe conventional measures of austerity which can no longer be tolerated by these nations who have suffered severe reverses in the economic and food situation.

My delegation is pleased to welcome the in depth study on food problems in Africa, as documented in CL 90/21. Indeed it is alarming to note that the conclusion of the study indicates a possible decline in per caput food production in the next 25 years. It is also anticipated that cereal deficit will reach up to 100 million tons by the year 2010. Of course, importation of such an amount by the African nations themselves would be unthinkable in the face of the adverse economic situation that would prevail in the continent. Therefore we have no reservations whatsoever in supporting the Programme of Action proposed in the study, which stipulates that agriculture be given top priority.

The four-point strategy as detailed in the study, namely the four "is" of agriculture-incentives, inputs, institutions and infrastructure-must be improved. We regard these measures as logical and pragmatic.

Attention to programmes based on resource development and conservation of the environment is very appropriate due to the alarming rate of desertification and soil degradation that have taken place in a large part of Sub-Saharan Africa.

The proposal to study aid-in-kind, especially in terms of inputs, such as fertilizers, agricultural machinery, etc, is fully supported by my delegation. We consider that such a programme for aid-in-kind, which is primarily addressed to strengthen the productive capacities of the farmers in the region, is logical and imperative. This is indeed consistent with our delegation's stand that aid should be concentrated in the field of food production rather than on giving food. We also appreciate the caution indicated with regard to aid-in-kind, especially on the possible ill effects on domestic producers of items which are to be given in this programme of aid-in-kind. Where possible it may be more plausible to produce the necessary inputs, such as fertilizers, in the continent itself.

Antoine SAINTRAIT (observateur de la Belgique): A l'occasion de la discussion des documents qui nous sont soumis je voudrais intervenir brièvement au nom de mon pays pour dire que nous estimons que l'aide en nature peut être un élément intéressant et important pour donner un stimulant à l'économie agricole d'un certain nombre de pays en crise; l'aide en nature peut être un complément aux actions multilatérales et bilatérales. Bien évidemment l'aide en nature n'est pas une formule nouvelle, elle est abondamment utilisée dans le domaine de l'aide alimentaire.

Comme il est incontestablement préférable d'aider à la production alimentaire plutôt que de fournir de l'aide alimentaire, l'aide en biens matériels, si elle est efficacement utilisée, peut être un élément très intéressant de productivité; par biens matériels on entend les outils adaptés-des machines relativement simples, des engrais, des produits phytosanitaires et vétérinaires-mais il faut être prudent en ce domaine pour répondre de manière adéquate aux questions et problèmes qui se posent dans le monde.

L'aide en nature n'est qu'un élément des systèmes agraires; la politique de prix est déterminante, tout comme il est nécessaire de disposer des équipements de stockage et des moyens de communication et de transport. Nous avons tous une expérience dans le domaine de l'aide en nature, et il est souhaitable que des leçons puissent en être tirées; une aide en nature, dans la mesure où elle est additionnelle aux budgets existants, peut être un élément de réponse. L'étude destinée à faire le point de la situation devrait être entreprise; grâce à elle, il serait peut-être possible de remédier aux défauts existants et de donner une impulsion pour une meilleure productivité agricole. Les pays donateurs, bien souvent sans l'avouer ouvertement, désirent-et c'est souvent légitime-assurer un "flow back" des actions de coopération par des fournitures en matériel. Si le matériel est valable, et s'il peut être réellement utile aux paysans du tiers monde, pourquoi pas? L'étude qui doit faire l'objet d'une collaboration active entre tous les pays, ne peut que contribuer déterminer les règles du jeu. Bien sur les situations sont très différentes et peut-être faut-il commencer l'étude l où la situation est la plus délicate, c'est-à-dire en Afrique. C'est dans le secteur des cultures vivrières qu'il faut examiner le problème, avec les mesures d'accompagnement indispensables. Dès lors, nous estimons devoir appuyer l'idée lancée; elle nous paraît intéressante, opérationnelle et incontestablement utile.

J'insisterai aussi sur notre souhait de voir la FAO jouer un rôle de premier plan dans les tables rondes décidées pour les pays les moins avancés, lors de la Conférence de Paris.

Je voudrais maintenant, si vous le permettez, donner lecture d'une déclaration que le Représentant de la Commission des Communautés économiques européennes aurait voulu faire, et qu'en son absence, aujourd'hui, je ferai en ses lieux et place:

"Je voudrais au nom de la Commission des Communautés européennes adresser mes félicitations aux auteurs de l'étude intitulée 'L'agriculture africaine des 25 prochaines années', qui a été présentée et approuvée en septembre dernier à Yamoussoukro en Côte d'Ivoire lors de la 14ème Conférence régionale de la FAO pour l'Afrique. L'une des propositions faites dans cette étude concerne l'opportunité d'une étude de faisabilité sur les possibilités d'accroître la production agricole par une augmentation de l'aide en nature sous forme d'intrants agricoles. Comme cela a été souligné au paragraphe 20 du document CL 90/21, l'aide en nature n'est nullement une nouveauté, et nous-mêmes avons eu recours sur une échelle parfois importante à de telles aides avec certains pays signataires ou non de la Convention de Lomé.

Il n'en demeure pas moins qu'il s'agit là d'une forme d'aide au développement tout à fait particulière, et qui demande une grande maîtrise au niveau de la distribution et de l'application des intrants agricoles pour éviter les dérapages, notamment un gaspillage excessif des produits mis à la disposition des utilisateurs.

Fort de l'expérience acquise au cours de ces dernières années, la Commission pense que certaines précautions et mesures doivent être prises avant de considérer les projets d'extension de l'aide en nature sur une grande échelle.

La Commission des Communautés européennes considère toutefois avec un certain intérêt la réalisation par la FAO d'une étude de faisabilité sur ce sujet mais elle estime d'ores et déjà qu'il conviendrait éventuellement de ne pas aller au-delà de l'étude de faisabilité, si celle-ci devait confirmer ses craintes quant au coût élevé et au faible rendement d'une telle entreprise à l'échelle du continent africain. En tout état de cause, comme cela est proposé au paragraphe 35 du document-CL 90/21, croyez-bien, Monsieur le Président, que si le Conseil de la FAO, suivant l'avis de la Conférence de Yamoussoukro, décidait de mandater le Directeur général de la FAO pour réaliser cette étude de faisabilité, la Commission des Communautés européennes apporterait sa contribution et fournirait en particulier toutes les informations et tous les enseignements que nous avons nous-mêmes recueillis lors de la mise en oeuvre d'actions de ce type".

M. Joseph TCHICAYA (Congo): Nous examinerons successivement les documents CL 90/19 et CL 90/21 et tout d'abord, nous souhaitons féliciter M. Walton pour la production de ces deux documents.

Le gouvernement de mon pays a activement pris part à la préparation de la 13ème session extraordinaire de l'Assemblée générale des Nations Unies tant à New York qu'à Addis-Abeba. Il s'est donc réjoui de la tenue de cette session extraordinaire car il s'agissait là d'un événement que l'Afrique entière a salué et qui a suscité beaucoup d'espoir parmi nous. En effet, c'est la première fois-et on l'a déjà dit-dans les annales des Nations Unies, qu'une session extraordinaire est consacrée à l'examen des problèmes d'une seule région. L'Afrique a perçu cela comme une affirmation de la solidarité internationale et une volonté unanime de la communauté internationale d'aider les peuples de cette région, même si nous aurions voulu qu'à cette occasion cette volonté se manifestât de manière plus concrète. Nous estimons aussi que le fait que l'Assemblée générale des Nations Unies ait adopté un programme d'action qui consacre l'agriculture constitue en soi un succès pour la FAO dont mon gouvernement a su apprécier la contribution aux travaux préparatoires.

Mais à présent que la session extraordinaire a adopté un programme, c'est sur la mise en oeuvre du programme pour le redressement économique et le développement de l'Afrique 1986-90 qu'il convient de porter notre attention. L'agriculture y étant reconnue comme principal moteur du redressement et du développement à long terme de l'Afrique, il importe que la FAO fasse montre d'initiatives susceptibles de mobiliser le maximum de ressources pouvant y concourir.

A cet égard, nous nous réjouissons de ce que la 14ème Conférence régionale de la FAO pour l'Afrique, tenue du 2 au 11 septembre dernier à Yamoussoukro, qui a eu pour thème l'agriculture les 25 prochaines années, s'inscrive dans cette perspective, constituant ainsi la première mesure de suivi de la résolution des Nations Unies S-13/2.

Cependant, nous sommes conscients du fait que le succès du Programme d'action dépendra de manière décisive des mesures qui sont et seront prises au niveau de chaque pays. Nous espérons que la FAO jouera un rôle très actif dans la mise en oeuvre du Programme des Nations Unies, qui est en parfaite harmonie avec le Programme d'action pour l'agriculture africaine approuvé par la 14ème Conférence régionale de la FAO à Yamoussoukro.

Nous devons dire d'ores et déjà que l'Organisation de l'unité africaine veille en ce moment à la mise en place des mécanismes nationaux adéquats pour assurer la mise en oeuvre du Programme d'action des Nations Unies et nous sommes heureux de la disponibilité de la FAO et de son Directeur général pour porter assistance à l'Afrique dans ce domaine.

Le Comité directeur permanent de l'OUA, qui a reçu mandat d'aider les pays africains à exécuter leurs programmes conformément au Programme des Nations Unies, s'y est depuis attelé et tiendra sa première réunion consacrée à ce sujet du 8 au 12 décembre prochain à Brazzaville. Le Président en exercice de l'OUA, le Colonel Denis Sassou Nguesso, en raison du rôle central de l'agriculture dans ce Programme, a invité Monsieur Edouard Saouma, Directeur général de la FAO, à participer aux travaux de l'organe directeur de l'OUA et à lui faire part de l'accueil qu'aurait reçu la proposition de l'aide en nature accrue que nous aborderons tout à l'heure.

Autant dire que tout ce qui touche l'Afrique et qui est débattu ou préconisé ici, à Rome, capitale mondiale de l'alimentation, et qui serait de nature à apporter des solutions au problème de la faim et de la malnutrition dont souffre encore cette région, revêt pour nous la plus haute importance. Nous nous réjouissons, en conséquence, de toutes les actions ayant des effets positifs sur la mise en oeuvre du Programme d'action des Nations Unies. C'est le cas du Programme spécial pour les pays de l'Afrique subsaharienne victimes de la sécheresse et de la désertification, pour lequel on essaie actuellement de mobiliser 300 millions de dollars. Nous formons le voeu que les pays donateurs se mobilisent pour atteindre cet objectif de même que nous espérons que la communauté internationale trouvera les bases financières les plus solides pour garantir la pérennité de cette institution.

L'on se souviendra que la 13^{ème} Conférence régionale de la FAO pour l'Afrique, à Harare, a adopté une importante Déclaration qui a été à la base d'une résolution adoptée par le Conseil à sa 86^{ème} session et qui a permis au Directeur général d'entreprendre des actions concrètes et d'affecter des ressources supplémentaires au relèvement de l'agriculture africaine.

Nous saluons tous ceux qui, avec nous, ont appuyé ces mesures qui, on le sait, ont apporté quelque soulagement dans notre région. Mais comme on le sait, cette Déclaration appelait à la mobilisation des ressources tant intérieures qu'extérieures à l'Afrique. Cette mobilisation, on en convient, ne pouvait être analysée que si un cadre technico-économique était tracé. C'est pourquoi, dans la même foulée, les instigateurs de la politique agricole et rurale de notre continent avaient demandé au Directeur général de la FAO d'entreprendre une étude approfondie des problèmes agricoles et alimentaires de l'Afrique et de proposer des mesures concrètes pour les surmonter. Nous sommes heureux de constater que le Directeur général de la FAO a réalisé ce travail dans les délais impartis et suffisamment à temps pour que les éléments de cette étude servent à la réunion politique la plus importante, qui s'est tenue à New York l'année dernière, sur la situation économique critique en Afrique.

L'Afrique a fait siennes les principales conclusions de l'étude qui sont excellemment résumées dans le document CL 90/21. Comme on peut s'en rendre compte, l'agriculture africaine est dans une mauvaise passe et l'on peut dire, sans faire preuve d'un pessimisme exagéré, qu'il est clair que si rien n'est fait pour inverser la tendance actuelle, la production vivrière par habitant va continuer à décroître en raison de la dégradation des ressources de la région. Cette situation est d'autant plus préoccupante que le Programme d'action des Nations Unies dont nous venons de parler reconnaît lui-même que l'agriculture est le principal moteur du redressement et du développement à long terme de l'Afrique. Voilà pourquoi la communauté internationale devra s'efforcer d'appuyer les efforts des dirigeants africains en faveur de l'agriculture car il est reconnu que l'agriculture africaine est la moins productive au monde et qu'il importe de mettre un accent particulier sur les investissements nécessaires pour accroître sa capacité de production. L'évaluation des besoins financiers annuels est connue de la communauté internationale. Nous savons qu'il exige de tous un effort sans précédent dans l'aide aux pays d'Afrique.

Voilà pourquoi le Président en exercice de l'OUA, le Colonel Denis Sassou Nguesso, a apporté son soutien à l'appui reçu par la proposition du Directeur général de la FAO visant à mettre un accent particulier sur l'accroissement de l'aide en nature. En effet, le Président en exercice de l'OUA pense qu'au regard des résultats de la session extraordinaire de l'Assemblée générale des Nations Unies de mai, il convient que toutes les initiatives pouvant conduire à un accroissement de l'aide extérieure retiennent toute notre attention. Mais ces initiatives ont en outre l'avantage de développer l'utilisation d'intrants agricoles parfois encore inconnus des petits agriculteurs de nos pays, ce qui pourra accroître le rendement et développer, of conséquence, 100 industries locales et régionales. Les pays développés trouveront également leur compte. C'est pourquoi le Conseil devrait appuyer l'idée que la FAO entreprenne cette étude avec la participation active des pays donateurs et bénéficiaires.

Le Congo n'aurait vu aucun inconvénient à ce que l'étude de faisabilité soit étendue aux autres régions en développement mais il pense que la conjoncture commande que l'étude commence par l'Afrique et qu'elle soit étendue plus tard, selon ses résultats, aux autres régions en développement. Nous pensons que le moment est particulièrement favorable pour mener une telle étude dont les résultats, une fois mis en oeuvre, ne manqueront pas d'avoir des retombées positives sur

l'agriculture africaine et sur l'ensemble des économies de la région, tout en relançant la production dans les industries concernées des pays donateurs qui, on le sait, ne fonctionnent plus à pleine capacité en raison d'une faible demande. Une telle aide en nature prolongerait également les effets bénéfiques de l'aide alimentaire d'urgence et aurait sans aucun doute l'avantage de réduire les situations d'urgence grâce à l'augmentation de la production agricole qui résulterait de l'utilisation régulière des intrants, que l'aide en nature fournie jusqu'à présent n'a guère permis, car non assortie d'engagements à long terme et d'une ampleur souvent trop limitée pour avoir l'impact désiré.

Nous apprécierions beaucoup que cette étude de faisabilité trace la voie et définisse les moyens nécessaires pour relancer les industries d'intrants adaptés aux différentes écologies de cette région et pour favoriser les échanges interrégionaux d'intrants et de matières premières. Nous espérons que cette étude de faisabilité débouchera sur un programme concret d'application rapide car ainsi-et ainsi seulement-ce programme pourra jouer un rôle important dans l'exécution de la stratégie adoptée par la 14^{ème} Conférence, et notamment l'amélioration des quatre "i", et dans l'accroissement de l'appui donné par la communauté internationale aux agriculteurs africains.

Cette initiative, qui s'inscrit dans le droit fil du Programme des Nations Unies adopté par la session extraordinaire de l'Assemblée générale des Nations Unies sur la situation économique critique en Afrique, devrait pouvoir recueillir l'appui unanime des membres du Conseil, lesquels devraient également être invités à collaborer étroitement avec le Secrétariat pour mener cette étude à bonne fin. En effet, celle-ci revêt pour nous un caractère d'urgence, car n'oublions pas que le Programme des Nations Unies a une durée de cinq ans à partir de 1986 et que cette dernière année s'achève sous peu.

Nous considérons que, si cette idée se transforme en réalité, ce programme d'aide en nature mobilisera des ressources additionnelles non négligeables pour la mise en oeuvre du Programme d'action des Nations Unies. De telles ressources, en effet, viendraient s'ajouter à celles en cours de mobilisation tant au niveau bilatéral qu'au niveau multilatéral, à l'instar du Programme spécial en faveur des pays de l'Afrique subsaharienne que j'ai évoqué tout à l'heure.

En résumé, l'Afrique serait reconnaissante au Conseil d'autoriser par consensus la FAO à réaliser cette étude; et nous nous réjouissons de voir que ce consensus semble se dégager au sein du Conseil. Bien entendu, cette étude devra tenir compte des préoccupations tant des pays développés donateurs que des pays bénéficiaires et, en tout état de cause, ne devra pas alourdir le poids de la dette qui pèse sur nos pays mais, au contraire, devra constituer une base solide pour les petits exploitants agricoles afin qu'ils accroissent leur productivité et leurs revenus en vue d'améliorer leurs conditions de vie et de participer ainsi au développement des économies de nos pays pour que ceux-ci participent plus activement aux échanges mondiaux.

E. Wayne DENNEY (United States of America): The United States participated fully and listened attentively to both the United Nations Special Session on Africa and the recent FAO Regional Conference for Africa.

Regarding the UN Special Session, we continue to believe that the role of the donor community is subsidiary to that of African governments in implementing needed economic policy reforms. However, the United States intends to continue to cooperate with African governments, the OAU, the UNDP, FAO and others, in seeking to solve African economic and social problems. The United States will focus its assistance on several of the highest priority areas cited in the Programme of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development adopted at the Special Session, namely, economic restructuring, agricultural development, and human resources development.

The achievement of economic and institutional reform by recipient countries is the centrepiece of our assistance strategy. Agricultural development is a high priority and entails support for agricultural structural reforms such as pricing, market liberalization and privatization, improvement in agricultural production, greater responsiveness to local and regional markets, better management of natural resources and drought preparedness.

The United States will continue to support the development of Africa's human resources through support for programmes in the priority areas of training, child survival and family planning.

The United States considers coordination among donors and between the donor community and recipient countries to be of highest importance. In this respect, we encourage FAO to participate with the other United Nations Agencies in preparing for the 1988 Mid-Term Follow-up to the African Action Programme.

There is no need to duplicate the lengthy dialogue on FAO's excellent multi-volume study on African agriculture which was debated just two months ago. Appropriate technology which small farmers can implement was considered a pre-requisite. Some needed tractors, some spare parts; for others it was fertilizers. We need to look at what are the drawbacks in individual small farmers' needs and adopt a flexible approach so that each person's needs are met.

Document CL 90/21 requests us to make two decisions: first, should FAO conduct a feasibility study of stepping up input aid-in-kind; second, should the focus of study be limited to Africa? We believe the Director-General's proposal has some merit. The United States provides aid-in-kind to a number of African countries. This aid-in-kind takes the form of foodgrains, processed food commodities and various production inputs such as fertilizers, farm equipment and spare parts. While inputs are important, they represent only one of several constraints to developing a higher sustained agricultural growth in Sub-Saharan Africa. Incentives, institutions, infrastructure and initiative are other critical factors. Each country's needs are different.

At the FAO regional conference for Africa several countries expressed the view that inputs alone would do very little towards an improved agricultural sector. We are concerned that an extensive study by FAO relating to input aid-in-kind may divert attention away from coordinated programmes for agricultural development that we believe are critical.

As noted by Mr. Walton in his introduction, we trust that FAO would utilize the facilities of the UNDP round tables and World Bank consultative groups to effect such coordination.

Following our considerable debate last week on FAO's reduced budgetary resources, we are concerned that performing the study may reduce expenditures on other high priority programmes. An expense of \$400 000 would have serious repercussions on existing programmes.

Despite our concerns over the cost of the study, the risk of over-emphasizing one component of a package of recommendations and possible damages to domestic producers and distributors of inputs, aid-in-kind appears to be an area where FAO could be an effective intermediary between potential donors and recipients. If there is strong Council support for FAO to undertake such a study, as it appears there will be, the United States is interested in participating, with the prior understanding that our willingness to participate in no way suggests that we believe increased input of the United States may well come at the expense of other aid programmes.

Finally, since the idea for this study emerged directly from the African study, we believe its focus should remain on Africa for the present time.

Khalil MAKKAWI (Liban) (langue originale arabe): Ma délégation voudrait tout d'abord remercier M. Walton pour l'excellente présentation du point de l'ordre du jour en discussion, à savoir "La situation économique critique en Afrique". Ma délégation voudrait également exprimer sa profonde satisfaction pour les activités de la FAO en vue de l'application du Plan d'action pour le redressement économique en Afrique. Si les résolutions de la session extraordinaire de la Conférence générale des Nations Unies, également acceptées par les pays membres de l'OUA, ont été suivies d'un début d'exécution et dans des délais aussi brefs, cela n'était point une tâche facile et pourtant c'était bien là le défi que la FAO a su relever. Nous pensons que cela s'explique essentiellement par la vision politique juste du Directeur général de l'Organisation. Permettez-moi donc de l'en féliciter. En effet, le Directeur général a mené une lutte contre la faim pendant les années de sécheresse en étant sûr que toutes les mesures qui s'imposaient, ainsi que la mobilisation de l'aide internationale, qui a été sans précédent, peuvent permettre à l'Afrique de s'engager sur la voie du développement à long terme. Cherchant la meilleure approche de ces problèmes, et essayant d'y trouver les solutions les plus pratiques, le Directeur général, Monsieur Saouma, a été le premier à demander l'organisation d'une session extraordinaire de l'Assemblée générale des Nations Unies. Lorsque les invitations ont été lancées pour l'organisation de cette session extraordinaire, la FAO était fin prête, puisqu'elle n'a pas hésité à procéder à une étude approfondie sur l'agriculture en Afrique et à dégager les perspectives d'avenir dans ce domaine. Le résultat de tous ces efforts a été ce Programme d'action qui a été adopté et dont tout le monde reconnaît les aspects positifs. Bien que je ne sois pas un spécialiste des questions africaines, je pense que le Programme d'action accepté par la Conférence régionale de l'Afrique est dans la droite ligne de ce qui a été adopté par la session spéciale de l'Assemblée générale des Nations Unies. En effet il constitue une base solide pour orienter les politiques nationales de développement agricole. Les priorités y sont définies avec précision et les objectifs avec beaucoup de réalisme et de sens de la responsabilité. L'approche, qui a été proposée par l'Organisation, pourrait ne pas être facilement mise en œuvre si l'aide internationale n'augmentait pas. A ce sujet, les prévisions ne nous invitent pas à être très confiants, en outre comme vous le savez, les pays en développement sont très endettés et manquent de devises. L'aide au développement se réduit. C'est pour cela que la proposition du Directeur général pour augmenter l'aide en nature est une proposition très prometteuse. Je voudrais remercier le Directeur général pour cette proposition. Il est vrai qu'elle soulève quelques problèmes mais il est

vrai également que les parties intéressées ne peuvent exprimer leur attitude au sujet de cette proposition que lorsqu'une étude complète sera faite pour mettre en exergue ses différentes incidences. Je pense également que l'étude de faisabilité souhaitée par la Conférence régionale pour l'Afrique est pleinement justifiée et j'espère que le Conseil apportera son soutien à cette étude comme le fait mon pays. Permettez-moi d'insister sur le point suivant: s'il est impossible de mobiliser des ressources pour le développement rural, alors les résolutions et les recommandations de l'Assemblée générale des Nations Unies, ainsi que les recommandations de la FAO, resteront lettre morte. Vous n'êtes pas sans savoir que d'autres bonnes intentions dans le passé ont eu ce même sort. C'est pour cela que nous pensons que tout dépend de notre détermination, et je demande à tous les membres du Conseil de réfléchir à la responsabilité qui nous incombe à nous tous. Je voudrais également ajouter que les efforts et les activités déployés par le FIDA pour apporter son aide aux pays africains qui ont souffert de la sécheresse et de la désertification, et afin d'aider ces pays au relancement et au relèvement du secteur agricole, sont reflétés dans le Programme d'action qui a été proposé par le FIDA et qui a été adopté par son Conseil des gouverneurs. Ces activités sont devenues exécutoires à partir de mai 1986. Nous pensons que le FIDA a eu une réaction très positive au sujet des problèmes que connaît l'Afrique et, actuellement, de nombreux projets sont à l'étude et concernent 15 pays. Cinq projets ont déjà été adoptés au cours de cette année. L'importance du Programme spécial pour l'aide aux pays africains afin de faire face aux problèmes économiques s'est également reflétée dans les résolutions de nombreuses conférences, tel le vingt-deuxième sommet de l'OUA qui s'est tenu en juillet 1986, ou le huitième sommet des non-alignés qui s'est tenu à Harare en septembre 1986 également.

Je voudrais formuler l'espoir que la FAO puisse poursuivre ses activités, qui ont commencé avec un grand succès, car nous pensons que si les difficultés financières actuelles l'empêchaient de poursuivre ses propres activités, ce serait vraiment regrettable. C'est là une incitation de plus qui nous invite à trouver les solutions adéquates à la crise actuelle.

Hermann REDL (Austria): First, I would like to thank Mr Walton for the excellent introduction of this item. The documents under consideration are very precise and clear. The Austrian delegation agrees with the Director-General's proposal for a programme composed of three complementary actions, namely, the expansion of aid-in-kind, enhancements of local productional inputs and promotion of inter-regional trade in inputs. The proposed study should be worked out in close consultation with the African countries. And due attention should be given to livestock development, agro-forestry and inland fisheries. We welcome and support initiatives and action proposals of the Director-General. We hope that FAO will start immediately, or that we have available the first draft of this study during the Council meeting in June of next year. Austria fully supports the FAO contribution for Africa and my country provides bilateral and multilateral aid to African countries and we shall continue to do so the future.

Paul A. BOMANI (Tanzania): On behalf of the Tanzanian delegation I would like to thank the FAO Director-General, Dr. Saouma and his staff for undertaking the study of the root causes of the Food and Agriculture prices in Africa. I would also like to congratulate the Deputy Director-General, Mr Walton, for the excellent and precise introduction of the paper under discussion. Before discussing the paper I wish to highlight some background information. Forgive me, if in doing so I may appear to be repeating what has been said by other speakers, but I will do so only for one reason, and that is to emphasize the points already made.

Many African countries have been experiencing famine year after year. These countries have been forced to become net importers of grains. The main factors responsible for this situation can be put into two categories. Firstly, those which are beyond our control such as weather, lack of foreign exchange to import necessary inputs and equipment, and those within our control such as policy issues on pricing, marketing systems and availability of consumer items as incentive goods. Employment of low technology and our dependence on rainfed farming systems, has resulted in unpredicted low levels of production for both cash and food crops. This situation has been further complicated by the high rate of population growth in most of the African countries.

The question that has been recurring in the minds of the heads of state and ministers of Agriculture in Africa has been what should be done to rectify the situation. The anxiety created for two decades of worsening economic conditions, especially Africa's disastrous food and agricultural situation, led to heads of states and governments of the Organization of African Unity to adopt the Lagos Plan of Action in 1980 as the framework for a collective effort aiming at an economic and social reestablishment of the African countries. In other words, what you may call the structural adjustments:

As the objectives for the 1980/85 period the Lagos Plan of Action called for the immediate improvement of the basic conditions for gradual self-sufficiency in cereals, fisheries and livestock

products. At the 21st Session of the Conference of Heads of States and Governments of the OAU, held in Addis Ababa between 8 and 20 July 1985, it was recognized and emphasized that Africa's principal economic sector and agriculture has seriously deteriorated over the last years. This came as a dramatic confirmation of the downward trend in production and productivity prevailing in the 1970s. It was also recognized that facts like famine, drought, problems of refugees and displaced persons have contributed greatly to poor performance in agriculture. Not to mention the fact of political destabilization in the southern African states perpetrated by the apartheid regime in Pretoria. Nevertheless, lack of defined technological approach and know-how further aggravated the downward trend of production.

In the light of the above background, the ministers of agriculture at the 13th FAO Regional Conference held in Harare, in July 1985, requested the FAO to undertake an in-depth study of agriculture and food problems in Africa and to recommend the appropriate technology to overcome prevailing problems.

At this juncture, I would like to express my deepest appreciation to the Director-General of the FAO, Dr Saouma, for his prompt response and action which resulted in completing the study within a very short time. The study was presented and discussed at the 14th FAO Regional Conference for Africa in Yamoussoukro, Cote d'Ivoire, where it was duly approved and endorsed by African ministers of agriculture. I was honoured to be present at that meeting. I was honoured to be appointed the reporter of the Regional Conference held in Yamoussoukro and, as a result, and perhaps because of this, I was closely associated with the feelings of the ministers, and with their deep sense of commitment to the concepts and the objectives of the programme presented by the Director-General.

I assure you, members of this Council, that the study and the programme of action was highly recommended and then endorsed by all ministers at the Conference. Once again, my delegation fully endorses the findings of the study. The study is not only comprehensive, but has offered concrete suggestions which, if implemented, will help the African continent to utilize fully its potential in the production of food and export crops. Also, the programme of action proposed by the Director-General had the full support of the southern African delegation. As a matter of interest, we should like to emphasize briefly four points of strategy to raise food production. The Director-General has given us the four "I's" as the main thrust of our objectives.

It is a fact that the many developing countries have been getting aid for a number of years, but yet they have been at the centre of a food crisis. This proves that strategies which have been pursued, by those the recipient and donor countries, have not been tailored to answer problems which have been responsible for the low production. It is at this point that I strongly feel that action proposed by the Director-General will, in a great way, help to bring a positive return for investment and results in a positive impact.

The Tanzanian Government has already started to implement some of the proposed measures in the study. These include ensuring that the farmers are paid not less than 70 percent of the export price as one way of motivating the farmers. The agricultural sector is receiving the priority it deserves and, as a result, of the deliberate decision, the development budget is now to be channelled to the agricultural sectors up to 30 percent of total resources. The training of farmers is given due emphasis to ensure that they are acquainted with modern farming practices, based on the increased producer prices. Our cotton crop this year has doubled, although, unfortunately, the world market prices have dropped by almost 50 percent. Here again the role of the United Nations agencies to participate fully in finding solutions to commodity problems cannot be further emphasized. I would support very strongly the points made in this regard by the delegation of Czechoslovakia. This shows that the decision on protectionism and policy decisions of the developed countries affect plans of the developing nations, whether they like it or not.

I wish to state here that the Tanzania agricultural production is growing at 2 percent per annum while the population growth is at 3.3 percent per annum. This situation could be rectified if we would seriously address ourselves to the following problems; we must address ourselves to the question first of all of population growth vis-a-vis food production. Demand for agricultural inputs is much higher than we can supply locally. There was a time when use of fertilizer was very unpopular; now it is the other way around. The demand for fertilizer has increased; the annual demand now is about 184 000 tonnes and this is very small compared with the potential of the market but smaller still when it is compared with the use of fertilizers in other agricultural producing countries. That being the case, we still have this unattainable situation where we are able to supply only 50 000 tonnes from local sources. Our demand for better seeds is about 30 000 tonnes a year. The capability of supplying seeds in the country is only 5 000 tonnes. That means the rest of the farmers go without better seeds simply because we cannot afford them. The demand for bags, a common commodity we use for transportation, is about 25 million pieces a year. The supply from local sources is about 7.5 million bags. You look at another aspect of production factors and improvement, ploughs, tractors. I take tractors because they are not manufactured in Tanzania. We have a demand for 1 800 tractors a year, a very small number, but we can only supply from our resources 250 pieces. It has been possible through aid-in-kind from friendly nations to obtain some tractors; Japan has provided some tractors; Canada has provided some tractors; Italy has provided some tractors and they are doing very well, although the number is very small.

The experiment in this aid-in-kind, already existing on a small scale in Tanzania, is a good example of what can be done if you are able to enlarge the supplies.

The Tanzanian Government has prepared its three year economic recovery programme initiated this financial year. The programme requires about US\$62 million to rehabilitate the agricultural sector and almost the same amount of funds to meet the inputs and agricultural equipment. This is not a frightfully big amount, but for Tanzania it is quite substantial. We need these funds for annual operations to be able to feed Tanzania.

This brief account shows the little experience we have in Tanzania and indicates clearly that aid-in-kind package will and can help to revive our agricultural production. The background that I have given shows very clearly that the document before us, especially paragraph 45 on page 9, gives a note of caution maybe a rather timid approach to the whole idea. Paragraph 45 begins by stating that "The proposed study would aim at providing answers to some basic questions so as to enable countries and institutions to decide on the expediency in an increase in aid-in-kind" and then it goes on "Should the study result in a consensus being reached in favour of such an increase, then, and only then, would it be appropriate to proceed with the preparations of more detailed action programmes". This is rather subdued, cagey and rather timid, for the statement presupposes ongoing and adequate aid-in-kind. There is no such ongoing adequate aid-in-kind, so we are proposing a feasibility study to change the status quo, because we know the road to status quo is the road to chaos. We cannot opt for no solution because no solution is the quick road to chaos. As far as I can see, the only viable action is really to achieve some changes to bring about growth. If science and technology are essential to achieving environmental control manipulation for betterment of life, then we have to seek transfer of technology. Agriculture in the United States is successful partly because of the land grant universities and outreach programmes which serve the farmer. The Green Revolution in the Far East, and now Asia, has been brought about by the provision of better seed and fertilizers accompanied by better and modern techniques. Africa will continue begging for food if it is denied access to the inputs; if it is denied access to modern technology; if it is denied access to implements; if it is denied access to credit. The journey to African economic recovery has taken many routes, and still has a long way to go. The first fundamental rule on this journey is the very realization and acceptance of responsibilities by our leaders, but we must face the stark reality that Africa cannot and will not overcome the scourge of famine and starvation without first instituting a policy of changes in favour of agriculture. Secondly, Africa has the resources and great potential which have yet to be exploited, but you will not achieve this without removing the bottlenecks. Thirdly, to realize these objectives, Africa must reform, Africa must unleash productive forces and enthusiasm and energy towards agriculture.

Finally, and it is stated in paragraph 16 of the document, Africa will and can succeed if there is action by the international community in support of the programme. The African farmers must be supported to reverse the negative food production trends of the past. That is why we are here. That is why we have FAO. But we have become rather limited in our attitude because we have expected business as usual, "If Africa does not have food we can send some grain and settle the temporary problem" and that is it. This will not get us anywhere. This small planet of ours has become smaller because of modern communication. Modern communication has made it easier for us to communicate, but we have communication without a community. Even when we have a golden opportunity to create world community, world understanding for mutual interest, we allow barriers to stand in the way.

Please let us not fail to realize what Africa is asking for. Africa is asking for knowledge to improve her capability to feed herself. We are seeking for the essentials of human needs. We want to work the land and produce what is needed. We cannot arrogate this responsibility to others. It is like we read in the Old Book. In the ancient days there was a young man called Joseph. He happened to be in Egypt at a time when the pharaoh of Egypt had a dream which was almost a nightmare, which perturbed him greatly, and he sought for interpretation of that dream, which unfortunately he had forgotten, and it was Joseph who decoded the dream and saved Egypt from impending disaster. Our puzzle today is clear: is Africa going to feed herself 20 years from now or face starvation? History repeats itself. If at that time Joseph was able to come up with an idea which saved Egypt, this Council should turn itself into a modern Joseph serving the OAU instead of the pharaoh and provide the answer to the problem facing Africa. We are asking Chip Council to interpret the African dream of the next 25 years.

LE PRESIDENT: Avant de lever la séance, je voudrais donner la parole à M. Savary, qui va faire une communication.

LE SECRETAIRE GENERAL: J'ai été prié d'annoncer que le Comité de rédaction ne se réunira pas ce soir mais demain soir, après la séance plénière de l'après-midi.

The meeting rose at 12. 30 hours.

La séance est levée à 12 h 30.

Se levanta la sesión a las 12. 30 horas.

council

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

conseil

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

consejo

ORGANIZACION DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS PARA LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION

CL

CL 90/PV/12

Ninetieth Session

Quatre-vingt-dixième session

90º período de sesiones

**TWELFTH PLENARY MEETING
DOUZIEME SEANCE PLENIERE
12ª SESION PLENARIA
(24 November 1986)**

The Twelfth Plenary Meeting was opened at 14. 45 hours,
Paul A. Bomani, Vice-Chairman of the Council, presiding

La douzième séance plénière est ouverte à 14 h 45, sous
la présidence de Paul A. Bomani, Vice-Président du Conseil

Se abre la 12ª sesión plenaria a las 14. 45 horas, bajo la
Presidencia de Paul A. Bomani, Vicepresidente del Consejo

- III. ACTIVITIES OF FAO AND WFP (continued)
- III. ACTIVITES DE LA FAO ET DU PAM (suite)
- III. ACTIVIDADES DE LA FAO Y DEL PMA (continuación)
- 8. Recent Developments in the UN System of Interest to FAO (continued)
- 8. Faits nouveaux survenus dans le système des Nations Unies et intéressant la FAO (suite)
- 8. Novedades recientes registradas en el sistema de las Naciones Unidas de interés para la FAO (continuación)
- 8.2 FAO Follow-up of UN General Assembly Special Session on the Critical Economic Situation in Africa (continued)
- 8.2 Suite à donner à la session extraordinaire de l'Assemblée générale sur la situation économique critique en Afrique (suite)
- 8.2 Medidas complementarias en relación con el período extraordinario de sesiones de la Asamblea General de las Naciones Unidas sobre la situación económica crítica de Africa (continuación)

Sra. Mercedes FERMIN GOMEZ (Venezuela): Debemos comenzar por expresar nuestra satisfacción por la excelente preparación y por la presentación que de ella hizo el señor Director General Adjunto ante esta Asamblea de los documentos CL 90/19 y CL 90/21.

Expresamos nuestro apoyo al Programa de Acción de las Naciones Unidas en cuanto al objetivo de alcanzar un desarrollo más dinámico y la importancia que asigna a la función de la mujer.

No queremos desaprovechar la oportunidad que esta referencia nos brinda para recordar a este Consejo la vigencia que a este respecto tiene la Resolución adoptada unánimemente por nuestra Conferencia General de 1985 sobre la mujer en el medio rural, la cual solicita prestar atención a la mujer campesina de los países subdesarrollados en vías de desarrollo en todos los programas **de** la FAO, y en este caso concretamente le corresponde a la mujer africana que debe merecer preferente atención en el estudio a considerar para Africa, que apenas ha recorrido la primera etapa en el camino de su verdadera liberación del colonialismo. Para que sea una emancipación completa, para que la soberanía de las naciones africanas sea a plenitud es necesario que se haga efectiva su emancipación económica; es en el plano económico en el cual puede valorarse la verdadera independencia de los pueblos y es hacia este fin al cual consideramos nosotros que se dirige el Programa de Acción de las Naciones Unidas y más especialmente el estudio que sobre Africa propone la FAO referente a la producción de alimentos básicos y en el campo de la agricultura, y cuando decimos agricultura estamos también incluyendo la pesca y la ganadería.

Pero, aún más, como bien lo plantea el señor Director General en este documento CL 90/21, dicho Programa sería mayormente efectivo puesto que ya se ha demostrado que no basta la ayuda alimentaria per se, sino que es indispensable ayudar a los países a incrementar y desarrollar su propia producción de alimentos y por ello es indispensable la ayuda en especie.

Como lo expone el documento en sus párrafos 15 y 16 deberíamos hacer efectiva la estrategia de cuatro puntos denominada las cuatro "íes" propuesta por nuestro Director General.

Para cumplir con la solicitud de la Conferencia Regional Africana que pide a este Consejo un mandato para realizar el estudio de factibilidad propuesto por el Director General queremos expresar nuestro pleno apoyo a tal solicitud, manifestando al mismo tiempo nuestro respaldo a la sugerencia de que tal estudio se extienda a otros continentes los cuales arrastran una vida de pobreza crítica de grandes masas humanas que necesitan ayuda. A estos países en vías de desarrollo el Programa de Ayuda en Especie en forma de insumos agrícolas les sería completamente necesario.

Debemos también respaldar la propuesta del Director General contenida en el párrafo 20 del documento CL 90/21 en cuanto a reformas institucionales referidas a la reforma agraria y a los servicios de capacitación, investigación y extensión, centradas principalmente en las necesidades del pequeño agricultor.

Debemos recordar aquí que en la Conferencia Regional de Barbados, la cual tuvo lugar en agosto de este año, el punto central fue la solicitud hecha al Director General de la FAO de un estudio de las condiciones económicas de América Latina y el Caribe, lo cual fue aprobado por unanimidad. Lo que deseamos expresar aquí es que veríamos con agrado que al realizar el estudio de viabilidad para Africa se tome en cuenta este hecho para incorporar, cuando se trate de extenderlo a otros continentes, el estudio de referencia, sobre todo con aquellos países que enfrentan problemas de abastecimiento.

Resumiendo, queremos finalizar nuestra intervención ratificando nuestro apoyo al documento, en el contenido del párrafo 46 y en consideración al párrafo 48, con ayuda en especie; esperamos que así como este estudio debe abarcar a todos los países, debe ser también considerado para lograr un consenso pleno.

Y para terminar, nos pronunciamos por que este estudio se emprenda de inmediato a fin de que pueda ser presentado para su consideración y aprobación a la Conferencia de 1987.

Tawfik A. H. AL MESH-MEDANI (Iraq) (Original language Arabic): I should like to express my delegation's satisfaction at the introduction of the documents under discussion. The two documents under discussion are, indeed, worthy of our appreciation, and I find document CL 90/21 on the in-depth study in Africa an appropriate one. It contains a clear outline and description of the situation.

I should like to refer more specifically to the contents of paragraph 29 of the document and the reasons for increasing aid-in-kind. The analysis in this paragraph of the reasons for increasing this aid are valid ones. As to the means of undertaking the study, described in paragraphs 46 to 49, these are also valid. As concerns the question whether we should undertake the study or not, we agree to undertaking the feasibility study provided that it takes into account more specifically the needs of Africa and a number of other developing countries which are also encountering problems in obtaining their production inputs.

In adopting such a policy, nevertheless we should like to point out that we would not accept any form of aid which would be conditional or tied aid.

Hidayat GANDA ATMADJA (Indonesia): Allow me to share our comments in reviewing the documents under discussion, that is documents CL 90/19 and CL 90/21, regarding African food and agriculture.

Let me first of all congratulate Mr Walton on his excellent presentation. My delegation has studied the papers carefully and we find them quite comprehensive. For a long time we have been monitoring the active leading role of FAO in solving the agricultural problems in Africa. We have also witnessed the Director-General's full attention on this matter. We are of the view therefore, that FAO's contribution to African agriculture is not only significant but really commendable.

The report on the In-depth Study of Agricultural and Food Problems in Africa is quite satisfying as far as my delegation is concerned. The Programme of Action for African agriculture, namely the four "i's" strategy, that is incentives, inputs, institutions and infrastructure, and expansion of aid-in-kind, should be regarded as wise approaches. With regard to the four points of strategy, my delegation is of the opinion that these are the right methods to foster food production. Similar strategies have been the key elements in the success of Indonesian food production programmes which achieved self-sufficiency two years ago. The Government of Indonesia would welcome sharing its experience with other developing countries, especially in Africa.

Taking into account its successful achievement in rice self-sufficiency, a token contribution equal to about 100 000 tonnes of paddy rice was donated by the Indonesian farmers for the people who badly needed it in other countries, particularly Africa.

My delegation would like to emphasise that a political decision by the concerned Government to place the agriculture and food production programme as the main priority of its national development, followed by an appropriate pricing policy, would provide greater incentive to farmers to produce marketable surpluses. Provision of inputs such as seeds, fertilizers, pesticides, credits etc., in the most appropriate way would be prerequisites for the successful achievement of the programme. This would include the right provision of inputs in terms of appropriate time for the appropriate place, appropriate quality as well as quantity, and appropriate price related to farmers' purchasing capabilities. The institutional setup and infrastructural developments to support food production development programmes would be of fundamental importance.

With regard to the proposal for stepping up aid-in-kind, my delegation fully supports the Director-General's proposal for a further detailed study of the proposal, not only for the African region but also for other developing countries. My delegation would like to stress that aid-in-kind should be developed in such a way not only in the framework of North/South cooperation but also in the scheme of South/South cooperation. Considering that the implementation of aid-in-kind should take into account the effectiveness of the assistance, it is my delegation's view that participation in the study of the concerned Government with the country under study is of great importance.

Rainer PRESTIEN (Germany, Federal Republic of): As previous speakers have done, I should also like to associate myself with the statements in document CL 90/19. We welcome the presentation of FAO's follow-up of the UN General Assembly Special Session on the critical economic situation in Africa. Let me mention that the Federal Republic of Germany took an active part in the deliberations of this important session.

We support the UN Programme of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development 1986-1990, to which paragraphs 9 and 10 of the document refer. Africa has always been and continues to be one of the most important focal points in the Federal Republic of Germany's overall economic cooperation. The volume of our technical and financial cooperation with Africa from 1950 to 1985 amounted to DM 32.2 billion, approximately \$16 billion according to the present exchange rate. During this period of time we increased the share of agriculture and rural development to more than 30 percent. This demonstrates the high importance we attach to this sector. My country has always recognized the moral duty to help mankind in need.

With regard to the feasibility study proposed in the document, I refer to the statements which the distinguished representative of Belgium made in view of this item on behalf of the Commission of the European Communities. The Federal Republic of Germany will continue its fruitful development cooperation with Africa. In so doing we will attach special importance to rural development as we have done since the inception of our cooperation efforts thirty-six years ago.

Adel Helmy EL SARKI (Egypt) (original language Arabic): Allow me, at the beginning of my statement, to express my deep thanks to Dr Walton for his clear introduction of documents CL 90/13 and CL 90/ 21, currently being examined by the Council. During the 13th Regional Conference for Africa we welcomed the proposal to undertake a study of agriculture and food problems in Africa. During the 14th Session of the Regional Conference the completed study was examined and Egypt expressed its full satisfaction with it. We welcomed more specially those items related to the development of human resources and the harnessing of the necessary financial resources for increased production. The Egyptian delegation wished to express its full support for the Director-General's programme aimed at increasing aid-in-kind provided in the form of production inputs. This form of aid plays a vital role in increasing agricultural production. We, therefore, join other delegations in endorsing the proposal to request the Director-General to undertake a feasibility study on the possible volume of inputs.

We would also like to seize this opportunity to stress the importance of the special programme for Africa currently being implemented by IFAD and which Egypt fully supports. This programme indicates the importance attached by the international community and donor countries to helping those nations still suffering from the effects of drought and famine. Egypt attended the United Nations special session on revitalizing the African economy. There we expressed our full satis-

faction with the decisions and measures resulting from that meeting. I would like to express my special support for what his Excellency the Minister of Agriculture of Tanzania stated at this morning's meeting, namely that the development of agriculture in Africa is first and foremost the duty of the sons of Africa and none other.

Igor KIPMAN (Brazil): In connection with this subject I would like to say that the interests of my country in the overall development of the African nations and the ties which unite our peoples are well known and I need not elaborate at length about them. I will only mention that within the constraints imposed by financial difficulties some cooperation programmes are under way involving Brazil and African countries.

Regarding the feasibility study demanded by the African Regional Conference, my delegation feels that all efforts should be undertaken by FAO to have it completed as that study will certainly be an important tool for the continent's integrated development. I, therefore, extend the support of my delegation to this project.

I would like to recall that the 19th FAO Regional Conference for Latin America in the Caribbean, held last August in Barbados, also requested that a specific study be done to analyse the present crisis of Latin America and Caribbean agricultural economic situation as well as its implications on the long-term development of the region, in what pertains to food and agriculture. That request is stated in paragraph 20 of the report of that meeting. In this connection we would appreciate it if the Secretariat would take into consideration in that study the new concept of aid-in-kind as it comes to be dealt with in the feasibility study for Africa. I am, therefore, pleased to notice that some common aspects arise and the methodology employed, as well as results achieved, might be complementary to each other. For brevity's sake, I want to conclude by expressing the support of my delegation for the points raised by the distinguished delegate of Mexico.

Thomas YANGA (Cameroun): Je voudrais tout d'abord vous exprimer la satisfaction de ma délégation de vous voir présider nos travaux à un moment important non seulement pour notre ordre du jour mais également pour le continent africain. Permettez-moi de remercier M. Walton pour son excellente présentation du sujet dont nous débattons.

Du 29 mai au 1er juin 1986, l'Assemblée générale des Nations Unies a consacré sa 13^{ème} session extraordinaire à l'examen de la situation économique critique de l'Afrique; et par sa Résolution S/13/2 l'Assemblée générale a adopté à cette occasion le programme d'action des Nations Unies pour le redressement économique et le développement de l'Afrique 1986-1990. Ce plan d'action a repris le plan d'action prioritaire d'action économique de l'Afrique 1986-1990, présenté par l'OUA et qui constitue un pacte de solidarité entre l'Afrique et la communauté internationale pour sortir celle-ci de la situation économique critique où elle se débat désespérément.

A l'intérieur de ce pacte, l'Afrique, tout en reconnaissant sa responsabilité première dans la situation critique où elle se retrouve, s'est engagée à mettre en oeuvre les politiques et les programmes exigés par cette crise profonde (et ce, même si ce programme est draconien et fort douloureux); la communauté internationale par ailleurs s'est engagée à fournir un effort supplémentaire pour répondre à l'appel lancé par l'Afrique.

Du fait d'un heureux concours de circonstances, bien avant cette session spéciale de l'Assemblée générale des Nations Unies, l'Afrique avait demandé à la FAO, lors de sa Conférence régionale à Harare en 1984 une étude approfondie sur la situation agricole et alimentaire de l'Afrique. Cette étude a contribué de façon positive à la formulation du plan d'action économique prioritaire pour l'Afrique préparée par l'OUA. Les conclusions de l'étude présentée à la 14^{ème} Conférence régionale de la FAO pour l'Afrique, à Yamoussoukro en septembre 1986, ont été appuyées par cette conférence, compte tenu de la convergence qu'il y avait entre elle et les conclusions du plan d'action prioritaire présenté par l'OUA. Il ressort de cette étude que l'accroissement de la production agricole est largement inférieur à celui de la population; et de ce fait, l'Afrique connaîtra dans un avenir proche une situation alimentaire de plus en plus catastrophique si la tendance actuelle est maintenue.

Pour y remédier, le Directeur général de la FAO a proposé un plan d'action dont les composantes visent à l'amélioration des quatre "i", incitations, intrants, institutions et infrastructures. S'agissant des engagements pris par l'Afrique, concernant le programme d'action des Nations Unies, il est fait état de ce que les gouvernements africains étaient en train de prendre des mesures importantes de réorientation des politiques et de réformes indispensables pour la reprise et le développement de leurs économies.

S'agissant des engagements de la communauté internationale, mis à part quelques gestes isolés fort appréciés par les Africains, nous nous trouvons encore dans des situations d'attente, et dans le cadre de la réalisation de ce point, nous croyons que l'aide en nature peut jouer un rôle important, notamment dans le développement du secteur rural.

Nous notons dans le paragraphe 42 du document CL 90/21 que le Directeur Général de la FAO, suite aux souhaits de la Conférence régionale pour l'Afrique, souhaite que le Conseil lui donne mandat d'effectuer une étude de faisabilité sur l'aide en nature. Permettez-moi de féliciter très chaleureusement le Directeur général pour avoir eu cette courageuse idée sur l'aide en nature sous forme d'intrants qui, face à la situation de crise économique et financière internationale généralisée, est la seule solution envisageable.

S'agissant de ce mandat, la résolution adoptée par la session spéciale des Nations Unies fait appel à toutes les institutions spécialisées des Nations Unies pour appuyer pleinement cette action. Cela revient à dire que la FAO a déjà un mandat, peut-être non explicite mais en vérité un mandat de l'Assemblée générale des Nations Unies, et tous les pays membres du Conseil ne peuvent que suivre cette recommandation des Nations Unies.

D'autre part, on nous parle d'une étude de faisabilité; ce terme de "faisabilité" fait penser à une situation d'incertitude quant au résultat final; et tout à l'heure, la déclaration de l'honorable délégué de la Belgique, au nom des pays membres de la CEE a soulevé une certaine inquiétude de notre part. Or, si l'on regarde le tableau 5/96 sur l'étude de l'agriculture africaine dans les 25 prochaines années, que pouvons-nous constater sur les statistiques préparées par la FAO ? Il ressort par exemple, en ce qui concerne l'utilisation des engrais en Afrique soudano-sahélienne que l'on utilise environ 2 kg d'intrants/ha sur les cultures vivrières; en Afrique occidentale humide et subhumide 5 kg/ha; en Afrique centrale, 1 kg/ha; en moyenne en Afrique occidentale subhumide et montagneuse, 4 kg/ha; en Afrique australe subhumide, 14 kg/ha, ce qui donne en gros une moyenne d'environ 5 kg/ha pour l'Afrique subsahélienne. (Un hectare fait environ 10 000m².) Si l'on ramène ce chiffre à la densité d'une culture comme le maïs, qui en monoculture a une densité d'environ 50 000 pieds, on voit que la quantité d'engrais utilisée par pied tend vers zéro. Je peux vous fournir un autre chiffre aussi alarmant concernant l'utilisation des tracteurs, moissonneuses et batteuses.

Bref, ces chiffres montrent à l'évidence que l'Afrique a cruellement besoin d'accroître les quantités d'intrants agricoles qu'elle utilise; mais ces chiffres appellent non plus une étude de faisabilité, mais plutôt un plan d'aide en nature, en vue de l'accroissement de l'utilisation des intrants agricoles pour l'Afrique.

En ce qui concerne cette aide en nature, nous souhaitons que la notion d'aide en nature et même la notion d'intrants agricoles puissent être utilisées dans le sens le plus large possible afin de répondre aux conditions spécifiques des différentes régions de l'Afrique. Par exemple, que représenteraient pour un pays du Sahel des millions de tonnes d'engrais mis à sa disposition s'il n'avait pas d'eau, qu'elle vienne du ciel ou des systèmes d'irrigation ? Et je me remémore la déclaration que nous a faite, à Genève, à la quatorzième conférence pour l'Afrique, M. Félix Houphouët Boigny: "Donnez de l'eau à nos frères du Sahel, ils vous en seront plus reconnaissants, ils cultiveront leur sol, cette eau leur permettra de pratiquer l'agriculture et procurera le fourrage de leurs animaux".

De même, comme l'a signalé M. Walton, l'efficacité d'une aide supplémentaire en intrants est étroitement liée au développement d'autres secteurs. Je voudrais mentionner ici les mesures d'accompagnement qui devraient être envisagées tant en aval qu'en amont avec la mise en oeuvre d'un tel plan, car il y a beaucoup de choses à prendre en considération avant le lancement d'une telle opération. C'est aussi l'occasion de lancer un appel à tous les pays et organismes fournisseurs d'aide en insistant sur la nécessité de réaliser dans son intégrité le Programme d'action des Nations Unies pour le redressement économique et le développement de l'Afrique.

En conclusion, notre délégation donne son plein appui à la mise en oeuvre du Programme d'action des Nations Unies pour le redressement économique et le développement de l'Afrique, et plus particulièrement à une étude sur l'aide en nature car celle-ci cadre parfaitement avec la notion de modernisation de l'agriculture à laquelle s'est engagé mon Gouvernement pour les cinq prochaines années par son sixième Plan quinquennal de développement économique et social.

Dans un premier temps, la réalisation d'une telle étude devrait concerner l'Afrique. Plus tard, elle pourrait s'étendre à d'autres régions en développement tel qu'envisagé dans le cas de l'étude approfondie de l'agriculture africaine. Et surtout, comme le propose le Directeur Général dans le document CL 90/21, elle devrait assurer pleinement que le pays bénéficiaire coopère et participe entièrement à toutes les phases de sa réalisation.

James D. AITKEN (United Kingdom): I would like to begin by welcoming you to leading our Council for the first time this Session. I think from your intervention this morning we all know you will be able to bring certainly the wisdom of Solomon to any judgements.

We would like to thank the Deputy Director-General for his excellent introduction to this item. In common with a number of other countries we welcome the successful conclusion of the United Nations Special Session on Africa and the guidance given in the Plan of Action. There is now an impressive sense of purpose to develop solutions to African problems. This was a process started with the Lagos Plan of Action and continued with the Harare Declaration.

The United Kingdom was privileged to attend the African Regional Conference as an observer. We were impressed by the determination and the commitment of African Ministers of Agriculture to take the difficult decisions necessary to increase agricultural production on the continent. It is good to hear today from the interventions of our African colleagues that this determination remains and has been reinforced.

At the Africa Regional Conference the United Kingdom observer made it clear that we consider that the FAO study "African Agriculture: the next 25 years" to be an excellent document. It is a comprehensive work and in our view one of the most successful and significant studies produced by FAO in recent years. The identification of the four "i's", incentives, input, institutions and infrastructure, is an excellent encapsulation of ideas. The emphasis on a conservation-based development strategy and the recognition of the importance of population policies is in our view totally sound. However, it is the recognition of the need for appropriate policies which favour agriculture which gives this study its central strength and authority. We were thus pleased to see the Programme of Action proposed by the Director-General endorsed at the African Regional Conference.

Turning now to the question of aid-in-kind, we welcome the recognition given to the role which can be played by what we call programme aid in improving agricultural production. Our aid programme has included programme aid for some time now and indeed in recent years we have switched aid from project to programme aid, particularly in response to the problems in Africa. Where economic circumstances suggest it is an appropriate response we are always prepared to consider switching the forms of our aid to maximize its effectiveness. Our experience is that programme aid must be handled sensitively and flexibly if it is to succeed. Programme aid for agriculture cannot be considered in isolation from activity in other economic sectors and national development plans.

Turning now to the question of the feasibility study on the basis of the terms of reference given in CL 90/21, we have some reservations on the terms of reference but I am happy to say that in his comprehensive and detailed opening statement the Director-General has answered many of our questions and reassured us. We see this as a timely exercise to develop more effective forms and delivery systems for existing aid flows.

In the light of Mr Walton's opening remarks, we now feel reassured that central to this study will be the recognition that the other three "i's" identified in the Africa study, infrastructure, incentives and institutions, have to be developed in parallel to enable countries to benefit from inputs. Here I would very much like to refer to and support the remarks made by the delegate of France in this aspect. We consider that the study should concentrate on the positive aspects of aid-in-kind identifying techniques and programmes. In our view the country studies are essential if the overall study is to be a practical document pointing the way to help the farmer in the field. In the final analysis, programme aid is given on a country basis and it is tailored to the individual needs. We must hope that financial pressures will not lead to the dropping of these particular country studies and, in fact, we consider them to be very central. We hope the study will enable FAO to develop its capacity to advise countries on how to formulate requests for programme aid and also help countries with problems of switching between different forms of aid with the readjustment of priorities this may require.

We believe that Africa's problems are urgent and we consider, in common with a number of other delegations, that initially the study should be limited to Africa. Any proposal for expansion should be phased so that they can learn from experience in Africa. At the Regional Conference at Yamoussoukro, the United Kingdom indicated it would be pleased to share its experience with FAO and participate in any study. I can confirm this and confirm that we endorse the proposals for the feasibility study as described by Mr. Walton and outlined in CL 90/21. Like many other delegates we would also like to stress that we hope that while concentrating on inputs, FAO will not lose sight of the need to provide assistance especially to African countries to enable them to develop the other three "i's". It remains the view of my Government that Africa should continue to be given priority in FAO's programmes.

In conclusion I would like to state that my Government attaches considerable importance to effective coordination of the effort to help Africa. We hope that FAO will continue its efforts to coordinate its activities with other UN and multilateral agencies using and respecting their established mechanisms and procedures.

R. MacINTOSH (Canada): The Canadian delegation was also to some degree satisfied indeed with the reasonable and pertinent assurances provided by the Deputy Director-General this morning. However, we continue to have some reservations over the proposal to undertake a study of aid-in-kind. We are a little concerned that rather than dealing with the substantive merit of aid-in-kind the proposed terms of reference of these studies seem confined to the measurement of the input-gap and the examination of the administrative modalities for putting the scheme into operation.

FAO has performed an invaluable service through its production of a comprehensive study on "African Agriculture: the next 25 years". Apart from the very thorough research that has clearly gone into this document one of its most welcome features was the attempt, a good one we think, to articulate the basis of a policy strategy, that is priority to agriculture, the so-called for "i's", the importance of conservation and changes in the external economic environment. The strength of the African study lays in its analysis of the African situation and the challenges faced by African countries when dealing with it. These challenges are first and foremost challenges of policy and challenges of strategy. Throughout the study attention was properly devoted to the complexity of the issues and to the need for appropriate balance in the actions taken to address those issues. Obviously nobody can argue against the need for more readily available modern inputs in support of African Smallholders. The point is against what strategy would such shipments take place. As the delegate of the United States, as well as other delegates from the United Kingdom, France and Mexico, how can we be sure that balance will be preserved among the various priorities and programmes that may be selected. Are inputs indeed a central catalyst, as they tend to be portrayed in the documents? Is there really a firm relationship between certain rates of growth in agricultural output and certain levels of aid-in-kind? The briefly cited example of India in the 1960s, that is in document CL 90/21, is an interesting one, though we believe that many observers of the Indian experience agree that their success was primarily as a result of the determination and vigour of its policymakers as well as once again the application of an all-fronts approach. The recent successes in China have not been noted in document CL 90/21 and while obviously there are significant differences in the situation we are not aware that the availability of aid-in-kind has been a major factor.

It was my privilege to have attended as an observer the Regional Conference at Yamoussoukro. At the Conference I recall a wide variety of opinions on the usefulness of this initiative-that is, relative to other priorities in the region, such as research, water conservation and technology transfer.

Canada is only one donor in Africa. We are at once proud of our record yet fully aware that more must be done. In our fiscal year 1986/87 Canada anticipated that \$900 million will be spent in the African region. The assistance is being allocated in various types and through a variety of channels. The configuration is a combination of what Canada is in a position to provide, what our African partners ask us to do, and what we both agree will have the highest impact for the resources available.

We do detect an increased interest in programme aid and we have responded where this is mutually assessed to be feasible and cost effective.

If Africa should approach us for programme aid in the form of agricultural inputs we would of course consider it. The important point to observe is that even in a context of generally increasing aid levels, as is the case in Canada, the choice of aid-in-kind would be most unlikely to involve additionality. It is a question of one type of aid over another type. Moreover, and contrary to the suggestion on page 7 of the English version of the Programme of Action, whether or not aid is provided in kind or not, it still must be financed from a limited official development assistance budget.

Finally, we would ask two questions: first, is this really the time to be speaking of more tied aid, of moving back the cycle of dependency one notch from food aid to that of agricultural inputs; and secondly, in this particular time in the current international trade system, do we really want to open new opportunities for increases in subsidized commodity exports?

We urge for the terms of reference for any study, if it is approved by this Council, to include an examination of national food and agricultural strategies as an initial step, followed by a consideration or appraisal of the role of programme aid in achieving the objectives of those strategies. We feel that this is a more logical and realistic approach than to initiate an aid-in-kind scheme and figure out a strategy later to accommodate it.

M. Afzal QADIR (Pakistan): I will start by apologizing that I feel handicapped in my understanding of the subject matter under discussion by reason of the fact that I was late in arriving at this Council this morning when a statement, widely acclaimed and enthusiastically received, was made by the Deputy Director-General in launching the document and in kicking off the debate thereon.

Judging by the number of delegations participating in the debate, the item has rightly attracted the serious attention it deserves. I would like to take this opportunity to reiterate on behalf of my government that the suffering and the plight of the people of Africa is one that has struck the deepest chords of sympathy in the hearts of the people of Pakistan. We would wish, and it would be our sincere hope, that the African problem would be a short-lived one, so that the valiant people of Africa would be able to resume their endeavors towards enriching the civilization of this world untrammelled by fears of hunger, malnutrition and shortages.

As far as the document is concerned, I find it interesting for the substantive matter that it embodies and more for the reflection of the serious desire on the part of FAO to play a central role in the alleviation of the African problem.

There is much to commend in this document and less to criticize. However, I find the title of the document, namely Follow-up on the General Assembly Session, is a misnomer because two-thirds of the document is devoted to FAO's technical contribution prior to the General Assembly Session rather than as a follow-up to it. The essential questions bearing upon the follow-up are, what has been achieved by way of resource mobilization for the African programme, and, secondly the steps taken towards actual implementation.

The document is silent on these matters, leading us to conclude that progress has been slow in these respects.

The first question relates to firm financial commitment, whether multilateral or bilateral, for the \$45 billion foreign exchange component of the African programme over 1986 to 1990. Undoubtedly this is a considerable amount and it would be our expectation that the donor countries would contribute generously in reaching the target, matching the genuine concern that they have expressed over the African situation.

The second question relates to the preparation of plans, programmes and projects by the African countries themselves with technical assistance from FAO and other institutions. The Programme has been well underway for a year now and it still is not clear where we stand in these two respects.

I would like to point out in this connection that IFAD's African programme has already been under implementation. It became effective only in May of this year.

As regards the modalities of implementation, which have been described in paragraph 27 of the document, we find the first sentence of the paragraph seemingly misleading. The Steering Committee's note mentioned in the paragraph is presumably "on" implementation and not "for" implementation, as the document says. The real implementation will be done by the governments themselves. The Steering Committee's task will hopefully be to mobilize international support in various forms, including the strengthening of UNDP Round Tables and the World Bank Consultative Group. The Steering Committee's views at paragraph 29. 3 (e) seem to allude to a "policy dialogue" between the donor and the recipients. In this respect we would like to say that while the donors' participation in a policy dialogue with the recipient countries is a reasonable donor expectation, the sovereignty and sensitivities of the recipient countries should be respected. What I am trying to say is that the term "policy dialogue" should not be used as a cover for acquiring "policy leverage" on the recipient countries.

As regards the UN Africa Programme and the African situation in general, our comments are that while the UN Programme recognizes agriculture as the main engine for economic development, the fact is that the programme as it stood in May 1986 when it was adopted devoted only 45 percent of the total programme investment to agriculture, the rest going to industry, transportation and communication, trade and finance. I would assume that these areas would be supportive of the agricultural sector. Then again, the deep-rooted, as well as the multi-faceted, nature of the crisis that we have in Africa points to the need to identify key issues. What is included in the programme seems more of a shopping list for housewives going on an errand in the morning.

We are heartened to note that the African governments have declared their resolve, as in the Lagos Plan and OAU etc. , to devote at least 20 to 25 percent of their total national investment to agriculture. With this I would conclude my observations on document CL 90/19.

Now I come to document CL 90/21. The relationship between FAO's programme and the UN programme has not been made clear in this document. The timeframe of the United Nations programme is four years, 1986 to 1990. The perspective of FAO's study on which the Programme of Action is based is 25 years. FAO's programme nevertheless is commendable, comprehensive and based on an indepth analysis. It presents its conclusions in stark terms. It paints a frightening Malthusian picture in which unless something is done fast some African countries could find themselves relentlessly engaged in a struggle for survival with famines like the one of 1983/84 occurring even in times of normal rainfall.

We have noted with satisfaction that the potential for agricultural development does exist through the four i's-inputs, infrastructure, institutions and incentives-as well as a conservation-based approach. A large number of important factors are covered under these rubrics. The international framework of aid, trade, protectionism, etc is alluded to as an important factor which in the case of export orientated countries may be a key factor.

As regards paragraph 4 of the document, it talks of FAO programmes' complementarity with the UN programme. Similar complementarity of the IFAD programme for Africa is not mentioned.

The four-point strategy prepared by FAO is commendable, but irrigation seems to have been underemphasized. Paragraph 6 of the document bears this out. We would like to have an elucidation as to why this important element in the overall strategy has been relegated.

Regarding paragraph 12, we are fully supportive of the need to evolve close linkage between Agricultural research, extension and education.

As regards the main proposal for a feasibility study on aid-in-kind we feel as many delegates before me have felt that it can serve a very useful purpose, considering that aid-in-kind has potential benefits for both donor and recipient countries. We therefore support the proposed feasibility study.

In conclusion, I should like to say that given the dynamism with which the Director-General has been addressing the problems of Africa, it will not be beyond the ability of FAO to implement the Programme of Action that he has formulated. We would request him to see that not much time is lost in putting this Programme of Action into place, so that these programmes become self-executing ones at the earliest opportunity.

Ms Anne-Lise PETERSEN (Denmark): We have studied with interest the documentation in front of us and we have listened carefully to the introduction of this important matter. We have also received the executive brief of the in-depth study of the Food and Agricultural problems in Africa, document CL 90/21, however brief, contains the findings of the FAO African study together with a summary of the Programme of Action for African Agriculture. Although we have not received the full study we find that the brief is a well-structured description of all development issues which are well known to the donor countries. We accept that the starting point for making comments on this Agenda item is that the Fourteenth Regional Conference for Africa (as indicated in its Report) has endorsed the main findings and recommendations and, furthermore, thoroughly endorsed the Director-General's four-point strategy of agricultural development. It is in this light that we are making some suggestions and comments.

During the last two years we have participated in a number of donor meetings arranged to mobilize aid for the rehabilitation) of Africa's agriculture. During that discussion of the Rehabilitation Programme we all stressed the importance of having the long-term development in focus. Now that we are considering the long-term agricultural development of that continent, on this occasion we would have liked to have been confronted with an account of the results of the Rehabilitation Programme and how this is now placed in the long-term plans. Furthermore, it would have been of help to us had we been given the detailed study.

One further point which we should like to comment upon is the idea of FAO being given a mandate to carry out a feasibility study of the possibility of stepping up a id-in-kind in the form of agricultural inputs. In this connection, I feel it necessary to make some general comments.

Each year Denmark has pledged a steady increase in the financial volume of their development assistance. We have also, as accepted policy, been giving high priority to the development of agricultural production and stabilization of food supplies in the developing countries. Therefore, the total framework is set and every new programme can only be implemented at the cost of other activities being given a lower priority. In other words, no principle of additionality can be applied just because a new programme is adopted. This certainly applies to the proposal for an aid-in-kind programme.

It is stated that the proposal for stepping up aid-in-kind is a means of balancing aid to produce food in comparison to the increasing food aid. Whilst we acknowledge that a proper equilibrium between different kinds of assistance should be subject to permanent monitoring, we do not agree that at present an in-balance exists between aid to produce food and food aid. I feel it important to emphasize that aid-in-kind is being utilized in a big way to generate bilateral aid from donor countries to recipient countries. In fact, some countries call this kind of assistance "tied aid". A multilateral organization such as FAO should, in our opinion, consider very carefully whether or not it would be advisable to embark on an activity which is predominantly being handled bilaterally.

From the document in front of us, we note that the Director-General is now suggesting that the feasibility study should be a global study. In this connection we should have to express a serious word of warning. In this context we would also warn FAO against any re-establishment of a link between so-called surplus capacity of industries in the developed countries and aid for development. Eventually that could turn history back to the situation we had some twenty years ago. In food aid, for instance, we have almost succeeded in cutting such links. In our view the international development assistance and specifically agencies such as FAO should not change the balance too much from software to hardware.

Concerning the proposed feasibility study, we are now faced with having to make a decision in the Council. However, we find it might be premature to start such a global feasibility study at this stage. However, a preliminary step could be made to review how agricultural inputs are channelled and used to date by bilateral agencies and international financial institutions in Africa only. Such a review could be made at a much lower cost than that estimated for a full feasibility study. It would give a preliminary indication on the possible need for changing the balance and composition of the different kinds of development assistance to the food and agricultural sector. Only with this information available will we be in a position to decide whether a final feasibility study would be worthwhile. In this connection, perhaps we could ask whether any other international organization has made an account to see whether or not a breakdown focusing on the agricultural, forestry and fisheries sectors, could not be made in a fairly simple way.

In confirming Denmark's unconditional support to assist the countries of Africa in their agricultural development, in making this statement we wish to issue a warning that the FAO, as primus inter pares of the United Nations family in the agricultural sector, should not be diverting from the course laid down in numerous donor meetings and in the special UN sessions on the particular development problems in Africa.

In conclusion, I should like to say that in the present critical situation, the whole UN system should try to derive any benefit possible from maximum cooperation and coordination.

Humberto CARRION M. (Nicaragua): Nuestra delegación ha tomado debida nota del contenido del documento CL 90/19. Creemos que estuvo plenamente justificada la convocación del 13 periodo de sesiones de la Asamblea General de carácter extraordinario que examinó la crítica situación económica en Africa. Todos conocemos los antecedentes económicos y climatológicos que llevaron a esa convocación y en este sentido reconocemos la plena colaboración que prestó la FAO al octavo preparativo de la Asamblea extraordinaria sobre el arroz así como también reconocemos el compromiso político adoptado por la OUA en julio de 1985, que constituye, sin lugar a dudas, la voluntad de los dirigentes africanos de ejecutar el Programa de Acción de las Naciones Unidas que hace además hincapié en el sector de la alimentación y la agricultura.

Nuestra delegación está convencida de que toda acción para el desarrollo debe partir de las voluntades políticas nacionales y que la cooperación de la comunidad internacional es necesaria para que esa acción para el desarrollo pueda materializarse.

La situación económica de crisis por la que atraviesa el Africa no es cualitativamente distinta de aquella que atraviesan las otras regiones en desarrollo. Las causas son las mismas y las principales causas tienen origen externo, pero es en Africa donde la crisis económica es más acuciante y, por lo tanto, esa región amerita una atención y asistencia prioritaria de los países industrializados y de aquellos países en vías de desarrollo, incluyendo países africanos mismos, que estén en condiciones de prestar asistencia dentro del marco de la cooperación Sur-Sur.

Otra condición para el desarrollo, para la producción agrícola y alimentaria es la paz. Condenamos entonces enérgicamente toda actividad, militar o no, que realiza el régimen oprobioso de Sudáfrica para desestabilizar a los países vecinos.

Por otro lado, agradecemos al Sr. Walton su presentación del documento CL 90/21. Este documento contiene información útil sobre el estudio a fondo de los problemas agrícolas y alimentarios en Africa así como las soluciones solicitadas a la FAO por los propios países africanos para que se presentaran en la 14 Conferencia Regional de la FAO para Africa en septiembre pasado. Nadie es mejor que los propios gobiernos africanos para definir y ejecutar su propia estrategia para salir del estancamiento y del decrecimiento actual de la producción de alimentos. Entendemos que esta estrategia incluye un programa de acción para la agricultura africana que es plenamente compatible, es más, complementaria del Programa de Acción de la Asamblea General de las Naciones Unidas ya que formula sugerencias concretas en cuanto a la forma de poner en práctica algunos componentes del programa de acción de la Asamblea General.

Aquí cabe felicitar al Director General de la FAO, Sr. Edouard Saouma, y reconocemos su dinamismo y su dedicación para tratar de resolver el flagelo del hambre en el mundo y en el Africa particularmente por haber elaborado el programa de acción para la agricultura africana que se compone de dos partes: una estrategia de cuatro puntos para aumentar la producción alimentaria y una iniciativa concreta para incrementar la ayuda en especies como elemento catalítico para aumentar la producción, según se desprende de los párrafos 15 al 35 del documento CL 90/21, entendiéndose que en las propuestas del Director General se subraya que sin la asistencia externa, Africa no puede lograr resultados satisfactorios y que para que Africa obtenga por sus propios medios recursos para su desarrollo es indispensable una transformación estructural en las relaciones internacionales de intercambio. Esto es extendible a todo el mundo en desarrollo.

En base a los párrafos 29 al 31 del documento CL 90/21 sobre el aumento de la ayuda en especies, particularmente basados en los párrafos 35 y 41, apoyamos las conclusiones a que llegó la 14ª Conferencia Regional de la FAO para el Africa y apoyamos la propuesta de que la FAO realice un estudio de viabilidad sobre las necesidades de ayuda en especies al Africa, según el enfoque establecido en los párrafos 42 al 47 del documento en cuestión y según el enfoque complementario hecho por la delegación de México.

Temel ISKIT (Turkey): Allow us first to say how pleased we are to see you in the chair when we are discussing this particular item of our agenda. Let me also express our congratulations to the Deputy Director-General for his very clear and to-the-point introduction to this item.

The United Nations Special Session on Africa was a success. First of all, it constituted a good example of international solidarity at a time when the spirit of multilateralism needs strengthening, and the Programme of Action unanimously adopted in New York is, without doubt, one of the most comprehensive and action-oriented documents ever produced so far by the United Nations on any subject.

The first part of the document, that is the Africa Priority Programme for Economic Recovery 1986-1990, adopted by the African Heads of State and Government in July 1985, represents the unprecedented resolve of a whole continent to overcome its huge problems of underdevelopment and poverty. This comprehensive commitment to self-help deserves the highest praise and admiration. The African countries themselves decided on what to do, and the priorities they set up as well as the action upon which they are embarking are clearly the wisest and soundest ones. However, it is also obvious that the success of African efforts depends on the full support or commitment of the international community.

That brings us to the essential second part of the UN Programme of Action requiring intensified cooperation and substantially increased support at bilateral, regional and global level. Increased net flows of financial assistance, especially in the field of agriculture-which has the priority of priorities, as Mr Walton put it, in the Plan of Action-and the alleviation of Africa's debt problems are certainly central to this support. Here we can only review the appeal to especially bigger donors to increase their financial assistance, to improve the quality of their aid, and take measures to cope with Africa's indebtedness. However, aid not being a panacea for development, improvements in the external environment conducive to the expansion of trade opportunities for Africa appear to be a must. Above all, this requires the elimination of protectionist policies and practices impeding especially African countries' exports and thereby hindering their structural adjustment efforts.

It is obvious that with the adoption of the historic UN Programme of Action for Africa a new phase has begun in redressing the critical economic situation of this continent and paving the way to its sustained development. It is now no longer necessary to waste previous time in setting forth the objectives. It is necessary to act to implement the Programme. A speedy follow-up is the only thing which counts now.

As concerns the follow-up at the international level, we believe that the close cooperation and coordination of all related institutions of the United Nations is essential. That is why we welcome the appointment by the Secretary-General of the United Nations of a steering committee for the implementation of the Programme of Action. We are certain that FAO should and will play the most prominent role in this committee.

All United Nations institutions should harmonise their actions already initiated or to be initiated towards helping Africa along the guidelines set forth in the UN Programme of Action. We think that this harmonization would also encourage the donors to increase their assistance to Africa through multilateral channels. Among such multilateral actions already initiated, we should particularly mention the IFAD Special Programme for Sahel Countries. This programme, which is in line with the UN Programme of Action, deserves to be funded completely to permit its full implementation.

Since the UN Programme of Action recognises agricultural development as the main engine for recovery and long-term development in Africa, it is only natural that FAO should play the role of vanguard in its follow-up at the global level. This prominent role is not only justified by the mandate of FAO but it is also deserved by the long-standing record of actions already launched and effectively pursued by this Organization towards the rehabilitation of agriculture in Africa. All the same, the promptness with which our Organization responded to the "Call of duty" deserves the warmest of tributes. No doubt, FAO's active contribution for the preparations for the UN Special Session has been vital to its success. Without such a contribution most certainly the New York paper and the African paper would not have been elaborated or at least would not have achieved the maturity they reflected.

As for the follow-up, we note with satisfaction that the FAO Programme of Action based on the findings of its remarkable study "African Agriculture: The Next 25 Years" is in full conformity with the UN Programme of Action. In fact, since it contains specific suggestions as to the implementation of certain elements of the UN Programme, it complements this Programme by translating this strategy into tactics. We believe that the soundness and timeliness of the FAO Programme of Action is already confirmed by its principal addressees, namely all African States, by its adoption at the Fourteenth FAO Regional Conference for Africa held last September. The reconfirmation by OAU of approval given by the Regional Conference consolidates, certainly, the validity of the Programme.

After such a strong condoning of the Programme by the African countries themselves, it would have been almost redundant for my delegation to comment on its first part relating to the four point strategy to raise food production. We can only hail the soundness of the first three points. As to the fourth point concerning the improvement of the international economic environment, we have already expressed at the beginning of our intervention the importance we attach to increased trade opportunities and to expanded financial and technical assistance for African countries, as well as to the alleviation of the burden of debt of the continent.

Now I come to the second part of the Director-General's programme, namely stopping up aid-in-kind, which addresses an important aspect of financial assistance to Africa and to developing countries in general. We have studied carefully the proposal put forward in document CL 90/21. Since the Council is called upon to take a decision or give a reaction concerning the feasibility study which forms the first step of this proposal, we thought we also on our part should express our views on the subject.

First of all, we entirely agree with the Director-General that the consensus among the recipient, as well as the donor, countries is essential for initiating such a study, and we hope that as clear a consensus as possible will emerge from our meeting. In this present case-and it is a rare occasion for my delegation-we are speaking from the position of a donor. Although Turkey's experience as a donor country is quite recent and her programme of aid is relatively modest, still

the disbursement of our assistance of \$10 million to Sahel countries is well under way and, more importantly, the emphasis of this aid is shifted towards technical assistance rather than food aid. It also includes, incidentally, a component of aid-in-kind involving the supply of agricultural inputs.

Not only for this reason but also because we believe in its usefulness we find that the Director-General's proposal is fully acceptable to us. We think that this is a path well worth being explored. Also, given the complexity of the subject, we think that a feasibility study is required to determine the additional possibilities existing in this field, that is in addition to the actual aid-in-kind practices. We think that such a study may even give an impetus to the already on-going aid-in-kind actions by focusing the attention to this kind of assistance of the decision makers and administrators of donor, as well as recipient countries, even if it does not lead to more detailed action programmes.

We also believe, for reasons of emphasis as well as of economy, that this study, while covering the surplus capacity of all developed donor countries, may at the initial stage be confined to African recipients only. Its extent can be enlarged to cover all developing countries if and as appropriate at a later stage.

A. K. M. Kamaluddin CHOUDHURY (Bangladesh): It was our special privilege to participate in and contribute to the UN Special Session on Africa in May 1986 in New York. We express our appreciation to the Director-General of FAO and the Secretariat for the constructive efforts they have made towards the success of the Special Session in New York.

The Fourteenth Meeting of the Regional Conference of FAO in Africa held in September 1986 made a significant contribution to implementing the first phase of the recommendations of the Special Session.

As regards document CL 90/21, my delegation has always been appreciative of studies of this nature which help to crystallize problems and help us focus attention on issues of such critical nature as that of African agriculture.

In the light of the very clear introduction of the Deputy Director-General, my delegation has no doubt about the feasibility study of this kind to find out the practicability of aid in kind directed towards enhancing the agricultural production as a sound proposition. My delegation would extend its support to this undertaking.

In this connection my delegation attaches particular importance to the proposal of the Director-General which he has subsumed under the four "Is". We are particularly happy to note that the FAO would coordinate its efforts with the UNDP Round Table for the preparation of the feasibility study.

Danilo VUJICIC (Yugoslavia): I would like to commend the Secretariat of FAO, and particularly the Deputy Director-General, Mr. Walton, for his introduction to the subject and for presenting a very useful analysed report on all African food crises, and the national and international action to overcome the acute food crisis and for laying the foundation for a long-term solution. I would like to underline and praise the initiatives and the role and contribution of FAO in fighting the acute crisis and in the preparation of the UN special session which approved the global UN programme of action for economic recovery and development of Africa by 1990, in which food agriculture has a central role to play. For this reason it is logical to expect that the international organizations in the field of food and agriculture, particularly FAO, have to play a central role in the follow-up activities as well.

The UN Programme of Action, and the conclusions and recommendations of the African Regional Conference held in Yamoussoukro should represent the backbone of the future follow-up action by the national governments of Africa and international community including the governments of donor countries and international organizations. I would like to stress here the necessity of a

coherent and coordinated action by the FAO and other inter-national organizations in this field. Here I also have in mind IFAD which has launched and approved, by the governing council, a new additional financial facility of 300 million dollars for Sub-Saharan African countries affected by drought. In the implementation of this decision of IFAD we would welcome continuation and strengthening of the cooperation between IFAD and the FAO, giving always priority to the needs and the requirements of the developing countries concerned.

In general context of the implementation of the programmes approved by the UN General Assembly, as well as African Regional Conference, my delegation appreciates and supports the proposal contained in document CL 90/21 including the action orientated towards development of food and agriculture in Africa through the increased assistance-in-kind. This approach has proved its effectiveness in recent history, particularly having in mind the positive results of the so-called green revolution in Asia, as well as experiences of many other developing countries.

In the framework of the approach and implementation of the programmes approved, we also support the African countries' request to the Director-General of FAO and the proposal of the Director-General, to work out a feasibility study on stepping up aid-in-kind in the agricultural development of Africa. In executing this task the Director-General should have the full support and assistance of all countries, in the preparation of the study and later in the implementation of the programme to follow. Here, I would like to stress, that my delegation does not go along with, and could not understand those delegates, who have been expressing themselves against the idea of the necessity for additional resources for these purposes, for the development of agriculture in Africa, in this manner.

As a number of other delegates before me, I would like to stress that the study should focus at this stage on Africa. However it may, as appropriate, take into account the situation, needs and facilities of developing countries from other regions and recommend elements for a more global action in this respect in future. The study should be prepared in time for the next FAO Conference to enable it to consider it properly, make suggestions and take decisions on further action. The study should take into account the suggestions made during this session by all delegates, but particularly those from Africa who have dealt very comprehensively with this. Particularly, I have in mind the very contentful statement of His Excellency, the Minister for Agriculture of Tanzania. As the representative of Indonesia and some others this afternoon, I would like to stress the need, and to request the Director-General to take into account in the study, the possible role of economic cooperation amongst developing countries on the effects of the increased aid-in-kind in the agricultural development of Africa.

The experiences and capacities of inputs, production and supply by developing countries, both in Africa and in other regions, should be integrated into a cooperative action by all countries, African, other developing and developed countries, as well as by the international organizations concerned, particularly FAO.

Antonio Albertino AFONSO DIAS (Sao Tomé-et-Principe): Monsieur le Président, je suis très heureux de vous voir à la Présidence.

En ce qui concerne les documents CL 90/19 et CL/90/21 relatifs à la situation économique en Afrique, qu'il nous soit permis de remercier le Directeur Général pour avoir déjà mis à exécution l'une des recommandations de la Conférence générale de la FAO pour l'Afrique de Yamoussoukro, en Côte d'Ivoire, et de remercier également M. Walton pour son excellente présentation des documents. Cela dit, nous nous déclarons en faveur de la réalisation du programme d'action et, pour ne pas répéter ce qui a déjà été dit, la délégation Sao-tomienne fait sienne la déclaration si pertinente de la délégation congolaise.

Chavaly SRINIVASA SASTRY (India): I would submit that the proposal for taking up a feasibility study, as contained in the document CL 90/21, deserves to be supported by this Council. The critical economic situation of Africa was considered by the UN General Assembly in May and June last. The problems of Africa, in the field of food and agriculture, were gone into twice in the last two regional conferences for Africa of the FAO. On the basis of the request made in the 13th FAO Regional Conference for Africa in July 1984, the Director-General has got a study carried out of the agricultural and food problems in Africa. What does this study, based on country level and sub-regional analysis reveal? It shows that the present food supply position, not as liquid as it is in some instances, is unsustainable. It also shows that if no concerted action is taken, Africa's food situation will deteriorate further during the next 25 years. Famines of the magnitude experienced during the 1983/84 drought could become a regular feature, even periods of more normal rainfall. Highlighting the drain on the foreign exchange of these countries, if they were to meet the shortfalls through imports, the report indicates the scenario which would show that the result would be chronic famine. Some countries would hover on the brink of survival with incalculable consequences not only for Africa, but for the world at large.

These portents have serious implications and significance for the world as a whole and have a special relevance for the FAO in view of its charter and objectives. In this context the Director-General has proposed a programme of action in two parts. They underline the fact that Africa cannot succeed without help from outside. Another significant point, emphasized by the Director-General, was that there is need for a balance between food aid and aid to produce food. In this context the role of aid-in-kind, which is not really new as a concept, and which we know had played a significant role in the launching of the Asia's green revolution, has been highlighted in the Director-General's report.

Whilst I would thank the delegate from Canada for the references he has made to the achievements in the field of agriculture in India, I would, with due respect, submit that the situation in India today, and in many of the Asian countries, is radically different from the problems that are facing the countries of Africa in 1986/87. Possibly, the situation now in Africa is comparable to the situation existing in the early sixties in India when there were looming shortages in food production.

The Canadian delegate has also referred to the concept that for achieving self-sufficiency it is the national will that counts and not so much the aid from abroad. Whilst I would submit that nothing on earth can substitute for the will of the nation to pull itself up by the boot strings, the aid from abroad, in terms of commodities, also could be of considerable significance, provided it is matched with the requirements of the country and the efforts made by that country to improve its own agriculture, as the Indian experience has amply shown.

This report of the Director-General containing his recommendations was accepted by the Fourteenth FAO Regional Conference on Africa in September 1986. The Conference has accepted the three-point programme of the Director-General covering expansions of aid-in-kind, enhancement of local production of inputs and promotion of inter-regional trade in inputs. The Conference accepted the view that a feasibility study was required to explore the practicability of aid-in-kind and that is the background for the proposal we are now considering today. In relation to this proposal, as we see it, the questions we have to answer are four. Firstly, should there be such a feasibility study at all? I would submit that against the background of what has been mentioned and considering that the financial profit involved would not be very high we would strongly support the proposal that the feasibility study be undertaken.

The second question that arises is what should be the time frame for the study and when should the report become available? Considering the problems that the African countries have been facing and recognizing that time is of the essence in the operation, we would suggest that the study be carried out as early as possible so that the report becomes available to the Council in 1987 and thereafter to the 1987 Conference. By the time the Conference meets, the report would have been analysed and would possibly have resulted in a specific plan and a programme of action which could be carefully studied by the Conference, resulting in concrete further action.

Thirdly, what should be the terms of reference? The delegate from Canada has suggested a widening of the terms of reference of the document suggested in paragraph 46 of the document and has suggested that the national strategies for obtaining agricultural development should be analysed and they should be studied in the context of efforts being made by the member countries as to whether those strategies can be achieved. We would submit that these wide-ranging terms of reference would not only be expensive in terms of money, but also in terms of time. We would also therefore support the proposal that the terms of reference, as envisaged in paragraph 46 of the document, be agreed to without any further broadening.

The last question which we have to face is whether this feasibility study should cover only Africa or should it cover other developing countries all over the world? Considering that the proposal emanated from the background of two Regional FAO Conferences on Africa, it would be appropriate that Africa remains as the main focus for this proposed feasibility study. However, without any severe stretching of the timeframe envisaged, if it becomes feasible to cover, say, a few developing countries outside Africa, possibly they could be considered, subject to the conditions that no further time would be needed for this feasibility study.

Subject to these observations, we would submit that the proposal for the feasibility study be endorsed by the Council.

Amadou Moustapha KAMARA (Senegal): Ma délégation vous adresse ses félicitations et se réjouit de ce que vous présidez cette séance consacrée aux problèmes de l'Afrique. Je voudrais, au nom de la délégation sénégalaise, féliciter M. Walton pour la présentation claire et concise qu'il nous a faite des documents CL 90/19 et CL 90/21, qui portent respectivement sur l'action de la FAO consécutive à la session extraordinaire de l'Assemblée générale des Nations Unies sur la situation économique critique en Afrique et sur le rapport sur l'étude approfondie des problèmes agricoles et alimentaires de l'Afrique.

Ma délégation, tout d'abord, félicite le Directeur général de la FAO et ses collaborateurs pour la contribution décisive de notre Organisation à la préparation et aux premières actions de la mise en oeuvre du programme d'action des Nations Unies pour l'Afrique. Deuxièmement, pour demander au Conseil de donner un mandat impératif au Directeur général de la FAO pour entreprendre l'étude de faisabilité pour un accroissement de l'aide en nature et en intrants à l'Afrique. Troisièmement, pour établir que, si les objectifs de l'étude esquissés à la page 11 du document CL 90/21 constituent l'élément essentiel des termes de référence de l'étude envisagée, ils constituent pour le Sénégal une base solide et acceptable, puisqu'ils prennent en considération les exigences de développement de la production locale d'intrants et de promotion des échanges interrégionaux d'intrants.

Ma délégation estime que ces propositions pour l'accroissement de l'aide en nature en intrants résultent des conclusions de l'étude approfondie de l'Afrique, ou de l'agriculture africaine, les 25 prochaines années, et concernent ainsi le continent africain. Son contexte devrait, en un premier temps, se limiter à l'Afrique, en attendant que les études en cours sur les autres sous-régions ou régions soient achevées afin qu'on puisse établir pour ces régions, des priorités qui ne seront pas nécessairement, j'en augure, axées sur les intrants. En tout état de cause la rigueur et la logique militeraient en faveur d'une telle démarche et d'une telle approche.

Avec l'appui de la FAO, notre Organisation, et de son Directeur général, M. Edouard Saouma, un grain a été semé à Addis-Abeba en juillet 1985. Il a commencé à germer à New York, en mai et juin 1986, il a entamé à Yamoussoukro en septembre dernier sa phase d'étalage. Pour qu'il puisse aborder sa forme de montaison à Rome, il est nécessaire que notre Conseil lui en donne la possibilité. Ma délégation souhaite que vous la lui donniez afin que dans les toutes premières années nous puissions nous atteler à sa moisson.

Robbie Matongo MUPAWOSE (Zimbabwe): The Deputy Director-General must be thanked for a clear and concise presentation of a programme on possible aid-in-kind. FAO met its obligation to the call made in the Harare Declaration and now has developed a proposal that aims to come up with practical proposals. We hope that the study shall have a practical approach. We believe that many people are now aware of the food plight of most developing countries. It is the practical use of available knowledge and resources to remedy the situation that needs to be focused on. There is need to examine also and come up with measures to protect the environment. Land protection, nutrition and measures to avoid degradation should be emphasized. Deforestation with its resultant evils, lack of pasture and livestock management and also water resource conservation are all facets that should be discussed when attempting to improve agriculture.

The Deputy Director-General made mention of the estimated costs of the order of about 400, 000 dollars which could be reduced to about 200, 000 dollars by inclusion or exclusion of case studies. We strongly believe that on a subject as important as this, penny-pinching will not be a wise move. We are conscious of the financial problems the Organization faces, but this type of study can only have its true worth and value when clearly substantiated with practical case studies.

The roles and complementary activities of regional institutional organizations, such as SADCC in the Southern African region, should be included in such case studies. So much is happening in developing countries which have a general shortage of training manpower. Attempts should be made to avoid any duplication of activities because the man or woman-hours are becoming very stretched.

We fully agree and thank you for the eloquent comments which you made, Mr Chairman, when you were talking on behalf of your country and we believe those comments also represented those of the SADCC countries and those OAU members, of which you are a valuable member yourself.

We can assure FAO of all necessary support needed from our region in carrying out this study. We give this assurance in our capacity as the coordinator of food security and agriculture in the SADCC countries.

Joseph TCHICAYA (Congo) Je voudrais, avant tout, dire toute la satisfaction que j'éprouve à vous voir présider ce débat si important pour l'Afrique. Je voudrais aussi m'excuser de prendre le parole à cette heure tardive, mais étant donné les responsabilités qui sont celles de la République populaire du Congo dans le suivi du Programme d'action des Nations Unies, vous permettrez qu'au terme de ce débat nous puissions nous exprimer au nom du Président en exercice de l'OUA. En effet, nous avons reçu mandat du Président en exercice de l'Organisation de l'unité africaine de suivre de près les débats sur cette question au cours de ce Conseil. Ceci montre tout l'intérêt qu'il attache à la réalisation de cette étude, susceptible d'engendrer un mécanisme d'aide additionnelle

permettant à l'Afrique d'accomplir la mission qu'elle s'est fixée avec l'appui de la communauté internationale. Nous sommes sensibles à l'accueil globalement favorable qu'a reçu cette proposition. Nous tenons à transmettre les sentiments de gratitude du Président en exercice de l'OUA et de toute l'Afrique aux éminents membres de notre Conseil et aux gouvernements qu'il représente. Certes, nous étions convaincus que la communauté internationale, qui a apporté unanimement son appui à l'Afrique à la session extraordinaire de l'Assemblée générale des Nations Unies, ne pouvait pas se déjuger cinq mois plus tard. En effet, il s'agit ici de chercher et de trouver les moyens et les voies d'accroître les ressources pour appuyer les efforts annoncés et entrepris par les pays africains eux-mêmes: efforts visant la réalisation du Programme prioritaire 1986-90. Nous nous réjouissons qu'il se soit dégagé ici un consensus aussi large.

Il nous revient donc de nous féliciter des résultats de nos débats qui montrent une fois de plus combien la situation critique de l'Afrique est partagée par la communauté internationale, sans exclure qui que ce soit dans ce dialogue. Nous voudrions lancer un appel aux pays encore hésitants, que nous savons être amis de l'Afrique, pour qu'ils se joignent au consensus général qui s'est dégagé dans cette salle, afin qu'ils participent pleinement au processus de réalisation de l'étude en mettant à la disposition du Secrétariat les données statistiques nécessaires à la réalisation d'une étude de faisabilité viable.

Le fait que l'étude ne concernera que l'Afrique, dans un premier temps, ne doit pas frustrer nos amis et frères du Groupe des 77. Nous voudrions les remercier pour leur sens de la mesure et le caractère altruiste de leurs interventions. Une fois de plus, la solidarité du tiers monde a joué positivement. Soyez assurés que l'Afrique n'oubliera pas le témoignage de générosité dont vous avez fait montre à notre égard. Nous émettons le vœu que cette étude s'effectue dans une perspective qui accroisse véritablement l'aide à l'Afrique, car il ne faudra pas perdre de vue que l'Afrique a besoin, annuellement, de 9 milliards de dollars supplémentaires pour exécuter entièrement son programme prioritaire. A cet égard, aucune confusion n'est possible. L'aide en nature, dont il est question ici, est une aide additionnelle que les pays développés ont promis de fournir, éventuellement, pour appuyer les efforts des pays africains eux-mêmes aux Nations Unies, et apporter ainsi tout l'éclairage voulu aux déclarations faites par nos amis du Canada et du Danemark tendant à s'interroger sur ce sujet.

Mrs Millicent M. FENWICK (United States of America): The United States has already spoken but I cannot resist saying something that I am so longing to say to you and to my fellow colleagues. I do not represent any tremendous organization like the OAU whose representative has just spoken; so I just have to ask your indulgence more personally.

I was struck by what the delegate from Zimbabwe had to say. I was there and I saw the master farmer scheme. More than 50 percent of the people enrolled in the particular village I visited were women. This is a nation-wide system and we have a wonderful training and visiting system in India which has been used in 40 countries as developed in India, the training and visiting system. So when the delegate of Zimbabwe said "let us not have duplication", I was struck, remembering that visit to Zimbabwe and what we have heard about the training and visiting. But I would like to say something to the Secretariat and to any experts in this scheme for the feasibility study. I would urge that one goes down into the village and listen. Maybe there is a group of farmers who have formed an independent cooperative, their farms are near together, and maybe they could well use a tractor because they would have the dues from their cooperative to pay for the fuel and the spare parts. But not every farmer will want a tractor. Some will want a donkey or a pair of oxen or a horse or something to pull the plough, to take the cart so that they can get their produce to town. So sit down and listen and see what is wanted. It is not enough to say it will vary country by country. I have been in so many African countries and one area varies from another. You cannot say this will be all right in Tanzania. Look at the Chaga district which the delegate has spoken about. So sit down and listen. That to me is where the beginning of all the improvement is going to take place. If it does not start there, none of it will be any good. Big ideas in air-cooled offices will not do it.

CHAIRMAN: I thank the representative of the United States for her timely warning and for her experience in the field. I think we all share the feeling that the grassroots participation approach is the best.

Mrs. Millicent M. FENWICK (United States of America): Mr Chairman, the oxen would give input, fertilizer-I forgot to say that.

Horacio CARANDANG (Philippines): At this stage of the debate I can afford to be very brief, just to say that the Philippines believe that the feasibility study on aid-in-kind for Africa deserves to be supported. We hope there can be a consensus on the desirability of undertaking the feasibility study so that there can be justification to allocate the necessary resources for this purpose. We believe that this study should initially be limited to Africa, and if resources and time allow, it could be extended to the other regions. The reasons for this are spelled out very clearly in document CL 90/21.

First we say that food production can be increased by greater inputs. The amount of output can only depend on the amount of input. Land gives out according to the measure we put in. The green revolution in Asia has been possible only when rice and wheat grains have been invented that were responsive to fertilizer and when fertilizer was available, together with the appropriate technology. Second, because of the high debt problem of Africa, you need to make this available. The aid-in-kind would probably be a way of circumventing the problem of shortage of resources in inputs, this aid-in-kind of fertilizer and other needed inputs.

Finally, the other four I's are required, but without the required inputs this would not produce the necessary effects. These are reasons which have been given over and over again. I just want to say that we agree with this kind of reasoning and we believe and hope that there will be consensus in this hall so that this study can be launched.

Gonzalo BULA HOYOS (Colombia): Sr. Presidente, Sr. Ministre Tanzania, a los representantes de Colombia nos complace intervenir esta tarde bajo su presidencia después de haber oído esta mañana el llamado elocuente y sentido que Ud. hizo en favor del Africa.

Teníamos unas notas, pensábamos intervenir, pero, después de la declaración alegre y optimista de nuestra querida amiga Millicent Fenwick, Embajadora de los Estados Unidos, preferimos reducir nuestra intervención para facilitar el curso de nuestros trabajos a apoyar el llamado que ha hecho nuestro vecino de la derecha, el Embajador Tchicaya del Congo.

Sólo queremos expresar nuestra opinión en relación con el alcance de este Estudio. Representamos a Colombia, país de una región como América Latina y el Caribe, cuyas condiciones económicas y sociales se vienen deteriorando progresivamente. En su declaración inaugural el Director General dijo que sería posible extender ese Estudio a los otros países en desarrollo. El Embajador Tchicaya del Congo y otros colegas africanos se refirieron en términos amplios y generosos a cualquier posibilidad, pero fueron realistas como los demás miembros del Consejo. Por eso, la delegación de Colombia se suma a lo que han dicho México, Venezuela y Brasil, particularmente, en el sentido de que el Director General podría considerar la posibilidad de que en el Estudio a largo plazo sobre la situación agrícola y alimentaria de América Latina, si fuere oportuno y conveniente, se incluya un capítulo relacionado con esta ayuda en especies, que también necesitan algunos países de nuestra región. Ese Estudio para América Latina y el Caribe fue solicitado por la Conferencia Regional de Barbados, agosto de 1986, y sólo será sometido a la próxima Conferencia Regional, segundo semestre de 1988, de manera que el Director General dispondrá de un amplio marco de tiempo dentro del cual podrá tomar la decisión más conveniente.

S. Gblorzuo TOWEH (Liberia): Mr Chairman, it is a pleasure for me to see you chair this 90th Session of our Council, especially at this moment when we again began our other round of discussion on agricultural and food problems in Africa. My delegation therefore warmly commends you on your preferment to lead our deliberations. My delegation also compliments Mr Walton, Deputy Director-General, for the lucid and comprehensive introduction to documents CL 90/21 and CL 90/19.

Again we are assembled here to re-examine the findings of the FAO Africa study, as we did a few weeks ago in the city of Yamoussoukro. My delegation will not prolong the debate on this issue but rather re-echo our support for the FAO feasibility study on aid in Africa and our hope that this study in the future be concluded for other developing regions.

My delegation still believes that the four i's-incentives, inputs, institutions and infrastructure-are basic to agricultural development. Attainment of food self-sufficiency in line with the four i's, as proposed in the feasibility study on aid-in-kind, will undoubtedly serve as a catalyst for increased food production in Africa.

We believe aid-in-kind will provide us with an opportunity to use production inputs and in the future, to reduce our debt burden by increasing our foreign exchange earnings.

Evlogui BONEV (United Nations Development Programme): I am very pleased to have been given the opportunity to comment briefly on behalf of my Organization on this very important issue-the follow-up on the UN General Assembly Special Session on the Critical Situation in Africa. I read with interest the documents presented and listened with attention to the excellent introduction by the Deputy Director-General, Mr Walton.

The enriching intervention by the distinguished members of the Council, as well as the inspiring message of the President of the Republic of Senegal, and the Chairman of CILSS delivered by the coordinating minister of the latter last Friday, represent another contribution to the deliberation of this important Agenda item.

The preoccupation and the importance UNDP and its Governing Council attach to the destiny of this continent most in need is clearly demonstrated by the allocation of over 40 percent of the total UNDP resources for the next cycle 1986/1991 to this continent.

Participants in this forum are well aware that the Governing Council of UNDP at its last June Session discussed very intensively and extensively the UN Programme for African Economic Recovery and Development adopted by the Special Session of the UN General Assembly earlier this year, as the latter assigned major follow-up responsibilities to UNDP and the World Bank in the round table and consultative group meetings for monitoring the implementation of the United Nations Programme of Action.

As reflected in document CL 90/19, UNDP is a member of the Steering Committee for the implementation of the Programme of Action. The Administrator is determined to play his full part in this regard. UNDP will play an important monitoring role at the national level in the follow-up to the new action programme. One of our first tasks will be to ensure that IPF programmes reflect the latest priorities adopted by governments in the new action programme.

Several initiatives in this line have already been taken. Immediately after the Governing Council the Administrator visited some of the African countries and consulted with their governments. He met with Resident Representatives from the region where he visited projects on the ground, and gave specific instructions for the preparation of the Country Programmes in the African Continent. He pointed out that a coherent and concerted action was required from all partners-UN Organizations, the donor community and the recipient governments, if we were to fulfill the expectations of the international community.

Senior representatives from Agencies, including FAO, also participated in this important meeting, which was attended by the Director-General for Development and International Economic Cooperation, the Executive Secretary of OAU, the Executive Secretary of ECA, the Associated Administrator of UNDP and other senior officials. This meeting provided an excellent opportunity for better coordinated and coherent action at this important stage in initiating the new action programme.

One of our key preoccupations in the upcoming Cycle is how best we can support governments in implementing the new Programme of Action for Africa. Through the close and continued dialogue we conduct with them, we are working to ensure that UNDP's assistance will go primarily to agriculture, human resources and institution-building. Through our associated funds, we are focussing on its other major priorities: drought and desertification; small and medium-scale capital assistance; women's integration in development; science and technology; and programmes of volunteer assistance.

For your information, the Regional Bureau for Africa of UNDP has recently completed the review of the FAO proposals for inclusion in the Fourth Cycle Regional Programme for Africa 1987-1991. Taking into consideration, however, some important relevant events which took place late in this year and their outcome such as: the issues related to agricultural development outlined in the UN Programme of Action for 1986-1990, the Second Extraordinary Session of Ministers held in Addis Ababa, 13-16 October 1986, and its recommendations, the Programme of Action endorsed at the Fourteenth FAO Regional Ministerial Conference held in Yamoussoukro, 2-12 September 1986, UNDP decided to carry out an entire examination of its regional approach to agriculture in Africa in order to ensure that the Fourth Regional Programme for Africa be more in tune with the priorities defined by the above mentioned important bodies.

To this end UNDP proposed a Joint UNDP/FAO Panel of Consultants to identify projects which clearly put in action those recommendations and priorities. This proposal has recently been communicated to FAO and we hope that FAO will agree with this very constructive and action-oriented approach.

However, while helping Africa work out long-term solutions, we must remain alert to the region's immediate trials, including the latest cruel paradox of nature, the return of hordes of locusts, which the Director-General of FAO, Dr Saouma, stressed in his excellent introductory statement on the first day. We have recently channelled over 1.6 million dollars from our "Trust Fund to Combat Famine and Malnutrition in Developing Countries" into new locust control and aerial spray operations in the six most affected countries, in addition to the programmed support for crop protection in several other countries. Further projects are being prepared for UNDP funding by national authorities working closely with FAO and UNDP offices in the field.

In conclusion, I should like to reiterate that UNDP looks forward to cooperating closely with FAO and other Specialized Agencies and organizations, each within its competence, as well as with donors in assisting the African countries in the implementation of their Programme of Action.

Raphael RABE (Observateur de Madagascar): La délégation malgache est très heureuse et très fière de vous voir présider nos travaux. Elle vous remercie de lui donner la possibilité de s'exprimer sur ce point important de l'ordre du jour. Elle voudrait féliciter M. Walton pour sa présentation très claire du sujet.

Notre intervention sera assez brève pour éviter de répéter ce qui a déjà été dit tant sur la grande valeur de l'étude sur l'agriculture africaine pendant les vingt-cinq prochaines années-étude d'ailleurs qualifiée de lucide, exhaustive et pondérée par la Conférence régionale-que sur la participation active et intensive de la FAO à sa mise en oeuvre.

Nous voudrions tout simplement associer notre voix à celles des délégations qui se sont prononcées en faveur de la réalisation de l'étude de faisabilité visant à déterminer la possibilité d'accroître l'aide en nature sous forme d'intrants agricoles. Il se confirme qu'une telle étude est vraiment indispensable, ne serait-ce que pour apporter des réponses précises à toutes les questions qui ont été posées par certaines délégations sur l'opportunité d'intensifier l'aide en intrants.

Il est peut-être d'ores et déjà utile de rappeler que, de tout temps, les interventions de la FAO ont toujours été faites dans le cadre de paquets technologiques appropriés et en harmonie avec toutes les autres actions.

L'étude envisagée sur les intrants n'échappera pas, bien entendu, à cette règle-nous en sommes convaincu. Au même titre que la délégation du Congo qui a parlé au nom du Président de l'Organisation de l'unité africaine, nous nous félicitons du consensus général qui s'est dégagé au sein du Conseil pour donner mandat au Directeur général d'entreprendre ladite étude. Le coût approximatif de l'étude, son contenu et sa durée sont déjà connus. Nous pensons que cela est très important en cette période où les priorités dans les programmes et les projets sont plus que jamais examinées avec le plus grand soin par le Secrétariat.

La contribution effective de tous les protagonistes, donateurs et bénéficiaires à la réalisation de l'étude est le garant de son succès. La déclaration de la délégation de la Belgique, au nom des pays de la CEE, et celles de nombreux autres pays sont, à ce titre, très appréciées par notre délégation.

Pour sa part, le Gouvernement malgache voudrait en tout cas assurer le Secrétariat de son soutien total dans cette noble tâche.

Assefa YILALA (Observer for Ethiopia): Like all those who have spoken before us we should also like to indicate our pleasure at seeing you in the chair during the deliberation on this important Agenda item.

The contribution of food accessibility by all to the well-being of mankind has been dealt with adequately and therefore our delegation sees no need to repeat it here, except to mention that the African situation is no exception in this regard, as has been expressed by all those who intervened on this item.

The concerted effort and the pace with which long-term solutions are sought to the economic crisis facing Africa today, which is appropriately referred to, is a concern of mankind as a whole rather than an exclusive African problem which will very much determine the future accessibility to food because the economic crisis has a high and direct bearing on food production capabilities.

In the framework of the prevailing economic crisis and the present trend of global economic development, securing food from the international trade is a very remote probability, and therefore the likelihood of improving access to food through this alternative is also unlikely within the foreseeable future.

A greater understanding of the magnitude and the critical nature of the economic situation in Africa is to be realized in the response of the international community in terms of both the short-term emergency operations and Africa's priority programme for economic recovery. The 13th Special Session of the UN General Assembly which was preceded by the 1984 Session of ECOSOC, the Addis Ababa OAU Summit Meeting of 1985, the preparatory Committee of the Whole and FAO's unreserved involvement in the study, are all manifestations of the attention that needs to be considered as a background of the problem being faced.

The fact that global distribution of food production is being reported as favourable, even though the forecast for cereal production is slightly below that of the previous year tends to shadow the critical economic situation in Africa. Even though food production patterns have been different from previous years, the fact that, this is a short-term outlook due to the season's favourable rainfall situation does not guarantee sustained food production availability for the future. Over and above the cumulative effect of the historic drought in over 20 African countries, food production has been faced with further calamities of drought in seven African countries. Here, I should like to mention the Ethiopian food shortage situation as one example, not as an isolated case.

In Ethiopia, where the historic continental drought had its maximum strength, the rainfall in 1986 was favourable in most parts of the country with the exception of the south-east, south-west and the northern parts of the country, either because of late or erratic rainfall in the middle of the growing season. The persistency of the repeated drought has become a cause for shortage of food again in those affected areas. Because of the cumulative effect of the drought in the past and the present drought in some parts of the country, the food shortage situation will continue to prevail even though the magnitude of the shortfall is below that of the previous years. Further to the drought, in some parts of the country crop losses due to locusts and grasshoppers in the north-western part of the country have become an additional cause of shortfalls.

Although the rainfall situation in the growing season of 1986 was favourable and created a better growing environment for production the situation was not fully utilized because most of the available resources were diverted towards facing the emergency and therefore creating even further shortage of inputs. Hence, the food shortage situation will still require emergency and relief attention in those parts which are affected and continuous effort in maintaining a satisfactory level of food production.

This is one example where the food shortage situation is still prevailing and yet it is being overshadowed by the overall favourability of the rain in 1986. I am sure that the same holds true in most of the drought-affected African countries. The present food situation in Africa is just of a temporary nature when one looks at it from a generalized point of view. Even worse is the fact that this generalized view tends to shadow the existence of shortage of food and millions becoming victims in the situation.

The critical economic situation in Africa will require longer and closer attention for it to recover. The area of food production to which the agenda item under discussion is related will also require as much attention.

In the study of African agriculture during the next 25 years it is indicated that Africa can feed itself provided that the potential is properly mobilized and safeguarded. It is also clearly pointed out that Africa has potential for sustained food production and yet is limited by capital and other investment resources to exploit it so as to mobilise the resource available. The flow of capital from developed to African countries over and above the commitments of African countries to devote more resources to agriculture comes into the scene as an important factor to be considered.

Aid-in-kind as one way for flow of capital was supported by the African Ministers of Agriculture during the Fourteenth Session of the African Regional Conference as it was presented in the document. The aid-in-kind which is presented for consideration is therefore accepted as a major means of enhancing food production and agricultural development. Hence, the present request is to allow FAO to do the detailed study in this regard. My delegation would like to indicate its support for the proposed detailed study.

As it stands now, the critical economic situation of Africa has become a focal area of attention for the international community, and therefore tackling the economic problem of the African continent as a priority area for consideration will face relatively less difficulty, and the need for further clarification might not be necessary, in addition to its contribution of demonstrating the value of such a scheme.

It is therefore the view of the Ethiopian delegation that priority should be given to Africa, with due and primary attention to the least developed countries as a strategy in the initiation of such studies. In stating this, my delegation fully realises that all developing countries of the globe are faced with input supply problems, and that the need to look at it as a global perspective is equally important. However, as further groundwork will have to be done in order to launch a study at the international level, any delay in launching will only lead to a worsening economic situation in Africa. Therefore, we would like to indicate that the study should go ahead as far as the African continent is concerned, and meanwhile preparatory work on covering other areas or developing countries should be simultaneously completed so as to cover all developing countries ultimately in the final analysis.

In listening to the interventions made on this agenda item, the phrase "stepped up" which supposedly should precede "aid-in-kind" seems to have been left out in most of the discussions. Therefore, we would like to make the small reminder that reference be made to "stepped up aid-in-kind".

Finally, my delegation would like to thank the Director-General for the follow-up action taken after the African Regional Conference, for bringing this important item of discussion to the attention of the Council, and we thank the Deputy Director-General for summarizing the agenda item very clearly and precisely.

António RODRIGUES PIRES (Observateur du Cap-Vert): Monsieur le Président, à l'instar des délégués qui m'ont précédé, je dois vous dire que c'est un grand honneur pour moi de voir présider le Ministre de l'agriculture d'un pays africain alors que nous examinons un point de l'ordre du jour crucial pour notre continent.

Tenant compte des orateurs qui l'ont précédée, notamment les délégués du Congo, de Madagascar, de l'Inde, du Sénégal, pour ne pas citer les autres, ma délégation sera extrêmement brève-tenant compte aussi des autres observateurs qui voudraient bien prendre la parole.

Sans nul doute, les propositions formulées par le Directeur général de la FAO revêtent une grande importance. C'est pourquoi notre délégation appuie la proposition qui figure au paragraphe 29 du document CL 90/21 concernant l'aide en nature. Il s'agit là, comme vous pouvez le comprendre, d'une action à court terme primordiale-je dis bien primordiale-pour des raisons très clairement exposées audit paragraphe de ce document.

Les intrants constituent, certes, la pierre angulaire indispensable pour l'augmentation de la production vivrière et alimentaire, surtout dans les pays africains où la situation économique actuelle est critique. Les pays africains, compte tenu également de leur dette, ont d'énormes difficultés à importer les intrants nécessaires, tels que les engrais, les pesticides, les instruments perfectionnés, les outils agricoles, dont ils ont besoin pour leur production vivrière. C'est pour cela que mon gouvernement demande au Conseil de donner mandat au Directeur général de la FAO et d'accéder à la requête qui lui a été faite par la Conférence régionale pour l'Afrique, à savoir d'effectuer une étude de faisabilité afin d'examiner la possibilité d'accroître l'aide en nature sous forme d'intrants agricoles.

Avant de terminer, j'aimerais dire deux mots au sujet du document CL 90/19. Il ne fait nul doute qu'à Yamoussoukro, les ministres africains ont clairement exprimé leur position au sujet du rôle clé de l'Organisation dans le suivi du Programme d'action des Nations Unies, compte tenu de la spécificité et de l'expérience de notre Organisation.

Par ailleurs, je tiens à remercier le Directeur Général et son équipe pour la collaboration fructueuse et étroite qu'ils ont toujours eue avec l'OUA et la Commission économique pour l'Afrique. La FAO a toujours répondu favorablement aux requêtes de notre organisation panafricaine. Je ne doute pas qu'à l'avenir, elle continuera à travailler avec les Etats, car ce sont les Etats qui sont les chefs de file, pour coordonner les aides de toute nature, soit bilatérale, soit multilatérale.

Stanley Mukindia GUANTAI (Observer for Kenya): First of all, let me say how happy we are to see you on the Chair, especially representing our side of the region, East Africa. My delegation would like to thank the Deputy Director-General, Mr Walton, for the introduction of the very clear Secretariat documents CL 90/19 and CL 90/21. My delegation welcomes the report on the United Nations Plan of Action for Africa and the proposals of the Director-General for the follow-up.

The FAO has continued to show great concern for the problems of Africa and was closely involved in the preparation of the African document and the proposals to the special session of the General Assembly.

The study "African agriculture: the next 25 years" is a valuable document which will remain a major reference in agricultural strategic developments in Africa, thanks to the FAO.

During the 14th FAO Regional Conference in Yamoussoukro, my country participated fully and made our views and support quite clear. We believe, and in this view support the delegate and Minister for Agriculture from Tanzania, yourself, Mr Chairman, that the African leaders have put their views and strategies together, and what they require most is cooperation and support from the international community.

In the same vein, we believe that regional cooperation will play a crucial role in the development efforts in Africa. In this regard we endorse the statement by the delegate of Uganda on Inter-Governmental Authority on Drought and Desertification (IGADD), and I agree with the delegates who have spoken on the role and need for coordination with other UN organizations for maintaining FAO in the forefront.

The Special Programme for sub-Saharan Africa under IFAD is a step towards translating and supplementing the UN Action Plan for Africa. My country is amongst the initial 20 proposed beneficiaries. My delegation takes this opportunity to convey our gratitude.

Coming back to the proposals of the Director-General on aid-in-kind, we would like to add that it will have a major role to play in the African agriculture if directed to increasing the productive elements on a per-unit basis. We feel this initiative by FAO for a study merits our support and hope that such an initiative will continue to be manifested by Africans themselves and the international community to accelerate economic recovery in Africa.

Sra. Yolanda GAGO DE SINIGAGLIA (Observador de la Costa Rica): La delegación de Costa Rica interviene brevemente para referirse a las declaraciones de Venezuela y Colombia sobre el estudio para América Latina, en el cual el Gobierno de Costa Rica desea que se prosigan los estudios sobre el tabaco iniciados en 1982/83 abarcando cifras de empleo y rentas fiscales generadas por los sectores y la importancia de ese producto en la economía de los países subdesarrollados, incluyendo además el tema del tabaco dentro de la actualización periódica del cuadro, estudio global y proyecciones de insumo.

Carlos DINATOR (Observador de Chile): Nos complacen los avances de Africa y desde luego el estudio que ha suscitado la interrogante sobre la posibilidad de una ayuda adicional en especie. Por cierto, una coordinada ayuda en especie debería ser alentada y nos sumamos a las delegaciones que han apoyado tal idea puesto que permite conocer con certeza los beneficios efectivos.

Nos atrevemos a insinuar que se estudie la posibilidad de introducir algún componente de monetización por cuanto las donaciones puras y simples tienen connotaciones paternalistas que pudieran hacer más mal que el bien que procuran remediar.

Han llamado la atención de mi delegación, sin embargo, las reticencias que algunos han manifestado respecto del segundo aspecto consultado por la Secretaría; esto es, respecto de la conveniencia de limitar o no la acción a los países africanos, párrafo 48 del documento CL 90/21.

Al respecto, mi delegación debe recordar que ya el señor Director General expresó en la sesión inaugural de este Consejo su esperanza en una respuesta favorable a la petición que sobre la materia análoga efectuó la Conferencia Regional de la FAO para América Latina y el Caribe recientemente celebrada en Barbados.

Mi delegación insta a todas sus similares a considerar de la mayor importancia la suficiente universalidad en la acción de la FAO. Asimismo, estimamos que el problema básico no es el de restringir los planos de acción de la FAO en favor de determinados sectores, sino en proseguir una labor mancomunada para que los esfuerzos y recursos lleguen simultáneamente a todos quienes lo necesitan, de acuerdo con una debida consideración a todas las áreas que requieren esta ayuda. Si América Latina tiene un mayor grado de desarrollo relativo, su situación no puede ser penalizada recibiendo menos atención que otras zonas. La credibilidad de las organizaciones de vocación universal está vinculada a prácticas que guardan relación con su propia naturaleza y, por lo tanto, con una asignación amplia de los esfuerzos.

Mi país ha manifestado en la reciente Conferencia Regional de la FAO para América Latina y el Caribe que el estudio sobre la situación actual y perspectivas del sector alimentario y agrícola en la región es necesario para lograr un crecimiento acelerado y un mayor bienestar de la población. En esa oportunidad Chile hizo presente los requerimientos en los campos de investigación agrícola, transferencia de tecnología, sanidad agropecuaria y protección de los recursos naturales, sin descuidar en el desarrollo agrícola el gasto social en el sector, incluyendo la educación, salud, política administrativa y sus relaciones con la infraestructura y servicios básicos del citado sector agropecuario.

Mi delegación debe concordar en que este aspecto tiene vinculaciones con los aspectos financieros y por ello cree del caso señalar que la cuestión de la asignación de recursos implícita en estas cuestiones no consiste, ni podría consistir, en entregar un pastel a uno mientras los demás ven comer. El caso consistiría más bien en tratar de obtener más pasteles para que todos coman. La asignación de recursos en forma restringida podría estar conduciendo a las fracasadas prácticas de nivelar hacia abajo en vez de buscar que todos crezcan participando de un pastel mayor.

Propicia mi delegación la opción amplia y universal para la alternativa del párrafo 48 del documento CL 90/21. En la misma forma en que mi delegación puso de relieve la indiscutible ilegalidad del no pago oportuno de la contribución, igualmente debe señalar que consideramos fuera del espíritu de nuestra normativa constitucional la tendencia de propiciar exclusivimos en las corrientes de cooperación multilateral, añadiendo que ambos fenómenos pudieran generar iguales consecuencias desestabilizadoras, comprobadas en otros foros.

Permítame señalar que la posición de Chile, por lo demás compartida con muchos países de América Latina, no puede considerarse un amago para los intereses de los países hermanos de Africa; no puede mi delegación creer que los intereses de una región en desarrollo pasen por el camino de la posposición y del olvido de otra, por que la altura de miras y nuestra fe en esa región hermana de Africa nos impiden creer que esa clase de pensamiento prevalece entre los países aquí representados.

Más que nunca mi delegación piensa que en todos los países en desarrollo existe la tarca de mancomunar voluntades y estrechar filas para que nadie se sienta al margen o sobrepasado; en conjunto podemos aspirar a lo mejor, separados seremos lo que otros quieran que seamos.

A determinados países desarrollados que se han pronunciado sobre aspectos de principio y han apoyado unas sólidas tendencias restrictivas, no podemos menos que expresar nuestro asombro.

La lectura y aplicación del preámbulo de la Constitución de la FAO debería guiar los pasos de este Consejo si realmente creemos en esta Organización, en su gran futuro y en el marco general de normas que regulan la acción de la Organización.

Permítame finalizar expresando admiración por la tesonera labor de Africa que está dando significativa y cabal prioridad al sector silviagropecuario, asignando un papel trascendente a la autoayuda en su reciente Conferencia Regional en Costa de Marfil.

Célestin KAREKEZI (Observateur du Rwanda): Depuis un certain nombre d'années, notre Conseil s'inquiète régulièrement, des crises alimentaires de l'Afrique, crises que les pays essaient heureusement de soulager par la fourniture d'une aide alimentaire. Or, comme nous le savons tous, l'aide alimentaire est une solution provisoire associée aux moyens de production qui sont notamment les intrants, repris dans le document CL 90/21 de la FAO. Cela pourrait permettre au continent africain d'accroître sa production et d'atteindre l'autosuffisance alimentaire dans un délai raisonnable. Ma délégation appuie sans réserve la proposition du Directeur général de la FAO à propos de l'étude sur la faisabilité d'une aide en nature sous forme d'intrants.

Ousman N. R. OTHMAN (Gambia): At the end of a very long debate I would like, very briefly, to say how very pleased the Gambian delegation is to see you chair the discussion on an item on Africa. I also wish to thank the Director-General for his efforts to promote agricultural development in Africa and Mr Walton for his excellent presentation of the working document under discussion. As for the proposals contained in documents CL 90/19 and CL 90/21, the Gambian delegation would wish to indicate its total support for the mandate to be given for the feasibility study on aid-in-kind in Africa.

Giuseppe VASTA (Observateur de l'OCDE): Je vous remercie de m'avoir donné la parole et je vous prie de m'excuser pour l'heure tardive. Je désire féliciter M. Walton pour son excellente introduction et les services compétents pour les documents intéressants que nous sommes en train d'examiner. Qui a visité l'Afrique et revient dans son pays d'origine souffre souvent d'une nostalgie profonde que

L'on appelle le mal d'Afrique. C'est à propos de ce mal d'Afrique que je remonte dans le temps en pensant à ce que les pays de l'OCDE ont commencé à faire au sein d'un groupe nommé "Les amis du Sahel". Pour ce qui est du point à l'ordre du jour, je désire déclarer que toute étude réalisée pour l'amélioration de la situation des pays en développement et, dans ce cas spécifique, des pays de l'Afrique, ne peut que recevoir un encouragement soit de la part du DAC, soit de la part de la direction de l'agriculture de l'OCDE, et cela en harmonie avec l'intérêt et les préoccupations que manifestent, entre autre, les Ministres de l'agriculture des pays de l'OCDE à l'égard de l'avenir des pays en développement, chaque fois qu'ils se réunissent à Paris au Siège de l'Organisation. Dans cet esprit, je souhaite bon travail aux services intéressés, avec l'espoir que cette étude puisse apporter une aide toujours plus généreuse et efficace en faveur du continent si cher à notre coeur, et avec la certitude que l'aide du bon Dieu ne pourra pas nous manquer quand nous agissons en faveur de nos frères, qui nécessitent de notre aide et de notre compréhension.

CHAIRMAN: I thank the representative of OECD for his words of encouragement.

LE DIRECTEUR GENERAL: Ce 24 novembre sera marqué un jour, je l'espère, d'une belle flamme car toute la journée nous avons débattu d'un sujet vital pour le devenir de plus de 500 millions d'Africains. La qualité et le sérieux des interventions, et la sérénité qui a prévalu tout au long de cette journée m'ont fort impressionné. A vrai dire, j'ai beaucoup apprécié l'accueil chaleureux réservé à l'étude "L'Agriculture africaine: les 25 prochaines années". Tous les délégués sans exception nous ont félicité ou se sont déclarés satisfaits de la qualité de l'étude.

Tout aussi chaleureux fut l'accueil réservé par la plupart des membres du Conseil et par la totalité des observateurs, à la demande formulée par les Ministres de l'agriculture de l'Afrique au Conseil, en vue d'autoriser le Directeur général à procéder à une étude de faisabilité sur le programme d'aide en nature à l'Afrique, programme que j'ai eu l'honneur de proposer à la Conférence des Ministres de l'agriculture à Yamoussoukro. Ce programme devrait permettre à l'agriculture vivrière-celle qui concerne les petits paysans-de faire un bond en avant, après une stagnation de plusieurs années. L'agriculture vivrière nous donne à tous des sujets d'inquiétude.

On a parlé de coordination; soyez rassurés; nous sommes aussi soucieux que vous de la coordination parce que ce programme de réhabilitation de l'économie africaine, tel que proposé par l'OUA et accepté par l'Assemblée générale, demande un effort de tous. Je vais la semaine prochaine à Brazzaville, honoré d'une invitation du Président en exercice de l'OUA, faire rapport devant le Comité directeur de l'OUA qui assure le suivi de la session spéciale des Nations Unies; je ferai également rapport des discussions au Conseil.

De plus, le Secrétaire général des Nations Unies m'a fait l'honneur de m'inviter à New York les 8 et 9 février pour faire rapport aux pays donateurs, qu'il a lui-même convoqués, avec le Président en exercice de l'OUA.

Je ferai donc et à Brazzaville et à New York rapport sur les décisions prises aujourd'hui.

Et maintenant, M. le Président, je vous prie de bien vouloir autoriser mon collègue le Directeur général adjoint de répondre aux questions et d'apporter des éclaircissements sur certains points soulevés par les délégués au cours de cette journée. Merci M. le Président.

DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL: In my introduction this morning I said that the basic question before the Council is whether there is sufficient support among the donor community to justify our launching the feasibility study. The response from the Council has clearly been "yes". However, there is one item on which a certain ambiguity still remains, and that is the question of whether the study should be limited to Africa or extended globally, and if so at what stage. I think probably the majority of speakers suggested that it focus initially on Africa and be extended later to other regions.

