

council

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

conseil

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

consejo

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council

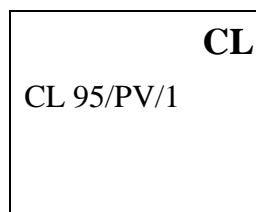
FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

conseil

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

consejo

ORGANIZACION DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS PARA LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION



Ninety-fifth Session

Quatre-vingt-quinzième session

95º período de sesiones

FIRST PLENARY MEETING
PREMIERE SEANCE PLENIERE
PRIMERA SESION PLENARIA
(19 June 1989)

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, je déclare ouverte la 95ème session du Conseil de la FAO.

Honorables Délégués, Mesdames, Messieurs, c'est pour moi un grand plaisir et un grand honneur de vous souhaiter la bienvenue et de déclarer ouverte la 95ème session de la FAO.

Comme vous le savez, le Conseil accueille six nouveaux membres, l'Angola, le Congo, l'Ethiopie, la Grèce, la République de Corée et la Tchécoslovaquie à qui nous souhaitons une chaleureuse bienvenue. Je ne doute pas que leur contribution à nos travaux sera une contribution significative et précieuse. Je me fait donc un plaisir de les féliciter et de les remercier.

Je suis heureux, par la même occasion, de souhaiter la bienvenue, au nom du Conseil et en mon nom propre, à deux ministres. Nous avons en effet parmi nous Son Excellence Monsieur Omar A. Jallow, Ministre de l'agriculture de Gambie, et Son Excellence Monsieur Daniel Faurot R. Phororo, Ministre de l'agriculture, des coopératives et du marketing du Lesotho.

I. INTRODUCTION-PROCEDURE OF THE SESSION

I. INTRODUCTION-QUESTIONS DE PROCEDURE

I. INTRODUCION-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 el calendario

Ceci étant, nous avons à l'Ordre du jour le point N° 1 qui est intitulé "Adoption de l'ordre du jour et du calendrier. Pour ce qui est de ce document CL 95/1-Rev.1 permettez-moi de porter à l'attention du Conseil les points suivants:

Par une note circulaire, le Directeur général nous a informés avoir reçu une communication du Gouvernement de l'Espagne concernant le Statut de la Communauté économique européenne auprès de la FAO.

Le document CL 95/19 joint à la note circulaire donne des détails de cette communication.

Le Directeur général a considéré que cette communication constituait une demande officielle de la part du Gouvernement de l'Espagne visant à ajouter un nouveau point à l'ordre du jour de notre Conseil et par conséquent d'instituer un ordre du jour révisé, le document 95/1/REV/1. S'il n'y a pas de commentaires de la part de notre Conseil, nous pourrions considérer que tout le monde est d'accord pour ajouter ce point 20.3 à notre ordre du jour. Ce sous-point sera intitulé comme suit: "Communication du Gouvernement de l'Espagne concernant le Statut de la CEE auprès de la FAO".

Toujours au sujet de l'Ordre du jour, je voudrais signaler le point 16.4 "Nomination du Commissaire aux comptes". Ce point est à annuler. En effet le Comité financier a reporté la discussion sur ce point en septembre 1989. Nous allons par conséquent considérer la recommandation du Comité financier à notre session de novembre. Elle sera discutée en novembre 89.

Enfin sous le point 22 on inscrit: "autres questions". Nous vous proposons de traiter la question de la nomination d'un représentant de la Conférence au Comité de pension du personnel. Le document CL 95/18/REV/1 a été distribué à ce sujet.

Voilà les commentaires liminaires que je me suis permis de faire à l'occasion de la présentation du projet de l'ordre du jour de notre Conseil.

Si Messieurs les Délégués désirent nous faire part de leurs observations et nous dire s'ils sont d'accord sur l'ordre du jour nous pouvons le considérer comme adopté. Le Congo a demandé la parole.

Joseph TCHICAYA (Congo): Je voudrais tout d'abord dire toute la joie que j'éprouve de vous revoir à Rome présider notre session du Conseil. Je voudrais également remercier les ministres qui ont bien voulu participer à cette session. Pour ce qui est des calendriers le Groupe des 77 que j'ai l'honneur de présider se propose d'organiser le 23 juin à 11 h 30, une cérémonie de célébration de son 25ème anniversaire. A cette occasion je voudrais dire à tous les membres de la FAO qu'ils sont cordialement conviés à cette cérémonie. Etant donné que la cérémonie a eu lieu à 11 h 30 je souhaiterais proposer que le 23 juin la séance du matin soit suspendue à 11 h 30 pour permettre de prendre part à cette cérémonie.

LE PRESIDENT: Bien sûr il s'agit d'un point qui concerne notre calendrier et qui va être discuté tout de suite après. Je pense que notre Conseil sera certainement favorable à cette interruption pour permettre un événement important à l'égard d'un pays du tiers monde, à savoir le 25ème anniversaire de la constitution de ce groupe. Y a-t-il des observations à ce sujet?

Nous pouvons donc considérer que le Conseil est favorable à la suggestion du délégué du Congo en sa qualité de Président du Groupe des 77. Nous en tiendrons donc compte.

Cela étant, nous considérons que l'Ordre du jour est adopté.

It was so decided

Il en est ainsi décidé

Así se acuerde

Nous allons passer à l'analyse du calendrier. Le calendrier provisoire figure sous la cote CL 95/INF/1, document qui donne les détails du déroulement de nos activités.

Pouvons-nous considérer que le calendrier est approuvé? Je voudrais toutefois rappeler que la fin du dernier Conseil a été assez difficile parce que tous les délégués ont discuté à fond et très sérieusement tous les points inscrits à l'ordre du jour. Nous allons donc essayer de prendre nos précautions pour ne pas nous trouver, en fin de Conseil, dans l'embouteillage de l'année dernière qui a peut-être été dû aussi au fait que nous avions une journée de moins à notre disposition. Nous ferons de notre mieux et je me permets de vous demander de faire un effort pour respecter le calendrier et achever nos travaux dans les délais, et si possible plus tôt que prévu. Nous ferons de notre mieux à cet égard.

Attendance by USSR at the 95th FAO Council Session

Participation de URSS à la 95ème session du Conseil de la FAO

Participación de la URSS en el 95º periodo de sesiones del Consejo de la FAO

Je voudrais dire que, comme d'habitude, l'horaire de nos travaux est le suivant: de 9 h 30 à 12 h 30 et de 14 h 30 à 17 h 30. Evidemment, compte tenu du nombre important de points inscrits à l'ordre du jour, nous essaierons de respecter cet horaire ainsi que le calendrier.

L'expérience ayant montré que les délégués sont souvent nombreux à vouloir intervenir sur un point donné, je propose que les délégués qui souhaitent prendre la parole lèvent leur panneau afin de permettre au Secrétaire général adjoint, M. Tedesco, de noter leurs noms à temps et de s'assurer que le Secrétariat en a pris note de façon à n'oublier aucune intervention et à ne pas en faire passer une avant une autre. Il y a eu effectivement des dérapages et nous voudrions éviter que cela ne se reproduise. Voilà les recommandations que je me permets de faire au Conseil.

Le Directeur général a reçu une demande de l'Union des Républiques socialistes soviétiques pour assister à la présente session du Conseil en qualité d'observateur comme ce fut le cas pour la 94ème session. S'il n'y a pas d'objections, je considérerai que le Conseil accepte d'accueillir l'URSS en tant qu'observateur à la 95ème session.

Y a-t-il des remarques à ce sujet?

Gonzalo BULA HOTOS (Colombie): Sólo para evitar las dificultades que hemos tenido en el pasado, cuando tratamos de reflejar en el informe la satisfacción que nos causa la presencia del observador de la Unión de Repúblicas Socialistas Soviéticas, queremos proponer que en nuestro informe el Consejo registre con satisfacción la presencia del Representante de ese gran país, como un paso más hacia la universalidad de la FAO.

LE PRESIDENT: Il s'agit d'une remarque intéressante et, avec l'accord du Conseil, nous en ferons état.

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

Gian Luigi VALENZA (Italie): En ma qualité actuelle de Président du Groupe des pays de l'OCDE, je voudrais proposer la candidature de l'Ambassadeur Apolinaire Andriatsiafajato, de Madagascar, à la vice-présidence du Conseil.

Gonzalo BULA HOTOS (Colombia): Señor Presidente, es siempre grato verle de nuevo entre nosotros. Igualmente, damos nuestra más cordial bienvenida a los dos honorables Ministros, cuya presencia confirma una vez más la importancia del Consejo de nuestra Organización. La inteligencia, la capacidad y el dinamismo que caracterizan a nuestro distinguido colega y amigo el Embajador Apolinaire Andriatsiafajato, de Madagascar, todas esas excelentes condiciones intelectuales, están encuadradas dentro de un marco de admirables condiciones humanas. Es así como hemos podido apreciar la forma, realmente positiva y eficaz, como el colega de Madagascar nos ha acompañado durante mucho tiempo. No obstante sus numerosas ocupaciones-además de ser Embajador ante la FAO, representa a su país ante el Gobierno de Italia y de otros Estados-, el Embajador de Madagascar obtuvo siempre el tiempo indispensable para estar muy cerca de todos nosotros, sus colegas y amigos. Por ello, estoy muy agradecido al distinguido Embajador Valenza, de Italia, y a través de él agradezco a los distinguidos representantes de la OCDE al hacer la presentación de esta candidatura, que los representantes de Colombia apoyamos plenamente.

El Embajador de Madagascar está para concluir su misión; no es un secreto, todos lo sabemos. De manera que éste es un honor muy merecido, y queremos decirle que le recordaremos aquí, en Roma, con gratitud, amistad y simpatía, y que le deseamos todo lo mejor, a él y a su familia, en sus nuevas actividades y en su próximo destino.

LE PRESIDENT: Je remercie le délégué de la Colombie. Je considère que sa proposition a l'agrément du Conseil et me fais un devoir de participer ses commentaires en disant combien je respecte personnellement l'Ambassadeur Apolinaire Andriatsiafajato pour sa compétence, la clarté de ses exposés et son efficacité. J'ai eu l'occasion d'apprécier ses qualités et je serai heureux de le voir présider, en sa qualité de Vice-Président, une partie des travaux du Conseil.

Nous passons à l'élection du deuxième Vice-Président. Y a-t-il des propositions?

Âesefa YILAI (Ethiopia): Thank you Mr. Chairman. The delegation of Ethiopia is pleased to see you in Rome again, and wish you success for this present session of the Council as in the past.

We would also like to congratulate the Ambassador of Madagascar on his election as one of your Vice-Chairmen.

Having said that Mr. Chairman, we feel honoured and privileged to propose the name of Mr. Gerhard Lieber of the Federal Republic of Germany as one of the Vice-Chairmen of the Council during this Ninety-fifth Session. Mr. Lieber was a regular participant in most of the meetings that we held in Rome, and he is head of the International Agricultural Organization of the Federal Republic of Germany and his experience and background will be very useful towards the success of this Council. We therefore feel that his nomination to the Chairmanship of this session will be of value to your success. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

LE PRESIDENT: Je remercie le délégué de l'Ethiopie et je donne la parole au délégué de la Malaisie.

Abdul KUDDŪS AHMAD (Malaysia): Thank you Mr. Chairman. It is a pleasure to see you again in Rome and I offer my congratulations to my neighbour, the Ambassador of Madagascar, as the first Vice-Chairman of this meeting.

I have the pleasure to second Dr. Gerhard Lieber as the second Vice-Chairman of the Council.

LE PRESIDENT: Je remercie le délégué de la Malaisie. Nous pouvons donc considérer que le Conseil est très fier de compter parmi ses Vice-Présidents l'Ambassadeur Gerhard Lieber, qui a assisté à un grand nombre de nos Conseils et dont les interventions ont toujours été utiles, efficaces et significatives. Je me permets donc de le féliciter pour cette brillante élection. Il y a un troisième poste de Vice-Président à pourvoir. Je donne la parole au délégué de l'Italie.

Gian Luigi VALENZA (Italie): Je voudrais avant tout féliciter les deux Vice-Présidents qui ont été élus: l'Ambassadeur de Madagascar et M. Gerhard Lieber, de la République fédérale d'Allemagne.

Pour le dernier poste à pourvoir, je voudrais présenter la candidature d'un autre collègue, le représentant de l'Argentine auprès de la FAO, M. Roberto Dalton, qui est très connu de nous tous bien qu'il soit ici depuis moins longtemps que l'Ambassadeur de Madagascar. Je voudrais donc présenter sa candidature au nom des pays de l'OCDE.

A. Y. BUKHARI (Saudi Arabia Kingdom of) (Original language Arabic): I should like first of all to express our happiness to see you once again presiding over our session in this very important Council. We wish you every success in leading and guiding our deliberations.

I should like also to second the nomination of Mr. Roberto Dalton, the representative of Argentina. In fact, I have had so many opportunities to appreciate his excellent qualities, and it is really a happy coincidence that he was Ambassador of Argentina in my own country, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. In fact, he has a long experience, a valuable experience, that we should try to make use of, and we are quite sure that he will give you every assistance in guiding the deliberations of our Council.

We should also like to congratulate the former Vice-Chairmen, and we would like to congratulate Mr. Dalton as a third Vice-Chairman.

LE PRÉSIDENT: Je remercie le délégué de l'Arabie Saoudite de son intervention et je voudrais me joindre à lui pour féliciter et remercier M. Dalton. Je suis certain que sa contribution aux travaux du Conseil sera précieuse et utile car nous avons eu l'occasion de le côtoyer et nous connaissons tous son intégrité intellectuelle et sa capacité de maîtriser avec clarté et efficacité les problèmes qui y sont évoqués. Nous le félicitons donc tous.

Comme d'habitude, nous devons nommer les membres du Comité de rédaction. Comme vous le savez, il est important de veiller à ce que les différentes régions et langues de notre Organisation soient représentées au Comité de rédaction. En principe, le nombre des membres de ce Comité n'est pas limité et nous avons toujours insisté pour que les sept régions soient effectivement représentées. Je ne sais pas si les contacts qui ont eu lieu entre les délégués sont terminés. D'après le Secrétariat, les groupes sont en train de se consulter et nous aurons les résultats de ces consultations cet après-midi ou demain matin. Si le Conseil en convient, nous pourrions peut-être reprendre cette question en fin d'après-midi, lorsque les délégués pourront nous faire part de leurs conclusions. Nous laissons donc cette question en suspens mais j'insiste pour que cette nomination se fasse aussi rapidement que possible car, si les travaux du Conseil prennent trop d'avance, il y aura des retards inévitables dans la rédaction du rapport du Comité de rédaction et nous risquons d'avoir des télescopages en fin de parcours.

Je propose donc que nous ayons très rapidement, si possible cet après-midi au plus tard, la composition du Comité de rédaction. Je sais qu'il y a des groupes-OCDE, les 77-qui se réunissent. Qu'ils nous fassent leurs suggestions.

Apolinalre ANDRIATSIAJATO (Madagascar): Monsieur le Président, ma délégation voudrait tout d'abord vous dire sa joie de vous revoir à Rome à la présidence des travaux de cette 95^{ème} session du Conseil de la FAO. Par les fréquents contacts que nous avons eus, nous sommes liés d'amitié et de fraternité et nous avons pu apprécier grandement la façon éclairée, sage et utile dont vous dirigez les travaux.

Au nom de ma délégation, je voudrais également féliciter les nouveaux membres du Conseil en leur souhaitant plein succès dans l'accomplissement des mandats qui leur ont été confiés.

La participation de l'URSS en tant qu'observateur est également vivement souhaitée ici et nous nous rallions à tous ceux qui se sont prononcés en faveur de cette participation étant donné les relations excellentes et très amicales qui unissent l'URSS et notre pays, Madagascar.

Monsieur le Président, je ne saurais me taire devant la marque de confiance dont les délégations ici présentes m'ont trouvé digne. Les paroles élogieuses qui ont été prononcées à mon endroit par celui qui a présenté ma candidature au poste de la vice-présidence me touchent profondément d'autant plus que chacun sait ici quelle autorité morale s'attache à ses actes et à ses paroles.

Je viens d'ailleurs de voir ce matin l'honorable Giulio Andreotti, avec qui j'ai évoqué les qualités exceptionnelles des relations qui unissent l'Italie et Madagascar et nous avons reconnu que nous avons eu une période d'entente cordiale pendant mes cinq années passées à Rome.

Je sais également gré à Son Excellence Monsieur l'Ambassadeur de Colombie pour les paroles élogieuses qui ont soutenu ma candidature. Connaissant la sincérité de ses sentiments à mon égard et à l'égard de mon délégation, je voudrais le remercier tout particulièrement et chaleureusement pour ce qu'il a dit au sujet de ma modeste personne. Il n'y a pas l'ombre d'un doute que cette confiance unanime dont j'ai été l'objet rejaillira grandement sur mon pays Madagascar.

A tous, je voudrais exprimer la reconnaissance de ma délégation pour cette marque d'estime et d'amitié à l'égard de Madagascar. Ce geste revêt une importance particulière au moment de cette session préparatoire de la Conférence générale de la FAO qui est d'une importance capitale pour l'avenir.

Je souhaite de tout coeur que les travaux puissent se dérouler avec la célérité et la sérénité voulues au bénéfice de nos intérêts réciproques.

Je vous remercie.

LE PRÉSIDENT: Je remercie Monsieur le représentant de Madagascar pour sa contribution et je donne la parole au représentant de l'Italie.

Glan Lnigi VALENZA (Italie): Je ne peux que remercier des mots qui ont été dits par le représentant de Madagascar au sujet des rapports qui existent entre nos deux pays, qui sont un témoignage de l'intérêt que mon pays porte à l'Afrique et aux pays africains.

Pour ce qui est de la nomination du Comité de rédaction, je vous signale que le groupe de l'OCDE a déjà décidé qui pourra être nommé pour faire partie de ce groupe. Mais puisque le Groupe des 77 n'a pas encore terminé ses travaux, je m'en remets à vous et j'espère que nous pourrons dès cet après-midi faire la désignation des membres du Comité de rédaction.

LE PRÉSIDENT: Je vous remercie de cette information et j'espère qu'au cours de l'après-midi les contacts seront terminés et que nous pourrons régler cette question.

Je passe maintenant au point 3 de l'Ordre du Jour: Déclaration du Directeur général.

Je remercie le Directeur général de participer à nos travaux et je lui donne volontiers la parole.

3. Statement by the Director-General
3. Déclaration du Directeur général
3. Declaración del Director General

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

Je suis très heureux de souhaiter la bienvenue aux participants à la quatre-vingt-quinzième session du Conseil. Je le fais avec une cordialité toute particulière, car, en ce moment précis, mes collègues du Secrétariat, moi-même, la FAO tout entière, nous attendons beaucoup de vous, de vos débats, de vos travaux.

La présente session se situe à la charnière du printemps et de l'été. Cela ne se rapporte pas seulement au calendrier, il s'agit d'une phase particulièrement importante dans la vie de l'Organisation. Le printemps achève son travail de préparation; les épis se forment et commencent à se gonfler; les arbres fruitiers, l'olivier et la vigne en sont au stade de la nouaison-ce joli mot qui désigne la transformation de la fleur en ébauche de fruit. Maintenant, c'est à l'été de faire grossir et dorer les épis, d'assurer la fructification. De même, la FAO en est au point où tout le travail préparatoire est à peu près achevé: rapports des grands Comités (de l'agriculture,

des pêches, de la sécurité alimentaire, des ressources phytogénétiques, etc.); Sommaire du Programme de travail et Budget, assorti des avis du Comité du Programme et du Comité financier; apport des experts à l'Examen de la FAO, sur lequel les mêmes comités ont encore à dire leur dernier mot. Il appartient maintenant au Conseil d'éclairer et de réchauffer ces grandes questions au calme soleil de sa sagesse pour les faire mûrir jusqu'à ce qu'elles soient prêtes pour la récolte-c'est-à-dire pour les décisions de la Conférence.

M. le Président, votre Ordre du jour est tellement chargé que je ne saurais, dans mon intervention d'aujourd'hui, en évoquer tous les points, même en me limitant aux plus importantes d'entre eux. Du reste, je ne veux pas empiéter sur les débats que vous allez leur consacrer. C'est pourquoi je me bornerai à évoquer quelques questions qui me tiennent particulièrement à cœur.

La première d'entre elles, et l'une des plus préoccupantes, c'est bien entendu la situation mondiale de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture. Je dis qu'elle est préoccupante parce qu'en 1988, pour la deuxième année de suite, le monde a consommé plus d'aliments de base qu'il n'en a produit. Cela tient essentiellement, vous le savez, à la sécheresse qui a sévi aux Etats-Unis et au Canada-la plus grave que ces pays aient connue depuis un demi-siècle. Pour couvrir le déficit, on a puisé dans les stocks. Les stocks, à l'ouverture de la campagne 1989-90, ne représentent guère que 17 pour cent de l'utilisation prévue pour cette période. Ce pourcentage correspond à peine au niveau que nous considérons comme le minimum indispensable pour garantir la sécurité alimentaire mondiale.

En revanche, les récoltes de 1988 ont, dans l'ensemble, été bonnes dans les pays en développement. En Afrique, l'amélioration enregistrée tient pour une bonne part au fait que l'on a réussi à juguler presque entièrement l'infestation acridienne. Si l'on a pu gagner cette bataille, c'est grâce aux efforts incessants qui ont été déployés de toute part pendant ces dernières années: les pays infestés eux-mêmes ont travaillé avec acharnement; tous les pays et organismes donateurs ont rivalisé de générosité; enfin, je suis fier de le dire, la FAO a joué un rôle de premier plan pour mobiliser l'opinion mondiale, réunir à maintes reprises les donateurs et les pays atteints, coordonner l'organisation des secours à la source et sur le terrain, apporter aux pays attaqués une assistance technique efficace. Nous pouvons maintenant respirer, mais sans relâcher notre vigilance, car cet insidieux ennemi qu'est le criquet pèlerin n'est jamais définitivement vaincu. Pour paraphraser un mot célèbre, nous avons gagné une bataille, nous n'avons pas gagné la guerre; en fait, on a vu reparaître quelques foyers ces dernières semaines et nous venons d'organiser à cet égard une réunion à Rome 11 y a quelques jours.

Cette victoire, jointe à d'autres conditions favorables, a exercé un effet des plus heureux sur la production agricole de l'Afrique. Beaucoup de pays africains à faible revenu et à déficit vivrier ont engrangé d'excellentes récoltes. Il en est résulté une amélioration de la consommation moyenne de denrées de base dans nombre de pays en développement. Evidemment, toute médaille a son revers: l'abondance même des récoltes a entraîné des problèmes d'excédents pour une vingtaine de pays africains. Dans plusieurs de ces pays, les prix de céréales sur les marchés locaux sont tombés à des niveaux qui vont décourager les producteurs de semer en 1989. Une fois de plus, on voit s'enclencher le cercle vicieux: "excédents-chute des prix-réduction des semences".

Dans le même temps, sur les marchés internationaux, le recul de la production nord-américaine faisait flamber les prix, notamment ceux du blé et des céréales secondaires. D'où alourdissement de la facture d'importation pour les pays déficitaires: même si, comme on le prévoit, les importations céréalières des pays en développement n'augmentent que de 3 millions de tonnes en raison des bonnes récoltes dont je viens de parler, il y a lieu de penser que le coût de ces importations va augmenter de quelque 5 milliards de dollars. Dans le même temps, les livraisons d'aide alimentaire devraient fléchir d'environ 25 pour cent. Bien entendu, ce sont surtout les pays à déficit vivrier qui vont faire les frais de cette situation, alors que beaucoup d'entre eux n'ont que de faibles revenus et croulent déjà sous le fardeau de la dette. D'ores et déjà, on a enregistré en 1988 une baisse de la consommation de denrées de base par habitant dans 44 pays en développement à déficit vivrier, dont 25 pays à faible revenu. Une fois de plus, c'est sur les plus pauvres que le poids de la souffrance et de la privation va retomber le plus lourdement.

La production de 1989 s'annonce meilleure. Pour l'ensemble des céréales, on prévoit un accroissement de 140 millions de tonnes; mais, bien entendu, l'incertitude persiste. Même dans le meilleur cas, il semble maintenant à peu près certain que la production n'augmentera pas suffisamment pour permettre à la fois que la consommation retrouve son niveau de tendance et que les stocks remontent au volume minimum exigé par la sécurité alimentaire. A l'échelle planétaire, celle-ci va donc rester précaire pendant toute la campagne 1989-90. La situation se fait d'autant plus menaçante qu'à la baisse des livraisons d'aide alimentaire dont je parlais tout à l'heure vient s'ajouter le quasi-épuisement de la Réserve alimentaire internationale d'urgence. En effet, à la suite des engagements qu'il a fallu prendre en 1988 en raison de catastrophes et autres crises, la RAIU était presque vide au début de cette année. Approvisionnée au jour le jour, elle est bien en peine de faire face aux besoins. Il faudrait augmenter sa base de ressources et la rendre plus prévisible. De même, les interventions du Programme alimentaire mondial et de divers donateurs bilatéraux pour intensifier les achats sur place, les opérations triangulaires et les accords de troc ne suffiront pas à redresser la

situation. Sur tous les plans, 11 va falloir que la communauté Internationale fasse bien davantage dans ce sens.

Les vastes programmes d'ajustement structurel auxquels doivent se plier beaucoup de pays en développement font peser une autre menace encore sur leur situation alimentaire. 11 est souvent arrivé que ces programmes se soldent par une dégradation brutale des conditions de vie des plus pauvres tandis que leurs effets positifs demeurent souvent incertains et tardent à se concrétiser. C'est pourquoi il importe de concevoir des mesures visant, d'une part, à estomper dans l'immédiat les effets négatifs de l'ajustement structurel sur les plus démunis, et d'autre part à garantir que ces derniers ne resteront pas des laissés pour compte de la croissance qui devrait résulter des efforts d'ajustement structurel.

La FAO est prête à coopérer au maximum à la nécessaire prise en compte du facteur social dans les programmes d'ajustement, comme à toutes les actions de la communauté internationale pour aider le tiers monde à sortir de la phase critique et à entrer enfin en convalescence.

Passage de la phase critique à la convalescence: ce sont les mêmes mots que j'emploierais volontiers pour décrire la situation financière de l'Organisation.

Jusqu'à présent, le recouvrement des contributions en 1989 n'est pas jugé satisfaisant, tant pour les contributions courantes que pour les arriérés. Trente-six Etats Membres ont acquitté la totalité de leur quote-part. 11 y a lieu de signaler que plusieurs pays qui connaissent de graves problèmes financiers ont pris des dispositions pour s'acquitter de leurs obligations financières. D'autres, malheureusement beaucoup plus nombreux, n'ont pas été en mesure d'en faire autant et n'ont encore rien versé cette année. Nos deux plus grande bailleurs de fonds-dont le montant des contributions atteint 38% du total du budget-se trouvent dans cette situation. Nous ne savons pas ni quand ni comment ils entendent régler leur dû. C'est notamment le cas en ce qui concerne les arriérés du plus gros contributeur pour les années 1986, 1987 et 1988, dont le montant dépasse 78 millions de dollars. Dans ces conditions, nous ne sommes absolument pas en mesure de dire comment va évoluer la situation des liquidités d'ici à la fin de l'année: tout dépendra des versements que nous recevrons.

J'ai quelques chiffres supplémentaires sur les arriérés de contribution. Je pense qu'il est intéressant de les signaler. C'est du concret, pas du subjectif. Le montant total des arriérés, y compris 1989, s'élève à 250 millions de dollars. Quatre pays ont des arriérés dont le montant atteint 188 millions de dollars. Ce ne sont pas les pays les plus pauvres d'ailleurs. Comme vous le savez, nous avons réduit nos dépenses de 25 millions de dollars en 1987 et de 20 millions en 1988, au titre des "économies et ajustements de programme", suivant l'expression consacrée. Bel euphémisme, et qui recouvre bien des réalités amères! En fait, 11 ne s'agit pas d'économies, mais bien d'amputations subies par nos programmes, y compris ceux qui revêtent une importance fondamentale pour nos Etats Membres. En dépit de tous les efforts pour en atténuer l'impact, nous n'avons pas pu, nous ne pouvons pas empêcher ces coupures d'entraîner des conséquences néfastes, non seulement dans le présent, mais aussi dans l'avenir. Jugez-en vous-même. Nous avons laissé 200 postes vacants, nous avons dû supprimer des dizaines et des dizaines de publications et de réunions. 11 nous a fallu parfois démanteler des programmes que nous avons patiemment élaborés et dont la mise en oeuvre était porteuse de riches espérances. Pour ne citer qu'un seul exemple, la réduction inévitable de l'assistance fournie aux pays et aux centres AGRIS et CARIS risque d'entraîner la dislocation de ces réseaux mondiaux et de compromettre pour longtemps les progrès laborieusement réalisés ces dernières années. De même, avec la suspension de nos principaux périodiques-CERES, Unasylva, la Revue mondiale de zootechnie, Alimentation et nutrition, et j'en passe-la voix de notre Organisation ne peut plus se faire entendre auprès du grand public, dans les universités, les ministères, les centres nerveux du processus de développement. Or, dans ces domaines comme dans beaucoup d'autres "celui qui n'avance pas recule".

C'est pourquoi je ressens comme une profonde injustice certaines réflexions que l'on entend parfois et que l'on peut résumer comme suit:

"On a coupé 25 millions de dollars en 1987, 20 millions de dollars 1988 et pourtant l'Organisation a survécu et continue à faire du bon travail. Vous voyez bien qu'il est toujours possible de faire des économies!" C'est là l'injustice, Monsieur le Président. Cette attitude me rappelle celle du paysan qui avait décidé d'économiser toujours plus sur la nourriture de son âne jusqu'à ne plus rien lui donner et qui expliquait à ses voisins: "Juste au moment où il s'habitue à ne plus manger voilà que ce stupide animal m'a joué le mauvais tour de mourir!".

La légère amélioration des recouvrements dont je parlais tout à l'heure nous permettait d'espérer pour 1989 une certaine reprise, une sorte de convalescence budgétaire. Mais en fait, 11 nous a encore fallu rogner quelque 15 millions de dollars sur le budget de cette année en raison d'augmentations de dépenses qui n'étaient pas prévues et qui découlent des décisions ayant force obligatoire prises par l'Assemblée générale (des Nations Unies, évidemment) et la Commission de la Fonction publique internationale. 11 s'agit de hausses sur divers postes de coûts du personnel, notamment ajustement de poste, indemnité pour frais d'études pour les enfants, cotisation de l'employeur à la caisse des pensions.

Pour en finir avec les questions financières et montrer combien notre entre en convalescence demeure fragile j'ajouterai que nous avons à régler des factures dont le montant avoilelne les 100 millions de dollars. Pour que nous puissions les honorer il est impératif que les pays en retard dans le versement de leurs contributions, y compris le principal bailleur de fonds, fassent le maximum pour s'acquitter au plus tôt de leurs obligations comme les organes directeurs les y ont instamment exhortés. Il en va de l'avenir de la FAO.

L'avenir de l'Organisation, nous sommes en train de le modeler en préparant le Programme de travail et Budget pour 1990-91. Quand je dis "nous" je ne veux pas seulement parler du Secrétariat. En effet, conformément aux orientations tracées par la Conférence et aux décisions que vous avez prises en novembre dernier les organes directeurs participent de plus en plus étroitement à son élaboration. A leur session conjointe de janvier 1989, le Comité du Programme et le Comité financier ont examiné le premier schéma du programme de travail et Budget, que je leur ai présenté en application de cette décision. Ils ont pu dès ce stade donner leur avis sur les domaines prioritaires, les augmentations de coûts et le niveau envisagé du budget. C'est sur cette base que j'ai préparé le sommaire du Programme de travail et Budget que les deux Comités ont examiné le mois dernier et qui vous est maintenant soumis avec leurs observations. Ils en recommandent l'approbation. Je vals maintenant écouter avec beaucoup d'attention et d'intérêt ce que vous aurez à en dire, et je tiendrai grand compte de vos avis dans l'élaboration de la version intégrale et définitive sur laquelle la Conférence devra se prononcer en dernier ressort.

Vous le voyez, les propositions dont vous êtes saisis ne représentent pas seulement le fruit des analyses du Secrétariat touchant les besoins prioritaires des Etats Membres, ou de ses aspirations concernant les moyens dont il faut le doter pour qu'il puisse répondre à ses besoins. Elles reflètent aussi, et surtout, les points de vue exprimés par des Etats Membres de tous horizons, expressément choisis par vous pour veiller à ce que, dans l'élaboration comme dans l'exécution des programmes et des budgets, les volontés de la Conférence soient scrupuleusement respectées. Plus que jamais, l'ampleur et la gravité des problèmes à résoudre exigent impérieusement que l'Organisation parle d'une voix unanime. C'est pourquoi, dès l'origine, le Programme de travail et Budget pour 1990-91 a été conçu en vue "d'aider les Etats Membres à s'unir dans un consensus pour son approbation", comme l'ont expressément reconnu le Comité du Programme et le Comité financier. Les deux Comités, je cite: "ont exprimé l'espoir que le consensus se dégagerait dans un avenir très proche".

Pour ma part, je crois sincèrement n'avoir épargné aucun effort pour que ce consensus tant désiré puisse devenir une réalité. Ainsi, en ce qui concerne le niveau du budget, j'étaie au départ fortement tenté de proposer une augmentation qui aurait permis d'assurer le rattrapage après les amputations de 45 millions de dollars subies en 1987 et 1988. A la réflexion, et malgré l'urgence de répondre aux besoins ressentis par les Etats Membres, j'y al renoncé. En effet, une telle proposition aurait impliqué une hausse de près de 5 pour cent. Non seulement celle-ci aurait été mal perçue par les pays grande contributeurs qui connaissent de réelles difficultés, maie encore et surtout elle aurait entraîné un fardeau excessif pour les paye en développement, dont beaucoup sont déjà écrasés sous le poids de la dette.

En définitive, mes propositions se soldent par un accroissement net de 5,5 millions de dollars, soit 1 pour cent. C'est là une augmentation symbolique, dictée par le souci de ne pas demeurer dans la stagnation absolue alors que les problèmes mondiaux de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture se font toujours plus vastes et plus complexes, et que la population de notre planète augmente chaque année d'environ 90 millions d'unités. Mieux que personne, je sale hélas que l'accroissement demandé est insuffisant au regard des besoins, d'autant que les augmentations de coûts risquent de l'annuler ou même d'aboutir à une croissance négative.

De plus, sur la base des mesures d'économie adoptées en 1988-89, je ne demande aucun crédit pour couvrir les accroissements de coûte au titre des consultants, des voyages et des reclassements de postes. C'est un montant d'environ 3 millions de dollars que noue alions ainsi absorber; si on le défalquait, l'augmentation nette proposée serait ramenée à 0,45 pour cent, ce qui est de plus en plus symbolique....

Tel a été le cheminement de ma pensée dans l'élaboration d'un programme et budget marquant un certain retour à la normale; j'ai tout fait, parfois le coeur serré, pour aboutir à un budget raisonnable dont j'espère ardemment qu'il réunira l'approbation générale et ouvrira une nouvelle période de stabilité. Ce cheminement peut se résumer comme suit: désir d'une augmentation à la mesure des besoins, tempéré par le souci de ne pas alourdir la charge qui pèse sur les Etats Membres; crainte que les augmentations de coûte ne se soldent finalement par une croissance négative; volonté d'aboutir à un consensus. Je suie frappé de voir à quel point il se retrouve dans la démarche suivie par le Comité du Programme et le Comité financier, telle qu'elle s'exprime notamment dans le rapport des sessions conjointes de janvier-février et de mal 1989. Je vois dans cette correspondance l'heureux présage d'une entente, d'un accord général sur les propositions qui seront en fin de compte soumises à la Conférence.

Quant à l'Examen de la FAO effectué par le Comité du Programme et le Comité financier avec l'aide d'experte, vous allez être saisis d'un rapport sur l'état d'avancement de cette étude. Je ne veux pas m'étendre longuement sur une question qui est encore en devenir, mais simplement partager avec vous quelques réflexions préliminaires.

A la session conjointe qu'ils ont consacrée à l'examen du rapport des experts, les deux Comités ont travaillé en parfaite harmonie. Après la séance d'ouverture, je me suis abstenu d'assister aux réunions, car je tenais à respecter le silence qu'exige le travail dans le calme et la sérénité. Ce que je devrai faire, parce que la résolution de la Conférence me l'a expressément demandé, c'est de formuler mes observations sur les conclusions du Comité du Programme et du Comité financier. Or, ceux-ci n'adopteront leur rapport définitif qu'à leur session de septembre; je ne puis, d'ici là, commenter un document qui n'existe pas encore. C'est seulement après réception du rapport des Comités que je pourrai entreprendre la rédaction de mon propre rapport à la session de novembre du Conseil. Je souhaite de tout coeur, est-il besoin de le préciser, que les travaux de la session conjointe de septembre se déroulent dans la même atmosphère de sérénité et que les Comités aboutissent à un accord général sur les propositions à soumettre à la Conférence.

Cependant, dès maintenant, je crois cependant devoir apporter quelques précisions. Selon toute probabilité, certaines mesures apparaissent déjà aux deux Comités comme souhaitables. Sans anticiper sur leurs conclusions, la logique ne leur commande-t-elle pas de reconnaître et de prendre en compte le fait que la mise en oeuvre de telle ou telle mesure pourra exiger des ressources financières supplémentaires? S'imaginer que l'on peut renforcer la FAO et la mettre mieux à même de répondre aux besoins des Etats Membres sans lui donner les moyens de le faire, ce serait manquer de réalisme. Nos organes directeurs l'avaient bien compris lorsque, en 1974, la Conférence mondiale de l'alimentation avait souligné dans ses recommandations la nécessité de renforcer la FAO. Rappelez-vous, ce sont ces recommandations qui sont à l'origine de notre Système d'information et d'alerte rapide, du Comité de la sécurité alimentaire, etc. Qu'ont fait nos organes directeurs? Ils ont approuvé en novembre 1975, pour 1976-77, un budget qui marquait une augmentation de programme de 23 pour cent par rapport à celui de l'exercice 1974-75-31 millions en dollars constants.

Je n'en demande pas tant, mais il faudrait garder à l'esprit que la Conférence devra peut-être envisager - comme d'ailleurs le règlement le prévoit - une allocation supplémentaire pour la mise en oeuvre des recommandations qui seront retenues. Nous sommes arrivés au bout des efforts humainement possibles pour combiner une croissance budgétaire zéro avec une expansion des activités techniques. Nous y sommes parvenus à force d'acrobaties réalisées depuis plusieurs biennia, en pratiquant des coupes sombres dans les services de soutien. Le Département de l'administration et des finances et celui des affaires générales et de l'information ont les premiers fait les frais d'une action qui a ramené les coûts administratifs de 24 à 17 pour cent du budget. Je ne suis pas subjectif, je suis objectif. Ce sont des chiffres vrais, qui sont véritables, et qui sont reconnus par le Comité financier. Mais la limite est atteinte, et je dois appeler l'attention sur la nécessité de prévoir des moyens à la hauteur des tâches que nous nous fixons. C'est pourquoi je soumettrai à la session conjointe que les Comités tiendront en septembre, une estimation du coût de certaines mesures envisagées dans le cadre de cet exercice. Je dois reconnaître que certaines mesures ne coûteront pas d'argent mais certaines autres mesures envisagées coûteront certainement de l'argent pour les mettre en oeuvre.

L'avenir de la FAO est lié aux ressources dont elle disposera pour faire face à des besoins nouveaux et accrus. Permettez-moi de citer un exemple, malheureusement très grave. Je veux parler de la brusque apparition en Afrique du Nord, et plus précisément en Libye, d'un redoutable parasite qui jusque-là sévissait uniquement dans l'hémisphère occidental. Il s'agit d'un insecte qui s'attaque aux animaux sauvages, au bétail, et même à l'homme et aux femmes, ainsi que l'indique son nom latin: Cochliomya hominivorax. La lucilie bouchère américaine (en anglais screwworm fly) est bien connue de tous ceux qui s'occupent d'élevage dans les Amériques. C'est une mouche qui pond ses oeufs dans les blessures ou égratignures même minimales des animaux à sang chaud; les larves taraudent et élargissent la plaie, attirant de nouvelles femelles pondueuses. L'Infection se fait donc par les femelles, elle s'étend et peut entraîner la mort. Elle a déjà fait de sérieux dégâts en Libye parmi les troupeaux et, hélas, parmi les hommes. Bien dotée par la nature pour le voyage et la propagation, la mouche risque de gagner toute l'Afrique du Nord et du Nord-Ouest, le Proche-Orient, mais aussi l'Europe méditerranéenne.

Pour parer à ce très grand danger - qui pourrait se révéler plus terrible encore que le criquet pèlerin -, la FAO a demandé immédiatement des mesures pour aider les pays à risque. Des fonds ont déjà été déposés. Mais, pour juguler ce fléau, il faudra plus d'argent encore et une large coopération internationale. En effet, alors que, de ce côté-ci de l'Atlantique, on ignore tout des moyens de lutter contre la lucilie bouchère, les Etats-Unis et le Mexique possèdent une technique efficace mais très coûteuse de stérilisation des insectes. Nous allons donc reprendre, comme pour la lutte antiacridienne, les mêmes efforts de mobilisation de l'opinion, d'appel aux donateurs, de coordination et d'action. Seule, Monsieur le Président, notre Organisation est à même de jouer ce rôle. Je tiendrai bien entendu le Conseil au courant de la manière dont la situation

évoluera. Si l'on songe que l'éradication d'une simple mouche va coûter des dizaines et des dizaines, voire des centaines de millions de dollars, la nécessité de disposer de ressources à la hauteur des besoins s'impose avec une évidence aveuglante.

Nous ne traitons pas avec une matière inerte, mais bien avec une matière vivante, avec des êtres humains. Devant l'accroissement démographique, devant la crise économique qui persiste dans les pays les plus pauvres, souvent étranglés par la dette, force est de reconnaître qu'il n'y aura pas de solution durable sans une expansion de nos activités, donc de nos ressources. Or, cette idée est contestée depuis 1983. Comment peut-on sérieusement discuter de l'avenir d'une organisation si l'on entend la condamner à la non-croissance? Je pose la question. Il faut envisager une croissance raisonnable, réaliste.

Tenir compte des réalités et les affronter avec sérénité, c'est depuis toujours une caractéristique du Conseil de la FAO. L'une des réalités les plus marquantes de notre époque, c'est la création, l'expansion et l'affermissement de la Communauté économique européenne. Il apparaît maintenant que celle-ci, qui est représentée depuis longtemps dans nos organes délibérants par des observateurs, souhaite devenir membre à part entière de l'Organisation.

C'est un honneur pour nous, et nous ne pouvons voir dans cette démarche qu'un hommage rendu à la valeur et à l'importance de nos activités. En même temps, il est bien évident qu'une question de cet ordre, dont il n'existe aucun précédent chez nous, pose une foule de problèmes qui exigent une étude approfondie. La demande est parvenue au Conseil trop tard pour qu'il puisse procéder à une analyse détaillée de toutes les incidences de la question. Comme il est indiqué dans le document soumis au Conseil sur cette question, vous souhaitez peut-être inscrire cette question à l'ordre du jour de la Conférence afin que celle-ci puisse décider de la marche à suivre - non seulement, me semble-t-il, pour ce cas particulier, mais aussi d'une manière générale: comment traiter de telles demandes émanant d'organisations intergouvernementales? En tout état de cause, mes collègues et moi-même sommes, bien entendu, prêts à exécuter les instructions de la Conférence ou du Conseil.

Les problèmes ainsi posés vont sans doute exiger un gros travail juridique. Il est une autre question juridique où nous trouvons un grave sujet de préoccupation; il s'agit de l'immunité de juridiction de l'Organisation en Italie. Ce problème avait longtemps jeté une ombre sur nos excellents rapports avec notre pays hôte, mais nous pensions être parvenus à un *modus vivendi*. Or voici qu'une action intentée contre la FAO devant les tribunaux italiens fait surgir la thèse que les relations de travail entre l'Organisation et ses agents des services généraux seraient du ressort de ces tribunaux et que le droit italien du travail serait applicable en la matière.

Le rapport du Comité du Programme et du Comité financier consacre une section à cette affaire; si j'estime qu'il est de mon devoir de vous en parler, c'est parce qu'elle met en jeu le fonctionnement même de la FAO et le statut même de toutes les organisations du système des Nations Unies.

En effet, si l'action intentée aboutissait, c'est-à-dire si la loi italienne devait s'appliquer à certaines catégories de nos fonctionnaires, nous nous trouverions dans une situation intenable, et il deviendrait impossible d'administrer et de gérer la FAO et le personnel de la FAO. L'autorité des Etats Membres et celle du Directeur général seraient battues en brèche. Une inadmissible discrimination s'établirait au sein de notre personnel. Un Etat Membre pourrait à lui seul décider des conditions d'emploi d'une grande partie de nos agents, et modifier à son gré les charges financières pesant sur l'Organisation. Nous ne pouvons fonctionner suivant un système national quel qu'il soit.

Cela vaut pour toutes les organisations de la famille des Nations Unies, pour lesquelles le statut de fonctionnaire international est fondamental. Il ne peut pas y avoir d'Organisation des Nations Unies sans le statut de fonctionnaire international. C'est lui qui garantit l'indépendance, l'intégrité, l'engagement de nos personnels. Il doit être le même pour toutes les catégories. Toute atteinte à ce statut est une atteinte au caractère international de nos organisations.

Lorsque la FAO a accepté l'offre qui lui était faite de venir s'installer ici, à Rome, elle l'a fait sur la base de garanties inscrites dans une loi de ce pays. Peut-on remettre ces garanties fondamentales en cause au bout de 38 ans? Le Gouvernement italien, qui nous a si bien soutenus pendant tout ce temps, ne peut manquer de partager notre inquiétude et de rechercher dans sa sagesse des solutions qui préservent notre statut et notre faculté d'agir pour le bien de la communauté internationale. C'est dans cette conviction que je fais appel à lui. C'est pour partager nos préoccupations et étudier ensemble les mesures à prendre que je tiens à rencontrer dès que possible le Ministre des affaires étrangères de notre pays hôte. Je lui ai fait part de ce désir. En réponse, le Ministre des Affaires étrangères a délégué son Secrétaire général qui est venu me rencontrer, il y a quelques jours, avec l'Ambassadeur d'Italie, M. Valenza. Nous avons eu un entretien très amical en passant en revue tous les éléments de cette affaire. Je suis heureux de pouvoir vous informer que le Gouvernement italien a pleinement confiance de l'étendue du problème et de ses ramifications profondes pour l'ensemble des organisations internationales en Italie et pour le système des Nations Unies en général. Il continuera ses efforts pour veiller à ce que l'immunité, sanctionnée par l'Accord de siège, à la fois traité international et loi de la République italienne,

soit pleinement respectée. Le gouvernement du pays hôte est disposé à négocier avec la FAO tout amendement à l'Accord de siège qui s'avérerait nécessaire à ce sujet.

Monsieur le Président, c'est dans ce contexte que je me tourne maintenant vers le Conseil et lui demande de m'aider de ses avis éclairés dans la recherche d'une solution qui préserve les droits de l'Organisation sans léser notre pays hôte. Je suis résolu à n'épargner aucun effort pour éviter que cette plaie s'envenime et puisse compromettre en quoi que ce soit les rapports d'amitié, de confiance et de coopération exemplaires dont nous jouissons avec le pays qui nous héberge depuis près de 40 ans.

Sur cette question délicate comme sur toutes celles dont je vous ai parlé aujourd'hui, je souhaite ardemment que les débats du Conseil se déroulent dans un climat de calme, de sérénité, de tolérance. Il est normal, il est sain que toutes les opinions ne coïncident pas exactement sur tous les points dans une assemblée qui, comme la vôtre, représente toutes les parties du monde. L'objet de nos grandes réunions, c'est précisément de permettre à chacun de connaître et de comprendre le point de vue des autres, afin que tous ces points de vue puissent se rapprocher et aboutir à des décisions prises d'un commun accord, dans un consensus qui respecte la diversité des conceptions et des sensibilités.

Espérer que le consensus pourra se réaliser sur des questions importantes, est-ce poursuivre une chimère ou se bercer d'illusions? Pas le moins du monde, et les exemples positifs abondent. Je me bornerai à en citer deux, qui me paraissent d'autant plus éclatants qu'ils portent sur des problèmes délicats.

En premier lieu, le Comité de l'agriculture, qui comprend tous les Etats Membres, est parvenu à un accord sur l'inclusion de la clause dite "de l'information et du consentement préalables" dans le Code de conduite pour la distribution et l'utilisation des pesticides. Comme vous le savez, il s'agit de faire en sorte que des pesticides interdits ou soumis à de sévères restrictions dans les pays exportateurs ne puissent être expédiés vers les pays importateurs sans que ces derniers aient été informés des mesures d'interdiction ou de restriction et sans qu'ils aient pris en connaissance de cause la libre décision d'accepter ces importations. C'est un grand pas en avant. Cela paraît relever du simple bon sens, je viens de le dire, mais la question met en jeu tant d'intérêts divergents qu'elle aurait pu se transformer en une véritable pomme de discorde. Or, le Comité de l'agriculture, après avoir surmonté les difficultés qui subsistaient, recommande maintenant au Conseil d'entériner les modifications proposées, en vue de leur adoption définitive par la Conférence elle-même.

Le même esprit de consensus a caractérisé les travaux de la Commission des ressources phytogénétiques, qui a tenu sa troisième session en avril 1989. Là encore, l'idée que ces Ressources, patrimoine commun de l'humanité, doivent être préservées et librement accessibles semble mener logiquement à la reconnaissance des droits des agriculteurs qui pendant des générations les ont conservées et patiemment améliorées. Là encore, l'existence d'intérêts discordants ne favorisait guère la réalisation d'un accord. Et pourtant, la nécessité de discipliner la collecte sauvage et de garantir aux agriculteurs d'aujourd'hui et de demain une juste part des profits a emporté la décision de la Commission, soucieuse à la fois de faire rendre justice à leur contribution passée et d'en assurer la continuation. C'est par consensus que la Commission m'a demandé de soumettre à la Conférence, par votre intermédiaire, un projet de résolution souscrivant au concept des droits des agriculteurs.

Il reste beaucoup à faire pour que ces importantes initiatives trouvent leur pleine application dans les réalités. La FAO y contribuera par tous les moyens dont elle dispose. Dès maintenant, nous nous sentons puissamment confortée dans nos efforts par ces deux manifestations exemplaires, entre tant d'autres, de l'ouverture des esprits au consensus. Oui, Monsieur le Président, malgré toutes les difficultés, le consensus est possible pour peu qu'on le veuille: nous en avons la preuve concrète. Je suis sûr que le Conseil, sans renoncer à la diversité qui fait sa richesse, aura à coeur de prendre sa place dans cette chaîne de consensus qui mène aux décisions fécondes.

Aucun épi n'est parfaitement identique à un autre. Cela n'empêche pas le moissonneur de les réunir en une gerbe cohérente, qui donnera naissance en fin de compte au pain commun dont tous se nourriront. Souhaiter, comme je le fais de tout coeur, le plein succès de vos travaux, c'est former le vœu que le Conseil contribue à faire mûrir, comme je le disais en commençant, cette abondante et généreuse moisson dont l'humanité a si grand besoin.

Je vous remercie.

Applaus e

Applaudissements

Aplausos

LE PRÉSIDENT: Qu'il me soit permis, au nom des délégués, de transmettre nos chaleureuses félicitations au Directeur général pour son remarquable discours d'introduction dans lequel il a évoqué de nombreuses questions vitales qui sont à l'ordre du jour du Conseil. Comme à l'accoutumée, le Conseil traitera de ces questions dans l'harmonie, mû par la volonté de remplir sa mission dans les meilleures conditions, dans l'intérêt de l'Organisation et dans la recherche constante d'un consensus. Votre appel à la recherche de ce consensus a été entendu, M. le Directeur général, nous chercherons toujours à harmoniser les positions, dans l'intérêt de tous, pour que l'Organisation puisse poursuivre sa mission.

Vous avez abordé de nombreuses questions vitales: les questions financières, celles des ressources phytogénétiques, le Programme de travail et budget, la question des réformes. Nous vous avons écouté attentivement. Je sais personnellement qu'aucune organisation ne peut vivre sans les ressources financières suffisantes et je suis persuadé que tous les membres du Conseil ici présents, qui sont les ambassadeurs de l'Organisation auprès de leur pays, se feront un devoir d'exposer avec foi et enthousiasme toutes les raisons d'un effort complémentaire de la part de tous les pays pour verser à temps leurs contributions et leurs arriérés. C'est une question qui se pose toujours au Conseil et je suis persuadé que, compte tenu du fait que nous sommes en pleine phase de consolidation et de mutation de l'Organisation, tous les délégués se feront un devoir d'aider l'Organisation pour améliorer sa situation sur le plan financier.

Avec votre permission, nous allons passer au point suivant de l'ordre du jour, à moins qu'un délégué ne veuille prendre la parole à la suite du discours du Directeur général.

Gian Luigi VALENZA (Italie): Monsieur le Président, je voudrais avant tout m'associer aux félicitations que vous avez adressées au Directeur général pour l'important discours qu'il vient de faire et dont nous avons pris bonne note. A ce sujet, je voudrais seulement dire quelques mots sur l'un des problèmes touchés par le Directeur général, à savoir celui de l'immunité de juridiction. Je voulais donc confirmer ce qu'a dit le Directeur général et vous informer, en effet, que le Gouvernement italien a pleinement conscience de l'étendue du problème qui a été exposé et de ses ramifications possibles pour l'ensemble des organisations internationales et pour le système des Nations Unies en général.

Je peux donc confirmer, comme cela du reste l'a déjà été fait par le Secrétaire général du Ministère des affaires étrangères, que nous-le Gouvernement italien, le Ministère des affaires étrangères et moi-même-poursuivrons nos efforts pour veiller à ce que l'immunité sanctionnée par l'Accord de siège soit pleinement et entièrement respectée. Mon gouvernement, je le confirme ici, est du reste disposé à négocier avec la FAO dès que possible tout amendement à l'Accord de siège qui s'avérerait nécessaire à l'avenir à ce sujet.

LE PRÉSIDENT: Je remercie l'Italie de cette information importante.

Je renouvelle nos félicitations et nos remerciements au Directeur général. Ce document sera précieux pour l'examen de l'ordre du jour et je suis persuadé que cette session du Conseil sera réussie.

Il nous reste encore une heure de travail. Je propose donc que nous entamions l'examen du point 5 de l'ordre du jour, qui s'intitule comme suit: Rapport de la quatorzième session du Comité de la sécurité alimentaire mondiale (CL 95/10). Comme d'habitude, le Secrétariat va présenter ce sujet et je vais donner la parole à M. Dutia, Sous-Directeur général du Département des politiques économiques et sociales.

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

5. Report of the Fourteenth Session of the Committee on World Food Security (Rome, 3-7 April 1989)

5. Rapport de la quatorzième session du Comité de la sécurité alimentaire (Rome, 3-7 avril 1989)

5. Informe del 14° periodo de sesiones del Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria Mundial (Roma, 3-7 de abril de 1989)

B.P. DUTIA (Assistant Director-General, Economic and Social Policy Department): Mr. Chairman, Distinguished Members and Observers. It gives me great pleasure to present to the Council the Report of the Fourteenth Session of the Committee on World Food Security (CFS), which is before you as document CL 95/10.

The Committee on World Food Security, at its Fourteenth Session held in Rome during 3-7 April 1989, dealt with a number of important food security policy issues. First, in accordance with its terms of reference, the Committee reviewed the current world food security situation and outlook. Secondly, it considered the effects of stabilization and structural adjustment programmes on food security. Thirdly, the Committee considered the experience of India in its food security policies and programmes. Lastly, Mr. Chairman, it reviewed the activities of the Global Information and Early Warning System.

In assessing the current world food security situation and outlook, the Committee expressed concern that the world food security situation had become precarious. World production of staples in 1988 had fallen below consumption for a second year in succession; world cereal stocks had been drawn down considerably to a very low level; hence cereal supplies had become tight and international prices, particularly of wheat and maize, had risen sharply. At the same time food aid shipments had declined by one quarter and the cereal import bill of developing countries was estimated to rise by nearly 40 percent.

In the light of this situation, the Committee recommended that food aid donors should make all efforts to maintain food aid shipments to both low-income and other food-deficit countries where production shortfalls and financial constraints on imports would otherwise mean sharp declines in per caput consumption.

The Committee also recognized that in view of the sharp decline in stocks, food security in 1989/90 would depend more than usual on the outcome of the 1989 harvests. In this connection it agreed that, in order to restore consumption to trend level and replenish stocks, there was a need to increase production in 1989 and beyond, where this was economically sound. However, it recognized that the required expansion in output should be undertaken with caution and be finely balanced so that on the one hand the risk of supply shortages was averted and, on the other hand, a return to a situation of surpluses and depressed markets was avoided.

As regards the low-income food-deficit countries, the Committee emphasized that it was necessary to accelerate food production in these countries in order to achieve food security on a firm footing. It stressed that while the primary responsibility for increasing food production and achieving national food security rested with the developing countries themselves, the international community should support their efforts through the provision of adequate technical and financial assistance.

The Committee recognized that there had been some positive developments in the world food security situation in 1988. Harvests in many developing countries were favourable. In Africa, the locust invasion had been effectively brought under control, and many low-income food-deficit countries had gathered excellent crops. The Committee also noted that, following bumper harvests, a number of those countries required special donor assistance to support the disposal of sizeable surpluses, and urged donors to continue to support the use of such surpluses, where cost-effective and operationally practical, through triangular transactions, swap arrangements and local purchases. The Committee also recommended that donor countries should increase technical and financial assistance to assist developing countries to develop storage facilities and transport infrastructure to enable them to take advantage of occasional surpluses in years of production shortfalls.

Mr. Chairman, an important policy issue considered at this session concerned the effects of stabilization and structural adjustment programmes on food security. The Committee recognized that assessment of the effects of structural adjustment programmes was constrained by data and methodological problems. It noted in many countries with adjustment programmes, the expected GDP growth rates had not been realized so far. While adjustment programmes had been relatively more successful in reducing the balance-of-payments deficits, often this was the result of import

compression rather than export expansion, and in most countries the improvement in the balance-of-payments was insufficient to reduce the debt burden. With regard to the effects of policies implemented in the context of adjustment programmes on the agricultural and food sector, although such policies had resulted in some positive developments in certain countries, there were also many other cases of insignificant and/or negative impacts.

Mr Chairman, the Committee noted on the basis of the evidence reviewed in the document, that was considered by it on this item, the poor were often adversely affected by price changes, changes in employment, wages and salaries, and reductions in public services and government transfers linked to the pursuance of adjustment programmes. It expressed great concern about the experience to date that in the short-term, the adjustment programmes often resulted in a sharp fall in the real purchasing power of the poor and limited their ability to purchase food and other essential items. The Committee stressed that the negative effects on the poor were often certain and immediate, whereas positive effects were uncertain and had long gestation periods. It urged the adoption of measures to cushion the adverse short-term effects on the poor and vulnerable groups to ensure that the expected future growth through adjustment would materialize and that the poor would benefit from it. The Committee also highlighted a number of factors to ensure that in the longer term the poor and food insecure would benefit from potential growth resulting from adjustment programmes. It was also stressed that in view of the negative impact of adjustment programmes on women, specific efforts were needed to reach them. These aspects are reflected in para 31 of the Report of the Committee which is before you.

The Committee recognized that adjustment programmes should respect national sovereignty and that a pre-requisite for successful adjustment efforts was a high degree of commitment and involvement of government in the formulation of adjustment programmes from their inception, as well as the dialogue between the government and its socio-economic partners. It considered that the policy advice provided by the international financial institutions and technical organizations should be mutually consistent. The Committee agreed that there was a need for greater collaboration between the World Bank, the IMF, and the FAO in the context of structural adjustment in order to safeguard food security concerns. The Committee acknowledged that FAO with its long experience in agricultural development had an important role to play in this process in view of the emphasis of many adjustment programmes on reforms of the agricultural and food sector. It therefore suggested that interested governments make increased use of FAO's technical expertise in assisting them in the adjustment process. The Committee also indicated in paragraph 33 of its Report where FAO's policy-related technical assistance could be of particular value.

Mr. Chairman, in continuation of its work of reviewing national food security policies and programmes of developing countries, the Committee at this session considered lessons from the experience of India in achieving food security. The Committee reviewed in detail India's policies and measures for promoting adequate supplies of basic foods, stability of supplies and access to supplies, and the benefits and costs of adopted approaches. The Committee agreed that India's experience in strengthening its food security was a major success story and illustrated the fact that with a commitment to development and with appropriate policies, developing countries could overcome even the most severe food insecurity. It recognized that there was much to be learned from the experience of India by other countries in their efforts to strengthen their national food security, although the strategy, the nature and appropriate mix of policies would vary according to the specific circumstances of each country concerned. The Committee valued the examination of case studies of national experience on food security policies and programmes and requested that the series be continued at future sessions and in line with the Committee's request, the Secretariat will continue to undertake such studies in the future.

The Committee also reviewed the activities of the Global Information and Early Warning System. It felt that good progress had been made in strengthening the System to cope with the growing demands placed upon it. The Committee reiterated its strong support for the work of the System, which it considered one of the most important activities of FAO, and recommended that it should be accorded high priority in the programme of work and budget for the 1990-91 biennium.

The Committee also noted that intensified efforts had been made through the FAO Food Security Assistance Scheme to establish and strengthen national and regional early warning systems. During the period under review, the number of countries receiving support from FAO in this area had increased further. The Committee stressed that despite the efforts already made there remained many countries which did not have effective early warning systems in place. The Committee also emphasized the need to provide suitable training for staff of national and regional early warning units.

In conclusion, as regards the date and place of its next session the Committee agreed to hold its 15th Session in Rome during the period March-April 1990. It was agreed that in view of the present precarious situation and uncertain prospects of the world food security situation, the issue of the frequency of the Committee's session should be deferred to a later date. The Committee considered that the question could be reviewed again, in light of developments in the world food security situation.

Thank you Mr. Chairman.

LE PRESIDENT: Je remercie M. Dutia pour sa Communication introductive sur les activités du Comité de Sécurité Alimentaire et pour les indications précises qu'il vient de nous fournir.

J'ouvre le débat sur cette question importante et je donne la parole au Délégué de Cuba.

Juan NUIRY SANCHEZ (Cuba): Gracias Sr., mucho nos complace Sr. Presidente, verlo otra vez presidiendo este importante Consejo. No podemos dejar de sumarnos, Sr. Presidente, en nombre de mi delegación, a la satisfacción que nos produce la presencia de los ilustres Ministros de Gambia y Lesotho, que nos honran compartiendo juntos estos trabajos, así como el saludo a los nuevos países que ingresan como miembros del Consejo.

También, nuestro reconocimiento a los Vicepresidentes electos de Madagascar, República Federal de Alemania y Argentina, por sus merecidas designaciones, haciendo patente a usted, Sr. Presidente, como a los Vicepresidentes recién electos, que podrán contar con todo el respaldo de nuestra delegación en las conducciones de este importante 95° período de sesiones.

Hemos oído con suma atención, tanto la clara, valiente y precisa intervención del Dr. Edouard Saouma, Director General de la FAO, tal como nos tiene acostumbrados, al cual felicitamos y apoyamos en los importantes aspectos tratados en su declaración, como también al Sr. Dutia, por su buena información y presentación del tema sobre la Seguridad Alimentaria Mundial, temática tan compleja y difícil de abarcar en una presentación, pero que nos ha llegado con una profunda proyección, que aplaudimos y apoyamos. Posiciones acostumbradas que han mantenido invariablemente hoy, más seguras y actualizadas.

Quisiéramos que se nos permitiera en este importante período de sesiones, hacer algunas reflexiones. Si bien ha sido constante nuestra preocupación, luego de escuchar al Director General en su importante declaración sobre que está en juego el futuro de la FAO, situando la magnitud del problema en los pagos incumplidos por los, o el principal contribuyente, reafirmando que el que no avanza retrocede, hablando de amputaciones sufridas, sus nefastas consecuencias y cómo esto afecta tanto al presente como al futuro de la FAO. Nuestra delegación cree necesaria, aun, cuando resuenan las palabras del Sr. Saouma, hablar sobre estos aspectos, precisar un poco, ampliando el tema que nos ocupa, para realizar análisis, que reafirmo, son puntos de partida para cualquier análisis que aquí se debate.