One specific suggestion has come from the floor, that Latin America be covered separately in the study requested by the last Regional Conference for Latin America and which is destined for the next Regional Conference in Latin America in 1988. That certainly, so far as the Secretariat is concerned, appears a very sensible suggestion.

However, there is still some ambiguity regarding coverage of the other regions. There are two possibilities. One is that the non-African regions could be dealt with towards the end of our work on the study for the FAO Conference in 1987 or alternatively that other regions could be covered in the work coming after the FAO Conference. I think it is desirable to have a ruling from the Council on this matter to avoid any ambiguity at a later stage and I commend this for your attention.

In supporting the idea of the feasibility Study a number of donor representatives especially expressed a word of caution. These are very much in line with the cautious approach which I adopted in introducing the subject this morning. However, there were two cases in which caution slipped, I think, over the frontier into an area which I will call scepticism.

Some specific questions were put to the Secretariat by the two delegates concerned and I would like to comment first on some questions raised by the delegate of Canada. His main question appeared to imply that stepped up aid-in-kind, input aid-in-kind is likely to be a bad thing, at least in terms of development theory. I would like to say that in the view of the Secretariat, stepped up aid-in-kind is neither inherently a good thing nor necessarily a bad thing. The questions at issue relate not to goodness or badness in theory but to effectiveness, effectiveness in impact and effectiveness in the use of aid resources which we all recognize as being extremely limited.

The Representative of Canada said that his aid programme would respond positively to specific requests for input aid put forward by African countries. I would personally hope that the outcome of the feasibility study will provide concepts, approaches, ways of thinking, ways of analysing that will enable Canada and other donors to take a more comprehensive and perhaps more sophisticated approach when examining requests for aid-in-kind in the future.

The outcome of the feasibility study in other words and not the Secretariat should provide some of the answers to his questions at this stage. I very much hope that Canada will participate in the work on the study both by providing data and by discussing ideas. Indeed, a healthy dose of scepticism accompanied by a willingness to look objectively at the facts, will, I am sure be useful and stimulating for the preparation of the study.

The Representative of Denmark questioned the possibility of using data from other organizations in order to avoid the expense of going to the full feasibility study which we have proposed. There is some fragmentary data available. FAO itself monitors the flow of fertilizer aid. We have also informally made soundings with the World Bank which is ready to provide us with the data in its possession on the flow of input in aid-in-kind. However, that is not really the point. The point is I think, as has been stressed by a number of representatives in the debate, that we are looking not merely at a quantitative analysis but also at a qualitative analysis.

The problems are whether aid-in-kind has run into serious problems in the past, what can be its potential for use in the future, and answers to this type of question cannot be derived from a simple analysis of quantitative data.

There have been some general questions on coordination. The Director-General has given two examples of how he at his level coordinates the approaches of FAO at the highest level with the United Nations, OAU and other organizations. FAO continues to participate in the work of the United Nations Steering Committee which I mentioned this morning and indeed, there will be a meeting of the Steering Committee in New York tomorrow.

At national level the Consultative Groups and Round Tables are essentially dealing with macro-economic issues, and I can only confirm that FAO is ready to make its sectoral input insofar as it may be requested and useful within this broader context.

So far as coordination with UNDP is concerned, I would like to refer to the statement made in the debate by the representative of UNDP and to thank him for his very positive intervention.

Finally, I would like to comment on just one technical issue which emerged in the course of the discussion. That is the question from the delegate of Pakistan-in effect, why is irrigation not a fifth 'i'? Conceptually water is of course an input. So in a sense water is covered by the four i's. However, the problems and potential associated with irrigation schemes in Africa have been analyzed in the study "African Agriculture: the Next Twenty-Five Years". I shall not recapitulate them now but I would point out that there are serious problems connected with the high cost of irrigation schemes in Africa and there are also problems with the support systems required for the development and operation of such schemes. In part for these reasons the study anticipates that rainfed agriculture will continue to account for about 90 percent of food production in Africa.

I think I do not need to comment on any other of the questions raised in the course of what has been an extremely substantial and substantive debate.

CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much, Mr Walton. I think this brings us to a point that we need to examine what we need to decide and conclude our deliberations upon. The point that has been raised with regard to the studies embracing more than one region is one that the Deputy Director-General feels is left open-ended. In my view, listening to different speakers this morning and this afternoon, I thought the consensus was that this kind of study is good for Africa and is good for other regions; therefore since it is going to be done in Africa why should it not be extended to other regions. This is a legitimate desire for other regions to benefit from studies such as the one that we have been discussing. But certainly this does not warrant that additional funds should now be provided so that we have more than \$400 000 that have been mentioned throughout. What I thought was that the general understanding of the mood and interventions from Member Countries here is that, let us proceed with the study on Africa and when that is done, then we will look to other regions, and the region that has a request now is Latin America, arising from the regional meeting in Barbados. So in my judgement we should stick to what has been the recommendation by the Director-General and that is, give him the mandate to do the feasibility study as mentioned in the document and then look at the possibility of extending such studies to other regions. I think this would be a fair way of treating this issue, rather than opening up another debate on whether we should now deal with Latin America at this last hour. This is my understanding. Unless there is a conflicting view or different understanding, I would judge the issue accordingly.

Are there any views contrary to my understanding? There seems to be no contra view. Therefore, Mr Deputy Director-General, the consensus of this session is that we will give the mandate to the Secretariat and the Director-General to carry out a feasibility study in accordance with the recommendations brought to the Council and that having done that, we will then examine ways and means of extending these studies to other regions when and if it is desired.

I would like also to comment on the views that we have received, and I must confess that this is my first time and I am acting as a rookie in the game as it were, but my judgement on the discussions here is based on the fact that this is a democratic institute, and as such we are bound to receive a divergence of views and we cannot expect views to be uniform. Therefore, when we receive slightly different observations from what we expect to be the correct version we should not feel that this is outside the scope of our discussions. Therefore, we always welcome a different point of view and then work on the democratic judgement of the consensus of the majority view.

In this case I am alluding to the fact that there were some observations made by Denmark and Canada. In my view I consider those views seeking further clarification and refinement of the kind of work that we want to do. I did not get the impression that there was total opposition to the programme that will help Africa feed herself.

In that case I would suggest that the Secretariat take into account some of the observations, because they could be of great help in our work, but bearing in mind that the majority view of this Council endorses the study that has been recommended by the Secretariat, by the Director-General, and the recommendations of the Special General Assembly of the United Nations, as well as the Regional Conference of the African States which met in Yamoussoukro. I think, ladies and gentlemen, we have treated this subject properly, as it deserved to be treated. We had altogether 52 speeches, 43 from members of Council and 9 from observers, and the consensus of this august assembly is that we should give full support and mandate to the Secretariat and to the Director-General to carry out the feasibility study in accordance with the terms of reference that appear in paragraph 45 of the paper that we have been discussing.

Ladies and gentlemen, I am satisfied that we have dealt with all the matters brought to us for our judgement and I am pleased to say that we have reached a conclusion which will give us a push which will answer some of the serious problems that have been posed, but there can never be finality in these matters. We are dealing with one aspect. After the study we will discover that we need to do a little more perhaps. There may be some other issues that will be revealed by the feasibility study and at that time we will have an opportunity to deal with those issues. For the time being, I believe that we now have the support of the Council, and the Director-General can proceed with the feasibility study.

I thank you very much. I thank you all for your very kind support for the Chair throughout our discussion.

The meeting rose at 18. 15 hours

La séance est levée à 18 h 15

Se levanta la sesión a las 18. 15 horas

council

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

conseil

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

consejo

ORGANIZACION DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS PARA LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION

CL

CL 90/PV/13

Ninetieth Session

Quatre-vingt-dixième session

90º período de sesiones

THIRTEENTH PLENARY MEETING
TREIZIEME SEANCE PLENIERE
13ª SESION PLENARIA
(25 November 1986)

The Thirteenth Plenary Meeting was opened at 09. 45 hours,
Lassaad Ben Osman, Independent Chairman of the Council, presiding

La treizième séance plénière est ouverte à 9 h 45, sous la présidence
de Lassaad Ben Osman, Président indépendant du Conseil

Se abre la 13ª sesión plenaria a las 09. 45 horas bajo la presidencia
de Lassaad Ben Osman, Presidente Independiente del Consejo

- III. ACTIVITIES OF FAO AND WFP (continued)
- III. ACTIVITES DE LA FAO ET DU PAM (suite)
- III. ACTIVIDADES DE LA FAO Y DEL PMA (continuación)
- 7. World Food Programme
- 7. Programme alimentaire mondial
- 7. Programa Mundial de Alimentos
- 7.1 Eleventh Annual Report of the Committee on Food Aid Policies and Programmes of the UN/FAO World Food Programme
- 7.1 Onzième rapport annuel du Comité des politiques et programmes d'aide alimentaire du Programme alimentaire mondial ONU/FAO
- 7.1 11º Informe Anual del Comité de Políticas y Programas de Ayuda Alimentaria del Programa Mundial de Alimentos Naciones Unidas/FAO

Salahuddin AHMED (WFP): I welcome this opportunity to present to the Council the Eleventh Annual Report of the Committee on Food Aid Policies and Programmes for the year 1985. The Executive Director, Mr Ingram, before he left on duty travel to Pakistan, asked me to convey his regards and best wishes to you.

The report before you contains a great amount of detailed information and data on the Programme's activities and accomplishments during last year. I will touch on some of the highlights to put it in perspective.

The unprecedented food crisis in Africa and the special attention given to relief assistance resulted in food aid for emergencies receiving prominent coverage in the media during 1985. Important and vital as emergency food aid has been, it constituted about a quarter of the Programme's total aid in 1985. We continued to use food aid not only to alleviate hunger but to promote development and prevent hunger in the world.

In 1985 the Programme committed 642 million dollars of resources to 55 new, as well as ongoing development projects, involving 1. 8 million tons of food. Special attention continued to be paid by WFP to the needs of sub-Saharan Africa to assist in the process of recovery and development.

Consistent with the Programme's established priorities, low-income, food-deficit countries were allocated 85 percent of the volume of our development assistance committed in 1985.

Projects approved last year also reflected our continuing emphasis on providing support for agriculture and rural development: 78 percent of our development assistance commitments went to projects in these sectors.

Globally, in 1985 the Programme was involved in the implementation of over 360 ongoing development projects in 88 countries. The value of its assistance to those projects was around \$3.6 billion.

The easing of the immediate crisis in sub-Saharan Africa somewhat relieved the pressure on resources devoted to emergency operations in 1985. We committed 230 million dollars to 55 new emergency operations in 32 countries during that year, involving more than 700 000 tons of food and five million dollars in cash subsidies. Our relief activities were not, of course, limited to Africa alone but also brought relief to drought-stricken nations, refugees and displaced persons and the victims of natural disasters all over the world. About 11 million people were targeted beneficiaries of WFP emergency food aid approved in 1985.

I would like to draw your attention to some of the unprecedented activities WFP undertook last year in countering the emergency in Africa. WFP's Africa Task Force improved and computerized data on food aid pledges and deliveries in Africa, for regular dissemination to donors and recipients, allowing for greater coordination among donors in the massive international effort to provide aid. To speed up deliveries in recipient countries, the Task Force provided extra equipment and transport, recruited special teams of experts who monitored ports and transit routes to overcome transportation bottlenecks and, in some cases, the implementation of road and rail repairs and the mobilization of special transport units.

These successes were made possible by the financial support of donors, very generous support, I must say the full support we received from African governments and institutions, including transit countries, the cooperation of the concerned organizations and agencies in the United Nations system and, last but not least, the dedication and hard work of our staff, both in the field and at Headquarters.

With the growth in other types of development assistance stagnating, food aid becomes all the more important as an integral component of international aid. In the 1985-86 biennium, the combined total of resources pledged or contributed to WFP amounted to 1.35 billion dollars. For regular pledges, we received the highest level of contributions in the history of the Programme—over a billion dollars, although this represented only 78 percent of the target. Added to these funds was a dramatic increase in the resources donors made available to the International Emergency Food Reserve (IEFR). Contributions to the IEFR in 1985 were more than 800 000 tons valued at 224 million dollars, surpassing the target for the third consecutive year.

The cash resources coming to the Programme, however, must be increased in relation to the food supplies in the interests of greater operational flexibility.

WFP managed the shipment of over 2 million tons of food to 84 countries in 1985, using over 1 800 vessels. Once again, we sought to use vessels from developing countries subject, of course, to cost effectiveness, and those nations accounted—that is, the developing countries accounted for 12 percent of the vessels used, compared to 11 percent in 1984.

Purchases of food by the Programme in 1985 continued at high levels, amounting to about 58 million dollars, 80 percent of which was used in what we call "triangular transactions", a matter in which the governing body is always very interested.

As many members of the Council know, the most important development for us in the field of logistics was the Programme's first involvement in directly managing large-scale truck fleets in Chad, the Sudan and Ethiopia to transport food aid. This was a challenge that had to be met on behalf of the international community and we took that challenge. This accomplishment of WFP adds a new dimension to the UN's role in dealing with emergencies. More people in remote areas have been reached than would have been possible under existing conditions. The experience has been critically evaluated and considered by the CFA; the lessons learnt should help us respond more effectively in future emergencies.

It would interest you to know that the Programme has received substantial transfers of authority for internal audit, contracts, personnel and accounting as a result of the recommendations of the Joint UN/FAO Task Force. I am pleased to report that this transfer of functions from FAO to WFP took place in a highly cooperative and constructive manner; the new arrangements are in place and fully operational.

As regards WFP's resource situation for the biennium 1987-88, some 58 donors have, so far pledged US \$624 million, which is forty-five percent of the target. However, all the main donors have not yet pledged. If they maintain their pledges at the levels of the current biennium, we should see a small overall increase in resources available for development over the resources for 1985-86.

In conclusion, the work and activities of WFP in 1985, as in previous years, have shown how food aid, perceptively used, can be a most effective investment resource for supporting the efforts of developing countries in achieving long-term and sustainable development, as well as in addressing their immediate needs.

I now commend to the FAO Council the Eleventh Annual Report of the CFA, contained in Document CL 90/9, for your consideration.

LE PRESIDENT: Je félicite M. Ahmed, le Directeur adjoint du Programme alimentaire mondial, pour son exposé très clair. Nous allons ouvrir le débat et je passe la parole au Royaume-Uni.

Ronald F. R. DEARE (United Kingdom): May I first thank Mr Ahmed for his very comprehensive and interesting introduction. The United Kingdom is of course privileged to be a member of the Committee on Food Aid Policies and Programmes and therefore we have had an opportunity to participate in the preparation of this report. In the circumstances I can be reasonably brief in my comments. But I do want to say one or two things, because 1985 was, as Mr Ahmed has reminded us, a momentous year for WFP. As he has said, we have seen in the past year or so the implementation of the report of the UN/FAO Joint Task Force and, as Mr Ahmed has said, this has led to a new relationship which we are pleased to know is working well in a spirit of harmony and close cooperation. I think this Council should congratulate the Director-General and the Executive Director on the way in which this new arrangement has taken shape.

Mr Ahmed also referred to WFP's major involvement in the African food crisis and I think that we can all acknowledge that WFP rose manfully to this challenge and also learnt valuable lessons which we were able to discuss in the CFA last month. Here again I think congratulations are due to all the staff and management of both WFP and FAO who were involved in this tremendous effort.

I would also just like to note the reference in the report to the Executive Director's initiative in instituting a review of WFP's management methods and organizational structure. We believe that all organizations need from time to time to stand back and to review and, if necessary, redefine their objectives and priorities, and we are very glad that WFP has done this. We had a useful first discussion last month in the CFA and we, like other delegations, look forward to receiving the Executive Director's proposals in due course.

Today seems to be a day for congratulations because I think that congratulations are also due to the Secretary-General and the Director-General for their decision to reappoint Jim Ingram for a further term as Executive-Director of WFP, and my delegation would like to offer our congratulations to him too. Those are all the congratulations.

Now, speaking as the country which has the privilege at the moment of holding the presidency of the European Community, I would just like to draw to the attention of the Council the fact that the European Community Development Council on 11 November reached a common position on a new food aid regulation which I think is of some significance. The main features of this are that food aid will be linked to a much greater extent in future to development aid and development policy. Food aid will conform more closely to the needs of the recipients and there will be a streamlining of procedures to allow food aid to be mobilized more quickly, especially in emergency situations.

We are hopeful that a few remaining institutional problems can be resolved quickly and that the regulation will be adopted before the end of this year. We believe that these reforms should enable recipients and donors alike to obtain better value from food aid and I am sure that this is an objective shared by all members of the CFA and of this Council.

Ms Anne Marie ESPER-LARSEN (Denmark): The Danish delegation has studied with interest the 11th Annual Report of the Committee on Food Aid Policies and Programmes to the Economic and Social Council, the FAO Council and the World Food Council. May I start by thanking Mr Ahmed for his excellent introduction to this document and state that we appreciate the clear and precise way in which the programme's activities in 1985 are reported to us in document CL 90/9. Since the Danish delegation in other fora has expressed its opinion on the operation of the World Food Programme in 1985, I only wish to highlight a few points here which we find of importance.

With respect to the World Food Programme's development assistance, my delegation notes with satisfaction that WFP also in 1985 is continuing its policy of emphasizing commitments to the poorest countries. Out of the total of 1.8 million tons of food committed 85 percent went to low-income food-deficit countries. We are fully aware that maintaining such a high commitment to low-income countries is not an easy task. We commend the programme on this fine record, and of course we encourage it to continue along this route.

We also note with satisfaction that in 1985, \$499 million, or 78 percent of the total development assistance, went to WFP projects in the agricultural and rural development area. We feel that the work started by WFP in 1985 and the project cycle is of considerable interest and my government is following the development in this area. The Programme's activities under food aid promoting the role of women also has my Government's support.

Turning to the World Food Programme activities in the emergency area, we should like to commend the programme and its outstanding performance in connection with the African food crisis programme which has responded not only to the requirements for emergency food aid, but has also undertaken an important coordinating responsibility in the areas of information and logistics. The programmes's achievements in this area have greatly assisted in alleviating the sufferings of thousands of people. Having said that, I should like to emphasise that my government sees the world food programme mainly as a development agency. We also feel that emergency food aid should be limited to urgent assistance. We should like to see emergency situations turned into development activities as early as possible.

In the case of long lasting refugee situations where emergency food aid is used over a longer period of time, we should like to encourage a better advanced programming of such inputs. we have stated this in the cfa and would also like to repeat this point of view here.

We note with concern that the resource situation of the programme is falling short of the pledging targets. it is our basic view that targets should be realistic and it is indeed difficult for the cfa to establish a pledging target for the world food programme one to one-and-a-half years before the appropriate biennium. in our opinion the cfa should be able to follow a more adequate procedure.

Finally, let me reiterate the importance that my Government attaches to the reappointment of Mr Ingram as Executive Director of the World Food Programme for another five-year term, thus ensuring full continuity in the management of the Programme.

In conclusion, we reaffirm our continued support to the Programme. We look forward to fruitful cooperation with Mr Ingram and his dedicated staff in the coming years.

Gonzalo BULA HOYOS (Colombia): El señor Ahmed hizo una buena presentación. Las cifras para 1985, año que comprende este informe indican que 1984 sigue siendo excepcional tal como se desprende de los párrafos 2 y 12.

Apoyamos el esfuerzo del PMA por destacar y estimular la función de la mujer en los proyectos realizados con la ayuda alimentarla, así como de incrementar considerablemente el número de mujeres profesionales, ahora 55 de las cuales se contrataron en 1985.

Sobre la asistencia al desarrollo consideramos que la asignación en 1985 de 1, 8 millones de toneladas de alimentos es una cifra considerable aunque inferior a la de 1984 pero superior a otros años anteriores.

La delegación de Colombia reitera su apoyo a la política de seguir prestando particular atención a los países menos adelantados y a aquellos de bajos ingresos con déficit de alimentos, como lo ha dicho recientemente la distinguida colega de Dinamarca.

Nos complace que en cuanto al valor en 1985 la asignación destinada a los países más pobres haya sido el 79 por ciento superior a la del 76 por ciento en 1984.

En cuanto a la distribución por regiones el párrafo 16 elenca el orden prioritario de asignación de recursos que pensamos corresponde a una realidad socioeconómica y que coloca a América Latina y el Caribe en un lugar con el 10 por ciento.

Aceptamos la explicación que se da en el párrafo 17 según el cual la proporción de recursos por regiones puede variar considerablemente de un año a otro y reiteramos nuestro apoyo a la prioridad en favor del África Subsahariana. Esta circunstancia podría justificar los datos del cuadro B en el cual podría observarse que el 16 por ciento en 1983 y el 15 por ciento en 1984, en 1985 ha descendido al citado 10 por ciento para América Latina y el Caribe.

El Gobierno de Colombia reitera su posición en el sentido de que el programa debe conservar su carácter de universalidad y de que dentro de las limitaciones impuestas por los recursos y por las justas prioridades se debe asignar igualmente recursos a algunos países de nuestra región que aún los requieren, sobre todo para proyectos de desarrollo.

La reciente y afortunada evolución de la CEE en esa política de acercamiento al desarrollo expresada por el primer orador de esta mañana el señor Deare, del Reino Unido, y la actitud constructiva de Dinamarca nos hace pensar que en el futuro esa importante Comunidad y los altruistas y generosos países nórdicos van a estar en condiciones de ofrecer recursos para proyectos de desarrollo en países de América Latina y el Caribe.

Apoyamos la política del Programa en cuanto a tipo de proyectos dentro de la asignación para el desarrollo, sin menospreciar los proyectos de desarrollo de los recursos humanos. Consideramos que aquellos de desarrollo agrícola y rural deben seguir ocupando la atención principal y que el PMA debe continuar concentrando sus esfuerzos y recursos en los sectores más pobres de la población rural.

Otra muestra de estímulo a la participación de la mujer-estamos muy feministas esta mañana-está en función del bienestar de los niños, un poco olvidados, según el párrafo 23, es la cooperación del PMA con la UNICEF en cursos prácticos cuya realización apoyamos y opinamos que deberían continuarse en todas las regiones.

La delegación de Colombia desea destacar su apoyo a la valiosa labor que viene realizando el servicio de evaluación del PMA, frente al cual estuvo hasta hace poco, con gran competencia, el señor Holder a quien nos complace ver esta mañana en el podium.

La evaluación de los proyectos de desarrollo es muy importante para saber si en realidad se cumplen los objetivos de los diversos aspectos esenciales de la labor del programa.

El señor Ahmed ha señalado la importancia de la función del Programa en las operaciones de urgencia en 1985. Bastaría señalar el caso excepcionalmente eficaz del transporte mediante camiones en Etiopía. Son ejemplos de superación en el ofrecimiento de la asistencia que bien se merece ese noble país africano.

Los datos sobre los recursos del programa indican que la Comunidad Internacional de donantes sigue siendo generosa con el PMA en homenaje a la manera seria, dinámica y positiva como trabaja el Programa.

El párrafo 54 contiene la suma de aportaciones y el nivel sin precedentes en su conjunto. Desafortunadamente nunca se alcanza el objetivo de promesas ordinarias en toda la historia de los 23 años de existencia del PMA. Para 1985/86 el porcentaje del 76 por ciento son los 1 350 millones de dólares. Esperamos que para el bienio 1987/88 se logre cumplir el objetivo propuesto y adoptado por los órganos rectores de las Naciones Unidas y la FAO sobre la base innovadora de alimentos y efectivo.

Este Consejo debe agradecer a los donantes sus generosas aportaciones que han permitido al PMA en 1985 cumplir los importantes objetivos contenidos en este 11° informe y también corroborar el llamado que ha hecho el señor Ahmed, un llamado cordial y respetuoso, a los donantes actuales y potenciales, sobre todo a los grandes donantes y a toda la comunidad internacional en general para que haga un esfuerzo suplementario a fin de que pueda lograrse totalmente, ojalá, por primera vez el objetivo para 1987/88.

Convendrá señalar que entre los 92 países donantes muchos son países en desarrollo, algunos de los cuales ahora también contribuyen a la RAIE, según el párrafo 56, lo cual a juicio de la delegación de Colombia confirma el espíritu de solidaridad del Tercer Mundo con la causa de la cooperación internacional.

Ya que hablamos de la RAIE la delegación de Colombia piensa que merece destacar en nuestro informe el hecho de que por cuarta vez desde su establecimiento la RAIE ha superado las 500 mil toneladas fijadas en el lejano 1974 y ha llegado a más de 800 mil; pero, naturalmente, dada la difícil e incierta situación en todo el mundo este reconocimiento no deberá ser pasivo, sino de aliento para que las contribuciones a la RAIE sigan incrementándose a fin de permitir al Programa atender debidamente todas las operaciones de urgencia.

Este Consejo debe reiterar la importancia de las transacciones triangulares que benefician al país donde se hacen las compras y también al destinatario.

Son obvios los beneficios que sobre todo los países eficientemente productores del Tercer Mundo obtienen de las transacciones triangulares.

El párrafo 64 dice que en 1985 esas transacciones sólo representaron el 80 por ciento de las compras de productos, proporción menor que en los años anteriores, si las razones que justifican esa disminución pueden ser ciertas o aceptables en cierta medida, de todos modos convendrá insistir en apoyar una vez más las transacciones triangulares. Destacaremos la actitud positiva de los donantes bilaterales que canalizan sus contribuciones a través del PMA y la mayoría de las cuales se efectúan mediante transacciones triangulares.

Este Consejo debe apoyar la actitud ya positiva asumida por el CPA. Al respecto, la delegación de Colombia piensa que la mayor participación de los países en desarrollo en el transporte es posible y viable. Debe intensificarse para beneficio de aquellos estados del Tercer Mundo que tienen posibilidad de ofrecer ese transporte y beneficiarse así económicamente.

El señor Ahmed lo dijo, y el párrafo 65 indica que el transporte aumentó sólo muy ligeramente, en un 1 por ciento en relación con 1984. Pidamos al CPA que insista ante el Director Ejecutivo para que se incremente más consistentemente esa proporción.

Una vez más la delegación de Colombia insiste sobre la necesidad y conveniencia de que en el personal del PMA se establezca una representación geográfica adecuada, sobre todo a nivel de posiciones políticas y de tomas de decisión. América Latina y el Caribe están muy mal representados en el personal del PMA en los más altos niveles. Confiamos en que los constantes esfuerzos para mejorar la representación geográfica del personal de que habla el párrafo 66 se harán realidad ya que esto no se cumplió cuando se hizo el reciente aumento del personal del PMA, pero ahora el informe McKinsey ofrecerá otra oportunidad de rectificación de esa situación injustamente prolongada. A ese respecto, nuestro colega y amigo el Sr. Deare, del Reino Unido, anticipó los comentarios sobre la nueva era del PMA. Creo que ha sido conveniente plantear este asunto aunque no haga parte de este informe. Fue tratado en un período de sesiones de este año y estamos tratando del año 1985, pero nosotros creemos que eso es importante y que a ese respecto también quisiéramos sumar la opinión de la delegación de Colombia a la del Reino Unido en favor de la nueva era, de la prolongación de la luna de miel, de las relaciones de plena cooperación existentes entre la FAO y el PMA.

Debemos dejar constancia de la manera adecuada, inmediata y coherente como el Dr. Saouma, Director General de la FAO, interpreto la voluntad unánime del CPA e inmediatamente, de acuerdo con la Secretaría General de Naciones Unidas, redesignó al Sr. Ingram para otros cinco años, noticia que es de grato placer y de verdadera complacencia para la delegación de Colombia.

En la última reunión del CPA, que concluyó hace unos días, el Director General de la FAO destacó la importancia de la monetización (espero que mi colega Sra. Fenwick, quien hasta ahora ha estado complacida con mi declaración, no vaya a cambiar esta actitud en su rostro siempre sonriente), pero decimos que el Director General se refirió a la monetización en determinados proyectos para países que no tienen recursos de contrapartida. El Director Ejecutivo asumió la afortunada actitud innovadora de presentar cuatro de esta clase de proyectos de completa monetización que fueron aprobados por el CPA en su última reunión. La delegación de Colombia piensa que este Consejo debe apoyar la posición del Director Ejecutivo y pedir al Director Ejecutivo que siga presentando esos proyectos y al CPA que no vacile en refrendar el buen principio de la completa monetización cuando ésta sea necesaria y conveniente. Como lo había previsto, noto que mi colega la Sra. Fenwick de los Estados Unidos ha pasado al frente de su delegación, pero justamente para eso estamos en esta Sala Roja, para adelantar un diálogo seguramente constructivo.

Finalmente, Sr. Presidente, nos complace el felicitar al colega y amigo Haratel Hóstmarm, de Noruega, ahora observador de su país en este Consejo, pero siempre activo y dinámico representante de ese importante país nórdico. El Sr. Hóstmarm presidió con eficacia y competencia los dos períodos de sesiones del CPA que comprende este undécimo informe.

Quedamos en espera de la reacción de nuestra colega Fenwick, de los Estados Unidos y agradecemos a Ud. y a los miembros del Consejo la atención que ofrezcan a esta humilde declaración de la delegación de Colombia.

Mrs Millicent M. FENWICK (United States of America): I cannot resist my dear colleague from Colombia. Of course, there is nothing humble about what he said, and there should not be, because as a rule he reads every paragraph of the report. I regret to say that usually I am not very technical, but I think he did not quite get to the last paragraph, number 77, in which there is reference to what he has given reproach to our colleague from the United Kingdom. I think if he gets to the end and reads paragraph 77 he will find that that subject is covered there.

What I should like to say seriously is that this monetization has been carefully gone into in the CFA. It was discussed at length and it was agreed that we should have a policy paper on this whole matter to be drawn up and clearly outlined before the next CFA. So I think that that matter has been handled in a very good way. Of course, we are in favour of project food aid rather than programme food aid, and we were not the only delegation that was concerned about this development of monetization in the CFA.

My colleague will have other things to say in our serious intervention. This was just an intervention, you might say, by courtesy of Colombia.

Wu TIANXI (China) (Original language Chinese): In the past year WFP provided \$300 million dollars worth of emergency and development aid for the sub-Saharan region in Africa, contributing significantly to easing the African food crisis. It continued to implement the policy of using food aid for development and helped the poverty stricken areas carry out food-for-work projects in which the construction of infrastructures for agriculture formed a major part. Thus conditions for production in these areas were improved and agricultural production enhanced. At the same time, WFP devoted tremendous efforts to the development of human resources and provided emergency food aid for millions of refugees.

All these accomplishments were duly reflected in the 11th annual report of CFA. We are satisfied with these achievements and we appreciate what WFP has done to make all these possible. I should also like to take this opportunity to express our gratitude to WFP and CFA for their efforts in the past year in approving China's projects on agriculture, fishery and forestry. These projects are now being implemented in China, which will play a positive role in controlling soil erosion in the Loess Plateau, in developing aquaculture in the low-lying and water-logged areas, and in improving the agro-ecological environment through planting trees and grasses.

We have noted the significant progress WFP has made in upgrading its institutional management, promoting triangular transactions, in fully tapping the material potentials of the developing countries, and in revising its projects cycle. We have realized that the new project cycle will help to improve project designing and project management efficiency and increase project returns from the experience we have gained. While there is need for the project areas to prepare materials and

counterpart investment and manpower, there is also the need for them to do a good job in project design and management so as to achieve optimum results. As we share a common goal, the Chinese delegation fully appreciates and supports the steps taken by WFP to improve its management and is ready to join efforts with the Programme in future cooperation for better development.

Michel MOMBOULI (Congo): Avant de faire part au Conseil des observations de la délégation congolaise sur le rapport à l'examen, permettez-nous tout d'abord de nous acquitter d'un devoir, celui d'adresser ici, au niveau du Conseil de la FAO, nos vives et sincères félicitations à M. James Ingram, Directeur exécutif du PAM, qui vient de se voir confier par le Secrétaire général des Nations Unies et par le Directeur général de la FAO, un nouveau mandat de cinq ans. Nous lui renouvelons l'expression de notre confiance et l'assurons de notre franche collaboration avec l'espoir qu'il continuera, comme par le passé, à multiplier ses efforts pour courir au secours des hommes, des femmes et des enfants, affectés dans leur chair et dans leur coeur par la pénurie alimentaire.

M. Ingram étant absent de Rome en ce moment précis, nous souhaitons que M. Ahmed lui fasse écho de ce message de notre délégation.

Ceci étant fait, venons-en au rapport qui nous est présenté. Comme cela a toujours été le cas pour les documents soumis à notre examen, c'est avec une attention soutenue que notre délégation a parcouru le 11ème rapport du Comité des politiques et programmes d'aide alimentaire du PAM dont nous sommes saisis au titre du point 7. 1 de notre ordre du jour sous la cote CL 90/9, rapport dont nous tenons à féliciter le Secrétariat pour sa clarté et sa pertinence habituelles.

En notre qualité de représentant d'un Etat Membre du CPA, nous avons, certes, déjà eu l'occasion de nous mettre au courant d'une bonne partie des informations contenues dans ce rapport; mais, au niveau de ce Conseil qui est un organe hiérarchique supérieur au CPA, nous aimerions, malgré tout, saisir la présente occasion pour réaffirmer la position de notre pays sur les différentes questions abordées dans ce rapport qui nous est soumis.

Bien que la quantité de 1, 8 million de tonnes de vivres engagées en 1985 par le PAM au titre de ses activités de développement témoigne de l'ampleur de l'action du programme dans les pays bénéficiaires, il n'en reste pas moins vrai, pour les pays en développement qui sont dans le besoin, que ce tonnage, comparé à celui mobilisé en 1984 est inférieur, même s'il est supérieur à celui des années antérieures à 1984. Toutefois, nous nous réjouissons que, malgré cette déception provoquée par la baisse relative du tonnage de l'aide, ce sentiment soit quelque peu atténué par l'accélération enregistrée au cours de cette même période dans la révision et la mise en oeuvre du cycle des projets. Nous continuons à considérer comme une initiative heureuse les groupes consultatifs créés sous l'égide de la Banque mondiale et les tables rondes organisées par le PNUD, pour la recherche de voies et moyens susceptibles d'assurer l'intégration de l'aide alimentaire et les autres formes d'assistance aux plans et programmes nationaux de développement. Dans ce contexte, nous nous félicitons d'une participation de plus en plus large du PAM à ces mécanismes de coordination de l'aide. Nous réitérons notre appui aux efforts déployés par le PAM en vue d'une implication de plus en plus grande des femmes dans les projets bénéficiant de l'aide alimentaire.

Nous osons espérer que malgré les difficultés financières propres à chacun de nos Etats, nous serons tous en mesure de verser, malgré tout, la totalité de nos contributions au budget ordinaire du PAM pour son exercice biennal en cours. Nous nous réjouissons du bon climat de travail et de collaboration qui s'est instauré entre le PAM et la FAO depuis l'adoption, lors de la 19ème session du CPA des mesures préconisées par l'Equipe spéciale ONU/FAO chargée d'étudier les problèmes de leurs relations avec le PAM, qui ne sont plus qu'un mauvais souvenir lointain. Nous nous félicitons de la priorité absolue que le PAM a continué d'accorder à l'Afrique subsaharienne en 1985 et nous aimerions saisir cette occasion pour exprimer toute notre considération aux autres régions des pays en développement pour leur bonne compréhension et pour leur solidarité à l'endroit de notre continent, et remercier une fois de plus tous les donateurs pour leur aide alimentaire soutenue, à travers le PAM, aux pays africains éprouvés par les crises alimentaires.

Nous réitérons notre appui au PAM pour qu'il continue à mener ses activités de suivi et d'évaluation qui sont, à notre avis, aussi importantes que les activités de programmation et d'exécution des projets. Nous ne cesserons pas d'encourager le PAM dans ses activités d'appui aux projets de développement, une fois passées les situations d'urgence comme c'est le cas en Afrique subsaharienne.

Nous nous réjouissons des récents accords passés entre le PAM et le PNUD au sujet de leurs relations sur le terrain pour améliorer le traitement de l'aide alimentaire aux réfugiés, tout en déplorant une fois de plus la persistance des troubles intérieurs dans plusieurs pays, troubles qui sont à l'origine d'une bonne partie de départs massifs d'hommes, de femmes et d'enfants, qui ne cessent de grossir les rangs des réfugiés estimés à présent à 10 ou 12 millions d'âmes.

Nous réitérons notre appui au PAM pour qu'il continue de recourir aux opérations triangulaires: nous demandons qu'il continue aussi à nous donner des indications sur la part des pays en développement dans les opérations de transport et à y recourir le plus largement possible.

Enfin, nous nous réjouissons que, pour la quatrième fois consécutive, l'objectif de 500 000 tonnes de céréales pour la RAIU ait été dépassé en 1985 et que sept pays en développement aient pu y contribuer.

Ceux qui nous ont précédé ont fait allusion à deux questions importantes discutées récemment au cours de la session du CPA: l'étude Mc Kinsey et la question de la monétisation.

A cette occasion nous n'aimerions pas revenir sur les débats que nous avons eus récemment à la vingt-deuxième session du CPA. Nous nous réservons le droit d'y revenir à sa vingt-troisième session, lorsque ces différentes questions auront été étudiées de façon approfondie, comme nous le souhaitons, par le Secrétariat.

H. REDL (Austria): I would like to thank the Secretariat for the timely submission of document CL 90/9. My thanks are addressed to Mr Ahmed for the excellent and comprehensive introduction of this item. The document gives a good survey of the activities of the World Food Programme. We welcome its activities concerning the coordination of the aid mechanism and still see the possibilities for some improvement. The statement in paragraph 14 said that 85 percent of the total of 1.8 million tons of food benefitted the low income food deficit countries and was noted with satisfaction. The same applies to paragraph 15 saying that an essential part of the WFP development support was directed to the LDCs. Concerning the regional support it was remarked with satisfaction that the various recommendations were taken into account and the African region was given high priority.

Concerning the food aid and the role of women the closest possible cooperation with the competent divisions of FAO seems to be urgently needed to avoid duplication. The outlook for 1986, paragraph 7, 4 to 77, should be completed by recent data since the year 1986 will end in a few weeks. Even the question arises whether this section should be newly formulated as an outline of the activities in 1987 is already available. Furthermore, it would be desirable if the document contained an outlook on the priorities in 1987.

Finally, it is a pleasure for me to underline once again the full support of my government to WFP's activities.

Real T. LALANDE (Canada): J'aimerais tout d'abord remercier M. Ahmed pour la présentation qu'il nous a faite au début de la séance.

Le Canada, à titre de Membre du Comité des politiques et programmes d'aide alimentaire du PAM et en sa qualité de contributeur important aux ressources de ce programme, fut heureux d'accorder son approbation au onzième rapport annuel du CPA, à la fin de mai 1986.

J'aimerais donc aujourd'hui limiter mes commentaires à certains aspects plus spécifiques. Comme d'autres délégations, nous sommes également d'avis que l'année 1985 demeurera une année importante dans l'histoire du PAM et dans l'évolution de ses politiques et programmes. Au cours de l'année 1985, le PAM a joué un rôle de premier plan dans la distribution de l'aide alimentaire d'urgence en Afrique. Les responsabilités dont le Programme s'acquitta en matière d'information et de logistique furent d'une assistance majeure pour le Canada dans la mise en oeuvre de son propre programme d'aide alimentaire bilatérale en Afrique.

Nous aimerions donc profiter de l'occasion pour remercier le Directeur exécutif du PAM et le personnel de cette Organisation pour les efforts importants qu'ils ont déployés à cette occasion. Nous considérons que la qualité du travail de cette Organisation s'améliore graduellement, de même que la qualité des rapports présentés à son Comité de coordination, le Comité des politiques et programmes d'aide alimentaire, et nous nous en réjouissons.

Nous nous réjouissons également de la nomination pour une nouvelle période de cinq ans de M. James Ingram à la tête de cet organisme, telle qu'effectuée récemment par le Directeur général de la FAO, M. Saouma, et le Secrétaire général des Nations Unies, et nous félicitons ces derniers de leur décision.

Notre délégation aimerait également exprimer sa satisfaction face aux efforts effectués en 1985, de même qu'au début de l'année 1986, par le PAM et la FAO pour clarifier les domaines d'autorité propre à chacun en matière de gestion.

Nous croyons que la mise en oeuvre des recommandations formulées par le Groupe de travail conjoint de la FAO et des Nations Unies devrait faciliter les relations entre le PAM et la FAO et améliorer l'efficacité des deux Organisations. Notre délégation continuera donc à s'intéresser aux développements dans ce domaine en demandant que le sujet puisse faire l'objet d'un suivi adéquat lors des prochaines sessions du Comité des politiques et programmes d'aide alimentaire.

Dans le même esprit, notre délégation est également heureuse de la présentation au Comité des politiques et programmes d'aide alimentaire d'un rapport sur la gestion du PAM préparé par un consultant extérieur et présentant de nombreuses suggestions de réorganisation des structures et des modalités d'opération de cet organisme.

De même que le délégué de la Colombie et celui des Etats-Unis d'Amérique, nous sommes satisfaits de la décision prise par le Directeur exécutif du PAM et son personnel au sujet de la question de la monétisation. Nous croyons que cette question est importante et mérite un examen et une discussion appropriés. Nous sommes satisfaits de la décision d'inscrire la discussion de cette question à une prochaine session du CPA.

Je désire souligner que la délégation canadienne, par le passé, a demandé à maintes occasions que le PAM adopte les mesures nécessaires pour accroître l'efficacité de ses activités et l'efficacité de ses programmes. Notre délégation a toujours présenté ses commentaires de façon critique, bien sûr, mais également constructive, et nous nous réjouissons des différentes améliorations que nous pouvons constater dans le sens de la fourniture de meilleurs programmes à l'intention d'un nombre plus important de bénéficiaires dans le tiers monde.

Nous espérons que, dans l'esprit d'échanges libres de commentaires, dans un forum démocratique comme celui-ci, tel que nous le rappelait hier le Président de cette assemblée en fin de séance, les commentaires souvent critiques de notre délégation ne seront pas perçus comme la manifestation d'une attitude destructive face aux efforts des organisations auxquelles ces commentaires s'adressent mais bien comme des éléments constructifs à utiliser par le Secrétariat pour l'amélioration de son programme, tel qu'il nous est possible de le faire dans le cadre du Comité des politiques et programmes d'aide alimentaire.

Nous désirons donc terminer en réaffirmant le soutien aux objectifs du Programme alimentaire mondial de même qu'à ceux de la FAO et en vous assurant de notre entière collaboration et d'un appui total à ces deux organismes.

Notre soutien continuera cependant à se manifester très certainement par une approche critique mais constructive du PAM et de la FAO.

Agustín GUTIERREZ-CANET (México): La delegación mexicana felicita al señor Ahmed por la presentación sintética y clara del documento en el que se exponen las actividades del programa Mundial de Alimentos durante 1985.

Observamos con preocupación que la disponibilidad de recursos en alimentos en 1985 fue inferior en un 14 por ciento al de 1984; pero también fue mayor que en años anteriores.

Por otra parte, observamos que del total de 6 42 millones de dólares asignados para proyectos de desarrollo, el 79 por ciento fue dedicado a dar atención a países menos adelantados de conformidad con el espíritu del PMA y del propio Comité. Nuestra delegación apoya totalmente esa política de prestar particular atención a los países de bajos ingresos, pero al mismo tiempo lamenta, como ya ha sido señalado por el distinguido representante de Colombia, el desequilibrio en la distribución regional.

En este sentido la Región Latinoamericana y del Caribe apenas alcanzó un 10 por ciento de las asignaciones del PMA. Esto es así, no obstante los grandes bolsones de pobreza que se presentan en la región y a pesar del deterioro de la crisis económica derivada fundamentalmente del peso de la deuda y de los problemas de mercado de los productos básicos. Insistimos en la necesidad de alcanzar un adecuado equilibrio en la distribución regional y esperamos que sin menoscabo de atender prioritariamente a los países menos avanzados, se atienda más responsablemente a nuestra región.

La delegación mexicana desea, igualmente, destacar la pronta y efectiva respuesta que el PMA otorgó al pueblo hermano de El Salvador inmediatamente después del terremoto ocurrido en ese país el 10 de octubre pasado. De igual forma hace poco más de un año el PMA brindó su asistencia a nuestro país por una causa similar, por lo que mi delegación reitera su reconocimiento al Programa.

Por otra parte, señor Presidente, apoyamos la implantación de los trabajos sobre el llamado Ciclo Revisado de los Proyectos, cuyo objetivo es incrementar la eficacia del desarrollo de los recursos destinados por el PMA. Nos complace los esfuerzos realizados por el PMA en su labor de coordinación

interagencial para lograr una mayor eficiencia entre los diversos mecanismos de la ayuda alimentaria. La eficiencia del programa ha sido demostrada en múltiples países de África, particularmente en Etiopía, y también ha quedado demostrada dicha eficiencia a nivel de Grupos Consultivos en los planes de programas y de desarrollo.

Apoyamos también al programa en lo referente a promover una mayor conciencia de la función que las mujeres pueden y deben desempeñar en los proyectos realizados con ayuda alimentaria, ya que la mujer, particularmente en el área rural, desempeña un papel fundamental dentro de la organización agrícola en muchos países.

La delegación mexicana expresa su satisfacción por los logros alcanzados en materia de coordinación entre el PMA y la FAO derivada del Grupo de Acción Conjunta Naciones Unidas/FAO. Asimismo espera que esta Acción Conjunta a la que se han comprometido sus máximas autoridades, se consolide en pro de una mayor eficacia. Nuestra delegación aplaude a la comunidad de donantes que se ha comprometido, conforme a la propuesta del CPA, en obtener 3, 25 millones de toneladas y 405 millones de dólares en efectivo para el bienio 1987-88.

La delegación mexicana insta al Director Ejecutivo del PMA a que haga lo posible por diversificar los contenidos de la ayuda alimentaria e incluya en ésta productos que no trastorquen los hábitos alimenticios de las poblaciones beneficiarias. Asimismo solicitamos se fomenten las transacciones triangulares a fin de ayudar a los países en desarrollo a colocar sus excedentes alimenticios. Hemos coincidido en otro tema de nuestra agenda en que, aunque nos congratulamos de que existan tales excedentes en varios países africanos, sus consecuencias económicas de no ser colocados a tiempo pueden ser negativas. Pedimos al PMA, por tanto, que estudie el caso de esos países africanos y de otros en circunstancias similares para que les ofrezca una salida a través de operaciones triangulares. Para ellos sería conveniente que el PMA utilizara en la mayor medida posible los servicios de transporte de los países en desarrollo. En general la asistencia alimentaria debe otorgarse de tal manera que no sólo permita la solución de casos urgentes de falta de alimentos, sino que también establezca las bases para una adecuada producción local de alimentos y estimule un crecimiento económico más sólido.

Finalmente, nuestra delegación quiere dejar constancia de su satisfacción por el nombramiento del doctor Ingram, por un nuevo periodo de cinco años a cargo del PMA.

Mrs Marasee SURAKUL (Thailand): First of all my delegation would like to join the other speakers to congratulate Mr Ingram on his appointment for another term as Executive Director.

On behalf of the Thai delegation I would like to express our appreciation of the report of the UN/FAO World Food Programme. I would like to refer to the report CL 90/9 regarding the relief operations for Kampuchean. My delegation would like to thank the World Food Programme and United Nations/FAO donor countries and voluntary agencies for providing relief assistance to the refugees along the Thai-Kampuchean border.

Concerning the pledge and contribution, the Thai Government has decided to pledge a contribution of white rice of the amount of US\$70 000 for the period of 1987 and 1989.

My delegation also appreciated that the World Food Programme has continued support for triangular purchase transactions on behalf of donors.

Bernard LEDUN (France): Notre délégation a déjà eu l'occasion, lors de la dernière réunion des comités des politiques et programmes alimentaires qui vient de se tenir à Rome, de dire son appréciation pour les efforts menés par le PAM dans l'ensemble des pays en développement et plus particulièrement sur le continent africain où son action a été décisive dans la lutte contre la crise alimentaire de 1984-85. Le PAM a donné la démonstration de l'efficacité et de la rapidité avec lesquelles il est en mesure de mobiliser toutes les ressources disponibles, afin de faire face à une situation d'urgence. Le grand public ne retient peut-être de l'action entreprise par le PAM que cette tâche de secouriste. Il en est une autre cependant qui pour être moins spectaculaire mérite tout autant son attention, c'est sa contribution au développement agricole. Celle-ci constitue en effet le moyen pour les pays en développement d'éviter la récurrence de situations d'urgence. Dans ce domaine, l'examen de projets présentés au dernier CPA a illustré combien l'aide au développement permettait d'apporter des ajustements et des améliorations qui allaient dans le sens d'un renforcement de l'autosuffisance alimentaire des pays en développement.

Nous nous réjouissons que, dans cette perspective pour 1986, le document CL 90/19 marque l'intention du PAM de "viser une intégration accrue de l'aide alimentaire dans les plans et politiques de développement des pays bénéficiaires". Il n'est pas inutile d'ajouter ici, à la suite de ce qu'a dit

tout à l'heure le représentant de la Grande-Bretagne, que, tout comme un autre pays, la communauté économique européenne s'est engagée dans la même voie et qu'une résolution vient d'être adoptée dans ce sens, ce mois-ci, par la Commission de Bruxelles.

Le Directeur exécutif du PAM nous a présenté au dernier CPA les grandes lignes de la réforme structurelle à laquelle il envisageait de procéder dans le court terme afin d'améliorer encore la performance de cette organisation. Ma délégation a déjà eu l'occasion de dire son intérêt pour cette réforme, tout en souhaitant que beaucoup de réalisations ne dépassent pas ses moyens financiers. Ce projet de réforme organisationnelle dans la mesure où il poursuit un objectif de rationalisation et de meilleure coordination entre les services gestionnaires du Siège et les activités opérationnelles sur le terrain, mérite, sans aucun doute, notre attention constructive. La délégation française tient donc à apporter son soutien au Directeur du PAM dans cet effort et ne peut que souhaiter la poursuite d'un programme qui réponde de façon aussi utile à l'attente de la communauté internationale.

Rainer PRESTIEN (Germany, Federal Republic of): We have the Eleventh Annual Report of the Committee on Food Aid Policies and Programmes before us. This report contains a number of interesting facts and figures relating to the year 1985 which are relevant also for the future of the World Food Programme. Since the delegation of the Federal Republic of Germany has already appreciated the work of WFP I should like to make only some brief remarks at this time.

The activities of WFP are divided into two major categories, i. e. development assistance through food aid, and emergency operations. With regard to the development assistance WFP has entered into what is called the WFP project cycle. Based on past experiences, projects and programmes should be more clearly incorporated in country frameworks and represent the outcome of better coordination between the country involved and the different multilateral and bilateral donors. Furthermore, an improved project design will be applied and a clearer definition of food as a project resource is asked for as well as a more active participation of WFP in World Bank Consultative Groups and UNDP Round Tables, respectively.

My delegation would like to commend WFP for this new endeavour but would also like to raise a point of caution regarding an exaggerated level of expectations. Such structural changes certainly provide a better base but the actual activities in the projects and programmes depend mostly on the cooperation of administration of the recipient country on the spot and, most importantly, on the participation of the people in planning and implementation.

In this connexion let me stress, like other delegations already did, that also my delegation fully supports the increased involvement of women in the whole process. The role of women, especially in the poor sectors of the population, has too often been overlooked in the past. This resulted in project failures sometimes or at least in poor project results.

WFP has improved its handling of emergencies. New approaches were found and efficiently implemented. The coordination within the international community and on the spot has been improved through OEOA and the United Nations System, mainly the UNDP Resident Representatives. We would like to congratulate WFP for its constructive engagement, be it in the multilateral field; be it in channelling bilateral or NGO's assistance to the needy. We are pleased with the quick and efficient response of WFP to the situation in sub-Saharan Africa, its willingness to explore new ways and means, for instance the trucking operations in Ethiopia and the Sudan as well as the incorporation of NGOs activities into the concerted efforts of the international community.

Whilst the target set for the combined total resources of WFP have not been met in full, we have to acknowledge that the resources made available to WFP are representing an impressive sign of international solidarity. This also holds true for the resources provided for in the International Emergency Food Reserve which have exceeded the target set over the last four years. It is especially welcomed that recipient countries have participated in this effort. Furthermore, WFP supported increasingly triangular purchase transactions on behalf of donors. At this point I would like to express the full satisfaction of my Government regarding those transactions carried out on our behalf. This mode of operation will be continued whenever feasible, relying on WFP's past experience in the interest of timely and correct responses to expressed needs.

The work of the UN/FAO Joint Task Force has proven efficient. We are glad to learn that almost all recommendations have been implemented and a fair base for costing of FAO support activities has been established. We are looking forward to the further discussions on the restructuring of WFP Headquarters in order to give it a more field-oriented impetus. A first exchange of views based on the McKinsey Report has already taken place during the 22nd Session of CFA in October. We are confident that WFP's administration has taken due note of the comments made in CFA.

All of us are stakeholders in WFP and therefore must be interested in an efficient and an innovative organization which is able to handle its specific mandate and the second largest resources per year in the United Nations System in the interest of the people it is dealing with, mainly the poorest parts of the population in developing countries, while at the same time giving the donor community the assurances of an efficient, effective and transparent conduct of business. We are also looking forward to discussing the general question of monetization of WFP's food aid. Before WFP gets involved in this kind of action on a large scale two questions have to be scrutinized very carefully. Firstly, what are the potential effects of food aid sold on the market and how can the counterpart funds be used to contribute to the development process of the country? Secondly, what could or should be the role of WFP within this context? For my government this will be an important point of discussion concerning the future work of WFP.

Ross COGGINS (United States of America): We are very happy to see Mr Ahmed and Mr Holder on the platform and we would like to compliment Mr Ahmed on his effective presentation of the 11th Annual Report of the Committee on Food Aid Policies and Programmes. It is always a pleasant task to commend not in response to the required diplomatic niceties but in recognition of solid accomplishment.

There is much in the report which is worthy of comment but in the interest of brevity we would like to focus on just two or three points. My delegation is pleased to commend WFP's magnificent response to the famine situation in Africa. It was characterized by timeliness, determination and effectiveness. The highly professional performance of WFP in response to the widespread and sustained food emergency condition stands as a unique and certainly historic demonstration of the potential of the international community when faced with emergency.

We further commend what is in the report on the programme strategy for both accelerating the integration of women and improving their share of benefits in WFP activities. Devising a strategy is an essential first task but the harder task of carrying out the strategy lies ahead. We shall follow closely the implementation of this crucially important strategy with the fervent hope that it will be effective long before the projected date of the year 2000.

Having commended the programme for these achievements, my delegation would like to offer a promisory note for future commendation. We are following with keen interest the implementation of the recently revised WFP project cycle. In that connection we note WFP's traditional emphasis on project food aid. Ambassador Fenwick has already mentioned the serious concern of my delegation that in the most recent CFA there were tendencies to move away from project food aid in the direction of programme food aid as evidenced by submission for CFA approval of four fully monetarized projects. As Ambassador Fenwick stated when the United States and other delegations expressed their concern regarding this perceived trend, it was agreed that there would be a full policy discussion of the issue at the forthcoming CFA meeting, meanwhile deferring the submission of further projects akin to those in question. My delegation believes that the programme, which according to the report before us has achieved such commendable objectives in the recent past, will win future commendation by stubbornly continuing to focus its resources on the beneficiaries in the poorest population sectors on their food security, which is basic, and on their deepest aspirations for a better life.

Augustine K. OSUBAN (Uganda): First we wish to convey our congratulations to Mr James Ingram on his appointment as Executive Director of the WFP for a further term of five years. The WFP under Mr Ingram's leadership has achieved high recognition in the international community on account of its excellent work in developing countries. We wish him greater achievements during his second term of office.

Turning now to the document before us, I would like to thank Mr Ahmed for his excellent introduction and his detailed account of how food aid can be used as a valuable developmental source in alleviating hunger, human suffering, and as a long-term measure for rehabilitating agriculture and economic development.

We would like to commend the World Food Programme for the tremendous work carried out globally but especially for its involvement in the African food crisis. In this crisis the World Food Programme achieved a standard of performance of which we are all proud, given the odds and harsh logistic problems under which it had to perform its duties.

My delegation welcomes the high level of WFP commitments for development projects, reported to be equivalent to 1.8 million tons of food, and we also welcome the orientation of the programmes towards agricultural production and rural development.

In the same way we also note with appreciation that some proportion of the total project values was commuted to supporting price stabilization programmes. We would welcome more of these projects because, as pointed out, they exemplify the innovative role that food aid can play in supporting agricultural reforms.

With regard to emergency operations, we commend the performance of the programme for the high level of WFP commitment to emergency operations and we especially appreciate the speed of delivery of its emergency supplies, as testified by the swiftness with which emergency supplies were delivered to Colombia.

We note with appreciation that for the fourth time since the inception of the International Emergency Food Reserve, the target of 500, 000 tons of cereals has been reached and that most of it was channelled multilaterally through the WFP.

We note with appreciation also that 80 percent of the purchases were in the form of triangular transactions. We commend this trend, especially as it is easing the problem of developing countries which are achieving surplus production levels.

We also commend the improved geographical representation of WFP staff, although the absence of ladies on the podium is very conspicuous.

On the question of non-food items, my delegation feels that these are very crucial inputs which could easily make the difference between success and failure of the project. We therefore call for more of these items to be procured.

We note with great appreciation the very cordial working relationship between WFP and FAO. Both organizations working in harmony to bring great benefits to the developing countries.

Finally, I wish on behalf of my delegation to thank the World Food Programme for the substantial assistance that the Organization is giving to our country.

In conclusion, we endorse the report.

Igor KIPMAN (Brazil): The report before us is a sound reflection of the responsible and serious work which has been under way in the context of the work of the World Food Programme under the guidance of the CFA. Not only has the World Food Programme for more than a decade been doing an outstanding job in trying to relieve hunger and malnutrition, but also searching for new and innovative ways to fulfill its tasks.

My delegation has no special remarks to make but two of the features presented should be specially commended since they clearly show the permanent awareness of the programme in relation to relevant issues and also the willingness to be up to date through the modernization of its working techniques and abilities.

The first is a comment on the participation of women in the implementation and operation of food aid assistance which in brief depicts the increasing importance being paid to the role of women in the implementation of development programmes.

The second aspect of the report which I would like to underline is the remarkable job being coordinated by the World Food Programme which is shortly and modestly disclosed in page 12 of the document. It is an extraordinary operation, the fruit of the cooperation and coordination of various international agencies, aiming at solving the tough and adverse conditions which are faced by the needy populations involved. It is an excellent example of the capacity of the World Food Programme to tackle different problems with imaginative and creative approaches.

Regarding triangular transactions and monetarization, I want to endorse the pertinent comments just voiced by Ambassador Bula Hoyas, delegate of Colombia, and my delegation looks forward to a constructive and positive approach being adopted by all delegations when the policy of monetarization is brought to the next session of the CFA.

A last remark is to mention that the report which is now submitted to the Council well demonstrates the reason why the Executive Director has been so strongly and unanimously supported in the last session of the CFA, when all member countries pleaded for his appointment for a further term of office as head of the programme.

Anwar Mohammed KHALED (Yemen, People's Democratic Republic of) (Original language Arabic): Like previous speakers, I too would like to express our pleasure and satisfaction at the very clear presentation by Dr Ahmed of the 11th Annual Report of the Committee on Food Aid Policies and Programmes.

My country's delegation would also like to express its admiration at all that has been done by WFP and all that has been explained by Dr Ahmed. We find that the whole report is worthy of praise, in particular as regards the measures undertaken to cope with the food crisis in Africa so far as logistics and distribution are concerned. I think that the success of these endeavors is the result of the untiring efforts undertaken by the WFP.

Furthermore and without being diplomatic I would like to commend the competence of the staff both at the headquarters and in the field, who without exception displayed patience and diligence in implementing projects in Africa and elsewhere.

WFP would never have been able to reach such a high degree of success without the hard work of its staff. My country's delegation would like to express its appreciation to donor countries for all the aid that they have been kind enough to offer to WFP.

We should also like to commend the collaboration and coordination among recipient countries. We would like to emphasize the underlying understanding and cooperation established between WFP and FAO because I am sure that this will reflect positively on future activities.

We should also like to congratulate Mr Ingram on his reelection to a further term of office. The Council, the Secretary General of the UN and the Director-General of FAO have given their support to his reelection. Mr Ingram's enthusiasm for and devotion to his task in the past will, I am sure, be maintained in the future. Undoubtedly, this will lead to an improvement in WFP's activities and to a greater mobilization and better use of resources.

We should like to pay tribute to the WFP for all that it has done in order to maximize the utilisation of available resources in 1985, and to promote the role of women in development. We also thank WFP for all that it has done in order to encourage more pledges which have reached record levels.

My delegation has read carefully what the WFP has been doing in order to improve the distribution of aid according to development requirements.

A WFP mission is currently visiting my country.

Turning now to the policy to be followed by WFP in the future. We should like to support the programme's orientation namely to provide assistance to solve the world food crisis. We are very much aware of the role of food aid in development and especially in the light of the present crisis. We look forward to activating this role through better use of resources of WFP so as to achieve its objectives in development and in providing food aid to low income food-deficit countries particularly in the current situation. We would request all donor countries to continue their contribution to WFP resources.

Adel HELMY EL SARKI (Egypt) (Original language Arabic): We have studied document CL 90/9 and we should like to express our satisfaction with the developments in the WFP especially insofar as raising the efficiency of resources allocated to development projects in 1985, as well as efforts exerted in further improving monitoring systems and auto-evaluation. We are also happy to see that pledges to the WFP regular resources have exceeded one billion dollars. The revised Project cycle enabled various countries to take appropriate decisions regarding food assistance.

Paragraphs 54 and 55 indicate that the WFP resources for the 1985/86 biennium have reached \$1.35 billion; and that 76 percent of the target has been reached. This is a source of satisfaction to us. We are also happy that paragraph 56 of the report indicates that the target for IEFER was exceeded for the first time since it was set up.

We also support the importance given by the WFP to purchases through triangular transactions. We read with satisfaction in paragraph 64 that 80 percent of the WFP's purchases have taken the form of triangular transactions. We should also like to commend WFP aid to Africa and we welcome the Executive Director's inclination to review the administrative structure of the programme.

WFP aid has continued to accelerate agricultural development in my country, that is why we should like to pay tribute to the WFP and its assistance. We should also like to thank Mr Salahuddin Ahmed for his clear presentation of this document. We should like to congratulate Mr Ingram on his reelection.

Mohammed ABDELHADI (Tunisie): La délégation de mon pays voudrait d'abord, comme l'ont fait d'autres délégations avant moi, remercier M. Ahmed, Directeur exécutif adjoint du PAM, pour son excellente introduction de ce document CL 90/9, relatif au rapport annuel du Comité des politiques et programmes d'aide alimentaire.

Ma délégation voudrait saisir cette occasion pour exprimer nos sincères félicitations à M. Ingram pour la confiance que le Secrétaire général des Nations Unies et le Directeur général de la FAO lui ont exprimée en lui renouvelant son mandat à la tête du PAM pour les cinq prochaines années.

S'agissant des activités du PAM, nous sommes heureux de constater qu'en 1985 les contributions ont atteint un niveau record de plus d'un milliard de dollars, bien que ce chiffre soit inférieur de 25 pour cent à l'objectif fixé.

S'agissant des relations PAM/FAO, les résultats auxquels est arrivée l'Equipe spéciale ONU/FAO sont positifs, grâce à la volonté du Directeur général de la FAO et du Secrétaire général des Nations Unies; ces résultats ont permis de résoudre un problème qui nous a préoccupés un certain temps dans le passé. La coopération constructive entre la FAO et le PAM ne pourra qu'avoir un impact positif et bénéfique sur les activités du Programme alimentaire mondial, dont les responsabilités, en matière de personnel, de comptabilité, de passation des contrats, ont été élargies et clairement définies.

En ce qui concerne les priorités dans la répartition de l'aide alimentaire du Programme alimentaire mondial, nous constatons avec satisfaction que priorité absolue est accordée à l'Afrique subsaharienne. Ma délégation appuie cette orientation du Programme. Il est signalé au paragraphe 18 qu'aucune demande émanant de cette région n'a été rejetée ni amputée en raison d'un manque de ressources.

En ce qui concerne l'aide d'urgence-paragraphe 33-le document nous informe que cette aide du PAM a touché environ 11 millions de bénéficiaires; nous apprécions à leur juste valeur les efforts considérables du Programme alimentaire et à cet effet ma délégation souhaite présenter au Directeur exécutif et à ses collaborateurs l'expression de son estime et de sa considération. Par ailleurs, ma délégation a noté avec satisfaction en ce qui concerne le Soudan, un des pays africains touché par la crise alimentaire, les efforts considérables déployés par le PAM pour faire parvenir des vivres dans le Sud, efforts qui ont commencé à porter leurs fruits, grâce à la persévérance de ce Programme.

Je ne voudrais pas terminer mon intervention sans exprimer, au nom de ma délégation, nos remerciements aux pays donateurs pour leur générosité et leur compréhension, pour mieux avoir répondu avec célérité aux demandes d'aide alimentaire d'urgence; et je voudrais insister auprès de ces pays sur la nécessité d'intensifier leur aide alimentaire destinée au développement qui, ne l'oublions pas, constitue la principale mission du PAM dans le but de prendre des projets permettant d'éviter les crises alimentaires et la famine en général.

Enfin, je désire réitérer l'appui de mon pays au PAM et aux efforts considérables déployés pour secourir des millions d'êtres humains en difficulté, et pour l'importante aide consentie par le PAM en faveur du développement au bénéfice de nombreux pays.

Pour terminer, je voudrais signaler au Secrétariat que le document français, entre nos mains, ne comporte pas le paragraphe 77 mentionné tout à l'heure par la distinguée représentante des Etats-Unis d'Amérique; en effet, ce document, dans son édition française, ne comporte que 75 paragraphes.

Michael J. RYAN (Australia): I shall be very brief in my comments. We would like to thank the Secretariat for the preparation of the document we have before us on this item. Australia regards the work undertaken by the World Food Programme in 1985 as being sensible and appropriate, and considers that the policies and objectives being pursued by the WFP are soundly based. Australia looks forward to continuing positive and constructive activity on the part of the Programme. We are confident that under the leadership of Jim Ingram the quality and value of WFP's international role will continue to improve.

We are not given too full some and extravagant praise of individuals either at home or abroad. This is a widespread national trait on the part of Australians. However, I can say that Australia is quietly proud to have an Australian national of the calibre of Jim Ingram as the head of this most important UN body. He embarks on his second term of office with Australia's strong support and best wishes.

Leopoldo Ariza HIDALGO (Cuba): Queremos ante todo, señor Presidente, agradecer a la Secretaria por la presentación del documento, así como al señor Ahmed por la inteligente y eficaz exposición que nos hizo.

Nuestro gobierno felicitó calurosamente al Secretario General de Naciones Unidas y al Director General de la FAO por la decisión de designar por un nuevo mandato al Sr. Ingram, lo que garantizará la continuación de una política eficiente. El señor Ingram con su dinamismo ha ido perfeccionando los mecanismos paso a paso de un Programa de mucha importancia para el mundo en desarrollo. Ha funcionado con un alto sentido en toda su gestión. Para nosotros esto tiene una gran importancia y en el desempeño de todas las labores del Programa.

Queremos expresar también nuestra complacencia por ver en el podium, junto al Señor Ahmed a los señores Sintobin y Holder, cuyas capacidades garantizan la ejecución, control y evaluación, con el mismo dinamismo e inteligencia que este Organismo ha demostrado en los últimos tiempos.

Los elementos que se brindan en este informe son ilustrativos de la actividad desplegada por el PMA en el último período. La ayuda alimentaria gracias al PMA ha llegado a los lugares más difíciles, distantes y necesitados. Esta ayuda no ha sido equitativa, tenemos que expresarlo, por regiones. América Latina como siempre ha sido la que menos ayuda recibió, sólo un 10 por ciento. No obstante vemos con satisfacción que la cifra de ayuda del bienio es sobresaliente, a pesar de que no se cumplieron las promesas. Consideramos muy importante la atención que viene brindando el PMA a los proyectos de desarrollo, recogidos en el párrafo 21. Es cuestión indispensable preparar a los países para el futuro y no sólo para una situación determinada o coyuntural de emergencia y de hambre.

Sobre los proyectos de desarrollo creo que se va a tener que hacer un análisis muy profundo. Hemos oído ya oposiciones a una cierta monetización dentro de estos proyectos. Esto nos preocupa porque, sencillamente los mismos que nos han estado diciendo durante muchos años que la monetización era una expresión ya de desarrollo, ahora, cuando queremos introducirlo dentro de los mecanismos de desarrollo de los países del Tercer Mundo, tienen preocupación con la monetización. Nosotros sabemos en estas contradicciones cuál es el objetivo final de oponerse a la monetización. Esto será discutido con más tiempo.

El PMA ha sido suficientemente agudo para hacer de la ayuda alimentaria un instrumento de desarrollo, ya en estos momentos, sin mucha monetización. Diversificando mecanismos y formas y algunos objetivos de proyectos. Aquí es donde nosotros expresamos que han sido creativos e inteligentes y que ha funcionado de acuerdo con las necesidades de los países del Tercer Mundo que son los beneficiados directos del Programa. Esta es una de nuestras mayores satisfacciones y que nosotros hemos apoyado en todas sus partes la gestión del señor Ingram y del programa en su conjunto.

Finalmente, señor Presidente, queremos expresar que el PMA ha cumplido el mandato que la Comunidad Internacional ha puesto en su mano a través del Secretario General de las Naciones Unidas y del Director General. Ha administrado bien. Ha garantizado la acción multilateral, muy importante, en momentos en que hay que luchar contra viento y marea de aquéllos que tratan de erosionarla interesados normalmente en que el bilateralismo sea la única vía. El PMA ha sido un buen contenedor de eso. Ha garantizado la universalidad, ha mantenido en estos últimos años de crisis profunda en todo el mundo, sus labores han sido intensas y fructíferas, específicamente en trabajos en la ayuda a Africa, en su dramática situación. Todo esto, señor Presidente, hace que el PMA sea uno de los instrumentos más importantes del Sistema para apoyar a los países en los momentos de crisis que vivimos.

A. K. M. Kamaluddin CHOUDHURY (Bangladesh): First of all, I should like to express the sincere appreciation of the Bangladesh delegation to the Executive Director and Deputy Executive Director of WFP for the excellent introduction of the document WFP/CFA: 21/23 containing the Eleventh Annual Report of the Committee on Food Aid Policies and Programmes to the Economic and Social Council, the FAO Council and World Food Council. It is a report which has been prepared with the usual thoroughness and clarity of the WFP.

We should also like to take this opportunity to congratulate Mr Ingram on his reappointment for a second term of office. We hope that under his leadership the World Food Programme will be further consolidated and that programme expansion will take place.

Bangladesh is a beneficiary of the programme of world food assistance and, as a low-income food-deficit country, we have always welcomed it. It is no doubt a very important supplement to the national efforts mobilized by my government in achieving food self sufficiency.

In the recent meetings of the CFA my delegation had the privilege of putting on record the important role that WFP is playing not only in my country but also in all the countries of Asia, Latin America and Africa in fighting the scourge of hunger and malnutrition. We are grateful to the members of the CFA for the confidence they have posed in Bangladesh by giving us a leadership role in the activities of CFA.

The WFP role in Africa during the worst food crisis faced by that continent has received universal acclaim. Nearly 300 million dollars has been spent by WFP in the African food crisis. It is a matter of great satisfaction for my delegation to see that WFP played such an important role in the distribution of emergency food aid in Africa. Ever since the inception of IEF, WFP assistance has assumed a special dimension. We thank the donor countries for their generous contributions in the programme, and we hope in future years the contribution will not only be maintained but will increase in quantum. In this connection, we welcomed WFP efforts in promoting triangular transactions. In the last three years we find contributions channelled through WFP by bilateral donors account for over 60 percent of the programme's total purchase, most of which have been carried out through triangular transactions.

We are highly appreciative that WFP's policy of emphasizing commitments to the poorest countries has been continued. It is a matter of great satisfaction to find that of the total 1.8 million tons of food committed, 85 percent went to the low-income food-deficit countries.

Again, we find that there is a strong emphasis on the WFP Programme on the Rural Areas and more specifically on the neediest group of the rural population, particularly small farmers on marginal land, landless workers, primary school children in the village schools, pregnant and nursing mothers. We hope that in the coming years the programme will be further extended and further improved.

My delegation is particularly happy to note the increasing level of cooperation and collaboration between the WFP and FAO. We share the comments made by the representative of Colombia in this regard and we hope that in the future the cooperation will be further extended.

We are pleased to note that serious efforts were made in 1985 to step up WFP's participation in aid coordination mechanisms such as the World Bank consultative group and UNDP Round Tables. In our view, this is the best possible way of integrating food aid along with other forms of assistance into national development programmes. We are confident that as a result of an integrated approach supported by the ongoing review of management methods and organizational restructuring, the WFP will be able to serve humanity at large in a more effective manner.

Humberto CARRION M. (Nicaragua): Nicaragua desea, señor Presidente, hacer una breve intervención sobre este tema. Nicaragua no es miembro del Comité de Políticas y Programas de Ayuda alimentaria del PMA, pero como observadores seguimos siempre con interés el desarrollo y las conclusiones de sus reuniones.

Consideramos que la ayuda alimentaria constituye un sostén válido a los esfuerzos que hacemos los países en vías de desarrollo para implementar estrategias o planes nacionales de desarrollo. En este sentido tanto la ayuda alimentaria de emergencia como la ayuda alimentaria de apoyo a proyectos de desarrollo son necesarios y complementarios en muchos de nuestros países, ya que las luchas nacionales planificadas contra el hambre y la desnutrición se encuentran limitadas algunas veces por situaciones coyunturales de emergencia.

Durante el CPA de octubre pasado tuvimos la satisfacción de conocer que el señor Ingram, Director Ejecutivo del PMA, fue reelegido para ocupar ese cargo por otros cinco años a partir de abril de 1987. También hemos leído con sumo interés en el documento 90/9, que las relaciones de cooperación entre la FAO y el PMA son fluidas. Este hecho sólo puede beneficiar a los países en desarrollo e instamos al PMA y a la FAO a intensificar esa cooperación.

El PMA ha jugado un papel esencial durante la crisis alimentaria que ha atravesado el Africa subsahariana, y ha adquirido experiencias valiosas para tratar de superar las deficiencias encontradas para llegar efectivamente y a tiempo a los beneficiarios. Creemos que la superación de la crisis alimentaria en Africa subsahariana permitirá al PMA a asignar mayores recursos a otras regiones en desarrollo, particularmente a la región de América Latina y el Caribe que está atravesando hoy día una crisis económica que ha afectado sensiblemente su capacidad de producir alimentos, y el peso de la deuda externa no le permite importar alimentos suficientes para toda la población.

El PMA, puede entonces, apoyar en mayor medida los esfuerzos nacionales de los países de nuestra región para tratar de alcanzar la autosuficiencia alimentaria.

Deseamos también expresar que el PMA debe continuar manteniendo su universalidad y su multilateralidad en la asignación de la ayuda alimentaria que, como ya hemos expresado, la consideramos ayuda para el desarrollo, puesto que hemos notado con preocupación en el CPA pasado que elementos políticos perturbadores tienden a condicionar los proyectos que la Secretaría del PMA somete al Comité para su aprobación.

Kosei SHIOZAWA (Japan): I should like to say that my delegation has no difficulty in endorsing the 11th Annual Report of the CFA before us. My government highly appreciates the activities of WFP in food aid for development and traditional improvement in the developing countries as well as emergency food aid.

My country will continue to make a contribution to WFP despite the severe budgetary constraints on the home government.

Regarding the monetization of food aid, we welcome the fact that the coming CFA is going to have a full policy discussion, since we have particular concern on this matter.

I would like to associate myself with the previous speakers in congratulating Mr Ingram on his appointment for the second term as Executive Director of WFP.

Mohammed Hasan PAIMAN (Afghanistan): I would like to give enlightenment on the situation of Afghan refugees in Pakistan which has been mentioned as being over 2 million in number, (page 10 of the document CL 90/9). Under the name of the so-called "Afghanistan refugees" they are receiving most of the WFP emergency aid annually. In order to give the clear facts on this matter my delegation believes that with regards to the Afghan Nationals, who are now residing on the territory of Pakistan, it has been admitted in Reports from various sources (which are otherwise considered as most reliable by the Pakistanis) that there has been an enormous exaggeration of their number.

This exaggeration is due to the following factors: -Firstly, a great majority of Afghan nomads, who travel every year deep into the territory of Pashtoons, Baluchs and beyond, travel seasonally for the grazing of their animals. Their crossing of the borders has been registered by the Pakistan authorities as refugees.

Secondly, in order to secure more assistance, the number of the household of each refugee family is double-counting and reported as more than their actual number.

Thirdly, a considerably large number of the local population, who belong to the same tribal and ethnic groups residing on the other side of the "frontier", are also listed as refugees.

Fourthly, during the past seven years since the inception of a new phase of the revolution, a great number of Afghans have returned to their home towns and villages. However, their names still remain on the list of those who are allegedly recipients of International assistance.

Fifthly, there are some traders crossing borders traditionally for business purposes who are also registered in the list of refugees.

Sixthly, fraud and embezzlement have also reportedly resulted in the drawing of funds and material assistance through the registration of non-existent refugee families.

Seventhly, the counter-revolutionaries; bandits; mercenaries and those who are undergoing military training in numerous camps located on the territory of Pakistan are also listed as refugees.

These factors, together with others, have been widely reported in the international media friendly towards Pakistan. Even the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, whose report to the delegation of Pakistan made repeated references to these factors, borrows the numbers of refugees from the official record of the government of Pakistan.

Although the status of those Afghans who can be considered as bona fide refugees has been obscured by such a deceitful conglomeration of a relatively large number of the so-called "refugees", their real number is far less than that being claimed by Pakistani and Western sources.

The government of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan has announced a general amnesty decree for all Afghans living abroad and has reportedly called on them to return to their homelands and villages and resume their normal peaceful life. This call was positively responded to by a large number of them. The number of returnees would have been greater if certain artificial barriers and obstacles were not created by the counter-revolutionary armed bandits and the Pakistani authorities.

I hope that all these aids and assistance will be devoted to constructive and productive areas and not for other purposes. For example, in many areas we also have to devote these aids and funds and utilize them, such as for land reform programmes for the benefit of small and landless farmers and nomads; for the construction of more than 250 agricultural extension units up to the village level; for land improvements and for infrastructure in agriculture; for fisheries, forestries and pastures and other areas, and especially for providing food aids.

In spite of counter-revolutionaries destructive activities, the cultural plan was implemented-99. 7 percent in wheat crops to the current year crop seasons in Afghanistan. However, due to the shortage of rainfall and due to the continuous droughts in North Afghanistan, about half a million hectares of arid and irrigated lands have been damaged and burned out. A shortage of 390 000 tons of wheat has occurred in current years in food consumption, and the urgent attention of WFP and other donor organizations is needed for assistance for Afghanistan, as well as for other countries, in this regard.

Likewise there are also many useful projects to draw every sort of aid and funds in these aspects.

Malikana Mike LISWANISO (Zambia):We would firstly like to thank the Secretariat for a well prepared and presented document. My delegation would also like to associate itself with the various speakers who have paid tribute to Mr Ingram on his reappointment for another five-year term of office. We wish him well.

My country is a beneficiary of WFP aid, which aid has gone a long way in supplementing our developmental efforts. We, therefore, urge the donor countries to continue to fund WFP generously. My delegation also welcomes WFP's decision to involve women in food aid projects. This is how it ought to be. Our womenfolk form the bulk of our population in rural areas. Maybe that is why we have very few ladies in our delegation to date.

Coming as I do from southern Africa, a region where we are daily being destabilized by the racist regime of South Africa, I wish to register my country's appreciation to WFP for coming to the assistance of refugees and other displaced persons in our region.

The WFP's timely assistance has been a great relief to us. In conclusion, I wish to refer to the concept of monetarization of projects. My delegation does not see anything controversial about this concept. I am not a member of the CFA, but I understand that this matter generated a lot of debate at the last meeting. It is the view of my delegation that the monetarization of projects is, in fact, an important tool in diversifying food assistance.

Akbar Mirza KHALEELI (India):I would like to congratulate the Deputy Executive Director, Mr Salahuddin Amhed, on his work and the Report which reveals clarity of thought and expression. It also underlines the utility, the range and the transparency of WFP's operations. It is also timely to refer here to the decision during the last CFA to strongly recommend the reappointment of Mr J. Ingram for a well-deserved second terra as Executive Director of WFP in the interest of continuity and in recognition of his good work, and his unobtrusive and effective leadership. We wish him well and WFP more success in dealing with the important and humanitarian tasks in cooperation with FAO, other organizations and nations.

The WFP has emerged as one of those international organizations whose role is recognized in encouraging and implementing on the whole, an acceptable and wholesome mix of food surpluses, and humanitarian motives, of voluntary contributions and international approval cutting across countries-and cultures. Even though the main beneficiaries have been the developing countries, it is heartening to see how the developed countries continue to show their solidarity in the emphasis and the need to assist those more seriously affected, and, in recent years, a number of African countries, especially in sub-Saharan Africa.

Even though there are food deficit countries in other parts of the world and countries whose income is as low in Asia or in Latin America as some of the adversely affected African countries, there has been continuing sympathy and solidarity with those African countries which have been given a priority over the last few years, not only in WFP's operations but also as a general focus of international interest and cooperation. It is clear that the African countries are determined to tackle the agriculture and food problems in a more determined and effective manner. We are happy that WFP has assisted so greatly both in dealing with the emergency problems and in assisting in the development process. We are particularly happy at the interest shown in WFP in dealing with the refugee problems which are arising in some of the frontline states in Southern Africa. However, I think it is desirable to refer to the increasing problems of destabilization as a result of the

looming confrontation with South Africa and the likely consequences of further destabilization on frontline and other African states. It is here that WFP may need to anticipate, or at least respond quickly to the likely human and refugee problems that could arise. The experience of WFP in Ethiopia, its achievements in southern Sudan and elsewhere, give us hope that it will be in a position to deal with such problems if and as they develop.

Coming to more general issues, we feel that to the extent possible there might be a little emphasis on non-cereal food items such as edible oils and other items, if there are such surpluses. The entire concept of monetization needs to be gone into because the basis of the WFP is really the food surpluses generated in a number of the countries of the world. If the food is not utilized as the medium of assistance and it is transferred into money, it might be quite helpful, depending on the situation. It might be administratively easier, but I am not so sure whether a number of countries, including donor countries, would be entirely satisfied. Therefore, I think some thought might be given to the question of utilization also of non-cereal items where possible. The tendency to utilize triangular transactions is a very healthy one and I think in this Japan has played a very important role.

The emphasis on small farmers, on the role of women, is very heartening and in keeping with the aims and objectives of WFP and we hope that this will continue.

Carlos DINATOR (Observador de Chile): Es muy grato a mi delegación intervenir en relación con el tema 7 del orden del día, Programa Mundial de Alimentos, y en especial a propósito del 11° informe anual del Comité de Políticas y Programas de Ayuda Alimentaria del PMA Naciones Unidas/FAO.

Mi delegación no tiene observaciones de fondo que formular en relación con el informe presentado, que nos parece exhaustivo y que ha sido objeto de una presentación clara y convincente del señor Director Ejecutivo Adjunto, Señor Ahmed. La labor del PMA debe ser encomiada y aplaudidos los resultados de la última reunión del CPA en la cual donantes y beneficiarios demostraron sensatez y visión dignas de encomio.

Es conveniente congratularse de la cooperación y coordinación cada vez más estrechas entre FAO y PMA y por la redesignación del actual Director Ejecutivo, señor Ingram, por un período adicional de cinco años.

Igualmente espera mi delegación la tendencia a la mayor universalidad en la acción del PMA, que además está reestudiando su propia estructura interna para atender mejor las operaciones de campo.

Mi delegación invita a los amigos países donantes a considerar y valorar con serenidad el concepto de fondo del contravalor o de monetización en la ayuda del PMA atendiendo a la utilización del mecanismo por los mismos donantes de hoy, al concluir el último conflicto mundial, en ese momento, tanto en carácter de donantes como de beneficiarios

Le complace a mi delegación la declaración que con relación a esta materia ha formulado hoy la delegación de Canadá, en el conocido francés de Quebec, en pro del sereno estudio de la cuestión que debe estar libre de prejuicios, según lo dijo desde el comienzo mi delegación. Esa declaración ha sido seguida de otras, igualmente positivas, de parte de otros donantes, lo cual pone otra nota optimista respecto de la acción futura del PMA, y asimismo detectar consecuencias importantes en el traslado de un asunto desde la sala verde a la que cobija hoy nuestras labores.

Finalmente encomia mi delegación el reconocimiento y acción efectiva del PMA respecto de la función de la mujer, según se expresa en las páginas 7 y 8 del informe.

Khalil MAKKAWI (Liban) (langue originale arabe): La délégation de mon pays voudrait tout d'abord remercier M. Ahmed pour la présentation claire du document très important qui nous a été soumis et qui nous aidera énormément dans l'examen de cette question. La délégation du Liban voudrait saisir cette occasion pour dire que s'il y a eu des nuages dans les relations du PAM et de la FAO, la récente session du CPA les a tous dissipés.

La nomination par le Secrétaire général des Nations Unies et le Directeur général de la FAO du Directeur exécutif du PAM pour un nouveau mandat de cinq ans est l'expression de la confiance totale qu'ils accordent à M. Ingram, à sa compétence et à l'engagement qu'il a pris de consolider les rapports entre le PAM et les organisations soeurs, en vue d'une harmonie encore plus complète.

En la matière, la délégation de mon pays a accueilli avec satisfaction, dans le paragraphe 57 du rapport du Comité, la confirmation du rôle du PAM et de la FAO dans l'évaluation des besoins alimentaires et dans le système d'alerte rapide. D'autre part, nous sommes convaincus que le

Directeur exécutif, lors de la présentation de son projet à la prochaine session du CPA, déterminera avec précision les incidences qu'auront ses propositions sur les rapports avec l'Organisation et les institutions soeurs. Je pense spécialement à la création des postes de Directeur des centres régionaux et les incidences qui en découleront sur les rapports du PAM et du PNUD, ainsi que les incidences qu'aura la création d'une direction chargée de proposer des projets sur les rapports entre le PAM et les agences spécialisées, notamment la FAO.

Monsieur le Président, est-il nécessaire de rappeler l'importance de nous conformer au principe de la complémentarité dans l'utilisation des ressources disponibles dans le cadre des Nations Unies? C'est le même principe qui a été confirmé par le Directeur exécutif lui-même à plusieurs reprises. Monsieur le Président, je voudrais insister encore une fois sur l'importance accordée par la délégation de mon pays à la question des transactions triangulaires et toutes les autres mesures qui visent à une distribution plus rapide de l'aide alimentaire. En l'occurrence, les propositions du Directeur exécutif présentées au CPA nous semblent être très importantes et nous estimons qu'elles méritent l'appui du Conseil. Quoi qu'il en soit, nous avons pris note que le Directeur exécutif a l'intention, désormais, de tenir une réunion annuelle afin de discuter des contributions à la RAIU et qu'il précisera au cours desdites réunions les besoins de la RAIU.

La délégation de mon pays appuie cette initiative et propose qu'un tel programme d'évaluation soit soumis au PAM afin de déterminer les besoins dudit programme à la lumière des plans d'aide aux projets de développement. Nous estimons que cette proposition est constructive vu le faible taux des contributions pour la période 1985-86 et le peu de clarté qui persiste concernant l'exercice 1987-88.

Salahuddin AHMED (WFP): I must say that I myself, as well as my colleagues who are here, are extremely heartened by the very kind and very generous words of appreciation that have been voiced by the Council with regard to the Programme's activities and accomplishments. I would thank you heartily on behalf of the Executive Director for that. The Council has reiterated, what governments in the CFA and elsewhere have also done on previous occasions, its great confidence and trust in the management and guidance of the Executive Director and I will faithfully convey this to him.

You have been kind enough, Mr Chairman. Some of the delegates also referred to my colleagues on the right, Mr Holder who is Acting Director of the Project Management Division and Mr Sintobin who is the Acting Director of the Resource Management Division. While I say "Acting" I must emphasize, and I am sure you are aware, that they are very active. Not only are they active, but as you have recognized yourselves, there are others at the Headquarters and in the field who are working actively to serve suffering humanity and to encourage development in the world. Thank you very much on their behalf and on behalf of myself for your very kind words.

The delegate of Canada referred to a very apt approach. He mentioned a very critical and constructive approach to any analysis of the activities of the World Food Programme. We say that we heartily welcome that statement because it is very much consistent with, and in consonance with, our own approach from the management side, to be open and frank and to engage in constructively critical dialogue with the governments. Our thanks for that.

There have been certain points raised. All of them I will not be able to cover but most of them I would like to address because I feel some of them need to be clarified a little further and others need to be explained on a little bit more.

The delegate of the United Kingdom referred to the recent decision of the European Community in order to further rationalize its approach to food aid allocation and utilization, making it conform to the needs of the recipient countries and also to conform to the development strategies of those countries. We are in regular touch, almost in daily touch, with the Community and its functionaries, and in December there will be further discussion with the Community with regard to how best we can make use of the Community's food aid contributions. So this is an area in which we are very deeply involved. In this connection, I would like also to put on record our very deep appreciation for the very generous contributions that we received not only for our Regular Budget but also during the African emergency.

The delegate of Denmark referred to the "project cycle" concept as something which was promising. I may inform you that for CFA/23 which will take place in the Spring of next year, all the project documents which will be submitted for approval will reflect this new concept. That means we will see some changes in the format, and as has been known to the members here, this format tries to be more definitive, more refined, more sharply focused and more pointed with regard to the objectives, with regard to the utilization, with regard to the assessment, and with regard to the evaluation, and it tries also to cut down on the existing number of steps that we have in order finally to lead to project approval by the CFA. So this is something which you will see reflected in the next set of projects which will be submitted to the CFA in the Spring of next year.

One particular aspect of it has been referred to by the Ambassador of the PDRY when he said that there is a WFP mission currently visiting his country. This is part of the project cycle approach to have "food aid policy review" missions visiting certain countries in order to find out the avenues for adapting and utilizing food aid more effectively within the national economic development strategy. Other missions will be going to Sudan and Bolivia. This is with regard to the project cycle.

Another point was mentioned regarding our handling of refugees. It is common knowledge that the WFP and UNHCR collaborate with each other very closely and effectively, almost on a daily basis, with regard to finding what we need for feeding and sheltering refugees. Feeding is our part. But at the same time we also look into a number of possibilities where we can help in the rehabilitation efforts of the refugees in the host countries. A number of these programmes are currently going on, for example in Angola for Namibian refugees, in Uganda for Rwanda refugees, in Botswana for refugees from Zimbabwe, and also in the Sudan. This is to give an indication that where rehabilitation is possible, feasible, desirable and wanted by the host country, we try to help them along.

With regard to our general approach, again, it was mentioned that emergencies should not be the main plank of the operation of the World Food Programme-development should be the real orientation. In my statement I mentioned this fact, and the Executive Director has mentioned it repeatedly, but where there is human suffering we have to rush in and try to eliminate suffering as far as food is involved. But our main concern even in times of emergency is to work for the prevention of emergencies, and even while going for feeding programmes, wherever it is feasible we try to encourage food-for-work projects so that emergency relief can be ensured and at the same time certain infrastructures can also be built for future development utilization.

The delegate of Colombia referred to some matters, and we always listen to him with great respect. He mentioned regional allocation of resources. Members are aware that there is no national allocation of resources as such as between regions or as between countries. But the fact is that the particular share of a country or a region may vary from year to year depending on the type of projects, ongoing, expanded or freshly approved by the CFA. However, I am able to tell him and to inform this assembly that during this current year, the two sessions of the CFA, 21 and 22, approved projects in Latin America and Caribbean region worth \$99 million and we find that while ten percent of the share globally went to Latin America in 1985, in 1986 it is 17 percent of the total. As I said, these figures are variable and we have to look at the long-term trends and the long-term needs. All of you have heard the remark of the delegate of Zambia that no African project that was submitted to us in 1985 was rejected by us, we tried to accommodate it. Similarly, in the case of Latin America we try to be as understanding as possible and to help wherever it is feasible; this is something that we will keep in view while looking at the overall balance throughout the world, depending on the need perceived.

Triangular transactions are one thing that occupies our attention in the CFA and the Council and the Programme, and it occupies the attention of the Executive Director. Wherever it is possible we try to encourage triangular transactions. Again it depends; it may not always be showing the same trend. Our people have done an analysis of the trend during 1986, for example, and we hope that by the end of the year the purchases that we will have made as triangular transactions will be at least at the level of 1984, which is higher than the 80 percent that we achieved in 1985. We hope it will be possible to do so.

Overall I must say that total purchases we have made are rising. In 1975 we purchased commodities worth about \$58 million, but in 1986 it will go up to about \$73 million and proportionately, as I have said, the triangular transactions will also rise.

A point was made about the utilization of the vessels of the developing countries. The programme is always solicitous in this matter, but again it depends on the availability of the vessels and the costs structure-the CFA, the governing body, is always very keen to see that we handle our operations cost-effectively. But subject to that, over the last three years we have seen that steadily the utilization of the vessels of the developing countries in value terms has gone up from 10 to 11-12 percent and we will keep this concern very much in view.

With regard to the geographical representation in the staffing structure of the WFP, this is a point that definitely engages the attention of the Member Governments, and of the Executive Director from session to session, month to month, year to year. But as you realize, Mr Chairman, we have a very small staff, something that we have been complimented on, and our total international staff, both at headquarters and in the field, will not exceed 324. So we will have to depend on the opportunities and keep in view the overall competitive nature and in particular the requirements of particular posts. Subject to that, the points made by delegates will be kept in view and we will keep in touch with them and we hope that over time whatever points of dissatisfaction there are will be eliminated. I will definitely communicate the points of view to the Executive Director.

Very legitimately something has been said about women-and we are very glad about it-not because

this is a subject of topical importance but because the World Food Programme has viewed women as development partners, not just as a separate entity. We are a programme and as a programme we have our mandate and our procedures. But the fact remains that we are part of the human society and all the staff of the WFP share a common human heritage, and that is respect for women and our obligation to women as mothers, wives, sisters and daughters, and as I said a while ago, in our context, as development partners.

There are different ways in which we try to tackle this problem of representation of women. In the staff, of course, it is going up, as the Ambassador of Colombia mentioned. In the beneficiaries of the WFP programmes, there are a number of ways that we can do it, and we are doing it, but of course it is not yet perfect and we have to do a lot more, we recognize that.

For example, if there is a maternity and child welfare project women are the direct beneficiaries. Again, there are certain projects which are more suited to women's capabilities, for example in forestry projects-and they are a very significant part of WFP's project portfolio-in the nurseries women find it more congenial to work. There are yet other areas, for example in Lesotho we have ongoing food-for-work programmes and there we find that about 90 percent of the workers are women. For one reason or another they like it and the work is available and they take it. In Bangladesh there are also projects where women form the bulk of the workforce.

I must tell you more about the policy objectives in this area. I think you need to know this and I would like to inform you about it. As part of the project cycle exercise we have issued very elaborate guidelines to our field officers asking them to take care of the special representation of women, special utilization of women's skills and women's needs, in project design, in monitoring and evaluation.

We had a very elaborate discussion with UNICEF, following which the two executive heads issued joint instructions to the field staff to develop joint strategies, joint policies and joint programmes which enhance the participation of women in those projects.

In mid-December we are going to have a meeting with the UNDP, UNICEF and UNFPA in order to coordinate our strategies, policies and working modalities so that together we can do more about women in development. So I have told you about some of the things that we are doing and some of the things we have in mind and the joint efforts that we are making in this direction.

There are two other points that engaged the attention of the delegates. One was monetarization and the other was the management review that this Programme undertook. With regard to monetarization I should say that though one delegate mentioned a "perceived trend" towards greater monetarization as part of the WFP approach to development projects, I would say that there was no "conceived trend" towards it this just happened. This is a point that the Executive Director stated very clearly and succinctly in CFA/22. In fact the projects concerned happened to have monetarization as part of a bigger project strategy in cooperation with other international agencies, including IDA and World Bank, for example, or as part of the overall development strategy of the country. Together these projects that went to the CFA did not constitute more than 9 percent of the total project effort during 1986. However, it has been very clearly decided by the CFA that there will be a policy paper brought to its spring session on monetarization in all its aspects and the committee will give its very deep and constructive and critical thought to that, following which we shall know which way to proceed with regard to it. The Executive Director has looked at monetarization, in certain cases, as an integral and inescapable part of project implementation depending on the nature of the project and depending on the nature of the strategy into which it builds itself.

As regards management review, again as with individuals so with nations and so with International organizations, there is a time to pause and ponder, to adapt, to reorientate, and that is something that one of the delegates mentioned here. We had a review and the CFA in the last session had a preview of that. We have had certain broad guidelines and certain ideas and we will keep all this in view as we proceed further with the review implementation.

A point was also raised about counterpart funds, and the utilization of the counterpart funds. I must say that as part of the project cycle concept we have also worked out detailed procedures for the management of the counterpart funds, of course, in the closest consultation with the governments. These guidelines have been passed on to our field offices which will help them to be more specific, more circumspect and more helpful in their discussion with the governments concerned in order to ensure timely, proper and effective utilization of counterpart funds.

Mention was made of the situation in South Sudan by the distinguished delegate of Tunisia. It is known that the World Food Programme did undertake airlifts of food; however, apart from that the World Food Programme did undertake trucking of food from the south through Kenya, Uganda and even sometimes from Zaire. Food is moving into that area. I have information that only one day ago another consignment went into Juba. Another place, Wau, which has been starved of food for a while, there also, food has arrived only recently. Food also arrived at Malakal, about *two* thousand tonnes,

some two weeks ago. This is something that is going on. We have some trucks moving through Uganda and we hope that they will also be able to cross into Sudan. This is an area that is receiving the very, very constant attention of the World Food Programme and donor agencies including NGOs.

The last point, one made by the distinguished Ambassador of India with regard to the situation in southern Africa and the particular problems of the front line states. I should say that we are very much in touch with the developments and with the countries over there.

There was a meeting held only ten days ago in New York, by the Vice-President of Botswana who is Chairman of the Council of Ministers of the SADC Countries. He met with the Secretary General of the UN to discuss the developing situation, or the possible developments, and how the United Nations system could respond to the problems of the front line countries. WFP was present there and we are liaising with them. We attended recently a meeting of the Beira Corridor Authority that was held in Brussels to find out how best we can help it. We are actively considering assisting the port and railway workers at Beira, and thereabouts.

We are also engaged in discussions with Zimbabwe as to helping them in railway-related developments along the Beira Corridor. We are also expecting to have soon a list of the items which may be required of us as a contingency measure, in case the situation should deteriorate over there.

One phrase that attracted my attention very much was raised by the distinguished delegate of the USA. He mentioned about 'promissary note'. I can tell you this much, that we accept the praise of today as the promissary note of tomorrow. We hope to cash it some day, and cash it effectively.

There was also mention of the resource position, and while members want to see the resources improved, they also wish to see very much that the resources are economically, effectively and efficiently invested. We are heartened by that. We hope that all the donors from developed and developing countries, from socialist countries, all of them will keep this in mind that the World Food Programme is trying to do a job on their behalf, for them and for the poorer people of the world. Not only will there be need for fulfilment of regular pledges and other pledges but also for the cash resources which are vital for triangular transactions or other local purchases in developing countries. I hope all this will receive their due and urgent attention.

Finally, Mr Chairman, it has been a pleasure to be with the Council under your very esteemed chairmanship and leadership. I must say that I go back enlightened, fortified and having greatly benefitted from appearance before this Committee. Thank you, Mr Chairman, and through you thanks to all the members of the Council.

LE PRESIDENT: Au nom du Conseil, je voudrais remercier M. Ahmed, Directeur exécutif adjoint du Programme alimentaire mondial, pour sa réponse complète à tous les intervenants qui ont contribué à enrichir le débat de ce matin.

Je crois me faire l'interprète du Conseil en me félicitant de la confirmation de M. Ingram par le Secrétaire général de l'ONU et le Directeur Général de la FAO pour un nouveau mandat de cinq ans en tant que Directeur exécutif du Programme alimentaire mondial, et en adressant à ce dernier nos chaleureuses félicitations pour cette reconduction car il a mené et continuera de mener avec sagacité les activités du PAM.

Je crois que nous pouvons également exprimer notre grande satisfaction du climat de coopération fructueuse et constructive qui s'est instauré entre la FAO et le PAM et qui sera le meilleur garant d'une efficacité accrue de la famille agricole des Nations Unies.

Je pense me faire également l'interprète du Conseil en rendant hommage au Programme alimentaire mondial pour les efforts considérables et efficaces qu'il a déployés aussi bien en 1984 qu'en 1985, lesquels ont permis de faire face, dans des conditions jugées satisfaisantes par tous, à une conjoncture particulièrement difficile, notamment en Afrique subsaharienne, grâce entre autres à la nouvelle dimension logistique adoptée par le PAM pour réaliser cette opération.

J'insisterai aussi pour exprimer la reconnaissance du Conseil aux pays donateurs pour leur généreuse contribution et pour formuler le vœu que la communauté internationale continuera à faire preuve d'un esprit constructif et nous permettra d'atteindre les objectifs du CPA pour le biennium 1987-88.

Le Conseil s'est félicité du fait que près de 80 pour cent du Programme alimentaire mondial soient allés au développement agricole et rural et que près de 80 pour cent également de la sécurité alimentaire aient été orientés vers les pays les moins avancés ou ceux à déficit alimentaire, qui sont souvent les mêmes.

Nous nous félicitons également de l'option prise par le PAM tendance à orienter l'aide alimentaire vers l'aide au développement et à focaliser l'aide alimentaire proprement dite vers les cas d'urgence et ceux qui méritent un traitement spécifique. A cet égard, le Conseil s'est félicité du fait que les 500 000 tonnes prévues pour la Réserve alimentaire internationale d'urgence ont été dépassées pour la quatrième fois. C'est un fait qui mérite d'être souligné.

Un autre point soulevé par le Conseil est constitué par sa satisfaction et ses remerciements pour l'intégration de la femme en tant que bénéficiaire des activités du PAM et surtout pour la promotion des opérations triangulaires qui ont couvert près de 80 pour cent des opérations du PAM et constituent un moyen important d'aider les pays du tiers monde. En effet, nous commençons à constater certains surplus de production. Il est tout à fait légitime et souhaitable qu'en fournissant une aide au développement, le PAM puisse aider les pays en développement. Il s'agit là d'un point très important qui a été relevé par plusieurs orateurs.

De nombreux Membres du Conseil ont manifesté leur intérêt pour les efforts entrepris par le PAM en vue d'améliorer sa gestion, notamment par une nouvelle restructuration, en intégrant l'action du Siège et les projets par région. Moyennant une bonne contrepartie de la part des pays récipiendaires, une telle réorganisation ne peut être que bénéfique, compte tenu de l'accroissement substantiel des activités du PAM.

Enfin, de nombreux orateurs ont manifesté le grand intérêt qu'ils attachent à l'étude envisagée par le CPA au sujet de cette importante question de la monétisation. Je crois que tout le monde suivra avec beaucoup d'intérêt l'évolution de cette question.

Voilà ce que je voulais dire au sujet de ce débat particulièrement intéressant. Je ne voudrais pas lever la séance sans féliciter à nouveau le Programme alimentaire mondial pour sa contribution très importante au sein de la famille agricole et pour l'efficacité de son action, qui a été perçue par tous.

The meeting rose at 12. 45 hours.

La séance est levée à 12 h 45.

Se levanta la sesión a las 12. 45 horas.

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CL

CL 90/PV/14

Ninetieth Session

Quatre-vingt-dixième session

90º período de sesiones

**FOURTEENTH PLENARY MEETING
QUATORZIEME SEANCE PLENIERE
14ª SESION PLENARIA
(25 November 1986)**

The Fourteenth Plenary Meeting was opened at 14. 45 hours,

Temel Iskit, Vice-Chairman of the Council, presiding

La quatorzième seance plénière est ouverte à 14 h 45, sous

la présidence de Temel Iskit, Vice-Président du Conseil

Se abre la 14ª sesión plenaria a las 14. 45 horas, bajo la

presidencia de Temel Iskit, Vicepresidente del Consejo

III. ACTIVITIES OF FAO AND WFP (continued)
III. ACTIVITES DE LA FAO ET DU PAM (suite)
III. ACTIVIDADES DE LA FAO Y DEL PMA (continuación)

7. World Food Programme (continued)
7. Programme alimentaire mondial, (suite)
7. Programa Mundial de Alimentos (continuación)
7.2 Election of Five Members of the Committee on Food Aid Policies and Programmes:
7.2 Election de cinq membres du Comité des politiques et programmes d'aide alimentaire:
7.2 Elección de cinco miembros del Comité de Políticas y Programas de Ayuda Alimentaria:

LE SECRETAIRE GENERAL: En ma qualité de Secrétaire général du Conseil, j'ai reçu, dans les délais voulus, les propositions de candidatures suivantes pour les cinq sièges à pourvoir: Arabie Saoudite, Australie, Bangladesh, Canada, Etats-Unis d'Amérique.

Il y a donc autant de candidats que de sièges à pourvoir. Le Règlement général de l'Organisation prévoit dans son article XII. 9 a) que les élections ont lieu au scrutin secret, "sauf que, s'il n'y a pas plus de candidats que de sièges à pourvoir, le Président peut proposer à la Conférence ou au Conseil de procéder aux nominations par consentement général manifeste". Si vous le voulez bien, Monsieur le Président, vous pouvez faire cette proposition au Conseil et, si le Conseil l'adopte, les candidats seront déclarés élus.

LE PRESIDENT: Nous avons cinq candidatures déposées dans les délais légaux, pour cinq postes à pourvoir. Est-ce que nous pouvons considérer que ces pays sont élus par consentement général manifeste?

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

Nous déclarons donc élus l'Arabie Saoudite, l'Australie, le Bangladesh, le Canada et les Etats-Unis d'Amérique.

- II. WORLD FOOD AND AGRICULTURE SITUATION (continued)
II. SITUATION MONDIALE DE L'ALIMENTATION ET DE L'AGRICULTURE (suite)
II. SITUACION MUNDIAL DE LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION (continuación)
5. Report of the Eleventh Session of the Committee on World Food Security (Rome, 9-16 April 1986)
5. Rapport de la onzième session du Comité de la sécurité alimentaire mondiale (Rome, 9-16 avril 1986)
5. Informe del 11º período de sesiones del Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria Mundial (Roma, 9-16 abril de 1986)

Guillermo Enrique GONZALEZ (Presidente del Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria Mundial): Señor Presidente, distinguidos delegados y observadores: como Presidente del 11º período de sesiones del Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria tengo el honor de presentar a este Consejo el informe aprobado en esta oportunidad y que aparece como documento CL 90/10

El Comité celebró su 11º Período de sesiones en esta misma sala del 9 al 16 de abril de 1986.

Los importantes temas de la agenda fueron analizados, y es de deseo subrayarlo, con el mejor espíritu de cooperación y respeto, hecho que por cierto facilitó las labores de la Presidencia.

El primer tema de sustancia que se trató fue el relativo a la evaluación de la situación de la seguridad alimentaria mundial, tanto en el corto como en el mediano plazo.

El Comité mostró particular preocupación por las actuales limitaciones al comercio internacional, así como por las dificultades económicas y financieras que afectan a toda la comunidad internacional.

Aunque los precios de los cereales han caído a mínimos históricos muchos países en desarrollo no pudieron beneficiarse plenamente de esos bajos precios debido a la falta de moneda convertible como consecuencia de la declinación de los precios de sus propios productos de exportación, así como de la pesada carga de la deuda externa y los servicios de la deuda externa, las altas tasas de interés, y en algunos casos, así fue señalado por algunas delegaciones, por una disminución de la asistencia externa.

Respecto al comercio, el Comité convino en que para facilitar el acceso de los países en desarrollo a las importaciones de alimentos era indispensable mejorar el clima económico y comercial internacional.

El Comité recomendó que todos los países examinaran las medidas necesarias para mejorar ese clima, a fin de favorecer la contribución del comercio en el fortalecimiento de la seguridad alimentaria mundial.

El Comité expresó su satisfacción porque por segundo año consecutivo se habían sobrepasado los 10 millones de toneladas de ayuda alimentaria, así como por la extensión por otros tres años del Convenio de Ayuda Alimentaria.

El Comité también tomó nota con satisfacción de que varios países donantes y el PMA habían recurrido con mayor frecuencia a las transacciones triangulares para el suministro de la ayuda alimentaria, y se subrayó la función positiva que desempeñaban tales transacciones al utilizar excedentes de países en desarrollo y facilitar la entrega en tiempo de los suministros en zonas deficitarias.

Se señaló asimismo que el objetivo último de la seguridad alimentaria en el plano mundial debía ser el de asegurar el acceso material y económico a los alimentos básicos para la subsistencia. En este sentido se subrayó que la pobreza constituye el mayor impedimento de la seguridad alimentaria en gran número de países en desarrollo donde el insuficiente acceso a los alimentos se debe fundamentalmente a la falta de poder adquisitivo.

Sobre la base de la evaluación realizada, el Comité consideró que además de las medidas para liberalizar el comercio se necesitaba fortalecer también las áreas de producción, investigación, reservas y acceso a los alimentos.

El Comité puntualizó que para alcanzar la seguridad alimentaria nacional se debía incrementar la producción y la productividad alimentaria.

Se señaló que las buenas cosechas de este año podrían proporcionar quizás la oportunidad para invertir en programas de recuperación y rehabilitación a mediano plazo.

En lo que hace a las medidas tomadas en relación con el informe del Director General sobre la Seguridad Alimentaria Mundial, el Comité consideró los siguientes cuatro temas: a) perspectivas alimentarias a plazo medio y seguridad alimentaria mundial; b) la función de las raíces, tubérculos y plácanos en la seguridad alimentaria de África Subsahariana; c) el depósito preventivo de existencias de alimentos para acelerar las entregas de ayuda alimentaria en casos de urgencia, y d) la planificación de un buen estado de preparación nacional para hacer frente a las situaciones alimentarias de urgencia.

Con respecto al primero, el Comité consideró que Las previsiones preparadas por la FAO para 1990 constituían una advertencia oportuna para los gobiernos y para La Comunidad Internacional. El Comité se felicitó de Las mejoras introducidas por La FAO al elaborar sus proyecciones sobre La base del modelo alimentario mundial, que permitía decernir en forma simultánea La oferta, La demanda, el comercio y Los precios en el sistema de cereales, semillas oleaginosas, ganadería y hacer extensivas las proyecciones a Las raíces, tubérculos y leguminosas. Se observó que si bien se preveía que hasta 1990 la producción mundial de cereales sería cuantiosa, el suministro per capita de alimentos básicos en Los países en desarrollo, sólo crecería en forma marginal.

El Comité señaló con preocupación que en La eventualidad de una pérdida generalizada de cosechas, las perspectivas desfavorables para la seguridad alimentaria de muchos países en desarrollo empeorarían notablemente porque pese a Las cuantiosas existencias a nivel global sus efectos se distribuirían de manera desigual, mientras que en Los países industrializados una pérdida generalizada de cosechas implicaría una disminución del uso de cereales como piensos, en el Tercer Mundo, una situación tal se traduciría en una sensible disminución del consumo alimentario.

Es interesante destacar que Las proyecciones indicaron la posibilidad de una ampliación del comercio en países en desarrollo, particularmente en el arroz, Leguminosas, aceites vegetales y de Los llamados cereales secundarios.

El Comité examinó también La función de las raíces. Los tubérculos y los plátanos en la seguridad alimentaria del Africa Subsahariana y subrayó La importante función de éstos y otros alimentos básicos tradicionales en los modelos de producción y consumo, no solamente en Africa sino también en otras regiones. Así se solicitó a la FAO que realizara estudios concretos sobre las raíces, tubérculos y plátanos en América Latina y el Caribe. Se reconoció, por otra parte, las diversas dificultades que impedían el desarrollo de las raíces y los plátanos en el Africa Subsahariana. En este contexto se recomendó dar prioridad a las políticas de aliento de producción y de consumo. En Lo que hace a la política de precios, se sugirió tener en cuenta su relación con los de los cereales nacionales como importados, con el objeto de ir reduciendo La dependencia externa.

Advirtiendo el rol de la mujer en estos cultivos, el Comité solicitó se adoptaran medidas concretas en Los sectores de la capacitación, el acceso al crédito y a la tierra, así como otras formas de apoyo oficial en favor de la mujer.

El Comité examinó La propuesta relativa al depósito preventivo de existencias de alimentos, con antelación a las situaciones de urgencia. Se coincidió en la necesidad de reducir Las demoras en la entrega de ayuda de emergencia y así se recalzó que podrían introducirse mejoras en todas las etapas del proceso de respuesta y que la propuesta sobre el depósito preventivo de existencias debía examinarse en un marco más amplio.

Es mi deber señalar que algunas delegaciones expresaron que tal evaluación debía realizarse teniendo en cuenta la relación, costo-beneficio, en comparación con otras alternativas. Muchos otros delegados en cambio hicieron hincapié en que tal relación no era apropiada pues los beneficios finales no podían cuantificarse.

El Comité solicitó finalmente a La Secretaría un nuevo estudio de Las experiencias recientes, con objeto de cuantificar, con mayor precisión, el tiempo que se empleaba en las distintas fases del proceso de respuesta así como de los beneficios que podrían obtenerse con el depósito preventivo de existencias.

El nuevo estudio comprendía también el análisis de los procedimientos administrativos de Los donantes para La entrega de la ayuda de emergencia. La Secretaría me ha informado que esta parte del estudio ya se encuentra en preparación y que será presentada al Comité en su décimo segundo período de sesiones en abril de 1987.

El Comité examinó el documento sobre la licitación de un buen estado de preparación nacional para hacer frente a situaciones alimentarias de emergencia o de urgencia. El mismo cenía en cuenta los resultados y conclusiones de tres cursos prácticos sobre el tema, organizados Los tres por La FAO. El Comité estimó que el documento ofrecía un marco útil para establecer planes nacionales en este sentido. Tales planes no debían formar parte integrante, perdón, tales planes debían formar parte integrante de Los programas de seguridad alimentaria a largo plazo.

Se reconoció que los países de bajos ingresos con déficit de alimentos tropezaban con diversos obstáculos para hacer frente a las situaciones de urgencia y que se necesitaría la asistencia técnica y financiera para establecer y reforzar los programas nacionales para un buen estado de preparación.

Por otra parte, el Comité acogió con satisfacción el rol de la FAO en el mejoramiento de los sistemas nacionales de información y alerta y en otros aspectos pertinentes de la licitación de la preparación en los países en desarrollo y solicitó que la Secretaría siguiera de cerca los progresos que se realicen en este campo e informe oportunamente al Comité.

Por último, y me excuso Sr. Presidente por haber tomado tanto tiempo, el Comité examinó por quinta vez las actividades del Plan de Asistencia para la Seguridad Alimentaria (PASA) y reiteró su apoyo general a la labor de campo realizada por la FAO en el marco del Plan.

El Comité subrayó que las actividades del PASA debían formar parte integrante del marco más alto de asistencia para el fomento de la seguridad alimentaria proporcionada a través de organizaciones bilaterales y multilaterales y en este contexto se señaló la necesidad de coordinar mejor las actividades de la FAO con los donantes, en particular a nivel de países beneficiarios. Manifestó también su apoyo a las prioridades que en el marco del Plan está otorgando a los países en desarrollo interesados en la elaboración de planes nacionales para enfrentar situaciones de emergencia alimentaria y respaldó las sugerencias presentadas en el documento de Secretaría sobre las orientaciones del Plan durante el próximo bienio.

Me excuso nuevamente por haber tomado tanto tiempo. Creo que no se me han pasado ninguno de los principales puntos analizados en el Comité durante el 11º periodo de sesiones.

LE PRESIDENT: Je remercie M. Gonzalez, Président du Comité de la sécurité alimentaire mondiale pour son exposé introduit et je me permets à nouveau d'insister auprès de Messieurs les délégués pour qu'ils tiennent compte dans leurs interventions des contraintes de temps.

Jorge Raúl BUSTAMANTE ROLDAN (Colombia): La delegación de Colombia considera que el 11º periodo de sesiones del Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria, fue muy productivo bajo la dinámica e inteligente presidencia de su colega y amigo, Guillermo González, cuya presentación del tema ha sido excelente.

Este Consejo debe lamentar, que, como lo indican los párrafos 10 y 11 del documento CL 90/10, no obstante un aumento sustancial de la producción mundial de alimentos básicos y una parcial recuperación en África, persiste aún el hambre y la malnutrición en esos países.

Pero más preocupante aún para este Consejo debe ser lo afirmado en el párrafo 11: "el estado nutricional de la población pobre, tanto en las zonas urbanas, como rurales, estaba empeorando seriamente en muchos países, sobre todo en América Latina".

Con esta preocupación en mente, en la pasada Conferencia Regional de la FAO para América Latina y el Caribe, los Gobiernos de nuestra región pidieron al Director General que elaborara un estudio sobre el desarrollo a largo plazo de nuestra región en los campos de la Agricultura y la Alimentación.

Estamos seguros que el Director General ha iniciado ya los preparativos para realizar ese estudio a la mayor brevedad posible, en términos pragmáticos, y en estrecha cooperación con los organismos regionales y subregionales, para evitar duplicación de actividades. En este contexto, se habla también de la convocatoria de una consulta de expertos para acrecentar el acceso de los sectores pobres de la población a los alimentos. Desearíamos saber señor Presidente, cuándo se va a realizar esa consulta y si ya se pueden adelantar algunas informaciones al respecto.

El Gobierno de Colombia concede gran importancia a la seguridad alimentaria.

Hemos decidido dedicar Los mayores esfuerzos al fortalecimiento del sector agropecuario para procurar un incremento sustancial de La producción de alimentos, Lo cual garantizará el normal abastecimiento de los mismos a Las grandes ciudades, favoreciendo las demandas de Los sectores urbanos mayoritaria-mente pobres y asegurando la seguridad alimentaria, sobre todo a los grupos más vulnerables de la población.

Esa estrategia, dirigida por el Ministerio de Agricultura de Colombia, forma parte de un gran programa integral, cuyo componente principal es el apoyo a los pequeños y medianos productores campesinos, quienes tendrán acceso a líneas de crédito para la producción, el mercadeo y la organización de grupos comercializadores, complementariamente con proyectos gubernamentales de inversión, en obras de infraestructura: vías, acueductos, pequeños distritos de riego, electrificación, vivienda rural, centros de salud, escuelas, centros de acopio, de recreación y cultura. Asimismo, se orientarán programas de inversión para prestar asesoría y capacitación en la transferencia y aplicación de nuevas tecnologías productivas, maquinaria moderna apta para la producción campesina y todas las demandas alternativas que viabilicen el mejoramiento general de las condiciones económicas y sociales de los campesinos colombianos. Todo ello dirigido al fortalecimiento de la seguridad alimentaria en nuestro país.

El Minister. iode Agricultura se ha consolidado como el instrumento que dirige la totalidad de la política agropecuaria y ha recibido del gobierno el máximo apoyo para convertirse en el organismo líder de los grandes programas sociales que son una meta del gobierno del Presidente Virgilio Barco.

Dichos programas proponen combatir las situaciones depobreza absoluta que padecen millones de colombianos, habitantes de las zonas marginales de la ciudad y el campo.

En su reciente discurso ante la Asamblea General de las Naciones Unidas expresó el Presidente Virgilio Barco que, "En Colombia, a pesar de los esfuerzos realizados en favor del desarrollo y el bienestar de la población, enfrentamos en el presente una realidad dramática en relación con la pobreza. El 25 por ciento de la población, o sea 6 millones y medio de personas, se encuentran en una situación de pobreza absoluta. El desempleo abierto y el subempleo afectan a más de un tercio de la población económicamente activa".

Ante esas circunstancias, el gobierno colombiano ha adoptado medidas urgentes:Ha enviado a las Cámaras Legislativas proyectos de ley que faciliten poner en marcha, con eficacia y prontitud, reformas en las estructuras de la economía agraria yurbana; ha ordenado acciones inmediatas en programas de agua potable, vivienda, salud y nutrición y se prepara para ejecutar un plan de empleo de emergencia.

La Reforma Agraria en Colombia está concebida no solamente como un plan de redistribución de tierras, sino también como un programa de desarrollo integral y de seguridad alimentaria. Esto es, con las inversiones necesarias en infraestructura, en crédito y en transferencia de tecnología.

Es también decisión del actual gobierno colombiano, orientar los recursos públicos y el crédito internacional hacia la inversión social, en programas capaces de generar bienestar colectivo y una distribución más equitativa de la riqueza nacional.

El Presidente Barco en los diversos foros internacionales ha formulado un llamado a Los países de América Latina y del mundo entero para concertar una acción solidaria contra la pobreza absoluta. Colombia está auspiciando una reunión de los países de la región, de los industrializados y de aquellos en vía de desarrollo, que quieran hacer propuestas e intercambiar experiencias útiles en La gran batalla de la civilización contra ese degradante flagelo social.

Colombia ha recibido de la FAO, desde hace muchos años, su apoyo invaluable, conjuntamente con otros organismos de las Naciones Unidas.

La FAO ha facilitado recursos financieros y experiencia técnica para diseñar y poner en funcionamiento sistemas de información y de planificación regional esenciales para lograr la modernización del sector agropecuario y un mejor aprovechamiento de nuestras posibilidades productivas.

De igual manera, trata jamos con la FAO en la aplicación de opciones diversas para explotar recurso que, como Los de la pesca, tienen en Colombia un enorme potencial y significan soluciones reales a Los problemas de La desnutrición y La alimentación, en busca de La seguridad alimentaria.

La delegación de Colombia reconoce que-taL vez para compensar Los efectos nocivos de su política proteccionista-La Comunidad Económica Europea está financiando estudios sobre seguridad alimenta en el marco deLa Junta del Acuerdo de Cartagena (JUNAC).

Son simplemente estudios los que auspicia la CEE. Ojalá que La FAO coayudaraesa iniciativa para hacerla realmente eficaz.

Pero sigamos analizando el documento que nos ocupa. Quizá Lo más preocupante es Lo planteado en el párrafo 14. El difícil dilema en que han sido colocados los países en desarrollo, víctimas de políticas proteccionistas por parte de los países desarrollados en medio de una compleja debilidad de La demanda mundial de alimentos y de una inmensa deuda externa que nos agobia: muchos de nuestro Estados tienen que sacrificar su crecimiento económico, estancándose, porque las pocas divisas que obtienen, en un comercio internacional oprimido por las barreras, tienen que dedicarlas al servicio de la deuda y no están en condiciones de importar alimentos, no obstante que Los precios de Los cereales hayan bajado.

En este contexto, la deuda externa en los países en desarrollo y particularmente en América Latina es comparable a una larga sequía que no sabemos cuánto va a durar.

Así pues, no se trata solamente de apuntalar los programas de cooperación, sino de encontrar soluciones sólidas y duraderas.

Finalmente, reiterando el llamado del Presidente Barco, en el foro mundial: "Nos corresponde mirar hacia adelante. Estamos tan solo a menos de 14 años del tercer milenio de nuestra era. La guerra y la paz, el desarrollo, ios derechos humanos, son asuntos que deben discutirse internacionaimente paralograr, por la vía de la negociación, los compromisos eficaces que nos permitan avanzar".

"Los pobres, los desempleados, los discriminados, los campesinos que no pueden producir Lo que necesitan lo's niños, que mueren diaramente de hambre y de enfermedades que podrían ser curadas sin mayor esfuerzo. Son desigualdades, cada día más intolerables en un planeta que tiene-esa es la verdad-la capacidad de superarlas".

Solitariamente no existen salidas para tan graves situaciones. Solidariamente podemos construir un mundo mejor... existen los medios; existe la tecnología. Nos falta el propósito. Nos falta la dec is ion.

La esperanza debe inspirar otra vez, con toda su fuerza, las acciones de la sociedad internacional

José Ramón LOPEZ-PORTILLO ROMANO (México): la delegación de México se une a Las expresiones de ree cimiento y de agradecimiento al Presidente del C. S. A. , Ministro Guillermo González, y le feLicitita por la clara y comprensiva introducción al tema.

La delegación de México coincide con el informe al señalar nuestra preocupación por el hecho de que las políticas de los principales países exportadores de cereales contribuyen a reducir aún más los mercados y los precios mundiales de esos productos.

Si bien se prevé que para 1990 la producción mundial de cereales aumentará más rápidamente que la demanda, el suministro per cápita de alimentos en los países en desarrollo aumentará sólo marginalmente en vista de que la producción será inferior a la demanda y los ingresos irán a la zaga del ritmo de crecimiento de los años 70.

Para hacer frente a una menor seguridad alimentaria, la comunidad internacional debeincrementar sustancialmente su asistencia y el otorgamiento de insumos. Coincidimos en ese sentido, comose expresa en el informe, en que las operaciones triangulares deben potenciarse y en que la necesidad de que la ayuda alimentaria sea oportuna y que se ligue a la política de desarrollo es un imperativo.

La delegación mexicana reitera la importancia de enriquecer el concepto ampliado de seguridad alimentaria con un reconocimiento explícito del papel determinante que juegan los insumos agrícolas, tales como los fertilizantes, plaguicidas, semillas, maquinaria, crédito, etc.

Por otro lado subrayamos la necesidad de que los países desarrollados adopten las medidas necesarias para revertir los factores adversos que menoscaban los mecanismos del comercio internacional de productos agroalimentarios, tales como el proteccionismo, las restricciones al crecimiento de los mercados internacionales de productos básicos, la inestabilidad monetaria, las oscilaciones de los tipos de cambio y el elevado servicio de la deuda.

En el examen del crecimiento de la producción y de las reservas internacionales de alimentos, deben incorporarse dos elementos fundamentales, a saber: primero, la desregularización agrícola de los países desarrollados y la manipulación de los precios internacionales de los productos básicos que afecta principalmente a los países en desarrollo. El primer elemento favorece la aceleración del proceso de concentración monopólica de la producción en los países desarrollados, que llevará a reducir excedentes y a incrementar los precios a mediano plazo. El segundo, está provocando el abandono de la producción en los países en desarrollo. El resultado de estos dos factores es por tanto una mayor dependencia y subordinación alimentaria de los países en desarrollo.

Subrayamos la función económica, social y cultural de las raíces, tubérculos y plátanos, así como de los llamados cereales secundarios en la seguridad alimentaria en el Tercer Mundo. En este sentido apoyamos plenamente las medidas recomendadas por el Comité para el África Subsahariana, para darles prioridad en el estímulo de la producción y en el consumo rural y urbano. El África Subsahariana nos merece el reconocimiento de prioridad indiscutible.

Por otra parte, como es del conocimiento de este Comité la región de América Latina y el Caribe, pidió al Director General en la 19ª Conferencia Regional en Barbados, la realización de un estudio y plan de acción sobre el sector agrícola y alimentario en nuestra región.

Mi delegación subraya que abrigamos importantes esperanzas de tal estudio, en tanto no sea un mero análisis monográfico de situaciones y problemas que todos conocemos, sino que se concentren en las tendencias y sobre todo acciones y expectativas en el mediano plazo, es decir, 5 a 10 años. Que ese estudio nos permita diseñar mejor nuestra estrategia de producción y comercialización, los cauces de la cooperación económica y técnica entre nuestros países y sobre todo que estimule a la comunidad internacional a responder a los imperativos de asistencia, ayuda y financiamiento en nuestra región.

La parte medular del estudio la representa desde nuestro punto de vista, el plan de acción de la FAO hacia nuestra región, es decir, lo que nuestra organización puede hacer a fin de contribuir a consolidar una estrategia de seguridad alimentaria, y que responda también a las características y necesidades de los pequeños y medianos productores agrícolas y grupos marginados y zonas deprimidas tanto rurales como urbanas.

Debe, por tanto, evaluarse la importancia de los cultivos tradicionales de producción local en el sector de subsistencia y su transcendencia económica y nutricional en el contexto de las disponibilidades nacionales de alimentos. Asimismo, debe cuidarse el diseño de técnicas de elaboración apropiadas para obtener, de los cultivos secundarios, los alimentos convenientes para el consumo urbano, que se ajusten a los gustos y preferencias locales, con miras a limitar importaciones y a producir lo que con mayor rendimiento se da en las diversas subregiones.

En este contexto es importante que el estudio reconozca el papel prioritario que los llamados cereales secundarios, así como las raíces, tubérculos y frutos en general tienen en América Latina y el Caribe y que por ello merecen un tratamiento especial.

De ahí que los programas de investigación agrícola, producción y aplicación de variedades de plantas y sus respectivos paquetes tecnológicos, así como la capacitación y transferencia tecnológica, deban diseñarse atendiendo a las prioridades y características antes señaladas cuidando que no generen dependencia de ninguna especie.

Finalmente, tocante al estudio sobre la posibilidad de establecer depósitos preventivos de existencia de alimentos, que se realizará de acuerdo a las recomendaciones del Comité, pensamos que debe abarcar a todas las regiones, inclusive la de América Latina y el Caribe.

E. Vernon WADE-BROWN (United Kingdom): I should like to begin by thanking Mr Gonzales for his excellent introduction. The report of the 11th Session of the Committee on World Food Security adequately reflects the harmonious and constructive discussions which took place on a number of most important issues. Because of this my intervention on behalf of the Government of the United Kingdom will be fairly brief.

Paragraph 15 refers to a study on prospects for and constraints to the expansion of trade in agricultural products among developing countries. We would be very interested to learn about progress made so far and whether it is envisaged that the findings will be presented at the 12th Session of the Committee on World Food Security next April.

We retain reservations on the recommendation made in paragraph 23. In our view primary consideration must be given to the adoption of sound policies and the creation of effective markets. In our experience heavy investment in infrastructure with high recurrent costs in low-income countries has often proved to be counter-productive.

We strongly support triangular transactions where such transactions can be seen to be cost-effective. We have this year purchased maize from Zimbabwe to meet emergency needs in neighbouring countries with the assistance of WFP. We intend to continue to make use of such transactions and would encourage donors to do likewise.

At the 11th Session we voiced unreserved support for the excellent document on roots, tubers and plantains. We support the observations and conclusions contained in the report.

We would like to stress the importance of mobilizing extension services as a means to reduce losses due to pests and disease. It is important that farmers are aware of the importance of planting disease-free stock. The paper correctly points out that any extension effort should be directed particularly at women farmers.

At the CFS we expressed concern that the paper on prepositioning of foodstuffs reached conclusions without fully considering cost implications and alternatives to prepositioning. We agree that consideration of cost effectiveness is inappropriate in an emergency situation where expeditious delivery of food supplies is the primary consideration in order to alleviate human suffering and avoid loss of life. We, like most other donor countries, have the machinery to respond very quickly in a real emergency, and when we talk about cost-effectiveness we do so in terms of the formulation of a long-term strategy to cope with emergency situations.

We have responded to requests for information in connection with the analysis mentioned in paragraph 51, and we will be interested to learn the results at the 12th Session in April next year.

We welcome the conclusions and recommendations contained in the sections of the report covering national preparedness plans and the Food Security Assistance Scheme.

Finally, we hope that FAO initiatives will concentrate on assisting countries to make decisions rather than to provide advice to countries on how to pass the responsibility for food security to donors. We also hope that FAO will fully take into account the necessity to strengthen existing institutional capacity where this is possible rather than advocating the establishment of new institutions.

Temel Iskit, Vice-Chairman of the Council, took the chair.

Temel Iskit, Vice-Président du Conseil, assume la présidence.

Ocupa la presidencia Temel Iskit, Vicepresidente del Consejo.

Mounir KHORAYCH (Liban) (langue originale arabe): Ma délégation a étudié avec la plus grande attention le rapport de la 11^{ème} session du CSA. Nous sommes heureux de constater que le Comité, conformément au mandat qui lui a été attribué, continue à chercher les voies et les moyens pour améliorer la situation alimentaire dans les pays en développement, conformément aux nouveaux concepts de la SAM.

Pour ce qui est de la sécurité alimentaire à court terme, ma délégation fait siennes les préoccupations consignées dans le rapport du CSA et qui indiquent que la consommation des denrées alimentaires de base par habitant a baissé dans environ la moitié des pays à faible revenu et à déficit alimentaire et qu'un grand nombre de personnes continuent de souffrir de malnutrition même dans Les pays où la consommation par habitant a augmenté. Les difficultés économiques et financières, qui limitent la possibilité d'un bon nombre de pays en développement à importer les céréales dont ils ont besoin, constituent à nos yeux une autre source de préoccupation-Malgré la baisse des cours internationaux des céréales par rapport aux niveaux relativement bas qu'ils ont atteints dans Le passé, La balance des paiements dans beaucoup de pays en développement continue à se détériorer à la suite de l'effondrement des prix de Leurs produits à l'exportation, ce qui alourdit Le poids de la dette et du service de la dette, et dans plusieurs cas la chute de l'aide officielle au développement.

Les problèmes alimentaires auxquels sont confrontés certains pays en développement sont dus en grande partie à l'environnement extérieur qui ne dépend pas de leur volonté. Plusieurs pays en développement n'arrivent pas à satisfaire leurs besoins en denrées alimentaires par les seules importations commerciales à cause de leurs faiblesses structurelles et à cause des barrières commerciales. La faiblesse de la demande mondiale des importations, la chute continue des prix à l'exportation et les politiques protectionnistes de plusieurs pays développés entravent la génération de revenus à l'exportation des pays développés, en outre les subventions à l'exportation et les pratiques connexes des pays développés finissent par endommager les autres pays exportateurs dont, en particulier, les pays en développement.

Ma délégation se félicite de l'étude réalisée par la FAO sur les perspectives alimentaires à moyen terme et partage les préoccupations formulées par le CSA sur la consommation alimentaire par habitant dans plusieurs pays à faible revenu et à déficit alimentaire surtout en Afrique où la consommation par habitant de céréales, racines et tubercules est estimée à un niveau en 1990 inférieur à la période de présécheresse de 1979 à 1981. Sur la base de ces projections négatives, un grand nombre de pays à faible revenu et à déficit alimentaire continueront à avoir besoin d'une aide alimentaire importante pour faire face à leur besoin de consommation même dans les années de récoltes normales.

Il faudra également renforcer les mécanismes d'utilisation des excédents alimentaires dans les pays développés exportateurs de denrées alimentaires par le truchement des transactions triangulaires. Nous appuyons les initiatives prises par la FAO pour promouvoir ce genre" de transactions et pour veiller à l'existence d'excédents au niveau des régions.

L'examen par le CSA du rôle des racines, tubercules et plantains dans la sécurité alimentaire dans l'Afrique au sud du Sahara revêt une importance capitale car ces produits de base sont extrêmement importants dans le régime nutritionnel de plusieurs pays de la région. Nous appuyons la recommandation que le CSA a faite au Secrétariat pour qu'il réalise une étude similaire au profit de l'Amérique latine et des Caraïbes. Etant donné que les racines et les tubercules sont également importants pour certains pays insulaires de l'océan Pacifique, nous souhaitons que cette étude couvre également cette région.

L'étude relative à la mise en place anticipée de stocks pour accélérer l'acheminement de L'aide alimentaire d'urgence est arrivée à point nommé et découle de l'expérience acquise au cours de la crise alimentaire en Afrique de 1983 à 1985. Ma délégation est préoccupée des retards énormes de cette aide alimentaire qui doit satisfaire des besoins d'urgence. Il est également paradoxal que diverses procédures administratives soient à l'origine de ce retard malgré la générosité des donateurs qui annoncent leurs engagements en temps approprié. Ces mesures sont contradictoires au bon sens même qui veut qu'une priorité soit accordée à ce genre d'aides. Ma délégation trouve que la proposition relative aux ressources supplémentaires, nécessaires à la mise en place anticipée de stocks pour accélérer la livraison de l'aide d'urgence est une proposition bien fondée, pratique et modérée, et invite l'Organisation à mettre en place des stocks de 150 000 tonnes de céréales avec un coût annuel allant jusqu'à 2, 5 millions de dollars environ. Il est à noter que ces coûts représentent moins de 0, 1 pour cent du coût annuel total de l'aide alimentaire fournie actuellement.

Quoi qu'il en soit, la mise en place anticipée de stocks pour accélérer la livraison de l'aide représente énormément d'avantages puisque le prépositionnement de ces stocks dans les ports des pays donateurs diminue de moitié le temps de réponse, ce qui représente une amélioration appréciable; c'est pourquoi nous lançons aux pays donateurs un appel pour qu'ils accordent à cette proposition le plus grand intérêt, bien que nous soyons conscients qu'ils ont leurs propres procédures administratives d'acheminement de l'aide alimentaire qui visent également à raccourcir le temps de réponse. Nous nous félicitons de la proposition du CSA relative aux mesures administratives et aux procédures d'achat et de transport de l'aide alimentaire qui visent à limiter au maximum le temps de réponse.

Ma délégation se félicite enfin du rôle important joué par la planification des moyens nationaux de parer aux crises alimentaires. Et je voudrais réaffirmer à ce propos la nécessité pour les pays en développement de joindre leurs efforts pour surmonter la situation d'instabilité alimentaire à court et à moyen terme.

Ma délégation appuie pleinement le contenu du paragraphe 53 où il est indiqué que malgré une bonne préparation au niveau national pour faire face aux situations alimentaires d'urgence, les pays en développement doivent mettre en tête de leur liste de priorités l'augmentation de la production vivrière à long terme s'ils veulent éviter dans l'avenir des situations alimentaires d'urgence répétées à l'instar de celles qui ont frappé le continent africain. Par conséquent les plans d'amélioration des moyens de parer aux crises alimentaires doivent être conçus comme étant une partie intégrante des programmes de sécurité alimentaire à long terme.

Joachim WINKEL (Germany, Federal Republic of): The World Food Security Committee's discussions on world food are an important contribution to world food security and are highly appreciated by my Government.

We particularly welcome the very differentiated account of the discussions at the eleventh CFS session which is clearly reflected in the document CL 90/10.

We consider the efforts of the CFS particularly positive to include, in addition to considering the cereal supply situation, also non-cereal staples in the discussion, as spelled out in paragraphs 8 to 11 of the document before us. As regards paragraph 12, I would, however, like to point out that the official development cooperation of my country has not been declining this year compared to the preceding year, but on the contrary has been increasing. The rate of growth of this item of the Federal Budget is even exceeding the average rate of growth of the overall national budget of 1986.

During the last few years we have always advocated a further liberalization of world trade. Therefore, we largely share the statements in paragraph 14 of the document and welcome the declaration on the negotiating mandate of GATT recently adopted in Punta del Este. The statements in paragraph 14 concerning the operations of transnational corporations, however, seem less differentiated to us, than the conclusions to which the discussions have led at the eleventh session of the World Food Council in Paris in June 1985.

We share the statements in paragraphs 15 to 25 of the document. The increased expansion of cooperation among developing countries (this also applies to trade, as reflected in paragraph 30) is in our opinion of particular importance. Strong incentives for an improvement in world food security could result therefrom. Triangular transactions (as mentioned in paragraphs 18 to 24) are also gaining momentum in the food aid provided by the European Community in which we have a share of 28 percent. We consider the statements in paragraph 25 of the document particularly positive.

We welcome the statements in paragraphs 35 to 42 of the document before us. In our view, a greater consideration of roots, tubers and plantains in the diet is also a practicable way of strengthening world food security.

As regards the question of prepositioning food stocks to expedite delivery of food aid, my delegation shares the view stated in paragraph 51 of the document that this complex of questions still needs further analysis. In this connection let me point out that the food stocks that we have meet the criteria of prepositioning as described in the documents of the CFS. In my country we maintain several hundred warehouses where food stocks are held and from which stocks can be withdrawn for the purpose of food aid, and quite a number of the warehouses are in the proximity of sea ports. We normally avail ourselves of the ports of Hamburg and Antwerp. We particularly welcome the proposed strictly voluntary character of such measures of prepositioning.

As regards national preparedness planning to cope with food emergencies we particularly share the statements in paragraph 60 stressing the need for further improving coordination between FAO, other international organizations and donors in developing countries.

Hasim ÖGÜT (Turkey) Like the previous speaker I should like to start with a general remark that the Committee's yearly assessment of the World Food Security situation has always been very useful for us, especially following the adoption of the broadened concept of World Food Security a few years ago. We gladly noticed that the eleventh session of the Committee was a successful one in respect of its observations, conclusions and recommendations on very important issues. Therefore, we are glad to say that we fully support all these conclusions and recommendations. Having offered our general support for the report I now wish to make some specific remarks.

Turning to the report, one may firstly observe with regret that in the course of one year which elapsed since the tenth session of the Committee the World Food Security situation had not fundamentally improved. It may also be noted, but with caution, that certain developments have occurred in the right direction, such as global recovery of food production in Africa and the attainment of record crops in a number of developing countries in other regions. Indeed, it would not be difficult to notice, (as the Committee draws attention to these facts) that such developments did not lead to an improvement of the food security situation in these countries, for various reasons.

First of all, the external environment did, and still does, hamper the efforts of developing countries aiming at the improvement of the food security situation. In this connection, in particular, I should like to mention the adverse effects of the decline in trade earnings from agricultural commodities on the food security situation in developing countries. Despite all their achievements in augmenting productivity and output in agriculture and the agreements in export volumes, developing countries have started to earn less due to the declining pattern of international prices and persistent protectionist policies applied to world commodity trade by some countries.

It is repeatedly said by my delegation, as well as other delegations, that trade plays a fundamentally determining role in the world food supply and demand system and consequently in the role of food security. Therefore we do not find it surprising to see the adverse effects of the worsening trade environment for the export products of developing countries and their food security situation. Monetary instability and high debt burdens further deprived these countries to meet their additional food requirements by means of imports. In the light of this we fully share the concern expressed by the majority of delegates over the worsening international economic and trading environment and its consequences on world food security.

I also wish to state that we fully endorse the recommendation of the Committee in paragraph 21 which calls on all countries to consider actions to improve this environment. Among the various factors that adversely affected the food security situation in some developing countries I wish to point to the declining level of governments' social assistance programmes to the poor and the resulting deterioration in the accessibility to food by this group of people. With this in mind, we hope that the committee will be given an opportunity at a future session to study the role played by the declining level of support to the poor and the persistent widespread hunger and malnutrition in developing countries.

As regards the subject of prepositioning food stocks to expeditedeliveryof emergency food aid, we share the view that in addition to its contribution to reducing the delivery period at the time of the food emergencies, it can also facilitate the handling at the ports by avoiding possible congestion. Taking into account the consequences on human lives of delays in food deliveries and the insignificant level of cost involved in the food prepositioning operations, my delegation encourages FAO to undertake a more detailed study referred to in paragraph 51 on this subject in order to compare the cost effectiveness of prepositioning stocks with that of other arrangements that the donor governments are presently making in this regard. We hope this comparative study will provide us with a broad framework within which all delegates can see and appreciate the relative usefulness and cost effectiveness of food prepositioning.

Lastly, I should like to take up the section of the report relating to national preparedness planning to respond to food emergencies. We share the Committee's view that national preparedness plans, when formulated as an integral part of overall food security programmes, will enable governments better to cope with food emergencies. We also agree with the observation contained in paragraph 55 that the coverage of such plans in terms of necessary arrangements should not be established in a standard form but should be country specific, addressing specific needs and conditions.

Let me now emphasize the fact that in view of the complexity of formulating and implementing these country specific plans we believe that the training of people to assume responsibilities on this exercise should be given great importance and attention by FAO and other organizations. In this context, I particularly wish to mention the need for training arrangements on a regional basis through TCDC arrangements to help these people share their respective national experiences in coping with food emergencies.

Michel MOMBOULI (Congo): Ainsi que cela ressort des annexes b) et c) de ce rapport de la onzième session du Comité de la sécurité alimentaire mondiale, le Congo, notre pays, qui est membre de ce comité, a bel et bien été représenté aux travaux de sa onzième session. Pour cette raison et pour éviter d'ouvrir à nouveau les débats sur des sujets déjà examinés, notre délégation est heureuse de réaffirmer son adhésion totale au consensus obtenu Lors de La dernière session de ce comité sur Les différentes questions traitées. Toutefois, tout en suivant L'accueil qu'ont réservé à ce rapport les autres membres du Conseil, notre délégation voudrait saisir La présente occasion pour dire au Conseil, à titre d'indication et d'orientation pour la période après la onzième session du Comité de la sécurité alimentaire mondiale, que, bien qu'une modeste reprise de La production agricole semble s'amorcer en Afrique, après Les dernières pénuries alimentaires qui ont endeuillé plus d'une famille, nous exortons la communauté des donateurs, et avec elle les organisations internationales à soutenir les gouvernements des pays en voie de développement dans leurs efforts pour accroître Leur production alimentaire et pour l'accomplissement total de la haute priorité qu'il est convenu de donner au secteur vivrier dans leur politique de développement.

C'est du reste en raison de l'importance que revêt La sécurité alimentaire pour La communauté humaine, que notre pays, fidèle à sa politique de paix et de justice, n'a cessé et ne cessera de dénoncer Les agressions perpétrées par l'Afrique du Sud dans les pays de La ligne de front en Afrique australe dans La mesure où ces agressions sont déstabilisatrices et mettent en péril la sécurité alimentaire de ces pays.

Le Congo notre pays, pour qui les racines, les tubercules, les bananes et Les plantains sont Les aliments de base de sa population et jouent un rôle fondamental dans sa sécurité alimentaire, se réjouit de l'importance récente accordée à ces cultures par la FAO dans ses programmes de recherche de production et de transformation; et nous tenons à encourager la FAO à poursuivre La demande dans cette voie; cette préoccupation reste également celle des autres pays de notre sous-région d'Afrique centrale.

Le Comité n'étant pas parvenu à un consensus sur la question de La mise en place anticipée des stocks d'aliments visant à accélérer les livraisons de L'aide d'urgence, notre pays, qui voit dans ces stocks facilement mobilisables un mécanisme indispensable, attend avec grand intérêt L'étude complémentaire demandée à ce sujet à la FAO.

Enfin, pour terminer, notre délégation désire réitérer son appui aux systèmes d'information et d'alerte rapide de la FAO dont il recommande le renforcement.

Badr BEN AMMAR (Tunisie): La Tunisie voudrait tout d'abord associer sa voix à celle des délégations qui l'ont déjà précédée pour exprimer sa satisfaction de vous voir à la présidence, M. le Président, et pour remercier M. Gonzalez de son introduction claire et précise du document soumis actuellement à l'examen du Conseil.

La Tunisie exprime sa satisfaction quant au rapport de la 11^{ème} session du Comité de la sécurité alimentaire mondiale et aux conclusions et recommandations auxquelles il a abouti. Notre intervention se limitera donc à quelques observations.

L'importance du rôle joué par le Comité de la sécurité alimentaire mondiale n'est plus à démontrer. Depuis onze années ce Comité se réunit périodiquement pour étudier la situation de la sécurité alimentaire mondiale, proposer des solutions à moyen et court termes, et assurer la réussite des opérations d'aide alimentaire. Il s'agit ici d'un rôle humanitaire que joue la FAO dans le but de contribuer à l' eradication progressive de la faim et de la malnutrition dans le monde. Les efforts fournis par la FAO ont été couronnés par le dépassement, pour la seconde année consécutive, du volume de 10 millions de tonnes d'aide alimentaire. Cette performance ne peut qu'être un stimulant pour la FAO dans le sens de la persévérance et de l'intensification de ses efforts afin de contribuer davantage à l'amélioration de la situation de La sécurité alimentaire dans le monde. Cependant si le dépassement de 10 millions de tonnes constitue une performance en soi, cela ne peut être que la résultante d'une détérioration de la situation alimentaire et nutritionnelle dans certaines régions du monde, et plus particulièrement en Afrique. En effet, on ne peut parler de sécurité alimentaire et nutritionnelle sans parler de l'Afrique, ce continent qui ne fait que subir des calamités de différentes sortes et qui n'est pas encore parvenu à assurer une adéquation entre l'évolution démographique et l'accroissement de la production alimentaire. Pire encore, les projections prévoient une détérioration de la situation alimentaire et nutritionnelle à moyen terme; la préoccupation mondiale à l'égard de ce problème ne peut à elle seule résoudre ce problème.

Il revient donc aux pays concernés eux-mêmes, avec l'appui de la communauté internationale d'améliorer la situation alimentaire en accordant plus d'attention au développement du secteur agricole, en définissant des politiques claires en faveur du développement de l'agriculture. Toutefois, cet effort ne saurait aboutir à des résultats positifs sans l'appui de la communauté internationale. Cette dernière devrait appuyer les efforts des pays concernés et garantir ainsi la réussite de leurs programmes par l'assistance technique, le transfert de technologies appropriées et adaptées, et l'assainissement de l'environnement économique international, tout particulièrement par l'amélioration du climat du commerce mondial.

La onzième session du Comité de la sécurité alimentaire mondiale a introduit l'idée de la mise en place anticipée de stocks pour accélérer la livraison de l'aide d'urgence. Cette formule devrait assurer plus de rapidité et par conséquent rendre plus efficaces les opérations d'urgence. Il est proposé dans le rapport un examen plus large et plus approfondi de cette proposition; nous en convenons, tout en lançant un appel afin que cet examen soit réalisé aussitôt que possible et que l'on essaye d'identifier la meilleure formule de son exécution.

Trois formules sont proposées dans le rapport; nous avons une certaine inclinaison pour la troisième alternative, à savoir l'établissement et la gestion des stocks prévisionnels sur une base multilatérale, et la détention de ces stocks par un organisme international tel que le PAM.

L'initiative prise par le Comité de la sécurité alimentaire mondiale d'étudier de plus près le rôle des racines, des plantains et des tubercules dans la sécurité alimentaire, ne fait que démontrer la nécessité de baser cette dernière essentiellement sur les ressources propres des pays vulnérables. Cette proposition garantit le développement de la production agricole locale dans les pays en considération et éviterait le changement dans leurs habitudes alimentaires qui, une fois basées essentiellement sur les aliments importés, affecteraient négativement leur sécurité alimentaire. Ainsi dans le sens du renforcement de cette idée, les opérations triangulaires pourraient servir de support.

Mrs Marasee SURAKUL (Thailand): The Thai delegation notes the statement in document CL 90/10 with interest. As regards world food security, it is clearly indicated that the world security situation has improved since the last meeting on world food security because of the increase in food production both in developed and developing countries, including the low-income food-deficit countries, although world trade in staple foods and food aid slightly declined.

The problem of undernourishment and malnutrition of people is evident in the developing countries. This is one of the most critical problems of the world. Both the developed and the developing countries have the same common interest in this problem and have made efforts to alleviate it. The other problem is food insecurity. It is important to highlight this food insecurity. The cause of food insecurity lies not only in the recent drought and floods but also in the failure of nations to develop economic systems that generate real income for the poor to help them to improve this situation of malnutrition.

Dietmar KINZEL (Austria): I would like to thank Mr Gonzalez for introducing the Report on the Eleventh Session of the Committee. We have noted with satisfaction, a certain recovery in the world food situation. We are, however, concerned that in a number of lower income food deficit countries in Africa the per capita consumption of food has declined in spite of increased production.

We believe that considerable efforts are needed to stabilise and extend the partial success so far achieved, in view of the relatively good crop in 1986, and considering the fact that some 60 million people are without any purchasing power. The world food problem seems to be mainly an employment problem. Productivity increase in food production as well as the improvement of storage capacities and the infrastructure of transport are, therefore, urgent requirements. In 1986 numerous developing countries harvested bumper crops. Unfortunately, we have to note that there are great difficulties in selling their surpluses at declining prices in the world market. Production increased by 2 percent in the developing countries thus exceeding the rise in the industrialised countries.

In this connection, may I repeat that in developing countries, following falling incomes, production is decreasing, whereas in developed countries, farmers are producing more and more for increasing earnings. In particular, the production of maize, millet and sorghum could be raised in the African region. The overall food situation in Africa thus improved in 1985.

The area under cultivation was above the average yields and meat production increased, whilst in 1984, 21 countries of the continent still suffered great deficiencies. One year later, this situation was found only in six countries. The prices of agricultural products often fell sharply in 1985. In real terms the world market prices of staple foods dropped to the level of 1966.

The recession in export earnings added to the deterioration of the Crade balances recorded over the last ten years. The expert consultations envisaged by the FAO, with a view to providing the poor with better access to foods, should, in our opinion, also include measures to improve the employment situation. The improvement of storage facilities for cereals, and the improvement of **the** transport infrastructure undoubtedly deserve our support. As stated in paragraph 40 to 42 when formulating national policies for the developing countries, greater priority should be given to roots and tubers, the importance of which has so far been under-estimated. Their production should be encouraged by adequate incentive.

Michael J. RYAN (Australia): Australia considers the Committee on Food Security as a most useful mechanism for international consultations on the key issues affecting the state of world food security. In our experience, the Secretariat's research is thorough and the documentation well prepared and presented, thus we welcome this Report. We recognise the fact that food insecurity results basically from poverty, for instance the lack of purchasing power rather than from inadequate physical availability of food at the global level. Consequently, a significant share of Australian overseas development assistance is directed toward activities designed to improve food security in developing countries.

This assistance is provided in the forms of food projects, training and research, especially through the Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research. We are fully aware of the constraints imposed upon the achievements of developing country food security by developed country protectionist trading policies, including subsidisation of agricultural trade. I do not wish to labour this point as we have spoken at length on this subject under a previous item, suffice it to say. Australia is also adversely affected by such policies and inappropriate international fora and is actively seeking the liberalisation of world trade, especially agricultural trade.

On the question of pre-positioning of stocks to expedite delivery of emergency food aid we recall that, importantly, the analysis considered by the Committee on Food Security at its Eleventh Session, did not encompass, as an element of total emergency response time, the time required in the recipient country for internal transport and distribution of emergency food aid from the port, or point of entry, to the target beneficiaries.

According to the World Food Programme, lack of internal logistics capacity appeared to be a major, if not the most important, handicap to an efficiency emergency response to the African food crisis. Therefore, any administrative response, time-saving realised through pre-positioning in getting food aid to the recipient's port of entry, can be more than offset by lack of internal logistics capacity. It is relevant to ask whether funds invested in establishing and managing a pre-positioned emergency food aid stock could yield a greater return, in terms of savings in delivery to target beneficiaries, by being invested in strengthening internal logistics capacity, in countries vulnerable to food emergencies.

We note that the Twenty-first CFA, earlier this year, considered *inter alia* the WFP recommendation for improving the operation of IEFRR in order to reduce WFP's total emergency response time. Implementation of these recommendations could conceivably diminish the need for pre-positioning.

On the question of national preparedness planning to cope with food emergencies, Australia believes that the effectiveness of any national preparedness plan depends entirely on a degree of government commitment to it, including the level of authority and resources given to the administrative mechanisms established as part of a plan. In this context, serious political commitment to the nationalisation of agricultural sector policies is essential in countries vulnerable to food emergencies.

On the question of the Food Security Assistance Scheme, Australia has contributed a total of around 6.5 million to specific FSAS activities and, in general, we have been disappointed with the scheme. Some projects appear to have been inadequately designed and very slowly implemented. The FAO's record of reporting to Australia on the expenditure of our contributions and on project progress has, in general, been unsatisfactory. However, we are happy to inform the Council that there has been an improvement in this area in recent months. Nevertheless, Australia supports the CFS request for a more analytical assessment of the scheme in the next review report.

I would like to refer to a couple of specific paragraphs in the document before us. On page 2, paragraph 12, we would say that whilst the recent declines in the value of the US dollar, real interest rates and petrol prices are likely to improve the economic situation in many developing countries, it is important to note that they will not necessarily benefit all such countries. For example, the depreciation of the US dollar will increase the competitiveness of US exports and will make it more difficult for the developing countries' exports, both agricultural and manufactured, to compete in world markets. Secondly, lower world oil prices will reduce the export revenues of oil exporting developing countries.

On page 3, paragraph 13, we believe it is questionable whether the falling grain prices will encourage output by efficient low cost producers in developed countries. The agricultural support systems in both the European Community and the USA insulate farmers from the full effects of world price fluctuations. Consequently it is unlikely that there would be any reduction in output by the least efficient producers in those countries which could be taken up by more efficient producers either in the EEC, in the USA, or elsewhere.

Finally, a point on paragraph 14, on page 3, the point made regarding the inconsistency of certain developed countries in using subsidies to first produce and then dispose of surpluses, we feel is an extremely valid one. The economic irrationality of these policies should be strongly emphasized.

Leopoldo ARIZA HIDALGO (Cuba): Nosotros queremos felicitar primeramente por la presentación del tema que nos hizo nuestro colega y amigo el Ministro Guillermo González. Hizo un recuento pormenorizado de las cuestiones fundamentales, si no de todas, que se examinaron en este período del Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria. Este período del Comité la delegación de Cuba lo considera como uno de los más fructíferos de los que se han efectuado en los últimos tiempos. Fue una discusión bastante amplia, como lo refleja el documento y muy profunda. Puede que el tiempo de abril a noviembre haya hecho variar algunas cuestiones que habrá de analizar. Sin embargo, consideramos que este período ha sido digno de que probemos este informe en su totalidad.

Nosotros, en realidad, no tenemos observación alguna, por lo que entendemos que debe ser aprobado por este Consejo. Durante la discusión se ha hecho referencia a algunas de las cuestiones discutidas. No tengo intención de aburrir un poco con cuestiones que ya han sido discutidas y que este informe recoge con suficiente claridad, si lo aprobamos en todas sus partes. Consideramos que el análisis hecho por el Comité en sectores tan importantes para la seguridad alimentaria mundial, como producción, investigación, comercio, reservas alimentarias, transacciones triangulares y acceso a los alimentos, demostraron una vez más la importancia que se le da en esta Organización a aspectos tan prioritarios como sin lugar a dudas es la seguridad alimentaria y que claramente se pueden constatar en los párrafos 19 a 24 del documento CL 90/10 que se nos presenta.

Asimismo, una muestra más de la preocupación constante del Director General, es la propuesta hecha al Comité de que se examinaran las perspectivas a plazo medio de suministro y las necesidades mundiales de alimentos con el objeto de mejorar la base analítica para la labor. Creo que es una cuestión muy importante. Si no hacemos realmente un análisis de base tendríamos que seguir machacando sobre las mismas cuestiones.

En realidad son dignas de elogio las medidas introducidas por la FAO al elaborar sus proyecciones sobre la base del modelo alimentario mundial, lo cual permitió determinar en forma simultánea la oferta, la demanda, el comercio, los precios en el sistema de cereales, semillas oleaginosas, ganadería y hacer extensivas las proyecciones a las raíces, tubérculos y leguminosas.

No queremos, como dije al principio, entrar en consideraciones de la situación mundial de la crisis y los problemas exógenos y endógenos que cada país tiene a la hora de analizar los problemas de la seguridad alimentaria mundial. Pero si teniendo en cuenta la importancia de este 11º período de sesiones del Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria Mundial, que para nosotros puede tener repercusiones si llevamos sus acuerdos a seguimiento, porque se puede convertir en un gran recuento de buenos deseos. Creo que lo que hay que buscar es salir de los buenos deseos y entrar en la implementación de ellos.

Teniendo en cuenta esto, esta reunión se efectuó en el mes de abril y estamos finalizando noviembre, a mi delegación le gustaría conocer en qué estado se encuentra la implementación de las recomendaciones hechas por el Comité, especialmente en lo referente al incremento de las investigaciones y la difusión de sus resultados mediante actividades de extensión y capacitación, haciendo énfasis en la necesidad de asegurar las ventajas de toda mejora de la productividad que llegarán a las mujeres, las cuales desempeñan un importante papel en el cultivo de algunos productos recomendados como las raíces y los tubérculos. Creo que hay que buscar cuándo implementamos y nos interesaría conocer qué medidas se han tomado para subsanar las deficiencias de los sistemas de comercialización. Todas estas recomendaciones aparecen en los párrafos 40, 41 y 42 del documento en cuestión. Por lo tanto, creemos que si podemos ya llegar a dos aspectos muy importantes para nosotros, como son la comercialización" y la capacitación, ya hemos ganado algo en la cuestión que veníamos discutiendo hace mucho tiempo y que este Comité logró reunificar y coordinar ordenadamente.

Queremos hacer nuestro planteamiento de acuerdo con la delegación de México sobre el estudio para América Latina y el Caribe que se propuso en la Conferencia Regional de la FAO celebrada en Barbados.

Dong QING SONG (China) (original language Chinese): First of all I would like to thank Mr González for his concise and clear introduction to the report of the 11th Session of the Committee on World Food Security and we approve the content of the report. Having said that, allow me to make a few brief comments.

First, in recent years world food production has experienced a period of continuous growth. Critical food situation is showing signs of improvement in certain developing countries, particularly in Africa. However, as is stated in the report, in paragraph 11, basic food consumption per capita has declined during the present season in about half of the low-income food-deficit countries. Even in countries where this consumption has increased, a very large number of people are still suffering serious malnutrition. This shows that we can in no case neglect the world food situation.

Second, as everybody knows, encouragement of food and agricultural production in developing countries is an essential measure for solving the food problem. What has to be done now is to ensure the implementation of such a measure. We continue to consider that developing countries should give priority to agriculture in developing their natural economies and for its part the international community should supply financial and technical aid to developing countries for their agricultural production. For several years the Organization has undertaken activities in this sector and they are to be congratulated on this.

Third, factors that affect world food security are many. What is essential for developing countries is to rely on their own efforts and on international cooperation to improve their productivity but other factors should not thereby be neglected, factors such as the international economic and social environment. For instance, policies for distributing agricultural commodities, the international commercial order and also agricultural assistance and food aid are also closely linked with the achievement of the objective of food security and therefore on this we must all harmonize our efforts.

Fourth, as has been indicated in the report, roots, tuber and plantains play a very important role in food security. It is absolutely necessary for FAO to undertake specific studies on this subject so that it can be given greater priority. Furthermore, FAO has also undertaken a series of global, regional and national activities in the framework of the implementation of the Food Security Assistance Scheme and under-preparedness plans for food emergencies and has achieved a success here.

We hope that FAO will continue to play its role in this sector so that the world food security should continually improve.

Mohd. Mazlan BIN JUSOH (Malaysia): First let me express my pleasure to see you on the podium chairing this session.

My delegation is very pleased with the contents of the document in the report CL 90/10 and would like to commend the Secretariat and give our special thanks to Mr González as Chairman of the Committee on World Food Security for his clear and comprehensive introduction.

We are particularly pleased with the striking recovery made in many low-income food-deficit countries which have resulted in a widespread increase in output of staple food such as maize, millet, sorghum, and cassava. According to the latest FAO Food Outlook issued in November 1986, it seems that favourable harvests are now assured in most regions. Nevertheless there has been mention of concern in some of the papers discussed by the Committee on Rural Food Security regarding the decline in local prices in some of the African countries which have managed to produce surpluses. Therefore, my delegation firmly believes that in order to maintain a momentum of recovery and to provide the proper incentives, a greater amount of purchase of surpluses for triangular transactions would alleviate this problem of surpluses in these countries. Consistent with our stand in our first intervention of this Council session, my delegation thinks that food-aid flow from surpluses generated from developed economies should be reduced in the light of fairly good harvests of the previously-affected regions. It must be realized that food aid has been a necessity due to the emergency situation and also largely due to decreases in overall development assistance.

We would like to see this trend reversed and urge donor countries to increase the overall development assistance rather than going the opposite way. Perhaps it would be a logical step and even cheaper to transfer funds using export subsidies and other supportive measures to be used for financial and technical support to the low-income food-deficit countries.

Despite the ample global supply of cereals there seems to be still the major problem of the planning projector consumption among the poorest sectors of the population. This stems mainly from the lack of purchasing power of this group.

Programmes must therefore be undertaken in trying to improve the access to food for this underprivileged group by providing better incomes and also allowing them to grow food themselves. Most of these problems are connected with the economic health of the country itself. In this respect we fully support the call for improving the international economic trading environment in order to stimulate trade and allow market access to agricultural export products of the low-income food-deficit countries. It is now of paramount importance that we should take advantage of the momentum so far achieved to increase food production and totally rehabilitate agriculture in the food-deficit countries.

On the role of roots, tubers and plantains, my delegation is supportive of the recommendation made by the Committee to intensify efforts for the production of these commodities. The favourable agroclimatic condition in Sub-Saharan African countries should be exploited to increase the production of these food items which can greatly supplement the diet of the population. Since these are indigenously grown crops, it should be an important step towards enhancing self-reliance and meeting the food security requirements of the countries concerned and reduce the over-dependence on imported cereal grains. Further active programmes should be pursued to improve varieties in planting systems. In view of the bulkiness and perishability of these foods, infrastructure for storage, transport and marketing facilities will have to be improved. We support the programmes in this direction.

On the proposal to preposition stocks with the intended purpose of expediting delivery of emergency food, my delegation wishes to express our reservation on the said proposal if such storage facilities are meant to be built in donor countries. Although we still do agree that emergency food aid is necessary, perhaps it would be more appropriate to meet emergency situations through the expediting of triangular transaction mechanisms.

It should be noted that about 2.7 million tons of exportable coarse grains are now available from countries such as Benin, Côte d'Ivoire, Kenya, Malawi, Sudan, Tonga and Zimbabwe. Twenty-three other countries in Africa require these grains. Perhaps it would be better to build storage facilities either in these surplus-producing countries or emergency food-deficit countries for eventual use to triangular transactions. Purchase funds from donor countries using this storage could greatly enhance and expedite triangular transactions. These storage facilities could also be utilized to help accumulate reserves for emergencies through sub-regional or regional arrangements. My delegation believes that in this way, emergency response time could be shortened.

While enhancing triangular transactions, this would also mean giving incentives for the process of African nations themselves to keep on producing food and alleviate the problem of disposal. In line with this we are supportive of the idea of establishing sub-regional or regional food security reserves. In fact Malaysia is actively involved in the ASEAN food security reserve system which is complementary to our own national food reserves. Such regional or sub-regional food reserve systems would greatly enhance food security and would not be of too great a burden on individual countries. Now with rising stocks worldwide and depressed prices, countries should take advantage of building up stocks to face future emergencies.

Anwar Mohammed KHALED (Yemen, People's Democratic Republic of) (original language Arabic): First of all, I would like to congratulate you, Mr Chairman, and tell you how delighted we are to see you in the Chair. We would also like to congratulate Mr Gonzalez for his clear and precise presentation. We have carefully studied this document on world food security and this perusal was accompanied by some concern for World Food Security, especially in low-income food-deficit countries where the situation has been preoccupying. As appears from the document, the majority of these countries were not in a position to take the necessary measures to ensure their food security or to be prepared to meet food emergencies. With this in mind, I would like to review the situation in my country.

In spite of the measures taken by the authorities of the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen to develop agricultural production and in spite of the resources allocated to that sector, we are facing enormous difficulties in food security. There are many reasons for this and there is no need for me to go into them here because in a previous statement on the situation of food and agriculture our Minister of Agriculture described these difficulties. Nevertheless, the distinctive aspect is the drought which continues in our country and has been in existence for a very long time. Rains are irregular and they vary in intensity. This has damaging effects on land, irrigation systems and the rural infrastructure as a whole. Added to this is the problem of the desert locusts and grass hoppers which have infested our country this year. This has of course limited our capacity for food production.

As was said by the Minister of Agriculture of my country when he spoke on the food and agriculture situation, the world economic situation is not a wholly favourable one. This is why we once again wish to state what was said by our minister. Above all, there is a need for collective activity internationally to ensure food security, to ensure peace and better dialogue between North and South and to prompt a fairer international economic order.

We wish once again to affirm the importance of the role of international organizations in the aid they provide for developing countries to improve their agricultural production and solve their food security problems. Therefore what was said during this Council meeting on the need for strengthening FAO resources and those of WFP and IFAD will certainly go towards improving food security in all developing countries, as shown by the response to the African crisis.

Finally, in the interests of brevity, I wish once again to support the comments made by our colleague from Lebanon on emergency measures and also on national preparedness plans for food crisis as well as on national foodstuffs and national stocks. We also support the medium- and short-term study on food security proposed by the Director-General.

Akbar Mirza KHALEELI (India): I would like to join my colleagues in thanking Mr Gonzalez for his extremely useful report. It has helped us to further crystallize our views and to understand the direction in which the world community has to move so that we benefit from the progress that has been made over the last two years, especially in tackling emergency programmes, and also take advantage of certain positive trends in development and production in the agricultural field in the developing world.

I would like to take this opportunity to state that on the whole a conclusion of the last year or two is that despite the many problems, economic and otherwise, in the world, Asia as a whole has been doing quite well. That ancient continent which was the first object of external interest, exploitation and forced sale of goods has also been the first to emerge if one takes it as a major entity. Countries like China, India, Pakistan and Bangladesh, in fact almost all the Asian countries, despite demographic and other problems, have more or less succeeded in solving the basic problems of food production. We have no doubt that in the present atmosphere of international cooperation which seeks to put behind all the nations the rivalries, conflicts, tensions of the past, the concept of food security and food for development, which are interlinked, will have to gain ground. We are also sure that our brothers in Africa and Latin America, who are equally, if not better, endowed than Asia, will sooner or later become self-sufficient and in fact produce surpluses. Viewed in this context, I think the role of FAO, the role of ourselves, the role of this meeting, is to see what we can do during this interim period of maybe 5 years, 10 years, 20 years, 30 years, during which the inevitable course of history can be anticipated to lessen the problems which face those

countries that have certain imbalances and problems. With, our developing countries in Asia, including India, the fact that we are agriculturally self-sufficient has not solved many of our problems. Large sections of our population, which we call the weaker sections of society, still do not have adequate employment or nutrition. Therefore the government has to deal not merely with self-sufficiency but with tackling different problems. The government is responsive and thoughtful; action is being taken for rural development programmes, integrated development programmes, which in due course are bound to raise the standards of those who have not directly benefited from the Green Revolution and other agricultural developments. This is true of a number of other countries also. However, there is no guarantee that particularly smaller countries, who have had similar or even greater agricultural successes, can make the transition. I would think that larger countries always have something to buy or sell and if they are not able to sell one item, they are able to sell something else. But what happens to the smaller countries who have invested so much time and effort and sacrifice in one or two products to make themselves self-sufficient and then find that their surpluses become a burden? It is here in the report, paragraph 21, improvements in the international economic and trading environment, and paragraph 24 regarding triangular transactions. These are all interlinked. On the one hand we are witnessing a certain tussle between developed countries where the policies of subsidization in exports and production are making for new rivalries. We understand that there are problems even for them in adjusting. After all, there are agricultural groups whose interests have to be met. But I would go along with our Malaysian colleague to state that somewhere we will need to help or encourage those developing countries who have not only developed agricultural self-sufficiency but also have surpluses. They cannot immediately compete in the international market as they may not have all the advantages of production or skills but it is better to anticipate this rather than create pressures for developing countries which find that even if they have substantial surpluses they are unable to sell them, and it is increasingly expensive to store them.

If one recalls development in the early part of the century one would find a country such as India, when it was unable to deal with certain political or economic problems, it resorted to a thing called "non-cooperation", where one virtually stopped buying things. That is not the world in which we are living today. The fact that we sit together means that we have a deep interest in each other. Effectively, what is happening is that in a more effective and legitimized way where those who have the advantages of cheaper production and more efficient production (even in the basic field of agriculture) are able to supply wheat or rice in the neighbourhood of the developing countries which have got surpluses and these developing countries are not able to compete. I do not think that this situation can last forever. To some extent I think we should occupy ourselves with anticipating matters in a cooperative spirit.

We in our region, which we have called the SAARC region, have also tried to learn from our colleagues in ASEAN so that we would have regional or sub-regional food reserves. I think this is also quite useful for many other countries because one country or the other happens to have a surplus in certain items and it can always help a neighbour.

I would not like to continue unnecessarily on this report because I think it covers many of our concerns. I should like to end by stating that food security is too important a matter for us to be divided on. Both donor countries and the developing countries have played important parts. I would urge that this positive trend should continue so that the developing countries which develop surpluses would be able to anticipate that these surpluses would become part of world trade.

Milan KARIC (Yougoslavie): Je voudrais dire que la délégation yougoslave souhaite exprimer sa gratitude à M. Gonzales pour l'introduction claire et complète qu'il nous a faite de cette question importante et qui nous préoccupe actuellement, et qui a fait l'objet du document CL 90/10, consacré à l'examen du problème de la sécurité alimentaire mondiale.

Ma délégation réaffirme l'importance de la sécurité alimentaire et, dans ce cadre, nous donnons notre appui aux constatations principales et aux recommandations faites par le Comité de la Sécurité alimentaire mondiale.

Avant de passer à l'examen de ce point de l'ordre du jour, je voudrais constater que les problèmes concernant la sécurité alimentaire ont été partiellement mentionnés dans l'exposé du chef de ma délégation au cours du débat sur la situation mondiale de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture.

Nous supportons les recommandations du Comité contenues dans le paragraphe 9 du rapport, afin que dans les rapports futurs les renseignements utiles tels que les aliments traditionnels, les questions macro-économiques nutritionnelles et démographiques soient inclus en évitant bien sur double emploi et en tenant compte des activités des autres organismes internationaux dans ces domaines. Les stocks céréaliers mondiaux, au cours de l'année courante, ont augmenté et représentent 24 pour cent de la consommation mondiale, mais ils sont concentrés dans un petit nombre de pays et restent insuffisants dans la plupart des pays à faible revenu.

Nous voudrions signaler que la situation actuelle qui se manifeste par des excédents céréaliers et des prix relativement bas offre une chance à la communauté mondiale d'appliquer les recommandations et les lignes d'orientation adoptées par la Conférence de la FAO, le Conseil et le Comité de la sécurité alimentaire dans sa résolution visant à assurer une aide alimentaire suffisante et à apporter une aide accrue aux pays à faible revenu et à déficit vivrier, afin que ces derniers soient mieux à même d'augmenter leurs productions et d'améliorer l'accès des pauvres à la nourriture.

Dans ce contexte, nous appuyons les efforts pour la mise en place anticipée de stocks pour accélérer la livraison de l'aide d'urgence.

De même, nous partageons les appréhensions du Comité relatives à la diminution de la consommation de base par habitant dans un grand nombre de pays en développement; et nous exprimons nos inquiétudes quant à la présentation par la FAO et le PAM indiquant qu'aujourd'hui les besoins d'aide alimentaire s'élèvent à 20 millions de tonnes et que cette quantité ne diminuerait pas avant la fin de la décennie.

Nous sommes témoins de ce que la plupart des pays en développement sont confrontés à des difficultés financières et économiques limitant leurs possibilités de développement économiques et surtout agricoles. La balance des paiements, la dette extérieure, la baisse des prix d'exportation des produits traditionnels des pays en développement sont un obstacle à l'importation des céréales; c'est bien la preuve que la sécurité alimentaire n'est pas déterminée seulement par la production nationale mais également dans une grande mesure par des circonstances extérieures, tout particulièrement dans les domaines financiers et commerciaux. Nous sommes certains que l'amélioration du climat commercial pourra aider dans une grande mesure les pays en développement à atteindre leur sécurité alimentaire et nous tenons à souligner l'importance des négociations commerciales multilatérales du GATT.

Encore une fois, nous considérons que la situation actuelle confirme la nécessité du renouvellement des négociations des clauses économiques pour un accord international sur les céréales. Une telle solution serait une contribution substantielle vers la stabilisation du marché et des prix céréaliers mondiaux; ce serait un facteur crucial de la sécurité alimentaire mondiale à long terme.

Adel Helmy EL SARKI (Egypt) (Original language Arabic): My delegation would like at the outset to express our sincere appreciation to the Committee for its commendable efforts in the preparation of the report on world food security. It is heartening to note the increase in food and agricultural production as well as signs of recovery in African economies. Moreover, we share the concerns voiced by the Committee concerning the decline in food per capita in some developing countries and the balance of payments imbalances resulting in adverse effects on the agricultural sector.

The assessment contained in the document indicates a decline in trade in agricultural products. On this score we reiterate what we have already said while commenting on the document on the situation of Food and Agriculture, namely to express the hope that the multilateral trade negotiations within GATT be successful. However, mere wishful thinking will not suffice. Egypt joins ail those who call for the reform of the international economic order. We fully endorse cooperation among developing countries to counter economic disruptions in developed ones.

Egypt has participated in the Eleventh Session of CFS. We also welcomed the preparation of a study on trade in agricultural products: its prospects and constraints. We also welcomed the measures proposed by CFS for increasing agricultural production and utilising crop surpluses in developing countries within the framework of triangular transactions.

My delegation endorses the conclusions of the Committee as regards the importance and efficiency of national measures in food security. My country is prepared to put its training facilities in the field of remote sensing for forecasting locust attacks and natural disasters, in the service of brotherly developing countries thus enabling them equip national cadres in the implementation of relief programmes.

Egypt accords great importance to food security. We have formulated a new agricultural programme based upon the utilisation of modern technology in agriculture, proper linkage between research and extension, provision of necessary investments for this important economic sector, supply of inputs at appropriate prices, and raising the prices of some commodities to bring them closer to world prices.

In conclusion, we would like to express our thanks to the Chairman of the Committee, Mr González, for his lucid and simple introduction of the document.

Mohammad Hasan PAIMAN (Afghanistan): My delegation has studied the document CL 90/10 thoroughly, and the report given in the document, as covering most of the problem of food security.

Regarding paragraphs 12 and 22, my delegation believes that the economic crises of some developed countries has adversely affected the economic development of developing and low-income countries. As a result of the development of such crises, trade tariffs are increased and more burdens are put upon the exports of developing countries. Ail these obstacles prevent economic development in those countries. This is why the poor do not assist in food production.

In recent years, a drastic change in climatical conditions in Afghanistan has resulted in a major decline of rainfall from 244 mm annual average, to 218 mm in general. It was very variable, as low as 94 mm on average in northern Afghanistan in the current year. Therefore, there is a large deficit in cereals, especially in the wheat crop, as noted-390, 000 tonnes in the current year, as I mentioned in my previous speech on document CL 90/9. The drought is not affecting only the crops and cultivated plants, but has dangerously affected the pastures and forests too.

In connection with pastures, we have about 20 million sheep in our country. Out of that, more than 4. 5 million are the Karakul sheep which graze in the northern part of the country. As you know, the Karakul skin is a major earner of foreign cash in our country, but now they are unfortunately severely suffering from drought and dried out pastures. They cannot feed because of the shortage of fodder crops, especially in three months of the winter season. The sheep owners are slaughtering these sheep due to the shortage of fodder materials. If any donor organizations do not consider the matter as an urgent case and do not devote emergency aid, the situation will be much more difficult in the near future.

On the question of the role of roots, tubers and plantains in food security in sub-Saharan Africa, we would note paragraph 42. In the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan several governmental organs are in charge of purchasing potatoes, carrots and onions at harvest time, and after storing they redistribute them to the main consumers at cheap prices. The object of this action is to stabilize the prices of those products which are the main foodstuffs of the people through cutting the middlemen out of the market. The economic benefit and nutritional value of tubers and roots are taught to people in health centres, schools, and other training institutions, and as well through public mass media.

Paragraph 48 concerns prepositioning of stocks to expedite delivery of emergency food aid. The Afghan delegation believes that WFP should own the stocks which are prepositioned but the stocks should be kept at the ports of the donors. WFP has long experience in the distribution of food aid, and by having complete information and statistics they could estimate in which parts of the world food shortage will occur and what should be the facilities for shipment and distribution.

As regards national preparedness planning to cope with food emergencies, paragraph 53 is noted. In the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan there is a department of emergencies. The department is in charge of assisting casualties of famine, flood and other natural disasters. The department mainly distributes foodstuffs, as well as other basic needs. The department also has close contact with other institutions such as Red Crescent societies, municipalities, cooperatives and other social departments, but it is not so powerful and cannot serve well as far as financial materials and funds are concerned, so it needs some assistance by donor organizations, too. We welcome the report in the document as far as that aspect is concerned.

Augustine K. OSUBAN (Uganda): Mr Chairman, may I take this opportunity to express our satisfaction at seeing you chairing this session.

I should like to thank the Chairman of the Committee on World Food Security for his introduction of the paper. Uganda participated in the 11th Session of the Committee on World Food Security and we endorse the findings of the Committee. Here I should like to take the opportunity to highlight only a few points.

We would like to reiterate the Committee's request that future reviews on world food security should include more information on non-cereal staples, particularly roots, tubers and plantains, as these would constitute a very important element of diet in many developing countries. Research for high-yielding and pest-resistant varieties requires to be intensified, as well as research into lessening perishability and bulkiness of some of these crops.

Secondly, my delegation also supports the idea of prepositioning of stocks, to be established and managed multilaterally under some international agency. We feel that as the objective of prepositioning food is to have supplies available to reach destitute peoples in situations of emergency quickly, the need to upgrade internal transport and transport infrastructure in recipient countries is equally important.

On the question of national preparedness, we fully endorse paragraphs 53 and 54 which call on governments to establish plans comprising institutions for carrying out early warning and food relief activities, and for contingency plans outlining activities to be undertaken and the administrative procedures to enter into force when these are signalled.

Regarding the Food Security Assistance Scheme, my delegation appreciates the activities of the Food Security Assistance Scheme, especially its assistance in the preparation and funding of national early warning projects and its assistance to countries preparing national preparedness plans. We believe that the activities of FSAS could be expanded to reach the target of \$10 million established by the Conference.

With these remarks, we endorse the report of the Committee.

A. K. M. Kamaluddin CHOUDHURY (Bangladesh): The Bangladesh delegation thanks Mr Gonza'lez for his introduction to the report on the Committee on World Food Security, document CL 90/10.

As a low-income food-deficit country we attach high priority to the establishment of a global system of food security. Therefore, we welcome any measure that would improve the availability of food grains for the needy and poor in Asia, Africa and Latin America. On the national front, agriculture, irrigation and rural development has been accorded high priority in allocation of funds in our Third Five Year Plan, and we in Bangladesh expect to achieve food self-sufficiency in the not too distant future.

Although achievement of food security is the primary concern of national governments, in the intervening years LDCs will need food aid and other imports to promote agricultural development, particularly increased production of food grains. These countries will also need food aid to meet their existing food gap. Therefore, we strongly urge continuation of food aid and other economic assistance to increase food production in these countries.

As a matter of policy, Bangladesh is trying to set up a national food security reserve to meet unforeseen contingencies and food-related emergencies arising out of crop failures or natural disasters. Bangladesh is also working toward the establishment of a South Asian Food Security Reserve in cooperation with regional countries. A meeting on the South Asian Food Security Reserve will be held shortly in Bangkok. We hope such a proposal will receive the support of the donor countries, FAO and other multilateral agencies.

Our delegation endorses the report generally of the CWFS session, and we hope that the positive suggestions will be put into effect.

Mrs. Millicent M. FENWICK (United States of America): What I wanted to talk about is something which was referred to by the delegate of Mexico, and I would like to touch on it, that is the question of transnationals. I believe that a report has gone to the Transnational Committee in the United Nations in New York and that we will be able to study such a report in the FAO Council. I want to encourage people to think about transnationals.

One country in this world, not my own, has invested \$62 billion in different transnational companies abroad. We struggled to get some of that, and we got \$19 billion of it. We were very happy. The Governors of our States competed. We had a tremendous fight. The Governor of Tennessee wanted the plant, and the Governor of Missouri wanted the same plant, and they were entertaining people and offering. Why do we want foreign investment in this way? Because they pay taxes, because that is what pays for our schools, because that is what maintains our roads. Some of these transnational companies built new plants, which was wonderful; there were whole new buildings and employment. It has been spoken of here. I think the delegate of Austria talked of 600 million without any purchasing power in this world. But I would like to say something else to the developing countries: be sure that you have lawyers adequate to defend your country's interest. You cannot sign up blindly with some companies.

In Rome there is an Organization called the International Development Law Institute. It has been set up with foundation and other funds and it is operating here in Rome. What does it do? It allows lawyers, or would-be lawyers, which governments want to send to Rome to study these international and contract laws. There are professors, some of them seconded by their universities or businesses to teach contract and international law so that when a company comes in and says, "Now let us have a wonderful deal, " the government can say, "Indeed, that is perfect and we have just the lawyer who will be able to talk to you about these interesting things. "

I cannot emphasize too much the International Development Law Institute. It was started with foundation money just as IRRRI was, the Rice Institute in Los Baños, and now it is also getting money from the United States government through our aid.

Humberto CARRION M. (Nicaragua): También yo quiero felicitar al señor Guillermo González, representante de la República Argentina ante la FAO, que en su calidad de Presidente del Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria Mundial, nos presentó con mucha competencia el documento 90/10.

Nuestra intención en esta oportunidad es la de reiterar la solicitud de que la FAO realice un estudio sobre la situación económica en América Latina y el Caribe que contenga un plan de acción para el sector de la agricultura y la alimentación. Esto mismo fue solicitado al Director General por la Conferencia Regional de la FAO para América Latina y el Caribe celebrada en Barbados en Agosto del año en curso y se especificó el enfoque y el contenido que debería tener ese estudio.

También deseamos apoyar aquí la iniciativa del Presidente de Colombia, Sr. Virgilio Barco Vargas, de convocar una reunión para emprender una lucha activa y coordinada para erradicar la pobreza absoluta de nuestra región. Esperamos que la FAO esté en capacidad de participar en esa reunión, una vez convocada. A nadie escapa que la región de América Latina y el Caribe está atravesando la peor crisis económica de su historia y que el sector de la agricultura y la alimentación se encuentra muy deprimido.

Coincidimos con el documento 90/10 en que existen factores internos y externos que limitan la producción y la distribución de los alimentos en los países en vías de desarrollo. La principal causa interna es la pobreza, pero los países que estamos haciendo grandes esfuerzos para disminuir la pobreza nos encontramos con una serie de factores limitantes externos de carácter económico, financiero y comercial enumerados en la parte II del documento 90/10: evaluación de la situación actual de la seguridad alimentaria mundial, particularmente en los párrafos 12, 14 y 21. Creemos en el concepto revisado de seguridad alimentaria en el plano mundial debe ser asegurar que todas las personas tengan en todo momento acceso material y económico a los alimentos que necesitan. Este concepto realizado puede ser una realidad sólo a través de la concertación de las voluntades políticas de la Comunidad Internacional, de los países industrializados y los países en desarrollo.

En el caso específico de Nicaragua, la voluntad política nacional de lograr un desarrollo gradual y uniforme de nuestras fuerzas productivas tropiezan no sólo con los factores negativos externos, de carácter económico, financiero y comercial, sino también con una agresión sistemática que no tiene justificación alguna y que nos obliga a mantener involucrados en la defensa de la soberanía a más de 200 mil personas que equivalen al 20 por ciento de la población económicamente activa, a quienes se les destina el 10 por ciento del producto material del consumo básico.

Para concluir, apoyamos el contenido de los párrafos 22 y 23 referentes a las reservas alimentarias y el párrafo 24 sobre las transacciones triangulares, y el párrafo 20 sobre la investigación para aumentar la productividad agrícola de los países de bajos ingresos y con déficit de alimentos, dando prioridad al mejoramiento de los cultivos alimentarios autóctonos, como las raíces, tubérculos y plátanos.

Sra. Mercedes FERMIN GOMEZ (Venezuela): Vamos a ser muy breves porque, en primer lugar, sólo queremos expresar el apoyo de la delegación de Venezuela a la aprobación de este informe, pero aunque sea brevemente, quisiéramos referirnos al contenido del párrafo 35 con relación a los estudios sobre las raíces tubérculos y plátanos que deben incluirse en el estudio propuesto en la Conferencia de Barbados para la América Latina y el Caribe.

Desde hace mucho tiempo a nosotros nos ha correspondido llamar la atención sobre este problema de la atención que debería prestar la FAO a estos cultivos autóctonos y muy especialmente a Las raíces, tubérculos y plátanos, y a lo que la FAO llama cereales secundarios, que nosotros nos oponemos a esta denominación porque no podemos considerar que haya cereales principales y cereales secundarios. Ya dijimos una vez que entre los cultivos más antiguos está precisamente el del maíz, el del arroz, y esos no pueden llamarse cereales secundarios, pero las circunstancias del predominio económico hacen que hayan sido aplazados y colocados y nosotros queremos traerlos a su sitio correcto.

Pero hoy vamos a pasar a lo que llamamos cultivos autóctonos, que son las raíces, los tubérculos, los plátanos y otros cultivos" indígenas como yo prefiero llamarlos. El carácter perentorio de estos productos es lo que hace que el comercio no les dé la importancia que ellos requieren, precisamente porque con el desarrollo de la agricultura comercial estos productos no pueden ser almacenados, no pueden ser transportados, porque no están en condiciones de resistir, porque todavía los países llamados desarrollados no han descubierto cómo conservarlos para mantenerlos en condiciones de rendimiento comercial, y es por eso por lo que todavía en el desarrollo de la investigación agrícola que actualmente avanza en el mundo, estas potencias comerciales no han caído ni en la yuca, ni en el ocumo, ni en el maíz, yo puedo dar una lista de ellos, son más de 20 productos, de estos productos autóctonos que son y han constituido la base de la alimentación de nuestros pueblos indígenas.

Por supuesto, ya hace mucho tiempo que los plátanos pasaron a la primera categoría, desde que las grandes empresas transnacionales bananeras descubrieron cómo transportarlos, si bien quienes sabemos lo que es comer un plátano o una banana en su verdadero momento de consumo y comerlo en cualquier país europeo después de que han pasado cinco semanas navegando en un barco, sabemos muy bien que hay una gran diferencia de uno a otro; pero ellos no conocen aquí lo que es una banana en buenas condiciones y están muy felices con lo que comen acá, y de esa manera pueden consumirlos y satisfacer las necesidades del comercio de quienes lo producen.

La misma cosa pasa con los tubérculos y con las raíces. Estos productos no están realmente hechos por la naturaleza para ser guardados en depósitos como el trigo, sometidos a procesos industriales para conservarlos en forma de corn flakes, en forma de germen de trigo, en forma de grano o como cualquier cosa que quieran llamar, no sé como lo llaman los italianos, cruspa, o cualquier conserva de esas. No se presta para hacer esa dicotomía de venderle a uno el germen de trigo, a otros la harina de trigo y ahora la integral y la perfeccionada, la revisada, etc. De esa manera el comercio es más floreciente. Con la yuca y el ocumo y estos otros productos no se ha podido todavía llegar a ese refinamiento, y es por esa razón que no han merecido la atención que mereció la papa o que ha merecido el maíz o que han merecido otros frutos. Esos productos corresponden más bien a la agricultura de subsistencia y ya ustedes ven cómo Afganistán, cómo Uganda, cómo cualquiera de los países africanos y algunos de nuestros países de América Latina-estoy viendo la cara de Guillermo, el delegado de Argentina que dice que nosotros no comemos eso, o probablemente los del Cono-Sur de América, nosotros no comemos eso, pero nosotros los de los sitios intertropicales sí porque nosotros sabemos lo que es eso, lo que es una yuca, lo que es un ocumo, etc. México dice que tampoco lo come; pero de todas maneras, esos son los productos que la naturaleza ha dado a esas latitudes ecuatoriales, a esas latitudes intertropicales y ¿porqué razón no puede la FAO, y los organismos que corresponden a las Naciones Unidas que tienen centros de investigación dedicados a ello, dedicarse a que los habitantes de esos países los cultiven en mejores condiciones?

Digo que corresponde a la agricultura de subsistencia porque es precisamente en los huertos familiares en donde pueden servir el consumo de la familia, sin necesidad de que los saquen y los pongan en el refrigerador o los metan en el freezer. Ellos pueden estar allí sembrados y ser utilizados progresivamente sin necesidad de sacarlos y ponerlos amontonados en depósitos, como se está planteando en este informe.

Estos cultivos, pues, podrían ser desarrollados en sus mejores condiciones y servir a la alimentación de estos países en estas condiciones naturales que es como ellos realmente tienen un valor nutritivo.

Hay algo que no quiero dejar de pasar por alto y es el hecho de que en los países llamados desarrollados se está comenzando a hacer la reclan de los llamados alimentos orgánicos. ¿Qué son los alimentos orgánicos?. Usted va a cualquiera de esas ciudades-no voy a mencionar alguna, voy a mencionar a Boston en la cual yo más he vivido-y allí hay unos pequeños mercados nuevos en donde se venden estos alimentos orgánicos, bastante caros, no tienen un precio barato. ¿Qué son los alimentos orgánicos? Son alimentos cultivados sin fertilizantes químicos, que son buenos para la salud y que no producen esto, esto y lo otro. Esos son Los alimentos orgánicos que no se producen con estas artificiosas maneras de rendir.

¿Por qué razón estas pequeñas atrasadas comunidades tienen que ser obligadas a comer alimentos sofisticados mediante todo ese procesamiento de que son objeto, con artículos comerciales, cuando ellos pueden ser enseñados a cultivar sus huertos familiares en donde el ama de casa va y arranca su yuca y la cocina ella misma, donde se cosecha el racimo de plátanos para consumirlo, y lo mismo con cualquiera de los tubérculos, que son una lista larga y algunos de ellos excelentes, mucho mejor que la papa?

Entonces, pues, nosotros podríamos, a través de la FAO, reeducar a estas comunidades para persuadir las, estimulando el cultivo de estos productos, de que esa es una alimentación satisfactoria para conservar la salud, y que así como de repente los investigadores del primer mundo descubrieron que la papaya tiene una gran cantidad de vitaminas, lo descubrieron, pero hace cuestión de 50 años no la comían porque daba fiebre y de repente descubrieron que era muy buena, y que la guayaba tiene gran cantidad de vitaminas, pero es cuando ellos lo descubren que se convierten en buenas, mientras tanto la desprecian, nadie las presta atención y los pobres campesinos de esos países atrasados que lo consumen se sienten un poco acomplejados y quieren comer manzanas, peras, fresas, etc. cuando ellos tienen allá su guayaba y su lechosa y los productos tropicales que son de gran valor nutritivo, de gran valor alimenticio.

Mi conclusión es que la FAO, al lado de la investigación de la utilidad de esos productos y de la enseñanza para estas comunidades de cómo deben cultivarlos, va a tener que decirles también que ellos tienen una fuente de vitaminas, de alimentos de verdadera capacidad nutritiva y que verdaderamente deben consumirlos y cultivarlos y no que seamos agentes del cambio de alimentación para que coman trigo y papas cuando ellos no producen eso. Digo el trigo y la papa porque son los más universalmente apreciados en Europa.

Por esa razón mi intervención va a detenerse aquí porque pedí apenas dos minutos y creo que he sobrepasado el tiempo, pienso que los países desarrollados, y la FAO como representantes de los intereses de todos los países, pudiera en su investigación, en su programa de capacitación dar orientación a estos países, y me están acompañando en esto Afganistán, Uganda y otro país; hablo sobre el uso que debemos darle, la importancia que tienen los tubérculos, las raíces, los plátanos y las frutas tropicales en la alimentación, en el beneficio de la alimentación de esos pueblos.

Termino con esto porque en todo lo demás creo que es innecesario, pero este es un punto que está muy cercano a mi interés de la investigación que yo he hecho, que he estudiado, y por eso se que vamos a necesitar todavía un trabajo largo para regresar al punto de que los países se convenzan de que lo que ellos tienen es bueno y no tienen que estar aspirando a lo que tienen los demás.

CHAIRMAN: Before giving the floor to the following speaker may I repeat the plea of our independent Chairman, Mr Lassaad Ben Osman, when he said that given the time constraints delegates are requested to be as brief as possible.

Javed MUSHARRAF (Pakistan): You have given me a very difficult task. But please cut me short immediately whenever you feel so inclined. Unfortunately, it has to be abruptly cut short because I do not think I am able to summarise it!

I am very happy that I am speaking just after the delegate of Venezuela because I will have a chance to refer to her in glowing terms towards the end of the statement-if we come to that at all!

First let me thank the Chairman of the Food Security Committee for the very clear and useful introduction. At the very first page of the document, at the inside of the cover page, the Secretariat has drawn the attention of the Council to only three aspects of the Committee's report as listed on the inside of the cover page of the document, which is page ii. I will therefore confine my intervention to these aspects turn by turn. It is good to be reminded in the document at page 25 that the ultimate objective of the world food security as agreed to

under the revised concept of food security is to ensure that all people at all times have both physical and economic access to the basic food they need. We would like to refer a little later in passing to some of the things this definition logically implies, aspects to which the Committee's report, perhaps due to its brevity, has not been able to touch upon. A second thing to keep in mind is that food security can be conceived at several levels, at the global level, at the regional level and national level, at the household level and even beyond, at the individual level. Furthermore, distinction is to be made between chronic or long-term insecurity arising from pervasive malnutrition and under-nutrition and transitory or short-term, suddenly arising insecurity from outside the trend variations of food availability and food access. It is the former type, the chronic insecurity that has proved to be the most intractable.

Turning to the agreed role or the definition itself, one may point to two noteworthy aspects of it, first that food security should be ensured to all people at all times. This part of the definition would seem to create problems for policy formulation and recommendations on account of the conflicts and trade-offs between achieving security for one group of people against another so that security may not simultaneously be achieved for all groups, to one, the producers versus the consumers, rural versus urban and so on.

Similarly, there often is a conflict between the short-term and the long run so that the phrase "At all times" does not recognize this trade off: as, for example, between achieving rapid growth for the future and short-term satisfaction of needs, Policies therefore need to balance these conflicting considerations.

The other noteworthy aspect that introduces problems of interpretation is when it says "Physical and economic access to the basic food they need". The word "basic" begs a question. "Basic food needs", from what point of view? Basic from the point of view of preventing death? Basic from the point of view of preventing severe health risks or stunting of growth among children; or basic from the point of view of active role and participation in life and work for an individual? Which point of view is selected would determine the clientele, the number of food insecure people to be catered for. From the economic point of view, the human capital aspect, the last one of these points may be the more relevant point of view to adopt so that the number of food insecure people in the world would, according to some estimates, be-nearly one billion, that is one thousand million people.

Given this broader definition that we in the Committee on Food Security have been entrusted with, the implication is that the focus has to be on security at the household individual level and for the chronic long-term insecurity. The food situation in the world seems to be riddled with paradoxes. While the world seems to be awash with grain, as it were, with production going through bumper crop after bumper crop and the grain stocks virtually bursting at their seams, these surpluses, in the eloquent phrasing of the Director-General in his speech the other day, which is attached to this document were in many cases hard to market, lending to the real danger that for small farmers good harvests turn out to be as disastrous as the bad ones.

Coming down from the global level to the regional and country levels in a region such as Africa the picture does not even contain the paradox of poverty amongst plenty. Here the picture seems more of a unparadoxical poverty amidst poverty barring a handful of grain surplus countries of Africa. The African situation does, however, seem to contain a paradox of a different sort. The representative of Tanzania, the Minister of Agriculture, the other day had in his wise intervention described Africa as the youngest continent asking the elder brothers for help. Africa may indeed be the youngest continent in many respects, may be politically, perhaps even geologically, but more important for our purposes agriculturally. However, it has had a long hunting and pastoral tradition and is not young therefore in that respect but has less of settled and sedentary agriculture. What appears to be a paradox is that in a continent in which historically all the biotic pressures of degradation should presumably have been more on animal resources rather than on land resources given the lower land mass ratio compared to other continents, it is surprising that the land resources should be facing degradation more than in other continents, while the animal life is not under such a great threat. Purely a priori would not one have expected the reverse? In explaining the reasons for this apparent paradox I might

be permitted to advance the hypothesis, albeit a simplistic one, that has a broader significance. The hypothesis is that the wildlife and their habitat had indeed been equally or more threatened but timely human intervention and human resolve saved it. They did not start in Tanzania with a couple of dedicated naturalists-I think they were Germans-resolving from 50 years ago, and then persuading everyone, including finally the Government machinery and exerting massive efforts, so that as they said "Serengeti shall not die" which subsequently became the title of their pioneering book. Whatever credit one may like to give to the German couple, the essential fact is that the first and necessary step, though not a sufficient step, in rehabilitating and safeguarding the land resource base of Africa as was the case in the wildlife base, will be the human resolve, the human commitment and the priority, as indeed is the very first point in the FAO's four point strategy for Africa. Long-term food security hopefully will follow from that.

Serengeti was outstandingly alive 20 years ago when I saw it and must, I hope, be so today. We from the young as well as the old continents may resolve once more that Serengeti shall not die and with it Africa shall not die. The lesson of Serengeti might be that serious resolutions do matter. Of course, when one talks of food security many matters besides mere resolve are at play. So many complex and overlapping factors have to be addressed by policy, overall agricultural production, the kind of technology used, national stockpiling policies, provision of employment opportunities, on-farm as well as off-farm, international factors involving aid and trade, and so on and in all the areas Listed at paragraph 25 of the document which are listed as the factors one may comment on the last of these, namely what is stated at paragraph 25. Whatever these factors, however, the implication of really adopting the broader definition and conception for the work and the document of this Committee would be incorporating and emphasizing more than at present the nutrition and the consumption consideration of the type contained in FAO's world food survey which, in turn, might mean that several other FAO Divisions, such as the Nutrition Division and the Policy Analysis Division should be servicing the Committee along with the Trade and Commodities Division.

If the conclusions drawn throughout are that the food security at the more important household and individual levels will continue to stagnate or deteriorate, the obvious question is what are the critical factors or causes behind this? Food insecurity at the household level has often been attributed to lack of purchasing power which, in turn, is considered to be rooted in poverty. But poverty itself is a cause and one has to identify what causes it. It is often recognized but not often stressed adequately that in some settings, poverty may be rooted in the distribution of income and assets within and across the countries. In many cases, access to capital and other yield increasing inputs may mirror rural, economic and political hierarchies, making it more difficult for smaller, poor farmers to increase their production. In other words, man himself, in his institutions and his policies and in his political views or opinions, actually determines the state of security or insecurity in the world. Often to increase food production as rapidly as possible is emphasized with an explicit or tacit assumption that increased production will benefit the hungry but if the position of the poor in the vulgar setting of political and economic structures is seen, the possibility cannot be discounted that increased food production may further impoverish those who are already undernourished.

Thus while on the one hand is the perception, the more conventional perception, that it would be to the benefit of the poor to have food production increased as quickly and as efficiently as possible through an open market system and market expansion etc. , there is also the perspective that stresses the need for significant structural changes prior to attempts to increase food production. According to this perspective there can be strategies that both increase total production and meet basic food needs. But they are possible only after significant changes have taken place in existing economic and political structures, including patterns of land holding, wealth concentration, consumption patterns, political power, and so on. The contention is that existing structures act as impediments to both greater productivity and minimum food security. The policy implications of such alternative perceptions which may be valid for certain parts of the world obviously have policy implications that are usually not mentioned in documents produced by national governments and international organizations.

Turning to the second aspect, namely the role of roots, tubers and plantains, which is the second aspect to which the Council's attention has been drawn in this document, the inclusion of the special agenda item in the last session of the CFA is a tribute to and in no small measure due to the keen interest, almost to a crusading degree, of some delegates and colleagues of ours, in particular the Ambassador of Venezuela, Madame Fermin Gómez, who spoke just now.

The importance of roots and tubers is little recognized. Sweet potatoes mixed with milk makes an excellent breakfast, and a tumbler of raw potato juice drunk early in the morning is excellent for ladies' complexions.

The importance of root crops has even been somewhat underrated in the document itself when at page 39 it says that roots and tubers are low in protein so that diets which depend too heavily on them would be nutritionally deficient. Though the first part of the statement is correct, namely that they are deficient in protein, they nevertheless have an important protein value on account of the fact that in the calorie-deficient diets of poor people, who are the major consumers of roots and tubers, these protein-poor foods prevent the conversion of proteins into energy in the body and thus by preventing protein break-down have a protein value. As badly stated in paragraph 40, however, this aspect is ignored.

The benefits of roots and tubers could be recounted ad infinitum. Suffice it to say that the image of these products needs to be improved, as pointed out in paragraph 42.

As my delegation's contribution to building up the image of these heroes among the vegetable kingdom, I will recount to you the following true occurrence.

A French gentleman by the name of M. Lotito from the town of Evreux performed a feat at the end of March 1977 which has since enshrined his name in the annals of the annual Guinness Book of Records. M. Lotito was very much, like Her Excellency Madame Gomez, an ardent believer in roots and tubers. His painstaking researches in this field had convinced him that there were many more roots and tubers in the world than are commonly recognized, and one of his original discoveries was that a bicycle is in fact a root and tuber. He held that in its original habitat, namely the streets of mid-19th century Europe, the bicycle was the "root" to progress. Besides it was also the first ever tuber, since it was at the time the only thing that rested and moved on tubes, pneumatic tubes. M. Lotito, greatly fearing that the world at large would dispute these brilliant theoretical niceties of his, took it upon himself to embark on an unassailable empirical verification and substantiation of his theory-and this is the true part of the story. He ate the complete bicycle, with the tires, tubes, handles, body, every bit of it, with no adverse nutritional consequences, but rather beneficial consequences, he claimed, as with any ordinary root and tuber. This story can be verified by anybody by looking at page 535 of the 1983 edition of the Guinness Book of Records, whose factual authenticity is always immaculate. M. Lotito, besides thus improving the image of roots and tubers, achieved something even greater, he demonstrated that if bicycles can be eaten with benefit because they are tubers so can other possible hard tubers, such as all types of guns and weapons, all of which are basically barrel-like tubes. The implication of this discovery obviously has colossal global significance, since weapons, if eaten, can be harmless, while if used in other ways, can destroy humanity. M. Lotito, therefore, like Her Excellency Madame Gomez, will go down as a true pioneer of our times.

The last we heard of M. Lotito was that he was conferred the highest national honours by the French Government and other western countries and the world's arms industry for demonstrating that there is nothing inherently abominable about guns and bombs: it is the use to which they are put by the users and recipient Third World countries which is perverse. They can eat them, if they like, to fill their empty stomachs, rather than throw them at each other.

Coming to other matters, perhaps of less importance, namely the economic aspects of roots and tubers in relation to cereal alternatives mentioned in paragraph 40 and the broader question of, is nutritional problems one aspect of the problem of poverty or the only aspect of the problem of poverty? I think not in many ways. The rest of the intervention, which is rather long, I might leave until next meeting.

CHAIRMAN: I thank the delegate of Pakistan, especially for leaving the rest of his intervention to the next meeting, and since he is my friend, he will take my comment as a joke, I am sure. With that we have exhausted the list of speakers and if there are no other delegates who ask for the floor I think I can give the floor to Dr Islam to respond to some of the queries and to make some comments.

Nural ISLAM (Assistant Director-General, Economic and Social Policy Department): I will respond to a very few queries which have been made in the course of the debate. The delegate of Colombia enquired about the timing of the expert consultation on measures to improve access to food by the poor, which is mentioned in the document. We planned to hold this expert consultation in the third quarter of 1987. However, due to resource constraints we had to revise our plans and it will not now be possible to hold the consultation in this biennium. However, we hope to present a paper on the subject to the Committee on World Food Security at its session in 1988.

The delegate of the United Kingdom asked about the status of the study on expanding trade among developing countries and whether this study will be presented to the Committee on Food Security. This study is already at a very advanced stage and we hope to publish it in 1987. This subject, however, is not included in the agenda of the Committee on Food Security. It will be put to the Committee on Commodity Problems at its session in October 1987.

The delegate of Australia stressed that the advantages that could flow from prepositioning stocks need to be compared with the time saving that can result from improving the port handling, transport and logistics within the recipient countries. We quite agree about the importance of improving the capacity of the recipient countries to handle and transport food aid that is received. However, we would like to point out that this problem of logistics and transport facilities within the recipient countries is being exacerbated by bunching of food aid supplies imports of receiving countries, which, as the document presented to the Committee pointed out, could be avoided through judicious prepositioning of stocks. However, as is noted in paragraph 49, the Committee has invited the Committee on Food Aid Policies and Programmes to consider the question of upgrading internal transport and storage infrastructure at a future meeting. We hope that the conclusions of the Committee on Food Aid Policies and Programmes on this subject will make an important contribution in dealing with this question. To conclude, action on both fronts, namely a more expeditious delivery of the food aid and more efficient handling of food aid in the receiving countries, are mutually complementary and action needs to be taken on both fronts.

Reference was made by many delegates to the need for more complete coverage of roots and tubers in the analysis of the world food security situation. We have been doing this for some time and will certainly expand this coverage as data and information on this subject is improved. In this connection I may mention that there are two documents which will be presented at the forthcoming meeting, one in the Committee on Agriculture earlier this year entitled "Strategies and Requirements for Improved Production of Roots, Tubers and Plantains", and the second document at the next year's Committee on Food Security on the role of roots, tubers and plantains in food security covering both the Latin-American and Caribbean as well as the Pacific regions.

Referring to the comments made by delegates on the Food Security Assistance Scheme, I would like to recall that the Deputy Director-General in his earlier intervention has already referred to the initiatives taken to have evaluations made of FAO programmes. The Food Security Assistance Scheme is one of the special action programmes which is being currently evaluated by a team of external consultants. Their report will be submitted next year to the Programme Committee, the Council and the Conference in conjunction with the review of the Regular Programme. The Council can accordingly expect it at its 92nd Session in November 1987.

Guillermo Enrique GONZALEZ (Presidente del Comité de la Seguridad Alimentaria Mundial): Solamente dos palabras. En primer término, para agradecer las gentiles palabras que muchos de ustedes tuvieron el gesto de señalar durante sus intervenciones. Segundo, el más importante, comprometer a todos los miembros del Comité para que participen en el próximo período de sesiones con el mejor espíritu de cooperación ya que les puedo asegurar que tenemos una agenda muy interesante, pero les advierto desde ya, muy extensa, y tendremos que hacer un esfuerzo todos nosotros para poder estudiarla y analizarla en la medida en que se merece.

CHAIRMAN: I shall try to be as brief as you because I shall not attempt a summing up. Indeed, I believe in any case that the discussion followed in general terms the support of the Committee, so my summing up would be a repetition chapter by chapter of the report.

In the course of the discussion some new ideas emerged and some ideas were re-emphasized. However, as I have indicated time constraints can only lead me to the broad conclusion that our Council finds the work of the Food Security Committee very useful and is satisfied with the report of the Committee. Therefore, the Council endorses the report before us.

With those brief words I think I have fulfilled my duty. Before proceeding further I give the floor to the Secretary-General who wishes to make an announcement.

LE SECRETAIRE GENERAL: Après avoir achevé l'examen du point 5, rapport de la onzième session du Comité de la sécurité alimentaire mondiale, le Conseil doit maintenant procéder à l'examen du rapport de la huitième session du Comité des Forêts, point 6 de son ordre du jour, ainsi que le Président indépendant l'a annoncé à l'ouverture de la séance.

Il était prévu une réunion du Comité de rédaction à 18 heures; elle ne peut avoir lieu à cette heure puisque le Conseil continue ses travaux; elle aura lieu immédiatement après la fin de la séance du Conseil.

Gonzalo BULA HOYOS (Colombia): Ciertamente no quiero interferir el plan de trabajo de la Secretaría, pero creo que hemos tenido una intensa jornada, estamos cansados al final de un largo día. Sr. Presidente, no sería tal vez provechoso prolongar la reunión del Consejo y retardar la reunión del Comité de Redacción. Creo que con buena voluntad mañana temprano y con presidentes tan dinámicos y eficaces como el colega Iskit de esta tarde, podremos avanzar; lo más prudente ahora es levantar la reunión y permitir al Comité de Redacción que avance en sus trabajos ya que tenemos muchas cosas pendientes.

CHAIRMAN: The chair is in your hands. If delegates so desire we can adjourn now until tomorrow but I must draw your attention to the fact that we are very much behind our schedule. We have so many items before us. With these pressures, I repeat I can only follow the wishes of the Council. However since there is a proposal perhaps it could be seconded.

I want to emphasize that I am not following a strict procedure. However, if the Council is a little reluctant to continue-we are in your hands. Are there any other remarks on this particular subject?

E. Vernon WADE-BROWN (United Kingdom): I have just received a signal from my delegation leader and he has indicated that he would like to continue on Forestry tonight.

Eiichi KAWAHARA (Japan): I would like to repeat the words expressed by the Chairman and the distinguished delegate of the United Kingdom. We have a lot of work to do and we have to carry on as much as possible.

Joachim WINKEL (Germany, Federal Republic of): I want to support the United Kingdom delegation.

CHAIRMAN: So we now have several delegates who wish to continue the work. If other delegates do not have very strong feelings about stopping now, I think we may continue at least for a while.

Gonzalo BULA HOYOS (Colombia): ¿Sería acaso posible que la Secretaría dispusiera de un equipo adicional de intérpretes que permitiera sesionar simultáneamente el Comité de Redacción con el Consejo?

LE SECRETAIRE GENERAL: Nous n'avons pas ce soir une équipe supplémentaire d'interprètes nous permettant de tenir simultanément une réunion du Comité de rédaction. Une équipe supplémentaire a déjà pris le relais à 17 heures 30, et il n'était pas prévu d'en avoir une autre. Nous pourrions éventuellement avoir une équipe demain, pour tenir simultanément une séance du Comité de rédaction et une séance du Conseil demain soir.

Gonzalo BULA HOYOS (Colombia): Sigamos entonces, Sr. Presidente.

CHAIRMAN: I think the Council has decided to go on, I thank you for your courage. With chat I leave the chair to our Independent Chairman Mr Ben Osman.

Lassaad Ben Osman, Independent Chairman of the Council, took the chair.

Lassaad Ben Osman, Président indépendant du Conseil, assume la présidence.

Ocupa la presidencia Lassaad Ben Osman, Presidente independiente del Consejo.

III. ACTIVITIES OF FAO AND WFP (continued)

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

III. ACTIVIDADES DE LA FAO Y DEL PMA (continuación)

6. Report of the Eighth Session of the Committee on Forestry (Rome, 21-25 April 1986)

6. Rapport de la huitième session du Comité des forêts (Rome, 21-25 avril 1986)

6. Informe del octavo período de sesiones del Comité de Montes (Roma, 21-25 de abril de 1986)

LE PRESIDENT: Nous allons poursuivre nos travaux. Je donne la parole à M. M. A. Flores Rodas, qui va faire un exposé introductif.

M. A. FLORES RODAS (Subdirector General Departamento de Montes): La octava sesión del Comité de Montes que se llevó a cabo del 21 al 25 de abril del corriente año se caracterizó por un alto nivel de participación y de asistencia: más de 200 participantes de 93 países miembros asistieron a ella.

Las discusiones demostraron una preocupación profunda sobre los efectos negativos, a nivel socioeconómico y ecológico de la destrucción incontrolada de los recursos forestales. En este contexto se discutieron las interacciones entre las actividades forestales y la conservación de un medio ambiente productivo, la seguridad alimentaria y el aumento de las rentas del empleo para la población particularmente al sector más pobre. Especial atención merecieron las carencias de leña y de energía basada en la madera. Muchas de estas discusiones hicieron más énfasis en la justicia social y en la contribución de estas actividades forestales al desarrollo, que a los asuntos puramente técnicos.

Los dos puntos de política discutidos se centraron sobre el papel de las industrias forestales, el transporte, mercado y comercio de los productos forestales en el desarrollo socioeconómico, y en el mayor reconocimiento de los niveles públicos y políticos a la importancia de los bosques para mejorar la calidad de la vida.

El Plan de Acción Forestal en los Trópicos, preparado por la FAO, fue reconocido como una oportunidad única para mejorar las políticas y estrategias existentes y para llevar a cabo programas forestales innovativos que sean una verdadera respuesta a las necesidades de desarrollo de los países tropicales. El Plan está recibiendo un apoyo muy fuerte de parte de todos los países que lo consideran como un marco coherente para aumentar y armonizar las asistencias técnicas y financieras en materias forestales.

El Comité reconoció el liderazgo y el papel central que la FAO debe ejercer en la puesta en práctica de este Plan y en su traducción en acciones concretas a los niveles ya sean de país, subregional y regional. También recomendó que durante la identificación de las prioridades para el futuro programa de trabajo para el Departamento de Montes se tenga muy en cuenta a los análisis que condujeron a la formulación del Plan de Acción Forestal en los Trópicos. Asimismo, el Comité recomendó que la más alta prioridad debe continuar dándose a las actividades forestales y al desarrollo rural.

El Comité también recomendó que el Director General presentara un informe al Consejo sobre los requisitos financieros necesarios para la protección y el desarrollo de los bosques del mundo, con particular referencia al Plan de Acción.

En conclusión, esta Octava Sesión del Comité de Montes puede ser considerada como una de las más constructivas en que, sin duda alguna, se reflejó el alto grado de interés del Comité tanto sobre las implicaciones de la destrucción continua de los recursos forestales, como sobre el potencial que tienen tales recursos para contribuir tanto al desarrollo rural como al desarrollo nacional en general.

Mrs. Millicent M. FEIWICK (United States of America): I am very anxious to speak to this. as, indeed I have very often before. I think FAO has taken the absolutely correct approach because it is true that we must preserve the environment. It is also true that that is not just some hobby of a few intelligent people--it is an absolute necessity for the world.

However, FAO has done it in such a good way because they have taken into account the fact that people live near and around these forests. Therefore, you have somehow to make it possible for them to understand that there is going to be something in it for them, with the planting of fruit trees and other trees that are going to be useful to them and for the preservation of the forest themselves. These points have been emphasized with respect for the local people and their needs and their feelings. As I say, it is not just some hobby of people who want something interesting to be involved in. It is an absolutely essential part of living in this world, not just from the point of view of the environment, erosion and all the things we understand, but the plants-about 80 percent of all the plants that are interesting are going to be in the tropical or semi-tropical forests of this world.

I have also just learned from my friend from Colombia that there is a forest in Colombia which is being very well protected by the government They are buying up the land around it, and there is a small lake there. All the moths in Canada and the United States go there every year as an outing. They wind up in Colombia, very happy and protected. They have just discovered this. We do not like to say I am very happy that 7 percent of the budget of FAO is in forestry, and if it could be increased by perhaps some savings in another area I think it would be to the long-term good of the planet.

Milan KARIC (Yugoslavia): I should like to thank Mr Rodas for his very clear presentation and to say that Yugoslavia finds the report of the 8th Session of the Committee on Forestry a very useful document. It provides a useful assessment and conclusions, and we will carefully consider the issues it raises and the policies that should be addressed.

We think that the current state of forestry in some regions is critical, and we agree that forest conservation should be included in the regular agenda at sessions of the Committee during the the present decade, and as soon as feasible.

We support FAO's Tropical Forestry Action Plan as a framework for harmonizing international action. In this connection, we agree that FAO should play the central coordinating role in the implementation of this plan.

As the present situation shows, the capacity of forest industries in developing countries has not been fully utilized. Therefore, we think that FAO and the international community should direct their efforts to rehabilitating and upgrading forestry in the world, and particularly assist developing countries in their efforts.

In the area of forest industries, we support among others the recommendation that greater attention should be paid to increase processing, marketing and trade of forestry products of developing countries, particularly by improving the competitiveness and access to export markets of developed countries.

In regard to the state of forestry in Yugoslavia, unfortunately it is not satisfactory as much of the forest is strongly affected by air pollution. This problem is of great concern to us, and the Yugoslav authorities have elaborated an appropriate methodology comparable to the methodology of other European countries in assessing the real situation, and have elaborated an action plan on how to face and fight the degradation of the forests by air and water pollution which, among other problems, is one of the major problems of almost all European countries.

Therefore, at the end of my statement I should like to stress that Yugoslavia expects a close cooperation with FAO and other countries affected by air and water pollution.

Mohd. Mazlan BIN JUSOH (Malaysia): First, let me congratulate Mr. Flores Rodas for his very clear introduction to this subject. We think it is important that policy makers of member countries realize the vital role that forests can play both as a source of foreign exchange as well as for the social and economic well-being of a nation.

On the matter of international trade in forest products, we would like to echo the concern expressed in the report on the measures to liberalize trade which still exist in the form of direct tariff and non-tariff barriers.

Very few people in the government and the public realize the importance of forests in ensuring the conservation of the environment and its contribution to the economy of the country.

We are therefore agreeable to the strategy as contained in the report which suggests the use of important personalities in heightening public awareness of the vital role of the forest. Nongovernmental organizations and local voluntary groups should also be mobilized to help in establishing effective communications with the public and political leaders.

On the matter of forest conservation, countries should not lose sight of the importance of conserving this valuable resource which could easily be over-exploited, leading to degradation of the soil and the environment. The figures quoted with regard to the state of degradation and deforestation of 11 million hectares per annum by FAO and UNDP is very alarming indeed. It is therefore imperative that efforts be intensified to implement forest conservation measures.

Regarding the Tropical Forestry Action Plan, Malaysia voiced strong support for the said plan in the COFO meeting and wishes to reiterate our stand here. We also agree to the proposed establishment of a working party aimed at mobilizing resources to finance the plan.

On the role of forestry in food security, the recommendation that FAO increases its work in the area of agro-forestry systems appears logical to us. Forestry, farming and livestock production are closely linked and should not be viewed as conflicting; rather they should be taken as an integrated wise land use management concept. Joint systems such as forest pastures in food production can ensure environmental stability. Communities living on the fringes of forests which exist on agriculture, livestock, as well on forest products including wildlife, could greatly benefit from this integrated approach.

Hasim ÖGÜT (Turkey): In our opinion, the 8th Session of the Committee on Forestry will constitute a milestone in the history of the Committee in that besides its other important conclusions this very session endorsed the Tropical Forestry Action Plan as a sound framework and guidance for future forestry activities of national governments, the FAO and other international organizations.

My delegation wishes to praise the effective work of the forestry department of FAO that has been devoted for several years now to the preparation of this action plan. We earnestly hope that the plan will be given the political and financial support which it deserves by donor and recipient governments. To this end, I wish to refer to paragraph 68 of the report where mention is made of increased financial resources needed for the implementation of the programme. As the coordinating role of FAO in the implementation of the TFAP will be an important one, it is unfortunate to experience the present financial difficulties which may not allow for the implementation of the programme. As the coordinating role of FAO in the implementation of the TFAP will be an important one, it is unfortunate to experience the present financial difficulties which may not allow for allocating increased levels of funds to its programmes on forestry. Let me at this point emphasize the fact that TFAP should be regarded as a model for priority setting processes and for operational arrangements of the other FAO programmes. In fact, the programme is so unique with its operational structure that it foresees linking FAO with national institutions in the recipient as well as in the donor countries to regional organizations, financial organizations-a mechanism which ensures that its implementation will be in a harmonized manner. We therefore reiterate the hope that despite the financial difficulties, the financial requirements of the TFAP will be adequately met by the donor community.

Let me now turn to other sections of the report and offer some brief comments on them.

As for forest industries, we are particularly glad to see that the Committee supported the concept of the holistic approach in establishing forest industries. In particular, we would like to stress the social content of this approach aiming at contributing to the rural development by providing new employment possibilities to the people living in forest areas. Not only will the small-scale forest-based industries provide direct employment to the people in these rural areas, but they will also contribute to the expansion of those economic activities serving the forest industry, thus providing additional income to the rural families.

The role of forestry in improving the nutritional status of people is not limited to the contribution of forest industries in this regard. I recall that the strong linkage between forestry and food security was best illustrated by the late Prime Minister of India, Mrs Gandhi, during the 21st FAO Conference by referring to a saying: I quote "Food will last so long as forests do. " We are gratified to see that this relationship was further elaborated by the committee on its various aspects. In this connection, permit me to point out that this relationship should go beyond our general acceptance and recognition but be regarded as a guiding principle in formulating policies for forest development in general, and in particular for agricultural development. It is encouraging to note that the past conflict between agriculture and forestry planners is coming to end, even though some conservative views are still in existence in the policy-making circles. We believe that the future development policies should incorporate forests into the overall land use planning exercise as a resource interacting with other productive resources, in the attainment of a sustainable social and economic development. Taken in this way, we believe that even the issue of forest protection and conservation can also be addressed in a more effective manner. We therefore attach great importance to an increased FAO assistance to developing countries in the formulation and implementation of agro-forestry programmes.

Having touched upon one aspect of forest conservation, I lastly wish briefly to refer two recommendations of the committee to FAO on forest conservation to which we accord relatively high importance. The first recommendation relates to the updating of information on tropical deforestation and on damage to forest by fires, air pollution, pests and disease. The updated data which this recommendation calls for will no doubt serve various purposes. Above all, they will be a valuable source of information which foresters and policy makers can use to raise awareness among the public about the severity of forest losses, and environmental degradation, and about the responsibilities of the public in preventing these losses.

The second recommendation on forest conservation, which we believe is of particular importance, is contained in sub paragraph (vii) of paragraph 45, and it deals with the development and intensification of studies related to comparative forestry legislation taking the new socio-economic relations into consideration. We do encourage the PAC) to intensify its activities in this area and we look forward to benefiting from them in the future design of our efficiency programme. The role of forests to maintain an ecological balance and the use of it for the production of timber and wood for various regions and its role in food security is absolutely vital.

The April 1985 meeting of the Committee on Food Security stressed the very important role forests can play in their contribution to food security. The role of the forests becomes more obvious when you see the real dangers of deforestation. Therefore, we must support the proposal that we allow forestry industries to recover and we also help them seek new outlets for various forestry products, because we are convinced that if they have a guaranteed market that is really the cornerstone for the development of production of such products.

The international community has an important role to play in the development of forests in developing countries, particularly as they can provide technical assistance. Forestry will be developed only if there is an awareness on the part of public opinion, particularly those populations who are in direct contact with forests. They must realize the importance of these forests for the well-being of mankind. The forest has to be taken as part and parcel and as a component in agricultural development. For these reasons we certainly support the proposals made in this Report regarding national programmes for raising consciousness and we also feel there has to be a link between extension in agricultural and forestry areas.

We also feel that there has to be a financial fund for publicity exercises. We would also like to give our full support to the Plan of Action on Tropical Forestry put forward by the FAO and would like to avail ourselves of the opportunity to inquire how much funding has already been mobilized for that purpose, particularly regarding extra-budgetary contributions. What is the state of play at the moment?

Badr BEN AMMAR (Tunisie): Compte tenu de l'heure tardive à laquelle nous entamons l'examen de ce point de l'ordre du jour, et conformément à votre recommandation, notre intervention sera brève.

Le rôle des forêts dans la préservation de l'équilibre écologique, dans la production de bois et autres produits forestiers pour le développement de l'élevage, dans la sécurité alimentaire, est, à notre avis, essentiel. Le Comité de la sécurité alimentaire mondiale, à l'occasion de sa dixième session en avril 1985 a, à juste titre d'ailleurs, insisté sur le rôle important que peuvent jouer les forêts dans la contribution à la garantie de la sécurité alimentaire. Le rôle des forêts serait davantage mis en évidence si l'on considérait l'état de la déforestation. C'est pour cela d'ailleurs que nous ne pouvons qu'appuyer la proposition visant à l'amélioration et à la relance des industries traitant les produits forestiers ainsi que celles relatives à l'étude des débouchés actuels et potentiels des différents produits forestiers. Nous restons convaincus que la garantie d'écoulement d'un produit constitue la pierre angulaire du développement de la production de ce produit. La communauté internationale pourra jouer un rôle important dans le développement de cette foresterie dans les pays en développement, particulièrement par la fourniture de l'assistance technique. Toutefois, le développement des forêts ne saurait se réaliser sans la prise de conscience, par l'opinion publique, et particulièrement celle des populations en contact direct avec les forêts, de l'importance de ces dernières pour le bien-être humain. Les forêts doivent être considérées comme une partie intégrante et une composante à part entière du

développement agricole. Pour ces raisons, nous soutenons les propositions contenues dans le rapport-relatives à la mise en place de programmes nationaux de sensibilisation, et au renforcement des liens entre la vulgarisation agricole et la vulgarisation forestière-ainsi que la nécessité d'un soutien financier pour les campagnes de sensibilisation et le renforcement des moyens audiovisuels des pays en développement.

Enfin, nous voudrions exprimer notre plein appui au plan d'action forestier tropical de la FAO et nous saisissons cette occasion pour demander quelques éclaircissements sur l'état d'avancement de la mobilisation des ressources financières pour l'exécution de ce programme, surtout en ce qui concerne les contributions bénévoles extrabudgétaires.

Ms. Anne-Lise PETERSEN (Denmark): First of all, I wish to thank the Secretariat for the introduction of the Report on the deliberations of the Committee on Forestry which my government can generally endorse. We have noted that the Committee has stressed the urgency for improving public awareness of the importance foresteries play in human welfare. We strongly support the Report's viewpoint on this matter.

We also agree that the environmental aspects are becoming more and more important. Likewise, we have noted that the Committee, in the light of the growing stringency in the availability of funds, underlined the importance of establishing clear priorities within FAO's Forestry Programme. The work of FAO's Tropical Forestry Action Plan is supported by my government and we hope that this Plan will supply a framework for harmonising international action in this important area.

We agree that FAO should play a central role in the implementation of the Plan. In this connection we find that FAO especially should assist in the education and the training of national personnel so that they can play an active role in the implementation of the Action Plan.

Concerning the financing of the necessary support of the TFAP we agree with the Committee that so far the Regular Programme resources are insufficient and FAO should seek voluntary extra-budgetary contribution for this purpose.

Philippe PIOTET (France): L'arbre et la forêt ont de tout temps joué un rôle central dans nos sociétés. Leurs fonctions sont multiples, intimement liées aux activités humaines sous tous leurs aspects et l'on peut dire, sans risque d'erreur, que les générations futures auront tout autant et sans doute plus encore qu'aujourd'hui besoin de la forêt. Bien rares sont les régions du monde où la forêt n'est pas menacée.

Dans de nombreux pays elle connaît en réalité une dégradation, ou recul, qui suscite les plus vives inquiétudes. Aussi, la France tient-elle à apporter tout son appui aux actions visant à sensibiliser les responsables politiques et l'opinion publique en faveur de la forêt.

L'année internationale de la forêt, célébrée en 1985, a joué à cet égard un rôle essentiel et ma délégation apporte un soutien sans réserves à la recommandation du Comité des forêts, invitant tous les pays à accorder une haute priorité à la poursuite des activités visant à maintenir et à accroître cet effort de sensibilisation. Le plan d'action forestier tropical, actuellement mis en oeuvre, constitue un instrument tout aussi important dans la poursuite de cet objectif. Ce plan, qui reçoit un plein appui de la France, fournit le cadre conceptuel des actions concrètes définies au niveau de chaque pays. Ces actions, nous semble-t-il, seront d'autant plus efficaces qu'elles seront appliquées à un nombre limité d'objectifs prioritaires et qu'elles seront menées avec le souci de dépasser les seuils quantitatifs à partir desquels leur effet positif sera réel pour les populations.

We fully endorse the statements in paragraph 66 which states that the responsibility for the increasing awareness of the problems of tropical forests primarily rests with the countries themselves. Moreover, we also support what is said in paragraphs 69 and 70. We also consider it necessary to increase the forestry activities of FAO within the framework of the resources available. In this connection we recommend FAO programme priorities in future biennia be re-examined. We cannot however endorse the Austrian proposal for the establishment of a World Forest Fund. It is our opinion that suitable financing instruments are already available and in this respect we welcome the statements in paragraph 71 of the document. We approve the statements in paragraph 88 of the document. We propose to decide on the question relating to the country hosting the next World Forestry Congress at one of the next Council's sessions with a view to giving the host country sufficient time for preparations.

Finally, we would like to support strongly the suggestions of the French delegation that the forthcoming Conference of FAO, in November 1987, should have an in-depth discussion on the findings of the SILVA Conference held in Paris last February.

Almir F. de Sá BARBUDA (Brazil): My delegation wishes to reiterate its support to the Report of the 8th Session of the Committee on Forestry, a specially important session to the tropical countries. The 8th Session endorses the Tropical Forestry Action Plan, a very important initiative that already counted on international support and whose actual implementation had already supported international and bilateral action. The delegation of Brazil was very active during the debates of that session, presented its report to the TFAP and stressed, as indicated at paragraph 62, that the preparation of national programmes and ranking of priorities for implementation are the exclusive responsibility of the governments involved. We pointed out as well that the Tropical Forestry Action Plan must be adapted to the national forestry policies and that particular attention should be given to initiatives in semi-arid regions.

Taking into account the present financial crisis faced by this Organization, we do hope that the donor community will be generous in regard to the extra-budgetary resources needed for the implementation in the interests of countries involved.

On the other hand, we noted with concern that among the adjustments that in the 1986-87 programme of work proposed by the Director-General in document CL 90/23 and already approved is the cooperation that was going to be established between FAO and the International Timber Trade Organization, a newly established organization which went into actual operation the first semester of 1987. Taking into account the consensus needed for the approval en bloc for the adjustment proposed in order to help to overcome the most immediate financial difficulties. My delegation refrained from raising this particular concession at that point. We do hope, however, that as soon as possible an effective relationship and cooperation will be developed between these two organizations. In the longer term this relationship will prove to be the more rational and economical way to avoid duplication of activities under the Tropical Forest Action Plan and specific activities that determine the establishment of the other organizations. Finally, my delegation would as well like the Secretariat to inform us if, after the 8th Session held last April, if any action has been taken in relation to the Austrian proposal mentioned at paragraph 74 of the report for the establishment of a World Forest Fund. We would like to learn if any consultation has been made and which countries have been approached and as well to which session of the Council the Secretariat plans to submit the report requested by the Committee on Forestry.

Vladimir STOYANOV (Bulgaria): On behalf of the Bulgarian and Czechoslovakian delegations I would like to express our understanding and some considerations about the item discussed. We have examined with great care document CL 90/8, 1985, which reflects the work and the decisions on the 8th Session of the Committee on Forestry. The document before us is really excellently prepared. The FAO report includes the most important recommendations and decisions. It contains also the strategy and the actions which are necessary to be undertaken from the member countries and FAO in the future. In this sense our thanks are addressed to Dr Flores Rodas, the Assistant Director-General, for his concise and very good introduction to his assistants and to the FAO Secretariat for the preparation of the report. Indeed,

the document summarized the plans of the practical activities of the Organization in the next few years. We also wish to stress that the report combines many of the suggestions of the delegates which make it more creative and applicable. We wish to support and to underline the conclusions and recommendations, and more exactly those in the part "heightening political and public awareness of the importance of forests for the quality of life", paragraphs 19 to 34, "Forest conservation" paragraphs 38 to 45, and "Forestry and food security" paragraphs 46 to 63.

During the 8th Session of the Committee on Forestry we exposed our opinion concerning the importance of the afforestation, properly adapted to the local conditions and so-called agro-forestry system and the production of food, raw materials, etc.

In this connection, I would like to present you one particular example from the practice of my country which pays a great attention to the importance of the afforestation. Thirty years ago, near to Sofia, the biggest dam in the country was constructed. The main object was to supply the capital regularly with more water, industrial and irrigation purposes included. According to a very precise study and estimations, technical, biological, etc. , the dam is going to be used during fifty years. Thanks to the large scale afforestation and re-afforestation during five consequent years, the estimation of highly qualified domestic and foreign experts show now that the dam will be used for more than 200 years. Some of the FAO officials know this dam. Our specialists are ready to share their experience in this field. The problem of the afforestation and re-afforestation has a global and exclusively important role for the preservation of the equilibrium between oxygen production and carbon dioxide fixation. Because, as you are undoubtedly aware, the contemporary increase of the carbon dioxide in the air, up to 0. 2 percent, is becoming very dangerous. According to the opinion of many prominent scientists from different countries, if this process continues, due to the life activities, great consumption of oxygen by engines, explosion, etc. , including mankind in the future will be exposed to the catastrophic situation. So that ail activities of the FAO, as well as the member countries, have to be focused, not only to preserve, but also to increase, the main natural and even artificially created sources of oxygen by the process of the photosynthesis. That practically means, to increase the area of the forestry, area under cultivation, pasture, etc. I am convinced that the mutual collaboration of the countries ail over the world and the increasingly important role of FAO as a Special Agency of the United Nations, directly involved in these humanitarian activities, and other institutions, will solve the problem for the benefit of our generation and the next generations.

John R. GOLDSACK (United Kingdom): We endorse the Committee's recommendation on paragraph 14 for further strengthening of FAO's programme of collection, evaluation and dissemination of information related to forest resources and research development. Member countries which are also concerned with the International Tropical Timber Organization should encourage a similar approach by that organization to effective collaboration with FAO and the avoidance of wasteful duplication of efforts in such fields where FAO is already skilled and experienced.

We endorse the Committee's encouragement at paragraphs 18 and 62 of cooperation between FAO and other UN Agencies and recommend that this be vigorously extended to ensure efficient coordination of action by FAO and the International Tropical Timber Organization to avoid wasteful duplication.

Referring to paragraphs 35 and 74, we would not support the establishment of a World Forest Fund and would recommend the Tropical Forestry Action Plan as the most appropriate basis on which to secure investment in the forestry sector using existing channels for international assistance from multilateral and bilateral resources, in accordance with individual countries' perception of their needs and priority.

With regards to paragraphs 60 and 61, the United Kingdom Government supports the Tropical Forestry Action Plan as a logical and coherent framework for harmonized international action and as an aid to reviewing priorities for assistance in economic development more widely.

We also endorse the Committee's recommendation at paragraph 70 that FAO's programme priorities be re-examined considering the importance of the TFAP and that every possible effort be made to accord higher priority to forestry programmes.

In conclusion, the United Kingdom supports the proposal of the delegate of France that the recent SILVA Conference should be followed up by FAO.

Sra. Mercedes FERMIN GOMEZ (Venezuela): Como la brevedad es lo que se impone en esta última parte de nuestra sesión de hoy yo no voy a ser la que desluzca y por esa razón me voy a referir muy brevemente, dándole apoyo a este Comité y mis congratulaciones al Dr. Flores Rodas por el excelente documento que ha presentado para nuestra consideración.

Voy a referirme concretamente al apoyo que debemos darle al Plan de Acción Forestal de los llamados Trópicos, que en realidad es de la región intertropical porque si nosotros vamos a poner solamente "a los trópicos", vamos a dejar a todo el sector ecuatorial huérfano de protección. Es la última esperanza para la humanidad y ahí están precisamente centrados los recursos fitogenéticos hacia los cuales miran hoy los países superindustrializados buscando la posibilidad de retenerlos y buscando también la posibilidad de conservar los germoplasmas que tanta falta hacen para la continuidad de nuestra vegetación en el planeta. Pero es muy importante apoyar a la FAO en el Programa de Conservación, en el criterio de conservación que nos parece que es realmente lo más indispensable en este campo. Los bosques están amenazados constantemente y tienen depredadores muy poderosos e importantes. Entre ellos tenemos a las grandes compañías urbanizadoras en los países en vías de desarrollo, a los señores industriales, que, aun con el pretexto de industrias agroforestales, contribuyen a deforestar grandes extensiones precisamente en los países, en las áreas intertropicales, y también, por qué no, a los ingenieros constructores de grandes carreteras, autopistas y aeropuertos, que se llevan una buena parte de las superficies de estos países, que antes eran cubiertas de bosques y que ahora quedan cubiertas de asfalto o de cemento.

Esto es parte de la tragedia que viven los países llamados en vías de desarrollo con relación a la cubierta de bosques en sus territorios, y esto deberían ser medidas que deben estar tomadas muy en cuenta para la permanencia del bosque.

El proceso de aforestación y de protección de los bosques, que está planteado aquí en el documento, merece todo nuestro apoyo, y solamente nos falta pedir un favor o hacer un ruego a los traductores al español de FAO en favor de los lectores cultos de habla española, sobre todo de los latinoamericanos, para quienes la palabra "forest" (en inglés) no es "montes", es "bosque". Algunos de los intérpretes han traducido correctamente la palabra, pero, en general, empezando porque se llama este Comité de Montes... entonces yo le rogaría, que, en aras de la verdad y en favor de los pobres latinoamericanos, nos pongan la palabra como es y lo llamen Comité de Bosques y traduzcan la palabra forest por bosques y no por montes, que es perfectamente otra cosa en nuestro idioma cuando se refiere a la vegetación. Yo no les explico qué es porque me haría fastidiosa, pero hasta aquí llega mi apoyo al Programa y le doy las gracias al Sr. Presidente por darme la palabra.

Allele ELHADJ HABIBOU (Niger): Au stade de ces débats, je voudrais au nom de ma délégation remercier notre ami qui vient de nous faire un exposé bref, concis mais très instructif, sur une situation extrêmement importante et sur un problème au coeur même du Sahel donc je suis membre. Je voudrais également, Monsieur le Président, vous féliciter de la manière fort éloquente dont vous dirigez les travaux de ce Conseil auquel nous accordons une importance toute particulière.

Dans la zone sahélienne qui est la notre, la désertification est un fléau redoutable qui dégrade de façon souvent dangereuse notre environnement, et qui affecte dangereusement la terre nourricière. La sécheresse, tout comme la désertification, est un phénomène avec lequel nous devons désormais compter, qu'il nous faut savoir gérer, comptabiliser, avec lequel il nous faut cohabiter. Face à ce fléau, les pays du Sahel se sont retrouvés à Nouakchott en Mauritanie en 1984 pour élaborer une stratégie commune de lutte contre la désertification. Au Niger, mon pays, s'est tenu du 21 au 24 mai 1984 un débat national sur le problème de la désertification. Les participants sont venus de toutes les couches sociales du pays; des participants de divers pays, ainsi que des organisations internationales et non gouvernementales ont pris part à ce débat qui a abouti à un consensus national de lutte énergique contre la désertification de notre pays. Suite à ce débat, des millions et des millions d'arbres ont été plantés, la sensibilisation des populations a pris de l'importance et un plan national de lutte contre la désertification a été élaboré; ce plan est le fruit d'une coopération fructueuse entre le Gouvernement du Niger, le CILSS et le Club du Sahel.

Le plan d'action forestière tropicale dont il est fait mention dans le document dont nous débattons vient donc à point nommé, car notre voeu est de voir se réaliser concrètement les idées qui y sont contenues. Cela permettra également de voir se concrétiser sur le terrain les projets prévus au plan et cela pour le bien-être de nos populations rurales. Le concours de la FAO et des pays amis sera déterminant pour l'élaboration du programme et sa mise en oeuvre.

Un point très important a été évoqué dans le document, qui est celui ayant trait à la sensibilisation des populations. Mon pays qui accorde une très grande importance à cet aspect fait de la participation des populations le point essentiel de sa politique, car dans le cadre de la société de développement, nous avons pris pour triptyque, pour devise: concertation, consultation et participation. C'est pourquoi le débat national auquel je faisais allusion a été tenu à l'initiative du Conseil national de développement, organe suprême de la société de développement. Chez nous, Monsieur le Président, la consultation, la concertation et la participation sont les principes de base de cette politique de la société de développement. De ce fait, dans toutes les structures depuis le village jusqu'au niveau national un bois est planté, et ce bois est entretenu et chaque année les surfaces sont en augmentation.

Ma délégation se réjouit de la priorité accordée par la FAO au problème de la lutte contre la sécheresse et la désertification, et je voudrais, sur ce point, appuyer ce qu'ont dit le délégué de la France ainsi que le délégué de l'Allemagne, sur le fait que ce que nous sommes en train de dire sur l'arbre, la forêt, la lutte contre la désertification, le reboisement, puisse aboutir à des résultats concrets aux fins de la réalisation de l'autosuffisance alimentaire pour laquelle nous luttons tous.

Mounir KHORAYCH (Lebanon): As a member of the Committee on Forestry the delegation of Lebanon wishes to confirm its full support to the report of the 8th session of the Committee. In our view COFO made an outstanding contribution during that session towards shaping international strategies and action programmes to broaden the role of forestry in the development process. We consider of fundamental importance the fact underlined by COFO that the Tropical Forestry Action Plan emphasized the relationship of forest lands and forestry with the most crucial development issues--that is, agriculture and food security, rural and industrial development, energy supply and environmental stability. We also appreciate particularly that political commitment to forestry development and peoples' participation are seen in the plan as key elements of success.

Concerning the technical content, I would like to recall that the plan covers a variety of forest lands and ecological conditions ranging from the humid forests to the dry steppes and from coastal formations such as the mangroves to the mountain watersheds.

The delegation of Lebanon has examined with special care and welcomes particularly those parts of the plan that deal with the problem of desertification, with arid zone forestry, with watershed management and with the protection of endangered plant and animal species as being particularly relevant to our country's situation. However, we fully share the Committee's view that the contents of the plan are not to be seen in isolation but as an integrated whole which can be translated into national plans, programmes and projects, according to each country's own policies, needs and priorities.

We know that the Director-General has already taken important decisions to ensure that the Forestry Department and the Organization as a whole take leadership in facing that challenge posed by the implementation of the plan and in realizing the promise that the plan offers.

With the focus and opportunity offered by the Tropical Forestry Action Plan the programmes of work of the Organization in the field of forestry can respond even more effectively to the true ecological, economic, political and social dimensions of forestry development so clearly identified in the plan and recognized by COFO.

My delegation strongly supports these programmes and wishes to urge all Council members to extend to them as well as to the Tropical Forestry Action Plan their full endorsement and support.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to thank FAO for the valuable assistance which it is rendering to Lebanon and aiming at rehabilitating its cedar forests. These forests that covered large areas of Lebanon's mountains and provided timber for constructing houses, palaces, shrines and shops thousands of years ago, have almost become extinct nowadays. We thank FAO for its efforts to revive these forests, establish protected national parks and maintain the existence of this important and valuable tree.

Sra. Margarita LIZARRAGA (Mexico): La delegación mexicana congruente con su interés y participación en las actividades forestales, acoge con satisfacción el informe y recomendaciones del octavo período de sesiones del Comité de Bosques y felicita al doctor Flores Roda por su excelente presentación.

Consideramos muy acertada la selección de los temas que se someten a la atención de este Consejo y le damos todo nuestro apoyo, pues consideramos que la salvaguarda y desarrollo de los recursos forestales están ligados a todas nuestras actividades, no sólo básicas sino vitales por su papel de regulador climático, por ser un factor básico en evitar los procesos de desertificación, por contribuir a la sanidad ambiental, por ser utilizado en el medio rural como leña para la preparación de los alimentos y como energético, y por su función como base de industrias a escalas diversas.

Por todo ello, señor Presidente, la explotación debe ser planificada y manejada técnicamente y el comercio revisado en un marco justo y adecuado.

Consideramos que la FAO debe reforzar su papel conforme el Comité lo propone. Damos, pues, todo nuestro apoyo al Plan de Acción Forestal en los trópicos de la FAO, esperando que conforme a lo propuesto por Austria, y en base a la respuesta positiva de la reunión oficiosa de los expertos forestales en los países donantes celebrada en abril pasado en esta ciudad, puedan incrementarse los esfuerzos y recursos financieros tanto bilaterales como multilaterales y a través de la FAO, de acuerdo a las prioridades definidas en los párrafos 76, 79, 81, 83 y 85 del Informe.

Apoyamos las medidas recomendadas por el Comité para impulsar y fortalecer las industrias forestales, particularmente aquellas medidas que fuerzan el programa de FAO para el acopio, evaluación y difusión de información sobre recursos forestales y su desarrollo: explotación forestal, desarrollo tecnológico, productos, mercadeo e inversiones, así como el impacto cultural y ambiental de las actividades forestales.

Esperamos que la FAO ponga mayor énfasis en el mejoramiento de la producción, elaboración y comercialización de productos forestales distintos de la madera a fin de aprovechar las especies que actualmente quedan sin utilizar en los bosques. En este sentido deben impulsar las actividades que reduzcan al mínimo los daños causados al medio ambiente y a la conservación de los bosques a través de programas de reforestación.

Las medidas recomendadas en el párrafo 45 del Informe, deberían iniciarse cuanto antes. Enfatizamos la urgencia de que los países europeos así como los de Norte América eliminen las barreras proteccionistas que impiden o limitan drásticamente la exportación de los productos forestales elaborados en las regiones Latinoamericanas. Asimismo, debe ampliarse el financiamiento exterior a las actividades forestales con América Latina y el Caribe.

Nuestra región ha recibido un presupuesto menor y un escaso número de proyectos, aun cuando en esta región se encuentran los mayores recursos forestales tropicales del mundo. La FAO debe corregir esta tendencia.

En este entendido apoyamos los objetivos y programas de la FAO en el mediano y largo plazo.

Finalmente nuestra delegación desea agradecer muy atentamente a nombre del pueblo y del Gobierno de México el reconocimiento hecho en el Comité a nuestro país en ocasión del análisis del Manifiesto de México por la organización y celebración del Noveno Congreso Forestal Mundial.

Shamsur RAHMAN (Bangladesh): My delegacion thanks Dr. Rodas for the excellent presentation of the subject.

My delegation appreciates the role of FAO in promoting forestry development activities in developing countries; the technical cooperation in forestry that is of a pre-investment nature-frequently leading to investment projects. In 1985 one forestry project was proposed by FAO for Bangladesh under the Investment Support Programme.

The role that forest industries sector plays in a national economy has been described and quantified in many FAO publications. The fact that the importance of forestry should not be limited to technical aspects of forestry but should take into consideration the environmental, economic, social and cultural context of the country, has also been emphasized in FAO publications.

FAO efforts in structuring forestry field programmes, in support of national objectives of development in general, and rural development in particular, is also appreciated.

My delegation appreciates FAO's role in preparation of Tropical Forestry Action Plan and the Director-General's concern for its implementation.

Several developing countries are endowed with mangrove forest which unfortunately are converted either into agricultural use or for shrimp culture. Information of the adverse nature of such practices is not plentiful. Also not much research work has been undertaken in this regard by developing countries.

My delegation feels that FAO can provide leadership in this field by a research project, formulation and its successful implementation.

Plantations of teak are an important wealth of Bangladesh. Unfortunately a large scale infestation of loranthus has been noticed. Control of the pest is essential to save valuable teak plantations.

This situation may not be unique to Bangladesh. There are other countries which are facing similar" problems affecting their national economy.

In the light of this it may be worthwhile for FAO to give serious consideration to the possibility of undertaking a project so as to help the affected countries to face the situation.

Hermann REDL (Austria): First of all I should like to thank Dr Flores Rodas for the introduction to the report of the Eighth session of the Committee on Forestry. Document CL 90/8 before us clearly describes the activities of the Forestry Committee.

Austria welcomes FAO's contribution to the International Year of the Forest in 1985, namely to publish a worldwide estimate of the forestry resources in 1980. As you know, according to this study in 1980 an area of 4. 32 billion hectares was covered by forests. The share in Europe amounting to only 160 million hectares. In the developing countries the conversion from forest land to farm land has accelerated in recent years. A respective inventory of the tropical forest stands shows an annual decline in forest areas of 11 million hectares, mainly for agricultural purposes.

One of the objectives of forestry must therefore be the increase in food production by protecting hard water regions, fighting erosion and improving the micro-climate in arid zones, by growing belts and wind screens. The biomass of the forests contains a number of edible products which together with the forest fauna, if carefully managed, may assist in raising food production.

I should like to refer to the fact that the demand for fuel wood is the highest demand for forest products in the developing countries. As you know in those countries two billion people rely on wood to meet their energy requirements. The employment prospects are of particular importance in forestry, mainly for young people. The development of forest industries should not only be adequate in the technical sense but should be geared to the local conditions. The future activities of the Forestry Committee and the Forestry Department should also be seen in the light of the Manifesto of Mexico and the subsequent discussions. In this context, I should like to refer to the discussions at the

eighty-eighth Session of the FAO Council and at the Fifteenth Regional Conference for Europe concerning the conservation of forest resources.

The Austrian delegation advocates the pertinent initiatives of the Director-General and joins those who plead for an increase in the budgetary means of the Forestry Department. In particular, FAO's field activities should be strengthened. FAO should play an active part in the fight against the decline of forests and include concrete proposals in its Programme of Work for 1988/89.

Michael J. RYAN (Australia): I should like to make a brief comment on a particular matter arising in paragraph 45 of the document, where a number of recommendations of the Committee on Forestry are listed. Recommendation (v) reads that FAO should "assist member countries in activities related to tree genetics and in the establishment of seed banks".

Members of the Council will be aware of Australia's long-standing concern to avoid duplication between the FAO Commission on Plant Genetic Resources of the International Board for Plant Genetic Resources (a CGIAR Centre) and to ensure that the role of the International Board for Plant Genetic Resources is maintained. Given this concern on our part we would not wish this particular recommendation to be interpreted as an avenue whereby FAO can exert influence over the current activities of IBPGR, nor as a green-light for FAO to increase its activities which could result in duplication of effort in this area.

On this subject we would point out that some 50 percent of the total effort on plant genetic resources in developing countries is already undertaken by CGIAR centres and IBPGR has a vital coordinating role in this effort.

Furthermore, we understand (and I am sure that FAO is aware) that the technical advisory group of CGIAR is currently developing a policy statement on the role of plant genetic resource activities within the CGIAR system. An additional factor here is that CGIAR is paying increasing attention to the role of trees and shrubs in farming systems and in resource conservation.

Several years ago a detailed programme and management review of IBPGR led to decisions by CGIAR that the Board needed to be more autonomous of FAO. To date, progress along this road has been rather slow. Consequently, Australia has reservations about the implications of the COFO recommendation and believes that consideration by Council should be deferred for the time being until the current issue of IBPGR's views on FAO's proposals have been considered by CGIAR and conveyed to the Council. Naturally, we would encourage FAO's continued participation in this process.

Mohammad Hasan PAIMAN (Afghanistan): My delegation has gone through the report of the document, which is a useful report and result. Due to the shortage of time I will give a very short comment in regard to the report of the Eighth session of the Committee on Forestry, and this document. Referring to paragraph 11, the Afghan delegation believes that FAO could play an important role in the formulating and implementation of small scale forest industry projects in developing countries. However, in those countries forestry is declining. UNDP and other international organizations should implement the forestry development projects with the cooperation of FAO. Of course, to equip the forestry projects and training of the local personnel in different aspects of forestry would be part of the project objectives. Attention should be given particularly to the security of forest wild life. This point is missing in the document. Also this is a main economic source of the forests. I hope it will be considered in future.

Concerning paragraph 20, the Afghan delegation appreciates all types of efforts in drawing public attention to the importance of forestry development in community development, and the preservation of the environment. In the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan "Tree Planting Day" is the first day of the Afghan year and is celebrated as a big farmers' festival with special ceremonies. This contributes to the important role of public awareness in forestry development. On that day thousands of different kinds of plants are distributed to the farmers free of charge and thousands of plants are planted throughout the country by the Forestry Departments.

Augustine K. OSUBAN (Uganda): I should like to say that we endorse the conclusions of the Committee, and we would like to spotlight the following points. We believe that since the protection and production management of tropical forests is vital to the protection of our environment, the need and urgency for improving public awareness of the importance of forests in human welfare is of paramount importance.

We would like to emphasize paragraph 25 of the report. We believe that this strengthens the basis for understanding the mutuality of agriculture and forestry.

Finally, we would like to voice concern about accidental environmental hazards such as Chernobyl and the recent Sandoz accident, which are beginning to occur very frequently. We fear that if these kinds of accidents spill over to developing countries, when we are unable to handle the natural hazards which are occurring now, it is easy to imagine what would happen when we were faced with this new type of hazard. Suffice to say that the environment would definitely be affected and perhaps along with that even the people in those countries.

Gonzalo BULA HOYOS (Colombia): El señor Rodas ha hecho una excelente presentación.

Pensamos que en nuestro informe deberemos incluir la afirmación del Consejo en el sentido de que los estados del Tercer Mundo no han podido utilizar plenamente su capacidad efectiva de las industrias forestales y apoyar el llamado que el Comité ha hecho a la FAO y a la Comunidad de Donantes para que asistan técnica y económicamente a los estados en desarrollo a fin de que avancen en este campo importante.

Además de las industrias forestales destacamos la función importante de la ampliación del comercio y mercadeo y apoyamos a la distinguida colega de México en el sentido de que este Consejo debe estar de acuerdo con el Comité sobre las conveniencias de eliminar las barreras arancelarias y no arancelarias que han venido entorpeciendo la expansión del comercio forestal.

Este Consejo debe sumarse a la opinión del Comité al reconocer al gobierno de Francia la actitud positiva de haber acogido en París en febrero pasado la Conferencia Internacional sobre el Árbol y el Bosque, iniciativa francesa que el Gobierno de Colombia destaca complacido y debería ser imitada por otros Estados.

Queremos igualmente señalar el papel importante y positivo que cumple otro país, Austria, cuyo representante el señor Redi hace poco nos ha descrito algunas de las actividades austríacas en ese campo. Nos asociamos al colega de Brasil para preguntar que si ha corrido la iniciativa positiva de Austria sobre el establecimiento del Fondo.

La delegación de Colombia apoya el párrafo 34 sobre la falta de voluntad política y el inmenso peso de la deuda externa que han contribuido mucho a que falten adecuadas inversiones en el sector forestal.

Apoyamos plenamente el plan de acción forestal en los trópicos y la conveniencia de que la FAO y los donantes auspicien el envío de misiones a los países en desarrollo para asistirles en la ejecución de sus respectivos planes.

A principios de octubre pasado se reunió en Berlín un grupo de asesores forestales de los países donantes y en esa reunión se concedió atención sobresaliente a la riqueza forestal colombiana. Entre esos donantes estuvieron particularmente el PNUD, el Banco Mundial, el BID, la República Federal de Alemania, Canadá, la Agencia AID de los Estados Unidos, los Países Bajos y Francia. Esperamos que estos y otros donantes se sumen a la FAO en la misión que próximamente será enviada a Colombia para la elaboración de nuestro plan de acción forestal. De antemano gracias a todos ellos

Una vez más, el Gobierno de Colombia apoya los principios y objetivos del Manifiesto de México, síntesis de los buenos éxitos logrados en el Noveno Congreso Forestal Mundial celebrado en ese hermano país latinoamericano. Apoyamos igualmente a México en cuanto a la mayor atención que la FAO debe ofrecer al inmenso potencial forestal de nuestra región.

Finalmente, la delegación de Colombia reitera su pleno apoyo al Departamento de Montes de la FAO dirigida con acierto y competencia por el señor Flores Rodas.

Mme Anna Teresa FRITTELLI ANNIBALDI (Italia): Il est très tard mais je ne peux pas renoncer à remercier de l'excellent rapport qui nous a été présenté et à nous associer aux vœux qui ont été exprimés pour la solution des problèmes forestiers dans le monde. Mon pays attache une importance fondamentale à ces problèmes.

En ce qui concerne les recommandations de SILVA, ma délégation est certaine que tous les pays, comme le mien, feront tous leurs efforts pour que l'appel lancé reçoive la meilleure réponse.

José Ramón LOPEZ-PORTILLO ROMANO (México): Solamente para hacer una breve aclaración; le pido disculpas, señor Presidente, por intervenir de nuevo. Me refiero a las opiniones expresadas por una delegación en relación a la función de la conservación de recursos fitogenéticos y el papel que en torno a estas cuestiones tiene el CIRF.

Nosotros creemos que éste no es un asunto que se deba debatir en este foro; no es ésta ni la ocasión ni el momento para hacerlo; pensamos que en la comisión de recursos fitogenéticos creada al respecto debemos dirimir esas cuestiones. Por tanto, señor Presidente, quería hacer esta aclaración para que quede en las actas y que estas cuestiones las tratemos en el foro adecuado.

Eiichi KAWAHARA (Japan): The Japanese delegation has no objection to endorsing this report. However, I wish to clarify one point regarding a report to the Council on the financing requirement for action to protect and conserve the world's forests which appears in paragraph 74. I would very much appreciate if the secretary could provide information on how the process of formulating such a report is going, and provide a time schedule for the completion of that report and submission to this Council. In this connection, in the process of compiling such a report, when can we expect the opportunity for any member of the Committee, including Japan, to convey its views on this report?

Suharyo HUSEN (Indonesia): I should like to express my government's support for the work of FAO in the field of forestry. I share the views of other delegations in welcoming and supporting the report of the Committee as set out in document CL 90/8.