Cuando asistí a una de mis primeras reuniones en la FAO, hace precisamente un año, escuché la frase "el rostro de la FAO". Inconscientemente cerré los ojos para pensar: ¿cómo será el rostro de la FAO? Pero al instante pensé que nos correspondía a nosotros, delegados de un país miembro, reunidos en esta augusta asamblea, a los que debería golpear este interrogante, antes de preguntarnos cómo imaginarían ese rostro los millones de hombres, mujeres y niños que en el mundo sufren hambre, desnutrición, que no poseen una cobija para guarecerse de las inclemencias del tiempo, que observan el aumento de la mortalidad infantil y el analfabetismo, sin esperanza de hospitales ni escuelas. ¿Qué pensarán que es el rostro de la FAO, el niño famélico, el indito sin pan, el campesino explotado y sin tierra? ¿Cómo se imaginarán ese rostro en una aldea africana, en las desiertas pampas, en los altos de Los Andes, en alguna de las zonas afectadas por la sequía o en las favelas que pueblan nuestro continente? Podrían pensar en un rostro de un hombre con buen semblante, de amplia sonrisa, que denote confianza o inspire fe o felicidad, o en un rostro sombrío, serio e injusto que inspire desconfianza.

Comprendí que nos corresponde a nosotros, como representantes de nuestros respectivos países ante esta organización la responsabilidad de delinear y examinar esa imagen y presentarla al mundo. Pero, ¿cuáles son los instrumentos con que contamos?, ¿cuál es la realidad que se nos presenta, pues este gran empeño no sólo pudo estar lleno de buenas intenciones, se necesitan recursos, y no cantos de sirenas, y estos recursos ¿dónde están?. Lo ha dicho valientemente el Director General, y quién puede negarlo, que en los principales donantes. Sólo un ejemplo ensombrecería esa imagen. Se pretende que el cuerpo de ese rostro no crezca que su desarrollo sea cero, que se quede plasmado. ¿Puede ese rostro reflejar felicidad?. Hagamos historia. Si en su fase inicial el problema que enfrentó la FAO fue la de la crisis alimentaria, producto de los estragos de la finalizada guerra mundial, cómo hoy siendo otros y distantes los tiempos puede existir el mismo fenómeno de mantenerse el hambre y la miseria en distintas partes del mundo.

Para comprender esa realidad hagamos tan solo referencia al informe: El Estado Mundial de la Agricultura y la Alimentación en 1987/88 de la FAO, que en su preámbulo expone. Cito: "Al examinar la actual situación mundial de la alimentación y la agricultura se observan dos características inquietantes, la más importante de ellas es que el hambre y la malnutrición siguen siendo generalizadas, pese a la abundancia de alimentos en el mundo, 500 millones de personas sufren problemas de grave desnutrición, y a ello hay que agregar varios millones más que no pueden adquirir suficientes alimentos para llevar una vida activa y productiva". Al mismo tiempo, algunos países

desarrollados han estado tratando de reducir la producción alimentaria para que las existencias bajaran a un nivel más manejable. Continuo la cita: "La segunda característica preocupante es el rápido descenso de las existencias mundiales de alimentos. El crecimiento de la producción alimentaria se redujo en 1986 y paso' a ser negativa a 1987" (fin de la cita).

Esto constituye, sin lugar a dudas, un importante reto para esta importante Organización de las Naciones Unidas para la Agricultura y la Alimentación. No estaría completa la frase si no añado la más importante en su especialidad. Que nació hace A3 años y que desde su constitución se planteó la necesidad de elevar los niveles de nutrición y de vida y de liberar del hambre a la humanidad. Pero este noble y alto empeño no puede enfrentarlo sola la FAO sin recibir la ayuda y el respaldo que necesita. No creo que me deba aventurar a hacer la pregunta, pues estoy seguro que todos en esta sala conocemos la respuesta.

No obstante, sí creemos necesario examinar algunos factores que no contribuyen al desarrollo de esta Organización y frenan esas nobles aspiraciones cuando falta escasamente un decenio para finalizar el siglo. Veamos, no es sólo la apreciada ayuda alimentaria lo que necesitan los países en vías de desarrollo, agravados a veces por desastres naturales, como plagas, ciclones y sequías. En fin, fenómenos que frecuentemente golpean a nuestro países. Ayuda que necesitamos y agradecemos. No por repetidas dejaremos de mencionar, que vencer el hambre no es darle de comer un día a un pueblo, sino enseñarle a comer para que lo pueda hacer todos los días. Esto encierra toda una filosofía, pues a través de esa realidad podemos observar que el problema consiste en salir del subdesarrollo que nos encontramos, producto de las condiciones históricas a que nos sometieron. Estas por conocidas no creo necesario repetir. Pero para lograr esto es imprescindible elevarlos niveles técnicos, desarrollar la base material, lograr la plena incorporación de la mujer, que son las que más sufren los efectos producidos por las crisis económicas. Necesitamos planes de capacitación teniendo acceso a los adelantos técnicos, centros de información y de investigaciones, con programas de cooperación técnica, más publicaciones, fortaleciendo cada vez más las actividades de campo y oficinas regionales, así como poseer los medios técnicos que nos ayuden a contrarrestar los desastres naturales, teniendo un consecuente y verdadero plan de protección del medio ambiente, fenómenos cuyas consecuencias, en gran parte, nos son trasladadas.

Estos son algunos de los aspectos que como ejemplo pudiéramos reflejar para no hacer interminables estos objetivos; pero para esto necesitamos una FAO unida y firme para llevar adelante sus proyectos. Es de todos conocido que dentro de la esfera internacional, la revolución cubana ha mantenido una invariable política multilateral, como vía y procedimiento para preservar el diálogo internacional en favor de la paz y el desarrollo. Esa es y será nuestra posición, pero específicamente con esta Organización de las Naciones Unidas para la Agricultura y la Alimentación, querida y respetada por nuestro Gobierno, con la que mantiene vínculos indisolubles, deja aun más precisa en cuanto a fortalecer sus estructuras, respaldar sus proyección, programas y proyectos, reconociéndola como factor primordial en el ámbito internacional para hacer realidad los fines encomendados. Por eso planteamos su acuciante problema del crecimiento de sus recursos, y un total respaldo a la resolución 6/87, cuyo objetivo *es* reforzar la FAO e incrementar su eficacia, en conformidad con los Textos Fundamentales de la FAO. En fin lograr que sus conclusiones se conviertan en aspiraciones de medidas prácticas y positivas tan esperadas como necesitadas por nuestros pueblos.

Nuestra delegación, Sr. Presidente, por la importancia de este 95 Consejo de la FAO, más si se tiene presente que será el último antes de la Conferencia, entiende que es el marco apropiado para precisar estos y algunos análisis que expondremos, que si bien son el criterio de nuestra delegación, también son el resumen de todo lo expresado en este vasto y provechoso período en los distintos Comités y Grupos que han tenido lugar fundamentalmente en esta sede. Ha sido una constante en nuestros planteamientos el total rechazo a la utilización de alimentos con fines políticos, contra el intercambio desigual que arruina a nuestros pueblos, contra la inflación y el proteccionismo.

Planteamos con todas las fuerzas de nuestros principios ineludibles, que la deuda externa es impagable, cooperando como una de las consecuencias mas directa de la crisis alimentarla mundial. Tan solo sus intereses están asfixiando a nuestros pueblos y alertamos que su mantenimiento será base de cultivo para estallidos incontrolables de los pueblos para deshacerse de esta coyunda. Que esta gravedad no podrá resolverse con simples paliativos, renegociaciones y recetas tradicionales. Que se impone un nuevo orden internacional, y esto lo está planteando desde un principio mi Gobierno, y lo seguiremos repitiendo aunque nos quedemos sin voz. Nuestra delegación, Sr. Presidente, desde el anterior Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria, dejó sentada su posición sobre los ajustes estructurales, manifestando nuestra preocupación acerca de la voluntad política que debe mover y anteceder este reajuste estructural. Si el mismo se realiza bajo el prisma de mejoras para el desarrollo, lo consideramos justo; pero si se realiza presionado por las condiciones onerosas de los que entregan los préstamos, debemos estar vigilantes ante el hecho de que se deba rechazar las concebidas repercusiones negativas sobre los sectores más pobres que en definitiva son los más afectados y que, por ende, van en detrimento de los más necesitados.

Sr. Presidente, luego de abordados estos acuciantes temas, sólo me resta expresar como incorregible optimista, confiar y tener la esperanza de que un día millones de seres marginados y desposeídos de la tierra puedan volver sus miradas hacia la FAO y puedan contemplarla con un rostro confiado que respire paz y armonía, y observar a través de su mirada un brillo de comprensión a sus acuciantes problemas.

Mohammed Saleem KHAN:(Pakistan) Mr. Chairman: We are pleased to see you once again in the Chair. We are sure that, under your chairmanship and through your able guidance, we will have yet another successful session of this Council.

Through you we would also like to extend our congratulations to the three new Vice-Chairmen we elected earlier this morning, as well as to the new members of the Council.

Further, we would like to avail ourselves of this opportunity to thank the Director-General for his forthright and informative statement made at the opening session of the Council.

We listened with concern to the Report of the Fourteenth Session of the Committee on World Food Security so aptly presented by Mr. Dutla. We thank him for his presentation.

Our concern arises from the reported precarious position of world security, which, owing to the continuing presence of abnormal food supply conditions and the continuing economic difficulties being faced by developing countries, is not likely to abate even during 1989-90. We fully share the concerns expressed in the report and endorse those steps and measures suggested therein towards increasing global food production, improving access to food for the poor and the needy, and the elimination of the adverse international economic involvement factors impairing the economies of developing countries, as well as the food supply conditions.

We agree with paragraph 14 that, in order to restore consumption to trend and replenish stocks, there was a need to increase global food production during 1989 and beyond with a balance that would both achieve this end and avoid a world return to a situation of surpluses and depressed markets prevailing earlier.

Likewise, we fully agree with the view at paragraph 17 that to achieve food security on a firm footing, it is necessary to accelerate food production in low-income food deficit countries.

We also agree with the recommendations at paragraph 18 that food aid donors should make all efforts to maintain food shipments to both low income and other food deficit countries where production shortfalls would otherwise mean a sharp decline in per caput consumptions.

In this context, we share the concerns expressed regarding the drop in contributions to IEFER and endorse the call for an increase in resources as well as the recommendations for creation of a standby reserve over and above the currently agreed minimum level of 500,000 tons of cereals.

My delegation would like to record its appreciation to FAO for the efforts to keep members abreast on the world food situation and on its effective operations inter alia of its Global Information and Early Warning System. We are sure that FAO will continue with these efforts in the coming years and beyond.

I would now like to refer to an important aspect also raised in the statement of the Director-General this morning. The Pakistan delegation at the recent CFS, COAG, CFA, and WFC expressed the concern that several African countries are finding it difficult to dispose of sizable surpluses that they have been fortunate to achieve after years of drought, locust infestations and crop failures. We join the appeal at paragraph 20 for donor countries to assist these and other developing countries to develop long-term capabilities for absorption and disposal of such occasional surpluses.

The effect of stabilization and structural adjustment programmes on food security is a most important chapter of the report. The issue was discussed at length in the CFS as well as at several other FAO fora recently. We participated in these discussions, and at the moment would like to confine ourselves to the general endorsement of the views and recommendations contained in this chapter of the report. However, we would particularly like to express our support to the proposal for greater collaboration between the World Bank, the IMF and the FAO, in the context of such structural adjustment programmes. We agree that the FAO has an important role to play in this process and support the proposals at paragraph 33 of the report in this regard.

Finally, in terms of the report, my delegation feels that it would be useful-of course, if time and circumstances permit-if the Secretariat could add a brief note to the reports of the various committees being submitted to the Council for discussion, highlighting any developments since then, progress made on recommendations contained in the report, difficulties, if any, faced or perceived in their implementation, and views on any other aspects of the report it may like to bring to the notice of members.

For instance, we would have liked to know the progress made on the recommendations in paragraphs 7 and 8 in connection with the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen and the Namibian assistance programmes. Likewise, we would be pleased to know about progress, if any, of collaboration between FAO and the World Bank vis-à-vis the processes being undertaken in various developing countries.

LE PRESIDENT: Je remercie le délégué du Pakistan de sa communication. Les orateurs inscrits sont les suivants: Mexique, Nicaragua, Lesotho, Suisse, Gambie, Colombie, Chine, Congo, France, Etats-Unis d'Amérique, Venezuela, Espagne, Irak, Japon, Canada, Australie, Finlande, Argentine, Royaume-Uni, Hongrie, Inde, Kenya, République fédérale d'Allemagne et Malaisie.

Avec votre permission, nous reprendrons cette discussion cet après-midi. Mais auparavant, je voudrais donner la parole au Secrétaire général, M. Aleesi, qui va vous faire une communication.

LE SECRETAIRE GENERAL: Je voudrais informer les délégués qu'une excursion sera organisée le dimanche 25 juin à l'intention des délégués et observateurs participant à la 95ème session du Conseil, à l'aimable invitation des pouvoirs publics de Arezzo et de Loro Ciuffenna, en Toscane.

Le programme comprendra une visite de la ville de Arezzo et de ses principaux monuments ainsi qu'un déjeuner. L'après-midi, les participants se rendront à Loro Ciuffenna, à une trentaine de kilomètres de Arezzo, où ils pourront assister à un concert spécial de la chorale de la FAO suivi d'un buffet-dîner.

Le transport pour Arezzo et Loro Ciuffenna et retour sera assuré. Les délégués et observateurs qui désirent participer à cette excursion sont cordialement invités à s'inscrire dès que possible au bureau de distribution des documents. La date limite des inscriptions est fixée au jeudi 22 juin, 14 h 30, pour que des accords définitifs puissent être pris avec les autorités de Arezzo et de Loro Ciuffenna. Une annonce à cet égard paraîtra dans le programme des séances de demain.

LE PRESIDENT: Je pense que cette communication sera affichée afin que les délégués puissent en prendre connaissance.

Je rappelle que le calendrier prévoit la fin de cette discussion cet après-midi. D'autre part, une réception est offerte par le Directeur général à 19 h. Je vous propose donc d'organiser notre temps pour achever l'examen de cette question au cours de la séance de cet après-midi, y compris le problème de la composition du Comité de rédaction.

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 95/PV/2

Ninety-fifth Session

Quatre-vingt-quinzième session

95º período de sesiones

SECOND PLENARY MEETING
DEUXIEME SEANCE PLENIERE
SEGUNDA SESION PLENARIA
(19 June 1989)

The Second Plenary Meeting was opened at 14.30 hours, Lassaad Ben Osman, Independent Chairman of the Council, presiding

La deuxième séance plénière est ouverte à 14 h 30, sous la présidence de Lassaad Ben Osman, Président indépendant du Conseil

Se abre la segunda sesión plenaria a las 14.30 horas bajo la presidencia de Lassaad Ben Osman, Presidente Independiente del Consejo

- II. WORLD FOOD AND AGRICULTURE SITUATION (continued)
- II. SITUATION MONDIALE DE L'ALIMENTATION ET DE L'AGRICULTURE (suite)
- II. SITUACION MUNDIAL DE LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION (continuación)
- 5. Report of the Fourteenth Session of the Committee on World Food Security (Rome, 3-7 April 1989) (continued)
- 5. Rapport de la quatorzième session du Comité de la sécurité alimentaire (Rome, 3-7 April 1989) (suite)
- 5. Informe del 143 periodo de sesiones del Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria Mundial (Roma, 3-7 de abril de 1989) (continuación)

LE PRÉSIDENT: Honorables délégués, nous reprenons la suite de nos travaux.

Un grand nombre de délégués m'ont demandé d'intervenir, et d'autre part nous avons une réception en fin d'après-midi. Je vous demanderai donc de bien vouloir être aussi brefs que possible.

La parole est à l'honorable délégué du Mexique.

Eduardo PESQUEIRA OLEA (Mexico): Muchas gracias, Sr. Presidente. Nos complace verle presidir nuestros debates, que esperamos sean fructíferos, y, nuestros parabienes para aquellas personas que han sido electas vicepresidentes y al país que ha sido recibido como observador de nuestros trabajos.

Me permitiré hacer una intervención combinada de los temas 4 y 5 porque, mas que nunca, la vinculación de la situación de la alimentación y la agricultura mundial con la seguridad alimentaria de nuestros pueblos se ve comprometida por un entorno económico, comercial y de consideraciones naturales sobre los cuales no basta hacer un simple repaso, sino tomar posiciones y buscar soluciones.

El discurso del Director General, a quien felicitamos, viene a hacer énfasis y complementar la información de los documentos base y asimismo se suman los recientes eventos de la reunión del CPA, el Consejo de Gobernadores del FIDA y la XVa Reunión Ministerial del Consejo Mundial de Alimentación en el Cairo.

Todo ello nos lleva a constatar que, a 15 años de que en la Conferencia Mundial de la Alimentación, se adoptara la declaración universal sobre la erradicación del hambre y la malnutrición, sigue negándose el derecho a los alimentos a millones de personas. Las paradojas de excedentes y hambrunas, de enormes recursos destinados a contiendas bélicas, en tanto que la ayuda internacional en alimentos y para el desarrollo disminuyen, sigue imperando. No obstante se observan algunas señales de distensión que esperamos fecunden y nos lleven a un mundo mas justo.

En lo que se refiere al comercio agrícola, éste ha venido observando una vigorosa expansión, particularmente en los subsectores pesquero y forestal, pero persistió el descenso de la parte agrícola propiamente dicha, con amplias variaciones tendenciales por regiones y productos, que en ocasiones sigue una evolución contrapuesta como lo señala el documento en el párrafo 21 en el que se señala que el cambio se debió, en especial, al fuerte aumento de las exportaciones agropecuarias de los Estados Unidos, al que se sumó una reducción de importaciones, y a la fuerte expansión en la CEE tanto en exportaciones como en importaciones, pero con el predominio de las exportaciones.

Los países de economía centralmente planificada continuaron teniendo un importante déficit en el comercio de productos agropecuarios, pero continuó una fuerte expansión de sus exportaciones.

En los países en desarrollo, el descenso global de uno por ciento en el valor total de las exportaciones agropecuarias de 1987, como se indica en los párrafos 23 al 25, oculta una situación ms desfavorable en lo que se refiere a cada uno de los países en forma individual.

En términos generales, de un total de 117 países en desarrollo, 75, es decir dos terceras partes, sufrieron una merma en los ingresos obtenidos con la exportación, mientras que en 1986, fueron solo 46 países los que lo sufrieron. El decepcionante comportamiento de las exportaciones de los países en desarrollo se debió hasta un cierto punto a los bajos precios de varios productos fundamentales durante gran parte del año. En contraste, el esquema general de las importaciones de alimentos en 1987 se incrementó, agravando seriamente la situación para los países con escasez de divisas.

Si bien, por una parte, los precios de exportación de algunos productos alimentarios y agrícolas tendieron a reforzarse en 1988, esta recuperación se debió, en general, al mayor crecimiento

económico y de la demanda en varios de los principales países importadores y a la escasez de cosechas tras la sequía de América del Norte. Entre las pocas excepciones en la recuperación de los precios agropecuarios, pesqueros y forestales se encuentran el cacao, algunos frutales y productos pesqueros y pecuarios. Sin embargo, en conjunto, los precios de exportación de los alimentos fueron en 1988 16% superiores a los de 1987, particularmente de los que depende la seguridad alimentaria como son los cereales, que entre enero y marzo de 1989 alcanzaron, para el caso del trigo, por ejemplo, un término medio de 36%, maíz 32%, mas altos que en años anteriores.

La situación actual del suministro de alimentos presenta rasgos inquietantes en el ámbito de la seguridad alimentaria mundial. Al ya difícil entorno de problemas económicos persistentes para muchos países en desarrollo, se ha venido a sumar la peor sequía sufrida desde hace medio siglo en Norteamérica, bajando considerablemente la producción y las reservas de Estados Unidos, Canada y otros muchos países, por causas naturales o coyunturales, dando lugar a que en 1988, por segundo año consecutivo, la producción mundial de alimentos básicos se situara por debajo del consumo total.

Las existencias mundiales de cereales disminuyeron fuertemente en 1987/88, previéndose que al final de 1988/89 caigan por debajo de los márgenes mínimos necesarios para la seguridad alimentaria mundial. Como lo señala el documento, las perspectivas para las cosechas cerealeras de 1989 no indican que la producción total vaya a alcanzar los niveles que serían necesarios para recuperar el consumo tendencial y reponer las existencias a niveles adecuados.

Por lo que toca a los precios internacionales de los cereales, éstos se han reforzado considerablemente, lo que si bien representa una buena noticia para los exportadores y un posible incentivo para la producción, tanto en los países desarrollados como en los en desarrollo, a corto plazo constituye un serio obstáculo para numerosos países con déficit de alimentos, que se encuentran con dificultades en su Balanza de Pagos y necesidades crecientes de importación de alimentos.

Nos encontramos pues, en una situación difícil y compleja, porque, sumados los fenómenos naturales que afectan las cosechas, a los aspectos coyunturales de políticas económicas y el entorno económico donde el endeudamiento externo, el deterioro de los términos de intercambio y las políticas monetarias, pueden llevar a una crisis paralizante, donde el ejército de hambrientos crezca y se ponga en duda la credibilidad de los gobiernos e instituciones.

El tratamiento de este tema requiere entonces seriedad, voluntad política y compromiso, ya que el volumen, composición y distribución de las cosechas de cereales para 1989 tendrán una importancia decisiva para la seguridad alimentaria mundial de 1989/90 y años sucesivos. Conforme a lo estimado, se requiere un aumento sin precedente de la producción mundial de cereales, estimando en un 12%, que corresponde a unas 200 millones de toneladas para 1989, para reponer las existencias en los niveles mínimos de seguridad y mantener el consumo tendencial.

El documento no es muy optimista al respecto en las previsiones iniciales para 1989 derivadas, por una parte, de condiciones climático-agronómicas, que influyen complejamente en un mecanismo de políticas agrícolas comerciales, de las cuales esperamos escuchar aquí mensajes que nos permitan avizorar alternativas de solución, en donde todos podamos comprometernos conforme a nuestras posibilidades.

Uno de los aspectos fundamentales del panorama de la seguridad alimentaria mundial, son los efectos de los programas de estabilización y ajuste estructural en los países con endeudamiento externo, como fue ampliamente discutido y puesto de relieve por el Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria, quien hizo constar su gran preocupación respecto a la experiencia obtenida hasta el momento, ya que, a corto plazo, dichos programas conducían a menudo a un acusado descenso del poder adquisitivo real de los pobres, limitando su capacidad para adquirir alimentos y otros artículos esenciales. Asimismo, se puso de relieve la asimetría entre los efectos negativos y positivos del ajuste, ya que, los negativos sobre los pobres son, con frecuencia, ciertos e inmediatos, mientras que los efectos positivos, aún son inciertos y tienen largos períodos de gestación, por lo cual, se señalaron en el documento los puntos difíciles de importancia que los países habrán de tomar en consideración a fin de contrarrestarlos. Se planteó la importancia de utilizar la experiencia de la FAO en apoyo de los países que lo solicitaron para que en los planes de reajuste estructural sean tomados en consideración y puedan ser contrarrestados los efectos negativos en el sector de la seguridad alimentaria y del desarrollo agrícola en general. México, Sr. Presidente, avala esas propuestas.

En la situación desfavorable y de gran incertidumbre que aquí estamos analizando, una de las preocupaciones sobre las que habremos de pronunciarnos es la de buscar fórmulas para que la asistencia externa oficial y la ayuda alimentaria recupere su nivel e incremente sus aportaciones. Por eso, queremos una Organización fuerte, por eso queremos una Organización financieramente sana. No podemos limitarnos a lamentar que en un entorno alimentario tan difícil, los recursos y compromisos multilaterales se vean reducidos, inclusive aun los compromisos bilaterales que parecen mostrar descensos en los últimos tiempos.

En este contexto, consideramos que el llamamiento repetido del Director General de la FAO para incrementar los recursos de la Reserva Internacional de Emergencias Alimentarias sean atendidos adecuadamente, al igual que el llamamiento conjunto que han hecho también el Secretario General de las Naciones Unidas, el Director Ejecutivo del Programa Mundial de Alimentos, el del Consejo Mundial de la Alimentación, para los objetivos de promesas de alimentos por 1 500 millones de dólares. Así como las aportaciones para la reposición del FIDA, los fondos presupuestarios y extrapresupuestarios para hacer una Organización Mundial para la Alimentación y la Agricultura fuerte, económicamente sana y técnicamente al servicio de los países, a fin de que, en un esfuerzo común, sea posible apoyar a los países en desarrollo para lograr una estabilidad alimentaria, que sin lugar a dudas, permitirá mejorar el entorno económico internacional en beneficio de todos los países. En el contexto de un comercio más justo todos los países podrán beneficiarse, en la medida de sus capacidades, sin menoscabo del derecho primario de todo ser humano para satisfacer el hambre.

México, Sr. Presidente ha elevado sus principios de política exterior a nivel de decisiones políticas fundamentales, así, al lado de la autodeterminación de los pueblos, de la no intervención, procura la solución pacífica de las controversias y la cooperación internacional para el desarrollo.

Me quiero referir al tema que resaltó el Director General, respecto del surgimiento de la plaga del gusano barrenador del ganado, el "screw worm". El Director General ha descrito de forma brevísima los efectos catastróficos de esta plaga y ha mencionado cómo, en un ejemplo de cooperación internacional para el desarrollo, los Estados Unidos de América y México integramos la Comisión Mexicano-Norteamericana para el Combate contra el Gusano Barrenador del Ganado, cuya acción eficaz ha tenido como resultado la erradicación de la plaga y, por ende, la salvación de la ganadería en más de un millón y medio de kilómetros cuadrados de áreas preinfestadas además de evitar su propagación a otros países del sur, del Caribe y del norte.

Con gran satisfacción, México pone a disposición de la FAO, y, a través de la FAO, de los países del África del Norte, de todo el continente y de Europa, que está a escasos metros de África, su experiencia en sus trabajos en este sentido y, estoy seguro que se podrá obtener el apoyo de la Comisión Mexicano-Americana para la lucha contra la plaga.

Sr. Presidente, los trabajos técnicos para esta lucha exigen el uso de aviones para diseminar insectos machos estériles en las zonas plagadas. ¿Van a poder volar en medio de casas y de bombarderos que todos los días destruyen Líbano? ¿Van a poder sobrevolar el Norte del África en zonas mediterráneas sin ser derribados? Esfuerzos fundamentales en pro de la paz y de la distensión en todo el mundo son elementos fundamentales para el éxito de estas importantes acciones.

En la recién concluida 15ª sesión ministerial del Consejo Mundial de Alimentación, que tuve la honra de presidir, fue aprobada por consenso la llamada declaración de El Cairo que contiene una serie de recomendaciones que pretenden que la comunidad internacional trate de alcanzar dentro de la próxima década una reducción del hambre crónica y la virtual eliminación de la mayoría de las enfermedades causadas por deficiencias nutricionales. Se reconoce que el hambre es un fenómeno complejo y que cada país deberá determinar cómo enfrentar su propio problema dentro del contexto de sus prioridades nacionales. Sin embargo, creemos que la cooperación internécionl, coordinando sus actividades, es absolutamente necesaria para lograr estos objetivos, y por ello creemos que este Consejo, recordando estos conceptos y los planteados en el Pacto de Seguridad Alimentaria Mundial, debe velar porque la FAO, que es el Organó de asistencia técnica que se encuentra presente con su Programa de Campo en todos los países en desarrollo, pero que también aporta información tecnológica y elementos que mucho contribuyen al bienestar económico y comercial del mundo industrializado, puede realmente hacer llegar y coadyuvar a hacer real el derecho a la alimentación a todos los hombres en todos los países de la tierra.

Mauricio CUADRA (Nicaragua): Nos complace verlo, Sr. Presidente, al frente de nuestras labores y estamos seguros que bajo su dirección serán exitosas.

Nuestra delegación desea felicitar al Dr. Saouma, Director General de nuestra Organización, por su valiosa declaración, que viene a centrar con gran precisión los temas de nuestro debate. Como siempre, el Director General nos refleja su gran preocupación sobre la problemática general de la agricultura y la alimentación en el mundo y su compromiso personal con la causa de la erradicación del hambre en el mundo.

Queremos asimismo felicitar a los tres vicepresidentes electos para este Consejo, y les garantizamos todo nuestro apoyo y estamos seguros de que su valiosa contribución será de gran ayuda para el éxito de nuestros trabajos.

Felicitamos igualmente a los nuevos miembros de este Consejo y saludamos la presencia de los distinguidos ministros que nos honran con su asistencia.

Hemos estudiado, Sr. Presidente, con detenimiento, el informe del Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria, el cual consideramos altamente ilustrativo para las labores de este Consejo.

Vemos con preocupación la situación precaria a que ha llegado la seguridad alimentaria mundial por las diferentes causas que se mencionan en el párrafo 9 del documento. El descenso en el consumo básico por habitante en los países en desarrollo con déficit de alimentos, viene a agravar situaciones ya de por sí críticas y que merecen la atención urgente de este organismo y del mundo entero.

El hambre en el mundo debe provocar, no sólo preocupación, sino vergüenza. En tiempos en que se gastan enormes sumas de dinero en armamentos para hacer la guerra a países que, como Nicaragua están luchando para conseguir su soberanía y garantizar a su pueblo condiciones dignas de vida, se atrasan a la vez las contribuciones a este organismo, cuya función principal es combatir el hambre y defender la vida del mundo.

La situación de la seguridad alimentaria, Sr. Presidente, nos compete a todos y debe abordarse cada vez con mayor seriedad, ya que el déficit alimentario, como es sabido, provoca no sólo un impacto inmediato, sino que tiene un efecto de largo plazo al afectar las capacidades de desarrollo de los pueblos empobrecidos, institucionalizando el atraso, haciéndolos cada vez más dependientes, mientras que los países desarrollados se vuelven cada vez más poderosos. Esta situación merece pues, a nuestro juicio, una solución a largo plazo, una solución que cambie las injustas condiciones que actualmente existen y que profundizan la problemática de la seguridad alimentaria. Acogemos pues, como propia, la preocupación del Comité por esta precaria situación.

Vemos con particular interés el párrafo 16 en que se recomiendan acciones concertadas por parte de los principales productores de cereales, para garantizar que en sus políticas de producción se tomen en cuenta las necesidades de la seguridad alimentaria mundial.

Asimismo, estamos conscientes, por experiencia propia, de la inconveniencia de que pocos países tengan una responsabilidad desproporcionada en lo tocante a la seguridad alimentaria mundial, ya que ésta pasa a depender de las políticas de esos países. Y sabemos por experiencia que hay algunos, no todos, pero sí hay uno en particular que tiene como costumbre utilizar los alimentos como arma de presión política, contraviniendo disposiciones expresas de este organismo en ese sentido, situación que ha merecido la condena de muchos organismos en el mundo.

De tal forma que vemos con especial satisfacción que se plantee la necesidad de una distribución más equitativa de las existencias mundiales de cereales; incluso nuestra delegación planteó en el 94° Consejo la necesidad de crear bancos de reserva de alimentos en varios países del mundo que permitan el acceso a éstos en casos de emergencia, con celeridad y sin bloqueos por criterios políticos.

Estamos seguros que la solución debe ser una mayor producción de alimentos en los países de bajos ingresos con déficit de alimentos, por lo cual vemos con particular satisfacción el planteamiento que insta a la Comunidad Internacional para apoyar los esfuerzos de estos países, prestándoles asistencia técnica financiera, no sólo para aumentar su producción sino para crear las condiciones de almacenamiento y mercadeo en los casos excepcionales en que hay excedentes.

Consideramos también justificada la preocupación del Comité por los altos costos de los cereales importados en momentos en que la situación de la balanza de pagos de muchos países en desarrollo es ya muy tensa, debido a la creciente deuda externa, al proteccionismo y a la relación de intercambio desfavorable.

En el caso de Nicaragua y otros países de América Latina se debe agregar las medidas económicas que aplican algunos países con el fin de interferir en nuestra política interna. El bloqueo comercial y financiero y la guerra de agresión tienen un efecto devastador sobre nuestra economía, con una incidencia directa sobre nuestra balanza de pagos comercial, repercutiendo negativamente sobre las posibilidades de crecimiento del PIB, impidiendo nuestra capacidad de invertir para aumentar la capacidad instalada de producción, sin mencionar también la enorme destrucción de la misma, y en último término sobre la seguridad alimentaria a corto y mediano plazo, sobre todo de los sectores más pobres de la población.

Creemos pues que, es necesaria una acción más dinámica de transferencia de recursos financieros y tecnológicos de los países desarrollados así como la eliminación de prácticas proteccionistas y discriminatorias en todo sentido para lograr que vaya siendo realidad el concepto de seguridad alimentaria en el mundo.

En este sentido, Sr. Presidente, acogemos la declaración contenida en el párrafo 19 sobre la importancia de la Ronda Uruguay de Negociaciones Comerciales Multilaterales que, en el marco del GATT, busca la reducción del proteccionismo y la liberalización del comercio.

Asimismo en el Informe del Director General, el Dr. Saouma señala su preocupación por la falta de progresos en esta Ronda Uruguay, ese señalamiento viene a ser un apoyo expreso a estas negociaciones, por lo que queremos dejar constancia de nuestra felicitación, ya que demuestra la permanente preocupación del Director General por esta injusta situación.

En cuanto a los efectos de los programas de ajuste en la estabilización sobre la seguridad alimentarla, el documento es claro al señalar que la experiencia ha revelado un impacto negativo inmediato sobre los sectores más pobres de la población, que no se compensa con los efectos positivos que pueden obtenerse a largo plazo. Experiencia dolorosa hemos tenido en América Latina sobre el particular.

El concepto recogido en el informe en el sentido de que los programas de ajuste debían respetar la soberanía nacional, es un indicativo claro de que las prácticas que hasta hoy se han venido aplicando al respecto son negativas y que han llevado al fracaso a programas aplicados sin tomar en cuenta las situaciones particulares de las poblaciones más pobres y en general de las economías de nuestros países.

Creemos que la FAO con su experiencia es un organismo que debe ser tomado en cuenta para la formulación de planes para el sector agropecuario cuando se hace necesario un programa de ajuste. Apoyamos por tanto esta recomendación.

Las recomendaciones del Comité en cuanto a las medidas a adoptar para mitigar los efectos negativos de los programas de ajuste, se consideran válidas. En efecto, el otorgamiento de paquetes de alimentación, programas de leche a escolares y madres, alimentos por trabajo son algunas de las modalidades que deberían utilizarse, contando, por supuesto, con el concurso de organismos como la FAO, el PMA y donaciones de países.

Sin embargo, Sr. Presidente, queremos dejar sentado que lo que debe desaparecer son las causas que originan que un país tenga que llegar a condiciones económicas tales que hagan necesario un programa de ajuste que pone en peligro la seguridad alimentarla de su pueblo y con ello la estabilidad social y política de toda la población.

Sr. Presidente, la FAO como Organización responsable a nivel mundial de una situación tan sensible como es el hambre y la alimentación en el mundo debe fortalecerse y crecer. Apoyamos, por tanto, el fortalecimiento de nuestro organismo y creemos que cualquier debilitamiento del mismo va a redundar finalmente en un perjuicio para todo el mundo y, principalmente, para los países en desarrollo.

Daniel R. PHORORO (Lesotho): I thank you Mr. Chairman for giving me the floor. Like other speakers I would like to express our confidence that you will be able to steer this very important meeting to good, concrete suggestions, and also to endorse the recommendations that have been made.

At the same time Mr. Chairman, we would also like to congratulate the Vice-Chairmen who have been appointed, and we also believe that together with you they will be able to delve into the various subjects of this meeting.

I will be very brief Mr. Chairman. First of all, like all other speakers, I would like to commend the Director-General of FAO for having given us such a realistic, and at the same time, clear statement of the obligation and challenges of FAO. All of us here Mr. Chairman should accept that FAO is an organization that we should all be proud of, proud of because of the achievements that FAO has made despite the very great constraints that it has been operating under. It is time for all of us here, if we genuinely believe that poverty must be eradicated, to ensure that the organization that we have so much confidence and trust in must be supported at all costs.

We could talk all day Mr. Chairman about the issues that have been brought up here—food security, structural adjustment etc.—but if we cannot realize that all these issues require resources then I think we are only negating what we ourselves believe in, that is to eradicate poverty, because if we cannot provide funds and the necessary resources to the organization, how do we expect to help the very poor that we here have sworn ourselves we will help? One cannot fail Mr. Chairman, but to recognize that in the Director-General's statement there was an expression of concern, of pride, and most importantly of anguish—anguish in which we all share because what he says affects the very people that most of us deal with from day to day. It gets very difficult for me to go back to my country, to the farmers who, week after week listen to the good achievements that FAO has made from the BBC and all other kinds of media, and then I go back and say: "I am sorry, FAO have no resources. You cannot be helped". This is incomprehensible to them Mr. Chairman. Therefore one would appeal to all the Members of this organization to do their utmost to honour our obligations.

Coming to food security Mr. Chairman, here again we must thank Mr. Dutia for an excellent report that he has given us. One cannot go into very many details of the report but we endorse the

observations that have been made. But again, the observations that have been made, in order for them to be implemented require resources. Food security we all know is very precarious at the moment and also unstable, but the most important aspect of all these issues put together is that they affect the very poor, and we believe that in order for the poor to be helped we need resources. We know FAO has got the capability and the expertise to help us in the various aspects. The early warning network and the global information system, the work that it has done has been very commendable. In my own country, Lesotho, this group has been able to give us an early alert of impending danger. As early as last year we had an epidemic of cutworm and this has destroyed about 60 percent of the crop.

A situation like this affects the very poorest farmers and one expects to see a follow-up. This system has got to be strengthened, but how can it be when we are informed that there are 200 vacant posts in FAO? This kind of information is very valuable to members. Therefore, we strongly endorse the observations and recommendations made by this Committee in paragraph 44, which has emphasized and highlighted that more reserves have got to be allocated to the Global Information and Early Warning System.

Allow me to refer to another issue mentioned by the distinguished delegate from Cuba. He referred to the environment. We know that at the moment the whole world community is very concerned about the degraded nature of our environment. But at the same time, we know that we cannot have sustainable development without a sustainable environment. Environment to us simply means the natural resources we have such as land and water, but also refers to pollutants such as pesticides. FAO is the leading organization having the capability and the expertise to help member countries to make the environment sustainable.

Finally, I would make reference to the structural adjustment programmes. We know these programmes are painful, but they are very necessary. They are painful because, again, they affect the very poor, but unless there has been good preparation of these programmes we know that they can be haphazard, and the result is always disastrous.

Again, we would endorse the recommendation made by the Committee on Food Security that where expertise is available such as in the FAO, the FAO should be able to help the member countries in designing programmes that are realistic and that will take into account the social impact and the social results of the structural adjustment programme.

That point was also highlighted by the Director-General in his statement. In Lesotho we are very grateful that the FAO has provided us with expertise to review the various agricultural programmes with a view to involving the private sector. But, again, without this assistance we would have undertaken a haphazard job. We are very grateful for this assistance and we hope that a follow-up of such a programme will also attract support from the donor community.

Having said that, Mr. Chairman, I would like to repeat that all of us here know the capability of the FAO, and if small countries such as Lesotho can honour its obligations, one cannot understand why most member countries cannot do similarly. After all, small countries and poor countries such as mine feel the pinch when making sacrifices even more than do those countries better endowed. I hope that after this meeting we will all resolve to support the organization of which we are all very proud.

Roger PASQUIER (Suisse): Monsieur le Président, ma délégation tient à vous dire combien elle est heureuse de vous voir à nouveau présider le Conseil. Par ailleurs, nous désirons féliciter les trois vice-présidents qui ont été élus. Nous remercions aussi M. Dutia de son introduction et nous relevons la grande responsabilité qu'il assume dans ce secteur déterminant de la sécurité alimentaire. S'il ne s'agissait que d'approuver le rapport qui nous est soumis, la délégation suisse le ferait tacitement. Mais nous voudrions aussi faire des propositions pour l'activité à venir de la FAO dans ce secteur. C'est essentiellement pourquoi nous prenons la parole.

Comme tous les pays, la Suisse voit dans la sécurité alimentaire, selon le concept élargi approuvé récemment, un élément central du mandat de la FAO et un élément central de la politique agricole de la plupart des pays. C'est dans cette conviction que la Suisse participe financièrement au programme spécial de la FAO dans ce domaine depuis une douzaine d'années. Ce concept élargi, qui touche aux politiques aussi bien qu'à la production, à l'accès aux sources d'aliments, etc., commence à prendre forme dans quatre pays d'Afrique et nous nous en réjouissons. Nous proposons-et c'est là l'essentiel de mon intervention-que soit donnée au Programme d'assistance en matière de sécurité alimentaire de la FAO (PASA) la forme d'un programme d'action d'un nouveau type, du type illustré par le Programme d'action forestier tropical. Ce qui fait la différence dans ce nouveau type de programme d'action, c'est que dans les pays en développement qui s'y intéressent, un plan sectoriel à moyen terme-5 ans par exemple-est mis au point par le Gouvernement en consultation avec les

donateurs intéressés, y compris la Banque mondiale, et avec l'assistance spécialisée de la FAO. Il en résulte un programme sectoriel national réaliste en ce sens que le financement est prévu de la part du Gouvernement et des donateurs dès le départ.

La sécurité alimentaire devrait bénéficier d'un tel programme d'action du nouveau type qui serait le deuxième dans le cadre de la FAO, après le programme forestier. De l'avis des autorités suisses, de tels programmes d'action de ce nouveau type ont des avantages que nous désirons résumer comme suit. Ils permettent une planification à moyen terme aussi bien dans les pays particuliers que dans le Programme de terrain de la FAO. Ils facilitent la coordination entre les gouvernements des pays récipiendaires, les donateurs et la FAO, et ils permettent à la FAO de jouer au mieux son rôle d'institution spécialisée de même que son rôle de catalyseur. Ils représentent un instrument pour concentrer sur des priorités bien définies l'activité de la FAO. La majeure partie de l'activité de la FAO pourrait graduellement être concentrée sur ces programmes d'action qui correspondraient également aux priorités du Programme ordinaire.

Pour revenir à un PASA de ce nouveau type, nous souhaitons que le Secrétariat élabore des propositions opérationnelles dans ce sens pour examen par le Comité de la sécurité alimentaire lors de sa prochaine session.

Pour terminer sur un autre aspect, ma délégation désire soutenir les recommandations du comité de la sécurité alimentaire au sujet du rôle de la FAO concernant l'ajustement structurel mais nous ajoutons qu'à cet égard nous voudrions qu'un soin particulier soit apporté par la FAO pour aider les petits agriculteurs non seulement à éviter d'éventuels inconvénients de l'ajustement structurel, mais surtout à tirer profit, tôt ou tard, de cet ajustement structurel dès que l'occasion s'en présentera, pays par pays.

Omar A. JALLOV (Gambia): First of all, I would like once more to congratulate you for chairing this session of the council and also to congratulate those appointed this morning as the three Vice-chairmen of this council.

As a newcomer I wish to assure you of my cooperation in the deliberations of this Council, in particular, and of course, the FAO in general. I would like to thank all of those who have welcomed us in their midst. We hope that our working relations will be fruitful in the next few years to come.

I have listened with interest to the statement made by the Director-General and the Assistant Director-General. I think we are at a crossroads and that each and every one of us should be seeing the activities of the FAO, particularly in the area of food security, as a very important sector not only in the development of countries but in the world as a whole.

A lot of statements have been made, a lot of documents have been produced, but still there is a lot of food shortage. We are now in the 20th century where it is easier for someone to drive to the moon than for a Gambian to leave Gambia and go to Lesotho. It is easier for some people to move 1000 military tanks from the southern United States to anywhere in the centre of Europe than for hundreds of tons of food to be moved within one drought-stricken country from one point to another. It is easier for some countries to ask their farmers not to farm and to be paid or to ask their farmers to dump millions of tons of food in the ocean in order to bring stabilization in prices, but still ask the poorest nation farmers not to endure any subsidy in famine.

It is at this crossroads that we have seen more people dying of starvation and more malnutrition in the world. After 21 years of existence a lot of people thought that the FAO activities would have been able to coordinate food for those who are involved in tragedies and, of course, in war, for example. But we have seen that a lot of countries cannot produce enough food to feed themselves. Therefore, we are seeing a grim situation and the light at the end of the tunnel is still very far away.

We in the developing countries have embarked on structural adjustment programmes, and many of us have seen the very negative impact that this has on agricultural production. We have seen that all subsidies have been eradicated. Because of this, inputs and implements have reached prices that the farmers are incapable of producing. We have seen that access to credit is not inadequate but is very difficult because of high interest rates. In most of our countries, access to credit is not available to the main group of people who are the leading producers of food, and that is the womenfolk. I think that all efforts should be made for women in developing countries to have easy access to credit, and cheap credit, if hunger is to be eradicated from the face of the earth.

The unstable and unbalanced pricing policies that are produced by farmers in developing countries is another aspect of difficulty. In Africa, the prices of commodities are fixed by the world market but we have no involvement in the negotiations for the fixing of those prices. The new trend of

resources flowing from the south to the north is becoming very alarming because, as you can see, the poorest nations are moving their resources to the richest nations in the form of paying off debts and in the form of servicing of debts. In many countries where there are recovery programmes and structural adjustments the few benefits they are receiving from these programmes are being used to service debts instead of investing them on productive development ventures that will one day lead to the eradication of starvation and the maximization of efforts.

Mr. Chairman, before I end my speech I want to say that I was watching a television programme in London recently and I saw a girl of 11 years questioning what chocolate was made from, and she was given the chance to visit Gambia. While watching this programme we thought of the hardships endured and the toil that the Gambian farmer has undertaken to grow his cocoa, to harvest and to sell it. Comparing the price that the farmer sold that cocoa for to the end product of the chocolate brought back, it can be seen that if the farmer's child wanted to buy the chocolate it would cost 10 times the price that his cocoa brought him.

There is a need for a change of attitude that should come from everyone throughout the world. Then our conscience would be clear. Our conscience should lead and not follow.

Gonzalo BULA HOTOS (Colombia): Los representantes de Colombia expresamos nuestra complacencia por ver a nuestro distinguido amigo el Dr. Dutia, uno de los funcionarios más competentes y amables de esta Organización, en pleno ejercicio de sus importantes funciones como Subdirector General Jefe del Departamento de Asuntos Económicos y Sociales.

En muchos años, por primera vez, este Consejo no comienza la discusión de sus temas de fondo por el tema 4: la situación actual de la alimentación en el mundo. Esperamos que esa innovación resulte satisfactoria, sobre todo con el presupuesto optimista de que la próxima semana se nos suministren mejores noticias sobre esa situación, que es siempre negativa para los países en desarrollo.

Los representantes de Colombia participamos activamente en el 14º período de sesiones del Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria Mundial, que fue presidido, con inteligencia y dinamismo, por el Sr. De Rijks, de Países Bajos, asistido por la valiosa colaboración de nuestro colega y amigo el Embajador Poulider, de Chipre. En la Secretaría actuó, como siempre, la Sra. Barbara Huddleston, mujer inteligente y consagrada a sus labores, bien conocida y respetada en el seno de esta Organización.

Nuestra intervención se facilita, Sr. Presidente, porque hemos sido precedidos por un número respetables de colegas, cuyas declaraciones compartimos en términos generales. Los representantes de Colombia deseamos exteriorizar la grata impresión y el profundo respeto con que oímos las declaraciones elocuentes, francas y sinceras, de los honorables Ministros de Lesotho y Gambia, sobre la función esencial de la FAO y la necesidad de revitalizar nuestra Organización. Apoyamos también lo que han dicho nuestros colegas de América Latina y el Caribe, el Embajador Nuiry de Cuba, el Embajador Pesqueira, de México, y el Embajador Cuadra, de Nicaragua.

Hemos oído con mucha atención la propuesta que acaba de hacer con ese sentido pragmático que caracteriza a los suizos, nuestro colega y amigo el Sr. Paquier. Pensamos que es una propuesta interesante en los objetivos que el ha descrito de manera breve. Nos parecen adecuados y pueden tener un alcance positivo. Compartimos con el colega suizo la importancia de la seguridad alimentaria y la posible conveniencia de transformar el PASA en un programa de acción con una nueva orientación. Naturalmente, nosotros también compartimos con Suiza la esperanza de que la Secretaría reaccione frente a esta propuesta y presente elementos que nos permitan avanzar, sobre todo en la próxima reunión del CSA. Desgraciadamente, como seguramente el colega Pasquier de Suiza lo sabe muy bien y los miembros del Consejo todos igualmente, el PASA ha tenido muchos altibajos en cuanto a sus recursos, y generalmente esos recursos no han sido suficientes para el funcionamiento adecuado. De manera de que paralelamente quisiéramos pedir respetuosa y cordialmente al colega Pasquier, de Suiza, su colaboración como representante de ese respetable país industrializado, que, sobre todo en los últimos años, ha estado a la cabeza en actitud positiva en la cooperación internacional inicie un movimiento entre los estados industrializados que tienen los recursos para que se logren consignaciones adicionales que permitan al PASA cumplir los objetivos muy sanos que ha expuesto el colega suizo. Decimos esto, Sr. Presidente, porque, como los colegas suizos lo saben, hemos ya convenido con el CSA que la próxima reunión de ese Comité será en marzo/abril de 1990, o sea, al inicio de un bienio en el cual la FAO todavía no habrá logrado recuperarse totalmente de su crisis financiera. Y entonces, si no disponemos de recursos suficientes para cumplir la acertada propuesta suiza, todo eso quedará convertido en buenas intenciones.

Después de haber ocupado este tiempo, Sr. Presidente, vamos a limitar nuestras observaciones a los asuntos que requieren la atención del Consejo. Opinamos que en nuestro informe deberemos consignar la preocupación de este organismo por la precaria situación alimentaria mundial, al haber descendido la producción mundial de alimentos básicos en 1988 por debajo del nivel del consumo en los dos últimos años, la inquietud que nos causa el hecho de que los remanentes mundiales de cereales representan tan sólo el 16 por ciento en 1989-90, o sea, menos de 17 por ciento estimado por la FAO como margen mínimo.

Esta mañana, el Director General, en su declaración introductoria califico benévolaente esa situación como de preocupante.

Debemos también destacar la precariedad de la situación actual de la seguridad alimentaria y las condiciones exteriores adversas de los países en desarrollo y respaldar la demanda del Comité, en el sentido de que es necesario tomar medidas concretas para salvaguardar la seguridad alimentaria mundial. En los organismos internacionales y, en general, en la cooperación internacional, los representantes de los países en desarrollo, generalmente tímidos y humildes, carecemos de poder coercitivo para obligar a los países desarrollados a demostrar y poner en practica una verdadera y decidida voluntad política. De manera que en el Comité de Seguridad tuvimos que limitamos a pedir que se cumplan las disposiciones contenidas en el Pacto Mundial de Seguridad Alimentaria. Los representantes de Colombia proponemos que este Consejo reitere ese llamado y pida también que se adhieran al pacto aquellos estados que aun no lo han hecho.

En los párrafos 14 y 16 se hace referencia al equilibrio que debe regir en las medidas a tomar para restablecer las existencias. Los representantes de Colombia pensamos que como conclusion esencial de esas alternativas, este Consejo debe refrendar la recomendación de la primera frase del párrafo 16, para insistir en la necesidad de iniciativas concertadas, objetivas, sanas y positivas de los principales palees productores de cereales, para garantizar que en sus políticas sobre existencias se tengan en cuenta prioritaria e irrevocablemente las necesidades de seguridad alimentaria de los países en desarrollo, en vez de los intereses comerciales de esos grandes países.

La amenaza contra la seguridad alimentaria es más inquietante para los países con déficit de alimentos, a los cuales será necesario ofrecer la asistencia técnica y financiera indispensables para que aumenten su propia producción, como lo recomienda el párrafo 16 del Informe. Este Consejo debe apoyar el propósito del Comité en el sentido de que, en su próximo período de sesiones, se ocupe de la implementación de la Resolución 1/94 del Consejo, sobre la integración de la mujer en el desarrollo agrícola y rural. El estudio que se presentará a este Comité deberá estar vinculado al Plan de Acción en favor de la Mujer, a fin de que esas actividades se realicen dentro de un marco coherente y específico.

El párrafo 11 hace referencia a un aspecto que nos inquieta: la posible reducción de los envíos de ayuda alimentaria, cerca del 25%, porcentaje que fue confirmado esta mañana por el Director General. Esto es un alto porcentaje. Se debe esta amenaza, sobre todo, al aumento de los precios y al hecho de que las contribuciones se hacen en dinero y no en productos. Nos preguntamos si valdrá la pena en el futuro que el PMA vuelva a ensayar, como ya lo hizo en una ocasión, poner en práctica contribuciones por lo menos mitad en productos y mitad en dinero, para evitar que esas fluctuaciones afecten el nivel de vida alimentario. Este Consejo debe apoyar el llamado que se hace en el párrafo 18, dirigido a los donantes, para que no reduzcan sus contribuciones de ayuda alimentaria. Apoyamos plenamente lo que ha dicho el Embajador Pesqueira, de México, sobre la necesidad de que se refuerce la RAIE (Reserva Alimentaria Internacional de Emergencia), que desde 1974, cuando se señaló su objetivo en la Conferencia Mundial de la Alimentación, ha tenido niveles altos y niveles bajos, reconociendo que, en algunos momentos ha superado ese objetivo, pero igualmente las necesidades han crecido y se necesita una RAIE con recursos suficientes para que la acción combinada FAO/PMA pueda hacer frente a graves situaciones de emergencia.

Apoyamos el párrafo 21, sobre la cooperación regional y sub-regional, entre países en desarrollo para reforzar la seguridad alimentaria.

La FAO debe intensificar su asistencia a los organismos regionales y sub-regionales que se ocupan de la seguridad alimentaria. En América Latina y el Caribe hemos avanzado mucho en la integración en la búsqueda de la seguridad alimentaria y pedimos estrecha y eficaz cooperación entre la FAO, y el CASAR, particularmente.

Los representantes de Colombia apoyamos las principales conclusiones sobre los efectos de los Programas de Estabilización, particularmente los párrafos 32 y 33.

Los Programas de Ajuste, como dijo el colega Cuadra, de Nicaragua, deben respetar la soberanía nacional y uno de los requisitos para el buen resultado de esos ajustes debe ser el firme compromiso y la amplia participación de los gobiernos en la formulación de los programas de ajuste desde sus comienzos. La FAO debe desempeñar un papel más importante en los procesos de estabilización y ajuste estructural, y los gobiernos deben hacer uso más frecuente de la capacidad técnica y del asesoramiento en materia de políticas de la FAO, para contribuir a aliviar los efectos negativos, los altos costos sociales y los azarosos riesgos políticos que los países en desarrollo deben afrontar en esos procesos de ajuste para obtener siquiera un mínimo que les permita sobrevivir. La participación de la FAO en las mesas redondas y en todas esas actividades es esencial.

Los representantes de Colombia expresamos nuestra satisfacción porque el Comité, en su último período de sesiones, haya estudiado en profundidad, con la colaboración del Gobierno de India, las enseñanzas de la experiencia de las políticas y los programas para conseguir la seguridad alimentaria en India, noble y grande país fraterno del Tercer Mundo, cuyo gobierno y pueblo vienen haciendo esfuerzos para lograr la autosuficiencia alimentaria.

Finalmente, sobre la frecuencia de las reuniones del Comité, el tema 4, que trataremos la semana próxima, y éste, comprueban la fragilidad de la seguridad alimentarla. Por lo tanto, apoyamos la próxima reunión del CSA, en marzo-abril de 1990. Gracias.

Youqiong WANG (China) (Original language Chinese): My statement is very short. The Chinese delegation has carefully read the Report of the 14th Session of the Committee on World Food Security, and are in agreement with the assessment and analysis of the current world food security situation contained in that Report. We recommend the Report to Council for adoption.

I do not want to make a further statement on the precariousness of the world food security situation.

With regard to the analysis of the effects of structural adjustment on the situation in food security, the Chinese delegation expressed its views on this matter at the 14th Session of the Committee, so we will not repeat them here. At that Session of the Committee, we noticed that the Committee stressed the fact that it was necessary to increase food production, to stabilize supplies which includes the economic environment in developing countries, and to enhance food access to the poor, which is timely and appropriate. A feature of the world food security situation is that hunger is worsening, while there is still a surplus of grain. The foundation of food production in developing countries is rather fragile. We are of the opinion that to tackle and counter the problem of world food, developing countries' own efforts are needed, while a favourable International economic environment is a "must".

Under the current situation, various countries need to cooperate sincerely with each other in making effective efforts to improve the adverse internal and external problems in agriculture and food production in developing countries. Such measures will have an important bearing on the improvement of world food security.

The Chinese delegation also took note of the discussion on the frequency of committee sessions which took place during the 14th session, and considers that at present it is necessary to have just one session a year.

Finally, my delegation recommends that this Council should endorse the Report of the 14th Session of the Committee.

Michel MOMBOULI (Congo): Etant donné que nous prenons la parole pour la première fois d'une manière formelle à l'occasion de notre retour au sein du Conseil, permettez une fois de plus à la Délégation Congolaise de vous dire combien elle est heureuse, Monsieur le Président, de vous voir présider les travaux de cette 95^{ème} session du Conseil de la FAO et de vous remercier pour vos souhaits de bienvenue aux nouveaux membres du Conseil.

De même, nous aimerions profiter de l'occasion que vous nous offrez en nous accordant la parole pour féliciter nos trois vice-présidents élus, auxquels nous promettons notre franche collaboration.

Ainsi que l'ont dit les autres orateurs, nous souhaiterions dire combien nous savons gré au Directeur Général de la FAO pour son intervention générale qui a abordé les principaux points de l'ordre du jour de notre session, points sur lesquels nous nous réservons la liberté de revenir au fur et à mesure de leur présentation détaillée.

Nous félicitons M. Dut la pour sa présentation claire et précise de ce point de notre ordre du jour consacré à l'examen du rapport de la 14^{ème} session du Comité de la Sécurité alimentaire mondiale qui s'est tenue du 3 au 7 avril dernier ici à Rome.

Concernant ce rapport dont nous faisons l'examen, permettez-nous de signaler, ainsi que chacun peut le constater en consultant la liste des participants du Comité de la Sécurité alimentaire mondiale, que nous y avons pris part. Ce faisant, nous pouvons ici déclarer en toute connaissance de cause que nous sommes globalement d'accord avec les conclusions et les recommandations de ce rapport. Pour cette raison, nous allons nous abstenir de réouvrir un débat de détail sur le sujet.

A ce stade de nos débats, nous faisons nôtres les déclarations des honorables orateurs qui nous ont précédés, parmi lesquels figurent les Ministres qui sont chargés dans leur pays du secteur de l'agriculture.

Toutefois, pour suivre le cours démocratique normal des procédures en vigueur, nous nous permettrons de revenir en passant rapidement sur certains points qui revêtent à nos yeux une importance particulière.

Ainsi, concernant la situation actuelle et les perspectives de la sécurité alimentaire mondiale, nous tenons à déclarer, tout comme les autres membres du Conseil, la préoccupation qu'a déclenché en nous la précarité de la sécurité alimentaire dans le monde, suite aux événements négatifs évoqués dans le paragraphe du rapport du Comité.

Nous nous félicitons des efforts de tous ordres qui, sans avoir totalement ni définitivement vaincu l'infection acridienne en Afrique, ont du moins permis d'en contrôler efficacement l'évolution. A ce sujet, nous tenons à remercier les donateurs qui y ont contribué par leur aide généreuse.

Nous estimons nous aussi qu'il est temps que la communauté internationale prenne les mesures concrètes qui s'imposent pour sauvegarder la sécurité alimentaire mondiale, et à ce sujet, nous réaffirmons notre attachement aux principes qui sous-tendent le pacte de la sécurité alimentaire mondiale en faveur duquel nous espérons des adhésions de plus en plus nombreuses des Etats Membres de la FAO.

Nous nous félicitons du rôle important que jouent les femmes dans la sécurité alimentaire des pays en développement, et à ce propos, nous nous réjouissons de la décision du Secrétariat de la FAO de consacrer à ce sujet une étude, conformément à la résolution 1/94 de notre Conseil.

Nous déplorons que nos contributions à la RAIU aient chuté en 1988 en dessous du niveau des 500 000 tonnes de céréales requis, et nous saisissons cette occasion pour renouveler notre plein appui à tous les efforts visant à doter la RAIU d'une réserve supplémentaire mobilisable à tous moments.

Nous référant au paragraphe 20 du rapport du Comité, nous tenons à nous associer aux appels demandant aux donateurs d'aider certains pays africains à écouler leurs excédents ponctuels, et à ce sujet, nous nous félicitons de l'initiative du PAM qui y contribue déjà au moyen des opérations triangulaires, du troc et des achats locaux.

Pour terminer sur ce point du rapport, nous aimerions exprimer notre solidarité au peuple de Namibie dans les tristes événements de ces derniers mois, et nous nous réjouissons de la décision de la FAO de consacrer à la sécurité alimentaire de ce pays une attention et une assistance hardies.

Nous voudrions à présent dire quelques mots à propos des incidences de stabilisation et d'ajustement structurel sur la sécurité alimentaire.

Ainsi que chacun le sait sans doute, le Congo notre pays fait partie des pays soumis au programme d'ajustement structurel du FMI et de la Banque Mondiale. A ce titre, nous connaissons parfaitement les effets pervers de ces périlleux exercices sur la sécurité alimentaire des couches de la population les plus pauvres, ainsi que les autres effets dont il est fait état au paragraphe 25 du rapport du Comité.

Pour éviter d'y revenir par un exposé trop long, nous indiquerons simplement que nous souscrivons à la teneur du paragraphe 27 relatif aux lacunes constatées dans les programmes d'ajustement structurel. Aussi, c'est tout naturellement que nous faisons nôtre le contenu du paragraphe 33 de ce même rapport quant au rôle prépondérant que la FAO devra y jouer dans les domaines qui y sont indiqués.

Enfin, pour conclure notre propos, nous tenons à réaffirmer avec force notre appui au système d'information et d'alerte rapide de la FAO auquel nous souhaitons que notre Organisation accorde une haute priorité.

Ms Joan Wallace DAWKINS (United States of America): Mr. Chairman, may I begin by expressing my pleasure at being here again and offering my congratulations to the new Vice-Chairmen and the new Council members.

Mr. Chairman, my delegation endorses the report of the 14th Session of the Committee on World Food Security. Indeed, during that session several important matters were discussed. The critical issue of structural adjustment, including its impact on vulnerable groups, prompted varying reactions from members. In our view, while we are against negative impacts on the poor, both the Secretariat's treatment of the topic, and many member responses, characterized structural adjustment programmes in too broadbrush and harsh a manner. Data on structural adjustment is not very plentiful, and at this stage the methodology for interpreting impact is insufficiently refined to draw aggregate

conclusions with confidence, given the range of variables which impinge on any outcome, the extent of variability in national endowments as well as policy responses and outcomes. In other words, it is difficult to make firm judgements as to whether adverse effects stem from economic difficulties which preceded and precipitated the need for structural adjustment, or from the structural adjustment programme itself.

In a recent joint report of the World Bank and UNDP entitled "Africa's Adjustment and Growth in the 1980s", it is noted that "the statistics commonly reported (on structural adjustment) mask a more complex, less dismal picture. When recent trends are put in the longer perspective of the past 15 to 20 years-or when sub-Saharan Africa is disaggregated into important country groups, including those that have, or have not, pursued significant policy reforms-the crisis seems less precipitous and the road to recovery more manageable." The point is that broad generalizations about the impact of such programmes are less useful than detailed country and cross-country studies based on systematic data analysis. In our view, carefully thought out structural adjustment programmes have the potential to render positive benefits all across an economy, including the poorest segments of the society in creating employment opportunities, enhancing food security, in alleviating poverty, in embarking on a path of long-term sustainable development. FAO can have an important complementary role to play in assuring the success of the structural adjustment process-one based on the interests of the beneficiary country in its participation.