In supporting this report I should like to underline the importance of forest industries, marketing and trade of forest products and their role in socio-economic development. In this connection the Indonesian government strongly supports the recommendations in paragraphs 9, 12, 13, 14 and 16. In heightening political and public awareness of the importance of forests for the quality of life, my delegation agrees with the Committee on emphasizing the importance of people's participation in forestry deployment, communicating values of forests to the community, harmonizing agricultural and forestry extension programmes and training and extension for women in the forestry activities.

The Indonesian government fully supports the Tropical Forest Action Plan, including all the Committee's recommendations in the document before us. My delegation stresses the importance of technical economic cooperation among the countries in supporting the implementation of TFAP.

Finally, I should like to express my delegation's appreciation to Mr Flores Rodas for his brief and very clear introduction.

Donac CHINKUMO (Cameroun): La délégation camerounaise félicite le Comité forestier et son "Directeur pour l'excellent document qu'ils nous ont présenté et surtout en ce qui concerne le Plan de développement forestier. Comme vous le savez, le Programme de développement des forêts intéresse le Cameroun d'autant plus qu'une bonne partie de notre pays touche la région du Sahel et cette région du pays n'a pas été épargnée par la grave sécheresse qui a frappé l'Afrique ces dernières années. En effet, de nombreuses familles de cette zone ont été obligées de déménager vers des régions plus clémentes et plus propices. C'est dire que les effets de l'avance du désert laissent, de temps à autre, choir ses retombées sur la partie de l'extrême nord du pays, sur cette partie de la région du pays. C'est pour cette raison que le Cameroun a créé il y a quelques années une superdirection générale chargée du reboisement sur l'ensemble du territoire, mais surtout dans la région de l'extrême nord.

C'est également pour cette raison que le thème de la Journée mondiale de l'alimentation de l'année 1985 a connu un grand encouragement au Cameroun et ce thème a été débattu sur l'ensemble du territoire, tant par des conférences que par des tables rondes. Le temps nous fait défaut.

Raphael RABE (Observateur de Madagascar): Permettez-nous de féliciter M. Flores Rodas pour la présentation claire et concise du sujet. La délégation de Madagascar voudrait faire quelques commentaires l'endroit du chapitre traitant du plan d'action forestier tropical.

D'emblée, notre délégation réitère les félicitations qu'elle a adressées au Secrétariat lors de l'examen du Plan d'action à sa huitième session. Grâce aux efforts inlassables du Secrétariat, nous pouvons disposer d'un outil très précieux pour le développement du secteur forestier dans les cinq années à venir. Nous convenons, avec le Comité des forêts, que le PAFT constitue un cadre logique et cohérent, dans lequel la communauté internationale peut agir d'une manière coordonnée. Plus que jamais, la FAO devra jouer un rôle de catalyseur et de chef de file lors de son application dans les pays. Elle devrait recevoir cependant, les ressources financières définies au paragraphes 68 et 71 du document. Dans cet ordre d'idées, nous renouvelons notre conviction sur la nécessité et l'opportunité d'entreprendre sans tarder les investigations tendant à la concrétisation du Fonds forestier national, système permettant de collecter efficacement les fonds requis pour le financement de la mise en oeuvre du PAFT dans les meilleurs délais et dans les meilleures conditions. Nous partageons les avis des délégations allant dans le sens du renforcement des moyens d'intervention du Département des forêts par des ressources volontaires extra-budgétaires.

Enfin, nous tenons à manifester notre satisfaction à la FAO pour l'aide très précieuse qu'elle nous a fournie dans la constitution d'un silo national de semences forestières. Pour notre part, nous sommes aussi convaincus que la création de banques de semences forestières est primordiale si l'on veut constituer des formations forestières performantes. Aussi, nous n'avons aucune difficulté à appuyer dans leur totalité les recommandations figurant au paragraphe 45.

LE' PRESIDENT: Je remercie tous les intervenants qui ont bien voulu parler malgré l'heure tardive et qui ont contribué à ce débat important. Je voudrais passer la parole au Directeur général adjoint de la FAO pour qu'il réponde aux interventions.

DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL: I would just like to comment on three issues that have been raised in the course of the debate, each of them being of an institutional character.

First of all I would like to warmly welcome the proposal put forward by the representative of France and supported by a number of other speakers, that the FAO Conference would provide an appropriate forum for focusing on the follow-up of the SILVA Conference as well as other similar conferences in the forest area. This certainly seems to be a suggestion that we on the Secretariat can warmly support. I would like to suggest that this process might usefully start at the session of FAO's Committee on Forest Development in the Tropics which is scheduled for September next, a couple of months ahead of the Conference.

Secondly, there have been several references in the course of the debate to the International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO). Only a few days ago the first Executive Director of ITTO, Mr Freezailah, was in FAO for discussions with the Forestry Department and I had the pleasure of a fairly lengthy discussion with him. These discussions have been extremely welcome and supportive. We are agreed on a general principle of complementarity, in other words, there would be no duplication of activities. They would be able to benefit from the FAO data base and FAO's work and, conversely, we would hopefully be able to benefit from their future activities. The relations between FAO and the ITTO will be worked out through an exchange of letters.

Lastly I refer to the comments made by the representative of Australia on one of the recommendations of the Committee on Forestry relating to tree genetics. I agree entirely with the representative of Mexico that this is not the forum at which to enter into any controversy regarding the IBPGR, its role and its relations with FAO. However, I do not believe that any controversy should arise.

The activities advocated by COFO do not represent anything fundamentally new in the FAO Work Programme. The FAO is cooperating with Australia in this area and is even providing, in the literal sense, seed money to the Australian Organization, known by the initials CSIRO, for the provision of seeds to developing countries.

In the second place the IBPGR is not, to the best of my knowledge, engaged in, or envisaging, sponsoring collections of forest genetic resources. The interest in trees and shrubs, mentioned by the representative of Australia, refers to the use of trees in farming systems and not to any plan for the systematic collection and conservation of forest genetic resources.

M. A. FLORES RODAS (Subdirector General, Departamento de Montes): Seré muy breve, nada mas quiero referirme a dos puntos: la consulta del distinguido representante del Brasil y otra de sus colegas acá sobre el reporte, sobre el financiamiento internacional que, según lo instruido por COFO, debemos presentar a este Consejo en el futuro. En primer lugar, el estado del trabajo: Se ha contratado ya a los consultores correspondientes para hacer el trabajo; la agenda y su índice están siendo distribuidos a todos los países miembros de FAO, precisamente a los miembros del Comité Forestal de FAO; y, en tercer lugar, correspondiente a su pregunta, este caso será presentado al próximo Consejo de la FAO que creo que es en junio del próximo año.

En segundo lugar, me quería referir, en términos, generales, al apoyo total de parte del Consejo al Programa de Acción Forestal en los Trópicos que ha sido apoyado totalmente, principalmente haciendo énfasis en la característica integral del uso del recurso forestal y no sólo el uso del recurso forestal per se, sino la incorporación de los recursos forestales en general en los programas de desarrollo. Por lo tanto, la participación de la sociedad, la participación del hombre, principalmente aquel que vive en la zona rural, es muy importante, ya ha sido reconocido con gran satisfacción de parte de ustedes. Creo que en general estos son mis comentarios.

LE PRESIDENT: Je remercie beaucoup M. Flores Rodas pour ses éclaircissements, il se fait tard, mais je voudrais faire quelques contributions à ce débat.

On peut admettre que le Conseil est unanime à se féliciter de l'approche de la FAO sur le rôle de la forêt comme composante essentielle de l'économie agricole et des forêts qu'il convient d'exploiter dans le cadre d'une vision intégrée avec l'élevage et la culture.

Je crois également pouvoir noter l'unanimité du Conseil pour recommander à la FAO d'accroître ses activités dans le domaine de la forêt, de la foresterie et de l'agroforesterie. Le Conseil appuie pleinement le plan d'action forestière tropicale et a recommandé que, malgré la limitation des crédits, ce programme soit préservé dans l'activité de la FAO et que toutes les possibilités de financement-régionales, nationales ou internationales-puissent être prospectées selon les sensibilités des organes et des pays qui désirent s'y intéresser.

Il a également été souligné que la FAO devrait avoir un rôle prépondérant et jouer un rôle de coordinateur dans la mise en oeuvre de ce plan d'action forestière tropicale.

Il convient également de souligner la préoccupation manifestée par un certain nombre de délégués quant à l'importance et l'acuité particulières attachées à la conservation des ressources forestières et à la lutte contre la désertification. Il a été noté en effet qu'environ 11 millions d'hectares par an de forêts disparaissent du fait de la surexploitation et du déboisement. De nombreux délégués ont souligné le rôle de l'homme et la sensibilisation des populations à cette action de conservation des ressources naturelles.

Il faut enfin noter l'appréciation du Conseil pour l'initiative française de réunion de la conférence SILVA sur les arbres et les forêts en février 1986 à Paris et nous avons noté la demande que la FAO réalise le suivi de cette conférence lors de la prochaine Conférence générale de 1987.

Telle est la contribution que je pouvais faire. Je tiens à remercier tous les délégués qui ont bien voulu, malgré l'heure tardive, admettre le calendrier assez sévère demandé par le Secrétariat et la présidence du Conseil, mais nous aurons demain une journée encore plus chargée et, comme le disait M. Walton l'autre jour: "to-morrow is another day".

The meeting rose at 20. 00 hours.

La séance est levée a 20 heures.

Se levanta la sesión a las 20. 00 horas.

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ORGANIZACION DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS PARA LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION

CL

CL 90/PV/15

Ninetieth Session

Quatre-vingt-dixième session

90º período de sesiones

**FIFTEENTH PLENARY MEETING
QUINZIEME SEANCE PLENIERE
15ª SESION PLENARIA
(26 November 1986)**

The Fifteenth Plenary Meeting was opened at 09. 30 hours,
Lassaad Ben Osman, Independent Chairman of the Council, presiding

La quinzième séance plénière est ouverte à 9 h 30, sous la
présidence de Lassaad Ben Osman, Président indépendant du Conseil

Se abre la 15ª sesión plenaria a las 09. 30 horas, bajo la
presidencia de Lassaad Ben Osman, Presidente Independiente del Consejo

- IV. PROGRAMME, BUDGETARY, FINANCIAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS (continued)
- IV. QUESTIONS CONCERNANT LE PROGRAMME, LE BUDGET, LES FINANCES ET L'ADMINISTRATION (suite)
- IV. ASUNTOS DEL PROGRAMA Y ASUNTOS PRESUPUESTARIOS, FINANCIEROS Y ADMINISTRATIVOS (continuación)
- 11. Reports of the Fifty-Seventh and Fifty-Eighth Sessions of the Finance Committee including:
- 11. Rapports des cinquante-septième et cinquante-huitième sessions du Comité financier notamment:
- 11. Informes de los periodos de sesiones 57 y 58 del Comité de Finanzas, en particular:
 - 11.1 Developments regarding Headquarters Accommodation
 - 11.1 Faits nouveaux concernant les locaux du Siège
 - 11.1 Novedades en relación con los locales de oficina en la Sede
- 12. Financial Matters (continued) including:
- 12. Questions financières (suite), notamment:
- 12. Asuntos financieros (continuación), en particular:
 - 12.2 Audited Accounts
 - 12.2 Comptes vérifiés
 - 12.2 Cuentas comprobadas
 - (a) Regular Programme 1984-85
 - (a) Programme ordinaire 1984-85
 - (a) Programa Ordinario 1984-85
 - (b) UNDP 1984-85
 - (b) PNUD 1984-85
 - (b) PNUD 1984-85
 - (c) World Food Programme 1984-85
 - (c) Programme alimentaire mondial 1984-85
 - (c) Programa Mundial de Alimentos 1984-85

LE PRESIDENT: Notre programme de travail pour ce matin comprend les questions financières, au titre des points 11 et 12. Le Président du Comité financier va exposer l'ensemble de ces points, de manière à ce que nous ayons un débat global qui porte sur l'ensemble des questions financières, y compris les comptes vérifiés.

Atif Y. BUKHARI (Chairman, Finance Committee) (Original language Arabic): You were right, Mr Chairman, in introducing these two documents. One relates to the other, and the Report of the Finance Committee includes the Headquarters Accommodation and the Audited Accounts. In view of the short time available I would like to present these two documents in summary form, in the form of the Reports of the Finance Committee.

If we deal with the developments relating to the Headquarters Accommodation, we do not find much that the Finance Committee would like to add. In the first Report, which is the Report of the Finance Committee in its Fifty-Seventh Session, the Committee referred to the fact that the host government has agreed to finance the expansion operation in the Headquarters Accommodation in towards "Terme di Caracalla" and it allocated Lire 25 billion in 1986, 1987 and 1988. These facts will be referred to while giving the Report.

During the Fifty-Eighth Session, which was held last September, the document before us, which is CL 90/22 was referred to the Finance Committee. This change was put before the Finance Committee and the Committee took note of the new plans and considered that such construction work is part and parcel of the Headquarters Agreement.

You will recall that on 19th of November the Council considered certain parts of the Reports of the Finance Committee on financial matters and it left the consideration of the rest of the Reports to today's session.

We have before us CL 90/4, which is the Report of the Fifty-Seventh Session of the Finance Committee, which was held in the period between 12-20 May, 1986, and document CL 90/17 which is the Report of the Fifty-Eighth Session of the Finance Committee held in Rome from 22nd September to 2nd October 1986.

Today the Council considers the Reports of the Finance Committee on the Budget, on personnel matters and on organizational matters in addition to a specific subject, namely Headquarters accommodation.

Of course the two Reports of the Finance Committee refer to the financial position of the Organization, but the Report of the Fifty-Eighth Session, which is included in document CL 90/17, refers also to the Report of the External Auditor on the Regular Programme, UNDP and the WFP.

As regards budgetary matters contained in document CL 90/4, I would like to say that the Finance Committee received a Report entitled "The Report of the Director-General on the Budget Performance", and this was only for information until the accounts have been audited. At that time we did not have before us the Report of the External Auditors. The Secretariat informed the Finance Committee of the transfers among various programmes and various chapters in the budget in 1984 and 1985, and this is referred to in paragraphs 8 and 9 in the first report (document CL 90/4). The Committee reviewed these facts and it took note of the information submitted by the Secretariat of the Organization.

As for financial matters which are contained in paragraphs 33 to 40, the Committee reviewed the method followed by the Organization concerning the crediting of interest to trust funds. It requested a report with additional information to be put before the session to be held in the spring of 1988. This matter will be discussed, and is contained in paragraphs 33 and 34 of the report in document CL 90/4.

The Committee also reviewed the actuarial review of separation payments scheme and accepted the proposal submitted by the Organization in this respect. The Committee called for an actuarial review every four years (as was the practice in the past) and for the submission of an interim report in 1988 on this situation. This item is referred to in the report of the Finance Committee in paragraphs 35 to 40 inclusive. Here, the Finance Committee would like to recall to the Council, in particular the recommendation contained in paragraph 38. That is a recommendation which we should particularly like to highlight before the Members of the Council.

I now move to personnel matters. The Finance Committee reviewed the 11th Report of the International Civil Service Commission, which is reproduced in Appendix D of the Report of the Finance Committee. This subject is covered in paragraphs 41 to 43 of the Report of the Finance Committee. In this respect, the Finance Committee took note of the resolutions of the General Assembly.

The Finance Committee also reviewed the changes in salary scales and allowances which relate to Professional and higher categories. This is covered in the Report of the Finance Committee in paragraphs 44 to 47.

Paragraph 48 deals with the General Service staff at Headquarters.

Paragraph 49 referred to the Pension Developments. There is also reference here to Organizational Matters. With reference to these organizational matters, we find that the Committee received a report on the progress regarding the construction relating to the Headquarters of the Organization. The Committee expressed its satisfaction with the fact that the Italian Parliament has approved the financing of this operation by allocating Lire 25 billion for the construction of new buildings at the Headquarters in the Caracalla complex. This is referred to in paragraphs 50 to 58 in the Report of the Finance Committee. Here I should like to recall document CL 90/22 which referred to the operations and expansions which have been finally agreed upon relating to accommodation.

The Finance Committee was also informed of the intensive meetings held between the representative of the host Government and the officials of the Organization which relate to the immunity of the Organization from legal process in Italy. This is covered in paragraph 59 of the Report of the Finance Committee under "Organization's Immunity from Legal Process in Italy".

Concerning the reports of the Joint Inspection Unit, there are several reports which have been put before the Finance Committee and we refer to this fact in our report in paragraphs 60 to 67. The Finance Committee expressed its views regarding the activities of the Joint Inspection Unit.

As regards "Other Matters", which is the conclusion of the first report of the Finance Committee, in paragraphs 68 to 73 we note that the Committee reviewed the information received from the Secretariat relating to the implementation of the new computer systems for financial information and for personnel matters. They are called FINSYS and PERSYS. The Committee indicated that in its forthcoming session it will review the implementation of this system, and it also expressed the hope that the Organization would benefit from the services provided by these two systems.

I should like to refer here to paragraph 72. Under this item in our first report (CL 90/4) we refer to the fact that the Committee was also informed that a Steering Committee was established to plan, manage and supervise this project.

As for paragraphs 74 to 77, the Committee reviewed the transparency of FAO's activities and it noted the emphasis given by the Director-General to the transparency of FAO activities and his readiness to provide all necessary information in this respect. As is clear from these paragraphs, the Committee expressed its full endorsement of the Director-General's approach regarding the transparency of FAO activities.

This has been a summary of our first report—the report: of the 57th Session of the Finance Committee (document CL 90/4) which was held in Rome from 12 to 20 May 1986.

I should now like to turn to the report of the 58th Session of the Finance Committee (document CL 90/17). This gives an overall review of the report of the External Auditor and the points of view of the Finance Committee relating to the Regular Programme of the Organization 1984-85, the accounts of UNDP 1984-85 and also financial information on the WFP for the period 1984-85.

First, budgetary matters: the Committee reviewed the 5th Report on Duty Travel. This includes official travel which had been undertaken during the period 1984-85. This has been covered in paragraphs 3 to 5. These paragraphs also include the points of view of the Finance Committee, since the Committee recognized that the proportion of cancelled and unscheduled trips was within reasonable limits.

As for paragraphs 6 to 9, these cover the Report on the Use of Consultants in 1984-85. Here I should like to refer in particular to the comment of the Finance Committee which is contained in paragraph 9. The Finance Committee also reviewed the Report of the Commission for Controlling the Desert Locust in the Eastern Region of its Distribution Area in South West Asia. This is the budget of the Commission which was submitted to the Finance Committee to consider. This covers the period 1985-89. The Finance Committee noted that the budget proposed for the Commission is at the same level as for the five preceding years. Having reviewed the budget, the Committee approved the budget of the Commission.

I should now like to move on to the Audited Accounts. The Finance Committee reviewed in depth the audited accounts for 1984-85 in accordance with Rule 77. 7 (i) of the General Rules. Representatives of the External Auditor of the United Kingdom presented to the Committee full reports on the accounts of the Regular Programme, the UNDP and the WFP. As is the usual practice the External Auditor gave his candid views as regards the financial statements of the Regular Programme for 1984-85 which was submitted to him by the Organization. As usual when giving his opinion the External Auditor decided without any reservation that in accordance with his auditing that these financial statements gave a clear and candid picture of the activities and operations of the Organization for the period 1984-85. This is clear in the Report of the External Auditor.

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with financial practice and they are in line with the financial statements prepared for the previous financial period, and all the financial information is in line with the Financial Rules. This is in summary the opinion of the External Auditor contained in his report when he audited and reviewed the Regular Programme activities.

The Finance Committee noted that the opinion of the External Auditor regarding the accounts of the Regular Programme of the Organization was given without any reservations or modifications. This is also the case with the financial statements of 1984/85 which were discussed with the External Auditor and with the Secretariat of the Organization.

The External Auditor reviewed the situation, and in his report he included a review of the Regular Programme monitoring. This is referred to in paragraphs 47-50 of the Report of the Finance Committee, document CL 90/17.

As regards FAO country representatives, this is referred to in paragraphs 51 and 52.

Procurement of word processing and data processing equipment is covered in paragraphs 53-56.

The Italian Special Contribution, that of the host Government, is covered in paragraph 57 in the Report of the Finance Committee.

Then we have the Inland Water Transport project which is covered in paragraphs 58-60.

The Finance Committee expressed its satisfaction regarding all these items and the information contained in the report of the External Auditor. It also expressed its satisfaction in cases where the External Auditor made some recommendation regarding the efforts exerted by the Organization in implementing such recommendations.

The accounts of UNDP la 1984/85 are contained in paragraph 61 of the Report of the Finance Committee.

Now I move to the World Food Programme. We discussed with the External Auditor and the Secretariat of the Programme the report of the External Auditor and his review of the World Food Programme in the financial period 1984/85. This is covered in paragraphs 62 and 63. The World Food Programme's emergency operations in Africa are referred to in paragraph 63.

The computerized World Food Programme Information System and the views of the Finance Committee are covered in paragraph 64.

The supply of food aid to a grain surplus country in Asia is referred to in paragraph 65. The assistance given to an Asian country is also referred to in paragraph 66. These paragraphs reflect the comments and views of the Finance Committee regarding these matters. I should like to recall here the recommendation of the Committee that the Council would present to the Conference the audited accounts of the Regular Programme, of the UNDP and of the WFP for the period 1984/85 for approval. It has been the practice that the Council recommends to the Conference that it approve these audited accounts.

Paragraph 67 refers to the draft Conference resolution. The draft resolution is submitted to the Council so it may be forwarded to the Conference. The Finance Committee unanimously recommends that the Council and the Conference in turn should approve these audited accounts.

The Finance Committee also reviewed the report submitted by the Secretariat on Trust Funds. The Secretariat submitted a report on Trust Funds on non-application of 13 percent support cost reimbursements. We considered this issue in depth with the Secretariat, and the Committee reviewed the information on the cost measurement system, results for 1985. We took note of the details contained in these two documents, and the Finance Committee unanimously expressed its satisfaction with the clarifications given by the Organization in response to the queries made in the Finance Committee. Paragraphs 68-73 give full information on these two subjects.

The Committee also reviewed the outstanding obligations as contained in Rule 202. 9618. With regard to Regulation 4, entitled "Appropriations", the Committee approved the amended text of Financial Rule 202 as contained in paragraph 76. Paragraphs 74-76 refer to the amended text of the proposed Financial Rule 202.

Now I move to personnel matters. In paragraph 77 of the Report of the Finance Committee you will see that the Committee was informed that the International Civil Service Commission determined the levels for the Rome post adjustment classification as is contained in the table in paragraph 77. This table refers to the levels determined by the International Civil Service Commission.

Paragraphs 78-80, including the following five tables, give statistics of personnel services. The Finance Committee reviewed this information and approved the information submitted. The Finance Committee called upon the Secretariat of the Organization to continue its efforts after implementing the computerized system as regards personnel matters. The Finance Committee called upon the Secretariat of the Organization to continue its efforts in providing full statistics and updated data to be given to the Finance Committee at the next autumn session, that is after the application of the computerized system in personnel matters.

In paragraphs 81-83 the Committee considered a proposal for the amendment of two Staff Regulations which would permit the Director-General to implement decisions taken by the United Nations General Assembly effective 1 January 1986, that is last January.

With respect to measures in support of staff with disabled children; the Committee recommends that the Council approve amendments to Staff Regulations 301. 0333 and 301. 0334 retroactively with effect from 1 January 1986. Paragraph 83 includes the amended regulation.

There is also another subject to which I would like to refer, namely the composition of the UN Joint Staff Pension Board. The Committee considered this subject and it also reviewed the points of view expressed in the Fifth Committee of the General Assembly. We also reviewed the views expressed by the Directors-General and by the Staff Pension Board. The Finance Committee approved the recommendations to be put before the Council which are contained in paragraph 85 of the Report of the Finance Committee. There are six recommendations put before the Council for approval, including recommendation (d) relating to an enlargement of the Pension Board size. The view of the Council on the Pension Board size will be submitted to the 37th Session of the Board. Therefore, the Council is called upon to give its recommendations in order that this may be put before the 37th Session of the Pension Board, and the UN General Assembly 42nd Session.

I mentioned last time two items which could represent a modest Italian contribution to the problem. Unfortunately, I did not hear many colleague delegates come out with their dollars and cents. We heard plenty of words, perhaps too many. This is not a criticism, but I was criticised for being too much in love with the Finance Committee. I love the Finance Committee, because I love the Chairman. Therefore, I am pleased that we, in the Finance Committee, are going to receive the ball which is almost as heavy as it was when presented before you, Mr Chairman. The ball is as heavy as before. We have tried to make it a little bit lighter.

Today, I am very honoured to announce that my proposal was accepted by my Government. Therefore, the Italian Government will voluntarily renounce the cashing of this surplus. Let me give you the figure, \$1 750 000 which is just pure words, for the year 1987 and at least until 1988. In other words, we will send a letter using our prerogative, to the Secretariat, saying that the Italian Government does not want its 1987 contribution reduced by the quota of the cash surplus that pertains to us, in view of the insufficient and unsatisfactory percentage we pay to the Organization. We try to make up for the small percentage which does not satisfy us by other means. The Director-General was kind to say that we have become the prominent donor, even without making a percentage. I do not want the Secretariat to calculate that percentage.

In making this announcement I say that for 1987 Italy will hopefully pay two months in advance of the regular routine payment (end of April). I will put all my strength at the disposal of the Organization so that we can pay the whole amount by the end of February, if not before. You can make the decision as to whether you want good dollars or good lire. However, I do not think it is within the power of the Council or the Finance Committee to decide which currency to use. This will mean that if the problem is postponed until 1988, not earlier than 1988, we might rediscuss whether we want that part deducted from the 1988 contributions or not deducted at all. The ways of God are so many, let us keep all these ways open.

I appeal to the major donors (I have had some contacts with them, but privately and not engaging) to consider very strongly the possibility of doing something of this kind. We have to give the Director-General absolute safety against the risk of a cash flow problem. After the statement which we heard from the major contributor we are not any happier. The situation does not look any rosier than before, because by the end of 1987 we cannot count on more than what the largest contributor has promised. We fervently hope there will be a revision of this attitude. I wish to make my intervention a little lighter by recalling what I told the Ambassador of that country. I said "you were suggesting to us to make a certain march on the Capitol. The original Capitol is not far from here, although, there is another Capitol there. If we march on this Capitol here, the municipality of Rome is in no better position as far as the deficit is concerned. " (end of joke).

After this appeal to the major donors to consider a similar attitude, I would like to say why we are not quite sure that the projections of the Secretariat are correct, because, if I am exact, every fifty lire that the rate of exchange of the dollar loses on the Italian market it would mean a couple of million dollars more in the deficit of the Organization. At the time of the projection when the Finance Committee was in session, we were told that a special reserve account of minus 0.9 at the end of 1987 would become minus 2.9, which means \$2 million higher if the rate of exchange of the dollar were 1350 instead of 1400. If you follow the fluctuation it was 1380 yesterday. It has never gone beyond 1400 in the last few days. God save us. We do not want the dollar to fall any lower than that but all possibilities are open, even 1300 is not ruled out by some experts, so the cash flow problem might exist even with the Director-General, with his suggestion of adjustments for \$16.4 million, plus taking \$9 million from the Working Capital Fund will make it zero. No, it is not enough, we have to give the Organization that, could I say umbrella, and the umbrella is made by these gestures that I am glad to announce today.

Further, I have another little point, paragraph 44/45. In paragraph 44/45 of document CL 90/17 we took note in the Committee of the Director-General's position that as the Programme of Work and Budget had been approved by the Conference, he could not make Programme cuts at his discretion. One hundred percent in agreement with the Director-General, this is true, but not even the Council may authorize cuts in the Programme. We do not want cuts in the Programme. We do not want to frustrate the countries that are expecting the programmes to be completed, both the Regular Programme and the Technical Cooperation Programme; we have to do our utmost not to touch anything on the Programme; if anything can be slowed down, yes, but not cut. So cuts must be made elsewhere or we have to find additional resources.

The Director-General suggested that we have a Special Session on the 15th and 16th of December. We are ready to face this difficult task of examining the alternative measures for the middle term correction of the difficulties of the Organization, but the short-term cannot, I repeat, cannot be solved by the Finance Committee. I hope that my Chairman agrees. So this is the seat, this is the organ and beyond the limit of the 49 members of the Council--I met the representative of a couple of countries that do not sit in the Council; the way is open to them, especially if they are major donors, to waive for the time being the reimbursement of the cash surplus and leave it in the hands

of the Organization in which we have full confidence because the Organization must not breed the outside image of a crisis and to talk about having recourse to a loan, to borrow money, although the Director-General is fully authorized to do so, finds us, as many of the countries here, in contrast, because that would mean that the Organization is going to be submerged and we do not want to leave this very very false image.

Final point on this intervention, paragraph 71; of course, as a member of the Finance Committee, Italy does not contest what has been approved by the Finance Committee with our concurrence. Nevertheless you have the second sentence of this paragraph which reads "If this expenditure were excluded there would have been a reduction in the support costs on both programmes. " So if my mother had been Mrs. Rothschild I would have been a very rich man! But what I would like to say is we want to continue this sentence and we could not do it in the Finance Committee. This is a point that has been raised by many delegations during this Council and it is very important to us because there are millions and millions of dollars that we spend through this Organization as support costs. If I recall what we discussed in the Finance Committee-it is open to everybody to look at the verbatim reports-chat percentage went a little below 12 percent because for 3 years, 1985, 1986, 1987, these support costs were burdened by the extraordinary cost of the FINSYS/PERSYS contract. Once the contract has been paid in full, I think that this percentage should come, in my own evaluation and my government's evaluation, below 12 percent. I sincerely hope that the Secretariat might subscribe to this expectation.

LE PRESIDENT: Je remercie le délégué de l'Italie d'avoir bien voulu confirmer la décision du Gouvernement italien de renoncer à sa quote-part de l'excédent de trésorerie pour 1986, décision dont 11 nous avait déjà fait part lors d'une précédente réunion, et de procéder au paiement accéléré de sa contribution pour 1987.

DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL: I would like to express, on behalf of the Director-General, our heartfelt thanks to the Government of Italy for the decision which it has now taken to pay in full its *assessed* contribution for 1987 without deduction of the portion of the cash surplus from the previous biennium and also to advance the payment of its contribution for 1987. This comes as yet another remarkable gesture of support from the Government of Italy which is helping the Organization in so many ways.

I venture to hope that the appeal expressed by the representative of Italy to other countries to follow this example will indeed be heeded very seriously so that even if other countries are not yet in a position to announce decisions before the end of the Council session they may perhaps be in a position to do so when the time comes to make their payment of their 1987 contribution.

Amin ABDEL-MALEK (Liban) (langue originale arabe): La délégation libanaise tient à remercier M. Bukhari, Président du Comité financier, pour son excellent exposé relatif aux rapports des cinquante-septième et cinquante-huitième sessions du Comité financier. Cet exposé clarifie toutes les questions traitées par le Comité financier. Cela nous satisfait pleinement étant donné la transparence de ses explications, qui ont dissipé tous les doutes que pouvaient nourrir certains esprits.

La délégation libanaise appuie les recommandations présentées dans ces deux rapports et surtout celles tendant à amender le statut du personnel, notamment pour fournir une aide aux fonctionnaires ayant des handicapés à leur charge.

La délégation libanaise saisit cette occasion pour remercier également l'Ambassadeur Pascarelli, représentant du Gouvernement italien, de toutes les mesures adoptées par le Gouvernement italien, qui a offert de grandes facilités à l'Organisation.

Rainer PRESTIEN (Germany, Federal Republic of): My delegation has decided this morning that we will refer (in our statement) to both agenda items 11 and 12. 2; even though this means dealing with at least five different documents I will nevertheless try to be as brief as possible.

Let me first of all thank the members of the Finance Committee, as well as the Secretariat for the work they have done and the presentation of the documents.

As regards documents CL 90/4 and CL 90/17 we largely share the results expressed in the report of the Finance Committee. We particularly welcome the savings in staff costs to the amount of US\$29. 9 million achieved in the biennium of 1984-1985 as far as those were not due to monetary

influences. The transfer of US\$15 million from this amount to the Technical Cooperation Programme, however, led to the building up of a high reserve as at 31st December 1985 under that budget item. The accumulation of such high reserves under one single budget estimate does not seem to us compatible with the principle of rational and economical use of the scarce funds available. We also believe that a much greater emphasis is placed on the programme through the building up of a reserve of more than 10 percent of the regular budget compared with the other programmes of FAO than had been envisaged by the Member States when setting up the TCP. On the other hand, however, we would also like to express our appreciation to the Secretariat for its budget management which in the biennium 1984-1985 led to a cash surplus of US\$ 34. 7 million. In view of the present financial situation we support the Secretariat in continuing its policy of austerity, as reflected in particular in paragraph 25 of document CL 90/4 and paragraph 44 of document CL 90/17.

We regret that the related documents CL 90/17, CL 90/23, CL 90/24 and C 87/5 to 7 reached us so late for our preparation for this Council session. We therefore request the Secretariat to expedite the distribution of documents before such important meetings.

We understand the difficulties facing the Secretariat in the implementation of the Programme of Work and Budget for 1986-1987 which are *inter alia* to be attributed to the difficulties as outlined in paragraph 27 of document CL 90/4 and paragraph 20 of document CL 90/17; for example, in the exchange and interest rates. Against this background it seems important to us that all Member States meet their commitments towards the Organization in accordance with the Constitution. Whether, and, if necessary, to what extent the Organization has to handle shortfalls of payments in the present biennium is not yet clear in detail in terms of figures. We therefore welcome the fact that the Director-General, in coordination with the Chairman of the Finance Committee, proposed to convene the Finance Committee for a special meeting on the 15th and 16th of December.

We can approve the draft resolution under paragraph 67 of document CL 90/17. I will comment on details of auditing later on. With regard to paragraph 73 of this document, we would be grateful for information about the cost borne by the Regular Programme.

In the statistics of personnel services, Tables I to IV, we note that the temporary contracts of less than 12 months are now also broken down by person/years. Including this category on the basis of Table IV, part A, in our calculation we come to a total staff number of 7 962 persons or person/years. This figure does not include short-term general service contracts. We would be grateful to the Secretariat for confirmation of this figure.

In paragraph 83, document CL 90/17 we welcome the improvement reached for staff with disabled dependents. The formulation contained in staff regulation 301. 0034: (iii) does in our view, however, not fully comply with the regulation adopted by the UN General Assembly. We propose to amend the staff regulation accordingly.

We agree with the statements in paragraph 85 of the document.

Let me now refer to documents C 37/5, 6 and 7. We wish to thank the External Auditor for the thorough auditing of accounts. We believe that the External Auditor submits in parts I-III a great number of suggestions and valuable recommendations to the Secretariat and Member States which we welcome. We consider the role played by the External Auditor within the framework of our overall joint activities an extremely positive contribution due to our own positive experience at national level with regard to auditing. We believe that the External Auditor has given us valuable orientation in the Reports available to us which the Secretariat and the governing bodies of the Organization should take to heart.

We particularly welcome the table in paragraph 5 of document C 87/5 which shows for the end of the 1984-85 biennium a cash surplus on the General Fund of almost 34. 76 million dollars.

I have already expressed our concern about the transfer of a very large budget share under the Technical Cooperation Programme.

With regard to paragraph 11 of document C 87/5 we believe that in connection with the unobliged sum of 376 711 dollars for the 1982-83 biennium a printing error has occurred. The transfer of this sum to "Miscellaneous Income" was effected in our opinion under Financial Regulation 4. 4, not 4. 3. Financial Regulation 4. 4 only provides that any remaining balances shall be credited to "Miscellaneous Income". Financial Regulation 4. 3 does not mention this transfer.

Apart from many other positive statements in the External Auditor's Report, we particularly welcome paragraph 16, which aims at linking more closely the existing data processing system, PLANSYS, to FINSYS and PERSYS which are not yet operational.

With regard to paragraphs 23 to 39 we feel that for future International tenders still greater importance should be attached to a greater competition of offerers.

In document C 87/6 we particularly welcome the decline in staff costs for project implementation in 1985 by 1.3 percent as shown in the table in paragraph 13. We feel that the improvements which the External Auditor suggested in paragraphs 3 to 7 of his Report, document C 87/6, must quickly be put into practice. We particularly believe that there must be clarity as to which equipment belongs to the Inventory of our Organization and which was transferred to the recipient governments concerned.

In document C 87/7 we particularly appreciate the excess of income over expenditure set out in paragraph 6. Greater importance has to be attached, as we gather from the External Auditor's Report, paragraph 9, to a greater exchange of information between WFP Headquarters and the agencies in the field.

Mohammed ABDELHADI (Tunisie) (langue originale arabe): La délégation tunisienne a certaines observations à formuler au sujet des deux documents à l'examen (CL 90/12 et CL 90/17).

En ce qui concerne le premier document, la délégation de mon pays tient à adresser ses remerciements au Directeur général pour ses efforts tendant à préserver les intérêts de l'Organisation sous tous les angles.

Nous estimons que les aspects juridiques concernant les locaux du Siège et leur élargissement pour englober les bâtiments et les terrains de l'Organisation sont d'une importance capitale. Nous aimerions donner notre appui aux mesures qui ont été prises en accord avec le Gouvernement de l'Italie au sujet de l'ensemble des bâtiments de Caracalla, conformément à la correspondance échangée à ce sujet. Nous tenons à saisir cette occasion pour exprimer notre entière satisfaction au Gouvernement italien pour sa compréhension et pour l'aide qu'il nous a offerte. Le délégué de l'Italie nous a parlé d'une façon fort intéressante tout à l'heure. Cela consolide la position de l'Organisation et lui permet de mener ces activités avec beaucoup d'efficacité. Pour ce qui est de l'autre document CL 90/17, la délégation tunisienne en a pris connaissance avec beaucoup d'intérêt et a déjà exprimé son opinion au cours d'une précédente réunion du Conseil au sujet des problèmes financiers de la FAO due au retard dans le versement de certaines cotisations. Nous avons des observations à formuler sur ce sujet et aussi en ce qui concerne le rapport du Comité financier, pour le programme ordinaire 1984/85, de même que pour le programme des Nations Unies pour le développement et le PAM pour la même période.

En ce qui concerne le Programme ordinaire de l'Organisation, la délégation de mon pays partage sa satisfaction avec le Comité financier pour ce qui est des observations du Commissaire aux comptes en ce qui concerne l'établissement et l'exécution du Budget conformément aux règles en vigueur et qu'il existe un contrôle strict sur la nomination dans les différentes divisions ainsi que sur les dépenses. Nous éprouvons une grande satisfaction pour les mesures prises par le Secrétariat pour augmenter l'efficacité des représentants dans les divers pays, comme la tenue de réunions au Siège pour fournir à ces représentants les informations nécessaires ainsi que les visites organisées dans les différentes régions. Je désire également formuler ma satisfaction pour le rôle du Gouvernement italien pour ce qui est d'une somme de 1 milliard de lires versée en 1987 concernant la location de locaux supplémentaires et aussi les réparations et améliorations apportées aux locaux actuels. Cela permettra à l'Organisation de mener son action avec beaucoup d'efficacité.

Pour le PNUD, la délégation tunisienne est tout à fait d'accord avec ce qui est dit dans le paragraphe 61, à savoir qu'à l'heure actuelle, la FAO met à exécution les recommandations du Commissaire aux comptes à cet effet. Pour le PAM, la délégation tunisienne a rendu hommage hier aux efforts gigantesques déployés par le PAM pour aider un grand nombre de pays, dont certains sont en Afrique, afin de combattre la crise alimentaire à laquelle font face ces pays. Le paragraphe 64 concernant le rapport du Comité financier nous amène à exprimer certaines inquiétudes au sujet des circonstances qui ont abouti à dénoncer le contrat original concernant le système de l'informatique du Programme alimentaire mondial, ce qui a abouti à la perte d'un important montant, sans aucune contrepartie. A cet effet, nous n'avons pas compris l'attitude du PAM qui n'a pas porté l'affaire devant les tribunaux. Nous partageons donc les inquiétudes du Comité financier. Pourrions-nous avoir des éclaircissements de la part du Secrétariat à ce sujet? Pourrions-nous savoir quelles sont les raisons qui ont amené le PAM à ne pas poursuivre la question en justice? D'autre part, nous demandons au Secrétariat de plus amples éclaircissements sur le contenu du paragraphe 65, à savoir qu'une aide alimentaire a été apportée à un pays asiatique ayant réalisé un excédent de céréales. Quelle en est la raison? C'est là une question qui n'entre pas dans le cadre des stratégies mises à exécution dans le PAM jusqu'à l'heure actuelle.

Enfin, la délégation tunisienne est tout à fait d'accord avec le projet de résolution concernant les comptes révisés qui seront soumis à la Conférence et aussi avec l'amendement de deux articles du Statut du personnel, comme mentionné dans les paragraphes 82 à 83 du rapport du Comité financier.

Nous sommes aussi d'accord sur le contenu de ce rapport d'une manière générale et nous voudrions féliciter M. Bukhari pour les efforts qu'il a déployés à la tête de ce Comité afin de suivre et de discuter des questions financières de l'Organisation et afin de revoir ces comptes, ce qui a considérablement facilité la mission de ce Conseil.

James D. AITKEN (United Kingdom): With the decision to run items 11 and 12 together this statement will be rather longer than we would have wished and I apologize in advance.

To begin with the Finance Committee's Reports, these Reports provide us with a very useful insight into the Organization, its financial systems, its management and its personnel management.

We congratulate the Committee and its Chairman on its treatment of complicated and at times even opaque information.

We have already raised the question of programme delivery costs and we are glad that this important subject will now be considered by the Finance Committee at 1st meeting in May. We have of course accepted the Secretariat's offer of discussions with our specialist staff and we will be very happy to share our Information with the Finance Committee.

So far as other financial issues are concerned, we were a little surprised that the Committee did not appear to pursue some of the issues raised by the External Auditor's Report with greater vigour. We have a number of questions which we will raise in respect of the Auditor's comments.

The Finance Committee also deals with personnel matters and it is here in particular that we would have welcomed more information and a broader approach by the Committee to personnel issues. At a time when the Organization is under financial pressure we have to be satisfied that it is doing all it can effectively to manage its most important asset, the staff. We understand that many United Nations organizations have a system of regular performance appraisal of staff. Such a procedure obviously has values. It can be used for staff development, training and career planning. It also provides the Organization with a picture of individual performance which can provide a useful base for objective promotion procedures. We understand that FAO operates an appraisal system for field staff but that once staff has passed a provisional period in Headquarters there is no other appraisal system, although we understand that one has been under negotiation for some time.

In the absence of any information from the Finance Committee's Report we should be grateful for a Secretariat statement covering the following points. There are four points. First, for how long has there been no system of staff appraisal for Headquarters staff; secondly, when are discussions of the introduction of an appraisal system likely to be finalized; thirdly, will the appraisal system be integrated with a programme of staff career development training; fourthly, in the absence of an appraisal system what system is used to ensure internal consistency in the promotion procedure. This last question is, in our view, particularly important since over 60 percent of FAO vacancies are filled by internal promotion.

Turning now to the Financial Statements, we have already expressed concern with the style and format. The Financial Statements do not provide an adequate picture of the financial operations of FAO. It is not as the Deputy Director-General would have it, simply a question of transparency. It is, as we have said before, in our view the absence of basic information which we believe that senior management needs if it is to manage the Organization effectively.

In an international organization of this nature, we would not normally expect it to be left to the Member States in the governing body to seek out such Information. We would expect senior managers themselves to demand this information from their staff. For example, in an intervention on an earlier item Mr Crowter kindly offered to provide us with additional information. I should be very grateful if we could be given a statement showing the cash balances held-by FAO on a monthly basis, during the past and current biennium. This relates to the 300 million dollars we referred to earlier on FAO's liquidity.

We should also be grateful for a similar statement in respect of WFP assets. The cash balance for WFP has not, as far as we can see, been given to us. However, the interest on bank deposits is recorded at 38.5 million dollars. This figure can be found in paragraph 10 on page 2 of the Financial Statement for WFP.

I should also like to repeat my request for a statement of the actual spending by FAO on the Regular Programme in the 1984-85 biennium. When I asked for this earlier, Mr Crowther referred to figures in the statement of expenditure. However, the definition of expenditure, at page 21 of the Financial statement of the Regular Programme, includes "outstanding obligations defined as prospective liabilities arising, for example, from binding contracts or purchase orders made". We all know that in certain circumstances where one signs a contract one makes a down payment but the final payment may not be due until some time later.

It is quite possible that final payments will be split across several biennia. It is for this reason we should like a clear statement of how much FAO actually spent in the biennium as distinct from expenditures as defined in the Financial Statement. I ask these questions because we find that the rolling budget account method used by FAO (a combination of cash, accrual and commitment accounting) makes comparison of one biennium budget with spending in the same biennium impossible. We would be happy to discuss these issues with the Secretariat when our experts are here to discuss programme delivery costs.

Turning to the External Auditor's report, we find a number of comments cause us serious concern, both in terms of specific issues and also because of the implications of the effectiveness of the financial and management systems at FAO. At this point I should like to endorse the comments made by the distinguished delegate of the Federal Republic on the role of the auditor and our thanks for the advice and assistance he gives us all.

We were surprised to read in the Auditor's Report on UNDP, of inadequate control of inventories. Two years ago in the Council when we referred to criticism of the way in which FAO failed to follow UNDP procedures, we were reassured by the Director-General that matters had been improved. It now appears that that reply was not comprehensive. We would be interested to learn of the reaction of UNDP to the auditor's comments.

In the circumstances, we should also like reassurance from the Secretariat that inventory control procedures exist for the Regular Programme and that proper control is exercised in a timely manner by the Secretariat.

Another area touched upon by the auditor is project design and control in the Trust Fund Wages Project. Again, we would like to learn from the Secretariat what steps are being taken to improve the standards of project design (in FAO) and control throughout the Organization.

The External Auditor's comments on the Regular Programme (paragraph 15 of his report), shows the absence of cost analysis. "Neither the accounting system nor the staff activity reporting system provide sufficient detail to disclose actual costs at the level of planned activities. " Given the financial problems faced by the Organization, we would be interested to learn whether senior management will modify PERSYS and FINSYS and other systems to provide this system.

The auditor's comments on the purchase of word processing equipment raises issues about the implementation and interpretation of FAO's management and financial procedures. It might have been instructive if the Finance Committee could have looked into the issues raised by the auditor in more detail and with greater vigour.

The main areas of concern appear to us to relate to an apparent failure to appraise the system before purchase, and the circumstances surrounding the decision to accept the alternative offer without seeking further bids. In order to provide a fuller picture of the background to this and to help us identify the areas of FAO's management's system which may require to be strengthened, we should be grateful if the Secretariat could provide us with the following additional information: first, was the manufacturer who was awarded the contract one of the three companies identified by the ISRC and referred to in paragraph 24 (iii) of the Auditor's Report.

Secondly, although there was no formal technical appraisal of this system, did any informal appraisal take place? Did any member of FAO staff visit the manufacturer to discuss their proposals? We understand that the FAO Manual (Section 502) permit non-competitive tendering in circumstances where identical equipment has been purchased within the previous 18 months. This was clearly not so in this case, as the other manufacturers had not submitted quotations for equipment to be purchased. In those circumstances, can we be informed at what level in FAO was the decision taken to waive competitive tendering, and at what level was this decision endorsed?

We should also like to know if the comments of the auditor have been formally drawn to the attention of the staff concerned, and whether there are any proposals to clarify the relevant parts of the Manual to eliminate any possible ambiguity in the circumstances in which competitive tendering is not a mandatory requirement. To enable us to appreciate the sequence of events, I should be grateful if the Secretariat could let us have details of the following dates when was the closing date of the original tender? On what date did FAO receive a fully coated specification for the alternative system? At what date did FAO authorize the first purchase order for the alternative system?

Finally, we should have preferred that at some point this Council could have continued to focus on the short-term financial situation of the Organization, during the second week. Our discussion under agenda item 12. 1 last week was in the nature of a first reading and was carried out in ignorance of a key fact. Only in the last minutes of the discussion did we learn that the United States would not be contributing 24. 7 million of its dues for 1986, and will be paying most of what it will be paying some months after the end of the year in question. Had these intentions been known with certainty earlier, representatives could have given advice to the Council.

I now read the wishes of the Council as shown in the Chairman's report Co give further time for an assessment of the actions which need Co be taken, in addition to the economies identified by the Director-General and for that assessment to be taken into consideration by the Finance Committee in December. In view of the closeness of that meeting, and acknowledgment by Members of the Council that the situation is a changing one which requires the Director-General to continue to take action on economies, my delegation can, with some reluctance, accept this procedure. However I would ask two things: first, that the Secretariat's acknowledgment that perceptions of the short-term crisis are still evolving as reflected in our report. Secondly, that views which do evolve significantly during the second week, may be expressed and noted during this meeting, perhaps during the adoption of the report, so as to give the best possible guidance to Members of the Finance Committee. This suggestion is made in order to ensure the best and most responsible use of this Council and the time of its Members.

Adel Helmy EL SARKI (Egypt) (Original language Arabic): I should like to thank Mr Atif Bukhari for his very clear and succinct introduction to the report of the 57th and 58th Sessions of the Finance Committee. We have studied these documents carefully and we should like to express our entire satisfaction with them since they have dealt with all financial matters effectively which is ample proof of sound management and deep insight.

Milutin TAPAVICKI (Yugoslavia): I should first of all like to thank Ambassador Bukhari for his very clear presentation of the documents from the last two sessions of the Finance Committee.

I do not wish to make any comments concerning the report of the 57th Session. However, I should like to express an opinion in connection with the 58th Session of the Finance Committee on the questions of audited accounts.

The Yugoslavian delegation would like to express its satisfaction with the due attention and interest given by the Finance Committee in reviewing the reports and audited accounts for the FAO Regular Programme, UNDP and World Food Programme for the biennium 1984-85. . We welcome and support the Committee in its approach and appropriate comments on the External Auditor's findings and suggestions, paying full attention to the additional explanations made by the organizations concerned.

The Committee rightly expresses satisfaction with the External Auditor's global positive assessment of the review of the accounts. However, at the same time, we are supporting the Committee's conclusions in paragraph 56 (document CL 90/17) regarding the unforeseen development in the establishment of the word and data processing capacity within FAO, mainly due to the rapidly evolving technology in office automation and data processing.

The Committee was in a position to note that the remarks of the External Auditor regarding the under-utilization of the barges provided to the government concerned under the Inland Water Transport Project influenced FAO, UNDP and government-concerted positive actions to overcome the problem. We welcome the suggested actions.

In connection with the Italian Government's decision to supplement the one-time allocation for 1986 of one billion lira for covering the costs of the rental of additional office accommodation, we could not but join the Committee's expressed satisfaction.

The World Food Programme was faced by coincidence with more serious problems in the development of its computerized Information system leading to the abandonment of the initial contract of \$3 million. This expensive experience indicates the necessity of even greater caution in the choice of computer techniques in the future.

The Committee further noted the comments and observations of the External Auditor regarding the World Food Programme's operations. We believe that the Committee's remarks and suggestions will be given due consideration, especially the reiterated position that whilst the foremost possibility was that the World Food Programme terminates at the moment of delivery of food aid to the authorities in the country the World Food Programme has the duty of assisting and encouraging the local authorities to ensure that the commodities reach the intended beneficiaries.

Finally, we fully support the draft Conference resolution on audited accounts submitted by the Committee.

Anwar Mohammed KHALED (Yemen, People's Dem. Republic of) (Original language Arabic): I should like to preface my remarks by thanking Ambassador Bukhari, Chairman of the Finance Committee, for his very clear introduction to both reports from the Committee. I should also like to thank him for the unstinted efforts that he has devoted to deal with sensitive and serious issues.

I should like to express my delegation's support for the recommendations contained in both documents. We would like to commend the Secretariat for their efforts, particularly regarding financial measures, since receipts this year reached their optimal level in years. As regard the financial difficulties facing the Organization, we give our full support to what was said by the Ambassador of Italy, who has appealed to all countries to honour their commitments to the Organization and pay their contributions without delay. We should also like to express appreciation to Italy and the distinguished Ambassador of Italy for all the gestures that have been made which lead to a strengthening of the Organization. We thank them for paying the full contribution for 1987 and for what they have done regarding the headquarters premises.

We commend the Director-General for the skillful management of this Organization notwithstanding the financial difficulties. We are satisfied that measures have been taken which will strengthen the financial situation of the Organization, even beyond the present biennium. Finally, we are entirely satisfied with the positive observations of the External Auditor on budget planning and monitoring which he considered comprehensive and in order. We agree with the draft resolution on the Audited Accounts in paragraph 67 of the Committee's Report, calling for their approval.

George Henry MUSGROVE (Canada): We are grateful for your suggestion that we consider these items 11 and 12 together because, as the Chairman of the Finance Committee has indicated in his introduction, they do overlap and similar considerations are given in both documents. Initially, we had thought of putting our remarks in two separate parts, but we shall try to work them together.

Being a former member of the Finance Committee, it was with some nostalgia that I read these two reports from my present position of exile. One advantage of having been a member of the Committee is the ability to recognize the extended dialogue and differences of views that are frequently lying dormant behind the rather terse prose of the reports themselves. For the benefit of members who have not enjoyed the privilege of being on the Committee, I can assure them that the deliberations are familiar and not particularly different from those that take place in other committees of the Organization.

It is difficult to deal with one of these papers at a time. Therefore I shall try to make reference to the documents as I discuss them.

The first issue arising from the Finance Committee that caught our eye was the general question of transparency. This is a rather subjective question and we feel that perhaps we should explain that the word "transparency" is a contemporary one designed in the present context to mean the ability to see clearly, particularly by member management of the Organization, how things work and particularly how our money is spent, and as a result to make sound judgements on behalf of our governments. Comments in our meetings on the lack of transparency in some areas by our delegation and others are, I am afraid, too often met in a rather defensive way as if we were accusing the Secretariat of hiding something or withholding. Furthermore, perhaps believing that good offence is the best part of defence, the Secretariat drafts have taken on a rather offensive tone in recent months, as may be seen in paragraphs 68 to 73 of document CL 90/4, and even more in document CL 90/3 when we get to that item later in our agenda. If these thrusts are designed to inhibit member management from questioning a process or to bring discredit to those who do so, then we think it is a poor example for the multilateral system, particularly at a time when greater efficiency and effectiveness are sought and need to be seen to be demonstrated in order to build the necessary confidence in the system.

That having been said, we would like to thank the Secretariat for its partial response to our queries over the last couple of years on transparency, and that has to do particularly with the questions regarding staffing matters and the accounting for funds in the Technical Cooperation Programme. The charts on pages 16-22 of document CL 90/17, giving us statistics of personnel services, are to be welcomed. In due course we would like to see somewhat more in this respect, notably an organization-wide establishment chart replete with position numbers in place which would be augmented from time to time, perhaps quarterly, by an issued list of job numbers that are vacant. We should also like to have a somewhat better accounting on a historical basis of the numbers of contract employees versus continuing employees, as well as a man-year equivalent of contract and temporary employees on a similar basis.

With respect to the Technical Cooperation Programme, we are pleased that the accounting for funds and the explanation for expenditures, allotments, obligations, carry-overs, earmarkings, etc. , are becoming somewhat clearer to the contributing membership. We have also welcomed the Secretariat's implicit positive response to our previously expressed belief that Technical Cooperation Programme funds should be allocated or assigned within the appropriate period and not carried over from biennia to biennia as free-floating cash.

The tables provided in the annexes to the auditor's report in document C 87/5 shed additional light on these subjects. However, we still have some concerns about the use and management of the TCP funds, which we will not take time to go into today.

Both reports in CL 90/4 and CL 90/17 give us welcome news on the progress of the FINSYS/PERSYS systems. We note that a special team has been set up in-house to monitor the implementation of this project. Perhaps the Secretariat could tell us something about the relationship between this management group, I believe run from the Assistant Director-General, Finance and Administration's office, and the other in-house monitoring group of the Information Systems and Records Committee, the ISRC. Our reason for asking is that we have heard some corridor conversations in the last few days that ISRC had approved on 4 November the purchase for \$1 million of a further computer for the operation of the FINSYS/PERSYS systems. If this information is correct-and as we see no report of it in our papers it may not be-could the Secretariat tell us whether this is a new expenditure and/or an unforeseen one?

Another issue on which we would welcome clarification, if this is felt appropriate by our colleague from Italy, is the matter of special contributions to the FAO. We had asked in a tentative way the other day a question which was very kindly responded to by Mr Crowther, but we would welcome further information on these contributions, which we think are very generous indeed and which are outlined in paragraph 57 of document CL 90/17 and in paragraphs 40-43 of the Auditor's Report. The purposes for which these funds were intended or to which they were subsequently put are not entirely evident, although it has been estimated that they were intended in part to offset rental costs of additional accommodation.

As the Secretariat will know we have long been concerned with the World Food Programme and the World Food Council have been paying commercial rent for their premises, derived from monies, in the case of the WFP, destined for programme food aid. We understand that the Italian Government is seized by these problems and has promised some assistance in 1987. However, as the FAO is the intermediary with the Italian Government, with respect to the matter of the WFP's Headquarters Agreement, we wonder if the Italian special contributions since 1971 were not intended, in part, to offset WFP's rental expenses. If so, have they been used for this purpose?

Perhaps the Secretariat, in its response, could shed some special light on this question or, alternatively, give us information on the historical uses of this money from the 1971 or 1972 period. We note in this respect, in document CL 90/17 paragraph 90 that the World Food Council has been invited to move to an alternative location. We wonder if the Secretariat could give us some information about this. It seems to us that would be a very tragic move, if the Council were obliged to leave this building and its proximity to resources which are available to it.

There is another matter which is not clear to us. That is the matter of cross-subsidization, from the Regular Programme to the Field Programme. As the Organization is entering into a period of financial stringency (I have forgotten the term used by my Italian colleague this morning) I think it was "transitory period of financial liquidity problems", certainly not a crisis, but a period of financial stringency, it would appear prudent that the Regular Programme should not be charged with costs which should be properly placed elsewhere.

We can see, the problems which the Secretariat has. As the Director-General has often said, the Regular Programme and the Field Programme are virtually inseparable. However, we have heard at other times that Regular Programme officers spend as much as 30 to 40 percent of their time on Field Programme activities. Paragraph 73 of document CL 90/17 and paragraph 9 on page 2 of the audited accounts, make reference to a figure of \$9.5 million. We are not sure exactly what this figure means. Is it the total assessed value of cross-subsidization? If so was this sum somehow recouped from Field Programme monies? We would welcome further details in this area and a subsequent fuller consideration, perhaps in the context of a study on programme delivery costs, of the full extent of cross-subsidization between the programmes.

Turning specifically to the audited accounts as presented to us in document 87/5 we will confine our remarks to two issues. The first relates to the extremely interesting observations made by the Internal Auditor on Regular Programme monitoring. I would heartily commend to colleague delegates, particularly those present from the Programme and Finance Committees, a careful reading of paragraphs 7 to 22 of the Auditor's report. These can be found at pages 5 to 10 of document 87/5.

We preface our remarks on this section by saying that we do not treat these paragraphs as any criticism or condemnation of the Organization, but rather as a series of positive recommendations which would greatly enhance the process of project planning and indeed, the process of budgeting and subsequent monitoring and evaluation.

Canadian delegations for some years have been advocating increased attention to institutional accountability, with the prerequisite improvements in monitoring, budgeting and evaluation. We have long been concerned that the Finance and Programme Committees have not been fully effective management tools, due to the lack of definitive information available to them. Sometimes this concern has been expressed as a lack of transparency, used, we hope, in a constructive rather than a pejorative sense. In this connection, the External Auditor points out in paragraph 10. 1, that whilst the Regular Programme is built up from sub-programmes the present monitoring system does not disclose financial inputs at this level. Accordingly, he observed that there can be no export facto review of sub-programme expenditures. Similarly, there seems to be no monitoring of manpower levels at the sub-programme level, as he indicates in paragraph 10. 2. In paragraph 10. 3 it is indicated that the budgetary process is not equipped to monitor by objective expenditure, or to latterly review actual costs of such objectives of expenditure versus the proposed costs, when the programme was formed. These views are amplified in paragraphs 15. 1 to 15. 4 on page 8 of the report. We will not quote them or read from them again, but we feel that these observations are extremely pertinent. We note the Secretariat's response that there is a need for flexibility in the programming exercise and that there are costs associated with the suggested changes in the PLANSYS system. We nevertheless urge that close attention be devoted to possible improvements in their planning and monitoring activities.

The second subject we would like to touch on is that of the procurement of word processing and data processing equipment. This is reported on by the External Auditor in paragraphs 23 to 39 of his report. We are the first to acknowledge that whilst the area of EDP equipment, computing systems and so on, is an extremely tricky one, as is evidenced by the unfortunate experiences we have observed. in a wide variety of institutions, we do not want to be unfair in an area where technical changes occur very, very quickly. However, we have two concerns that we must express based on the information which is before us in this report. The first of these concerns process. We are particularly concerned that a control process put in place internally by FAO, namely the Information Systems and Resources Committee (the ISRC I believe it is called) seems to have been circumvented at a crucial stage in this particular procurement. We are also concerned that previous consultants reports seem to have been ignored and that specified requirements seem to have been lost sight of in implementing this contract.

Particularly, we are very concerned with the violence which has been done to the propriety of the tendering process. A process which was set up to avoid both abuse of the purchasing system and to provide protection from the appearance of any malfeasance.

In most tendering systems the submission of a non-conforming tender, namely the offer of equipment which was other than that specified, is either dismissed or, alternatively, other competing tenderers are offered a chance to bid on the same basis. In this case, neither appears to have been done and the contract was awarded to a firm, who had not previously done business with FAO and, who on the basis of this particular entree, apparently has sold considerably more equipment than was envisaged in their original tender price or was otherwise specified.

In its response to our queries on this point we would certainly welcome a reaffirmation of the Secretariat and its views that this process has been entirely proper. Also an indication as to whether they feel there might be some strengthening required in the Organization's procedures governing such procurements.

Finally, on the technical repercussions of this contract, we note that as the Organization moved to a word processing generation on a large scale, we completely sympathise with its desire, based on consultants' reports, to move beyond, stand alone or be independent of the word processing machinery, We also sympathise with the attention which it paid for seeking uniformity and compatibility. As we understand, from the paper in front of us, this resulted in the tender process seeking a number, some 19 I believe, shared-access systems which would combine the benefits of compatibility and intra-systems connection to those normally found on standard word processing equipment.

The contract as it eventuated seems to have gone for a very early version of an advanced local area network system, which has proved, for one reason or another, to be impractical to fully install. The result as we understand it although we do not understand it well, is that there are now some 200 word processors in place operating on a stand-alone basis, together with four large computer units in place, for which there appears to be no substantive use.

We understand that a move towards this local area network system has been put in abeyance, or on hold, pending further study and review. We wonder if the Secretariat could provide us with further information on this technical aspect of the computer problem. Particularly, as to whether there will be a substantive use found for the central computing units, the four units, that have not been implemented, installed or otherwise linked up to the word processing system. Will they be used ultimately in the local area network, or could they be used otherwise, for example, in connection with the FINSYS/PERSYS system?

Almir F. de Sá BARBUDA (Brasil): First I wish on behalf of my delegation to thank Ambassador Bukhari for the comprehensive presentation of this item of the agenda. My delegation is very pleased with the work that has been done by the Finance Committee and we wish to comment on some features presented by the reports of its last two sessions.

Document CL 90/4 provides us, in paragraph 62 to 64, with the valuable information of FAO's activities in support of TCDC in an area which deserves our full support. We are very pleased to note that both the Committee and the Joint Inspection Unit report both recognize that TCDC has been receiving careful attention by FAO governing bodies. We learned as well with appreciation that measures have already been taken to implement new computerized systems relating to financial data and personnel information and that phase one of the project will be completed by next spring.

We also appreciated the information provided in regard to the relations between the Organization and the Host Government and that the traditional spirit of cooperation has prevailed in the discussions. The letter exchanged last June is a very positive sign of these understandings and they deserve the full support of this Council. We wish as well to thank the Italian Government for the very positive attitude announced this morning.

We wish as well to thank the Director-General, as stated in paragraph 74 to 77 of the report of the 57th Session of the Committee for having brought to the consideration of the Finance Committee this subject of greater transparency in the work of the Organization and for having made available the information requested by Member Nations on FAO's activities.

In relation to the audited accounts as examined by the report of the 58th Session of the Committee, we took special note that: first, the external auditor considered the system of budgetary planning and monitoring of Regular Programme inputs to be comprehensive and operating as intended. Second, the nature of programme budgetary requirements reflected the basic tests in financial rules. Third, the assessment of the external auditor was positive in regard to the systems and procedures for work planning. Fourthly, action has been taken to improve the quality and the regularity of FAO country representative reports. We regard as very positive the conclusions reached by the Committee, even in relation to the FAO's reaction to the suggestions and recommendations for improvement presented by the external auditor, such as the further development of PLANSYS which should be linked to the development of FINSYS and PERSYS and the framing of future tenders, paragraph 56.

We take note as well of the recommendations made by the external auditor in relation to the participation of FAO in the UNDP during 1984/85 and of the action being taken by the Organization to implement them, steps which were welcomed by the auditor.

In relation to the WFP report and statement, document C 87/7 we wish to remember that Mr Ingram, the Executive Director for the Programme provided, during the 22nd Session of the CFA, extensive information on the issue of the WFP information system raised by the external auditor. The CFA in its final report recognized that while regretting the money spent, the Programme had learned important lessons from its experience, as evidenced by the successful implementation of the first phase of WIS now in operation. My delegation believes that as a whole the reports of the external auditor are positive and that some constructive recommendations have been presented and will be implemented.

Finally, we wish to support paragraph 76 of the 57th Session that commends the Director-General's management of the Organization. We therefore wish to give our support to the draft resolution on audited accounts to be submitted to the Conference.

David Lawrence COUTTS (Australia): As I said in my intervention on this matter of the finances of the Organization last week, Australia was represented on the Finance Committee for both these sessions. In relation to the 58th Report I will just underline a couple of points.

We note that in relation to the proposal to provide office space for FAO in Harare, Zimbabwe, that the Committee expressed some concern about the type of arrangement proposed and expressed a note of caution about the general extension of this kind of solution to the problem of office space for FAO representatives. We note that information will be provided to the 60th Session of the Committee relating to arrangement for provision of office space for FAO representatives in Member Countries.

We also note the concern expressed by the external auditor mentioned in the 58th Report about the process of installation, of tendering for an installation of word processing and data processing equipment. On this issue I can only underline the comments already made by the United Kingdom and Canada on this matter and note that the Finance Committee was assured that the auditors' recommendations, including those in relation to framing of future tenders, had been accepted. We feel that the netting of such major contracts is a most important matter and that therefore particular care must be exercised by the organization in the processes followed in relation to assessment of system and awarding of contracts. We await the answers of the Secretariat to the questions raised by the United Kingdom and Canada with some interest.

We have already dealt the other day with our views on the proposals for dealing with the problems of delayed payments of assessed contributions and as we said, we support the Finance Committee looking at alternatives 3, 4 and 5.

On the specific questions of developments regarding Headquarters Accommodation we have no particular comments to make other than to remark that we see some merit in separate housing of FAO, WFP, IFAD and WFC consistent with sound financial management and budgetary limitations. We do note that there have been some uncertainties relating to the accommodation of the WFC and we trust that a solution can be found to the future housing of the WFC that is consistent with the interests and desires of both FAO and the WFC.

In relation to what the Finance Committee has to do in December, there have been a few comments on this. I must say the impression of my delegation, particularly in the light of the announcement made the other day by the United States, which gave a little more substance to the shortfall in finance that is going to be faced, is being faced, we do feel that the committee needs to concentrate, not just on the short term situation, which I believe is the more serious of the problems, but to start to look seriously at the longer term situation so that the Organization can start to address this problem of the shortfall in funds and what that means for the programmes in a serious way. In that context, in the present financial crisis the work of the Finance Committee assumes an even greater importance than in normal times. Australia will continue to do all it can to make that work useful and to see that it continues to contribute in a positive way to the efficient operations of FAO. In that context we are pleased to note, as was discussed earlier this session, and this was also mentioned by the United Kingdom, that the question of programme delivery costs will be considered by the Finance Committee next spring.

Lastly, we give our general endorsement to the question raised by some other speakers, particularly the United Kingdom and Canada and I commend those delegations for the detailed work that they have put into examining the reports.

In general terms the Australian delegations can endorse the acceptance by Council of the Finance Committee reports, including the draft conference resolution set out in paragraph 67.

Akbar Mirza KHALEELI (India): We are not members of the Finance Committee so that I think it is appropriate that we thank our colleague, Ambassador Bukhari for the very fair and useful manner in which the Finance Committee has done its work and reflected the comments of the external auditor.

I would like to convey our thanks to Ambassador Pascarelli and to Italy that this time it has improvised a response which is very sensible and generous.

It is not for us to recommend a course of action for a number of donor countries which have been generous for these many years but I do not think, it would be frivolous to state that part of the problems faced by the major donor are because of the intense balance of payments problems it is facing; but the balance-of-payments problems it is facing are really reflected by balance-of-payments surpluses that a number of other developed countries have benefited from and to the extent that a country like Italy, which has partly improved its balance of payments and other things, has responded in a positive way, which shows both a flexible and generous response.

I would like to draw attention to the point made by my neighbour, the representative of the Federal Republic of Germany, that considering that this meeting of the Council was dealing with an important matter relating to financing and both medium-term and long-term problems, we wish the Secretariat had given us the information and the auditors reports in a more timely manner. After all, a number

of documents were circulated to us well in time. The auditors' reports were ready quite some time ago and the Finance Committee also had done its job in September. No doubt there are problems in preparing documents all at once but considering the importance of the Council Meeting and the fact that the Director-General wanted the views of the Council on a number of matters, of which perhaps financial problems facing the Organization are the most important, we wish it could have been done earlier.

I do not wish to go into too much detail on many of the points raised by many of the representatives here, and particularly the very concrete points made by our colleague from Canada, put in a very civilized way, but I think it is but fair to separate some of the points made. One is the fact regarding the financial management and running of the FAO: the second is the report of the external auditor; the third is the examination of the external auditor's report by the Finance Committee. Part of the problems which have arisen are really that formerly auditing was really to see whether the rules had been observed. The question of a value-for-work audit is a concept which is only gradually being accepted even in governments and to some extent I think the problem has arisen because the external auditor, perhaps quite rightly, has under Article 12. 4 of the Financial Regulations gone into the question of the proper use, not just the proper procedures which are followed, of course. He has made certain points regarding proper procedures also but basically the line is, even if proper procedures have been followed, has money been put to proper use. We do not need to question the motivation or propriety of these things but I think that in fairness to the Finance Committee most of the points raised have been amply reflected in the Finance Committee's own Report. Obviously the Finance Committee cannot go into the same amount of detail as the external auditor, it has to summarize, and I notice most of the things are here and it is the duty of the Secretariat to take note of these points so that there is no recurrence of these problems.

In particular regarding the word processing issue which has been raised by a number of delegates, I do not want to labour further on it. There is a point made in paragraph 37 of document C 87/5. There is a further risk that the study may itself be constrained by the need to utilize existing equipment. This is a very serious matter but since the equipment has already been purchased the tendency is to accept the fait accompli and perhaps this may turn out to be rather economical, but this is a point which the external auditor has made which might need to be borne in mind.

However, I would also like to point out that the external auditor has brought to the attention of the Finance Committee the problems which arise from perhaps too detailed attention to procedures. If we observe document C 87/7, page 7, relating to the WFP, here there is no reference to disregard of procedures. It looks as though the WFP has not only followed procedures, but followed them over-scrupulously, as a result of which a \$3 million expenditure has been considered nugatory. I presume it means that that money has been lost or wasted. It goes on further to state: "When my staff examined the system in October 1985 it had been functioning for only a short period and was still suffering from a number of problems, of which the most serious was an unacceptably long response time." I think the Finance Committee in dealing with both these matters has pointed out that the External Auditor had drawn attention to certain flaws and that the Finance Committee had drawn the attention of the Organization to take corrective action.

Suharyo HUSEN (Indonesia): First of all on behalf of the Indonesian delegation I would like to express my appreciation to the Chairman of the Finance Committee, His Excellency Ambassador Atif Bukhari, for his very clear and useful introduction to the documents before us, CL 90/4 and CL 90/17. My thanks to the Secretariat for providing us with the comprehensive documents.

I will start to express my delegation's views on document CL 90/4. My delegation welcomes and gives full support to the Report of the Fifty-Seventh Session of the Finance Committee. In line with the previous statement of my delegation concerning the financial crisis of the Organization I am concerned very much about paragraph 19 of CL 90/4, where 105 Member Nations made no payments against their 1986 assessment. I strongly support the appeal made by the Finance Committee, as contained in paragraph 26 of the document before us-that is, to appeal to all Member Nations to make a special effort to meet their outstanding contribution without further delay.

In this connection, my delegation would like to express its appreciation to the government of Italy for its efforts to help the Organization to overcome its financial problems, and I fully support the appeal made by His Excellency Ambassador Pascarelli in his statement this morning. Hopefully the steps taken by the Italian Government will be followed by other large contributors.

Regarding the Report of the Fifty-Eighth Session of the Finance Committee, as contained in document CL 90/17, I would like, to present my delegation's views as follows. My delegation welcomes and fully approves the Report. My delegation fully agrees with the Finance Committee's concern about a significant imbalance as regards the recruitment of consultants on a regional basis, as set out in paragraph 9 of the document before us, namely to urge the Secretariat to make further efforts in improving the recruitment of consultants in the future.

My delegation welcomes and appreciates the Report of the External Auditor under Regular Programmes 1984/85, UNDP 1984/85, and WFP 1984/85. My delegation gives full support to the Draft Resolution on audited accounts to be provided to the Conference for its approval.

My delegation fully agrees with paragraph 80 regarding the Finance Committee's concern on updating the statistics on personnel services.

Regarding amendments to Staff Regulations 301 0333 and 301 0334, my delegation gives its approval to the amendments set out in paragraph 83, page 23 of document CL 90/17.

Evlogui BONEV (UNDP): I will be very brief as I am responding to the specific request of the delegate of the United Kingdom, who expressed a desire to hear the reaction of UNDP specifically on the Auditor's Report on the status of funds advanced to the FAO by UNDP and more specifically on the review of the Inventory FAO controls for UNDP equipment.

UNDP studied the documents presented to the Council on this matter and noted the Report of the External Auditor on the statement showing as at 31 December 1985 the status of funds advanced to the FAO by the United Nations Development Programme.

I would like just to explain what is the normal proceeding in UNDP in cases of Auditors' Reports. The Auditors' Reports of executing agencies are usually, normally submitted to the Governing Council each year together with the report on what follow-up action that UNDP and the agency concerned has taken in respect of observations made by the auditors. I contacted my headquarters about this question and I understand that the Administrator is taking steps in conjunction with the FAO to have a meeting of the responsible departments and arrange that measures are taken that the recommendations of the Auditors are being put into implementation, as the Administrator is fully accountable to the Governing Council for the aspects connected with the UNDP utilisation of funds by agencies. However, proper control over equipment financed from UNDP funds is primarily the responsibility of the executing agency.

S. Gblorzuo TOWEH (Liberia): I would like to take this opportunity to express on behalf of my delegation our gratitude to the Chairman of the Finance Committee for his Report.

Regarding contributions, I am pleased to inform you that we have brought with us our 1986 contribution and we will do all we can to pay our arrears before the first half of 1987.

Regarding the Auditors' Report, we hope that the Secretariat will take note of the recommendations therein.

Finally, let me add my voice on behalf of my delegation to other delegates who have thanked the Italian government for the extra efforts being made towards our Organization.

Meanwhile I would like to take this special opportunity to express on behalf of my delegation our gratitude to the Director-General and his staff for trying their very best to cut down some of the expenses and keep our budget in line.

Sra. Mercedes FERMIN GOMEZ (Venezuela): La delegación de Venezuela quiere simplemente expresar primero su satisfacción por el informe que estamos estudiando y, por ello, presenta sus congratulaciones al amigo Embajador Bukhari que lo ha presentado. Luego, expresar nuestro apoyo a este informe, pero no quisiéramos dejar pasar por alto algo que no sé cómo llamarlo, que no nos satisface plenamente y es el tono de las críticas, de las observaciones que encontramos en algunas delegaciones, especialmente en el Reino Unido, Canadá y Australia, en donde revela que se está estudiando un informe de finanzas como si esto fuera una empresa y nosotros fuéramos unos accionistas que estamos estudiando al detalle las ganancias y las pérdidas que tenemos de nuestro dinero invertido, y yo tengo entendido, y así lo piensa Venezuela y supongo que los países en desarrollo así lo miran, que esto no es una compañía para invertir y para ganar; es una empresa. Si vamos a ver qué responsabilidad tenemos, no tan solo con los países en desarrollo, sino con aquellos

países que a la gente le gusta llamar del Tercer Mundo, no sé por qué en un todo medio despectivo, queriendo decir los países que todavía no han alcanzado la categoría de países. No olvidemos por qué estos países están todavía así, y nosotros los países del Tercer Mundo, que también pasamos por ese periodo, que apenas salimos de él o empezamos a salir de él hace 150 años, que no hemos recorrido a plenitud el camino del desarrollo para sentirnos en igualdad de circunstancias con los países que les gusta llamarse desarrollados. Por esta razón pienso que esto, que esta participación en la FAO no es la participación de un inversionista que quiere ver cuanto resulta su dinero y cuanto le gana y cuánto se pierde, sino que es una responsabilidad colectiva de la humanidad con esos países a quienes debemos, en cierta manera, con un criterio distinto, ayudar para que puedan disfrutar alguna vez, no sé cuándo y en muy largo plazo, de esa presuposición que está escrita en la carta de las Naciones Unidas, a la cual ellos tienen derecho; es decir, ser países soberanos capaces de la autodeterminación como pueblos libres para darse no solamente el gobierno, sino una vida mejor.

Por esa razón, cuando encontramos comparaciones en algunas de las intervenciones como una que voy a dar sólo por ejemplo como muestra, comparar las toneladas o lo que cuesta mandar toneladas del PMA y lo que cuesta un programa de capacitación de la FAO, yo pienso que no es lo mismo llenar estómagos hambrientos con excedentes de éste o aquel país que tratar de preparar mediante un programa de capacitación, de educar esta gente que está atrasada, que son los programas de la FAO. No podemos establecer una comparación en un sola línea de este programa y de aquel otro y de lo que cuesta este programa y de lo que cuesta el otro, y casi todos los ejemplos y todas las críticas que hacen estos países al Programa de la FAO, puestos siempre en blanco y negro, son de esta misma naturaleza. Por eso, yo pienso que, sin ser excesivamente tolerante o como se dice en inglés sin ser lenient, no podemos dejar de pensar que los programas de la FAO deben ser tomados, considerados y evaluados con este criterio, que no es un criterio de comerciante, que no es un criterio de rendimiento de dinero, sino que es un criterio con el que se tienen que valorar lo que esos programas significan, lo que ellos dan a esos países y a esos pueblos que los están recibiendo. Es algo que no podemos valorar en dinero, en dólares, céntimos o en bolívares, o en libras, sino son programas y resultados que debemos valorar desde otro punto de vista. Y me excusan por algo que puede parecer inoportuno, pero que están de acuerdo con mi criterio y con mi sentimiento.

Elio PASCARELLI (Italy): I am sorry to delay this debate which has already taken so much time. However, I asked your permission to come back on the point concerning organizational matters. I refer to document CL 90/17, this time as Host Country, and nothing to do with the financial, or so-called liquidity problems.

In the report of our Committee-and I am glad that at least some of the Members did pay tribute to the Members of the Finance Committee-I heard some criticism as though the Finance Committee had been sitting for ten days for nothing; the discoverers of some points to pick out and show off. I am so sorry to say that because as a Finance Committee we have done our job. We are very proud of what we have presented. I am very grateful to those who have expressed their appreciation for what we have done, in particular, the Ambassador of India mentioned that.

I should like to touch briefly on one point raised in the Finance Committee. We were committed to report to the Council, (following the Conference vote) on the relationship with the Host Government, on two points-privileges and immunity. Two months ago in the report, we gave a summary of the efforts we had undertaken. I am glad to report to this Council that we are so close to a conclusion, in the most liberal way, of our so-called differences with the Organisation. Concerning both privileges and immunity, we have practically reached an agreement. I had hoped that we could have signed it. The other day my Minister said "You have not signed yet? What are you waiting for?" I called the Secretariat and I am very hopeful that we might tell you that there are no clouds in our skies.

By the way, when I began my career, Count Sforza was our Minister and he was famous in Europe for a book called "Builders and Destroyers" ("costruttori e distruttori"). As a diplomat at the end of my career, I am very happy to have operated wherever possible among the "costruttori" and not among the "distruttori"-builders and destroyers or demolishers. Being a builder I have to talk about buildings.

We have the agreement that has been submitted to you, in the exchange of letters between the Director-General and myself. May I announce to the Council that after presentation of the Bill to Parliament, the Senate is handling the matter, and we fervently hope that by the end of this year the Bill will be approved and so the Lit. 25 billion, perhaps worth a little more a year ago-fortunately not much, because the rate of inflation has been quite moderate, but this Lit. 25 billion for the buildings is, as we say, sliding over to 1987. It is not entirely our fault or that of FAO either. We had some postponement due to procedures to be followed, and then a crisis occurred and then we had summer, so the whole thing was delayed by at least six months.

In the new premises that you see on the plans and exchange of letters, FAO will prosper we hope, but not grow too much-family planning must be applied here. We also hope that the little difference that has been mentioned by my Canadian colleague on the World Food Council accommodation can be solved. As a matter of fact, these buildings will be large enough to accommodate FAO as it is projected, but unfortunately not the World Food Programme. This is a new announcement that I am making today: the World Food Programme is going to have a different building together with IFAD. Of course, since the World Food Programme is part of FAO and part of the UN at the same time, they have no autonomy and a Headquarters Agreement will be needed by the time that the building is ready. Provisionally we are going to make all efforts in order to help the World Food Programme to pay the rent with money not subtracted from the contributions to the operations of the Programme. Already this year we have given half of the rent, and next year we hope to give the full rent. I cannot promise, because I am not the Treasury Minister and as I said last time it will have to be discussed.

In the document presented to the Council by the Secretariat (page 3, paragraph 8, document CL 90/22) I read the last sentence of paragraph 8 (English text) "Moreover, it is hoped that, in the light of the considerations set out in paragraph 5 above, appropriate arrangements can be made separately with the Government regarding the status of the rented premises".

If we take care when reading the exchange of notes between the Director-General, Dr Saouma, and myself, we will find in the very first sentence of the letter from Dr Saouma, and I quote: "In order to avoid offices of the Organization being situated outside the said complex and in buildings that are not owned by the Italian State. " This affords me the occasion to make it clear and ask the question "What is it actually that FAO expects of us through these "appropriate arrangements" if not relying completely on the goodwill of the Government of Italy?" We have not considered any steps that might need ratification by Parliament. The Legal Counsel of FAO is very well aware that a previous exchange of letters covering the first addition we made to building "A", (B, C and D etc.) have been blocked in a branch of Parliament, which means that they do not want to approve it. They would not approve now because this is a comprehensive exchange and the definition of the Seat of the Organization is here, not outside. Whatever FAO has outside has to run risks, and they know what the risks are. Fortunately, we have no clouds in our sky concerning immunity and we hope never to have any.

I think that is about all I have to say on the subject concerning the contributions from 1971-72 to 1985-86, I do not think it will be so interesting for the Council to listen to. There is a Finance Committee, let the Finance Committee do its job and not make another Finance Committee out of this Council.

Joseph TCHICAYA (Congo): Ma délégation tient à remercier le Président du Comité financier pour son excellente introduction de ces deux documents. Nous tenons à associer à ces remerciements tous les membres de ce Comité important et dont le travail a toujours été apprécié par notre Conseil. Nous félicitons donc tous ceux qui ont oeuvré dans cet excellent travail accompli au cours des 57ème et 58ème sessions.

Nous avons lu avec beaucoup d'attention ces deux rapports et nous félicitons la FAO de la manière dont elle s'acquitte de ses obligations. Tout d'abord la lecture de ces documents fait apparaître que la FAO a réalisé des économies sur les dépenses de personnel, de près de 30 millions; c'est un fait encourageant et il convient que le Conseil en prenne acte.

Nous félicitons également la FAO de l'excédent de trésorerie de plus de 34 millions pour l'exercice 1984-85; et nous nous associons à l'appel lancé, et à l'exemple donné par l'Italie pour que tous les Membres de notre Organisation renoncent volontairement à leur part dans le partage de cet excédent.

Pour terminer l'examen de ce document CL 90/4, je tiens à dire que notre délégation apprécie le fait que le Directeur général veille à une plus grande transparence dans les activités de la FAO, dans le but de créer un climat de confiance entre le Secrétariat et les pays membres. Il nous faut rendre hommage à cette façon de faire; il ne faut pas que le Secrétariat soit frustré lorsque nous disons qu'il y a manque de transparence; comme l'a dit le délégué du Canada, il s'agit là d'un sujet subjectif. Quand on parle de transparence, tout dépend de ce que l'on cherche et de ce que l'on veut y voir. Et lorsqu'au niveau du Comité des programmes, nous avons analysé cette question, nous avons pensé qu'il fallait éviter, du fait de nos trop grandes demandes, une surcharge de l'Organisation. Ce qu'a dit tout à l'heure l'Ambassadrice du Venezuela est assez indicatif. Il nous faut savoir que certaines opérations de la FAO sont difficiles à évaluer et lorsque l'on demande des évaluations sur tel ou tel domaine n'oublions jamais que les meilleures sont celles faites sur le terrain; mais, justement, tout dépend de celui qui donne son appréciation.

Pour en venir au document CL 90/17, et notamment au rapport sur les comptes vérifiés, nous dirons d'emblée que la délégation du Congo souhaite que l'on recommande à la Conférence l'adoption de ces comptes vérifiés. Nous estimons effectivement qu'ici, la FAO travaille bien. Certes, nous ne pensons

pas que la FAO ne soit pas perfectible. Nous pensons qu'elle doit tenir compte des suggestions qui sont faites pour qu'elle améliore ses méthodes de travail et de gestion. Je pense que toute organisation aspire à cela.

Il en est de même pour le Programme alimentaire mondial. Des erreurs ont certainement été commises-elles sont signalées au paragraphes 64-mais nous espérons qu'elles ne se reproduiront pas et que tout ira pour le mieux dans les années à venir.

Voilà ce que je tenais à dire. Ma délégation accorde son appui à tout ce qui *est* proposé concernant les fonctionnaires ayant des handicapés à leur charge.

Gonzalo BULA HOYOS (Colombia): Siempre nuestro colega Bukhari, Presidente del Comité de Finanzas nos ha hecho una excelente presentación. Queremos sumarnos a lo que acaba de decir nuestro vecino de la derecha el Embajador del Congo, en el sentido de apoyar la actitud positiva del Embajador Pascarelli y reiterar el llamado para que otros países, sobre todo importantes contribuyentes, asuman una actitud semejante.

Empezamos por declarar que la delegación de Colombia reconoce el derecho legítimo que tienen los representantes de todos los Estados a preocuparse por la buena marcha de la Organización y, desde luego, sería deseable que ese celo y esa inquietud tuviera el mismo cumplimiento no sólo en la FAO, sino en todas las demás organizaciones. Estamos de acuerdo con lo que ha dicho la distinguida Embajadora de Venezuela sobre la forma como se ha planteado este debate y también con el Embajador Pascarelli, quien ha dicho que éste es el Consejo que tiene un organismo asesor muy importante, que es el Comité de Finanzas y, como su nombre lo indica y sus funciones lo determinan, es el ámbito adecuado para tratar estas cuestiones.

Realmente, queremos hablar con toda sinceridad. Pensamos que hemos asistido esta mañana con atención y con todo respeto a las declaraciones que se han hecho, sobre todo porque sabemos el trasfondo y el sentido hacia donde van dirigidas esas declaraciones. Pero hubiera sido mejor plantear todo esto en una perspectiva más adecuada, para beneficio mismo de quienes han hecho estas declaraciones. Si ellos en privado se dirigen a la Secretaria habrían recibido inclusive información mas detallada, más directa de la que han podido obtener aquí en el seno de este Consejo. Hubiera sido más conveniente no habernos hecho perder el tiempo, aunque siempre les respeto y reconozco su derecho a intervenir, pero habría sido más eficaz para ellos mismos.

También oímos con atención al representante de un país cuyo gobierno es miembro del Comité de Finanzas. El representante de ese país apoyó lo que hablan dicho Reino Unido y Canadá, pero leyendo el informe del Comité de Finanzas observamos que el representante de ese mismo Gobierno en el Comité de Finanzas no dejó ninguna reserva. Aquí parece que el Comité de Finanzas, y esto podrá confirmarlo el Presidente, estuvo unánime en reconocer que se hablan hecho observaciones que eran constructivas y que la Secretaria las aplicaría y todo se mejoraría en el futuro.

Yo creo también, que cuando se interviene en debates como éste sería necesario tener en cuenta el respeto que todos debemos sentir por una Organización a cuya Administración hemos concedido nuestra confianza y, por lo tanto, tal vez, lo decimos de manera flexible, no sería conveniente suscitar dudas o plantear críticas que no están debidamente fundadas y pueden crear malestar o incertidumbre injustificadas.

Hemos admirado muy sinceramente a unos distinguidos colegas que están cerca de nosotros, delante de nuestra fila en esta Sala, que intervienen con un estilo de aparente ingenuidad por el tono y el contenido un poco sibilino de sus declaraciones, que siempre comienzan con felicitaciones, agradecimientos y elogios a la Secretaria y que luego expresan ironías, comentarios más o menos velados que reflejan una profunda y bien dirigida malicia refinada, que se enfrenta con nuestra propia malicia, que es indígena y por lo tanto es más aguda y genuina. No acostumbramos a pronunciar el nombre de ningún país y tampoco lo haremos esta mañana, pero admiramos que sus delegados vengan desde Londres muy bien preparados, muy documentados. Nos suministran aquí una proliferación de datos increíbles, pormenorizados, demostrando un conocimiento profundo de lo interno de la Organización, que no lo tenemos ni siquiera nosotros, los que vivimos a este lado del Canal de la Mancha.

Esta observación la hacemos, señor Presidente, de manera muy espontánea, desprevenida y sin ninguna alusión a un pasado reciente. De todas maneras yo creo que sería lamentable que se instrumentalizaran cuestiones que en el pasado se han considerado rutinarias para tratar ahora de vincularlas a circunstancias coyunturales bien conocidas, para utilizarlas con ciertos fines

discutibles. Afortunadamente la gran mayoría de los miembros de este Consejo, por lo menos 46, somos personas que actuamos con mucha sensatez, con buen ánimo y que, naturalmente, respetamos la manera como actúan otros colegas. Sin duda convendría en el futuro que se tuvieran en cuenta ciertas maneras de actuar, porque la democracia ofrece sitios, oportunidades y formas para lograr ciertos propósitos, lo cual no corresponde al marco dentro del cual se ha adelantado este debate en el seno del Consejo.

Parece también que algunos de nuestros colegas estuvieran demasiado agitados, profundamente inquietos, tremendamente exacerbados, hasta una obsesión que llega a enseriecerlos un poco. Yo me había olvidado de un asunto que planetó la delegación de Colombia en la Sala Verde. Por eso agradezco a los colegas Embajadores de India y Congo que hayan recordado el párrafo 64 del documento 90/17, donde habla de tres millones inútiles que se perdieron, pero en fin, esas cosas para esas otras delegaciones no tienen importancia porque el objetivo es otro y está bien identificarlo.

Finalmente, queremos manifestar que cuanto a licitaciones, contratos, representantes de los informes en los palees, la Secretaría les va a responder, pero en el caso de Colombia cuando tenemos dudas respecto a estas materias nos acercamos a la Secretaría y siempre encontramos una respuesta amplia, transparente, detallada y muy acertada.

Creemos que el Auditor hizo observaciones, que el Comité de Finanzas las consideró constructivas, que la Secretaría las ha recibido con espíritu sereno y que se ha manifestado dispuesta a explicarlas, luego la situación es satisfactoria, aprobaremos el proyecto de Resolución que mandaremos a la Conferencia y confiamos todos en que se va a seguir mejorando la gestión de la FAO.

José Ramón LOPEZ-PORTILLO ROMANO (México): La delegación de México, como todas las que nos han precedido en el uso de la palabra, expresa su más sincera felicitación al Presidente del Comité de Finanzas por el estupendo informe que nos presentó esta mañana y también por haber dirigido de manera tan eficaz y sabia los trabajos de dicho Comité. Sé que es tarde, señor Presidente, y mi declaración, por tanto, será breve. Por eso quiero unirle a las declaraciones de Yugoslavia, Brasil, Liberia, India, Venezuela, Congo, y ahora Colombia.

Agradecemos junto con estas y otras delegaciones al Gobierno anfitrión por su postura y reacción tan positiva hacia la FAO y también nos congratulamos de las buenas relaciones entre nuestra Organización y ese Gobierno. Agradecemos al Director General su esfuerzo de transparencia que deja ver la eficiencia alcanzada por nuestra Organización. Elogiamos en este sentido el esfuerzo y la consecución de importantes economías que muestran cuánto se ha avanzado el lograr ahorros y hacer más eficiente los trabajos, la función de la FAO. El proceso de una mayor claridad, presentación y de mejoras en esa eficiencia en los trabajos de FAO, son necesariamente procesos paulatinos; pero si miramos para atrás constataremos todo lo que se ha alcanzado gracias a ese esfuerzo y empeño del Director General y de su equipo. Es ese un hecho, es esa una referencia seria y firme y no una cuestión subjetiva como lo puede ser el juicio circunstancial de una transparencia que cada quien entiende de manera distinta.

Hoy debemos constatar que nuestra contribución a FAO se gasta mejor y con mejores resultados, a pesar, ciertamente, de que nuestra Organización es hoy más grande y más compleja, pero también más eficaz.

Subrayamos la flexibilidad que debemos darle al PCT y que éste no se sujete a fórmulas administrativas restrictivas que castiguen su ejecución y manejo amplio.

Respecto al informe del Auditor Externo, con congratulamos de las conclusiones positivas que se tienen, y en relación a las dudas presentadas, y otras cuestiones aquí evocadas, estas deben verse a la luz de lo dicho por la delegación de Venezuela, es decir, en un contexto más amplio en donde se entienda la función y las prácticas de una Organización tan compleja y con propósitos distintos a ser reducida a criterios de costo-beneficio. En todo caso, y sin atropellos deben llevarse estas cuestiones en particular por su detalle técnico al Comité de Finanzas para su estudio detenido y profundo.

Recordamos que el contexto en el que se encuentra la FAO, es decir, frente a las dificultades de liquidez que enfrenta, nos debe llevar a apoyarla ahora mucho más que antes, por eso no creemos pertinentes ciertas expresiones que pudieran debilitar o poner en duda y en forma a priori y prejuiciadas el concepto de eficiencia y de competencia para alcanzar sus metas con que el mundo ve y debe ver a nuestra Organización. Esas dudas deben dirimirse con toda tranquilidad y seriedad. Esto no es un circo donde se lanzan fieras para que se coman a inocentes. Es un Consejo donde nuestros juicios y conclusiones deben estar fundamentados sobre todo en el tipo de debates y de conclusiones técnicas que se realicen previamente en consultas con la Secretaría y también por los Organos, o bien Comités especializados, y responsables de ello, tal como el Comité de Finanzas.

Ciertamente nos preocupan las dudas expuestas por el Auditor Externo y esperamos que la Secretaría dé ahora respuesta a ellas en la medida de lo posible, así como a las preguntas aquí formuladas y que estas cuestiones se lleven finalmente al Comité de Finanzas, como ha sido ya propuesto.

En relación al equipo electrónico, aunque nos preocupa lo que nos dice el Auditor Externo, nos congratulamos de que la FAO no haya perdido recursos como lo hicieron lamentablemente otras Organizaciones. En todo caso, nos gustaría saber en relación al Programa de Campo que muestras usó el Auditor Externo en relación a los informes de los representantes de FAO para llegar a las conclusiones a la que llegó.

Nosotros consideramos que este Consejo debe llevar a la consideración de la Conferencia la resolución que el documento que ahora tratamos, propone y presenta.

Leopoldo ARIZA HIDALGO (Cuba): Queremos felicitar a nuestro amigo el Embajador Bukhari por la presentación de los temas que estamos discutiendo. Fue una presentación amplia, pormenorizada y razonada del trabajo arduo y eficiente que ese Comité ha realizado en estos temas.

Queremos también felicitar a Italia por su apoyo franco a la FAO: felicitar a Italia y a su embajador Pascarelli por su dinamismo en la gestión dentro de FAO.

Realmente nos preocupa la forma en que se esta discutiendo. Queremos también expresar que cuando estamos sentados aquí de antemano ya reconocemos el derecho que todos tenemos a analizar, a discutir, a discrepar y a proponer, pero también tenemos que analizar los métodos para realizar esa acción de participación.

Los mecanismos financieros que hoy se cuestionan, o que se están cuestionando, los mecanismos financieros en su totalidad, se viene haciendo desde hace muchos años; entonces, nos preocupa que sea ahora, precisamente ahora que se exponga ese criterio total contra los mecanismos financieros de la Organización.

Todos sabemos que los que han hablado en forma, diríamos, vamos a ser gentiles, en forma en que han decidido resolver de una vez y por todas una idea personal, han tenido una intervención muy amplia, muy activa en relación a las finanzas no solamente en la FAO, sino en todos los organismos financieros del orbe en que participan activamente. Una prueba de que tienen competencia y experiencia es que nuestro Auditor es inglés y lleva muchos años, muchos años; creo que en la última Conferencia discutíamos la procedencia o no de volverlo a contratar y se planteó que por su capacidad, por su eficiencia y porque conoce muy bien la FAO y sus mecanismos había que aprobarlo; eso fue dicho así en la Conferencia pasada, por lo tanto, creo que los más capacitados en este cónclave colectivo de discusión tienen oportunidad siempre, durante todo el tiempo, de ayudar, de prevenir, de aconsejar, pero no es útil esperar un momento equis, un momento crítico para poner en tela de juicio aquello en lo que se ha participado tan activamente.

La señora embajadora de Venezuela nos ha dado una lección muy interesante de comportamiento en la comunidad internacional. Es verdad, la responsabilidad colectiva de la humanidad tiene que imponerse en contra de una inversión con objetivos específicos de ganancias.

Queremos también decir que si es difícil, como se ha dicho por algunos colegas, estudiar con suficiente tiempo un documento, que se nos entrega relativamente tarde, o una semana antes del evento, si es difícil hacer eso mucho más difícil, o menos posible, es esperar que entendamos un análisis tan pormenorizado que trata de destruir el trabajo de una Secretaría y de un Comité, que son órganos colectivos, conformados colectivamente, y se trata de destruir con un análisis que podríamos con tiempo suficiente y con especialistas desentrañar para saber qué se pretende, pero que en una hora antes yo no puedo entrar a considerar esos criterios, no es posible que en una hora me expliquen a mí todo lo contrario de lo que, un poco tarde, la Secretaría me entregó una semana antes.

Ante esta situación considero que todas las observaciones han sido analizadas. La Secretaría tomará nota, o ha tomado ya nota sobre aquellas que tengan solución, pero también que tengan soluciones inmediatas, así como creará las condiciones para que los futuros eventos del Comité de Finanzas entren a analizar las soluciones de las restantes. Por lo tanto, nuestra delegación apoya en todas sus partes los documentos presentados por el Comité de Finanzas, presentados por el embajador Bukhari.

Queremos hacer un apoyo especial a los trabajos de este Comité de Finanzas y además queremos aprobar el informe del Auditor interno con todas aquellas cuestiones en las que ha hecho hincapié y que el Comité de Finanzas analizó y aceptó para crear mejores condiciones de trabajo.

En el mundo, no de hoy sino de todas las etapas de la humanidad, lo perfecto no existe; el perfeccionismo es la enfermedad de lo perfecto y hay que aspirar a la eficiencia, a la utilidad, a la creación, pero creo que es una sobreestimación crear la perfección.

La FAO tiene aceptado por el Comité de Finanzas, algunas deficiencias en algunos aspectos de trabajo, lo reconoce y está trabajando por resolverlo, pero también a la FAO hay que ayudarla, no se puede solamente criticar y negarle fundamento de este trabajo financiero, que el fundamento del trabajo financiero es la contribución a la que están obligados a dar, obligados, digo la palabra, y que no ofenda a nadie, obligados, que cuando estamos dentro de una comunidad estamos obligados a recibir y a dar por que esa es la comunidad; si yo quiero nada más que recibir no es una comunidad.

En ese sentido, queremos, repito, apoyar los informes y el informe del Auditor interno y que se presenten a la próxima Conferencia.

The meeting rose at 13. 00 hours.

La séance est levée à 13 heures.

Se levanta la sesión a las 13. 00 horas.

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FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

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

consejo

ORGANIZACION DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS PARA LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION

CL

CL 90/PV/16

Ninetieth Session

Quatre-vingt-dixième session

90º período de sesiones

**SIXTEENTH PLENARY MEETING
SEIZIEME SEANCE PLENIERE
16ª SESION PLENARIA
(26 November 1986)**

The Sixteenth Plenary Meeting was opened at 14. 45 hours,
Lassaad Ben Osman, Independent Chairman of the Council, presiding
La seizième séance plénière est ouverte à 14 h 45, sous la présidence
de Lassaad Ben Osman, Président indépendant du Conseil
Se abre la 16ª sesión plenaria a las 14. 45 horas, bajo la presidencia
de Lassaad Ben Osman, Presidente Independiente del Consejo

- IV. PROGRAMME, BUDGETARY, FINANCIAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS (continued)
- IV. QUESTIONS CONCERNANT LE PROGRAMME, LE BUDGET, LES FINANCES ET L'ADMINISTRATION (suite)
- IV. ASUNTOS DEL PROGRAMA Y ASUNTOS PRESUPUESTARIOS, FINANCIEROS Y ADMINISTRATIVOS (continuación)
- 11. Reports of the Fifty-Seventh and Fifty-Eighth Sessions of the Finance Committee (continued)
- 11. Rapports des cinquante-septième et cinquante-huitième sessions du Comité financier (suite)
- 11. Informes de los períodos de sesiones 57° y 58° del Comité de Finanzas (continuación)
- 11.1 Developments regarding Headquarters Accommodation (continued)
- 11.1 Faits nouveaux concernant les locaux du Siège (suite)
- 11.1 Novedades en relación con los locales de oficina en la Sede (continuación)
- 12. Financial Matters (continued) including:
- 12. Questions financières (suite) notamment:
- 12. Asuntos financieros (continuación) en particular:
- 12.2 Audited Accounts (continued)
- 12.2 Comptes vérifiés (suite)
- 12.2 Cuentas comprobadas (continuación)
- a) Regular Programme 1984-85
(C 87/5; CL 90/17 paras 46-60) (continued)
- a) Programme ordinaire 1984-85
(C 87/5; CL 90/17 par. 46-60) (suite)
- a) Programa Ordinario 1984-85
(C 87/5; CL 90/17, párrs. 46-60) (continuación)
- b) UNDP 1984-85
(C 87/6; CL 90/17 para. 61) (continued)
- b) PNUD 1984-85
(C 87/6; CL 90/17 par. 61) (suite)
- b) PNUD 1984-85
(C 87/6; CL 90/17 párrs. 61) (continuación)
- c) World Food Programme 1984-85
(C 87/7; CL 90/17 para. 62-66) (continued)
- c) Programme alimentaire mondial 1984-85
(C 87/7; CL 90/17 par. 62-66) (suite)
- c) Programa Mundial de Alimentos 1984-85
(C 87/7; CL 90/17 párrs. 62-66) (continuación)

Mohd. Mazlan BIN JUSOH (Malaysia): We would just like to make a very brief statement but first of all I would like to thank Mr Bukhari for his very outstanding and comprehensive introduction.

My country being a member of the Finance Committee in the person of Mr Jalil, I feel it my duty to state on behalf of my delegation our support to the reports of the Finance Committee as presented by the Chairman of the Committee.

We would also like to thank members of the Council who had expressed appreciation for the work of this Committee and we note various comments made by some delegations about the Finance Committee. We feel that the Committee can benefit from these comments and take them in a constructive light. As mentioned by the delegate of Cuba, there is no such thing as perfection. We have to work continuously towards perfection and I believe that this Organization can benefit by taking these comments in a constructive light.

We also would like to thank Ambassador Pascarelli in announcing the special effort of Italy to alleviate the short term financial difficulties faced by this Organization and would like to echo the part of the report which calls for members of this Organization to try to help solve the problem of arrears in payments of their contributions.

We are very well pleased with the way the discussions have taken place on this item. Even though most matters have been explained in the report, there are certain other matters already been brought up by some of the delegates who have spoken previously, especially with regard to the WFP audited account for 1984/85 which we think the Council will benefit, with further clarification.

This specifically refers to the problem in connection with WFP information system regarding the loss of \$3 million and the reasons why steps have not been taken to take litigation against the company.

The second matter is with regard to loss of materials which were supposed to be sent to Member Countries under the Food Aid Programme. Such losses have been said to amount to up to 30 percent.

The last one is with regard to the continued supply of grains to countries which have experienced surpluses to meet their local requirements and some even for export.

I believe these matters have been taken note of by the WFP and we would like to have some clarification on them.

Antoine SAINTRAIN (Observateur de Belgique): Puis-je me permettre d'intervenir très brièvement pour émettre quelques réflexions.

Ne serait-il pas possible d'étudier la possibilité pratique de fixer en monnaies nationales tous les crédits budgétaires qui ne sont pas dépensés en dollars, dans le but de demander aux Etats Membres de liquider en tout ou en partie en lires le montant de leurs contributions correspondant à la part des dépenses liquidées dans cette monnaie? Je sais que cela entraîne un certain nombre de complications sur le plan budgétaire, mais il serait intéressant qu'une étude soit entreprise et mise à notre disposition. Mon pays souhaite qu'une décision rapide puisse intervenir en ce qui concerne les mesures prises pour encourager le paiement rapide des contributions et permettre un traitement plus équitable tous les Etats Membres.

Le règlement financier actuel doit être modifié; une des sept solutions préconisées devrait être retenue. Comme la distribution a lieu au début de la seconde année suivant la fin de l'exercice-c'est-à-dire au début de l'année 1987-, le Comité devrait se pencher sur la question à sa session de décembre. Chaque pays doit pouvoir contribuer le mieux possible au fonctionnement de la FAO; l'avis du Comité sur la meilleure des sept solutions proposées me paraît important: quelle est cette meilleure solution du point de vue du bon fonctionnement de l'Organisation?

Serait-il également possible de savoir où en est l'étude du Comité financier quant aux mesures qui pourraient être prises en cas de paiement tardif des contributions? En l'absence d'un taux au moins égal au taux du marché financier, il existe une incitation aux paiements tardifs des contributions des Etats Membres et cette incitation est évidemment le taux supérieur à celui du marché qui seul imposerait une pénalité.

L'annexe B du document CL 90/17 fait le point de la situation dans les différents organismes de la famille des Nations Unies. L'étude de ce document m'amène à souhaiter une meilleure articulation entre la FAO et le PAM. La restructuration envisagée par le PAM, dont il a été beaucoup discuté, doit se faire dans la perspective d'une bonne articulation avec la FAO et non dans celle d'une séparation ou d'une autonomie plus grande.

En ce qui concerne le Programme de coopération technique, nous y sommes très attachés. Il fonctionne bien et il nous paraît important qu'il ne soit pas sacrifié.

Carlos DINATOR (Observador de Chile): Mi delegación desea intervenir otra vez, señor Presidente, en forma breve y en relación con la situación financiera y, esta vez, a propósito del tema 11 de la agenda referente al análisis de los informes de las sesiones 57 y 58 del Comité de Finanzas.

Expresó mi delegación, señor Presidente, que la publicación del documento CL 90/17 y de otros en el mes de noviembre, no ha permitido a todas las delegaciones examinar con igual detención la situación financiera, tanto en los aspectos de diagnóstico como en los de terapia. Consecuentemente en la actual situación, mi delegación no está en condiciones de pronunciarse respecto de las notables propuestas del eminente representante de Italia, como habría sido nuestro deseo, máxime teniendo en cuenta su llamamiento hecho a los Estados no miembros del Consejo.

En estrecha relación con las actividades y posiciones de tales Estados no miembros del Consejo, mi delegación debe hacer notar que en un primer análisis de esta documentación no ha podido encontrar antecedentes complementarios, que podría enterar el cuadro general de todos los desembolsos de los Estados a la Organización, por cuanto aparte de las contribuciones o cuotas, mi país aporta a la FAO por ejemplo, una suma de dinero adicional cercana a un millón de dólares anuales para el sostenimiento de la Oficina Regional para América Latina, situada en Santiago, y la representación de la FAO en Chile. Antecedentes que no vemos en la documentación entregada.

Deseamos recibir alguna información de la Secretaría acerca de la posibilidad de ampliar en el futuro el objeto o alcance de textos similares al apéndice "A" del documento CL 90/17 y al CL 90/LIM I, para que incluyan todos los aportes y cuotas de los Estados a la FAO por cualquier concepto e igualmente, para que esta clase de documentos den a conocer simultáneamente la exacta cuota básica de cada Estado en el año calendario vigente.

R. G. PETTITT (United Kingdom): I would just like to respond to a point made by the delegate of Colombia. I am not sure whether I got his point exactly as I am afraid I was listening in translation. But I thought I heard a suggestion that the comments made by the British delegation this morning were based on information not available to the remainder of the Council. In fact we were in receipt of no information not in the papers available to the Council, and in particular we do not have separate dealings with the British national audit office. This office is completely separate from the Executive arm of government and its audit work retains its own confidences.

LE PRESIDENT: Nous arrivons à la fin du débat. Je remercie tous les orateurs qui ont bien voulu discuter de ce point très important et de la clarté du débat.

Atif Y. BUKHARI (Chairman, Finance Committee) (Original language Arabic): I do not have a great deal to add to what has been said. However, I would like at the outset to thank all those who have taken part in the discussion. I thank in fact all the members of the Council without exception. I would like to thank more particularly those who have expressed their satisfaction and their conviction for the contents of the Reports of the Finance Committee which in fact revolve around the basic immediate point under discussion during this session of the Council.

I have a small comment to make here. This is a matter that was referred to by His Excellency the Ambassador of Italy, His Excellency the Ambassador of India, the Ambassadors of Colombia, Venezuela and others. However, as Chairman of the Finance Committee I wish to say that this Committee is not a Committee that simply reads documents. We are not simply there to sit for a couple of hours to read through the documents. We are a Committee that examines very carefully and in a very minute manner every minor and major item in the documents. We examine very carefully everything submitted to us. We then discuss matters, and we sometimes spend days discussing a specific subject if it appears to be necessary to do so.

Some of the members of the Council may think that some subjects are discussed in an hour or so. But I would like to say that sometimes some subjects take up more than a day of discussion. So you can imagine how long we took to review the audited accounts of the FAO and the WFP or the Reports of the External Auditor. I would like you to know that such activities take days on end. We interview most of the officials in charge of the Organization, they sit with us and we put our questions to them and we listen to their replies, the External Auditor also. We discuss and examine with him every single paragraph of his Report and we listen very carefully to his answers. Both parties concerned, that is to say the Secretariat and the External Auditor, sit together and we discuss the whole matter between us. Then we, the members of the Finance Committee, express our opinion as far as the situation is concerned. We support one point or express our sympathy for another and so on. Therefore the activities and the operations of the Finance Committee are arduous. It is a Committee that is responsible here before the members of the Council. You, the members of the Council, are the ones who have established the Committee. We are the Council representatives before the External Auditor and the Secretariat, we are part of you and not against you.

This Committee is composed of members who are known for their integrity, honesty and experience and they discuss all the documents and matters pertaining to the finances of the Organization to facilitate your task for you in discussing sensitive items. We are very proud that we represent such an august body as this Council and we hope that we shall be worthy of the confidence and trust of all the members of the Council.

Criticism is a single word but one that may have one or two meanings. We have constructive criticism, criticism with a subject and a point, and we have destructive criticism. Both sides of this form of criticism are qualified as criticism. However, the manner of criticizing and the very timing of addressing criticism could be construed either as constructive or as destructive. The manner, the means, the timing of criticism, can therefore either be taken as a constructive form of criticism, an objective form of criticism, or a destructive one.

The members of the Finance Committee do not fear criticism but we welcome all forms of criticism to us by members of the Council. We simply wish that it be constructive and that it guide us in our activities. The Finance Committee receives its guidance from the Council and we are members of the Committee. The majority of the members of the Finance Committee are also members of the Council.

So we are an integral part of the Council. As I said, in the Finance Committee's report, the External Auditor provided us with information which was thoroughly examined. He provided us with this information in the form of a report. I believe that the Finance Committee must examine the auditor's report itself. It must not address the report in any different manner.

In the External Auditor's report there are no doubt certain criticisms, but they are constructive ones. There are simplified forms of criticism in all the paragraphs of the report. For example, in paragraphs 7, 8, 9 and 10 the auditor referred to the weaknesses in the review operation in the planning of the budget and so on. As my colleague from Cuba and other colleagues have said, perfection is not something that can be achieved here. We in the Finance Committee can never achieve perfection. Perfection is a divine attribute.

Paragraph 10 of the auditor's report says that certain points could be improved. This is an appropriate and a most courteous manner of addressing criticism. In sub-paragraph (ii) of paragraph 10, there is a statement which says that it would be better to monitor manpower. It goes without saying that this criticism is addressed to the Organization. In fact we questioned the Organization as to these points of criticism and obtained the necessary replies. I do not believe that the Finance Committee or any Member of the Committee, would expect us to submit a document of two thousand pages that would in fact contain all the questions addressed to the Secretariat and to the auditor, as well as the replies to these questions. Therefore, we submit to you a report in summary form that will facilitate the work of the Council.

Once again I should like to express my deep thanks my unlimited gratitude to all my colleagues, Members of the Council, and I would simply urge them to be patient and calm, so that the discussion of these sensitive items be constructive, aimed at achieving the good of one and all.

David Lawrence COUTTS (Australia): I should like very briefly to set the record straight concerning one point that was made before lunch by the delegate of Colombia. In his intervention he made reference to the fact that Australia is on the Finance Committee, and as I understood it, he seemed to be implying we were raising criticisms that were not consistent with their membership of that Committee. I should like to say that Australia has worked hard on the Finance Committee. We take our responsibilities very seriously in that regard. I thought I had clearly indicated in my intervention, (if it was not clear I should like to underline it now) that Australia fully endorses acceptance of these reports and we appreciate the comments of the Chairman of the Finance Committee, and stand right behind him in this regard. What I did add, which might have led to some confusion, was only that we were impressed by the detailed work that had been done by several delegates to this Council (particularly the United Kingdom and Canada) that we supported their enthusiasm in looking at these details and that we would listen with interest to the responses of the Secretariat. I thank you for the opportunity to make that clear.

Gonzalo BULA HOYOS (Colombia): Sólo intervenimos porque Colombia se ha puesto de moda en la reunión de esta tarde después del almuerzo.

Queremos, simplemente, agradecer de manera muy sincera al colega y amigo señor Coutts de Australia por la declaración tan positiva y constructiva que acaba de hacer.

Creo que después de este debate no tenemos duda de que el Consejo esta integrado por 49 constructores.

LE PRESIDENT: Après ces bonnes paroles, je vais donner la parole au Directeur général adjoint.

DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL: In the course of the debate on these two items, there have been numerous references to the question of transparency. I should like to say that in the last resort the concept of transparency relates to a climate of confidence. I would like to reiterate the Director-General's intention of persevering in the road traced out in his own closing statement to the Conference, and by the discussions in the Programme and Finance Committees.

If I may now be permitted a personal remark-I was both impressed and depressed by a number of interventions this morning. Impressed by the diligence with which certain documents, (in particular the reports of the External Auditor) had clearly been examined. I was depressed because frankly I have the impression that there was a systematic search for what I would call "Sticks to beat the Secretariat". However, I am rather encouraged to find that the sticks are not bigger ones. If I may continue my personal impressions, I think that if these are the most serious questions for which we can be called upon to provide answers, then the Organization is not doing too badly.

I should like to answer two specific queries myself. The first relates to accommodation for the World Food Council. Here, the Executive Director of the World Food Council and we ourselves, are working to find a solution which will be satisfactory to both sides.

Secondly, I should like to refer to a question regarding the use of the Italian Special Contributions. The representative of Italy expressed the view that it would not be appropriate for the Council to get into a detailed discussion on the use of these funds over the years since contributions first started in 1971. Therefore, I shall merely say that the Italian Special Contributions are all to be used for purposes agreed upon between the Italian Government and FAO. There are still some residual funds left from contributions in the past. We are in discussion with the Permanent Representation of Italy regarding the best use of these funds in the present financial situation. We hope that these discussions can be concluded in the very near future.

On all other questions that have been put to the Secretariat, we shall be glad to provide detailed answers. With your permission, I should like to pass the microphone to my colleague Mr Crowther.

Dean K. CROWTHER (Assistant Director-General, Administration and Finance Department): First of all I have a couple of general comments to make before I get into the very detailed specific questions that were raised. I should like to take this opportunity to thank those delegates who have delved very deeply into various aspects and who have taken an interest in the Finance Committee reports and therefore a continued interest in the Organization.

I should like to reiterate the statement that was made by Ambassador Bukhari, (Chairman of the Finance Committee) and reassure the Council that the Finance Committee does look into every agenda item in great detail. Those of you who are Members, or have been Members, of the Finance Committee have seen the large stack of documents that are provided to each Member of the Finance Committee and additional explanation, analysis and work papers that are provided to the Members of the Finance Committee. It has been, and continues to be, the Director-General's instructions that we shall provide Members of the Finance Committee with all the information that your organization has at its disposal, that the Finance Committee Members ask for. We have attempted to do that in every meeting.

I should also say that the Members of the Finance Committee are very diligent in asking questions; they are excellent members and certainly delved deeply into every aspect of the Organization's business.

I should like to mention also, for the benefit of Council Members on the question of contributions that there have been three payments received since we discussed this subject last week. There have been payments from Yugoslavia, Czechoslovakia and Brazil. I am very pleased to announce that these payments have been received either in whole or in part from each of the respective countries.

Thirdly, in terms of general comments, I should like to say with respect to the external auditor that it is important as we view the external auditor's reports (which we do appreciate very much) that the external auditor has a basic responsibility, which he carries out very diligently, and that is to review the accounts of the Organization and provide assurances back to the Council through the Finance Committee of their accuracy, completeness, and offer his opinion on their precision.

The Chairman of the Finance Committee has made reference to the auditor's opinion which is included in the document that you have and again this past biennium, (as has been the case in all biennia) the auditor offered an unreserved, unqualified opinion on the accuracy of the accounts. By far, the work of the auditor is taken up for the most part by his review of the accuracy of the accounts during the biennium. I do not want Council Members to be misled in thinking that the only things the auditor does is to concentrate on the other items that seem to be of interest to the Council Members that are also included in the reports, because most of the work of the auditor is concentrated on the accounts themselves. Again, he finds them in good order and properly reflected in accordance with the Regulations of the Organization-that perspective was very important.

In addition to the time that the auditor has available to him, he then ventures into areas that he plans, and reviews management subjects that he refers to as "value for money". Those subjects that he had selected for the last biennium are reported upon, and as you have seen, where he has identified areas that he believes the Organization could improve he has either included the matter under a "Conclusion" or a "Recommendation". The distinction between "value for money" audits and the review of the accounts we think is a rather important one.

If I can turn to the specific questions that have been raised, I think it would be useful if I combined a number of the questions that were overlapping to the degree that I can do that, otherwise I shall have to go country-by-country.

The first questions that were raised were from the representative of Germany. One of those questions had to do with the relationship of trust funds and cross-over to the Regular Programme. Mr Shah will direct an answer to that.

The second question had to do with extrapolating from the personnel statistics the equivalent numbers of staff, and he had calculated a projected number of 7 962. That is a little high but it is very difficult to calculate. You have to take a number of things into consideration. One is that the personnel statistics that are shown in the reports that are in front of you include all of the authorized posts. In addition, we have attempted to take those contract employees who are on board and show equivalent numbers. Adding posts and numbers of equivalent employees together is not a completely accurate picture but it does give you an order of magnitude. We always have vacancies within posts, so the number is bound to be a little smaller than that projected, closer to 7 000 than 7 900 odd, merely because of the vacancy rates and the turnovers, because you are dealing with posts in that instance.

Next, the representative from the United Kingdom asked a number of questions, and I shall attempt to deal with them as precisely as we can. The first series of questions had to do with personnel matters and more specifically staff evaluations. He was concerned about how long there had been no system of staff appraisal for headquarters staff. Were our discussions on the introduction of an appraisal system likely to be finalized, and what do we do in the meantime?

The Organization has a number of staff evaluation systems but they do not provide an umbrella system for the entire Organization. That subject has been studied by the International Civil Service Commission and in fact a pro forma appraisal system was proposed in draft form and attempted by most of the agencies of the UN system, but unfortunately it was so complicated that it fell of its own weight. The Civil Service Commission continues to study and attempt to find a better evaluation system that could properly be used by the various UN specialized agencies and the United Nations itself. However, that does not mean that we do nothing by any manner of means. We have a number of systems that are necessary for us to operate our personnel system. For example, we presently have an evaluation system that has concluded in a review of each individual's performance at the end of a probationary period. As we bring permanent employees on, these staff members serve a probationary period of one year and they are reviewed at three periods during that

first year in order to determine whether they should be continued. This system has existed for some period of time. Secondly, there is an overall staff evaluation or staff performance appraisal system for field staff. That, too, has been in existence for quite a long period of time.

We are in the process of developing a performance system for each step in a particular grade level before the next step is automatically awarded. As the Council may be aware, the grading system in the UN system provides a number of steps for each grade. When a within-grade step is otherwise warranted we must have some indication from the supervisor as to whether they have performed well or not in order to be promoted. That evaluation system is being tested, and we hope to have that finalized in the very near future.

One last point on evaluations: the question was raised as to how the internal candidates that receive promotions are evaluated. Most of the promotions that we see within the Organization are as a result of filings for vacancy announcements that happen to become available. Any staff member believing that they have appropriate experience and background to file for a particular vacancy announcement may do so. In so doing, they must receive an evaluation from the supervisor. The supervisor who has the vacancy and who has asked for the announcement receives all the various applications for the vacancy announcement. Then he must go through each of those evaluations that have been made by the supervisor and put forward to the selection committee his analysis of the various performance appraisals that have been made on each of those candidates. I think we have a performance evaluation for almost every condition. There are a few which are perhaps not completed, but we will continue to work with the Civil Service Commission in order to come up with a staff evaluation system that will be universal.

Next, I should like to turn to the question that was raised on inventory control procedures for the Regular Programme. This related to the audit report on UNDP and the criticism that was made there with respect to our accounting for particularly fixed equipment in the field. On UNDP projects, like Regular Programme projects, we do have an equipment inventory that very precisely records from the point of purchase every item that is located in the field or in headquarters. The problem is that that inventory must be updated with a physical inventory on a regular basis. The auditor noted in those few cases where they visited the field that there were some instances when the inventory listing was sent from headquarters to the project for verification, but the organization found it difficult in some instances to get the project manager to take time out from the project to perform the inventory and return it to us. That is very true; it is a difficult task that we have to wrestle with.

The auditor had some specific recommendations, which we have accepted and we have implemented, and we are attempting to find every way we can to motivate those people in the field to count the equipment. From time to time we do send internal auditors as well as other staff members who are in the programme area also to review the equipment that is there. We have an adequate set of internal controls over the equipment, but we accept the criticism levied and have instituted the action necessary to correct it.

We have just recently-in fact, since the conclusion of the External Auditor's Report-implemented an automated inventory system both at headquarters and in the field. During implementation, we are doing a fairly complete test to make certain that we have all the bugs out of the system. We do believe, though, that this will provide the Organization with the assurance of an inventory control system that will be adequate.

While we are on that particular point, a separate question was raised by the representative of Turkey concerning the receipt of the auditor's report on UNDP matters by UNDP. We certainly will continue to work closely with UNDP and make certain that their Governing Body has the opportunity to take up that issue as well.

The representative from the United Kingdom raised a question on the External Auditor's Report on the procurement of word processors. He dealt with a number of very specific questions that I should try and answer first, and I shall try at the same time to answer the questions raised by the representative from Canada.

The question was raised as to whether the manufacturer receiving the award of the contract was one of the three identified by the ISRC Committee. As the External Auditor's report shows, the particular manufacturer that received the award was an addition to those three. When the Organization made a determination to go out for an international tender to buy word processing equipment, it selected a complete listing of qualified manufacturers, including three of the world's largest manufacturers. Each of these was not only a reputable company but provided good hardware, good software and the opportunity to maintain the equipment. Those were part of the substantiation that the Contracts Committee reviewed when they reviewed the list to go out for tender. The fact that an award was made to one of the bidders under the tender, a qualified bidder who was asked to tender who had not earlier been included in the consultants' report on this issue, we believe, and the auditor also believed, was irrelevant. The important part was that when we went out to tender all the rules of competition in international tendering were followed very closely. I would like to assure you, Mr Chairman, and the Council that all of the rules for international tendering on this procurement were followed and the award was made in accordance with each of those rules. The auditor made it very clear that no violation had been made of any of the rules under the tendering procedure, and I might add that we have some very complicated and technical tendering rules and we must adhere to those very carefully. The Director-General is very keen about that and we are most conscious that we must follow those rules strictly.

We have a Contracts Committee that reviews first the listing of bidders and specifications within the tender. After the tender is received there is a separate evaluation group that makes a full and complete evaluation of the bids received. The recommendations go back to the contracts committee who separately review the recommendation and make a final recommendation for the award. That procedure was followed to the letter in this case. It has been reviewed both by our internal auditors and our external auditors. The criticism that was levied by the external auditor on this particular case was that-even though the Organization selected an alternative bid that was received in the tender in a sealed bid at the same time as the other bids were received, reviewed and evaluated through exactly the same process, and the recommendations were included--the auditor thought that the specifications for future tenders could be tightened up a bit and, while we do not disagree with him, he did not suggest that it was an inappropriate award and that the alternative bid should not have been considered. He did not suggest that anywhere in the report, nor in our discussions with him. So we can certainly reassure both the Council and you, Mr. Chairman, that the Finance Committee reviewed this in great detail, asking questions of the External Auditor himself, and obtained all the information necessary to satisfy the Committee on this issue.

The question was raised as to whether any informal appraisal was made of the winning company's ability to perform under the tender. The answer is an unqualified "yes". A substantial appraisal was made. Both a technical appraisal was made and an economic appraisal was made and included in the results of the tender. The question that the auditor raised in this regard had to do with comparing the alternative bid which was substantially lower than the regular bids with the regular bids themselves. However, I am very pleased to say that an appraisal was performed of even the alternative bid.

The question was also raised as to the level in FAO that a decision was made to waive competition tendering and at what level was this endorsed? There was no waiver of competition in this case whatsoever. This particular procurement was made under the rules of competition which exist for the Organization. There was no waiver of competition in any respect, neither did the Auditor suggest that there was any waivering of competition. Are there proposals to clarify the manual in the circumstances in which competitive tendering is not indicated? The manual does not need changes. It is a question of attempting to identify the specifications which most clearly will provide the type of equipment that you need in high technology where the state of the art is constantly changing. For example, if you have a particular problem in word processing, or data processing, which you wish to solve whether it is a hardware or software

problem, and you are going to tender for the solution, the tendering process requires a fairly precise set of specifications. The Auditor suggested that, it could be useful to the degree that we can make specifications even more precise. We accept that and we are certainly making every effort to do so in those areas where high technology is particularly involved.

Have the recommendations of the Auditor been drawn to the attention of the staff concerned? The answer is an unqualified yes, it certainly has. Both our Procurement Branch, our Contracts Branch and the technical departments are involved. Questions were asked on specific dates regarding the tender and I might refer to this, this particular procurement occurred in 1983. An international tender was issued to a qualified list of bidders on 18 November 1983. The closing date for the tender was 30 November 1983 and the bids were opened the next day on December 1st. The purchase order was issued on 19 December after full and complete evaluation within the Organization. Therefore, there was not only cost evaluation, but also economic evaluation and technical appraisal performed before these were issued.

I have answered the questions of the Representative of United Kingdom, perhaps with one exception. He did make reference to the format of the financial statement of the Organization and he thought that they were not in sufficient detail to provide enough information for analysis by the members of the Council. I wish to call your attention to the fact that we, together with the Board of Auditors and International Civil Service Commission, acting together with the CCAQ (the Consultant Committee on Administrative Questions) for finance and budget are constantly reviewing this question of financial statements, the layout, format and the inclusion of information that is to be there, for all international organizations.

We rigidly follow the directions that have been given to the Organization by the CCAQ and, whilst there are some difference between agencies, we all follow the same basic rules and procedures. There is no way we can all put out precisely the same sets of statements since our organizational objectives are a little different in each case. However, on a particular number of questions within the financial statement, whether it is a discussion on assets, liabilities, surplus expenditure or income our definitions are reasonably uniform to a degree and they are constantly discussed.

The Board of Auditors also discussed this same question and tries to find basic ways of improving the financial statements that they can request of us. The Comptroller and Auditor General of the United Kingdom happens to be the External Auditor not only for the FAO, but for several other large UN organizations. They review the format and layouts in order that the members of Council and, more specifically, members of the Finance Committee, can have a complete understanding of the financial statements as they may wish to have.

We have had an outside consultant to look at some of the details included in our financial statements, including subsidiary schedules which are there and we have received recommendations for improving those. We will constantly strive to improve those and if there is any specific information in the audited accounts which you would like to see changed we would be pleased to receive your recommendations.

With regard to the intervention made by the representative of Canada, I may have covered a number but not all of them. The Representative of Canada requested a general progress report on the implementation of our automated system, FINSYS/PERSYS. In view of the fact that the Finance Committee has heard detailed reports on this progress. I will not attempt to go into detail. We do plan to continue to report on this issue to the Finance Committee at every session, suffice it to say, we did tender for a development contractor to implement the automation of our complete personnel and finance system-we are developing an automated accounting system. The Organization

has long lived with a manual system which does need to be automated and whilst we have the basic specifications, and the implementation contractor now on board, under a fixed price contract, it is progressing quite well. We do expect that the contract will be completed both on time and within the dollar amount that was shown in the contract. The Representative of Canada enquired about the management group overseeing the development of this large automated system and how that differs from the Information Systems Resources Committee. I will only spend a moment on this to say that because this is a large automated financial management and personnel management system, we found it necessary to set up a steering committee of those persons who would largely be affected by this, to make certain that the contractor was developing the type of system in accordance with the contract specifications. That would be most useful, in that we would be able to implement the system on time. This group meets every two weeks and once a month we have a larger group who reviews it, and prepares management reports on it. The Internal Auditor sits as an observer on each of the steering committee meetings and we are watching, very closely, every aspect of this development system. There have been a number of systems in other organizations which have failed because they did not have good management attention on them. We hope this will not be the case in FAO.

This group differs from the Information Systems Resources Committee in that the ISRC is a group of management officials, chaired by the Deputy Director-General, and consisting of the Assistant Directors-General to review automation and information systems development proposals by various technical organizations in the group. There is a technical sub-committee to that group who reviews the technical aspects and who makes recommendations to the full committee. That is a separate issue from overseeing the automation contract itself which is an operational responsibility. This is a policy advisory group to the Director-General and does review automated systems development proposals.

With regard to the audit reports, there may have been a number of additional questions raised by the Representative of Canada, which I did not cover. He welcomed an affirmation by the Secretariat, on our views that we would proceed on a competitive procurement system which would strengthen, where needed, future procurements. I can reassure you that the procurement system which exists in FAO is one of the best systems in the entire UN system. It has been reviewed by other UN organizations. Not only the automated portion of it, but also the internal controls related to it are well-established and well-founded. The External Auditor has reviewed the procurement system from time to time, as well as our Internal Auditor, and we find that we have got an excellent procurement system. I do not think it is the system that needs revising and it is not the recommendation of the External Auditor. In that regard I can reassure the Council and reaffirm that the procurement system is working well. The tendering system is working well and will continue to do so. We have certainly taken the External Auditor's recommendations into account and have implemented the recommendations that he has given to us.

In respect of the technical point the Representative of Canada raised the question of seeking uniformity of competition in this particular procurement of word processing and data processing equipment. The suggestion was made that we agree to compromise on a very early version of a local area network. That such network be placed in abeyance pending further study and that it be a substitute for 19 stand-alone units versus 4 units. The suggestions made were of an early version of such a system.

I believe there may be some confusion over the terminology, but I do not want to dwell on the technical aspect. However, it should be mentioned that the 19 stand-alone units, which were included in the basic bid for word processing equipment, included precisely the same word processing units as we received under the alternative bid. They were the same equipment and the same specifications. The difference was a significant difference in price. Also, the difference was that instead of 19 units that would be connected individually to a reasonably small mini-computer, 19 of them around the house as one proposal was included, we accepted an alternative bid of 4 more modern more up-to-date and more powerful units than each of the 19. The combination of the 4 mini-computers which were selected in the alternative bid at a substantially lower price, gives us much more powerful capability than we would have received had we selected the alternative of 19 mini-computers which would have been connected in individual divisions. We now have the opportunity of connecting them all throughout the entire Organization. It provides us, for the first time, in the history of the FAO, with the capability of putting information into one word processor and

transferring it to printing, or other places, where during Council/Conference, and other sessions of this nature, such information transfers could be extremely important.

We are in the process now of doing the final evaluation for the cabling that would be required to collate these together. After the full evaluation of that a proposal will be made to the Director-General and upon his approval it will be implemented.

I think that I have covered the questions that have been raised, with the exception of either three or four that Mr. Shah should answer and there were a couple of questions on the World Food Programme that Mr. Ahmed should answer.

V. J. SHAH (Director, Office of Programme, Budget and Evaluation): There are four subjects on which I would like to address myself to provide the clarifications desired by members of this Council.

Firstly, with reference to the Technical Cooperation Programme, I believe it was the representative of the Federal Republic of Germany, who, referring to the transfer of \$15 million from savings to the Technical Cooperation Programme, commented that this transfer gave rise to the high level of unobligated funds carried over into this biennium. It was in my first intervention at this session of the Council on Wednesday of last week that I tried to clarify the difference between unobligated funds of the TCP and commitments, commitments for projects which are approved. Now with regard to the \$15 million which were transferred to the TCP specifically for the Agricultural Rehabilitation Programme for Africa, the full amount, and you may remember that this transfer was approved by the Finance Committee in May 1985, the full amount was allocated to projects for Africa, 94 projects in all. I have been reporting on this to the Finance Committee ever since. At the last session of the Finance Committee in September we reported to them on the actual delivery against the project earmarking and the delivery was, at the end of August, 70 per cent. By now, at the end of October I would imagine it is a good 10 percentage points over that.

I perhaps will not go into other aspects of the TCP since I gave information on that in my earlier intervention.

The second point I would like to address myself to is the question of what steps are being taken to include project design and this question was raised by the representative of the United Kingdom with regard to our field projects. Project design, we have learned, as I am sure for other agencies and bilateral aid organizations, is really a key aspect in the efficient execution of a project and I do not know of one organization which can come up with a completely clean record and say that their systems ensured perfect project design in every case. In fact, our Review of the Field Programme, which members may remember as we submit it to the Conference every two years, gives extensive information on the project design as assessed by operators, as assessed by FAO representatives, as assessed by evaluation and the key is the effort made in evaluation and in feeding back the results of that evaluation into the project design process. This is something which requires effort across the board. It is not something that can be done only by a small group of people in one unit because it is the experience of field operations, conveyed to project operators in a central unit, whether of agriculture, or fishery or forestry operations, feeding back to the technical staff of divisions; that whole process is a dynamic one and it is based on a strengthening of our evaluation system.

Now what has been done? I do not believe there is any question of my blowing the Organization's trumpet but there happened to be two reports of the Joint Inspection Unit which addressed themselves to this very point, among others, and both reports were considered by the Programme and Finance Committees at their September sessions. They are referred to in their reports. The JIU

reports themselves have been distributed as information documents of this Council. One is a report entitled "Status of Internal Evaluation in Organizations of the United Nations System" and the second is entitled "The Third Report on Evaluation in the United Nations System: Integration and use". The first report gives us, in comparison to the evaluation activities and units, a rather clear commendation, "an ambitious and comprehensive evaluation system" it says, which has been filled out as FAO continues to expand evaluation coverage, refine and expand operation coverage of the system and integrate evaluation with other programme management in oversights processes. I will not take the time of the Council in going into further detail but both these two JIU reports and the comments of the Programme and Finance Committees draw attention to what steps have been taken by the Organization in recent years to consolidate and streamline the evaluation system in order to ensure a systematic feedback to improve the programme and project design.

The third question which has been raised by a number of representatives is on the subject of programme support costs and reference has been made to the information on programme support costs included in the report of the Finance Committee of its September session. Here we are dealing specifically with the cost of delivery of field projects. There are two points I would like to make. Firstly that our cost measurement system gives us data which are the basis of our report to the Finance Committee and they are as they appear in the Finance Committee's document. These data are perfectly consistent in my view with the data referred to by the external auditor in his report. Reference was made to paragraph 9 of the external auditor's report of the regular programme where it is stated that "Total support costs as determined later under the cost measurement system amounted to 42 million 700 thousand dollars for UNDP, 17 million dollars for the World Food Programme and 39 million 200 thousand for Trust Funds. These figures are identical to the figures given in the tables under paragraph 72 of the Finance Committee Report CL 90/17.

I refer to this matter because the intervention gave some impression of doubt or puzzlement or alarm that there is a Regular Programme subsidy to the Field Programme but this comes more as a surprise to the Secretariat, that there should be such puzzlement. I will not take the time of the Council by giving you an exhaustive history of the matter, but let me briefly recall that the question of project delivery cost for the Field Programme for field projects has been considered not only by the Finance Committee, and the Council and the Conference in the case of FAO, but by the relevant and related bodies of all other organizations in the United Nations system together with the UNDP governing council and the ACABQ, Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, and the General Assembly itself. All these considerations led to, firstly, an acceptance of the principle in the decisions both of the General Assembly, the UNDP governing council, and in our case, the FAO Conference in 1981, that there are certain charges which are applicable and are validly charged to project delivery, whereas there are other charges which are a valid charge to the regular budget. It was based on this principle that the FAO Conference in 1981, at its 21st Session, agreed that the support costs rate for the UNDP, as for Trust Funds, should be at a flat rate of 13 percent. In the case of the UNDP, as you know, there has been an interim period, until January 1987, during which we have received 14 percent, which was the former rate and in the case of Trust Funds there are also provisions for alternative rates or waivers, all established in the FAO manner.

The last point I would address myself to is with reference to the report of the external auditor regarding regular programme monitoring and I would also refer to the views of the Finance Committee on this matter because in order to get the proper balance one has to bear in mind both sets of views and firstly, if I may make a personal comment, there is no reason I feel for me to be defensive, as some of the delegates have perhaps insinuated that the Secretariat may be at times, I am being perfectly open and frank on this subject. The external auditor himself recognizes and these things are said clearly in his report so I will not read them out, in order to save your time, but he says clearly that there is a comprehensive system of budgetary monitoring and planning with clearly documented responsibilities and so on and so forth. The Finance Committee agrees with that. Now when it comes to budgetary monitoring the external auditor made some suggestions about the need for

more detailed monitoring and we said, fine, improvements can, should always be made, but there was rather an emphasis on objective expenditure monitoring and here let there be no doubt, because there are some things which the Finance Committee recognized and which appear in the Finance Committee Report, object of expenditure monitoring is something which the Organization departed from from 1972/73 when it adopted the principle of programme budgeting. Of course, objects of expenditure are important. In order to formulate our Programme of Work we need to have building blocks, how much are we going to spend on staff, how much on travel, how much on consultants, but these are building blocks in constructing a programme budget. The whole emphasis of the programme of budget, and this is all in the record of the Finance Committee and the Council and the Conference discussion in 1970 and 1971, was to say that the essential element, and I am quoting from the report of the Council at its 56th Session, "An essential element in programme budgeting was flexibility in the use of resources" (personnel, consultants, travel, documents, meetings, etc.) to attain programme activities and that object of expenditure controls would be replaced by programme controls". There are many other references in the same vein all from the reports of the Finance Committee and the Council.

The last point on this matter was that the Conference itself in 1971 changed the financial regulations specifically to provide for monitoring and transfers all to be done on a programme basis.

One final point about work plan monitoring. There, as recognised by the External Auditor and the Finance Committee, we recognise firstly with some appreciation that the External Auditor commends us for the efforts we have made in the way the system is operating and has made some suggestions for improvement as the resources permit. We do not quarrel with any of that.

Salahuddin AHMED (WFP): Certain points were raised or referred to in passing by certain delegates with regard to the World Food Programme. They have been summarised in the statement from the delegate of Malaysia, Malaysia being a member of the Finance Committee. They relate to four points. One is nugatory expenditure of \$ 3 million. Another one is not going into litigation against the contractor whose product did not take off. The third one is about the provision of food aid to a grain-surplus country in Asia. The fourth one is about losses in the food aid commodities delivered to another Asian country.

All these items have been the subject of very thorough critical and constructive scrutiny in the Finance Department twice, in the ACAPQ of the UN and finally in the CFA that met only a month ago. Therefore a common membership will be fully aware of the discussions that went on there and the conclusions that are drawn. I must say that the discussions-and here I am particularly referring to the Finance Committee, since the Chairman and some members are present here-were very frank and very candid, and we appreciated it during the Session of the Committee and again recorded our appreciation for the understanding manner in which the Finance Committee looked into these matters.

We have to look at this. I am talking about the management information system in perspective, and that is the perspective of growth, not in bulk or quantity but in quality.

The nugatory experience of the World Food Programme, we view as a very unpleasant experience, a disappointment rather than an operational hazard on the path to progress, progress from an operationally inadequate environment into a sophisticated computerised management information system. A little while ago my colleague, Mr Crowther, referred to high technology and the fast changing state of the art and implying there the risks involved in that. I must say, and I will be forgiven for saying this, that lucky are those who do not experience ups and downs in this march of technology. However, without repeating the words which are known to most governments present here and many delegates who were present at the meeting of the CFA or the Finance Committee, I think I will do best by referring to what the CFA finally observed with regard to both these matters, namely the

nugatory loss of that one about not going into litigation. In doing so the CFA has before it the Reports of both these advisory bodies, the Finance Committee and also the ACAPQ, and of course all of them have before them the Report of the External Auditor. The CFA mentioned this, and since the Report is not before the Committee, I am tempted to quote the relevant parts. I quote: "Concerning the programme's management information system, the previous examinations of that issue by the FAO Finance Committee..." (which is before the Committee, I add) "...were referred to. Committee members agreed that WFP's experience was not unusual and that in several cases their own governments have experienced similar losses. " This is a point that has already been made very clearly by the Finance Committee when the matter was first reported to you in another Finance Committee Session. I proceed: "It was agreed that while the money spent on what turned out to be an unworkable system was to be regretted, the programme had learnt important lessons from its experience, as evidenced by the successful implementation of the first phase in the management information system now in operation. " It goes further, and here I add looking to the present not to the past, looking forward, and I quote again: "The Committee noted that an independent expert evaluation has found the operation technically sound, useful and flexible enough to allow for future expansion as needed. " That is the nugatory experience.

With regard to not going into litigation, I quote a very brief statement by the CFA: "The Committee received a more complete explanation of why legal recourse was not pursued concerning the contractor. It noted that the Executive Director had received expert advice indicating that successful action was unlikely and that he had decided to devote scarce staff and financial resources to moving on with system implementation on a revised and more sound basis, the outcome of which has been a successful operational system. "

Here I must add in document CL 90/17, paragraph 64, that was referred to by certain delegates, there is a very important comment made by the External Auditor when he appeared before the Finance Committee. The External Auditor observed that he was not expressing a view on the decision of the WPP management. I add that the management had to decide whether to get involved in litigation and waste its scarce resource, both in terms of manpower and in terms of cash, or move ahead. It decided to move ahead and the result is before you, positive and looking forward.

Lastly, with regard to waste: "The Committee expressed the full support of the Programme's present information system strategy and welcomed the Secretariat's candour..."-that is, the question of transparency that has been discussed many times-"...in discussing the issue as well as its caution in planning future developments." I hope this will satisfy the Council.

In regard to the two other points, about supplying food to a grain-surplus country in Asia, first it must be recognized that food aid goes in the shape of project aid from the World Food Programme. All these projects, apart from the process of their preparation and scrutiny, are approved by the CFA, and in approving those the CFA definitely determines whether all the criteria applicable for eligibility for food aid are satisfied. They were satisfied and that is why food went there.

Surely what the External Auditor is saying-and again I refer to paragraph 65 of document CL 90/17-is this: shall we carry food to a grain-surplus country, and he said we had better negotiate exchange arrangements-that is point number one-because already not only within the knowledge of the WFP as the right approach but we had already negotiated such a transfer, such an exchange before the examination of the External Auditor was available, and we were effecting that. But I must add here that exchange of commodities is not a very easy task at all. Yesterday while discussing the Report of the CFA to the Council, a point was made that we should think seriously and in appropriate cases about the availability in the food basket of non-cereal foods, such as vegetable oils and others. But it is not easy, it is a very difficult proposition. Even then, we tried it and we succeeded to a point, and gave alternative commodities to that country.

The second point that the External Auditor made was that we should tackle the longer term position by evaluating the prospects of the country in attaining continued self-sufficiency. This is a vital point and it is a valid point and we have it very much in mind. I can tell the Council that in this matter of structural food self-sufficiency and food supplies we rely on the advice of the FAO. FAO has not found that this country in Asia is structurally food-surplus. This country is not also a confirmed food exporter. This country is not rich enough. This country has pockets of poverty and of poor people who otherwise would not have access to food either as part of wage or as part of incentive to certain community works without the help and the assistance of the World Food Programme. Also this country has been very generous in its contribution to alleviate the suffering in Africa during the recent crisis. So we are aware of this point, but there are full justifications when CFA approves a project for food aid for a particular country.

My last point is about another Asian country, where the loss appears to have been stated by the delegate of Malaysia to be 30 percent. If we look at paragraph 51 of document CL 87/7 we will find that the situation is different. Even in that document we say in paragraph 51, page 10, that the average under-payment to workers fell from 13 percent in 1983 to 6 percent in 1984/85, and we reported to the CFA that according to our monitoring records during the middle of this year it fell to one percent and that was due to the combined efforts of the government and the World Food Programme. So that situation is a satisfactory one, though we are very much watchful of any developments through our evaluation and monitoring process and through continued search for improvement in the utilisation of food aid.

LE PRESIDENT: Je remercie le Dr. Ahmed de sa réponse. Nous arrivons à la conclusion de nos débats sur ce point très important de nos activités. Je voudrais remercier tous les orateurs qui ont bien voulu participer à nos importants débats puisqu'il y a eu en fait 26 orateurs.

POINT OF ORDER

POINT D'ORDRE

PUNTO DE ORDEN

James D. AITKEN (United Kingdom): I must apologise for not being able to attract your attention before you began your summary. However, I should like to crave your indulgence and the indulgence of the meeting to ask a few further questions which stem from the very helpful replies provided by the Assistant Director-General, Mr. Crowther, and Mr. Shah. I realise the hour is late and I can assure you these will be fairly short questions. The answers in themselves have raised a number of further questions which I feel it is useful for Council to know. Also, there are some original questions which have not been answered.

LE PRESIDENT: Je crois que nous sommes très en retard. Je voudrais faire une suggestion au Conseil: votre délégation devrait s'adresser au Secrétariat et continuer sa discussion. Nous ne sommes pas un Comité financier, nous sommes le Conseil. Il y a eu beaucoup de discussions sur des points précis et importants. Je vous suggère, si le Conseil en convient, que vous puissiez continuer la discussion avec le Secrétariat et nous aurons donc l'ensemble de ces questions du Comité financier au printemps. Sinon, nous risquons de prolonger le débat indéfiniment. Nous avons encore le Comité du Programme à l'ordre du jour, les points 9, 14, 15, 13... Nous ne finirons pas notre séance avant 21 heures. C'est donc à votre convenance. Je propose de bien vouloir poursuivre cette discussion technique avec le Secrétariat.

James D. AITKEN (United Kingdom): Without hesitation my delegation would like to take advantage of your very sensible proposals, and very sensible offer. We will have discussions with the Secretariat about these issues and the questions which remain unanswered and we will pass this material on to the Finance Committee.

LE PRESIDENT: Nous allons essayer de conclure ces débats et ce point très important qui engage l'Organisation. Personnellement, je remercie les orateurs dont le nombre est important. Les débats ont été très riches, très fournies, très denses, à telle enseigne que la réponse du Secrétariat a été très centrée autour de ce débat, qui a été très utile pour tout le monde. Je peux donc considérer que le Conseil a examiné le rapport du Comité financier pour sa 57ème et 58ème sessions. Il a approuvé ces rapports tout en soulignant l'intérêt attaché à l'utilisation de la situation financière et à un suivi constant de l'évolution de cette situation dans le Comité financier.

Je pense que, si cette approbation était retenue, elle comporterait en particulier l'approbation de la présentation à la Conférence générale de 1987, d'un projet de résolution adoptant les comptes vérifiés aussi bien pour le Programme alimentaire mondial, le PNUD que pour le Programme ordinaire de la FAO. Elle comporterait aussi l'approbation du projet de refonte des statuts du personnel dans les deux points qui ont été présentés par le Président du Comité financier, à savoir les points 301. 3 et 301. 33, ainsi que le point 202. 9618.

Elle porterait également approbation de l'élargissement de la participation du Comité mixte pour la Caisse de pensions et de retraite du personnel des Nations Unies. Voilà les points sur lesquels l'avis du Conseil a été expressément demandé par le Président du Comité financier.

On pourrait également noter la ferme intention du Secrétariat d'exploiter au maximum les rapports des Commissaires aux comptes en vue d'une amélioration continue et soutenue de l'effort et du travail de la FAO pour remplir au mieux sa mission.

Enfin, je pense que l'on pourrait noter que le Conseil a renouvelé son appel aux Etats membres pour qu'ils versent leurs contributions dans les délais prévus de manière à permettre à l'Organisation de remplir sa tâche et sa mission dans les conditions les plus satisfaisantes.

Je pense pouvoir proposer au Conseil de remercier le pays hôte des dispositions qu'il a prises en ce qui concerne l'accord de siège et également pour sa décision de renoncer à sa quote-part des excédents de trésorerie pour l'exercice écoulé.

Peut-être y aura-t-il d'autres points qui seront à l'ordre du jour du Comité de rédaction dans les travaux qu'il va entamer ce soir.

Nous pourrions peut-être retenir ces lignes directrices et passer au point suivant de l'ordre du jour. (Nous passons donc au point suivant qui est très important: ce sont les rapports des cinquantième et cinquante et unième sessions du Comité du programme, Documents CL 90/3-CL 90/16. Je remercie H. Bukhari pour son excellent travail et je vais passer la parole à M. Mazoyer pour l'exposé introductif.

10 -Reports of the Fiftieth and Fifty-First Sessions of the Programme Committee:

10 -Rapports des cinquantième et cinquante et unième sessions du Comité du Programme:

10 -Informes de los periodos de sesiones 50º y 51 del Comité del Programa:

Marcel J. MAZOYER (Président du Comité du Programme): J'ai l'honneur, pour la première fois, de vous rendre compte des deux dernières sessions du Comité du programme, à savoir la cinquantième et la cinquante et unième sessions que nous avons tenues respectivement à Rome, en mai et fin septembre-début octobre de cette année.

Conformément au Règlement général de l'Organisation, article XXVI, nous avons ouvert cette année, le cycle quadriennal d'examen systématique des activités de la FAO qui a été établi par le Conseil en juin 1961. Nous avons respecté un calendrier, (que nous nous sommes fixé nous-mêmes, Comité du Programme) à la 47ème session en septembre 1984. Cet examen, (cette revue) systématique et approfondi, consiste à passer une partie des activités de la FAO en revue dans les années paires.

Cette année, en 1986, conformément à l'ordre approuvé, nous avons vu en mai un certain nombre de programmes. Ces programmes sont indiqués dans les deux rapports qui vous sont soumis: Programmes ressources naturelles, programmes culture, programmes élevage, programmes développement, la recherche et de la technologie, et programmes de développement rural qui sont donc une partie très importante des programmes techniques et économiques de l'Organisation. En septembre, nous avons vu les grands programmes, information et documentation, politiques et direction générale, politiques, direction et planification, questions juridiques et liaisons.

Je voudrais faire quelques commentaires et pas du tout examiner un à un les programmes et les sous-programmes dont nous avons discuté au Comité. Je voudrais faire quelques commentaires généraux.

Pour faire cet examen des programmes, nous nous appuyons bien entendu sur les programmes de travail et de budget. Nous nous appuyons sur la revue du programme ordinaire, nous nous appuyons sur la revue du programme de terrain, qui sont des documents que vous avez déjà examinés, et qui ont été approuvés. En outre, pour chaque programme, nous disposons d'informations particulières et approfondies qui proviennent des exposés qui nous sont faits par les représentants du Secrétariat. Ces exposés portent non seulement sur les programmes et les sous-programmes qui nous sont soumis mais, pour tout ce qui est des programmes techniques et économiques, et je tiens à le souligner ici, ils sont très souvent précédés, même pratiquement toujours, d'une analyse de la situation à laquelle se trouve confrontée l'Organisation et la communauté internationale; analyse de la situation agricole et alimentaire dans les pays en voie de développement, en particulier, et dans chaque cas, bien entendu, pour tout ce qui concerne le domaine que nous examinons.

C'est à la lumière de cette analyse de la situation et des débats que nous avons à ce sujet que nous passons en revue les programmes et les sous-programmes qui nous sont soumis et les activités présentées. Je voudrais faire remarquer qu'en ce qui concerne les programmes techniques et économiques, nous constatons à chaque fois l'ampleur des besoins, le caractère difficile, dramatique parfois de la situation agricole et alimentaire mondiale; tout cela fait que nous constatons à chaque fois les moyens, les programmes et les efforts que peut faire l'Organisation des Nations unies pour l'alimentation et l'agriculture et qui, s'ils sont importants, sont pratiquement toujours insuffisants pour résoudre les problèmes qui sont posés. Si les activités attendues de la FAO qu'exigerait la situation sont en général supérieures aux ressources et moyens des programmes dont elle dispose et aux programmes qu'elle peut mettre en oeuvre, on ne peut pas examiner ces programmes en se demandant lesquels on pourrait supprimer. C'est une question qui ne se pose pratiquement jamais à nous, pas plus qu'elle ne s'est posée à vous quand vous avez approuvé les programmes en cours ou qu'elle s'est posée dans les années antérieures, quand on a examiné les orientations ou les sommaires du Programme de travail et budget. Aussi bien, la manière dont nous en discutons c'est beaucoup plus de discuter de la bonne orientation, de la bonne organisation, du bon usage, de la bonne économie et de la meilleure efficacité des programmes, sous-programmes que nous examinons. Et c'est ce que nous faisons.

Nous avons donc un exposé sur la situation, sur les programmes et leurs modalités et nous débattons des deux, dans le détail et dans la mesure de nos compétences bien entendu. Ceci étant dit, les compétences du Comité du programme résultent des compétences de ses membres que vous avez élus. La plupart des membres sont spécialistes de l'agriculture, de l'élevage, des forêts ou de l'alimentation. D'autres sont des spécialistes de l'économie et du développement. Enfin, il y a les représentants auprès de la FAO, des ambassadeurs très qualifiés, qui souvent suivent de plus près que nous, au quotidien, les activités de la FAO.

C'est donc évidemment dans le temps qui nous est imparti et en fonction des programmes de travail que nous faisons tout ce travail. Je n'entre pas dans le détail puisque vous avez le rapport. S'agissant des priorités, je voudrais indiquer celles que nous avons tenu à souligner de manière générale.

Ayant reconnu que la crise agricole et alimentaire d'un grand nombre de pays en développement s'enracine, que le dénuement économique, technique, voire culturel, d'une très grande partie des producteurs agricoles dans les pays en développement continue, il a été recommandé une fois de plus de faire des petits producteurs-ceux qui sont les plus démunis et les plus nombreux-la cible essentielle des activités de l'Organisation, essentielle sinon exclusive bien entendu, si l'on veut véritablement redresser la situation alimentaire, et stopper l'exode rural qui affaiblit l'économie agricole de ces pays et engorge inutilement des villes où règne le sous-emploi. C'est une chose essentielle que nous avons dite et redite cent fois, et nous sommes en accord avec le Secrétariat sur ce point. Mais c'est tellement important qu'on ne le dira jamais suffisamment.

Cela a des conséquences sur le plan technique: une recherche pour le développement, orientée de manière concrète vers la promotion et le transfert de technologies, progressif et approprié aux besoins de ces producteurs, c'est-à-dire adapté aux conditions techniques, économiques et sociales de ces producteurs, aux conditions écologiques qui régissent dans tel ou tel pays et qui varient bien entendu. Cela doit avoir pour résultat des progrès réels. Et quand nous disons que cela doit être progressif, cela ne veut pas dire que cela doit aller lentement; bien au contraire il faut que cela progresse vite, même si c'est par étapes appropriées. C'est quelque chose que je tenais à souligner car cela a été au coeur de beaucoup de discussions techniques.

Il a été fortement recommandé de faire appel aux moyens suivants que vous avez déjà approuvés: la formation à tous les niveaux, la coopération économique entre pays en développement. Le lien peut ne pas être absolument apparent, mais quand on parle de moyens et de solutions progressives appropriées, nous pensons que très souvent une partie de ces solutions se trouvent dans les pays en développement eux-mêmes, et souvent dans d'autres pays que celui qui en a besoin, mais que ce transfert et cette coopération doivent permettre de résoudre ce problème.

Nous n'entrerons pas dans le détail de la présentation des programmes et sous-programmes; vous avez les conclusions et les recommandations du Comité par écrit; en fait il s'agit d'un résumé très simplifié de ce débat. C'est en effet un strict résumé.

Je ne ferai pas de commentaires plus avancés sur les programmes; il y a quelques points sur lesquels nous pensons que nos activités du Comité du Programme nous apportent peut-être quelques éclaircissements qui dépassent ce que nous pouvons avoir dans les autres domaines et je voudrais vous parler de deux choses.

Premièrement, en ce qui concerne les activités du Secrétariat, qui est en relation permanente avec nous, et que nous sommes à même d'apprécier, il nous donne une image qui n'est peut-être pas un échantillon représentatif, mais on voit comment il travaille. Je veux parler en particulier du Bureau du programme, du budget et de l'évaluation.

Je voudrais aborder une seconde question. En tant que Comité du Programme nous avons une expérience nous permettant d'éclairer le Conseil sur des questions qu'il a lui-même posées, et je pense par exemple à la question de la transparence. En ce qui concerne le Bureau du Programme, du budget et de l'évaluation nous avons fait, dans le rapport, des évaluations très précises à la page 10, au point 59: "A cet égard, le Comité a reconnu qu'il était particulièrement bien placé pour examiner le travail du Bureau du programme, du budget et de l'évaluation en raison de son propre rôle au sein du mécanisme intergouvernemental de la FAO. Il a pu apprécier les efforts et les résultats obtenus en ce qui concerne la qualité des documents de planification et du programme, l'attention accordée à l'amélioration des procédures et la transparence des activités de l'Organisation." Notre opinion sur ce sujet est confirmée par le rapport du Corps commun d'inspection des Nations Unies, rapportée dans le texte français page 15, au point 94, où il est dit: "En plusieurs endroits hommage doit être rendu à la FAO pour les grands progrès accomplis: amélioration de l'information sur l'efficacité de la couverture et de la rétro-information, ateliers de suivi et d'évaluation" etc.

Nous avons été contents de voir qu'un organisme d'évaluation extérieur qui faisait rapport sur ce sujet, avait une opinion analogue à la nôtre.

S'agissant de la transparence nous voudrions dire ceci, qui résulte de notre propre expérience (et quand je dis nous, ce sont les membres du Comité du programme; nous avons beaucoup discuté des points du rapport et nous les avons tous approuvés).

Je voudrais dire qu'il y a d'abord les documents, qui sont ceux auxquels nous faisons allusion: le programme de travail et de budget, le programme ordinaire, les programmes de terrain et tous les autres documents qui sont fournis. Ces documents nous paraissent à nous, qui les examinons, convenables; et s'ils ne le sont pas, nous le disons; et dans ce cas, nous constatons, à la session suivante ou au cours des sessions suivantes, qu'il y a des améliorations et qu'on a essayé de répondre à nos demandes. Aucun document n'est parfait, mais la question est de savoir s'ils nous permettent de travailler et si, quand nous demandons une amélioration, on l'apporte. Notre réponse est affirmative.

En ce qui concerne les rapports spéciaux (je veux parler de ceux demandés au Secrétariat par différents organes y compris nous-mêmes, vous-mêmes) et qui portent sur des points particuliers (comme le rapport sur l'emploi des consultants, les voyages, les réunions, la comptabilité, le PCT, les activités de formation, etc.), ces rapports demandent des délais qui ne sont pas nuls; cela se fait d'une session à l'autre, d'une année à l'autre, et en général ils apportent les éclairages souhaités.

Il nous semble que nous sommes concrets; je ne nous donne pas automatiquement un satisfecit, mais ne faisons pas non plus systématiquement un procès d'intention; nous-mêmes pouvons demander des informations; on nous les fournit; et si ce n'est pas suffisant nous en demandons davantage et en général, aux délais près, c'est fait. Nous finissons en général par avoir satisfaction, nous le disons; c'est notre activité.

Enfin, il y a des questions et des demandes particulières. Personnellement je ne peux pas témoigner avoir fait des demandes particulières d'information au Secrétariat sous la forme, le coût de ces activités dans tel ou tel domaine, mais je me fie à ce que les représentants auprès de la FAO ont demandé comme informations. Vous tous qui faites partie du Comité du Programme, vous tous avez toujours dit avoir reçu les informations demandées. Cela dit, tant le Secrétariat que certains membres du Comité du Programme ont fait observer que tout cela pouvait aller très loin et coûter très cher. La FAO est là pour fournir des informations utiles en particulier au développement dans les pays en développement: agriculture, sécurité alimentaire. Elle est là pour nous renseigner quand nous demandons des comptes à ce sujet. Mais il ne faudrait pas que son activité dérive entièrement sur le compte rendu de ses activités, plus que sur son activité elle-même. Il faudrait être raisonnable et nous avons tenu à le dire.

C'est de cela dont on discute au Comité, et c'est ce qui a été mis dans notre rapport.

Nous avons une expérience à propos de la transparence. Quand nous avons débuté au Comité du Programme, nous ne comprenions rien à la FAO, il faut le dire. La FAO est compliquée dans son organisation. Nous avions de la difficulté à comprendre au début et ce n'est pas dû au fait du manque d'efforts de la part du Secrétariat. On commence à mieux comprendre après plusieurs comités, quand on s'y est intéressé, quand on a posé beaucoup de questions, obtenu beaucoup de réponses.

La transparence, donc, ne résulte pas seulement des réponses du Secrétariat, mais également des efforts que nous faisons pour savoir ce qui se passe à la FAO et comment cela se passe.

Je suis Président du Comité du Programme, mais je ne suis pas toujours présent ici, et d'une session à l'autre j'oublie des choses; je suis obligé chaque fois de me recycler. Je voulais attirer votre attention sur cet aspect des choses; c'est notre vécu et je voulais vous faire sentir un peu les conditions dans lesquelles nous travaillons, les relations que nous avons avec le Secrétariat.

Amin ABDEL-MALEK (Liban) (langue originale arabe): Je vous remercie tout d'abord de m'avoir donné la parole et je saisis cette occasion pour vous féliciter au nom de la délégation du Liban pour l'excellente manière dont vous dirigez les travaux, pour votre clarté de vision et votre célérité dans l'examen des questions qui nous sont soumises, ce qui prouve votre compétence politique et administrative.

Permettez-moi également de remercier M. Mazoyer, Président du Comité du programme pour sa présentation si claire des documents CL 90/16 et CL 90/3. Il a présenté ces documents de façon précise, claire et rapide, ce qui ne nous étonne pas de sa part, car il nous a toujours habitués à un travail clair et précis en tant que Président du Comité du Programme dont j'ai l'honneur d'être membre.

Je voudrais également remercier le Secrétariat pour tous les travaux de préparation nécessaires en vue de mettre au point l'ordre du jour du Comité du Programme.

Ce Comité, de par son appellation, oeuvre à la préparation du programme de travail et du budget présenté ensuite au Conseil et à la Conférence générale. Il est évident que le Comité du Programme examine en détail toutes les questions inscrites à son ordre du jour avant de transmettre son rapport au Conseil. Le Comité étudie également les activités de l'Organisation pour le biennium précédent et les évalue. Les travaux de ce Comité sont conduits de la manière la plus adéquate; il a accordé certaines priorités au rôle des producteurs, au développement rural ainsi qu'à la coopération entre les pays en développement.

Permettez-moi d'exprimer la gratitude de ma délégation pour les réalisations du Directeur général et de son Secrétariat à travers l'exécution des divers programmes et projets couvrant de nombreux domaines d'activités. Il en découle une amélioration de la situation des pays Membres en général et plus particulièrement des pays en développement.

Je voudrais maintenant faire quelques observations sur ces documents et prie le Secrétariat d'en tenir compte:

1. L'Organisation envoie des experts dans les pays en développement pour les aider dans l'exécution de projets très importants pour eux. Il me semble nécessaire d'augmenter le nombre d'experts travaillant dans les domaines de la production animale et des pâturages; en effet, une augmentation de la production de viande et de produits laitiers est nécessaire pour améliorer la situation alimentaire des pays en développement.

2. L'Organisation s'intéresse activement à la recherche scientifique; qu'elle en soit remerciée. Nous espérons augmenter l'aide aux pays en développement en matière de recherche scientifique et de consolidation des instituts nationaux de recherche, car c'est là le moyen d'augmenter la production agricole.

3. En ce qui concerne AGRIS, nous prions l'Organisation de prendre les mesures nécessaires afin que la langue arabe soit utilisée dans ce programme et qu'il y ait un renforcement de son utilisation dans les publications. Cependant nous notons avec gratitude les efforts de l'Organisation pour l'introduction de la langue arabe comme langue officielle et pour la publication de nombreux documents en arabe.

4. La création de banques nationales agricoles dans les pays en développement est un facteur important pour l'amélioration de leur situation agricole. C'est pourquoi nous prions l'Organisation de prendre les contacts nécessaires avec les pays riches et les banques internationales pour financer ou aider à financer les banques nationales agricoles.

5. L'Organisation joue un rôle important en ce qui concerne le renforcement du rôle de la femme dans la production agricole et le développement rural. Nous l'en remercions et espérons qu'elle augmentera son assistance, et ce en élargissant les programmes de vulgarisation audiovisuels.

6. Nous remercions l'Organisation pour son recours aux consultants, notamment ceux des pays en développement. Mais nous aimerions attirer son attention sur la nécessité de recourir davantage aux consultants du Proche-Orient. En effet, le pourcentage de consultants de cette région reste bien en-dessous des autres régions, telle l'Europe. Nous savons que les consultants dans cette région sont non seulement nombreux mais d'une qualification scientifique et technique comparable à celle de leurs collègues d'autres régions, et nous accordons à ce point une importance particulière.

7. La délégation du Liban exprime ses remerciements à l'Organisation pour le soutien qu'elle apporte à la publication CERES; nous espérons qu'il se poursuivra. Nous soulignons l'importance scientifique de cette publication dans le domaine agricole.

Enfin je voudrais exprimer ma gratitude et celle de ma délégation au Secrétariat pour l'ajustement des budgets des organes directeurs d'une manière qui nous inspire confiance, sans que cela nuise aux activités futures de l'Organisation.

John GLISTRUP (Denmark): I am speaking on behalf of the Nordic countries, Finland, Norway, Sweden and Denmark. Let me begin by acknowledging the work carried out by our colleagues, the Chairman, and the members elected to constitute the Programme Committee. During the twenty-third FAO Conference in November 1985 a number of Member States suggested that the time was ripe for reflection over a longer term on the future evolution of FAO's role. This viewpoint is duly recorded in paragraph 197 of the Conference report. Furthermore, the Chairman of the Conference, His Excellency Mr. Yonke of Cameroon, in his address on the occasion of the closure of the Conference, summed up the feeling of that Conference that the time had come to look at the role of our Organization for the next forty years. He even suggested that the system of governing bodies be reviewed and that the Council should examine these matters during the next two years.

May I confirm that the Nordic countries regard the function of the Programme Committee as very important. We have examined the two documents in front of us, CL 90/3 and CL 90/16, and listened very carefully to the excellent and lively introduction of this agenda item. However, we are unable to find any indication that the deliberation on FAO's future role, which is to us an urgent matter, is being initiated. In our view the Programme Committee should feel free to take up matters of programme priorities and take decisions accordingly for further discussions in the other governing bodies.

A few days ago, this Council embarked upon an exercise of making so-called adjustments to the approved programme of the Organization for 1986/87. This was imposed on us due to the national legislation in one big Member State. None of us know the full consequences of such unilateral action. For a long period of time the Nordic countries have called for discussions in FAO concerning the future role of our Organization, including a debate around a more clear set of priorities. It is precisely to avoid an exercise such as the one we are now involved in, caused by a financial crisis, that we advanced the idea of discussing a more orderly process of arriving at sharper priorities than one imposed on us by an emergency situation.

If such a debate is not taking place inside FAO's governing bodies it will flourish outside in smaller groups and in other fora where not all of us may have the possibility of contributing. Setting priorities does not only mean allocation of more resources to up-grade activities or programmes. That is a pleasant task which everyone enjoys. No, the real challenge for priority setting consists, in equal measure, in the painful process of selecting activities which should be scaled down or maybe even terminated.

May I give an example of a possible approach in selecting activities for down-grading. FAO should concentrate on activities where it is able to make a major contribution to sustaining a broad-scale development process with a long term impact. In some specific areas FAO should even be the lead agency within the UN.

In the area of nutrition, the FAO has not fulfilled the task of lead agency. The Nordic countries have, for many years, urged FAO to play that role. As a consequence perhaps we should look to WHO as an alternative lead agency for nutrition. Cuts therefore could be made in FAO's Nutrition Division and it may be an idea to consider establishing a joint division with WHO, similar to the model used in the relationship between FAO and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). Maybe the same approach could be discussed in relation to the human resources sector, vis-a-vis the ILO. This, of course, could be elaborated in much more detail.

Several countries, including the Nordics, have engaged themselves in such considerations in order to prepare themselves for the next sessions of Council and Conference. The formulation of more precise priorities must be based upon a clear understanding of the specific role of FAO in a more long-term perspective within the UN family and as a partner in international development cooperation. This refers to FAO's mandatory duties as a global organization for food and agriculture. However, it is even more important to reach an agreement on how FAO could best serve their developing countries as well as the donor community in the process of development cooperation. Over a time we have witnessed how an increasing part of the FAO's resources has been geared towards activities of a development cooperation nature. At the same time, we have experienced how the environment of, and the approach to, development cooperation has undergone considerable changes. This, to our mind, might not be duly reflected in the work of FAO. In order to allow us, as member countries, to exchange views on the future role of our Organization, we request the Director-General to present, together with the Summary Programme of Work and Budget for 1988/89, to the Programme Committee and the Council, a specific paper outlining the Secretariat's views on this issue. The outcome of such a preliminary debate in the Council should then be reported to the Conference to allow the full membership of FAO to give their advice. We are convinced that all member countries will be able to contribute, and likewise benefit, from such an exercise.

SRA. Margarita LIZARRAGA (México): La delegación mexicana expresa su felicitación al Comité del Programa y su Secretaría por el excelente trabajo realizado y por la calidad de los documentos, lo cual permite un análisis a fondo de los Programas. Agradecemos asimismo la excelente presentación del señor Mazoyer, que nos permite apreciar mejor el trabajo realizado.

Al dar nuestro voto aprobatorio y de confianza al Programa y todos sus Subprogramas, deseamos asimismo hacer algunas consideraciones sobre algunos de ellos que nos merecen particular atención.

Respecto al documento CL 90/3, nuestra delegación revalida el marco programático de la FAO señalado en el párrafo 9, considerando que la capacitación, el desarrollo y la transferencia de tecnologías apropiadas, el apoyo a la CTPD y CEPD en la proporción y modalidad que mejor convenga a los países, debe dirigirse a los productores y grupos rurales más necesitados. Este, en efecto, debe ser el objetivo fundamental de la FAO.

Nuestra delegación apoya el Programa 2. 1 de agricultura y hace un llamado a la comunidad de donantes para apoyar al Plan Internacional de Suministro de Fertilizantes y para seguir apoyando multilateral y bilateralmente a los programas de prevención de pérdida de alimentos, desarrollo del crédito agrícola y mejoramiento de semillas.

Respecto al Programa de Cultivos, nos complace el reconocimiento que hizo el Comité de la preocupación que en todo el mundo entraña la erosión constante de los recursos fitogenéticos, y demandamos se continúe y acreciente el apoyo al compromiso internacional sobre recursos fitogenéticos, ya que son esenciales para la prosperidad agrícola de los países desarrollados y en desarrollo.

Otro de los programas a los que nuestra delegación ha dado siempre el mayor interés, es el relativo a la promoción de los cultivos autóctonos, ya que éste es el camino más efectivo para lograr la autosuficiencia alimentaria y la esperanza de erradicar el hambre en los países en desarrollo. Por ello damos nuestro apoyo al Subprograma 2. 1. 2. 2. Acontecimientos varios a nivel mundial ponen de manifiesto la importancia del código internacional de conducta para la distribución y el uso de plaguicidas. Esperamos, por lo tanto, que la FAO pueda fomentar su implantación y que los países ofrezcan su mayor colaboración y apoyo.

Al coincidir con el Programa de Ganadería, no podemos dejar de mencionar que nuestra delegación, apoyada por otras delegaciones, planteó en las sesiones del COAG y en la Conferencia del año pasado, la necesidad de integrar todas las actividades relativas al sector pecuario en un comité que nos permita analizar todos los problemas del sector y darle el nivel de tratamiento que requiere.

Durante la Conferencia Regional en Barbados, este tema se trató ampliamente, habiéndose endosado la recomendación para la creación de un órgano regional solicitándole al Director General realizara los pasos para su integración a nivel global.

Nuestra delegación le da gran importancia al Programa para el fomento de la investigación y la tecnología, ya que el desequilibrio entre los grupos de países desarrollados y en vías de desarrollo y la repercusión en términos de productividad, y por ende en precios, traen como consecuencia desalientos, falta de competitividad y dependencia. Conminamos a la FAO a que a través de los Subprogramas respectivos, apoye el desarrollo tecnológico de los países, realice una selección estricta de tecnologías experimentadas, impulse la capacitación y preparación de técnicos y contribuya a la CTPD y CEPD para que la transferencia se dé en forma más natural y efectiva. Asimismo, que se coordine de manera efectiva con otras Organizaciones, tanto del Sistema de Naciones Unidas como con otras agencias especializadas, ONGS, y con la asistencia bilateral para hacer más efectiva la asistencia a los países, y en particular llevarla hasta los grupos más necesitados.

El apoyo a la capacitación e incorporación de la mujer deberá ser un factor esencial, y en términos generales la articulación de este Programa con el de desarrollo rural, nos parece también acertado y le damos nuestro apoyo.

Continuamos con el análisis de los programas, esta vez con aquellos presentados en el 51° período de sesiones. Nuestra delegación se complace por la presentación del Programa principal 5. 1, donde se hace un análisis de los cambios y ajustes que se han realizado para hacer más accesible y efectiva la información a todos los niveles, así como las economías que se han hecho o se pretenden hacer en materia de publicaciones y materiales audiovisuales.

Apoyamos los enfoques del Programa de Política, Dirección y Planificación; felicitamos a las dependencias ejecutoras que han sabido adecuarse a las necesidades y demandas de los países de manera tan efectiva y transparente. A este respecto, nuestra delegación considera que sería recomendable contar con un sistema de cuenta por programas a nivel de país, considerando un prorrateo de gastos de la Sede, de la Oficina Regional y de las Representaciones nacionales destacando, por una parte, los recursos del Programa Ordinario y, por otra, los de Campo.

Felicitamos y apoyamos los Programas de Asuntos Jurídicos y esperamos que expandan su labor de capacitación. Concordamos, asimismo, con las recomendaciones del Comité respecto al Programa de Enlace.

Respecto a los informes de la dependencia común de inspección de las Naciones Unidas analizados en ambos periodos, nos complace el reconocimiento del alto nivel del Sistema de Evaluación interna de la FAO, así como el reconocimiento a la FAO por los progresos logrados en la vinculación entre los resultados de la evaluación y el diseño de programas y proyectos de la Organización.

Respecto al "apoyo del Sistema de Naciones Unidas para la ejecución del Plan de Acción de Buenos Aires sobre cooperación técnica entre países en desarrollo" nuestra delegación concuerda con los párrafos 140, 141, 142 y 144, pero le preocupa la divergencia de opiniones del Comité expresadas en el párrafo 143 y conmina a que se trabaje más a fondo en búsqueda de fórmulas que permitan dejar expresados en los documentos programáticos la necesidad de incorporar este renglón para lo cual se dé un indicativo del monto o porcentaje para ejecutarlo

Respecto a la cooperación técnica de las Naciones Unidas en América Latina y el Caribe, nos parece adecuado el análisis que se hace y esperamos que la FAO en su campo de acción lo apoye sustantivamente. Si bien en la documentación relativa a este período de sesiones el área pesquera no está considerada, nuestra delegación desea expresar su preocupación porque los recortes presupuestarios no afecten a los programas emanados de la Conferencia Mundial de Pesca a lo que nuestro país le da la mayor importancia y apoyo.

Nuestra delegación es, asimismo, una de las que más énfasis le da a la utilización de los consultores de los propios países y de las regiones, pues considera que es una de las fórmulas más apropiadas para lograr un mejor nivel de integración. Por ello nos complace que se esté incrementado el uso de consultores regionales y pedimos que se continúe en ese sentido.

Asimismo, mi delegación desea expresar todo nuestro apoyo para que las actividades de la FAO se amplíen, tanto en la capacitación de grupos como en el proporcionar becas y viajes de estudio bien diseñados y con profundo sentido en la selección de los cursos y candidatos.

Coincidimos con el Comité en el análisis y recomendaciones formulados respecto a las actividades operacionales para el desarrollo contenidas en la Resolución 40/211, y nos sumamos al pleno apoyo a las opiniones formuladas por el Director General. Esperamos que los generadores y las Organizaciones que manejan fondos apoyen a la FAO para mejor cumplir con las crecientes demandas de los países en su búsqueda de autosuficiencia y desarrollo en materia de alimentación y agricultura.

Aplaudimos la iniciativa del Director General y el trabajo del Comité en relación con las medidas adoptadas para mostrar la transparencia en la labor de la Organización como medio indispensable para comprender, evaluar y valorar la labor de la FAO. Nos complace que en este aspecto haya habido el reconocimiento ya mencionado de la dependencia común de inspección, y conminamos a que así lo haga también este Consejo.

Joachim WINKEL (Germany, Federal Republic of): My delegation would like to thank the Programme Committee for its work and the analysis in the documents before us, CL 90/3 and CL 90/16. We can largely agree with the basic statements contained in them.

We endorse the list of priorities drawn up by the Programme Committee as contained in para. 9 of the document CL 90/3. We, however, feel that the creation of incentives for farmers to produce more at national and, if necessary, also at subregional level is an important point which has to be included in such a list of priorities. The statements referring to programmes 2. 1. 1 to 2. 1. 5 show the efforts which are made to substantially strengthen and to develop food and agriculture by means of a wide range of specific measures in the most different fields. These objectives find our full support. Of special importance seem to us the promotion of small farmers, as stated in para. 15 of document CL 90/3, the strengthening of technical and economic cooperation among developing countries themselves, para 18, the combined use of mineral fertilizers and organic resources, the question of mechanization, and animal health questions.

Questions relating to a closer coordination and cooperation in the research sector, but also between individual organizations of the United Nations system and at regional level in developing countries, are in our opinion of special importance.

The strengthening of public relations work, proposed in paras. 6 to 28 of document CL 90/16, is to be welcomed.

In general, however, we feel that in view of the existing financial situation the greatest possible economy is necessary for all programmes. We propose to presently postpone new activities until we know more about the financial situation.

With regard to plant genetic resources (sub-programme 2. 1. 2) we particularly share the statements in para. 37, first tiret. In our view it is necessary to support the work of the IBPGR and to avoid overlapping with its work. As regards the development of an international information system on plant genetic resources, as mentioned in that paragraph, we would be grateful to the Secretariat for some more detailed information.

Also in this connection a close cooperation between FAO and the IBPGR, as mentioned in para. 60 of the document, should be aimed at.

We welcome what is stated in para. 54 of document CL 90/3 concerning the International Code of Conduct on the Distribution and Use of Pesticides. I would like to point out that the compliance with the regulations of this Code is expressly provided for by the legislator of my country in the Plant Protection Act for the Federal Republic of Germany of 15 September 1986.

With regard to para. 139 of document CL 90/3, work programme of the Joint Inspection Unit for 1986, we would have appreciated it if FAO had made still greater use of the services of the Joint Inspection Unit.

We welcome the positive assessment of internal evaluation of FAO, paras. 92 and following paras, document CL 90/16.

We share the opinion expressed in para. 152 of document CL 90/3, first sentence, according to which the operational activities in the United Nations system must be complementary and coherent. We are, however, not of the opinion that the activities of the Office for Project Execution (OPE) of UNDP duplicate the activities of the other specialized agencies of the United Nations system in an impermissible way. These activities are in our opinion complementary to the other measures implemented by the specialized agencies.

With regard to para. 153 we recall that the short-term advisory services of UNDP and the Project Development Facility were established with the full support of the Governing Council of UNDP. From para. 155 of the document we cannot conclude that the coordination of development inputs in the UN system would only be provided for the sake of itself.

We endorse the statements in paragraph 161 of document CL 90/3 which are aimed at a climate of cooperation based on confidence between Member Nations and the Secretariat. We feel that a further strengthening of transparency in the work of FAO must be a continuous process for our present and future cooperation.

As I already had the opportunity to stress when we were discussing agenda item 12, dealing with the financial items, my delegation suggests that we all should make efforts to define the role of FAO and our own within the Organization in the future. I have thus warm sympathy for the ideas of the delegate of Denmark uttered just before, that the Programme Committee should give some more thought to these substantial items of principle in its forthcoming work.

K. Robin HIGHAM (Canada): It will be no surprise for me to tell you that my delegation has a detailed intervention concerning the work of the Programme Committee. The intervention reflects the work done in Ottawa by the three Ministries primarily interested in the work of FAO—that is, our Ministry of Agriculture, our Development Agency, and the Ministry of External Affairs.

It expresses and elaborates Canadian concern at two levels. The first is, to what degree is the Programme Committee able to channel and is effective in channelling membership into the selection of FAO programmes and priorities. Secondly, how much longer is it practical, or fair even, for us to ask this Committee to deliberate on programmes and priorities with so little reference to the financial resources available to execute them. Well, I am going to spare you. I will not burden you with that intervention. But I want to assure members that our preparatory work under this item is as well researched and as well founded and as critical-constructively of course—as the work done on financial matters. I regret that some have interpreted our remarks today as overly critical or unfounded. If it appears, however, that our statements reflect a profound malaise over a broad range of matters at FAO, not all matters by any means, then alas, so be it.

In light of changing circumstances surrounding the world food and agriculture, and new problems emerging as a result of those new circumstances, we believe that it is important to constantly review the priorities and activities of the Organization. In the present circumstances we believe that such a review should focus on two broad areas. One is procedures for selecting priorities and activities at the level both of governing bodies—that is, the Finance Committee, the Programme Committee, COFO, COFI, COAG, and even the Council—and at the level of senior management. Secondly, we think that the priorities and activities themselves need a closer look.

Given Canada's enfant terrible status today, I do not want to detract from the Nordic statement by endorsing it, but it is a song I wish we had sung first. In particular we draw attention to the comments on the call from the Chairman of the last FAO Conference, the future role of the FAO, the need for application of new, original and modern approaches to development assistance, and the Nordic request for a paper from the Director-General on the subject of the future role of our Organization. I would like to endorse that request.

The phrase 'selection of priorities' must show in the final Report of this Council, or I fear for our credibility as a responsible organ of this precious FAO.

Badr BEN AMMAR (Tunisie): La délégation tunisienne voudrait remercier M. Mazoyer pour l'introduction qu'il a bien voulu nous faire à l'occasion de l'examen de ce point de l'ordre du jour. Elle remercie également le Secrétariat pour la qualité des rapports et pour les informations qui y sont contenues. L'examen des rapports de la cinquantième et de la cinquante et unième sessions du Comité du programme nous a permis de tirer quelques conclusions dont nous voulons faire part au Conseil.

Nous notons avec satisfaction les efforts fournis par la FAO dans le sens de la production agricole, du renforcement de la sécurité alimentaire et de l'amélioration de la productivité, malgré les ressources relativement limitées dont la FAO dispose, comme cela a été mentionné par M. Mazoyer dans son exposé introductif.

Le paragraphe 9 du document CL 90/3 propose à l'organisation de se pencher davantage dans le futur, sur la formation, la mise au point et le transfert des technologies, la coopération technique et économique entre pays en développement et sur l'impact sur le terrain. Nous appuyons et soutenons cette proposition tout en insistant particulièrement sur la coopération technique et économique entre pays en développement. Une mention particulière est faite au sujet du développement, de la recherche et de la technologie dans le document CL 90/3, qui lui consacre en fait près de 14 paragraphes. Nous trouvons le contenu de ces paragraphes très intéressants et nous voudrions nous référer particulièrement au paragraphe 106 qui insiste sur la nécessité de promouvoir la recherche agronomique dans les pays en développement et le rôle que doivent jouer les établissements de recherche des pays développés en consacrant, je cite, "une partie de leurs ressources et de leurs efforts à l'étude et à la solution de problèmes importants pour les régions en développement" (fin de citation).

Nous soutenons aussi le contenu du paragraphe 108 et nous espérons que des efforts particuliers soient fournis dans le sens de la valorisation, de l'héritage technique des différentes sociétés agraires.

Je ne voudrais pas conclure sans faire référence aux paragraphes 152 et 153 du document CL 90/3, qui stipulent que certaines activités et services du PNUD font double emploi avec ceux de la FAO. En réalité, nous partageons la préoccupation du Comité du programme à l'égard de ce problème et nous espérons que, dans l'avenir, les activités des différents organes du système des Nations Unies soient réalisées dans le cadre de la cohérence et de la complémentarité. Il y va de la crédibilité des institutions spécialisées des Nations Unies et de cette dernière organisation elle-même.

Joseph TCHICAYA (Congo): Comme vous le savez, le Congo, par ma voix, est représenté au niveau du Comité du Programme. C'est pour cette raison que vous comprenez facilement que nous puissions appuyer ces deux rapports qui nous sont présentés. Avant de le faire, je voudrais d'abord présenter nos félicitations à M. Mazoyer pour la manière synthétique et exhaustive avec laquelle il a présenté les points essentiels qui se dégagent de notre rapport et des discussions que nous avons eues au cours des deux sessions.

Je voudrais tout simplement dire que le Congo, en appuyant ceci, voudrait aussi essayer de répondre à une critique relative aux suggestions qui ont été faites lors de la dernière conférence. En effet, le Comité du Programme n'a pas eu à examiner le problème du rôle futur de la FAO, parce que c'est une question qui n'avait pas été inscrite à notre ordre du jour et, par conséquent, nous ne pouvons pas discuter sur ce sujet. Effectivement, si le Conseil en décidait ainsi, le Comité du Programme ne pourrait examiner la question. Je crois que, à ce stade, il faut d'abord se demander si le moment est opportun pour ouvrir ce débat sur le rôle futur de la FAO. On a dit qu'il ne fallait pas appeler cela une "crise", mais nous connaissons les difficultés au niveau de la FAO. Si ces réflexions sur le rôle futur de la FAO aboutissaient à un programme qui puisse faire que l'on ait besoin de plus de ressources, je me demande si on serait en mesure de mettre cela en application. Je crois également, comme on l'a suggéré que si, à l'avenir, la situation s'améliorait (et je crois que c'est possible), je pense que les suggestions qui ont été faites, notamment par le Danemark, ne peuvent pas être vues d'un mauvais oeil par nous. Je crois que c'est une réflexion qui peut être approfondie. Mais nous pensons que le Secrétariat, dans les années à venir, devra penser à cette réflexion, qui pourrait générer la discussion au niveau du Comité du Programme.

Voilà ce que je voulais dire, et que je tenais à dire, avant de partir à d'autres occupations; je tenais à donner mon point de vue sur cette question qui, je pense, a priori n'est pas mauvaise et qui devrait préoccuper notre Organisation. Nous devons voir à quel moment cela sera possible et dans quelles circonstances.

Kosei SHIOZAWA (Japan): To begin with I would like to thank Mr. Mazoyer, the Chairman of the Programme Committee, for his excellent introduction to this Agenda item.

We have carefully studied documents CL 90/3 and CL 90/16 which are presented before us. We would like to commend this Committee for having undertaken this overall review of the Programme in the field of agriculture, Information and documentation, the governing bodies and so on.

Also we have read with interest the Committee's discussion on UN Joint Inspection Unit Report.

Towards the end of document CL 90/3 under the item 'Any other Business', the document deals with very important programmes, namely the coordination of operational activities for development amongst related organizations of the UN system, and transparency of FAO activities.

I would like to make some comments on these two issues. First, with regard to the coordination of operational activities for development carried out by various UN agencies, my government feels basically that it is important to ensure the utmost effectiveness and efficiency of the activities of the various UN agencies, not only from the viewpoint of the individual agencies but also from the UN system as a whole. In this regard my country has attached much importance to the coordinating role of UNDP at the field level so as to avoid any duplication of operational activities for development on each UN agency and to make sure that these activities are complementary to each other.

We appreciate very much the role which FAO plays through FAOR in such activities as indication of the need for food and agricultural development in the developing countries, advisory services, or the formulation of adequate development programmes and the monitoring and evaluation of the FAO projects. Nevertheless we sincerely hope that all necessary coordination between FAO and UNDP be smoothly conducted at the field level in light of the role of the UNDP recipient coordinator on behalf of the UN system with respect to the coordination of operational activities carried out by the UN system at the country level, which was reaffirmed in the preamble of the General Assembly Resolution 40/211.

Secondly, with regard to transparency of FAO activities we highly appreciate the initiative taken by the Director-General in an effort to create greater transparency in FAO's work. However, it appears to us that the Programme Committee has taken one step further in saying that the Committee could not accept any implication that might be a lack of clarity needed to examine the work of the Organization in paragraph 146 of document CL 90/3. Such a statement gives us the impression that there is no room left for greater transparency. We feel that there is room left for further improvement in this regard. I should like to use an example from TCP, since reference has already been made in paragraph 163 of the document CL 90/3 to the evaluation of TCP.

I should like to draw your attention to the fact that when the report on the evaluation of TCP was given at the 88th Session of the Council, my delegation stressed once again the necessity to have information on the performance of the TCP projects provided with more intensity than any other activities in the regular budget.

I should not like to reiterate the reasons at this point in time. We did also point out that the analysis on the catalytic role of TCP was not sufficiently dealt with in the report made at the time. We hope that the Secretariat will pay due consideration to this matter.

Before concluding my statement, I should like to refer to the comments made by the distinguished delegate of Denmark and other delegates. The content of its proposal, including a review of FAO's role and priority settings in its programmes, are quite meaningful and useful in the light of the present financial difficulties which this Organization is facing. We welcome the submission of such a report by the Director-General and the opportunity for all of us to consider this subject in the next year.

Hermann REDL (Austria): We have studied very carefully the reports of the 50th and 51st Session of the Programme Committee. I should like now to comment on document CL 90/16 and the work done by FAO under Major Programme 5. 1. The information in the document is efficient and therefore deserves our support. FAO's Information materials are useful, well selected, and the Library has made remarkable progress. 141 AGRIS participating centres and 1.25 million references testify the importance which is attached to the system. The establishment of the coupon scheme seems to be a good step to facilitate access to the primary documents.

The Austrian delegation appreciates the future use of modern technology in the production of documents and publications. The two Programmes "Conference and Council" and "Conference Services" under Major Programme 1. 1.-Governing Bodies, are undoubtedly well organized, efficient and of great help to all of us.

Turning to Major Programme 1. 2.-Policy, Direction and Planning, I express our special satisfaction with the work done under Programme Planning, Budgeting and Evaluation. I would like to underline particularly the existing transparency and results achieved in evaluation activities which include more or less all the existing evaluation techniques in the UN System.

The Austrian delegation is convinced of the activities under Major Programme 1. 3.-Legal. However, it has to be stated clearly that the office needs the help of all member countries in providing it with the national cassettes and other texts of law.

Let me now turn to Major Programme 1. 4.-Liaison. With regard to the various existing organizations and the importance of collecting and delivering information from and to them, and taking into account the rapidly increasing flow of information, the Office of Inter-Agency Affairs could become more and more of a focal point for Information and coordination.

Concerning the reports on the Use of Consultants and the UN Joint Inspection Unit Report No. 85/10, 85/11 and 85/9, we fully share the views of the Programme Committee as shown in document CL 90/16.

I should also like to refer to the report of the FAO Training Activities. The Austrian delegation considers training is a central task of FAO and is fully aware of the importance of the development activities. My delegation supports the suggestions of the Programme Committee brought forward in paragraph 109 of document CL 90/16, and would like to underline particularly the importance of technical training.

Concerning the remarks of the distinguished delegate of Denmark, I should like to make the following comments. Austria is a Member of the Programme Committee and would like to draw your attention to Rule Ho. XXVI-7, pages 62 and 63 of our Basic Texts, where the functions of the Committee are clearly defined. We have within the FAO technical bodies like COAG, COFO and COFI, CCP, CFS and regional bodies like the regional conferences, commissions, and working parties which deal with sectoral priorities. The Austrian Government is fully aware of the importance of this matter. However, nearly each body of the FAO, including the Conference and the Council, is dealing with programme priorities. We believe that the Programme Committee has done excellent work, from what we can see in the reports in front of us. Therefore, we see no necessity to change the work of the Programme Committee and especially to change the rules of our Organization.

Mrs Millicent M. FENWICK (United States of America): I should like to welcome our Chairman of the Programme Committee, of which I am a Member-Monsieur Mazoyer. I hardly know where to begin, there is so much I would really like to tell you about. In my opinion, it is impossible for the Programme Committee to set policy at the time that we meet in September, without knowing what we are going to be faced with when all the reports have come in. There is a list of our priorities and we have set them out in some clarity (paragraph 9). It sets out a list of what we consider our most important priorities. There are other aspects. I suppose each one of us has some "bent". I am sure you know what mine is, and I am happy to say that the Programme Committee (if you read it carefully you will find it) places emphasis on the small farmer, emphasis on what is going to be done for those people living, information that has to be geared to their way of looking at things, not to just information for the serious and educated people and for the universities, not just the middle training information, but down at the bottom. Little booklets that can be handed out so that people can see what they are supposed to do when perhaps they are not able to read so easily. They can see with diagrams which are so clear. That is what we have emphasized in this Programme Committee-information and training which are two of the most essential things that FAO does, eight hundred and plus students a year in all levels of training and education. We are concentrating on getting more and more of the students from the developing countries so that we are not aiming at high pie in the sky, but practical matters that will help the people. I think that the emphasis that we have had on cooperation and supplementing CGIAR, I could not agree with you more. I think it was the Federal Republic of Germany that mentioned this part of FAO's work and it must be complementary to IBPGR. We all know that that is what FAO does, and FAO has a small group of people who are intent on that kind of cooperation.

However, I should like to say something to my distinguished colleague from the Nordic countries. One of the other things I have been doing in the Programme Committee is to try not to have FAO do what so many others are doing, which is to increase and increase and increase its fields. Nutrition was mentioned by the distinguished delegate from Denmark. Yes, FAO must be in touch with WHO, so we can get from WHO the nutritional "lacks" that are being found. However, FAO should not do nutrition research. They should get the crop that will service the deficiency in nutrition that WHO has the research to do. It is not FAO's business to get too far into that specialized field. FAO is supposed to be food and agriculture, and when WHO tells us that a certain nutritional deficiency is showing up, it is up to us, yes-we find the crop and encourage its growth in the smallest towns of that particular area where that particular deficiency is showing up. However, we have got to, for heaven's sake, stop proliferating. We can get to be enormous.

Mention has been made, and I do not like to take exception to the distinguished delegate from the Federal Republic of Germany, but I must tell you that if you read the Basic Texts of UNDP, it is only in the final last little line, where they have any permission to do any execution at all. The final little last line after a whole paragraph of what they are supposed to do is, in exceptional conditions they may execute. That it is "exceptional". What are they supposed to do? They are supposed to sit with a pile of money, in the happy position of listening to the government that is not happy, or to the executing agency that is not happy. They have the money and they say "Look, I think you're wrong this time and I think the other one was wrong the other time". They have an irreplaceable role.

What do I think is important about FAO? I think that Information is essential. It has got to be full, it has got to be disseminated. I am happy to say that JIU has congratulated and found that not all (they said) of the UN Agencies are doing the job that FAO is doing. This was on a previous JIU Report. It is praised for its dissemination and collection of information. I think training is extremely important as I mentioned already. Those are two other things, but what are they all for? If FAO takes its mind off that little person at the bottom of the line, those little fishermen going out in the boats, as was described to us not long ago, without any awning against the hard sun, and with no way of cooking. That is what is important, what is happening down there. In the Programme Committee this is what we are constantly trying to keep focused on. I know, and the Programme Committee knows, that I have sometimes found our language banal. "We encourage, we support, we emphasize"-all those things. That is a trifle compared to the real purpose of the programme.

I have made only a few notes because maybe there is something in the long term. But what is it if it is not training and information and a better life, a better nutrition, a better food production for the people who are now living on this earth? I think we are trying to do it in our Programme Committee and I am proud to be a Member.

Gabriel MACKO (Czechoslovakia): On the whole the Czechoslovak delegation has no objections to the adoption of the Report of the Programme Committee and agrees with the view that this Committee fulfills systematically the task of the programme review envisaged by the General Rules of the Organization.

The socialist countries are not represented on the Programme Committee. I should therefore like to take this opportunity to touch on two questions to which the Report refers.

Use of consultants 1984/85: in this part the Committee expressed its appreciation of FAO's continuing efforts to pursue the policy favouring greater use of consultants from developing countries, and my delegation gladly associates itself with that evaluation. However, in the absence of any representative of the socialist countries, the Committee obviously missed the fact that the use of consultants from my country and other socialist countries is not proportionate to the high level of their technical and scientific institutions, their experience with work in developing countries and the reputation of their consultants. I should like to draw attention to the fact that their use is substantially and unjustifiably lower as compared, for instance, with UNIDO or WHO.

Similarly, the question may be asked how many, out of the average number of 58 000 trainees annually, had the opportunity of participating in training in Czechoslovakia or other socialist countries, and whether out of the 824 annual fellowship recipients any fellowship was awarded to the socialist countries. For example, our country has the oldest veterinary university with specialization in veterinary medicine, and a similarly specialized agricultural university, as well as a big cooperative training centre where a large number of both non-degree and post-graduate trainees from developing countries study every year having been sent by other organizations or on the basis of bilateral agreements.

I should therefore like to recommend that due attention be given to the question of more equal allocation of training courses, seminars, study trips and fellowships.

Efforts must also be continued for a greater representation of women and young people in the FAO educational and training projects.

Robbie Ma tongo MUPAWOSE (Zimbabwe): We thank the Chairman of the Programme Committee for a clear summary of the reports before us in documents CL 90/3 and CL 90/16. The documents are very clearly laid out and give confidence in the activities of the Organization.

For a long time FAO has placed emphasis on crops and crop production. There has also been emphasis on fisheries and forestry. The area where we consider effort is needed *is* that of the livestock area. Here we draw attention to the breeding of both cattle and small stock, that is, goats, sheep, pigs, etc. They are not only important as food but also supply manure. I remember the United States representative mentioning the importance and value of manure which is obtained from some of these livestock. Also, we obtain milk, and there has been the question of nutrition being discussed; skins are obtained and very many other byproducts. The production and management of these animals requires that attention be given to pastures, both improved and unimproved grazing. The introduction of legumes to pastures should be encouraged. There is need to coordinate with work being vigorously carried out by organizations like ILCA and other related organizations.

Related to livestock production there is need to strengthen work on the preservation of crop residues. The Sub-Saharan countries generally suffer from regular droughts, and yet no meaningful food bank programmes have been carried out. When droughts come, large numbers of livestock die, and in some areas livestock have to be moved long distances from one region to another in search of grazing or in search of stored food. In Zimbabwe we have been regularly examining the possibility of setting up fodder reserves. We find that due to climatic conditions the techniques to effectively implement this are very rudimentary, and we would hope to solicit assistance from the FAO and other organizations with both Information and additional techniques.

Livestock production is of great importance to some of our countries. The use of animal draught power in our region, that is both oxen and donkeys, is of great importance. The use of the tractor and the cost of fuel becomes a limiting factor, of course. The appropriate use of these animals with the proper harnesses and adjustment of equipment gives very effective tillage. Work is being done in this area with the assistance of German aid, and we hope that further assistance from FAO will improve our efforts. The results of some of this research in our country and region can gladly be shared with other countries which use such equipment.

The export of beef, both from Botswana and Zimbabwe, is of great economic value. This entails more costs in setting up recognized abattoirs, and disease control measures. Having committed funds to these required infrastructures, it becomes essential that these exports continue. Any slowing down due to shortage of cattle in the slaughterhouses should not be allowed to take place.

On the issue of consultants, while a beginning has been made in the use of regional and local African consultants, we feel there should be an increase in the use of this manpower. Overseas consultants are not always the most useful. They demand a lot of time from local officials, both technicians and professionals. They arrive and have to be educated and reorientated to local conditions before they begin to ask questions. Of course, there are many very good and experienced consultants, but it has taken much time of some of the local people to bring them to that level of expertise. We believe that the continued use of local consultants can also help to develop a pool of manpower and a pool of expertise in these developing countries which can have long-term effects and benefits for these developing countries.

David Lawrence COUTTS (Australia): We have closely examined these two reports of the Programme Committee with interest, and we commend the Committee for the considerable work it has done in assessing the various and widespread activities of FAO. We were interested to see in the 50th Report a thorough statement of the objectives of the various programmes. We found this most useful. We were also pleased to see in the 51st Report that considerable attention is being given to programme evaluation and review. We regard evaluation as an essential part of programme management, especially in times of severe strain on overall resources, and we support as much attention as possible being given to this aspect of FAO's work.

We would also support the Programme Committee giving even more attention not only to the objectives of programmes but to the measurement and assessment of how successfully these objectives have been achieved, that is, to the impact assessment of programmes. I must confess that when the reports refer to the evaluation of programmes I am not absolutely certain what is meant by that, and I should like to ask the Secretariat if evaluation of programmes means that any detailed quantitative assessment of the benefits of such programmes has been carried out.

In the context of programme evaluation, we are also pleased to see recognition in paragraph 10 of the 50th report of the need for priority setting in the context that resources available will never fully match the requirements of member countries. We also note the points in paragraph 9 mentioned by the United States Ambassador regarding areas that the Committee feels should be given priority in future work programmes. This issue has become much more important since the 50th Report was prepared some six months ago. While the need for priority setting is now undeniable, unfortunately the reports in front of us address only areas that should be given greater priority. The question of what might get less priority is not addressed. In saying that, I would not wish to be misunderstood. I understand the difficulties of doing the second task, but it is one that faces us nevertheless.

For these reasons, we give strong support to the suggestion by the Nordic countries that a paper be prepared urgently for the Programme Committee and for later consideration by the Council and/or the Conference that addresses the question of programme priorities.

In the 50th Report we also noted with considerable interest the Committee's comments on transparency within FAO. We appreciate that this matter was considered, as my delegation attaches some importance to it. The praise given by the Committee to the Director-General and the Secretariat is quite remarkable. We have seldom, if ever, seen such an unstinted vote of confidence in the transparency of information systems for any organization. As part of this strong vote of confidence by the

Committee, we are just a little uneasy when we look closely at the report in this regard. We do not question the willingness of the Secretariat to supply information on request, and we fully agree with the Committee's observations that member countries must pay attention to the reasonableness of their inquiries and the cost of extracting and supplying information. However, transparency also involves consideration of the structure of the information produced in the normal course of events and the systems in place. In that context, we feel that there may still be some room for improvement.

Several examples that have already come up at this meeting spring to mind. These include the availability of information on actual expenditure during the biennium by the Organization; the question of what it actually costs to deliver programmes; and aspects of the Technical Cooperation Programme. We have noted the Secretariat's comments on these issues, but can only observe that the continued concerns of some members suggest that either there is a transparency problem of some nature or there is a problem of understanding between delegations and the Secretariat. To the extent that doubts on such matters remain, we urge that they be looked at again by the Programme and/or Finance Committees.

We note the comments regarding the use of consultants from a wide range of countries as possible, especially developing countries. We also noted the comments by Czechoslovakia a few minutes ago. In principle, we have absolutely no difficulty with this approach provided that it is followed in a manner that is consistent with selecting as high a level of expertise on particular issues as possible.

In the fiftieth report we noted the Committee's concern, in paragraphs 151 to 160, over relations with the UNDP, especially in relation to the activities of the Office for Project Evaluation (OPE). We feel that it is most undesirable for these two bodies to be working in a way, which is not fully harmonious, and which would appear to involve some overlap in activities. We should be interested to know more about what action has been taken to resolve these problems and what the latest developments might be.

Finally, we would once again underline that the work of this Committee, as with the Finance Committee, is of critical importance in the troubled times ahead of us. We feel that greater attention will have to be given at its next meeting to the unenviable task of setting some programme priorities to match the Programme of Work to the resources available. To this end, the work of this Committee must link closely with that of the Finance Committee. It may be appropriate to consider if the two Committees should at least meet jointly at some stage. Having made these observations, Australia would not oppose acceptance by the Council of these reports.

Gonzalo BULA HOYOS (Colombia): Sin duda, señor Presidente, el Consejo tuvo un gran acierto al elegir al señor Mazoyer, de Francia, como Presidente del Comité del Programa, ya que todos sabemos la manera tan competente como él viene cumpliendo su alta responsabilidad. La presentación del señor Mazoyer ha hecho que los informes del Comité del Programa faciliten nuestra actitud en el sentido de apoyar completamente esos dos informes a través de los cuales tenemos la convicción sincera de que no hay ningún problema de transparencia en cuanto a las actividades de la Organización, cuya Secretaría suministra todas las informaciones razonables que se le solicitan y estoy seguro de que si existe, como se ha dicho, cualquier problema de comprensión entre la Administración y ciertos respetables representantes, todo ello será superado con buena voluntad y mutua comprensión.

Admiramos siempre las elocuentes y sentidas declaraciones de nuestra colega y amiga Millicent Fenwick, Embajadora de los Estados Unidos y aficionada miembro del Comité del Programa. Apoyamos lo que ella ha dicho en cuanto a los pequeños agricultores y otras inquietudes humanas y sociales porque la señora Fenwick, a quien nosotros admiramos mucho en sus declaraciones, particularmente cuando ella habla con su mente y con su corazón, y no con el telex de Washington.

Nuestro colega y amigo el señor Winkel, de la República Federal de Alemania, planteó también algunas ideas que son interesantes y que esperamos se tengan en cuenta. La delegación de Colombia está muy agradecida a nuestro colega y amigo de Dinamarca. La intervención de nuestro colega Kristensen de esta tarde, nos ofrece la oportunidad de volver un poco hacia el pasado. Acerca de lo que se ha dicho en el seno de esta Organización en materia de las revisiones que ahora en cierta medida proponen, la última revisión orgánica, si así pudiéramos llamarla, de las prioridades de los métodos de trabajo y de la estructura de nuestra Organización, se realizó en 1968, inmediatamente después de que la Conferencia de 1967 eligió al señor Boerma, Director General de la Organización. Se constituyó un grupo ad hoc, integrado por siete de cada una de las regiones de la FAO, grupo en el cual el señor Kristensen, ahora Director Jefe de la Delegación de Dinamarca, participó activamente. Al señor Kristensen me une, antes de esa fecha, una amistad de colegio, porque ambos participamos en el entonces Comité Intergubernamental del PMA que él presidía y en el Comité del Programa, del cual yo fui su Presidente.

Pensamos sinceramente que las propuestas de Dinamarca son positivas y constructivas y corresponden al espíritu altruista y generoso que caracteriza a los países nórdicos y que los representantes del gobierno de Colombia exaltamos continuamente.

Igualmente estamos plenamente de acuerdo con nuestro colega y amigo Higham, del Canadá, en el sentido de que las circunstancias cambiantes imponente a la FAO la necesidad de adecuarse continua y progresivamente a las formas más dinámicas, incisivas y actualizadas como nuestra Organización debe afrontar el estudio y la solución de los problemas.

Sin embargo, mi vecino de la derecha, ahora ausente, el embajador del Congo hizo una declaración sensata y reflexiva en la cual se refirió a la incertidumbre actual, que podemos llamar crisis, porque el embajador Pascarelli ha dejado la sala, y ello nos induce a pensar que tal vez no conviene ahora en este momento agregar otra inquietud más a todas las que ya nos causa esta difícil situación, pero sí pensamos que la Conferencia de noviembre 1987, sobre todo al estudiar el Programa de Labores y Presupuesto para 1988/89, puede ser una oportunidad propicia para considerar cualquier posibilidad a ese respecto; porque convendrá recordar también que después de la que he llamado revisión orgánica de 1968, en 1976 inmediatamente después de la Conferencia de 1975 en la cual se eligió un Director General, en 1976, repetimos, como ya lo dijimos en la discusión del tema 4, hubo una reunión del Consejo que convenimos, a la luz de los textos básicos, en que no debía llamarse "especial" pero que sí fue excepcional porque se reunió en julio de 1976, o sea en años pares, cuando generalmente el Consejo en esos años pares sólo se reúne en noviembre. En ese Consejo de julio de 1976 y luego en el Consejo de noviembre de ese mismo año y en la Conferencia de noviembre de 1967, en ese ciclo que hemos citado, los estados miembros todos de la FAO coincidimos, aprobamos ciertas directrices que estaban contenidas en los programas y políticas que nos presentó el nuevo Director General y que contaron con el apoyo unánime de todos los representantes de los gobiernos.

De manera que pensamos, para resumir, debemos ir, al Comité de Redacción con que posiblemente la Conferencia de noviembre de 1987 puede ser el escenario indicado para considerar la posible necesidad de revisar las prioridades, los métodos de trabajo y la estructura de nuestra Organización, y mientras tanto los dos órganos asesores más importantes del Consejo, los Comités del Programa y de Finanzas, deben intensificar sus tareas en ese campo dentro de los parámetros, los términos de referencia de esos Comités que ya fueron citados adecuadamente por el colega Redl, de Austria.

El colega y amigo Coutts, de Australia, ha sugerido la conveniencia de que los Comités del Programa y de Finanzas se reúnan conjuntamente. Como dije antes, yo fui Presidente del Comité del Programa y antes miembro también, y por ello creo que sigue vigente la disposición según la cual esos dos Comités celebran por lo menos una reunión conjunta a principios de los años impares, cuando por primera vez estudian el proyecto del Programa de Labores y Presupuestos.

La señora Fenwick, que es miembro del Comité del Programa, asiente y esto confirma mi aseveración. De manera que todo va bien, las circunstancias continuaron cumpliéndose dentro de ese marco y veremos más adelante qué será necesario realizar, pero por ahora pensamos que no es necesario introducir ninguna modificación.

Adel Helmy EL SARKI (Egypt) (original language Arabic): On behalf of my delegation it is my pleasure to express my sincere thanks to Mr. Mazoyer, Chairman of the Programme Committee for his clear presentation of the two documents under discussion. We wish to express our satisfaction for the interest which the Organization has shown in supporting TCDC, in meeting the needs of the various agricultural systems as well as its increasing interest in subsistence farming, assisting small farmers and the training of personnel. On this basis we fully support the programme: Agriculture and the sub-programmes on crops and rural development. We should also like to commend the Organization's activities aimed at supporting animal health institutions in Africa through the programme entitled "Livestock".

We are pleased to see that the Organization has also been interested in the social aspects of development programmes in view of enforcing the team spirit amongst workers through the publication of the "Workers Bulletin". We also support its efforts to increase public awareness of the activities and objectives of the Organization through the publication of "Ceres".

Document CL 90/16 refers to the increase in the use of consultants from developing countries in 1984/85 compared to 1982/83. We are pleased to note this. However, we request the Organization to increase the number of consultants from the Near East region. We also welcome the increase of contracts with research institutions in developing countries.

My country had the honour of introducing the Arabic language as a working language in the Organization and we are pleased to see that Lebanon has asked for its use in AGRIS and CARIS. We fully support this suggestion.

After having seen the interest of programmes in serving all countries we can but commend the efforts of the Director-General in establishing the general guidelines of these programmes.

Ronald F. R. DEARE (United Kingdom): Could I perhaps begin by thanking Mr. Mazoyer for his very full and informative introduction. I think all of us who have read these reports realize the amount of hard work that is put in by members of the Programme Committee.

I would like to join those who have proceeded me in commending the representative of Denmark for a very significant and interesting statement on behalf of the Nordic countries. There is much that I could say about that statement but I think I will simply confine myself to saying that my delegation certainly endorses the call that he has made for a paper to be put to the Programme Committee and to the Council on the future role of FAO with particular reference to the setting of priorities and I am happy to say in view of what was said in the Nordic statement I have been able to shorten my statement quite considerably, but there is one point which I would wish to make in regard to the role of the Programme Committee, in regard to the setting of priorities.

As I read it it is part of the function of the Programme Committee as set out in the General Regulations and, despite the eloquent intervention of my friend and colleague from the United States, who unfortunately is not here now, I still must say it remains the feeling in my delegation, that this critical function seems not to have formed a significant part of the review; for example, a major programme 2. 1 Agriculture, which is reported extensively in document CL 90/3. At a rough count, there are some 70 instances in this report where the Committee has urged further strengthening of programmes or fully endorsed, or reported the importance and priority of, or priority of programmes, or particular activities and has affirmed or stressed the need for others. I have not been able to find one instance where the Committee has suggested that even one programme or activity might have lower priority than others and might therefore be reduced or terminated. I believe that it would be helpful to members of this Council if the Programme Committee were able perhaps to pay greater attention to that critical function, but I do recognize the problem, particularly when examination of the programme is divorced from the responsibility for finance. So perhaps, as has already been suggested this afternoon, it may be the time to consider, and dare I say this, the merger of the two committees so that the one committee deals with both vital aspects of the activities of this Organization. Perhaps this might be something for consideration for inclusion in the paper which has been requested by our friends, the Nordic delegation.

Finally, I had intended to speak at some length on paragraph 151 to 160 of document CL 90/3 on operational activities for development, but in view of the lateness of the hour, I will simply confine myself to say for the record that my delegation cannot subscribe to the points made in paragraphs 152 to 156 of that document where they conflict with decisions taken by consensus in the UNDP Governing Council.

Evlogui BONEV (UNDP): I am very grateful for your indulgence. I have listened with great interest to the intervention on the agenda item before us. The UNDP acquainted itself with the document CL 90/3 specifically under paragraphs which are relevant to UNDP, 151 to 160. As you may recall, the comments of the Programme Committee were sent to the ECOSOC Meeting last July during the session and the UNDP representative there commented on the comments of the Programme Committee of FAO.

I will read the same comments which were read out at the ECOSOC Meeting on behalf of the UNDP. Concerning the UNDP Office for Projects Execution, about which the Committee "expresses serious concern", I wish to point out that the 1970 consensus does not foresee the automatic designation of the specialized agency as an executing agency merely by virtue of that organization's "area of competence". The choice of executing agent is a matter of consultation between the administrator and the recipient government. Taking into account specific project requirements. Often governments express a wish to obtain sources of experience outside the United Nations system. A large part of the projects executed through OPE provide this additional source of experience which complements existing sources of technical expertise. It needs pointing out that the percentage of properly executed projects funded by UNDP's central resources has remained constant under 7 percent over the past four years, and that the great majority of the projects are government executed while the role of OPE is reduced to merely providing governments with some specific services whenever they need them and whenever they request them. Thus it promotes and encourages the ultimate goal of the recipient governments, self-reliance.

As you can see, the executed projects by OPE are not at all the traditional projects execution type, from those executed by the specialized agencies. It should also be pointed out that in so-called "umbrella" projects of multi-sectoral character executed by OPE, large components have been subcontracted to executing agencies, including FAO.

Concerning the Project Development Facility, PDF, so called, which was established by the UNDP Governing Council on an experimental basis last year, the Council at its last session extended the facility for another year. The administration has informed our executing agency partners of the purposes and procedures of this facility, making it very clear that agencies are entitled to participate in the use of PDF resources for project preparation. PDF is a supplementary source of financing which does not exclude existing mechanisms that are normally employed by specialized agencies for project development, such as preparatory assistance projects. The Governing Council of UNDP as well as many delegations at ECOSOC in July this year have expressed strong support for this facility.

The FAO Committee also referred to the short-term advisory services established by our Governing Council last year. Under this service, UNDP acts as a clearing house between requesting developing countries and enterprises of industrialized as well as developing countries to provide salary-free expertise. This service does not conflict in any way with existing mandates or activities of United Nations system organizations.

The Committee similarly referred to what it calls "the UNDP Development Fund for Women". I guess that the distinguished members of the Committee had in mind UNIFEM, which is the acronym for the United Nations Development Fund for Women. You may recall that this fund was created not by UNDP, but by the General Assembly of the United Nations with its resolution 31/133 of 16 December 1976, originally as the Voluntary Fund for the UN Decade for Women. The Fund became operational in 1978. In 1984, the General Assembly in resolution 39/125 decided that the activities of this Fund should be continued by the establishment of a separate and identifiable entity in autonomous association with UNDP. UNIFEM is a funding, and not an executing agency, which uses existing capacity in the United Nations system, including FAO, to execute projects. For example, at the present time, ten projects funded by UNIFEM are being executed by FAO. I am sure there are more now because my information is not updated now.

Concerning the roundtable process, its proposed that new procedures reflect the express wish of governments to improve this mechanism by, *inter alia*, limiting the participants in the roundtable conference itself to the recipient and major donors. However, as explained in the report submitted to the recent Governing Council session (DP 71986/17), sectoral consultations constitute a major element in the new roundtable format. For this part of the consultation process, respective agencies have priority involvement, particularly as regards the preparation of documentation. The report also indicates that preliminary experience with substantive participation of agencies in this respect, have proven to be quite satisfactory. Just to mention a few related to FAO: its involvement in The Gambia for consultations in the agricultural and fisheries sector, as well as in Benin, for consultations in the forestry and rural development sectors, along with its involvement in Burundi, for consultations in fisheries and food crop sectors.

As you have heard on previous occasions by the secretariat of FAO itself, there are ongoing processes of contacts and negotiations between the two secretariats of FAO and UNDP in further enhancing the participation of FAO in this process.

We regret that though UNDP is the largest source of funding for UNDP-executed projects, the UNDP representative is not permitted to participate in the deliberations of the Programme Committee, at which very significant discussions often take place regarding UNDP/FAO cooperation. Had we been allowed to participate, the points which I have made in response to the Programme Committee's comments which were at the Council would have been explained on the spot at the meeting.

I am not able to respond to all the comments which were made by the delegates here in the Council but I hope that the general comments which I made on the comments of the Committee are giving some light on our viewpoint vis-à-vis FAO cooperation.

Akbar Mirza KHALEELI (India): First I have the honour to thank Mr. Mazoyer, our Chairman, for the excellent Report. I had the benefit of participating in the Twenty-First Session and to me it was most educative, both the manner in which it was conducted and the manner in which information from the Secretariat was elicited on all matters where there was some doubt and where importance was attached to programmes. I was not present at the Fiftieth Session, but I would like to assure all those who are not members of the Programme Committee that for the best part of a week, there were very detailed discussions and a rare unanimity under the very careful guidance of Mr. Mazoyer.

The emphasis on information and training, which are two priorities mentioned by the charming delegate of the United States, was very evident. I would also like to mention that the consciousness of the need for economy, even on small matters, was discussed more than once, even though it was not the Finance Committee.

There were certain aspects of publicity where we found that some of the documentation was extremely glossy and certain other types of publications which were very useful to the general public. It was made clear to us by the Secretariat that their main role was to inform the informers, the people who train the public, and FAO could not go around distributing useful pamphlets to the general public. There is a reference to this in document CL 90/16, paragraphs 15, 27 and 44.

Regarding the rather important points raised by the Nordic countries, represented by Denmark and in various forms, supported by a number of very important countries, I think a view might have to be taken at some stage as to what is the role of the Programme Committee, not only in the context of the financial constraints that the Organization faces but in the context of reviewing programmes and priorities. But for the time being, I think the point made by the delegates of Congo and Austria and others, including Colombia, is that the evaluation of the rules and practices being what they are, we are I believe constrained to discuss the Report of the Programme Committee rather than the role of the Programme Committee. Unless we are entitled to go into the actual functioning of the Finance Committee and the Programme Committee, (and of course delegations can pass their comments on various things), it becomes rather difficult mid-course for priorities in agriculture and agricultural policy which have been set by the Conference, to be altered.

Almir F. de Sá BARBUDA (Brazil): My delegation wishes to join the previous speakers in thanking Mr. Mazoyer for the comprehensive introduction of this Item of the Agenda.

We also wish to reiterate our interest in the work of the Programme Committee and to present our support for the review of FAO's programmes, to the findings and recommendations of the Fiftieth and Fifty-First Sessions of the Programme Committee.

We would like to thank once again the Director-General for having brought to the Programme Committee, as well as the Finance Committee, the subject of greater transparency in the work of the Organization. His initiative has been rightly appreciated by the Committee, which praised the nature and the extent of the information available. We agree with what has been said by Ambassador Bula Hoyos that there are really no problems of transparency in this Organization and information has always been provided by the Secretariat.

We appreciate the attention that has been given in both Sessions to the issues of training and economic and technical cooperation among developing countries. In relation to training activities we fully support the observations and suggestions presented at paragraph 109 of document CL 90/16. My delegation reiterates its support for the TCDC activities laid down by the Buenos Aires Plan of Action and FAO's approach to TCDC. We therefore support paragraphs 140 to 142 of document CL 90/3.

My delegation wishes to congratulate FAO for the recognition by the UN Joint Inspection Unit of the high standing of its internal evaluation system within the UN system. We also wish to mention our appreciation with regard to the increase of 7.9 percent in the use by FAO of individual consultants from developing countries and we hope that this percentage will further increase.

Finally, we want to give our full support to the points raised by the Austrian delegate in relation to the proposal from Denmark. At this point we do not see any need for definitions or new reviews of functions of FAO bodies, functions which are very clearly defined in the Basic Texts.

We agree with the positive statement of Ambassador Fenwick, especially in relation to FAO's functions, which should not increase indefinitely.

Finally, we want to express our support for what has been said in this regard by Ambassador Bula Hoyos of Colombia, the Ambassador of India and other delegates.

Leopoldo ARIZA HIDALGO (Cuba): Nuestra delegación agradece la presentación de los documentos CL 90/3 y CL 90/16 hecha en forma magistral por el señor Mazoyer, Presidente de dicho Comité. Asimismo, encomiamos la labor hecha por los miembros del Comité para presentarnos un documento dirigido específicamente a las actividades principales que debe ejecutar esta Organización y considera mi delegación que para preparar el mismo se han tenido en cuenta las prioridades así como la situación financiera de la Organización, cuestión muy importante en estos momentos a tener presente. Consideramos, Sr. Presidente, que el haber elegido nosotros este Comité de Programas, nos respetamos nosotros mismos por haber depositado en sus miembros la confianza necesaria para la ejecución de su labor, confianza que además merecen. En tal sentido, mi delegación considera que estos informes deben ser aprobados por el Consejo. Quisiéramos referirnos, sin embargo, a algunos aspectos que si bien han sido recogidos por el informe, ameritan que se haga hincapié en ellos, una especie de selección de intereses. En el párrafo 9 del documento CL 90/3 se recogen los aspectos más importantes en que el Comité consideró que la FAO debe hacer énfasis y que mi delegación apoya en

todas sus partes como son, por su importancia, la capacitación a todos los niveles, el desarrollo y transferencia de tecnologías apropiadas y el apoyo a la acción económica y técnica entre países en desarrollo. Sin embargo, repito, consideramos que, por la importancia que tiene, debiera hacerse alguna alusión directa en la globalización de la ejecución de todos estos grandes programas, a la participación de la mujer en estas actividades que son actividades priorizadas, y que en todas ellas participa la mujer en una u otra forma y que debemos intensificar su participación. Entendemos también que los programas especiales de acción de la FAO verdaderamente revisten considerable importancia para el sostenimiento o aumento de la producción agrícola y alimentaria. Sin embargo, nos parece muy necesario que se evalúen periódicamente sus resultados a la luz de las necesidades de los países y las posibilidades reales de la Organización. Para nosotros es muy importante las evaluaciones periódicas que son las que garantizan que no nos mantengamos durante años discutiendo las mismas situaciones.

Además, nosotros quisiéramos puntualizar en los cultivos, nos gustaría puntualizar el subprograma 2. 1. 2. 1 "Recursos genéticos". Son cuestiones que nosotros consideramos estratégicas en el desarrollo del trabajo de la Organización. Por consiguiente, es muy importante el párrafo 60.

Con respecto a los recursos genéticos, se respalda la función central de la FAO para ayudar en todas las formas posibles a detener la erosión y la pérdida de valiosos recursos fitogenéticos. Esto consideramos que es una cuestión fundamental para la agricultura, ya no específica de un solo país, creo que estos representan uno de los principales patrimonios de la humanidad que hay que cuidar. El otro día expresé que tenía más temor que a la guerra nuclear a los problemas ecológico que nos van a hacer inhabitable el mundo sin que se tire una sola bomba.

Creemos también que debemos destacar el subprograma 2. 1. 2. 3 "Semillas", y su interrelación con las actividades en relación con la Comisión y el compromiso internacional sobre recursos fitogenéticos, párrafo 41, y apoyamos específicamente también, porque creemos que su control es importante también en función de mantener la verdadera sanidad dentro de la producción, el párrafo 63, que es la aplicación del código internacional de plaguicidas. Creo que es muy interesante su difusión porque uno de los problemas graves que hay en nuestro medio subdesarrollado es la incapacidad para conocer el alcance que puedan tener a favor o en contra la aplicación de los plaguicidas mientras nuestros países no tengan legislaciones internas para su control y mientras seamos pasto de comerciantes que les interesa vender sin que sepamos lo que nos venden o algunos países donde un producto está prohibido y sin embargo, está permitido venderlo. Estas cuestiones consideramos que son muy importantes, Sr. Presidente.

En ganadería, también creo que se discutió con profundidad. Los párrafos nos dicen la gama enorme de puntos que se discutieron. Sin embargo, nosotros queremos hacer hincapié en la sanidad animal, salvar al que tenemos vivo, y al ganado al que tenemos ya en la mano, mejorar los servicios veterinarios y combatir las principales enfermedades infecciosas. Creo que son puntos estratégicos para poder hablar de una ganadería de futuro.

Igualmente, Sr. Presidente, es muy importante la rama de la investigación. Nos complació leer todos los párrafos referentes a la discusión de este punto. Por lo tanto, deseamos destacar el párrafo 106, sobre todo en su último párrafo referente a que era oportuno que los centros de investigación de los países desarrollados dedicaran parte de sus recursos y su atención a cuestiones, problemas de importancia para las regiones en desarrollo. Nosotros consideramos que es una buena señalización por parte del Comité de Programas.

Sobre el desarrollo rural nosotros no nos cansaremos nunca de destacar la necesidad de un subprograma muy importante que surge con fuerza en los momentos de crisis alimentaria, porque, por desgracia, uno de los animales de menos memoria del mundo es el hombre; por lo tanto se le olvidan las consecuencias de los problemas tan pronto pasan. Es el subprograma "Reforma Agraria", párrafos 119 y 126. Creemos que es necesario que se atienda el Programa de Acción de la Conferencia Mundial de Reforma Agraria y Desarrollo Rural para lograr toda una serie de cuestiones que hemos oído referir y escuchado de muchos colegas sobre el acceso de la tierra, el acceso al agua, a la justicia social, la equidad, los precios, los créditos; todo eso debe ser un paquete, un contexto que nosotros consideramos que se llama reforma agraria.

A veces hay un poco de temor, además de falta de memoria, el hombre padece de otra enfermedad que se llama miedo, que le tiene miedo a la palabra. La palabra reforma agraria se ha diversificado mucho, se han hecho muchas malas, porque se han hecho muchas buenas en el papel y a la hora de aplicarla nos hemos rajado entre los agrónomos, los intelectuales, los políticos y los productores de maquinaria, que lo que quieren es vender maquinaria y no ha habido realmente una aplicación correcta de la reforma agraria. Pero una aplicación desajustada no quiere decir que es mala. Hay países a los cuales se les interrumpió violentamente en los procesos de reforma. Todas esas son cuestiones que algunas minorías no permiten que lleguen y, por tanto, las hemos olvidado un poco. Es un punto que nosotros queríamos hacer.

Para concluir, Sr. Presidente, reiteramos el apoyo de nuestra delegación al trabajo del Comité y a los informes presentados considerando que el prisma bajo el cual ha trabajado y que debe seguir valorándose en función de ver en qué medida se pueden perfeccionar, se pueden mejorar, se expresa claramente en los párrafos 163 y 165, que nos parecen un gran colofón de estos grandes informes sobre todo del documento CL 90/3. El párrafo 103 es para nosotros una explicación muy amplia de cuál, realmente en lo que convino el Comité de lo que es el Programa de Labores y Presupuesto, y los exámenes del Programa ordinario, y el 165, el reconocimiento del Comité, que, basándose en su propia experiencia, en la capacidad de comprender, evaluar y valorar la labor de la FAO debe hacer frente. Creo que es muy necesario saber, valorar lo que hace la FAO teniendo en cuenta sus problemas, y, por la otra, las medidas adoptadas por la Organización. Son dos cuestiones que consideramos también de carácter no táctico sino estratégico, porque a veces no nos damos cuenta a la hora de valorar qué velocidad debemos tener sobre una carretera si no sabemos las curvas o los obstáculos que tiene esa carretera.

Creo que el Comité instó a que se prosiguiera la política de accesibilidad y disponibilidad para dar a los programas de la FAO sus efectos, la mayor difusión posible. Creo que éstas son cuestiones muy importantes en estos momentos y nosotros tenemos una gran preocupación con el programa de la difusión. Hemos aceptado y estamos de acuerdo que como alternativa de los problemas financieros una de las cuestiones que más debemos, y se ha planteado aquí, eliminar o tratar de no hacer para no gastar, serían las publicaciones. Es verdad que nadie viene pidiendo libros, todo el mundo viene pidiendo proyectos, pero creemos que, si decimos que la capacitación es fundamental, tenemos también que ayudar a capacitar no sólo a nosotros los funcionarios sino que esta capacitación de la FAO llegue a las diversas regiones, a las asociaciones campesinas de las cooperativas, de las granjas, de pueblos que se deben beneficiar del trabajo de la FAO.

Danilo VUJICIC (Yugoslavia): I would like first of all to thank the Chairman of the Programme Committee, Mr. Mazoyer, for his excellent introduction regarding the two latest sessions of the Programme Committee. I must express my particular satisfaction that I am the first delegate of Yugoslavia who, after quite a long time, can speak freely and express recognition and full satisfaction with the work and the results of the Programme Committee, and particularly of its Chairman. Those of you who have been participating for a long time in FAO activities would guess the reasons for such a refrained attitude of the Yugoslav delegation in relation to the Programme Committee during the last few years. For those who cannot guess, I have to reveal the secret. The fact is that one of my compatriots, whom most of you know well, was the first Member and then the Chairman of the Programme Committee for a decade. On the other side, the natural modesty of my countrymen has deprived us of the satisfaction of dignifying and praising the work of the Programme Committee in such circumstances. I hope that my statement can be taken by the distinguished audience in its relative and, at least, half humouristic sense even though it may look like rather rude and crude Balkanic humour and not the sophisticated British type of humour.

Coming back to the serious track on which discussions of this subject have gone, I would like on behalf of the Yugoslav delegation to highly commend the work of the Programme Committee at its last two sessions. We fully support their conclusions and recommendations. We particularly appreciate their highly technical and excellently-oriented analysis and conclusions in some major fields of the work of FAO, namely natural resources, crops, livestock, research and technology, rural development and FAO training activities.

I should like also to join the concern of the Programme Committee on the decreasing share of FAO in operational activities of UNDP and its resources, and the ever increasing implementation through the so-called OPE (Office of the Project Execution of the UNDP). My delegation shares the assessment of the Programme Committee that by depriving FAO and other Specialized Agencies in fact, recipient countries are deprived of the accumulated technical expertise and experience of these Specialized Agencies, and these may lead to some kind of wasteful overlaps.

Finally, I cannot help but express my delegation's surprise, and disagreement, at the request by some representatives that our Organization instead of concentrating its full power and resources on implementation of the agreed programmes and priorities, should turn the focus of its attention to the Organization and its inter-governmental bodies in a kind of general self-examination review, and maybe a revision, of the FAO role and programmes.

My delegation does not find it necessary and useful at this crucial moment to waste the time and precious resources on the studies and discussions in inter-governmental bodies which, in our opinion would not contribute to the achievement of the objectives set up by the Constitution of FAO, the World Food Conference, WCARRD, the so-called 1976 Consensus, the last FAO General Conference, and so on. The right time and place to raise this issue, for those who consider it useful, may be only the next General Conference in 1987. At that time the Programme and the Finance Committees and the Council should concentrate their activities on the execution of the programmes and priorities agreed by the last Conference.

Amin ABDEL-MALEK (Lebanon): I am sorry to ask for the floor for the second time at such a late hour, but I found it necessary to intervene on that same point. The Lebanese delegation does not see any reason to ask the Director-General to make a report as proposed on the long-term function of the FAO, since we have every reason to believe that the major policy consensus reached in 1976, and confirmed unanimously in the 1977 Conference, is still fully valid and should not be reconsidered, especially in the light of the financial difficulties that prevail, in the meantime in FAO.

Atif Y. BUKHARI (Saudi Arabia, Kingdom of) (Original language Arabic): First of all my delegation would like to congratulate and thank most warmly the Chairman of the Programme Committee and the other Members for their good work, which shows the seriousness and the interest they have shown in their deliberations.

The report of the Programme Committee stressed FAO's role in the provision of technical aid and consultation services. This was something that the Joint Inspection Unit stressed. We should like to give our support to the content of both reports from the Programme Committee.

I should like to be brief and to review certain important paragraphs, in document CL 90/16. I should like to refer to paragraphs 103 and 104 of that document. These say that an increasing number of Trust Fund projects which had a training component have been requested by various governments. This is something to which we give our full support.

We are also very pleased with what is contained in paragraph 101, particularly with what it contains about group training, and institution building. We are pleased that there has been continuous and fruitful cooperation between FAO and governmental and non-governmental bodies, particularly DANIDA. Here I should like to come back to the what was said by other delegations, particularly what was said by Denmark about a review of FAO's function, the role of the Programme Committee and the role played by other committees. What concerns us is the enthusiasm and zeal with which these ideas have been put forward and taken up. This gave us the impression that the FAO and the Committees set up by the Council-and I do not know whether Committees set up by the general Conference are included in this idea-are rusted and can have new life breathed into them. I do not really see the reason for all of this. Governments have to seriously reconsider their positions. For our part, we would like to support the opposite point of view, particularly in the situation in which FAO now finds itself. We have to be very careful, particularly because of the difficulties facing the Organization. However, we would echo the appeal expressed by a number of delegations that we do not carry out this review. We have to make sure that the FAO can work properly to the benefit of all countries, particularly to the benefit of developing countries.

Another proposal was made that the Finance Committee and the Programme Committee be merged. We are somewhat surprised, not at the proposal itself but because those who proposed this are fully acquainted with the role and responsibility of both these individual committees.

Humberto CARRION M. (Nicaragua): Si fuera mal pensado creería que durante este 90° período de sesiones del Consejo ha habido una convergencia sospechosa de hechos que negativizan a la FAO y a su Director General, pero como no soy mal pensado diré solamente que han sido coincidencias.

Desde el primer día de labores de este Consejo algunos países industrializados plantearon la alternabilidad en el cargo de Director General de la FAO como si la Conferencia no tuviera la facultad de decidir quien debe ocupar esa Dirección General.

Posteriormente, algunas delegaciones también de países industrializados comenzaron a cuestionar la transparencia de la FAO en la rendición de las cuentas al Consejo, desconociendo el trabajo positivo y satisfactorio del Comité de Finanzas y sus miembros. El mismo Comité de Finanzas reconoció y agradeció la transparencia de la Secretaría de la FAO y del Director General por presentar claramente al Comité toda la documentación administrativa y financiera solicitada por los miembros del Comité de Finanzas para realizar sus trabajos de acuerdo con su mandato.

No necesito insistir aquí en recordar que los miembros del Comité de Finanzas así como los miembros del Comité del Programa son elegidos por el Consejo y que gozan de toda nuestra confianza.

Inmediatamente después de esa crítica sobre la transparencia de la FAO en los asuntos financieros y después de que se mencionó la alternabilidad en el cargo de Director General circuló una Nota Verbal que contenía la solicitud de apoyo de otro candidato para el cargo de Director General en las elecciones que se llevarán a cabo en la Conferencia de noviembre de 1987.

Que se entienda bien, señor Presidente, que esto no lo decimos en sentido peyorativo.

Por ultimo, tenemos como un tema de nuestra agenda de trabajo una propuesta de revision del metodo de eleccion de los miembros del Comité de Finanzas y del Programa, porque durante el 89° periodo de sesiones del Consejo una región desarrollada, compuesta de sólo dos países, no fue elegida para integrar el Comité de Finanzas a pesar de haber presentado un candidato.

Esperamos que las coincidencias que menciono no sean utilizadas ahora para cuestionar el Comité del Programa y a todo el mecanismo de decisión establecido en los textos fundamentales de la Organización.

El Comité del Programa cumple con su mandato de acuerdo a los textos fundamentales y a los asuntos que le somete la Conferencia.

En la situación financiera actual de la FAO, tal como fue debatida en días pasados, el Comité del Programa debe mantener los objetivos prioritarios de trabajo establecidos por la Conferencia de noviembre de 1985, es decir sin modificación, como lo han sugerido muchas delegaciones.

Para finalizar, apoyamos el contenido de los dos informes del Comité del Programa que se han sometido para aprobación.

Philippe PIOTET (France): La délégation française a étudié avec beaucoup d'attention les rapports du Comité du Programme. Elle a écouté également les explications données par le Président du Comité du programme ainsi que celles données par les Membres du Comité du programme qui sont dans cette salle. Nous avons écouté les interventions faisant état du besoin d'une réflexion à long terme sur l'avenir de l'ÜAA. Nous nous demandons si la réunion du Conseil au sujet du Comité du programme est vraiment le lieu où poser cette question, si l'on considère en tout cas le mandat du Comité du programme.

En effet, cela nous pose toute une série de problèmes: cette réflexion est-elle opportune maintenant? Avons-nous les éléments pour préciser les directions dans lesquelles une telle réflexion pourrait être entreprise?

Quelle est l'instance la plus appropriée pour entreprendre une telle réflexion au sein de l'OAA? Avec ce Comité? Avec d'autres organisations? Tout ceci, me semble-t-il, nécessite que l'on se penche de plus près sur les problèmes que cela peut poser. J'en reviens, je crois, et c'est la sagesse, aux travaux du Comité du programme, puisque c'est ce point que nous examinons actuellement. Ce comité a un mandat, comme d'autres comités, dans les domaines de l'agriculture, des pêches ou des produits, et ce que nous devons faire, me semble-t-il, aujourd'hui, au niveau du Conseil, c'est examiner, si, conformément au mandat fixé dans les textes fondamentaux de l'Organisation, ce Comité a rempli sa tâche de manière satisfaisante. Pour ma part, la réponse est positive et nous appuyons les rapports qui sont présentés par le Comité du programme ainsi que les recommandations qu'il nous suggère.

La question a été posée de savoir s'il fallait regrouper ou non un certain nombre de comités, notamment le Comité du Programme et le Comité financier. Je pense, là aussi, que dans la période d'incertitude que nous connaissons actuellement, et les débats de la semaine dernière l'ont montré de manière très nette, je ne pense pas que nous ayons les éléments pour nous prononcer aujourd'hui sur une question de cette nature qui, de toutes façons, nécessiterait des révisions assez fondamentales des textes de base qui régissent nos travaux.

Je pense donc que si certaines délégations persistent dans l'idée de poursuivre une telle réflexion, il serait nécessaire, pour que sur ce point nos travaux soient fructueux, de disposer d'un certain temps de réflexion, de propositions présentées par les organes qualifiés de l'Organisation. Sur tout cela, je dois bien reconnaître que nous n'avons pas aujourd'hui les éléments. Ce n'est, me semble-t-il, que dans une phase ultérieure, lors d'une réunion ultérieure du Conseil et surtout lors de la Conférence que des problèmes de cette nature peuvent être abordés. Je suis quelque peu étonné de les voir évoquer à propos de la réunion du Comité du programme. On aurait pu, aussi, les évoquer sur d'autres points de notre ordre du jour. Je pense qu'il est plus ou moins opportun aujourd'hui de se référer au mandat du Comité du programme et de comparer les travaux et les propositions qui nous sont présentés à ce mandat. Pour ma part, nous estimons que ce comité est engagé dans la bonne direction.

Temel ISKIT (Turkey): I would like to thank Mr. Mazoyer for his presentation and to say that we were not considering taking the floor during the discussion of this item, because my delegation was in agreement with both reports of the Programme Committee and we did not deem it necessary to take up all the subjects and review them one by one. However, as this very important subject was raised and the discussion continued on the subject, (I refer to the subject raised by the Danish Delegation, and supported by other delegations) that is why we deem it necessary to repeat what we have said under item 12. 1 of the Agenda. About three days ago, when we were discussing financial questions such

issues were raised in a different manner and on this question we had to make some remarks I will not repeat them in full but I just want to say that my delegation is ready to contribute to the process of increasing the efficiency of the Organization. At the same time, we think that this an ongoing process, with the full cooperation of the Member Countries and the Secretariat. This ongoing process can be more fruitfully served by debating these matters on the appropriate occasions and in the appropriate fora and by observing the procedures established by our Organization.

We just wanted to make this statement which is only repetition of what we have already said.

Javed MUSHARRAF (Pakistan): I would just like to say that we were not thinking of taking the floor but for a different reason to Turkey, mainly because I am a member of the Programme Committee, I hope one of the much questioned, and not questionable, members of the Programme Committee. I think that our task is merely to stand by the report which we have prepared and there is the need to listen. I am not only a member but a new member and as the chairman has said in the introduction, it takes a number of years to get to know the work and to appreciate it. I am just an apprentice, rather an "enfant" and I hope not an "enfant terrible" as Canada has described itself.

The Ambassador of Denmark has made a very thoughtful, very provocative and very original statement, as always. We thought that we should also express some thoughts on the matter as an immediate reaction, although not a very considerate and detailed reaction. I would like to thank our Chairman, Mr. Mazoyer for his very authentic and special description of the work of the Programme Committee which he gave with such passion the same quality he displays in our meetings of the Programme Committee. I would also join with our Chairman in expressing the sentiments of the FAO staff, especially the Programme and Budget wing who have always provided our Committee with all the information. The divisions concerned, when examining their programmes, will come up with detailed presentations and detailed papers. Even colour transparencies are produced in our meetings, in fact, we have not just transparency but transparencies (plural) in fact, a plethora of transparency.

As far as we in the Programme Committee are concerned, we try our best, within our limitations, and with our respective blasses, to do our job.

I come now to the main points of the issues raised by the delegate of Denmark. Firstly, I would like to seek clarification that the priorities he mentioned are not the same priorities mentioned by the delegate of the United States of America. It is true that in paragraph 9, priority is given to training ECDC, transfer of technology, etc. However, I suspect that what the delegate of Denmark was referring to were not these priorities, but programmes. Whilst training, ECDC, etc. are components of every programme, he was talking of programme priorities, namely fisheries versus forestry, versus nutrition, versus things similar to that. That should be made clear. In saying that, paragraph 9 is also laying down priorities, and I do not think that would satisfy the Representative of Denmark.

Coming to programme priorities which the Representatives of Denmark referred to, one could say that this is already being done by the Programme Committee. It is being done on an ongoing basis at the proper time, but once the programme is set by the Conference, the Programme Committee cannot change its priorities. However, at the proper time, the Programme Committee goes into priorities, and even at improper times, which has happened on the last two occasions which I have attended. At that time priorities were generally discussed or raised. I remember, for example, one member, who is on this floor right now, mentioned the priority of meat and dairy products. Another member of the Programme Committee expressed the fact we would like to de-emphasize this sector. Therefore, the emphasis or de-emphasis on particular sectors or particular programmes defined by the Representative of Denmark is being considered at the proper time, and even at improper times.

Also what to cut down and not just what to increase is sometimes discussed, as pointed out by the delegate of India. There was a long discussion on what to cut down, not to cut down on glossy publications, etc. In the process of the Programme Committee, priorities are discussed and things which are to be cut down are also discussed. Of course, this kind of process has to be strengthened, extended and encouraged to become an ongoing process.

The point raised by the delegate of Austria would be that the Basic Texts certainly do not exclude the Programme Committee, or any other governing body, from examining programme priorities, but of course, at the proper time. The question is, is this now the proper time for doing it? If I am correct, this Council, at this Session, is merely reviewing the work of the Programme Committee, which in itself is only reviewing the programme which has already been approved by the Conference. It certainly seems that neither the Programme Committee, in the last two sessions, nor this Session of the Council, should be examining the programme priorities which are already set by the Conference.

Whilst I agree that governing bodies, including the Programme Committee and the Council, should be examining priorities in the long run, especially at critical times like this, I would agree with the delegate of Congo when he said that perhaps the timing is all right, and with the delegate of India when he said that it should not be done in mid-course. Therefore, perhaps this meeting today should not be doing it.

I now refer to the two programmes which were specifically mentioned by the delegate of Denmark, namely when he spoke of nutrition and human resources. This is not the correct time, but this is a quick response, even though it is the improper time to that. Should the FAO be the lead agency for nutrition? I think the following may be some of the relevant aspects. First of all, let us look at the history. If one can recall, the first Director-General of the FAO was a nutritionist. When the FAO was set up, nutrition was meant to be a very central part of the function and its role. Perhaps it might have deviated from that laid-down path in the course of years. The question is, should it deviate further or should it be restored to the original intention, following the historical path as we see? Food and nutrition is a concept so is health and nutrition. Just as food is linked with nutrition, health is also linked to nutrition. Therefore, both the World Health Organization and FAO seem to have a role to play in nutrition.

As far as the FAO is concerned, the whole reference point of food and agriculture should be nutrition. If one removes that reference point, one can have a situation where you have agriculture without food, and food without nutrition. Removing the central reference point in its original mandate of nutrition would have the dangerous consequence of creating more food without nutrition. Perhaps there is a need to strengthen the nutritional side—the linkage of the Nutrition division with the other divisions of FAO incorporating nutrition as much as possible into all projects of food and agriculture, etc? Should the World Health Organization be doing this?

My personal observation is that the World Health Organization consists mainly of doctors. Doctors are known to have a bias in under-emphasizing nutrition everywhere. One sees it in hospitals, in doctors' prescriptions and in doctors' attitudes. Are doctors the correct people, or are agriculturists the correct people to be entrusted with the very important task of nutrition? It is a question which we have to carefully examine.

Another question which must be asked is what competence has the FAO built up and what competence has the World Health Organization built up in this field of nutrition compared to all the other bodies? I do not think a judgement is possible at this stage without all the facts being known to us. Another fact is that the World Health Organization devotes only 2 percent of its budget to nutrition. One can perhaps question whether or not it's really concerned much about nutrition at the present compared to the FAO? I would agree with the delegate of France when he said we do not have the facts, and that this is not the proper time to go into it. However, the Programme Committee, the Council and the Conference, in principle, should be doing this.

Elio PASCARELLI (Italy): I ask for thirty seconds because I do not want it thought, after so many speakers and so many lectures this evening, that the absence of a word from the Host Country should be misinterpreted as being indifference or showing lack of interest. Let me only felicitate and congratulate the hard work done by this Committee, especially, the presentation and the leadership by the Chairman, Mr. Mazoyer, and to say that we do not feel strangers to this Committee. By reading these excellent documents we feel a part of this Committee. We fully justify the existence of the Committee and appreciate the discussions and the depth of the discussions which under his leadership took place. We wish to congratulate all members of the Committee for their work.

Carlos DINATOR (Observador de Chile): Gracias por referirse al tema de los informes de los periodos de sesiones 50 y 51 del Comité de Programas.

Sr. Presidente, en el párrafo 105 del documento CL 90/3 se mencionan las actividades del programa que se traducen en la contribución en cooperación con los Estados Miembros para identificar, formular, ejecutar programas orientados a mitigar la pobreza rural. Dentro de este contexto, Sr. Presidente, mi delegación se complace en poner énfasis en la ejecución de programas que tiendan a hacer efectiva la idea del Sr. Presidente de Colombia, Excelentísimo Sr. Virgilio Barco, en contra de la pobreza absoluta.

En Chile hemos enfrentado desde hace algunos años el problema con la denominación genérica de erradicación de los sectores de extrema pobreza, que es preocupación prioritaria de mi Gobierno, incluyendo diversos programas nutricionales y de emergencia con el efectivo incremento del gasto social dentro del presupuesto en los términos abrumadores que este Consejo conoce y con la erradicación de las debidas miserias que se encuentran en disminución igual que la emigración desde el campo a la ciudad.

Sr. Presidente, la delegación alienta el concepto del CPTD y las conclusiones del Plan de Acción de Buenos Aires sobre cooperación técnica entre países en desarrollo, mencionado en los párrafos 140 y siguientes del mismo documento CL 90/3 y exhorta a atender tales conclusiones asociándose a lo dicho por los colegas latinoamericanos.

Sr. Presidente, refiriéndome a los párrafos 30 y 31 del documento CL 90/16, permítame felicitar al Comité de Programas por sus conclusiones en lo que se refiere a los servicios de bibliotecas y de información y, por lo tanto, concordamos con lo expresado al respecto por Austria.

Mi delegación apoya lo indicado por la de Dinamarca en lo relativo a la importancia del papel de la FAO en el campo de la nutrición en coordinación estrecha con otros organismos del sistema de Naciones Unidas tales como MS, aspecto en el cual mi delegación se permite agregar a la UNICEF por la invaluable labor de esta organización en el apoyo de la infancia sin que para lo anterior sea necesario cambiar los textos básicos de la FAO y considerando la necesidad de no incurrir en mayores gastos.

Con respecto a los textos básicos, me permito recomendar la lectura del preámbulo y del Artículo de la Constitución de la FAO, en los cuales encontramos cinco veces la palabra nutrición.

LE PRESIDENT: Je remercie le Chili et tous les orateurs pour leurs interventions. Nous allons passer la parole au Président du Comité du programme pour qu'il apporte sa contribution à ce débat.

Marcel J. MAZOYER (Président du Comité du programme): Mesdames, Messieurs les Membres du Conseil, je vous remercie des contributions que vous avez apportées à ce débat, et je remercie tout particulièrement parmi vous ceux qui sont mes collègues au Comité du programme et qui ont quelques fois volé à mon secours.

Au nom de mes collègues, je remercie le Conseil dans son ensemble de la large approbation qu'il a donnée à nos travaux, et je leur transmettrai les félicitations particulières que vous m'avez adressées personnellement.

Je vais répondre à très peu de questions qui nous ont été posées. En particulier celles concernant notre mode de fonctionnement. Je ne veux ni intervenir dans votre débat, ni me substituer à vous pour ce qui est de vos opinions sur les programmes et la manière dont nous travaillons. Mais, vous nous dites par exemple: "vous approuvez 70 programmes, ou vous donnez la priorité à 70 programmes" ce qui n'est pas tout à fait la même chose... En effet, si on nous présente 70 programmes qui ont été justifiés il y a un an par le Comité, le Conseil et la Conférence, il me semblerait tout à fait étonnant qu'un an après, dans les conditions que le monde connaît aujourd'hui, ces programmes soient tout d'un coup non justifiés. Cela n'a pas de sens.

Vous nous dites: "Vous n'établissez pas de priorité, puisque vous ne dites pas ce qu'il faut sacrifier". C'est exactement ainsi que la question a été posée. Dire ce qu'il faut sacrifier n'a rien à voir avec établir des priorités. S'il y a des programmes, il peut arriver qu'ils deviennent obsolètes ou inutiles et je pense que nous devrions nous en apercevoir et que nous le dirions.

Ce que nous faisons, par contre et beaucoup plus souvent c'est, à l'intérieur de la discussion de la situation dans la phase des années paires, d'examiner au fond les questions qui se posent dans le monde, d'examiner ce que la FAO a mis en place avec votre accord. Je vous confirme même si tous les Membres du Conseil ne le pensent pas que tous les membres du Comité du programme pensent que nos moyens sont très en dessous de ce qui serait nécessaire. C'est très triste à constater, mais une crise budgétaire se dessine; la crise agricole et alimentaire ne se dessine pas: elle est là depuis 15 ans, et s'aggrave tous les jours; et elle est à nos yeux beaucoup plus importante que la crise budgétaire, même si l'Organisation doit un jour en souffrir.

Soyons clairs: établir des programmes qu'il faudrait supprimer ne se présente pas souvent. Par contre, souvent, au cours de discussions, nous découvrons qu'on pourrait insister davantage sur telle chose et moins sur telle autre, infléchir en quelque sorte le système de programmes que vous avez approuvé. Et cela, nous le disons, et si vous lisez bien le document il décroche assez de ce qui a été dit l'année dernière ou il y a deux ans. Lisez bien le document; il y a sur la recherche, le développement, l'information, les publications, les technologies appropriées, des chapitres qui ne collent pas tellement au passé tel qu'on le lisait dans les rapports à une certaine époque. Nous faisons notre travail qui consiste à éclairer l'avenir des programmes.

Vous nous dites aussi que nous n'avons pas étudié une véritable rénovation de l'Organisation et un nouveau plan d'action mondial pour les questions de la sécurité alimentaire, etc. C'est vrai, mais on ne nous l'a pas demandé et ce n'était pas à l'ordre du jour. Cela ne veut pas d'ailleurs dire que nous serions compétente à tous points de vue pour le faire.

Ceci étant dit, je voudrais lever une illusion: si nous n'exposons pas nos analyses de la situation mondiale, si nous n'exposons pas notre analyse des mécanismes qui produisent la crise agricole et alimentaire mondiale, si nous n'exposons pas les raisons pour lesquelles nous pensons que les trois quarts de la paysannerie du tiers monde sont en difficulté, ou en voie de disparition, cela ne veut pas dire que nous ne pensons rien à ce sujet. Cela veut dire que nous pensons que vous êtes peut-être à même de le faire vous-mêmes, que cela a peut-être déjà été dit et redit, et qu'il n'est peut-être pas opportun de rappeler de telles analyses et de telles théories.

Par contre, quand nous disons que nous savons quand même que l'objectif fondamental de l'Organisation est d'établir dans un délai historique, aussi rapproché que possible, une vraie sécurité alimentaire dans ce monde, nous savons qu'il faut le faire sans sacrifier les ressources naturelles de cette planète et donc sous cette contrainte. Nous savons que si il y a une crise agricole et alimentaire, elle est due à la crise d'une grande partie de l'économie paysanne du tiers monde, par conséquent que cela doit être la cible principale. Et c'est à la lumière de cela que nous examinons chaque programme, chaque orientation, chaque question.

Mais nous n'allons pas écrire à toutes les pages: c'est cela et on en tient compte... Si vous nous lisez bien, vous verrez que tous les programmes du Comité vont dans ce sens; nous en avons discuté, même si nous n'en avons pas fait état dans le rapport.

Je voudrais ajouter autre chose. S'il fallait véritablement étudier la situation agricole et alimentaire mondiale, les causes profondes de sa crise, s'il fallait véritablement évaluer les moyens à mettre en oeuvre pour la résoudre, s'il fallait évaluer de quoi aurait besoin la FAO, non pas pour résoudre à elle seule tout cela, mais pour y participer honorablement, je pense que l'on aurait des surprises budgétaires énormes.

On nous a également dit que nous n'examinions pas les programmes dans le cadre du budget; c'est absolument faux. Quand nous examinons le sommaire du programme de travail du budget, et cela a été fait il y a un an, nous le faisons avec le même document que le Comité des finances; et nous savons dans quel cadre budgétaire cela se passe. Cette année, nous n'avons pas travaillé dans un cadre budgétaire étroit; nous avons travaillé dans l'hypothèse où, grosso modo, les ressources de l'Organisation restaient du même ordre de grandeur, ce qui ne suppose aucun doublement des programmes, ni même aucun accroissement de 50 ou 30 pour cent des programmes, et ce qui ne suppose pas non plus une réduction de moitié. Peut-être sera-ce 10 pour cent... 15 pour cent si vous en jugez... Nous n'avons pas à anticiper sur des réductions budgétaires qui ne nous ont pas été officiellement annoncées, ou qui ne répondaient peut-être qu'à quelques désirs de tel ou tel membre de l'Organisation; nous n'avons pas à anticiper là-dessus. Si vous nous dites que l'année prochaine le programme de travail et budget passera à 50 pour cent de l'ancien programme, bien entendu nous travaillerons dans le cadre de 50 pour cent. Ce n'est pas nous qui fixons le budget à venir, ni les réductions de celui-ci.

Il n'a jamais été prévu que nous travaillions dans l'ignorance des budgets. Bien au contraire, nous en sommes très conscients. Il y a des tas de choses que nous aimerions proposer, mais que nous ne pouvons pas faire. Peut-être est-ce la limite de nos réflexions.

Tels sont les commentaires que je désirais faire pour essayer de mieux faire comprendre le cadre dans lequel nous travaillons, ce que nous faisons, ce que nous pouvons faire, de même que ce que nous ne pouvons pas faire. Peut-être faisons-nous plus que ce qui est écrit dans notre rapport. Cela aussi il fallait le dire.

DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL: I think for this side of the podium it is only necessary to deal at this late hour with two specific areas which have emerged in the course of the debate. I would like to speak first of the proposal put forward on behalf of the Nordic countries by the representative of Denmark and supported by a number of other representatives in the course of the discussion.

The time may be coming when the membership of FAO at large will want a complete review made of the Organization's priorities, roles, procedures and programmes. Such a review can be made in two ways. It can be made in a way that is divisive and leads to acrimony, or it can be carried out in a way that is harmonious and leads to consensus. I am sure that the Nordic countries and others who spoke in favour of the proposal would wish the objective to be a series of harmonious and consensus decisions at the end of the line.

Now I would like to make two observations. First of all, what the delegations who spoke on this matter have in mind is clearly a quite radical review of FAO and how it works, not a simple shuffling of priorities. I can just refer to the three examples that come to mind that were given as the sort of things that such a review might deal with. One was the idea of setting up a joint division on nutrition with WHO; another was a joint division on human resources with ILO and the

third was the possible merger of the Programme and Finance Committees. Now I believe it is entirely unrealistic to expect the Director-General simply to come forward in a paper with radical proposals of this nature. Such decisions, if they were to be taken, must surely emerge gradually as the desires of Member Nations crystalize, as they have time to think about these issues and as they come to translate their views into specific proposals. If this is to be handled in a harmonious way I would make the following suggestions. 1987 is the year of the new Programme of Work and Budget. Linked to the Programme of Work and Budget itself we shall be considering the Organization's Medium-Term Objectives. Under a Conference decision, the Medium-Term Objectives are proposed by the Director-General in the document containing the Programme of Work and Budget. It is not only that these objectives will be considered in the Programme of Work and Budget through the Programme and Finance Committees and Council, the question of Medium-Term objectives will also be on the Agenda of perhaps the Organization's most important single technical committee, namely the Committee on Agriculture.