Let me now turn to the Global Information and Early Warning System. We have been encouraged by the progress recently made in the operation of GIEWS. Clearly, the successful calibration of the ARTEMIS system will make receiving data more useful. We have often expressed the view that this is a valuable FAO effort, one with which we can look forward to continued collaboration with our African Famine Early Warning System.

At the Fourteenth Session, the Secretariat presented a study on India's food security programme, which covered a variety of issues relating to this topic. In our view this was a worthwhile undertaking, one that could serve as a prototype for additional case studies, possibly focusing on other regions.

Finally, with regard to the frequency of meetings, my delegation still questions the need to hold the Committee on World Food Security meetings every year. While the Fourteenth Session was a useful one, agenda items were not particularly time-sensitive, and much of the discussion on the current global food security situation duplicated the discussion of the Council under other agenda items. We trust members will remain open to the possibility of meeting less frequently, once the global food stock situation improves.

Sra. Mercedes FERMIN GOMEZ (Venezuela): No quiero pasar por alto, para no parecer descortés, mi saludo al Sr. Presidente por la satisfacción de verlo aquí con nosotros una vez más y al mismo tiempo manifiesto mi complacencia por el excelente informe presentado por la Secretaría en esta oportunidad.

Trataré de ser muy breve, señalando algunos de los puntos concretos en los cuales tenemos algunas observaciones, pero expresando nuestro apoyo en general al documento que estamos estudiando. En primer lugar, de manera general, queremos respaldar la posición de este documento con relación a la integración de la mujer. Es bien conocido por todos nosotros cuál es la posición de la FAO en relación no sólo con la defensa, sino con la educación y las oportunidades que brinda a la mujer para incorporarla a los proyectos que ella desarrolla o que ella dirige. Esto en forma creciente lo observamos, sobre todo, en estos programas que tienen que ver con las actividades agrícolas y las actividades rurales. De forma que en esto tienen los párrafos pertinentes todo nuestro apoyo.

Asimismo, deberíamos aprovechar esta oportunidad, si bien no están contemplados en este documento, el apoyo que durante todo este año se está brindando a la juventud rural, en la cual tenemos que considerar a la mujer, a las jóvenes mujeres del medio rural que se incorporan de igual manera a sus trabajos. Ojalá pudiéramos lograr que se pusiera mayor énfasis en la posibilidad de ayudar de manera específica aquéllos proyectos que vengan por iniciativa de jóvenes del medio rural para participar ellos mismos en sus comunidades. Generalmente ocurre que en las comunidades por seguir la tradición, se preocupan de la incorporación de los adultos, hombres o mujeres, pero a los jóvenes se les deja de lado por creer que los jóvenes todavía no están en capacidad o en posición de colaborar con estos proyectos. Nuestra experiencia, en mi país y en algún otro que hemos conocido, es que la actividad de los jóvenes o aun adolescentes puede ser muy útil cuando estos tienen una oportunidad de ser orientados hacia la participación en trabajos de beneficio para la Comunidad. En este momento existe una inquietud de parte de los jóvenes por esta participación.

Por esa razón valdría la pena que en programas como este que estamos contemplando podría destinarse alguna atención específica a los proyectos juveniles que la FAO tiene en práctica en otros programas.

Voy a referirme a algunos párrafos concretamente en los cuales vamos a apoyar la posición del documento.

Me refiero al párrafo 19 en cuanto a la posición de la FAO en la participación en la Ronda Uruguay. Especialmente necesitamos el apoyo para que los países en desarrollo puedan encontrar, en cierta manera, una defensa contra el proteccionismo agrícola, puesto que estamos presenciando las dificultades que en nuestros países en desarrollo tienen para las exportaciones de sus productos, ya que encuentran siempre de alguna manera, o en forma de subterfugio cualquier excusa, sea de carácter higiénico o sanitario para que los productos no puedan llegar a los mercados que serían de mayor beneficio para ellos. Valdría la pena que esta situación pudiera vencerse con una mayor participación de la FAO en estas reuniones, puesto que la autoridad de esta Organización no puede ser discutida.

Nosotros sabemos que una verdadera seguridad alimentaria en nuestros países no puede lograrse por los propios y únicos esfuerzos de estos países individualmente. Ellos necesitan estar incorporados a organizaciones u organismos de carácter regional o subregional para poder tener un verdadero apoyo y una fuerza con que defender sus intereses en el panorama internacional. Es por esta razón por lo que estamos apoyando el párrafo 21 ya que habla de la necesidad y de la importancia de la cooperación regional y subregional, sobre todo para los países en desarrollo. Esto, en especial, debe estar destinado a lograr una manera de enfrentarse positivamente a las dificultades que tienen estos países con los déficit de alimentos que cada vez constituyen una manera de que los países se vean afectados por la inseguridad alimentaria y este Programa de la FAO, esta Comisión de la FAO, en este empeño por lograr la seguridad alimentarla para nuestros países en desarrollo no será posible si no es posible, al mismo tiempo, mantener esta reserva de alimentos, que es la única manera de hacer frente. Ya lo vimos en la emergencia de Africa y en las otras emergencias en que la FAO, felizmente, con su sistema de alerta pudo lograr vencer y salir adelante ante una tragedia como la que tuvimos que vivir en los años pasados.

Me voy a referir ahora al párrafo 22 en que se habla de esa tecnología para producir pan sin trigo, y ruego me perdonen que sea un poco crítica. Creo que hay una especie de prejuicio o de tradicionalismo en pensar que el pan no puede hacerse sino con trigo, o que no puede hacerse pan sin trigo. Yo creo que los que hemos vivido en países tropicales por mucho tiempo y que conocemos en cierta manera, no por haber vivido largo tiempo, sino por tener contacto con ellos en aquellos países arroceros, sabemos muy bien que no es necesario convertir el arroz en un pan. Yo creo que este es un prejuicio. Esto de que tengamos que hacer harina de arroz, y después amasarla y convertirla en pan. Perdónenme Uds. pero a mi me parece todo esto un poco exagerado y demasiado apego a la tecnología. No hay nada más agradable que comer un plato de arroz blanco con los otros alimentos. ¿Por que no se puede comer un plato de arroz blanco como lo hacen los chinos y los japoneses? ¿Por que tenemos que convertirlo en un pan? Esta tecnología me parece un poco innecesaria, perdónenme los que la inventaron; pero eso de ponerse a hacer un pan con arroz o un pan con sorgo creo que es un poco exagerado. Yo, por ejemplo, vengo de un país en donde el pan es un pan de maíz y tenemos una tradición antigua, ya desde los indígenas, desde antes que llegaran los "descubridores" a enseñarnos a hacer el pan de trigo y a inducirnos a comer pan de trigo. Comemos pan de maíz tradicionalmente. En Venezuela se llama arepa, en México tortilla y en otros países de Centroamérica tiene otros nombres, pero es pan de maíz y el hecho de que no sea horneado y no tenga un molde, que no se haya amasado, y que no se haya procesado con una tecnología equis, no significa que eso no sea pan. Es pan, ya que es el acompañante de la vianda o del alimento cualquiera que sea.

De la misma manera ocurre con lo que nosotros llamamos yuca, y que en la mayoría de los países de America Latina se llama yuca. Esa raíz, ese tubérculo, que en algunos casos se come solo o se convierte en pan, en un pan que nosotros llamamos casabe y que otros países llaman casaba, es también un pan, y el hecho de que no sea horneado en un horno europeo no significa que no sea pan. Se cuece en una especie de horno que se tiene especialmente. Yo creo que deberíamos civilizarnos un poco más y conocer mejor las culturas de otros mundos para poder estar planteando aquí que hagamos un pan sin trigo. Perdónenme, pero debemos respetar la cultura de los otros países. ¿Por qué razón los mexicanos van a tener que aprender a hacer un pan sin trigo si ellos tienen una tortilla maravillosa, y nosotros tenemos una arepa, y los demás tienen su arroz blanco, ¿por qué tenemos que hacer pan sin trigo?, ¿a quién vamos a enseñar a hacer pan sin trigo? Y con respecto a los tecnólogos o a los expertos que inventaron el pan sin trigo, yo les pediría que vayan por allí, a los países, o si los podemos traer aquí haremos una demostración en la FAO y les enseñamos aquí cuáles son nuestras formas de pan sin trigo y les invitamos a una recepción ofreciéndoles este pan para que vean, y repito que no hay nada que enseñar.

Los europeos creen que el maíz es para los caballos pero ellos comen corn flakes que son maíz. También les gusta mucho las pajaritas.

Todo eso les gusta mucho. ¡Pero si es maíz! Es exactamente el "maíz de los caballos", que dicen los franceses. Entonces, pues, vamos a hacer eso, un experimento con personas que no son de nuestras culturas para que vean que esas cosas son pan, aunque no estén hechas en el horno y aunque no estén

amasadas, pero son nuestra tradición. ¿Hasta cuando nos van a estar enseñando a ser distintos de como somos? Está bien que aprendamos mucho de los países supercivilizados, pero hay cosas nuestras que yo pienso que se nos deben respetar; por lo menos, si no les gusta, que no las coman, pero no nos obliguen a cambiarlas. Que lo respeten, que así las comemos nosotros.

Perdóneme lo vehemente que he sido en esta intervención con relación a este párrafo, pero es que cuando recibí la hojita que me mando FAO acerca del pan sin trigo, no pude menos que sonreír. Naturalmente, es la primera oportunidad que tengo de comentarlo en publico, y creo que es mi obligación, por si acaso hay otra gente un poco tímida que no se atreve. Yo soy un poco osada o abusiva hacia ustedes, y me perdonan.

Esto está bien en cuanto al párrafo 22, y en el párrafo 27 estoy perfectamente de acuerdo con los conceptos emitidos con relación a los programas de ajuste, y por eso les ahorro los comentarios. La misma referencia voy a hacer con relación a los párrafos 32 y 33. Es cierto: nosotros necesitamos ayuda del FMI, del Banco Mundial y, por supuesto, con mayor razón, de la FAO. Y debemos pedir a la FAO que ella se encargue de salvaguardar y de proteger nuestros intereses en cuanto a seguridad alimentaria, porque a veces-es muy cierto esto que dice aquí-estos ajustes que propician el Fondo Monetario y el Banco Mundial casi nos llevan a la desprotección total en cuanto a seguridad alimentaria, porque la gente pobre y menos pobres quedan muy reducidas en cuanto a su capacidad de compra, y eso va en desmedro de su seguridad alimentaria y de su protección. Por esa razón, pues, apoyamos las conclusiones o los conceptos en cuanto a ayuda tecnica de la FAO, en relación con las políticas, sobre todo en los aspectos que están aquí, en el párrafo 33, y no se los quiero leer porque todos ustedes los conocen.

Excúseme, Sr. Presidente, que haya sido tan abusiva de su tiempo y de su atención.

Angus MACDONALD (Australia): Mr. Chairman, let me at the outset express my delegation's pleasure at seeing you presiding over our deliberations in Council once more, and let me extend my congratulations to your three Vice-Chairmen.

Mr. Chairman, we have a very full agenda, and you can rest assured that Australia will not be the cause of any delay in reaching a speedy conclusion to our discussions. My present intervention will concern itself only with the matters before us on this agenda item, the state of world food security.

Mr. Chairman, my delegation agrees that the fall in aggregate grain production, below that of consumption for the second consecutive year, and the concomitant fall in global stocks, is a cause for concern. It is not however a cause for panic. We believe that the Committee on Food Security documentation was very well produced and provided a full professional analysis of the situation.

The Director-General's very enlightening and thorough statement this morning mentioned the North American drought of 1988 as being largely responsible for the situation as described in the Food Security documentation. This to our mind presupposes some considerable improvement once production in these two important producers is restored to trend. We note the improvement in grain production in a number of important African countries in 1988 and we welcome all efforts to ensure that stability of production and marketing in the region produces long term positive results from this. To this end we have encouraged the World Food Programme to continue its important work in promoting south-south trade in grain products. Just as south-south trade in grain production can enhance regional food security, so we believe that a movement to a more orderly, stable, and liberal international agricultural trading environment, with production based on the principles of comparative advantage and balanced self-reliance, will enhance global food security.

Mr. Chairman, we also note the Director-General's important reference this morning to the International Emergency Food Reserve and its contribution to world food security. In this regard we believe the Council will welcome the recent decision by the Committee on Food Aid to place IEFER resources for genuine emergency needs on a more stable and regular footing which will, we believe, produce over time a higher level of resources available for such situations.

Mr. Chairman, on the impact of structural adjustment measures, Australia recognizes that the poor may need assistance under certain circumstances, and stands ready to help such organizations as the World Food Programme and FAO in their continuing efforts to protect the poor during the temporary disruptive impact of some structural adjustment measures during the period before the full and socially broad benefits of structural adjustment are brought home to developing countries. We were particularly encouraged to hear at the last Committee on Food Security from those developing countries which emphasize the positive impact on their economies of structural adjustment programmes.

Finally Mr. Chairman, we note the decision to hold the next session of the Committee on Food Security in 1990. We continue to believe that one session every two years would be in order, and we note that there was something like a 40 percent reduction already in the time allocated to recent Food Security session meetings-that is from eight days to five days. This occurred without any diminution of its important role and its important impact. One biennium session would still allow the Director-General to call extraordinary additional sessions if the global food security situation so warranted, while at the same time would take some of the strain away from the very busy and overworked staff managing the many issues subsumed within the concept of food security. Thank you.

Angel BARBERO MARTIN (España): Mi Delegación se une a todas aquellas que se han felicitado por tenerle a usted en la Mesa dirigiendo nuestros debates, y al mismo tiempo celebramos el documento presentado por el Sr. Dutia. También nos hacemos eco y hemos anotado con mucho interés las palabras del Director General en su presentación de esta mañana. Asimismo, hemos tomado buena nota de las intervenciones de muchas delegaciones que nos han precedido y que han puesto el énfasis en los problemas que la seguridad alimentaria causa en sus países, problemas que son vivos, que son ciertos y que se viven directamente en estas áreas de la tierra. Nosotros, por tanto, apoyamos prácticamente todo lo que dice el documento, y querríamos que estas fluctuaciones en la producción y en el mercado de los productos que son básicos para la alimentación no fueran causa de detrimento de esta seguridad alimentaria. Veríamos, por tanto, que sería fundamental el aumento de la producción de los alimentos, pero también que este aumento no acompañara estos desequilibrios en los precios del mercado, que originan que unos países no son capaces de adquirir los productos que les son básicos, y otros los producen sin obtener los beneficios necesarios, los cuales podrían hacer a sus agricultores ser menos pobres y volver a plantar y producir ese alimento básico. En este sentido, apoyamos la asistencia técnica y financiera que preconiza el documento para instalaciones de almacenaje, instalaciones que podrían servir para almacenar excedentes circunstanciales, y también la asistencia técnica, que hace que muchos que estos productores puedan vender en mejores condiciones sus productos.

Pero como las catástrofes no faltan-las catástrofes climáticas o de otro tipo-apoyamos el que se mantenga a los niveles adecuados la reserva internacional de alimentos de emergencia. Por eso nuestro país ayuda regularmente a esta reserva y mantendrá en el futuro esta ayuda.

En cuanto al problema de ajuste estructural, reconocemos que, efectivamente, causan deterioro en la seguridad alimentaria de muchos países donde se está desarrollando, y creemos que la FAO debería ser uno de los principales organismos que ayudaran a los gobiernos de estos países a eliminar o, por lo menos, paliar estos desajustes. Pero ¿cómo puede una Organización que tiene que prescindir de puestos de trabajo fundamentales o que tiene que reducir los gastos en elementos de información, de distribución de la información o, simplemente, de desplazamiento de sus expertos, acudir o presentar este papel tan fundamental en el campo de los ajustes estructurales? Necesitamos, pues, una Organización que no tenga problemas económicos para realizar esto, al mismo tiempo que presente sus programas con la credibilidad y el nivel técnico suficientes para que los países donantes sean capaces de distribuir sus donaciones a través de la FAO. Entendemos que sólo así el problema de la seguridad alimentarla puede resolverse.

Creemos también que el papel de la mujer, al que muchos delegados han aludido hasta ahora, tiene que seguir reforzándose para que, en todos los programas que se realizan la mujer pueda ejercer su influencia, la cual se ha reconocido por todos nosotros como benéfica, y especialmente en el caso que nos ocupa, de la seguridad alimentaria.

Jacques WARIN (France): Monsieur le Président, intervenant pour la première fois dans cette enceinte, je voudrais tout d'abord vous demander de vous faire mon interprète pour transmettre mes félicitations aux trois Vice-Présidents qui ont été élus ce matin pour vous assister.

Je voudrais également faire deux remarques liminaires de procédure. Une nouvelle fois, je regrette que, pour cette session du Conseil, un certain nombre de documents nous aient été transmis avec retard, ce qui n'a pas permis aux services et organismes nationaux dans ma capitale d'étudier tous ces documents avec suffisamment d'attention.

Une deuxième remarque que je fais, c'est que j'aurais souhaité que nous commencions par le point 4, qui a d'ailleurs été longuement abordé ce matin par le Directeur Général dans sa remarquable intervention sur la situation mondiale de l'alimentation. Je regrette que ce point ait été remis à la deuxième semaine.

Quoi qu'il en soit, ma délégation n'interviendra qu'une seule fois sur ces deux points en se limitant à l'essentiel et l'intervention que je fais maintenant au sujet du rapport du Comité de la sécurité alimentaire sera donc la seule que je ferai sur les points 4 et 5.

Pour en venir au fond, je commencerai par une remarque générale. L'alimentation et l'agriculture dans le monde connaissent actuellement un tournant. D'une part, les excédents qui pesaient lourdement sur les marchés internationaux se sont réduits. D'autre part, les prix se sont redressés; ils sont maintenant devenus incitatifs pour les producteurs. Cette évolution n'est pas seulement la conséquence de la sécheresse qui est un phénomène conjoncturel et qui sévit principalement en Amérique du Nord; elle résulte aussi-et je voudrais y insister-de certaines mesures volontaristes qui ont été prises notamment par la Communauté économique européenne pour améliorer durablement la situation des marchés agricoles.

Cette situation nouvelle comporte à la fois des motifs d'inquiétude et des sujets d'espoir. Tout d'abord, les motifs d'inquiétude: d'une part, les difficultés croissantes que connaissent les pays importateurs nets à s'approvisionner sur les marchés mondiaux; d'autre part, la baisse de la consommation de produits de base qui a été signalée ce matin par le Directeur Général et qui touche, je crois, comme il l'a dit lui-même, 44 pays en développement. Mais venons-en maintenant aux motifs d'espoir. Ils concernent, d'une part, la production et la consommation et, d'autre part, le commerce. Tout d'abord, je relève que certaines initiatives ont été prises par certains pays en développement, notamment africains, afin de renforcer leurs propres mécanismes de prévention des crises alimentaires. Bien que les récoltes de produits vivriers aient été dans l'ensemble satisfaisantes et que les pays du Sahel, notamment, aient enregistré des récoltes céréalières exceptionnelles, certaines productions continuent de souffrir d'une inadéquation aux besoins des populations. La France pense donc, comme la FAO, qu'il faut aider les pays en développement à réexaminer leur politique alimentaire en vue non seulement d'un accroissement de leur production mais aussi d'un relèvement des prix payés aux producteurs sans lequel aucune véritable incitation à produire n'est possible. Le développement des productions nationales de biens alimentaires doit constituer en effet l'axe central des politiques de sécurité alimentaire.

Voilà pour la production. Voyons maintenant le commerce. Cette situation relativement nouvelle, qui certes n'est pas une situation d'abondance mais qui est plus favorable, que connaît aujourd'hui l'Afrique est susceptible, on l'a vu, de dégager des excédents exportables dont une partie de l'écoulement pourra être assurée par une utilisation encore accrue des transactions triangulaires. C'est là, vous le savez, un type d'aide et de soutien que la France a toujours préconisé.

J'en viens maintenant à un point que le Directeur général a également abordé ce matin dans son discours qui est celui des programmes d'ajustement structurel. Le Comité de sécurité alimentaire: on en a souligné souvent les effets pervers et je voudrais insister ici sur ces effets sur la sécurité alimentaire.

La crise économique qui frappe la plupart des Etats africains depuis le début des années 80 les a contraints à changer de stratégie de développement. Désormais, plus de la moitié de ces Etats se sont engagée dans la voie du redressement économique et financier en signant des accords avec le FMI et la Banque Mondiale. L'ajustement tant critiqué il y a quelques années encore est devenu aujourd'hui la base économique de toute économie de beaucoup de pays en développement et notamment de pays africains.

Selon nous, l'analyse des effets des programmes d'ajustement structurel devraient permettre deux types d'action.

Le premier type consiste à limiter les effets pervers. Il s'agit de mesures d'urgence. Il faut mettre en oeuvre des actions visant à soulager immédiatement la pauvreté. Mais ce sont des mesures palliatives en faveur de tel ou tel groupe particulièrement défavorisé. A cet égard, nous rejoignons la FAO sur la nécessité de mieux cibler des populations qui doivent bénéficier de ces actions à court terme.

Le second type d'action vise à mieux intégrer des aspects sociaux dans la conception même des programmes d'ajustement structurel.

L'action de la FAO doit à mon sens s'inscrire dans cette double problématique, et doit être menée en coopération avec les autres organisations multilatérales, la Banque Mondiale notamment, ainsi qu'avec les grands pays donateurs. A cet égard, nous adhérons aux recommandations du Rapport.

En conclusion, j'insisterai seulement sur la nécessité pour la FAO de mieux définir des perspectives à moyen et long termes dépassant les seuls aspects conjoncturels. C'est tantôt la sécheresse en Afrique, c'est maintenant la sécheresse en Amérique du Nord. Mais nous aimerions mieux mettre en évidence les tendances lourdes de l'évolution de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture dans le monde. Certes, je sais qu'il y a des analyses théoriques fort bien documentées qui ont été faites par cette Organisation. Je pense notamment au fameux document Agriculture, Horizon 2000, qui d'ailleurs, je le note en passant, a besoin d'être réactualisé tous les deux ou trois ans. Entre ce genre de documents très général et les documents actuels et conjoncturels, il me semble qu'il devrait y avoir un champ de préoccupation dans lequel s'inscrivent les politiques agricoles des Etats Membres qui n'est pas suffisamment couvert par les études et les travaux de l'Organisation.

La FAO me parait bien placée pour faire des études à moyen et à long terme grâce aux informations dont elle dispose et par le seul fait du forum qu'elle constitue. De telles perspectives me paraissent essentielles afin de leur permettre de fonder leur politique agricole sur des bases plus solides.

Mohammed Said Kadim AL-SAHAF (Iraq) (Original language Arabic): The delegation of Iraq is very pleased to see you in the Chair of the Council. During this session we hope that we shall have very positive results thanks to your wise chairmanship and thanks to the efforts of the Council members.

It is indeed a pleasure to congratulate the three Vice-Chairmen who have been elected. Also, I wish to welcome the new members of the Council.

I would like to express our admiration for the statement of the Director-General, which was a very frank speech dealing with all the financial problems of our Organization. The Director-General has drawn our attention to the difficulties that appear in the various programmes of our Organization, especially the Food Aid Programme. Since the lack of resources limits the scope of such programmes, as far as food security is concerned the responsibility of our countries lies in ensuring such food security.

The role of the FAO should consist of formulating agricultural policies for countries based on the parameters provided by science and the environment. My country is very sensitive to the problem of the Early Warning System. The fact that some countries do not respect the policies of the FAO is worrying and this may lead to many difficulties. The provision of assistance from our Organization or other concerned organizations in emergencies should fall well within the framework of national policies, should become complementary to such policies and make them more effective.

Mr. Chairman, we realize that when there is an emergency the Organization is present, and this is just and humane. But we sometimes realize that other forms of urgent assistance are excessive and are not always based on the rigorous criteria that should govern the granting of such donations. This is often due to the will and attitude of this or that agency organization.

My country would like to support any programme that is complementary or additional to national policies, and which may be useful in the regions or sub regions. In this connection my country is working alongside other neighbouring countries in the Arab cooperation field to ensure food security with full respect for the environment of the region. We would like to urge FAO to support these steps towards integration in our region.

In general we support the report. We endorse its recommendations with the proviso of our statement concerning world food security.

Noboru SAITO (Japan): Mr. Chairman, Since we are taking the floor for the first time at this Council session, we would like to express our great pleasure at seeing you again in the Chair. We would also like to congratulate the three Vice Chairmen on their election.

This agenda item on World Food Security was fully discussed at the recent session of the CFS, and my delegation expressed its view on several aspects of this very important issue for which we have great concern under the present situation. We also participated in the drafting committee and therefore my comments on this matter will be very brief.

I would like to refer to the food security situation of my country. My country is industrialized but its agriculture is characterized by a relatively small farming system on the very limited area of highly mountainous islands where arable land is only 14% of total land area. We have only about 5 million hectares. Accordingly, less than 50% of our food demand is supplied by our domestic production. More than half of our food consumption relies on imports from all over the world. This means that our food security is entirely dependent on the policy and weather of the countries from which we import, which are of course, completely out of our control. Some of our past experiences and recent developments show this very clearly. Therefore, domestic production is essential, particularly in those countries where the food sufficiency is at a very low level, such as my country.

If the farmers of Japan are forced to be exposed to competition with those farmers whose holdings are a hundred or a thousand times larger than those of our farmers, our agriculture, which is the result of a long history in a very special part of the world, would deteriorate in a very short time. The consequences would not be limited only to agriculture as part of the whole economy, but it would have a large impact on our rural society, environment and other very important matters.

Thus the existence of sound agriculture and healthy farmers is very essential for individual food security. We are in the position that the concept of food security should therefore support such agriculture and farmers and never undermine them.

Real LALANDE (Canada):Ma déclaration sera très brève, comme vous l'avez demandé vous-même, Monsieur le Président. Permettez-moi cependant de féliciter les trois vice-présidents élus pour vous secondier dans votre travail, et vous dire également le plaisir de vous voir toujours à la présidence de notre Conseil.

Avant de commencer cette déclaration, je voudrais associer ma délégation aux commentaires formulés par le distingué Ambassadeur de France sur les documents qui cette fois-ci ont été transmis tardivement, ce qui a posé des problèmes de préparation à cette réunion pour la délégation canadienne.

Comme les notes qui ont été préparées sur ce point de l'ordre du jour ont été rédigées en anglais, je voudrais changer de langue et continuer en anglais.

(Continues in English)

Mr Chairman, as a Member of the Committee on World Food Security Canada has already approved the report in front of us today. The Canadian delegation would like to take this opportunity to briefly re-emphasize a few points which we feel are of particular importance.

Firstly, the current cereals situation of higher prices and lower buffer stocks is in sharp contrast with the situation of recent years. The impact of the drought in Canada and the United States on world production of staple foods and on cereal stocks has been highlighted in the Report of the Committee on Food Security. As we will explain later in the discussion on agenda item 4 of the current world food situation, as of early June the moisture conditions were much improved over the previous year. If the yields return to normal, the 1989 Canadian wheat crop would reach approximately 26 million tonnes or 66% above the drought reduced 1988 level. As I said, we will probably come back to this issue later.

Secondly, Canada considers measures at the national level as being very important to the achievement of food security in the developing countries. At the national level Canada sees measures to increase access of the marginalized poor to food supplies along with macro-economics, as well as sectoral policies that encourage food production, as fundamental to food security in these countries. I think this point was made earlier by the delegate from France when he was talking about the price of food to the producers. Also, the fostering of demand through productive employment and the distribution of the benefits of economic growth is important according to my delegation.

Thirdly, Canada was particularly satisfied with the report prepared by the Secretariat on the effects of the stabilization and structural adjustments programmes on food security. We were in agreement with much of the document. As we said at the Committee on Food Security, some of its major themes are echoed in Canada's own policy that emphasizes the importance of addressing the needs of the poorest in carrying out structural adjustment.

We believe that the FAO has the expertise and experience to help in a variety of ways, specifically in carrying out studies and structural analyses and providing policy advice directly to governments. We encourage the FAO to do this in the fullest spirit of cooperation with other agencies, recognizing the lead role of the IMF and the World Bank in these programmes. It is our wish that all organizations could work together in ways that avoid duplication with the objective to bring maximum benefits to recipients and to assist them to restructure their economies in ways that protect the livelihood of the poor.

On the issue of the resources available to support food security and the resources available for the IEF, my delegation would like to bring your attention to the discussions that took place during the meeting at the end of last month of the Committee on Food Policy and the programmes of the World Food Programme, and the decision taken then by that committee to create a new mechanism for the protracted refugee situation. My delegation considers that such a decision should bring a more predictable basis for resources to refugees in protracted situations, be a real support and contribute to overall food security to many men, women and children in very difficult situations.

Finally, Canada was one of the delegations suggesting consideration be given to holding only one session of the Committee on World Security in a biennium. My delegation agrees with the importance of the work of the Committee, but the limited participation of its members for two agenda items at its last session convinced us that there would be merit for considering such a possibility. An important point of our suggestion was that it does not exclude the possibility for the Director

General to call an additional meeting at an earlier day if there is a need. We accepted the decision of the committee to hold a meeting in 1990 hoping, however, that this issue will be left open and could be discussed at the next session of the Committee.

I would like to close by coming back to paragraph 22 that was briefly discussed earlier. I would like to welcome the FAO's development of what could be called wheatless or would be more appropriately called gluten-free bread. We believe that this work could encourage the use of locally grown food products and reduce the food Import bill of some countries. As I understand, some people do have problems or are unable to digest gluten, and this development may be quite helpful to those people. This development might also help create a market in developed countries, such as Canada, for some traditional food crops grown in developing countries. I think that this development could be implemented, or some aspect of the development could be implemented, in such a way that differences in culture and aspects of different cultural characteristics would be helped.

With regard to these adjustment efforts, it must be said that there are some early figures which show positive benefits in some countries, so the story so far is not all bad, as the recent World Bank/UNDP report, mentioned by the delegate of the United States, points out. Delegates will recall that this report was highlighted by the United Kingdom at the recent CFS. It is important to distinguish between the basic causes of falling living standards, decreased competition, lack of growth and productivity, etc., and the effect of structural adjustment programmes which aim at addressing these problems.

The United Kingdom welcomes the recognition of the need to reform programmes to protect the most vulnerable members of our society during the period of such adjustments, particularly women and young children. In this respect, food aid has a valuable role to play and should be increasingly directed to those countries pursuing adjustment programmes in order to cushion any initial negative effects of the adjustments.

The United Kingdom appreciates the importance of the Global Information and Early Warning System and is pleased to note the progress made in improving the processing and analysis of data, and wishes to see this continued.

Finally, we support the idea of biennial meetings mentioned earlier by the delegates of the United States, Australia and Canada, and are pleased to see that this issue has been recognized by the CFS to be considered and reviewed again in the light of developments in the world food security situation.

Roberto E.E. DALTON (Argentina): Mi delegación desea expresar su satisfacción por verlo conducir, una vez más, los trabajos del Consejo. También hacemos llegar nuestra felicitación a los distinguidos delegados de Madagascar y de la República Federal de Alemania por su elección a la vicepresidencia del Consejo. En un plano más personal, quiero expresar mi reconocimiento al Consejo por mi propia designación a la tercera vicepresidencia.

Mi delegación, asimismo, da la bienvenida a los nuevos miembros del Consejo y al observador de la Unión de Repúblicas Socialistas y queremos destacar la presencia de los señores ministros de Lesotho y Gambia, que son la prueba de la importancia que los países en desarrollo atribuyen al trabajo de nuestro Consejo.

Sr. Presidente, hemos escuchado esta mañana con profundo interés la declaración del Director General sobre la marcha global de nuestra organización. Comentaremos algunos de los puntos trascendentes de esta intervención en cada uno de los temas del programa correspondientes. Agradecemos, Sr. Presidente, la Introducción que el Sr. Dutia ha hecho al tema quinto de nuestra agenda de trabajo.

Mi delegación, Sr. Presidente, habiendo participado en las tareas del 14º periodo de sesiones del Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria Mundial, se limitará a comentar algunas de las cuestiones que creemos deben ser realizadas por el Consejo, debiendo entenderse que el Informe del Comité cuenta con nuestra aprobación global.

A nuestro juicio el problema de la seguridad alimentaria debe ser analizado en el contexto más amplio del orden económico internacional, estructura arcaica e injusta en la que el elemento prevaleciente es el mantenimiento de profundas diferencias entre regiones opulentas y otras en las que impera la pobreza.

Su atenuación fue preconizada por la Conferencia de la FAO al declarar ya en noviembre de 1983, que "un comercio de exportación libre y creciente es uno de los fundamentos importantes para establecer la seguridad alimentaria." También solicitó a todos los países que actúen en favor de la liberalización del comercio, en particular a los países desarrollados, que se abstengan de tomar medidas proteccionistas, especialmente con respecto a los productos de exportación de los países en desarrollo.

El grupo de negociación sobre agricultura de la Ronda Uruguay del GATT, ha realizado progresos sustanciales en la reunión de abril último. Allí por primera vez se puso de manifiesto la voluntad política de los grandes actores de la guerra comercial agrícola para avanzar en la búsqueda de soluciones. Las medidas acordadas para el corto y el largo plazo permitirían alentar la esperanza de arribar a soluciones adecuadas. El congelamiento de los gastos presupuestarios de apoyo a la producción y exportación agrícola por producto y de las barreras arancelarias y no arancelarias a la importación de productos agrícolas, así como el reconocimiento de la necesidad de poner en marcha el desmantelamiento por parte de los países industrializados y el trato especial y diferenciado para los países en desarrollo, como elemento integral de las negociaciones, son medidas imprescindibles para el futuro económico de nuestros pueblos. Es de esperar, Sr. Presidente, que este inicio, avance en el camino de las concreciones.

En el párrafo 11 del Informe del Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria Mundial, se reconocen los efectos negativos que podría tener a corto plazo la liberalización del comercio de cereales sobre la seguridad alimentaria de los países en desarrollo. A juicio de la delegación argentina, se elabora escasamente sobre los beneficios que éstos obtendrán a mediano y largo plazo, con la estabilidad de precios y el crecimiento equilibrado de la producción mundial. A este respecto, es de esperar que el Consejo pueda contar en un futuro período de sesiones con elementos que le permitan elaborar recomendaciones adecuadas para que los países industrializados y los organismos internacionales tomen medidas con el fin de prevenir o compensar posibles aumentos de la facturas de importación de alimentos de los países en desarrollo.

Las sugerencias que esperamos recibir de la Secretaría podrían tender al establecimiento de un plan o esquema financiado internacionalmente a tal efecto, y al fortalecimiento de programas existentes, como el servicio del Fondo Monetario Internacional de financiamiento de las importaciones de alimentos. Cabe señalar, sobre este particular, que la reunión del pasado mes de abril del Grupo de Negociaciones sobre Agricultura de la Ronda Uruguay del GATT, acordó la necesidad de desarrollar iniciativas de este tipo.

Al mismo tiempo, Sr. Presidente, quisiéramos destacar la necesidad de que el Consejo, en sus conclusiones, otorgue la debida importancia al contenido de los párrafos 14, 16, 20 y 21 del Informe del Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria Mundial.

Hay un factor, Sr. Presidente, de importancia primordial, que no puede pasar por alto nuestra delegación al referirse a los medios para eliminar el hambre y la pobreza, y que consideramos no se refleja adecuadamente en el informe del Comité. Este relativamente nuevo flagelo que azota a los países en desarrollo es la pesada carga de la deuda externa, obstáculo principal que inhibe el crecimiento económico de nuestros pueblos.

Cabe relacionar esta problemática con la que consideramos inmediatamente antes. Tanto el Banco Mundial, como la OCDE han coincidido en diagnosticar que la abrupta caída de las exportaciones, debido a las rígidas medidas proteccionistas adoptadas por los países desarrollados, es una de las razones que más incidieron en agravar la crisis de la deuda externa de América Latina. Globalmente, el valor de las exportaciones de la Región se redujo de 105 000 a 89 600 millones de dólares entre 1981 y 1987, según datos oficiales publicados por el Banco Mundial.

Esta disminución de los ingresos, sumada a otros factores como el continuado deterioro en los términos de intercambio y el sentido perverso desde los flujos financieros desde los países en desarrollo a los países industrializados, impiden consagrar recursos para el desarrollo y agravan la situación de pobreza que padece nuestra región.

Según estimaciones del Fondo Monetario Internacional, el crecimiento económico de los países más endeudados de América Latina no alcanzó, en 1988, ni siquiera las cautelosas predicciones del Organismo y no habrá mejoría para el presente año.

Respecto de este grave problema, Sr. Presidente, permítanos recoger aquí una idea expresada por la delegación de México, asistente a la 15ª reunión ministerial del Consejo Mundial de Alimentos, celebrada recientemente en El Cairo. Se trata de la posibilidad de que parte de los pagos per servicio de la deuda externa a organismos financieros internacionales y regionales fueran restituidos automáticamente como fondo de inversión aplicado al sector agrícola de cada país. Nuestra delegación hace un llamamiento a los miembros de este Consejo para que hagan suya esta brillante iniciativa, y recomiende también la consideración de planes de reducción de la deuda externa con el objetivo de canalizar dichos recursos para producir más alimentos y elevar el nivel de vida de las poblaciones.

Consideramos muy acertado, Sr. Presidente, que el Informe del Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria Mundial se ocupe extensamente de los efectos negativos de los programas de ajuste que actualmente son comprobables en varios países africanos y latinoamericanos. Al respecto quisiéramos recordar que los orígenes de la crisis económica de muchos países en desarrollo se pueden ubicar en la década del 70, cuando se gestó la monumental deuda externa que hoy nos agobia.

Desde principios de los años 80, los países de la región latinoamericana se vieron obligados a efectuar ajustes radicales en sus economías a fin de obtener en su balanza comercial los elevados superávits necesarios para atender las obligaciones del servicio de la deuda. Se adoptaron medidas para reducir la demanda interna agregada, con objeto de aumentar los productos disponibles para su venta en el exterior, y reducir al mismo tiempo las importaciones. Los resultados de estas políticas de ajustes fueron cambios enormes en la balanza comercial de la región, la caída del producto interno bruto por habitante, una marcada disminución de los salarios reales, el componente más importante de la demanda efectiva, el crecimiento del desempleo y el aumento de la inflación.

La consecuencia general fue que la recesión económica en la región ha sido extraordinariamente grave, tanto en intensidad como en duración. Según estimaciones de la FAO, el producto interno bruto por habitante durante el período de 1982 a 1986 fue inferior al del período de 1977 a 1981, en veinte de los treinta países de los que se disponía de datos completos.

En este período de sesiones, Sr. Presidente, once de los 33 países experimentaron una reducción absoluta en el suministro de calorías, o no lograron ninguna mejora importante. El efecto neto de las políticas de ajuste sobre la producción agrícola fue una marcada desaceleración, pues paso del 3,1% al 2,1% anual

Este diagnóstico, Sr. Presidente, no es fruto de nuestro poder de síntesis, son algunas citas casi textuales del Informe Principal de las Potencialidades del Desarrollo Agrícola y Rural en América Latina y el Caribe presentado por la FAO a consideración de los Gobiernos de la Región en la Conferencia de Recife en octubre pasado.

La receta básica que la FAO, en ejercicio de la muy requerida función de consejera de políticas, ha dado a los gobiernos de la Región, en el mismo documento, es la siguiente. Cito: Un crecimiento más fuerte de la demanda interna es la clave de un crecimiento más rápido en el sector agrícola y la industria, lo cual representará un importante estímulo para el crecimiento económico general. En las naciones que tienen un nivel nutricional relativamente alto, la agricultura debe ser simultáneamente orientada por las exportaciones y la demanda interna.

El estudio de la UNICEF denominado "Ajuste con rostro humano" indica que el objetivo de proteger a los grupos vulnerables durante el ajuste implica la necesidad de hacerlo inmediatamente, cuando se introducen las políticas, en lugar de esperar a que se reanude el crecimiento económico general. No obstante, muchos programas de ajuste en años recientes han estado asociados a un continuado descenso del ingreso "per cápita". Por consiguiente, un elemento crítico del "Ajuste con rostro humano" es detener el descenso del ingreso "per cápita". El estudio concluye que son necesarias ayudas económicas más generosas y adecuadas a muchos países, con vistas a asegurar el ajuste y el crecimiento a mediano plazo.

Y cita los principales cambios requeridos, que son los siguientes:

Primero, expansión sostenida de la producción mundial y mejor coordinación de las políticas macroeconómicas de los países industrializados para ayudar a conseguirlas; segundo, interrupción de las amenazas de un mayor proteccionismo y reducción de las actuales intervenciones proteccionistas; tercero, mantenimiento de los ingresos reales de los países pobres procedentes de la exportación de productos básicos primarios; cuarto, reducción de los tipos de interés reales internacionales hasta niveles más normales; quinto, reestructuración y/o medidas de alivio de la deuda externa de los países en desarrollo cuya perspectiva de llevar a cabo un ajuste adecuado se ve gravemente recortada por sus excesivas cargas del servicio de la deuda.

Los ejemplos que hemos dado, Sr. Presidente, destacan la falta de coherencia entre las recetas de los organismos financieros internacionales y el asesoramiento en materia de políticas que proveen los organismos técnicos. Este diverso enfoque y la necesidad de evitar duplicaciones costosas y riesgos innecesarios, así como la de asegurar el mejor uso de los escasos recursos para el desarrollo, nos convencen de que es imprescindible que este Consejo formule recomendaciones específicas tendentes a asegurar la coherencia y prevenir los efectos negativos de los proyectos de ajuste estructural mediante la temprana intervención de las agencias especializadas competentes. A este respecto, Sr. Presidente, creemos que el Consejo debe recoger y elaborar aun más la recomendación contenida en el párrafo 32 del informe del Comité.

Para concluir, quisiéramos sintetizar el mensaje que intentamos transmitir al referirnos a la seguridad alimentaria mundial. La empresa que la comunidad internacional debe encarar seriamente no es sólo la de mejorar la situación de carencia o falta de acceso a los alimentos de la actualidad: debe, asimismo, prevenir la posibilidad cierta y real del aumento de millones de hambrientos y desnutridos en el futuro próximo, en regiones que, como América Latina, padecen una profunda recesión. Pedimos a la comunidad internacional que tome en cuenta dicha circunstancia y las devastadoras consecuencias que estas presiones, políticamente desestabilizadoras, podrían tener sobre los procesos democráticos en el Continente; y a los miembros del Consejo, que busquen fórmulas que puedan ayudar a aliviar esa problemática.

Mrs. Mária GALVOLGYI (Hungary): Mr. Chairman, it is a great pleasure to see you again in the chair, and I also wish to extend our congratulations to the three new Vice-Chairmen on their having been elected to this high function.

The report of the World Food Security Committee points out the fact that the conditions of world-wide food security had considerably worsened. This is chiefly connected with dwindling stocks of cereals which, in turn, bear heavily upon international trading prices of food and agricultural products, often resulting in increases in prices. We could be pleased, after all, with this phenomenon taking into consideration the stimulating impact more favourable world market prices might have on the food production of developing countries in the long run. In the short run, however, they might result in an actually harder situation for some food-deficit developing countries facing food import and budgetary constraints. At the same time we are delighted to welcome the various improvements a good number of developing countries in Africa, the Far East and the Middle East achieved in 1988, although they had suffered in 1987 recession to a varying extent. We think it very important that further steps should be taken that developing countries should themselves attain the necessary level in their food production, thus alleviating their own pressing internal problems on the one hand, and contributing to world food security on the other.

We also see world food security as most important, and we would like to promote it also by continuously improving the structure of our own agriculture according to ever-changing requirements.

When reshaping the structure of our agriculture we have also considered, and we are going to do so also in the future, that Hungary, being a small country, must adjust herself better to international agricultural markets. We are making strong efforts that international agricultural trade be interfered with by as few conflicts as possible. That is why among the 15 problems to be discussed by the GATT round the settlement of international agricultural trade is for us of preponderant importance. We are glad with the positive results of the Geneva session, held between 5 and 8 April. We feel that the present successful agreement may give a new impetus to the Uruguay Round after the standstill occurred in Montreal at the end of last year. In our opinion this agreement arranged for in the field of agriculture has proven the possibility of finding a solution even in such a delicate set of issues in a multilateral framework. It goes without saying that the political goodwill and realism of participants was needed, but the positive turn in the European Economic Community's negotiating position had also undoubtedly contributed.

By saying this I should like to stress the importance Hungary is attaching to the promotion of various forms of multilateral cooperation in order to secure opportunities as favourable as possible to all participating countries and to promote better world food security. We are, therefore, convinced that the GATT could produce a suitable framework for starting genuine talks, to launch reform processes and to achieve long-term objectives. We should take upon ourselves to freeze and to reduce both subsidies and restrictions in the short run and by accepting such political obligations, the participants in agricultural trade may offer the opportunity to prove through their example their political goodwill and determination. This would prove to be of benefit for all of us for real world food security.

Gerhard LIEBER (Germany, Federal Republic of): Mr. Chairman, as it is for the first time that my delegation takes the floor, please allow me some general remarks. Let me first of all express my satisfaction to see you once again on the rostrum chairing another important FAO Council meeting. I also would like to welcome the Ministers who attend our session and the new Council members. I thank the members of the Council for having me elected as one of the Vice-Chairmen. I take this as a recognition of the continuing active collaboration which my Government enjoys with our Organization, whose leader, Director-General Saouma, has so convincingly shown his dynamism when delivering this morning his far-reaching introductory statement to us. Let me also thank the delegation of Ethiopia for nominating me and the delegation of Malaysia for supporting this nomination.

Coming now to the report of the session of the Committee on World Food Security before us, I would first of all thank Mr. Dutia for his as usual clear and informative introduction to the report. My delegation fully accepts and welcomes this report of the Committee on World Food Security, especially with regard to the analysis as well as the conclusions drawn from the analytic part of the report. The strained world food situation results mainly from the fact that in the second consecutive year the world production of staple food is lagging behind world consumption. An aggravating factor has been the catastrophic drought in North America and the smaller harvest in a number of other countries. The main consequences from this situation are unfortunately drastically reduced stocks, only 16 percent of the estimated annual consumption, and sharply increased world cereal prices, in particular for wheat, corn and sorghum. It is, on the other side, gratifying that the production in developing countries in 1988 increased by more than 3 percent. This positive fact is mostly compensated by a 37 percent cost increase for imports and a decrease in food aid supplies by about 25 percent. In order to bring the world food situation out of the present critical stage, FAO and the International Wheat Council estimate that a production increase by about 200 million tons in 1989, compared with 1988, has to take place. It is the opinion of my delegation that this is unlikely, so that the global world food situation is expected to be strained also in 1989-90, asking for continuing efforts and attention.

A lesson must also be drawn from the fact that the impact of stabilization in structural adjustment programmes on food security often falls short of the expectations of the implementing countries. In this respect, it is of special importance that measures are taken which diminish the short-term negative impact on the poor sections of the populations. We therefore support fully the recommendation of the CFS to take social aspects into greater account in planning the implementation process of adjustment programmes to attach higher priority to these aspects. In this respect, FAO, with its great experience in the field of agricultural development, can play a greater role, provided that the governments concerned do wish so. In the planning and implementation of stabilization and adjustment programmes, FAO should play a key role in close cooperation with the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund. Also in this connection, it seems important to us that FAO applies a country-specific approach. That means that country-specific programmes and strategies must be drawn up in cooperating with national, bilateral and multilateral efforts and measures.

With regard to the meeting frequency of the CFS, my delegation holds the view that for the time being the annual meeting frequency should be maintained, especially under the present strained world food situation. A change in the meeting frequency would at the present moment eventually send a wrong signal. We are, however, prepared to reconsider this question at a later date in the light of the global development of the world food situation.

C. Srinivasa SASTRY (India): This being the first intervention by the Indian delegation in this, the 95th Session of the FAO Council, may I start by saying that we are happy to have the opportunity of discussing the various items before the Council under your distinguished chairmanship. We are confident that with your wise counsel and guidance, this session will be able to arrive at decisions and recommendations which would strengthen FAO and which would go before the 25th Conference of FAO in November 1989 for consideration, along with the Council's proceedings in the 96th pre-Conference session. We join the other distinguished delegates in welcoming the new delegations as well as the honourable Ministers of Gambia and Lesotho who are participating in this Council. Permit me also to congratulate the three Vice-Chairmen, the distinguished delegates from Madagascar, the Federal Republic of Germany and Argentina who will be assisting you in your task.

In his statement this morning, the Director-General has highlighted the important issues which are now before the FAO Council: the state of world food and agriculture, FAO's financial situation, and the Summary Programme of Work and Budget. The Director-General has also highlighted the need for consensus and has quoted two specific instances: the prior informed consent in the case of pesticides and the plant and genetic resources which the Director-General felt are examples worthy of emulation in our deliberations in this Council meeting. We fully share the Director-General's belief that consensus is possible and will indeed be achieved by the Member Nations of FAO.

The subjects referred to by the Director-General in his statement we note, along with two specific success stories in hammering out a consensus, are also coming up before us as items on the Agenda. We would place our views before you and before the Council for consideration as these agenda items are taken up by the Council for discussion. The Director-General has also referred in his statement to the question of immunity from jurisdiction and the problems in implementing the Headquarters Agreement with the Host Country. We are gratified by the immediate and positive response by the distinguished delegate from Italy to these points made by the Director-General in his statement. We have every confidence that these issues also will be resolved and settled by the Host Country in the same spirit of understanding, cooperation and support which have characterized the relationship between the Host Country and the FAO for nearly 40 years, and more particularly during the last three or four years when the Host Country has generously and wholeheartedly supported the FAO's field activities with a sizeable contribution to unilateral trust funds and other supportive measures.

Dealing with Agenda item 5, namely the Report of the 14th Session of the Committee on World Food Security, may I first congratulate the Assistant Director-General who in his brief and lucid introductory statement has presented the important recommendations of the Committee quoting the 11 portions from the Committee's report. India has participated in the 14th Session of the Committee on World Food Security, and we endorse the report and commend it to the Council for acceptance. Whilst assessing the current World Food Security and outlook the Committee noted that compared to the previous year world food production would go up by 150 million tons. Out of this increase, Mr. Chairman, I am happy to bring to your notice that cereal production in India has gone up by 31 million tons from 122 million tons in 1987-88 to at least 153 million tons in 1988-89. That is an increase of 25 percent over the previous year looked at from the national point of view or, if you look at it from the world point of view, India has contributed 31 million tons, an increase of 150 million tons of cereal production, or 20 percent of the increase.

Apart from cereals, edible oils and oil seed production has been an area of serious concern for India. From our point of view, more than the steep increase in cereal production we are even more happy with the country's achievements in the production of edible oils, though these do not get included in cereals or food grains. Our oil seeds production in 1988-89 is likely to cross 17 million tons from a mere 11.5 million tons in 1987-88. These increases became possible mainly because we had a very good monsoon in 1988. The meteorologists have predicted a very good monsoon this year, and we are hopeful that the momentum of growth will be maintained in India.

From the World Food Security point of view we note, as indicated in para 14 of the Report, that some developed countries were not planning to change their policies of restraining increases in production for the reasons which are listed in the Report and which are valid from many points of view, though were these constraints to be removed, the total world availability of cereals would increase significantly.

We support the views in para 18 of the Report about maintaining food aid shipments by food aid donors, and also the declining contributions to the International Emergency Food Reserve.

We support the Committee's recommendations in para 20 about the need for assisting the African countries in the disposal of their sizeable surpluses, as also to develop storage facilities and transport infrastructure, as well as through triangular transactions in the African countries.

We endorse the Committee's calling on, in para 21, the FAO to continue to support regional and sub-regional cooperative activities.

On the effects of stabilization and sectoral adjustment programmes on food security, while endorsing the Committee's recommendations, we would specially invite, through you, Mr. Chairman, the Council's attention to the significant observations in para 24. The Report makes it clear that due to various methodological and data availability problems, no definitive assessment of the effects of sectoral readjustment was possible. However, two observations in this paragraph stand out: first, in many countries the expected GDP growth rates have not been realized. Secondly, the improvements in the balance of payments were more due to import compression rather than export expansion.

We should also note with concern the adverse effects of adjustment programmes on the poor in various ways as detailed in paragraph 25, which raise doubts about the political and social acceptability of the adjustment programmes.

We in the Council should also ponder over the five major weaknesses of the adjustment programmes listed in para 27, particularly because the negative and the positive effects have an asymmetrical relationship, and what is more worry some is that, while the negative effects on the poor were often certain and immediate, the positive effects were uncertain and had long gestation periods.

India strongly supports the recommendations in paragraphs 32 and 33 particularly with reference to the need for greater collaboration between the FAO, the World Bank and the IMF with due recognition by the other two bodies of the comparative advantages and of FAO's expertise, specialization and competence in the field of food and agriculture and as mandated in FAO's Charter as indicated in paragraph 32, and more specifically in the seven specified areas listed in para 33 in which FAO's policy related technical assistance should rightly have a larger role to play.

On the Global Information and Early Warning System, the Committee has noted that the FAO has made a significant contribution in collecting, collating, analyzing and disseminating information from all over the world.

We would support the Committee's recommendation for a higher priority to this activity as indicated in para 44 of the Committee's Report.

We also endorse the other recommendations including the need for training as indicated in paragraph 49, and the need for periodic reviews so as to introduce improvements in paragraph 52.

We are happy, Mr Chairman, that the Indian experience in Food Security has been gone into critically by the Committee on World Food Security and the lessons have been presented briefly in the Report. We would particularly endorse the observations in para 37 which stress that price policy alone cannot succeed over the long term in maintaining growth rates in food productivity.

Production, stability and access are the three aspects of food security which India has emphasized as indicated in paragraph 36. What is specially important however is to see how the food aid supplies, be they grain or milk products, are monetized. This is a very important aspect as the monetization should be done in such a way that aid would not dampen indigenous production. Procurement of food grains at remunerative prices by para-statal institutions, as indicated in para 39, buffer stocking in para 40, and a widespread public distribution system, para 41, are the other essential components of India's integrated policy on this behalf.

As indicated in paragraph 42, India would willingly cooperate with the FAO in disseminating this experience.

On the periodicity of the meetings for the Committee on World Food Security, we are in favour of holding the meeting once a year.

Before concluding, Mr Chairman, may I endorse the suggestion made by the distinguished delegate from Pakistan that while presenting the Committee's Report to the Council, the Director-General may consider adding a note indicating the progress of action on such decisions or recommendations of the Committee which are actionable. Thank you Mr Chairman.

Abdul KUDDUS AHMAD (Malaysia): Thank you Mr. Chairman. In view of the storm outside I shall go straight to the topic under discussion.

My delegation would like at the outset to commend Mr Dutia on his lucid introduction, and welcome the Report. My delegation would like also to register our concern at the precariousness of the world food security situation.

In view of the present food security situation and the uncertain prospects for the near future, and considering some unfavourable trends in the food sector of many developing countries, my delegation would like to reiterate our agreement that all efforts should be made to increase food output with a view to restoring consumption to trend levels and replenishing stocks. My delegation also agrees that in the long run, policies and programmes should be maintained or revised to accelerate the growth in output until global stocks increase to a comfortable level.

In the meantime we would urge that every one of us should try to have bilateral or multilateral arrangement of cooperation to help each other in time of need or emergency.

With regard to adjustment programmes, my delegation believes that adjustment programmes should respect national sovereignty. Despite the many constraints faced by the developing nations to carry out this programme, we feel that hope for successful adjustment efforts currently undertaken by these countries depend greatly on the achievement of the Uruguay Round and the quest for freer trade.

Consistent with our stand at this session of the Committee on Food Security, we would like to reiterate our support on the recommendation made to the effect of continuing efforts to reduce protectionism and liberalize trade under the auspices of GATT.

Mr Chairman, my delegation would like also to support the good work done by the Global Information and Early Warning System on Food and Agriculture, (GIEWS), and request FAO to give its continued support to this system. Thank you Mr Chairman.

Kyu IL TO (Korea, Republic of): Mr Chairman, at the outset I would like to extend my warmest congratulations to you on your Chairmanship of this important session of the Council. My congratulations also go to the Vice-Chairmen for their unanimous election. I am quite confident that under your understanding, outstanding leadership and able guidance, our deliberations will produce a fruitful outcome.

Being a Member of the Council at this session, the Korean delegation take this opportunity to convey our sincere appreciation to Member Countries for their friendly support given to Korea's election to the Council during the Twenty-fourth Session of the FAO Conference in 1987.

At the same time my delegation also wishes to commend the FAO Director-General, Dr Saouma, for his excellent statement, and to express our solid thanks to Mr. Dutia our Assistant Director-General for his excellent and detailed introduction on the Secretariat Report handed out to us.

Taking this opportunity my delegation wishes to make a few comments on this agenda as a contribution to the debate. Firstly, with respect to the negative effects of the overall performance of the structural adjustment programme in the short run, which is illustrated in paras 22 to 33 of the Report, we believe that this adverse effect on food security to the poor and vulnerable growth can be alleviated through the formulation of the proper policy programme in which the specific conditions in developing countries concerned, such as the historical background, social structure and resource availability should be taken into account.

At the same time it can be emphasized that greater collaboration between the international agencies such as the World Bank, IMF and FAO will contribute to eliminate the negative effects in a proper manner. Particularly FAO's more important roles such as provision of increased technical assistance in the areas of the institution building, training, monitoring and evaluation and others are stressed in this regard. Secondly, my delegation would like to emphasize the importance of the regional and sub-regional food security system. We believe this system is an effective and efficient mechanism for strengthening south-south cooperation with respect to safeguarding food security among developing countries. In this regard, my delegation would like to strongly request that FAO should put high priority on these cooperation activities in order to encourage their self-help efforts to overcome food emergency in developing countries.

Finally, my delegation would like to recall the Cairo Declaration adopted in the Fifteenth Ministerial session of the World Food Council, which I believe is closely related to world food

security problems. Since my delegation firmly believes that the Cairo Declaration contains important guidelines for eradicating hunger and malnutrition, the framework and guidelines underlined in the Declaration can be introduced to FAO activities for food security, and possibly in national policies for agricultural development as well. Therefore, my delegation wishes the FAO Secretariat to consider the above matters sincerely.

Antti NIKKOLA (Finland): The Finnish delegation expresses its pleasure at seeing you, Mr Chairman, leading our Council again. We also congratulate our three Vice-Chairmen on their election. We warmly welcome the new Members of the Council.

We would also like to welcome the Soviet Union as an Observer to this Council session as an important and positive sign of their increasing participation in the work of the FAO.

Mr Chairman, in view of the shortage of time I will make only a few comments on the Report before us. My delegation associates itself with the views of the Food Security Committee concerning the precariousness of the present world food security situation. In spite of some positive elements, the developments of the last couple of years have not been encouraging. The most sensitive indicator, namely the international price level of cereals, has gone up considerably. As a result the import bill of food importing poor countries has increased by 40 percent, and the food aid supplies have declined by 25 percent. It is also virtually certain that the food security will remain precarious throughout 1989-90 and probably beyond that.

Very rightly, the Committee emphasizes the necessity to accelerate food production in low-income food-deficit countries. The international community should support the efforts of these countries through the provision of adequate technical and financial assistance. In this connection we should indeed keep in mind that the primary role of the FAO still is to promote food production in the developing world.

Mr Chairman, the Report also stresses the importance of the Uruguay round of Multilateral Trade Negotiations in the GATT. The final results of these negotiations are still unknown but it is not wrong to say that the main target is to reduce agricultural production in a number of countries and to increase international prices of agricultural products. One can well ask what this will mean to the poor food importing countries, also the problem of the availability of food aid supplies should be kept in mind. Actually many developing countries in the Geneva negotiations have required that adequate attention should be paid to the negative effects which the Round may have to the poor countries.

Concerning the effects of structural adjustment programmes, my delegation supports the view that FAO should have a larger role to play in the adjustment processes. Interested governments should make increased use of FAO's technical expertise in assisting them in the adjustment process. In order to safeguard food security concerns there should be greater collaboration between the World Bank, the IMF and the FAO. Our organization has in the agricultural sector a certain comparative advantage which should be used.

With these comments, Mr Chairman, my delegation endorses the Committee Report.

Yousef Ali Mahmoud HAMDY (Egypt) (original language Arabic): Thank you Mr Chairman. I would like to say how pleased we are to see you once again at the Chair, and we would like to congratulate the three Vice-Chairmen who have been elected this morning. I would like to thank Mr Dutia for his presentation of the Report of the Committee.

We took part in the deliberations of the Committee on World Food Security, and therefore we agree with what has been said in its Report.

Allow me Mr Chairman to highlight three main points. First of all, it has been proved that the structural adjustment programmes have positive as well as negative effects in the different countries on overall development projects. They have a particularly negative impact on the poor, on employment, wages, salaries and they lead to cuts in the public services and in government financing. These are the conditions imposed by the World Bank and the IMF for granting loans to developing countries.

We agree and we would like to emphasize the important role that FAO can play in both the stabilization and structural adjustment process which has been mentioned in paragraph 53.

As for the foreign debts and the problems they cause and the negative impact that they have on food security and a development effort in general we would like to recall that in the letter sent to the Ministerial Meeting of the World Food Council which Cairo has been honoured to host from 22 to 26 May, Mr Mubarak has called on the creditor nations to cancel part of the debts or the debt servicing in order to enable the debtor nations to finance their plans aimed at combating hunger and poverty, and achieving food security.

I would like in turn to convey this initiative to this international forum.

Secondly, there is no doubt that the experience of India in food security is very rich and useful lessons can be drawn from it. It is an example to be followed by other countries. India has made commendable efforts in order to achieve food security and it emphasized the three main aspects of the expanded principle of food security.

We would like to see the item on food security on the agenda of the Committee. Further, we would like to support the efforts made by FAO in order to continuously improve the Global Information and Early Warning System because the system plays an important role in monitoring crop forecasts and food supplies on the national and international levels.

Once again, Mr Chairman, I would like to say that we approve and we accept the Report of the Committee. Thank you very much.

Amin ABDEL MALEK (Liban) (langue originale arabe). Je suis heureux de vous voir présider la 95^{ème} session du Conseil. Je voudrais également féliciter les trois Vice-Présidents qui ont été élus ce matin pour nous aider à diriger nos débats. Je voudrais également souhaiter la bienvenue aux nouveaux membres qui se sont joints à nous pour la première fois et également féliciter l'Union Soviétique qui participe à cette Session en tant qu'observateur.

Je voudrais également féliciter le Directeur général de l'excellente déclaration qu'il a faite ce matin et qui traitait de questions sur lesquelles nous nous pencherons.

En même temps je voudrais dire quelle est notre inquiétude au sujet de l'avenir qui nous attend, et surtout l'avenir qui attend l'Organisation si certains pays parmi les plus importants ne payaient pas leurs contributions. Nous savons tous quelle est l'importance de ces fonds qui sont dus pour la mise en oeuvre des projets et leur exécution et nous espérons que les pays qui ont des arriérés les paieront le plus vite possible.

L'inquiétude exprimée par le Directeur général au sujet de cette situation sur la sécurité alimentaire dans le monde place sur nos épaules une double responsabilité. Nous voudrions dire que nous appuyons l'Organisation pour ce qu'elle fait dans le sens d'aider les pays en développement à améliorer leur production alimentaire.

Je remercie M. Dutia du rapport qu'il nous a présenté sur la sécurité alimentaire et puisque je parle de la question, nous savons tous que le Liban est en situation de guerre depuis 14 ans maintenant et donc que notre production alimentaire est arrivée au niveau le plus bas possible. Mais nous faisons tout ce qu'il est en notre pouvoir, avec les ressources limitées dont nous disposons, pour nous remettre sur pied. La délégation du Liban voudrait dire qu'elle appuie les recommandations du rapport du Comité en général et en tant que Comité de la sécurité alimentaire. Je crois que l'on compte ne le réunir qu'une fois tous les deux ans au lieu d'une fois par an.

Abdoul Karim CAMARA (Guinée): La délégation guinéenne Intervient pour la première fois. Elle profite de l'occasion qui lui est offerte pour féliciter les membres du Bureau de notre Conseil et exprime sa reconnaissance au Secrétariat pour la présentation du rapport de la sécurité alimentaire mondiale dont le contenu aborde les questions cruciales de la situation inquiétante de l'alimentation, malgré les excédents importants.