Surely the discussions in the Committee on Agriculture, the Programme Committee, the Finance Committee and the Council will enable Member Nations to express their views and proposals on this extremely important matter. All these views and suggestions, on the one hand the Director-General's views relating to medium term objectives, on the other hand the views and suggestions put forward by Member Nations, will converge in the Conference. Surely then the Conference can decide whether it wishes to launch such a full-scale review. It can set the broad terms of reference and content of such a review and it can establish the procedures for carrying it out. As was recalled by several speakers, this is by no means the first time this has been done in FAO and invariably so far the mechanism has been a Committee established by the Conference. There is no inevitable reason why things should be the same again this time just because they were that way in the past. However, as a general thought I would suggest that such a procedure would permit the proposals and views which have been expressed to be handled in exactly the harmonious manner, hopefully leading to a consensus at the end of the line, which I have advocated as the most desirable end.

The second point I would like to mention relates to the section in the Report of the Programme Committee dealing with operational activities. It was paragraphs 151 to 160. These paragraphs, I may recall, went forward to the United Nations Economic and Social Council and were considered in an overall debate on the operational activities of the UN system.

Insofar as these paragraphs have come in for criticism in the course of the debate, I see it as being criticism for the sin of not being bland, of not pretending that everything is for the best in the best of all possible worlds.

This section does not hide the fact that there have been and are tensions in the partnership between UNDP and FAO, and incidentally with other agencies also. This fact was brought home to delegates attending the Economic and Social Council, in many cases, I believe, the same delegations who attend the UNDP Governing Council, and it did at least bring home to them the fact that there is another side of the story, that there is an FAO view on the tensions to which I referred.

I believe that this whole exercise may well prove to have been useful in bringing these matters into the open and in leading towards their reduction and ultimately, we hope, in their elimination.

I do not wish to pursue the controversy on this matter, but just in case anybody has the feeling that the story is as simple as was described by the representative of UNDP earlier-and I am sorry he is not here to hear me-I would just recall that there is a gendarme in the UN system, and this gendarme is the Joint Inspection Unit. About three years ago, the Joint Inspection Unit put forward a report that was critical of the UNDP's office for project execution. As far as I know, no action has been taken on the Report of the Joint Inspection Unit. I mention this merely to bring home to the Council that matters are not quite as simple as they might have thought.

I would like to recall that in 1987 there will be a new report on operational activities going forward to the Economic and Social Council. We discussed this under another Agenda item and the Council has already noted the arrangements that will be made for FAO to comment on a short list of specific operational questions put to all the agencies of the system by the Economic and Social Council. So there will be this further report on operational activities in 1987 and the content of the FAO response will be going via the Programme Committee to the Council.

LE PRESIDENT: Je remercie le Directeur général adjoint de sa réponse aux deux points importants soulevés par notre Conseil. Notre Conseil a bien travaillé; il a examiné le rapport présenté par le Président du Comité du programme relatif à sa 51^{ème} session.

Je pense pouvoir traduire le sentiment général du Conseil en disant que ce document a recueilli l'agrément de la grande majorité du Conseil et, sauf objection des membres du Conseil, nous pourrions le considérer comme approuvé.

J'ai noté personnellement le choix des activités cibles par le Comité du programme: à savoir la promotion des petits producteurs, la formation et le transfert de technologies, la promotion de la coopération économique et technique dans les pays en voie de développement (point 9) ont été notés avec satisfaction, bien que cela ne soit pas bien entendu la seule possibilité de cibles pour la FAO.

La question relative à la cohérence et l'harmonie des actions de développement entre la FAO et le PNUD a attiré l'attention d'un certain nombre de membres du Conseil. Tout le monde a souligné l'intérêt à renforcer la cohérence et l'harmonie dans ces actions, en tous cas à renforcer la complémentarité entre les actions de développement des deux organisations, étant précisé que le Directeur général adjoint nous a fait part du rapport qui va être présenté dans des réunions ultérieures du Comité du Programme aux fins de suivre cette opération de près.

Pour ce qui est de l'autre question importante, celle du rôle du Comité du programme et du Comité financier de la FAO, et en ce qui concerne le Comité du programme, il y a lieu de souligner que ce Comité se devait de travailler sur la base du Règlement intérieur de la FAO et des programmes approuvés par la Conférence générale de 1985. Nous sommes donc amenés à examiner un rapport établi conformément à ces textes fondamentaux.

Quant à l'idée d'une étude sur le rôle à long terme de la FAO et de ses organes directeurs, j'ai noté personnellement qu'un grand nombre d'orateurs ont dit qu'ils n'avaient pas d'éléments pour aborder une telle étude et qu'ils n'étaient pas prêts pour une telle étude. Je pense que le processus proposé par le Directeur général adjoint pour le choix des priorités serait susceptible de constituer une façon fine, souple et intelligente de répondre à la question du choix des priorités avec efficacité et cohérence et de façon à satisfaire les Etats Membres.

Nous pourrions nous arrêter en ce qui concerne ce point de l'ordre du jour.

13. First Report on Unscheduled and Cancelled Sessions in the 1986-87 Biennium

13. Premier rapport sur les réunions hors programme et les réunions annulées pendant l'exercice 1986-87

13. Primer informe sobre las reuniones no previstas y anuladas en el bienio 1986-87

V. J. SHAH (Director, Office of Programme, Budget and Evaluation): This document is submitted to the Council for information, in accordance with the practice which began a long time ago in 1968. The Council since then requested the Director-General to submit such a document once a year indicating the changes which have occurred in the meetings scheduled. It was approved as part of the Programme of Work and Budget for the biennium. We have tried, over the years, to make this document as clear and as self-explanatory as possible. You will see that during 1986 to date, 34 unscheduled sessions were approved for reasons which are explained for each meeting. Thirty sessions have been cancelled, again with reasons explaining why they were cancelled. In view of the lateness of the hour, perhaps you would prefer me not to make any further comments. However, of course, I am at your disposal if any Member would wish to raise any questions.

LE PRESIDENT: Le Conseil a-t-il des observations à formuler? Nous avons donc pris note des explications de M. Shah et nous le remercions.

14. Revised Calendar of 1986-87 Sessions of the Council and of Those Bodies which report to the Council:

14. Calendrier révisé des sessions de 1986-87 du Conseil et des organes qui lui font rapport:

14. Calendarlo revisado para 1986-87 de los periodos de sesiones del Consejo y de los órganos que le rinden informes:

LE SECRETAIRE GENERAL: Le point 14 concerne le calendrier révisé des sessions principales pour l'exercice 1986-87. Vous êtes saisie du document CL 90/18-Rev. 1, qui expose ces modifications.

Prenant la page 2 de ce document, je voudrais indiquer exactement où il y a des changements et tout d'abord les changements dans les réunions qui ont déjà eu lieu. Nous trouvons, au mois de septembre,

le Comité technique de la Conférence régionale pour l'Afrique qui a fini ses travaux le 6 septembre au lieu du 5. Le Comité du programme s'est réuni du 22 septembre au 1er octobre alors qu'il était prévu à l'origine qu'il se réunisse du 15 au 26 septembre. Ces dates ont été modifiées parce qu'elles coïncidaient avec une réunion du FIDA d laquelle certains membres du Comité du programme devaient participer. Troisièmement, enfin, le Comité financier a achevé ses travaux le 2 octobre alors qu'il était prévu qu'il siège jusqu'au 3.

Voyons maintenant les réunions à venir pour lesquelles il y aura des changements. Au mois de décembre 1986, nous avons, le 15 et le 16, la session extraordinaire du Comité financier dont le Conseil a déjà amplement entendu parler. Il n'y a qu'un changement pour l'année 1987: le Comité des produits va se réunir du 7 au 13 octobre alors qu'il était prévu, à l'origine, qu'il se réunisse du 15 au 21 juillet. La raison en est que la septième CNUCED doit maintenant se tenir au mois de juillet, du 6 au 31, ce qui recouvrait en partie les dates de réunion du Comité des produits. Nous avons donc dû changer le calendrier initialement proposé.

Il appartient au Conseil d'approuver ou non ce calendrier révisé.

LE PRESIDENT: Je remercie le Secrétaire général au sujet de ce calendrier révisé (CL 90/18-Rev. 1). Y a-t-il des observations?

Javed MUSHARRAF (Pakistan): Just a question on a technical matter which perhaps may be in bad taste when we are in open Council. However, I think under the Basic Texts of the Organization, dates are fixed by the Secretariat in consultation with the respective Chairmen. If that is correct, at least in one meeting I notice here the Chairmen were not consulted either in fixing the date for it nor the change in it. If that is the case, perhaps the Secretariat can clarify whether or not the procedure has been followed? I am referring to the Committee on Commodity Problems of which I happen to be the Chairman.

LE SECRETAIRE GENERAL: Je crois que les personnes qualifiées pour répondre à cette question seraient nos collègues de la Division des produits et du département économique et social qui ont la responsabilité première d'organiser les sessions du Comité. Le Service des conférences n'a pour sa part, qu'à exécuter, à prendre les dispositions matérielles voulues et à les communiquer aux Etats Membres. Je ne suis pas en mesure de vous dire si il y a eu ou non consultations entre le Président du Comité et la Division technique chargée d'organiser la réunion, en l'occurrence la Division des produits.

Javed MUSHARRAF (Pakistan): On the point of consultation, they were not consulted because I was one of the parties involved. However, I would not like to put a spanner in the works and say I do not agree with the date. The point is, consultation should have taken place.

LE PRESIDENT: Le Secrétariat à l'avenir tiendra compte de ces remarques. Je pense qu'on peut accepter cette modification.

III. ACTIVITIES OF FAO AND WFP (continued)

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

III. ACTIVIDADES DE LA FAO Y DEL PMA (continuación)

9. Progress Report on World Food Day Activities:

9. Rapport intérimaire sur les activités de la Journée mondiale de l'alimentation:

9. Informe sobre las actividades del Día Mundial de la Alimentación:

R. MORENO ROJAS (Dirección de Recursos Humanos, Instituciones y Reforma Agraria): En aras del tiempo reduciré aun más la declaración que la Secretaría desea hacer sobre este tema. Creo que es materia bastante conocida por los miembros y observadores de este Consejo.

Quisiera agregar algo al documento que ha sido circulado, dos tipos de informaciones. La primera destaca que el Día Mundial de la Alimentación de 1986, cuyo tema fue "los pescadores o sus comunidades, " tuvo una gran acogida en los distintos países del mundo dado lo innovativo del tema mismo y el atractivo que tenía para los países en la forma en que éste podría ser organizado.

Para solemnizar la ceremonia que se realizó aquí en la sede central de la FAO en Roma, el Director General invitó a la señora Presidente de Islandia, señora Vigdis Finnbogadottir, al señor Ministro de Agricultura de Italia, señor Filippo Maria Pandolfi y al Secretario General de la Liga de Estados Arabes, señor Chedli Klibi. Ellos, junto con el Director General, se dirigieron a la Asamblea que se convocó en forma plenaria en ese día y señalaron junto con distintos mensajes que fueron recibidos, la prioridad y la importancia de este tema. He de destacar, también, que en dicha ocasión fue leído un mensaje especial enviado por Su Santidad el Papa Juan Pablo II.

El segundo punto que yo quisiera señalar, es en relación con el tema escogido por el Director General para conmemorar el Día Mundial de la Alimentación del año 1987. Es en esta ocasión, señor Presidente, que tenemos la posibilidad de anunciar oficialmente el tema escogido con el objeto de facilitar la preparación a nivel nacional de este tipo de eventos.

El tema seleccionado y que está muy en línea con lo que ha sido el debate recientemente celebrado, es "El pequeño Agricultor". Este es un tema que prácticamente en su profundidad tiene una significación en todos los países, la mayoría de las delegaciones se han referido insistentemente a la necesidad no sólo de vincular las acciones nacionales, sino que los distintos programas internacionales a él, y obviamente la flexibilidad que ha venido siendo adquirida en la observación nacional con la vinculación de los Comités nacionales, los organismos no gubernamentales y otras entidades de tipo cultural que existen dentro de los países, estamos ciertos que el tema del pequeño agricultor, o los pequeños agricultores es un tema que realmente podrá ser celebrado en forma adecuada.

Las vinculaciones de este aspecto con la seguridad alimentaria, con la misma discusión que se celebrará en Roma en el año 1987, en la Conferencia General, cuando sea presentado el informe **sobre** los avances logrados en materia de desarrollo rural y reforma agraria, para los cuales los propios países hoy día están preparando sus temas, tienen una vinculación que obviamente, escapa a lo que en estos momentos yo mismo podría detallar.

Creo, señor Presidente, que puedo detenerme en este momento. La declaración de la Secretaría era más extensa, se la haremos llegar a nuestro colega, el Secretario del Consejo, en el caso de que la desee insertar y quiero decirle que en la Secretaría hemos recibido, o estamos recibiendo, los informes de los países respecto de lo que fue la celebración del Año 1986. Por lo tanto, para ganar tiempo, sugiero que, salvo que alguna delegación en forma muy particular lo desee hacer acá, podrían ser entregados igualmente los textos para completar la información si lo desean, al Secretario del Consejo, y ello vendrá insertado dentro del texto de esta reunión.

Hermann REDL (Austria): Owing to the late time and your recommendation I shall try to be very brief. As regards the preparation of information material for World Food Day, it may be remarked that we should try in the future to prepare up-to-date information on the world food situation, agricultural and forestry production and so on, in order to meet the requirements of the mass media. The monthly FAO publications coming out in the autumn, for example, The State of Food Production Year Book could be prepared in the form of an abstract for the media. This could be done, for instance, by means of updated Information sheets. Costs could be kept considerably low. Due to the present world food situation, it seems to be of utmost importance to draw the attention of the public to the world food programmes, and in particular, to the solutions initiated by FAO.

Donat CHINKUMO (Cameroun): J'avais un petit exposé à faire mais je pourrais peut-être le remettre au Secrétariat. Dans cet exposé, je décris l'organisation de la Journée mondiale de l'alimentation au Cameroun, en 1986.

Joachim WINKEL (Germany, Federal Republic of): I will do the same, with your permission, I will hand in a statement.

LE PRESIDENT: Je pense que tout le monde est conscient de notre contrainte de temps. De toute façon, les interventions du Cameroun, de la République fédérale d'Allemagne et de l'Egypte seront versées au procès-verbal du Conseil et tout le monde pourra en bénéficier.

Donat CHINKUMO (Cameroun): La délégation camerounaise remercie la FAO pour l'institution de la Journée mondiale de l'alimentation; en effet, depuis 1981, cette Journée donne lieu à tous les pays membres aux ONG dont les activités s'apparentent à celles de la FAO, ainsi qu'à différentes couches sociales ici et là, à réfléchir et à méditer sur les problèmes de la faim, de la malnutrition et du sous-développement. Ceci conduit les uns et les autres aux solutions possibles et envisageables.

Ces maux se manifestent, Monsieur le Président, de différentes façons d'un pays à l'autre, et dans un même pays d'une région à l'autre: tantôt c'est le problème d'enclavement, tantôt le manque d'eau aggravé le plus souvent par une sécheresse aiguë, prolongée et répétée. Mais l'aspect ou la forme qui se rencontre partout et qui est général en Afrique au sud du Sahara, c'est le bas niveau des connaissances des techniques agricoles modernes et le manque des moyens financiers pour s'approvisionner en inputs agricoles et j'entends non seulement les engrais, les pesticides et les semences à haut rendement ou semences améliorées mais aussi les machines agricoles; je suis convaincu que le retard enregistré par cette région du globe en matière de production agricole ne pourra être sensiblement réduit que grâce à la mécanisation. . .

J'ai l'air de divaguer, Monsieur le Président, d'être hors sujet, puisqu'il est plutôt question de la Journée mondiale de l'alimentation. Oui, peut-être, peut-être que par réflexe je me suis tout d'un coup retrouvé le 16 octobre 1985 ou 1986. En effet, durant cette Journée, l'ensemble des Camerounais, soutenus par les médias, presse, radio et depuis cette année télévision, se livrent à une telle réflexion: à savoir

-pourquoi le pays est-il à la traîne des compétitions internationales de production. . .

-comment notre région pourra-t-elle faire pour sortir de cette situation. . .

Certes, certains pays de la région ont atteint en quelque sorte l'autosuffisance alimentaire; mais cela est jugé très précaire et des efforts devraient être soutenus pour la maintenir.

Je vais maintenant parler de l'organisation de la Journée mondiale proprement dite. La Journée de l'année 1985 avait pour thème: La forêt, la pauvreté rurale, l'environnement. Je me permets d'ouvrir ici une parenthèse pour informer le Conseil qu'il existe au Cameroun la Cellule de coordination des manifestations marquant la célébration des JMA.

En examinant donc le thème que je viens de mentionner, la Cellule avait estimé qu'il pouvait être divisé en trois thèmes différents, mais compte tenu de la diversité climatique au Cameroun, ce thème a été adopté tel quel et elle avait retenu que chaque région devrait le traiter en insistant davantage sur les problèmes propres de la localité.

Donc, outre le Séminaire régional JMA 1985 que le Cameroun avait eu l'insigne honneur d'abriter dans la province du Sud-Ouest, séminaire qui s'est déroulé sous la présidence effective du Ministre de l'agriculture du pays hôte, la Cellule avait organisé au niveau de chacune de nos dix provinces, des conférences, des débats et des tables rondes.

Tout cela avait des échos dans la presse parlée et écrite. Autres manifestations prévues et réalisées:

-la fabrication des flammes publicitaires avec comme slogan: "Halte à la destruction des forêts camerounaises";

-la fabrication des affiches illustrant la pauvreté rurale;

-la conception des spots radiophoniques sur la forêt, la pauvreté rurale et l'environnement.

Il importe de préciser que nous avons également mis à profit tout le matériel relatif à la 5e JMA que la FAO nous avait adressé; il s'agit notamment des brochures, des affiches et des timbres JMA.

Je me dois de préciser qu'il a été bien souligné le fait que la célébration de la 5e JMA coïncidait avec le 40e anniversaire de la FAO, ceci tant au niveau du séminaire régional qu'au niveau des manifestations nationales.

S'agissant de la 6e JMA, le 16 octobre 1986, la Cellule a décidé de procéder de la même façon qu'en 1985, bien entendu sur le thème: Les pêcheurs et leurs communautés.

La Cellule a cependant retenu outre les manifestations routinières, puisque nous célébrons la JMA depuis 1981, la réalisation d'un film vidéo sur: -la pêche industrielle, -la pêche artisanale maritime, -la pêche continentale, -la pisciculture. Donc, un film en quatre épisodes.

Comme par le passé, la JMA 1986 a été précédée au Cameroun d'une semaine de sensibilisation ouverte par une déclaration radiodiffusée et télévisée du Président de la Cellule de coordination des manifestations JMA.

Durant cette semaine qui a débuté le 10 octobre 1986, le film a été diffusé à la télévision; autre innovation: jeux-concours radiodiffusés et télévisés organisés au niveau des élèves du primaire et du premier cycle du secondaire.

Comme les autres années, la semaine a été clôturée par une déclaration radiodiffusée ainsi que par un discours également radiodiffusé et télévisé du Ministre de l'élevage des pêches et des industries animales.

S'il n'y avait pas le problème financier qui semble poindre à l'horizon pour la FAO, j'aurais souhaité que le Secrétariat ou le Service de la documentation nous envoie un peu plus d'affiches et de timbres JMA; le nombre d'affiches et de timbres que nous avons reçu jusqu'ici est toujours très restreint et nous avons du mal à les répartir sur les dix provinces.

S'il était possible d'avoir le thème de la Journée un an à l'avance, les manifestations pourraient être mieux organisées et mieux réfléchies. 1/

Joachim WINKEL (Germany, Federal Republic of): In our national activities on the occasion of World Food Days 1985 and 1986 we have also noted, as stated in document CL 90/15, a growing public interest in World Food Day in our country. Our observances of World Food Day met with a great response in the news media and among the public.

Because of our Federal constitution we entrust every year another Federal state with the organization of World Food Day. In 1985 the state of Baden-Württemberg was the organizer, in 1986 the state of Schleswig-Holstein. The public interest in this year's World Food Day-as already noticed in previous years-has been increasing again. Federal Minister Kiechle will soon send our national report on World Food Day activities to the Director-General 2/

Adel Helmy EL SARKI (Egypt): The Egyptian delegation always appreciates the efforts of FAO in respect to drawing the attention of public opinion to the dimensions of food deficit in the world, as well as the necessity of achieving food security, through the selection of 16 October of each year to celebrate World Food Day, which we all consider the front which reflects the efforts, programmes, policies and strategies of FAO towards the development of agricultural production. We also appreciate very much the selection of various subjects in celebrating this Day. We are convinced of the vital role played by fisheries, among other economic sectors, in fulfilling the protein gap and providing food. Egypt celebrated this year with that Day. The celebration was attended by His Excellency the Deputy Prime Minister for Agriculture and all the high ranking officers in the Agricultural Sector. His Excellency made a speech indicating the national efforts towards the development of the fisheries sector in Egypt and the role of FAO in assisting this sector. Some fishermen were selected to receive certificates of achievement. In addition to this, a competition was undertaken among the pupils of preparatory and secondary schools in the Arabic language for the best article on the role of fisheries, in order to increase their knowledge with regard to the important role of fisheries, and its impact on the nutritional level in Egypt. The first ten pupils were granted certificates of achievement and prizes. 2/

The meeting rose at 20. 15.

La séance est levée à 20 h 15.

Se levanta la sesión a las 20. 15 horas.

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

2/ Statement inserted in the verbatim records on request.

council

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

conseil

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

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ORGANIZACION DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS PARA LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION

CL

CL 90/PV/17

Ninetieth Session

Quatre-vingt-dixième session

90º período de sesiones

**SEVENTEENTH PLENARY MEETING
DIX-SEPTIEME SEANCE PLENIERE
17ª SESION PLENARIA
(27 November 1986)**

The Seventeenth Plenary Meeting was opened at 10. 15 hours,
Lassaad Ben Osman, Independent Chairman of the Council, presiding

La dix-huitième séance plénière est ouverte à 10 h 15, sous la
présidence de Lassaad Ben Osman, Président indépendant du Conseil

Se abre la 17ª sesión plenaria a las 10. 15 horas, bajo la presidencia
de Lassaad Ben Osman, Presidente Independiente del Consejo

- V. CONSTITUTIONAL AND LEGAL MATTERS (continued)
- V. QUESTIONS CONSTITUTIONNELLES ET JURIDIQUES (suite)
- V. ASUNTOS CONSTITUCIONALES Y JURIDICOS (continuación)
- 15. Report of the Forty-Eighth Session of the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters including;
- 15. Rapport de la quarante-huitième session du Comité des questions constitutionnelles et juridiques, notamment;
- 15. Informe del 48° período de sesiones del Comité de Asuntos Constitucionales y Jurídicos, en particular;
- 15.1 Procedure for Election of Chairmen and Members of the Programme and Finance Committees;
- 15.1 Procédure d'élection des Présidents et des membres du Comité du Programme et du Comité financier;
- 15.1 Procedimiento para la elección de los presidentes y miembros del Comité del Programa y del Comité de Finanzas;

I. ALVARENGA (Presidente del Comité de Asuntos Constitucionales y Jurídicos): Para evitar un posible malentendido ruego al Consejo que me permita aclarar que he venido expresamente del país a esta reunión, de mi país, donde me encontraba, y desde el lunes anticipé que este día me era imposible porque tenía un compromiso extremadamente serio y no podía estar presente en la mañana; ayer quedé en que empezaría el punto a las once y hoy se cambió el tema. No crean que ha sido retraso mío, y en ese sentido pido disculpas al Consejo.

Como sabemos, se trata de dar el informe sobre el 48° período de sesiones del Comité de Asuntos Constitucionales y Jurídicos.

Apenas iniciada la reunión correspondiente, el Comité celebró el ingreso de dos nuevos miembros, dos nuevos países que se integraban al mismo: Sudán y Senegal, así como de nuevos representantes, todos los cuales son personas altamente calificadas pero causó particular agrado el hecho de que el país sede, Italia, hubiese acreditado al profesor Panebianco, Decano de la Facultad de Derecho de Nápoles, jurista de renombre nacional, con lo cual demuestra el país sede la importancia que atribuye a tener un técnico de alto nivel jurídico en el Comité.

Objeto de atención fue, como ustedes lo saben, el mandato expresado por este Consejo durante su 89° período de sesiones de noviembre de 1985, el cual pidió que se analizaran los artículos 26 y 27 del Reglamento General de la Organización para ver si era legalmente aceptable que una región quedase excluida de uno de los Comités de Finanzas o del Programa no obstante presentar un candidato.

Se tuvo presente en la reunión del Comité un amplio documento que por desgracia y por fuerza, porque no podría ser de otro modo, no ha sido sometido a este Consejo, documento en el cual se analizan los aspectos jurídicos y los antecedentes del caso.

En cuanto a los aspectos jurídicos, el iter legislativo, como lo llaman los técnicos, está en el documento a disposición del Consejo, o sea el CL 90/5 de los párrafos 6 a 13. Los miembros del Consejo ya lo habrán leído y no sería necesario entrar en el detalle.

Habrán advertido que el proceso de dictar las normas actualmente en vigor empezó con el nombramiento de un grupo de trabajo por el Consejo en su 68° período de sesiones de noviembre de 1975 y culminó en el 19° período de la Conferencia en 1977.

Hay a este respecto en todo este proceso dos puntos que conviene anotar, si bien es verdad que es recurrente en todo ese proceso el deseo de lograr "una", cito textualmente, "distribución geográfica equitativa", fin de la cita; es igualmente cierto que ni en el espíritu y mucho menos en la letra de las disposiciones en vigor exista la obligación de elegir a un representante de cada región que presente una candidatura.

En principio, pues, las normas vigentes permiten la posibilidad de que cualquier región, cualquiera, pueda quedar excluida de uno o incluso de ambos de esos Comités.

En cuanto a los antecedentes de hecho, o sea la práctica seguida analizada en los párrafos 14 a 18 se demuestra en ella que han habido casos de exclusión de regiones por no presentar candidatos o porque el candidato presentado no resultó electo.

Ha habido, por lo general, la distribución geográfica equitativa que, como decía, parece ser una aspiración del proceso de elaboración de las actuales normas, pero ésta ha sido obviamente basada en las negociaciones que oportunamente se han realizado en la región.

Con esa base, las conclusiones del Comité de Asuntos Constitucionales y Jurídicos, tal como se desprende del documento que tienen ante ustedes, son las siguientes:

En el párrafo 20 se encuentra la primera conclusión y sería en este sentido: "no sólo el proceso de elaboración, o como he dicho hace un momento, lo que los juristas llaman el iter legislativo de los artículos XXVI. 3 y XXVII. 3, sino también la práctica, llevan a la convicción de que, y subrayo esta frase, tal como están las normas actualmente no es obligatorio elegir a un representante de cada región que se presente como candidato".

Segunda conclusión: La conveniencia de mantenerla, y cito de nuevo entre comillas "la representación geográfica justa y equitativa y que su mejor realización-esta es la opinión del Comité-la mejor realización de esa representación geográfica justa y equitativa se obtendría si cada región quedara incluida en los Comités si así lo desean".

Por consiguiente, el Comité consideró que si el Consejo deseaba asegurar legalmente, si deseaba que jurídicamente quedase asegurada la inclusión en los Comités de cada región interesada debía por fuerza reforzar el normamiento, las reglas que están vigentes. Para ello el Comité, sujeto naturalmente a esa decisión de tipo político que el Consejo desearía si lo tiene conveniente tomar, sugiere las tres alternativas que se encuentran al final del documento; cada una de ellas tiene ventajas y desventajas. La primera que incluye el aumento del número de miembros en los Comités tiene inconvenientes, naturalmente, de tipo financiero, pero esos inconvenientes, según se dijo en el Comité de Asuntos Constitucionales y Jurídicos, no son los de mayor peso porque las cifras que se podrían aumentar son de una entidad poco considerable. Realmente el inconveniente de esa solución es de un orden político práctico, o sea que se tendría que entrar a una complicada y quizá interminable negociación sobre a quién y en qué forma corresponderían los nuevos miembros, a cuáles regiones tendrían que atribuirse un mayor número de miembros.

La segunda alternativa tiene la ventaja de que no aumenta el número de miembros, pero se presta, como está dicho en el documento, a que se de el absurdo de que un país que obtenga un alto número de votos no sea elegido y que, en cambio, otro que resulte con un número reducido de adhesiones pase a formar parte del Comité; eso sería realmente un absurdo tanto desde el punto de vista democrático como legal.

La tercera solución a plantear como posible es la que menos problemas presentaría. El único inconveniente que presenta es que volvería más lento el proceso de votación si es que en un caso determinado no hubiese acuerdo dentro de una región sobre sus posibles candidatos.

Finalmente, la última conclusión del Comité es que como ésta es una cuestión política que primero debe resolver el Consejo, el Comité se abstuvo de presentar un texto, una propuesta de reforma a los textos legales en vista de que ésta deberá ser hecha sólo si el Consejo decide reformar el Reglamento vigente.

Quisiera detenerme unos breves segundos en una cuestión que nuestra delegación se ha permitido plantear en una nota verbal que fue circulada ayer, porque hay algunos aspectos que quizá merezcan ser aclarados. Esta idea incluida en esa nota verbal es una vieja idea que incluso nuestra delegación quiso presentar en la Conferencia pasada como un proyecto de resolución y se abstuvo de hacerlo por dos consideraciones fundamentales: una, porque se nos dijo que en ese momento se estaba hablando de hacer economías y que proponer eventuales nuevos gastos no era oportuno. Segunda, y ésta fue la razón más importante, porque hubiera parecido que teníamos un interés personal en que en ese momento se aprobara una resolución que, como es lo que se deduce de la idea circulada, autorizaría el pago de gastos de viaje y permanencia en Roma a los miembros del Comité de Asuntos Constitucionales y Jurídicos como es el caso de los Comités de Finanzas y del Programa.

Por esas dos razones, porque se hablaba entonces de crisis económica y para no aparecer defendiendo un interés personal nos abstuvimos de presentarla durante la Conferencia pasada.

La segunda razón por la cual hemos expuesto esta idea es que para mí personalmente es la última oportunidad que tengo de ponerla a la consideración del Consejo a fin de que si el Consejo la considera una idea digna de atención pueda seguir el procedimiento normal que la llevaría a que sea resuelta definitivamente en la próxima Conferencia. Si esa Conferencia resuelve modificar el actual Reglamento en beneficio del Comité de Asuntos Constitucionales y Jurídicos no será un servidor de ustedes, y probablemente los otros miembros, los que disfrutaremos de los beneficios, sino nuestros sucesores.

Quiero dejar en claro que no he pensado en ningún momento, no lo podríamos hacer, proponer esto como un nuevo punto de la agenda, claro que eso sería completamente fuera de orden; es sólo lanzar una idea al Consejo y ustedes saben que ideas nuevas surgen en cualquier momento, en cualquier reunión. Dependerá de los miembros del Consejo recogerla, considerarla si lo estiman oportuno y digna de ser discutida y someterla en ese caso a los órganos competentes; en ningún momento hemos pensado que se va a resolver en este Consejo el fondo de la cuestión.

En mi condición de Presidente del Comité de Asuntos Constitucionales y Jurídicos y dedicado, como estoy, al Derecho, me parece que la idea propuesta viene en beneficio del Comité, y, en consecuencia, en beneficio de la Organización; de ahí que me he permitido lanzarla.

En este momento estamos hablando de ahorro, estamos hablando de crisis, lo sé, pero la crisis no será permanente; además, sabemos todos que por pobres que seamos a veces hay gastos indispensables que realizar.

Disculpen este paréntesis pero como, repito, me parece que el proponer una idea muy juiciosa va en beneficio de un Organismo que considero importante para la Organización y que simplemente dejo en manos del Consejo para que sean sus miembros quienes determinen si vale la pena discutirla en el futuro o no.

LE PRESIDENT: Je remercie M. Alvarenga, Présidente du Comité des questions constitutionnelles et juridiques pour son exposé introductif et j'ouvre la discussion sur ce sujet, qui a été soulevé lors de la quatre-vingt-neuvième session de ce Conseil.

Igor KIPMAN (Brazil): My delegation has given due consideration and study to the analysis and alternatives put forward by the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters in document CL 90/5. Nevertheless, all that being weighed and balanced, we consider the present composition of both Committees as most appropriate to perform the highly important duties that they have to deal with. That being so, my delegation's understanding is that no modification should be introduced, either in the composition or in the procedural aspects of the election of members. If one analyses the historical background of the work of both Committees, one is led to the conclusion that among others reasons for its efficiency are precisely the number of members, which is small and adequate, and the procedures for election, which afford an appropriate even representation of the various regions. If it has usually been working well and the problems which gave rise for the consultation to the CCLM were an isolated episode, my delegation can see no good reason for modifying a winning team. On the other hand, it seems to us that the true nature of the present issue is of political rather than legal origin.

I do not think it worthwhile to extend myself on this subject, since this Council is not the appropriate forum to discuss it and the whole issue should be referred to the Conference.

Mrs. Millicent M. FENWICK (United States of America): I would like to read a very short statement, and despite the charming remarks of my dear colleague, usually for my own statements I take off my glasses, and stop reading what I have received from Washington. But in all cases I do hope that nobody in this room thinks that my personal observations, although perhaps couched in a little warmer language than the official language which comes from Washington since I am a loyal public servant and I do not say here everything that I may have in my heart-are not just really in my heart, but also in accord, since I am a loyal public servant, with the instructions that my Government has given me on each of these issues. It is just that I phrase them a little differently.

So I would like to say in this light that my Government and I attach great importance to this issue. I do not see it as political. I see it, as has been well said in the document, as a matter of just and equitable geographic representation.

What are the regions? They are the Near East, Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean, and Asia. That is one group of regions. No one is suggesting that that membership should be changed in any way. Certainly my Government does not require that I do and I personally do not think that we should, certainly not here and now, whatever the Committee may decide.

What is the other group-Europe, North America and South-West Pacific. I think that does represent equitable geographic distribution. That is what we are looking for. We cannot sit here day after day bandying around political games. We have to talk about issues, principles, and a just and equitable division of representation of the different areas of this globe. Surely that is a principle. We do not have to question it and call it political. It is a principle. Are three hundred million people to have no representative? What would we say if we were doing this to Africa-outrage, yes--three hundred million people and no representative! Just and equitable, and that is personal, my Government did not tell me to say that.

What it says in paragraph 21, the desirability of maintaining a just and equitable geographic representation on the Committee and each region should be represented if it wishes to be. We are talking about justice and equity. I really think it would be regrettable if North America did not have any representation on this important Finance Committee. We strongly support this view in paragraph 21, and if we are going to go further I wish that we would, here in this Council, give clear guidance to the CCLM that the regulations should be changed in such a way, or to guarantee such representation, and not to try and change the composition of the Committees. We understand the various delicacies of this, but we do believe that the principle of equitable geographic representation must be maintained and stuck to and upheld.

Of the various options presented in document CL 90/5 our Government is perfectly satisfied with alternative 3, confident that the changes that will bring about the just and equitable situation can be achieved under alternative 3.

I urge my colleagues to support this. This is not some fancy principle that nobody has ever heard of. This is a perfectly accepted international equity, not law, but a theory that must be upheld, and if we do not uphold it here where will it find its defenders?

Amin ABDEL-MALEK (Liban) (langue originale arabe): Après avoir écouté l'introduction par le Président du Comité des questions constitutionnelles et juridiques (document CL 90/5), nous aimerions dire que la situation actuelle ne devrait pas changer. En effet, chacune des trois solutions présentées ici peut avoir des répercussions politiques et juridiques. Dans ces conditions, le Comité des questions constitutionnelles et juridiques devrait à nouveau étudier cette question et présenter son rapport à une prochaine session du Conseil.

Anwar Mohammed KHALED (Yemen, People's Democratic Republic of) (original language Arabic): We have studied the conclusions contained in the report of the Forty-Eighth Session of the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters, and in particular the three solutions proposed. My delegation believes that there is no need to introduce any change in the composition of the two Committees in question, nor in the method of election of the members to these Committees. We therefore feel that there is no problem, that there will be no difficulties, that there is an implicit agreement between countries, which makes it possible for the regions to be represented, as is the case for election of members of CFA. I think the procedures have been accepted by everybody. From that point of view I think the CCLM should study this matter again and we could then discuss the whole issue at a future session.

Elio PASCARELLI (Italy): We have carefully studied this document and I am grateful to Ambassador Alvarenga for his very lucid presentation and I am happy for having contributed to the elaboration of this proposal to the Council.

I must say that in the resumé of the history of what happened in the two Committees-and I refer to the Finance Committee, I have no comment on the Programme Committee's composition, I limit my remarks to the Finance Committee, on which Italy is a member-coming to this document, paragraph 18, and I quote: "With respect to the second stage of the election to the Finance Committee, each region had obtained one seat in all cases, except in 1985 when Europe gained two seats. " It is true that Europe gained two seats, but it happened before many times that Europe

had more than one candidate. The attempt is always made to reach an agreement, a consultation, but it is not necessarily successful. For the particular case of the Host Government the members of this Council may not be completely aware of the facts. Over four decades Italy was never-I repeat, never-in that Committee, and some countries have been repeatedly in that Committee for fourteen years, sixteen years, eight years without any rotation, without any change. Because of that we strongly support a revision of the present procedures for the election to the Committee without altering the number of the members, because we are very happy with nine members, we have been working very nicely, and I think we accomplished the result that was placed by the members of the Council.

Looking at the alternatives that are presented by the CCLM, I strongly support the views of the delegation of the United States concerning the acceptability of alternative 3. We are decidedly in favour of this alternative. I would go even beyond the pure support. We believe that it was a tremendous accident that North America was not represented in our Committee, but on that occasion Italy did not think that it was right to renounce and to withdraw its candidature. We did it. There were democratic elections. We were elected. But we regretted profoundly that because of our election one region was out, and one very important region for our Organization. The countries of this region are at the birthplace and the first seat of the Organization and their contribution to this Organization is extremely high.

With due regard to the opinion of the Chairman of the Committee, who said that alternative 3 would imply a slower voting process, that is not so important. We have speeches here and interventions that would last for twenty-five minutes or thirty minutes, and we could spend half an hour to adjust the membership of this Committee without altering the number. My proposal now would be as follows; the Council in our opinion should give guidelines to the Committee so that this alternative be translated into legal wording, and presented to the next Council, so that we can submit it to the Conference-the only body that can decide. I do not venture to propose the specific legal wording because it is not my job and I do not want to burden this session.

However, I would say that the first stage would be to elect a Chairman. The second stage would be dedicated to the election of the representative of the six remaining regions, with the prerogative for a region not to be represented if it does not wish to be represented.

The second stage of the election would proceed in accordance with present procedures. In order to safeguard the balance between the two groups of regions, I would even venture to say that if there are only two remaining vacant seats one should go to one group of regions and one seat to the other group. If there is no agreement the candidate with the highest votes would be elected. If there are three or more, then we would be satisfied if the group of regions-Europe, North America and South West Pacific, were given one of the remaining seats and the other remaining seat should be given to the other four regions.

Ronald F. R. DEARE (United Kingdom): I shall be very brief. First of all I should like to say that I agree with my distinguished colleague from the United States when she says that this is not a political issue that we have before us today. It is, as she has said, and as the Committee has recognized, a matter of just and equitable geographical treatment.

My delegation believes that it is inconceivable that there should be no representative of this major region on the Finance Committee. I was much encouraged by what the distinguished Ambassador of Italy has just said. I think that his proposal is an excellent one with which I can certainly agree.

I would urge the Council to reflect very deeply on the effect that rejection of this very reasonable request might have on those who are already highly critical of the way in which the United Nations conducts its affairs. I do not think we should lose sight of that fact. My delegation can certainly support the proposal that we should ask the Committee to flesh out and present us with detailed texts on Alternative 3.

Atif Y. BUKHARI (Saudi Arabia, Kingdom of) (original language Arabic): The question that we are concerned about is a very sensitive and delicate matter from all points of view.

If we look at the memberships of these two very important committees, I think it would be desirable for them to be elected in their personal capacity in view of their experience, their efficiency and their personal ability to cope with the problems put before these committees. In other words, the person elected to these committees should be chosen very, very cautiously, irrespective of the geographical region he or she may represent. This our opinion in general dealing particularly with the Finance Committee, it is made up of members whose numbers are absolutely in line with the GRO. Including the Chairman, there are 9 members and I think we should keep to that number.

The Finance Committee is a committee with particular rules of procedure which deal with economic and financial matters. It studies tables, and figures. The members of this committee should be capable of carrying out their mandate in a satisfactory manner. Therefore we would not agree with an increase in the number of members of the Finance Committee, or a Programme Committee because of financial reasons. It could also have political repercussions, as each region would then ask for an increased number of seats, it would be too complicated, would lead to confusion; which we would like to avoid at any cost. I feel great sympathy for, and agree with my colleague, the Ambassador of the U. S. A. It is a question of basic principles. We have followed these principles for years and have applied them clearly. The principle was clearly enunciated in paragraph 7 where it spells out, without any room for doubt, that the second phase would bring in 3 members from Europe, North America and the South West Pacific. In other words, three regions and only three candidates. Therefore, it is very simple, reasonable and logical to maintain these numbers. How can we maintain them? This is our major concern. We have got to reach agreement between the three regions. The three regions and the Government representatives must have some sort of gentlemen's agreement to nominate three candidates only. If agreement could not be reached for whatever reason, this is a perfectly natural situation which has nothing to do with politics or-there may be misunderstandings or there may be divergence of opinion. Last year, for example, Europe asked for two seats, North America and the South West Pacific asked for one seat each, at which point we had four candidates for three seats-how should we proceed? At that point four candidates had to be elected for three seats, one from Europe instead of two would seem more reasonable. Subsequently, the Council members must choose between these candidates for Europe, then chooses two candidates for the South West Pacific and North America. I think that this is reasonable. This is an agreement that can be reached, it is a gentlemen's agreement which we ought to support-and I think that the Council ought to take this situation into account.

Concerning the third alternative which we have looked at, we feel that this provides the best solution of those which have been put to us. First of all we should like some clarification on this. We would like more information in order to be able to state our final position more clearly. Those are our comments on the matter.

David Lawrence COUTTS (Australia): I should like to make a very brief intervention. We agree that it is important that a just and equitable representation system for these very important committees be found. In looking at the very interesting and thorough paper prepared by the Constitutional Committee we should just like to make a couple of observations.

Our resulting feeling after looking at that paper can be summed-up by saying that we feel that the system should not become unduly complex, or at least any more complex, than it is at the moment. Australia could accept continuation of the present system if that were the general view. However, we feel that all regions should be justly represented, if they wish to be. Also, we do not favour increasing the numbers on any of these committees or the cost, involved in doing so.

Having said that, my delegation does not have particularly strong views on the alternatives before us. We think that all of them would adequately prevent the sort of problem that occurred when the Finance Committee was elected before. However, we certainly could support alternative 3, if that were the view that the Council came to. We feel that this would be a satisfactory process. We do not feel that the slightly more complicated voting procedure that would be involved would be a significant objection. It would be possible to have the first round of votes in the first week of the meeting of Conference, and then the second round of voting later in the meeting. Therefore, we do not feel that that is a particularly strong objection.

Victor HJORT (Denmark): The Danish delegation is grateful to the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters for the examination reported on in document CL 90/5. From the examination carried out on the election procedures to the Programme and Finance Committees, we take note of the Rules and the practice established in the past. Although the rules do not provide for an a priori regional distribution of seats, practice has shown, with few exceptions, that an equitable and reasonable representation has been achieved. One notable exception however was that North America, much to the regret of my Government, did not obtain representation on the Finance Committee at the last election.

In the opinion of my delegation, it is most important that an equitable regional distribution of seats is achieved in the two committees. Furthermore, it is our belief that this goal is possible within the existing framework, as experience has shown us. We believe that an amendment to the rules at the present stage involves a process of decision-making in the Governing Bodies of FAO, which could be difficult to achieve and there could be some legal consequences which are difficult to assess. For this reason my delegation recommends that the regional groupings themselves, as in the past, make an effort in coordinating their respective decisions in presenting candidates to the Programme and Finance Committees. By so doing the regional groupings can ensure equitable and reasonable representation in the two committees. Finally, referring to the last remarks by the Chairman of the CCLM in his introductory statement, my delegation is not in favour of changing the rules of the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters.

Adel Helmy EL SARKI (Egypt) (original language Arabic): I have carefully listened to the introducer of the item by his Excellency the Ambassador and Chairman of the CCLM, and I closely studied document CL 90/5. I think the present composition of the Finance and Programme Committees should be maintained-as any increase in membership could have negative consequences.

The subject should be reexamined in the light of the pertinent views and opinions to be submitted to this body at its next session in June 1987.

Mohammed ABDELHADI (Tunisie) (langue originale arabe): La délégation tunisienne adresse tous ses remerciements au Président du CQCJ pour son excellente présentation de la question à l'examen.

Les textes qui nous sont soumis relatifs aux procédures de vote ne précisent pas le nombre de candidats de chaque région. Par conséquent, certaines régions n'ont pas eu de siège au Comité financier ou au Comité du Programme lors d'élections précédentes. Ce n'est donc pas un problème nouveau. Cela n'a pas donné lieu à un problème et, comme indiqué au paragraphe 19, le règlement actuel et son application sont tout à fait satisfaisants.

Cependant, la délégation tunisienne est tout à fait d'accord avec le Comité: il faut garantir une distribution géographique équitable dans ces deux Comités étant donné l'importance de leur travail. Nous considérons que la situation actuelle, avec la composition des deux comités, peut permettre cette représentation géographique équitable si les groupes régionaux intéressés se mettaient d'accord pour y être représentés dans le respect de la règle de la rotation comme l'a dit mon collègue le représentant du Royaume d'Arabie Saoudite.

Les solutions présentées au Conseil pourraient aboutir à une complication inutile de la situation et avoir également des répercussions financières, ce qui entraînerait des amendements aux textes de base de l'Organisation.

En ce qui concerne la deuxième solution, nous ne l'approuvons pas. Nous sommes d'accord avec les membres du Conseil qui ont exprimé des réserves au sujet de cette solution et, d'une façon générale, avec ce qu'a dit le représentant du Royaume d'Arabie Saoudite. Nous estimons qu'une solution ne devrait pas entraîner de complications ou un déséquilibre dans la représentation géographique au Comité financier.

Hermann REDL (Austria): My delegation would like to support what the delegate of Brazil and others explained to us so precisely. We believe this is not the appropriate moment for changes in the Programme and Finance Committees. Let these Committees fulfill their duties and their mandate. We are therefore not in favour of any change in these Committees at the moment.

Temel ISKIT (Turkey): We are a little hesitant because this is a sensitive subject on which it is not very easy to make up our minds, but we can say that my delegation is a fervent supporter of a just and equitable geographical representation in every organ and governing body of our Organization. This is a principle to which we are fully attached.

Starting from this point, and addressing the composition of the Finance Committee, in the Finance Committee we are inclined to think that the non-representation of one region is not very desirable, especially if this region has a particular weight. Therefore, if the Council feels it should take later procedural steps we would go along with any solution which will ensure the reconciliation of the principle of representation and the factor I have just mentioned. But we are in favour of this solution not because, as my United Kingdom friend said, if we do not find such a solution we will hurt the feelings of a big country; we are for this solution because we are for justice and equity. I wanted to make this clear.

Secondly, addressing this to the member countries or different groups themselves, if better coordination were possible among the various groups, we would not have this problem today. I wanted to make this point clear also.

Torex Felix F. MALUZA (Zambia): My delegation has studied the paper before us, document CL 90/5, and we are satisfied with the deliberations of the Committee. My delegation believes that in any Committee on the work of FAO or in any other UN agencies the principle of regional, just and equitable representation should be respected, followed and adhered to. This is the only way the views and interests of each region can be taken care of for the well-being of humanity.

As was recognised in paragraph 9 of the document before us, Resolution 15/77 of the Nineteenth FAO Conference did not meet the principle of equitable geographical distribution. Paragraph 9 of the 48th Session of the Committee of Constitutional and Legal Matters recognises this fact. There is need, therefore, to remedy the anomaly.

My delegation feels that the time has come for us to allocate seats to each region. This is the only way in which we can get rid of the unfortunate instances which are now happening. My delegation does not believe in a gentlemen's agreement as far as this case is concerned since this creates misunderstandings and unnecessary problems, as is now evident. Council should therefore give a

mandate to the CCLM to work out the necessary logistics. The Committee membership could still remain at nine as it is now but allocating seats to regions. The personal merits of the representatives should be considered in these elections, as now. While the examination and study of logistics is being undertaken by the CCLM the regional grouping should ensure that there is a geographical representation in all FAO Committees. The CCLM should report back to us at the Ninety-First Council.

Robbie Matango MUPAWOSE (ZIMBABWE): We thank the Chairman of the CCLM for his presentation of the issues in this document. Having fully listened to the sentiments expressed particularly by the Italian representative and, further, the sentiments and views which have been expressed by our neighbour, both geographically and also sitting next to us in this house, we fully agree with those views and with those sentiments. We do not see how a lack of clearly-defined regional representation can ever be considered equitable. In other deliberations in this house we have been talking repeatedly about the need for regional interests and regional representation and we cannot understand why this should not be taken in that same vein.

Because of the shortage of time we will not go into detail, but we fully support Alternative 3 and would recommend that this Council request the CCLM to put together the different modalities which will be required so that presentation can be made to the Council and to the Conference next year.

K. R. HIGHAM (Canada): The existing Regulations have been in force for a long time and as far as I know there has never been any pressure to change them. The spirit of this Regulation has always been respected by a gentlemen's agreement, as the delegate of Zambia put it, and there was never any need to reconsider the Regulation. Something happened, however, at the last Council- I am not sure what, I was not here- and there seems to have been a change in that spirit. As a result, this question has come before us.

Our instincts in Canada, and I think many share them, are not to meddle or tamper with Regulations unnecessarily. However, if it seems necessary now to tighten up Regulations to protect in strictly legal terms the spirit of the intent, then certainly Alternative 3 seems to us to be the best way to proceed. Apart from that, I should say that we have no particularly strong views whether we keep the existing Regulation or whether we go for Alternative 3.

Gonzalo BULA HOYOS (Colombia): La delegación de Colombia desea rendir un sincero homenaje de reconocimiento y de gratitud a nuestro colega, amigo y hermano en la fraternidad latinoamericana, el embajador Alvarenga de El Salvador, quien dejó importantes tareas que cumplir en su país para venirnos a presentar este informe con la competencia y lucidez que le han caracterizado en el ejercicio de sus funciones de Presidente del Comité de Asuntos Constitucionales y Jurídicos.

La delegación de Colombia está de acuerdo con nuestra colega Fenwick, de los Estados Unidos, en el sentido de que se trata de un asunto importante que conviene solucionar favorablemente.

Queremos declarar que en la elección del Consejo en la cual se produjo el resultado que ha originado este debate, nuestra delegación lamentó de manera muy sincera que una importante región no estuviese representada en el Comité de Finanzas, y más allá de la importancia de la región y del respeto y la admiración que nos merece Canadá, el país que no resultó elegido.

Permítasenos también agregar un sentimiento de personal amistad que nos une al señor Musgrove, a quien reconocemos en el ejercicio de sus funciones de miembro del Comité de Finanzas gran consagración y notable interés, pero creemos que todo esto deba considerarse en un marco razonable, sereno y objetivo con algo de cuidado.

En cuanto a los argumentos que puedan esgrimirse, sobre todo a la luz de dos declaraciones, la primera de nuestra colega Fenwick, de los Estados Unidos, quien habló de 300 millones de habitantes, este es un hecho, pero a la luz del principio democrático según el cual todos los habitantes del planeta somos iguales, si aceptamos el principio de que por 300 millones de habitantes de Norteamérica deba haber un miembro del Comité de Finanzas, nuestro colega de la izquierda, China, tendría derecho a tres y medio miembros del Comité de Finanzas, tres y medio miembros; India tendría derecho a dos y medio miembros.

También nos preocupó, y lo decimos con buen espíritu, la declaración del colega Deare, del Reino Unido. No creemos que este Consejo pueda deliberar bajo la espada de Damocles; no creemos que sea aceptable que se nos diga que si rechazamos una u otra acción vamos a tener dificultades y a destruir el sistema de Naciones Unidas. Lo que él ha dicho que la cuestión no es política, se contradice con esa afirmación. De manera que proponemos formalmente que ninguna de esas partes de esas declaraciones figuren en nuestro proyecto de informe para que podamos estudiar esto de manera muy concreta, serena y objetiva.

El embajador Pascarelli nos comunicó un alegre despertar de Italia que decidió, muy justamente ahora pertenecer al Comité de Finanzas y, naturalmente, como conocemos algunos antecedentes podríamos interpretar de manera muy flexible la declaración del colega Pascarelli como una especie de acto de contrición, como un leve sentido de culpabilidad.

De todas maneras, el delegado de Italia al apoyar la opción tres hizo unas elucubraciones que son complicadas por que yo creo que no sería justo que para solucionar problemas de un respetable grupo de países se nos creen dificultades a otro grupos de países que, bien o mal, nos hemos venido adaptando a las nuevas disposiciones para la elección de los miembros de esos Comités, aunque en ocasiones algunas de nuestras regiones hayan presentado más candidatos de los dos que les corresponden en el Comité del Programa, por ejemplo, y sin embargo nos hemos acomodado y hoy día hemos logrado que cada una de las cuatro regiones de países en desarrollo tengan dos representantes. Cambiar el sistema, porque si se cambia el de Finanzas hay que cambiar el del Programa, podría crearnos dificultades que conducirían sobre todo a calificar, a dar una especie de liderazgo a aquel representante de cada región que fuera elegido en la primera votación.

El párrafo 18 del documento confirma lo que muchos de nosotros sabemos. Esta es la primera vez que ocurre esto, puede que no se siga repitiendo y a lo mejor entonces no podría justificarse ninguna necesidad de cambio.

Pensamos, en cambio, que en nuestro informe debe incluirse textualmente atribuida a la opinión del Consejo la primera frase del párrafo 21, la primera frase del párrafo 21, todos la conocemos, debe incluirse en nuestro informe.

Queremos sumarnos a lo que han dicho, sobre todo al principio, la delegación de Saudi Arabia, Dinamarca y otras muchas en que el problema principal consiste en que los grupos regionales deben tratar de hacer intensos esfuerzos para ponerse de acuerdo y no crear dificultades a los demás. Los distinguidos colegas de países desarrollados son menos numero de países, se entienden muy bien entre ellos, se reúnen, como grupo de Ginebra, como OCDE, pueden ponerse de acuerdo.

Hablé ya de cómo manejamos los países en desarrollo nuestra elección en el Comité del Programa; en el Comité de Finanzas, es más difícil para nosotros porque tenemos seis puestos y somos cuatro regiones y sin embargo hemos logrado, mediante acuerdos de caballeros, hacer actitud alternativa entre unas y otras regiones de manera que ese buen ejemplo de los 77, debe seguir en el seno de la OCDE.

De las tres posibilidades que se nos han presentado la menos mala, la menos mala, no digo la mejor, la menos mala es la tres, la menos mala es la tres.

Muchos colegas han dicho que el CACJ debe seguir estudiando este asunto; yo estoy de acuerdo con el párrafo 28 del documento. En el párrafo 28 el CACJ prácticamente dice que agotó sus posibilidades y que cualquier asunto posterior corresponde a decisiones políticas del Consejo y de la Conferencia. Sin embargo creo que hay que ser justos y razonables con los colegas que insisten en buscar soluciones, y por ello creemos que sería razonable que a la luz de lo que aparezca en el informe de esta reunión del Consejo, de esta reunión del Consejo se decida por la Secretaría, el Consejo mismo, el CACJ si aun puede seguir estudiando este asunto y así tendríamos nuevas consideraciones en el Consejo de junio de 1987 y finalmente en la Conferencia de noviembre 1987.

Estoy tratando de leer, desafortunadamente no hablo en inglés (le interrumpe la señora delegada de Estados Unidos fuera de micrófono). Yo agradezco mucho la aclaración de la distinguida colega Fenwick, yo no conozco, a pesar de que tengo muy buenos amigos en la OCDE, hoy presidida por el embajador Posier, es uno de mis colegas más cercanos en esta Organización, pero no conozco exactamente cómo funciona pero sé que se reúnen, que con frecuencia no se ponen de acuerdo, claro que están en contacto.

Creemos que esta es la actitud razonable; después del debate que hemos tenido veremos qué se puede incluir en el informe y luego el CACJ podrá recibir instrucciones del Consejo a través del informe o del Director General para seguirse ocupando de este asunto.

Sobre la Nota Verbal que recibimos ayer, creemos que el CACJ, junto con el Comité del Programa y del de Finanzas, son los tres órganos asesores permanentes más importantes del Consejo.

En el pasado, hace muchos años inclusive había dificultades para lograr los 7 miembros, uno por cada región que integraban el CACJ, pero con el transcurrir del tiempo el CACJ ha aumentado en importancia, lo demuestra el informe y las consideraciones del Presidente Alvarenga y convendrá que cuando sea oportuno el Consejo, el Comité de Finanzas y el propio CACJ se ocupen de la posibilidad de igualar las condiciones del Presidente y de los miembros a aquéllas de los Comités del Programa y de Finanzas.

Joseph TCHICAYA (Congo): Je voudrais féliciter M. Alvarenga pour sa brillante introduction à ce document. Je dois dire que la délégation congolaise, que j'ai l'honneur de conduire au cours de cette session (et au cours de la session précédente j'ai également eu cet honneur) la délégation congolaise, dis-je, n'avait pas, bien entendu, accueilli de bon coeur les résultats des élections qui se sont déroulées et qui concernent le Comité financier.

Nous avons vivement regretté qu'une question aussi importante, pas seulement pour ses 300 millions d'habitants ni pour sa puissance économique, mais nous pensons qu'il s'agit là d'une région géographique bien délimitée qui devrait être représentée au sein de notre Comité financier.

Malheureusement, vous savez ce qui s'est passé. Je crois que mon collègue de gauche, l'Ambassadeur de Colombie, a essayé de nous expliquer ce qui s'était passé. La faute en revient bien entendu à ce groupe de régions qui n'avaient pas pu se mettre d'accord pour présenter un candidat pour chaque région.

Ma délégation pense qu'il s'agit là effectivement d'un problème. Mais nous pensons que les interventions qui avaient suivi cette élection auraient pu désormais guider les réactions de notre conseil ainsi que les réactions au niveau des groupes régionaux. Nous pensons que les groupes régionaux, comme par le passé, devraient travailler dans la concorde, se mettre d'accord pour pouvoir présenter au niveau du Conseil des candidats susceptibles d'être élus. Cela, bien entendu, dans le respect strict d'une répartition géographique juste et équitable.

Je crois que c'était là un incident regrettable. Mais nous pensons que c'est un incident que nous souhaitons voir s'arrêter. Est-il vraiment nécessaire de proposer que des modifications soient apportées aux textes fondamentaux pour changer les règles du jeu? Nous pensons que les règles du jeu, telles qu'elles sont définies, sont suffisamment explicites et souples. Je ne sais pas s'il est tellement nécessaire que nous puissions adopter des règles très strictes pour des élections de ce genre. Je pense pour ma part que les dispositions qui sont actuellement en vigueur permettent à notre Conseil de pouvoir choisir librement, mais aussi en tenant compte de certaines dispositions que nous avons déjà évoquées, à savoir la répartition géographique juste et équitable. Alors, ne faut-il pas attendre? Les dispositions actuelles ont déjà fait leurs preuves. Il y a eu un incident. Est-ce qu'il convient, dès maintenant, de s'attaquer à des amendements susceptibles de changer les règles du jeu? Nous pensons que l'on devrait maintenir les textes actuels en l'état, en demandant à chaque groupe de régions de pouvoir oeuvrer de façon à faire en sorte d'atteindre cette répartition géographique juste et équitable. Si à l'avenir cela ne s'avérait plus possible, je souscrirais pour ma part à ce que la solution 3 puisse être préconisée. Mais je pense qu'il est prématuré de penser dès à présent à cette solution.

Jacques POSIER (France): La France est favorable au maintien des règles régissant actuellement l'élection et la composition du Comité financier, mais elle est favorable à ce statu quo plus pour des raisons négatives que pour des raisons positives, en ce sens qu'elle considère que les changements qui pourraient être apportés risqueraient d'engendrer plus de difficultés qu'ils n'en résoudraient.

Il n'en demeure pas moins que la situation actuelle, à nos yeux, n'est pas entièrement satisfaisante. Cette situation est supposée reposer sur le respect du principe d'une équitable répartition géographique. Or, la délégation française s'interroge précisément sur ce point.

Y a-t-il une répartition géographique équitable quand on constate qu'un pays situé aux antipodes, pays ami pour lequel nous avons la plus grande considération, et dont l'importance est incontestable, quand ce pays, qui compte environ 16 millions d'habitants, et dont la contribution est de 1, 90 pour cent du budget, dispose par le jeu des zones géographiques d'un siège presque permanent à ce Comité financier?

Or, les 29 pays de la région Europe qui compte 526 millions d'habitants et paye 45, 11 pour cent des contributions, n'ont vocation qu'à un seul siège; tout comme d'ailleurs les deux pays de la région d'Amérique du Nord, qui compte 262 millions d'habitants et 28, 72 pour cent des contributions.

Il y a donc d'un côté un siège pour moins de 20 millions d'habitants, et d'un autre côté, un siège pour 526 millions d'habitants et un siège pour 262 millions d'habitants.

En vérité, constatant de tels déséquilibres, notre délégation s'interroge: où réside dans tout cela l'équité de la répartition géographique?

Ces remarques n'impliquent aucune critique à l'égard de qui que ce soit. Elles se bornent à constater l'état de fait créé par l'application du système de répartition par région, tel qu'il est conçu actuellement. La délégation française estime cependant qu'à défaut d'une meilleure solution, il est sans doute plus raisonnable de ne pas modifier les règles relatives à l'élection et à la composition du Comité financier. Enfin, comme je l'ai déjà indiqué au Conseil, la France est très sensible aux problèmes d'une plus juste répartition géographique, mais elle estime que cet objectif peut être atteint par d'autres moyens que par une modification des règlements qui, à mes yeux, risque de déboucher sur des situations encore plus défavorables que celle que le Conseil est amené aujourd'hui à regretter.

Sra. Mercedes FERMIN GOMEZ (Venezuela): Yo voy a ser muy breve, como de costumbre, para decir apenas dos cosas. Primero, que estamos demostrando con la intervención de Francia, la cual apoyamos totalmente, y con las otras personas que están interviniendo en relación con la distribución geográfica, que este no es realmente un criterio tampoco a seguir. Ya nos has demostrado el Embajador de Colombia cuántos representantes tendríamos que darle a Asia, que tiene no solamente a China y a India, sino que al Japón también tenemos que meterle ahí. Entonces, si vamos a colocarnos en esta posición de hablar de los millones de habitantes, tampoco vamos a estar muy satisfechos porque también America latina tiene sus 400 millones, sin contar los que no figuran en los censos, que son todos esos desheredados de la fortuna que viven en condiciones tan absolutamente primitivas y al margen de la civilización que ni siquiera llegan allí los censos, y por eso decimos del Perú, cuántos en la Amazonia del Brasil, cuántos en el área de la selva de Guyana de Venezuela que son indígenas? Entonces, no nos resulta eso del número de habitantes porque no va a ser equitativo. Podríamos asumir otra posición que es el número de países, y entonces vamos a contar con los países que existen en Africa, los que están en América Latina, los que están en Asia y siempre vamos a resultar muchos más que los dos de Norteamérica. Por esa razón, no tomemos el criterio geográfico porque no nos va a resultar equitativo, lamentando mucho que mi amiga la Embajadora de Estados Unidos piense que eso es lo que llama geográfico y no político.

Yo debo decir aquí, como geógrafo que soy, porque esa es mi profesión, que la geografía también tiene su política, y que la geografía política, la cual se ha tenido también de geopolítica, tiene sus vueltas y revueltas que se confunden con lo geográfico. Por esa razón, no nos van a servir esos criterios. Yo voy a estar de acuerdo con que nosotros mejor dejemos la situación como está y en el futuro veamos cómo se resuelve el problema de las regiones que me parece que sería, como bien han aseverado los oradores que, más felices que yo lo han dicho antes, que las regiones se pongan de acuerdo. Nosotros tenemos la posibilidad de entrar en este acuerdo antes de presentar las candidaturas y saber que debemos estar representados por regiones sin hacer caso muy estricto del número de habitantes de cada país, porque, de esa manera, vamos a tener que cambiar las reglas del juego.

Yo me pronuncio, pues, por mantener el documento tal como está, sin mengua de que en el futuro puedan estudiarse otras soluciones para ser presentadas al Consejo futuro y a la Conferencia.

Joachim WINKEL (Germany, Federal Republic of): My delegation would like to thank the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters for document CL 90/5 dealing with the legal questions in connection with the membership of the Programme Committee and the Finance Committee. We are grateful to the Committee in particular for the legislative history of the relevant provisions in the General Rules of our Organization. My delegation shares the expert assessment of the Committee which it had undertaken on the result of the elections at the 89th Council session in November 1985. Nevertheless, we very much regretted the election result of this Council session and the related non-representation of one important region from the Finance Committee. On the other hand we agree with the statements in paragraph 19 of document CL 90/5, according to which the application of the pertinent provisions of the Basic Texts had in general worked satisfactorily. For this reason we consider the result of election to the Finance Committee in November 1985 not to be the last word in the matter. My delegation expresses its thanks to the CCLM for the presentation of the three alternatives contained in paragraphs 22 to 28 to amend the relevant provisions of the general rules. Against the background of the statements in paragraph 19 of the document and the statement we heard this morning here, we see, however, no need at the moment to amend these rules. We believe that the related problems can be solved by means of improved coordination within and between the individual regions. In our opinion member states have a substantial and legitimate interest in not permanently excluding an important world region from the Finance Committee of our Organization. As you know we have always favoured the application of this principle of rotation and we believe that the application of this principle in connection with the improved coordination will in future lead again to the desirable results in the sense of paragraph 19 of the document before us.

Akbar Mirza KHALEELI (India): I think we are facing a rather strange situation where the representative of Italy wade it quite clear in a sense that he regretted that with the success of Italy a very important region happened to be excluded. Similarly, the representative of Canada has made it very clear that they do not like lightly to change the rules and there was no insistence on his part that rules should be changed on the basis of geographical representation or otherwise. From what we can see from the papers and from the past record of the Finance Committee, we find that the particular region to which most of the members have been alluding has been represented almost throughout. It is some sort of accident which has taken place because of lack of coordination, and I think that while we must thank the Chairman of the CCLM for his expert paper and labours, the system has worked fairly satisfactorily. We do not want to go into the question of geographical representation because, apart from anything else, every five or six years some of our countries may have the attribute for a new seat because our population keeps increasing and I think the point made by people all across, whether from Latin America or from the Chairman of the Finance Committee and indeed, with rare exceptions, that the system has worked well is value and I think one should not lightly change the present pattern. I do not think this is a matter on which the Council can decide.

Carlos DINATOR (Observador de Chile): Mi delegación posee alguna versación jurídica y aprecia que la adecuada representación geográfica es un principio político muy respetable, por cierto, porque encarna ideales de equidad y justicia que el Derecho debería recoger.

Cree mi delegación que la representación geográfica puede tener efectos saludables de acuerdo con lo expresado por los eminentes representantes de Italia y Reino Unido, que ven una asociación entre la reforma del Reglamento General de la FAO y la situación financiera y de liquidez general de la Organización.

El deseo de participar es también saludable porque revela interés en la FAO, interés que debemos creer genuino y que no debe ser ignorado. Sin embargo, atendida tal vinculación de las finanzas en general con el deseo de participar, desearía mi delegación conocer si es o no os prerequisite para postular al Comité de Finanzas poseer un pequeño certificado de la Secretaría en el sentido de que el candidato está al día en el pago de las cuotas a la FAO. Si así no fuera, mi delegación estima que la reforma del Reglamento General debería también establecer tal certificación porque el manejo de las finanzas supone ciertas obligaciones que la Constitución de la FAO establece en relación con los Estados y en especial respecto de los principales contribuyentes.

Felicitemos al Sr. Embajador de El Salvador por la presentación del documento CL 90/5.

Mrs. Millicent M. FENWICK (United States of America): As you know, sometimes I say I am saddened and sometimes I am angry, and I am sorry to say that this time I am angry. I did not expect that when something does not work-according to the preamble of this whole section it is supposed to have a just and equitable geographic distribution. Apparently the regulations, as they are now written, do not provide for this principle which is enshrined in the preamble. It does not work. As you know, my dear colleagues, that is what interests me-does it work? I should not have mentioned the number of people. I am highly sympathetic to China and Japan and would not like to have any of my remarks suggest that I am not. But they do not seem to be fighting us here. As you notice, I do not mention money either. That is not the point. The point is justice. And then somebody brings up the OECD. That is a political group, a very nice group, they do not support the United States, okay. But we are talking about geography, and OECD is not a geographic region like Latin America and the Caribbean or Europe. I am begging you to recognize this principle, a just and equitable representation.

We have other suggestions that people who are up-to-date should always be represented. In that situation Canada, which is up-to-date on all its obligations, obviously should have been shooed in unanimously, but we do not use these financial things.

I. ALVARENGA (Presidente del Comité de Asuntos Constitucionales y Jurídicos): Realmente, no me toca a mí hacer una conclusión naturalmente del debate. Sólo quisiera pedir al Comité de Reuacción, tal como aceriadamente se puntualizó, que quede claro el mandato que les ha dado el Comité de Asuntos Constitucionales y Jurídicos, en vista de que me parece que tanto los que están a favor de una reforma como muchos de los que no están a favor de la reforma, han pedido que vuelva el Comité a examinar este punto. Eso ser un poco difícil porque, sin un mandato preciso en uno u otro sentido, será un tanto problemático desentrañar qué es lo que el Comité deberá considerar; luego pido que ese mandato quede claramente expresado.

No quisiera perder la oportunidad de haber usado la palabra para agradecer a quienes se refirieron a nuestro trabajo en manera elogiosa y, en particular, a los que se dirigieron a mí, personalmente.

LE PRESIDENT: Je voudrais également contribuer à ces débats. Il se dégage de ce débat plusieurs idées dont la première est que c'est un débat préliminaire; en effet nous venons d'aborder la question; elle mérite encore un examen plus approfondi; et d'ores et déjà deux principes ont été retenus.

Le premier est que l'on puisse préserver et même garantir une répartition juste et équitable dans le Comité financier.

Le second est que les délégués veulent éviter une augmentation des membres du Comité financier.

Tout le monde est d'accord sur ces deux principes. Cela dit, peut-on préserver cette répartition juste et équitable par un consensus au niveau des régions, comme cela s'est toujours passé dans les différents comités (Comité de rédaction, Comité du programme, Comité financier et autres)? Il faut revoir les textes afin de garantir de manière quasiment mathématique une répartition par région, et pour arriver vers la solution qui semble avoir été préconisée par quelques membres, à savoir la solution trois.

Ce débat a été utile; je ne sais ce qu'en pense le Conseil, mais peut-être pourrions-nous demander au Comité des questions constitutionnelles et juridiques de passer en revue ces différentes options posées au cours du débat, d'approfondir pour le prochain Conseil de juin les implications de la solution trois afin de voir si cette solution trois-du point de vue des modalités de garantie des répartitions équitables-peut être analysée par le Conseil de juin, et si le Conseil en convient ce point pourrait alors être soumis à la Conférence.

Je ne sais pas si ce point de vue est agréé par le Conseil. Voulez-vous que nous donnions mandat au Président du Comité des questions constitutionnelles et juridiques pour qu'il passe ces opinions en revue, qu'il approfondisse les effets de la troisième solution et qu'il nous présente un document à la prochaine session du Conseil ? Ou y a-t-il une alternative ?

Elio PASCARELLI (Italie): Je voudrais exprimer mon accord avec vos conclusions. Je crois qu'il faut garantir le respect des règles de l'Organisation et le principe relatif à la représentation des groupes régionaux. Le premier point est acquis: il ne faut augmenter le nombre des membres du Comité financier. Le deuxième point, c'est que nous voulons absolument garantir le principe d'une représentation juste et équitable.

LE PRESIDENT: Cette garantie peut être obtenue par les textes comme elle peut l'être par consensus. Il ne faut pas être catégorique. C'est pour cela que je pose la question au Conseil.

Gonzalo BULA HOYOS (Colombia): Creo que conviene que en ese punto se proceda como en todos los demás del Consejo, sin que anticipemos juicios demasiado definitivos. Veremos cómo se refleja en el Informe y se procederá de conformidad.

Akbar Mirza KHALEELI (India): I think it may also be useful to note the sense of the House or Council that there was hardly any debate on the need to alter the Programme Committee. From what I have noticed, there was no mention of this. So at least you can spare the CCLM from dealing with this.

Joseph TCHICAYA (Congo): Je suis parfaitement d'accord: premièrement, il ne faut pas toucher au Comité du programme; deuxièmement, il faut une répartition juste et équitable entre les régions. Mais il semble se dégager l'avis, au stade actuel, de laisser les textes en l'état et de continuer à compter sur le consensus au niveau des groupes régionaux. Si pareil incident se reproduisait, il conviendrait effectivement, alors, de revoir les modalités d'application, c'est-à-dire d'envisager la troisième solution.

LE PRESIDENT: il s'agit d'un incident de parcours, en quelque sorte, qui s'est produit en novembre 1985. Tous les Comités de l'Organisation sont constitués sur la base d'une répartition géographique grâce à un accord tacite entre les régions ou à l'intérieur des régions.

Peut-on laisser l'affaire en l'état et attendre de voir si, à l'avenir, des difficultés de ce genre se reproduiront ? Voilà une proposition concrète.

Il y a actuellement deux tendances au Conseil: un grand nombre de délégués souhaitent que l'on maintienne le status quo parce que les difficultés entraînées par une modification risqueraient d'être plus importantes que celles rencontrées à l'occasion de l'élection de 1985; de nombreux délégués ont effectivement demandé que l'on maintienne le status quo.

Je pose la question au Conseil: faut-il donner mandat: au Comité des questions constitutionnelles et juridiques pour qu'il poursuive l'examen des avis exprimés par le Conseil et se présente, en juin prochain, avec une analyse plus approfondie des différentes solutions proposées, y compris la troisième solution, ou faut-il considérer que l'on maintienne le status quo ? Voilà les deux alternatives.

Mrs. Millicent M. FENWICK (United States of America): I hesitate to speak again but it seems to me that it has been proved that this does not work. The system that we have has not brought about a just and equitable geographic distribution; it has not worked. What more do we want? We are not saying that we know the perfect answer. We are saying that we have an excellent Committee with a brilliant Chairman that could study the system and bring in legal language or something that would mean that this works. We are asking them not to impose but to propose to the next Council session something that gives a hope of working.

Mr. Chairman, you say a preponderance. I do not know. I have not counted. We have two members here who say that if they are changed they would like to see alternative 3. I do not know where they can be counted, somewhere in the middle. But I have added it up, listening, and I find a preponderance on the side of doing something.

LE PRESIDENT: Peut-on proposer au Conseil de donner mandat au Comité des questions constitutionnelles et juridiques pour passer en revue les avis exprimés lors du débat, étudier de manière approfondie les incidences de la troisième solution et soumettre ensuite ses conclusions au Conseil, en juin? Cette proposition vous paraît-elle raisonnable?

Il s'agit d'un débat préliminaire. Nous donnons mandat au Comité des questions constitutionnelles et juridiques pour examiner les opinions exprimées, les analyser et les approfondir. Puis, en juin, nous nous reverrons. Si le Conseil en convient, nous pourrions accepter cette proposition. Nous sommes à la disposition du Conseil.

Horacio CARANDANG (Philippines): I think we are spending too much time on this. There are still many agenda items on the table. I believe we can accept your conclusion of the debate, Mr. Chairman We can just say the first two alternatives are out, nobody wanted a change in the text. Then, as you say, we will ask the CCLM to study the possibilities of alternative 3.

Gabriel MACKO (Czechoslovakia): On behalf of the Czechoslovakia and Bulgarian delegation, I should like to expose in brief some consideration about the problem discussed.

This debate on the report of the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters is very important and interesting for the countries, which are members of FAO from Eastern Europe.

We take the opportunity to remind the Council that tradition in electing the members of the Council has been broken during the last Conference of FAO. From the 1st of January 1987, these countries will be represented in the Council only by one delegation.

Since traditionally they have not been elected into the Programme Committee, or into the Finance Committee, we think that the tradition, according to which they have so far been represented in the Council by two countries, should be restored during the next Conference of FAO 1/.

LE PRESIDENT: Nous donnons mandat au Comité des questions constitutionnelles et juridiques pour qu'il examine la question, analyse le débat et approfondisse les incidences de la troisième solution afin de la soumettre à un nouvel examen du Conseil en juin.

Il est entendu, comme l'a dit le délégué de l'Inde, que le Comité du programme n'est pas impliqué dans cette étude.

16. Other Constitutional and Legal Matters, including:

16. Autres questions constitutionnelles et juridiques, notamment:

16. Otros asuntos constitucionales y jurídicos, en particular:

16.1 Date for Nominations for the Office of Director-General:

16.1 Délai de présentation des candidatures au poste de Directeur général:

16.1 Fecha para la presentación de propuestas de candidaturas para el cargo de Director General:

LE SECRETAIRE GENERAL: Le Conseil est appelé à fixer la date à laquelle les propositions de candidature au poste de Directeur général doivent parvenir au bureau du Secrétaire général. C'est cela qui est à l'ordre du jour-cela et rien d'autre.

1/ Statement inserted in the verbatim records on request.

Il est proposé de fixer cette date au 3 avril 1987 à 17 h 30. Le document CL 90/6 et le document CL 90/6-Rev. 1, ce dernier pour le français seulement, expliquent la raison de cette proposition. C'est par un compte à rebours que l'on est parvenu à la date envisagée. Statutairement, il faut faire part aux Etats Membres des propositions de candidature reçues, 30 jours au moins avant la session d'été que le Conseil tient les années de Conférence. En 1987, cette session s'ouvrira le 15 juin. Pour que l'information parvienne aux Etats Membres avant le 15 mai et compte tenu des délais postaux qui sont souvent considérables, il faut que la lettre circulaire contenant cette annonce soit expédiée bien avant la fin d'avril-disons le 27. La préparation, la traduction, la reproduction, le contrôle et l'expédition des lettres circulaires exigent une série d'opérations complexes, d'autant qu'il y a pour chaque pays une liste de destinataires qui varie constamment. Nous devons avoir le temps de faire ce travail avec le sérieux et le soin qu'il exige. C'est pourquoi nous proposons le 3 avril comme date limite pour la réception des propositions de candidature, ce qui correspond d'ailleurs exactement à ce que nous avons fait dans le passé.

LE PRESIDENT: Nous sommes donc saisis d'un point pour décision: délai de présentation des candidatures au poste de Directeur général.

La date du 3 avril peut-elle être retenue comme date limite de présentation des candidatures?

S'il n'y a pas d'objections, nous considérerons qu'il en est ainsi décidé.

It was so decided

Il en est ainsi décidé

Así se acuerda

16.2 Amendment of Statutes of the Committee on Forest Development in the Tropics

16.2 Modification des statuts du Comité de la mise en valeur des forêts dans les tropiques

16.2 Enmienda a los Estatutos del Comité de Desarrollo Forestal en los Trópicos

M. A. FLORES RODAS (Subdirector General, Departamento de Montes): Me refiero al documento CL 90/13-Rev. 1 a la disposición del Consejo.

El Comité de Desarrollo Forestal en los Trópicos fue establecido por el Director General en 1966 en virtud de la Resolución 7/65 del 13º período de sesiones de la Conferencia. Su objetivo principal era el de lograr que la FAO obtuviera el asesoramiento necesario para estimular el aumento de la productividad y de la utilización de los bosques tropicales del mundo.

El número de sus miembros estaba limitado entonces a un máximo de 30 Estados Miembros y miembros asociados de la Organización, representativos de las distintas regiones del mundo. Posteriormente, en 1976, tal límite se incrementó a 45, en virtud de la Resolución 5/70 del Consejo, como consecuencia de un estudio realizado por el Director General a petición del Comité, sobre el interés mostrado por los Estados Miembros de la Organización por formar parte del Comité. Ya para esta fecha, cuando se aumentó el número de miembros, no fue posible incluir a cinco países que deseaban formar parte del Comité. Posteriormente, otros países solicitaron ser miembros y tampoco fue posible incorporarlos.

Desde 1976 a la fecha, el interés político y público sobre la importancia del desarrollo sostenido de los recursos forestales ha crecido considerablemente. El papel de la FAO, como la Organización líder en el campo forestal, también ha crecido correspondientemente, tal como lo reflejaron entre otros, la declaración por este Consejo de 1985 como Año Internacional del Bosque y el diseño, desarrollo y puesta en práctica del Plan de Acción Forestal en los Trópicos en el que nuevamente se recalca la función central de la FAO en la armonización de las tareas relativas a su ejecución.

Es evidente, que la labor del Comité tendrá mayor importancia en el futuro, porque siendo el foro que inició y desarrolló el Plan de Acción estrechamente asociado en la mente de los gobiernos y de la comunidad internacional con él. Además, a medida que se fomentan los programas en el marco del Plan de Acción, su función asesora será cada vez mas valiosa.

Por estos motivos el Consejo puede considerar conveniente aumentar los límites mínimo y máximo de miembros del Comité de la cifra actual 15/45, a un número que no sea inferior a 30 ni superior a 60.

De apoyar la propuesta de aumentar los miembros del Comité podría aprobar la Resolución que podría seguir los lineamientos del proyecto que figura como apéndice del documento en discusión.

LE PRESIDENT: Je remercie M. Flores Rodas de son exposé introductif. Nous ouvrons le débat sur un point intéressant. Y a-t-il des observations? Pouvons-nous considérer que le projet de résolution présenté dans le document CL 90/13-Rev. 1 est adopté?

John R. GOLDSACK (United Kingdom): I have a very short statement to make but to save time I will submit it to the Secretariat in writing. It agrees with what is proposed.

LE PRESIDENT: Je vais annoncer au Conseil que nous avons reçu un texte de la délégation de la Tchécoslovaquie avec demande d'insertion dans le procès-verbal au sujet de l'élection des membres du Comité financier. De même, le secrétariat a reçu des textes de la part des délégations du Brésil et du Danemark au sujet des statuts du Comité de la mise en valeur des forêts dans les tropiques, c'est le point 16. 2 avec demande d'insertion au procès-verbal de notre Conférence.

Igor KIPMAN (Brazil): 'It goes without saying that Tropical Forestry Development is a subject in which Brazil is deeply interested, since a significant parcel of the world's tropical forests is situated in Brazilian territory. Therefore, our government has always actively taken part in many a forum and in all debates regarding the matter. Having also in mind the great amount of international concerted action which will be required to implement the Tropical Forest Action Plan, my delegation is ready to welcome the suggestion put forward in document CL 90/13-Rev. 1, namely, to increase the membership of the Committee on Forest Development in the Tropics.

I am pleased to convey the support of my delegation to the proposed draft. 1/

Ms. Anne-Lise PETERSEN (Denmark): The Danish delegation welcomes the initiative to extend the number of members in the Committee on Forest Development in the Tropics, and we therefore fully support the adoption of the proposed draft resolution along the lines in Appendix B of Doc. CL 90/3, Rev. 1.

Furthermore, Mr. Chairman, since we attach great importance to tropical forestry in rural development in the developing countries, we would like to see a Nordic member of the Committee. 1/

1/ Statement inserted in the verbatim records on request.

John R. GOLDSACK (United Kingdom): The United Kingdom endorses the view expressed in the paper (paragraph 24) that the work of the Committee on Forest Development in the Tropics (CFDT) is even more important in relation to the TFAP now and in future.

We recognise that increased membership of the CFDT could reflect and indicate increased importance attached to tropical forestry development by Governments and some benefits may be accrued from broader participation. This, however, would depend upon the participation of highly qualified and experienced professional opinion in the meetings of the Committee.

We recommend that member governments give high priority to ensuring such high level professional participation preferably through the choice of delegates to meetings of the Committee, taking due account of the context of the proposed agenda. To ensure selection of the most appropriate professional participants, we would emphasize the need for the proposed dates and agenda for CFDT meetings to be circulated well in advance. 1/

16.3 Amendments to the Agreement for the Establishment of a Regional Animal Production and Health Commission for Asia, the Far East and the South-West Pacific:

16.3 Modifications de l'Accord portant création d'une Commission régionale de la production et de la santé animales pour l'Asie, l'Extrême-Orient et le Pacifique Sud-Ouest:

16.3 Enmiendas al Acuerdo para la creación de una Comisión Regional de Producción y Sanidad Pecuarias para Asia, el Lejano Oriente y el Sudoeste del Pacífico:

LEGAL COUNSEL: With regard to document CL 90/14 which you have before you, you will see that there are some amendments proposed for approval by the Council to the Agreement for the Establishment of a Regional Animal Production and Health Commission for Asia, the Far East and the South-West Pacific. These amendments were approved by the Commission itself at its last meeting held in Bangkok and they are reproduced on page 4 of the English text of the document, that is, in the Appendix.

As you will see the amendments are purely questions of form and they bring the current nomenclature into line with those approved by Conference for the Regional Office and the Region itself, which is now Asia and the Pacific. The words "the Far East" and "South-West" have been dropped. This is before you for approval, if the resolution which is in paragraph 7 of the document and to which the actual amendments would be annexed is agreeable to the Council, then those amendments will enter into force immediately.

LE PRESIDENT: Je remercie Monsieur Roche pour son exposé introductif. Nous ouvrons les débats. Il y a-t-il des délégués qui veulent intervenir sur ce point? Bien. Nous considérons le projet de résolution présenté dans ce document, au point 7, et les amendements indiqués par la suite en annexe, comme approuvés.

M. Afzal QADIR (Pakistan): I would like to ask the Secretariat to enlighten me as to the definition of tropical forestry. I should also like information about the selection criteria for membership of the Committee.

LE PRESIDENT: Je m'excuse, mais le point 16. 2 a été terminé. Nous sommes en train d'examiner le point 16. 3. Mais je propose à l'honorable délégué du Pakistan de bien vouloir se mettre en rapport avec le Secrétariat et la Direction générale des forêts pour qu'ils répondent à ses questions. Nous sommes en train d'examiner le point 16. 3.

1/ Statement inserted in the verbatim records on request.

M. Afzal QADIR (Pakistan): I am sorry I did not follow the proceedings very carefully. I missed the fact that this item has been closed for debate. I should like to raise these two questions with the Secretariat in order to try and find out the selection criteria for membership. There is a problem which I would like to be enlightened upon. Iran and Iraq are members of the Committee but they are not shown as belonging to the tropical region, whereas Pakistan is shown in the tropical region and is not a member. However, I will pursue this matter with the Secretariat.

LE PRESIDENT: Je suis persuadé que les entretiens que vous aurez avec le Secrétariat seront constructifs et positifs. Nous passons au point 16. 3. ' Y a-t-il approbation? Nous pouvons considérer qu'il a été approuvé et nous remercions Monsieur Roche.

16.4 Abolition of the Regional Commission on Farm Management for Asia and the Far East

16.4 Suppression de la Commission régionale sur la gestion des exploitations en Asie et en Extrême-Orient

16.4 Abolición de la Comisión Regional de Administración Rural para Asia y el Lejano Oriente

C. H. BONTE-FRIEDHEIM (Assistant Director-General, Agriculture Department): The FAO Regional Commission on Farm Management for Asia and the Far East was first established by the Director-General as a Working Party, on the recommendation of the Regional Conference for Asia and the Far East in its Fourth Session (1958). It was approved by the FAO Conference at its Tenth Session (1959) and renamed "Regional Commission" by the Council at its Forty-seventh Session (1966), in accordance with the nomenclature used in Article VI-I of the Basic Texts.

The purpose of the Commission is to stimulate and coordinate farm management and extension activities and to facilitate the exchange of information and experience among the Member Nations of the Region. The Commission has attempted to attain these objectives by conducting the following activities:

- (i) Commission Sessions
- (ii) Technical Meetings
- (iii) Exchange of Information
- (iv) Country and Regional Studies
- (v) Development of Farm Management Techniques

Commission Sessions

The Commission, and its predecessor, has met nine times since its first session in 1961. The last session was held in October this year in Malaysia. The number of participating countries has varied between four and ten; this year eight countries participated. The low attendance stems largely from the fact that budgetary resources for the Commission are insufficient for good preparatory work, or for funding the participation of experts to give keynote addresses.

The Commission Sessions provide a forum for the exchange of experience among participating countries. Delegates present papers which discuss the status, problems and future development of farm management and related programmes in their respective countries.

The future of the Commission has been discussed twice before by the Council, first at its Eighty-Second Session in November 1982, and then again at the Eighty-Sixth Session in November 1984. On each occasion, the Council decided that the abolition of the Regional Commission on Farm Management for Asia and the Far East should be deferred until the Regional Conference for Asia and the Pacific could examine the matter.

The seventeenth Regional Conference in 1984 requested that FAO should revitalise the Commission and, at the same time, member countries were urged to participate in the Commission's work. The Eighteenth Regional Conference was informed that action was being taken to revitalise the Commission and noted that the regional technical commissions were active. It did not specifically consider the Commission on Farm Management for Asia and the Far East since the meeting of the Commission was planned for October this year after the Regional Conference had met. Therefore, this Council does not have a specific report from the Eighteenth Regional Conference as requested in accordance with paragraph 215 of the Report of the Eighty-Sixth Council which reads: "The Council unanimously agreed to defer any decision regarding the abolition of the Commission on Farm Management until it had received a report from the Eighteenth Regional Conference for Asia and the Pacific on the performance of the Commission in the intervening period. "

Following the last Regional Conference, the Regional Commission on Farm Management for Asia and the Far East has met once more. The major results of this Ninth Session of the Commission can be summarised as follows.

The Commission endorsed farming systems development as a basic approach to integrated agricultural development. It strongly supported the need for the establishment of a coordinating mechanism for farming systems development, action to determine specific information and data requirements for its development, and the designation of a focal point in each country to deal with the technical aspects of farming systems.

The outcome of this last session of the Commission will be reported to and discussed by the Nineteenth Regional Conference for Asia and the Pacific in 1988. It is therefore recommended that the Council consider delaying a decision on the future of the Commission once more until November 1988 in order to await the results of the discussions at the Regional Conference for Asia and the Pacific.

Mohd. Mazlan BIN JUSOH (Malaysia): Even though this matter is meant to be deferred, my delegation would like to say a few words about the Commission since we were the host to the last Session of this Commission. But first I should like to thank Mr. Bonte-Friedheim for his very comprehensive introduction.

The Ninth Session of the FAO Regional Commission on Farm Management for Asia and the Far East was held in Kuala Lumpur from 28 to 31 October 1983. We think it was a major success. This can allay the general concern by FAO and member countries about its continued existence since the Eighth Session held in Korea in 1983. Eight member countries sent their representatives during the Ninth Session. Three Reports on farm management activities in the region and three working papers from FAO's Secretariat in Bangkok, seven country reports and four supporting technical papers from Malaysia were presented and deliberated on.

I will not dwell on the various important recommendations made by the Commission at this Session since this has been adequately covered by Mr. Bonte-Friedheim. Suffice it to say that they are fundamental to the development of farming systems aimed at optimising income at the household level.

We are pleased to note the renewed interest of member countries of the region in the said meeting. In our assessment, the Commission still has a very vital role to play in upgrading the productive capacities of member countries, particularly in the development of farming systems suited to the needs of small farmers in the regions. Therefore, we feel that the Commission should continue its work, although we agree that the decision whether to abolish or not to abolish the Commission, should be left to the the Regional Conference for Asia and the Pacific in 1988.

E. Wayne DENNEY (United States of America): The United States certainly concurs that no action regarding the Commission is warranted at this time. We have been fully involved in all of the negotiations and discussions since the Committee on Food Security was first established in 1982. At the meeting in Islamabad, Pakistan, in 1984 we were persuasively convinced that the Asian countries were going to do their best to re-vitalise the Commission, and there is strong evidence that such has been the case.

The meeting is certainly not costing a great deal of money, and although we encourage the abolition of organizations that are not performing a viable role, there is, in our mind, strong evidence that every effort is being made to make a Commission viable that was once inactive and has the potential for being very useful. .

Koo-Bum SHIN (Observer for Korea, Republic of): First of all, I should like to express our sincere appreciation of the presentation made by Mr. Bonte-Friedheim.

It has been more than four years now without any conclusion to this matter since the Director-General proposed to this Council the abolition of the Regional Commission on Farm Management for Asia and the Far East. My delegation does think that this is a demonstration of how deeply and how considerably this Council has been dealing with this question. My country, where the average farm household land is very small in size, attaches great importance to the advice and recommendations which can come from this kind of advisory body. In this sense, my delegation would like to accept the Council's decision on this question as stated in paragraph 5 of the document.

There is one other trivial thing: In paragraph 4 there is a list of countries, Indonesia, Korea, Malaysia and so on. In this case Korea is indicated and this is O. K.

M. Afzal QADIR (Pakistan): To do otherwise than has been proposed in paragraph 5 of this document would be inappropriate in the light of the fact that until we have received the Report of the Regional Commission on Farm Management for Asia and the Far East for us to take any action other than what has been recommended in this paper would be discourteous.

Having said this, I should like to endorse the point of view expressed by the delegate of Malaysia. Our experience of this Commission is similar to that of Malaysia. I would also like to endorse the statement of the representative of the United States.

Pinit KORSIEPORN (Thailand): The FAO Regional Commission for Farm Management for Asia and the Far East has provided a channel for exchange of knowledge, experiences and studies to eliminate problems on farm management matters among the member countries. The Commission also extends its activities to farm management matters such as training, data collection, problem analysis, technical assistance workshops and seminars.

My delegation recognises the importance of farm management as a tool to improve the livelihood of the farming population. As a result, specialised agencies concerned with farm management were established within; our Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives. Therefore, my delegation fully supports the continued existence of the Regional Commission on Farm Management for Asia and the Far East. However, we are of the opinion that policy and performance could be reviewed and revised from time to time according to the changing needs of the member countries.

Kosei SHIOZAWA (Japan): We take note of the fact that an Expert Consultation on the revitalisation of the Commission was held in July this year, followed by the convening of the Ninth Session of the Commission in October, but so far we have not been informed in detail of the outcome of the Ninth Meeting. Although the results of the Expert Consultation are to be forwarded to the next meeting of the FAO Regional Conference for Asia and the Pacific in 1988, we Council members should be informed at an early stage of the contents of the discussions of the last Session of the Commission in a report form so as to deepen the Council members' understanding of this matter. We sincerely hope that the final recommendation will be made at the next Regional Conference for Asia and the Pacific which will be held in 1988.

C. H. BONTE-FRIEDHEIM (Assistant Director-General, Agriculture Department): I thank the Council Members who have spoken in support, because FAO also think that it is a very important regional commission. We have noted the specific request from the delegate of Japan that Council would like to have a copy of the report of the last session of the Commission in October, this year. We will ensure that the report will be available to Council Members after the next regional conference.

LE PRESIDENT: Il me semble que le débat sur ce point soit clos et que tout le monde soit d'accord qu'il faut faire avancer la question avant de prendre une décision définitive sur la suppression de cette commission.

16.6 Changes in Representation of Member Nations on the Programme and Finance Committees

16.6 Modification de la représentation des Etats Membres au Comité du Programme et au Comité financier

16.6 Cambios en la representación de los Estados Miembros en el Comité del Programa y el Comité de Finanzas

LE SECRETAIRE GENERAL: Comme le Président vient de le dire, ce point est pour information et non pour décision, comme il est indiqué par erreur dans le Programme des séances d'aujourd'hui. Le document CL 90/INF/9 rend compte des changements intervenus dans la représentation des Etats Membres à la 51ème session du Comité du Programme où, pour l'Autriche, M. Kinzel a remplacé M. Steiner, et, pour l'Inde, l'Ambassadeur Khaleeli a remplacé M. Gupta; d'autre part aux 57ème et 58ème sessions du Comité financier, pour l'Australie, M. Sault a remplacé M. Martyn.

Gonzalo BULA HOYOS (Colombia): La delegación de Colombia propone que, como es costumbre en la

LE PRESIDENT: Y a-t-il des questions inscrites? Non.

17. Date and Place of the Ninety-First Session of the Council: (CL 90/18-Rev. 1)

17. Date et lieu de la quatre-vingt-onzième session du Conseil: (CL 90/18-Rev. 1)

17. Fecha y lugar de celebración del 91º período de sesiones del Consejo: (CL 90/18-Rev. 1)

LE SECRETAIRE GENERAL: En fait, le Conseil a déjà réglé la question en adoptant hier soir le calendrier révisé des sessions du Conseil et des organes qui lui font rapport pour 1986-87. Il a été dit en effet que les sessions de 1987 auraient lieu suivant le tableau figurant page 2 de ce document, et nous y voyons que la 91ème session du Conseil aura lieu du 15 au 26 juin.

LE PRESIDENT: Y a-t-il une observation sur ce point 17? Non.

18. Any Other Business

18. Autres questions

18. Otros asuntos

LE PRESIDENT: Il semble qu'il n'y ait pas d'observations, je vous propose d'interrompre la séance car nous avons une cérémonie de remise de prix à des journalistes italiens.

Gonzalo BULA HOYOS (Colombia): Creo que todos los Miembros del Consejo deseamos saber cuándo se reunirá de nuevo el Pleno para comenzar el estudio del proyecto de informe.

LE SECRETAIRE GENERAL: La séance plénière du Conseil est prévue pour demain matin à 9 heures 30. avec, à l'ordre du jour, l'adoption du rapport.

SPECIAL CEREMONY FOR ITALIAN JOURNALISTS AWARD

CEREMONIE DE REMISE DE PRIX A DES JOURNALISTES ITALIENS

CEREMONIA ESPECIAL DE CONCESION DE UN PREMIO A PERIODISTAS ITALIANOS

LE PRESIDENT: Je suis heureux, au nom du Conseil, d'accueillir les journalistes qui vont recevoir leurs prix, et je passe tout de suite la parole au Directeur général.

LE DIRECTEUR GENERAL: Monsieur le Président, Excellences, Mesdames, Messieurs. C'est pour moi un grand plaisir de pouvoir aujourd'hui, en présence des membres du Conseil de la FAO réunis pour leur 90ème session, procéder à la remise du prix attribué à des représentants des médias italiens.

Placé sous le haut patronage de son Excellence M. Francesco Cossiga, Président de la République italienne, ce prix a été institué à l'occasion de la commémoration du 40ème anniversaire de la FAO en étroite collaboration avec l'Ordre national des journalistes italiens et la Fédération nationale de la presse italienne.

Avec admiration, nous voyons depuis des années grandir la solidarité agissante que le peuple et le Gouvernement italien: manifestent à l'égard du développement.

Cette orientation et cette préoccupation procèdent d'une sensibilité très vive aux situations difficiles que connaissent les habitants du tiers monde.

Or, cette sensibilité a été à la fois exprimée et stimulée par les moyens d'information italiens.

Ce prix spécial a pour but de rendre hommage aux journalistes de la presse écrite et audiovisuelle qui se sont voués à cette tâche avec autant de vigueur que de talent.

Il est destiné à récompenser "l'efficacité et l'engagement manifestés par des articles ou des reportages qui ont contribué à mieux faire connaître et à attirer l'attention du public italien sur les problèmes du développement du tiers monde, en particulier sur les thèmes de l'alimentation et du progrès agricoles".

Permettez-moi maintenant de vous présenter les lauréats et de les féliciter:

- M. Pietro Sormani, pour la presse écrite, et

- MM. Alberto Jacoviello et Carlo Alberto Pinelli, pour la presse audiovisuelle.

- Le prix décerné à M. Sormani, vient récompenser les articles qu'il a publiés dans le "Corriere della Sera", sur les problèmes de développement. Retenu à Milan pour de graves raisons de famille, M. Sormani n'a pu venir aujourd'hui à Rome. Il est représenté par M. della Rovere du Bureau du "Corriere della Sera" à Rome, à qui je demande de bien vouloir s'approcher du podium,

-Soyez notre intermédiaire auprès de M. Sormani pour le féliciter de s'être fait le témoin des graves problèmes que doivent affronter les pays du tiers monde.

M. DELLA ROVERE (langue originale italienne): Je vous remercie de ce prix; c'est un honneur pour notre journal et également un plaisir parce que nous savons que le problème de la faim dans le monde est un des problèmes fondamentaux, un de ceux sur lesquels il faudra centrer tous les efforts, notamment de la rédaction, pour couvrir davantage ces questions et informer toujours davantage l'opinion publique.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

LE DIRECTEUR GENERAL: Le jury a voulu récompenser conjointement les deux auteurs d'un programme télévisé de qualité exceptionnelle sur le Sahel (un journaliste et un producteur).

Ils ont su marier avec un rare bonheur la rigueur des images et leur charge émotionnelle.

- M. Pinelli, le producteur et réalisateur de ce programme, est parmi nous et recevra le prix également au nom de M. Jacoviello, qui se trouve actuellement à Moscou où il est le correspondant du journal "La Repubblica".

Je vous invite à venir prendre le diplôme.

M. PINELLI: Je m'excuse de parler en italien, en effet mon français et mon anglais sont mauvais; je comprends parfaitement les deux langues mais je suis gêné de parler une langue étrangère, en effet je suis ému car ce prix est extrêmement important pour moi. (Il continue en italien).

Je suis heureux et fier de recevoir ce prix; dire cela est banal, mais je voudrais ajouter que je suis particulièrement content que parmi les oeuvres que j'ai consacrées à des questions analogues on ait choisi le film SAHEL; c'est un film sévère, qui ne se prête pas à un optimisme facile, qui montre la complexité et la difficulté de l'aide aux pays en développement et en particulier aux pays du Sahel. Ces pays du Sahel continuent encore aujourd'hui à traverser une situation particulièrement dramatique.

Il est toujours important de montrer la complexité des problèmes et de dire que l'on n'a pas les réponses à toutes les questions, et que les réponses n'arriveront pas demain. Il faut les rechercher avec patience en se heurtant aux problèmes que l'on rencontre fatalement sur le chemin. Le simple élan du coeur, les bonnes intentions, sans une profonde connaissance du problème, ne suffisent pas. Par ailleurs, les projets mastodontes, catapultés de l'extérieur, bien souvent favorisent tout le monde, excepté les bénéficiaires, ou tout au moins dans une moindre mesure. Oui il faut aider, mais il faut creuser les problèmes au fond. Il s'agit de problèmes propres aux cultures que l'on veut aider, sans quoi on ne fera jamais que du colonialisme une fois de plus.

Je tiens à remercier la FAO; cela fait de nombreuses années que nous collaborons; j'ai appris ces choses-là grâce à elle et cela m'a aidé à méditer et à comprendre ces pays. Merci.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

LE DIRECTEUR GENERAL: Je voudrais aussi citer deux journalistes qui se sont particulièrement distingués par leurs articles sur les problèmes du tiers monde, leur attribuer une "mention spéciale". Il s'agit de Mme Giuliana Pelucchi, qui collabore à l'Avvenire et de M. Ettore Mo, du Corriere della Sera.

A tous, je renouvelle mes plus vives félicitations.

Elio PASCARELLI (Italy): I thank you. I wanted to join the Director-General in congratulating my countrymen, winners of this prize and congratulating once again the FAO for starting this prize which is going to be an annual affair.

I feel forty years younger at this moment because forty years ago I abandoned journalism to start this new arduous task and I think that diplomats around the world like me today feel, as the Director-General rightly pointed out, indebted to the efforts of our mass media for all that they have done in the last few years to radically change the attitude of the Italian public opinion and public opinion for a democratic country means parliament.

In the course of the last five years I have had two ambassadorships in developing countries-or almost developing countries; India is not a developing country, it is far ahead. While in this position I understood how much help I received from the government because parliament had passed the laws appropriating more and more funds for aid development. Now, is not the occasion to say how drastically our laws have changed and they are going to change again because we are going to pass a new legislation, but this effort of the Italian press and the Italian radio, television and movies, la presse écrite, the written press and the audio-visual press, if you call it that, has been of tremendous help to us. I want to join in thanking both Mr. Sormani, in his absence through Mr. Della Rovere, Mr. Jacoviello, who is in Moscow, another souvenir of my career; and Mr. Pinelli who is, happily, with us, for their efforts, their very commendable efforts.

We wish to have more and more such occasions in the future. We are proud that the Italian journalists have done a very good job for the FAO because we have the firm conviction that by mobilizing public opinion we will be able to do more and more through the ordinary means and the extraordinary means to help this wonderful organization.

Atif Y. BUKHARI (Saudi Arabia, Kingdom of) (original language Arabic): Mr. Chairman, dear members, in fact we have not been able to hide our pleasure, our happiness and our satisfaction for this beautiful step taken by our pioneer organization, under the leadership of its Director-General. This wonderful step which consisted in providing those journalists who have shared our problems with us concerning agricultural development and food production with awards. In fact these journalists, through their articles, have expressed their own feelings, their own sentiments. We congratulate them wholeheartedly for this wonderful significant work they have carried out and we thank the FAO for this marvellous step.

LE PRESIDENT: Le Conseil de la FAO est unanime pour se joindre au Directeur général et féliciter les heureux récipiendaires de ces prix en soulignant l'importance qu'il attache à leur travail touchant les problèmes agricoles. Sans eux, nos travaux seraient incomplets et n'auraient pas l'efficacité souhaitée.

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

conseil

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

consejo

ORGANIZACION DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS PARA LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION

CL

CL 90/PV/18

Ninetieth Session

Quatre-vingt-dixième session

90º período de sesiones

**EIGHTEENTH PLENARY MEETING
DIX-HUITIEME SEANCE PLENIERE
18ª SESION PLENARIA
(28 November 1986)**

The Eighteenth Plenary Meeting was opened at 09. 45 hours
Lassaad Ben Osman, Independent Chairman of the Council, presiding

La dix-huitième seance plénière est ouverte à 9 h 45, sous la
présidence de Lassaad Ben Osman, Président indépendant du Conseil

Se abre la 18ª Sesión Plenaria a las 09. 45 horas, bajo la presidencia
de Lassaad Ben Osman, Presidente Independiente del Consejo

ADOPTION OF REPORT

ADOPTION DU RAPPORT

APROBACION DEL INFORME

LE PRESIDENT: Notre ordre du jour consiste en l'analyse et l'adoption du projet de rapport présenté par le Comité de rédaction. Vous avez pu constater qu'il est en plusieurs fascicules. En effet chaque fois que le Comité de rédaction avait terminé une partie de son travail, cette partie était publiée immédiatement. Nous allons passer en revue ces différents fascicules, document par document.

José Ramón LOPEZ-PORTILLO ROMANO (Presidente del Comité de Redacción): Mi siento muy honrado de haber presidido un Comité de Redacción donde se trabajó siguiendo reglas muy claras y siempre en una atmósfera de conciliación, respeto y de ánimo constructivo.

El proyecto de Informe que preparamos recoge los aspectos fundamentales y trascendentes de nuestros debates en Plenaria, así por los menos lo creemos los miembros del Comité de Redacción.

Todos en el Comité estuvimos conscientes de que no era deseable ni conveniente que en tal proyecto se expresen los detalles de las distintas intervenciones. Esos detalles se presentan con toda precisión en los respectivos verbatimms. Lo que se buscó, señor Presidente, fue plasmar los aspectos donde hubo consenso, así como precisar los casos en los que no lo hubo, es decir, las divergencias de opiniones y de posiciones.

En nuestros trabajos se reconoció el derecho de cada quién a disentir y expresar su propia opinión, pero también que cada Estado Miembro debe ser tratado igual que cualquier otro y, por tanto, que no existían prerrogativas o tratos preferenciales para nadie. Sólo en aquellos casos en que se consideró indispensable se hizo referencia nominal a uno o varios países.

En la elaboración del proyecto de informe se tuvieron a la mano como referencia los verbatimms y también nos guiamos por las directrices y las decisiones tomadas por usted, señor Presidente, así como por la síntesis que usted tuvo a bien presentar a la consideración del Consejo al término del tratamiento de cada tema.

Llamo la atención de este Consejo a través de usted, señor Presidente, sobre el hecho de que el proyecto de informe no contiene, no contiene reservas de ningún tipo y que ningún párrafo se ha presentado en corchetes.

Asimismo subrayo que en el seno del Comité se elogió en general la forma en que los textos habían sido preparados por la Secretaria de la FAO. Al respecto, tuvimos siempre la asistencia de los funcionarios de la Secretaria encargados de los distintos temas y que nos ayudaron a solventar dudas y aclarar interpretaciones.

Se reconoció asimismo que la forma en que la representación regional estuvo integrada en nuestro Comité permitió recoger de la manera más adecuada posible las distintas interpretaciones y declaraciones.

Señor Presidente, el proyecto de informe representa un balance muy delicado que le costó al Comité un gran esfuerzo de buena voluntad, de concreción de ideas y también de horas de trabajo. Sólo como anécdota deseo informarles que estuvimos reunidos un total de casi 35 horas a lo largo de seis días de intensas labores.

Pongo, pues, señor Presidente, a su consideración y a través de usted a este Consejo el proyecto de informe que consta, como usted bien lo ha aclarado, de nueve partes y que la razón que obedece que se presenten de esta manera, como usted también lo ha explicado, es de tipo mecánico. Reconozco que hay pequeños errores mecanográficos y quizá algunas otras cuestiones que se filtraron indebidamente, sea de traducción, de homogeneidad de términos o de tipo mecanográfico. Le propongo, señor Presidente, con todo respeto, y si lo tiene a bien, que les pida a los distinguidos miembros de nuestro Consejo que tales cuestiones menores sean llevadas directamente a la Secretaria a fin de evitar interrumpir la deliberación sobre los asuntos de mayor envergadura.

LE PRESIDENT: Je remercie le Président du Comité de rédaction pour ses éclaircissements.

DRAFT REPORT-PART I
PROJET DE RAPPORT-PARTIE I
PROYECTO DE INFORME-PARTE I

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

Paragraphs 5 to 7 approved

Les paragraphes 5 à 7 sont approuvés

Los párrafos 5 a 7 son aprobados

PARAGRAPHS 8 to 21

PARAGRAPHES 8 à 21

PARRAFOS 8 a 21

Paragraphe 8: Avez-vous des observations? Adopté.

Paragraphe 9.

R. G. PETTITT (United Kingdom): I have just one query. I notice there is a reference to "flows of both concessional and non-concessional capital had been set back. " Is this a reference to GIP concessional capital and non-concessional capital generally, rather ¿han in the agricultural sector? If so, is this correct that there were figures provided? I ask this in ignorance.

José Ramón LOPEZ-PORTILLO ROMANO (Presidente del Comité de Redacción): Sí, efectivamente se refiere a corrientes en general y no solamente relativas a la agricultura, tal como se expresaba en el documento de referencia, no recuerdo el párrafo correspondiente; no tengo tampoco a la mano las cifras que se pudieran haber mencionado en el documento CL 90/2.

LE PRESIDENT: Moyennant cette observation, nous pouvons considérer le paragraphe 9 comme adopté. Paragraphe 10.

R. G. PETTITT (United Kingdom): I was on paragraph 10, but I thought a greater expert would come. I think the expression "widespread proliferation" is not correct. I would think "we deplored the continuation of".

LE PRESIDENT: Le texte français parle "d'extension".

José Ramón LOPEZ-PORTILLO ROMANO (Presidente del Comité de Redacción): Sí señor Presidente. Por el Comité de Redacción se debatió sobre esta cuestión y se coincidió en que el sentido general, por lo menos de la mayor parte de los miembros, era el que se había lamentado que aumentaban, aumentaban las medidas de tipo proteccionista, no que se hubieran mantenido, de manera que la expresión que se ha usado aquí responde, y así lo estimó el Comité de Redacción, a ese sentimiento general que se percibió en nuestro Consejo.

LE PRESIDENT: C'est l'augmentation sur les marchés agricoles des subventions pratiques qui affectent... L'augmentation: l'idée est bien là.

R. G. PETTITT (United Kingdom): I would have to have a minor reservation on this because I do not think there is statistical evidence that there is "widespread proliferation" if that means widespread increasing growth of these things. The more neutral term I would suggest would probably be agreeable, that is to say "deplored the continuation of". Would this not be acceptable to the Council?

Sra. Mercedes FERMIN GOMEZ (Venezuela): Nostros vamos a estar de acuerdo con que esto se mantenga, o por lo menos se diga el "Incremento", porque, la verdad, no es el mantenimiento del proteccionismo, el proteccionismo agrícola sobre todo ha sufrido incremento que sufrimos los países que tenemos algo que exportar y que estamos sometidos a impuestos de importación en los países que son nuestros destinatarios, y por esa razón vamos a mantener el término "proliferación" porque en este último año ésa ha sido la realidad.

José Ramón LOPEZ-PORTILLO ROMANO (Presidente del Comité de Redacción): Para aclarar por qué se usó el término, porque no solamente se refiere al incremento de medidas que ya se han tomado, sino la toma de nuevas medidas, de nuevas medidas que se aprecian en el ámbito general. No solamente es un problema cuantitativo, sino cualitativo el que se está reflejando aquí en este párrafo. Solamente quiero hacer esa aclaración.

LE PRESIDENT: Y a-t-il d'autres observations? Je pense qu'on peut considérer ce paragraphe 10 comme adopté. Paragraphe 11: Avez-vous des observations?

Joachim WINKEL (Germany, Fed Rep. of): I see that in paragraph 11, as the then President of the Drafting Committee put it, he has made use of his right to express his own opinion and so we should say "Some of the members asked the European Economic Community and other developed countries which in their opinion acts as protectionism" or to avoid mentioning one of those countries. So we could also read "asked developed countries which practised protectionism" but not to mention the European Community. Those are the possibilities we have.

LE PRESIDENT: Le texte français ne parle pas de la Communauté européenne; il dit "Un certain nombre de membres ont demandé aux pays industrialisés".

Danilo VUJICIC (Yugoslavia): I would like to suggest deleting two words in the third line of the paragraph of the English text, to delete the words "to try" so that the text would read "to gradually eliminate these barriers".

LE PRESIDENT: Nous avons eu une proposition du représentant de la Yougoslavie tendant à retirer le terme de "s'efforcer". Y a-t-il d'autres observations?

Elio PASCARELLI (Italy): I think that as my German colleague pointed out this mention of the European Community should be struck out because in the French text we do not have it, I do not know why we should have it in the English text.

LE PRESIDENT: Je constate une différence entre le texte français et le texte anglais. Le texte français ne mentionne pas la Communauté économique européenne alors que le texte anglais la mentionne. Sur ce point particulier, je donne la parole à M. le Président du Comité de rédaction.

José Ramón LOPEZ-PORTILLO ROMANO (Presidente del Comité de Redacción): Efectivamente, es un error de la versión francesa, se lo subrayo, un error de la versión francesa. En español dice "algunos miembros pidieron a la Comunidad Económica Europea y a los demás países desarrollados que practican el proteccionismo"; no se está indicando aquí ni a la totalidad de los países desarrollados ni tampoco se está excluyendo a ciertos países de esta cuestión.

Lo que les quiero hacer ver es que este párrafo sufrió intensos debates de horas en el Comité de Redacción, inclusive el Comité estimó pertinente que el distinguido representante de la Comunidad Económica Europea pudiera expresar su opinión al respecto. Esta fue escuchada y el párrafo obedece, en consecuencia, a un delicado equilibrio que responde también al del resto de los párrafos que ustedes ven en esa sección.

R. G. PETTITT (United Kingdom); Now I know that the English rather than the French text is the correct one. I come forward to suggest that we do omit a specific reference to a group of countries; the proposal that one changes this to read "those countries which practise protectionism" would be appropriate.

Gonzalo BULA HOYOS (Colombia): La delegación de Colombia propone que, aunque se sabe que estamos en un momento en que no conviene plantear cuestiones distintas a las conclusiones del informe, tal vez, justamente como estamos empezando, convendría recordar que en la Organización Internacional del Trabajo se ha consagrado el principio de la división de labores. Digo esto porque el Comité de Redacción está integrado por países y no por personas. La Sra. Fritelli, en nombre de Italia, aceptó este párrafo allá en el Comité de Redacción y luego no es precedente que aquí, el Embajador de Italia se oponga a este texto; esto es para el futuro, Sr. Presidente.

Como lo ha dicho el Presidente del Comité de Redacción, este texto costó largas horas de discusiones y luego lo arreglamos muy satisfactoriamente con las delegaciones de Francia, Italia y con el Sr. Rateau, representante de la Comunidad Económica Europea.

La redacción flexible a la cual se refirió Yugoslavia fue parte del arreglo. Por lo tanto, muy cordialmente quisiera pedirle al colega de Yugoslavia y a todos los demás Miembros del Consejo que nos permitan adoptar este párrafo tal como fue aprobado, porque también todos sabemos que en la Comunidad el Reino Unido es parte integrante y algo más, preside todavía el Consejo de la Comunidad; luego todos están comprometidos en este texto a través de la participación del Consejo de esa Comunidad.

Sra. Mercedes FERMIN GOMEZ (Venezuela): La delegación de Venezuela se va a manifestar de acuerdo con la redacción que trae el párrafo del informe en el texto español que dice: "Algunos miembros pidieron a la Comunidad Económica Europea..." tal como lo ha dicho nuestro Presidente del Comité de Redacción y es que lo cierto es que en los últimos años, sobre todo 1985-86, nuestros países en desarrollo de América Latina-estoy hablando por los países de América Latina especialmente-sufren estas consecuencias del proteccionismo y de las barreras aquí en los países europeos por una serie de excusas: porque no cumplen tales requisitos de tales condiciones de sanidad, etc. ; son excusas, pero lo cierto es que los productos de América Latina, que anteriormente venían a Europa y que constituían parte de nuestra exportación-en este caso hablo por Venezuela-hoy se encuentran prácticamente vedados de entrar al continente europeo porque la Comunidad Económica Europea establece sus barreras, si se las pone incluso a otros miembros, como en el caso de los del Sur, por ejemplo, en general, incluso los otros países que están creando barreras; se han intentado crear barreras, incluso con la exportación petrolera y ya la tenemos con el hierro, están impuestos crecidos para la exportación de hierro y para la exportación de petróleo, a pesar de que son insumos que necesitan sus industrias, pero le ponen obstáculos en forma de impuestos de importación. Por eso, mantenemos nuestro apoyo al párrafo tal como está porque son desarrollos de la última etapa de este tiempo.

LE PRESIDENT: J'aimerais que, dans toute la mesure du possible, on s'efforce de ne pas rouvrir le débat de fond. Il s'agit de l'adoption d'un texte et, si nous voulons respecter nos contraintes de temps, il faut éviter de procéder à une discussion.

Mrs. Millicent M. FENWICK (United States of America): I would suggest on page 3, paragraph 11, "a certain number of members"-and I wish it could be all members-"asked those countries which practised protectionism, subsidies and other similar measures affecting trade to eliminate those barriers". I would like to join with the Yugoslav suggestion, leave out the "to try to". Let us get to work in the the GATT with all these protectionist measures that are hindering the free trade of the world.

Joachim WINKEL (Germany, Federal Republic of): I think that is a good proposal to say that all countries, all members asked those countries. I could follow the United States proposal.

Jacques POSIER (France): La présence de la France, de même que celle de l'Italie, au Comité de rédaction ayant été évoquée, je voudrais simplement, dans cette brève intervention, donner quelques indications complémentaires sur les conditions dans lesquelles ce paragraphe 11 a effectivement été adopté.

La représentation française-et je crois que la représentation italienne aussi-n'était pas en faveur de la mention explicite de la Communauté économique européenne. Elle s'est efforcée de faire prévaloir son point de vue, mais nous avons dû noter que le libellé du texte était non pas "Le Conseil a demandé" mais "Un certain nombre de Membres ont demandé". C'est ce qui s'est passé en réunion pionnière: certains Membres l'ont demandé. Il nous était donc difficile d'aller plus loin dans l'objection que nous avons présentée.

D'autre part, grâce à la compréhension et à l'esprit de conciliation qui régnaient au sein du Comité, nous avons demandé et obtenu l'inclusion du dernier paragraphe "En réponse à ces Membres, la CEE a déclaré etc. ...", ce qui équilibrait de façon assez satisfaisante l'ensemble de ce paragraphe.

Voilà les quelques indications supplémentaires que je voulais apporter à ce débat.

Leopoldo ARIZA HIDALGO (Cuba): Nosotros queremos primeramente reconocer al Presidente y al Comité de Redacción la presentación de este documento que, como lo dijera el Presidente, se ve que es un documento bien trabajado.

Sobre el tema que nos ocupa, queremos decir que hay aquí dos realidades, que no aceptarlas sería contraproducente en la discusión de hoy. Una real, que se puede contar, que se puede tocar, que la podemos expresar otra vez. Algunos miembros expresaron eso; eso es una realidad. Segunda realidad, que no creo que tampoco se pueda evitar; no se puede evitar porque las discusiones que han habido no sólo aquí sino-nosotros no estamos aislados del mundo-las ha habido en los foros económicos. El proteccionismo existe como instrumento y como mecanismo real, y lo estamos discutiendo, inclusive sus condiciones. No podemos pretender evitar que se diga que "algunos miembros piden a la CEE y a los demás países desarrollados... que traten de eliminar..."; piense que en eso el Consejo fue bastante...", "...que traten de eliminar...", porque sabemos que nos es fácil dentro de los mecanismos económicos de estos países eliminar eso. Ahora, si algunos se consideran que no están incluidos ahí, bueno, específicamente el que se crea que no está incluido ahí, que lo exprese, pero como nunca lo hemos discutido aquí con nombres y apellidos sino generalizando, esta es la forma mejor de generalizar el Consejo; ahora, si hay un país que considera que él no debe estar ahí, que lo exprese y lo discutimos aquí, pero no vemos otra salida.

LE PRESIDENT: Personnellement, j'ai été assez impressionné par ce qu'a dit le délégué de la France, savoir qu'il ne s'agit pas des sentiments du Conseil mais d'une demande présentée par un certain nombre de Membres du Conseil et d'une réponse de la CEE, de sorte que cela n'engage pas le Conseil dans á totalité mala reflète un échange, c'est-à-dire une demande et une réponse.

Joachim WINKEL (Germany, Federal Republic of): I do not want to prolong this discussion. We have not had the opportunity to give our thanks to the Drafting Committee. I feel they did a wonderful job, that it was rather difficult to unite all that was brought up in this Session. I find the proposal of the United States certainly a little bit practical to overcome the difficulties we have. Our French colleague is right when he said it was not all of the Council who expressed, but the thoughts behind us were such. But maybe I can come back to my first proposal. Could we not say "which in their opinion practised protectionism"? That would be correct, would not do harm to anybody and would overcome the difficulties.

Akbar Mirza KHALEELI (India): I think the delegate of France has underlined the efforts of the Drafting Committee, to whom our thanks are due. Basically it reflected the sense of the proceedings and I think this should remain. Perhaps at best one could remove the word "certain", and paragraphs 11 and 12 read together reflect the whole position.

Temel ISKIT (Turkey): We are not a Member of the Drafting Committee but on reading this paragraph we think that the Drafting Committee made a very big effort on this and we hail this effort. I think this effort of compromise is apparent from the third sentence of the paragraph, where it says, "In response to these Members, the EEC stated that..." That means that there was a question and a reply. So if we change the start of the paragraph the rest of the paragraph will fall. So my delegation, which feels very strongly about protectionism, is very ready to accept this paragraph as it is. If we open up the discussion we will not find an end.

Danilo VUJICIC (Yugoslavia): Just in the spirit of compromise, I would accept the appeal by the delegate of Colombia not to insist on my proposal to delete the two words "to try". I want to satisfy him and the efforts of the Drafting Committee. But as this is a statement of one side, I do not think we should be so polite as to use words which would correspond to the other side. So I do not insist. But in my future interventions I would take care not to give up when I think that things should be in.

LE PRESIDENT: Si j'ai bien compris, le paragraphe 11 reflète une question et une demande. Il ne s'agit pas d'une décision du Conseil, mais du reflet d'une situation donnée. Je pense que l'intervention faite par le délégué de la France sur ce point est très pertinente.

Une suggestion a été faite par le délégué de la République fédérale d'Allemagne. Il s'agit d'ajouter "selon eux", c'est-à-dire: "Un certain nombre de Membres ont demandé aux pays industrialisés de la CEE qui, selon eux, pratiquent le protectionnisme..."

Le Conseil souhaite-t-il adopter le paragraphe 11 tel qu'amendé? Il est adopté.

Nous passons au paragraphe 12. Y a-t-il des observations au sujet de ce paragraphe? Je tiens à signaler qu'il s'agit de décisions. Je propose donc que le débat soit limité aux délégués Membres du Conseil.

R. G. PETTITT (United Kingdom): I query the sentence in the middle of paragraph 12: "The Council urged that FAO be involved in these negotiations..." I think your summing up may have been rather less strong than this. I think it would be more in accord with the mood if FAO contribute to these negotiations. This is not a subject that I am well briefed on. But I did not read this from your summary in CL 90/PV/4, page 37.

R. MacINTOSH (Canada): Just to say that we would agree, that we believe that "contribute to" would be a more accurate rendition.

Joseph TCHICAYA (Congo): Nous voulons aussi exprimer, au nom de notre délégation, toute notre reconnaissance au Président du Comité de rédaction et à tous les Membres de ce Comité pour le travail qu'ils ont accompli.

Nous voudrions toutefois apporter un léger amendement à la dernière phrase du paragraphe 12. Au lieu de "L'Accord international sur le blé qui, de l'avis de certains Membres....", je crois qu'il faudrait dire "L'Accord international sur le blé qui, de l'avis de nombreux Membres"-ou "de l'avis de la plupart des Membres"-devrait comprendre des clauses économiques".

Je souhaite simplement qu'on enlève le mot "certains" et qu'on le remplace par des mots un peu plus forts car je pense qu'aucun pays en développement ne souhaite pas que des clauses économiques soient comprises dans cet Accord.

Joachim WINKEL (Germany, Federal Republic of): I just wanted to support the British proposal.

José Ramon LOPEZ-PORTILLO ROMANO (Presidente del Comité de Redacción): Respecto de la enmienda sugerida por el Reino Unido y ahora apoyada por la delegación de la República Federal de Alemania, les quiero decir que esa oración no sufrió modificaciones durante el Comité, si bien se reconoció que era la forma o que rescataba la forma en que usted habla resumido nuestros debates.

En relación con la segunda cuestión, ésta fue planteada en el Comité y se incluyó en la forma en que ustedes la ven. Claro que esto nos significó hacer un recuento de los delegados que apoyaban esta decisión de cláusulas económicas, aunque por lo que veo, el distinguido delegado del Congo siente, y quizá tenga razón, de que se trató de muchos o por lo menos así lo podríamos interpretar. Es algo que el Consejo debe determinar.

LE PRESIDENT: Il y a deux points en discussion. Le premier concerne la phrase qui se lit comme suit: "Le Conseil a instamment demandé que la FAO contribue à ces négociations pour ce qui a trait au commerce des produits agricoles..." Si j'ai bien compris le délégué du Royaume-Uni, il serait satisfait si l'on retirait le terme "instamment". Si je ne me trompe pas, le mot "contribue" est admis par les délégués du Canada et du Royaume-Uni.

Le deuxième point est relatif à l'Accord international sur le blé et aux clauses économiques. Le Congo souhaite que l'on remplace les mots "certains Membres" par "de nombreux Membres".

Si vous êtes d'accord, on pourrait mettre dans le texte anglais "contributes" et dans la dernière phrase "de nombreux Membres" au lieu de "certains Membres".

Compte tenu de ces deux modifications, le Conseil adopte-t-il le paragraphe 12? Le paragraphe 12 est adopté. Nous passons au paragraphe 13.

Danilo VUJICIC (Yugoslavia): My proposal would be only in the first line, to delete the word "important", because the word "important" as it is put here gives an implication of a big positive role, while in fact in discussions there were some delegations which were of the opinion that transnational corporations are not deeply involved in agriculture, especially not in food, which is important. On the other side, I think it would be better just to delete the word and just to say that the Council noted the role that transnational corporations played in agriculture, and so on.

Leopoldo ARIZA HIDALGO (Cuba): Nosotros realmente queremos coincidir con la exposición que ha hecho el representante de Yugoslavia. Nos parece que la primera parte de este párrafo es un poco contradictoria. Se dice: el Consejo observa, el Consejo observa en su totalidad. Después dice: algunos miembros expresan. Una opinión que afecta negativamente a los intereses. Y se dice: el Consejo observó la importante función. Yo creo que la palabra "importante" está demás ahí. Si lo dejamos en: el Consejo observó la función que desempeñaban las empresas. Independientemente de que tenemos criterio estamos pidiendo un estudio que se va a hacer en él. Ya sabremos qué grado de importancia tiene. Por el momento creo que no debemos calificarla de importante. Eso es todo.

Mrs Millicent M. FENWICK (United States of America): I do not wish to be egotistical, but we did discuss transnationals at some length. I think that they can be very important. I have been in African countries where secretaries of the Treasury have said: "How do we get some investments, we must develop our agriculture-how do you do it?" The Quakers in one country in Central America started a food processing plant which was then developed into a very good on-going transnational with investment to increase the development. I went some length into this, and I see no mention of it. Maybe I should not insist that everything I say be recorded. But lawyers can be trained to protect their country's interests and this will make it possible for the Secretary of the Treasury of those countries who wish to have investments connected with agriculture, it can indeed be connected with agriculture. We heard just yesterday about the problems when some countries are producing agricultural produce which is hard to transport and store and keep. If they can be processed they are highly valuable to the agricultural world and to the agricultural field. The processing plants, the investing companies, and the transnationals are very valuable, provided their interests are properly guarded by trained lawyers. I see nothing of that here. I do not think we can endorse every transnational, but under certain conditions they are very desirable. And so it was said!

Akbar Mirza KHALEELI (India): After thanking the Drafting Committee for its efforts, I think the main issue in this paragraph is to ask FAO to complete the study being made on TNC and agriculture. The first sentence unfortunately conveys a very positive role of the transnationales. The second sentence clearly indicates the adverse effects, whereas the main issue is to complete the study of the TNC's. I was not personally in the Drafting Committee but I go along with both sentences. I would say that "the Council noted the role that transnational corporations could play in the development of agriculture". I would put it "could play". "But some members felt that these corporations could adversely affect the interests of developing countries" because, that is the reality as we perceive it in the developing countries. They can play a role but they have not always played that role. Perhaps it might be better, subject to the comments of the Council and the distinguished Chairman of the Drafting Committee, to eliminate the first two sentences.

LE PRESIDENT: Je remercie le délégué de l'Inde. Y a-t-il d'autres délégués qui veulent intervenir sur ce point précis?

José Ramon LOPEZ-PORTILLO ROMANO (Presidente del Comité de Redacción): Efectivamente este párrafo recibió cierta discusión en el Comité de Redacción, particularmente con la delegación de Estados Unidos que moduló el párrafo de manera que se dijera que fueron sólo algunos miembros los que expresaron que podía afectar negativamente los Intereses de los países. Esta expresión venía de alguna manera a contrabalancear lo que se decía, como bien ha dicho el delegado de la India, en la primera oración. Se introdujo, pues, el término en el Comité de Redacción: de que algunos miembros habían expresado tal opinión, aunque debo advertir, señor Presidente, que efectivamente no se desarrollaron debates extensos, cuando menos, en este tema, no se hizo y tampoco se refirió a lo que ha declarado la distinguida delegada de Estados Unidos. No se refirió en este tema a esta cuestión.

Aquí lo importante, como ha destacado el delegado de la India, era la recomendación a la FAO de que presentara tal estudio, y no tanto un debate sobre si eran buenas o malas o tenían defectos negativos o positivos.

LE PRESIDENT: Effectivement les phrases 1 et 2 du paragraphe 13, ainsi que l'a dit le délégué de Cuba, comportent une certaine divergence. Peut-être, la proposition qui a été formulée, c'est-à-dire "Le Conseil a noté le rôle important que les sociétés transnationales jouent dans l'agriculture"... Ceci conduirait à demander la suite des études par la FAO. Est-ce que cette proposition présentée par l'Inde, la Yougoslavie et appuyée par Cuba est admise? "Le Conseil a souligné le rôle que les sociétés transnationales jouent dans l'agriculture". Est-ce qu'on peut adopter cela tout en laissant le reste intact? Le Conseil a adopté. Nous passons au paragraphe 14.

Mohammed ABDELHADI (Tunisie): Ma délégation voudrait tout d'abord remercier le Président et les membres du Comité de rédaction pour le travail important qu'ils accomplissent. Concernant le paragraphe 14, à la fin de ce paragraphe, on parle du FIDA et notamment de la stabilité du FIDA, c'est à la dernière phrase, à l'avant-dernière ligne. "On parle de la stabilité du FIDA nécessaire à la poursuite de son activité". Je suppose qu'il s'agit de la stabilité financière. Si c'est le cas, je propose d'ajouter ce qualificatif à cette phrase. On dira "stabilité financière nécessaire", etc. C'est une précision qui, je pense, est utile à la compréhension de la phrase.

Anwar Mohammed KHALED (Yemen, People's Dem. Republic of) (Original language Arabic): At the outset I should like to support what has been said by the delegation of Tunisia. However, my observation covers the whole of paragraph 14. I should like this paragraph to be re-written so that it would read as follows: "While the Council has reviewed, (or noted) with satisfaction that the second replenishment of the resources became effective as of November, it expressed its regret at the low level of contributions and it called upon the international community to support efforts that were being made".

I should like to stress what has been said by the delegate of Tunisia "in order to secure or to guarantee a stable and secure financial basis. " I think this would make the paragraph clearer.

LE PRESIDENT: Je demande au Yémen de bien vouloir nous lire à nouveau ce paragraphe car nous sommes en face du Comité de rédaction, et qu'il nous informe de la rédaction qu'il envisage pour ce dernier paragraphe.

Anwar Mohammed KHALED (Yemen, People's Dem. Republic of) (Original language Arabic): In order to make the matter clearer and in view of the fact that all of us speak English, I shall try to give it in English. Continued in English: "While the Council noted with satisfaction that the second replenishment of IFAD became effective on 27th November, it regretted the low level of contributions and called...", and then the rest of the sentence, but after "called on the international community to support efforts that were being made in order for" I suggest "in order to ensure for IFAD a secure and stable financial basis".

LE PRESIDENT: C'est clair. Je pense que le Comité de rédaction a pris note de cette suggestion que nous examinerons au cours de ce présent débat.

Atif Y. BUKHARI (Saudi Arabia, Kingdom of): First, I should like to thank my friend, the Chairman of the Drafting Committee, Ambassador José, for his efforts to give us this nice, clear report. I can see the tiredness on his face and on the faces of the other members of the Drafting Committee. As a member of the Executive Board of IFAD, and as a member of the Audit Committee also for IFAD, the last sentence of paragraph 14 gave me the impression, and I believe everybody here, that IFAD has collapsed-Kaput-which I believe does not reflect the real picture for IFAD. Yes, there are problems, there is no doubt about that, everybody knows about it. However, IFAD is still going on and it will continue to do so for ever. I believe all countries category 1, 2 and 3 are doing their best to keep IFAD for the benefit of the poor countries and poor farmers. IFAD is doing well, it is fine, and all of us really are satisfied.

I should like to modify this sentence. I do not want to make it too complicated but if my colleagues here accept this, to take out "the Council part of this", I should like to suggest we keep "while the second replenishment of IFAD was welcomed"-it is really welcomed and has been effected, then we can take out this sentence: "The Council regretted that it failed to attain its target level. " That we should take out. We have to take it out. We can then go directly on and say "and called on the international community to support efforts that were being made in order for IFAD to continue", not to "survive" but to "continue on a stable basis". I believe this way we could present a clear picture.

Danilo VUJICIC (Yugoslavia): When I asked for the floor I also had in mind the end of the sentence. It is not really the best expression "to survive on a stable basis". That does not really give the message of what we need from IFAD. I thought that this should be corrected. I had some idea that both proposals from the distinguished representatives from the Yemen and Saudi Arabia cover my concern. I would like to read it if it will help the draft, that I propose. I would only change the last line after the words "in order". The text would read as follows: "in order to enable IFAD to continue to play its useful role on a secure and stable financial basis. " This is my proposal, which is very similar to the other two, but if it helps I would not insist on the wording. I just wanted to avoid the implication of survival.

Mrs. Millicent M. FENWICK (United States of America): I would like to associate my delegation with the views of the delegate from the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen and of Yugoslavia which have been expressed.

LE PRESIDENT: Il semble qu'il y ait convergence sur le paragraphe 14. Avant de passer la parole aux intervenants, pour gagner du temps, pourrait-on demander au Comité de rédaction de bien vouloir lire le texte? Effectivement, il serait regrettable que nous donnions l'impression qu'une organisation aussi importante que le FIDA soit au bord du gouffre. Cela n'encouragerait personne à participer à son effort, alors que l'on sait le rôle important joué par le FIDA pour les petits agriculteurs et alors que le FIDA a terminé sa seconde reconstitution des ressources. Il précisément ce matin, la Président du FIDA me l'a confirmé. Nous n'avons pas du tout intérêt laisser un doute planer sur cette organisation. Pourrions-nous donc demander au Comité de rédaction de vouloir nous lire la nouvelle formulation proposée par l'honorable délégué de la République du Yémen et d'en préciser la formulation? On aurait une phrase que se lirait: "Le Conseil a exprimé le regret qu'elle n'ait pas atteint l'objectif fixé". Suivrait une formulation plus optimiste correspondant à celle présentée par la Yougoslavie. Peut-être pourrait-on lire la formulation proposée par la République du Yémen.

José Ramón LOPEZ-PORTILLO ROMANO (Presidente del Comité de Redacción): Yo podría leer lo que acaba de declarar la delegación de Yugoslavia. Si me lo permite, señor Presidente, lo haré en inglés. Continúa en inglés: "While the Council noted with satisfaction that the second replenishment of IFAD became effective on 27 November 1986, it regretted the lower level of contributions and called on the international community to support efforts that were being made in order to ensure for IFAD a secure and stable financial basis". Continued in Spanish: Eso es lo que yo había anotado; pero si hay alguna corrección, ya que se hicieron varias propuestas, espero que lo digan.

LE PRESIDENT: Je pense qu'il faudrait dire ceci "la stabilité financière nécessaire à la poursuite de son activité". Si vous voulez, laissons le mot "activité". Je pense qu'il est bon. Ou bien "le FIDA continue à jouer un rôle utile". Je vais me permettre de résumer ces propositions.

1. Le Conseil se félicite de l'achèvement de la seconde reconstitution du FIDA terminée le 27 novembre 1986.
2. Il exprime les regrets qu'elle n'ait pas atteint l'objectif fixé.

On peut dire que cette proposition consiste à supprimer cette phrase; mais je pense qu'on peut la maintenir en disant: "qu'il aurait souhaité qu'elle atteigne l'objectif fixé; et dans cet esprit il lance un appel à la communauté internationale pour qu'elle appuie les efforts en cours de manière à permettre au FIDA de continuer à jouer son rôle utile sur une base financière stable. "

Je pense que l'on pourrait ainsi un peu "regonfler" le moral de cette organisation très importante.

Elio PASCARELLI (Italie): Je ne voudrais absolument pas qu'on mentionne le mot "low rate of contribution"; c'est injuste. Je suis d'accord avec mon collègue de l'Arabie Saoudite; je pense de même qu'il faut dire "très utile" et non pas "utile" qui est un mot très léger.

LE PRESIDENT: La proposition consiste à noter avec satisfaction l'achèvement de la seconde reconstitution du FIDA terminée le 27 novembre et à supprimer le paragraphe de "regret" et de lancer un appel à la communauté internationale pour qu'elle appuie les efforts en cours de manière à permettre au FIDA de continuer à jouer son rôle utile sur une base financière, stable.

Joseph TCHICAYA (Congo): Je crois que vous avez très bien résumé avant l'intervention de notre ami et collègue de l'Italie. Nous ne pouvons pas accepter que l'on biffe les regrets. Nous avons participé à ces négociations et c'est avec regret que nous avons pu accepter le niveau extrêmement bas atteint par la seconde reconstitution. C'est Important: il nous faut le dire pour que cela puisse profiter aux futures négociations.

LE PRESIDENT: J'aimerais que l'on concentre la discussion sur la dernière partie du paragraphe 14 qui est très importante.

M. Afzal QADIR (Pakistan): I tend to agree with the views expressed by the delegate of Saudi Arabia. I think the draft sentence as it stands without the amendments conveys the impression that IFAD is on a life-support system and that its survival depends on when the support system would be withdrawn by the donor countries. Therefore, this ought to be modified.

With regard to the point made by the delegate of Congo, I think we should retain the words "the Council regretted". I have discussed this with the delegate of Saudi Arabia who suggested a deletion, and he now accepts that these words could be retained in the way that I am going to formulate it: "...the Council regretted the lower level of the second replenishment and called on the international community to support efforts that were being made in order to ensure for IFAD a secure and stable financial basis".

Gonzalo BULA HOYOS (Colombia): Había pedido la palabra antes, pero yo creo que solamente en el texto castellano no nos llegó la fecha 1986 que, en cambio, si fue leída en inglés por nuestro Presidente. Hay que poner 1986, 27 de noviembre.

Apoyamos todas las propuestas, particularmente las ultimas aclaraciones de los Embajadores de Congo y de Paquistán.

Agradecemos a Túnez, Arabia Saudita y Yémen su participación y así queda positivo el llamado en favor del FIDA.

LE PRESIDENT: Si le Conseil est d'accord sur cette rédaction, nous pouvons donner mandat au Comité de rédaction de nous préparer quelque chose que nous pourrions alors adopter.

José Ramón LOPEZ-PORTILLO ROMANO (Presidente del Comité de Redacción): Voy a volver a leer en inglés. Diríamos así: Continúa en inglés: "The Council noted with satisfaction that the second replenishment of IFAD became effective on 27 November 1986. It regretted the lower level of the second replenishment and called on the international community to support efforts that were being made in order for IFAD to continue its useful role on a stable financial basis" Continued in Spanish: Espero que la traducción a todos los idiomas haya sido adecuada.

Atif Y. BUKHARI (Saudi Arabia, Kingdom of): I should like to support fully what the Chairman has said. Let us move to another paragraph.

M. Afzal QADIR (Pakistan): I would like it to be "secure and stable basis", if the word "secure" could be added.

LE PRESIDENT:... assurer une base stable...

Akbar Mirza KHALEELI (India): I think that formulation is perfectly acceptable, but even at the cost of appearing a bit hard I think "with satisfaction" is not consistent with the situation. We could just say "noted". I think we could delete the word "financial" because "stable" includes "financial". So we could delete "with satisfaction" and delete "financial".

Mrs. Millicent M. FENWICK (United States of America): We support exactly what the Chairman of the Drafting Committee has just read out.

Sra. Mercedes FERMIN GOMEZ (Venezuela): Yo le agradezco porque Venezuela está obligada en su calidad de miembro del FIDA a expresar aquí su respaldo a la posibilidad de que el FIDA mantenga su estabilidad y la posibilidad de seguir desarrollando el trabajo que ha venido haciendo hasta ahora, pero para no hacer una intervención analítica me limito a respaldar plenamente lo expresado por nuestro amigo el Embajador de Arabia Saudita y la proposición hecha por mi vecino de la derecha el Embajador del Yémen, que tengo a mi lado.

Elio PASCARELLI (Italy): I do not see why we should change the wording "the Council regretted that it failed to attain its target level". That is much more the truth than talking about "lower level". It is not the fault of some countries. You know the reason: we do not want any mention of "lower level", but "target level". I think that was perfect wording, and I do not see why we should change it.

LE PRESIDENT: Si je comprends bien, le Conseil serait d'accord avec la rédaction de notre Président du Comité de rédaction, avec la nuance suivante: qu'au lieu de parler d'un niveau bas, on dirait que l'on n'a pas atteint l'objectif fixé. C'est bien cela? Pouvons-nous accepter cette formulation?

Anwar Mohammed KHALED (Yemen, People's Democratic Republic of): If a target level is 100 and you pay 99, that contribution has failed to reach the target level but it is a very high level. What we are interested in now is to say that it is a lower level of contribution, which really puts the picture right.

LE PRESIDENT: Nous n'allons pas encore trainer sur ce point; on peut dire "n'a pas pu atteindre l'objectif fixé"; ce n'est pas les 99 pour cent par rapport aux 100. Pouvons-nous donc retenir cette formulation: n'a pas pu atteindre l'objectif fixé?

Atif Y. BUKHARI (Saudi Arabia, Kingdom of): What is the target for IFAD for the second replenishment? \$500 million; everybody knows. How can we say it does not reach its target level? How will we know? Nobody knows up to now. We are still running the second replenishment, so we cannot say it has failed to reach the target level. We have to say "the lower level of the second replenishment". The first replenishment was \$1 billion; now it is \$500 million. This is quite clear. We can say that. I would like to appeal to my friend Ambassador Pascarelli to accept this.

Elio PASCARELLI (Italy): Everybody knows why we had to lower the level. Why imply that and criticize some countries. I don't want any categories to be criticized. In any case, it was not our category that was responsible for the lowering of the level. I do not want any mention to be made here, because we criticize a group of countries and I do not intend that to be done. It is quite clear to everybody, who is in the know, the affairs of IFAD and why we had to lower the level. Why should we mention a lower level? It was not the fault of 20 members of the first category. It is quite clear we were forced to lower the level. Why should we mention that by implying a lower level? We attack, implicitly, the second category and I do not like that.

M. Afzal QADIR (Pakistan): I think the argument made by the distinguished Ambassador of Italy is persuasive, when he says that the formulation that exists in the draft should be retained. Despite the persuasiveness, with which he argued, for the retention of the present formulation, I think that a consensus could be found around the formulation suggested by the Chairman of the Drafting Committee.

LE PRESIDENT: Il y a une sorte de convergence du conseil sur le texte présenté par le président du comité de rédaction. Je pose la question suivante: Est-ce que le Conseil pourrait retenir la rédaction formulée par le Président du Comité de rédaction? Je prie M. Lopez-Portillo de bien vouloir nous lire ce paragraphe.

José Ramon LOPEZ-PORTILLO ROMANO (Presidente del Comité de Redacción): La tengo en español y en inglés pero la voy a leer en inglés. Espero que haya una traducción adecuada a todos los demás idiomas. Continúa en inglés: "While the Council noted, with satisfaction, the second replenishment of IFAD became effective on the 22nd of November 1986, it regretted the lower level of the second replenishment and called on the international community to support efforts that were being made in order for IFAD to continue its useful role on a secure and stable financial basis. "

LE PRESIDENT: Pouvons-nous considérer ce dernier paragraphe du paragraphe 14 comme adopté? Merci. Nous passons au paragraphe 15. Avez-vous des observations? Le paragraphe est adopté. Paragraphe 16. Avez-vous des observations? Le paragraphe est adopté. Paragraphe 17.

R. G. PETTITT (United Kingdom): I think there is just a point of English. This is the second sentence. It suggests that the Director-General prefers aid-in-kind to other forms of aid. I think that we will have to make it read that "more aid-in-kind should be given" although it is rather ugly. The other point was that "with satisfaction". I think we did support this, but it was not absolutely entirely uncontroversial. There was a sort of more complicated approval in another place. Perhaps it could be left out here and the "with satisfaction" be removed. It does not detract from the sense and the qualified approval could be given in the discussion of the agenda item 8. 2.

José Ramon LOPEZ-PORTILLO ROMANO (Presidente del Comité de Redacción): Para indicar que el término de que "se tomó nota con satisfacción" fue incluido en el Comité de Redacción después de algún debate.

Gonzalo BULA HOYOS (Colombia): Este párrafo sufrió algún debate en el Comité de Redacción, como lo ha dicho su Presidente, y logramos acordar esta propuesta de transición, "tomar nota"; el propio delegado del Reino Unido ha dicho que las palabras "con satisfacción" no tienen mayor significación en un sentido o en otro, de manera que para evitar se reabra un debate será más conveniente mantener este texto y aquellas delegaciones que no se sintieron tan satisfechas con esa propuesta podrán reflejar sus puntos de vista cuando llegemos a la parte del informe sobre el tema concreto en relación con el estudio para ayuda en especie.

LE PRESIDENT: Il faut lire ce paragraphe en entier, parce qu'après ce paragraphe il y a un jugement de valeur, puisque l'on dit: "une action de ce genre pourrait avoir une influence directe sur la production agricole et pallier le manque de devises. Elle pourrait aussi contribuer à relayer...". Par conséquent 11 y a un jugement de valeur de telle sorte que le maintien de la satisfaction est cohérent avec la fin du paragraphe 17. Si le Conseil en est d'accord, peut-être pourrions-nous maintenir la forme actuelle dans le but de conserver la cohérence du paragraphe.

R. G. PETTITT (United Kingdom): I was just going to say that I would not press this. I was really speaking for people I thought I had heard speak somewhat against it, but I can accept "with satisfaction".

LE PRESIDENT: Je remercie le délégué du Royaume-Uni pour sa compréhension; nous pouvons considérer le paragraphe 17 comme adopté. Paragraphe 18. Y a-t-il des observations?

Sra. Mercedes FERMIN GOMEZ (Venezuela): Observo que tanto en el texto inglés como en el español el párrafo comienza por "There were". o "Había". Yo pienso que las diferencias de productividad agrícola existen en el presente, no las podemos poner en el pasado, mucho menos en este pasado condicional. Me pronuncio porque pongamos "There are" o "Hay", si es posible, lo sugiero cordialmente a nuestro Presidente del Comité.

LE PRESIDENT: Dans le texte français, il y a le terme "il existe".

José Ramón LOPEZ-PORTILLO ROMANO (Presidente del Comité de Redacción): Sí, señor Presidente. Yo reconozco que en muchas partes del informe se usa ese tiempo en los verbos que puede llevar, efectivamente, a error si se interpreta que se trata de una cuestión pasada. Aunque no se debatió este punto en nuestros debates quizá el Consejo pueda reconocer alguna expresión que indique que es un problema que persiste.

LE PRESIDENT: En français cela ne prête pas à l'équivoque.

Leopoldo ARIZA HIDALGO (Cuba): Nos parece que, como ha expresado el Presidente del Comité de Redacción, estas cuestiones se han presentado siempre en la traslación del idioma principal, que es el Inglés, al español; siempre se crea este pasado.

Creo que la distinguida delegada de Venezuela tiene razón en que podemos en español poner igual que en francés "existen amplias y crecientes diferencias..." o "hay..." sencillamente, ponerlo en presente, que "existen actualmente".

LE PRESIDENT: Nous retenons qu'il faut employer le présent et non pas le passé.

Akbar Mirza KHALEELI (India): This is a question of usage. And "where is" is as accurate as "there are". I do not want to pose as a purist of the English language, but in this context "were" also implies "are". I do think this is a serious matter, we say "as it were". We are meeting as it were in Rome. The word "were" in English-we would be guided by our representative of the United Kingdom in the case of doubt but we can live with were. It would still be in the present.

LE PRESIDENT: Je pense que le Président du Comité de rédaction devrait pouvoir nous donner un libellé qui ne prête à aucune confusion.

José Ramón LOPEZ-PORTILLO ROMANO (Presidente del Comité de Redacción): Se puede decir que "se observo que hay..." o "se observan que existen ...".

LE PRESIDENT: Pourrait-il redire les termes en anglais et en espagnol?

José Ramón LOPEZ-PORTILLO ROMANO (Presidente del Comité de Redacción): En español se podría decir "se observó que existen..." o comenzar simplemente con el verbo que en inglés es una cuestión de estilo, señores, porque, como el informe está rescatando lo que se dice en los debates, por lo general se usa ese término, lo que no implica que se desconozca que esto persiste. Le digo que es una cuestión de estilo o de redacción, francamente.

LE PRESIDENT: Il n'y a donc pas de problème. Y a-t-il des objections au sujet du paragraphe 18?

Temel ISKIT (Turkey): Just for the sake of consistency, the first sentence starting with the words "It was suggested that in view..." we mention agriculture and fisheries, but we do not mention forestry. Therefore, my suggestion would be either just keep the word "agriculture", which supposedly includes forestry and fisheries, or add: "forestry and fisheries". "Agriculture, forestry and fisheries. " or just "agriculture". The third sentence of paragraph 18 starting with "It was suggested that".

LE PRESIDENT: Nous sommes saisis d'une proposition concrète, à savoir d'ajouter après "ressources agricoles" le mot "forestières": "les ressources agricoles, forestières et halieutiques". Adopté.

José Ramón LOPEZ-PORTILLO ROMANO (Presidente del Comité de Redacción): Solamente para aclarar que en español me está llegando la traducción de "montes", yo quería decir "forestales", no "de montes".

LE PRESIDENT: Les délégués ont-ils des observations à faire au sujet du paragraphe 19? Il est adopté. Nous passons au paragraphe 20. Y a-t-il des observations? Il est adopté. Nous passons au paragraphe 21.

Danilo VUJICIC (Yugoslavia): I must say that I do not like very much the language used in this paragraph-probably it was also in part of the discussions within the Programme Committee but still I do not think in the situation, when the United Nations and General Assembly and other bodies take a very clear position on the action of the racial regime of South Africa, in destabilizing neighbouring countries-we could just speak about "one country's actions". So I would suggest that we amend this paragraph, in the second line, delete the last three words "one country in" and insert "racial regime of South Africa" and then in the next to last line, instead just to insert "the neighbouring countries". So that the text would read "expressed its deep concern about the destabilizing actions of the racial regime of South Africa, which were undermining the economic progress of the region, and it requested the Economic Community to assist the neighbouring countries to rehabilitate and maintain" and so on.

Leopoldo ARIZA HIDALGO (Cuba): Nosotros en términos generales, estamos de acuerdo con lo planteado por el colega de Yugoslavia, en que aquí no se puede tratar de esconder una realidad; no hay un Estado de Africa austral, es Africa del Sur, con todas las palabras, lo que ha estado en la mirilla de nuestras observaciones en este Consejo. Sin embargo, queremos expresar otra preocupación de la forma en que se ha redactado este párrafo 21.

Primero, creemos que aquí se ha revisado toda la documentación que se nos entregó. No tenemos ningún documento que se refiera a la situación del Africa austral. Nosotros no hemos analizado el Africa austral en específico; creo que esto es parte del párrafo 20, o sino, continuación del párrafo 20, no decir que "al examinar la situación...del Africa austral, ..." como si nosotros examináramos la situación del Africa austral; nosotros examinamos la agricultura africana, la proposición que se hace, y en ese análisis de la situación africana nos encontramos con las acciones, agresiones y acciones desestabilizadoras de un Estado que se llama Africa del sur, que es lo que debe rezar en este documento, como continuación del párrafo 20, no como un párrafo distinto, porque no creo que nosotros examinemos el Africa austral en específico; en ningún momento lo examinamos.

Creo que esto la Secretarla o el Comité de Redacción debe de tratar de ver cómo hace una continuación si quiere mantener la numeración 21, pero una continuación del análisis, fue dentro del análisis del Africa donde se hicieron las observaciones sobre las acciones de este Estado contra los Estados del Africa austral, porque no hay ningún otro que esté desestabilizando ahí y, si lo hay, que lo diga también para ponerlo.

Bernard LEDUN (France): Le paragraphe 21 a fait l'objet d'une discussion assez approfondie et d'un débat lors des travaux du Comité de rédaction où étaient représentés, je dois le souligner, deux pays du continent africain. Nous nous sommes mis d'accord, finalement, sur cette rédaction dans la mesure où la mention explicite du nom d'un pays serait en contravention avec les conclusions de débats antérieurs. Je me réfère tout particulièrement à la Conférence de l'OAA de novembre 1985. Il s'agit d'une question de principe: nous ne pouvons pas admettre qu'un pays, sauf s'il est d'accord, soit cité nommément dans les conclusions d'un rapport officiel. Par conséquent, je pense qu'en parlant, dans le texte actuel, d'un pays d'Afrique australe, 11 y a suffisamment d'indications pour que chacun sache à quoi s'en tenir et il est inutile, dans ces conditions, d'insister pour nommer ce pays.

Je rappelle qu'en 1985, au moment de la Conférence de la FAO, un certain nombre de pays se sont désolidarisés d'une conclusion qui citait le pays en question.

Waliur RAHMAN (Bangladesh): It is not my intention to politicise our exchange of views on Item 21. As a member of the Drafting Committee we have had occasion to take part in the exchange of views in the Committee itself and then, as I say, we have not had the last word in drafting, we can always improve, but it is true that we had a detailed exchange of views in the Drafting Committee but the amendment of the delegate of Yugoslavia is something that I think only improves the quality of the draft and also the dimension of the draft.

Now referring to the comments from my colleague in France; yes, he does have a point about pointing fingers at individual countries but then I think I would beg to differ with him in this particular case. It is the case, the efforts for the decision or the policy of the government of South Africa, as we well know, and I do not think anybody here, who may have differences in the emphasis or putting the nuances, that anybody has any difficulty in agreeing with the fact that South African policy is something which is disliked and protested by all of us here and the differences to the Resolutions that have been made by my colleague from Yugoslavia are a point in mind that we have adopted, or are about to adopt, in New York in the General Assembly Session. We do not see how you

can delete these two factors so I would appeal to my friend from France not to insist on his reservation on that, and perhaps we can agree on the amendment from Yugoslavia and get along with this ·

LE PRESIDENT. Je crois qu'à ce stade du débat, le Président du Comité de rédaction voudrait prendre la parole.

José Ramón LOPEZ-PORTILLO ROMANO (Presidente del Comité de Redacción): Solamente para decir que sí, efectivamente, este párrafo mereció algún debate o largos debates en nuestro Comité de Redacción y se llegó a esta fórmula de entendimiento en vista de que se mencionaba al Consejo aquí. Pero para facilitar quizás a la delegación de Cuba su propuesta de que se deberla vincular con el párrafo 20, se puede decir "al examinar la situación..." y después tachar la frase siguiente "sobre todo del Africa austral, el Consejo expresó su profunda preocupación de las acciones desestabiliza-doras ...". Aquí quiero decirle, Sr. Presidente, que efectivamente se mencionó en el Comité de Redacción que no se usaba, o no debía implicarse directamente el nombre de ningún país, aunque se dejaba o se debía dejar entendido a cuál nos referíamos. Entonces, "...por las acciones desestabilizadoras de un estado del Africa del Sur, ..." o como dice aquí: "del Africa austral, las cuales estaban minando' el progreso económico en el sur de Africa", quizás, y luego podríamos proceder con la propuesta hecha por la delegación de Yugoslavia que diría "y pidió a la Comunidad internacional que ayudara a loe paíees vecinos o fronteras a rehabilitar y mantener su desarrollo económico y social. "

En fin, el Consejo debe decidir si hacer mención explícita de aquel país o simplemente dejarlo como referencia, pero noto como Presidente del Comité de Redacción que obedeció a cierto debate y que el arreglo o fue que se dejara toda esa expresión con la expresión del "el Consejo".

Joseph TCHICAYA (Congo): J'avais déjà mis sur mon papier la proposition faite parla Yougoslavie. Pour ma part, je ne pense pas qu'il existe un principe en vertu duquel on ne citejamais un pays. C'est absolument faux. Nous sommes à Rome depuis déjà quelques années et je crois que l'on peut trouver plus d'une fois, dans les annales de notre Organisation, un pays cité.

Je ne pense pas que l'Afrique du Sud, qui n'est pas Membre de notre Organisation, puisse trouver dans cette salle des défenseurs qui insistent pour qu'elle ne soit pas citée dans notre rapport.

A la dernière Conférence, nous avons adopté une résolution. Il y a eu un vote et elle a été adoptée. Cela signifie qu'elle s'impose à toute l'Organisation. Cela dit, je suis d'avis que nous acceptons la proposition de la Yougoslavie. Je voulais faire moi-même une proposition un peu plus dure parce que je pensais qu'il fallait rester dans le droit fil de ce que nous avons adopté lors de la dernière Conférence. Mais si l'accord se fait sur la proposition de la Yougoslavie, je m'abstiendrai de faire une seconde proposition qui serait un peu dure à l'égard de l'Afrique du Sud, même si on défend ce pays dans cette salle.

En outre, je pense que ce paragraphe devrait se situer juste après le paragraphe 19 parce que c'est dans ce cernier que l'on parle de l'évolution de la production vivrière africaine et c'est dans ce cadre que nous sommes intervenus sans que personne nous ait demandé de ne pas citer l'Afrique du Sud. Nous l'avons citée nommément après une intervention brillante de notre ami du Zimbabwe qui est, comme vous le savez, un pays de première ligne.

Je suis fermement opposé à ce qu'on ne cite pas l'Afrique du Sud. L'Afrique du Sud, nous Le savons, est citée dans tous les pays. Bien sûr, nous savons que l'Afrique du Sud commet des agressions ou d'autres actions déstabilisatrices, grâce à certains pays qui sont dans cette salle, mais cela ne doit pas nous empêcher d'adopter un simple paragraphe, qui ne va certainement pas changer grand chose.

Joachim WINKEL (Germany, Federal Republic of): In view of the long and exhaustive discussions we had on the last Council and Conference, and considering that the Drafting Committee has brought out a very balanced text, and considering the remarks of our French friends, I would appeal to the Council not to change its text as it is given in the Draft Report.

Mrs. Millicent M. FENWICK (United States of America): I do not think anybody in this room supports the policies that we know exist in this country under debate. Certainly I most firmly do not. It should be clear, what I am defending here is the effort to keep this Council meeting non-political. Yes, South Africa is going to be named, and should be, in the United Nations, and so are the conditions of Afghanistan, but not to be named here. It is proper in the United Nations where they are meeting to try to resolve the peace of the world with vetoes in the Security Council. They are proper things for a political group. We are not a political group. We are trying to increase food. It is not proper to be naming countries here. That is what I am defending, certainly not apartheid, and my colleagues know that. But this is not a political body and political questions are not properly brought to the floor. They are proper in the United Nations.

Temel ISKIT (TURKEY): My delegation is also of course not including political elements in our discussion. But we really cannot see the difference between naming a country and alluding to it while knowing which country this is. I think the politicization-if there is politicization, and we do not believe that there is politicization in this paragraph-the politicization is not in the naming. On the other hand, as other delegates said, we are not aware of the principle of naming a country. There are many instances-not perhaps as far as South Africa is concerned-where a country is named when it is necessary. So we can go along with naming South Africa, and using formulae is just avoiding the question and does not change the gist of the paragraph. So if the Council, especially those affected countries, feel so, we do not see any objection to naming these countries.

Leopoldo ARIZA HIDALGO (Cuba): Nosotros queremos, en principio, plantear que la politización en las discusiones de este evento la traen los que se oponen a que se diga una verdad. Al oponerse obligan a hacer algunas reflexiones sobre una situación. En el documento en el cual se incluye esto que yo planteé de que no podíamos separarnos de la iniciativa del Director General de realizar un estudio titulado "La Agricultura Africana", que fue en este marco donde se discutió esto, se habló de las prácticas que este Estado estaba diariamente cometiendo, y se pueden traer miles de hojas de toda la prensa del mundo. Sencillamente eso. Y que estaba minando el progreso económico, y que no podíamos entrar a analizar la situación africana sin analizar la situación que confrontan y que están fronterizos con ese Estado.

Sencillamente, lo que nosotros reclamábamos eran dos cosas: que no se dejara esto en un estado del Africa austral, porque esto, señor Presidente, los que lo leen o se dan cuenta de que nosotros tenemos miedo a la realidad o sencillamente puede decir esto puede ser Zimbabwe, puede ser Zambia o Tanzania, ya que son Estados del Africa austral. Creo que esa no fue la realidad de lo que se discutió aquí y la historia hay que prenderla por su realidad. Témanla quien la teman. Lo que me parece que lo que hay es temor de los precedentes y la historia.

Nosotros no tenemos ninguna intención de politizar, ya que si quisiéramos politizar haríamos otros análisis y no éstos. Por lo tanto, creemos que la propuesta que hizo Yugoslavia debe modificar este párrafo y además aceptamos la propuesta del Comité de Redacción de que este párrafo diga: "al examinar esta situación el Consejo expresó." Nosotros no hemos discutido absolutamente ningún documento específico sobre el Africa austral.

Akbar Mirza KHALEELI (India): I do not think we are trying to politicize. In fact I was rather struck during the proceedings of the Council how little the racist regime of South Africa was attacked. It would have become a full-fledged attack on South Africa. After all, it has created endless problems for the neighbouring states.

The fact is, during the Council meetings a number of countries, including my own delegation and Zimbabwe, referred to South Africa by name. So to some extent that has to be reflected.

We go along with a number of well wishers and friends of ours who would try to avoid opening up a Pandora's box, so that we do not want to equate South Africa with this, and I do not think it fair to do so.

South Africa is a symbol of almost everything bad in what is taking place. So I think, first, that we should pay respect to the proceedings of the Council, and secondly we should try to appear as moderate as possible so that we do not politicize too much but some reference needs to be made to that country.

I would suggest on the basis of what our colleagues from Congo, Cuba and Yugoslavia have stated, so that this reduces it to the level of a drafting problem and not make it into a new issue.

If I could suggest, with the approval of our most capable Chairman of the Drafting Committee, that we retain it as a separate paragraph, because if we link it up with paragraph 20 etc. there are certain other problems and it breaks the organic continuity of the whole thing.

I suggest as follows: "With reference to developments in Southern Africa..."-because I do not think we examined the situation-"...the Council expressed its deep concern about the destabilizing actions of the regime of South Africa, which were also adversely affecting agricultural planning and production and economic progress in many neighbouring countries, and it requested the international community to assist the countries adversely affected to rehabilitate and support their economic and social development wherever necessary. " I would suggest this could be the broad framework.

LE PRESIDENT: Nous avons encore sept délégués inscrits sur ce point précis. Cette proposition du délégué de l'Inde pourrait être acceptée et nous passerions alors à autre chose. Est-ce que ce qu'il vient de proposer concernant le paragraphe 21 pourrait être lu comme suit: "Lors de son examen de la situation, le Conseil s'est préoccupé des actions déstabilisatrices de l'Afrique du Sud qui compromettent le progrès économique des pays voisins et a demandé à la communauté internationale d'aider ces pays durement touchés. " Cela peut-il constituer une base de compromis? Je pose la question sur ce point précis afin que l'on puisse reprendre la liste des intervenants. Je parle de la proposition de l'Inde. Nous pourrions ensuite demander au Comité de rédaction de lire la forme finale.

R. G. PETTITT (United Kingdom): I was just going to ask India to read it out very slowly, because there is a distinct possibility that my delegation may have to make some definitive action, either to ask for a vote or to abstain.

Akbar Mirza KHALEELI (India): "With reference to developments in southern Africa, the Council expressed its deep concern about the destabilizing actions of the regime of South Africa, which was adversely affecting agricultural planning and production and the economic stability and progress of many neighbouring countries, and it requested the international community to assist these countries to rehabilitate their economic and social development wherever necessary. " The last part I prefer to write out.

Humberto CARRION M. (Nicaragua): Yo deseo apoyar el concepto expresado en la redacción propuesta por el delegado de la India, por los siguientes motivos. Cuando hablamos en el caso de Sudafrica, de sus acciones destabilizadoras, estamos hablando también en este caso, de la propuesta de la India, del impacto que tienen estas acciones en el campo de la producción agrícola y, por tanto de la subalimentaria de los países vecinos a este país sudafricano.

Deseo hacer una reflexión al respecto de este tema, y exponiendo por qué motivo nosotros apoyamos esta propuesta de la India. El caso de Nicaragua es inverso al de Sudafrica. Sudafrica es un país agresor, sin embargo Nicaragua es un país agredido. Los efectos en Nicaragua han tenido una enorme consecuencia en el sector de la producción agrícola y en la de consumo de alimentos. En el Consejo, en períodos anteriores se ha mencionado a Nicaragua específicamente como país agredido, se han minado los puertos, se ha minado el comercio, se han lesionado también medidas económicas de carácter coercitivo que afectan a la producción de alimentos y a la situación alimentaria de Nicaragua.

Por tanto creo que no deberla extrañarnos que actualmentee en esta discusión nos vayamos a encontrar con obstáculos que impidan adoptar propuestas de texto como la presentada por el delegado de la India.

LE PRESIDENT: Pour essayer d'avancer et passer à autre chose, le Conseil peut-il adopter et retenir la proposition de l'Inde?

Bernard LEDUN (France): Je regrette de devoir dire que la proposition indienne, bien qu'elle essaie de nous faire avancer et qu'elle tente de permettre un compromis, ne nous satisfait pas dans la mesure où le régime d'Afrique du Sud est nommé cité.

Le texte qui a été mis au point par le Comité de rédaction parle d'un pays d'Afrique australe. Encore une fois, je répète, ceci me paraît suffisamment clair. La FAO n'est pas un organisme politique. C'est un organisme technique et, contrairement à ce qu'a bien voulu dire le distingué représentant du Congo, nous ne sommes certainement pas des défenseurs du régime de l'apartheid. Il y a un abus de langage de sa part. Il y a de notre part une volonté de garder ce caractère technique à cette organisation et de maintenir ou de confiner le débat politique à l'intérieur des enceintes appropriées, comme l'Assemblée générale des Nations Unies.

Je dois donc maintenir l'opposition de notre délégation à la mention explicite du régime d'Afrique du Sud. Nous parlerions d'un pays d'Afrique australe. Mais si le Conseil veut, si la majorité des membres du Conseil veulent bien maintenir la mention explicite, à ce moment-là notre délégation fera des réserves auprès de certains membres des pays du Conseil par exemple.

LE PRESIDENT: Je pense qu'il faut avancer. Nous ne pouvons pas passer des heures sur ce point. Le problème est clair et se concentre sur un point: faut-il dire, nommer l'Afrique du Sud ou non dans ce débat?

La proposition de l'Inde s'est efforcée de considérer le problème sous ses effets économiques. Je crois que c'est ce problème-là qui avait provoqué des questions lors de nos débats. L'Inde a le mérite de mettre en exergue l'aspect économique plus que l'aspect politique proprement dit. Le problème est le suivant. Faut-il nommer l'Afrique du Sud ou non? Le mieux est de passer au vote car nous ne pouvons pas nous attarder encore sur cette question. Le conseil est prêt à retenir la proposition de l'Inde ou la refuser. Il faut avancer.

José Ramon LOPEZ-PORTILLO ROMANO (Presidente del Comité de Redacción): Deseo aclarar un punto. En la propuesta de la India, por lo menos en español no me llega el que se esté mencionando a tal país. En la versión española se está hablando de Africa del Sur, no del régimen de Sudafrica. Quizá es un problema de traducción. Por lo menos en español no se está mencionando al país. Si en francés se está mencionando será que la traducción se expresa de otra manera, que no se diga el régimen de Sudafrica, sino del Sur de Africa. Pues Africa fue lo que me llegó en español. Quizá esta aclaración le sirva a otros delegados a no oponerse al texto.

LE PRESIDENT: Nous avons donc cette proposition de l'Inde que le Rapporteur voulait amender en disant: "régime d'un pays d'Afrique australe". Quelle est votre proposition exactement?

José Ramón LOPEZ-PORTILLO ROMANO (Presidente del Comité de Redacción): Yo no tengo ninguna propuesta. En español la traducción de lo que dijo el delegado de la India no me llegó la referencia al nombre del representante de Sudafrica. Ese nombre, por lo menos en español es Africa del Sur. Sólo deseo hacer esta puntualización, señor Presidente, para ver si es un problema de traducción o de intención.

LE PRESIDENT: Le problème est clair. La proposition de l'Inde prend la question sur le plan économique et cite le régime de l'Afrique du Sud. Voilà, c'est clair. Pour moi, il n'y a pas de confusion. Est-ce que le Conseil retient cette proposition quitte à émettre les réserves suggérées par le représentant de la France? Nous pourrions alors continuer.

Ms Kay KILLINOSWORTH (Secretary, Drafting Committee)As we have it in English the entire paragraph would read "With reference to developments in southern Africa the Council expressed its deep concern about the destabilising actions of the regime of South Africa which were adversely affecting the agricultural planning and production and the economic progress of many neighbouring countries, and it requested the international community to assist and support the economic and social development of such adversely affected countries wherever necessary. "

LE PRESIDENT: Voilà un texte proposé, j'aimerais que nous passions au vote. Nous considérons le texte comme adopté par 32 voix contre 6.

Motion carried on a show of hands

La proposition est adoptée par un vote à main levée

Se adoptó la propuesta por votación a mano alzada

Bernard LEDÜN (France): Il faudra faire en sorte que cette opération de vote soit mentionnée dans le rapport.

Joseph TCHICAYA (Congo): Il a été dit qu'il fallait mentionner l'opération de vote; il faudra mentionner les pays qui sont contre, c'est en tous cas ce que je souhaite.

LE SECRETAIRE GENERAL: Le vote a eu lieu à main levée et non pas par appel nominal; par conséquent, il suffira de mentionner dans une note en bas de page que ce paragraphe a été adopté par 32 voix contre 6.

R. G. PETTITT (United Kingdom): I was wishing to comment on the paragraph we have been talking about. We should like to make an explanation of the vote.

We voted against this because despite efforts to make this paragraph a non-political one, it still appeared to be so. We did this because we regret the introduction of political issues into a technical body of this sort.

Joachim WINKEL (Germany, Federal Republic of): I would like to join with the declaration of vote of the United Kingdom.

LE PRESIDENT: L'Italie dit la même chose ainsi que le Danemark et les Etats-Unis. Il y a une explication de vote. Tout est clair.

Joseph TCHICAYA (Congo): Ceux qui ont voté contre ont droit à des explications de vote; par conséquent ceux qui ont voté pour peuvent aussi s'exprimer.

Je voudrais tout d'abord dire que le Congo est très attaché au principe de Liberté; par conséquent, il comprend parfaitement bien que certains pays puissent voter contre un tel paragraphe. De toutes façons, le Congo sait qui est pour le régime d'apartheid en Afrique du Sud et qui ne l'est pas. Et le Congo a toujours considéré que tous ceux qui livrent des armes à l'Afrique du Sud l'encouragent à faire des agressions et des activités déstabilisatrices dont il est question ici. Et c'est pour cette raison que nous avons tenu à voter pour ce paragraphe, afin qu'il y ait une certaine démarcation dans cette salle et que l'on sache qui est pour le régime raciste de l'Afrique du Sud et qui est contre.

Nous savons que les opinions publiques du monde entier sont très différentes de ce que pensent les gouvernements; et pour cette raison, nous avons grand espoir dans l'avenir.

LE PRESIDENT: Personnellement, j'ai compris que les délégués qui ont pris position contre cette motion l'ont fait pour des raisons de principe, considérant que dans cette enceinte on n'aborde pas de problème politique. Je ne pense pas que leurs interventions aient été motivées par leur appui systématique ou déclaré au régime de l'Afrique du Sud.

Je propose, avec tout le respect que je leur dois, à tous les délégués du Conseil, de bien vouloir considérer ce point comme adopté. C'est un point très délicat, toutes les sensibilités sont à fleur de peau; nous le savons. Nous avons pris note des explications de ce vote.

Paragraphs 8 to 21, as amended, approved
Les paragraphes 8 à 21, ainsi amendés, sont approuvés
Los párrafos 8 a 21, así enmendados, son aprobados
Paragraph 22, including Resolution, adopted
Le paragraphe 22, y compris la résolution, est adopté
El párrafo 22, incluida la Resolución, es aprobado
PARAGRAPHS 23 to 26
PARAGRAPHERS 23 à 26
PÁRRAFOS 23 a 26

Avez-vous des observations sur le paragraphe 23? Il est adopté. Paragraphe 24. Avez-vous des observations? Il est adopté. Paragraphe 25.

Hermann REDL (Austria): Only a small change in the last-but-one sentence of this last paragraph. The sentence should read as follows: "Apart from FAO and IAEA and other donors, including Poland, United States of America and Canada, Austria will provide an amount of US\$ 750 000 for these laboratories within the next three years. "

LE PRESIDENT: Il est proposé de mettre "fournira" au lieu de "a fourni", "fournira au cours des trois prochaines années..." c'est effectivement conforme à ce que vous avez dit au Conseil.

Joseph TCHICAYA (Congo): Je voulais simplement savoir si l'on pouvait citer ces pays ici. (Rires)

LE PRESIDENT: Pouvons-nous considérer le paragraphe 25 comme adopté? Merci. Paragraphe 26. Avez-vous des observations? Adopté.

Draft Report of Plenary, Part I, as amended, was adopted
Projet de rapport de la plénière, 1ère 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

APROBACION DEL INFORME-PARTE II

DRAFT REPORT-PART II (Sup. 1)

PROJET DE RAPPORT-PARTIE II (Sup. 1)

APROBACION DEL INFORME-PARTE II (Sup. 1)

José Ramón LOPEZ-PORTILLO ROMANO (Presidente del Comité de Redacción): Es para hacerles notar que hay una hoja que tienen aparte que es la REP/2-suplemento 1 y espero que tomen nota que el párrafo que se incluye en tal hoja por separado vendrá adicionado después del párrafo 31 de este documento.

LE PRESIDENT: Le Président du Comité de rédaction attire l'attention du Conseil sur le fait qu'à la suite du paragraphe 31 nous aurons à examiner le document supplémentaire CL 90/REP/2-Sup. 1.

PARAGRAPHS 1 to 7
PARAGRAPHERS 1 à 7
PÁRRAFOS 1 a 7

Paragraphe 1: avez-vous des observations? Adopté

Paragraphe 2? Adopté.

Paragraphe 3? Adopté.

Paragraphe 4?

Humberto CARRION M. (Nicaragua): Es solamente una cuestión de redacción o traducción en español. La primer frase no se entiende su significado; por ejemplo, dice "Al 21 de noviembre de 1986, la tasa de recaudación por concepto de contribuciones representaba con mucho al menos favorable registrada en esa fecha en los últimos cuatro años. "

Es una cuestión meramente de traducción, no creo que eso tenga mayor problema, que la Secretaría se puede encargar de este asunto.

José Ramón LOPEZ-PORTILLO ROMANO (Presidente del Comité de Redacción): Quizás es un problema que efectivamente aqueja solamente al español. En inglés dice: continua en inglés:

"The rate of receipt of contributions at 21 November 1986 represented by far the least favourable rate at that date over the last four years. " continued in Spanish. "Contribución representaba como mucho la tasa menos favorable registrada. "

LE PRESIDENT: Y a-t-il d'autres observations? Adopté. Paragraphe 5.

R. G. PETTITT (United Kingdom): Just a query: I am uncertain whether the first sentence of paragraph 5 is correct or whether the first sentence of paragraph 16 which covers the same subject is correct. I think paragraph 16, which was the announcement that the United States had not renounced its obligation, was an earlier intervention from my colleague on the right. Paragraph 5 represents the statement when the news arrived a day or so later. They are somewhat in conflict, and I would just like a clarification.

José Ramón LOPEZ-PORTILLO ROMANO (Presidente del Comité de Redacción): Solamente puedo decir que la delegación de Estados Unidos participó en el Comité de Redacción y le pareció correcta la forma en que se expresa aquí; de manera que me parece que si Estados Unidos no tiene ninguna objeción a ratificar esta fórmula la podemos dejar como se ha redactado. Si no hay ninguna objeción, ninguna necesidad de clarificación por parte de la delegación del Reino Unido.

Mrs Millicent M. FENWICK (United States of America): I am delighted to say that we have no objection to paragraphs 5 and 6 as stated in the report, as stated by the Chairman.

Gonzalo BULA HOYOS (Colombia): Sin duda el colega del Reino Unido tiene razón al citar estas repeticiones, pero convendría observar que en el párrafo 5 se refleja exclusivamente la posición de esa delegación; luego, en el párrafo 16 se dice de nuevo, y da la ocasión al Consejo de que exprese su opinión en el párrafo 16, por eso agradecemos a la Embajadora Fenwick que acepte esta secuencia que corresponde a la realidad de los hechos.

R. G. PETTITT (United Kingdom): I would just like to clarify this: the position, then, is that the United States at some stage will pay the full amount?

Mrs Millicent M. FENWICK (United States of America): We have not renounced our intention to pay the full amount. What we are saying is that \$4 800 000 will be given now and that the rest of the \$25 400 000 is frozen until 1 October 1987. Beyond that, my Government has not spoken nor given figures, but we have not at any time made a formal renunciation of our intention to pay.

Sra. Mercedes FERMIN GOMEZ (Venezuela): Yo voy a hacer simplemente una pregunta: ¿Por qué tenemos que seguir hablando del "principal país"? ¿No podemos decir "de un país" o de "uno de los miembros?", porque a mí me parece que esa denominación del "principal país", del "principal contribuyente" es algo así como incoherente con la Constitución democrática de la FAO en que no hay principales ni secundarios. Nada más que eso.

José Ramón LOPEZ-PORTILLO ROMANO (Presidente del Comité de Redacción): Quizá se pueda precisar diciendo "la aportación del mayor contribuyente", pero s tenemos que hacer referencia al país que más contribuye a la FAO; no es problema cuantitativo sino cualitativo a que estamos haciendo referencia aquí.

LE PRESIDENT: Pas de problèmes? Adopté. Paragraphe 6· Avez-vous des observations? Adopté. Paragraphe 7.

George Henry MUSGROVE (Canada): We should like to propose the deletion of the fourth sentence in paragraph 7. It does not seem to be altogether consistent with the next sentence. Nor do I think it particularly adds anything to the paragraph.

LE PRESIDENT: Le délégué du Canada propose que l'on supprime "il n'est pas nécessaire que le Conseil examine de plus près ces solutions pour le moment". C'est bien cela?

George Henry MUSGROVE (Canada): In English, the fourth sentence of paragraph 7 reads: "Accordingly, further consideration of these measures by the Council was not required at this time. "

Elio PASCARELLI (Italy): At the end of this paragraph are the words "...of recommending one solution only to the Council". May we say "to the next Council" or "to the Ninety-first Council"?

LE PRESIDENT: Je pense que le Conseil accepte cette suggestion du délégué du Canada, améliorée par l'intervention de M. le délégué de l'Italie.

Y a-t-il d'autres observations sur ce paragraphe 7 moyennant cette suggestion? C'est bien clair. Adopté.

Paragraphs 1 to 7, as amended, approved

Les paragraphes 1 à 7, ainsi amendés, sont approuvés

Los párrafos 1 a 7, así enmendados, son aprobados

PARAGRAPHS 8 to 36

PARAGRAPHES 8 à 36

PARRAFOS 8 a 36

Nous passons au paragraphe 8. Y a-t-il des observations?

Il est adopté. Nous passons au paragraphe 9. Il est adopté. Nous passons au paragraphe 10. Il est adopté. Nous passons au paragraphe 11.

Humberto CARRION M. (Nicaragua): En realidad, como en una serie de párrafos también que vienen después del 11, se menciona al mayor contribuyente, quisiéramos proponer una inversión en el orden de las causas del porqué de las dificultades financieras de la FAO.

En el párrafo 11 se menciona que "en primer lugar, el problema financiero se debe a una reducción de los tipos de interés..." dice después "en segundo lugar.... , debe a que Eitadom Miembros no habían podido pagar sus cuotas íntegramente". paro, "en tareer lugar, y por primera vea, la FAO se estaba enfrentando eon eats problema financiere per la virtual eartasa de un défiat considerable on el page del mayor contribuyente-" Intonsas: el orden ee el inverso. In primar lugar, al problema ee debe, a que hay una reteneiSn de contribuoionee del mayor contribuyente. Esa es **mi** propuesta si se acepta esta propuesta cambiando el orden del resto de las prioridades o enumeraciones, se debería mencionar "como en el pasado, no todos los otros Estados Miembros", agregar la palabra "otros Estados Miembros habrían podido pagar ya sus cuotas íntegramente", ya que hemos hablado en primer lugar del mayor contribuyente. Y, posteriormente, hablamos de los otros palees contribuyentes. Espero que esté clara la propuesta.

Almir F. de Sá BARBUDA (Brazil): I should like to give my full support to the proposal by the delegate of Nicaragua. I was going to propose something similar myself. I do believe that we should say that the main cause of the shortfall is the shortfall in the payment of the largest contributor. Therefore, that should be the first cause mentioned in this paragraph.

LE PRESIDENT: On nous propose de faire passer en premier le dernier paragraphe. Cela donnerait donc: "troisièmement, la FAO est confrontée, pour la première fois, à la quasi-certitude d'une forte réduction du montant versé par le principal bailleur de fonds". Ensuite, le "premièrement" deviendrait "deuxièmement" et le "deuxièmement" deviendrait "troisièmement".

Joseph TCHICAYA (Congo): Je suis d'accord avec la proposition faite par le Nicaragua mais je pense que dans le "troisièmement" qui devient "premièrement" on ne devrait plus mettre "la quasi-certitude" puisqu'il s'agit maintenant d'une certitude. Ou y a-t-il encore un petit espoir? Dans le texte français on lit: "a la quasi-certitude d'une forte réduction du montant versé par le principal bailleur de fonds". Je croyais savoir que c'était désormais une certitude. Peut-être le Comité de rédaction peut-il nous éclairer sur ce point.

Mrs Millicent M. FENWICK (United States of America): I think perhaps this could best be explained by the fact that this comes from some of the wording that FAO is required to use. Until the final accounts are all in they have to use the words "virtual certainty" rather than "certainty". It is not that anybody is trying to protect the United States. I assure you all that there is no design here to protect my country. So now I think we can all take the language that is necessary under the technical vocabulary that advanced economists must use.

Ello PASCARELLI (Italy): I agree with what the distinguished delegate of the United States has said, the word "certainty" is all right with me. I would like to request an explanation of the word "shortfall". The delegate of the United States concurred in confirming paragraph 5 and paragraph 16. Would it not be more correct to say that "that is a certainty" or "a virtual certainty of a shortfall", but because of the delay in the payment and not take it for granted that it is a cut, because as it is expressed here it looks like a cut once and for all. But we still have a firm conviction that the United States will meet its full obligations.

Akbar Mirza KHALEELI (India): I think part of the problem which has arisen here is that because as the drafting took place you did not have an indication of how much the United States would contribute and, therefore, you have put it forward. At this stage it was, "the virtual certainty" whereas in the earlier paragraphs it has become what it is. I think that needs to be properly reflected. I will not make any more suggestions. I think it is best to say, "Thirdly, the FAO was faced with a significant shortfall in the payment of the largest", because you have spelled it out in detail in advance. You can not use the word "virtual".

Leopoldo ARIZA HIDALGO (Cuba): Nosotros queremos hacernos eco de las proposiciones que ha hecho el distinguido representante de Nicaragua con respecto a cambiar el orden de los puntos en el párrafo 11. Creemos que eso le da un ordenamiento más lógico y más objetivo. Además, nosotros también apoyamos la proposición que ha hecho la distinguida representación del Congo, a mi izquierda, en cuanto a que la palabra "virtual" nos sigue dando una incerteza de una situación que ya no es incerteza, que es cierta; en el párrafo 5, ya decimos con cifras totales lo que se va a pagar en 1986 y lo que se va a recibir en 1987 y lo que queda pendiente y al final, no se facilita ninguna información acerca de la fecha y cuantía de los pagos de la contribución para 1987, cuyo monto es de 4^a 90 millones. Cree que más que el desarrollo de caer en ambigüedades y en una situación que después nos hace perder la credibilidad a nosotros cambien. Creo que no debemos perder la credibilidad y decir las cosas por su nombre. No hay nada reglamentado sobre lo que la terminología debe ser. Debemos ser sencillos y sencillos y sencillamente ando es la realidad. No estoy queriendo atacar ni defender a nadie ellos han explicado las razones y punto, pero es la realidad y debe eliminarse la palabra "Virtual".

José Ramón LOPEZ-PORTILLO ROMANO (Presidente del Comité de Redacción): Una pequeña clarificación. Este asunto, efectivamente, se debatió en el Comité de Redacción y la delegación de Estados Unidos nos hizo ver que sería excesivo marcar que había una certeza absoluta respecto de tal acontecimiento, en vista de que no se sabía todavía si pagarían el próximo año con el resto de sus contribuciones; es más, no había dicho nada al respecto y, por tanto, este Consejo no podía informar de que había una incertidumbre respecto del déficit que, por otra parte, no se trata de un recorte, sino de un déficit; quiero aclararlo. Lo aclaró la delegación de Estados Unidos y el Comité, después de partir de la inclusión de la palabra "virtual", reconoció que eso respondía a la situación.

George Henry MUSGROVE (Canada): I wonder if I could assist the delegation here by perhaps suggesting the deletion of the words "the virtual certainty of" would solve everyone's problem in this respect. That would leave the final sentence reading "Thirdly, FAO was faced, for the first time, with a significant shortfall in the payment by the largest contributor".

LE PRESIDENT: Nous sommes donc saisis de deux propositions: Celle de dire "la certitude d'une forte réduction" ou celle de dire seulement "une forte réduction".

Au préalable, je voudrais avoir une réponse claire au sujet de la suggestion du délégué de l'Italie qui, plutôt que de parler de forte réduction du montant versé par le principal bailleur de fonds, voudrait parler d'un retard dans le versement.

Si le Conseil admet le principe de ce retard de versement, ce qui est d'ailleurs compatible avec le fait que le principal bailleur de fonds a toujours confirmé ses intentions de payer intégralement sa contribution, nous pourrions retenir le libellé suivant: "la certitude d'un retard dans le versement du principal bailleur de fonds". Cela pourrait rassembler toutes les opinions qui ont été exprimées ici.

Le Conseil retient-il ce libellé?

Leopoldo ARIZA HIDALGO (Cuba): Nosotros queremos expresar nuestro total acuerdo con la formulación que nos ha dicho en estos momentos la distinguida representación de Canadá. Creo que eso recoge la situación en definitiva. Lo que quisiéramos era primero enfrentar el déficit considerable, la palabra "considerable" puede entrarse a modificar, creo que no alteraría esto, pero la proposición de Canadá se ajusta a una realidad también y no tenemos que entrar en otras palabras que puedan crear problemas.

Ello PASCARELLI (Italy): I do not think this proposal by the delegate of Cuba would answer my question. As you pointed out, I think you were correct in saying that it strikes out against the statements in paragraphs 5 and 16, confirmed by the delegate of the United States. We have to take as a certainty that there will be a delay. We should not say that that is a shortfall as a shortfall is a cut. I would prefer to say, "with significant delay in the payment by the largest contributor".

Akbar Mirza KHALEELI (India): The view of the distinguished and charming delegate of the United States is very important on this matter. No one is really criticizing. There is one question of delay, that there is a commitment which cannot be fulfilled and that is quite obvious. The major item of the entire discussion of the financial and other problems is based on the next two or three years; we are not talking about 50 years, so there is an immediate problem where that money is not forthcoming. The question of a delay—that it may be three years, four years or five years later—concerns the Conference. I would personally think that what has been suggested, if agreed to by our distinguished representative of the United States, could be either thirdly or firstly, I do not feel very strongly about the order because frequently the most important matters are mentioned last rather than first. Even in boxing the last blow is the one that strikes you. Therefore, here I would say, "The FAO was immediately faced" or some words like that, "For the first time", and strike out the words "with the virtual certainty of a significant shortfall". I would say "The FAO was immediately faced, for the first time, with a significant shortfall in the payment by the largest contributor" if agreed to by the representative of the United States.

Mrs Millicent M. FENWICK (United States of America): Agreed, Mr Chairman.

Horacio CARANDANG (Philippines): With all due respect to those who have spoken before me, I would like to express a preference for the wording that is now indicated in the text. This has long been debated during the Drafting Committee. We are really talking here about the budget of 1986/87. Therefore, the argument that this was made during the time when the United States had naturally indicated its contribution for 1986, probably does not dispel the uncertainty with regard to the contribution for 1987. Furthermore, I believe that this conveys clearly the thoughts that occur during the debate. Therefore, I think that if this formulation is agreeable to the United States and to the other delegations, we could probably live with this formulation as indicated in the draft, because this has been the subject of a long discussion during the adoption in the Drafting Committee.

LE PRESIDENT: Le délégué des Philippines propose de retenir le libellé présenté par le Comité de rédaction. Par ailleurs, le délégué de l'Inde souhaite mettre, pour la première fois: "dans l'immédiat, une forte réduction du montant".

Conservons-nous le texte proposé par le Comité de rédaction?

Philippe PIOTET (France): En ce qui concerne le paragraphe II, je crois qu'il ne faut pas perdre de vue la première phrase de ce paragraphe par laquelle le Conseil reconnaît une réduction probable des ressources. Je crois que cette première phrase est claire et que la proposition faite par le délégué de l'Inde et acceptée par les Etats-Unis va bien en ce sens.

Pour ma part, je préfère que l'on dise: "la FAO est confrontée, dans l'immédiat, pour la première fois, à une forte réduction". Il me semble que c'est assez clair.

LE PRESIDENT: Oui, c'est tout à fait clair. Le fait de placer cette phrase en premier rend cette observation plus valable.

Je propose d'accepter ce libellé, à savoir: "premièrement, la FAO est confrontée, dans l'immédiat, pour la première fois, à une forte réduction du montant versé par le principal bailleur de fonds"; puis le "premièrement" à la place de "deuxièmement" et le "troisièmement" à la place du "premièrement".

Le paragraphe 11 est donc adopté. Nous prenons le paragraphe 12. Nous considérons qu'il est adopté. Nous passons au paragraphe 13. Il est adopté. Nous prenons le paragraphe 14.

Humberto CARRION M. (Nicaragua): Creo que en este párrafo hay una motivación muy amplia que no adopto el Consejo en cuanto a que la raíz del problema se hallaba en la legislación interna del principal contribuyente. Es decir, existe toda una frasología que tiende a justificar esa legislación interna que me parece en este caso fuera de orden.

La primera frase sería así: el Consejo estuvo de acuerdo en que el déficit en las contribuciones previsto para 1986-87, era básicamente diferente del tipo de atrasos registrados hasta el momento. La segunda diría: la raíz del problema se hallaba en las medidas legislativas del principal país contribuyente. A partir de ahí, se eliminarían las justificaciones o modificaciones puesto que no fue adoptado por el Consejo, de acuerdo con la frase principal que dice: El Consejo estuvo de acuerdo con el problema del déficit, eliminando todo lo que va después de: motivadas sobre todo por la preocupación interna de reducir el déficit, etc., etc. Hasta donde dice: "Naciones Unidas". Ahí seguiríamos diciendo "muchas delegaciones expresaron". Quedaría así el texto eliminando todo el cuerpo del texto del centro entre las frases que yo estoy uniendo en estos momentos.

No sé si el Prealiente del Comité captó la idea, si desean se la vuelvo a repetir.

Igual la segunda frase. La primera quedaría como está y la segunda diría: la raíz del problema se hallaba en las medidas legislativas del principal país contribuyente. Después continuaría: muchas delegaciones expresaron su firme convicción de que la difícil situación por la que atravesaba la FAO, y la previsible en el futuro, era en buena parte causada por las decisiones del principal contribuyente, y el resto como está.

Lo único es eliminar lo que está entre la segunda frase pero poner que termine en contribuyente. También unirla con aquella que comienza por: Muchas delegaciones expresaron.

George Henry MUSGROVE (Canada): Our delegation prefers the paragraph as it is written, with the exception that we would suggest the addition of one word in sentence three, that following "the United Nations" we add the word "System". Sentence three would therefore read as follows "it was also partly due to a desire, on the part of public opinion in that country for change in the United Nations system, rather than to a negative attitude to the roles and programmes of Specialized Agencies. "

LE PRESIDENT: Vous remplacez le terme "organisation" par "système"?

George Henry MUSGROVE (Canada): No, simply in the third sentence to add the word "system" following the words "United Nations".

Danilo VUJICIC (Yugoslavia): I try to be clear in my suggestions and I hope that this may give ground for solution. The first sentence remains as it is. Second, I would like that we should give clarification to the further statement after the first sentence and which is in fact the explanation or clarification given by the representative of the largest contributor. So we should take it as taking note of the clarification of the largest contributor, instead of Council's considering this matter as such. So my proposal would be that the first sentence remains as it is. Then the second sentence begins with "The Council also noted the clarification of the representative of the largest contributor debt". Then "at the root of the problem was legislative action in his country" instead of "in the main contributor country, " because it is an explanation of the representative of the country "in his country", or "her country" in this case, and then I think that the proposal to add the word "system" probably is more correct and expressed what the politicians in the United States have said about the United Nations, so I have nothing against the words "system" after "United Nations".

Then the last line of the same paragraph, I would like to delete the word "Consequently" and say "Many members expressed...".

José Ramón LOPEZ-PORTILLO ROMANO (Presidente del Comité de Redacción): Hemos tomado de la sugerencia haciendo una precisión en relación a la tercera oración y la propuesta formulada por la delegación del Canadá, esto se discutió y se precisó que quizá a lo que se refería la opinión pública de dicho país, era no a todo el sistema de Naciones Unidas, sino a Naciones Unidas, y se dejó el término, por tanto, sin la palabra sistema de Naciones Unidas. En vista de que quizá la opinión pública no considera que era negativa la totalidad del sistema donde estaban incluidos todos los Organismos, esa fue la razón por la que no se introdujo el término "sistema".

Respecto a lo demás no tengo ningún comentario.

Leopoldo ARIZA HIDALGO (Cuba): Lamentablemente, señor Presidente, tenemos que expresar que los mismos que se equivocaron ahora, ya que fue un error, se lo digo claro, ya que no me gusta gastar el tiempo, malgastar el tiempo. Los mismos que se equivocaron politizando el punto anterior, que nos dio tanto trabajo, están tratando de politizar éste, introduciéndonos cuestiones ajenas a los problemas de la FAO. En esto nosotros estamos totalmente claros de qué fue lo que expuso una declaración, pero yo puedo exponer mis criterios y hay que ponerlos aquí también.

Primero, es muy real que fueran medidas legislativas del principal contribuyente. Aceptado. Esas son medidas de ellos. Nosotros podemos tener un criterio, pero eso no vamos a discutirlo aquí, aunque yo discutí eso y no se incluyó aquí.

Referente al déficit presupuestario, creo que tampoco debemos incluir una cuestión; son sus medidas legislativas pero no creo que nosotros tengamos que poner eso aquí como causa principal. Sabemos que se gastan millones en otras cosas y no en las Organizaciones del sistema. El déficit no va a reducirse porque le dejen de pagar a FAO. Hay que decir esto que yo digo si quieren entrar a discutir.

Sobre la opinión pública de dicho país, también niego eso. La opinión pública de ese país se expresa a través de las elecciones y yo no creo que se hayan hecho unas elecciones para decidir si la opinión pública americana está de acuerdo con el sistema de Naciones Unidas o no. No se ha hecho. Además de que cuando se haga, va a tener un porcentaje muy grande de abstenciones.

Por lo tanto yo quisiera que no se me permitiera seguir, porque voy a continuar politizando lo que han empezado a politizar ellos.

Yo creo que está muy clara la proposición de Nicaragua de que el Consejo de acuerdo en que el déficit de las contribuciones previsto para el 1986-87 era básicamente diferente del tipo de atrasos registrados hasta el momento y la raíz del problema se halla en las medidas legislativas del principal contribuyente. Muchas delegaciones expresaron su firme convicción de que la difícil situación (y aquí venir atrás). Creo que esto debe desaparecer, porque eso es politizar la discusión y vamos a politizarla porque entonces yo voy a tratar de exponer mis criterios sobre esta situación. Y creo que Naciones Unidas, me lo han dicho veinte veces aquí, que las cuestiones políticas no deben venir aquí. ¿Por qué los problemas políticos internos de ese país vienen aquí? Vamos a tener que no hacer excepciones y no permitir que se hable ni de medidas legislativas, ni de déficit presupuestario, ni de opinión pública, porque yo también tengo opinión pública.

Creo que Nicaragua ha planteado muy sencillamente que eran justificaciones dadas por una delegación y no creo que debamos discutir las.

Posteriormente, se hace un análisis de algunas situaciones, pero ese párrafo no creo que pueda aceptarse en la totalidad como está planteado y más queriendo ahora incluir al sistema. Sabemos que esos son los objetivos, pero no queremos traerlos aquí a discusión.

Mrs Millicent M. FENWICK (United States of America): I do not think it would be a great surprise to anybody, what Nicaragua and Cuba have said, I think is quite sensible: no politics, cut it all out.

LE PRESIDENT: Excusez-moi, mais il y a un point d'ordre de la part du délégué du Congo.

Joseph TCHICAYA (Congo): Oui, j'ai demandé un point d'ordre. Je remarque que j'avais levé ma pancarte au moins un quart d'heure avant ma collègue des Etats-Unis d'Amérique, et on lui donne la parole avant moi. Je ne sais pas pourquoi.

LE PRESIDENT. Vous avez la parole, délégué du Congo.

Joseph TCHICAYA (Congo): Je crois que ce que je voulais dire a déjà été dit. Je suis surpris par le Comité de rédaction qui, semble-t-il, était très soucieux de ne pas aborder dans ce débat des problèmes politiques: je remarque que ce paragraphe 14 est vraiment politisé. Je suis très surpris et c'est pour cette raison que je voudrais dire que je m'associe entièrement à ce qu'a dit le délégué du Nicaragua afin que ces parties de phrase qui sont directement liées à la politique intérieure des Etats-Unie puissent être supprimées.

Akbar Mirza KHALEELI (India): I would not like to continue this. I think there is a general agreement that though this has been carefully worded and perhaps reflects the discussions in the Drafting Committee, for us to go into all the domestic motivations of the largest contributor—firstly, we do not summarise it correctly. It has no significance. It is best to keep the two sentences as agreed. The United States has agreed to what Nicaragua has suggested, it is a rare unanimity and we really can pass on to the next one.

LE PRESIDENT: Je crois que le problème est clair. On nous suggère de nous en tenir à la rédaction suivante, telle que proposée par le délégué du Nicaragua "Le Conseil a reconnu que la réduction de ressources prévues pour 1985-87, au titre des contributions, est fondamentalement différente de celle des années précédentes. Les mesures législatives prises par le principal bailleur de fonds sont à la base du problème de". Bien. Ensuite. "Beaucoup de membres ont exprimé leur ferme conviction, " etc. Est-ce que nous pouvons retenir le paragraphe 14 tel que nous venons de le lire et tel qu'il a été proposé par le Nicaragua et appuyé par le Congo et Cuba? Adopté. Paragraphe 15. Adopté. Paragraphe 16.

George Henry MUSGROVE (Canada): This paragraph was referred to earlier in conjunction with paragraph 5 and indeed does repeat in the first part of the sentence the same sentiments expressed at that time. However, we do not think it expresses entirely what the delegate of the United States said at the time. He was asked, as I recall, by the Secretariat, indeed by the Director-General himself, whether the United States had renounced its obligations, and they said they had not, to their knowledge, renounced them. But he also said neither could he make a judgment as to whether Members were unduly pessimistic or optimistic, and he could not confirm when or if the shortfall would be paid. I think the first sentence in that paragraph should therefore be amended to include that thought. Therefore after "full contribution" could see the addition of the following words: "even though it could not confirm when or if the shortfall would be paid. "

LE PRESIDENT. Bien. Y a-t-il d'autres orateurs qui désirent prendre la parole? Je vais peut-être demander à Mme la déléguée des Etats-Unis de répondre à ce point précis, puisque son gouvernement est directement concerné. Je donne la parole aux Etats-Unis pour le paragraphe qui les concerne directement. Il s'agit du paragraphe 16. Cela, d'après une suggestion du délégué du Canada et qui consiste à ajouter à ce paragraphe: "même si le représentant n'est pas en mesure d'indiquer la date à laquelle on versera le reste". Que pensez-vous de cela?

Mrs Millicent M. FENWICK (United States of America): I think the words "when and if" are a little bit further than our delegation would want to go. "Precise conditions as to the future" would perhaps be more in line with what we have understood from our Government.

LE PRESIDENT. Pouvons-nous retenir la rédaction telle qu'elle a été présentée par le Comité de rédaction avec le terme "intégralement"?

Atif Y. BUKHARI (Saudi Arabia, Kingdom of): I was going to intervene in this paragraph because before we had the confirmation from Her Excellency the Ambassador of the United States and she confirmed that she accepts this paragraph, she was in the Drafting Committee. So I do not see any reason for modification. Let us take it as it is.

LE PRESIDENT: Mme Fenwick est-elle d'accord? Nous pouvons adopter ce paragraphe 16 dans son intégralité. Nous passons au paragraphe 17. Y a-t-il des remarques?

R. G. PETTITT (United Kingdom): I have a suggestion for the last sentence. I think one should acknowledge that the Director-General is continuing to think about these issues, and would add: "and would continue to do so in an evolving situation". One would add another sentence, picking up what he said in his first intervention in the Council: "It was noted that he was studying actions taken by his colleagues in charge of other United Nations bodies in similar difficulties. "

Gonzalo BULA HOYOS (Colombia): Fue leída tan rápida la propuesta que no alcanzamos a tomarla.

LE PRESIDENT: Y a-t-il d'autres observations sur le paragraphe 17? Je demande au Royaume-Uni de reprendre son intervention en parlant plus lentement.

R. G. PETTITT (United Kingdom): This follows after the last word, "available", same sentence: "and would continue to do so in an evolving situation". Then a new sentence: "It was noted that he was studying actions taken by his colleagues in charge of other United Nations bodice in similar difficulties. " That is the end.

Philippe PIOTET (France): Je voudrais simplement faire observer que les idées que l'on cherche à introduire actuellement figurent déjà dans les paragraphes ultérieurs, notamment à la fin du paragraphe 25; ce n'est donc pas la peine de l'introduire maintenant.

LE PRESIDENT: Le délégué de la France note que le paragraphe 25 comprend la même idée que celle qui vient d'être suggérée par le délégué du Royaume-Uni: est-ce que c'est dans ses deux composantes ou dans une de ses composantes? En effet, dans ce que vient de dire le délégué du Royaume-Uni, il y a: 1. l'idée de la situation évolutive qui figure au paragraphe 25; 2. il voudrait que l'organisation de l'OAA puisse étudier ce qui a été fait dans des organisations similaires pour faire face aux problèmes.

Le paragraphe 25 couvre la première proposition du délégué du Royaume-Uni, il reste donc la seconde?

Telles sont les deux idées; et le délégué de la France a signalé que le paragraphe 25 reprend la première des remarques de H. le délégué du Royaume-Uni.

Joachim WINKEL (Germany, Federal Republic of): I fully agree with your explanation, Mr Chairman, and so there rests the second part of the British proposal which I want to support.

LE PRESIDENT: Il nous est suggéré de rajouter à la fin du paragraphe 17 une proposition tendant à proposer au Directeur général d'analyser les mesures prises par d'autres organisations de la famille des Nations Unies pour faire face à des problèmes similaires. C'est bien cela?

DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL: If the Council is considering the exact wording proposed by the delegate of the United Kingdom, I would like to suggest a small change in it. He suggested the following words: "studying action taken by his colleagues in other United Nations bodies", because it is the action taken by the governing bodies as well as the Secretariat that has to be taken into account.

LE PRESIDENT: Est-ce que notre Comité de rédaction peut nous suggérer une formulation?

José Ramón LOPEZ-PORTILLO ROMANO (Presidente del Comité de Redacción): Sí, al final de la última oración que dice: "El Consejo reconoció que el Director General habla examinado las ventajas respectivas de todas las opciones disponibles y que estaba examinando las medidas de otros organismos de Naciones Unidas que se encontraban en condiciones similares. "

Atif Y. BUKHARI (Saudi Arabia, Kingdom of): I just want to say that I fully support what the Deputy Director-General said. It is clearer.

LE PRESIDENT: Sous le bénéfice de cette modification, nous pouvons considérer le paragraphe 17 comme adopté. Paragraphe 18. Avez-vous des observations? Adopté. Paragraphe 19.

Waliur RAHMAN (Bangladesh): I have a small phrase to add to the present paragraph 19. After the word "million" add "subject to adjustment in the context of the position stated in paragraphs 25 and 26. "

LE PRESIDENT: Nous sommes saisis d'une proposition de M. le délégué du Bangladesh tendant à ce qu'après la fin du paragraphe 19 nous disions: "sous réserve d'ajustements qui seraient pris dans le contexte de la situation mentionnée aux paragraphes 25 et 26". Est-ce que le Comité de rédaction est d'accord?

José Ramón LOPEZ-PORTILLO ROMANO (Presidente del Comité de Redacción): Su reserva del ajuste dentro del tenor de las distribuciones de los párrafos 25 y 26. Quizá lo debo leer en inglés.

Yo no tengo ningún comentario, salvo decir que la delegación de Bangladesh estuvo de acuerdo con los textos como se han presentado en el informe durante los debates del Comité de Redacción.

Akbar Mirza KHALEELI (India): I would prefer, as one who was not in the Drafting Committee, to keep the formulation as it is, because on the one hand paragraphs 25 and 26 refer to maximum flexibility, paragraph 26 refers to the special importance attached to certain things, which he has to attach, but here it is a clear decision that this US\$16. 4 million should be made. There is no contradiction. I do not think there is any need for a safeguard.

LE PRESIDENT: Le délégué de l'Inde vient de faire une intervention très claire; le rapport est un tout qui comprend le paragraphe 19 et les paragraphes 25 et 26. Aux paragraphes 25 et 26 on parle d'ajustements éventuels ultérieurs. Effectivement, il n'est plus nécessaire de mettre cette clause de sauvegarde, puisqu'en tout état de cause les paragraphes 25 et 26 traitent de la question amplement.

Si le Conseil en est d'accord, nous pourrions adopter le paragraphe 19 dans la forme telle que proposée par le Comité de rédaction.

Waliur RAHMAN (Bangladesh): This is regarding my amendment that I tabled on paragraph 19. In view of the position expressed by my delegation, I would not insist on the retention of that amendment and I withdraw that.

LE PRESIDENT: Je remercie infiniment le délégué du Bangladesh pour sa compréhension et nous passons à l'analyse du point 20. Y a-t-il des observations?

R. G. PETTITT (United Kingdom): I should like to suggest the insertion of a sentence in the middle of this paragraph which would follow the words "could be made". It would read: "Mention was made of the possibilities of economies in regional offices and field representation. "

Gonzalo BULA HOYOS (Colombia): Sin duda el colega del Reino Unido tiene razón porque esas pocas delegaciones se refirieron a esos dos aspectos concretos, pero espero que usted, señor Presidente, y los miembros del Consejo reconozcan también que muchas otras delegaciones apoyamos las Oficinas Regionales y la representación de la FAO en los países; de manera que si el Reino Unido presenta esa adición nosotros tendríamos que redactar nuestra posición y esto haría interminable el texto del proyecto de informe. Sería más conveniente que adoptáramos el texto tal como está.

George Henry MUSGROVE (Canada): We should like to support the proposed amendment made by the delegate of the United Kingdom. While we have the floor perhaps we could point out to our good friend, the delegate from Colombia, that the first sentence of paragraph 21 should adequately cover his concern in this respect.

Joseph TCHICAYA (Congo): Le début du paragraphe 21 ne répond pas exactement à nos préoccupations. Par conséquent, si l'on accepte l'amendement proposé par le Royaume-Uni, il est nécessaire de rédiger un texte pour contrebalancer le précédent.

Gonzalo BULA HOYOS (Colombia): Si el colega del Reino Unido insiste en su propuesta yo estoy dispuesto a presentar la nuestra.

Mohammed ABDELHADI (Tunisie): La délégation tunisienne souhaite soutenir ce que viennent de dire le délégué de Colombie et le délégué du Congo concernant les bureaux régionaux et les représentants de la FAO dans ces pays.

Victor HJORT (Denmark): My delegation would like to support the amendment proposed by the United Kingdom delegation, and as also stated by the Canadian delegate. We think that the wording in paragraph 1 together with the proposed amendment to paragraph 20 would ensure that the report is properly balanced.

Horacio CARANDANG (Philippines): Having spent a long time in the drafting group, like the delegate of Colombia I would appeal to the other delegates not to put in any more words here as the addition of these words would again complicate our lives. There has already been mention of possible savings, and if you begin to mention now particular programmes then it is very clear that the great majority of the Council have indicated a preference for the regional offices and field representations in their countries. So you will have to rewrite the sentences again. I was wondering whether it would be possible to leave this paragraph as it is, because it took a very long time to discuss in the drafting group. I wonder if this would be acceptable to everybody.

LE PRESIDENT: Je voudrais signaler que le rôle du Comité de rédaction est de refléter ce dont on a discuté au Conseil. A ma souvenance, nous avons adopté la première tranche d'économie de 16 millions 400, en laissant une flexibilité au Directeur général pour qu'il ajuste au mieux son tir. Mais nous ne sommes pas rentrés dans une discussion au fond de ce qui se passera au-delà de ces 16 millions 400. Nous avons dit qu'il fallait un suivi constant de la situation financière et que, si d'autres mesures devaient être entreprises, il faudrait le dire, mais qu'en tout état de cause, nous serions au courant et nous serions saisis des options ultérieures.

Le texte ici présent parle de la possibilité de laisser le soin aux organisations de prendre des mesures plus draconiennes; elles dépendront de l'évolution ultérieure de la situation, mais à ma souvenance, on n'a pas discuté du fond des économies susceptibles d'être faites au-delà des 16 millions 400.

Pourrions-nous laisser cette forme générale; il y aura un suivi constant de la situation et nous serons amenés d'une manière ou d'une autre à analyser son évolution et à ce moment-là nous pourrions aborder les problèmes de fond.

Aujourd'hui on nous parle de représentation régionale, d'autres délégués parleront peut-être d'autres points, et nous ne pouvons pas aborder un débat sur le fond de ce sujet.

M. le délégué du Royaume-Uni accepterait-il de laisser cette flexibilité étant précisé que la situation est évolutive et que, le jour où il y aura à prendre d'autres mesures plus draconiennes, le Conseil sera saisi. Nous sommes tous d'accord pour dire que cette situation est évolutive, qu'elle demandera peut-être d'autres mesures, mais nous n'avons pas à discuter des mesures concernant une seconde tranche. Est-ce acceptable pour vous?

R. G. PETTITT (United Kingdom): Just for the record I did actually make that point in relation to regional offices. In this and in other discussions, we and others made the point about field representation and possible economies there. I put this in because there was one other proposal which was put in but it was dismissed, the Technical Cooperation Programme. Since this discussion is on the record, I will withdraw my proposal in the spirit in which has been advanced by you.

LE PRESIDENT: Sous le bénéfice de cette intervention très utile, nous pourrions considérer le paragraphe 20 comme adopté.

Paragraphs 8 to 36 not concluded

Les paragraphes 8 à 36 sont en suspense

Los párrafos 8 a 36 quedan pendientes

The meeting rose at 13. 15 hours.

La séance est levée à 13 h 15.

Se levanta la sesión a las 13. 15 horas.

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CL

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Ninetieth Session

Quatre-vingt-dixième session

90º período de sesiones

NINETEENTH PLENARY MEETING
DIX-NEUVIEME SEANCE PLENIERE
19ª SESION PLENARIA
(28 November 1986)

The Nineteenth Plenary Meeting was opened at 14. 45 hours
Lassaad Ben Osman, Independent Chairman of the Council, presiding

La dix-neuvième séance plénière est ouverte à 14 h 45, sous la
présidence de Lassaad Ben Osman, Président indépendant du Conseil

Se abre la 19ª Sesión Plenaria a las 14. 45 horas, bajo la presidencia
de Lassaad Ben Osman, Presidente Independiente del Consejo

DRAFT REPORT-PART II (continued)

PROJET DE RAPPORT-PARTIE II (suite)

APROBACION DEL INFORME-PARTE II (continuación)

DRAFT REPORT-PART II (sup. I) (continued)

PROJECT DE RAPPORT-PARTIE II (sup. I) (suite)

APROBACION DEL INFORME-PARTE II (sup. I) (continuación)

PARAGRAPHS 8-36 (continued)

PARAGRAPHERS 8-36 (suite)

PARRAFOS 8-36 (continuación)

LE PRESIDENT: Nous reprenons le cours de nos travaux. Nous allons passer au paragraphe 21. Y a-t-il des observations à ce sujet? Il est approuvé. Paragraphe 22?

R. G. PETTITT (United Kingdom): This is for a suggestion for a paragraph following 21 and before 22. I would suggest that one should have a paragraph saying. "Some members drew attention to what they saw as a high level of liquidity in FAO. It was suggested that further savings could be made in programme delivery costs as an initial alternative to cutting substantive programmes";

Mrs Millicent M. FENWICK (United States of America): I was not on the the Drafting Committee, but looking at this it struck me what intelligent person could support a sentence which says, "Many of these members said that limitations should not be imposed on the activities and operations of the Organization as a result of financial pressure". Who could support such a sentence? It is the silliest thing that I have heard. What are they going to do, print money? How did that get into the Drafting Committee, for God sake?

José Ramón LOPEZ-PORTILLO ROMANO (Presidente del Comité de Redacción): Lo que yo le puedo decir al respecto "son dos cosas: la primera que este párrafo se revisó a la luz de los otros párrafos y de las modificaciones que hubo respecto de lo que dijeron algunos y lo que dijeron muchos, y, en segundo lugar, que la delegación de Estados Unidos representada en ese Comité estuvo de acuerdo.

Gonzalo BULA HOYOS (Colombia): Sr. Presidente, después de lo que ha dicho el Presidente del Comité de Redacción, yo creo que la distinguida colega Fenwick se equivocó de destinatario de la pregunta. En vez de preguntarle eso al Consejo ha debido preguntárselo a sus compatriotas que participaron en nombre de su país en el Comité de Redacción y que aceptaron esta frase.

R. G. PETTITT (United Kingdom): This also puzzled me and that is one of the reasons why I suggested the following paragraph as this would actually square the circle. It would be possible not to impose limitations if one did find economies of this sort.

David Lawrence COUTTS (Australia): I have not spoken before in this debate, because I was a member of the Drafting Committee and I endorsed the Drafting Committee Report. I merely observe that paragraph 20 and 21 were the result of a long discussion in the Drafting Committee. They were an attempt to state two points of view. "Some members" in paragraph 20, and we do not say "other members," but "a lot of members," said things in paragraph 21. They are an attempt to find a balance. X will not make a personal comment about the last sentence, but a number of members, in the Drafting Committee, made it quite clear that they felt that a great majority of members accepted that point and we were prepared to support it on that basis.

Temel ISKIT (Turkey): We do not have the advantage of being in the Drafting Committee, although we understand the balance which the Drafting Committee wanted to observe. However, I cannot but agree with the distinguished delegate of the United States for reasons of logic and taking positions. We were amongst the countries who regretted that because of one very well known reason, we have to impose limitations on the activities of the Organization, but in its present formulation it is not logical. If we have a shortfall we cannot avoid imposing a limitation on the activities and that is what the Director-General did. He proposed some adjustments or cuts, so we are for the deletion of the last sentence for reasons of logic.

Joseph TCHICAYA (Congo): D'abord, je voudrais dire que la proposition faite d'ajouter encore une phrase ou un paragraphe ne semble pas à mon avis appropriée dans la mesure où cette opinion est déjà exprimée au paragraphe 20 qui reflète l'opinion de quelques membres. Le paragraphe 21 pourrait, à mon avis, être appelé à tenir compte de ce que les uns et les autres ont dit. Je crois que nous avons dit que, malgré ces pressions financières, il fallait en sorte que les programmes techniques et économiques puissent être maintenus. C'est surtout cela. Les aspects techniques et économiques. Nous savons qu'il y a d'autres aspects qui devront forcément subir des pressions, mais c'est des programmes techniques et économiques. Je crois que c'est cela qu'il convient d'ajouter pour que tout le monde soit d'accord.

José Ramón LOPEZ-PORTILLO ROMANO (Presidente del Comité de Redacción): Efectivamente, señor Presidente, esta última oración responde a las modificaciones que se hicieron en el párrafo 20 y buscaba indicar que muchos miembros pensaban que no debían imponerse limitaciones. Quizá faltaría la palabra adicional. La idea de los miembros de este Consejo era que esa expresión condicionaba a la Organización, la obligaba a futuras limitaciones en las actividades de los programas. Quisieron expresar que no constituía una amenaza, pero se evitó la palabra.

Eso formó parte de nuestras discusiones y en el proceso del debate dentro del Comité se llegó a esta fórmula de conciliación. Como digo, crea que esto responde a lo que se dice en el párrafo 20.

Temel ISKIT (Turkey): In the light of the explanations given by the Chairman of the Drafting Committee may we make a concrete proposal to find a compromise. We propose to add the word "additional" before the word "limitations" and the word "essential" before "activities and operations".

John GLISTRUP (Denmark): I am getting somewhat confused, because we are talking about many things at this stage. I wanted to come in after the intervention of the delegate of Congo to oppose an additional paragraph which the delegate of the U. K. has proposed. He says that these views were dealt with in paragraph 20, which we agreed to just before lunch. I would remind the delegate of the Congo that there was an additional proposal to paragraph 20 by the delegate of the U. K. which was withdrawn. Therefore, the views have not been reflected totally in paragraph 20. For that reason, and for the purpose of having a report reflecting the debate which we have had in the Council, I would like to give my delegation's support to the proposal forwarded by the U. K. for an additional paragraph.

Akbar Mirza KHALEELI (India): I think it is the unanimous view of the Council that no one would like the activities and the operations of the Organization to be limited as a result of financial pressure. It is not a question of financial pressure it is a question of a lack of finance. If there is a lack of finance there has to be, in effect, some cutting down of programmes as a result of which the preceding paragraphs and subsequent paragraphs indicate that owing to certain financial problems there have been steps taken. Of course, we do not like financial pressure to be direct or indirect, because they are commitments of governments. However, I think that on the whole the Council has tried its best not to pass any critical comments regarding procedures and the action of a major country which has been a major donor, in not being able to fulfill certain commitments. There has been a certain amount of give and take about these matters.

In the same spirit we have removed in paragraph 14 two or three sentences that it was "motivated by, domestic concerns to reduce the national" that has all been removed, which means that we are not attributing motives or pressures at all. If that is the case, I think the alternative before the Council would be either to delete the last sentence straight off, because everything is reflected in the paragraph before, as suggested by the distinguished representative of the United States. I think that I am consistent with the whole body of both the events and the paragraph, or keep it as it is, and not to add any words or another paragraph between 20 and 21. This is my suggestion.

LE PRESIDENT: Nous avons trois propositions. L'une consiste à supprimer le dernier paragraphe; l'autre à dire "beaucoup de ces membres ont déclaré que les pressions financières ne devraient pas entraîner de limitations dans les activités et opérations techniques et économiques de l'Organisation". La troisième consiste à ajouter un paragraphe pour les liquidités. Si vous

voulez, pour en finir avec la dernière phrase, on pourrait accepter une rédaction du genre suivant: "beaucoup de ces membres ont déclaré que les pressions financières ne devraient pas entraîner de limitations, etc. " Pas significatives. Peut-être. Nous en finissons avec ce paragraphe et sur la seconde question posée par le Royaume-Uni, j'aimerais avoir l'avis du Conseil.

Le Secrétariat s'est expliqué sur la question de ces liquidités, mais je ne sais pas quelle est la position du Conseil sur ce point précis.

Gonzalo BULA HOYOS (Colombia): Como usted lo dijo muy bien, señor Presidente, la Secretaría explico la situación y muchas de las delegaciones, la mayoría de las que intervinimos en ese debate también manifestamos que esa situación era satisfactoria gracias a la austeridad y a la eficacia con que se maneja la gestión de la FAO. De manera que si el colega del Reino Unido insiste en su propuesta, yo tengo ya redactada la mía. Después de haber trabajado muchas horas en el Comité de Redacción, pensaba estar aquí a la defensiva pero no tengo otra alternativa que quedarme aquí y continuar escribiendo. Le ruego a usted, señor Presidente, pregunte al colega del Reino Unido que si insiste en su propuesta la lea y luego yo presento la mía.

R. G. PETTITT (United Kingdom): My proposition, while I did place it here because it seemed to be an explanation, or could form an explanation of the last sentence which we have now amended, stands in its own right and indeed, I was going to propose an additional paragraph thereafter reflecting the decision of the meeting and your summary, which said the Council agreed the Finance Committee would consider the question of programme delivery costs at the next regular meeting. I think I understood that this was the decision and the United Kingdom would discuss with the Secretariat our material and would produce a paper which would go to the Finance Committee. So I would like that there as this was a point which was raised by several countries and should therefore be mentioned in the Report.

George Henry MUSGROVE (Canada): We should like to support the British proposal with respect to the addition of the paragraph between paragraphs 20 and 21. We think we are into the old problem here of the expression of minority views and we for the life of us. cannot think what the difficulty is. There have been a number of delegations who drew attention to a number of areas where the savings might be made and I think these were made in a very clear and articulate way throughout the Council and there was a request from those who were not on the Drafting Committee to have those views reflected in the records. Now if delegates feel that in so inserting there have to be further amendments we don't mind, we have plenty of time, our delegation could stay and go on as long as anyone wants. This is a simple request and we were one of those who expressed those views and we would very much like to support what the United Kingdom has proposed.

Gonzalo BULA HOYOS (Colombia): Nosotros también tenemos buen ánimo de permanecer aquí todo el tiempo que sea necesario, pero consideramos que es imperativo organizar el debate. El colega del Reino Unido ha hecho dos propuestas de contenido distinto. Primero hizo una sobre la liquidez y sin que usted ni el Consejo hayan decidido nada, ha hecho otra ahora a nombre del Consejo, sobre algo que debe hacer el Comité de Finanzas.

Pido al Reino Unido que se decida y que nos indique primero cuál es su propuesta inicial, si la retiró o no, y que nos diga también dónde quiere y dónde se ha de insertar su propuesta.

R. G. PETTITT (United Kindgom): The paragraph I read earlier which, if people would like I would read again, should come after paragraph 21. A new paragraph I think because it represents a slightly different school of thought but it read "Some members drew attention to what they saw as a high level of liquidity in FAO. It was suggested that further savings could be made in programme delivery coats as an initial alternative to cutting substantive programmes. " Then if you like I will cover the other paragraph. I have no firm views where it goes historically. It occurred under this Agenda item.

Gonzalo BULA HOYOS (Colombia): Cordial y respetuosamente, yo le pido al colega del Reino Unido que permita al Consejo que, en primer lugar, se pronuncie sobre una propuesta que ha hecho y no nos confunda agregando más textos, que espere a cuál es la opinión del Consejo, y luego veremos la segunda.

LE PRESIDENT: Oui, je m'excuse, si j'ai bien compris la proposition du Royaume-Uni, ce serait la suivante: il souhaite qu'à la suite du paragraphe 21, on ajoute un paragraphe libellé comme suit: "certains membres ont attiré l'attention du Conseil sur ce qu'ils estimaient être un niveau élevé de liquidités de la FAO. " Ce paragraphe est-il adopté? C'est la phrase que vous avait indiquée le délégué de l'Inde.

R. G. PETTITT (United Kingdom): Yes, it is a new paragraph-21 bis I suppose. That is the first sentence. The second sentence of this same paragraph is what I read out. Shall I read it again? The next sentence reads, "It was suggested that further savings could be made in programme delivery costs as an initial alternative to cutting substantive programmes. "

LE PRESIDENT: Je regrette, mais la première proposition était courte. Elle portait sur ce que je viens de dire, certains membres ont attiré l'attention sur ce qu'ils considéraient être un niveau de liquidités élevé et de rechercher des économies sur les liquidités. Si le Royaume-Uni se limite à cette phrase, je crois que cela permettrait d'avancer les débats. On peut considérer que la proposition serait la suivante "certains membres ont attiré l'attention du Conseil sur ce qu'ils estimaient être un niveau élevé de liquidités de la FAO et sur la recherche d'économies à partir de ces liquidités. "

Philippe PIOTET (France): Nous avons passé de longues heures au Comité de rédaction et j'ai l'impression que nous sommes encore au Comité de rédaction lorsque l'on essaie d'introduire dans le rapport de longues phrases et de longs détails. Je comprends parfaitement, et c'est tout à fait légitime, qu'au niveau où nous en sommes, le Conseil est la dernière instance où on va discuter de ce rapport. Je comprends que des délégués souhaitent apporter des améliorations à un travail qui est forcément imparfait. Mais je m'étonne que quelques délégations proposent encore des compléments importants à un travail qui, je crois, a été mené dans de très bonnes conditions. Donc, ma délégation est toute prête à examiner les motivations au texte pour l'améliorer, bien entendu, car tout est améliorable, mais ne refaisons pas ici le travail du Comité de rédaction. Nous sommes le Conseil de la FAO, la dernière instance à discuter de ce rapport.

Gonzalo BULA HOYOS (Colombia): El colega de Francia ha expresado una opinión que debe hacer reflexionar a los miembros del Consejo, sobre todo, esto lo digo con respeto pero con firmeza, a aquella delegación que parece haber adquirido el vicio incorregible de pretender en cada sesión del Consejo destruir el trabajo cuidadoso y profundo que realiza el Comité de Redacción.

Señor Presidente, yo tengo ya, le repito, el texto de la opinión de la gran mayoría de las delegaciones; he tratado de ser casi tan extenso como el colega del Reino Unido, casi tan extenso, de manera que si él insiste yo leo mi propuesta y así tendremos un párrafo kilométrico, pero hágase la voluntad de quienes creen que hay miembros privilegiados en el Consejo.

José Ramón LOPEZ-PORTILLO ROMANO (Presidente del Comité de Redacción): Yo quiero suscribir cada una de las palabras que fueron pronunciadas por el delegado de Francia.

Como Presidente del Comité de Redacción yo hago un llamado a este Consejo que no pretenda convertirse en tal Comité. Todas estas cuestiones se trataron en el Comité de Redacción y llegamos a una conclusión. No era debido ni necesario como lo dije al principio de mi intervención al presentar el informe, no era debido ni necesario presentar los detalles de las distintas posiciones porque si no, no terminaríamos nunca; inclusive nos remitimos también a las directrices que usted, señor Presidente, estableció en torno al tratamiento de ciertos temas como este y el Comité de Redacción tomó nota de que en los verbatim se detallaban las posiciones de cada una de las delegaciones y cada una de esas posiciones tiene igual peso, lo subrayo, tiene igual peso se trate de un país como de otro país y que, por tanto, ese universo, esa constelación se puede rescatar en este informe; pero si la pretensión de este Consejo es convertir el informe en un verbatim, entonces nunca terminaremos.

Yo a través de usted, señor Presidente, hago un llamado a los miembros del Consejo para evitar que esto se convierta en un Comité de Redacción.

LE PRESIDENT: Je remercie le Président du Comité de rédaction et voudrais me joindre à son appel et vous prier de considérer que les procès-verbaux du Conseil existent et il y a le rapport. Je souhaiterais dans toute la mesure possible que l'on essaie de tenir compte de ces éléments; sinon nous allons alourdir exagérément les débats et nous aurons des difficultés pour approuver le rapport dans les délais requis.

Atif Y. BUKHARI (Saudi Arabia, Kingdom of): For God's sake I would like to support the proposal that came from my colleague of France. Let us be on the level about our responsibilities. We are here to be constructive not destructive. We are wasting a whole lot of time over this. Who chose the Drafting Committee? We did choose them. They are from this Council and we have to give them the confidence. We gave them the confidence so I cannot see any reason for any member himself to stress and impose his opinion in different paragraphs. It was not like that. I am not new in dealing with this kind of matter, but I have never seen anything like this in my life. We are responsible people. We did not come here to waste time. I really would like to appeal to my friends, all of you, to take their responsibilities in a sincere way. We have in front of us only three or four hours or five hours. I do not know when we can finish this.

LE PRESIDENT: Il y a effectivement problème: le Comité de rédaction a présenté un rapport qu'il nous faut adopter, je lance un appel à tous les délégués au Conseil pour qu'ils prennent en considération le fait que les travaux du Conseil sont reflétés dans les procès-verbaux, où tout est consigné, et d'autre part dans le rapport du Conseil; et je leur demande afin de ne pas alourdir nos débats qu'ils ne fassent pas d'incidents qui riqueraient de faire quelque chose de trop lourd.

Un problème est posé par le délégué de la France, par le Président du Comité de rédaction, appuyé par l'Arabie Saoudite: j'aimerais recueillir l'avis du Conseil sur ce point.

Mrs Millicent M. FENWICK (United States of America): I have a compromise to propose. I wish I had never brought this up. I lunched by myself and had an opportunity to read it, and I thought it was foolish and I could not believe that we would have to subscribe to it. But I have been in signalled consultation with my friend, the delegate of Colombia, and we would like to support Turkey, because it seems to me that that leaves the intent of that sentence, by adding additional limitations to essential programmes and practices. In other words, it is merely a definition of intent, and the delegate of Colombia and I feel that the Turkish suggestion is excellent and we hope it could be compromise approach by all.

LE PRESIDENT: Est-ce que cette dernière proposition de la Turquie, appuyée par Mme le délégué des Etats-Unis d'Amérique, pourrait recueillir l'accord du Conseil et nous permettre d'avancer.

George Henry MUSGROVE (Canada): Again I see it as the attempt of some to censor the views of others who do not wish them in the document. We for one had expressed our wish to be on the Drafting Committee and we were unable to be there. We were not otherwise represented on the Committee. We have views to express. We feel that they should be expressed here. It is not unusual, Mr Chairman, and I do apologise for your presence here when we get into these drafting exercises. It has been the unfortunate practice all too often in the past that we go into this sort of exercise, and for the very same reasons, the wish of some countries not to allow the views of the minority to be reflected. If this paragraph is to be left as it is we would simply put a reservation with respect to paragraph 20 on behalf of our government indicating that it inadequately expresses our views and indicating the deficiencies, and that could be put at the bottom of the page. If it is the wish of the Council to adopt that process in the interests of saving time, then we would be prepared to do so and will hand in a written reservation with respect to paragraph 20.

R. G. PETTITT (United Kingdom): It does look as though Σ am resisting rather fiercely, but on this point X fear I will not give way. The Drafting Committee has done a splendid job and in the corridor I said this to its Rapporteur and its Chairman. But the Committee would be superhuman if it were able to identify all the points which are of particular significance to a group of countries or a country which is not on the Drafting Committee.

I would go along with the suggestions that one looks both at the report and the summary record for things which one could reasonably expect to look into the summary record for. I did this just before lunch.

This is a point which was of considerable significance to my delegation and to one or two others. I would therefore strongly request and quote page 111 of the Basic Texts to require it to be included as a point of view.

LE PRESIDENT: M. le délégué du Royaume-Uni maintient sa proposition qui consiste à ajouter au paragraphe 21 un autre paragraphe disant: "Certains membres ont attiré l'attention du Conseil sur ce qu'ils estimaient être un niveau de liquidité élevé de l'Organisation, et demandent que l'on étudie la possibilité de rechercher des économies à ce niveau." Est-ce que cette phrase peut être une base de discussion ou de consensus.

Gonzalo BULA HOYOS (Colombia): Si el colega del Reino Unido insiste nosotros proponemos que en ese mismo párrafo se agregue lo siguiente: "La gran mayoría de las delegaciones opinaron que la situación de liquidez de la Organización era el resultado de la austeridad y eficacia aplicadas en la administración de la FAO y se aceptaron las adecuadas explicaciones de la Secretaría que presentaron muy bien esa situación, a la luz de la cual no era factible ni conveniente aplicar más reducciones en los programas."

Así quedan balanceadas las dos opiniones, pero, repito, lo hacemos muy en contra de nuestra voluntad porque no es posible que dos delegaciones pretendan siempre que se incluya lo que ellos dicen y nos obliguen a incluir lo que opinamos la gran mayoría.

Ello PASCARELLI (Italy): I had asked for the floor to express my views, very close to the ones expressed by the French delegation and by the Chairman of the Drafting Committee.

Italy as a Member of the Drafting Committee believes that here we should just make small corrections if needed to improve, but not to add or make long statements to what is written already in the Drafting Committee's report. Otherwise we will do the same as we did in the Finance Committee. If we appoint a committee we should have confidence in it, especially if it did a wonderful job.

Sra. Margarita LIZARRAGA (México): Como podrá comprender, señor Presidente, nuestra delegación se había abstenido de participar hasta este momento por razones obvias, sin embargo, nos queremos unir al llamamiento que otros colegas del Comité de Redacción han hecho buscando un llamamiento a las delegaciones para no tratar de introducir el sentimiento de una o dos delegaciones, porque hubo toda una diversidad de temas que más de dos delegaciones presentaron y que no aparecen en este informe porque no se trata de un verbatim, se trata de un informe y debe reconocer los puntos más sobresalientes.

Creo que detrás de las proposiciones que se están haciendo en este momento se reconoce una proposición que llegó a los miembros de este Consejo por canales no regulares, vamos a decir, y que abrió un amplio debate en esta Plenaria. Se tomó demasiado tiempo, se reflexionó que esto no estaba dentro de la agenda, se llegó a una conclusión de parte suya y de parte de la Secretaría en que las representaciones involucradas se dirigieran a la Secretaría, llevaran un mayor intercambio de información y posteriormente si esto meritara iría al Comité de Finanzas. Esto fue reglado allí y en los verbatim consta que fue lo que pasó y cuál es el tratamiento que se dio.

Hacemos de nuevo un llamamiento para que no se insista en esta mecánica, con el mayor respeto, porque las 35 horas que nosotros utilizamos no alcanzarían para tratar de volver a utilizar la revisión de este reporter.

Mohammed ABDELHADI (Tunisie): Je voudrais revenir à la proposition de mon collègue de la Turquie. Je me semble être de nature à résoudre le problème. Ma délégation adhère à cette proposition qui est d'ailleurs appuyée par plusieurs membres du Conseil.

Je voudrais ajouter que le rythme de nos travaux est lent, n'est pas satisfaisant et ne nous permet pas d'avancer convenablement. À cet égard j'exhorte tous les membres ou certains membres du Conseil à ne pas transformer le Conseil en Comité de rédaction. Nous avons confiance dans le Comité de rédaction qui a bien travaillé, et qui a mis 35 heures à faire ce travail pour nous.

Humberto CARRION M. (Nicaragua): Sobre el párrafo 21 creo que el delegado de Túnez tiene razón; la propuesta de Turquía ha sido ampliamente aceptada por el Consejo. Creo que usted, señor Presidente, en relación con el párrafo 21, la podría dar por adoptado.

En lo que se refiere a la propuesta del Reino Unido y a la de Colombia en relación a un distinto párrafo, nosotros deseamos unirmos a la ya extensa explicación que dio nuestra colega representante de México que fue muy clara, muy precisa en cuanto a los antecedentes que llevaron a esa discusión sobre el planteamiento que hacen dos delegaciones.

También otros miembros se han referido a que no debemos en este momento convertir el Plenario del Consejo en un Comité de Redacción puesto que ya han realizado su trabajo, en cuyos miembros hemos depositado nuestra confianza. Sin embargo, deseo manifestar que en el caso de que haya insistencia por parte de delegaciones de incluir el nuevo párrafo sobre el costo de las inclusiones del programa, apoyamos la propuesta hecha por Colombia para complementar el párrafo propuesto por el Reino Unido.

DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL: If perhaps I may be allowed to pontificate for a moment, it is extremely delicate to work out in plenary a phraseology of majority and minority views acceptable to all concerned. The advantage of doing this in a Drafting Committee is of course that it is off the record and you can make compromises, you can reach agreements, and you can come up with a text. It is difficult to do this in a full Council session with a verbatim record where everybody is watching, is extremely careful about what they say, and achieving a new balance is a real problem. I do not on the other hand at all, frankly, appreciate the suggestion that difficulties in this process amount to an attempt to stifle the views of the minority. This seems to me a morally unacceptable viewpoint, if I may say so.

If I may come now to the specific suggestions made by the United Kingdom, they deal in my view with two completely different matters. One is the high level of liquidity, alleged, and the other is the question of programme delivery costs.

Those are not related. Now, the question of the level of liquidity does not need to be in the group of subjects that have a "some members, other members" complexion. If it is to be included I would suggest that there be a paragraph saying something like this: "In answer to questions regarding the apparently high level of liquidity of the Organization at the end of 1985, it was explained by the Secretariat that all these funds were committed for specific purposes." End of paragraph.

That to my mind is all that needs to be said. The question of programme delivery costs and the reference to the Finance Committee is another matter which has not yet come up. Perhaps that can be dealt with in a separate paragraph. But is not inherently connected to this group of issues which we are now discussing.

R. G. PETTITT (United Kingdom): I have no views on where the suggestions I made are placed. I raised them here because historically they were dealt with under this item. I do agree that the paragraph I suggested could easily be split into two, and indeed Mr Walton's suggestion is an improvement on mine. The only trouble is from my point of view, he would have to say that a delegation queried this and it was agreed that this delegation would have further discussions with the Secretariat. If he were not satisfied the matter would be referred to the Finance Committee, which I think was the gist of our discussion. That paragraph would suit me perfectly well.

David Lawrence COUTTS (Australia): I was not particularly anxious to intervene. I have been very careful to be silent in this debate except for one short intervention. I have just got two things to say. One is that we have discussed last night in the Drafting Committee about the role the Drafting Committee should play in this discussion. I am very disturbed in the light of that discussion to see a number of interventions particularly by one member of that Committee, in this debate. I think the Drafting Committee has had ample chance to have its say. I am supporting the Drafting Committee's report even though there are some areas about which I have misgivings and I had understood that all other members of the Drafting Committee were going to do the same.

Secondly, I think that we should remind ourselves of what we are trying to do here, and if you look at the rules, the Basic Texts of the Organization, rule VI. 2 says "The Director-General shall communicate as soon as possible after the end of each regular session, a report embodying the text of all resolutions, recommendations, conventions, agreements, supplementary conventions or agreements and of other formal decisions adopted or approved by the Council, including, when requested, a statement of minority views, to all Member Nations", etc.

I am in no way supporting, or discussing, what the United Kingdom has put forward but they, and in other cases, other delegations have requested that minority views be put in this report and I think that is quite in accordance with what is asked. I do not think it is appropriate for members of the Drafting Committee to participate in that discussion.

LE PRESIDENT: Avant d'aller plus loin, je voudrais demander si le libellé proposé par M. Walton concernant les liquidités est accepté. Il s'agit du premier libellé. Sur une demande d'explications à propos du mot "liquidités", le Secrétariat a donné des précisions au sujet de l'utilisation de ces liquidités.

La proposition de M. Walton donne-t-elle satisfaction au délégué du Royaume-Uni?

Il y a ensuite la question du coût ou de la productivité. Pouvons-nous scinder la question en deux et dire: "sur une question posée au sujet du mot "liquidités", le Secrétariat a donné telle ou telle information"?

R. G. PETTITT (United Kingdom): As far as it went, I am totally happy with this and it can go wherever in the report it is considered to be most appropriate.

I simply have to say that after that one has to have a sentence saying that "a member country said it was not convinced with this presentation. It was agreed that that delegation should have further discussions with the Secretariat and that if it were not satisfied the matter would be referred to the Finance Committee. "

Horacio CARANDANG (Philippines): I have been requesting the floor, again to appeal to the members who adhere to the Drafting Committee's draft. Of course, I agree with the right of everybody to put his own view in the drafting group, but there should also be some other considerations. We know that if you put this kind of draft then you have to put the answer to this draft. For example, it was said that you have this liquidity problem, but it was pointed out that in assessing the liquidity, the liabilities owed at the time should be looked at. Furthermore, it was pointed out that even with the programme adjustments there would be a liquidity crisis at the end of the biennium. I thought that this should be put there. If you put another statement there then you have to put the other counter statement. Therefore, in view of all these complications I think that, as the verbatims are also part of our report, can we please consider the draft report and if we could live with it we should be happier.

I should like to remind others that we who stay in Rome have all the time to sit down here, and that tomorrow probably there is going to be a strike. If you wish to continue until tomorrow we will still be here to discuss this draft.

Akbar Mirza KHALEELI (India): I would not like to add to the length of this debate, but I feel compelled to speak because on this very issue, if you see the verbatim reports, I had anticipated this problem. When this note was circulated on the 17th and a certain amount of heat was generated, (and light also) I intervened, I think it was on the 18th. I said that there has been a ruling by the Chair that this matter is not to be raised now, or in the course of the Conference. This was supported by someone else. Therefore I am rather surprised that this matter, on which a ruling was made on the subject of whether the Director-General was running the Organization properly or not-of course it is a sovereign right to raise it-but it was ruled that it was not on the agenda and that this matter would be discussed by the delegation concerned with the Secretariat. They have discussed in a chance meeting some nine or ten months ago and the next thing that the Secretariat heard was this paper on the 17th. After this takes place, it was our understanding that there was a gentleman's agreement and after this Council meets they will, go and discuss with Mr Shah and Mr Crowther and they have stuck by their decision that the overhead costs are rather high. They may be right, or they may be wrong, but the findings that they come to can be submitted to the next Council or to the next Finance Committee. What is over is over. Now here, we find two things, the Deputy Director-General, out of his desire to follow this long discussion, has also proposed a question of liquidity and separated listing. There is no question of needing to introduce this. The fact is that there has been liquidity if not because of the austerity (as called by the distinguished representative of Colombia) at least because the very salutary anticipation of the problems of liquidity shown by the Secretariat and the Director-General. If he had not shown this anticipation you would be high and dry and there would be straight away a question of financial pressure on such an organization. You would be standing there with hat in hand. I think the

proceedings make it quite clear that this is not correct. The fact that paragraph 20 goes so far is also something which is not acceptable to many of us but we are ready to live with paragraph 20 because it does reflect the views of a very important member and the work of the Drafting Committee are amply reflected, the distinguished representative of the Philippines and all of them. A lot of work has gone into it. Let us not chop and change, let it remain as it is, otherwise this will go on indefinitely. You yourself have suggested a small compromise to the last sentence. We might stick to that.

DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL: This is a question of liquidity, but I think the representative of the United Kingdom is still linking this to the question of programme delivery costs. On that matter, the Director-General said that if the Council wished to refer that matter to the Finance Committee it would be taken up by the Finance Committee. I do not know whether Council does or does not wish to refer it to the Finance Committee, but if it does, it could surely be dealt with in one sentence, one line, which would say something like "The Council referred to the Finance Committee the question of regular programme delivery costs which had been raised by one representative. "

LE PRESIDENT: La proposition du Secrétaire général adjoint peut-elle servir de base à un consensus?

R. G. PETTIT (United Kingdom): On the question of programme delivery costs I agree significantly with Mr Walton. Page 16 of document CL PV/8 does indicate that there was a decision there to refer to the matter to the Finance Committee, and I would be happy to have a simple entry saying that the Council agreed that the question of programme delivery costs would be considered at the next regular meeting of the Finance Committee.

The other issue I think needs to be ventilated in the sense it was raised, and we had these views, the Secretariat said various things and that this matter also would go to the Finance Committee if it were so required, following discussion between the Secretariat and the delegation concerned.

LE PRESIDENT: Voici comment se présente la situation: on peut dire qu'il y a eu un échange de vues et que le Royaume-Uni, s'il n'est pas encore convaincu après avoir eu des contacts avec le Secrétariat, présentera cette question à la réunion ordinaire du Comité financier.

DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL: The question to be discussed, which it was said would be discussed, between the United Kingdom and the Secretariat related to programme delivery costs. There was never any decision that the question of liquidity as such would be discussed with the Secretariat. I think that has to be handled as another matter. It is part of the Finance Committee's regular functions to look at the liquidity of the Organization, so I do not see that it needs to be referred to the Finance Committee; it is automatically part of its job. The essence of the liquidity issue surely remains. As I said, questions came up in the debate on the level of liquidity and explanations were given by the Secretariat, and that is it. I proposed a very brief text that would cover that point.

POINT OF ORDER

POINT D'ORDRE

PUNTO DE ORDEN

Sra. Dra. Graflia SOTO CARRERO (Cuba): Sr. Presidente, con mucho respeto mi delegación quisiera expresarle que está perpleja por la forma en que se están conduciendo estas discusiones. Tenemos un texto que ha preparado un Comité de Redacción, un texto que, a nuestro entender, mi delegación estaba totalmente de acuerdo con él, Sr. Presidente. Sin embargo, hace tanto tiempo que pedimos la palabra que hubiéramos querido unirnos a lo expresado por la delegación de Francia, por el Presidente del Comité de Redacción y por la delegación de México, declaraciones que, posiblemente, ya nadie recuerde en la sala, porque, le repito, ha pasado mucho tiempo que solicitamos la palabra.

Mi delegación considera, Sr. Presidente, muy valioso el trabajo de este Comité de Redacción que fue elegido justamente por nosotros y cada uno de sus Miembros. En aquel momento, parece que gozaba de toda la confianza del Consejo. En este momento, aún sigue teniendo la confianza de la delegación de Cuba. Sin embargo, Sr. Presidente, nosotros consideramos que si se mantienen estas propuestas, si se trata de llevarnos de un tema a otro, posiblemente con la intención de confundirnos, si se quieren presentar o incluir en el informe aspectos planteados por una, dos, o a lo sumo tres delegaciones, consideramos sumamente justo que se incluya la propuesta hecha por el distinguido Embajador de Colombia y que si expresa las expresiones al respecto hechas por la mayoría de las delegaciones. Yo le pido, Sr. Presidente, en nombre de mi delegación, que haga valer los Artículos del Reglamento de la Organización que a usted lo ampara, y que exhorte a los demás miembros del Consejo a no divagar más alrededor de este asunto, llevándonos de un tema a otro, y que se adopte

definitivamente, o el texto presentado por el Comité de Redacción que, les repito, mi delegación apoya, o añadirle los textos del Reino Unido con el agregado del Embajador de Colombia y que, por favor, terminemos este punto y pasemos al punto siguiente.

LE PRESIDENT: Au sujet des liquidités, il y a un ajout proposé par le délégué du Royaume-Uni et un autre proposé par le délégué de la Colombie. On nous demande de prendre position sur cet ensemble.

Gonzalo BULA HOYOS (Colombia): Definitivamente hoy he llegado a la convicción de que aquellos distinguidos colegas y amigos que viven por allá en las agradables y lejanas antípodas, tienen una mentalidad muy diferente de la mentalidad de quienes vivimos en otras partes del mundo. Digo esto porque se esgrimió un argumento peregrino en una concepción prehistórica de la época de las cavernas, en relación sobre cual debe ser la conducta de los miembros del Comité de Redacción.

En cuanto a la liquidez, creo que todos debemos agradecerle al colega del Reino Unido que haya aceptado la propuesta del señor Walton.

En relación con los costos de los programas, y la función del Comité de Finanzas, el distinguido colega del Reino Unido, que está aquí sentado delante de mí, me agradeció mi intervención en ese debate cuando yo hice una propuesta flexible que voy a tratar de recoger en la siguiente frase:

El Consejo acordó que a la luz del contenido de este informe el Director General tomó las decisiones pertinentes de, particularmente, en relación con los costos de los programas y la función del Comité de Finanzas.

Esto fue, más o menos, lo que yo dije. El Reino Unido me lo agradeció. Espero que será aceptado, naturalmente si el señor Walton está de acuerdo y los demás miembros del Consejo.

LE PRESIDENT: Sans vouloir allonger les débats, je crois que la question du coût d'exécution a fait l'objet d'un consensus établi après discussion et cette question serait réétudiée par le Comité financier. Il reste la question des liquidités. Une question a été posée par quelques délégués. Il y a eu une réponse de M. Crowther au nom de l'Organisation. Il semble que les délégués ne soient pas encore tout à fait convaincus. Nous pouvons alors considérer également que ces délégués pourraient prendre contact avec le Secrétariat pour approfondir cette question et, s'ils ne sont pas convaincus, ils pourraient demander l'inscription de cette question dans une prochaine session ordinaire du Comité financier. Ceci est-il acceptable?

R. G. PETTITT (United Kingdom): That is a correct summary of what we would like. Is it your suggestion that it goes in the report, or is this some part of our deliberations which is recorded in the verbatim?

LE PRESIDENT: Si vous considérez que cette formulation est acceptable, nous suggérons de la mettre dans le procès-verbal de la séance.

DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL: I do not think there is any misunderstanding on the substance so, rather than getting into an endless drafting exercise, can we not take it as a decision which is simply recorded in the verbatim record of this meeting now?

LE PRESIDENT: Ja pansa que maintenant nous sommes d'accord sur la fond. Il y a un engagement de la Direction générale. Je propose au délégué du Royaume-Uni de bien vouloir retenir cette procédure qui donne satisfaction sur la fond sans que nous soyons attachés outre mesure à la forme. Voilà ce que je propose. Quelle est votre décision?

R. G. PETTITT (United Kingdom): I accept the proposal.

POINT OF ORDER

POINT D'ORDRE

PUNTO DE ORDEN

Horacio CARANDANG (Philippines): I wanted to ask whether the Council really agreed to make the decision to study programme delivery costs in the Programme and Finance Committees. I should like a clarification on whether the Council really took this decision, and I would like to ask the Secretary or Mr Shah to tell me whether this decision has been taken.

LE PRESIDENT: Je voudrais dire au délégué des Philippines que nous avons eu l'occasion de discuter de cette question et que nous nous sommes entendus sur le titre du sujet; c'est un document qui a été distribué hors circuit habituel, par un délégué, et nous avons convenu du titre du document qui serait transmis par ce délégué au Secrétariat pour qu'il puisse l'analyser et y ajouter ce qu'il croit utile d'ajouter dans les cinq langues officielles et transmettre le tout à la session de printemps du Comité financier. Il me semble que cela a été admis en présence de l'organisation. M. Shah pourrait peut-être nous éclairer sur ce point.

V. J. SHAH (Director, Office of Programme Budget and Evaluation): May I refer you to the verbatim record PV/8 from page 15 onwards. This refers to the discussion which took place during the afternoon session on 20th November. There is an intervention by the Director-General which, among other things on this particular subject, recalled: "Je voudrais m'assurer du libellé du sujet. Si le Conseil veut en discuter, quel titre faut-il lui donner? Est-ce que c'est ce document-là que nous devons traduire et présenter au Comité financier avec nos commentaires? Ou le Royaume-Uni souhaite-t-il un nouveau document élaboré à la suite de vos discussions?"

Le Conseil souhaite-t-il un nouveau document élaboré à la suite de vos discussions? Ce sont autant de questions à éclaircir. Je ne pensé pas qu'il soit nécessaire, pour moi, de lire ce procès-verbal qui est à la disposition de tous les membres du Conseil, il me paraît que la question n'a pas été résolue puisque le Directeur général a soulevé la question. Est-ce que c'est le souhait du Conseil? Le Conseil ne s'est pas prononcé.

Le PRESIDENT: Nous posons la question au Conseil. La question est la suivante: Est-ce que la délégation qui a présenté ce document se mettra en rapport avec le secrétariat qui étudiera la question et sera habilité à préparer un document sur le coût de l'exécution? Il sera analysé par le Secrétariat dans les cinq langues, des commentaires seront faits et transmis au Comité financier lors de la session ordinaire. Car le Conseil ne peut pas étudier un document de cette importance technique sans instructions des gouvernements et sans avoir eu l'éclairage préalable du Comité financier. Est-ce que le Conseil est d'accord ou non sur ce point? Le Secrétariat considère qu'elle n'a pas été établie par le Conseil.

Horacio CARANDANG (Philippines): I am a little surprised at the way we are proceeding. I thought we were adopting a report on decisions that had been taken. Since I believe the decision was not taken, then I doubt whether we should take this decision now, but it is up to you, Mr Chairman. I think we should just say that no decision was taken with regard to this question.

Joseph TCHICAYA (Congo): Ce qu'a dit le délégué des Philippines est exactement ce que je voulais dire. Je pense que nous sommes en ce moment en séance d'adoption de notre rapport. Le rapport signifie que c'est l'expression consacrée de nos débats. Alors, je ne pense pas qu'il soit utile maintenant de rouvrir le débat ou de procéder à un vote pour savoir si oui ou non on doit faire l'examen de ce document i notre Comité financier. Je croie qu'il eat important de devoir al noua aviona pria la décision ou non. 81 on l'a prise, je considère que la question doit être remise à plus tard. En tout état de cause, je pense que, personnellement, J'avala été opposé à ce genre de travail, surtout que l'année prochaine le Comité financier aera assez chargé avec le Programme de travail et budget. Je ne pense pas qu'il soit tellement nécessaire de vouloir leur confier ce travail supplémentaire. Je pensais que c'était clair et bien compris ici et que la majorité, plus ou moins, n'était pas favorable à ce genre d'exercice à soumettre au Comité financier à cette époque où les ressources sont difficiles.

Gonzalo BULA HOYOS (Colombia): Apoyo plenamente lo que han dicho los representantes de Filipinas y Congo. Quiero repetir lo que ya dije en la Plenaria, de que creo que sentarla un precedente grave con consecuencias imprevisibles si cada delegación trajera aquí a la FAO un documento en su propio idioma y la FAO después lo reprodujera. Esto solamente para dar satisfacción a esa sola delegación, por importante que sea y por obstruccionista. que sea su táctica.

Sra. Dra. Grafila SOTO CARRERO (Cuba): En realidad mi delegación se encuentra esta tarde aquí en la sala para adoptar el informe final del 90° período de sesiones del Consejo, sin embargo, nos sentimos totalmente confundidos al encontrar ahora en este debate nuevos textos que nos han presentado. Me parece que sobre la pregunta que usted ha dirigido a los delegados miembros del Consejo, ellos mismos se refirieron a este tema. Creo que es inútil volver a abrir el mismo.

Para ser más breve, señor Presidente, quisiera decirle que la delegación de Cuba se adhiere a las intervenciones hechas por Congo, Filipinas y Colombia.

David Lawrence COUTTS (Australia): I regret to have to intervene again but I just want to make one observation. My recollection is that when we had this debate there was a discussion, a very extensive one, on whether it was appropriate for this matter to go to the Finance Committee and also whether the paper which the delegate for the U. K. puts out should have been circulated in the way it was. I have been trying to find the verbatim report, but I do not have it with me. It was my clear recollection, that in your summing up you said that this matter would be discussed further between the United Kingdom and the Secretariat and that the matter would be considered at a future meeting by the Finance Committee. Why can we not just reflect that and leave it there?

Akbar Mirza KHALEELI (India): I think the proceedings are summarized on page 17 of document CL 90/PV/8. Unfortunately, I do not know many of the languages here including the beautiful language of the distinguished representative of Colombia, who keeps complaining that he does not know English. I would request that somebody should read this out and this will summarize the ruling, because there was a ruling made at that time by you. in consultation with the Council. I think we can start with this page.

V. J. SHAH (Directeur, Bureau du Programme du budget et de l'évaluation): Le Directeur général avait dit et je cite: "Nous sommes à la disposition du Conseil. Si un document doit être distribué à tous les délégués, il faut qu'il soit traduit dans toutes les langues, en français, en anglais, en espagnol, en chinois et en arabe. C'est une question de principe. Il faut du temps. C'est au Conseil de décider".

Akbar Mirza KHALEELI (India): Somebody ought to read the Spanish, Mr Chairman (interruption in Spanish) I cannot read the Spanish of what the representative of Colombia said, but I can read what I said. I said that we are inclined to go along with the recommendations of the representative of Colombia. We are impressed by the determination with which the United Kingdom representative wishes to place on record certain reservations regarding the overheads of FAO. I thought, right at the beginning, that you had taken a decision, Mr Chairman, that it was not to be a Conference document. I feel that rather than this matter being raised again and again under some other issue, or some other heading, it would be better to decide now as to how it should be dealt with.