Nous faisons nôtres les préoccupations exprimées dans les paragraphes 11, 12 et 13 ainsi que les recommandations contenues dans les paragraphes 17, 18 et 21.

Par ailleurs, notre intervention s'intéressera particulièrement aux problèmes soulevés par l'ajustement structurel.

La Guinée est l'un des pays qui applique actuellement, et ce depuis quatre ans, les différentes mesures d'ajustement structurel, entre autres dévaluation de la monnaie, relèvement des taxes douanières, austérité financière au niveau de l'Etat, relèvement des prix agricoles, privatisation des entreprises, restructuration de la fonction publique, privatisation des entreprises publiques, etc.

Sur la base de cette pénible expérience, nous adhérons entièrement aux conclusions qui figurent aux paragraphes 24, 25 et 26.

Nous tenons à rappeler que l'application des mesures d'ajustement structurel est basée sur l'espoir de nos pays à réduire à long terme les difficiles problèmes économiques et sociaux qui les accablent.

Cependant, à court et à moyen terme, il faut reconnaître l'existence de difficultés considérables d'approvisionnement en articles d'importation et même en débouchés d'emploi. Ainsi, le manque d'intrants agricoles limite l'incitation des paysans qui déploient d'immenses efforts pour approvisionner le marché en riz dont l'importation a nettement diminué.

C'est pour ces raisons que nous faisons nôtres les préoccupations contenues dans le paragraphe 27.

Notre pays, la Guinée, fait face actuellement à certaines difficultés pour lesquelles une assistance étrangère accrue s'avère nécessaire. Dans ce cadre, certains pays amis dont la France, l'Allemagne fédérale, le Japon, le Canada et d'autres pays fournissent une aide appréciable et la FAO, le FIDA et le PNUD tiennent compte, dans leur intervention, des effets pervers de l'ajustement structurel pour en réduire le poids dans la zone rurale et assurer une meilleure sécurité alimentaire.

Daniel D.C. DON NANJIRA (Kenya): Mr. Chairman, I wish to let you how very happy I am to see you again in the Chair and I wish to congratulate your colleagues who have been elected this afternoon as Vice Chairmen of this Council meeting.

I have the honour to convey to you the warmest greetings of the Republic of Kenya. The Minister for Agriculture, the Honourable Mr Maina Wanjigi, could not travel to Rome owing to prior commitments. However, he sent his personal regards and wishes that the Council has a very successful meeting. The session has started well and I have every reason to believe that it will end well. We look forward to constructive and fruitful exchanges of views and experiences that will hopefully help the FAO in its service to the international community.

The Director-General in his customary and competent manner has given us insights into the work challenges and expectations of the Organization. My delegation thanks him for his statement and wishes him and his colleagues in the Secretariat every success in their service to Member States of the FAO.

The international agenda for discussion at this session of the Council is long and every item on it is important for the Kenyan delegation. Like the French and other delegates who have spoken before me this afternoon, I regret the eleventh hour changes in the agenda of this session of the Council. Our delegation had been prepared to discuss the agenda items as circulated earlier by the FAO Secretariat. Nevertheless, in this intervention I intend to make some general but relevant comments, it being understood of course that the Kenya delegation reserves the right and corresponding duty to address the other issues on an item-by-item basis in the course of this session. Before I get to the core of my statement, I wish to make some observations that I believe to be relevant.

Firstly, I should like to thank the Director-General for the excellent documentation we received for this session of the Council. My delegation supports the general approach in these documents. We hope that the other delegations will likewise constructively examine the documents and agree to the implementation of the proposals contained therein.

Secondly, I want to talk about the place and role of FAO in the international conference system. In the way that historians measure time FAO is a very young international establishment. However, by the way we measure time this Organization has done a lot and a lot more is expected of it on a global basis.

The world has shrunk so much that anything happening in one corner of the world directly or indirectly affects people living in other parts of the same globe. This state of affairs has been affected over the years by the scientific and technological advances that have necessitated interdependence among nations and interests, and our ability can only be sustained through a systematic evaluation.

In participating in the international conference system we cannot help but pay tribute to FAO and the agencies of the family of organizations for the assistance they have given developing countries, such as my own Kenya, in the food and agriculture sector.

It is clear from the analysis available at this session that the state of food and agriculture in the world is not good.

The current indicators are not clear, but judging from the situation in 1988 there is every reason to believe that the nations of the international community ought to give more resource flows to the agricultural sector of the developing world, granted that we have no control over the vagaries of the weather or all the other acts of God such as drought, floods and torrential rains, and locusts as well as other natural disasters which have occurred in Africa, Asia and North America. Nevertheless, there are other external forces beyond the control of the developing countries which hurt their economies and thereby accelerate the decline or stagnation of food or agricultural production, including cereals production, in those developing countries.

The protectionist policies of some of these countries, their tariff barriers and pricing policies which adversely affect the price of cereals and other major traditional export crops of the developing countries such as tea, coffee, cocoa, palm oil; the negative impact of the population growth when it outpaces food and agricultural growth, man-made disasters such as poisonous gases, pesticides, environmental pollution, degradation and desertification, for example through overgrazing, forest fires, oil spills, acid rain, dangerous chemicals and synthetic products which also adversely compete with some of the other commodities of the developing countries, such as pyrethrum, natural fibres and natural beverages; the merciful cutting down of trees over vast areas of territory-all these things place very heavy pressures on the economies of developing countries. These things are all compounded by the debt burden and debt servicing difficulties of these countries with weakened foreign exchange earnings. Therefore, I hope that 1989 will indeed be an improvement over 1988 for if last year's trend continues this year, then the developing countries will suffer considerably with regard to their food security situation and with their major food and agricultural commodities, including wheat, coarse grains, rice and maize. These countries will be very badly hurt.

Similarly, serious problems will be experienced in other sectors of the economy such as forestry, fisheries, livestock products for export from the developing world and the like.

It is evident from the documentation of the Secretariat that Africa is one of the regions of the world where many countries have suffered a declining food output, and continues to experience exceptional food shortages. All this has happened at a time when the volume of cereal stocks fell far below the minimum level considered by FAO to be the minimum necessary to safeguard world food security.

The situation of food and agriculture in Africa was exhaustively examined at the 15th FAO Conference for Africa held in Mauritius in April/May 1988. The Conference stressed the need (a) to ensure increased food production to generate surpluses; (b) to involve women and youth and to enhance the role of NGO's in food and agricultural production; (c) to do research in various agricultural spheres; (d) train manpower in different areas of agricultural development; (e) promote technical cooperation within the African region itself; (f) alleviate Africa's debt problems and overcome the ever-increasing protectionism of many developed countries; (g) mobilize enough financial resources for Africa's food and agricultural development; (h) develop new and renewable energy resources and fishery resources in the exclusive economic zones; (i) protect the environment; (j) encourage investment in forestry development; (k) regionalize forestry through the Tropical Forestry Action Plan; (l) strengthen forestry research and develop institutions; (m) initiate national tree planting schemes where these do not exist, and (n) the Conference stressed the need to exert joint efforts to avoid problems caused by locusts and grasshoppers which are threatening the African world.

May I say a few words here about the Kenyan experience. The food and agricultural situation in Kenya is of great concern to the Kenyan Government. Kenya was one of the African nations which greatly suffered from the severe and protracted drought of the early 1980's. Fortunately, and thanks to the kindness of Mother Nature and the determined efforts of my Government, the problems of drought were overcome within a short period of time. Now Kenya maintains an exportable surplus of coarse grains, with more than 2.9 million tons of maize, 500 000 tons of grain beans, with an expected surplus of over 660 000 tons. Our projections for the 1990's are promising. However, it should be noted that the situation in Kenya is not all that predictable since historically we undergo a five-to 10-year cyclic weather phenomenon.

The Kenyan Government is evolving a policy of soil and water conservation, especially in arid and semi-arid areas which form about 80% of our total land mass inhabited by about 20% of the population. The President of the Republic of Kenya has initiated action which, at local and national levels, is being implemented to assist in increasing food and agricultural production for the country.

I wanted to make these remarks because I think they are important. I hope, Sir, that as the session advances I will be in a position to make specific comments on the items as they arise on the agenda for this session.

I. INTRODUCTION-PROCEDURE OF THE SESSION (continued)

I. INTRODUCTION-QUESTIONS DE PROCEDURE (suite)

I. INTRODUCCION-CUESTIONES DE PROCEDIMIENTO (continuación)

2. Election of Three Vice-Chairman, 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 indiquer au Conseil que les groupes régionaux qui se sont concertés pour composer le Comité de rédaction ont abouti aux propositions suivantes. Les membres du Comité de rédaction seraient: l'Algérie, l'Australie, le Brésil, les Etats-Unis d'Amérique, l'Ethiopie, la Finlande, la France, l'Inde, l'Iraq, le Liban, le Mexique, les Philippines et la Suisse.

Les groupes régionaux ont également convenu que la présidence du Comité de rédaction pourrait être confiée à la Finlande en la personne de M. Hannu Halinen, Représentant permanent de ce pays auprès de la FAO. Pouvons-nous considérer que ces propositions sont retenues par le Conseil?

Je vous remercie et je félicite les membres du Comité de rédaction et leur président. Je suis persuadé que leur contribution sera très importante pour la suite de nos travaux.

LE PRESIDENT: Nous allons arrêter maintenant le débat car nous devons nous rendre à la réception du Directeur Général. Nous considérons que la liste des orateurs est close. Il ne reste que deux orateurs inscrits, qui parleront demain matin: le Représentant de la Thaïlande et l'observateur de la Zambie. La question sera ainsi close définitivement et M. Dutia voudra bien donner des réponses aux questions des délégués.

Meeting rose at 18.15 h.

La séance est levée à 18 h 15.

Se levanta la sesión a las 18.15 horas.

council

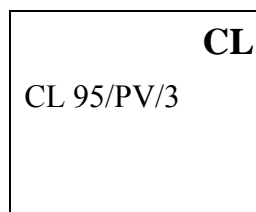
FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

conseil

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

consejo

ORGANIZACION DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS PARA LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION



Ninety-fifth Session

Quatre-vingt-quinzième session

95º período de sesiones

THIRD PLENARY MEETING
TROISIEME SEANCE PLENIERE
TERCERA SESION PLENARIA
(20 June 1989)

The Third Plenary Meeting was opened at 9.30 hours Lassaad Ben Osma, Independent Chairman of the Council, presiding

La troisième séance plénière est ouverte à 9 h 30 sous la présidence de Lassaad Ben Osman, Président indépendant du Conseil

Se abre la tercera sesión plenaria a las 9.30 horas bajo la presidencia de Lassaad Ben Osman, Presidente Independiente del Consejo

- II. WORLD FOOD AND AGRICULTURE SITUATION (continued)
- II. SITUATION MONDIALE DE L'ALIMENTATION ET DE L'AGRICULTURE (suite)
- II. SITUACION MUNDIAL DE LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION (continuación)
- 5. Report of the Fourteenth Session of the Committee on World Food Security (Rome, 3-7 April 1989) (continued)
- 5. Rapport de la quatorzième session du Comité de la sécurité alimentaire (Rome, 3-7 avril 1989) (suite)
- 5. Informe del 14 periodo de sesiones del Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria Mundial (Roma, 3-7 de abril de 1989) (continuación)

LE PRESIDENT: Nous reprenons la suite de nos travaux. Nous avons déjà pris du retard sur le calendrier. Hier, les discussions ont été très intéressantes et, malgré la prolongation de la séance, nous n'avons pas épuisé le problème comme prévu. Nous souhaiterions pouvoir donner à M. Dutia l'opportunité de répondre à vos questions.

Vanrob ISARANKURA (Thailand): At the outset, I wish to join the other delegates in expressing our happiness in seeing you again in the Chair of this august meeting, and would like to congratulate the three Vice-Chairmen for their election. My delegation also wishes to extend its warm welcome to our new Members.

My delegation has carefully studied the Report of the Fourteenth Session of the Committee on World Food Security and wishes to offer some comments as follows:

_____ Firstly, we fully support the view of the Committee as indicated in para 27 of the Report and would like to join this Committee to express our concern about the experience with adjustment programmes in that, in the short term, they often resulted in a sharp fall in the real purchasing power of the poor and limited their ability to purchase food and other essential commodities.

_____ Secondly, we concur with all the views as contained in paragraph 31. Especially we should emphasize that external resources be channelled specifically to productive investment in research and extension, input delivery systems and infrastructure development.

_____ Thirdly, we also agree that there was a need for greater collaboration between the World Bank, the IMF and the FAO in order to safeguard food security concerns in the context of structural adjustment as mentioned in paragraph 32.

Finally Mr Chairman, we support the view that this Committee should continue to hold annual meetings. We also agree that, in view of the present precarious situation and uncertain prospects of the world food security situation, the issue of the frequency of the Committee's session should be deferred to a later date. Thank you for your attention.

R. MULELE (Observer for Zambia): Allow me on behalf of my delegation to express our happiness at seeing you in the Chair. By the same token we wish to extend our congratulations to the newly elected three Vice-Chairmen.

We also wish to commend the Director-General, Dr Saouma, for his succinct and revealing opening statement yesterday.

Turning to the subject under discussion we would first like to compliment the Assistant Director-General Mr Dutia, for his lucid introduction of this subject.

In view of the time factor Mr Chairman, and since we are speaking on borrowed time, we would like to make only a very few observations. With regard to paragraph 18, we regret to note that the contributions to the International Emergency Food Reserve for 1988 fell below the agreed minimum of 500,000 tons of cereals. It is our sincere hope that this situation will be reversed in the foreseeable future in order to guarantee food security at higher levels.

We are pleased to note efforts of cooperation amongst developing countries as stated in paragraph 21. We wish only to underline the call made in this paragraph for FAO to continue to support regional and sub-regional cooperative activities.

We note with regret that the effects of stabilization and structural adjustment programmes on food security have had little if any positive impact, especially in the developing countries. The reasons for this situation are clearly indicated in paragraph 26. In our view, we think that part of the solution lies as stated in the last sentence of paragraph 26, that is to say that there is more need for a more favourable international and economic trade environment as a necessary framework for the implementation of structural adjustment programmes. In this connection we wish to support fully the Committee's recommendation in paragraph 32 concerning the major role that FAO can play in the stabilization and structural adjustment processes in some developing countries.

Lastly, but certainly not least, we wish to join hands with those delegates who have recognized and appreciated we have benefited from its services in Zambia.

LE PRESIDENT: Je remercie tous les délégués qui ont bien voulu enrichir ce débat sur une question très importante.

Permettez-moi de donner la parole à M. Dutia pour apporter les réponses et les éclaircissements consécutifs aux observations de nos délégués.

B.P. DUTIA (Assistant Director-General, Economic and Social Policy Department): On behalf of the Secretariat I would like to thank the Members and Observers of the Council who have reacted to the Report of the Committee on Food Security. There have been a few questions and some points on which clarification is needed, and with your permission Mr Chairman, I will take this opportunity to respond.

In the first place, the delegate of Pakistan suggested that it would be useful if the Secretariat were to report on any further developments or new information that might have come to the attention of the Secretariat on certain conclusions and recommendations that were made by the Committee. The same point was reiterated by India. In that context I would like to report on a number of points to which the Pakistan delegate referred specifically.

Be wanted to know about the action taken by the FAO concerning the emergency situation in the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen. I would like to respond that the FAO sent a mission under the TCP to investigate the damage that had been caused by the floods and to make project proposals for rehabilitation. As soon as the mission's report is received, the FAO will consider taking further action within the resources that are available.

Secondly, regarding the support to Namibia, I am pleased to inform the Council that the FAO, as the members are aware, has been an active partner in the United Nations Nationhood Programme for Namibia. Under that programme, with funding from the United Nations Trust Fund for Namibia UNDP and our TCP, the FAO has implemented a series of projects for a survey of Namibia's resources and analysis of policy options that are likely to be open to an independent government of the territory in the fields of agriculture and fisheries. Recently the UNDP has funded a data collection and reconnaissance mission to Namibia to identify the financial, economic and social areas in which there are gaps in information about the territory in order to prepare development programmes. We had the benefit of discussions with the mission's leader on his return from Namibia, and the mission's findings leave us with little doubt that urgent action is required to support the rural and agricultural sectors with economic action programmes.

The FAO contributions will focus on two lines of action. Firstly, the organization will provide emergency relief from within its own resources in the form of seeds, tools and expertise to complement the ongoing resettlement efforts.

Secondly, with the collaboration of the UNDP, the FAO will be executing a short-term programme for food production and resettlement during the transition in the period immediately after independence. The FAO also proposes to station an officer in Namibia to ensure effective liaison between FAO and all other parties concerned with the implementation of the United Nations plan for the independence of Namibia.

Recently we have also received a programme of work prepared by the United Nations Council for Namibia and our reaction to that will be sent during the course of this week.

There were also questions raised as to what action has been taken concerning the collaboration between the World Bank, IMF and the FAO as recommended by the Committee on World Food Security. During the two months that have elapsed since the holding of the meeting there have been a few developments that may be of interest to the members of the Council.

Firstly, there was a meeting held at the FAO headquarters with Mr Edward V.R. Jaycox, Vice President of the World Bank for Africa Regional Office, and later that was followed by a meeting with the Chief of the Agricultural Operations Division for the Occidental and Central Africa Department. Following those meetings and another meeting in the field with the Senior Economist for the Sahelian Department, the FAO is at work in Senegal and Guinea in collaboration with the World Bank and other financial institutions in conducting the analysis that is needed to provide the basis for the negotiation of the agreements concerning measures to be included in the structural adjustment loans.

Similar requests have also been received from some other countries and we will be looking into those requests and try to respond to them as best we can. In addition, I might also say that the World Bank has been invited to participate in the FAO projects of assistance to Jordan in agricultural policy analysis.

We are pleased to inform the Council that the World Bank has provided a Deputy Team Leader for the ongoing FAO/UNDP mission to Vietnam to conduct an agricultural and food production review.

These developments do indicate, I hope, that action is being taken along the lines proposed by the Committee in this field.

There were also comments made by several delegates about the impact of the structural adjustment programmes, and a number of references were made to data and methodological constraints. We are fully aware of the difficulties in drawing conclusions on the impact of the structural adjustment because of these difficulties.

In this connection some references were also made to the recent World Bank/UNDP Study. To illustrate the difficulties of assessment I would like to refer to the subsequent study that was undertaken by the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa, ECA. This study drew very different conclusions from the same information base that was used by the World Bank and UNDP in their study. We understand that there was also a meeting on this matter convened by the World Bank and the other parties concerned, which was attended by the Director of the ECA/FAO Joint Division.

As a follow-up to this the FAO is assisting the ECA in the development of methodology for structural adjustment analyses, which we hope will include also an assessment of the links between agriculture and the rest of the economy. This illustrates very clearly the difficulties in drawing firm conclusions and also taking one study as against the other.

The delegate of Switzerland referred to the follow-up and the activities of the Food Security Assistance Scheme. I am pleased to inform the members of the Council that, following the report of the Expert Evaluation Team on the future orientation of the Food Security Assistance Scheme, which was considered by the Conference last year, and the decisions that have been taken thereon and in the light of the comments provided by the Director-General on that report, FAO has expanded the mandate of the Food Security Assistance Scheme to cover the wider issues involved in implementing the broader concept of food security. We are now developing a programme for assistance to interested countries in drawing up national comprehensive food security programmes with the help of interested donors.

I am also glad to inform the Council that in the initial period four countries in Africa that have expressed interest in receiving this assistance have been selected for the FAO action programme in this field. These four countries are Niger, Chad, Tanzania and Zambia.

I am happy to inform the members of the Council that in this programme as it is being evolved we are in close touch with the donors, including Switzerland, on the future orientation for this programme. We do hope that we will be in a position to prepare adequate documentation for a forthcoming meeting with the donors that will help us in putting this programme into action.

Lastly, I would like to make a brief reference and response to the observations made by the delegate of Venezuela concerning the FAO's activities in the area of wheatless bread. We understand the spirit in which those comments were made, and I would like to make it very clear that the FAO has not advocated the displacement of traditional foods by wheatless bread. On the contrary, FAO has a strong programme of utilization and upgrading of traditional food products. Wheatless bread has been recommended only for those countries in which bread consumption is already an established fact and the importation of wheat has negatively affected the market for traditional crops. In those countries we are simply promoting the use of traditional, locally available crops to replace the imported wheat in breadmaking. That is the goal of the FAO's work in that area.

I hope this more or less satisfies the questions that were raised and the information requested.

LE PRESIDENT: Je remercie Monsieur Dutia, au nom du Conseil, pour la réponse claire et précise qu'il vient de donner aux questions qui ont été posées par les différents délégués et qui montre à l'évidence le dynamisme de la FAO et les différentes implications de ce programme sur la sécurité alimentaire. Je me permettrai d'intervenir à mon tour à la fin de ce débat très important pour essayer de synthétiser notre discussion et je crois être l'interprète du Conseil pour dire que celui-ci s'inquiète de la situation précaire et préoccupante de la sécurité alimentaire mondiale résultant d'une diminution pour la seconde année consécutive de la production mondiale de céréales qui a conduit, d'une part, à une baisse des stocks alimentaires mondiaux au-dessous du volume jugé nécessaire pour assurer l'aide alimentaire mondiale et, d'autre part à une prévision d'augmentation des coûts d'importation des céréales de l'ordre de 37 pour cent, soit 5 milliards de dollars environ pour des pays en développement qui souffrent déjà du poids considérable de la dette et enfin, ce qui n'est pas le moins important, à une prévision de diminution du volume de l'aide alimentaire de près de 25 pour cent, ce qui la ramènerait à un niveau sans précédent depuis six ans, de l'ordre de 9 700 000 tonnes.

Le Conseil a lancé un appel pressant pour que les pays développés fassent un effort particulier pour tenter de maintenir le volume de l'aide alimentaire pour que des mesures utiles de toute nature puissent être prises pour reconstituer la Réserve alimentaire internationale d'urgence à un niveau qui tienne compte d'ailleurs des cas d'urgence et selon une répartition appropriée de stocks de céréales dans les pays développés. Je crois que le Conseil considère dans sa conjoncture particulière qu'il est nécessaire de renforcer le système d'information d'alerte rapide qui a fait ses preuves.

Enfin, je pense qu'on peut noter que le Conseil a lancé un appel pour que tous les pays qui ne l'ont pas encore fait adhèrent au pacte international d'aide alimentaire.

Je crois comprendre également que le Conseil a souligné la nécessité d'accorder une attention particulière à la production vivrière dans les pays à déficit vivrier et à faible revenu ainsi qu'à une coopération régionale accrue en matière de sécurité alimentaire. Pour ce qui est des programmes d'ajustement structurel et leurs effets sur la sécurité alimentaire, d'une manière générale bien sûr, plusieurs opinions ont été émises; le Conseil a noté qu'à court terme et bien que la période soit relativement courte, des plans d'ajustement structurel entraînent des effets négatifs en ce qui concerne l'accès des pauvres à la nourriture et, par là-même, à la sécurité alimentaire. Il serait éminemment souhaitable que les programmes d'ajustement structurel prennent en considération les composantes sociales nécessaires. En particulier prévoir des mesures urgentes d'aide alimentaire aux couches sociales affectées par ces programmes, couches sociales qu'il convient de cibler soigneusement.

Enfin le Conseil a noté que la FAO, vu son expérience et l'avantage comparatif dont elle bénéficie dans ce domaine, devrait être associée avec les autres organisations internationales financières pour l'élaboration de ces programmes, lorsqu'il s'agit d'aider les gouvernements à mettre au point des programmes pour l'ajustement agricole. Cet ajustement agricole pourrait, entre autre, privilégier les éléments des programmes destinés à stimuler la production agricole parallèlement aux mesures de stabilisation financière à court terme qu'il implique.

Enfin je crois que nous pouvons considérer que le Conseil a approuvé le rapport de la 14ème session du Comité de la sécurité alimentaire.

Voilà ce que je me permettrai de dire en guise de contribution aux travaux de notre Conseil. Y a-t-il d'autres observations?

Baahir EL MABROUK SAID (Libya) (original language Arabic): I apologize for taking the floor so late in the day. Nevertheless, I would like to make a comment that I think is rather important.

Mr Dutia gave a number of replies to the questions asked and the additional information requested by the Members of the Council.

With respect to structural adjustment in developing countries, I would like to mention the economic and social distortions that result. There is one that I would like to emphasize as a result, and I am not the only one who has mentioned it.

The IMF and the World Bank impose upon developing countries very severe conditions that do not take account of social factors. This has obviously shaken and upset the societies and even the economies of developing countries.

That is why I feel that when we discuss the matter in our report we should mention that the Council feels that the conditions required by the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund should take into consideration not just the financial aspects, but the economic and social factors also.

LE PRESIDENT: Merci, le délégué de la Libye. Il a confirmé qu'une partie de ma synthèse dans laquelle j'ai signalé que les programmes d'ajustement structurel prennent en considération les composantes sociales. Donc, il faut des mesures d'urgence d'aide alimentaire pour éviter de diminuer l'accès des pauvres à la nourriture et par conséquent d'aggraver la sécurité alimentaire. Nous sommes d'accord avec ce qu'il a dit. Ceci étant et s'il n'y a pas d'autres observations, je vais passer au point suivant de l'ordre du jour qui concerne l'examen sur le point 6 du rapport de la 10^{ème} session.

III. ACTIVITIES OF FAO AND WFP

III. ACTIVITES DE LA FAO ET DU PAM

III. ACTIVIDADES DE LA FAO Y DEL PMA

6. Report of the Tenth Session of the Committee on Agriculture (Rome, 26 April-5 May 1989)
6. Rapport de la dixième session du Comité de l'agriculture (Rome, 26 avril-5 mai 1989)
6. Informe del décimo periodo de sesiones del Comité de Agricultura (Roma, 26 de abril-5 de mayo de 1989)
7. Code of Conduct on the Distribution and Use of Pesticides: Introduction of the "Prior Informed Consent" (PIC) Clause
7. Code de conduite pour la distribution et l'utilisation des pesticides-Introduction de la clause de l'information et du consentement préalables
7. Código Internacional de Conducta para la Distribución y Utilización de Plaguicidas: Introducción de la clausula relativa al "principio de información y consentimiento previos" (PICP)

Muhammad Saleem KHAN (Pakistan) I have a procedural suggestion on the order of the day. I thought it better to make it before we proceed with this item. Looking at the agenda, we have three items today. The last two items have to be discussed in connection with the respective portions of the COAG Report. My delegation feels that it may be worth considering all three items together, which would help in our responses and discussions on the issue and also probably help us in optimising on the available time.

However, I was talking about the one on PIC and the subsequent one on Plant and Genetic Resources, which was also considered by the COAG and is part of the COAG Report.

This is only a suggestion; I would not insist. I thought it might be that the Council might like to consider this suggestion.

LE PRESIDENT: Monsieur Bonte-Friedheim a-t-il une observation à formuler?

C.H. BONTE-FRIEDHKIM (Assistant Director-General, Agriculture Department): It is, of course, up to the Council to agree on its Agenda. I believe that is possible for the Council to consider the COAG Report and the PIC together because the PIC is part of the COAG Report. But I would like to suggest that since the Plant Genetic Resources item was not really discussed within COAG, that that be handled separately. While I agree that items 6 and 7 could be taken together, I would plead that item 8 be handled separately.

Eduardo PESQUEIRA OLEA (México): Simplemente, para apoyar la moción del Sr. representante de Pakistán sobre los comentarios que ha formulado el Sr. Director General Asistente, de tal suerte que podamos analizar los temas 6 y 7 conjuntamente y el tema 8 por separado, así ahorraremos tiempo para nuestras discusiones.

LE PRESIDENT: Merci, Monsieur le délégué du Mexique. Je crois qu'il s'agit d'une remarque utile et efficace. Si le Conseil convient du fait qu'il y a une unité entre ces deux points 6 et 7, (nous souhaitons laisser du temps pour faire face à l'Ordre du jour chargé) nous pourrions les grouper, les commenter et probablement l'après-midi faire une session spéciale pour le point 8. Si vous en convenez nous pouvons adopter cette démarche.

C.H. BONTE FRIEDHEIM (Assistant Director-General, Agriculture Department): Mr Chairman, the Council has now decided that there will be two short introductions, one by myself on the Report of the 10th session of the Committee on Agriculture, and one by Mr. Brader for which you have a separate paper regarding the introduction of PIC into the Code of Conduct.

Mr Chairman, distinguished Delegates and Observers, it gives me great pleasure to introduce Agenda item 6, the Report of the Tenth Session of the Committee on Agriculture, document CL/95/9. The Committee on Agriculture met in Rome from 26 April to 5 May under the Chairmanship of Mr Hamdi of Egypt. The Session was attended by 83 of the 93 COAG members, by four other FAO Member Nations that did not indicate membership in COAG, and observers from the USSR, from UN bodies, the EEC, and Non-Governmental Organizations.

The subjects traditionally handled by COAG fall into three categories. There were three selected development issues dealing with different aspects of agriculture. There was also a standing item on nutrition, and then there were two items regarding the organization's programme of work, the first dealing with the implementation of the Major Programme "Agriculture" in the past and the present biennium, and then a review of relevant parts of the Summary Programme of Work and Budget for the next biennium.

The report of COAG-I refer to document CL 95/9 in front of you-provides the highlights of the work of the Committee. May I draw your particular attention to the introductory pages (ii) to (ix) where matters requiring the attention of the Council are summarised.

The COAG started its work by reviewing the Report on the implementation of the Major Programme of Agriculture for the period 1986 to 1988.

The Committee commended the improvements in the presentation and scope of the document. The debate highlighted the adverse effects of the financial crisis on programme implementation. It was stressed by many delegates that notwithstanding the financial crisis, the Organization has responded in an efficient way to the constraints. At the same time, the decline in FAO involvement in training activities was regretted. It was emphasized that training should remain an overall priority.

The need for all members to pay their full contributions was again highlighted so as to bring to an end the financial constraints of the Organization. Full comments on each subprogramme are reflected in the report before Council. However, it might be useful to highlight just a few of them.

When examining the natural resources programme the Committee urged increased attention be paid to integrated plant nutrition systems and at the same time called for action to increase the use of mineral fertilizers. The improvement in interdisciplinary activities with respect to crop production was highlighted. Plant protection was singled out by many participants and the work of the Organization in the introduction of wheatless bread was supported.

In the livestock programmes, the initiatives on biotechnology were praised and the Committee was informed-as did the Director-General yesterday to Council-of the appearance of the American screwworm fly in North Africa. The Committee requested the Secretariat to prepare an action programme.

On research and technology development the Committee requested further expansion of cooperation with other international organizations and institutions. The Committee requested that environmental subjects also continue to receive priority in future years.

In relation to the rural development programme, the Committee especially regretted the impact of the overall resource constraint on activities related to women in development. In the field of nutrition, the Committee expressed the importance of food quality and standards of work, and of cooperation with the CODEX Alimentarius Commission.

As regards food and agricultural Information and analysis, the initiative to develop a World Agricultural Information Centre was fully supported. The Committee further expressed appreciation for the food and agricultural policy work and urged it be given higher priority.

The second agenda item dealt with by COAG was an important section of the Summary Programme of Work and Budget for the next biennium 1990-91. This dealt with the major programme on agriculture. The Committee welcomed the improvements in the format and presentation of the document and fully supported the policy of allocation of additional financial resources to the technical and economic programmes of FAO. The Committee endorsed the seven priority areas affecting Major Programme 2.1-Agriculture. The net increase foreseen in the document of 1.3 percent was considered to be below expected demands by member countries. In general, the Committee agreed, and I quote from the report:

"that the proposals under the Major Programme 2.1-Agriculture represented a feasible and satisfactory mix of activities in consonance with the request of Member Nations, as expressed in the Conference, the Council, the Regional Conferences and other inter-governmental fora. It considered they provided an acceptable basis for the preparation of the full Programme of Work and Budget for consideration by the 25th Session of the FAO Conference."

The views of the Committee on Agriculture on the Summary Programme of Work and Budget will be carefully taken into consideration in the formulation of the full Programme of Work and Budget, in the light of Council's reaction to them. In general, it will be found that the Committee on Agriculture has not recommended any additional shift in programme activities or resources. Individual members, however, have made a number of constructive and valuable suggestions which will be taken into account in the implementation of the Programme of Work of the next biennium. While COAG dealt mainly with Major Programme 2.1-Agriculture, Council will deal, under Agenda Item 14, with the total Summary Programme of Work and Budget in the next biennium.

As at every session of COAG, an item on nutrition was discussed. At this 10th Session, the topic was Urbanization, Food Consumption Patterns and Nutrition. The Committee examined the nature and range of implications of changing food consumption patterns associated with the rapid progress of urbanization; it reviewed urban malnutrition in developing countries, and considered possible lines of remedial action. As concerns FAO activities in this context, it supported work on short-term intervention programmes in the areas of food quality and safety, nutrition education and nutrition surveillance. It stressed the need for preparation of suitable training materials for food vendors in the informal sector; it urged assistance to member countries in the development of appropriate technologies for processing, preservation, better marketing and distribution of traditional, nutritious local staple foods. The Committee confirmed the role of FAO in monitoring the nutritional impact of development policies at large and in connection with the structural adjustment process in particular. The Committee recommended further that the dimension of urban malnutrition be included in the Sixth World Food Survey.

The first of the selected development issues was Preservation of Animal Genetic Resources. As shown in the COAG report before Council, the quality and timeliness of this paper were commended. There was unanimous support for immediate action at all levels-national, regional and international-in order to preserve animal genetic resources. The debates and discussions highlighted the complexity and the size of the problem to be tackled. FAO was urged to continue, in cooperation with others, its ongoing activities and to embark on new ones such as developing a World Watch List of endangered breeds and a related Early Warning System. FAO was also requested to develop strategies and to establish live animal reserves where appropriate.

In paragraph 140 of the report, the Committee:

"approved the proposal that, in addition to the continued development and enlargement of the existing programme, FAO should consider further the many technical, legal, financial and institutional aspects of a global programme for animal genetic resources. The proposal for an Expert Consultation to examine these topics was supported. Furthermore, approval was given for the Working Group of the FAO Commission on Plant Genetic Resources, based on its experience to study the possibility for FAO to establish a global system of genetic resources, including animal genetic resources. Confidence was expressed that FAO will be able to attract extra-budgetary resources for these important tasks."

This work, which was endorsed by COAG, cannot be done in the present biennium. In spite of the appeal by COAG, extra-budgetary resources have not yet been offered. It is planned to hold a Technical Consultation in September of this year and to have a meeting of the Working Group on Plant Genetic Resources in the first half of next year, 1990. The next Council and Conference will be informed about the progress made by the Technical Consultation. The Secretariat is fully aware of the importance of this topic and, resources permitting, we hope to make meaningful proposals to next year's session of Council.

COAG had another important agenda item entitled People's Participation on Agricultural and Rural Development. There was a full and thorough debate. In conclusion the Committee supported the role of FAO in promoting people's participation through its various activities and programmes within the framework of the WCARRD Programme of Action. The Committee stressed the significance of traditional informal groups for development, and saw the need for increased data collection and the constitution and operation of these groups. It encouraged FAO to widen its collaboration with NGO's, and stressed the contribution that reorientation of extension of training and education as well as the appropriate use of credit and marketing are called upon to make in promoting people's participation. The Committee recommended that a plan of action be developed for discussion by Council and Conference in due course. In this connection, the Committee took note with satisfaction of the offer of one member government to contribute extra-budgetary funds for this purpose.

The fourth technical agenda item dealt with the Introduction of the Prior Informed Consent (PIC) Clause into the Code of Conduct on the Distribution and Use of Pesticides, which will be introduced by Mr Brader in a minute.

As regards the next meeting of COAG in 1991, the agenda is likely to include an item on sustainability, as requested by Council in its last session, and an item concerning the integration of women in agriculture and rural development, as requested by COAG. COAG has also suggested a long list of other suitable and interesting topics.

The third technical topic for the agenda, in addition to the nutrition item and the timing of the next meeting, will be decided by the Director-General in consultation with the Chairman of COAG, taking into due account Organization-wide priorities and possible suggestions of Council. I hope my brief introduction will help Council to begin its deliberations on this agenda item.

L. BRADER (Director, Plant Production and Protection Division): The last session of the FAO Conference in 1987 decided to include the principle of Prior Informed Consent (PIC) in the International Code of Conduct on the Distribution and Use of Pesticides. Resolution 5/87 states that "In the International Code of Conduct on the Distribution and Use of Pesticides the principle of Prior Informed Consent (PIC) should be incorporated within the next biennium", that is, 1988/89. Pursuant to this resolution, the Director-General took a number of initiatives to determine how best to give effect to the PIC principle, including the convening of an Expert Consultation in March 1988 and a Government Consultation in January 1989. On this occasion I would like to express our gratitude for the financial support of the Government of the Netherlands for the organization of these activities.

Based on technical inputs from these two Consultations, as well as a series of discussions with various other parties, including repeated contacts with the UNEP International Register of Potentially Toxic Chemicals Secretariat, a proposal to include PIC in the Code and also guidelines for the operation of PIC were submitted to the 10th Session of COAG. Following detailed review and deliberation, COAG was able to reach consensus on the main aspects which constitute PIC, namely:

- a) The revision of Article 2 (definitions) and Article 9 (information exchange). New definitions have been introduced for "Prior Informed Consent" and "Prior Informed Consent Procedure" and the text of Article 9 has been amended to reflect the agreed amendments.
- b) Consensus was also reached on the preparation of guidelines for the operation of PIC which include the following main elements:
 - (i) Notification to FAO by participating member countries on the banning or severe restriction of individual pesticides.
 - (ii) Establishment of a joint FAO/UNEP data base.
 - (iii) Notification of relevant information by FAO to importing countries, including reasons for the control action, in order to facilitate a decision on whether or not to allow imports. A comprehensive "PIC Decision Guidance Document", prepared by the Secretariat, will accompany such notification.
 - (iv) Notification by FAO to pesticide exporting countries of decisions by importing countries.
 - (v) Exporting countries will inform exporters (mainly chemical firms) of notifications received.
 - (vi) The main element of the guideline is that importing countries will notify interested parties, such as customs authorities, of the decisions taken so that importation restrictions can be enforced.

The proposal as agreed by COAG is described in document CL 95/15 before Council and the changes compared to the original text of the Code have been underlined.

FAO will, in cooperation with UNEP, manage and implement the PIC scheme. A joint FAO/UNEP programme for this is currently being discussed. UNEP's interest in the subject relates to its mandate on the so-called London Guidelines for the Exchange of Information on Chemicals in International Trade. PIC was included in these guidelines by decision of the Governing Council of UNEP in May 1989. FAO is at present consulting with UNEP in elaborating a scheme which can be undertaken efficiently and without any duplication of effort. It is envisaged that the modalities of cooperation will be reflected in a Memorandum of Understanding between UNEP and FAO, spelling out the respective obligations and responsibilities of each party. The joint programme should start with a one-year pilot phase in order to assess better the amount of work involved and to incorporate refinements based on experience.

It may be appropriate at this stage to recall that the Expert Consultation on PIC held in March 1988 considered that PIC should promote or comply with the following principles:

- i) It should reduce the adverse effects of pesticides, especially those that have been banned or severely restricted and/or which pose a specially severe hazard in an importing country.
- ii) It should not inadvertently steer a country to more hazardous alternatives.
- iii) It should stimulate the decision-making capability and development of regulatory mechanisms in Importing countries.
- iv) It should motivate effective and appropriate information exchange.
- v) It should be neutral with respect to trade and be applied without discrimination as to the origin of the pesticide.
- vi) The PIC scheme should be timely so as not to impact adversely on an importing country's crop production and public health programmes.
- vii) It should reinforce an importing country's right and responsibility to decide if it wants to use the pesticide, after making its own risk/benefit analysis and decision.
- viii) It should make decisions transparent and open to public scrutiny.

Bearing these principles in mind, COAG recognized that the practical application of PIC is a rather complex issue and that many developing countries may require appropriate technical assistance and training of staff to be able to apply PIC procedures and, even more so, to implement many of the other relevant provisions of the Code of Conduct.

FAO continues to place high priority on such technical assistance work. In this respect, we would like to acknowledge the financial contribution of the Government of Japan for a regional project on the implementation of the Code in Asia and the Pacific. It is hoped that UNDP will finance a regional project to benefit African countries and other donors are again invited to support developing countries in their attempts to implement the Code of Conduct.

In technical assistance, priority is given to cases where there is a need to establish or strengthen national pesticide registration and control schemes, so that they can operate effectively. Evidence has already been obtained of the clearly beneficial results in highlighting this need, by increasing the awareness in developing countries that are lacking such schemes. In this connection it should be recognized *as* effective pesticide registration and control procedures have been established.

The successful operation of PIC is completely dependent on the free exchange and rapid processing of Information provided by countries. The PIC procedure is in addition to, and does not replace, any system of Information exchange between countries. Also it does not replace the right of any country to seek additional Information on the reasons for any control action that a country may take on a particular pesticide.

I would like to reiterate that the 10th Session of COAG recognized the considerable amount of work that had been done to implement Conference Resolution 5/87, requiring PIC to be included in the Code, and that it noted with satisfaction that FAO had worked closely with UNEP in the development of procedures for PIC and in subsequent handling of an International PIC scheme.

Please allow me to point out the matters that require the Council's special attention, in addition to the confirmation that PIC procedures should be implemented *as* soon as possible. This special attention should be addressed to three additional changes in Articles 2, 9.8.1 and 9.8.4 of the Code which are presented in paragraph 11 of document CL 95/15. The changes proposed in this paragraph were made to bring the text of the Code in line with the endorsed guidelines. The guidelines were already endorsed for this. COAG, however, had no opportunity to deal with these changes in sufficient detail as they were made at the end of the COAG session, but accepted them in general and referred them to the Council for adoption.

I would like to make a plea for the Council's cooperation and understanding in considering the proposals before you, and hope that a consensus can be maintained. A large amount of effort has gone into the proposals submitted to you, and the consensus was achieved on the basis of intensive and lengthy discussions with all parties concerned. It was understood that the earliest introduction of PIC in the Code was of the greatest importance and that in the overall process of reaching consensus, each party had to show considerable flexibility to meet the sometimes quite diverse interests and opinions of others. It was consistently felt that every effort should be made to meet the 1987 Conference deadline for incorporating PIC in the Code at the end of the 1988/89

biennium. Experience has shown that when introducing a complex scheme such as that proposed for PIC, it is necessary to review procedures from time to time. FAO, in cooperation with member countries and UNEP and other international agencies, will do this and thus try to improve the scheme in the future, based on actual experience gained from its widespread use. The results of your deliberations will be presented to the next meeting of the Conference for consideration and decision.

LE PRESIDENT: Je remercie M. Brader pour ses explications concernant ce point important de l'Ordre du jour et nous ouvrons le débat.

Yousef All Mahmoud HAMDY (Egypt) (Original language Arabic): I should like to thank Mr Bonte-Friedheim and Mr. Brader for their introduction and very good presentation of the two reports. I have had the honour of presiding over the Tenth Session of COAG. Once again, I should like to put on record my sincere gratitude for COAG members for the trust they placed in my person. I cannot in such a short time review all the points that had been covered by our report. However, these points had been approved by all delegates after a prior study of these points. However, allow me to stress once again some of the points which are of particular significance. As regards the Summary Programme of Work and Budget for 1990-91, we have welcomed and endorsed the efforts made in elaborating the Programme of Work and Budget for 1990-91 and the priorities defined in that Programme. We also endorse and welcome the efforts made by the Organization, and we should like to thank donor countries for their generous contributions in order to combat the invasion of desert locusts which still menace many countries. This, in fact, should be a matter of concern for the Organization and preparations to stand up to this challenge. We thank the Director-General and his collaborators for their quick response to combat the American screwworm which was observed in a sister country. We endorsed the immediate Plan of Action prepared and being executed by the FAO in order to combat this fly which threatens African countries and Mediterranean countries in the short term and also southern Europe in the long run, unless measures are taken to combat that pest.

Regarding urbanization, food consumption patterns and nutrition, we should like to thank the Organization for preparing that study, and we should like to emphasize the need to intervene in the fields relating to the quality and safety of food, food awareness and also nutritional intervention and nutritional control and training of street vendors of food in the informal sector. Appropriate technology should also be developed to process staple foods and to improve systems for their marketing and distribution.

Regarding the preservation of animal genetic resources, we should like to emphasize the need to accelerate efforts in expanding the programme for the conservation of such animal genetic resources and their use. We should also like to explore new avenues in biotechnology in order to make use of such resources. The Organization should also study the possibility of establishing a worldwide system for the study of such resources, including animal genetic resources.

As regards participation in agricultural and rural development, we should like to stress the importance for FAO to develop a practical methodology to encourage popular participation and integration of that participation in large-scale rural development. Member countries should also give every possible support and promote awareness in rural and urban areas in order to encourage popular participation. A Plan of Action should also be elaborated for discussion by the Council and the general Conference in due time, and we welcome extra-budgetary support being proposed for the elaboration of such a Plan.

Regarding the principle of Prior Informed Consent and introduction in the Code of Conduct on the distribution and use of pesticides, we should like to point out that we have participated in the government consultation relating to that principle. We have also taken part in the working group which revised that principle and we endorsed it in the Committee on Agriculture. In this connection, we should like to reaffirm our approval of the proposed amendments which have been summarized in document 15, and we recommend that such recommendations be submitted to the Conference.

Amador VELASQUEZ (Per): Antes de comenzar la intervención, deseo expresar ante todo este foro rector de la FAO, que solicitamos la mayor comprensión porque nuestra intervención será desusadamente larga, por razones que se comprenderán de la misma exposición.

Nuestra delegación, al hacer uso de la palabra por primera vez en este 95° Consejo de la FAO, con un retraso del todo involuntario, expresa la inmensa satisfacción de verlo a usted nuevamente presidiendo este importante encuentro, así como por la elección de los señores Vicepresidentes, Presidente y miembros del Comité de Redacción, a quienes hace llegar los mejores deseos de proficua y positiva labor conjunta.

A lo largo de esta intervención el Consejo conocerá la razón de nuestro silencio, obligado, en el tratamiento del tema precedente, que como podrán apreciar era y es de suma importancia para mi país, sobre todo en las actuales circunstancias. Con respecto al tema que nos ocupa, mi delegación desea manifestar su agradecimiento a las dos presentaciones y su conformidad con la síntesis preparada por la Secretaría, que se refiere a aquellos asuntos que, emanados del décimo COAG y de la Consulta Intergubernamental, requieren de la atención de este Consejo. Pero, con respecto a algunos puntos, considera asimismo importante precisar consideraciones que sobre tales aspectos este Consejo debe rescatar en su informe a la Conferencia.

Ahora me referiré al tema 6. En lo que respecta al párrafo 7, debemos resaltar dos hechos fundamentales; el primero referido al abono en la fecha prevista de las cuotas de los Estados Miembros, y el segundo a la situación estable que en materia de recursos reclaman tanto el Programa Ordinario como los Programas de Campo.

Sobre el primer punto, el Perú no pretende ocultar la grave situación por la que atraviesa. Ya no se trata, señores, de la situación ahora casi generalizada en el mundo en desarrollo con respecto a la crisis económico financiera, determinada por el peso de la deuda externa, sino de una muy grave, repito, muy grave y sui generis, situación de inflación con recesión, explicable solamente por las consecuencias imprevisibles del paranoico accionar del terrorismo, cuya alianza con el narcotráfico amenaza con llevamos a una situación aun más grave con el triste balance que podemos sintetizar en pocas, pero muy significativas líneas, y que son: la destrucción de infraestructura cercana a los 15 mil millones de dólares, monto similar a nuestro Producto Interno Bruto de un año, y equivalente al total de nuestra deuda externa, acarreado además 18 000 muertes. Todo ello está llevando a mi país a perder la categoría de país de ingreso medio, con un real ingreso per cápita promedio por debajo de los 600 dólares. A la par del preservamiento del sistema democrático, el Gobierno del Perú está abocado a su preocupación básica, y que es la de evitar el hambre y la malnutrición generalizada, como triste corolario de esta coyuntura.

El Perú aprobó hace pocos días el pago de la cuota mínima indispensable para mantenerse en este foro. Esos, quizás para muchos, insignificantes 158 400 dólares han representado toneladas de alimentos para los 7 millones de peruanos pobres que reclaman pan. El Programa de Ajuste ejecutado como tantos otros que hemos reconocido en esta misma FAO son perjudiciales para los más pobres, ha requerido de un mínimo Programa de Compensación Social, así llamado para evitar la ya casi inevitable pauperización de tales personas. Es para dicho Programa que el Perú necesita urgentemente de 160 000 toneladas de alimentos para cubrir solamente las necesidades alimentarias correspondientes al segundo semestre de este año, que está por comenzar, y que aun no consigue concertar. Sin embargo, señores delegados, nuestro Gobierno ha efectuado un esfuerzo realmente increíble para cumplir con el pago de esa cuota a la FAO. Creemos que nuestra situación no tiene parangón con ninguna otra razón, causa o circunstancia, y así como reclama una mayor responsabilidad para con el Organismo y consecuentemente para con el mundo pobre, de parte de los principales aportantes, también solicita la mayor comprensión que situaciones difíciles, como las que ahora le toca vivir al Perú, exigen; y, por tanto reclama de los responsables una postura más flexible y de la mínima consideración y respeto a los Estados Miembros de esta Organización con igualdad política, jurídica y soberana. Consideramos un exceso que esta Organización, habiendo sido informada oportunamente de la firma de una Resolución Suprema; es decir, firmada por el Presidente de la República, el Jefe de Gobierno de un Estado Miembro, disponiendo el pago de la cuota mínima necesaria, no haya merecido la mínima consideración y se haya postergado nuestra participación en este foro hasta que se confirme el recibo del importe anunciado. Debido a esta triste experiencia, mi país examinará la posibilidad de adherirse a aquellos países que, con aprobación de la Conferencia, han optado por un pago dilacionado de sus obligaciones pendientes, gestión en la que no dudamos, repito, no dudamos señores, de la solidaridad y comprensión que recibiremos de Ustedes dada nuestra situación, de la que además esperamos informe este Consejo para recibir la mayor ayuda alimentaria que se nos pueda dispensar.

Retomando el tema concreto, debemos comentar rápidamente un común denominador que mi delegación encuentra en aquello denominado "desarrollo sostenible" y que lo encontramos, tanto en los párrafos 27 como en el 49, 59, 64 y 83 del informe del 10° COAG. Queremos hacer una pequeña reflexión sobre esto para que el Consejo estime si es o no conveniente así resaltarlo en el informe a la Conferencia. El despertar de la comunidad internacional, fundamentalmente de parte de las potencias industrializadas de libre mercado, sobre el acuciante problema de la conservación de los ecosistemas

constituye el nuevo frente que en el campo Internacional se ha abierto, principalmente contra los países en vías de desarrollo. Plantear dicho problema y exigir salvaguardas que unilateralmente tendrían que adoptar los países en vías de desarrollo, no sólo resulta irresponsable, sino además impracticable. Los países del Tercer Mundo, frente a la crisis económico-financiera que les envuelve, están en situación de desventaja para proteger, conservar, evaluar y utilizar sus recursos en aras de la preservación de los ecosistemas.

No se trata, pues señores, de recibir solamente fondos para tales acciones, sino sobre todo de exigir una alternativa de desarrollo que apunte hacia el objetivo común de la preservación del medio ambiente.

La urgente necesidad de encontrar un equilibrio entre el desarrollo socioeconómico y la protección y conservación del medio ambiente a través de una explotación adecuada de los recursos naturales y un control de los impactos ambientales en beneficio de las generaciones presentes y futuras, debe considerar el principio de que cada Estado tiene el derecho soberano de administrar libremente sus recursos naturales.

Todo ello, señores delegados, no significa que el Perú crea en un modelo que agreda el ambiente o que explote indiscriminadamente los recursos, y menos que pongamos en discusión el futuro del planeta. Es más creemos que la lucha por el ambiente no puede ser una moda, por ello tampoco queremos pensar que se trate de una nueva ilusión que dirigida contra lo último que nos queda, nuestros recursos naturales, termine por desilusionarnos en un grado que a estas alturas y circunstancias sería fatal.

No creemos, por tanto, en el "puro conservadurismo"; creemos sí en el "conservadurismo con desarrollo", que aporten nuevos flujos de capitales y recursos que nos demuestre con hechos que la corresponsabilidad es la solución al manejo de la deuda externa ha sido efectiva y no líricamente entendida y que, consecuentemente, actuar corresponsablemente en la preservación de los ecosistemas no significará ignorar el derecho soberano antes aludido.

Es en dicho contexto que entendemos la prioridad a la que reiteradamente se hace alusión en los párrafos antes mencionados. De ninguna manera podría, entonces, inferirse que el desarrollo sostenible condicione el programa principal 2.1: Agricultura, ni cualquier otro de la FAO. Es más, reiteramos que las prioridades deben regirse siempre por las recomendaciones de nuestros órganos rectores, Conferencias Regionales y otros foros intergubernamentales donde las peticiones de los Estados Miembros son las determinantes. En tal sentido reiteramos que la creación del nuevo subprograma: "Mantenimiento del potencial de recursos" no debe ir en detrimento de las actividades de todos los subprogramas y que su funcionamiento nacerá sólo de partidas extrapresupuestarias.

Con respecto al párrafo 99, lamento, Señores Delegados tener que distraerlos nuevamente al referirme a la crítica situación de mi país. En el décimo Comité de Agricultura hice mención a solo los únicos dos censos nacionales agropecuarios que se habían realizado en el Perú desde 1821, en un lapso de 168 años. Indiqué, asimismo, las gestiones infructuosas que hasta hoy inclusive seguimos planteando ante la FAO para alcanzar fondos en fideicomiso o de otra naturaleza a efectos del que sería nuestro tercer censo nacional agropecuario. Muchos países se sumaron a esta necesidad que haría factible el censo del año 2000; la inclusión de este llamado en este párrafo 99, dirigido a nuestros hermanos del África, podría tener una interpretación restringida; y, por lo que pedimos que este Consejo haga propio el instar a la FAO, y países cooperantes, para que se preste ayuda a todos los países en desarrollo que tienen problemas financieros para ejecutar sus censos nacionales agropecuarios.

Con relación al asesoramiento a los Estados Miembros en materia de políticas, y refiriéndome a los procesos de ajuste estructural, sólo deseo dejar sentado que volveremos a estos puntos al tratar el tema 10 en tanto y en cuanto el Perú desea plantear en este Consejo alternativas de asistencia técnica, o ayuda, de emergencia para llegar a un quizás plan alimentario de emergencia que hace escasas dos semanas ha sido expuesto, en una audiencia especial al Sr. Secretario General de las Naciones Unidas por el Secretario General de la Conferencia Episcopal peruana, las graves dimensiones que está alcanzando el problema del hambre y la malnutrición en el Perú.

Por último, Sr. Presidente, y reitero mis disculpas por la extensión en esta intervención, debo necesariamente referirme al párrafo 140 de nuestro documento sobre el 10° COAG cuyo texto, también con dada ocasión del 10° Comité de Agricultura no ha merecido, estimamos, una redacción acorde con lo aprobado en dicho evento; pero antes, permítaseme recordar algunas líneas del discurso del Sr. Director General ante el IOO COAG, cuando al referirse a los recursos zoogenéticos, dijo que tales se encontraban amenazados y que tal problema no se limitaba a los animales domésticos, ya que la diferencia entre éstos y la fauna silvestre era cada vez menos pertinente desde el punto de vista de los recursos genéticos, ya que determinados animales salvajes se están domesticando cada vez más y los nuevos medios biotecnológicos nos están acercando cada vez más a la introducción de transferencias genéticas y específicas.

Para terminar diciendo que era urgente tomar medidas correctivas para conservar tales recursos. Pues bien, entre los párrafos 121 y 139 encontramos el avance consecuente respecto de lo planteado, y es en el 140 donde debería entrar la parte operativa que, lamentablemente, ha quedado poco clara y que inclusive podría llevar a confusión o eventual aplicación contradictoria, mas aun si tenemos en cuenta la crítica situación económica financiera de nuestra Organización y de las prioridades por las que se ha tenido que optar. Es pues todo ello, Sr. Presidente, es decir tanto lo acordado en el 10° COAG, como lo dicho en esa oportunidad, por el Sr. Director General lo que me lleva a pedir que la redacción del actual párrafo 140, se corrija por la redacción subsiguiente a fin de ser mas exactos y precisos con el resumen que en el debate se concordó con la Secretaría. El texto, que ha sido proporcionado a los interpretes y que por la misma razón lo puede tener la Secretaría, no lo leeré a velocidad de dictado pues no creo que haya problema.

Diría "140: El Comité aprobó la propuesta de que además del continuo desarrollo y la ampliación del programa existente, la FAO estudiara ulteriormente los muchos aspectos técnicos, jurídicos, financieros e institucionales de un programa Mundial de recursos genéticos animales. Se apoyó la propuesta de establecer una consulta de expertos encargada de examinar esos temas. Se expresó la esperanza de que la FAO pudiera conseguir recursos extrapresupuestarios para esa importante labor. Además se aprobó que el Grupo de Trabajo de la Comisión de recursos fitogenéticos de la FAO, en su próxima reunión, basándose en su experiencia, estudiara la posibilidad de ampliar el sistema global de la FAO para recursos fitogenéticos, para que incluyera los recursos zoogenéticos."

En síntesis, las modificaciones al actual párrafo 140 son tres: 1. Sacar la última frase actual y pasarla al final de la segunda frase actual. El argumento de las delegaciones que manifestamos esto, en el 10° COAG, fue claro: los recursos extrapresupuestarios serían para la consulta de expertos que, si bien consideramos innecesaria, fue aceptada como fórmula de compromiso para coincidir con la Secretaría que consideró que el trabajo de esta consulta de expertos sería complementarlo al estudio del Grupo de Trabajo de la Comisión de Recursos Fitogenéticos; 2. Después de la palabra "posibilidad" de la actual penúltima frase, se debe sacar "de que la FAO estableciera un sistema global de recursos genéticos, incluidos los recursos zoogenéticos" y poner en ese lugar siempre después de la palabra "posibilidad": "de ampliar el sistema global de la FAO para recursos fitogenéticos para que incluyera los recursos zoogenéticos". Esto, Sr. Presidente, fue lo acordado y lo que entendimos resumiría la Secretaría, ya que nuestro argumento, y el de las delegaciones que nos apoyaron, fue que con ello evitaríamos duplicidad en gastos y aumento en la eficiencia de las estructuras existentes permitiendo un ahorro de recursos que el momento exige, alcanzando una oportunidad que inclusive supera la simple posibilidad que ahora el actual párrafo 140 deja como expectativa acerca del sistema global de recursos genéticos. 3. Por ultimo, un agregado que debe ir después de las palabras "recursos fitogenéticos de la FAO", de la actual penúltima frase, y que debe decir: "en su próxima reunión" para luego seguir tal como está; es decir, con las palabras: "basándose, etc., etc". Esto se debe, Sr. Presidente, a que fue la propia Secretaría, según recordamos, la que mencionó que teniendo en cuenta que la próxima reunión del Grupo de Trabajo de la Comisión de Recursos Fitogenéticos tendría lugar, posiblemente, durante la primera semana de octubre próximo, entonces, las partes consultadas por el Sr. Director General encontrarían la forma de llevar las conclusiones de dicho Grupo al Consejo de noviembre, a fin de no perder tiempo en un asunto tan urgente. Lamentablemente, Sr. Presidente, encontramos que, en el actual párrafo 140, la falta de esas cuatro palabras "en su próxima reunión" dejarían al Grupo de Trabajo de la Comisión de Recursos Fitogenéticos sin capacidad ni oportunidad para opinar respecto de tan importante asunto; sin embargo, y aún cuando no tenemos confirmación al respecto, pero que sería buena oportunidad para conocerlo, ya se habrían dispuesto avances importantes para la consulta de expertos aludida en este mismo párrafo. No nos oponemos a ello pero, por lo menos, que se brinde igual capacidad y tiempo al Grupo de Trabajo en mención.

Sólo con lo postulado seremos efectivamente congruentes con el interés de que el actual sistema global de la FAO para los recursos fitogenéticos; es decir el Compromiso Internacional, como marco legal; la Comisión, como foro intergubernamental; y el Fondo Internacional, como mecanismo financiero, evolucione de tal manera que gradualmente llegue a incluir los recursos genéticos animales hasta transformarse, como creo todos deseamos, en un sistema global para la conservación y el uso de la diversidad biológica en general; sistema global, que es fundamental, para mantener unidos los conceptos de conservación de la biodiversidad y el del desarrollo agrícola sostenible en el mundo y, para el cual, si queremos ser realistas, nuestros esfuerzos no serán inútiles en un Grupo de Trabajo que funciona y que puede brindarnos avances concretos.

Por ello, Sr. Presidente y Señores Miembros de este Consejo, al margen de lo argumentado y solicitado con respecto al párrafo 140 del 10° COAG; es decir, que no deseando crear problemas en este Consejo con el cambio de informes previos al Consejo, bastaría con que en este Consejo decidamos dejar claramente establecido en este foro rector que es urgente que el Grupo de Trabajo de la Comisión de Recursos Fitogenéticos se reúna para que en el próximo período de sesiones del Consejo se cuente con la opinión que ha merecido a dicho Grupo la posibilidad de incluir en el

sistema global de la FAO para recursos fitogenéticos, vale decir, repito, tanto en el Compromiso como la Comisión, como en el Fondo, la problemática de los recursos zoogenéticos, como un primer paso conducente al establecimiento de un sistema global de diversidad biológica.

Ahora sí, voy a terminar porque esta parte no la tenía prevista. No sabía que se iban a tratar los dos temas conjuntamente, quiero señalar que mi Delegación con respecto a la introducción de la cláusula relativa al "Principio de información y consentimiento previos", está de acuerdo con las modificaciones al Código Internacional de Conducta para la Distribución y utilización de Plaguicidas, ratificados por el Comité de Agricultura, así como con los artículos modificados que han sido en general aceptados por el Comité, según se reproduce en el párrafo once del Doc. CL 95/15 y también, como lo dije, estamos de acuerdo con que el Consejo ratifique tales modificaciones con vistas a su presentación ante la 25ª Conferencia y que ratifique las directrices para la aplicación del principio de Información y consentimiento previos.

Agradezco y reitero mis disculpas por la extensión.

Svatopluk CHALUPA (Czechoslovakia): (Original Language Czech) Mr Chairman, as this is the first time that the Czechoslovak delegation has taken the floor in the present period of its membership in the Council, I would like to assure you that we will seek a constructive approach to all the issues discussed by the Council, following with the traditional close cooperation of my Government. It is also a privilege to serve under your Chairmanship.

We listened with great interest to the statement of the Director-General yesterday, and share his opinion on the current world food situation, which also corresponds to the general evaluation of the developments affecting world food and agriculture as contained in the Summary Programme of Work and Budget 1990-91. The present trend cannot be expected to change before the FAO Conference is opened.

Let me turn now to the report on the Session of the Committee on Agriculture. We appreciate the factual and stimulating contents of the document under consideration, which makes a very good contribution to the evaluation of the activity of the Organization for the past period, as well as to the elaboration of the Programme of Work and Budget of the next two-year period.

Let me present only some limited comments and suggestions.

First of all, I would like to stress that we fully support the Committee's view concerning the subprogramme for natural resources for its relevance to sustainable agricultural development and environmental protection. We believe that generally FAO has much wider possibilities of contributing to the solution of the present ecological problems in the world, especially in preventing the errors made in industrially advanced countries. If the 0.8 to one million US dollars of UNEP contribution through the FAO were to represent the measure of FAO's involvement in environmental protection efforts, the sum would be too low. As the budgetary situation does not allow FAO to develop its own environmental programme on any large scale, we would support closer cooperation with the UNEP and regional commissions of the United Nations in solving these problems.

Of course, when we emphasize this problem in the Council, we do so because of the difficulties now occurring in Europe and because of our Government's initiative aimed at the level of Prime Ministers in Central Europe taking due measures without delay to reduce the damage caused to the air, water and food. Naturally, to a large extent, this concerns the stands of cultivated crops, forests, water courses and reservoirs.

What we have in mind is that environmental aspects should be taken into consideration with all seriousness not only in subprogramme 2.1.1 but in all agricultural, fishery and forestry programmes. For example, the agro-ecological zones, crop/weather monitoring, and especially the WATTS are most closely associated with the environment and therefore FAO results should be emphasized during the discussions within the UNEP and in the multilateral and bilateral measures taken by governments, provided that such documentation and technical data are available in a suitable form to the governments.

The Committee also registers a decline in FAO's activities in the broad area of training. In this connection I would like to draw attention to the fact that a great amount of work has been done in the European cooperative research networks over a period of more than ten years of their existence, and in many countries, including Czechoslovakia, good conditions exist not only for international training in various fields, but also for the in-service training of lower-level technical cadres directly in developing countries.

For example, Czechoslovakia, in cooperation with the FAO, organized some undertakings associated with the problem of growing soybeans in the temperate zones, and workshops on embryo transfer and

the use of remote sensing for the solution of some selected problems of management of agricultural production. These are all activities that can be arranged on the spot, and Czechoslovak institutions are willing to take part in them.

We cannot understand why the accumulated voluntary contribution of our Government to the UNDP cannot be used for this purpose. We cannot understand why those means that we are willing to contribute to the organization of training programmes are being left unused.

In recent weeks in Czechoslovakia we had a widely attended conference, with the participation of a senior representative of FAO, at which we discussed our 40-year experience in the organization and the effectiveness of agricultural cooperative work. The conference confirmed a high level and effectiveness of the Czechoslovak large-scale agricultural enterprises. Of course, a farm working on several thousand hectares of land has to implement other methods of organization and management than does a traditional family farm. Those factors have to be taken into account; otherwise they could have a negative influence on economic results. Our experience in this field is based on 40 years of activity of large-scale farms.

In this connection we would like to suggest that we organize in cooperation with FAO an international training course with study tour for managers of large-scale agricultural enterprises. When submitting this proposal we are of the opinion that it is better to see the result on the spot than to hear something over 10 years.

Now let me turn to the report. I would be glad if the work on the complex programme for main crops was accelerated. In my opinion, enough scientific achievements are available to be used for further intensification of the production of staple and perishable food products in developing countries or for helping governments to orientate their policies on these issues.

The involvement of biotechnologies in the scientific revolution at the end of this century is increasing, and we believe that the FAO, which already includes biotechnologies among its priorities for the next two-year period, will together with UNIDO contribute to international cooperation in the application of these new technologies.

Sra. Olga CLEMENCIA FERNANDEZ (Colombia): Seremos muy breves en nuestra intervención. Hemos agradecido mucho la declaración del Sr. Bonte Friedheim, quien hizo una magnífica presentación de este documento 9. Los representantes de Colombia participamos activamente en el 10º periodo de sesiones del Comité de Agricultura, que fue presidido, con mucha competencia, por nuestro colega y amigo Sr. Hamdi, de Egipto. Apreciamos mucho también la valiosa colaboración que nos ofrecieron los dos Vicepresidentes, el profesor Thomsen, de Dinamarca: y el amigo Munip, de Malasia.

Deseamos apoyar plenamente las principales conclusiones del COAG, sobre todo relativas a la ejecución del Programa de Labores 1986-88, para insistir una vez más en la profunda preocupación que nos han causado las reducciones que debieron aplicarse a la ejecución del Programa en los últimos 3 años, debido a la crisis financiera de la Organización, causada principalmente por la falta de pago de las cuotas del primer contribuyente. Todas estas reducciones afectan los intereses y las aspiraciones de los países en desarrollo y son contrarias al espíritu de la cooperación internacional, porque se redujo un programa que había sido aprobado por la Conferencia, nuestro máximo órgano rector. Desgraciadamente, estamos frente a hechos cumplidos, y sólo nos queda apoyar lo que dice el párrafo 7: "La situación que ha exigido que se hagan recortes en el Programa es muy lamentable y espera que no persistirá".

Los Representantes de Colombia lamentamos principalmente la reducción considerable que debió aplicarse a la capacitación en los funcionarios de la FAO y en el personal nacional de los países beneficiarios. La capacitación es uno de los aspectos fundamentales del Programa, y la adecuada preparación de los nacionales encargados de la contrapartida es base de un buen éxito de las actividades de nuestra Organización.

Como lo expresó la Delegación de Colombia en el COAG, la reactivación de todas las importantes actividades reducidas tomará mucho tiempo, exigirá grandes recursos y afectará notoriamente a los países del Tercer Mundo. Por ello apoyamos lo que dice el párrafo 7, sobre la necesidad del pago oportuno de las cuotas para "garantizar a la FAO una situación estable en materia de recursos."

Finalmente, queremos apoyar plenamente las enmiendas del párrafo 140, como lo expresó el colega del Perú.

Assefa YILALA (Ethiopia): The Report of the Tenth Session of the Committee on Agriculture is very well outlined and most of the issues that were raised were very well reflected. Therefore, I would like to thank the Secretariat for their contribution and thank Mr Bonte-Friedheim for introducing the item.

The Committee on Agriculture met under the Chairmanship of Mr Hamdi of Egypt. He exhaustively discussed the matters of interest in great depth and deserves our tribute.

While endorsing the report I would like to mention two points that are of significant importance deserving immediate attention. These two points are the introduction of PIC into the Code and the preservation of animal genetic resources. Because of the wellbeing of mankind in general, including environmental considerations, we would hope that they are given immediate implementation.

We feel that these two areas are significant both from the point of view of present and future food production and therefore deserve immediate attention.

While endorsing the report, I would like to say that the correction and amendment proposed by the delegate of Peru to paragraph 140 is acceptable to my delegation.

The International Code of Conduct on the Distribution and Use of Pesticides is a very important decision that was made during the Conference and has a bearing on the wellbeing of mankind. At the time the Code was approved many member countries felt that it was incomplete without the Prior Informed Consent. With the introduction of the PIC to the Code, we feel that will partially fulfill some of the wishes of the member countries regarding the content of the Code.

Therefore, our delegation would like to express our support for the proposed changes in Articles 2, 9.8.1 and 9.8.4 as contained in document CL 95/15. We also endorse the proposed modifications and their presentation to the 25th Session of the Conference. This endorsement also includes the guidelines on the operation of Prior Informed Consent.

In this connection I would also like to thank all of those who contributed toward proposing the acceptable modification and Mr Brader for the introduction of the item to the Council.

Antti NIKKOLA (Finland): My delegation would like to make some comments both on the COAG Report and on the PIC Clause.

We wish to take this opportunity of thanking the FAO Secretariat for producing excellent documents for the 10th Session of the Committee on Agriculture. We feel that the work of the Committee took place in a very constructive spirit.

Concerning the Summary Programme of Work and Budget presented to COAG, we welcome the approach adopted by the Secretariat in formulating first the specific priorities, thereafter the consequent programme changes and proposals, and finally the much needed budgetary proposals. This approach as such, gives us a good opportunity to discuss the objectives, means and strategies of our Organization.

However, on the basis of our experience in COAG as well as in meetings of the Committee on Fisheries this year, we feel that the biennial budget does not offer the best possibility for this kind of discussion. We maintain that the plans for the next biennium should be judged in the light of plans for the long term. This would enable member countries to react and comment on the various specific proposals on the basis of an agreed framework of priorities and strategies with a longer perspective. Therefore, we hope that in future more time will be reserved for discussion of medium-term planning of FAO already in the technical committees. Finland and the other Nordic countries have underlined this principle before.

Plant and animal genetic resources are an important concern for FAO. The recommendations given by COAG on animal genetic resources are well founded. The recommendations are necessary for the conservation of a biological diversity of farmed animals on a global scale. My delegation hopes that FAO can find organizational structures and means so that the work on animal genetic resource preservation can be developed and supported in the framework of FAO.

The Finnish delegation welcomes the fact that the Tropical Forestry Action Plan was brought to the attention of COAG. For administrative reasons, agriculture and forestry are often promoted through separate channels. Closer cooperation between FAO subsectors at all levels of administration would be fruitful. To continue this cooperation at committee level, the Nordic countries proposed to COAG that agro-forestry should be a special topic for discussion at the next session of COAG.

Food consumption patterns and nutritional problems in urban regions do not belong to the core topics of FAO activities. We agree, however, with the conclusion of COAG that FAO can play a useful role in certain areas such as food quality and safety, nutrition education and nutrition surveillance activities. The importance of training was repeatedly underlined during the COAG session. Training is one of the cheapest and most efficient elements in developing projects. Not only should the local people be trained, but also those connected with them—managers, members of NGO's, national civil servants, and other officials. It is also essential to organize in-service training for all FAO staff involved. During recent years, FAO training activities have suffered too much, considering their vital importance for the Organization.

Now I turn to the question of PIC. Finland strongly supports the incorporation of the Prior Informed Consent Clause in the International Code of Conduct on the Distribution and Use of Pesticides. The proposal by COAG on the PIC Clause satisfies in general our delegation and is a good basis for final negotiations before and during the next FAO Conference. However, the Finnish delegation would like to draw attention to the closer cooperation needed between UNEP and FAO. This cooperation is needed because the PIC Clause comprises a data base containing relevant information on banned and severely restricted pesticides. UNEP has already got a data base called the "International Register of Potentially Toxic Chemicals". Therefore, we are not convinced of the need to establish a new data base for the needs of the PIC Clause as proposed in document CL 95/15. We suggest that the Secretariat considers the possibility of using UNEP's data base instead of having two complementary and interactive data bases. Using two data bases may lead to extra technical and administrative problems and a duplication of work.

Michel MOMBOULI (Congo): Pour commencer permettez-nous de remercier nos deux présentateurs, M. Bonte-Friedheim et M. Brader, pour la clarté de leurs exposés respectifs sur les points 6 et 7 soumis à notre examen.

Ayant nous-mêmes participé à la dixième session du Comité de l'agriculture, nous nous déclarons logiquement solidaires de ses recommandations et conclusions. Nous n'avons pas l'intention d'être à la fois juge et partie dans l'examen des rapports et c'est pourquoi nous serons assez brefs dans notre propos pour laisser le temps à ceux qui n'auraient pas participé au Xème COAG de se prononcer.

Quelques mots concernant la présentation du rapport. Nous remercions le Secrétariat pour le résumé en encadré de ce rapport du Xème COAG, résumé qui, en montant en épingle les questions appelant l'attention du Conseil, facilite notre lecture et notre compréhension des sujets.

Je voudrais également dire quelques mots concernant certaines questions débattues par le COAG à sa Xème Session; en effet, nous n'avons pas l'intention de passer en revue toutes les questions.

Concernant l'exécution du programme de travail 1986-88, nous aimerions nous associer à l'appel lancé à tous les Etats Membres pour qu'ils s'acquittent de leur contribution, même si nous sommes tous à l'heure des vaches maigres eu égard à la crise financière et économique mondiale, ceci dans le souci de permettre à la FAO de s'acquitter de son mandat de lutte contre la faim et la malnutrition.

Nous appuyons les différentes recommandations faites par le COAG concernant l'exécution du programme de travail 1986-88, et en particulier celles relatives à la formation et au renforcement des services de vulgarisation, au rôle du Centre d'Intervention anti-acridienne d'urgence, à la lutte contre la mouche américaine du ver tараudeur en Afrique du Nord à propos duquel la FAO propose un plan; nous appuyons également les recommandations relatives aux problèmes d'environnement, au développement durable de l'agriculture, à l'accès au marché pour les produits exportés par les pays en voie de développement.

Concernant le Sommaire du Programme de travail et budget 1990-91, nous nous résumerons en disant: premièrement, que nous approuvons la politique visant l'affectation de ressources financières complémentaires aux programmes techniques de l'Organisation; deuxièmement, que nous appuyons les principaux domaines prioritaires du programme d'agriculture pour lesquels des augmentations de crédit sont envisagées. Nous appuyons avec force toutes les recommandations concernant la préservation des ressources génétiques animales qui ne doivent pas rester en marge des autres sources génétiques en raison de l'importance qu'elles représentent, et nous insistons pour la prise en compte, dans les différents programmes de l'Organisation, de la participation de la population dans le développement agricole rural.

Quelques mots à propos du code de conduite pour la distribution et l'utilisation des pesticides et l'introduction de la clause d'information et de consentement préalable.

Nous félicitons le Secrétariat de la FAO pour avoir organisé avec succès les différentes rencontres qui ont permis l'adoption par consensus de propositions qui nous sont présentées dans le document CL 95/15. En effet, après un démarrage assez difficile, c'est avec grande satisfaction que nous

accueillons les résultats obtenus dans ce domaine, qui représentent à nos yeux un acquis précieux et une amélioration notable des articles 2 et 9 du Code.

Nous n'avons pas l'intention de chausser des lunettes d'expert pour passer au peigne fin ces propositions. Celles-ci nous paraissent relever du bon sens et du respect mutuel que nous avons longtemps souhaités et voulu instaurer entre les partenaires impliqués dans le commerce des pesticides. Aussi les approuvons-nous avec enthousiasme pour leur mise en oeuvre graduelle en partant d'une phase expérimentale.

Sra. Grafila SOTO CARRERO (Cuba): Quisiera agradecer por su amable conducto las presentaciones de los temas que nos ocupan, hechas por dos distinguidos miembros de la Secretaría: el Sr. Bonte Friedheim y el Sr. Brader.

La delegación cubana, participó muy activamente en el 10° período de sesiones del Comité de Agricultura, participando por consiguiente en la aprobación del informe que hoy nos ocupa y al cual damos nuevamente nuestro apoyo. En términos generales, la delegación cubana quisiera destacar el importante papel que la FAO desempeña ayudando a los países necesitados a realizar análisis agrícolas, fórmulas de estrategias y políticas y planes agrarios, así como su puesta en marcha. Sin embargo, nos permitiremos hacer referencia a algunos aspectos que nos parecen de vital importancia. En lo que se refiere a la ejecución del Programa de Labores y Presupuesto, la delegación de Cuba quisiera insistir en la importancia de que se continúe la colaboración existente con otras organizaciones del sistema de las Naciones Unidas, así como la cooperación con los centros internacionales de investigación y que se intensifique la orientación multidisciplinaria en las actividades de la FAO, como una vía para conseguir una labor de mayor calidad y un uso eficaz de los recursos con que cuenta nuestra Organización. También quisiéramos insistir en la necesidad de dar una prioridad continua a la capacitación. Este aspecto es de vital importancia para el adelanto de los métodos modernos en la agricultura de los países subdesarrollados. Asimismo, y para no repetir todos los aspectos importantes de la ejecución del Programa de Labores, quisiéramos plantear la importancia que mi delegación atribuye a la adopción de las medidas preventivas previstas en los distintos planes regionales e internacionales sobre el manejo de plagas.

Sr. Presidente, respecto a las propuestas del Programa de Labores y Presupuesto para 1990/91, mi delegación entiende que son muy equilibradas las consideraciones que han dado lugar a la formulación de las propuestas presupuestarias para el bienio 90-91, referentes al Programa Principal 2.1 Agricultura. En especial damos nuestro apoyo a la asignación de recursos financieros adicionales a los programas técnicos y económicos. Asimismo, consideramos de vital importancia la asistencia técnica para la formulación de políticas nacionales en materias de alimentación y nutrición, teniendo en cuenta la alta prioridad que se atribuye a la seguridad alimentaria y a la necesidad de tomar medidas a corto plazo en los sectores relacionados con la calidad e inocuidad de los alimentos, la enseñanza y las intervenciones en materia de nutrición y vigilancia nutricional.

Consideramos importante, que en la sexta Encuesta Alimentaria Mundial se incluya el tema de la malnutrición urbana.

En lo referente a la preservación de los recursos zoogenéticos, la delegación cubana considera importante que la FAO amplíe el Programa de Conservación de Recursos Zoogenéticos y el mejor aprovechamiento de los mismos, e insistimos en la necesidad de que la FAO continúe estudiando la utilización de nuevos métodos de biotecnología aplicables a los recursos zoogenéticos, así como que estudie la posibilidad de establecer un sistema global de recursos genéticos, incluidos los recursos zoogenéticos. En tal sentido, apoyamos el párrafo 140 con las enmiendas propuestas por la distinguida delegación de Perú.

Sobre la introducción de la cláusula relativa al Principio de Información y Consentimiento Previos, la delegación cubana apoya nuevamente las deliberaciones y conclusiones del COAG, así como de la Consulta Intergubernamental celebrada en enero de 1989.

LE PRESIDENT: Monsieur le Ministre de l'agriculture du Lesotho qui avait un engagement avec le Directeur général vient de nous rejoindre. Je lui donne volontiers la parole pour sa communication.

Daniel E. PHORORO (Lesotho): Mr Chairman, I am sorry I am late, but you have already given the reason

My delegation would like to endorse the Report of the 10th Session of the Committee on Agriculture, in particular the Summary Programme of Work and Budget for 1990-91. We compliment Mr Bonte-Friedheim on his concise and clear presentation of the activities of FAO's important Department of Agriculture.

Paragraph 51 emphasizes the importance of ensuring the adequate allocation of resources to the Technical Cooperation Programme, TCP. Our discussions on food security with reference to special adjustment programmes really confirm this view. In this regard, we concur with the delegate of the United States of America that structural adjustment is inherently a beneficial exercise provided that sufficient preparation has been made for its introduction by making available to those carrying out the programme analyses on which governments may make decisions. Through TCP, FAO can be rendered more swiftly responsive to member countries' needs in providing the required expertise for this undertaking. The initiative of the Italian Government in financially supporting the TCP is commendable, and is something which we trust will be emulated by other donors, particularly the United States, notwithstanding the commendable contributions by the United States to this exercise through bilateral programmes, for instance, such as those in my own country.

Similarly, the containment of training assistance which is very essential and necessary is deplored in paragraph 52 of the document. We believe this can be overcome by resuscitated, increased TCP resources. Paragraph 151 stresses the need for training local-level planners in programming and allocating resources and services in favour of the disadvantaged and to the organizations such as cooperatives, small informal groups and NGOs in which women always play a predominant role. We fully support this training assistance, and we feel that through TCP such resources could be of great benefit because this is the only best way in which people's participation can be promoted and encouraged. Furthermore, yesterday's discussions underlined and highlighted the fragility of the poor majority who are usually represented by small farmers, and particularly women. Their fragility is expressed in economic terms when they become victims of unrealistic structural adjustment programmes and are expected to increase production in a hostile economic environment of low commodity prices, preferential trade and high input costs. The fragility is worsened by their farming activities in a similarly fragile environment of depleted soils, overgrazed pastures and deforested woodlands. Under these circumstances, those observations were made by the Committee in paragraph 56, which refers to the important role of farm management and production economics in the analyses and development of stable farming systems. Paragraph 57 emphasizes the importance of fertilizer activities under the auspices of the International Fertilizer Scheme, IFS. Paragraph 71 underscores the importance of better utilization of feed resources for animal production.

In Lesotho, one could mention that we have adopted a theme for the next three years: conservation farming with increased production. The Minister of Education's strategy is similar, and that is education with production. These two things are interlinked to achieve the goals of Lesotho's environmental action plan. We would feel at this stage that the observations which the Committee has made on the three issues of feed resources and also of management systems and production economics and fertilizer, we feel that this should really assume the status of recommendations, and these programmes must be on a priority list of activities for FAO. We make this suggestion in the light of intimate interrelationships between production economics, costly fertilizer inputs, and available animal manure use, resulting from adequate feed resources. In view of the unfavourable economic situation in which the poor farmer operates, we must convince ourselves that the packages that are recommended for adoption will yield the highest returns possible. There is no use, for example, in encouraging the use of fertilizer when the nature of the soil is such that the optimum fertilizer use by the crop is inhibited by other soil deficiencies, for example, low acidity. The cost of the fertilizer will not compensate the farmers' limited resources. Instead, more benefit may accrue from the use of combined fertilizer and cheap manure. The latter will be available in abundant supplies when feed resources prevail and the range is made more productive by stall feeding.

Finally, regarding technology assessment and transfer in paragraph 79, we urge FAO and the other donors to reorient their thinking on the transfer of technology. Hitherto, this term has implied the adoption of foreign innovations by foreign experts for local use. But we know, for example, that Nigerians and Zambians are bringing into the market technological innovations that are appropriate for their situations in terms of costs, applicability and durability, including agricultural equipment. This development has been the outcome of structural adjustment programmes that made local currencies less competitive in importing or transferring foreign innovations, thus triggering rapid inflation. We submit, therefore, that efforts must be made to promote and assist indigenous entrepreneurs who are using local material to service agriculture in developing countries.

Zhenhuan LI (China) (Original language Chinese): From document CL 95/9, it could be seen that the COAG, at the Tenth Session, has carried out a comprehensive discussion on issues relating to world agricultural development. Recommendations have been proposed. Please allow me to reiterate the viewpoints of the Chinese Delegation on some of the issues.

First of all, I would like to refer to a recommendation of a study on the strategy and perspective of agricultural development in the Asia and Pacific Region. In the past few years, the Asian region has achieved certain results in agricultural development, but owing to the large population, and scarcity of land resources, in the long run there will be many potential problems that will eventually emerge. In order to formulate the future strategy, I believe that it would be necessary to carry out a systematic study of the problems, based on the available data. We hope that this proposal will be well taken by FAO and that due consideration will be given in formulating the next programme of work. Secondly, we have taken note that because of the financial difficulties, the implementation of the programme of work has been affected. It has also similarly affected programmes in the agricultural sector. Now we are about to begin formulating the next programme of work for the next biennium. We are in agreement with the priorities determined by the COAG interim report that has been adopted by consensus. The priorities include sustainable development, crop surveillance, biotechnology, crop protection, the development of agricultural data, policy consultation, as well as women's participation. We are happy to note that in the Summary proposed by the Director-General, there is a 1.3 percent increase in the agricultural sectors, which is the highest. I think that is indispensable.

Thirdly, questions relating to urbanization and nutrition. At present, there is an influx of rural population into the urban centres in many developing countries, bringing with it a host of problems affecting urban infrastructure, food supply, nutrition, as well as environmental hygiene. In this connection, FAO has had many useful activities in food quality control, in nutrition propaganda and surveillance. We would like to express our appreciation. But we believe that in the long run the only way out of this issue is to undertake an all-round development of rural economy so as to lessen rural poverty.

Fourthly, on the principle of the PIC, we have taken note that since the 24th General Conference in 1987, FAO has been carrying out a large number of useful activities so that the principle of the PIC would be included in the Code of Conduct on the distribution and use of pesticides. Guidelines have been proposed earlier this year in April—that is, during the Tenth Session of COAG. Our delegation has already stated that the implementation of PIC would promote the safe use of pesticides and would lessen the hazardous effects on human health and on the environment. We support the inclusion of the PIC in the Code of Conduct. As for the implementation of the PIC, we believe that the guidelines revised by the experts consulted at the meeting earlier on this year is a sound document which could be accepted by countries over the world. We hope that the PIC will be included as soon as possible in the Code of Conduct and that it will be implemented at the earliest time.

I would also like to point out that owing to the fact that at present many developing countries do not yet possess a sound system of management of pesticides, there is a lack of equipment and technology for surveillance, a lack of qualified personnel. We would propose that FAO further collect and disseminate agricultural data so as to help developing countries to establish such a system and to conduct more training facilities so that we would better implement the principle of the PIC.

Lastly, the Chinese Delegation would like to propose that the present session of the Council adopt the Tenth Report of COAG.

Christos IACOVOU (Grèce): Très brièvement pour ce qui concerne l'accord auquel le Comité de l'agriculture est parvenu sur l'inclusion de la clause dite "de l'information et du consentement préalable", dans le Code pour la distribution et l'utilisation des pesticides, je voudrais clarifier notre position, à savoir que nous sommes d'accord en principe avec les amendements aux articles 2 et 9 du Code. Toutefois, du fait que cela implique quelques charges budgétaires additionnelles, les autorités auraient besoin d'un peu de temps pour confirmer leur approbation.

Noboru SAITO (Japan): My delegation reviewed the document CL 95/9, the report of the Tenth Session of the Committee on Agriculture, and would like to make a few comments on that matter. First of all, I would like to touch upon the Summary Programme of Work and Budget 1990-91. Although the Japanese position on this item is pending the result of the FAO Review which will be submitted before us in the coming Conference, my delegation believes it is very important that FAO should exert the maximum use of flexibility through the following measures: first, allocating its resources from low priority areas to those of higher priority. Second, cutting down the less

necessary and less urgent projects. Third, avoiding duplication on the implementation of similar projects and programmes. Fourthly, fixing appropriate implementation periods for new projects and programmes, for example, three or five years, and review the necessity of whether they should be continued at the end of the fixed duration.

As for the point concerning priority areas, we have the following views: firstly, my delegation fully recognized the importance of Agricultural Information Development which involves the effective utilization of accumulated agricultural information in FAO, with a view to strengthening FAO's important role as the information centre on world food and agriculture. Secondly, Japan also understands that policy advice is one of FAO's most important activities, as it assists self-supporting efforts by developing countries to promote food and agricultural development. My delegation therefore believes that policy advice should have high priority in the proposed budget plan in 1990-91. Thirdly, with regard to sustainable development and women in development, my country fully supports these two as high priority areas. At the same time, we have also pointed out that FAO should exert its best efforts to avoid duplication and overlapping with other international organizations in the above fields so as to ensure efficient and successful implementation of programmes in these fields. Fourthly, my delegation highly appreciates the proposed programmes on crop weather monitoring by the effective use of the remote sensing technology which contributes to enhancing the capacity of the Global Information and Early Warning System (GIEWS). Finally, with regard to the proposed budget increase for TCP, as the decision making on this programme depends on the FAO Secretariat and is not transparent for the governments of member countries, my delegation trusts FAO should therefore provide the opportunity for discussions by member countries on the context of TCP implementation.

My delegation would like to touch upon the preservation of animal genetic resources. Japan has significant interests in this issue of the preservation of animal genetics. In this regard, Japan concurs with the approval of the Committee on Agriculture for holding the expert consultation to examine these topics and the study to be conducted by the working group of the FAO Commission on Plant Genetic Resources. However, such expert consultation and the working group should be carried out taking reasonable amounts of time with the view that the matter of animal genetic resources is in its nature of a different character from that of plant genetic resources.

Finally, I would like to touch upon the matter of the Code of Conduct on the distribution and use of pesticides, the introduction of the Prior Informed Consent Clause (PIC). Although we believe the current version of the Code of Conduct is workable to ensure the proper distribution and the appropriate and safe use of pesticides, my delegation supports principally the introduction of the PIC for supplementing the Code of Conduct as a result of careful consideration at former sessions such as government consultations and COAG.

At the last point I would like to mention our efforts for this matter. Japan has contributed to FAO for the implementation of this Code of Conduct with the Trust Fund project which is now operating since last year in the Asian and Pacific regions to support and promote the application of the International Code of Conduct. Thank you Mr Chairman.

Ray ALLEN (United Kingdom): I would first like to compliment the Secretariat on the documents we have before us. We continue to find the section "Matters requiring the attention of the Council" particularly useful.

We made all the technical points we had at COAG and I will not repeat all of these here today. Most of the points we made have been picked up and highlighted in the Report, while some others have not, and it is some of these latter points I would like to highlight in my intervention today.

We will have the opportunity to discuss the Summary Programme of Work and Budget 1990-91 under Agenda Item 14, but there are one or two points relating to the debate which took place in COAG that I would like to repeat.

The first of these points relates to priorities, and we support the points made by the Japanese delegation on this. We are pleased at the attempt to classify priorities through an intensive internal review process followed by the rationalization of a number of the work programmes. These moves are very welcome, but, as we said at COAG, we consider that they really do not go far enough. There has been reallocation of resources within and between programmes as a result of the rationalization exercise. However most programme elements have in fact been retained in one form or another, and any savings have been reabsorbed.

We remain concerned that actual priorities within the work programme will continue to be dictated to some extent by the availability or otherwise of funds to employ the professional staff to do the work as has been the case in the past. A strategic overview and the formulation of well defined priorities is necessary to overcome this problem and to ensure that some of the more valuable programmes are protected and do not continue to be adversely affected by lack of staff and funds.

While supporting the priority areas listed, the increased allocations do not appear to be confined to these areas alone. Increases are proposed for nearly all the programmes under the Major Agricultural Programme. Significant additional costs will therefore be involved in planning for new initiatives since any savings or reductions achieved within subprogrammes have largely been reabsorbed. Given the overall financial constraints and the problems this has caused in the recent past in effective programme implementation, we think caution should be exercised against planning for any new initiatives unless full provision for these can be assured. This again points to the need for further rationalization of the programmes and the establishment of clearly defined priorities.

The second point I have to make relates to Women in Development. The increased emphasis on the role of women is especially welcome. We are, however, disappointed that although accorded a high priority in the past, this area has been notably constrained through inadequate staff resources during the last biennium. We hope that the staffing constraints will not have a similar effect on the 1990-91 programme.

My third point refers to the Livestock Programme. A number of new technologies, particularly involving genetic manipulation, raise the prospects of developing improved vaccines, modifying animal breeds, cloning genes and so on. While it is right to be aware of the important developments there is a danger that the new technologies will come to be regarded as a panacea to solve many livestock diseases and production problems. The use and application of these technologies needs to be approached with caution, particularly where infrastructure and commitment are lacking and where simple and currently available measures are not being adopted.

My next point Mr Chairman, relates to the section on People's Participation in Agriculture and Rural Development on pages 16 to 19 of the document. We made the point at COAG, and we would like to make it again, that whilst we agree that an important role is played by small informal groups of rural people, the proposal to establish a data base of such groups needs careful consideration. Given the large numbers and diversity of such organizations we consider that this may not necessarily provide the type of information required to strengthen efforts to promote the establishment of viable people's institutions generally. We would like to repeat our suggestion that a case study approach covering a cross-section of selected institutions, aimed at pinpointing and clarifying the main factors determining success or failure, might represent a more appropriate and practical use of the funds.

On Prior Informed Consent, the Director-General in his statement on Monday referred to this issue, and the fact that the issue involved so many divergent interests that it could have turned into a real apple of discord. Instead in the Committee on Agriculture consensus was reached and common sense, as the Director-General referred to it, did prevail, and we hope that the Council will endorse the proposed modifications for forwarding to Conference. We do however support the comments made by the Finnish delegation regarding cooperation with UNEP and the need for a single data base.

The Committee on Agriculture, Mr Chairman, is the main forum for discussion of technical problems and Members will recall that four topics are selected for detailed discussion at each meeting. My delegation has noticed that the number of professional personnel attending from capitals has declined over the last two meetings of COAG. We feel that efforts should be made by both the membership and the Secretariat to reverse this decline, and we would like to suggest that the Secretariat might put forward proposals to achieve better professional representation.

In conclusion, Mr Chairman, we are pleased to note the remarks on page 35 of the Summary Programme of Work and Budget that due account will be taken of the recommendations of bodies such as the Committee on Agriculture in preparing the full Programme of Work and Budget. Thank you Mr Chairman.

Igor MARINCEK (Suisse): Je vais concentrer mon intervention concernant le rapport du COAG sur trois points: surtout l'examen du programme de travail dans le secteur de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture; ensuite, la question de la participation de la population au développement agricole et rural et, finalement, la question de l'inclusion du ICP dans le code de conduite pour les pesticides.

La mission principale de la FAO reste sans doute d'aider les pays à éliminer la faim et la pauvreté et à réaliser la sécurité alimentaire tant au niveau des pays qu'à celui des individus. Pour réaliser cet objectif, la FAO doit en premier lieu aider les pays à mobiliser leurs propres ressources. A cette fin, comme premier pas et avant même de considérer tel ou tel projet, la FAO doit à notre avis se poser la question fondamentale, et cela en commun avec le pays concerné, de savoir si la politique agricole de ce dernier constitue un cadre favorable à la poursuite de l'objectif de la sécurité alimentaire. Trop souvent, hélas, les politiques agricoles ont été un

frein plutôt qu'une incitation à un développement rural harmonieux. On a trop longtemps considéré l'agriculture comme un secteur sans avenir avec pour seule mission de nourrir les citadins à bon prix. L'absence de politique agricole attrayante pour les paysans a ainsi accéléré l'exode rural et contribué à l'explosion des villes et surtout des bidonvilles, fait qui a été relevé lors du débat du COAG sur l'urbanisation et les modes de consommation alimentaire.

A notre avis, il est donc urgent que la FAO aide les pays concernés à mieux connaître les causes de leurs problèmes et à trouver des solutions spécifiques à leur situation et leurs besoins. C'est pourquoi ma délégation est en faveur d'un renforcement du rôle de la FAO dans l'analyse et les conseils en matière de politique agricole. Ma délégation soutient donc le paragraphe 102 du rapport du COAG et, avec le Comité, nous sommes préoccupés de la réduction proposée des ressources dans ce domaine si crucial. Nous pensons, au contraire, qu'une augmentation est souhaitable. Ma délégation a d'autre part remarqué que le Secrétariat nous propose une augmentation du nombre d'éléments de programme dans le Grand Programme Agriculture, de 213 actuellement à 218. C'est dire qu'on nous propose une dispersion des ressources. Ce n'est pas comme cela que nous aurons une FAO plus efficace, mieux orientée vers des priorités.

Nous devons faire de notre Organisation un instrument plus fort dans la lutte contre la faim et la pauvreté-la rendre plus forte, c'est d'abord la rendre plus efficace-ensuite, lui donner une orientation plus claire, plus concentrée. C'est ce genre de réforme dont a besoin la FAO. De telles réformes ne doivent pas coûter cher, contrairement à ce qu'on essaie parfois de nous suggérer. Bien au contraire, rendre la FAO plus efficace, c'est dire qu'avec une quantité donnée de ressources, elle pourra faire plus. Si l'on nous dit, par exemple, que la FAO a besoin d'ordinateurs pour mieux faire son travail, cela ne peut être justifié que si l'ordinateur contribue à baisser les coûts. De telles réformes permettent donc des économies qui libèrent des ressources pour des tâches prioritaires.

Il semble aussi que la FAO n'ait pas de plan à moyen terme de ses besoins en personnel. C'est étonnant car le personnel constitue le capital le plus précieux de la FAO, comme l'a souligné à plusieurs reprises le Directeur Général-et je lui donne parfaitement raison. Si nous définissons un programme à moyen terme de l'Organisation, il est évident qu'il faut tout de suite se poser la question: quel genre de spécialistes seront nécessaires pour mettre en oeuvre ce programme? Pour l'analyse et les conseils en matière de politique agricole, par exemple, il faudra d'autres spécialistes que dans un domaine technique. Je reviendrai plus en détail sur cette question lors du débat sur le Sommaire du Programme de travail et budget.

Qu'il me soit permis de parler brièvement du sujet de la participation populaire. La participation populaire est un facteur tout à fait central pour mobiliser l'intérêt et le sens des responsabilités des populations concernées et constitue ainsi l'une des clés pour le succès des programmes de développement. J'aimerais donner un exemple qui montre bien le rôle crucial de la participation populaire. Dans un pays sahélien qui souffre beaucoup sous la progression de la désertification, on a adopté un programme de mise en défens de périmètres. A l'abri du bétail et de l'exploitation par l'homme, notamment en ce qui concerne les besoins en bois de feu, ces périmètres montrent aujourd'hui une reprise étonnante du couvert végétal. Ce développement très encourageant a été rendu possible par une modification des lois du pays. L'ancienne loi donnait la responsabilité et les droits d'exploitation de ces zones au gouvernement central. La nouvelle loi donne le droit d'exploitation aux villages, sous condition justement de prendre également des responsabilités, notamment en ce qui concerne la protection des périmètres mis en défens. La décentralisation de la responsabilité à ceux qui sont directement intéressés s'avère donc être une clé de succès et c'est un enseignement qui mérite d'être retenu. C'est cela la participation populaire et, comme on le voit, cela ne doit pas coûter cher.

Le rapport du COAG sur cette question tel que présenté dit, au paragraphe (viii) du résumé et au paragraphe 157, qu'un plan d'action devrait être élaboré pour être examiné en temps utile par le Conseil et la Conférence de la FAO. Ma délégation aimerait connaître l'interprétation des termes "en temps utile" par le Secrétariat. Il nous semble, par ailleurs, que le Comité avait adopté les termes "le plus rapidement possible". Ma délégation est de celles qui avaient insisté sur le besoin pressant d'une action de la FAO dans ce domaine et elle a offert un appui financier pour aider le démarrage de ces activités par l'exécution d'une étude. Nous souhaiterions savoir du Secrétariat quelles mesures ont été prises jusqu'ici dans ce domaine.

Finalement, vous nous avez invités à nous prononcer également au sujet du COAG sur le PIC.

Ma délégation a fait savoir à cet égard sa position lors des débats du COAG. Nous sommes d'accord avec l'inclusion du PIC dans le Code de conduite sur les pesticides, à condition que l'on réalise un système administrativement simple. Il est essentiel, à notre avis, que l'on évite un double emploi dans ce domaine entre l'UNEP et notamment le RISCPT d'une part et la FAO d'autre part.

Le document CL 95/15, que nous venons de recevoir hier seulement, nous semble cependant proposer un double emploi dans ce domaine. Dans le Code en vigueur, la responsabilité du système de notification est confiée au RISCPT. Nous ne voyons pas pourquoi la modification du Code par l'inclusion du PIC devrait changer cette division du travail. Le rôle de la FAO dans ce domaine réside à notre avis plutôt dans l'assistance technique, dans la mise en place de systèmes d'homologation dans les pays qui n'en ont pas encore ainsi que dans le domaine de la formation.

Comme les pesticides font partie des produits chimiques, il serait, d'après la proposition qui nous est soumise, nécessaire d'envoyer des notifications à la fois à la FAO et au RISCPT. Ceci créerait une confusion et une bureaucratie regrettables.

Ma délégation suggère qu'on cherche une solution plus rationnelle, c'est-à-dire que l'on crée un système unique faisant appel aux institutions existantes dans le système des Nations Unies.

Par ailleurs, comme le document CL 95/15 n'a pas encore pu être étudié par les services compétents de l'administration de mon pays, ma délégation n'est pas en mesure de donner une appréciation définitive quant aux modalités d'inclusion du PIC dans le Code, et doit donc réserver sa position à ce sujet.

Angel BARBERO MARTIN (España): Podemos calificar de fundamental, sin duda alguna, el 10º período de sesiones del Comité de Agricultura. Nosotros estimamos que la importancia y el alcance de los temas tratados, que lograron un acuerdo en esta sesión y que, si son de tal índole que si este Consejo los adopta, apoya y eleva las propuestas a la Conferencia, esté poniendo en manos de la FAO la posibilidad de colocar a la Organización en una posición de liderazgo respecto al camino, a la marcha hacia una nueva agricultura que sabrá conjugar por fin el desarrollo con la conservación de los recursos naturales, que es esa propuesta que todos apoyan y que todos citan continuamente, pero que muy pocos saben poner en práctica, muy pocos la saben hacer realidad. La desaparición de los bosques o la desaparición del suelo fértil, la contaminación de aguas, suelos y alimentos a veces se achacan a la propia agricultura, a veces son también tenidos como efecto del subdesarrollo, pero, en definitiva, son causa a su vez de más subdesarrollo, son causa de pobreza y de inseguridad alimentaria y son un reto. Su lucha se plantea en todas las organizaciones internacionales. Por eso, el camino que se ha emprendido después de esta sesión creemos que se debe apoyar, sin miedos, sin recortes presupuestarios.

A nosotros Sr. Presidente, nos han preocupado sobre todo los recortes presupuestarios que se han realizado en el campo de la capacitación, porque entendemos que en esta estrategia de lucha, el papel del propio campesino sabiendo gestionar sus propios recursos, sabiendo lo que hace y hacia dónde va, es fundamental e insustituible. Y para eso está la capacitación y la extensión, para eso está también la participación popular a la que se han referido ya otras delegaciones, y nosotros, ya en su momento, apoyamos también la mejora de las estructuras agrarias de estos propios campesinos y nos agradó especialmente la idea de las cooperativas, que sería una vía, entendemos, de lograr un mayor valor añadido a los productos agrarios, eliminando intermediarlos y también facilitando esta gestión que nosotros preconizamos. En este sentido, la formación, además de técnica, la formación cooperativa para jóvenes y adultos debe ser apoyada. A los jóvenes porque son la garantía del futuro, y a los adultos porque deben de poder mantener un mínimo nivel de producción que garantice su desarrollo. Esta formación se debe dar mediante servicios de divulgación y extensión.

También apoyamos en su momento, Sr. Presidente, el acceso a los créditos y, dentro de este sistema cooperativo, el acceso al crédito cooperativo creando secciones de crédito que permiten mejorar y aumentar el acceso a la financiación de los propios cooperantes.

La formación empresarial de los jóvenes, apoyada con un crédito, también empresarial, hará de ellos los futuros gestores de sus propias explotaciones, y también, cómo no, y no nos cansamos de citar el papel de la mujer en el desarrollo, crear unas vías de crédito para la mujer, darle acceso a este desarrollo que estamos preconizando por vía de las cooperativas.

Por otro lado, Sr. Presidente, apoyamos durante este período de sesiones todas aquellas propuestas que se referían a la mejora de los medios que permiten una agricultura más racional y más protectora de los recursos, como son la teledetección empleada tanto para conocer las variaciones climatológicas como para saber en el momento adecuado el estado, la cantidad y la calidad de los recursos naturales. Aquí enlazamos con la lucha contra la erosión y contra la desertización. Dentro de este sistema, los avances de la investigación, los aportes a la tecnología que realizan los centros de investigación son fundamentales también, y, en este sentido, los países ricos que disponen de una infraestructura ya creada o que permite estos avances en la investigación, deberían colaborar a que esta infraestructura pudiera también establecerse en países más pobres y colaborar a que las conclusiones obtenidas en los centros de investigación sean difundidas adecuadamente entre los países pobres.

El Programa de Acción Forestal en los Trópicos tiene unos aspectos que en este campo del que estamos ahora tratando, la agricultura, son fundamentales. Creemos que permite la utilización adecuada de cada tierra, de cada terreno. La aplicación de este plan en este sentido cooperará a mantener el suelo, evitando que cultivos Inadecuados causen su degradación, al mismo tiempo que permite que se conserven los bosques allá donde deben estar, en los euelos donde deben estar y no sean talados para permitir el acceso a estos cultivos.

En muchas estrategias para la conservación de la naturaleza que se han desarrollado en muchas organizaciones, tanto gubernamentales como no gubernamentales, se habla de la diversidad genética como uno de los puntos fundamentales a mantener dentro de esta estrategia de la conservación. Sin embargo, muy pocas han logrado que el principio de la diversidad genética se aplique adecuadamente. No basta la creación de parques nacionales. Aunque son totalmente necesarios, son como islas dentro de territorios y a lo mejor no son en absoluto conservados, como los parques. Hace falta, Sr. Presidente, una estrategia y un programa bien estructurados y unos medios adecuados, y nos encontramos con que la FAO dispone y empieza a desarrollar esos medios. Entendemos entonces que, ampliar el sistema global de la diversidad biológica, que hasta ahora está contemplando la FAO, ampliarlo con el reino animal y utilizar los medios y la experiencia técnica que ya posee la FAO, es la garantía, primero, de que se seguirá en el camino adecuado de la diversidad genética, pero también de que se emplearán los medios con la economía y la intensidad adecuadas. Por eso, apoyamos la enmienda que propuso en su momento la delegación de Perú al punto 140 del informe.

Y por ultimo, querríamos recordar también que nosotros establecimos algunas prioridades en los futuros programas, que nos gustaría se vieran desarrolladas por la FAO: la agrosilvicultura y los sistemas agroforestales y también el estudio de las posibilidades de las explotaciones conjuntas ganaderas y agrícolas en las zonas áridas y semiáridas, cuyos desequilibrios causan muchas veces el fenómeno de la desertización.

En resumen, yo pediría a los delegados aquí presentes y también al Secretariado de la FAO que no teman en absoluto continuar por este camino, que entendemos que es el adecuado, para lograr una FAO digna de la confianza de los que reciben sus beneficios, que somos en definitiva todos, y también de los que estamos llamados a aportar los medios necesarios, tanto técnicos como materiales para que su marcha continúe.

The meeting rose at 12.45 hours.

La séance est levée à 12 h 45.

Se levanta la sesión a las 12.45 horas.

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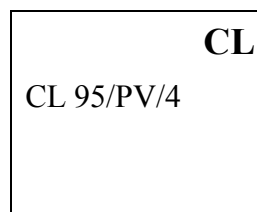
FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

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ORGANIZACION DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS PARA LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION



Ninety-fifth Session

Quatre-vingt-quinzième session

95º periodo de sesiones

FOURTH PLENARY MEETING
QUATRIEME SEANCE PLENIERE
CUARTA SESION PLENARIA
(20 June 1989)

The Fourth Plenary Meeting was opened at 14.45 hours Lassaad Ben Osman, Independent Chairman of the Council, presiding

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

Se abre la cuarta sesión plenaria a las 14.45 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 (CONTINUACION)

6. Report of the Tenth Session of the Committee on Agriculture (Rome, 26 April-5 May 1989):
6. Rapport de la dixième session du Comité de l'agriculture (Rome, 26 avril-5 mai 1989) (suite)
6. Informe del décimo periodo de sesiones del Comité de Agricultura (Roma, 26 de abril-5 de mayo de 1989) (continuación)
7. Code of Conduct on the Distribution and Use of Pesticides: Introduction of the "Prior Informed Consent" (PIC) Clause (continued)
7. Code de conduite pour la distribution et l'utilisation des pesticides-Introduction de la clause de l'information et du consentement préalables (suite)
7. Código Internacional de Conducta para la Distribución y Utilización de Plaguicidas: Introducción de la clausula relativa al "principio de información y consentimiento previos" (continuación)

LE PRESIDENT: Honorables délégués, Mesdames, Messieurs, nous allons poursuivre nos débats sur les points 6 et 7 de l'ordre du jour. Je voudrais dire que nous avons encore 18 orateurs inscrits au titre de ces deux questions sur les points 6 et 7. Notre calendrier prévoit le point 8 "Ressources phytogénétiques". Je demande la collaboration fraternelle de tous les délégués pour essayer de rester dans le temps imparti par l'Agenda. En principe le travail finit à 17 h 30, mais si nous n'arrivons pas à terminer les points 6 et 7 d'ici 17 h 30 nous serons amenés à poursuivre la séance jusqu'à 19 heures de manière à respecter le calendrier. Tout dépend donc du Conseil et des honorables délégués. La question est importante, elle mérite toute notre attention. Donc nous laissons aux délégués la possibilité d'essayer de permettre à l'Organisation de tenir le calendrier initialement prévu. Je voudrais passer la parole au Canada. J'ai oublié Monsieur Brader qui doit faire une communication.

L. BRADER (Director, Plant Production and Protection Division): It has been brought to my attention that there is a discrepancy between the text of the Code of Conduct in the report of COAG compared with the one being published in document CL 95/15. I am referring particularly to page 49 of the COAG report in English, to Article 9.11.2 where, in the COAG report, it reads: "take appropriate measures, within their authority and legislative competence, designed to ensure that exports ...", etc. If one looks at page 7 of document CL 95/15, the word "designed" has accidentally dropped out under Article 9.11.2 and has to be added again.

Earl W. WEYBRECHT (Canada): The report of the tenth session of the Committee on Agriculture contains a large number of matters for the attention of the Council. We note that matters relating to the Summary Programme of Work and Budget will also come up for discussion under another agenda item in this Council session. We expect to make further comments on the agriculture programme at that time.

We had an opportunity to participate in the tenth session of COAG and to provide our comments on the substantive issues on that occasion. I might emphasize that Canada places great importance on the technical nature of COAG for setting the course of FAO's programming in agriculture. We support the points made by the delegate of the United Kingdom to encourage an increase in the participation of technically experienced personnel from Member Nations in the Committee sessions. We would like to comment briefly on a number of the points raised in the report.

We support the emphasis placed on the continued priority to be given to training and to the strengthening of extension services. We share the concern that was expressed over the drop in training activities in the implementation of the programme of work in the period 1986-88. Training is clearly one of the major functions of the Organization.

We fully support the recommendation that FAO's collaboration with other international organizations and U.N. agencies and cooperation with international research centres be continued. We are pleased to note the recognition given to this cooperation to ensure efficient use of scarce resources.

We welcome the emphasis placed on environmental concerns relating to sustainable agricultural development. The request that priority continue to be given to environmental subjects in the future is in line with the overall priority proposals as set out in the Outline and the Summary of the Programme of Work and Budget. The proposal to create a new sub-programme on Sustaining Resource Potentials will help to increase the focus of FAO's important work in this area.

We re-emphasise the importance of the statistical and information work of the Organization and its efforts to develop a World Agriculture Information Centre.

We are pleased with the proposal that a separate item be included on the agenda of the 11th Session of the Committee on Agriculture to discuss the topic of women in development. The Committee's consideration of the many activities of the Organization related to this important topic would be very appropriate and timely.

We support the initiative of FAO to develop a strategy for preserving animal genetic resources and look forward to the planned Expert Consultation to examine the many aspects of the proposals for a global FAO programme. We feel that the report as it stands reflects accurately the discussion that took place on this subject in the Committee.

We attach importance to the emphasis placed in the report on increased collaboration with NGOs.

The Canadian delegation fully supports the proposed modifications to the International Code of Conduct on the Distribution and Use of Pesticides. We note the high level of exchange and cooperation with UNEP and other international organizations in this endeavour.

Canada believes that close coordination of the PIC Procedures adopted by FAO and UNEP is of vital importance to achieving the compliance of members and therefore, is critical to the success of this initiative.

Regular progress reports on the operations of the PIC and interactive linking with UNEP's International Register of Potentially Toxic Chemicals to prevent duplication will enhance confidence in its operation. The operation of PIC and its implementation is feasible in Canada.

Joao Augusto DE MEDICIS (Brazil): I am pleased to reiterate the appreciation of my delegation for the excellent work reported on the Agricultural Department's activities from 1986 to 1988 and our thanks for the activities implemented in Brazil during that period. Cooperation with FAO has proved to be worthwhile, and special mention was made during the COAG session of products developed in the city of Sao Paulo regarding urbanization, food consumption and nutrition. The importance of improving access to food for the poor and educating families in better nutrition habits cannot be over-emphasized. That is why my delegation wholeheartedly supports FAO's efforts to assist member countries in developing nutrition education programmes, in particular envisaging the use of indigenous foods. We also endorse the recommendations listed in Items (i) to 0(ix) in pages V to VI of document CL 95/5. In that regard, the Brazilian delegation wants to strongly support the concern of the Portuguese-speaking countries in Africa with the establishment of a specific sub-regional centre for the formulation of nutritional policies for those countries. Brazil undoubtedly is ready to take an active part in FAO's efforts in that direction, especially taking into consideration not only our language and historical ties to the five Portuguese-speaking countries in Africa, but also our common ethnic roots and similar climatic and edaphic prevalent conditions. In relation to the preservation of animal genetic resources, I want to stress once again the importance the Brazilian Government attaches to animal genetic preservation programmes and furthermore to restate the acknowledgement of the relevant role played by FAO and UNEP in fostering those programmes around the world. My delegation therefore strongly supports the proposal made here by the distinguished representative of Peru, to the effect that the Commission on Plant Genetic Resources, during its next session, should decide on the inclusion of animal genetic resources as a topic for its concern and studies. It is in this as well as in other fields that my delegation very much welcomes the inter-agency approach and fruitful cooperation, and we strongly hope that efforts will be always added up, therefore avoiding overlapping and consequent duplication of activities and waste of scarce resources. During the COAG session, stress was placed on the Brazilian stand on the establishment of policies related to the preservation of genetic resources. It is our view, however, that any policy decision on that as well as on any related subject must be taken on a national basis. My delegation nonetheless supports FAO's efforts and welcomes the establishment of a world watch system on Indigenous livestock breeds to identify the need and promote action when valuable or unique breeds are approaching risk.

In my intervention at the COAG concerning the introduction of the PIC clause in the Code of Conduct on the distribution and use of pesticides, I mentioned the hearings which were being held by the US Congress regarding inadequate notification and monitoring of pesticides exported from the United States. The report of the US General Accounting Office presented at these hearings highlights a few points that might be of interest to the Council: about 25 percent of pesticides exported from the US are not registered in the US and so cannot be sold there. Two hundred and sixty two unregistered pesticides were exported from the US in 1987. Out of 209 pesticides investigated by GAO, notices were sent to importing countries for only 54. I made those remarks with some reluctance since the US is not the only exporter of pesticides and certainly not the only one not to properly notify the importing countries on the dangers they are facing. The conclusion, however, is that importing countries cannot rely on the EPA to adequately inform them about hazardous pesticide exports, and in

particular about the harmful effects of these pesticides. The situation is very serious indeed. The figures given are just an example. Even in a country which has one of the world's best developed registration and export notification systems for exports, the system does not work adequately.

The Brazilian delegation is therefore glad that COAG reached consensus on the introduction of the PIC clause in the Code. We endorse the modification of the Code suggested by COAG and favour an early start in the implementation of the Prior Informed Consent procedure. In regard to the definition to be added to Article 2 of Paragraph I as in paragraph 172(c) of COAG's report, my delegation favours the deletion of the word "participating". The PIC is basically an ethical commitment, and ethical commitments cannot exclude some countries just because they do not participate in the Code. Finally, we would like to draw the attention of this Council to two other suggestions of COAG, mentioned in paras. 7 and 8 of document CL 95/15 and which we consider of capital importance: the one which regards the necessity that FAO and UNEP work closely together in the implementation of the PIC procedure, and second, the one concerning the requirements of many countries for technical assistance and training of staff necessary for full implementation of the Code and the PIC clause. We therefore endorse the report of the Tenth Session of the COAG and once again reiterate our compliments for the objectives fulfilled.

Mauricio CUADRA: (Nicaragua) Nuestra Delegación ha estudiado con detenimiento el documento del Comité de Agricultura, el cual consideramos que es un análisis rico y profundo de la temática general de la agricultura del programa de la FAO para el próximo bienio, así como información importante sobre los temas priorizados y el impacto que algunos de estos programas tendrán para el desarrollo del sector agropecuario, con su correspondiente influencia en el desarrollo general de nuestras economías. El Comité ha realizado una gran labor que facilita nuestra discusión. En general estamos de acuerdo con las conclusiones a que se ha llegado. Sin embargo, quisiéramos señalar algunos aspectos que son de particular interés para nosotros, sin pretender, por supuesto, ser exhaustivos.

La disminución de las actividades de capacitación es preocupante. Esta situación afecta, sobre todo, a los países en desarrollo, donde el atraso tecnológico y la escasez de recursos propios hacen que estos programas de capacitación sean de gran importancia. Lo apoyamos, pues, y quisiéramos que se revise y se dé prioridad a esta área de trabajo de la FAO, que es de por sí una de sus áreas principales. Creemos acertada la recomendación de que se continúe profundizando la colaboración de la FAO con otros organismos internacionales, tanto de las Naciones Unidas como organismos regionales que trabajan en el sector, logrando con esto un mejor aprovechamiento de los ya escasos recursos. Creemos que el avance en la coordinación de los organismos de cooperación en el área centroamericana que trabajan en la agricultura es una experiencia valiosa, de la cual podemos sentirnos orgullosos. Es importante también la ayuda de la FAO a los Estados Miembros en la realización de análisis agrícolas, estudios sectoriales y formulación de estrategias políticas de planes agrarios. El señalamiento sobre los efectos perjudiciales del proteccionismo y la necesidad de que se amplíen los mercados para los productos básicos de exportación de los países en desarrollo es un tema de principal atención para nosotros. Saludamos que haya quedado recogido en el informe con claridad.

Consideramos que el Programa de Labores y Presupuesto ha sido analizado a cabalidad y que habrá oportunidad de hacer otros comentarios cuando se aborde el tema específico. Sin embargo, expresamos nuestra particular satisfacción por la orientación de las esferas priorizadas en el programa principal, Agricultura; sobre todo, con la importancia que se asigna al tema de la biotecnología. Consideramos que la FAO debe jugar un papel fundamental para impedir que los países en desarrollo quedemos al margen de los rápidos avances que se están dando en esta área, que vendrán a transformar las estructuras de producción, con el peligro de que se incremente la ya grande brecha tecnológica entre los países desarrollados y en desarrollo.

Los programas de asistencia técnica para reforzar los sistemas nacionales de control de calidad de los alimentos exportados e importados, así como para la formulación de políticas y alimentación y nutrición, junto con el fomento de cultivos alimenticios tradicionales, son de nuestro especial interés. Asimismo, las experiencias realizadas para la producción de pan a partir de productos básicos obtenidos en el propio país consideramos que son bastante encomiables.

Vemos con interés el programa de la FAO para la preservación de los recursos zoogenéticos, utilizando nuevos métodos de biotecnología aplicables. En este sentido, por lo que se refiere al párrafo 140, nuestra Delegación apoya la propuesta de la distinguida Delegación del Perú para que este Consejo tome la decisión de que un grupo de trabajo de la Comisión de Recursos Fitogenéticos se reúna en octubre para analizar la introducción de los recursos zoogenéticos en el sistema global de la FAO para recursos fitogenéticos, como un primer paso para el establecimiento de un sistema global de diversidad biológica, y que los resultados sean presentados al próximo Consejo y a la Conferencia.

Apoyamos, Sr. Presidente, los planteamientos hechos por el Comité, sobre la necesidad de fomentar la participación popular en el desarrollo agrícola y rural, instando a los Estados Miembros a que presten todo su apoyo al sector público, con objeto de promover y movilizar a los grupos de participación popular. Consideramos, por experiencia propia, que el movimiento cooperativo es uno de los principales, si no el principal, instrumento para intensificar la participación popular.

Apoyamos firmemente la inclusión del tema de la mujer en el desarrollo, como un punto específico del 11° período de sesiones del Comité de Agricultura, y todos los trabajos que sobre el particular se realicen en cumplimiento de la Resolución 194. Consideramos que la FAO debe aportar todos los fondos que sean necesarios para el apoyo de este programa.

Nicaragua ha tenido vasta experiencia en esta área. Son muchos los programas que en nuestro país existen relacionados con el papel de la mujer en todas las esferas de nuestra vida política, económica y social. Las mujeres en Nicaragua se han ganado su lugar en la lucha diaria de nuestro pueblo por su libertad, su desarrollo y sobre todo en la defensa de nuestra soberanía contra la agresión imperialista. Humildemente estamos abiertos a poner a disposición de la FAO y de todos los Estados Miembros toda nuestra experiencia en esta área tan valiosa como es la integración y el desarrollo de la mujer.

En cuanto al principio de información y consentimiento previo, nuestra Delegación ha revisado el contenido del resultado de la consulta intergubernamental, y consideramos que la incorporación de este principio es un paso valioso para las medidas que hay que tomar en defensa de los intereses de los países que utilizan o che importan este tipo de pesticidas. Los beneficios sobre la regulación del uso de plaguicidas son de sobra conocido, así como son de sobra conocidos los perjuicios que tiene este tipo de pesticidas prohibidos en la salud humana y en el medio ambiente.

Apoyamos, por tanto, la promoción de la adopción del código internacional para la distribución y utilización de plaguicidas y creemos que la FAO debe intensificar las estrategias para la promoción de esta opción en todos los países, en colaboración con instancias regionales que operan, como en nuestro caso, en el área latinoamericana: el IICA, el OIRSA y otras organizaciones. Consideramos que la introducción del PIC viene a ser un salto importante, pues, en este tema tan sensible para la salud humana y el medio ambiente. Nuestra Delegación apoya las recomendaciones hechas para la introducción en el código internacional de conducta para la distribución y utilización de plaguicidas, que se someterá a consideración del 25° período de sesiones de la Conferencia.

Consideramos nuevamente, para finalizar, que es importante que la FAO, de acuerdo nuevamente con organizaciones regionales, dé todo el apoyo a los países para que puedan crear las estructuras pertinentes para la aplicación de esta medida y para los esfuerzos de divulgación de las metodologías de este nuevo principio, que vendrá a beneficiar la salud de la humanidad y del medio ambiente.

Mohamad Saleem KHAN (Pakistan): We would like to start by thanking Mr. Bonte-Friedheim and Mr. Brader for their respective presentations of the two reports. Pakistan had participated in the session of COAG as well as the intergovernmental consultations on PIC. My delegation would therefore not like to impinge too long on the time of the Council through a further lengthy intervention. We will try to confine ourselves to comments and views on some specific points relating to the two presentations.

First and foremost, we would like to congratulate Dr. Hamdi on the excellent manner in which he chaired the proceedings of the Committee on Agriculture during its tenth session. We hope we will continue to have the benefit of his experience and his competence in numerous other equally important sessions of FAO and the other agriculture-related organizations.

In our intervention during COAG on the implementation of the programme of work 1986-88 and the Summary Programme of Work and Budget for 1990-91 relating to Major Programme 2.1: Agriculture, while appreciating the efficient manner in which FAO had used the available resources to the benefit of Member Nations and endorsing the proposals for the 1990-91 Programme of Work and Budget, we had joined several other members in expressing our concern on the continuing financial crisis of FAO which has impaired its capacity to respond more adequately to the needs of the developing countries and millions of poor in these countries. The Director-General, in his statement before this august body of nations yesterday morning, highlighted some of the unavoidable cuts which FAO had to enforce on its activities to remain within the available resources. The forced reductions in assistance to AGRIS and CARIS member countries and centres and the suspension of publications like CERES, UNASYLVA, etc., are all unfortunate losses which could have been avoided. Improvements in the functioning of the Organization and ensuring economic use of resources is a necessary and continuing process for the health of any organization. We do not differ with this view. However, we can carry out our reviews and reforms while allowing the Organization to function normally in this period.

Institutions and programmes so carefully built up over a prolonged period of time are not always easy to restore if abruptly suspended. My delegation sincerely hopes that the process of review and possible reform set up during the last Conference would successfully culminate during the forthcoming Conference session, and we would be able to restore the capabilities of FAO by alleviating its present state of financial crisis.

I had recorded my delegation's endorsement of the proposals for the 1990-91 biennium Programme of Work and Budget, albeit with some hesitation. We did so, not because we felt that we were satisfied to prioritize in the situation of plenty, but rather being sensitive to the overall crunch on resources faced by the Organization. We would have liked to see a number of new initiatives and more emphasis on some of the ongoing programmes. However, we knew that these could not be perceived without additional funds. We therefore bowed to the realities and refrained from making any such suggestions. The issues, however, need to be looked into in their macro-perspective, and we would reserve our further comments for discussion under Agenda Item 14.

Within the ambit of the existing programme we welcome the prominence given to the Regional Study for Asia and the Pacific, the most populated region of the world with the largest sector of poverty and consequent vulnerability to food insecurity in the future. We also extend specific endorsement to the proposals relating to the strengthening of the anti-locust campaign, the campaigns against the screwworm and other livestock-related pests and diseases, to the improvement of marketing systems to the benefit of small farmers, the proposed technical assistance programmes for the formulation of food and nutrition policies, as well as to strengthen national food control systems, and the proposed plan to develop a world agricultural information centre.

Sir, water logging and salinity is a growing menace resulting from expanding irrigation networks in several regions of the world, particularly the Near East and South Asia. In Pakistan alone according to a June 1986 estimate, 21,886 million acres were assessed to be water logged and suffering from salinity. Every day we are losing several acres of good agricultural land to this twin menace. We are pained to note that despite the specific importance attached to this problem in para 58 of the Report, it could not find mention in the summarized issues identified in the preamble for the attention of the Council.

On the Preservation of Animal Genetic Resources we have no difficulty in supporting the proposed strategies and recommendations contained in the CQAG Report.

We agree that documentation and preservation programmes be developed concurrently to avoid the risk of losing valuable breeds. We support the proposals regarding the technical support for accurate surveys, genetic classifications and risk status assessments as well as those relating to census.

We welcome the proposal for a World Watch System. Pakistan has already agreed to join the FAO/APHCA Frozen Semen Bank for Asia being set up in Bangkok, and would also interestingly look forward to consider joining the proposed World Watch System. We recognize the importance of cryogenic storage methods and support for the setting up of regional animal gene banks as a safeguard arrangement to bank up national efforts, as well as a measure of support to countries who are not in a position to set up their own independent programmes. Such banks of course should be subjected to the necessary legal and animal health protocols. We fully agree with the recommendation that FAO should develop appropriate methodologies to assist, where desired and where appropriate, countries to establish live animal reserves. Likewise technical support and intensive training programmes are crucial for the success of the preservations programmes. We therefore stress a special emphasis on such activities. We recognize the importance of inter-agency cooperation in the venture as well as the need for immediate financial support, and endorse the proposals in this regard.