Secondly, in the Finance Committee, which has distinguished representatives including the representative of Australia, I think that various reservations, or opinions, could have been expressed and can again be expressed. This matter should be decided strictly according to the rules, on the basis of your ruling, rather than continuing a discussion on a matter that has already lasted too long. As the distinguished representative of the United States said, "We are not just inclined to accept the recommendation of Colombia. We say for heaven's sake let's accept it and get on. We should have finished this long ago and we heartily endorse what the delegate said. "

Then the representative of the United Kingdom himself said, "I am not pushing this further. If the interventions we make do not make sense without our paper we apologize". Then you said, "If the United Kingdom agrees with the proposal made by the delegate of Colombia, confirmed and supported by the delegate of the United States, we consider that that procedure has been opted for. Namely, that in its interventions the delegate of the United Kingdom will refer to all parts of the report which concern him. "

Le PRESIDENT: Effectivement, la délégation de Colombie avait fait une proposition pour que ces éléments du rapport soient évoqués au cours du débat. Je crois que le délégué des Etats-Unis avait suggéré qu'on donne suite et cela a été effectivement obtenu comme procédure. Si cela figure dans le procès-verbal, cela résout la question. Cela figure-t-il dans le procès-verbal? Donc, effectivement, on peut considérer qu'il y a eu accord de procédure. Cette procédure proposée par la Colombie a été retenue par le délégué du Royaume-Uni.

R. G. PETTITT (United Kingdom): I am sorry for taking the floor so often. The passage we have just been looking at was on a different subject all together which was whether a paper which we had put round should be issued as a Conference Room paper. In view of the costs and other things and the general unpopularity I gave up this proposal. The proposal which we thought was carried, and is really in page 15 of CL 90/PV/8, was that we asked that the subject be taken up by the Finance Committee. I said that I would produce a paper which would be a different paper, a paper prepared after discussions with the secretariat. The Director-General then asked what it was to be called and your summary was on page 16 which was that "if the Council is in agreement we can carry on now". I understand this to be an agreement that should be taken to the Finance Committee. The subject of liquidity was discussed under item 12 and the relevant documentation is also on page 16, but is on CL 90/PV/16.

DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL: The question is not really the fate of the paper submitted by the United Kingdom. The question is whether the Finance Committee should consider the subject. The Rules of Procedure of the Finance Committee state that the Director-General, in consultation with the Chairman of the Committee, shall prepare a provisional agenda. Unless the Council wishes it to be done otherwise the Director-General is quite ready to include, in the next regular session of the Finance Committee, an agenda item entitled, "Regular Programme Delivery Costs". In preparation for the Finance Committee's discussion the Director-General will prepare a paper which will take account of the discussions with the United Kingdom, but it is the Director-General's prerogative to submit his own paper to the Finance Committee. He is not by any means obliged to submit the paper of the United Kingdom, therefore, I think that on that understanding we can proceed unless the Council does not wish this to be included in the agenda.

David Lawrence COUTTS (Australia): I have been getting increasingly perplexed by this discussion. I thought we had a clear understanding on this point. I gained this from reading the verbatim and, as the United Kingdom has pointed out, your own summing up, which was not disputed by anybody at the time and is quite clear. You said, "I would like to separate the question into two parts" I am reading this in English and I am very surprised that the Secretariat has not picked this up. "The first question posed by the representative of the United Kingdom for the Council was to know if it is possible for the Council to accept the principle of a study on the programme delivery costs, which will be presented to the Director-General of FAO by the United Kingdom, to form the basis of an analysis by the Finance Committee next spring. I think that is all that needs to be reflected." Mr President you went on to say, "If the Council is in agreement we can continue." There remains a second question posed by the United Kingdom which was to do with whether their paper was to be considered appropriate in this context. I really thought that that had been decided by the Council, and I am very puzzled that we are even having this discussion.

Le PRESIDENT. Nous sommes eu présence d'une proposition concrète de M. le Directeur général adjoint, proposition qui pourrait servir de base à un consensus indiquant: "que le Directeur général peut préparer un document sur cette question, la présenterait au prochain comité ordinaire du Comité financier, mais la soumettrait en tant que proposition du Directeur général sur la base de discussions qui auraient lieu. Je pense que cette proposition de M. Walton peut nous permettre d'avancer.

Temel ISKIT (Turquie): Je voulais seulement vous demander si à la dernière phrase du paragraphe 21, on a bien apporté les additions proposées par ma délégation. Parfait. Merci beaucoup.

George Henry MUSGROVE (Canada): Just to clarify could you indicate what we have done. We have left the Draft as it is with the exception of the amendment proposed by the delegate of Turkey? There is no inclusion in this Draft of a reference to delivery costs? Could you clarify please.

Le PRESIDENT: M. le délégué du Royaume-Uni a accepté la procédure suggérée sur deux points.

En ce qui concerne les liquidités, il a été suggéré que le délégué du Royaume-Uni se mette en rapport avec le Secrétariat et qu'il étudie cette question à fond. A l'issue de cette discussion, le délégué du Royaume-Uni appréciera avec l'Organisation s'il y a lieu d'avancer plus loin, et présentera une requête officielle pour demander que cela soit analysé à un prochain comité financier, pour ce qui concerne les coûts d'exécution.

La rédaction reste en l'état sous réserve que dans le procès-verbal d'aujourd'hui nous disions qu'une procédure a été convenue entre le Secrétariat et le délégué du Royaume-Uni; nous pourrions adopter ce processus.

Mme la déléguée du Venezuela a demandé la parole, je la prie de m'excuser.

Sra. Mercedes FERMIN GOMEZ (Venezuela): Ahora retiro la palabra porque yo iba a pedir un punto de orden; llevamos hora y media discutiendo un punto que no está en el Orden del Día ni en la agenda y yo iba a pedir un punto de orden para traer el debate a su puesto, pero no tuvo la gentileza de ver mi pancarta que hace veinte minutos la tengo puesta pidiendo la palabra. Yo le doy las gracias.

Le PRESIDENT: Nous passons au paragraphe 22. Y-a-t-il des observations?

George Henry MUSGROVE (Canada): Yes, I just will make a comment on the paragraphs that we have concluded. Insofar as the matter of procedure seemed to have satisfied the delegate of the United Kingdom I shall not press for the changes but I do not think they adequately reflect the views that our delegation, amongst others, has suggested and I must say that I find it extremely unfortunate that it has taken an hour and a half when a suggestion had been made for a short sentence to be added to this Report. I made my remarks earlier about the desire of some delegates to censor or to exorcise from the Report the things with which they do not agree. I find it a most extraordinary thing and I would like also to refer to the remarks made by Deputy Director-General Walton. I think we have sufficient difficulty with the debate that we hold amongst us without debating with the Secretariat and we do welcome his contributions in matters of facts but I do not appreciate having to discuss or discourse with, or disagree with, the Secretariat or find they disagree with me either.

With regard to the paragraph 22 I should like to propose the deletion of some words in that particular paragraph and in particular the phrase which begins, "all developing member countries and of the great majority of others". If those words could be deleted I think the sentence would be reasonably gratuitous and accurately reflect the sense of this Council.

Gonzalo BULA HOYOS (Colombia): Yo creo que por lo menos es cínico e irrespetuoso que los propios causantes de las demoras en los trabajos del Consejo traten de descargar su responsabilidad sobre los demás.

La delegación de Colombia respalda plenamente las actuaciones del señor Walton; la Secretaría tiene un papel que está cumpliendo adecuadamente.

En relación con el párrafo 22 al que se refirió ya Canadá me permito observar que estos párrafos fueron objeto de larga discusión en el Comité y que a partir del párrafo 23 aparece la opinión de la minoría, de manera que, por favor, una vez más, no desequilibren el contenido del Informe.

Le PRESIDENT: Nous avons une proposition du délégué du Canada tendant à supprimer au paragraphes 22 la fin de la phrase, c'est-à-dire "de la grande majorité des autres Etats Membres". Personnellement je dois dire que beaucoup de délégués, la grande majorité des délégués, ont appuyé la préservation de ce programme. Je ne sais pas quelle est exactement la modification que vous souhaitez.

George Henry MUSGROVE (Canada): I can explain perhaps the effect of the deletion which I proposed would leave paragraph 22 reading as follows: "The Council recognized that the Technical Cooperation Programme (TCP) enjoyed the support of all member countries". Our country, of course, has had some differences of view with respect to the control of the management of that Programme but has no difficulty at all in supporting its concept.

Le PRESIDENT. Si je vous ai bien compris, votre proposition consiste á dire que "le Conseil á reconnu que le Programme de cooperation technique (PCT) recueille l'appui de tous Etats Membres". C'est bien cela?

Je pense qu'on peut l'accepter. Parfait, je vous remercie.

Joachim WINKEL (Germany, Federal Republic of): I have to object to that. I would like to leave the text of the Drafting Committee as it is.

Le PRESIDENT: Qui peut le plus peut le moins, par consequent nous gardons le texte en l'état; nous considérons le paragraphe 22 comme adopté.

R. G. PETTITT (United Kingdom): I have an uncontroversial insertion into paragraph 23. I think it reflects the views of ourselves and others. Into the middle of that paragraph, a new sentence "They also mentioned the possibility of some parts of the TCP being transferred to voluntary financing".

Le PRESIDENT: Est-ce que ce point a été étudié par le Conseil? Je pose la question au délégué du Royaume-Uni.

R. G. PETTITT (United Kingdom): It was mentioned by my delegation, I cannot remember whether anybody else...?

Horacio CARANDANG (Philippines): It is true that this was mentioned but also there were other delegations like myself that said that these were all objections that had been raised before and that they should not be raised again at this point.

José Ramon LOPEZ-PORTILLO ROMANO (Presidente del Comité de Redacción) Volvemos a lo mismo, es decir si se agrega un punto entonces se tiene que contemplar lo que los otros dijeron. El informe buscó ahorrar a quien lo lea la necesidad de reproducir aquí los verbatim en primer lugar; en segundo, cuando se habla de algunos miembros no necesariamente todos ellos se refirieron a ese punto, de ahí que tampoco sería justo que en este párrafo se hiciera esa imputación a esos "algunos miembros". El informe busca ser sencillo, elegante, preciso y sobre todo evocar el consenso; ese es el propósito de un informe y no reproducir verbatim.

Vuelvo a solicitar a los miembros de este Consejo que entiendan el espíritu de un informe y no lleguen a que en cada párrafo se haga un enunciado y que en el siguiente cuando se habla de otros o de la mayoría se vuelva a hacer el enunciado contrario; vamos a buscar la fórmula elegante y de consenso en este Consejo. Ese fue el espíritu que estuvo en el Comité de Redacción y espero prevalezca también en este Consejo.

Humberto CARRION (Nicaragua). Deseamos apoyar plenamente lo ya expresado por el Presidente del Comité de Redacción.

Deseamos de nuevo reconocer la responsabilidad y la capacidad con la cual 41 dirigió los trabajos de...Comité que, de nuevo, merece nuestro respeto y creo que es impropio además que un solo delegado en este Consejo actúe tratando de imponer un punto de vista minoritario en un informe que ya refleja los puntos de vista de mayorías y minorías.

R. G. PETTITT (United Kingdom): In view of the fact that nobody else seems to have claimed authorship of this, this was intended to be a helpful suggestion and did in fact help another sister organization to overcome similar difficulties. I will rely on reference in the Verbatim and withdraw the reference.

Le PRESIDENT: Je remercie M. le délégué du Royaume-Uni et nous pouvons considérer le paragraphe 23 comme adopté. Paragraphe 24. Y a-t-il des observations? Adopté. Paragraphe 25.

R. G. PETTITT (United Kingdom): Unless I have misunderstood, I think the last sentence should reflect the spirit of the first sentence and paragraph 28 and it would not be "the Director-General would propose", but "the Director-General would propose and carry out the measures that would be required". One would add "or where necessary carry out".

Le PRESIDENT: Nous avons une proposition de M. le délégué du Royaume-Uni, tendant à modifier la dernière phrase du paragraphe 23 de la manière suivante: "proposera, ou le cas échéant, exécutera les mesures qui pourraient se révéler nécessaires dans chacun de ces cas". Cela laisse la latitude au Directeur général de prendre les dispositions qu'il estime utile...en effet on a parlé de flexibilité. Etes-vous d'accord pour accepter cette proposition? Merci.

Paragraphe 26. Avez-vous des observations? Adopté.

Paragraphe 27. Avez-vous des observations?

George Henry MUSGROVE (Canada): Paragraph 27, I should like to propose the deletion of the last two words in that particular paragraph. We do not find resorting to the Working Capital Fund normal under any circumstances, and particularly not in this circumstance.

Le PRESIDENT: En ce qui concerne la proposition de M. le Délégué du Canada consistant à retirer le terme "et normal", est-elle acceptée par le Conseil?

Elio PASCARELLI (Italy): I do not understand. If we cut out this word does it mean that the Director-General has no right to draw nine million dollars if need be from the Working Capital Fund? What is the Working Capital Fund used for?

Akbar Mirza KHALEELI (India): I think one is, purely in terms of the English wording, instead of using the wording "should the contribution shortfall materialise", "should there be a shortfall of contribution" is better. Should there be a shortfall in contributions as predicted, and here I go along with my colleague from Italy, that if you do not consider it necessary or normal, still there should be some reference to the fact that the Director-General has certain rights which cannot be taken away. It might be considered as normal. So it should be in English "Should there be a shortfall in contributions as anticipated, resorting to the Working Capital Fund to the maximum of resources available therein may be considered in terms of the rules. "

R. G. PETTITT (United Kingdom): I think I understand what the delegate of Canada is saying. I did pick up this point myself but I had a different solution to this. My solution was in paragraph 28. But the position is that several countries did make the point that they regarded the use of the Working Capital Fund to meet shortfalls which were not likely to be made up, to be not normal at all. To deal with a delay in payment until October would be a normal use of the Fund. Indeed we were rather fiercer in our comments earlier in the debate before we had heard the definitive news. We were saying that they should not be used for the Working Capital Fund for this purpose. I think most of us now would say that the Working Capital Fund could be used for this purpose now because we know there will be shortfall and a delay. So "normal" could well be left out and there would be no loss to this.

My proposal-may I mention it now because it relates to this though it is paragraph 28?-would be to add "Any recourse to the Working Capital Fund should be made good in Autumn 1987 when the 1986 payment by the United States is now expected".

Le PRESIDENT: Nous sommes saisis d'une proposition qui est la suivante: il s'agit de supprimer les termes "et normal" dans le membre de phrase "il serait nécessaire et normal de recourir au Fonds de roulement jusqu'à concurrence des ressources disponibles".

Je souhaite vivement que l'on apporte le minimum de modifications au texte car, sinon, nous allons ouvrir un débat ne nous permettant pas de respecter nos contraintes de temps, lesquelles nous imposent de serrer le texte de près.

Une proposition concrète est faite par le délégué du Canada, à savoir retirer les mots "et normal". Le Conseil accepte-t-il cette proposition?

Nous considérons que les mots "et normal" sont enlevés. Le paragraphe 27 est adopté. Paragraphe 28. Y a-t-il des observations? Paragraphe 29. Y a-t-il des observations?

R. G. PETTITT (United Kingdom): My proposal still stands, that there should be a sentence at the end which reads: "Any recourse to the Working Capital Fund should be made good in the Autumn of 1987, when the 1986 payment of the United States is now expected. "

DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL: The conditions governing the reimbursement of monies to the Working Capital Fund are included in the Financial Regulations, which not even the Council has the power to change, only the Conference can change them. The provisions state: "Advances made from the Working Capital Fund to finance budgetary expenditure under Financial Regulation So-and-So shall be reimbursed from the General Fund as soon as feasible but in any case within the next financial period. " That is the rule and that not even the Council, I am afraid, can change.

Gonzalo BULA HOYOS (Colombia): Sr. Presidente, después de la declaración del Sr. Walton, creo, en realidad, Sr. Presidente, que está plenamente demostrada la forma poco seria como está procediendo una delegación. Sinceramente queremos hacer un llamado, Sr. Presidente, para evitar que debamos ir subiendo en nuestras expresiones de condena de este sistema, de que por favor nos dejen trabajar, que no nos molesten, que sean serios, que sean correctos, que respeten al representante del Gobierno soberano, Sr. Presidente.

LE PRESIDENT: Nous avons une information précise de la part de M. Walton au sujet des Textes Fondamentaux, selon laquelle le Conseil n'est pas compétent sur un point précis.

Le délégué du Royaume-Uni est-il satisfait de cette réponse?

R. G. PETTITT (United Kingdom): I am satisfied with the legal interpretation. This, however, is the recording of the views of some Members on policy, and a point of view, which actually I must confess was not expressed at the time because the information which would have allowed us to express it was not available until the end of the meeting. Had we had that information I at least would have said that in my view the Working Capital Fund should only be used for the purposes of dealing with normal delays and the money which will be late from the USA, and the remaining \$25 million should be covered by economies or other means, economies primarily.

If it is not wished to include this in the report, and in fairness I did not say this except now, I will rely upon it being on the record and retain the right to bring it forward again in future discussions.

The other point is that the words "to the extent possible" I think are not appropriate, if this is supposed to represent the views of a group of countries. The sentence should read: "It was stressed that any necessary measures should avoid putting additional burdens on..." etc.

Elio PASCARELLI (Italy): I think I need no correction, after what the delegate of the United Kingdom said. Let me get this point clear. I think proposals of the Director-General implying recourse to the Working Capital Fund for \$9 million did take into consideration already what we heard from the largest contributor. In other words, the shortfall anticipated for the end of 1987 was to be covered with \$16.5 million adjustment plus \$9 million from the Working Capital Fund. So it is impossible in any case in Autumn after the United States has paid its contribution for 1986 to revert to the Working Capital Fund. So it is in the power of the Director-General to reintegrate whatever it takes in the next biennium, not in the current biennium.

Gonzalo BULA HOYOS (Colombia): Sr. Presidente, ya se ha llegado realmente al colmo de la situación cuando esa propia delegación reconoce que plantea una cosa que no dijo en el debate. Pero lo que más nos preocupa es que nos ha amenazado con que más adelante va a plantear otro asunto. Para evitar esa actitud que se repite en cada una de las reuniones del Consejo, la delegación de Colombia propone formalmente que el 91 período de sesiones del Consejo se celebre en las Islas Malvinas porque así, bajo la soberanía argentina, podremos evitarnos estos problemas.

POINT OF ORDER

POINT D'ORDRE

PUNTO DE ORDEN

John GLISTRUP (Denmark): I call for a point of order. I think our work is progressing very slowly. I would like you, Mr Chairman, to rule in which way we are going to work. Are we planning for a night session? Are we going to progress as we have been doing so far since this morning? In saying so I have just looked back on the reports, and all the discussions which we have had so far have not improved significantly the reports produced for us by the Drafting Committee. In addition I have to observe that most of the Members who have spoken in this Council during this process have been Members of the Drafting Committee. May I in saying so suggest and move a motion that we approve the rest of the report en bloc?

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

LE PRESIDENT: J'ai le sentiment que la proposition du délégué du Danemark a été approuvée par consensus manifeste.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

Joseph TCHICAYA (Congo): Je ne prends pas la parole pour contrecarrer le consensus auquel nous venons d'aboutir, mais je pense que, malgré tout, le reste de nos travaux doit être conforme à ce que nous avons adopté jusqu'à présent. C'est pourquoi je demande au Secrétariat de revoir le paragraphe 18 du document CL 90/REP/3 afin qu'il soit conforme au paragraphe 21 du document CL 90/REP/1 que nous avons adopté ce matin.

R. G. PETTITT (United Kingdom): This procedure would require my delegation to give qualifications on the question of the adoption of the report. I would also not think it a totally wise procedure, partly because it would devalue the report substantially and secondly because I suspect that the rest of the report is much less controversial than what we have gone through. My recommendation is that we go on as usual.

David Lawrence COUTTS (Australia): I am not sure what the vote of acclamation actually counted for then, but I did assume that it meant that you had ruled that the Council accepted the report en bloc. Is that the situation or not? No? Right, so we are still debating the matter of whether we accept it or not.

Mrs Millicent M. FENWICK (United States of America): I must admit I joined in the clapping, but with one or two minutes reflection I realise that this is more the product of despair than of reason. We are tired and we do not know what we are looking forward to, but I do not think we can treat our important work and dismiss it in this way. So I must oppose it.

Horacio CARANDANG (Philippines): I thought that the delegate of Denmark had been supported by the great majority of the Council who clapped. I was one of those delegates who clapped, and I supported fully his proposal. In fact, Mr Chairman, you will notice that every time I spoke it was to defend the Draft.

Humberto CARRION M. (Nicaragua): Yo fui uno de los que no aplaudió con la propuesta de Dinamarca, pero, después de lo que dijo la Embajadora de los Estados Unidos, yo también reflexioné y ahora sí lo aplaudo, es decir, de que lo aprobemos en bloque. Yo entiendo que hay una propuesta específica con dos países en contrario. Por lo tanto, usted puede someter a votación si aprobamos este informe en bloque o no.

LE PRESIDENT: Nous allons peut-être trouver un compromis. Il y a, d'une part, le sentiment que la suite sera plus agréable que le début. Un délégué nous a dit qu'il éprouverait beaucoup moins de problèmes que jusqu'à présent. Nous avons, d'autre part, le sentiment qu'il faut faire confiance au Comité de rédaction.

Pourrait-on trouver un compromis, c'est-à-dire adopter le rapport par groupes de paragraphes et non pas paragraphe par paragraphe? Nous pourrions l'adopter par sujet, auquel cas nous aurons formellement analysé-et cela figurera au procès-verbal-le rapport. Je crois que ce compromis pourrait être retenu par les délégués, si le délégué du Danemark en convient.

Je propose donc que l'on analyse le rapport sujet par sujet et non plus paragraphe par paragraphe afin de faire avancer nos travaux sans pour autant enfreindre les règles de la déontologie qui veut que le Conseil de la FAO, à ce niveau, ait lu le rapport.

Cela vous convient-il?

Elio PASCARELLI (Italy): I fully agree with your proposal but I would like to give a response to my Danish colleague, and also if I may give some advice to the Chairman, that is that the members of the Drafting Committee may take the floor only to defend the Draft, as it was the case for me and for my colleague from the Philippines and many others. There was criticism from our Danish colleague that I do not accept. My interventions were only defending the draft and were not to change anything. So, members of the Drafting Committee, should not ask for the floor unless they have something to defend, and not to change.

LE PRESIDENT: Compte tenu de ce que nous venons de dire, pouvons-nous adopter les paragraphes 28, 29, 30 et 31 du document CL 90/REP/2 ainsi que le projet du rapport Partie II qui figure dans le document CL 90/REP/2/Sup. 1? Celui-ci est rédigé comme suit: "le Conseil s'est félicité que le Gouvernement du pays hôte ait accepté, ainsi que l'a annoncé le Représentant de ce pays au cours des débats, de renoncer, au moins jusqu'à 1988, au remboursement de sa part de l'excédent de trésorerie qui sera distribué le 1er janvier 1987 et en outre d'accélérer le versement de sa contribution intégrale pour 1987. "

Akbar Mirza KHALEELI (India): We agree to that. However, I think since we are in Rome we should mention the following slight changes in our thanks to the host government. "The Council expressed its deep appreciation" instead of just "appreciation" "for the announcement made during the debate by the representative of the host government that his government had agreed to delay. The rest of the paragraph is all right. I do not want to take up much time. To refer to it as a positive response to the current phase of budgetary constraints through which the Organization is passing, it is just a minor change, I could discuss it with the Chairman of the Drafting Committee rather than put it to the Council. But, thanks to Italy for the positive response, could it be worded slightly differently, if you do not mind.

Rainer PRESTIEN (Germany, Federal Republic of): This is not with regard to the proposal just made by our Indian colleague. We would prefer different wording in the second sentence of paragraph 29. Our proposal would be to replace the words "it recognized" in the first part of this sentence by "it noted". Then in the second part of the sentence after the word "and" insert the wording "the Director-General's view that it might be necessary to resort to short-term borrowing up to a tentative amount of US\$30 million" because in our view, if I may draw your attention to the speech that was given by the Director-General, on page 8, he mentioned "any further delays in receipts would leave me with no other alternative than to borrow a sum of around US\$30 million to meet cash flow requirements. " In the view of my delegation it was the Director-General who expressed his view and I think we should express that view in the report.

R. G. PETTITT (United Kingdom): Paragraph 29: I suggest the last line, "the Director-General would consult"-and be guided by the Finance Committee-the words "be guided by" should be inserted. An additional sentence "some members took the view that this situation should be anticipated by the necessary economies and noted that the Conference had the responsibility to consider whether powers of borrowing should still persist. "

Paragraph 31: I think it might be more courteous if we simply invited individual member countries to consider surrendering or deferring their share rather than "express the hope that. " At the end of paragraph 33 "It looked forward to receiving the views of the Finance Committee at its next session, together with a report on action taken by the Director-General. " This conforms with our views that the Director-General should have flexibility to take action.

George Henry MUSGROVE (Canada): My delegation wishes to propose the addition of a sentence at the end of paragraph 33. I am not sure if the sentence is still pertinent with the amendments which have been made by the distinguished delegate of the United Kingdom, but we shall see. The sentence I would propose to add is "The Council noted the Director-General's assurance that should the gravity of the present financial situation be confirmed, it was open for the Finance Committee in December, and the Council in June 1987, to propose further programme economies. "

M. Afzal QADIR (Pakistan): Italy has once again taken the lead in demonstrating its commitment to FAO at a time when the Organization finds itself trapped by financial difficulties. Therefore, I would agree with the amendment suggested by the delegate of India that we should add the word "deep" before appreciation.

Having said that, I should like to say that now Italy has set an example for others to follow, whether we could accept other countries in a similar situation expecting cash refunds to make similar gestures.

Danilo VUJICIC (Yugoslavia): After your decision that we will work in a more efficient manner by taking things *en bloc*, by subjects, it seems to me after two statements and two interventions by two delegations which have so far also made so many suggestions during our discussion that we are practically going back to the same situation that we were in a few moments ago. I have not got fully the texts of the proposed amendments by the distinguished representative of the United Kingdom and Canada but I have got the sense of them, and my delegation would not go along with such proposals. So I would appeal to them to cooperate constructively that we finish our work tonight. If they will not, then we can agree to continue. I have the permission of my government to stay until next Tuesday to finalize this work.

LE PRESIDENT: Si vous permettez, je signalerai qu'il y a des suggestions de deux ordres. La première a été formulée par l'Inde et certains autres délégués. Au paragraphe 29, au lieu de "il a reconnu que, selon les informations actuellement disponibles" on devrait mettre "il a noté". Je crois que cette modification pourrait être acceptée par le Conseil, sauf s'il en décide autrement. Ensuite, dans le paragraphe supplémentaire il est proposé d'ajouter "le Conseil s'est vivement félicité". Je crois que ceci est tout à fait acceptable. Le Royaume-Uni suggère une proposition pour le paragraphe 29. Dans ce paragraphe, on dit que le Directeur général consulterait et se ferait guider par le Comité financier. J'aimerais avoir l'avis du Conseil. Est-ce que cet ajout est accepté?

Gonzalo BULA HOYOS (Colombia): Entre todo lo que usted leyó, señor Presidente, alcancé sólo a captar la propuesta para el párrafo 29 que es inaceptable para la delegación de Colombia.

Philippa PIOTET (France): Je me réfère à la dernière phrase du paragraphe et à la proposition du Royaume-Uni selon laquelle le Directeur général consulterait et se ferait guider par le Comité financier. Je ne me souviens pas si on a parlé de cela, mais je le suppose, car sinon le Royaume-Uni ne l'évoquerait pas. Je me demande quel est le sens de cette formule. Il y a des régies concernant les rapports entre le Directeur général et le Comité financier et, selon l'avis formulé par le Comité financier, le Directeur général prendra ses responsabilités dans le cadre des règles qu'il s'est ainsi fixées. Je ne vote pas par l'intérêt de cette formule.

LE PRESIDENT: Voilà la position de la France. Pouvons-nous maintenir la rédaction du paragraphe 29 en l'état, avec comme seule modification de mettre au lieu de "reconnu", mettre "noté". C'est un détail qui se trouve à la cinquième ligne du paragraphe 29. Maintenant il reste l'action de fond proposée par le Canada. Je propose de bien vouloir la répéter lentement.

George Henry MUSGROVE (Canada): It was the addition of a sentence at the end of paragraph 33 "The Council noted the Director-General's assurance that should the gravity of the present financial situation be confirmed, it was open to the Financial Committee in December and the Council in June 1987 to propose further programme economies. "

Gonzalo BULA HOYOS (Colombia): Desearía que el señor Walton nos confirmara si la propuesta de Canada corresponde en efecto a una declaración del Director General.

Elio PASCARELLI (Italy): I do not think that this addition would help. We have discussed repeatedly in the Finance Committee the powers of the Finance Committee, the Director-General and the Council. We came to the conclusion that none of them has the power to cut the programme, only Conference has that power. I do not think the addition will help us, only help us to waste time.

DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL: I am afraid I cannot recall any such assurance being specifically given by the Director-General. However, I would refer back to paragraph 25 which has already been adopted by Council, which relates to the possibility of the financial situation deteriorating, or improving. I think that the thought expressed by the representative of Canada is covered already in paragraph 25.

LE PRESIDENT: Sous le bénéfice de ces éléments, pouvons-nous maintenir en état le paragraphe 33? Bien. Si le Conseil en convient, . . .

R. G. PETTITT (United Kingdom): I did make a suggestion for another sentence at the end of paragraph 29, but as this seems to have produced no response I will be content that it is recorded in the verbatim record.

LE PRESIDENT: Si vous voulez reprendre ce paragraphe de manière à ce que ce soit clair. Quelle est votre proposition?

R. G. PETTITT (United Kingdom): I proposed an additional sentence: "Some members took the view that this situation should be anticipated by the necessary economies and noted that the Conference had the responsibility to consider whether powers of borrowing should still persist". If this is not generally subscribed to, I will make it my own observation in the verbatim record.

Horacio CARANDANG (Philippines): I just wanted to say that if the representative agrees that it be left in the verbatim record, so be it.

Gonzalo BULA HOYOS (Colombia): Si el Reino Unido ha dicho que quede en las actas, pues que quede pero que no haga más propuestas.

LE PRESIDENT: C'est bien. Que propose le délégué du Canada?

George Henry MUSGROVE (Canada): The proposal I had made with respect to paragraph 33 has not been accepted by the Council, I take it. It is different from paragraph 25. I believe I recall the Director-General said that the views proposed by the delegate of Canada and others were unduly pessimistic; however, should they be proven correct it was open for the Finance Committee in December and in June to make further proposals for cuts. I took issue with the Director-General to some extent by saying that in June 1987 there would only be six months left in the biennium in which to effect economies, scarcely a length of time in which to show any great effect. As I recall it, that was the course of the discussion and it was what I wanted to reflect in paragraph 33. However, if it is not the wish of Council to include those words, I withdraw.

However, I do have some changes to make with respect to paragraphs 36 and 39, and as we are doing this in sections perhaps I can propose those as well. Paragraph 36: I believe the last two sentences should be deleted. They are non-attributed and I do not think they add anything to the particular reflection of the Council's deliberations. They seem to be assertions and I am not sure if they are a reflection of the discussion or simply assertions.

Danilo VUJICIC (Yugoslavia): As there has been a proposal to take the paragraphs en bloc I will also reply in the same manner. I think that the two sentences towards the end of paragraph 36 have the sense at least of opening up some prospective for the future of the Organization. In this sense they are useful, and that is why I think it was right of the Drafting Committee to insert them because they reflect the spirit, the sense, of our discussion. Therefore I support that text being left in.

Gonzalo BULA HOYOS (Colombia): Por ahora vamos a limitar nuestras observaciones a las propuestas que se han hecho sobre el párrafo 36. De una vez por todas debemos declarar que si intervenimos como miembros del Comité de Redacción, nunca ha sido para introducir elementos nuevos, sino para apoyar los acuerdos tomados en la sala donde trabajamos.

El colega del Canadá puede tener razón en cierto sentido en relación con los términos en que está redactada la penúltima frase del párrafo 36. Pero nosotros estamos de acuerdo con el colega Vujicic de Yugoslavia en el sentido de que es necesario mantener esos conceptos y los proponemos ahora en sentido positivo así:

Las dos últimas frases dirían lo siguiente: "A ese respecto, el Consejo reconoció la eficiencia de la gestión de la FAO y el apoyo de que gozan sus objetivos y señaló que". Luego se agrega la actual última frase del párrafo 36.

Esto lo dijimos en sentido positivo y creo que nadie pueda discutir que esta afirmación corresponde a hechos.

Mohammed ABDELHADI (Tunisie): Nous pensons que si le Comité de rédaction a retenu les deux dernières phrases de ce paragraphe, c'est qu'elles reflétaient le sentiment du Conseil et les débats qui ont eu lieu ces derniers jours. Ma délégation ne voit donc aucun inconvénient à ce que les deux phrases figurent à ce paragraphe 36.

LE PRESIDENT: Est-ce que la suggestion de M. le Directeur général adjoint recueille l'agrément du Conseil?

Concernant le paragraphe 36, beaucoup de délégations ont pris la parole, en considération que ces deux derniers paragraphes devaient rester, mais sous une forme légèrement différente. Une proposition concrète a été faite par M. le délégué de Colombie et qui est la suivante: "A ce sujet, le Conseil a reconnu l'efficacité de la gestion de la FAO et l'appui dont bénéficient ses objectifs". Est-ce que c'est une rédaction dont on pourrait convenir? Si le Conseil admet cette rédaction, on peut la considérer comme approuvée.

George Henry MUSGROVE (Canada): Yes, Mr Chairman.

Paragraphs 8 to 36, as amended, approved

Les paragraphes 8 à 36, ainsi amendés, sont approuvés

Los párrafos 8 a 36, así enmendados, son aprobados

PARAGRAPHS 37 to 40

PARAGRAPHERS 37 à 40

PARRAFOS 37 a 40

George Henry MUSGROVE (Canada): In paragraph 39 there is the question of the options that would be considered by the Finance Committee. In this particular case we have recommended very strongly several other options to the Committee for their consideration. At the time of your summing up we attempted to make reference to those particular additional options, and several members objected that they should be included in your summing up but indicated that they would be reflected in the verbatim record and would find reflection in the draft report. I do not find them here.

With that in mind, I would propose adding a sentence three lines down from the top of page 13 of the English text after the word "options". I shall read the sentence which I think should be included at this point: "Some members felt this list of options to address financial uncertainty was incomplete insofar as it did not include standby measures to reduce programme spending when resources available to the Organization were inadequate. "

With the inclusion of that sentence in the paragraph, there would be a consequent change in the penultimate sentence of that paragraph where it says "decide which of the options". We would suggest that that be changed to "select a number of measures to be studied further".

Danilo VUJICIC (Yugoslavia): On paragraph 39, no options are mentioned here. I remember that many delegations supported one or several options and spoke about the shortcomings and the benefits of some of them, but no statement by anybody has been reflected in this report. If we are now going to reflect all the positions taken, I would request that two options that I mentioned specifically be in and the others be forgotten. The fact that some delegations were of the opinion that some other possibilities and options should be considered is in the verbatim record, and when the Finance Committee is considering this matter they will take the verbatim record into account and not the report, because the report only covers the very general procedural manner on how it will be done. Concerning the last proposal of the delegate of Canada, I can share that proposal and would support replacing the words "would decide which of the options" with "selected a number of measures" I think that is a better expression and I support it.

DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL: In order to avoid a drafting discussion on the points made by Canada and Yugoslavia, I should like to suggest the following drafting changes. Following the sentence "Varying views were expressed on each of the options" add a comma, and add the words "and additional suggestions were put forward". Then in the line further down where it says "the Finance Committee would decide which of the options should be studied further", change that to "would decide which of the suggested measures should be studied further". I think that would meet all the points that were made.

LE PRESIDENT: Pour le paragraphe 39, c'est donc en ordre, et je pense que M. le Président du Comité de rédaction en a pris note.

Nous en avons terminé avec le document CL 90/REP/2 et je remercie le délégué du Danemark grâce à qui nous avons changé le rythme de travail.

Paragraphs 37 to 40, as amended, approved

Les paragraphes 37 à 40, ainsi amendés, sont approuvés

Los párrafos 37 a 40, así enmendados, son aprobados

Draft Report of Plenary-Part II, as amended, was adopted

Projet de rapport de la plénière, Partie II, ainsi amendée, est adoptée

El proyecto de informe de la Plenaria-Parte II, así enmendado, es aprobado

DRAFT REPORT-PART III (CL 90/REP/3)

PROJET de RAPPORT-PARTIE III (CL 90/REP/3)

PROYECTO DE INFORME-PARTE XIX (CL 90/RSP/3)

José Ramón LOPEZ-PORTILLO ROMANO (Presidente del Comité de Redacción): Sólo para una aclaración a las distinguidas delegaciones de habla hispana. Me refiero al párrafo cuatro del REF/3 que en el texto español y repito para que se traduzca así, en el texto español solamente hay un error, es decir la penúltima oración del párrafo 4 está puesta indebidamente en penúltimo lugar; debe aparecer toda ella en último lugar. Debe ser la última oración del párrafo 4.

Espero que dichas delegaciones tomen nota para que se coteje así con lo que está expresado en los otros textos.

Habría una precisión respecto de esta última oración, y le pido otra vez disculpas, señor Presidente. La segunda oración a la que me refiero comenzará: "En relación con la 14ª Conferencia Regional para África, etc. ". Ahí empezaba la tercera o penúltima oración, la parte que pasa al final como última oración es aquella última frase de dicha penúltima oración que comenzaba con "que podía considerarse la primera aplicación concreta de la resolución aprobada en el período extraordinario de sesiones de la Asamblea General de las Naciones Unidas". Para que dicha frase pase al final se encabezaría con "podía considerarse". Espero que hayan podido tomar nota las delegaciones de habla castellana.

LE PRESIDENT: Je remercie M. le Président du Comité de rédaction et passe la parole à MM. les délégués.

Paragraphs 1 to 5 approved

Les paragraphes 1 à 5 sont approuvés

Los párrafos 1 a 5 son aprobados

Paragraph 6 approved

Le paragraphe 6 est approuvé

El párrafo 6 es aprobado

PARAGRAPHS 7 to 26

PARAGRAPHERS 7 à 26

PARRAFOS 7 a 26

Joseph TCHICAYA (Congo): J'avais d'abord quelques amendements à faire aux paragraphes 11 et 18.

Paragraphe 11: Avant la dernière phrase, je souhaiterais que l'on ajoute une phrase. Après les membres de phrase "pour aider les pays d'Afrique subsaharienne à faire face à la crise alimentaire et contribuer de façon soutenue à leur relèvement économique a été soulignée. " Je voudrais que l'on ajoute une autre phrase: "Le Conseil a lancé un appel aux donateurs, et notamment aux pays industrialisés, afin qu'ils aident le FIDA à atteindre l'objectif des 300 millions de dollars". L'reste sans changement.

En ce qui concerne le paragraphe 18, j'espère que cela ne va pas soulever de problème puisque cette question a déjà été réglée. Je voudrais simplement que nous restions en conformité avec le paragraphe 21 du REP/1. On lirait comme suit: "personnes déplacées victimes des agressions et autres actions de déstabilisation perpétrées par le régime de l'Afrique du Sud dans les Etats de la ligne de front". Viendrait ensuite la phrase suivante: "A ce propos le vœu a été exprimé que la FAO fasse tout ce qui est en son pouvoir pour aider à remédier aux effets négatifs de ces actions déstabilisatrices sur l'agriculture et la sécurité alimentaire des pays d'Afrique australe".

M. Afzal QADIR (Pakistan): I would like to endorse the amendments suggested by the distinguished Ambassador of the Congo in paragraph 11. This is in accordance with the statement he made and which I echoed during our intervention. In addition to that I would like to suggest the addition of a few words in the first sentence. "The importance of the IFAD Special Programme, which has become effective from May 1986" and the rest of the sentence remains as it is here.

LE PRESIDENT: Voulez-vous reprendre, quelle est votre proposition, M. le délégué?

M. AFAAL QADIR (Panietan): After she word programme I would like se have inserted she words, "which has become effective from May 1966. " I hope this is now clear.

Bernard LEDUN (Frances): Notre délégation ne peut pas souscrire à l'amendement proposé par le distingué représentant du Congo en oe qui concerne la rédaction qu'il propose pour l'article 18. Mon opposition à cette modification est effectuée pour les mêmes raisons et pour les mêmes principes que ceux que j'avais déjà eu l'occasion d'indiquer ce matin au moment de la proposition de modification de l'article 21 du document CL 90/REP/1. Je souhaiterais que cette réserve figure dans le rapport.

Mrs Millicent M. FENWICK (United States of America): I would like to support Pakistan who mentioned a special programme for Africa which became effective in May 1986. I would like to add the words, "and which has already mobilized two-thirds of its target of \$300 million in favour of the drought-affected countries in Africa. "

Emmanuel T. CHENGU (Zimbabwe): I would strongly support the amendment made by the distinguished representative of the Congo on item 18. I wish you to take note that Zimbabwe strongly supports that amendment.

Leopoldo ARIZA HIDALGO (Cuba): Nosotros queremos expresar además de nuestro respaldo total a lo que ha expresado la distinguida representación del Congo, apoyado ahora por la distinguida representación de Zimbabwe, que también lo hacemos teniendo en cuenta los mismos principios y las mismas opiniones que expresamos esta mañana para que aparezca claramente qué Estado es el que crea la desestabilización, porque eso lo conocemos todos, no es un problema de un Estado austral porque se ha insertado entre los Estados de la Línea del Frente, eso no nos dice nada. Creemos que con la proposición que ha hecho la representación del Congo se resuelve la situación.

R. G. PETTITT (United Kingdom): If the paragraph is amended in the way suggested I regret to say that the United Kingdom has to disassociate itself from this. I wish to have this recorded in the report. The new language is inappropriate for a technical body.

Malikana Mike LISWANISO (Zambia): My delegation does not feel like reopening a debate on this particular issue. It was exhaustively debated this morning. The main point of a report is to reflect what was discussed and, so far as I am concerned, and I do recall which delegation participated in this particular debate, we did mention by name South Africa. Therefore, my proposal is that if the NF countries find it difficult, to mention South Africa by name, they can enter these aversions and we can make progress.

Joachim WINKEL (Germany, Federal Republic of): As regards paragraph 11, I would like to support the proposals of the delegate of Pakistan and completed by the amendments of the United States. As regards paragraph 18 I cannot follow the new text which was proposed by Congo for the same reasons we had uttered in support of the United Kingdom when we were dealing with paragraph 21 of Rep. I.

Guillermo Enrique GONZALEZ (Argentina): Brevemente, señor Presidente, para dejar constancia en acta del total respaldo de mi delegación a la propuesta de modificación que hiciera la distinguida representación del Congo al párrafo 18.

Elio PASCARELLI (Italy): I want to say that I support the proposal made by the delegate of Pakistan and with the addition of the United States delegation concerning IFAD in paragraph 11 and for the same reason that prevented me from approving the change in the paragraph this morning in the similar words, I object to any change in paragraph 18 because of the economic and non-political nature of this Organization.

Hra Millieant M. PENWILIK (United States of America): I only want to say that I must repeat our government proposition to the naming, to the political element in this Council and this would apply here in 21 and 18 and it is only for that reason, that politics are being inserted here.

Joseph TCHICAYA (Congo): Ea faisant ma proposition, je ne m'attendais pas à ce que les pays qui s'y sont opposés ce matin changent d'avis. On nous dit qu'ici, on traite d'économie et non de politique. Je ne sais pas où est la frontière entre les deux. Quoi qu'il en soit, je note que ce sont les mêmes pays qui s'opposent aux sanctions économiques contre l'Afrique du Sud aux Nations Unies,

c'est-à-dire dans un forum politique. Il faut que cela soit clair. On nous dit que ce n'est pas ici le lieu approprié mais il s'agit de subterfuges que nous ne pouvons pas accepter. Cela dit, nous prenons acte de l'attitude de ces pays vis-à-vis de l'Afrique du Sud, elle est connue.

Humberto CARRION M. (Nicaragua): No queremos dejar pasar la ocasión sin dejar constancia también en las actas de que nuestra posición es la misma que aquella que asumimos cuando adoptamos el párrafo 21 del REP/1; es decir, para Nicaragua es una cuestión de principio el reconocer en este Consejo que es el régimen de África del sur, Suráfrica, el que desestabiliza la producción agrícola y por tanto alimentaria a los países de la Línea del Frente. Por lo tanto, deseamos apoyar firmemente las dos propuestas hechas por el Congo.

Mohammed ABDELHADI (Tunisie): A l'instar de plusieurs délégués qui m'ont précédé, je voudrais faire miennes les propositions d'amendement au paragraphe 11, formulées par les délégués du Congo et du Pakistan.

En ce qui concerne le paragraphe 18, ma délégation appuie les ajouts formulés par le délégué du Congo. Elle considère que cette proposition ne revêt pas d'aspect politique en ce sens qu'elle soulève plutôt des problèmes agricoles et de sécurité alimentaire.

Igor KIPMAN (Brazil): I would hate to prolong the debate but I cannot avoid registering in the Verbatim Records our support for the proposition made by the delegate of Congo regarding paragraph 18.

Danilo VUJICIC (Yugoslavia): I would like first to support the proposals made by the representatives of Pakistan and the United States on paragraph 11, and in paragraph 18 fully to support the proposal made by the representative of Congo and seconded by many countries, but one thing I cannot understand really, that some countries are claiming that this is a political matter and economical and agricultural matters, technical matters should not be mixed with politics. Then I would just like to put the question to those countries why the governments of the same countries apply economic measures to boycott against the racist regime of South Africa if we have to divide these distinctions. Why governments in these countries take economic measures concerning a political matter. I think it is the right and duty of this Organization to take into account also the decisions of the General Assembly of the United Nations and also the sense of the policies of the same governments which are speaking here about so-called political character of the problem.

Akbar Mirza KHALEELI (India): I think in the interests of quick working, just as important as the substance, this matter of paragraph 18 has already been gone into this morning. We do not want to make any more divisions or to politicise what is taking place. At the very least one has to mention the regime of South Africa. We have not condemned it. We should have condemned it. We should be condemning what they do. It is not a political matter. It is a factual matter that they are doing what no other regime is doing. So I think it would be in the interests of the House if you just put it to the House as in paragraph 21, 90/REP/1, that the proposition put forward by Congo and supported by others that is put to the House.

As for India, we supported it much earlier and we definitely support at the very least the naming of South Africa.

Leopoldo ARIZA HIDALGO (Cuba): Discúlpeme por una segunda intervención en este punto, pero pensábamos, con nuestro apoyo a la distinguida representación del Congo y a otros que hablaron sobre la necesidad de volver a situar aquí el nombre del país que desestabiliza, que no iba a entrarse en la discusión otra vez. Ahora nosotros sí queremos expresar que, el hay una reserva y si en la reserva se habla de que hemos politizado la discusión, nosotros haremos una reserva rechazando el concepto de politización y queremos decir lo siguiente: Todos sabemos, Sr. Presidente, que las acciones políticas producen efectos económicos; aquí estamos en presencia de una acción política que produce efectos económicos. Ahora, nosotros no estamos aquí discutiendo la acción política, estamos discutiendo los efectos económicos de esa política y, precisamente, por eso queremos que aparezca sencillamente el nombre para poder ir discutiendo los efectos económicos. Entonces, que se desligue bien clarito la situación, para que se nos quiera entonces parecer una reserva por politización, porque entonces tendríamos que hacer una reserva rechazando la politización, y para que conste en acta también.

LE PRESIDENT: À la fin de ce débat, je pense pouvoir dire qu'il y a deux questions bien distinctes: l'une concerne le FIDA, l'autre l'Afrique du Sud.

A propos du FIDA, la troisième phrase du paragraphe 11 du document CL 90/REP/3 serait rédigée comme suit: "L'importance du programme spécial du FIDA, qui a vu le jour en mai 1986 et qui a mobilisé deux tiers de ses objectifs pour aider les pays d'Afrique subsaharienne frappés par la sécheresse à faire face à la crise alimentaire et contribuer de façon soutenue à leur relèvement économique, a été soulignée. "

On a proposé d'ajouter les mots suivants au libellé actuel: "qui a vu le jour en mai 1986 et qui a mobilisé deux tiers de ses objectifs".

Le délégué du Congo a proposé ensuite d'ajouter à la fin de ce paragraphe: "Le Conseil a lancé un appel aux pays donateurs, et notamment aux pays industrialisés, pour qu'ils aident le FIDA à atteindre l'objectif de 300 millions de dollars. "

Voilà une proposition concrète. Elle a été appuyée par de nombreux délégués. Je crois que nous pourrions retenir cette proposition et inclure cette phrase dans le libellé du paragraphe 11.

La deuxième question a trait au paragraphe 18. La discussion de ce matin du paragraphe 21 du document CL 90/REP/1 a abordé, à propos des effets économiques, le choix politique. Je note que le libellé proposé pour le paragraphe 18 du document CL 90/REP/3 et qui a été retenu pour le paragraphe 21 du document CL 90/REP/1 donne lieu à des réserves dans un certain nombre de pays, et cela figurera dans le document final de ce Conseil.

Pouvons-nous continuer sur cette base? Nous reprenons donc, pour le paragraphe 18 du document CL 90/REP/3, un libellé analogue à celui du paragraphe 21 du document CL 90/REP/1 adopté ce matin, en mentionnant que six membres ont exprimé des réserves à l'égard du langage de ce texte. Les paragraphes 7 à 26 sont donc approuvés.

Paragraphs 7 to 26, as amended, approved

Les paragraphes 7 à 26, ainsi amendés, sont approuvés

Los párrafos 7 a 26, así enmendados, son aprobados

Y a-t-il d'autres remarques au sujet du document CL 90/REP/3?

Il est adopté.

Draft Report of Plenary-Part III, as amended, was adopted

Projet de rapport de la plénière, partie III, ainsi amendée, est adoptée

El proyecto de informe de la Plenaria-Parte III, así enmendado, es aprobado

DRAFT REPORT-PART IV

PROJET DE RAPPORT-PARTIE IV

PROYECTO DE INFORME-PARTE IV

Gonzalo BULA HOYOS (Colombia): Sr. Presidente, usted acaba de citar los dos temas que contiene este REP/4, que no fueron controvertidos, y la delegación de Colombia propone que se adopten en bloque, sin discusión, este REP/4 y que pasemos al REP/5.

LE PRESIDENT: Je crois que cette proposition reçoit l'agrément du Conseil.

Paragraphs 1 to 14 approved

Les paragraphes 1 à 4 sont approuvés

Los párrafos 15 a 22 son aprobados

Paragraphs 15 to 22 approved

Les paragraphes 15 à 22 sont approuvés

Los párrafos 15 a 22 son aprobados

Draft Report of Plenary-Part IV, was adopted

Project de rapport de la plénière, partie IV, 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 17

PARAGRAPHERS 1 à 17

PÁRRAFOS 1 a 17

John GLISTRUP (Denmark): May I formally propose that we handle this item in the same harmonious way as we have just done with the last draft. I think these are non-controversial. These are now very good indeed.

Mrs Millicent M. FENWICK (United States of America): I wonder if in paragraph 10 we could mention something which was brought up over and over again and that is that we are particularly hopeful to encourage still further security assurance that the cash component will be paid to workers in public projects; the cash component, it is not wholly cash, it is half of the going wage for that kind of work in that country at that time, the other half in food. I think it is important to stress, because it was certainly done over and over, we welcome assurances that this will be continued and increase the cash component in the workers' wages for public roads and construction.

At the end of paragraph 10 the sentence would read "a number of bilateral donors commended the Programme for the excellent services provided to them for their food assistance. The assurance was welcomed that the cash component in the wages of workers on public projects would be maintained and increased. "

LE PRESIDENT: Pouvons-nous considérer que l'ajout proposé par le délégué des Etats-Unis est approuvé?

Gonzalo BULA HOYOS (Colombia): Estamos plenamente de acuerdo con usted en que ha sido ya aprobado el REP/5. Sólo queremos llamar la atención a nuestra distinguida secretaria del Comité de Redacción para que en el párrafo 14, en la parte final, adapte la redacción castellana a la inglesa. En inglés está bien, en castellano no corresponde. Es un asunto de fondo, pero estoy seguro de que esto se hará.

RIGHT OF REPLY

DROIT DE REPOSE

DERECHO DE REPLICIA

M. Afzal QADIR (Pakistan): I wanted the floor after amendments had been proposed and we reached the end of discussion on the subject.

My purpose in asking for the floor is not to suggest any amendment in this document but to exercise my right of reply to a statement which was made by the delegate of Afghanistan when the Council was deliberating on item 7 dealing with the Annual Report of the Committee on Food Aid Policies and Programmes of the UN/FAO World Food Programme.

This statement by the Afghan delegate contained in document CL 90/PV/13 was made at a time when I was not here. Had I been here I would have promptly asked for the floor for the exercise of the right of reply.

The statement by the Afghan delegate abounds in savage and grotesque misrepresentation of facts. It is propagandist and devoid of truth. Particularly reprehensible and objectionable in his statement is that he refers to certain territories in Pakistan of Pashtoons, Baluchs, and I would like to register my protest at this reference in the strongest possible terms.

The statement calls into question a great humanitarian effort under way in Pakistan to look after 3 million refugees who have been driven from their hearths and homes by a brutal regime in Afghanistan and for which the Government and the people of Pakistan have received commendation and praise.

The impugned statement by the Afghan delegate-I am not going to quote his words-suggests that in order to get increased and expanded assistance we have been inflating the number of refugees. This assertion is unacceptable, untenable, in the light of the fact well known to every one of us here that there have been special and independent missions from the UN, WFP and UNHCR who have gone into details of the situation periodically and have given their objectives reports on several

occasions. These reports have been placed before the CFA several times before, and, based on their assessments, the whole system of aid to Afghan refugees in Pakistan has evolved over the last 6 or 7 years.

The Afghan delegate goes on to say that in the process of inflating the number of Afghan refugees to reap benefits the Pakistan authorities have enlisted counter-revolutionary bandits, mercenaries, and so on. I do not want to comment on this because I treat this statement with the contempt it deserves.

In order to dramatize the so-called success of the amnesty programme in Afghanistan, the impugned statement says that as a result of this amnesty offer, a large number of Afghans have returned to their homeland, but then a larger number still could have returned if artificial barriers and obstacles were not created by the Pakistani authorities. It is an insult to the intelligence of the Members of the Council for the Afghan delegate to say this and expect that his statement be accepted by this Council.

It goes without saying that the brutal scorched-earth policy, the de-population policies through resort to indiscriminate bombing, has made even those refugees who were settled in Afghanistan flee into Pakistan, and this process is continual.

Last year at the demand of certain donor countries we carried out an enumeration of refugees and this enumeration was conducted with the full knowledge of the donor countries and with the representatives of the UNHCR and the WFP who are stationed in Pakistan. The enumeration showed that there were 2.8 million refugees and that the trickle of refugees, or the flood of refugees, I would say a trickle now, was continuing.

We do not want to create any impediments to the return of the refugees to their homes. They have every right to go back to their homes, and we would like them to go back to their homes as soon as possible, which means when the conditions that originally caused them to flee their homes have been removed or rectified.

Apart from the human plight of the refugees themselves, they do not live under very attractive conditions in Pakistan. Pakistan cannot afford to give them the best possible treatment because Pakistan is a developing country itself. These refugees impose upon us a tremendous economic, social and ecological burden, a burden which we have been bearing on purely humanitarian grounds with the assistance of organizations such as the World Food Programme and sympathetic donor governments.

Contrary to the completely baseless and gratuitous insinuations and allegations of the Afghan delegate, we would like to see an immediate end to the plight of the refugees, an immediate end to the conditions that made them flee their homeland.

The statement also talks about fraud, embezzlement, and so on. I have just returned from a meeting with Mr Ingram, who returned from Pakistan about a week ago. I had a luncheon meeting with him. He tells me that he was so happy to see that the Pakistan authorities have been continuously improving the management of the refugees as well as the utilization of assistance provided in this connection. Why should he make a statement like this? He could have kept quiet. We did not ask him for his opinion on how we were utilizing this. He made this statement when he was told by his staff officers in the field that Pakistan's record of utilization is as good as it could be, although there could be problems. We are looking after nearly three million refugees. There could be some leakages here and there. But to say embezzlement, fraud, leakages into unauthorized hands, is totally unacceptable to my government.

The last word I would like to say with regard to the inflation of the number is, why should we inflate the number of refugees, because if we do this our share of contribution for the upkeep of the refugees goes up. So we have no reason to artificially inflate the number. What we do is to accurately and objectively assess the number from enumeration, because it does not help us to show that the refugees are 3 million or 4 million and so on.

The statement also says that a great number of refugees returned to their homes and villages. The Afghan authorities aided by another power should have been able to monitor the number of returnees for the Afghan dalagadefee to have given us a precise figure or an approximate figure of the number of people who have returned or are in process of returning on a day-to-day basis. Our report is that the refugees are coming in, given this scorched earth policy to which I have referred being pursued by the Afghan authorities.

Then they said that we have also enlisted as refugees those seasonal migrant nomads. In peacetime it is usual for the nomads to come to Pakistan and then go back. It defies imagination how in highly disturbed conditions, fighting is going on, how could one expect the same flow of nomads bringing their cattle to move into Pakistan and go back untrammelled by fears of being attacked or decimated or destroyed? I really do not know. Having said this, I have now completed my right of reply.

I would like to commend the Chairman and the Members of Drafting Committee for not having included the statement of the Afghan delegate in the report, for which I am most grateful.

LE PRESIDENT: Je crois que le Pakistan a exercé son droit de réponse. Faut-il donner une réponse à une réponse et une réponse à une autre réponse? Je ne sais pas. Votre déclaration a été consignée dans le procès-verbal, ce qu'a dit le Pakistan est consigné. Les deux déclarations sont consignées. Nous pouvons donc passer à la suite de nos travaux. Autrement, vous donnerez une réponse, et puis la réponse du Pakistan, et ainsi de suite. Il n'y a pas de raison pour que cela s'arrête.

Mohammad Hasan PAIMAN (Afghanistan): For so long a time, he was asleep, the delegate of Pakistan, and now he has woken up. Secondly, today is the result of the Council, but it is not a time to speak out of the order of the Agenda. Thirdly, I want to define the facts, but I do not want to attack anybody in this way. The distinguished delegate of Pakistan is making the circumstances today. It is trying to change, it has been provoked by somebody or some forces, they are provoking them against Afghanistan. This is the real fact. Now we want to give some facts about Afghanistan.

LE PRESIDENT: Je pense qu'on va arrêter le débat sur ce point. Je vois que le Pakistan soulève sa pancarte mais nous ne pouvons pas continuer. Non, je ne pense pas que l'on puisse continuer.

Mohammad Hasan PAIMAN (Afghanistan): I do not want to take much time. I do not want to express much on politics but I fully agree whatever speech I have made in CL 90/9 on the WFP programme. My delegation has approved and Council has approved and no one has any objection except Pakistan, on this day only. Everything has been made clear. Everything is all right. The situation is all right in Pakistan and in Afghanistan. I do not mention that there are more than 130 military training camps, these are assessments from all the external organizations, they are giving to the Pakistan Government, they are sharing out by bandits and they are training their militaries. . .

POINT OF ORDER

POINT D'ORDRE

PUNTO DE ORDEN

John GLISTRUP (Denmark): We are here to approve reports of the Council. We have had our discussions and we have had our deliberations. May I request you, Mr Chairman, to stop further debates and revert to the matter of clearing our reports.

LE PRESIDENT: Il y a un point d'ordre. Nous revenons à l'examen du rapport et nous considérons que ce point est épuisé.

Paragraphs 1 to 17, as amended, approved

Les paragraphes 1 à 17, ainsi amendés, sont approuvés

Los párrafos 1 a 17, así enmendados, son aprobados

Paragraph 10 approved

Le paragraphe 10 est approuvé

El párrafo 10 es aprobado

Draft Report of Plenary-Part V, as amended, was adopted

Projet de rapport de la plénière, partie V, ainsi amendée, est adoptée

El proyecto de informe de la Plenaria-Parte V, así enmendado, es aprobado

DRAFT REPORT-PART VI

PROJET DE RAPPORT-PARTIE VI

PROYECTO DE INFORME-PARTE VI

Gonzalo BULA HOYOS (Colombia): Hemos leído con atención el contenido de los REP 6 y 7. Como usted empezó a decirlo muy adecuadamente señor Presidente, el REP 6 contiene asuntos administrativos y el 7 también. Asuntos de rutina que no fueron largamente discutidos.

Hago notar que en relación con el informe del Comité de Asuntos Constitucionales y Jurídicos, la parte controvertida está en el REP 8. Mi delegación propone para avanzar en nuestros trabajos que adoptemos en bloque sin discusión los REP 6 y 7 y pasemos al 8.

LE PRESIDENT: Nous avons une proposition concrète faite par le délégué de la Colombie et qui consiste à approuver simultanément les documents CL 90/REP 6 et CL 90/REP 7. Est-ce que notre Conseil est d'accord sur ces deux documents? Peut-on considérer qu'ils sont approuvés? Nous pouvons considérer que ces deux documents sont approuvés.

Paragraphs 1 to 3 approved

Les paragraphes 1 à 3 sont approuvés

Los párrafos 1 a 3 son aprobados

Paragraphs 4 and 5 approved

Les paragraphes 4 et 5 sont approuvés

Los párrafos 4 y 5 son aprobados

Paragraphs 6 to 8 approved

Les paragraphes 6 à 8 sont approuvés

Los párrafos 6 a 8 son aprobados

Paragraphs 9 to 11 approved

Les paragraphes 9 à 11 sont approuvés

Los párrafos 9 a 11 son aprobados

Paragraph 12 approved

Le paragraphe 12 est approuvé

El párrafo 12 es aprobado

Paragraphs 13 and 14 approved

Les paragraphes 13 et 14 son approuvés

Los párrafos 13 y 14 son aprobados

Paragraph 15 approved

Le paragraphe 15 est approuvé

El párrafo 15 es aprobado

Draft Report of Plenary, Part VI, was adopted

Projet de rapport de la plénière, partie VI, est adoptée

El proyecto de informe de la Plenaria, Parte VI, es aprobado

DRAFT REPORT-PART VII

PROJET DE RAPPORT-PARTIE VII

PROYECTO DE INFORME-PARTE VII

Paragraphs 1 and 2 approved

Les paragraphes 1 et 2 sont approuvés

Los párrafos 1 y 2 son aprobados

Paragraph 3 approved

Le paragraphe 3 est approuvé

El párrafo 3 es aprobado

Paragraph 4, including Resolution, adopted

Le paragraphe 4, y compris la résolution, est adopté

El párrafo 4, incluida la Resolución, es aprobado

Paragraphe 5 to 7 approved

Les paragraphes 5 à 7 sont approuvés

Los párrafos 5 a 7 son aprobados

Paragraphs 8 to 10 approved

Les paragraphes 8 à 10 sont approuvés

Los párrafos 8 a 10 son aprobados

Paragraph 11 approved

Le paragraphe 11 est approuvé

El párrafo 11 es aprobado

Draft Report of Plenary-Part VII, was adopted
Projet de rapport de la pleniére, partie VII, est adoptée
El proyecto de Informe de la Plenaria-Parte VII, es aprobado

DRAFT REPORT-PART VIII

PROJET DE RAPPORT-PARTIE VIII

PROYECTO DE INFORME-PARTE VIII

Paragraphs 1 to 4 approved

Les paragraphes 1 á 4 sont approuvés

Los párrafos 1 a 4 son aprobados

PARAGRAPHS 5 to 11

PARAGRAPHERS 5 à 11

11 PARRAFOS 5 a 11

Akbar Mirza KHALEELI (India): I do not wish to delay the discussions, but I notice when reference has been made to the audit accounts of the Regular Programme, UN Development Programme, and World Food Programme, again at paragraph 9, there is a reference to the word processing and data processing equipment of the FAO. These are not the only comments made there. Why has focus come on this particular thing? There have been references also to the other organizations in the External Auditor's accounts. This could be deleted completely-paragraph 9.

LE PRESIDENT: De quel passage s'agit-il? Indiquez ce dont il s'agit.

George Henry MUSGROVE (Canada): We have a number of suggestions to make with regard to document 8. We have an addition we should like to make to paragraph 5, and addition to paragraph 8, and an addition to the standing paragraph 9. I will read those changes. With respect to paragraph 5, we should like to add a sentence at the end of that paragraph, which reads as follows. "The Council also welcomes the useful work done by the External Auditor in his review of sectors of the Regular Programme, notably his observations on budgetary planning and monitoring systems. " That is the sentence to be added at the end of paragraph 5.

With respect to paragraph 8, the last half of the second sentence presently reads "and noted that further improvements in PLANSYS would be introduced as resources permitted". We should like to suggest a change in that sentence which would read "and urged that further improvements in PLANSYS be introduced as resources permitted in line with the External Auditor's recommendations. "

With respect to paragraph 9, we should like to add one sentence, which reads as follows: "Nevertheless several delegations remained concerned that the tendering process did not involve fully competitive bids on the same basis. "

LE PRESIDENT: Je demande au délégué du Canada de bien vouloir relire lentement les trois ajouts pour les paragraphes 5, 8 et 9 afin que nous puissions les prendre en note.

George Henry MUSGROVE (Canada): The sentence at the end of paragraph 5 reads as follows: "The Council also welcomed the useful work done by the External Auditor in his review of sectors of the Regular Programme, notably his observations on budgetary planning and monitoring systems. "

Paragraph 8, the last half of the last sentence In that paragraph, which presently begins "and noted". We should like to change that to read "and urged that further Improvements in PLANSYS be introduced as resources permitted in line with the External Auditor's recommendations".

Paragraph 9, there is a sentence to be added at the end: "Nevertheless several delegates remain concerned that the tendering process did not involve fully competitive bids on the same basis. "

Mrs Millicent M. FENWICK (United States of America): In paragraph 5, I certainly approve of the amendment proposed by the delegate of Canada, and would like to add: "and noted with satisfaction

that all accounts...that the External Auditor made clear that there was no discrepancy in any of the financial accounts. " In other words, it does not just refer to the Regular Programme, it refers to all the accounts he audited. In both cases he said that they were entirely satisfactory and according to the regulations. I think that we should say that. "...done by the External Auditor in review of sectors in the Regular Programme and in the audited accounts of all programmes, that all moneys were accounted for and reported according to the regulations. "

Akbar Mirza KHALEELI (India): I think the amendments of the delegate of Canada might be taken into account, except that basically the Council was dealing with the Report of the Finance Committee and here we are going directly to the External Auditor and giving the External Auditor a greater importance than the Report of the Finance Committee. In a way, we are introducing in our comments on the External Auditor's report things that we did not express regarding the Finance Committee. Therefore, the point made by the delegate of the United States needs to be accepted, that the External Auditor's report has been made with absolutely no qualifications, and everything has been gone into thoroughly by the Finance Committee which has considered the clarifications given by FAO and, after being satisfied, has recommended the adoption of the accounts to be forwarded to the Council along with the draft resolution. So if we are to admit the Canadian corrections we should have something to say that the External Auditor has made no qualifications whatsoever in his comments; otherwise it appears critical and one-sided.

Gonzalo BULA HOYOS (Colombia): Apoyamos plenamente lo que han dicho los Embajadores de Estados Unidos y de India.

Sobre la segunda parte de la propuesta de Canadá en relación con los sistemas de planificación y seguimiento presupuestarios, de manera muy cordial nos permitimos llamar la atención de nuestro vecino el colega Musgrove en el sentido que aparece en la primera frase del párrafo 8, en la primera frase del párrafo 8. ·

En relación con la adición que se propone al final del párrafo 9, volvemos a la misma situación. Estoy un poco cansado pero todavía mi mano escribe; si se insiste en incluir la expresión de alguna delegación ya yo tengo redactado el texto de la posición de las otras delegaciones, de manera que es mejor evitar esto y adoptar el párrafo 9 tal como está.

James D. AITKEN (United Kingdom): On this point I would say three things. The first is that I understand the arguments put forward by the delegate of India, but originally this was going to be two separate items, the Finance Committee's report and the financial statements. They were run together as one single item to save time. In those circumstances, I think it is quite reasonable to have the comments on the External Auditor's report in the form they are.

Secondly, I should like to say that we support all the amendments proposed by the Canadian delegation. We certainly consider that these reflect our views and they reflect the views of a number of Member Nations that we heard.

Finally, we would also say that we have a particular interest in this because you will be aware from yesterday's discussions, which are clearly recorded in the verbatim PV/16 on page 16, that we have a number of unanswered questions on these issues which, with your agreement, we are pursuing with the Secretariat and, again with your agreement, are sharing with the Finance Committee. So we have an interest in seeing the text as amended by Canada adopted to reflect our views.

Joseph TCHICAYA (Congo): Nous n'aurions pas beaucoup de peine à accepter les propositions faites par le délégué du Canada au paragraphe 5 mais nous nous demandons si, en l'enlevant, on ne donne pas plus d'importance au Commissaire aux comptes qu'au Comité financier. Il me semble qu'il convient de trouver une formule permettant de balancer le tout.

Ma délégation appuie entièrement la proposition faite par l'Ambassadeur des Etats-Unis; elle reflète les débats qui se sont déroulés ici.

Jacques POSIER (France): La délégation française appuie les interventions qui viennent d'être faites par le représentant de l'Inde, l'Ambassadeur des Etats-Unis, l'Ambassadeur de la Colombie, et l'Ambassadeur du Congo. Il serait sage de maintenir le texte en l'état, sans apporter de

modifications sinon cela nous mènera a des débats très difficiles et fort longs. La délégation française est donc d'avis que nous adoptions ce texte en l'état.

Danilo VUJICIC (Yugoslavia): I may be repeating in English what was just said by the delegate of France, but I would like to say that I support the amendment proposed by the United States to paragraph 5. I also share the assessment of the delegate of India on the proposal of paragraph 5 that we give too much attention to the report of the External Auditor. Even such language as proposed by Canada may encourage the External Auditor to involve himself in the policy-making of FAO, not only following the right procedures and so on. I would not go along that line.

In paragraph 8 I could accept only one word proposed by Canada, that is to replace the word "noted" by "urged", but not the addition at the end of the sentence, so that this would read "and urged that further improvements in PLANSYS would be introduced as resources permitted".

Horacio CARANDANG (Philippines): I would appeal to delegations to go back to the original text as proposed by the Drafting Committee. I believe the thoughts that are being expressed here now do not really add very much to the draft that is already before us. When we say that the work of the Auditor is useful work-well, if he was not doing useful work we would not hire him anyway. We have already said that the Council had expressed an unqualified audit opinion on the financial statements and the latest schedules; in other words, there was really no problem; this was in accordance with accepted auditing principles. That is also the same thought that was being expressed by the United States delegate, although her statement really brings out that point.

With regard to the amendment to paragraph 9, I am afraid that if delegations say that they made this comment, then there will be counter-comment, precisely because this comment was not left unanswered. Therefore, I would prefer the original text.

Mrs Millicent M. FENWICK (United States of America): I would like to support Canada's amendment to paragraph 8.

Akbar Mirza KHALEELI (India): I think the Drafting Committee has been very balanced in everything, and if paragraphs 5 to 12 are read together it makes a very cohesive pattern, plus, of course, some amendments which have been suggested by the United States delegate, but in the last sentence of paragraph 11 there is reference to the External Auditor's comments regarding the development of the WFP Information System and the circumstances leading to the abandonment of the initial contract. It says "the Council also noted the External Auditor's comments". Those comments were adverse comments; they were very serious comments; and the Drafting Committee has, quite rightly in my opinion, passed it over because the Finance Committee had seen it and passed it over. Why are we concentrating so much on a few things of FAO without dealing with this?

Therefore, I would strongly urge that the draft as proposed by our most capable Chairman of the Drafting Committee, with the slight amendment in paragraph 8 "and urged that further improvements in PLANSYS would be introduced as resources permitted", would be in the interests of everyone and would save a lot of time. Any other amendments would lead to tremendous delays in this last and perhaps most important substantive issue.

Mrs Millicent M. FENWICK (United States of America): I think it would be wise to add at the end of paragraph 11 "... also noted the External Auditor's comments and urged that the programme be accelerated according to the External Auditor's recommendations".

Weahim WINNAL. (uarmany, paerpal nupubise of): I should like to suppers she amandment of the delegate of Canada as regards paragraphs, that we say "urged" and "in line wich the External Auditor's recommendations".

LE PRESIDENT: Nous allons analyser ce document paragraphe par paragraphe s'il le faut.

Commençons par le paragraphe 11, avec la dernière suggestion de M. le délégué de l'Inde, enrichie par les observations de Mme le délégué des Etats-Unis. Pouvez-vous nous confirmer la rédaction que vous proposez?

Akbar Mirza KHALEELI (India): My first proposal is that we should retain the entire thing as it is, with the small amendment suggested in paragraph 8.

If that is not acceptable and the delegate of Canada and others insist on their propositions, then I would suggest the following addition to paragraph 11: "In connection with the development of the WFP Information System and the circumstances leading to losses and abandonment of the initial contract the Council urged that corrective action be taken and the programme for the development of the WFP Information System accelerated according to the External Auditor's comments".

Of course my first preference is neither to have this nor that, but a slight change in paragraph 8, as summarized by my distinguished neighbour, the representative of the Federal Republic of Germany.

Gonzalo BULA HOYOS (Colombia): El curso del debate nos está demostrando que no es sano ni constructivo proceder de esta manera; debemos evitar la proliferación de propuestas en uno y otro sentido.

Apoyamos firmemente, y pedimos al Consejo lo apoye, la propuesta del Embajador de India en el sentido de aceptar una sola modificación en el párrafo 8 en vez de "tomó nota", "insto" y aprobar todo este REP. Por favor, esta es una actitud sensata y equilibrada que todos deben apoyar.

LE PRESIDENT: Il y a une proposition concrète: c'est que l'on maintienne le texte tel quel avec un simple ajout, au paragraphe 8, que le Conseil a appris notamment que de nouvelles améliorations seront apportées.

Nous pouvons demander au Président du Comité de rédaction de donner lecture de ce texte.

Est-ce-que, sur le plan du principe, pour ne pas multiplier les ajouts, le Conseil accepterait cela?

James D. AITKEN (United Kingdom): The second more detailed amendment, proposed by the distinguished delegate of India, seems eminently acceptable to us. We think that that amendment and the amendment in paragraph 9 are quite complimentary, in the sense of their meaning, and add to the quality of the reports. We are very happy to accept this proposal and the Canadian proposal on paragraph 9.

Gonzalo BULA HOYOS (Colombia): Sr. Presidente, solo para ir clarificando el debate. La propuesta de Canadá en el párrafo 9, que se refiere a licitaciones y otras cosas, no tiene nada que ver con la propuesta de India sobre el párrafo 11. Nosotros hemos dicho que, si se acepta la propuesta de Canadá en el párrafo 9, tenemos ya redactado el texto de la gran mayoría de las delegaciones que no podemos aceptar esa referencia al proceso de licitaciones. Por todo ello, Sr. Presidente, una vez más urgimos al Consejo a que acepte esto, a la luz de la propuesta de la India.

James D. AITKEN (United Kingdom): I am not very experienced in these meetings and my memory sometimes fails me. I believe that it was the feeling of the meeting sometime ago that members of the Drafting Committee should only intervene to defend the draft. I believe that the distinguished delegate behind me is a member of the Drafting Committee. I also believe that what he said was not to do to the draft, but that he was going to add an additional text I would be grateful for a ruling from you, Mr Chairman, of this point. I realise there is a point where an additional text helps to defend the draft, but it seems to me that we could use some guidance on this, otherwise we could get into difficulties.

Gonzalo BULA HOYOS (Colombia): Dicen que los pájaros les tiran a las escopetas. Si yo acepté en el comité de Redacción el párrafo 9 tal como está y Canadá lo modifica en un sentido contrario a mi posición, pues es obvio que yo tenga que reaccionar; creo que esto es claro, Sr. Presidente, y eso

es lo que estoy haciendo. Pero, como lo dije antes, mil veces prefiero la propuesta de India, que mantiene el texto tal como está. Yo soy correcto, Sr. Presidente.

José Ramon LOPEZ-PORTILLO ROMANO (Presidente del Comité de Redacción): Yo quiero constatar aquí, Sr. Presidente, que ya, en varias ocasiones, les hemos dado la vuelta a las discusiones y hemos llegado a la misma conclusión, es decir, que los textos del informe reflejan un equilibrio muy delicado. Hemos debatido a veces una hora, una hora y media, y después volvemos a aceptar el texto, y es que el Comité de Redacción-y lo afirmo con toda responsabilidad-hizo un trabajo muy responsable de equilibrio para evitar precisamente que este tipo de discusiones se dieran. Sr. Presidente, usted está viendo que, cuando se rompe este equilibrio, necesariamente todos los delegados que pudieron haber expresado durante los trabajos de este Comité de Redacción sus propias opiniones tienen que volverlas a plantear. Yo recuerdo aquí que se están discutiendo cosas que ya vimos en el Comité de Redacción, inclusive por parte de los miembros que del Comité de Redacción expusieron estas razones, y se concluyó, después de mucho trabajo, que el texto, como les hemos propuesto, era equilibrado.

Otra vez estamos volviendo a discutir lo que ya se ha planteado en el Comité de Redacción. Yo lo recuerdo perfectamente bien, se tuvieron este tipo de discusiones y les pido a los Miembros de este Consejo a través de ustedes, que lean la totalidad de los párrafos, que vean que hay una armonía entre ellos, una relación entre las distintas posiciones y que ciertas cosas de detalle se omitieron por razones obvias, porque no se podían considerar las de unos miembros y las de otros no; es tan sencillo, pero yo sí quiero dar fe y les quiero agradecer a todos los miembros del Comité de Redacción su actitud responsable durante los debates que hemos tenido en el día de hoy. Sé que ellos han defendido con mucha integridad este informe. Yo lo único que puedo proponer es que se adopte esta parte del como había sido propuesta por el Comité de Redacción, quizás con la mejora que había suscrito la delegación de la India y algunas otras. Esa es la propuesta del Presidente del Comité de Redacción después de que he constatado que se está realizando el mismo tipo de debate que allá, en la sala de Malasia, tuvimos.

LE PRESIDENT: La proposition du Président du Comité de rédaction peut-elle nous amener à un consensus? Je ne crois pas car je vois beaucoup de colloques.

Jacques POSIER (France): Je prends la parole simplement pour exprimer ma solidarité totale avec les propos que vient de tenir le Président du Comité de rédaction. Je pense, comme lui, que c'est la seule solution et que cette proposition est juste, compte tenu du souci constant que nous avons manifesté pour maintenir, tant que faire se peut, un texte équilibré.

Je ne pense pas que la discussion dans laquelle nous nous lançons aboutisse à quoi que ce soit de satisfaisant.

George Henry MUSGROVE (Canada): Balance like beauty is in the eye of the beholder. There was a fairly extensive discussion of the audited accounts in the Council. The balance of views reflected in the Drafting Committee did not reflect those who were active in that particular discussion. We have made three modest amendments here. I might add that invariably whenever we do have an amendment it is always the same three or four speakers who oppose it. I suppose that if I said it was a nice evening the same three would fully oppose that as well.

In paragraph 5 we have attempted to introduce an element of consistency which is inherent throughout this report, the reports of the Programme Committee, the reports of the Finance Committee and the reports of virtually every other committee. When a document has been presented by the Director-General and the Secretariat, is heartily endorsed, welcomed and adoration is heaped on it from every point of view. We have here the audited accounts 12. 2 in that discussion. The Auditor General, in addition to his purview of the accounts of the Regular Programme, is undertaking what we feel is an extremely useful and valuable exercise on behalf of the Organization, that is periodic reviews of different sectors of the programme in its operations. I think Mr Crowther had explained to us that that is what is called a "value-for-money-type" exercise.

I take it from the expressions we have heard here that this particular work by the auditor is not appreciated by a number of members. We for one appreciate it and we thought that that appreciation would be shared by the members of the Council. We simply wanted to put something in there welcoming his work in this regard and giving him some encouragement to continue it. That was the basis for the amendment that went into paragraph 5. We expressed it quite clearly and strongly in our intervention

in the Council therefore the welcoming process is something that we have thought would be due there. It is not to be confused with the Council's approval of the unqualified audit opinion which *is* found in the first sentence, so I do not think any amendment to my amended sentence that I am adding *is* appropriate from that regard.

With respect to paragraph 8, I wondered if the Council should not also agree that it is of value to the Organization to institute improvements in the PLANSYS system. We have noted, of course, the Secretariat's regard for the costs which might be inherent in such an exercise and other considerations. Nevertheless, it is an urging, by us the managers of the Organization, to implement such changes as may be possible in line with the resources which are available to us. We think it is moderate and I cannot understand people being against that. This is something we expressed invaluablely in the Council debate. It did not find reflection in the report. We were not on the Drafting Committee.

Finally, with regard to the third one, in number 9, I think there is still concern felt on the part of a number of the delegations that the tendering process in the procurement of the word processing equipment was not quite in line with that which we experienced in a number of our own countries. Perhaps, as the auditor has pointed out, it might be the subject of some Improvement in the future. I just wanted to speak of those three amendments and commend them to the Council, and to stick with them. I think that the considerable work which our delegation has put into this Council meeting is grossly unrepresented in this report. I have made a number of suggested amendments during the day, most of those have been disregarded. I really would ask for some tolerance from my colleagues to take another look at those and see that they are not aimed at being devious or trying to obtain unfair advantage. I think that they are a reasonable representation of the discussions of the Council. After all, that is what the report is. It is not a question of whether people entirely agree with each other. It is a reflection of what was said in the Council.

Horacio CARANDANG (Philippines): I would like to speak of the amendment of paragraph 9. It is said here that some delegations were concerned that the tendering process was not fully in compliance with the-it seems there is an innuendo here that the rules have been violated because the debates were not made on the same basis. Of course, this was said, but I don't know if we should put something like this in the report. It was also pointed out that the auditor had made it very clear that no violation had been made of any of the rules under the tendering process. If this is so, I was wondering whether we should put it so negatively. If the delegation insisted on this amendment I would suggest that the words that I quoted would be placed immediately after that. In other words, that it was pointed out by the auditor that no violation had been made of any rules under the tendering procedure.

Waliur RAHMAN (Bangladesh): I am looking at the face of our Chairman of the Drafting Committee. I think he has made an impassioned appeal to us not to make any change in substance at this stage of our deliberations. The reason why the members of the Drafting Committee, at least my own delegation, we refrain from taking active part in the debate, except for one or two minor interventions, it is very simple. It is not because of any ruling or rule in the Regulations, it is just a matter of courtesy, that we want other members to have a look at it and participate, but then, having said this, I would like to draw the attention of members, particularly those members who have insubstantive amendments to say that in the similar vein of the views expressed by our colleague from the Philippines, we have our own preoccupations too. In this morning's deliberation I had a small amendment which I made, having made it I withdrew, for the sake of our solidarity and unanimity. To my government it had a very special meaning. I did not insist on that. I am repeating what the Chairman of the Finance Committee has said in a very clear and a very reasonable manner, that we should get on with our work and adopt this particular Report. Perhaps again, I did say perhaps, that the only mention which has been made, keeping in view all the paragraphs from 5 to 11, that is at paragraph 11, but this I am only saying as a matter of helping you to accelerate the work, if it helps, but that really, to my mind, takes care of some of the preoccupations of our friends but left to me, I think we should get back to the drafts as they are in the Report.

Igor KIPMAN (Brazil): I have two very brief remarks. The first is to say that my delegation strongly supports the proposition put forward by the Chairman of the Drafting Committee, that would be to adopt this part of the Report without any modification.

The second remark is to support the right of any member of the Drafting Committee to propose additions once other additions have been proposed to any paragraph to this Report which modifies the central idea.

James D. AITKEN (United Kingdom): I have a point on three things here. First of all I recall that when the representative for Bangladesh withdrew his remarks, one of the qualifying facts was that he was a member of the Drafting Committee.

Secondly, when you referred my query for advice to the Chairman of the Drafting Committee, I heard him say that we should leave the text as it was because it was a consensus. Fine. Then I heard him say that we should then accept the short amendment proposed by the delegate of India. I find this rather perplexing. One looks for advice and one gets advice which is perhaps internal, in conflict. If gold rusts, what shall iron do? So it is for this reason that I should like to make it clear. I can accept the whole of the amendment proposed by India, also the additions proposed by the United States, and turn now to the comments made by Philippines, supported by Bangladesh. I think if you can turn to the Auditor's Report you will find that the Auditor does not comment on the tendering procedure other than to say that there was effectively a lack of competition. Now the remarks about the propriety of the tendering procedure came from the Secretariat. Now we would be very happy to accept the amendments of the Philippines if it is quite clear that the text he is suggesting are the comments of the Secretariat, not the Auditor. I see Mr Crowther nodding.

We come back to all these amendments. We are happy with them. We are particularly happy with the amendment proposed by Canada. This has been a very helpful discussion because we feel at the end of the day there is a very much better text than we already had at the end of the Drafting Committee.

Joseph TCHICAYA (Congo): Il se fait tard. Nous avons écouté avec beaucoup d'attention l'appel lancé en notre direction par le Président du Comité de rédaction. Je crois que le fait d'avoir passé 35 heures de rédaction et passé beaucoup de temps ici devrait suffire pour nous permettre d'avancer. C'est pour cette raison que je pense, pour ma part, en dehors des deux propositions qui sont faites par le Canada au paragraphe 8, qu'on devrait pouvoir laisser le texte en l'état pour que nous puissions avancer au lieu d'accepter n'importe quel amendement. Je crois que de cette façon nous pourrions avancer, sinon il y aura des propositions et des contre-propositions, et je ne pense pas que cela soit utile à notre débat. Je pense que tout le monde devrait pouvoir appuyer le Président du Comité de rédaction.

LE PRESIDENT: Est-ce que le fait que le procès-verbal consigne les remarques techniques proposées par les délégués serait de nature à nous permettre de laisser en l'état le texte du rapport? Tout en sachant que les procès-verbaux font état dans le détail des interventions des délégués au sujet du travail des Commissaires aux comptes.

Est-ce que ceci permettrait de couvrir de manière globale et honnête l'ensemble des débats? Les procès-verbaux qui font état dans le détail des appréciations de tous les délégués sur le travail utile des commissaires aux comptes permettraient-ils de faire avancer les travaux? Je pose la question aux délégués du Conseil.

James D. AITKEN (United Kingdom): We would very much like to help you with this because we realise it is getting late, but because this is a financial matter we do not think it would really be appropriate to follow the course that you have recommended, and we think there is a simple and easy way which is enshrined in the Basic Texts. I would refer you to the notes in paragraph 2 of Rule VI, about the statement on minority views. Now, we can accept the views on a number of items were minority views but they were nevertheless expressed, so we are happy to see all the statements remain in the text simply on the basis that they are statements of minority views. I think it solves the problem, if you agree.

Gonzalo BULA HOYOS (Colombia): Quisiera crear en la sinceridad en ta vez de nuestro colega del Reino Unido y le proponemos lo siguiente Que al pie de página de esta parte del informe se haga un llamado diciendo: "La delegación del Reino Unido no compartió este texto y expresó su punto de vista que aparece en las actas correspondientes" y así puede ayudarnos a que el informe no sea tan extenso. Que por favor acepte este procedimiento.

James D. AITKEN (United Kingdom): I would very much like to help this Council and it is for this reason that I will explain that we wish to retain a statement of minority view because we think in the circumstances, there are circumstances where one uses a technique of a reservation and we do not

think a technique of reservation is appropriate in these circumstances, which would debase both the technique and the reservations and also the status of minority views. So in these circumstances our position remains the same.

Gonzalo BULA HOYOS (Colombia): Si se pone la opinión de la minoría, habrá que poner la opinión de la mayoría. Yo creo que ha llegado el momento de que usted pida al Consejo qué quiere y que la mayoría de los miembros expresen si se inclinan por la propuesta del Reino Unido, o se acepta el Sistema. Yo creo que esto es aceptable y satisfactorio para el Reino Unido. El puede decir algo más todavía: la delegación del Reino Unido expreso reservas técnicas que constan en las Actas y por tanto no comparte el texto de esta parte del informe.

Señor Presidente, esto es amplio, esto es suficiente, por favor que nos evite tener que agregar la opinión de la mayoría, que ya Congo y Colombia las tenemos redactadas y presentadas.

James D. AITKEN (United Kingdom): I am sorry to have to return on this point, and also I would regret having to suggest that my colleague to the rear may be a little off-centre in his comments here. I do not think it is up to Council to decide this because what I am talking about is something which is in the Basic Texts and we are exercising something for which there is no opportunity for this Council to make a decision. We are exercising our right to have a minority view. Furthermore, I would also say that there is no right for this Council to attempt to stop any member having a footnote or a reservation so I am afraid I do not understand the thrust of the intervention by the delegate from Colombia. I would be very grateful if you would clarify the position for me and assure me my reading is correct.

Leopoldo ARIZA HIDALGO (Cuba): Realmente en estos momentos estoy mirando un partido de ping-pong: Colombia-Reino Unido. Ya me duele el cuello. Creo que debe usted señor Presidente tomar la bolita y suspender la bolita, así se acabará el partido, y decidir qué hacemos, porque estos dos colegas, capacitadísimos los dos, nos pueden tener aquí hasta las tres de la mañana con la bolita esa.

LE PRESIDENT: Le délégué de Cuba a parfaitement raison. Le délégué du Royaume-Uni fait état d'un texte fondamental sur le paragraphe 6. 5, aux termes duquel on dit qu'un rapport concernant le texte de toutes les résolutions et recommandations, accords, etc. , approuvés par le Conseil ainsi que l'exposé des opinions de la minorité. On pourrait trouver une forme succincte pour ne pas avoir un texte trop lourd et dans lequel on pourrait dire ceci: "Certains délégués, ou un nombre restreint de délégués, etc. " Le Président du Comité de rédaction accepterait-il cette forme en faisant état de l'opinion de la minorité?

José Ramon LOPEZ-PORTILLO ROMANO (Presidente del Comité de Redacción): Reconozco, y el Comité lo sabía, y reconoció en el texto que ustedes ven, que está plasmada aquí, la opinión de la mayoría cuando el Comité pensó que era conveniente expresarlo a fin de no complicar demasiado el texto. Si bien dice este artículo. 6 que se debe expresar la opinión de la minoría, no niega el derecho a la minoría a poner un párrafo en consecuencia. Lo que estoy diciendo es que si la minoría va a pedir tal cosa se va a complicar el texto.

El proyecto de informe era sencillo y buscaba claridad. Solamente llama la atención para que se tome en cuenta.

James D. AITKEN (United Kingdom) Again I think there is a way round this draft. I have not spoken to my Canadian colleague about this but might it not be in relation to paragraph 10 "some Members noted"? Would this be acceptable?

LE PRESIDENT: Y a-t-il une observation?

Gonzalo BULA HOYOS (Colombia): No sé de qué tomaron notas esos miembros, señor Presidente; no sé de qué van a tomar notas, pero lo cierto es que si esos miembros van a incluir en el informe aspectos

específicos, que no aparezcan ahora como opinión de la mayoría. Es nuestro derecho reflejar esa opinión. Yo creo que Cuba le ha dado a usted, señor Presidente, una pauta de que detenga la bolita y pregunte al Consejo si prefiere una u otra opción. Son muy claras las dos.

LE PRESIDENT: Je crois qu'il n'y a pas d'autre solution si l'on veut être aussi complet que possible. Tant pis pour la longueur du texte. Il faudra faire état de l'opinion de la majorité du Conseil et un paragraphe pour exposer la position d'un certain nombre de délégués qui ont fait part de leurs points de vue. Il faudrait faire mention des deux positions, de cette façon le rapport sera complet. Il n'y a pas d'autre solution. Pouvons-nous accepter cette proposition et je laisse au Comité de rédaction...

Mrs Millicent M. FENWICK (United States of America): I think I understood the delegate of the United Kingdom correctly to say that he would be satisfied with the wording used in paragraph 10, which is simply to say that in all these cases the Council agreed with the External Auditor's suggestions for improvement and noted that the Director-General was implementing these recommendations. Did you say you thought that was fine?

LE PRESIDENT: Est-ce que nous faisons état des deux opinions, celle de la majorité et celle de la minorité pour avoir un rapport complet?

POINT OF ORDER

POINT D'ORDRE

PUNTO DE ORDEN

Sra. Mercedes FERMÍN GOMEZ (Venezuela): Yo he estado escuchando pacientemente en este juego de ping-pong, especie de obra de aficionados en que se ha convertido este Consejo. Me he estado absteniendo, pero aquí no cabe otra cosa que un punto de orden. Voy a poner una moción de orden para que cese este debate y para que el Presidente someta esto a decisión y el Consejo decida. lo que tiene que poner en el informe. Quiénes están de acuerdo con la moción que trae la redacción del Comité y que la mayoría decida.

Me excuso, pero la verdad es que llevamos más de media hora con esto.

Donat CHINKUMO (Cameroun): Nous devrions procéder comme nous l'avons fait au Comité de rédaction. Si le temps nous le permettait, il y aurait lieu d'envoyer en mission un délégué du Royaume-Uni et un délégué de la Colombie. Ils nous apporteraient un texte sur lequel ils seraient tombés d'accord. C'est ainsi que nous avons procédé au Comité de rédaction et nous avons eu un résultat positif.

LE PRESIDENT: IL y a deux hypothèses. Ou bien on émet l'opinion de la majorité et de la minorité, et cela impliquera un travail assez long et compliqué, et je le regretterai pour ma part, ou on demandera au Conseil de s'exprimer par vote, mais ce serait dommage.

Leopoldo ARIZA HIDALGO (Cuba): Con todo respeto quiero recordar, señor Presidente, que hay un punto de orden en la mesa propuesto por la delegación de Venezuela y los reglamentos dicen que usted debe resolver y no entrar a discutir hasta que no se resuelva ese punto de orden.

LE PRESIDENT Il y a une motion, d'ordre présentée par le Veneauela. Cette motion d'ordre suggère de mettre au vote le Conseil sur ce texte. Le Conseil est-il d'accord pour voter ce texte? Nous passons donc au vote. Mala je crois que ce serait mauvais de passer au vote. Il faut absolument continuer I faire un effort de plus pour ne pas avoir une tradition de vote que je ne voudrais pas voir instaurer au Conseil. J'aimerais vivement qu'on puisse trouver une autre solution. Si le Conseil le veut, Il peut voter, nous sommes disponibles.

Donat CHINKÜMO (Cameroun): Ce que j'ai proposé, les Textes Fondamentaux l'interdisent. Si c'est possible, pourquoi ne pas ..(continue sans micro).

Joseph TCHICAYA (Congo): Je suis quelque peu préoccupé par tout cela. Je crois que nous devons néanmoins suivre le texte quelles que soient les difficultés que nous avons en ce moment. Nous devons suivre les textes.

Je crois savoir qu'il y a une mention qui a été proposée. · Nous devons nous prononcer avant de poursuivre. On ne peut pas le différer. Les textes le disent aussi.

LE PRESIDENT: Nous passons au vote. Le Règlement dit que c'est une décision prise par le Président et ensuite on passe au vote si la décision du Président est contestée.

Je voudrais que le Secrétaire général lise le paragraphe en question.

LE SECRETAIRE GENERAL: Il s'agit du paragraphe 20 de l'article XII du Règlement général: "Au cours de la discussion d'une question, un délégué ou représentant peut demander la parole pour motion d'ordre, et le Président prend immédiatement une décision sur cette motion. Un délégué ou un représentant peut en appeler de la décision du Président, auquel cas l'appel est immédiatement mis aux voix, et la décision du Président, si elle n'est pas annulée à la majorité des suffrages exprimés, est maintenue. "

Jusqu'à présent, aucun membre n'en a appelé d'une décision que vous auriez prise.

Horacio CARANDANG (Philippines): I want it to be clarified what we are voting about.

LE PRESIDENT: Madame la déléguée du Venezuela demande à passer au vote. Nous passons donc au vote à moins que le Conseil ne s'y oppose.

Horacio CARANDANG (Philippines): Do I understand that the proposal is either to adopt the text as it is now proposed or to adopt the text with the amendments proposed by the United Kingdom, with the other views that would be put after that? I want it to be clarified.

James D. AITKEN (United Kingdom): If I could take up the offer from the delegate of the Philippines and attempt. to clarify, the position, as I understand it, is that we are debating a point of order.

The text before us had amendments proposed by Canada, India, United States, Philippines and Bangladesh. The position that we had reached was we had said that we could accept all the amendments as they were proposed except in the case of the ones for the Philippines and Bangladesh, where we said the comments came from the Secretariat rather than the Auditor.

We would also suggest that the actual wording of the Canadian amendment in paragraph 9 makes it clear that is a minority view. So there is no need for a separate paragraph. It is quite straight-forward. It is clear that it is a minority view, and because of that it should not cause any difficulties.

LE PRESIDENT: Je regrette mais il y a une motion d'ordre actuellement.

Sra. Mercedes FERMÍN GOMEZ (Venezuela): Me excuso con todo respeto y debo decir lo siguiente: en primer lugar, que una moción de orden no se debate; en segundo lugar, que lo que vamos a someter a votación tiene que ser primero la proposición con las modificaciones; segundo, el texto. Votarán los que estén por las modificaciones y luego se votará el texto y allí votaremos la mayoría que estemos por el texto sin modificación. Primero las modificaciones y luego el texto como está; ese es el orden parlamentario, señor Presidente, Si lo vamos a seguir.

LE PRESIDENT: Cela concerne le texte initial plus les amendements de l'Inde; et ensuite le texte initial lui-même. J'aimerais bien avoir l'avis du Conseil juridique.

LEGAL COUNSEL: I think the delegate of Venezuela has now made the issue that she wants to put to the vote clearly. She has said that, as is very often done in Parliamentary procedure, there is a text and there are a number of amendments to the text. You start voting on the amendments and they are either accepted or rejected, and you end up with the final text as a result of the voting.

You can handle it in one or two ways. You can either-and I think this is what the delegate of Venezuela suggested-take all the amendments as a package and if those are not accepted, then you are left with the original text; or else you can vote on the various amendments which have been proposed one by one.

If anybody proposes the latter procedure, it is a procedure which could be perfectly feasible. Of course, if the Council takes the amendments one by one, some of them may be interdependent, but that is a matter which the Council will have to judge when voting on them in a series of votes.

LE PRESIDENT: Nous passons au vote sur les amendements proposés dans leur globalité.

Humberto CARRION M. (Nicaragua): Es sobre este punto de orden que nosotros, obviamente, apoyamos; tal vez podemos ayudar a la situación.

El punto de orden presentado por la Embajadora de Venezuela se refiere prácticamente a que si continuamos debatiendo los textos que tenemos o si en realidad vamos a adoptarlo tal como lo presenta el Comité de Redacción. Hemos escuchado una serie de intervenciones, incluyendo una del Presidente del Comité de Redacción en donde se explicaba el trabajo de equilibrio y las discusiones largas para presentar el texto equilibrado. Por lo tanto, incluso después de escuchar al Asesor Jurídico me parece a mí, esto lo puede aclarar la Embajadora de Venezuela, según interpreto vamos a votar primero a ver si deseamos que haya modificaciones, y creo yo interpretar que vamos a votar la mayoría que no deseamos modificaciones porque confiamos en el trabajo del Comité de Redacción.

Por lo tanto, digamos, mi interpretación es que vamos a entrar si deseamos que haya modificaciones, y estoy seguro que habrá votos minoritarios o, si queremos el texto tal como ha sido equilibrado.

Motion carried on a show of hands

La proposition est adoptée par un vote à main levée

Se adoptó la propuesta por votación a mano alzada

LE PRESIDENT: Les explications de M. le Conseiller juridique sont très claires; il propose que le Conseil se prononce sur les amendements, soit dans leur globalité, soit séparément. Je propose au Conseil de se prononcer sur les amendements dans leur globalité.

Quels sont les membres du Conseil qui sont pour le vote des amendements, pour l'appréciation des amendements dans leur globalité?

Quels sont les membres de notre Conseil qui votent l'ensemble des amendements proposés, quels sont ceux qui veulent modifier le texte?

Quels sont ceux qui veulent maintenir le texte dans son intégralité initiale?

M. le Secrétaire général, voulez-vous nous donner le résultat de ce vote?

LE SECRETAIRE GENERAL: Les membres du Conseil se sont prononcés ainsi: pour les amendements qu'il était proposé d'apporter au texte: 6 voix; pour le texte tel que préparé par le Comité de rédaction: 30 voix.

Le texte proposé par le Comité de rédaction a donc réuni la majorité et doit être considéré comme adopté.

George Henry MUSGROVE (Canada): As the Council has availed itself of voting to adopt the text of the draft that we have before us, I should like your indulgence to enter a footnote to the section on the audited accounts, which would read as follows: "The delegation of Canada regretted that paragraphs 5 to 9 did not adequately reflect the discussion on the audited accounts and its views in particular."

Sra. Margarita LIZARRAGA (México): Mi delegación quiere deplorar el que en el voto expresado por el texto sin cambios una delegación que formaba parte del Comité de Redacción y que estuvo de acuerdo con el delicado equilibrio haya votado en contra.

James D. AITKEN (United Kingdom): I would like to associate my delegation with the reservation made by the delegation of Canada and ask that this be recorded in the report.

Victor HJORT (Denmark): The delegation of Denmark would like to add its name to the footnote entered by the delegation of Canada.

LE PRESIDENT: Je crois que c'est l'ensemble du texte que l'on a mis aux voix. Il y avait beaucoup d'amendements. Ceux du 5, du 8, du 9, et du 11. Comme l'a dit M. le Conseiller juridique, nous avons voté sur les amendements dans leur globalité, c'est-à-dire tous les amendements, y compris ceux du 11.

On maintient le texte tel qu'il est rédigé avec les remarques indiquées par M. le délégué du Canada, M. le délégué du Royaume-Uni et M. le délégué du Danemark.

Akbar Mirza KHALEELI (India): We are going back again in a disguised form to the same thing. First we have a decision that we should avoid reference to this matter while giving the sovereign right to each country and each delegation to have its say. Now, after all this one and a half hours of discussion, we have said there is a minority view and there is a view. Even though I was not 100 percent satisfied with the drafting of paragraphs 5-11, however, I said I would go along with it. Now a couple of delegations have exercised no doubt their sovereign right to express their view. This is reopening the whole thing, why 5-9, why not 5-11? They are missing out 11, why did they miss out 11? Why do they concentrate on 5 to 9? I am saying that they should indicate their reservations in the Drafting Committee, you have put it to the vote and they can do it. Why do they have to have their reservation in the main report?

Gonzalo BULA HOYOS (Colombia): Sólo queremos apoyar lo que acaba de decir nuestra colega y amiga de México. Consideramos que no es sensato ni correcto que mientras que distinguidos y competentes colegas trabajan seriamente con nosotros en el Comité de Redacción, luego la distinguida y respetable jefe de esa delegación se divierta irresponsablemente aquí en esta Sala Roja.

Angus MACDONALD (Australia): I wanted to take the floor to clarify the position of my delegation and explain why we have just abstained in the vote that was taken. I wanted to indicate that that in no way suggested a resiling or a detraction from our position as a member of the drafting group, or in support of the draft. It was simply to ensure there was no misunderstanding, that this delegation very strongly holds to the principle and the right of the minority to express their views in this Council and to have those views recorded.

Mrs Millicent M. FENWICK (United States of America): I too should like to say that we did not join with our other colleagues against the acceptance of this report. We did vote because two of those regulations, (although one I suggested was simply ignored), were mine. I did not think it sensible to vote that we should accept the report without the amendments that had been voted. As I wished to support the Drafting Committee, I did not join with other colleagues in the reservations they have taken.

Akbar Mirza KHALEELI (India): It is my understanding that what you put to the vote was whether the majority went along with it with page 3 and page 4 of document CL/9 REP/8 (5 to 12 inclusive). Thirty members voted for, six voted against. What I would like to understand, the reservations made by our distinguished colleagues and representatives of Canada, I think they would like to express their reservations about the fact that paragraphs 5 to 9 do not reflect their views, and that that should be included in this report. I think that is also a point of order, you put that to the vote also, so that it should not be included here.

LEGAL COUNSEL: The reservations which were made by certain delegations related to certain specific paragraphs which they cannot go along with. It has been a practice in certain cases where it has unfortunately not been possible to accommodate all the views of all the delegations to their respective satisfaction, that footnotes are included which disassociate specific delegations from specific paragraphs and I think this is what is intended on this particular occasion.

Humberto CARRION M. (Nicaragua): Una aclaración adicional que quisiera porque entendí que habíamos sometido todo el tema 9 con todos los párrafos incluidos a votación; si adoptáramos los textos presentados, no sometimos el tema párrafo por párrafo; supongo que la reserva será sobre la totalidad del tema. Quisiera que se me aclarara porque creo que es algo novedoso esto.

LE PRESIDENT: Le vote est intervenu sur les amendements proposés aux paragraphes 5, 8, 9 et 11. Tels sont les quatre amendements.

LEGAL COUNSEL: The vote was on the text of paragraphs 5 to 12 in its entirety. The vote was that this text should remain unchanged as drafted by the Drafting Committee. Now, when that text is adopted in that form certain delegations may find that some of the paragraphs are perfectly acceptable to them. They merely wish to indicate those paragraphs on which they have a reservation. Therefore, it is not necessary for the various delegations to make a reservation on the whole section. The reservation is just on those particular paragraphs of the text which was voted on as a block, which certain delegations have some difficulty in accepting. Therefore, I think it is perfectly normal for those delegations to indicate that their difficulties are with paragraphs 5 to 9. On the other hand, I assume, they have no difficulties with paragraphs 10 to 12, and thus the scope of their reservation is at least circumscribed.

LE PRESIDENT:

Paragraphs 5 to 11, as amended, approved

Les paragraphes 5 à 11, ainsi amendés, sont approuvés

Los párrafos 5 a 11, así enmendados, son aprobados

Paragraph 12, including Draft Resolution, approved

Le paragraphe 12, y compris le projet de résolution, est approuvé

El párrafo 12, incluido el proyecto de resolución, es aprobado

Paragraphs 13 to 18 approved

Les paragraphes 13 à 18 sont approuvés

Los párrafos 13 a 18 son aprobados

Paragraphs 19 and 20 approved

Les paragraphes 19 et 20 sont approuvés

Los párrafos 19 y 20 son aprobados

Paragraph 21, including Resolution, adopted

Le paragraphe 21, y compris la résolution, est adopté

El párrafo 21, incluida la Resolución, es aprobado

Draft Report of Plenary, part VIII, was, as amended, adopted

Projet de rapport de la plénière, partie VIII, ainsi amendée, est adoptée

El proyecto de informe de la Plenaria, Parte VIII, así enmendado, es aprobado

DRAFT REPORT-PART IX
DE PROJET RAPPORT-PARTIE IX
PROYECTO DE INFORME-IX

PARAGRAPHS 1 to 15

PARAGRAPHERS 1 à 15

PARRAFOS 1 a 15

Hermann REDL (Austria): I shall try to be very precise to avoid difficulties. I followed the discussion of item 10 very carefully, and on the basis of my long FAO experience I would like to propose the following change in paragraph 9. The first sentence would remain unchanged. The rest of the paragraph would read as follows: "Medium-term objectives would be specifically considered by COAG and subsequently, by the Programme and Finance Committees, by the Council and ultimately by the Conference. In the course of these discussions, Member Nations would have ample opportunity to advance any suggestions for programme priorities that might be pursued by FAO. The Conference would finally be able to take, in a rational and harmonious manner, any decision that it might consider necessary"

Carlos R. SERSALE DI CERISANO (Argentina): Es para apoyar la propuesta de Austria. Nos parece al menos que en español el texto queda mucho más claro.

John GLISTRUP (Denmark): I can go along with the proposal made by Austria, which I think makes the text clearer, with one change in the last but one sentence. Instead of "new directions" he said "programme priorities". I can accept that we say "programme priorities", but I think we should maintain "new directions" because I think that reflects some of the views which my delegation expressed on behalf of the Nordic countries.

Joachim WINKEL (Germany, Federal Republic of): I support the amendment of Austria and the amendment proposed by Denmark, which better reflects the discussion.

James D. AITKEN (United Kingdom): To echo the comments of my German colleague, I would say that we support the amendment proposed by Austria together with the addition proposed by Denmark.

Mrs Millicent M. FENWICK (United States of America): I would be anxious to support the proposal, but I worry about this business of innovative proposals. There is not a UN agency that does not try continually to broaden its mandate. I have struggled against this in the Programme Committee, and I do not think we should keep urging people to go into new pastures. It is one of the temptations of every bureaucracy, and I think the priorities are the important thing. The Committee on Agriculture, I suggest, would have a great deal to say. Therefore, I could support this, apart from urging my colleague from Denmark not to try to widen the bureaucracy that already exists.

George Henry MUSGROVE (Canada): We support the redrafted paragraph 9 put forward by the delegation of Austria, together with the slight amendment made by the delegation of Denmark with respect to the inclusion of reference to new directions.

Humbarra CARRIUN Mi (wisavagu) implement para cpoya? también la prepuesta del texto que propuso Austria y con la eusereneia de edición de Dinamarca. Creemos que los srganos deliberativos, empelando por le Conferencia, cenemos la facultad no sólo de discutir, definir o redéfinir las prioridades a plaso medio, sino también cualquier otra nueva dirección que la Organización pueda tener dentro de sus Textos Fundamentales en su propia constitución.

John GLISTRUP (Denmark): I should like to assure my colleague from the United States that we certainly do not want to widen bureaucracy. In fact, her own delegation agreed to these words in the original draft, so I do not think it should be too difficult for her to accept this.

Kosei SHIOZAWA (Japan): I should like to associate myself with the previous speakers in supporting the amendment proposed by Austria and the addition proposed by Denmark.

Danilo VUJICIC (Yugoslavia): I have tried to compare the existing text with the new one, and I find that the new one is simpler, direct, and in the right sequence of development. I think it will contribute to avoiding some possible misunderstandings later, so I support the proposal made by Austria as amended by Denmark.

Joseph TCHICAYA (Congo): Ma délégation souhaite également apporter son appui aux deux amendements proposés successivement par l'Autriche et le Danemark. Mais je souhaiterais qu'à la fin, on mette "de nouvelles orientations dans le cadre du mandat actuel de la FAO".

Temel ISKIT (Turkey): I asked for the floor to support the proposal of Austria as amended by Denmark, but after hearing the delegate of Congo and perhaps thinking that his addition will allay some hesitations of our colleague from the United States, we can support the proposal of Congo as well.

Horacio CARANDANG (Philippines): I wanted to know whether this could also include the Regional Conferences, because according to the Basic Texts the Regional Conferences can suggest priorities. I hope that this paragraph does not mean that there is a change in the Basic Texts regarding the role of Regional Conferences in making suggestions on the Programme of Work.

Sra. Margarita LIZARRAGA (México): Nuestra delegación quiere también apoyar la propuesta hecha por Austria con las modificaciones propuestas por Dinamarca y por Congo. Pero también tenemos un poquito la preocupación, como en el caso de Filipinas, de que se habló prácticamente del COAG exclusivamente y creo que el texto original planteaba que de "los órganos técnicos, etc. , etc. ,", es decir, todas las instancias por las que prefiere pasar; no quisiéramos que quedaran limitados el Comité de Pesca o el Comité de Montes.

Sra. Mercedes FERMÍN GOMEZ (Venezuela): Simplemente para expresar nuestro apoyo al párrafo 9, con las modificaciones presentadas por Austria, Dinamarca y Congo.

Hermann REDL (Austria): Just a small point of clarification: behind my intervention is Rule XXXII, paragraph 6(b) I think our Basic Texts gives us a clear indication. In this connection I would also like to draw your attention to the incorporation of the medium-term objectives of the Programme of Work and Budget as approved by the Council in November 1982, and the Conference considered in November 1983 the Programme of Work and Budget for 1984/85 which also contains the medium-term objectives. This was behind my idea.

DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL: On a point of factual clarification the process set out in this paragraph now in the proposal for an amendment relates to events which will happen in 1987, leading up to the meeting of the Conference. There will be no Regional Conference next year, nor will there be a meeting of the Committees on Fisheries and Forestry and that is why they are not mentioned in this paragraph. There will, on the other hand, be a meeting of the Committee on Agriculture. That is the only reason why those parties are not specifically mentioned. I must correct myself, the Committee on Fisheries does meet in May, but not the Committee on Forestry or the Regional Conferences.

LE PRESIDENT: Par une heureuse circonstance, le Conseil est d'accord sur l'amendement. Nous pouvons donc considérer que la proposition du délégué de l'Autriche, améliorée par celles du délégué du Danemark et du délégué du Congo, est acceptée par le Conseil. Pour éviter toute confusion, je voudrais lire le texte en français: "Les objectifs à moyen terme de l'Organisation seront examinés de manière particulière par le Comité de l'agriculture, puis par le Comité du Programme et le Comité financier, puis par le Conseil, et, enfin, par la Conférence. Au cours de ces débats, les Etats Membres auront de nombreuses occasions de proposer des suggestions quant aux priorités des programmes et des orientations nouvelles de l'Organisation, dans le cadre du mandat actuel de la FAO, que pourrait poursuivre l'Organisation. La Conférence pourra prendre, de façon rationnelle et harmonieuse, toute décision qu'elle estimera nécessaire. "

Je pense que nous avons à peu près traduit l'amendement autrichien, amélioré par ce qu'ont dit les délégués du Danemark et du Congo.

Pouvons-nous considérer que le document CL 90/REP/9 est adopté?

James D. AITKEN (United Kingdom): There is one small factual point on paragraph 12, the final sentence begins, "The Council recognized that the concern expressed by the Programme Committee" etc. etc. , I think from the verbatim it was "the Deputy Director-General who observed" rather than "The Council recognized" If I remember rightly this subject was not raised in individual interventions it was simply raised from the Secretariat table at the end of the debate. I suggest in the interest of accuracy the reference to "The Council" is changed to a reference to "The Deputy Director-General".

DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL: It would not be in accordance with the usual practice of Council to make here a specific reference to the Deputy Director-General. If the Council is not willing to endorse this statement perhaps some other turn of phrase would be appropriate such as, "It was recognized" or something like that

José Ramon LOPEZ-PORTILLO ROMANO (Presidente del. Comité de Redacción): Para anunciar, señor Presidente, a todos los miembros del Consejo un cambio que lamentablemente se filtro a todos los textos en todos los idiomas en el párrafo 8. Es una pequeña frase que se habla suprimido en el Comité de Redacción. Me refiero a la tercera oración que empieza: "Por otra parte, si fuera a realizarse tal examen, no debería basarse en una serie de propuestas y opciones disociadas artificialmente del conjunto de directrices, consensos y acuerdos surgidos de las deliberaciones de los órganos rectores de la FAO. "

Por tanto, se suprimiría: y por consiguiente, potencialmente creadores de divisiones por su misma naturaleza.

Esta frase que desgraciadamente se filtró en los textos, desaparece en todos los idiomas. Seguramente los miembros del Comité de Redacción lo habrán notado.

LE PRESIDENT: Nous avons deux modifications concernant la suppression de ce membre de phrase que vient d'évoquer le Comité de rédaction, au point 8 et ensuite au point 12. Il s'agit de la suggestion du Directeur général adjoint de remplacer les termes "le Conseil a reconnu" par "il a été reconnu", moyennant ces deux motivations pouvons-nous considérer que le texte est approuvé?

Paragraphs 1 to 15, as amended, approved

Les paragraphes 1 à 15, ainsi amendés, sont approuvés

Los párrafos 1 a 15, así enmendados, son aprobados

Draft Report of Plenary-Part IX, as amended, was adopted

Projet de rapport de la pioniera-partie IX, ainsi amendée, est adoptée

El proyecto de informe de la Plenaria-Parte IX, así enmendado, es aprobado

Je crois que nous arrivons au bout de nos travaux et je voudrais maintenant passer la parole à l'honorable délégué de la Colombie. Je tiens à lui exprimer ma reconnaissance ainsi qu'à tous les délégués et membres du Conseil qui ont bien voulu enrichir notre débat par leur travail très fouillé et leurs interventions très riches. Je crois pouvoir exprimer l'avis de tous en disant que les documents préparés par la FAO ont fait l'objet d'études très approfondies et d'un travail très sérieux de la part de toutes les délégations.

Gonzalo BULA HOYOS (Colombia): Señor Presidente, a nombre de los miembros del Consejo pertenecientes a la región de América Latina y el Caribe, queremos declarar que, a nuestro juicio, el resultado de esta reunión, plenamente satisfactorio para todos, nos compromete una vez más a seguir unidos sin distinciones en el propósito común de que la FAO trabaje cada día mejor y más eficientemente en favor de todos los Estados Miembros, particularmente de aquellos en vías de desarrollo.

Usted, señor Presidente, ha contribuido muchísimo al buen éxito de este período de sesiones. Fue una reunión plena de temas controvertidos, y en cierto momento hubo inquietudes, alcanzaron a agitarse las aguas. Pero usted, señor Presidente, afortunadamente afrontó todas estas situaciones con serenidad, ponderación, mesura, que los Latinoamericanos y del Caribe queremos reconocerle. Usted ha actuado con inteligencia y con imparcialidad y puede estar seguro de que al concluir hoy sus labores está rodeado por todos nosotros, señor Presidente, unánimemente con el tributo de respeto y de la admiración que le profesamos.

En la presidencia tuvo usted tres valiosos colaboradores: los Vicepresidentes, el doctor Alwi Jantan, de Malasia, el Ministro de Agricultura de Tanzania, señor Bonami, y nuestro colega y amigo señor Iskit, Representante Permanente de Turquía ante la FAO. Gracias a los Vicepresidentes por los eficaces servicios que nos ofrecieron.

Agradecemos también a los colegas y amigos, Embajador Bukhari de Arabia Saudita, señor Mazoyer, de Francia, Guillermo González, de Argentina, e Ivo Alvarenga, de El Salvador, quienes hicieron competentes presentaciones de los informes de los Comités que presiden.

Los Latinoamericanos pensamos que éste ha sido un buen Consejo. El informe es muy aceptable, equilibrado y contiene orientaciones muy positivas para el futuro de nuestra Organización.

Los miembros del Comité de Redacción actuaron todos con sincero deseo de acertar y de procurar el consenso en todas las oportunidades. Gracias a nuestros compañeros de ese Comité, que estuvo presidido por un colega y amigo que no obstante su juventud ya sobresale por su inteligencia, sus grandes capacidades, su consagración y la firmeza con que suele defender sus convicciones democráticas.

Con su labor como Presidente del Comité de Redacción, José Ramón López-Portillo Romano, digno representante de una gran nación como México, ha honrado a su país, ha prestado un valioso servicio al Consejo y nos ha hecho sentir profundamente orgullosos a sus colegas y amigos, particularmente a nosotros los de su propia región de América Latina y el Caribe.

El Comité de Redacción tuvo una Secretaría femenina atrayente y eficaz.

El Director General, y pedimos al señor Walton que le transmita este sentimiento, debe sentirse plenamente satisfecho. Sabemos que él como Jefe de esta Organización recibe este reconocimiento bien merecido, con serenidad, con ánimo positivo porque en esta Sala Roja está representada toda la comunidad internacional y el Director General nos representa a todos sin distinciones de ningún orden. La Secretaría de la FAO debe sentirse complacida porque tiene funcionarios muy capaces y competentes.

Aún con el riesgo de incurrir en exclusiones involuntarias, queremos destacar la participación de los señores Walton, Islam, Crowther, Floree Rodas, Lignon, Shah, Bonte-Friedheim, Roche, Moreno, Régnier y todos los demás, a todos los niveles.

La Secretaría del Consejo sigue servida muy eficientemente por el señor Savary, con la valiosa asistencia del competente señor Tedesco.

Agradecemos al señor Ahmed, Director Ejecutivo Alterno del PMA y a sus colaboradores, la adecuada participación en esta reunión, en la cual el Consejo expresó su satisfacción por la merecida designación del señor Ingram, como Director Ejecutivo del PMA.

Gracias a los intérpretes que han permitido nuestro entendimiento. Nuestro agradecimiento a las jóvenes y simpáticas mensajeras. Nuestro reconocimiento al grupo de damas, a la derecha de la Sala quienes con sus mágicas maquinitas reproducen tan fielmente nuestras declaraciones.

Gracias también a los traductores e impresores, a todos a quienes visible o invisiblemente han colaborado en el buen éxito de nuestros trabajos.

A los colegas que regresan a sus países les deseamos feliz viaje de retorno, con nuestro deseo sincero de que encuentren en salud y alegría a su familia y con progreso y paz a sus estados. Muchos de nosotros seguiremos en Roma. Nos vamos a separar por un período, pero pronto continuaremos nuestras reuniones y actividades. Los Latinoamericanos y del Caribe expresamos nuestro agradecimiento a todos los representantes, cuyos países dejarán de ser miembros del Consejo a partir de 1987.

Permítame, señor Presidente, una mención particular a nuestro distinguido colega y amigo Embajador Tchicaya, del Congo. Durante seis años yo le había tenido de vecino de la derecha, y el Embajador Ariza a su izquierda. El Embajador Tchicaya nos hará mucha falta, porque ellos han hecho valiosísimas contribuciones.

Finalmente, soplan vientos de otoño; se aproximan las Navidades y 1986 toca a su final. Con todo respeto por las creencias religiosas de cada uno de los miembros del Consejo, les deseamos unas Navidades felices y serenas y que 1987 traiga para todos nosotros y nuestras familias todo lo mejor: paz, amor, alegría, dicha y prosperidad.

M. Afzal QADIR (Pakistan): Speaking on behalf of the Asian group, I would like to say how beholden we are to you for the excellent manner in which you have conducted the deliberations of this Council leading to fruitful and productive conclusion to this gathering.

As Ambassador Bula Hoyos pointed out there were problems that were handled during the Session but with your wisdom, with your patience, with your charm and with your firmness we have been able to overcome these problems resulting in the happy conclusion we have been able to achieve.

I would not like to go into details over the members of the Secretariat and members of the staff who have ably assisted you in producing the results that the Council was able to achieve. These things which have already been mentioned by Ambassador Bula Hoyos, we would like to endorse the tributes that he has paid to them, and as I say, we wish you success. We look forward to seeing you at the next meeting and it was a great pleasure working with you and we can assure you we will continue to extend wholehearted cooperation in the future.

Having said this, I would like to raise a point which relates to the reply, which Afghanistan wanted to make to my reply which was brought about by a statement I had made. Now, you delayed him, you had disallowed him from taking the floor but before you silenced him he was able to say a few words and I would request you order the expungement of those.

Adel Helmy EL SARKI (Egypt) (Original language Arabic): As we are at the conclusion of our Session, on behalf of the Egyptian delegation we would like to express our appreciation to you for your excellent guidance, your patience and your wisdom in listening to the statements of our colleagues and to ours. I would like to thank all those who have presented the different documents that were discussed. I would like to support all those who saluted the efforts of the Drafting Committee and we would like to reassure you that we will always cooperate with FAO.

Mrs Millcent M. FENWICK (United States of America): Canada is not here so I dare to speak for North America and I would like to thank you, Mr Chairman, and all of you six veterans up there on the podium, and Mr Roche, I see in the background there. It is endurance, endurance is one of our great virtues, and I would like to say something about my friend, López-Portillo. I am not exactly a Latin American, but he is a very near and a very dear neighbour, and so I would like to say how much we have appreciated his work and how many compliments I have to send him, mail letters reporting all the compliments he has been getting as Chairman of the Drafting Committee. All of us here, and my colleagues, and the new members, those who have not been veterans as so many of us have of so many of these meetings, but we are all in it together and we all have purpose and however disparate our ways of reaching that goal may seem the important thing is that we are trying to do something useful in the world, that is the point. If I think, as you know, of nothing but the little man at the end of the line, he is my target; other people have broader, more educated ideas, more expert, I am not denying it, but everybody tries to do it in his own way.

I just would like to thank Miss Killingsworth especially, sitting up there. Everybody has joined in this enterprise in which I think it was from Mali we had a representative; this enterprise in which we are all partners.

Jacques POSIER (France): Je n'ai pas eu le temps de consulter mes collègues du groupe de l'OCDE. Je m'excuse auprès d'eux mais ils ne m'en voudront pas si je vous adresse quelques propos très brefs.

Je voudrais pouvoir prendre à mon compte les propos tenus par la délégation de la Colombie, mais je ne le ferai pas afin de ne pas prolonger cette séance. En effet, il a tout dit, mais je tiens à m'associer quand même, expressément, à tous les remerciements adressés à ceux qui ont contribué à la très bonne tenue de cette session. Je voudrais également dire quelques mots spécialement à votre

intention, à votre adresse, pour vous remercier et vous féliciter de la grande compétence et du sens élevé de la négociation, de la patience et parfois de l'indulgence dont vous avez fait preuve.

Joseph TCHICAYA (Congo): Effectivement, toutes les régions se sont exprimées. Je souhaite pour ma part prendre la parole au nom de mes amis et frères d'Afrique membres de ce Conseil, afin de m'associer aux hommages appuyés qu'a rendus l'Ambassadeur Bula Hoyos et d'autres, au secrétariat et au Bureau que vous représentez. A cet égard, je voudrais moi aussi dire combien votre expérience et votre savoir-faire ont servi au cours de cette session.

Comme l'a dit mon collègue de Colombie, je termine aujourd'hui la session de mon mandat. Avant de partir, je voudrais remercier tout le monde pour l'esprit de dialogue et de concertation qui nous a animés au sein de ce Conseil. Je voudrais aussi dire combien, nous autres Africains, nous avons trouvé cette session fructueuse. En effet, vous avez, au cours de cette session, examiné les principaux résultats de la 14^{ème} Conférence de la FAO pour l'Afrique. Principalement, le Conseil a appuyé la proposition que nous avons adoptée à Yamoussoukro de faire en sorte qu'une étude de faisabilité soit faite pour ce qui concerne l'aide en nature. Il y a là un résultat palpable, nous autres Africains nous ne l'oublierons pas; nous espérons tout simplement que cette étude aboutira et contribuera à drainer vers l'Afrique une aide additionnelle dont elle a besoin pour son développement.

Je tenais à le dire; je voudrais à nouveau m'associer à l'Ambassadeur Bula Hoyos et aux autres pour remercier les interprètes, les messagères qui nous ont aidés dans la communication dans cette salle; il s'agit là d'éléments très importants. Encore une fois je m'associe également aux félicitations adressées au Président du Comité de rédaction, au Président du Comité du Programme, au Président du Comité financier, au Président du Comité juridique pour le travail qu'ils ont accompli et pour la manière dont ils accomplissent leur mission.

Encore une fois merci; et à ceux qui partent je dis au revoir; ma collègue des Etats-Unis me regarde... il me semble qu'il y a eu une incompréhension, on a pensé que je rentrais chez moi maintenant; je ne suis plus membre du Conseil l'année prochaine; j'espère pouvoir revenir en 1988-89.

LE PRESIDENT: Je remercie M. le délégué du Congo. Nous voici arrivés au bout de nos délibérations. Je voudrais, pour conclure, adresser mes très chaleureuses félicitations et remerciements à tous les délégués. C'est la première fois que j'ai le plaisir et le privilège de présider pendant deux semaines ce Conseil de la FAO. Je dois dire que la qualité des interventions, leur sérieux et quelquefois la passion avec laquelle les délégués ont exposé leurs points de vue m'ont impressionné. Je suis persuadé qu'avec cette qualité, cette compétence exceptionnelle, quels que soient les problèmes financiers ou techniques qu'aurait à aborder l'Organisation, elle trouvera, dans le Conseil, un réel organe approprié pour la conseiller, l'orienter et la guider.

J'ai noté en particulier que toute l'activité de la FAO a été analysée de très près par toutes les délégations; chaque délégué a essayé, par ses organes et par ses administrations, d'apporter son concours à l'Organisation.

En fin de compte, tous nos travaux concourent envers un seul objectif: l'Organisation, aider les agriculteurs à augmenter leur production et l'alimentation dans le monde. C'est là notre objectif. On parle de rentabilité, de productivité de la FAO. On la voit à travers ses effets et ses retombées chez les producteurs de tous les pays du globe.

Je voudrais remercier Messieurs les délégués; les débats ont été parfois passionnés; on a été obligé, à notre corps défendant, de passer dans certains cas au vote. J'espère que ce sera l'exception, que cela se renouvellera le moins possible, et que nous essayerons dans toute la mesure possible d'aboutir à une convergence d'opinions; car la solidarité n'est pas un vain mot; c'est une nécessité pour nos travaux; et je suis persuadé que chaque délégué qui est intervenu, quelquefois avec passion, l'a fait uniquement dans le but de faire du bon travail, d'améliorer notre activité de faire face à nos obligations dans les meilleures conditions morales et techniques.

Quellen los fieril los NlifieuUie que l'adavance eeffdetfèi elle feveuvea dans la emiteeu los alimente sages, constants, endurants, car malgré tout pendant deux semaines le Conseil a été amené à faire un travail sérieux, et pendant de longues heures et je pense que si on devait analyser le rôle des organes directeurs, je suis persuadé que ce que nous avons fait depuis deux semaines démontre de manière claire l'importance des travaux faits dans ce Conseil.

Je, voudrais également m'associer à tous les intervenants et adresser mes remerciements et ma reconnaissance au Secrétariat de la FAO, à commencer par le Directeur général et par tous les éminents experts qui sont venus nous exposer leurs programmes, ici, répondre en profondeur à toutes

nos demandes d'explication et qui se proposent de continuer à répondre à toutes nos futures demandes. Tant que nous aurons ce climat de contact, de confiance et d'explications franches et loyales (franches pris dans le terme diplomatique bien entendu), nous ferons du bon travail.

Merci infiniment pour votre indulgence envers votre Président qui est un néophyte dans ce domaine, merci pour ce que vous avez pu faire pour m'aider pendant ces deux semaines. Ceci dit je lève la séance.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

The meeting rose at 20. 15 hours

La séance est levée à 20 h 15

Se levanta la sesión a las 20. 15 horas