Mr. Chairman we have several items before us, and all items in the COAG's Report are highly important and merit considerable commenting. However, as I have earlier stated, we have had the benefit of participating in the COAG proceedings, and keeping this factor in view and the constraints of time, my delegation would like to record its general support for the proposals before us on Urbanization, Food Consumption Patterns, Nutrition, People's Participation in Agriculture and Rural Development, and the introduction of the concept of Prior Informed Consent in the Code of Conduct on the Distribution and Use of Pesticides.

In the case of the People's Participation Programme we would simply like to specifically stress special emphasis on the role of women in such programmes, keeping in view the country's specific social requirements.

We would also like to underline the significant role of elected local government institutions in local development activities through people participation.

Finally Mr. Chairman on the concept of PIC, while endorsing the consensus reached we tend to agree with those delegates who have stressed on a humane principle that non-participating importing countries should not be excluded from the purview of PIC. Further we would also like to see a clarification from the Secretariat on whether the proposed clause on PIC, read with other clauses of the Code of Conduct, covers exports of pesticides which have either not been registered or have been voluntarily withdrawn in the exporting country, and in case these do not stand so covered we would request FAO to review such pesticides with a view to their future inclusion within the ambit of the PIC clause and the Code of Conduct on distribution and use of pesticides. I thank you Mr. Chairman.

Pedro Agostino KANGA (Angola): Prenant la parole pour la première fois, je voudrais joindre ma voix aux délégations qui m'ont précédé pour exprimer, Monsieur le Président, ma satisfaction de vous voir à la direction des travaux de cette 95ème session du Conseil.

Je profite de cette occasion pour féliciter également les trois vice-présidents, ainsi que M. Brader et M. Bonte-Friedheim de la présentation très claire du document dont nous sommes saisis.

Je voudrais enfin remercier les délégués qui nous ont souhaité la bienvenue au Conseil.

Nous n'allons pas nous étendre sur l'analyse de ce document car nous l'avons fait durant la 10ème session du COAG. Nous allons simplement nous borner à reprendre certains problèmes que nous avons posés lors de cette Session.

Comme cela a déjà été dit par d'autres, notamment par Monsieur l'Ambassadeur du Brésil, lors de la 10ème session du COAG nous avons formulé quelques observations. Pardonnez-moi de revenir sur l'une d'elles dont la réponse ne nous a pas donné satisfaction. Il s'agit de l'établissement de centres sous-régionaux d'analyse et de formation des politiques nutritionnelles en Afrique anglophone et francophone.

Il nous a été répondu que l'Afrique lusophone serait incluse dans le centre de l'Afrique francophone.

Nous voudrions savoir, Monsieur le Président, sur quels critères le Secrétariat s'était basé pour donner cette réponse, car le nombre de personnes parlant français dans les pays d'expression portugaise est insignifiant.

Bien que ces pays appartiennent à des sous-régions différentes: le Cap-Vert et la Guinée-Bissau sont en Afrique occidentale, Sao-Tomé et Principe en Afrique centrale, le Mozambique et l'Angola en Afrique australe, ces pays voudraient avoir un centre lusophone pour permettre une participation nombreuse de leurs ressortissants.

A cet égard, Monsieur le Président, nous suggérons que notre proposition figure dans le rapport du Conseil.

Pour terminer, nous appuyons les conclusions et recommandations de ce document, car ce dernier reflète clairement ce qui a été dit à la 10ème session du COAG.

S'agissant de l'introduction de la clause de l'information et du consentement préalables, nous appuyons son inclusion dans le Code de conduite pour la distribution et l'utilisation des pesticides, ainsi que les amendements aux articles 2, 9.8.1 et 9.8.4.

Bashir EL MABROUK SAID (Libya)(original language Arabic): Thank you very much Mr. Chairman. Sir, allow me first of all on behalf of my delegation to congratulate Mr. Bonte-Friedheim most warmly and also Mr. Brader most warmly for the excellent introduction on both these very important items on our agenda.

Our delegation has already had an opportunity to put forward its comments on these two items at their relative sessions, and since we have already accepted the conclusions reached by the respective committees I can be really very brief.

As regards the implementation of the Programme of Work and Budget 1986-88, we feel that the implementation of this Programme of Work proves quite conclusively that FAO can manage with the resources but still meet the requirements of countries quite effectively, which shows how efficient FAO is and how hard working its staff. But this being said, we must not forget that the world financial crisis has had a very bad impact on the developing countries particularly in the area of training, and this is a field of crucial importance. This world financial crisis, if it goes on, will make it impossible for FAO to perform its task properly in eradicating hunger and malnutrition

in the world, so FAO must be given more resources. This is in regard to the operation of the Programme of Work 1986-88.

With regard to sub-programmes I would like to pay tribute here to the efforts made by FAO in their fight against the screw worm fly in spite of the shortage of resources, and we would like to appeal to all organizations and all donors who are able to do so, to help FAO so that sufficient funds may be available to carry forward with the control campaign against this pest and stop it spreading.

As regards the Summary Programme of Work and Budget for the 1990-91 biennium, my delegation will have an opportunity to make its comments when we consider the specific item on our agenda, so I will not go into this now.

Now as regards the preservation of animal genetic resources, document CL 95/9, we are very much aware of the importance of this sector for developing countries and the importance of such preservation of resources, and we would like to stress the role which FAO can play in this matter and we would like to take this opportunity to welcome the efforts being made by FAO in this activity.

Now as regards People's Participation in Agricultural and Rural Development, I would say that my delegation is convinced that as long as rural populations are not involved in the designing of plans and the taking of decisions, a policy imposed from above can only be a failure, and therefore we stress strongly the need to ensure balanced development with People's Participation so as to slow down the flight from the land to the cities, because that flight is due to wrong development policy.

Now to turn to the Code of Conduct on the Distribution and Use of Pesticides, and specifically the introduction of the Prior Informed Consent clause, I would like to agree with Mr. Brader in the sense that the Council should do what the COAG have done. In other words accept this clause by consensus-accept the introduction of that clause by consensus. Thank you very much, sir.

Bernd von SYDOW (Germany, Federal Republic of): The Tenth Session of COAG has, to our view, covered very relevant items and arrived at notable results. My delegation welcomes, for example, the discussions on the preservation of animal genetic resources and the proposed programmes. We agree to the proposal to establish regional gene banks and we welcome the development of training courses in this field, and of a world watch list of endangered animal breeds. We also recommend the establishment of a Global Animal Genetic Data Bank. In this context we renew our offer to expand the European data bank in Hanover for worldwide purposes.

Discussions on organization food consumption patterns and nutrition have shown that in general measures should be geared towards the improvement of conditions in rural areas in order to reduce migration. With regard to urban areas, specific food and nutrition policies should be introduced to help those sections of people which are under or malnourished.

Mr. Chairman, my delegation welcomes the somehow unexpected great echo the item "People's Participation" received during the COAG session and also in today's session. We certainly welcome it if this subject gets further attention by FAO.

Mr. Chairman I am now coming to PIC. The Federal Republic of Germany has reiterated on several occasions its willingness to see to it that the Code of Conduct will be supplemented by a suitable prior informed consent principle.

My country holds the view that PIC is very useful for those countries which neither possess sufficient regulatory and control infrastructures, nor a procedure for the registration of pesticides. The introduction of the PIC principle should, however, not dispense importing countries from establishing such regulatory and control mechanisms. Such mechanisms are necessary to assess adequately whether specific pesticides can be imported or must even be imported for specific cases. They are also indispensable for proper use. PIC should thus not lead to the cessation of efforts to establish such regulatory and control mechanisms where they do not yet exist or where they are inadequate.

The proper formulation of a useful, practicable PIC principle is certainly a difficult task. The deliberations in FAO and UNEP have shown this clearly. There is no doubt that the application of the PIC principle will show that one or the other formulation in the Code of Conduct must be adjusted at a later date.

To sum up Mr. Chairman, let me state that the Federal Republic of Germany agrees to the amendments to the Code of Conduct relating to the introduction of the PIC principle which were formulated at previous sessions. We particularly support the formulations of the last COAG session. In this context we welcome the corrections announced by Mr. Brader at the beginning of this afternoon. We now suggest that the text before us should be submitted to the next Conference session for decision.

Mr. Chairman, we are not commenting on the Programme and Budgets since this will be dealt with separately. I should like however to point out that among the subjects proposed for the next COAG session, which are all very important, four seem in our view to have some preference. Those subjects are (a) agro-forestry, (b) agricultural credit, (c) home gardens and their contribution to nutrition, and (d) technological advances and their effects on agriculture in developing countries.

Paul R. BEYHEN (Australia): My delegation is happy to broadly endorse the COAG Report as a good reflection of the discussion at that meeting. Mr. Chairman, we continue to see a need for stronger prioritization in the Programme of Work and Budget process as mentioned by other delegations, notably the United Kingdom. We also continue to see a need for strengthened medium-term planning as mentioned by the Finnish delegation.

We endorse the remarks made by a number of delegations, including Canada, regarding the importance of training.

Mr. Chairman, with regard to the suggestions that paragraph 140 of the Report be modified, clarified or revolved in some way, my delegation has some misgivings and would hope that a clearer exposition of any proposals could be made before Council takes a position. At this stage, to be frank, my delegation is unclear of what is in mind, and in any case we may need to reserve the right to seek guidance from our authorities.

In lending our support to the COAG Report recommendations on urbanization, food consumption patterns and nutrition, we would stress the warning in paragraph 113 against the overregulation of the informal street vendor food sales industry. This sector plays an important role in urban nutrition levels, and we believe has been successful in many developing countries simply because of the relatively unrestricted nature of the industry.

Turning to PIC, Prior Informed Consent, Australia has supported information exchange between countries on pesticides issues. The proposed amendments to Articles 2 and 9 of the Code of Conduct endorsed by COAG to incorporate the principle of Prior Informed Consent addressed to complex issues associated with the principle. Australia supports the proposed amendments to Articles 2 and 9, which will give effect to the principle of Prior Informed Consent and adoption of the procedure for and guidelines on the operation of Prior Informed Consent.

We support other delegations that have called for avoidance of duplication of data bases regarding toxic chemicals.

Monica DEREGBUS (Argentina): Atento a la riqueza de la documentación que se nos ha presentado y que habla por si sola de la fecunda labor que la FAO se propone continuar realizando en el proximo bienio, y la propia riqueza del debate a que hemos asistido, nos limitaremos a señalar sólo algunos aspectos puntuales que han sido evocados durante el mismo.

Quisiera aclarar, Sr. Presidente, que nuestra delegación se abstendrá de referirse en este momento al capitulo dedicado al Programa de Labores y Presupuesto del Informe del COAG, pues lo haremos en el punto pertinente del Programa. No debe entenderse, sin embargo con ello, que aceptamos los listados de prioridades dada por otras delegaciones.

Con relación a la introducción del Principio de Conducta para la distribución y utilización de plaguicidas, permítanos hacer nuestra la declaración del Sr. Embajador de Brasil y los comentarios de la delegación de Pakistán. También coincidimos con la propuesta formulación de las actividades que deben encararse con relación a los recursos zoonéticos, como las describiera el Sr. Embajador De Medicis. Coincidimos con las Delegaciones de España, Canadá y otras, en la necesidad de continuar poniendo énfasis especial en programas de capacitación y extensión. En conexión con ello estimamos sumamente importante que se inicien durante el próximo bienio las labores de estudio de las organizaciones de base con los fondos fiduciarios gentilmente ofrecidos por Suiza, a fin de que se pueda mediante dicho estudio determinar cómo la FAO podría, de la manera más eficaz, ayudar a la efectiva participación de la población beneficiaria en los programas y proyectos de desarrollo agrícola y rural. Estimamos que dicho estudio podría tal vez estar terminado para la próxima sesión del COAG, y este podría entonces continuar analizando la problemática sobre bases más concretas y recomendar acciones específicas al Consejo y a la Conferencia que se reunirán en 1991.

En otro orden de cosas, Sr. Presidente, quisiéramos apoyar lo dicho por el Sr. Representante de Pakistán en relación con los problemas de encharcamiento y salinidad, dado que este es un grave

problema que reduce las tierras cultivables a ritmo alarmante. Mi propio país, Sr. Presidente, esta sujeto cada tanto a inundaciones cíclicas de grandes proporciones, que ocasionan las consecuencias señaladas por el Sr. Khan.

Por ultimo, Sr. Presidente, quisiéramos comentar brevemente sobre dos puntos incluidos en la intervención de la distinguida delegación del Reino Unido. El primero de ellos referido a las tareas de la Organización en lo relativo a la incorporación de la mujer en el desarrollo agrícola y rural. De conformidad con la Resolución 1/94 del Consejo, es evidente que hay acuerdo entre todos los miembros de dar alta prioridad a esta cuestión. Apoyamos su sugerencia de proporcionar recursos humanos adecuados en la Secretaría para esta tarea.

En segundo lugar, Sr. Presidente, nos unimos a su preocupación por la disminución de la asistencia de expertos de las capitales a las reuniones del COAG. Quisiéramos señalar al respecto, que ello no ha sucedido en los últimos tiempo sólo en el COAG y que ha sido patente el mismo fenómeno en los diversos grupos intergubernamentales que se han reunido en la primera mitad del año. La dificultad de los países en desarrollo de enviar a sus expertos a las reuniones de los grupos intergubernamentales, a las reuniones de los Comités y a las propia reunión del COAG, atenta claramente contra la calidad del resultado de los trabajos de estos órganos, de estos comités y de estos grupos. Nosotros sabemos de donde deriva esto. El mismo problema ocurre en prácticamente todos los países en desarrollo. Son los países que estén en Europa, o los países más adelantados, los que tienen posibilidad de acercar a sus delegaciones expertos competentes en las diversas materias que se traten. Por consiguiente, Sr. Presidente, nosotros creemos que ésta es una cuestión que el Consejo debería tratar de analizar en adelante para ver de encontrar soluciones adecuadas, como por ejemplo, que pudiera encontrarse la manera de financiar parte de los gastos de algunas reuniones de algunos expertos de las regiones en desarrollo.

Philippe PIOTET (France): La France approuve les conclusions du rapport du Comité de l'agriculture.

Ayant participé aux travaux de ce Comité, nous ne reviendrons pas en détail sur les différentes questions qui ont été déjà traitées lors de sa dernière session.

Ma délégation limitera donc son intervention à deux points principaux: d'une part les ressources génétiques animales, d'autre part l'introduction du principe de l'ICP dans le Code des pesticides.

En ce qui concerne tout d'abord les ressources génétiques animales, nous approuvons la priorité à réserver leur protection, comme l'a souligné à juste titre le Comité de l'agriculture.

Le parallèle fait avec les ressources phylogénétiques est intéressant puisqu'il s'agit dans les deux cas d'un même objectif: à savoir protéger les écosystèmes.

Toutefois les problèmes posés pour atteindre ces objectifs sont très différents sur les plans scientifiques et techniques.

Aussi ma délégation pense qu'avant toute décision concernant une éventuelle expansion du mandat de la Commission des ressources phylogénétiques, une consultation d'experts techniques est nécessaire, en étroite liaison avec le PNUE et le GCRAI.

J'en viens au Code des pesticides. La France a toujours soutenu ce Code. Depuis son adoption en 1985 et à la suite des débats de la dernière Conférence en novembre 1987, des progrès importants ont été accomplis tant dans la mise en oeuvre des dispositions existantes que dans la réflexion et la concertation indispensables avant toute révision.

Le Code concerne en effet un domaine très complexe, mettant en jeu de multiples partenaires dans des secteurs aussi divers que la santé, l'environnement, le développement agricole, les activités industrielles et le commerce international.

La France est très attachée au maintien d'un juste équilibre entre les responsabilités de tous les partenaires, comme elle est attachée au consensus que nous rappelait le Directeur général hier et qui a prévalu dans l'adoption du Code et devrait de la même façon prévaloir dans sa révision.

Des experts de mon pays ont participé activement aux réflexions engagées par le PNUE et la FAO qui aboutissent aujourd'hui à des propositions de révision du Code des pesticides.

La France appuie les modifications qui sont proposées notamment au paragraphe 11 du document CL/95/15. Nous pensons en effet que la FAO a un rôle important à jouer dans la concertation entre les Etats Membres pour que leurs décisions en matière d'ICP soit fondée sur des bases solides, scientifiquement établies et cohérentes avec les dispositions du Code.

En conclusion, la délégation française souhaiterait appeler l'attention du Comité sur deux points. Le premier concerne l'indispensable cohérence et la nécessaire complémentarité entre les travaux de la FAO et du PNUE. Nous nous félicitons à cet égard de ce que nous a indiqué ce matin M. Brader en matière de consultations prévues entre les deux organisations et nous pensons que c'est un excellent moyen que de mettre au point un memorandum qui définira les responsabilités respectives de la FAO et du PNUE dans ce domaine.

Le second point sur lequel je voudrais attirer l'attention concerne l'application effective du Code qui implique que les pays disposent non seulement d'un cadre réglementaire et administratif mais aussi de techniciens compétents et de laboratoires suffisamment équipés.

La France pour sa part est prête à renforcer la coopération déjà engagée dans ce domaine avec les pays qui se doteront des dispositifs administratifs et techniques pour la mise en oeuvre du Code et notamment de la clause de l'information et du consentement préalable.

Abdul Kuddus ABMAD (Malaysia): The delegation of Malaysia wishes to express its appreciation to Mr. Bonte-Friedheim for the excellent presentation of the report and to Mr. Brader for his report on the Prior Informed Consent.

As a member of the Committee and a participant in the deliberations of the Plenary we support the Report:

We review with concern the negative effects of the financial crisis in the major agricultural programmes. We therefore join other delegations in the often-repeated appeal that Members pay their contributions on time.

We wish to reiterate the importance of a stable resource position for FAO within the regular and field programmes to enable FAO to respond to the requirements of Member countries. The development of human resources is very important to agriculture, as in any other field, and we therefore urge the continuation of time priority to training and extension services. Similarly, the role played by TCP in the dissemination of knowledge and other activities can never be adequately stressed, and therefore should be allocated an appropriate provision.

To turn to some specific items, we are happy to note that a better balance is to be established between the livestock sector and other sectors in agriculture bearing in mind the importance of the sector in the life of small scale farmers. FAO's initiatives in the implementation of new biotechnological methodology will make a valuable contribution to livestock production through its impact on animal breeding, disease control and the preservation of animal genetic resources.

Animal diseases remain a major inhibiting factor in animal production. My delegation, therefore, reiterates the importance of the control of foot and mouth disease, rinderpest, ticks and tick-borne diseases, and so forth. We congratulate FAO for the timely action taken against the appearance of the American screw-worm fly in North Africa and urge FAO to be constantly vigilant against such diseases of livestock or agricultural crops.

Issues related to environmental degradation deserve considerable attention. My delegation is happy to note that the Committee has focused on some of these issues. Attention on in-house and external training on environmental problems related to agricultural and rural development, the impact of development on the rural environment, environmental aspects of bio-technology, sustainable development on land tenure, and so forth, deserve proper attention.

A pleasant, conducive rural environment with improved living conditions will help to arrest the drift of the rural population into urban areas with the attending socio-economic problems.

Turning to item 7, Prior Informed Consent, Malaysia fully supports the Code of Conduct on the Distribution and Use of Pesticides. The Malaysian Government, and in particular, the Pesticides Board, has held several discussions on the subject with members of the pesticide industries, research and academic institutions and environmental groups with the objective of implementing the provisions of the Code. Malaysia has a pesticide registration scheme whereby only pesticides that are registered under the Pesticides Act 1974 are permitted to be imported, manufactured, packed or repacked for sale in the country. The various guidelines provided by the FAO in particular have indeed assisted Malaysia in formulating an effective system for making available pesticides that are effective against the target pest while posing relatively little hazard to users of the pesticide, consumers of the treated produce and the environment as a whole.

Malaysia is an active participant in the FAO's Asia/Pacific regional project for the implementation of the Code and will continue to work closely with the FAO on this matter. With regard to the principle of PIC, although Malaysia will not benefit as much as other developing countries, primarily due to its pesticide registration system, Malaysia will give its wholehearted support to the implementation of PIC in the form proposed.

Towards this end it must be pointed out that there should be a concerted effort from all quarters, namely, the industry, Member governments, environmental groups, agencies within the UN system and all other agencies concerned. Thus, there must be close cooperation and coordination among those agencies.

Malaysia supports the proposals as narrated in this paper on agenda item 7.

Finally, among the possible topics for future discussion in COAG my delegation would support the following topics: agro-forestry and agro-silvaculture, small scale agriculture, marketing and home gardens and their contribution to nutrition.

Alberto MURILLO MORANTES (Venezuela): Debemos reconocer la presentación hecha de los documentos, los cuales contienen muchos temas, pero seremos concretos. Debemos expresar nuestro apoyo a lo puntualizado en el párrafo 7 del documento. Lamentamos verdaderamente las repercusiones sufridas en la reducción del programa de la FAO, en particular en cuanto a la capacitación, en momentos de mayor necesidad para los países en desarrollo, y sobre todo en aquellos países que iniciaban, gracias a la acción de la FAO, el mejoramiento de sus condiciones de vida, por medio, entre otras vías, de sus esfuerzos hacia la autosuficiencia y la seguridad alimentaria.

Deseamos valemos de esta intervención para dar nuestro apoyo a los planteamientos hechos por el Delegado del Perú, en relación con su propuesta sobre la modificación del párrafo 140 del documento, a fin de permitir optimizar el uso de los recursos y evitar las duplicaciones. En este sentido, esperamos que este Consejo tome la decisión de que el grupo de trabajo de la Comisión de Recursos Fitogenéticos se reúna en octubre para analizar la evolución, incluyendo los recursos zootécnicos y lograr así un sistema global de diversidad biológica en la FAO. De esta manera, el Director General podrá presentar los resultados al Consejo de noviembre, al objeto de ser transmitidos a la Conferencia.

Deseamos apoyar igualmente la posición del Delegado de Suiza sobre la participación popular, fomentando actividades juveniles, a través, por ejemplo, de las cooperativas, y de esta manera ayudar a los países en vías de desarrollo a movilizar sus propios recursos.

Por último, Sr. Presidente, en cuanto a plaguicidas, deben regularse también aquellos que no están registrados, ya que muchas veces son éstos los más peligrosos.

Kyu IL JO (Korea, Republic of): My delegation would like to join other delegations in expressing our appreciation to the Assistant Director-General, Agriculture, for his excellent introduction this morning, as well as giving our compliments to the Chairmen and members of COAG and the Committee on Plant Genetic Resources.

With regard to the subjects mentioned in the report, we reviewed and scrutinized the programme during the sessions in which my delegation took part. Therefore, I do not have much to say in this regard. Along with other delegations who have spoken before me, the Korean delegation wishes to fully endorse the report without reservation. However, in this context, I would like to underline one important aspect, that we need to make an effort to seek ways and means for the practical use of the thoughts and recommendations presented in the report.

With regard to views on the various individual subjects, since many delegations have referred to these earlier, I will not touch on them now-it will save time.

E. Wayne DENNEY (United States of America): The United States endorses the report of the tenth session of COAG. While conflicting views were often espoused and different solutions offered to problems raised, the final report does a good job in capturing the flavour of the discussions.

We believe FAO has done a commendable job in re-evaluating programme priorities and manpower requirements in consultation with Member countries during recent periods of financial uncertainty. The Secretariat has also proposed a programme of work for the 1990/91 biennium that reflects priorities agreed to in the Special Joint Session of the Programme and Finance Committee in January.

Animal genetic resources was an agenda item that was enthusiastically received by all members. The experience of FAO in dealing with plant genetic resources should enable the Organization to develop a similar programme on the animal side. The United States believes that an Expert Consultation to facilitate a technical discussion by competent technicians is a logical first step to developing a sensible, manageable programme that can be carried out with the resources available. The United States does not object to the initial Working Group of the Commission on Plant Genetic Resources also exploring the matter, since many delegations and the Secretariat supported such a proposal during COAG. However, we fail to see the logic or usefulness of such an approach. The suggestion that the Working Group of the Commission on Plant Genetic Resources should meet in early October to facilitate reporting to Council and Conference is puzzling to us. Our understanding is that the Working Group only reports to the Commission. Clarification from the Secretariat would be useful.

We would prefer that the existing language of paragraph 140 be retained. It would be easy to reiterate a number of points which we made during COAG regarding programme proposals for the 1990/91 biennium. Instead, we will expand on the comments during the agenda item set aside for that purpose. However, we do associate ourselves with the comments made by the delegates of Japan, the United Kingdom, Canada and Australia, among others, on this subject.

The concern expressed by the delegate of Switzerland on the people's participation issue is also shared by our delegation. As noted by the Director-General yesterday and by Mr. Bonte-Friedheim in his introduction, a major result of COAG was that a Prior Informed Consent addition to the Pesticide Code was agreed to enable FAO and UNEP to incorporate similar language. The importance of continuing collaboration between FAO and UNEP will be essential in implementing PIC to other provisions of the Code and in avoiding substantial overlap in activities.

We thank Mr. Brader for his informative presentation on PIC. The United States is a firm supporter of measures to improve international availability of reliable Information on pesticides in order to assist in achieving their safer use in all countries. For this reason, the United States supports the International Code of Conduct on the Distribution and Use of Pesticides. We can agree to modalities to strengthen the Code that are administratively simple, preserve flexibility to accommodate various institutional means of implementation within each country, which are trade neutral and which reinforce basic elements of information exchange and development of assessment and decision-making capability in each country. Such modalities are contained in the recommendation of the Committee on Agriculture for incorporating the principle of Prior Informed Consent in the Pesticide Code. We support the COAG recommendations.

Of particular importance, the COAG recommendations on PIC are consistent with the decisions on PIC taken up by UNEP. Since FAO and UNEP plan to coordinate their work regarding PIC, it is essential that the two organizations adopt the same PIC procedures, which is what COAG recommended and what the United States fully supports. Continued cooperation between FAO and UNEP is essential if PIC is to be implemented successfully and without duplication, as I indicated earlier.

Regarding the proposal made a few minutes ago by the delegate of Brazil to delete the word "participating" from Article 2 in the proposed change to the Code, we believe the Code would be clearer and more precise with the word "participating" included. After all, how can this voluntary Code be applied to a country which does not want to participate in it?

In closing, the United States would like to follow up on a point made by Mr. Brader in his opening remarks when he referred to PIC as an interim measure. The United States agreed with Mr. Brader's assessment that many countries will need assistance to develop the capacity for assessment and decision-making that will be necessary to successfully implement PIC. We also recognize that many countries will need assistance to build the infrastructure and capacity needed to ensure the safe labelling, transportation, storage, formulation, use and disposal of pesticides in their countries. The United States, through its bilateral programmes, has provided and will continue to provide assistance to developing countries in performing assessments, making decisions on chemicals and improving infrastructure.

C. Srinivasa SASTRY (India): Before dealing with the content of the two documents relating to Agenda Items 6 and 7 now under consideration by the Council, we would like to thank and compliment the Assistant Director-General, Agriculture, Mr. Bonte-Friedheim, for presenting the 93 matters emerging from the tenth meeting of COAG briefly and succinctly, drawing the attention of Council to the salient aspects that merit special consideration. Similarly, Mr. Brader very clearly presented the proposals relating to the Code of Conduct and PIC. With his known penchant for going straight to the point, and his clarity of thought Mr. Brader made the complicated question of PIC for us very simple, elementary and obvious. Permit me to mention, Mr. Chairman, that in the wake of the results of the elections to the European Parliament, this subject seems to have become not only topical, but has also assumed some special importance and significance.

India participated in the tenth meeting of COAG, and was also a member of the Drafting Committee. On the complicated question of PIC the Chairman of COAG, the delegate from Egypt, appointed a small contact group, of which India was a member. India fully supports all the proposals contained in these two documents now under discussion. We would particularly draw to the attention of Council paragraph 24 of the COAG report, and emphasize the importance of controlling various emergencies animal diseases and more particularly, the American screwworm fly in North Africa, to which the Director-General referred yesterday in his statement.

While we support COAG's views on the proposals relating to the programmes and activities as presented in the Summary Programme of Work and Budget for the years 1990 and 1991, we would especially invite Council's attention to paragraph 64 of the report, which refers to the need for FAO to increase its efforts in the field of biotechnology. Biotechnology is an area and activity where, in the context of the widening gap between the north and the south, we would like to see allocation of more resources by FAO. In our view, this would be the only way by which the developing countries, which would not be able otherwise to make the necessary investments in terms of monetary, research and technical manpower resources, could be helped by FAO in concert with the CGIAR system to keep abreast of the latest developments in this frontier area of scientific endeavour. Biotechnology is also an area in which while the potential is immense, breathtaking advances are taking place mainly in the developing countries. What is particularly important, however, is that in biotechnology a progressively increasing role is being played by the private sector in developing countries. This is in marked contrast to the earlier agricultural research developments in the developed countries which took place either in the governmental sector or in the parastatal sector. We hope that FAO will strive to do its best to live up to the expectations of the developing countries in this crucial area of scientific achievement.

We endorse the COAG recommendations in paragraph 106 which refers in laudatory terms to the regional policy studies, whether in Africa or Latin America, and specially urge that a similar study be taken up for Asia and the Pacific Region in the biennium 1990-91.

Some delegates made reference to the TCP. We find that TCP comes up as a specific item before the Council in document CL 95/3 on the Summary Programme of Work and Budget for 1991 in pages 119 and 121. TCP has been discussed repeatedly in the governing bodies of FAO, and has also been evaluated. We suggest it might be more appropriate to deal with this aspect when Council considers the Summary Programme of Work and Budget under Agenda Item No. 14.

Similarly, some of the delegates during their interventions referred to the Summary Programme of Work and Budget for the 1990/91 blennium as relating to the activities covered by COAG. Certain views were expressed about the reorganization, restructuring and allocation of manpower and programme resources by FAO. As has been observed by the delegates of the United Kingdom and Canada, COAG is rightly perceived to be and regarded as a technical committee of FAO. That is why at the COAG meeting the chief Indian delegate was the Agriculture Commissioner of the Government of India. The issues relating to levels of funding and allocation of resources, staffing, etc., relating to the specific items considered by COAG in our view would appear to be common to many other programmes and activities. All these aspects are coming up before the Council separately with the recommendations of the Programme and Finance Committees. We submit that we would like to offer our commente on these aspects when the Summary Programme of Work and Budget is discussed by Council under Agenda Item 14.

On animal husbandry genetic resources, which is considered by COAG as one of the selected developmental problems, we especially endorse the increased role which COAG wants FAO to play, as indicated in paragraphs 127 and 128 of the report, namely, to develop a Worldwide List of endangered animal breeds, and update and publish it regularly and secondly, to develop documentation and preservation programmes concurrently. We also endorse the role of biotechnology as contained in paragraph 134 of the report. We suggest that FAO should play a leading role in extending the results of biotechnology to the developing countries, particularly in the area of stepping up milk yields through the administration of hormones to the available milk animal stock. This programme would have a significant impact on dairy production and also on nutrition levels in the developing countries.

However, we are disappointed to learn-as indicated by Mr. Bonte-Friedheim-that the extra-budgetary resources anticipated by COAG in paragraph 140 of the report are not yet forthcoming and there is little hope of anything being done on this behalf during the next blennium. We urge that FAO should not give up, but should continue its efforts in this direction, keeping in view the importance of this programme.

We endorse the proposal that the preservation of genetic resources, whether animal or plant, as far as possible should be integrated into a joint approach as recommended by COAG in paragraph 132.

On people's participation in agricultural and rural development, we strongly support the emphasis laid by COAG on giving more powers to local governments in decision-making (para. 144) and the importance of cooperatives in para. 145. May I submit to you, Mr. Chairman, and to the Council,

that in India the devolution and decentralization of powers to the local government institutions is now being given the highest priority. This is likely to be given a special sanctity by incorporating suitable provisions in our country's basic law, our written constitution, through an amendment to the Constitution. This amendment is expected to ensure that these local authorities would continue to be in a position and will be allowed to function freely, that elections are held regularly and the local authorities would exercise the powers and functions vested in them through the country's written Constitution.

For the next COAG, we would suggest that in addition to the integration of women in agriculture, two subjects be considered: (1) technology advances and their effects on the agricultural sector in developing countries, and (2) biotechnology.

On PIC we would support the consensus that was hammered out at the COAG to the efforts of the contact group set up by the Chairman of COAG to assist the Drafting Committee.

We are happy to see the key role being assigned to FAO in this area of activity. We note that this role is to be discharged in cooperation with UNEP, for which a joint division is being contemplated. As you are aware, the developing countries rightly constitute the main focus of PIC. The objective of PIC is to ensure that banned pesticides and pesticides with use restrictions as well as with restrictions in use are not dumped in the developing countries. It is well known that environmental concerns are seemingly more evident and are more widely voiced in the developed countries rather than in the developing countries. In contrast, FAO's presence is greater and more visible in the developing countries as compared to the developed countries. So are the programmes and activities of FAO concentrated in the developing countries. These facts, we submit, have some definite implications in terms of the relative roles to be assigned to FAO and UNEP in implementing PIC, whose main aim is to help the developing countries. We would urge that, consistent with the London Guidelines, the comparative advantages which FAO enjoys in the UN system should be kept in view while defining the roles and allocating and detailing the jobs and functions to be entrusted to UNEP and FAO in implementing the Code of Conduct and PIC. While we support the consensus on PIC, we expect that whatever developments take place between now and November 1989 will be kept in view and taken into consideration by the 25th Conference when the COAG deliberations developed on this issue go before the November 1989 Conference.

Ruyat WTRATHADJA (Indonesia): Speaking for the first time, allow me first of all to join the previous speakers in congratulating you, sir, for presiding over this important Council meeting as well as to the members of the bureau. I am fully confident that under your astute direction, our deliberations will be guided towards a most productive conclusion. My delegation also would like to congratulate the Vice-Chairmen that we elected yesterday. On behalf of the Indonesian Delegation, I should also like to convey our sincere gratitude and appreciation to the Director-General of FAO, Mr. Edouard Saouma, for his thought-provoking introductory statement, especially the elaboration on the important issues, namely the current world food situation, famine and malnutrition in the world today, the present situation of our Organization and the programme that will be taken up for next year. My delegation supports several of the items highlighted by the Director-General.

The Indonesian Delegation is very pleased to receive and have the opportunity to read carefully the report of the Committee on Agriculture. Our representative participated in the discussion and preparation of the report. Therefore, my delegation shares the same view of the Committee on most of the issues and supports the recommendations on priorities and strategies for achieving more benefits for member countries.

I would like to reiterate and emphasize some important points with related illustrations of our experience in agricultural development in Indonesia. The agricultural development experience in Indonesia has been very positive, especially in the last five years. The agricultural sector has grown at an average rate of 3.8 percent. The most important part of this success story was the extraordinary growth of rice production experienced between 1975 and 1984. At present, in addition to maintaining rice self-sufficiency, the efforts to develop the production of secondary food crops is a complementary effort to diversify basic foodstuffs in order to balance the supply of calorie intake, to make efficient use of land resources according to its agro-ecological zone as well as to strengthen food adequacy.

Allow me also to underline that to achieve firm agricultural development measures, a strong political commitment that should be reflected in manpower and budget allocation as well as policy decisions in favour of food and agricultural development is necessary. This commitment is required in order to be able to support technical programmes with adequate infrastructure development which is very much needed, such as fertilizer and pesticide industries, agricultural tools and machinery manufacturing, research and extension activities.

The financial institutions and distribution systems have to be complemented, if necessary, with subsidies at the initial stage and price support through floor and ceiling prices of main staple foods. Above all these measures, however, success would be determined by the farmers' and private sector's participation as well as effective and efficient management of agricultural development. In this connection, we support the Committee's recommendation to improve the strategies of education and training for agricultural development which include youth, women, small farmers and managers of agricultural development and farms. Redevelopment of human potentials is no doubt the core of development. In this case TCP would be very beneficial to developing countries and at least should be carried out at the same level as in the past.

My Government strongly supports the farmers' initiative and would like to promote further farmers' participation in cooperative activities. In this respect we fully support the recommendations of the Committee on people's participation in agricultural and rural development.

One of the cornerstones of agricultural policy making in Indonesia has been the strong emphasis on equality in the application of policy instruments. This has resulted in a pricing mechanism where both agricultural input prices and commodity support prices have been maintained at the same levels throughout the country, regardless of the variations in the costs of marketing. As a consequence, there have been extra economic costs, but it has also resulted in other, perhaps more important, social and political benefits. There has also been a determined effort to develop the infrastructure on an equitable basis throughout the country.

The present Indonesian development plan is taking further steps to develop a solid base for continued progress in the development of the agricultural sector. Among the new initiatives is a strong effort in the process of deregulation of various aspects of marketing, processing and transportation to promote more appropriate adjustment by way of natural market forces. Decentralized planning is also being encouraged in the belief that local officers are better able to judge the merit of various development programmes and strategies. Local level planning is being encouraged to design development programmes which create additional employment opportunities. In this connection, we hope that FAO would increase and improve assistance in agricultural policy analysis and recommend more effective and efficient policy options.

With regard to the Code of Conduct on the distribution and use of pesticides, my delegation fully supports the introduction of the Prior Informed Consent clause. The Indonesian Government has been very consistent in dealing with the use and distribution of dangerous chemicals. Strict regulation on the import of pesticides has been applied consistently. Therefore, the introduction of PIC would create no problem for implementation in my country.

Alejandro ORTIZ MARTINEZ (Mexico): Durante esta reunion del Comité se abordaron los temas siguientes: tercero: Ejecución del Programa de Labores 1986/88; cuarto: Resumen del Programa de Labores y Presupuesto para 1990-91; quinto: Urbanización, modalidades de consumo de alimentos y nutrición; sexto: Preservación de los Recursos Zoogenéticos; séptimo: Participación Popular en el Desarrollo Agrícola y Rural; octavo: Código de Conducta para la distribución y utilización de plaguicidas-Introducción de la cláusula del consentimiento previo.

Al respecto, cabe añadir que la delegación mexicana en esta reunión del Comité de Agricultura fue presidida por el Ciudadano Subsecretario de Agricultura, Ingeniero Sergio Reiz Osorlo y al efecto la Dirección General de Asuntos Internacionales le preparó una carpeta con notas sobre los distintos puntos del temario. Dichas notas también se remitieron a la Secretaría de Relaciones Exteriores. En el informe breve que elaboró el Ingeniero Reiz Osorlo destaca lo siguiente: considera que fue de utilidad la participación de la delegación mexicana, tanto por el hecho de hacer sentir ante la comunidad internacional el interés de México de colaborar y obtener apoyo en los múltiples problemas que afectan al sector agropecuario, como por hacerles ver algunos puntos de vista que consideramos importantes para nuestras relaciones en materia de política agrícola. Así, dentro del Programa, pudo insistirse en mayores programas de fertilización y apoyo a esa industria y en el apoyo para la realización de políticas interiores de regularización de riego y agricultura, con el fin de hacer eficientes los sistemas no integrados en el uso de agua. Persistentemente, se insistió en la necesidad de que la comunidad internacional apoye los objetivos nacionales de soberanía y seguridad alimentaria sin descuidar las necesidades planteadas por un esquema moderno de interdependencia de productos y ventajas comparativas. De igual forma se insistió en mantener enfoques integrados en el combate de plagas, así como un control preciso de las implicaciones del uso de plaguicidas y pesticidas.

En materia de investigación, se planteó fortalecer el impulso de la biotecnología, tanto en el sector agrícola como en el ganadero, así como reforzar, con la participación de las instituciones financieras, los programas para control de enfermedades que se están realizando en diversos países de la comunidad internacional, en particular el caso del gusano barrenador del ganado. Se subrayó la importancia de desarrollar y fortalecer mediante la infraestructura de investigación de los países en desarrollo y las actividades de transferencia de tecnología, las actividades del grupo consultivo sobre investigación agrícola internacional.

En esta reunión del Comité también participó el Dr. Moises Félix Ortiz, Director General de Sanidad Vegetal, cuya exposición sobre el código de conducta para plaguicidas se expone en la nota sobre el tema 7 de esta reunión del Consejo relativo al mismo tema.

No debemos olvidar que es la FAO la Organización de la comunidad internacional encargada de atender todos los temas vinculados a la agricultura y la alimentación. Esto dicho, no debemos caer en el supuesto de que, siendo el Banco Mundial o el Fondo Monetario Internacional, por ejemplo, las instituciones financieras, sean ellas las que definan las políticas o programas en materia alimentaria o agrícola.

Finalmente, lamentamos que, al margen de lo argumentado y solicitado, con respecto al párrafo 140 del 10° COAG, éste no haya reflejado adecuadamente los debates y conclusiones a que se llegó sobre el tema, por lo cual en esta ocasión solicitamos que quede claramente establecido en este foro rector que es urgente que el Grupo de Trabajo de la Comisión de Recursos Fitogenéticos se reúna, para que en el próximo período de sesiones del Consejo se cuente con la opinión que ha merecido a dicho grupo la posibilidad de incluir en el sistema global de la FAO para Recursos Fitogenéticos, es decir, que tanto en el compromiso como en la comisión y en el Fondo Internacional se incluya la problemática de los recursos zoogenéticos como un primer paso conducente al establecimiento de un sistema global de diversidad biológica en el seno de la FAO.

Muchas gracias.

Amin ABDEL MALER (Liban) (langue originale arabe): Je voudrais tout d'abord féliciter le Dr Bonte-Friedheim ainsi que M. Brader pour leur présentation éclairée et concise des documents don't nous sommes saisis.

Monsieur le Président, j'aimerais vous présenter un certain nombre de remarques en marge du sujet que nous discutons.

Tout d'abord, en ce qui concerne les ressources naturelles, nous approuvons les mesures proposées pour la gestion des exploitations ainsi que les activités touchant aux pesticides, aux réseaux d'irrigation. Pour ce qui est du programme des réformes, nous approuvons l'augmentation proposée aux crédits consacrés à la technologie et à la meilleure sélection des semences ainsi qu'à leur protection.

Pour ce qui est des ressources animales, nous appuyons les activités prévues dont il est fait mention dans le résumé du Projet de programme et budget pour le biennium 1990-91. Nous attachons le plus vif intérêt aux activités touchant à la lutte contre les épizooties et à la protection phytosanitaire.

J'aimerais maintenant attirer l'attention des responsables du Département des Ressources animales. Il ne s'agit pas d'une critique négative, bien au contraire, il s'agit d'une critique amicale et constructive. Je veux parler de la routine administrative en marge des activités nécessaires en cas d'urgence. Parfois, c'est long, trop long. Il appartient de raccourcir les délais notamment quand les épizooties sont là et déciment les cheptels des pays en voie de développement.

J'évoque ce sujet parce que récemment la Syrie, un pays frère et limitrophe du Liban, a été frappée de plein fouet par un virus qui a décimé le cheptel. La Syrie a présenté une demande pour obtenir des experts de la FAO sur le terrain. Le Directeur général a répondu rapidement et favorablement. De même, le Dr Bonte-Friedheim a chargé son Département d'exécuter la demande. Toutefois, la routine administrative a fait qu'une grande partie du cheptel a été décimée. Nous avons beaucoup craint que ce virus passe la frontière syrienne et atteigne la frontière du Liban qui souffre déjà de cette guerre affreuse que nous connaissons tous.

J'adresse donc un appel au Secrétariat pour qu'il agisse rapidement et sacrifie quelque peu la sacro-sainte routine administrative puisqu'il s'agit d'urgence.

En ce qui concerne le point 2.1.4, la délégation du Liban approuve l'augmentation prévue de ce programme auquel nous attachons une haute priorité puisqu'il s'agit de l'augmentation de la production agricole.

Pour ce qui touche au développement rural, nous en sommes tout à fait partisans puisqu'il donne une impulsion à la socio-économie et à la formation dans les zones rurales.

Nous nous félicitons également de l'attention bienveillante accordée par le Conseil à la femme et son rôle, notamment, dans le développement rural. Nous mettons en exergue la nécessité de consacrer les crédits généraux pour la vulgarisation agricole ainsi que pour les crédits agricoles. Pour ce qui est du point 7, touchant au Code international de conduite, l'utilisation des pesticides ainsi

que le principe du PIC, la délégation du Liban approuve les recommandations du COAG. Nous espérons que le Conseil entérine ces mesures afin qu'elles soient adoptées définitivement au cours de la Conférence.

En ce qui concerne l'initiative adoptée à l'unanimité au cours de la réunion du Comité agricole, nous espérons qu'elle obtiendra un écho favorable également au Conseil; ainsi nous aurons servi une fois de plus la grande idée pour laquelle a été créée la FAO.

Horacio CARANDANG (Philippines): The Philippines' delegation endorses the Report of the COAG. The Philippines' delegation also endorses the proposals of the Code of Conduct on the Distribution and Use of Pesticides as contained in the document CL 95/15. These proposals are the result of a long process of consultation and represent the consensus of Member Nations on this issue.

I should however like to raise the issue relating to pesticides which are not registered or withdrawn. Some surveys show that some of these pesticides are among the most toxic pesticides which have been withdrawn precisely because of their high toxicity. There are no adequate provisions in the present Code to cover this category of pesticides.

The Philippines' delegation is of the view that the Secretariat should look into this matter and come with proposals to deal with the issue for the consideration of Member Countries at a future session of the COAG. Thank you very much Mr. Chairman.

Mme Anna Teresa FRITTELLI ANNIBALDI (Italie): Avant tout et très brièvement, la délégation de l'Italie remercie M. Bonte-Friedheim pour la brillante présentation du texte. On ne pouvait pas manquer de joindre notre voix pour appuyer le rapport du Comité de l'agriculture. On a suivi les travaux de ce Comité avec beaucoup d'intérêt et nous croyons avoir réellement fait du bon travail sur les excellentes documents préparés par le Secrétariat.

Les résultats du COAG sont donc à notre avis très intéressants, très bons pour la poursuite de nos activités. Si vous le permettez, je voudrais très brièvement souligner simplement quelques points. Avant tout, je saisis l'occasion de revenir au problème de la formation et de la vulgarisation, dont on a parlé au cours des travaux du Comité pour rappeler aussi l'importance de l'approche culturelle de base. Nous nous rendons compte que des problèmes peuvent être plus urgents et que des lignes plus ciblées de formation peuvent s'imposer. Mais nous pensons aussi à la préparation du terrain pour une meilleure récolte future et en disant cela nous pensons surtout aux problèmes de l'environnement et du développement durable.

Enfin, en ce qui concerne le Code de conduite pour les pesticides on a eu l'occasion de parler de l'importance du thème, du PIC, du consensus et de bonne volonté. On est heureux de pouvoir constater les progrès qu'on a faits sur ce chemin. Nous voudrions saisir cette occasion pour faire part du fait que l'association italienne qui relie la presque totalité des industries du secteur a appelé ses affiliés à l'application du Code et a même pourvu à ce que les principes du Code soient traduits et distribués pour l'usage et la ligne de conduite.

Gerard KIKLY (KEC): Thank you Mr. Chairman for giving me the opportunity of making some brief comments on behalf of the European Community. As the European Community participated in the work of COAG, and we can endorse the Report of that meeting as a good reflection of the COAG discussion, I will confine my remarks to the question of the introduction of the Prior Informed Consent clause into the Code of Conduct on the Distribution and Use of Pesticides.

The Council of the European Communities adopted in June 1988 a Regulation concerning export from and import into the Community of certain dangerous chemicals. Under this Regulation a notification procedure is introduced for the export of dangerous substances whereby the importing country is informed of the regulatory restrictions in the Community and the reasons for them. The dangerous substances covered are listed in the Regulation, as are those which are banned or severely restricted in the Community. More than half of the substances are pesticides; the others are industrial chemicals such as polychlorinated biphenyls and asbestos.

The Council also adopted a Resolution at the same time as the Regulation, inviting the European Commission to examine the question of Prior Informed Consent in greater detail and to submit, where necessary, in the light of the information supplied by the Member States and developments in the relevant international bodies, an appropriate proposal with a view to the possible amending of the Community Regulation.

The European Community has actively participated in the discussions held at international level, particularly those conducted under the auspices of UNEP and FAO.

The Community recommends that the PIC procedure on the lines of the basic principles adopted at the governmental consultation in Rome in January 1989, be introduced into the International Code of Conduct on the Distribution and Use of Pesticides. This, we believe, would be a major step towards the better protection of the population and the environment in developing countries.

The introduction of "Prior Informed Consent" into the Code will widen the field of application and the effectiveness of the Code, and indeed will reinforce the responsibilities of the FAO in this domaine

In revising Article 9 of the Code of Conduct the European Community believes that account must be taken of the FAO's increased responsibilities and widened activities which should go further than a mere exchange of information between national authorities and international organizations.

I would like to thank you Mr. President for affording me the opportunity of presenting the views of the Community on this subject. Thank you.

Mrs Giuseppina PELA (Observer for the International Federation of Agricultural Producers): I am speaking on behalf not only of my organization, the International Federation of Agricultural Producers, but also on behalf of the whole group of the international NGO representatives residing in Rome. I will limit my remarks to the Report section on People's Participation.

The group of international NGOs who originally proposed this item for COAG discussion would like to express appreciation for the preparation and discussion of the item on People's Participation at the Tenth COAG Session. The lively debate and the interest shown by a great number of Member Governments augur well for the future cooperation between governments and NGOs at the national level as well as between FAO and international NGOs. For our part we stand ready to continue cooperation and contribute to the preparation of the Plan of Action.

The one point we would like to re-emphasize is that People's Participation should not be seen as a separate programme with additional costs if any. People's Participation is indeed a vital aspect of agricultural and rural development programmes. It is not a separate element or an alternative to projects dealing with basic needs. People's Participation must be an integral part of development projects so that it will not only ensure project sustainability but will also result in financial saving

People's Participation is indispensable if we really want to progress from development based on assistance to one based on self-reliance. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

L. BRADER (Director, Plant Production and Protection Division): At the Secretariat we are certainly extremely grateful for the strong support expressed by Council on the proposals developed to include the PIC clause into the Code, and also the guidelines for the operation of the Prior Informed Consent system. I would almost say we feel somewhat relieved that the tremendous amount of energy we have put into all these matters, together with many of the Member Countries and other organizations, seems gradually to bear fruitful results, and that of course for the benefit of keeping the rather unique consensus that existed on the Code of Conduct and gives it its strength. We are certainly very pleased with the strong support expressed.

I need to answer or comment on a number of remarks, particularly those related probably to collaboration with UNEP. Let me first of all say that when FAO started this work on the Code of Conduct, which is now about eight years ago, early 1981, one of the very first steps we took was to send an official letter to all heads of relevant agencies, not only UNEP but WHO, UNIDO, ILO, Unesco-all of those who have potential interest in this matter-to inform them that FAO was trying to start this process and we would seek for their collaboration, and ask if they would like to collaborate with FAO so that we could bring this to a good end, and without any exceptions these various agencies have endorsed these efforts right from the beginning and worked closely with us, and have recognized at the same time that FAO would serve as the lead agency in all this work on the Code of Conduct.

As I said in my opening statement, in fact in much detail I thought, we are now working with UNEP on the detailed arrangements for these cooperative efforts in an earlier discussion that we had on this matter. It is good to discuss cooperation, but one has to be absolutely sure that we know on what one wants to cooperate, and that is why I think we need to some extent the final result of the discussions before coming to definite arrangements. But the letters exchanged between the

Director-General of FAO and the Executive Secretary of UNEP have clearly stated the wish of both agencies to set up a joint programme on this matter with the specific purpose to avoid duplication, and to use each others capabilities to the best possible extent. Although it was not highlighted in these letters, it is quite clear nevertheless that each organization would of course pursue its particular mandate in the matters relating to all this work. I think we want to cooperate, but we also want to make it very clear that the purpose of FAO and some of these matters related to pesticides are not always exactly the same as those of UNEP; they are complementary. We have different responsibilities. I think It was also highlighted by the intervention of the delegate from India and we should take them into account.

A very specific remark was made on the data base question; not setting up a new data base. It is one of the very first methods we have extensively discussed with the Secretariat of the International Register on Potentially Toxic Chemicals which has been set up by UNEP for some time now. It is quite clear from the earlier discussions that on the one hand the information in the Register itself is not covering all the needs of a data base of the data that is required for the Code of Conduct, so an additional or sub-data base has so to be set up, and in addition the number of countries that have so far provided information to the International Register is still very limited, but once again I can assure the Council that this will be a joint action to use the International Register fully in the most practical way.

Other specific items were raised. Two additional items in particular I have noted here. Brazil noted that the participating country was most probably not needed in Article 2 of the Code. Other countries noted that it was important to be in this Article. Let me try to explain why it is there. Already in the expert consultation we held in January 1988, we spent a lot of time in looking at the practical implementation of this Prior Informed Consent. Including it in the Code is an easy thing; operating it will be a rather difficult one, and while discussing this the example was taken of one country that was already implementing a Prior Informed Consent system around the export of pesticides, and it was quite clear from that experience that this system will be a failure if the developing importing countries in general are not actively participating in this scheme. It has to be an Interactive exercise, and that is also why, as a very first step of the guidelines as they have been proposed gradually, is the assurance that the country wants to participate in this matter. Now one can argue further does the word "participating" need to be here or not. That may be another matter, but this explains the reasons why the word "participating country" has been put in. If the countries do not participate actively we are afraid it may not lead to the desired results.

An important question was raised by Pakistan and also by the delegate of the Philippines, on what may happen with pesticides not registered or withdrawn. In the Code of course, the definition of "banned" now reads that "banned" means a pesticide for which all registered users have been prohibited by final government regulatory action, or for which all requests for registration or equivalent action for all users have, for health or environmental reasons, not been granted.

It would seem that most pesticides would fall under this definition of bans, but I fully agree with the comments made by the delegate of Pakistan and the delegate of the Philippines that this is a very important matter that we should follow as the Secretariat, and determine at the appropriate whether the current arrangements are adequate or whether additional proposals should be developed. Also, of course, these pesticides which apparently from the statement made during the Council can be quite an important part of the exports of countries, should be well covered under the scheme.

I think this covers most of the questions or points that were raised in the debate.

B.F. DUTIA (Assistant Director-General, Economic and Social Policy Department): Firstly I would like to thank the Members of the Council for giving their general support to the work programme of the Economic and Social Department. I have a few specific questions to answer, and I hope I will be able to do it briefly.

I would like to refer to observations by the Delegate of Peru concerning the need for assistance in carrying out agricultural census in his country. In this context I would like to clarify that FAO's assistance to countries in carrying out agricultural censuses is normally provided through census manuals and training through national demonstration centres. TCP assistance for preparatory work on agricultural censuses is also provided within the limit of available resources. In this context I would like to mention that FAO has organized three national demonstration centres for Latin America and the Caribbean, two of which were for the Spanish-speaking countries and one for the English-speaking countries. I am happy to report that in the most recent national demonstration centre which was held in Santiago, Chile, three statisticians from Peru were trained for three weeks on agricultural censuses last year.

A TCP project was also implemented at the request of the government of Peru in 1988, and its aim was to initiate the preparatory work for agricultural census. As a result, a plan for the census has been prepared and we are hoping to obtain donor support for implementing this plan. So far we have not been able to find a donor, but our efforts are continuing.

I would now like to refer to the question raised by the delegate of the United Kingdom regarding the staff resources for supporting the action plan for the Women in Development. I am glad to say that the staff resource constraints that existed during the current biennium are likely to be less severe in the next biennium. Two of the posts that had been frozen because of budgetary constraints in the Service supporting this Action Plan are now being filled and the Director-General's proposals for the Programme of Work and Budget for the next biennium include the establishment of one additional post in this Service.

The Delegate of the United Kingdom also referred to the data collection regarding the people's organizations. In this context I would like to clarify that what was intended is a flexible pragmatic approach in collecting information, and we do not intend to have a comprehensive, all-inclusive data base.

We also have taken note of the suggestion made by the Delegate of the United Kingdom concerning the case studies, with which we are in general agreement.

The delegate of Switzerland referred to the Plan of Action for People's Participation, and we have also noted the support that has been expressed by a large number of members who spoke to the people's participation programme.

The delegate of Switzerland wanted to know what exactly has been done after the COAG meeting in response to the suggestion for the Plan of Action. Not much time has elapsed since then; I counted that exactly 32 working days have passed since the closure of the COAG meeting. During that period we have started internal discussions on how to go about responding to the suggestion made by the Committee on Agriculture.

We are very appreciative of the offer made by Switzerland to provide support for developing a Plan of Action. Of course, we also have to take into account the fact that at the moment our resources, particularly the staff resources, are concentrated on the implementation of another very important Plan of Action, namely, the Plan of Action for Women in Development. We have to determine how best we can include this new activity that has been proposed. However, we are giving due consideration to it.

We have also noted in this context some suggestions made by the delegate of Argentina. We do hope that at some appropriate point in time we can get in touch with the representative of Switzerland in following up on these questions.

I would now like to turn to the specific question raised by the delegate of Angola about the sub-regional training centre for Africa, particularly for the Portuguese-speaking countries of Africa. We have noted his comments with great care, and we will certainly explore the possibility of finding out what facilities are available at the moment in the Portuguese speaking countries in Africa that would help in the establishment of training centres for the Portuguese-speaking countries.

I would like to mention that provision which has been made in the 1991 budget proposals even for the Francophone and Anglophone countries is only to undertake exploratory work for establishing such sub-regional training centres. The actual establishment of the training centre would depend on the availability of extra budgetary funds. But we do hope to be able to accommodate within the next biennium the possibility of doing similar exploratory work for the Portuguese-speaking countries.

In the meantime we would also consider the possibility of repeating the initiative that was taken three years ago to have a core of Portuguese-speaking medium-term professionals trained in some Brazilian university and in this context we noted with appreciation the observations made by the Ambassador of Brazil.

Lastly, we have also noted that several delegations have referred to the request for undertaking a study on Asia and the Pacific region which appears in paragraph 106 of the Report of the Committee on Agriculture. Certainly we will give consideration to that proposal, as has been pointed out in the Committee Report, but we would like to mention that Asia and the Pacific region is a very important region. It is also a very complex region, if I may say so. It is complex in that there is a great diversity of conditions prevailing in that region and the approach to the study has to be thought through very carefully so that we are able to address the issues that are of particular concern to the countries of that region.

CH. BONTE-FRIKDHEIM (Assistant Director-General, Agriculture Department): I would like to start by adding three points to what Mr. Brader has said on PIC.

Firstly, the comment was made that the document on PIC was late. The document on PIC for agenda item 7 was just a duplication of what is found in the COAG Report. We hope that those delegations that have approved the COAG Report will have no difficulty approving the PIC report which is an extract of the COAG Report. Secondly, the suggestion has been made about whether it would be good to have only one contact point between UNEP and FAO with regard to receipt of information. That sounds good in theory; in practice, there are a large number of developing countries that have either no contact points in their countries and depend on the contact through the Minister of Agriculture or Minister of Environment for UNEP, or they have one contact point for importation of all chemicals, or they have two contact points, one for the importation of chemicals for industry and one for agricultural chemicals. I think it would be very bad to force those countries that have an agriculture register for chemicals to suddenly start writing to UNEP on matters they previously brought to FAO. In other words, I do not think that the costs of having UNEP as well as FAO as a contact point for the countries are so big that they cannot be borne. I think it is much more important to have a contact point for all countries than to force our system onto them.

My third point is that, while in the introduction Mr. Brader acknowledged gratefully the support of Japan in the Far East, I would like to acknowledge the offered support of France in the implementation of the Code of Conduct, and also of PIC, in the future. I hope that other bilateral donors will make similar offers.

The COAG Report was well received in Council, which was to be expected as we had a very good discussion in COAG.

The delegate of Peru made a proposal with regard to an amendment to the COAG Report in paragraph 140. Strictly speaking, legally speaking, this is not possible. The COAG Report was adopted by COAG and cannot be amended by other bodies. However, the Council has a prerogative to reflect in its own report the wishes of a large number of delegations to proceed differently from that indicated in paragraph 140 of the COAG Report. The Secretariat's position on the proposal made by Peru and supported by many other delegations is as follows: as I have stated in my introduction, a technical consultation will be held at the beginning of September in Rome. It is hoped that many of the world's specialists in the technical fields related to animal genetic resources will be available and that extra-budgetary resources will be offered for the important consultation. Many of the developed countries from which some of these specialists come will be able to pay their way to and from Rome.

Secondly, subject to availability of funds, the Director-General will invite the Working Group of the Commission on Plant and Genetic Resources to meet in October to review the outcome of the technical consultation with a view to the possibility of expanding the FAO Global System of Plant Genetic Resources to include animal genetic resources. In this connection I should indicate that the cost of such a meeting could conceivably amount to about \$50,000. Extra budgetary resources for this meeting would be welcome.

Thirdly, the Director-General will report to the Council and Conference in November on progress made-I think this is the answer to the question from the United States-and he is free to be advised by any group on any meeting held in FAO.

Fourthly, although the Director-General agrees with Member countries about the importance of animal genetic resources and the need to take urgent action not to lose the momentum, it seems advisable to be guarded about main technical, legal and coordinating issues. These must be reviewed and solutions must be found. That can hardly be possible by November.

In this context, three issues are of considerable concern to the Secretariat: (a) the need for the widest possible consensus by Member countries on action by FAO in the field of animal genetic resources; (b) decisions on how far fishery resources and wildlife resources are to be included; (c) coordination with action by other international organizations. In this respect I refer to a resolution by the UNEP Governing Council in May this year on the preparation for an International legal instrument for biological diversity of the planet. I have the resolution in front of me; it talks very little of FAO, and sometimes I wonder if those who tell us that we should always coordinate with UNEP, should talk about cooperation with FAO when they have a meeting. It states that the Governing Council is aware of the establishment of the Commission on Plant and Genetic Resources; it does not say a word about the work done in the last meeting or in other meetings. It requests the Executive Director of UNEP to take certain action and to report on the progress on this to the Preparatory Committee for the 1992 Conference on Environment and Development. FAO, of course, will report to its governing body, the Council, at the next Council meeting on what the Governing Council of UNEP has stated it wants to do, hopefully with FAO.

There are a number of points that have been made, which are very tempting for me to talk about. On behalf of the Secretary, I shall pick out one or two and then answer one or two questions.

Firstly, I think that the representative of Peru reminded us of the sovereign rights of countries to administer and to develop their natural resources. The need for sustainability and environmental concerns are recognized by all but no solutions have yet been indicated as to how these concerns can be translated into alternative forms of development without burdening the poor countries further or diverting scarce resources from development to conservation purposes, in fact, imposing only another conditionality on development. I think we have tried to say that in the COAG Report but I think it has not come out as clearly as stated by the representative of Peru.

Czechoslovakia and others have urged close cooperation with international organizations and resource institutions on environmental aspects. The delegate of Czechoslovakia said that FAO should work closely with UNEP and regional commissions. I would like to report that FAO has just co-sponsored together with UNEP and the Regional Commission for Africa an environmental conference held from 12 to 16 June in Rampala. I confirm here that environmental aspects, as well as sustainability questions, are taken and have been taken into account in all of our relative sub-programmes of the major programme, 2.1, Agriculture. I would like to acknowledge with thanks the offer of the Czechoslovakian Deputy Minister of assistance in having training courses in developing countries and facilities in his own country to train people.

There was a specific question on unconvertible currencies. FAO has made several moves towards UNDP, especially in emergency cases, to use unconvertible currency held by UNDP in many countries. The governing Council of UNDP has decided these unconvertible currencies can only be used as part of the IPF. Perhaps it would be a good thing if those countries who are members of this Council and also members of the governing Council of UNDP could put pressure on to change this. To give one example, we tried to facilitate the import of fertilizers to countries where we could see there was great need and food shortages, but we were told that this was impossible because of the governing Council of the UNDP. So the answer here unfortunately is that it is not possible to use those currencies for any purpose outside the IPF.

Two more points—first of all, the delegate of the United Kingdom warned us about biotechnology, saying that we should not regard it as a panacea, as an aspirin for all the diseases which we might have. The Secretariat confirms this. It is grateful for the answer that the delegate of India has given on this one, but in the Secretariat we are concerned that the scientific advances made in biotechnology do not by-pass the developing countries, that the developing countries are not excluded, that they should benefit and should not pay at the end for advances made in science and technology which are being exploited by others. We think this is one of our functions.

Secondly, the proposal has been made—or a question was asked—on the subject of agro-forestry and livestock production in arid and semi-arid areas. In 1987 COAG talked about arid area development, and this study will be the follow-up. Most likely it will be undertaken in the next two years.

Finally, there was a specific question from the delegate of the Lebanon. I can answer that the consultant is in the Near East Region to look at the animal disease problem.

LE PRESIDENT: Je remercie le Dr Bonte-Friedheim pour sa contribution.

Nous sommes arrivés à la fin de la discussion d'un point très important de l'ordre du jour et permettez-moi d'y participer à mon tour.

À la fin de nos débats, je crois me faire votre interprète en disant que le Conseil se félicite du travail remarquable réalisé par le COAG, qui a donné lieu à un consensus sur des questions d'importance particulière telles que l'ICP, et considère que la mise en place d'une stratégie de protection et de préservation des ressources génétiques animales revêt une importance considérable. Il demande donc au Secrétariat de réfléchir aux voies et moyens propres pour intégrer cette stratégie dans l'ensemble des réflexions sur les ressources génétiques de la FAO.

Le Conseil soutient par ailleurs toute mesure propre à renforcer la participation des populations dans le développement rural, comme cela a été souligné par de nombreux délégués, et rappelle l'importance, qui a été déjà rappelée dans la résolution 1.94, du rôle des femmes dans le développement.

Je crois pouvoir dire que le Conseil a noté cependant avec préoccupation que l'action de la FAO en matière de formation est en baisse en raison des contraintes budgétaires. Le Conseil lance donc un appel pour qu'on puisse donner à la formation l'importance qu'elle requiert pour les pays en voie de développement.

Il serait bon également que le Conseil puisse dans son rapport appuyer l'appel du COAG pour que tous les pays membres versent ponctuellement leur contribution afin d'éviter les aspects négatifs que l'on a pu constater dans le programme de la FAO par suite de la crise financière.

En ce qui concerne l'introduction de la clause de l'information et du consentement préalables dans le code de conduite pour l'utilisation et la distribution des engrais, je crois que le Conseil se félicite du consensus obtenu. Il considère qu'il s'agit d'un grand pas dans la bonne direction, d'autant que cette question est débattue depuis plus de cinq ans. C'est donc un acquis très important pour tous. Le fait d'insérer cette question dans le code de conduite ne veut pas dire que cela est appliqué ipso facto. Le Conseil a noté avec intérêt la disponibilité de certains pays développés pour fournir une assistance appropriée aux pays en voie de développement et importateurs qui voudraient mettre rapidement en place le dispositif de l'ICP.

Enfin, on pourra dire qu'une autre condition de succès de la réalisation de cette procédure d'ICP est de pousser plus avant la coordination entre la FAO et le PNUE, ce qui permettra d'assurer le plein succès de cette importante question.

En résumé, le Conseil approuve à l'unanimité le rapport de la 10^{ème} session du COAG et félicite celui-ci pour le remarquable travail accompli.

Nous pouvons considérer que les points 6 et 7 de l'ordre du jour sont épuisés. Je propose une interruption de dix minutes et que le Vice-Président Roberto E.E. Dalton vienne ensuite présider notre Conseil pour l'examen du point No 8 de l'ordre du jour relatif aux ressources phylogénétiques.

The meeting was suspended from 17.15 to 17.40 hours.

La séance est suspendue de 17 h 15 à 17 h 40.

Se suspende la sesión de las 17.15 a las 17.40 horas.

Roberto E.E. Dalton, Vice Chairman of the Council, took the chair.

Roberto E.E. Dalton, Vice-Président du Conseil, assume la présidence.

Ocupa la presidencia Roberto E.E. Dalton, Vicepresidente del Consejo.

8. Report of the Third Session of the Commission on Plant Genetic Resources (Rome, 17-21 April 1989).
8. Rapport de la troisième session de la Commission des ressources phylogénétiques (Rome, 17-21 avril 1989).
8. Informe del tercer periodo de sesiones de la Comisión de Recursos Fitogenéticos (Roma, 17-21 de abril 1989).

EL PRESIDENTE: Comenzamos la sesión del Consejo para iniciar la consideración del tema 8 de nuestra agenda: Informe del tercer período de sesiones de la Comisión de Recursos Fitogenéticos. El Sr. Bonte-Freidheim, Subdirector General del Departamento de Agricultura hará la presentación del tema.

CH. BOFFTE-FRIKDHEIM (Assistant Director-General, Agriculture Department): Before I introduce the Agenda Item, may I just make one correction. I think I said before that the expert consultation on the preservation of animal genetic resources will be held at the beginning of September. In fact, it is at the end of September. The proposed dates are 26 to 28 September 1989.

Mr Chairman, it is my pleasure to introduce to you under Agenda Item 8 the report of the Third Session of the Commission on Plant Genetic Resources. The Commission met in Rome from 17-20 April 1989. Just allow me a word of background. The 85th Session of the FAO Council in November 1983 established the Commission and requested in the Resolution the Commission to submit to the Director-General the report of its activities and recommendations. Accordingly, the Director-General is requested to bring to the attention of the Conference through the Council any recommendations adopted by the Commission which have policy implications or which affect the programme or finances of the Organization.

It is possible-it may be stronger to say it is unlikely-that the Third Session of the Commission on Plant Genetic Resources will prove to have been one of the most important FAO technical meetings of member countries in the present biennium. Most recommendations of the meeting are likely to influence for many years to come policies, programmes and activities of FAO and of other international organizations, of NGOs as well as of member countries. It is for this reason that the Director-General decided to present to Council not only a summary of major conclusions and recommendations of the Third Session of the Commission, but to submit the full report of the meeting.

The Third Session of the Commission, chaired by Mr. Carandang of the Philippines was preceded by a meeting of the Commission's Working Group. The Working Group also met for a special session during the Commission meeting in order to find a compromise on a specific text.

The Commission at present has a total membership of 96 countries. In addition another 23 member countries indicated their adherence to the International Undertaking but so far have not become members of the Commission. The Third Session was attended by 63 Member Nations. In addition, 13 other Member Nations of FAO attended as observers.

The agenda of the Third Session dealt with a number of important issues all duly reported in document CL 95/14 in front of you. I would like to highlight in this introduction some of the major conclusions and recommendations.

The Commission agreed on the importance of the Global System on Plant Genetic Resources developed by FAO, consisting of the Undertaking, the Commission and the International Fund.

Regarding the wider acceptability of the system, specifically the wider acceptance of or adherence to the Undertaking, the Commission approved the text for an Agreed Interpretation of the Undertaking. Furthermore the Commission also adopted a draft resolution defining and endorsing the concept of farmers' rights. You will find both texts in paragraphs 57 and 59 of the report. It is proposed that both paragraphs be approved by Council, be forwarded to Conference and after approval by Conference that they become annexes to the International Undertaking. Let me repeat: it is the proposal of the Secretariat that both paragraphs, once approved by Council, be forwarded to Conference for approval and that they become annexes to the International Undertaking.

The aim of the Undertaking is to strengthen the conservation, use and availability of germplasm. The Commission has endorsed mechanisms recognizing and legitimizing the rights to compensation of both germplasm donors and donors of funds and technology. This has been accomplished through the simultaneous and parallel recognition of plant breeders' rights and farmers' rights. The agreed interpretation is intended to lay the bases for an equitable, lasting, global system, and thereby to facilitate the withdrawal of reservations which countries have made with regard to the International Undertaking, and to secure adherence of others.

Farmers' rights mean rights arising from the past, present and future contributions of farmers in conserving, improving and making available plant genetic resources, particularly those in the centres of origin or diversity. These rights, according to the Commission, are vested in the International Community, as trustees for present and future generations of farmers, for the purpose of ensuring full benefits to farmers, and to support the continuation of their contributions, as well as the attainment of the overall purposes of the International Undertaking.

This could be achieved through appropriate support to the International Fund on Plant Genetic Resources already established by FAO. The adhering governments which have benefitted from the use of germplasm may contribute to the Fund, on a basis to be agreed upon. The Fund should be used to support plant genetic conservation, management and use, particularly within the developing countries. Emphasis will be placed on training and strengthening national capabilities.

In addition, the Commission made a large number of proposals and recommendations for the future work of the FAO Secretariat. Most of these proposals will cover more than one biennium. May I highlight the following:

- (1) preparation of a report on the state of the world's plant genetic resources, based mainly on the establishment of a comprehensive global information system;
- (2) arrangements with national institutions including governments to put their base collections with the network under the auspices of FAO;
- (3) the development of a code of conduct on biotechnology in relation to plant genetic resources;
- (4) the development of a code of conduct for International collectors of germplasm; and

- (5) the establishment of an Advisory Committee, including representatives from intergovernmental, International, regional and non-governmental organizations involved in plant genetic resources work in order to foster dialogue between the various organizations, to harmonize responsibilities and to promote coordination.

The proposed Code of Conduct on biotechnology needs a few introductory remarks. The Commission discussed the great potential of new biotechnologies for conservation and use of plant genetic resources including their technical, economical, social, ethical, legal and political implications for the international Undertaking and the Commission expressed concern about possible negative consequences. Taking all these into account, the Commission requested FAO, in cooperation with relevant organizations, to continue to monitor actively the evolving new biotechnologies, in line with the International Undertaking. The Commission also requested FAO to develop a code of conduct for biotechnology, as it affects conservation and use of plant genetic resources. The Commission felt strongly that developing countries should be able to draw the full benefits from the new biotechnologies.

Finally, the Commission discussed the activities of the IBPGR and expressed its surprise at the sudden decision of the IBPGR Board to relocate its Headquarters from FAO Rome to Copenhagen. The Commission recommended that a Memorandum of Understanding be prepared, taking into account the objectives of the International Undertaking on Plant Genetic Resources, covering the proper arrangements for continued effective cooperation between IBPGR and FAO. The arrangements should also include the relationship between the Commission of Plant Genetic Resources and the IBPGR. The Commission furthermore proposed that its Working Group should monitor progress.

The FAO Secretariat has indicated its readiness for a dialogue on the future of the IBPGR.

The long list of activities proposed by the Commission in April, as I said, cannot all be financed from Regular Programme resources foreseen for the next biennium. Yet there is little doubt about the importance of most of the activities proposed-I would say of all of the activities proposed. The Secretariat therefore appeals to donor governments, to financing institutions, to industry and others to manifest their concern for plant genetic resources by contributing extra-budgetary resources to these activities which I have outlined before and which all have been strongly recommended for action by the Third Session of the Commission on Plant Genetic Resources and that you find in the report of that session.

EL PRESIDENTE: La lista de oradores esta abierta y consulto a las Delegaciones.

Alejandro ORTIZ KARTIHEZ (Mexico): Nos complace verle presidir nuestras reuniones. La Delegación mexicana, como la argentina, expresa por mi conducto la gran satisfacción por los resultados obtenidos en la tercera reunión de la Comisión de Recursos Fitogenéticos, conocidos como un triunfo de la moderación, compromiso y espíritu de cooperación internacional. La importancia de los recursos fitogenéticos es indiscutible para el desarrollo agrícola y forestal sostenidos y viables, la seguridad alimentaria y la conservación del medio ambiente.

Se ha reconocido que, en materia de recursos fitogenéticos, ningún país es autosuficiente, y, por lo tanto, la cooperación internacional es de vital importancia. Todos los países son donantes y receptores a la vez. De ahí, la importancia del papel de la FAO en la materia, ya que, siendo el organismo responsable de la alimentación y de la agricultura y teniendo una labor pionera en la <materia desde 1947, cuenta, además de la capacidad y la experiencia, con la visión que la integración requiere.

Todo ello ha permitido evolucionar en forma rápida, conforme la voluntad política de sus Estados Miembros le ha permitido, en la decisión de llegar al sistema global de la FAO desarrollado a partir de 1983, que comprende: el compromiso internacional que le da el marco legal; la Comisión, que es el foro intergubernamental, y la creación del Fondo Internacional, como mecanismo financiero que viene a consolidarse en esta tercera reunión, como lo concluye el informe, al que México da su pleno apoyo.

Deseamos, por lo mismo, destacar ese apoyo a las siguientes decisiones emanadas de esta reunión: al texto de la interpretación concertada del compromiso y a la resolución sobre los derechos del agricultor incluidos en los párrafos 57 al 59; apoyamos asimismo la publicación periódica sobre el estado mundial de los recursos fitogenéticos, a fin de que sirva de base a las discusiones de la Comisión; apoyamos el establecimiento del sistema global de información y del sistema de alerta rápida, según el artículo 7 del compromiso, incluidos en el párrafo 16.

Reiteramos nuestro apoyo al establecimiento de la red de colecciones base, bajo los auspicios o jurisdicción de la FAO, según el artículo 7 del compromiso. En ese sentido, mi Delegación expresa su satisfacción por los progresos realizados y por las ofertas de numerosos países de poner sus bancos de germoplasma en dicha red y/o el ofrecimiento de espacio y germoplasma para colecciones internacionales, conforme se indica en los párrafos 38 al 46.

De la misma manera, apoyamos el papel de la Comisión para desarrollar acuerdos internacionales para conservación y uso de recursos fitogenéticos, teniendo en cuenta implicaciones técnicas, económicas, sociales, legales, políticas y éticas. Apoyamos en este sentido la recomendación de la Comisión de preparar, primero, un código de conducta para colectores internacionales de germoplasma (párrafo 21), y, segundo, un código de conducta para biotecnología (párrafo 54).

Respecto al tema de las nuevas biotecnologías que estén transformando el panorama de la producción agrícola con repercusiones para los países en desarrollo, apoyamos firmemente la función de monitoreo de la Comisión sobre el desarrollo en este terreno de biotecnologías y las implicaciones de las mismas para nuestros países, conforme a lo convenido en los párrafos 47 a 53.

Asimismo, damos nuestro apoyo a los trabajos de la FAO para la conservación y uso de los recursos genéticos "in situ" y al establecimiento de una red de áreas de conservación "in situ" que incluya plantas y animales (párrafo 36). Entendemos esto como una forma de proteger los ecosistemas en los que no se pueden separar los recursos genéticos vegetales y animales. En este sentido, expresamos la necesidad de ampliar el sistema global de la FAO para recursos genéticos vegetales, para cubrir también los animales y la conveniencia de que se amplíe hasta cubrir toda la diversidad biológica de interés actual o potencial para la agricultura, el uso forestal, en la ganadería y en la pesca.

Consideramos que el tema es complejo y requiere la mayor claridad y concertación, porque no todos los países están en posibilidad de contar o enviar especialistas gubernamentales en la materia. Por ello expresamos nuestra preocupación por la proliferación de iniciativas en el campo de conservación y uso de recursos fitogenéticos y diversidad biológica en foros tales como el PNUMA, el UICN y otros que en general puede llevar a duplicación de actividades.

Por ello, solicitamos al Secretariado que mantenga informadas a las instituciones de los Gobiernos de la FAO sobre estos desarrollos. En función de esto, solicitamos que el Consejo haga suyas las recomendaciones de la Comisión para estudiar: primero, el establecimiento de un Comité asesor de la Comisión, que incluya a las principales organizaciones involucradas en estas actividades conforme lo expresado en los párrafos 19 y 20; segundo, la forma e implicaciones financieras de un plan de acción sobre recursos fitogenéticos que se prepare y lleve a cabo en cooperación con dichas organizaciones (párrafo 17). Queremos resaltar que tanto este Comité asesor como el plan de acción estarían orientados a fomentar el diálogo, armonizar responsabilidades y asegurar cooperación entre todas estas organizaciones.

Coincidimos en la expresión de preocupación por el hecho de que, a pesar de todas las señales de diálogo y buena voluntad de complementariedad de las instituciones, de forma unilateral y en cierta manera abrupta, el CIRF haya decidido abandonar la FAO. Si bien la acción y función de las organizaciones gubernamentales puede ser muy positiva y deseable en una materia tan delicada que tiene, además, implicaciones legales, es natural cuestionar que una organización como el CIRF pueda llevar a cabo, fuera del sistema de las Naciones Unidas, actividades que requieren libre acceso a todos los países y conllevan responsabilidades mundiales en un tema de vital importancia para el desarrollo agrícola, la seguridad alimentaria y la estabilidad del medio ambiente. Por ello hemos reiterado la importancia de la complementariedad, ya que inclusive fuera del marco de la FAO el CIRF podría encontrar dificultades para coleccionar en muchos países.

Todos los países son donantes del CIRF, unos de fondos y otros de germoplasma, y es por ello que el CIRF debe responder a todos ellos de sus actividades, a través del único foro intergubernamental en recursos fitogenéticos, que es la Comisión. Esto es muy importante, ya que el reconocimiento del papel de donantes de germoplasma de los países en vías de desarrollo debe tener profundas implicaciones en la manera en la que el CIRF establezca prioridades y apruebe sus programas e informes. Después de todo, los donantes de fondos y de germoplasma al CIRF y a la FAO son los mismos, y la separación del CIRF llevaría a un innecesario incremento y duplicación de los gastos y a una reducción de la eficacia, como se señala en los párrafos 74 al 78.

En todo caso, después de todos los atentos llamamientos que los países hemos reiterado, consideramos que si el CIRF insistiera en separarse de la FAO, esto deberá realizarse sin gasto alguno para nuestra Organización y que habrá de asegurarse que los bancos de datos desarrollados quedan en el seno de la misma y que el incremento de gastos para el CIRF no vaya en detrimento de los países en desarrollo. Si ese fuese el caso, apoyaríamos la recomendación de la Comisión de preparar un memorando de acuerdo entre la FAO y el CIRF que tenga plenamente en cuenta los objetivos del compromiso internacional y que esto se haga con el apoyo de la Comisión y su grupo de trabajo. Asimismo, deseamos hacer hincapié en que si la separación tuviese lugar, la FAO deberá incrementar su programa de trabajo y el presupuesto asignado a las actividades de recursos fitogenéticos para hacer frente a las necesidades de los países miembros (párrafos 79 a 81).

Como es de todos conocido, Sr. Presidente, México le da una gran importancia a este tema, ya que nuestro país es un centro de diversidad genética y biológica. En función de ello, ha creado una Comisión Nacional de Recursos Fitogenéticos, integrada a un marco de cooperación regional en la materia que es el CARFIT, y ha sido pionero de esta Comisión, por lo que le damos todo nuestro apoyo. Al mismo tiempo, deseamos expresar agradecimiento a la FAO por el apoyo recibido en nuestros esfuerzos.

EL PRESIDENTE: Agradezco a la distinguida Delegación de México, que habló también en nombre de mi propia Delegación. Y antes de dar la palabra al próximo orador, que es el distinguido Delegado de Australia, voy a leer la lista de oradores hasta este momento inscritos, con el ánimo de hacer una última consulta antes de cerrar esta lista: Australia, Etiopía, Reino Unido, Checoslovaquia, República Federal de Alemania, India, Finlandia, Nicaragua, España, Japón, China, Francia, Italia, Estados Unidos y Canadá.

Paul R. BRIDEN (Australia): Thank you Mr. Chairman. May I also say what a pleasure it is to be seeing you from a different angle!

We recognize that plant genetic resources is an important area for the world and for Australia, and FAO has an important role to play in international consideration of PGR issues. At the outset I must mention that due to the very late arrival of the documents, in fact I received this copy yesterday, my delegation must reserve or is unable to react in a full way to the body of the Report, and I will have to reserve our position for subsequent discussions. However, could I also say that we find the summary of the implications for FAO arising from the Commission very helpful indeed, and we have been able to focus on those pages 111 to 117, and it is to those I will devote my remarks.

Mr. Chairman, we are concerned that the Secretariat appears not to have endeavoured to include these activities, in at least a broad sense, in the Programme of Work and Budget, and perhaps the Secretariat could comment on that later. We would not support suggestions of an increase in the overall budget level to accommodate these activities. In our view any funding for PGR work should come from a rearrangement of priorities. We note that there is funding being sought for genetic resources in the draft Programme of Work and Budget, sub-programme 2.1.2.1 under Agriculture which has an allocation of US\$914,000 to meet the cost of the Commission's secretariat to support Member Countries on PGR and to provide training and information on genetic resources, and we would expect that there should be some flexibility in this allocation to accommodate some of the activities proposed.

In our view most of the areas for FAO to concentrate on would not involve substantial funding. FAO should maintain a coordinating role rather than a major field role.

We would query the need for FAO to significantly strengthen its PGR programme because of the separation of FAO from IBPGR as suggested in paras 18 (iv) and 19 (vii). There appears to be a danger of duplication unless the MOU with IBPGR can ensure that it does not occur. Mr. Chairman, turning to some detailed comments on the section on page iv, vi and 117 relating to policy, programming and financial implications for FAO, my delegation would offer the following observations. Firstly, the policy and programme matters in paras 17 and 18 are all valid issues and should be included as part of FAO policy activities. Secondly, item 17 (iii) and (iv) relating to the code of conduct on biotechnology and the code of conduct for International collectors of germplasm, should be done in conjunction with IBPGR and other relevant organizations. Thirdly, regarding financial priorities, in our view the major role for FAO should be related to items 19 (ii), the development of a proposal for the establishment of an Advisory Committee, and so on, and 19 (iii) relating to the preparation of a Code of Conduct for international germplasm, and item 19 (v) the development of a Global Information System. In our view item (iii) could be based on existing codes used by IBPGR, and should not involve a major financial input from FAO.

Items (iv) and (v) of paragraph 19 would be included in sub-paragraph (ii) with the coordination of (v) being a priority area for FAO.

Similarly items (iv) and (v) would be based on information provided by other organizations, and FAO's role would be one of collation and dissemination. Costs should not be high.

Regarding item 19 (vii), namely the plant genetic resources programme of FAO and the operational capacity with IBPGR being relocated, we feel it would require considerable justification if large resources were sought to be allocated. In our view FAO has a coordinating role rather than a major field role in plant genetic resources. The MOU with the International Board for Plant Genetic Resources should ensure that there is no duplication between the two programmes, and the cost to FAO as a result of the IBPGR move should be minimal. If the existing cooperation remains intact through an MOU.

Finally, Mr. Chairman, most of these issues in our view should have been foreseen and in some way included in the budget, at least in some outline form, and perhaps we could have some comment on that. Any further contributions in our view should be to support the coordination of existing work, and to develop item 19 (11)-that is the establishment of an Advisory Committee to include long term budget estimates, should receive consideration at the next Council meeting.

In conclusion, Mr. Chairman, we feel that there is scope for more discussion and more explanation.

Assefa YILALA (Ethiopia): The Ethiopian delegation is pleased to see you chairing the discussion of this extremely important item. We would also like to use this opportunity to congratulate you for having been elected as Vice Chairman of the 95th Session of the Council.

The Ethiopian delegation is fully convinced that the Third Session of the Commission should be congratulated for having achieved a consensus in the text for an agreed interpretation and a Draft Resolution on the concept of farmers' rights.

We would also like to thank Mr. Bonte-Friedhiem for the introduction that was just made. We have participated both in the working group and in the Third Session of the Commission on Plant Genetic Resources. The Report thus placed before us is a reflection of the discussions that we had in the Working Group and also in the Third Session of the Commission. Therefore, we support the submission of this agreed interpretation and the Draft Resolution by the Director-General to the Conference with no reservation.

The proposed funding mechanism for conservation and management of plant genetic resources we hope will have the support of the international community as this is essential input that will contribute towards the success of the Commission's work.

While talking about our satisfaction in the above area, we were also able to observe some areas where we are worried, particularly with recent decisions of the Board of Trustees of IBPGR on separation from FAO. The concern expressed by the Commission during the third session is well founded and we hope that the recommendation in paragraph 15 is carried out as soon as possible.

We understand that the policy, programming and financial implications of the recommendations contained in section III are not incorporated in the Summary Programme of Work and Budget because of its appearance after the Summary had been prepared.

We also know that the Summary Programme of Work and Budget is subjected to the scrutiny of zero growth, thus reducing the chance of incorporating it even if the work was to be redone.

We, therefore, would like to appeal to the international community for special funding mechanisms for this important area of heritage rather than the proposed screening due to financial shortcomings. We say this because the Commission is just beginning its work and the inability to carry out its planned programme of work at this early stage will have repercussions on its future successes and confidence of Member countries in the mechanism that we have established.

Michael McGILL (United Kingdom): Mr. Chairman, the UK delegation is pleased to see you chairing this item, and my intervention will be extremely brief.

The United Kingdom delegation wishes to thank the Secretariat for the production of this important paper which we find helpful and interesting. Unfortunately, because of the late receipt of the paper we have not had the time to consider it fully. Therefore, we wish the right to reserve our position on the paper until we have had time to assess its implications fully.

Miroslav DOLEZAL (CZECHOSLOVAKIA): We highly appreciate the results of the Third Session of the Commission on Plant Genetic Resources. Important achievements have been obtained in work with world gene pools during the time of the existence of the Commission. We especially appreciate the activity of the Commission in preparing the legislative prerequisites for International cooperation and creating the world network of basic collections where in our view the function of the FAO is irreplaceable.

As can be seen from the discussion that took place at the Third session, resolution 8/83, International Undertaking on Plant Genetic Resources, creates a good basis for such cooperation. However, an adjustment should be made in its point 2.1 (a). In our view, no free exchange of breeding materials can be expected because free exchange would affect breeders' rights. The

Commission has achieved very good results in developing a world network of basic collections of genetic resources. We consider model C as the best form of cooperation as it enables FAO's coordinating and methodology activity to continue while respecting national autonomy in the ownership of the collections. In 1988 Czechoslovakia finished its efforts in building a national gene bank, having high technological parameters and sufficient storage capacity. We are ready to take an active part in international cooperation. In the opinion of our delegation the separation of the International Board for Phyto-genetic Resources from the FAO is a serious problem. Cooperation of both organizations in the future remains an open question. Our opinion is that an agreement on cooperation should be concluded between the FAO and the Board to define their mutual relationships and areas of activity. Activities of both organizations should be closely coordinated in order to allow for effective utilization of their forces and to avoid duplicity.

We also appreciate the Commission's orientation on the problems of conserving reproduced vegetable plant species and the use of the latest biotechnological methods in work with the gene pool. Czechoslovakia is interested in work in these fields.

The Commission on Plant Genetic Resources in the future should in our view continue to play an important role in organizing collection expeditions. We would also like to take part in these activities.

In conclusion, I would like to say that Czechoslovakia highly appreciates FAO'S efforts to save and conserve the gene pools of cultivated plants. We want to take part in these efforts in international cooperation, and in the work of the Commission.

Bernd von STDOW (Germany, Federal Republic of): Mr. Chairman, we are also happy to see you in the Chair.

The German delegation welcomes the endeavours of the Commission on Plant Genetic Resources to coordinate existing public and private, national and international activities to preserve genetic resources. We are of the opinion that this can best be achieved if close cooperation between FAO and the IBPGR continues to be ensured.

The German delegation holds the view that the International Fund for Plant Genetic Resources can be only one of the means to implement the aims laid down in the International Undertaking on Plant Genetic Resources. The voluntary financial support of this fund is to be welcomed. We are, however against remuneration for the use of genetic resources in breeding for agriculture and biotechnology as it is not possible to adequately assess in the past, at present or in the future contributions to the development of the genetic material. In our opinion a remuneration for the use of genetic material would also be inconsistent with Article 1 of the International Undertaking on Plant Genetic Resources, which should ensure the availability of plant genetic resources as a heritage of mankind.

Governments should continue to be free to choose the ways to improve the situation in order to make the greatest possible use of their financial resources. The Federal Republic of Germany is however always prepared to consider FAO's advice on its own programmes.

An extension of the mandate of the Commission on Plant Genetic Resources to all fields of genetic diversity can be considered to be a possible approach, in particular with regard to animal genetic resources. An extension of the International Undertaking on Plant Genetic Resources in that sense seems, however, problematical as the undertaking applies to plants. A comparable undertaking on animal resources would, however, be conceivable.

V.K. SIBAL (India): Mr. Chairman, it is a special pleasure for me to address the Council through you.

I would like to express the appreciation of the Indian delegation to Dr. Bonte-Friedheim for his very clear presentation and also compliment the Secretariat for their excellent summary of the Commission's significant conclusions and recommendations, as well as their policy programme and financial implications.

We took part in the Commission proceedings and are a party to its report. We endorse the recommendations. We do not intend to touch on each one of them but would like to confine our observations to those that we consider of particular importance.

We agree with Dr. Bonte-Friedheim that this meeting of the Commission was one of the most important technical meetings in the current biennium because of the very large implications for action in the coming biennium and further years, flowing from the recommendations of the Commission.

We would like to express our appreciation for the important work done by FAO in the crucial area of plant genetic resources in establishing: (a) the International Undertaking to ensure conservation, use and availability of plant genetic resources; (b) the Commission to provide an intergovernmental forum for concerting policies and approaches; and (c) the International fund for plant genetic resources for funding conservation, and management of these resources. These are excellent initiatives but we are also conscious that these are of varying degrees of maturity and will need development in order to effectively address the objectives for which they have been set up.

The Indian delegation would like to express their appreciation for the Commission's work in achieving consensus on the text for an agreed interpretation of the undertaking, as indicated in paragraph 57 of the report, aimed at attracting wider acceptance of the undertaking. We hope that this will have the approval of Council and Conference and pave the way for those who have so far not agreed to become members of the Commission and accept the undertaking. The agreed interpretation gives simultaneous and parallel recognition to plant breeders' rights and farmers' rights and can therefore constitute the basis for an equitable and just global system protecting all legitimate major interests. We hope that this will enable the Undertaking to draw within the Commission the 23 nations that have shown some hesitation.

The draft resolution endorsing the concept of farmers' rights in paragraph 59 of the report is one of the most significant developments achieved in the Commission. It is the first time that an International forum has recognized the concept, and we hope that the consensus backing this concept would find endorsement in the Council. In the context of these two developments we fully support the proposal that the agreed interpretation of paragraph 57 and the concept of farmers' rights in paragraph 59 should be endorsed by the Council to the Conference for its approval and then become an annexure to the Undertaking.

The Indian delegation would like to endorse the recommendations of the Commission in paragraph 15 of the report calling upon FAO to prepare a report on the state of the world's plant genetic resources and for the establishment of a global Information system, including an early warning system as per Article 7 of the Undertaking, recommended in paragraph 16 of the report. The information system would also be useful for monitoring developments in biotechnology, particularly in their implications for developing countries. There is a serious fear among the developing countries that the working out of progress in biotechnology may widen the gap between the developing countries and the developed countries. Therefore, FAO will have a very important monitoring role to play in watching over these developments and working for the benefit of the developing countries.

The Indian delegation is concerned that there should be well defined responsibilities in the areas of plant genetic resources so as to avoid duplication, overlapping and therefore a wastage of financial and technical resources. We would therefore underscore the need for the establishment of an advisory committee to provide a forum to promote and establish such coordination between the various organizations working in the area of plant genetic resources such as UNEP, ICUN and so forth.

The Indian delegation is also convinced that a study should be carried out to work out the implications of establishing an action programme on plant genetic resources on the lines of TFAP.

We also agree that FAO should conduct a study for the establishment of a network of in situ conservation covering both animal and plant genetic resources.

The Indian delegation is also of the view that the Commission's recommendations to FAO to develop a draft code of conduct for the collection of germplasm and another on biotechnology, as it affects conservation and the use of plant genetic resources, are timely and need to be pursued.

The Indian delegation takes note of the IBPGR decision to move to Copenhagen and to separate from FAO. We do wish this decision could have been taken after fuller consultation, and would like to underline the need to ensure that the new arrangements do not have any negative effects on the interests of the developing countries or affect the free exchange and security of germplasm. In this context it is most necessary that every effort be made to develop proper arrangements for continued effective cooperation between FAO and IBPGR with the legal and political aspects looked after by the FAO Commission on Plant Genetic Resources and the technical aspects taken care of by the IBPGR.

The Indian delegation would like to emphasize that the two organizations must work and collaborate closely with the required complementarity in their efforts, in a team work clearly defining their respective roles and responsibilities. In this context, in keeping with the universality of membership of FAO and the restricted membership of IBPGR-India is a member of both-care is necessary to ensure that the interests of developing countries in terms of access to germplasm, and the need for assistance to them to build institutional capacity to benefit from it are protected.

We recognize that the Commission is setting a scorching pace in the number and variety of its proposals which are an index of its sensitization and a recognition of the crucial importance and implications of the issues involved.

We are disappointed to note that the proposed activities, however, have not found a place in the Summary for the reasons that have been explained. However, these are important and need to be addressed either through the re-allocations within the budget or through extra-budgetary resources. To enable the Council to make informed choices between the various items of work we would need more analysis and information. At this stage we would not rule out resource allocations through appropriations to the extent to which it may be feasible, to be supplemented by a generous response from donors to FAO's call for additional funds to enable the Organization to attend to these issues in this area with the seriousness they deserve.

We hope that the Council will endorse the recommendations. The Indian delegation supports them.

Antti NIKKOLA (Finland): Mr. Chairman, my delegation is pleased to see you in the Chair.

The third session of the Commission on Plant Genetic Resources has made good progress in its work and has achieved consensus on important issues. An agreed interpretation of the International Undertaking had been reached and a draft resolution accepted endorsing the concept of farmers' rights.

A number of International organizations are involved in the work related to the conservation and use of genetic resources. I am now referring to the matter already mentioned by Mr. Bonte-Friedhelm, namely, that at the UNEP governing Council in May this year it was decided to convene working sessions of an ad hoc working Group on Biological Diversity. It was decided to do this in close cooperation with FAO and other relevant institutions. I emphasize that the Nordic countries stressed this point very much in the UNEP meeting-the obligation of coordination from the UNEP side. One aim of the ad hoc working Group will be to consider elements of the new international legal instruments for the conservation of biological diversity. On behalf of the Nordic countries we request that FAO takes an active part in this work. We request that FAO activities in this sphere are further coordinated with the work being undertaken by UNEP and other International institutions.

We agree with Mr. Bonte-Friedhelm that this obligation on coordination should not lie solely with FAO. I refer to paragraph 140 of document CL 95/9 where it is proposed by COAG that the working Group, or the FAO Commission on Plant Genetic Resources should study the possibility for FAO to establish a global system of genetic resources, including animal genetic resources. It is our view that this proposal should be further considered in the light of the UNEP undertaking I have mentioned.

Finally, the relationship between FAO and IBPGR was extensively discussed at the meeting of the Plant Genetic Resources Commission. We understand that important decisions on this issue were taken at the May meeting of the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research. We request the FAO Secretariat to provide Council with information on these recent developments.

Mauricio CUADRA (Hicaragua): Mi delegación se suma a las expresiones de satisfacción por verlo presidir a Usted nuestra labor de esta tarde.

Sr. Presidente, hemos considerado de gran valor el Informe de la tercera reunión de la Comisión de Recursos Fitogenéticos y estamos de acuerdo en las recomendaciones y conclusiones contenidas en el mismo.

En aras del tiempo vamos a ser sumamente breves. El tema es realmente importante y habría mucho que comentar, por las grandes implicaciones que contiene la regulación de los recursos fitogenéticos para países en desarrollo que tradicionalmente han sido objeto de saqueos de sus riquezas vegetales, recursos genéticos, alimenticios, forestales etc. Haremos algunas precisiones.

La capacidad de desarrollo de una agricultura depende de la variabilidad genética que tengan los cultivos a los cuales se dedica la producción de esa agricultura.

Algunos países industrializados.tradicionalmente se han empeñado en acaparar el material genético proveniente de países en desarrollo en detrimento del patrimonio de estos países. Algunas zonas de América Latina son especialmente muestra de esta triste situación. De tal manera que es primordial la conservación de estos recursos y la variabilidad genética de nuestras especies para dar respuesta a los posibles problemas agrícolas de nuestros países. En este sentido la asistencia técnica es fundamental para que los países en desarrollo podamos lograr avances serios en esta materia.

Vemos con satisfacción que el documento recoge con claridad en sus párrafos 47 a 54 las implicaciones que las nuevas biotecnologías pueden tener, o que ya están teniendo en el uso, conservación, transformación, y transferencias del material genético.

Queda claro, asimismo, que los países en desarrollo debemos beneficiarnos de estos métodos y de estas nuevas tecnologías, pero también está clara la necesidad de un compromiso internacional sobre recursos fitogenéticos que garantice que el uso de estos nuevos recursos biotecnológicos no va a convertirse en un instrumento adicional de saqueo de recursos de los países en desarrollo, con las graves consecuencias que sabemos tendría para sus economías.

De nuevo creemos que la FAO debe continuar jugando un papel fundamental, pionero, como garante de un trato equitativo y de las transferencias de tecnología a los países en desarrollo.

Creemos que los recursos genéticos deben ser patrimonio universal bajo normativa internacional que asegure un adecuado aprovechamiento y una adecuada distribución a todos los países.

La conservación de los recursos genéticos y su libre intercambio, no deben ser objeto de manipulación política, económica o social bajo ninguna circunstancia. En este sentido creemos que los avances de esta tercera reunión son muy importantes.

Los países desarrollados están en la obligación, creemos, de poner a disposición de los países en desarrollo los recursos genéticos que han sustraído durante décadas de nuestros países, con lo cual han contribuido a la erosión genética, que mencionábamos.

Nos preocupa también la industrialización de los recursos genéticos que lleve por objeto programar el consumo de los países en desarrollo.

Consideramos, Sr. Presidente, que de acuerdo al Compromiso Internacional, los países en desarrollo deben incrementar la cooperación y el intercambio en la conservación de los recursos genéticos que garantice el desarrollo armónico de la agricultura en estos países de acuerdo con los intereses y necesidades de los propios pueblos.

Apoyamos el concepto de la interpretación concertada del Compromiso Internacional, y apoyamos firmemente el proyecto de resolución sobre los derechos del agricultor que reivindican el papel que han jugado las generaciones de agricultores en los países en desarrollo y garantice que reciban finalmente un beneficio por su labor y un trato justo.

Consideramos que este es un paso de gran magnitud en el avance por lograr la equidad en el uso y conservación de los recursos fitogenéticos, como patrimonio de las futuras generaciones y para beneficio de toda la humanidad.

Francisco ZAMARRIEGO CRESPO (España): Nuestra delegación desea felicitar al Dr. Bonte-Friedheim por la presentación del tema y al Sr. Horacio Carandang, de Filipinas, por la excelente labor desarrollada como Presidente de la Comisión de Recursos Fitogenéticos, y al mismo tiempo mostramos nuestra satisfacción por el hecho de que para la vicepresidencia fuera elegido el Sr. Don José Miguel Bolívar, de nacionalidad española, que fue el anterior presidente de dicha comisión.

Celebramos los acuerdos adoptados y aceptamos globalmente el documento elaborado y las distintas recomendaciones del mismo.

Dicho esto, solamente queremos enfatizar expresamente algunos de los aspectos incluidos en el documento:

Apoyamos plenamente la recomendación de que se presente a la Conferencia la interpretación concertada del Compromiso Internacional, así como el proyecto de resolución que suscribe el concepto de derechos del agricultor.

Consideramos como muy importante la preparación de informes periódicos sobre el estado de los recursos fitogenéticos en el mundo como forma de que la Comisión esté en mejor situación para recomendar prioridades.

Reiteramos el ofrecimiento hecho ya por nuestra delegación de espacios en nuestros bancos de genes para el establecimiento de colecciones.

Al tratar en el tema 7 de este Consejo el Código de Conducta para la distribución y utilización de plaguicidas, se ha visto la importancia de un código de tal naturaleza y paralelamente merece todo nuestro apoyo la recomendación de la Comisión en el sentido de que la Secretaría en cooperación con el Grupo de Trabajo redacte un código de conducta para recolectores internacionales de germoplasma, comprendiendo también la conservación y el uso de los recursos fitogenéticos.

Apoyamos la recomendación de preparar un estudio sobre sistemas innovadores informales.

Para finalizar, no podemos sino lamentar la decisión de la Junta Directiva del CIRF de separarse de la FAO, y en consecuencia, en caso de concretarse, se hace imperioso el tomar medidas para asegurar una efectiva complementación de tareas en lo que respecta a la conservación y utilización de los recursos fitogenéticos para evitar duplicación entre otras cosas en las donaciones, asegurando la permanencia en la FAO de las bases de datos y la documentación preparada por el CIRF dada la importancia que esto tiene para el Sistema Mundial de información sobre recursos fitogenéticos de la FAO.

Para soslayar todas las dificultades derivadas de la escisión del CIRF, nos hacemos una pregunta: ¿No sería factible que el CIRF se constituyese en el cuerpo técnico asesor de la Comisión?

Horborn SAITO (Japan): My comment will be very brief. My country appreciates the efforts made by the Working Group of the Commission in establishing the agreed interpretation of the international undertaking on plant genetic resources. We recognize some progress in interpretation such as the rights of breeders, farmers' rights and free exchanges. My country is considering participation in the committee, taking all this progress into account.

Youglong WANG (China) (Original language Chinese): I would like to thank Mr. Bonte-Friedheim for his introduction to the document. My delegation noticed with satisfaction the consensus achieved during the third session of the Commission on Plant Genetic Resources. Since we have only just received this document, I would like to make some general comments on it. There are some concrete matters on which I reserve the right to make further statements.

Plant genetic resources are a valuable property of mankind. With the continuous development of modern technology, the protection and rational utilization of resources has become increasingly important. The Commission on Plant Genetic Resources has made a very effective contribution to this. In the light of the current distribution, protection and utilization of resources, it is essential to increase international exchange in this sphere. The international undertaking drawn up by FAO is of great importance in carrying out activities in this field.

We fully agree to the three proposals in paragraph 8 of document CL 95/9, and also to the proposals in paragraph 15. We hope that FAO will cooperate fully with IBPGR and other international organizations in coordinating their cooperation and taking coordinated action for the common target. Although China is neither a member of the Commission on Plant Genetic Resources, nor a party to the international undertaking, we shall follow with great interest the action taken by FAO.

Philippe PIOTKT (France): Permettez-moi de vous adresser toutes les félicitations de ma délégation. J'aborderai quelques points rapidement car nous n'avons eu ces documents que tardivement. Ma délégation apportera des indications complémentaires lors de réunions ultérieures si cela est nécessaire.

J'aborderai trois points. Tout d'abord, en ce qui concerne l'interprétation concertée de l'Engagement international et la Résolution sur les droits des agriculteurs, la France est prête à se joindre à un consensus sur ces documents. Ils constituent une référence et donnent des définitions qui représentent un compromis tout à fait équilibré des différents points de vue exprimés à ce sujet. Nous sommes donc disposés à examiner plus en détail les questions qui restent en suspens de telle manière que l'on puisse aboutir au consensus recherché. Second point qui fait le lien avec le point précédent de l'ordre du jour, c'est-à-dire le rapport du Comité de l'agriculture, nous pensons qu'il convient pour l'instant de maintenir le mandat de la Commission des ressources phylogénétiques tel qu'il est actuellement. Le problème de compléter ce mandat par la prise en compte des ressources génétiques animales a déjà été évoqué. Je rappelle que pour ma délégation il s'agit d'un domaine très différent qui fait appel à une expertise et à des concepts scientifiques également très différents. Donc cela pose des problèmes qu'il convient d'étudier en détail et à cet égard, je souhaite appuyer la proposition qui a été faite par le délégué de la Finlande qui a suggéré de discuter de ces questions avec le programme des Nations Unies pour l'environnement car elles sont liées à des questions plus générales de protection des écosystèmes. Troisième point: 11 s'agit du siège du CIRP. Cette question a été évoquée ici en avril, au sein du Comité dont nous examinons le rapport aujourd'hui. Elle a également été examinée lors d'une réunion qui s'est tenue tout récemment à Canberra, sous l'égide du GCRAI. Il a été convenu à ce sujet d'étudier ce problème plus en détail et de demander à des experts de prendre des contacts. Je pense que, dans ces conditions, la solution la plus sage consiste à attendre les résultats de ces contacts. Néanmoins, ma délégation souhaite rappeler un point qui, pour nous, est essentiel et qui a été évoqué aussi par de nombreux autres pays. Il faut certainement, quel que soit le choix qui sera finalement arrêté, maintenir une collaboration très étroite entre le CIRP et la FAO car il est bien évident que les actions de ces deux organisations sont très complémentaires et qu'il importe de maintenir cette complémentarité.

Mme Anna Teresa FRITTKLLI ABNIBALDI (Italie): Monsieur le Président, je tiens avant tout à vous féliciter d'être à la présidence et à remercier le Secrétariat de sa brillante introduction du point à l'examen.

Nous nous réjouissons des travaux de la Commission des ressources phytogénétiques. Nous considérons en effet que l'on marche en avant sur un chemin qui, selon notre conviction, nous conduit loin dans la recherche d'un développement durable. Il suffit ici de rappeler, par exemple, l'individuation d'une interprétation concertée de l'engagement aux fins de consensus et les suggestions pour la constitution des réseaux de collection de base.

Un mot enfin pour souligner l'importance de la coopération et la complémentarité les plus étroites entre le CIRP et la Commission afin qu'ils soient en mesure de travailler dans la concertation et le contact les plus étroits et directs, dans l'esprit de s'efforcer d'exploiter au mieux toutes les ressources disponibles.

Ms. Joan WALLACE DAWKENS (United States of America): Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and congratulations on your election.

The United States participated in the Third Session as an observer. The Commission's growing membership and ambitious plans for the future suggested that members want FAO's work on plant genetic resources to increase. We were encouraged with the increased participation of technical representatives at the Third Session, a trend that must continue if meaningful discussions are to take place. Unfortunately, if our records are accurate, fewer than half of the Commission's members intervened in the debates.

Having observed the Third Session and having read the final report, the United States has the following specific comments: the Working Group has already demonstrated its importance to Commission proceedings and appears to be a powerful force, essentially setting the agenda and offering numerous proposals for the Commission. Preparing periodic reports on the state of the world's plant genetic resources is a useful initiative and represents the type of activity that FAO does very well. We also support the establishment of a global information system on plant genetic resources. The simultaneous development of a Code of Conduct on biotechnology and a Code of Conduct for germplasm collectors may be overly ambitious. We trust that the dual effort will not result in documents that have difficulty reaching consensus. We wondered if the Secretariat had estimated what the costs of preparing these codes would be, whether expert consultations are envisioned and if funding problems are envisioned. If they are envisioned, then which Code has priority? In this regard, the United States has developed operational procedures for germplasm collectors to follow, as well as a draft Code of Conduct on biotechnology. We would be pleased to share these documents with FAO. Regarding the proposals to expand the Commission on Plant Genetic Resources into a Commission on Biological Diversity, we are not yet convinced that such proposals are advisable or practical, as we indicated during the COAG item. The Commission's recommendation to form an advisory committee to work with other organizations concerned with plant genetic resources and biological diversity is commendable. Concerns over possible duplication and overlap are important to all of us. We wonder if FAO should use the Office for Inter-Agency Affairs to coordinate with other bodies on this matter. Considerable progress has been achieved in reaching a consensus to an agreed interpretation of the International Undertaking. We commend Commission members for the progress made in this regard. The United States has not finalized its position on the agreed interpretation but would like to offer three comments at this time:

- (1) much more attention has been given to farmers' rights—a relatively new concept—and more attention was given to that concept than to plant breeders' rights.
- (2) the idea of limiting benefits of the Undertaking to countries adhering to it appears decisive. We would prefer less threatening language.
- (3) The issue of mandatory contributions to an international fund has already provoked controversy during Commission deliberations and is not a proposal that the United States can support. We support our colleagues from Australia regarding funding issues.

If the Commission is to gain further momentum and increased future support from non-adhering FAO members or those adhering with reservations, we believe that future Working Group sessions should solicit minority views. The views and concerns of certain non-FAO members, such as the Soviet Union and the German Democratic Republic, are also relevant to the Commission's mandate. The Working Group has already demonstrated its importance to Commission proceedings. We trust that the Working Group will consider the potential benefits of maximizing consensus on several delicate issues before those issues are brought before Council and Conference.

Finally, my Government shares the concerns voiced by many delegates on FAO/IBPGR relations. At a recently concluded meeting of the CGIAR, the United States agreed to chair an ad hoc Working group to review the situation and to report its findings to the Board of the CGIAR at its next session.

Real LALANDE (Canada): Monsieur le Président, étant donné que je suis le dernier orateur, comme vous l'avez déclaré, je serai bref. Permettez-moi tout d'abord de vous féliciter de votre élection à la Vice-Présidence du Conseil.

Permettez-moi également d'intervenir au Conseil, au nom de la délégation canadienne, sur ce point concernant le rapport de la troisième session du Comité des ressources phylogénétiques. Je désire tout d'abord indiquer que c'est à titre d'observateur que le Canada a assisté aux débats de la troisième session de ce comité et que cette participation montre l'intérêt que mon pays accorde à la question des ressources phylogénétiques. C'est donc avec un réel intérêt que nous avons suivi les débats de ce comité et que nous suivons aujourd'hui la discussion au Conseil.

Ma délégation a déjà parlé lors de l'examen d'un point précédent de l'ordre du jour de l'arrivée tardive de certains documents soumis au Conseil et indiqué les difficultés créées à notre délégation à ce sujet. Le document CL 95/14 est malheureusement l'un de ces documents qui n'ont pu faire l'objet d'une analyse adéquate dans notre capitale avant sa discussion au Conseil de la FAO, et cela malgré les consultations que j'ai tenues moi-même au téléphone, aujourd'hui, avec Ottawa. J'aimerais donc indiquer l'intention de mon gouvernement de réserver sa décision sur les propositions contenues dans le document CL 95/14.

LE SECRETAIRE GEHERAL: Le Secrétariat a reçu une intervention avec demande d'insertion au procès-verbal dans le cadre du débat sur le point 8 de l'ordre du jour. Il s'agit de la déclaration de M. Amador Velásquez García-Monterroso, Représentant permanent adjoint du Pérou auprès de la FAO, qui n'a pas été en mesure de prononcer sa déclaration durant la discussion de ce point.

Si le Conseil n'y voit pas d'objection et avec votre autorisation, Monsieur le Président, nous feront insérer cette déclaration dans le procès-verbal.

Amador VELASQUEZ GARCIA-MONTERROSO (PerÚ): El Peru manifiesta su satisfacción por el consenso alcanzado en la propuesta de Resolución sobre los Derechos del Agricultor; así como, de otro lado, su disconformidad por el alejamiento del CIRF. Reconocemos el valor de los recursos fitogenéticos como patrimonio de la humanidad pero, a su vez, estimamos necesario que la libre disponibilidad esté dentro de un marco de reciprocidad. El Perú es reconocido como una de las áreas de mayor diversidad genética y por esta razón viene realizando esfuerzos, particularmente, en el area andina. Consideramos que es necesario establecer los mecanismos que garanticen la disponibilidad de fondos para asegurar el mantenimiento eficaz de un Centro y de la toma de decisiones internacionales urgentes para proteger el material mantenido en los centros; así como, para ayudar también a aquellos países que no cuentan con centros para proteger sus recursos vegetales. Apoyamos la mayor adhesión posible de países al Compromiso Internacional. Creemos que la conservación in situ debe separarse entre la clásica y la de variedades tradicionales. Con respecto al área de la biotecnología, estimamos que el mejoramiento genético y la conservación del germoplasma son las áreas donde el Perú viene aplicando dicho avance tecnológico. Institutos nacionales peruanos han colaborado para la elaboración del inventario de proyectos de biotecnología y su relación con los recursos fitogenéticos. Por ultimo, Sr. Presidente, mi delegación deja constancia de su satisfacción al haber escuchado, en el debate de este tema 8, a tres delegaciones que, en el debate del tema 6 cuando muchos países expresaron su deseo que el Grupo de Trabajo de la Comisión de Recursos Fitogenéticos ampliara su campo de acción a los recursos zoogenéticos, manifestaron ciertas dudas; pero que, repito, en este tema, han señalado claramente lo positivo de dicho avance que incluiría en el Sistema Global, creado por la FAO, para los recursos fitogenéticos a los zoogenéticos, como un primer paso hacia el Sistema Global de la diversidad biológica; e, inclusive, compartimos la preocupación de aquellas mismas delegaciones, o por lo menos dos de ellas, en el sentido de que se eviten duplicidades, particularmente con el PNUMA; pero, complementariamente, añadimos que no dudamos en la capacidad de la FAO para evitar esa eventual pérdida de esfuerzos, con una coordinación eficiente, y-de hecho-confiamos en que la comunidad internacional sabrá reconocer la labor pionera de la FAO en este campo donde de ninguna manera deberá aceptar la separación entre la conservación y el uso de los recursos genéticos, y diversidad biológica en general, de los aspectos de desarrollo agrícola y forestal a los que están vinculados.

EL PRESIDENTE: Muchas gracias al distinguido Delegado de Canadá. Paso, entonces, la palabra al Subdirector General del Departamento de Agricultura, Sr. Bonte Friedheim, para dar respuesta a las preguntas presentadas por las Delegaciones.

CH. BONTE-FRIKDHEIM (Assistant Director-General, Agriculture Department): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman, and my special thanks to those members of the Council that have participated in the discussion. First of all, I would like to apologise for the late arrival of the document which led a number of delegations to indicate that they were not ready with any final observations on these matters.

There will be two opportunities to discuss this again, the way I can foresee it. One is that the full Programme of Work and Budget to be discussed by Conference will have some changes in Programme 2.1.2: Crops, which includes Genetic Resources 1.2.1. When the Summary Programme of Work and Budget was prepared and was at the printers, the Commission on Plant Genetic Resources had not yet met, and it was impossible to foresee by any one in the Secretariat what the outcome would be. Therefore, it is the Secretariat's feeling that some of the major recommendations which have been made and which have been also accepted here this evening must find their way into the full Programme of Work and Budget. That is number one. Of course, we recognize that, as I have said in the introduction, these tasks cannot be undertaken in one biennium. They are long-term tasks, many of those. They cannot be undertaken by FAO alone. They will be undertaken in cooperation with international institutions, international organizations, national governments, anybody who is willing to assist FAO in some of these things for the benefit of the conservation of plant genetic resources. Some of these tasks which we have certainly will require extra-budgetary resources, and we hope, as I said, that those who have great concern for it will also underline this concern with financial resources. Let me say one more word. If you look at the present Summary Programme of Work and Budget you will see that there is a reduction foreseen between 1990-91 and 1988-89 in the training on genetic resources. It was meant that the IPBGR would pick it up. We are not quite certain that the IPBGR will pick it up. Having heard and listened carefully to the discussion of the COAG report, we were told that training should certainly not suffer. I cannot see that I can leave this as it is with a reduction on this particular item without having any assurance from the IPBGR.

The second opportunity for member delegations to discuss the issue is when in Conference we discuss the proposal which is in paragraphs 57 and 59, that is the Agreed Undertaking as well as the Resolutions to be annexed. That has to be approved by Conference. I think I would urge those who have some reservations to carefully study the text again because I think that the text is not quite what has been said here this evening, limiting and excluding certain countries, those that are not members or who have not adhered to the Undertaking. I do not think it says that, but I leave it, please, to all delegations to undertake a study by the time that Conference comes around. I hope that the consensus that we have achieved and the breakthrough which we have achieved in the Third Session of the Plant Genetic Resources Commission will hold through Conference and that we will have two new Annexes to the Undertaking which will make it easier. I very much appreciate the statement by the representative of Japan that in view of these we might consider joining and adhering.

So here there will be two possibilities for discussing again aspects on plant genetic resources. In addition, there will be some forum-and I am not so sure which forum has to be found-to report to Council and Conference at its next session on the future of IPBGR.

The delegate of Finland has requested information on what happened in Canberra at the meeting of the CGIAR. It has been provided by the delegate of France and the delegate of the US. A Working Group has been established by the CGIAR, and the final decision regarding the finance of CGIAR will be taken at the meeting in November in Washington in Centres Week at the next meeting of the CGIAR. That meeting is preceding Conference, and therefore the Secretariat will be in a position to inform Conference and the preceding Council of the decision taken by the donors of the CGIAR. I would not be in any position to predict the outcome of the discussion. As I have said, FAO has indicated its readiness for a dialogue because we also believe there should be as little duplication as possible and as much cooperation for the benefit of developing countries and for the heritage of plant genetic resources for future generations.

I would like to answer one or two specific questions. I would like to say that as of today the Secretariat has not done the calculations for budget considerations of all the proposals that you find in the report on the Third Session. I believe that before we do this, we will have to discuss with other organizations and other of our member countries, and I accept the great offer from the delegate of the United States that they have done some work on the Code of Conduct on Biotechnology and also on collectors of germplasm.

There is one other meeting which starts next Monday, an FAO meeting together with the EEC financed by the Dutch on Biotechnology in Plant Production, which certainly will also have something to say on some of these issues which we have discussed today.

The cooperation with UNEP-and it comes up again and again-will certainly be undertaken. I think that at some stage the governing body of this Organization has to decide who is responsible for what in regard to genetic resources, whether animals or plants or both, because if I listened to some interventions and listened carefully, I wonder whether that does not mean to give up animal genetic

resources and biodiversity to UNEP, and that means to also give up plant genetic resources. But I just raise that as a question because it was lingering in the back of my mind whether we should not see if the preservation of genetic resources is closely linked to the use-and do not split this, too; you can split many things, but do not split the use and the preservation and have the responsibility in different International fora. So as I said, certainly there is a decision by UNEP's Governing Council. Certainly we will cooperate; we have cooperated before, and we will cooperate, and we will see if there will be a huge umbrella on biodiversity with room for small umbrellas to cover specific aspects of that biodiversity, because it is even larger than what we have been talking about so far. At the end, it includes single cells on one hand, and human beings on the other, because we are all part of biodiversity.

I think we have listened carefully to those warning voices not to mix our Commission on Plant Genetic Resources, the plants and the animals. I look forward to the discussion, (a) of the technical consultations in order to get technical advice, and (b) to a discussion in the Working Group. I must admit that the Working Group in my book has done fantastic work, especially in the last session, in preparation. We are not setting the agenda as proposed here. If you look at the agenda for the next meeting on the Commission on Plant Genetic Resources, it is already in the report because it has already been decided at the last meeting what they wanted to discuss at the next one. But in the preparation and in trying to find consensus, I would like to pay my greatest respect to the work of the Working Group in the last session.

I plead that it will be possible to approve paragraphs 57 and 59, the Agreed Undertaking and the Resolution in Conference for one step forward to help us to secure, to preserve and to use-all of us-the heritage which we have received from our parents.

EL PRESIDENTE: Le agradezco al Sr. Bonte-Friedhaim sus explicaciones, que entiendo satisfacen las consultas y las preocupaciones manifestadas por distintas delegaciones en este Consejo.

Me toca ahora formular algunos pequeños comentarios de cierre sobre el tratamiento del tema 8. Creo que los miembros del Consejo han coincidido en señalar, aun cuando la demora en la recepción de la documentación relativa les impidió en algunos casos formular consideraciones más en profundidad, la importancia de la tarea realizada por la Comisión de Recursos Fitogenéticos en su tercera reunión. Particularmente, queda coronado su esfuerzo con el consenso sobre el texto de la interpretación concertada del compromiso así como el Proyecto de Resolución sobre los Derechos del Agricultor. Estos dos importantes progresos alcanzados por la Comisión creo que han merecido generalizada aprobación. También hubo menciones, particularmente respecto al establecimiento de la red internacional de colecciones base en bancos de genes, bajo los auspicios o jurisdicción de la FAO, así como por el Código de Conducta para Colectores de Germoplasma y se tomó nota, como lo dice la propia Comisión, de la posibilidad de designar una comisión para estudiar una propuesta de plan de acción. Hubo también voces generalizadas que manifestaron su preocupación por la separación del CIRF de la Sede de la FAO y también coincidieron las delegaciones en señalar su preocupación por que esta separación física no signifique duplicación de esfuerzos y que se alcance un grado de complementariedad elevado.

En general las delegaciones han agradecido la tarea de la Secretaría por la preparación de un resumen, si bien lamentablemente el tiempo jugó en contra de esto en alguna medida, pero sí fue generalizado el reconocimiento de la labor pionera de la FAO en la materia.

Hubo, finalmente, alguna preocupación señalada sobre la posibilidad de una ampliación en la brecha tecnológica que separa a los países industrializados de los países en desarrollo. Y también aquí se considera que la FAO tiene un rol importante a jugar.

Creo que con este somero resumen, tenemos una idea de que nuestro debate sobre el tema 8 ha sido positivo y ha recogido con beneplácito el informe y las recomendaciones de la Comisión de Recursos Fitogenéticos en su tercera sesión.

Si no hay ninguna delegación que quiera usar la palabra sobre este tema y no hay ningún anuncio de Secretaría procedo a levantar la sesión.

The meeting rose at 19.15 h.

La séance est levée à 19 h 15.

Se levanta la sesión a las 19.15 horas.

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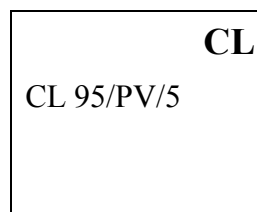
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Ninety-fifth Session

Quatre-vingt-quinzième session

95º periodo de sesiones

FIFTH PLENARY MEETING
CINQUIEME SEANCE PLENIERE
QUINTA SESION PLENARIA
(21 June 1989)

The Fifth Plenary Meeting was opened at 9.45 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 9.45 horas bajo la presidencia de Lassaad Ben Osman, Presidente Independiente del Consejo

LE PRESIDENT:Honorables délégués, Mesdames Messieurs, nous déclarons ouverte la 5ème séance plénière.

Vous avez devant vous le programme. Le point que nous allons examiner est le point 9: Rapport de la 18ème session du Comité des Pêches qui s'est tenue à Rome du 10 au 14 avril (CL 95/7).

Avec votre permission, je vais donner la parole à M. Lindquist, sous-Directeur général du Département des Pêches, pour introduire le sujet.

III. ACTIVITIES OF FAO AND THE WFP (continued)

III. ACTIVITES DE LA FAO ET DU PAM (SUITE)

III. ACTIVIDADES DE LA FAO Y DEL PMA (CONTINUACION)

9. Report of the Eighteenth Session of the Committee on Fisheries (Rome, 10-14 April 1989)

9. Rapport de la dix-huitième session du Comité des pêches (Rome, 10-14 avril 1989)

9. Informe del 18º periodo de sesiones del Comité de Pesca (Roma, 10-14 de abril de 1989)

A. H. LINDQUIST (Assistant Director-General, Fisheries Department):The 18th Session of the Committee on Fisheries was held from 14 April 1989 and was attended by 88 members of the Committee, observers from 10 FAO Member Nations, two non-members of FAO, and by the Holy See. The session was attended by representatives of UNDP, UNIDO, ILO, IMO, IOC, the World Bank, World Food Programme, the EEC, and by 13 other International organizations. The session had a high record of attendance with more than 250 delegates and observers. The Committee elected Mr Zbigniew Karnicki, Director of the Sea Fisheries Institute, Gdynia, Poland as its Chairman and Mrs Clara Jusidman, Vice Minister for Fisheries of Mexico, as its Vice Chairman.

The Agenda for the 18th Session of the Commission on Fisheries consisted of three main items. On the first item on World Fisheries and FAO, the Committee discussed the trends and prospects for capture fisheries and aquaculture in the next 25 years and the role of FAO. It also reviewed the achievements and activities of the FAO regional fishery bodies and their role in ECDC and TCDC.

In discussing the prospects for fisheries the Committee welcomed the analysis made by the Secretariat as being a good basis for the discussions on the agenda and agreed that there could be a demand for fish in the next 25 years in the order of 30 million tons. The Committee noted that preliminary data for 1988 had indicated a new record catch of over 95 million tons. The largest portion of this increase was mainly small pelagic fish taken in the southeast Pacific. Over 90% of the total marine fish catch has been taken within the exclusive economic zones and approximately half of the total catch was harvested by developing countries.

Aquaculture has developed rapidly during the past five years and now contributes approximately 12% by weight to the total aquatic product.

The Committee agreed that the increased demand in the future could be met by managing the fishery resources in a rational and timely manner, by seeking economic exploitation of unconventional species, by improving the utilization of fish through reduction of post-harvest losses, including by-catch discards, and by accelerating aquaculture development.

The needs and aspirations of small-scale fishing communities and the benefit to be obtained from TCDC and ECDC in fisheries management and development were also recognized.

It should be noted that in discussing these issues a number of delegations indicated the negative impact of the burden of external debts and structural adjustments upon their ongoing and planned fisheries programmes and on the fish consumption pattern. Reference was also made to the need for increased efforts to reduce trade barriers and to promote international trade in fish and fishery products.

The Committee agreed that FAO should give priority to the following areas in its fisheries programmes: (i) collection, analysis and dissemination of fisheries information and statistics; (ii) aquaculture development; (iii) training and the transfer of knowledge skills and appropriate technologies; (iv) policy advice and analysis; (v) integrated research into fishery biology,

economics and technology; and (vi) monitoring and prevention of environmental degradation in both marine and inland waters and in aquaculture.

The Committee expressed unanimous support for the work of the FAO regional fishery bodies. The Committee concluded that the lack of financial resources was a serious problem for almost all FAO regional bodies and urged donors to give more support.

Under the second main item on FAO's medium-and short-term fisheries programmes were three substantive items, namely: (i) the 1984 World Fisheries Conference's Programme of Action: Progress and future priorities; (ii) Report of the Second Session of the COFI Sub-Committee on Fish Trade, which was held in Rome in October of last year; and (iii) the work of FAO in Fisheries during 1990-91.

The Committee was pleased with the progress achieved in implementing the World Fisheries Conference's Programme of Action. It thanked the donors for their generous support for regional projects implemented by FAO under the programmes, which actually exceeded the annual indicative target of US\$ 15 million. It agreed that the five Programmes of Action should be continued beyond 1989 in order to provide an international framework and guidelines for fisheries management and development. It also agreed that the annual indicative target figure should now be raised to US\$ 20 million.

In formulating and implementing activities under these Programmes of Action, FAO was requested to give special attention to the following key factors: protection of the aquatic environment; improvement of fisheries information data and statistics; investment; training; the role of women in fisheries development and fishery research.

The Committee endorsed the recommendations of its Sub-Committee on Fish Trade and agreed that its fruitful work should be continued. It also endorsed the Technical Assistance Programme for Fishery Commodities and Marketing Development which would be implemented by the network of regional fish marketing Information and technical advisory services. It requested FAO and appealed to donors to ensure the continuation of sufficient funding to the network.

The Committee reviewed the proposed Summary Programme of Work and Budget in fisheries for 1990-91. It gave general support to the programme framework and the areas of special emphasis of the fisheries proposals. It noted with appreciation the modest increase in the programme budget proposed by the Director-General.

The Committee concluded that the fisheries programme was balanced, responsive to the needs of member countries and provided an acceptable basis for the preparation of the full Programme of Work and Budget in fisheries for consideration by the Conference in November this year. However, it suggested that FAO should increase emphasis on the protection of the environment. I wish to point out that this conclusion was supported by the Programme Committee at its Fifty-seventh Session last May.

The last main item concerned a standardized system for the marking and identification of fishing vessels. This item was placed on the Agenda of the Eighteenth Session at the request of the Committee at its Seventeenth Session when it was found that member countries would need more time to review the draft specifications for the proposed marking system. The Committee has now reviewed the comments received from member countries on the extent to which these specifications met national requirements. It generally supported the endorsement of the specifications and recommended that they should be adopted on a voluntary basis. The Observer of the EEC agreed to this view and said that the technical specifications were not incompatible with the system used in the Community. The Director-General was invited to circulate the standard specifications as endorsed by the Committee to Member Nations, relevant U.N. agencies and International organizations.

Under the item "Any other matters", the Committee was informed of the results of the Conference for the Adoption of a Draft Agreement for the Establishment of the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission. The Committee suggested one of the agenda items for the next session should be the development of fisheries and markets for under-utilized species.

Finally, I am pleased to end this introduction with my personal observation that the interventions were very constructive and of a high technical standard. The adoption of the report went very smoothly and the session was concluded well in advance of schedule.

LE PRESIDENT: Je remercie Monsieur Lindquist de sa précieuse introduction et je désirerais connaître les noms des pays qui souhaitent participer aux délibérations. Nous allons donc lire la liste et

nous allons la considérer comme complète. D'autres délégués demandent-ils la parole? Mexique, Congo, Cuba, Tchécoslovaquie, Australie, Liban, Chine, Espagne, Royaume Uni, Iraq, Pérou, USA, Grèce, Canada, Japon, Ethiopie, République Fédérale d'Allemagne, Inde, Argentine. Y a-t-il d'autres intervenants? Nous considérons cette liste comme close et nous donnons la parole au Mexique.

Sra. Margarita LIZARRAGA SAUCEDO (México): Permítame, Sr. Presidente, en primera instancia, felicitar al Dr. Lindquist por su siempre clara y orientadora introducción.

La Delegación mexicana reitera la importancia que nuestro Gobierno da a la pesca y al Comité de Pesca, y agradece la contribución significativa de la Secretaría de la FAO por la calidad de la documentación. Los resultados confirmaron la viabilidad de la pesca como una de las respuestas clave a los problemas alimentarios de la humanidad, y la FAO ha acumulado una valiosa experiencia en las materias relacionadas con la actividad pesquera, que sin lugar a duda demuestran la mayor ventaja en relación a la labor que cumplen otros organismos internacionales.

México considera que esa experiencia debe consolidarse y fortalecerse, para que el Departamento de Pesca y el Comité de Pesca, como órgano técnico rector, se mantengan a la vanguardia del conocimiento y formulación de respuestas a los nuevos problemas que plantea este quehacer productivo. Como fue subrayado durante el pasado COFI, la pesca es una de las actividades en donde la sostenibilidad es un concepto inseparable, es la base misma de la ordenación pesquera, por lo cual los países en desarrollo seguirán requiriendo de la FAO y la cooperación internacional para estar en condiciones de evaluar, aprovechar y conservar los recursos pesqueros localizados en aguas de nuestra soberanía.

La FAO ha jugado un papel relevante desde hace varios años en este campo, por lo que deberé sostener y profundizar su actividad, toda vez que, hasta la fecha, el nuevo régimen jurídico de los mares, contra lo previsto, ha beneficiado en mayor medida a los países desarrollados. La Delegación mexicana reitera que los mecanismos de colaboración que en las diferentes regiones se han creado a través de instancias y proyectos regionales, en base de los cuales la FAO canaliza su labor, los hace más efectivos. Estos mecanismos, por lo tanto, deberán mantenerse, teniendo como orientación futura la concertación y desarrollo de programas y actividades de mediano y largo plazo, así como una debida coordinación con las organizaciones de cooperación pesquera establecida en las propias regiones. En el ámbito de la acuicultura, mi Gobierno ratifica la justificada prioridad programática, particularmente en un momento en donde la pesca extractiva esté llegando a los límites de sostenibilidad. Consideramos que en esta materia es conveniente seguir una orientación que permita alcanzar, de una parte, los objetivos sociales en el caso de las comunidades rurales, y al mismo tiempo lograr las metas económicas inherentes al aprovechamiento de recursos de alto valor comercial.

En el plano regional, conviene hacer una especial referencia a la labor del proyecto de apoyo a las Actividades Regionales de Acuicultura para América Latina y el Caribe, conocido como AQUILA, por lo cual mi Delegación, y sin duda todas las de América Latina y el Caribe, expresamos nuestro más cumplido agradecimiento al Gobierno italiano y a sus representantes aquí presentes, por la ágil y generosa respuesta a la solicitud de prorrogar este importante proyecto, a través del cual se han definido las prioridades de la acuicultura en la región, así como el tipo de acciones necesarias y las contribuciones requeridas provenientes de la cooperación horizontal del apoyo externo.

La importancia de ampliar la vigencia del proyecto es permitir que la cooperación internacional en las áreas ya identificadas favorezca la investigación, información y capacitación para el fomento de la actividad acuícola en América Latina y el Caribe.

Sr. Presidente, los principios y orientaciones emanados de la Conferencia Mundial de la FAO sobre Orientación y Desarrollo Pesqueros, demuestran cada día su vigencia y marcan claramente las pautas de la cooperación internacional en materia pesquera, tanto en el marco de los organismos internacionales como entre los miembros de la comunidad internacional. Tales principios y orientaciones deberán continuar siendo el marco de referencia para nuestro empeño de colaboración internacional. Al respecto, México con satisfacción ha observado la tendencia positiva que se manifiesta en la dotación de fondos para el cumplimiento de los programas de acción aprobados por la Conferencia Mundial de Pesca, si bien persisten aun ciertos desequilibrios entre programas y entre regiones que esperamos que lleguen a superarse.

Nos complace asimismo que el Subcomité de Comercio Pesquero, que celebró en octubre de 1988 su segunda reunión, siga demostrando su importancia y valor. México fue uno de los países que impulsó el establecimiento de este nuevo foro de análisis y de negociación, convencido de que en el comercio internacional de productos pesqueros persisten prácticas que impiden a los países en desarrollo aprovechar íntegramente los beneficios derivados de estos intercambios. Aun persisten barreras arancelarias que obstaculizan el comercio internacional de productos pesqueros que deberían suprimirse. Persisten los intereses que condicionan el ingreso de los mercados al acceso a la pesca

en aguas jurisdiccionales de los países en desarrollo. Sobre este planteamiento, México mantiene las reservas expresadas en el pasado.

Asimismo, México considera que las posibilidades al ingreso de productos pesqueros a algunos mercados se están viendo crecientemente limitadas por barreras no arancelarias, como son las restricciones sanitarias y las vinculadas a la protección ecológica.

Existen ámbitos de cooperación que tienen que ver con el comercio pesquero internacional, en los que deberla centrarse la atención de la FAO a través de proyectos de su programa regular, contando además con recursos extrapresupuestarios. Tales ámbitos se refieren al apoyo a la generación de ofertas exportables de productos pesqueros con valor agregado y a la normalización internacional referida a la calidad y formas de presentación; asimismo, la FAO podría contribuir al establecimiento de sistemas integrales de sanidad animal para productos acuícolas.

Asimismo la Delegación mexicana considera que la evaluación de las actividades de la FAO en el sector de la pesca debe reflejarse en el Programa y Presupuesto de 1990-91. México considera que la asignación de fondos para el programa 2.2 debe permitir el fortalecimiento del Departamento de Pesca y la determinación de prioridades que atiendan de manera equilibrada los intereses de los países miembros, lo que redundará seguramente en el fortalecimiento de la Organización como eje de la cooperación pesquera. Estamos de acuerdo con la prioridad a la acuicultura, como ya lo habíamos expresado, pero deseamos manifestar también nuestra preocupación por que se hayan suprimido dos puestos en la División de Industrias Pesqueras, unidad de quien depende un importante programa que es el de evitar las pérdidas postcaptura y elaboración de nuevos productos. Lamentemos verdaderamente que la escasez de fondos se traduzca en recortes para aspectos tan importantes como éste, particularmente si consideramos que un cálculo aproximativo de un 20 por ciento de productos capturados es perdido.

Michel MOMBOULI (Gongo): Ainsi que la tradition le veut, nous voudrions nous permettre avant de commencer, de féliciter et remercier Monsieur Lindquist pour sa présentation claire de ce rapport de la 18ème session du Comité des pêches qui s'est réunie Rome du 10 au 14 avril.

Comme bon nombre d'autres délégations ici présentes nous avons nous aussi participé à cette 18ème session du Comité des pêches qui, à notre avis a été une session réussie. A cette occasion nous y avons fait valoir les points de vue de la délégation congolaise; points de vue sur lesquels nous n'avons pas l'intention de revenir ceci pour tenir compte du temps limité imparti aux travaux de notre présente session. Ceci étant nous souhaiterions toutefois nous permettre de dire brièvement quelques mots sur certains points abordés par le présent rapport concernant les tendances et perspectives de la pêche de capture et de l'aquaculture pour les prochaines vingt-cinq années et le rôle de la FAO. Nous souhaiterions dire que nous appuyons les principales priorités d'action et les objectifs poursuivis par la FAO dans le domaine des pêches.

Nous nous associons à l'invitation faite à la FAO pour qu'elle renforce son soutien à l'aquaculture et son concoure à la réalisation des objectifs d'autosuffisance alimentaire dans les pays en développement.

A ce sujet, nous tenons à préciser qu'au Congo cet objectif d'autosuffisance alimentaire constitue, pour les plus hautes autorités de l'Etat, un défi à relever d'ici l'an 2000. Nous tenons ensuite à souligner toute l'importance que nous souhaitons voir donner par la FAO aux activités de formation et transfert des connaissances dans le domaine des pêches.

Nous appuyons et apprécions les activités de conseil et avis dispensés par l'Organisation à ses Etats Membres et nous ne saurions terminer sans souligner la nécessité de voir la FAO participer d'avantage à la promotion du rôle des femmes dans le domaine des pêches.

Concernant l'examen des organes régionaux des pêches de la FAO et de leur rôle dans les activités de CTPD et CEPD, nous tenons à rappeler et à réaffirmer la priorité que nous avons toujours donnée dans nos examens aux activités de CTPD et de CEPD, fer de lance de la coopération Sud-Sud.

A ce propos, nous signalons que notre pays entretient des relations étroites dans le domaine des pêches avec ses Etats voisins et côtiers de la région d'Afrique centrale.

Ainsi que cela ressort de ce rapport, le manque de ressources financières est un obstacle commun à tous les organismes régionaux de pêche. Aussi voulons-nous nous associer à l'appel demandant aux donateurs d'accroître leur soutien financier auxdits organismes. A propos des programmes d'action de la Conférence mondiale des pêches de 1984 et de leur état d'avancement, nous tenons à exprimer notre satisfaction devant les progrès notables survenue dans leur exécution, à en juger par les niveaux des ressources mobilisées. Nous remercions au passage tous les donateurs pour l'ampleur de leur élan enthousiaste dans le soutien financier desdits programmes d'action et nous émettons

l'espoir que ces donateurs et tous les autres qui n'ont pas encore contribué, pourrons le faire pour la poursuite de ces programmes d'action au-delà de 1989. Concernant le rapport de la 2ème session du Comité du COFI sur le commerce du poisson qui s'est tenue du 24 au 27 octobre de cette année, nous tenons à exprimer notre satisfaction de noter que ce jeune sous-comité ait pu se réunir pour sa seconde session et nous appuyons les conclusions auxquelles il est parvenu.

Nous appuyons en particulier l'invitation faite au Directeur général de l'Organisation de se mettre en rapport, le moment venu, avec le Fonds commun pour les produits de base, pour lui demander de désigner le Sous-Comité du commerce du poisson comme organisme international de produit, apte à parrainer et à suivre les projets financés par le Fonds pour les produits halieutiques.

En ce qui concerne les activités de la FAO dans le domaine des pêches au cours de l'exercice 1990-91, nous aimerions d'ores et déjà indiquer que nous sommes en faveur d'une haute pluralité dans le domaine de l'aquaculture et que nous sommes également d'accord pour une augmentation sensible des allocations aux activités de la FAO dans le domaine des pêches.

Nous nous réservons le droit de revenir en détail sur ce sujet lors de l'examen du Sommaire du Programme de travail et budget 1990-91 qui sera examiné ultérieurement.

Juan NUIRY SANCHEZ (Cuba):

Queremos destacar en primer término la presentación del Sr. Lindquist sobre el tema. Aunque el reciente Subdirector General ya nos tiene acostumbrados con su experiencia e inteligencia a informaciones claras y precisas, su presentación en el día de hoy es necesario resaltarla teniendo en cuenta que es reflejo del excelente trabajo efectuado en el 18º período de sesiones del Comité de Pesca del pasado abril, Informe que tiene todo nuestro respaldo. Precisamente en ese período de sesiones del Comité de Pesca, nuestra delegación explicó cómo paradójicamente, siendo nuestro país una isla rodeada de lindas playas, bahías y puertos, se mantuvo de espaldas al mar hasta el triunfo de la revolución, convirtiéndose hoy en uno de los aspectos más importantes y priorizados en nuestro desarrollo e importancia económica.

Partiendo de esta realidad de que poseemos la plataforma submarina más extensa entre las islas del Caribe, 67 831 kilómetros cuadrados entre cayos y archipiélagos, con valiosos recursos pesqueros de sus aguas, su baja profundidad, hasta 30 metros, a partir de los cuales aumentan abruptamente para formar un talud de 60 a 90 grados y la barrera de cayos y arrecifes coralinos que la bordean determinan que los recursos biológicos que habitan en ellas se encuentren sometidos, no sólo a la acción directa del hombre mediante la explotación pesquera, sino también a una gran influencia de la tierra firme a través del escurrimiento de aguas dulces, la modificación de la línea de la costa y los vertimientos de la costa. Para nosotros la importancia tanto de la pesca como la perspectiva de la acuicultura representan renglones de enorme importancia en Cuba. Renglones a los que dedicamos tiempo, recursos y prioridad, por lo cual es de vital importancia para este esfuerzo de la cooperación y de una decidida ayuda técnica capacitación e informaciones. Razones por las que entendemos necesario destacar y subrayar, dentro del documento CL 95/7 del Programa Pesquero de la FAO a Medio y Corto Plazo, su párrafo 45 en sus cinco programas, cuestión que no se puede soslayar en la importancia de este tema.

Nuestra delegación además quisiera hacer algunos breves comentarios, pues entendemos que la pesca hoy en día constituye uno de los sectores que pueden influir muy positivamente en el desarrollo económico de muchos de nuestros países y tener una alta incidencia en el alivio de la subnutrición. Específicamente quiero referirme a otros temas muy ampliamente discutidos en el último Comité. El primero de ellos es el relativo a la vigencia que aun mantienen los programas de acción y postulados emanados de la Conferencia Mundial de Pesca celebrada en 1984. El transcurso de los años nos ha verificado con satisfacción que la estrategia de desarrollo propuesta continua siendo la mejor guía para los objetivos pesqueros de nuestros países y para la cooperación internacional. Queremos observar nuevamente con complacencia, cómo se logró superar la propuesta de alcanzar 15 millones de dólares anualmente en la financiación de los programas de acción. Reconocemos el trabajo realizado por la FAO en la movilización de fondos a los países y agencias que han hecho posible la consecución de estos objetivos. Aprovecho también la ocasión para apoyar el aumento que ha solicitado el Director General para que el Departamento de Pesca de la FAO pueda realizar y llevar a vía de hecho los objetivos propuestos. Como ya manifestamos durante la reunión del Comité, lamentamos mucho que aún se observen desequilibrios en el apoyo recibido entre los diferentes programas y entre las regiones. En lo que se refiere al desequilibrio entre las regiones, la de América Latina y el Caribe continua siendo la menos favorecida. Esperamos que, como se anunció en el COFI, la FAO estudie la corrección de ese desequilibrio.

El segundo aspecto al que me quería referir anteriormente es el relativo a los esfuerzos que viene haciendo el Departamento de Pesca por incorporar en mayor medida a la mujer en los programas y acciones del sector. Saludamos las iniciativas emprendidas en este sentido, e instamos a que se continúen haciendo todos los esfuerzos para que la mujer se incorpore cada día más a la vida económica en nuestros países en vías de desarrollo.

Miroslav DOLEZAL (Czechoslovakia): First of all, let me congratulate Mr Lindquist on his very clear introduction to the item.

It is the opinion of our delegation that one of the key parts of the report on the 18th Session of the Committee on Fisheries is that concerning aquaculture. Its importance, not only in fisheries but generally in improving the protein balance in developing countries, is documented in the report in front of us by the fact that compared with the year 1985, the proportion of fish for human nutrition produced by aquaculture is to reach 50 percent soon. This trend will continue and the proportion of aquaculture will undoubtedly double in the next decade so it is a common interest of the member countries to secure a close cooperation in the transfer of know-how in favour of future development.

I would like to point out the fact that Czechoslovakia has positive experience with a simple system of pond fish culture where both the environmental and economic aspects are fully taken into account. This conception is very close to the conception of advanced aquaculture and a high technological standard with due respect to all aspects of the national economy and to the skills of the personnel. I recommend that these projects generally available to developing countries be studied by the FAO Committee on Fisheries. Czechoslovakia offers cooperation starting from expert assistance up to joint venture projects. We would like to express our willingness to take part through actual activities in FAO's efforts for further development of aquaculture in the next decade.

I also believe that the EIFAC session to be held next year in May 1990 in Prague, Czechoslovakia, will document the great potential of European countries, including Czechoslovakia, with which they could contribute to the development of world aquaculture. The leading European specialists will surely take part in these expert meetings, and it would be desirable and useful, following the example of cooperative networks in agriculture, if experts from developing countries could also participate in the session seminars and study tours.

Paul R. BEYDEN (Australia): I would first of all like to thank Mr Lindquist for his helpful introduction.

My delegation is pleased to receive this report which we believe is a good record of a fruitful meeting. We welcome the Committee's acceptance of the five action plans endorsed by the 1984 World Conference on Fisheries Management and Development as providing the basis for FAO's ongoing work in fisheries, namely, (1) planning and development in fisheries, (2) development of small-scale fisheries, (3) aquaculture development, (4) international trade in fish and fishery products, and (5) promotion of the role of fisheries in alleviating under-nutrition. Australia welcomes increased attention being given in the pursuit of those five action programmes to longer-term considerations in fisheries development and management and environmental factors in fisheries management. Australia agreed with the fisheries programmes as proposed, as it is considered balanced, responsive to the needs of member countries and constitutes an acceptable basis for the preparation of the full Programme of Work and Budget in fisheries for consideration by the 25th session of the FAO Conference.

In respect to a standardized system for the marking and identification of fishing vessels, Australia accepts the need for further studies before the Committee considers markings of fishing gear. In this regard, we note that the International Maritime Organization declared its willingness to cooperate with FAO on studies in respect to international marking of fishing gear to be covered by the protocol being developed to the Torremolinos Convention of 1977.

Regarding the possible relationship of the COFI Sub-Committee on Fish Trade to the Second Window of the Common Fund, delegates will recall that currently in New York the Fund is being formally established. We often call on our Secretariat to coordinate its activities within the UN system. On the matter of the Common Fund, it will be important that delegations to FAO's COFI and Council coordinate fruitfully within their own administrations to ensure that their representatives to the Common Fund are fully aware of FAO's interests in Second-Window activities.

Sra. Olga Clemencia FERNANDEZ (Colombia): La magnífica presentación de este documento, hecha por el Sr. Lindquist facilita nuestra intervención sobre este tema.

Los representantes de Colombia apoyamos las principales recomendaciones hechas por el Comité de Pesca en su 18ª reunión. Pensamos que los resultados que se encuentran consignados en este documento CL 95/7 confirman "la necesidad de que la FAO conserve su importante función clave en el fomento de la colaboración entre los países en el sector de la pesca, incluidos asuntos relativos al comercio".

Nos complació haber oído interesantes declaraciones de distinguidas personalidades, entre éstas la señora Clara Jusidman, Subsecretaría de Pesca de México, merecidamente elegida Primer Vicepresidente del Comité.

La activa participación de competentes delegadas femeninas en la reunión de ese Comité, contribuyó a destacar la función esencial que desempeña la mujer en el sector pesquero y nos causó satisfacción la afirmación de la Secretaría, en el sentido de que "el apoyo a las actividades relacionadas con la función de la mujer eran una parte integral de todos los sub-programas de pesca".

Los representantes de Colombia reiteramos el apoyo de nuestro gobierno a los órganos regionales de pesca de la FAO y destacamos su contribución a intensificar la cooperación técnica y económica entre los países en desarrollo.

Para asegurar el mejor funcionamiento de los órganos regionales de pesca que en América Latina y el Caribe son muy activos y eficientes-apoyamos la recomendación del Comité, sobre la necesidad de evaluar adecuadamente las realizaciones de estos órganos regionales de pesca.

La falta de recursos suficientes, desafortunadamente, limita la acción de estos órganos regionales de pesca.

Por ello, pedimos que este Consejo apoye la recomendación del Comité, al pedir que la FAO procure recursos extrapresupuestarios para asistir a esos órganos que, de todos modos, los donantes, que tan generosamente han impulsado los Programas de Acción derivantes de la Conferencia Mundial, ofrezcan recursos, asistencia técnica y financiera a esos esfuerzos de las regiones.

Estamos de acuerdo en que los cinco Programas de Acción deben continuar más allá de 1989 y que la FAO debe seguir actuando como fuerza catalizadora en la movilización de apoyo para esos Programas.

Apoyamos las actividades del Subcomité sobre Comercio Pesquero.

Este Consejo debe señalar la gran importancia que el comercio internacional tiene en el fomento de la pesca para la gran mayoría de los países en desarrollo, que obtienen divisas, útiles a su crecimiento económico, procedentes de las exportaciones de pescado.

Deseamos dejar constancia del reconocimiento de los Representantes de Colombia a la forma tan inteligente y eficaz como nuestro colega Horacio Carandang, de Filipinas, presidió el Subcomité sobre Comercio Pesquero.

Al colega Carandang deseamos muy buenos éxitos en sus nuevas actividades, asegurándole que sus amigos y compañeros en Roma recordamos siempre su colaboración valiosa y su actitud cordialmente amistosa.

Finalmente, expresamos nuestra complacencia por la excelente labor que cumplió el Sr. Karnicki, de Polonia, como Presidente del Comité de Pesca.

Amin ABDEL MALEK (Liban) (Langue originale Arabe): Je voudrais tout d'abord remercier M. Lindquist de la présentation constructive du rapport de la 18ème session du Comité des pêches.

J'aimerais m'arrêter sur deux points auxquels j'accorde une grande importance, mais je serai bref.

Le premier point concerne le commerce des produits halieutiques.

La délégation libanaise, après avoir pris connaissance de la deuxième session du Sous-Comité du commerce des produits halieutiques tenue en octobre 1988, approuve avec vigueur la recommandation prise à cette session au sujet du suivi du programme d'action concernant le commerce international, afin d'encourager les pays en voie de développement à prendre une part intégrante au commerce des produits halieutiques.

Le deuxième point concerne le rôle de la FAO dans le secteur du programme d'action des pêches 1990-91.

Ma délégation se félicite de l'augmentation des crédits qui a été accordée et qui a atteint 1,9 pour cent. Il s'agit là de quelque chose de très positif. Nous préconisons une augmentation supplémentaire si cela est possible en dépit d'une situation financière assez tendue, eu égard à l'importance de ce domaine.

Nous approuvons le contenu de ce document, notamment en ce qui concerne la pêche de capture et la pêche dans les eaux intérieures ainsi que l'aquaculture. Ce qui par ailleurs a attiré notre attention, c'est le déblocage de l'embauche, notamment au niveau de certains postes techniques. Nous préconisons l'expansion de l'embauche dans ce domaine.

Zhengdong LI (China): I thank Mr. Lindquist for his very clear presentation. Document CL 95/7 gives an excellent analysis of important problems which have arisen in the fisheries sector in the world. We are satisfied by this analysis but we would like to make two brief comments.

In recent years the world production of fisheries has had good improvements but it has met with problems such as management and storage and preservation of fisheries' products, as well as the problems caused by the degradation and pollution of the environment. COFI has given us a set of priority areas for future work.

We would like to stress that it is important to collect, review and disseminate information and data. It is also important to provide know-how and promote international cooperation as well as to provide support to field programmes in the fisheries sector.

COFI has given in-depth review to the five Programmes of Action defined in 1984 by the World Fisheries Conference. These programmes deal with planning, management and the development of fisheries, both artisanal and aquaculture, the international trade of fisheries' products and the role of fisheries in the struggle against malnutrition. We believe that the implementation of such programmes has been quite satisfactory during the past five years, and these programmes will provide guidelines at the international level for fisheries management and development. We hope that FAO will be able to continue its activities in this field, especially at this point in time when we are seeing the degradation of certain fisheries' products and the degradation of the aquatic environment.

Jaime GARCIA Y BADIAS (España): Deseamos en primer lugar felicitar al Dr. Lindquist por la exposición del tema que ha realizado.

La delegación española quisiera señalar que tras un análisis de las conclusiones del 18º período de sesiones del Comité de Pesca, se ha vuelto a poner de manifiesto que la estrategia aprobada en la Conferencia Mundial de Pesca constituye un instrumento útil para los gobiernos y organismos internacionales en sus esfuerzos por mejorar la aportación del sector pesquero a los objetivos nacionales en los planos económico, social y nutricional.

Respecto a los Programas de Acción, siguen observándose desequilibrios apreciables en el apoyo financiero, tanto entre las regiones como entre los Programas, que es necesario ir paliando.

Uno de los puntos más debatidos durante la sesión y que reviste un gran interés para la delegación española es el "Sistema uniforme para el marcado e identificación de las embarcaciones pesqueras".

Sr. Presidente, si bien el Comité apoyó en principio la ratificación de las especificaciones y su adopción con carácter voluntario, se puso de manifiesto que las prácticas actuales y otra serie de problemas, especialmente en lo que se refiere a las embarcaciones pequeñas, hacía necesario más tiempo para la aplicación efectiva del sistema.

Teniendo esto presente, España podría refrendar las especificaciones, siempre que se llegara a un consenso de carácter mundial y se dispusiera del tiempo suficiente para que, llegado el caso de que un determinado país decidiese existir el esquema de marcado FAO, las flotas afectadas dispusieran de un plazo razonable para adaptarse a él.

En todo caso, la delegación española desea señalar que, por razones técnicas y prácticas, no debería exigirse que las embarcaciones pequeñas que faenan fuera de las aguas españolas deban marcarse necesariamente según las especificaciones.

Otro de los puntos tratados en el último período de sesiones del COFI fue el de los Organos Regionales de Pesca de la FAO. No deberíamos dejar de resaltar aquí la gran importancia de estos

órganos, ya que gracias a ellos la FAO ha venido encausando sus mayores logros en materia de evaluación y ordenación de recursos pesqueros, así como en materia de desarrollo.

Especial mención, Sr. Presidente, merece para nosotros el Consejo General de Pesca del Mediterráneo que ha requerido un esfuerzo presupuestario por parte de la FAO que, sin embargo, es preciso proseguir a fin de afianzar los logros y rentabilizar a medio y largo plazo las tareas emprendidas.

Asimismo por lo que se refiere al Comité de Pesquerías Centro-Oriental (CPACO), la delegación española desea recoger aquí lo dicho por varias delegaciones en el último período de sesiones del COFI y expresar también su deseo de que el proyecto CPACO continúe. Este Proyecto acaba de finalizar, por lo que sería necesario que la FAO establezca el marco jurídico y financiero que permita su prolongación en el seno de la Organización.

En cuanto al papel de la FAO a nivel mundial en el sector de la pesca, dado que esta tiene una ventaja comparativa con otras organizaciones y un mandato especial, debe reforzar aún más su función, por otro lado ya antigua, en la recopilación, análisis y difusión de información y de datos sobre todos los aspectos de la pesca.

Por último, Sr. Presidente, por todo ello, aunque insuficiente, valoramos el aumento del 1,9% en el presupuesto dedicado a la pesca, considerando que sólo si se continúa en los próximos ejercicios económicos, con la línea emprendida, será posible alcanzar los objetivos propuestos.

Michael McGILL (United Kingdom): The United Kingdom notes with satisfaction the general emphasis on priorities in the Fisheries Department Programme and Budget for 1990-91, which reflects the conclusions of the 1984 World Fisheries Conference and which were confirmed during COFI this year.

We welcome the increased attention to aquaculture and to the development and operation of Fisheries Information Systems and Services. The latter in particular should be seen as an overriding priority role for FAO in support of development and fisheries management.

We think that the FAO should ensure that adequate resources are given to the Fisheries Branch Library in order for it to maintain its extremely useful and informative services.

We join with other delegations and call for the continued enhancement of the role of women in fisheries development.

The United Kingdom is keen to see an increased emphasis on social and environmental aspects of fisheries management, and wish FAO to give high priority to the monitoring and prevention of environmental degradation in both marine and inland waters and in aquaculture, and also to promote inter-country cooperation in protecting the aquatic environment.

Finally, we note that discussions about the adoption of a draft agreement for the establishment of the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission will take place under Agenda Item 19.2, and we would like to reserve our position on this until then.

Bassim HUSSEIN (Iraq) (original language Arabic): My delegation would like to thank Mr Lindquist and all those who have collaborated in preparing the Report of the Committee on Fisheries because this Report contains very valuable information about the role of FAO in this vital sector.

My delegation supports what has been said in this Report on the exhaustion of deep water fisheries and it asks for the orientation towards traditional fisheries. We would like the Organization to make some additional efforts in order to pinpoint this new species in the inland waters, and would also like to see a plan for the exploitation of this new breed.

We would like to say that we support the services given by the Branch Library of the Department of Fisheries especially in the field of translation. This will enable all countries of the world to benefit from its translations.

Mr Chairman, my delegation would like to see high priority given to the Centre for Policy Advice and Analysis, and for integrated research in fisheries biology, economics and technology, and also we would like to see emphasis in carrying out the studies on new concepts of management and methodologies.

My delegation thinks that the link between the bodies of this Organization and the sector on fisheries and the other units has become very weak or non-existent. We notice that the world has made progress in aquaculture, and this is a new field which has expanded a lot in recent years. So any unit or sector should be working hand in hand with the other sectors, and in order to bring the benefits of this new development to all regions of the world, we should be able to combine our efforts and save some money and time by combining the efforts of the Inland Water Fisheries Commission in Latin America, the Inland Water Fisheries Commission in Africa and the European Consultative Commission for Inland Fisheries.

Mr Chairman, my delegation supports what has been said in paragraph 37 of the Report of the Committee regarding the expansion of the mandate for the management of fisheries in order to include the Arabian Sea, the Arab Gulf and the Red Sea. My country is of course part of the Arab region and we notice that efforts have not been made in this region in the field of aquaculture. The delegation of Iraq would like to insist on the establishing or setting up of a commission on inland fisheries for the countries of the region. The countries of the region are ready to participate like Iraq and Egypt, and we have some scientific capabilities on infrastructure to enable us to set up this commission. Our region badly needs this commission because most of our countries depend on aquaculture and on fisheries, and they are full of rivers and inland waters. I think this request is in conformity with what has been decided in the Third Programme of Work which has been adopted by the International Conference on Fisheries of 1984 in paragraph 80 of the Report. We should give high priority to training and to exchange of visits by experts and specialists in order to know the capabilities of each other. I would like to say that my country will, at the end of this year, organize an expanded symposium on aquaculture in the world. We will invite all the companies producing fish, and experts will also be invited to take part in this symposium. We hope that FAO will be able to support us and give us some financial support in order to achieve this goal. We are ready to discuss this matter formally with the Organization, and we have already submitted a formal request.

Mr Chairman, in conclusion my delegation would like to say that it supports the Report and the programme and budget for 1990-91, and we hope that the Commission on Fisheries will be successful in its useful work. Thank you very much.

Maaayuki KOMATSU (Japan): Mr Chairman, my delegation would like to extend compliments to Mr Lindquist for his excellent introduction to the Report of the COFI session. My delegation highly commends the objectives and functions of the Committee on Fisheries as the only forum where each Member Nation could discuss and exchange views on the global aspects of fisheries.

As you are fully aware, Japan is the largest fishing nation and the largest importer of fishery products. Therefore, Japan has significant interests and concerns on fisheries matters and we have been always positively prepared to participate in discussions on fisheries issues. Having said that, my delegation in principle supports the contents of the report before us, CL 95/7. However, I would like to make some specific comments on several items.

I would like to touch upon the utilization of fisheries resources. Fisheries resources are very important sources of food contributing to resolving the food supply and nutrition problems in the world. Therefore, the demands for fishery resources will definitely increase in the future. In this respect, the task to conserve fisheries resources and to achieve the optimum utilization of such resources becomes more and more important in the future.

Japan feels that it is unfortunate that part of the efforts are directed towards a ban on utilizing fisheries resources in some cases. For example, in the International Whaling Commission (IWC), there have been emotionally extreme arguments prevailing over otherwise reasonable and scientific discussions by an insistence that whaling activity should cease entirely. Our delegation believes that we should all together ponder calmly if this extreme argument is wise for the purpose of achieving the optimum use of fisheries resources that have been given by nature as food for human beings.

Aquaculture is an area of fisheries that draws attention these days. My delegation notes the willingness of the Member countries of FAO to enhance the economic operations of aquaculture. On the one hand it gives the opportunity to enhance the economy and income for the fisherman, but on the other hand, aquaculture has another side. For example, for yellowtail aquaculture it is necessary to feed 10 kilograms of bait fish, such as sardines, in order to produce one kilogram of yellowtail. In this sense, aquaculture is not the way to enhance production; rather it will reduce the amount of fish available to human beings. Also, fish aquaculture discharges undigested materials and waste into the environment of the ocean. That may lead to deterioration of the aquaculture environment.

My country has been fully aware of the importance of the development of fisheries resources by each coastal nation with due respect to the sustainable development harmonizing with environmental concerns. In this respect Japan has been contributing to the development of fisheries in the coastal nations through various frameworks. For example, Japan contributes through the FAO Trust Fund for the Stock Assessment and Development Programme of the Indo-Pacific Ocean (IPTD), and the development and extension of aquaculture techniques in the South Pacific.

With respect to the bilateral cooperation framework in the fisheries sector, Japan contributes grant aid for fisheries through the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), and such schemes that provide funds for coastal developing countries with no obligation for repayment. Under this framework Japan has supported construction of fishery training centres, fisheries research laboratory, fisheries ports, and so forth.

Japan has been prepared to cooperate with countries concerned. Therefore, we are ready to consult through diplomatic channels on any project proposals.

Our delegation supports the concept of a standardized system for the marking and identification of fishing vessels. In Japan the Japanese distant water fleets have already implemented such a standardized system. However, small boats in length or tonnage have to overcome some technical difficulty in adopting that system. In that case it should be left to the discretion of individual governments and, therefore, we are quite satisfied with paragraph 99 of document CL 95/7 that mentions the specification on a voluntary basis.

Finally, my delegation would like to make a comment on the draft agreement for the establishment of an Indian Ocean Tuna Commission, although the latest comment will be on agenda item 19.2. Japan as a fishing nation for tuna in the Indian Ocean is in the position that the new framework for establishment of the management of Indian Ocean tuna is indispensable because the existing body of IOFC has no management function in the recent development of the fishing fleets in the ocean, and the increased necessity of such activities necessitates the establishment of a new management regime.

In this sense, not only all coastal nations' participation but also the participation of all fishing nations, including the Soviet Union and the EEC, are tremendously important.

Although Japan is of the opinion that the FAO Article 14 body is the desirable body to deal with the Indian Ocean tuna issue, if Article 14 cannot accommodate the participation of the EEC then Japan is of the opinion that the possibility of establishing such a body outside of the FAO framework should be positively considered. Such outside FAO body should have backup from the FAO.

Finally, my delegation would like to extend our wholehearted gratitude to Mr Kojima, who was the Director of Fishery Operations Service in the Fishery Department for 26 years and was the highest ranked expert of Japanese nationality in FAO. He is retiring this month.

Javier TANTALEAN (Perú): En primer lugar, quiero unirme a las felicitaciones del Dr. Lindquist por la disertación que ha tenido sobre su informe. Luego, quiero reafirmar la posición de mi país con respecto a la FAO, ya que la FAO debe tener un rol de vanguardia a nivel mundial en el ámbito pesquero, en relación al conjunto de organismos internacionales. Hay cinco temas comunes que ha identificado la FAO: Protección del medio ambiente acuático, Mejora de la información de los datos estadísticos de pesca, Inversiones, -Capacitación y Función de la mujer en la pesca. Si nosotros quisiéramos completar un enfoque más integral del sistema pesquero considerando los recursos pesqueros, los ciclos de extracción, transformación, comercialización y consumo, desearíamos que se incluyeran otros tres temas para completar este enfoque más integral. Uno es el relativo a los hábitos, ya que existen precedentes de países que poseen abundante cantidad de pescado, pero que no la consideran dentro de sus patrones de consumo, sino, por el contrario, una ingestión de proteínas importadas por lo general. En ese sentido sería interesante que la FAO pudiera ayudar a los gobiernos a ver, a estudiar experiencias como, por ejemplo, la de España, en que hubo cambios importantes en los hábitos de consumo y la introducción del pescado.

El otro tema que me parece que debería ser identificado por la FAO se refiere a las artes de pesca: desde la pesca artesanal hasta la pesca de altura. De esta manera nosotros podríamos atender uno de los objetivos que el Director General ha mencionado en una de sus disertaciones, que es la explotación de las especies poco explotadas. Esto lo hago pensando tanto en mi país, donde existen muchas especies que no son explotadas, como en otros países.

Y el tercer tema para completar este enfoque más integral sería el apoyo a la investigación sobre las biomásas existentes. Si queremos evitar el despilfarro y el mal uso de los recursos, la sobrepesca, definitivamente tenemos que apoyar la investigación sobre la cantidad permisible de pesca, para evitar su extinción.

Por otro lado, Sr. Presidente, luego de haber mencionado estos tres temas que deberían incorporarse, quiero referirme a las políticas de ajuste estructural, tan comunes por lo menos en América Latina, que es donde más conozco, y su impacto en el desarrollo pesquero; políticas de ajuste estructural que, como es sabido, traen una caída brutal en los ingresos, sobre todo en los sectores menos favorecidos, y una elevación en los precios, como el caso del pescado. Y aquí estamos en un círculo vicioso, porque el pescado sirve para luchar contra la subnutrición, y las políticas de ajuste estructural en tal sentido afectan la seguridad alimentaria. Es por eso que quisiera solicitar a la FAO que tenga una participación mucho más activa en el diseño de políticas, programas y proyectos de compensación social frente a las políticas de ajuste, donde el pescado debe ocupar un lugar prominente dentro de lo que son los hábitos de consumo y los programas especiales, sobre todo los dedicados a los sectores más pobres.

De otro lado, hemos sido testigos de que existen, al menos por parte de mi país, muchas superposiciones en programas y proyectos a nivel de organismos mundiales, regionales y subregionales. En tal sentido, sería interesante una mayor coordinación de todas las organizaciones internacionales para evitar que se dilapiden recursos y que estemos sobre proyectos y programas que son paralelos. Una mejor coordinación y concertación podrían ayudar en ese sentido. También apoyamos la petición realizada para que los proyectos de productos pesqueros puedan entrar en el Fondo Común para Productos Básicos.

Por último, nosotros pensamos que, dada la importancia que pueden tener las proteínas de origen pesquero, debería hacerse un llamado a los donantes para incrementar los recursos del Departamento de Pesca de la FAO.

Stephen D. HILL (United States of America): Mr Chairman, my delegation supports the report of the 18th Session of the Committee on Fisheries. We agree with the high priority given to further strengthening FAO's role in aquaculture development and in the collection, analysis and dissemination of fisheries information and data, particularly in the aquaculture sector.

We note the Committee endorsed the use of five themes in further implementing the Programmes of Action. These themes are Improvement of fishery information, investment, training, the role of women in fisheries, and protection of the aquatic environment. My delegation supports the use of these themes, but with respect to protection of the aquatic environment we are concerned that FAO not undertake activities that duplicate those of the United Nations Environment Programme and other international organizations with comparative advantage in environmental protection.

Regarding the report of the COFI Sub-Committee on Fish Trade, my delegation supports the Regular Programme efforts of FAO in fisheries exploitation, especially the Regional Marketing Services.

My delegation supports the level of funding and priorities for fisheries as proposed by FAO and recommended by the Committee.

John YEHNIMATAS (Greece): May I join the previous speakers in congratulating the Committee on Fisheries and its Chairman for their report that we have in front of us.

At this stage I want to limit myself to one comment. I do not see much in the report regarding the preservation of fisheries resources. As other delegations, I want to see our organization take a major role in this field in conserving species of paramount importance to all of us. I understand the various difficulties emanating from the fact that scientific assessments do not always coincide with practical objectives. However, this matter deserves further consideration, and I am open to any action to be taken in that direction.

With regard to the standardized system for marking fishing vessels, it has been obvious from previous interventions that this forum needs additional time to reach a consensus.

Real LALANDE (Canada): I would like to thank Mr Lindquist for his presentation. Canada was an active member in the April 1989 COFI meeting and the Canadian delegation is in agreement with the five priority areas identified by the Committee.

The Canadian delegation particularly supports the role of FAO in the improvement, collection and discussion of fisheries information and statistics, and its future efforts in the protection of the aquatic environment. Regarding this latter issue, we would like to mention the Brundtland Commission Report which rightly stressed the importance of strengthening international agreements to prevent over-exploitation of marine and freshwater resources, and other dangerous practices. Fisheries resources must be effectively husbanded. Failure to achieve progress in the area of conservation will have a significant impact on the fishing industries of all countries.

Canada has been increasingly concerned by the ever-present danger of over-exploitation of fish stocks, especially in the northwest Atlantic. We have been alarmed at the spreading use of destructive fishing gear technology such as Pacific drift nets. Such practices are inconsistent with the rational management and protection of fish stocks and other biological habitats. Canada takes the view that the only solution to the problems of over-fishing is a broad multilateral one. We encourage FAO to lend its efforts to finding solutions to these problems by studying the economic cost of such practices.

My delegation notes the considerable progress made in discussions concerning the establishment of the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission. We believe commissions such as this one can have an effective measure of control on fishing by various countries in a particular region. In this spirit, Canada participated constructively in the International Convention for the Conservation of Atlantic Tuna-ICCAT.

Finally, my delegation endorses the practical decision to schedule future meetings of the Sub-Committee on Fish Trade in conjunction with the sessions of the Committee on Fisheries itself.

Assefa YILALA (Ethiopia): I will be brief, and confine my observations to two general remarks. First of all, I would like to thank Mr Lindquist for his introduction to this agenda item. Incidentally, this document contains very valuable information but has no matter which requires the decision of the Council. This is indicated on the first page of the document. Therefore, we express our recognition of the information contained and thank both the Committee and the Secretariat for their respective contributions towards the outcome contained in the Report.

My country participated in both the 18th Session of the Committee on Fisheries and the Conference for the Adoption of the Draft Agreement for the Establishment of the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission, whose respective proceedings are included in the Report we see before us. We expressed our endorsement of the Report of the Committee because it is a reflection of the discussion of that Committee. However, we are concerned with regard to the delay in the establishment of the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission. We hope that the planned conference later this year will materialize in order to bring about the establishment of the Commission which is important to the development of tuna in the Indian Ocean. We also admit that the reasoning behind this delay is well founded and hope that adequate preparations are made to resolve outstanding issues.

Finally, I express our satisfaction at the continuation of the five Programmes of Action endorsed by the 1984 FAO World Conference on Fisheries to provide an International framework and guidelines for fishery management and development.

Bernd von SYDOW (Germany, Federal Republic of): I shall also be very brief. First of all, may I thank Mr Lindquist for his concise and clear introduction. In line with other delegations, we welcome the document for this agenda item. The Report of the 18th Session of the Committee on Fisheries in our view gives a very good summary, and reflects the discussion well. Furthermore, the Report contains a good analysis of the present situation and future trends in this sphere.

Regarding future activities, we approve the moderate budget increase for the next budget biennium. We also support the fact that aquaculture gets the attention it deserves for economic, social and nutritional reasons. In line with the introductory remarks made, we approve the fact that environmental issues are given due attention, and hope that duplication with other international bodies will be avoided.

Lastly, we agree to the proposal to include practical topics on the agenda of future sessions of the Committee, which are of common interest to many Member countries.

C. Srinivasa SASTRY (India): May I start India's intervention by complimenting the Assistant Director-General, Fisheries, Mr Lindquist, on his presentation. If I might quote from the opening statement of the Director-General to the 18th Session of COFI, "the impartial expertise, depth of expertise and dedication represented by FAO and the staff of the Fisheries Department in particular", we feel is symbolized and personified by Mr Lindquist.

We notice from document CL 95/7 in relation to the 18th Session of COFI that the matters requiring attention by Council do not include any matters for decision, but all of them are matters for the information of Council. Consistent with what we stated yesterday regarding COAG, India regards COFI also as a technical committee of the Council. That is the reason why India specially deputed two specialists from the national headquarters, one dealing with capture and culture of fish and the

other dealing with processing to attend the 18th Session of COFI. However, we find that document CL 95/7 departs from normal FAO practice and does not give in Appendix B on page 21 the list of Delegates and Observers, but only has included the two words "Not included". If the non-inclusion of the list of delegates was an economy measure due to the financial crunch of the FAO, may I suggest that this practice is not adopted selectively for the Fishery Department alone, but is made applicable to documents relating to all the Departments of FAO.

India was also included in the Drafting Committee of the 18th Session of COFI. Having actively participated in the session and the drafting of the report, my delegation wishes to commend that the COFI Report be endorsed and accepted by the Council. In this background our observations will be limited to a few key aspects covered by the COFI Report.

First of all, a general comment on the new procedure for formulating the Programme of Work and Budget introduced after the 24th Session of the FAO Conference under the revised procedure brought in as an experimental measure. Under this, the Summary Programme of Work and Budget is discussed not only in the Special Joint Session of the Programme and Finance Committees, but also in all the technical committees of FAO before the Programme of Work and Budget comes up before both the Council and the Conference. We are happy to notice that this experimental procedure seems to be proving both useful and effective, as evidenced by paragraphs 74 to 94 of the COFI Report on pages 14 to 16 of document CL 95/7.

To quote from paragraph 76:

"The Committee expressed appreciation for the improvement in the presentation of the document" (i.e. the Programme of Work and Budget relating to Fisheries) "which provided tables showing net changes down to programme element level and brief descriptions on changes proposed within and between sub-programmes."

The Indian delegation feels strongly that this practice and procedure enhances transparency substantially. We also find this procedure enables a technical committee like COFI to have a detailed, informed and meaningful discussion on the proposed activities of FAO for the ensuing biennium. The activities and programmes were considered by COFI programme-wise and also sub-programme-wise. We are happy to note that they endorsed and supported the substantial increase in allocation to sub-programme 2.2.2.2: Inland Fisheries and Aquaculture, paragraph 86 of the document.

We also support the conclusion in paragraph 94 that the fisheries programme as proposed, that is, as proposed in the Summary Programme of Work and Budget,

"was balanced, responsive to the needs of Member countries and constituted an acceptable basis for the preparation of the full Programme of Work and Budget in fisheries for consideration by the Twenty-fifth Session of the FAO Conference."

India also endorses the conclusions of COFI firstly on the need for reducing post-harvest losses, including by-catch discards and the need to promote effective development of aquaculture.

We also feel that further efforts need to be made to reduce obstacles to trade, in particular non-tariff barriers. We strongly endorse COFI's call to FAO in paragraph 20-

"to give high priority in its fisheries programme to the monitoring and prevention of environmental degradation, in both marine and inland waters and in aquaculture, and to promote inter-country cooperation in protecting the aquatic environment."

With the recent epidemic of UDS in inland and culture fisheries in India, we specially emphasize the importance of this activity in the programmes of work of FAO. UDS started about 10 years ago in Australia. It has travelled across the Pacific Ocean during the past 10 or 11 years, across the Philippines, Indonesia, Thailand, Burma, and entered India last year. Our apprehension is that unless UDS is tackled immediately it will travel further west towards FAO headquarters in Rome and further beyond, unless concerted action is taken to deal with this. Experts tell us there is no treatment or preventative action except environmental factors.

We extend our full support to the nine regional fisheries bodies which have assisted in ECDC and TCDC. We urge these bodies to adapt themselves to the changing situation in the fisheries sector and endorse the observation that lack of financial resources is a serious problem for nearly all regional bodies in fisheries. We hope that the donor support will be forthcoming in a larger measure.

My delegation also supports the recommendations on marking and identification of fishery vessels, because we have a very expanded exclusive economic zone. With regard to the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission, we reserve the right to make an intervention on Item 19.2 when it comes up for discussion,

Roberto E.E. DALTON (Argentina): En primer término, mi delegación desea dar las gracias al Dr. Lindquist por una clara y precisa introducción al tema que hoy consideramos.

La delegación argentina tuvo oportunidad de fijar en detalle su posición durante el 18° COFI. Participó de los trabajos del Comité de Redacción y brindó, por fin, su respaldo al informe que hoy estamos considerando. En consecuencia sólo formularé breves comentarios.

Nuestra delegación otorga altísima prioridad a la función de la FAO en el fomento de la autosuficiencia de los países en desarrollo, respecto al desarrollo y ordenación de la pesca mediante la capacitación y la transferencia de conocimientos, técnicas y tecnologías apropiadas.

Reconocemos asimismo el rol principal de la FAO en la recolección, el análisis y la difusión de información y de datos. Sobre este particular vemos con interés el perfeccionamiento del banco de datos del Departamento de Pesca.

Apoyamos asimismo la importante tarea de la FAO en el asesoramiento y análisis de políticas, por su capital importancia para los países en desarrollo.

Vemos con aprobación la continuación de los programas de acción de la Conferencia Mundial de Pesca de 1984 y el aumento de la cifra indicativa de apoyo a los mismos a 20 millones de dólares. Expresamos, en ese sentido, la esperanza de que se pueda alcanzar esa suma y se corrija el desequilibrio registrado hasta el presente en el apoyo financiero prestado a las diversas regiones en desarrollo.

Compartimos, en este sentido, la preocupación expresada por la distinguida delegación de Cuba cuando señaló que América Latina ha sido la región menos favorecida.

Compartimos también la preocupación de la distinguida delegación de México que señaló la subsistencia de trabas al comercio internacional de productos pesqueros, tanto arancelarias como no arancelarias, y la necesidad de que el Subcomité de comercio Pesquero dé atención prioritaria en este cuestión.

Con relación al contenido del informe respecto a la tarea de la FAO relativa a la preservación del medio ambiente acuático, quisiéramos adherirnos a lo expresado hace un instante por los distinguidos delegados de Estados Unidos y República Federal de Alemania, en el sentido de aconsejar cautela. En efecto, estimamos que la función de la FAO en este campo no es prioritaria, dado que podría duplicar actividades de otras organizaciones internacionales.

Reiteramos nuestro respaldo a toda iniciativa tendente a favorecer y mejorar la participación de la mujer en el sector pesquero y esperamos analizar en profundidad los avances de la FAO a este aspecto durante el 19° período de sesiones del COFI.

Sobre un tema de particular interés para nuestra región, hacemos llegar nuestro especial reconocimiento al Gobierno italiano por su respaldo al Proyecto sobre Acuicultura AQUILA en curso en América Latina.

Por último damos nuestro apoyo al marco programático del Programa de Labores y Presupuesto para el 1990-91 y reiteramos nuestro aprecio al aumento presupuestario previsto por el Director General. Ese aumento, aunque modesto, significa, a nuestro juicio, una reafirmación de la importancia de la labor de la FAO en esta importante área de la actividad humana.

Abdul KDDDUS AHMAD (Malaysia):The Malaysian delegation wishes to express its appreciation to Dr Lindquist for the clear and concise presentation of the report. We endorse the report. In particular, we endorse the five broad areas of emphasis and priority set forth for the next 25 years. My delegation is also appreciative of the direction taken by the Organization in strengthening the support for training and research in fisheries. We believe that research and trained manpower is the core for rational development of the fisheries industry.

As far as Malaysia is concerned, since the first Fisheries World Conference, most of the major emphasis has been given recognition by my Government, in particular the deep sea fishing in our EEZ waters.

We fully subscribe to the need for stronger support in aquaculture development which holds promise for increased earnings among fishermen. In this connection, my delegation endorses FAO's effort in strengthening its support for this sector, especially in such matters as advice, assistance and training in aquaculture techniques and in the identification of national policies and plans for aquaculture development.

Regarding the four main areas, namely data collection, research and training, management and development, that have been identified in reviewing the FAO regional fishery bodies, my delegation feels that these emphases are in line with the present needs of member countries. These functions could be successfully achieved through the regional bodies, especially with regard to giving concentration on problems of similar nature. We, therefore, hope that FAO would give its continued support and emphasis to the regional bodies.

Touching on the 1984 World Fisheries Conference's Programme of Action, our delegation is supportive that the programme be extended, particularly in Programme of Action 1, namely planning, management and development of fisheries, which has been given the highest allocation, and also to Programme of Action 3, aquaculture development, and Programme 4, international trade in fish and fishery products.

As far as programme of Action 1 is concerned, we consider this is the area that should be given top priority because planning, management and development are the nerve centres of the fisheries industry. In this respect, my delegation would like to take this opportunity to request FAO to further assist member countries in building up their capacities and capabilities to effectively manage their resources in the new extended EEZ areas.

Mrs. Marasee SDRAKUL (Thailand): First of all, may I begin by expressing my delegation's appreciation to Dr. Lindquist for his presentation which was both lucid and comprehensive. The Thai delegation has no difficulty in supporting all decisions and recommendations made by the Committee on Fisheries. However, we have a few comments as follows.

First, we were happy to note with great satisfaction that the Director-General has proposed an increase of 1.9 percent for the Fisheries programmes as compared with 1.1 percent for the Organization as a whole. We fully support this move.

Secondly, we concur with the view that the high priority of FAO's role should be the collection, analysis and dissemination of information and data on all aspects of fisheries. We are also happy to note that the Committee recognized the need for FAO to maintain its key role in promoting inter-country collaboration in fisheries, including trade-related matters, and strongly endorsed FAO's initiative to promote the role of women in fisheries.

Finally, regarding the matter of trade, my delegation would like to share our experience that recently Thailand had a problem concerning food additives in our fisheries products which had been exported to developed countries. This is because of the lack of correct information. Therefore, we would like to suggest that FAO should collect the correct information about both tariff and non-tariff barriers and keep member countries informed continuously.

Daniel R. PHOROKO (Lesotho): We congratulate the Committee on Fisheries for providing the Council with a well prepared, informative report that reflects consistency in the implementation of the 1984 World Fisheries Conference's Programme of Action.

The report, so ably presented by Dr. Lindquist, tackles the five Programmes of Action as an integrated framework with the common issues being fully integrated within them. Allow me to make some brief comments on the work of FAO in fisheries during 1990-91.

The increase of resource allocations as shown in paragraph 79 for the Fisheries Programme of 1.9 percent, as compared to 1.1 percent for the Organization as a whole, is welcome. But considering the vital role that fisheries play in food security, environmental rehabilitation and sustainable development in developing countries, we feel that the task before FAO is an immense one, hence the basic principle for proper use of resources emphasized by the Secretariat in paragraph 84, and this we fully endorse. Paragraph 86 indicates a substantial increase in allocations for inland fisheries and aquaculture. This is encouraging. It is through this programme that women's role in fisheries development can be highlighted, and we urge a deliberate effort to ensure women's participation in

all activities of this programme. Furthermore, Lesotho wishes to reiterate the desire of most "Committee delegations that more specific provision be made to meet the needs of landlocked states. The reasons for this plea are obvious, as such states are usually the least developed with precarious food security situations.

Finally, one would welcome an explanation on paragraph 85 of why the Committee did not find it appropriate to increase allocations to the sub-programme on fish utilization and marketing which is related to the implementation of Programme of Action No. 4, and in particular No. 5 on the promotion of the role of fisheries in alleviating under-nutrition. In this regard, we are of the opinion that both under-nutrition and malnutrition prevailing in most of our countries can be alleviated by specific increased training programmes that concentrate on the nutritional aspects of fisheries programmes. These aspects include consumption patterns, fish food preparation and cost-effective low technology processing.

US PRESIDENT: Nous avons terminé le débat sur cette question. Je voudrais maintenant donner la parole à M. Lindquist qui répondra aux questions posées par les délégués.

A.H. LINDQUIST (Assistant Director-General, Fisheries Department): Thank you, Mr Chairman, for giving me the opportunity to make some replies. I also may wish to ask some of my colleagues for some detailed information. First of all, as it has been readily observed, this was not for a decision; the information given here is for information. But the Secretariat is very happy to see that the approach of it presents first a perspective for the 25 years ahead. It has been generally accepted. This gives the frame of where we are, that there will be an increasing demand for fish. I think from the interventions here it was clear that the work of the regional fishery bodies is highly appreciated. I think it is at this stage not necessary to comment on a special case, namely the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission, because that will be discussed later. But the work of the regional fishery bodies is appreciated, and there was from very many parts a demand that donors should have a look at the work of those bodies or the work supporting those bodies.

The World Fisheries Conference, which was held in 1984, with the five Programmes of Action and with the strategy which was adopted, and it was interesting to hear that several delegates said that this is still the only global strategy acceptable for fisheries development. So it means that one has been on the right path. When it comes to the Programmes of Action, there are also those which should continue. That was quite obvious from the interventions. Then the raise to \$ 20 million depends, of course, on which funds are available, but as we see it now, there will be no difficulty. The demands are much greater than \$ 20 million, of course, for regional cooperation.

I think there was also very great support for the work of the Sub-committee on Fish Trade, and I may comment on some of the details a little later. I think one observation was very important, namely that at those meetings at which the question of the sub-committee becoming an International commodity body, the delegates attending those meetings where this will be decided, they should be influenced so that this will happen because they are often not the same delegates as here; they are quite different persons. But coordination within the countries is needed. I think this was very important.

Before going into details, I would also say it was very heartening to hear about the offers made for training by the delegation of Czechoslovakia and by Japan and the invitation to the Aquaculture Symposium which was given by the delegation of Iraq. I think the Council here is the right forum just for mentioning such activities or inviting such activities, in that way promoting TCDC.

There have been a number of detailed questions, and I will try to answer at least some of them. The delegate of Mexico asked about the two officers, the two posts which are deleted. As you may remember, those posts were only established for 18 months under the present biennium, and the intention was not to continue that. So it was a deletion, but it was planned from the very beginning.

The delegate of Congo mentioned specifically the role of women, and so did very, very many other delegations. The Fisheries Department is very observant on this. We have a core group for women in development, a special group which is scrutinizing projects or activities and giving comments on how women could be included and what their role could be. This is also valid for field projects, so we will continue in this way.

The delegate of Cuba mentioned that Latin America is still a Cinderella when it comes to the Programmes of Action and the extra-budgetary funds. As we all know, this is depending not only on our wishes but even on the donors' wishes, and we are trying to convince donors that there should be an equal distribution between the different regions.

There were several questions—specifically, Australia mentioned here—about the marking of fishing gear. I think this question is not settled yet, and this needs further study. What has been agreed at COFI on a voluntary basis, that was only for fishing vessels. For fishing gear, this is more complicated.

The delegate of Iraq mentioned about the links with other units which are necessary. As I understand, these were the links within the House, within the Organization. By nature, fishery is a little different from agriculture and from forestry because of the wet ambient. But there are very close connections with forestry in the question of the use of mangroves, and with agriculture as regards aquaculture. We have a close cooperation there.

When it comes to environmental matters, there is an Interdepartmental Working Group on Energy and the Environment.

Then there was a specific question of the inland waters in Arabic countries. Egypt, for example, is a member of the Inland Fisheries Commission for Africa. The question of the future of some of these bodies will be discussed within the Indian Ocean Fishery Commission meeting in October this year, the beginning of October, where there is an agenda item on the structure of that fishery body. Of course, that extends to most of the Gulf areas and those countries, and this can be discussed there.

The delegate of Japan mentioned the Whaling Commission. COFI has previously said that as the Organization has so much to do in fisheries, whaling would not be the highest priority. On the other hand, there is a Whaling Commission, so we have not been involved so much in this field. Of course, we have been working on the interaction between whales and fisheries and fish and have even published some documents about this, but it has, according to our decision, a somewhat lower priority.

The delegate of Japan also mentioned the problem of feed in aquaculture which is a very, very important matter, and one of the posts which has been proposed in the Programme of Work and Budget—the additional post on aquaculture in the Programme of Work and Budget for 1990-91—will just be concerned with questions of feed in aquaculture.

The delegate of Peru mentioned several very important matters. Of course, there is a Fisheries Industries Division in the Fisheries Department, and fishing gear is part of their work. We will be pleased to give more information about this. The delegate also mentioned the question of studying food habits and approaching the poorest sector of the population. This is extremely important, and there are elements in our Programme covering this. Of course, more should be done in this field.

Then the question of research on existing biomass was mentioned. That is exactly the task of the Fisheries Resources and Environment Division to assist countries in assessing the biomass stock, how much can be taken, and work that has been done in different parts of the world, and at every COFI meeting a review of the situation of the stocks is presented which is, by the way, the only existing world review which is presented every second year, and for this COFI meeting for the first time we also presented a review on the global aquaculture situation.

Now the question of overlapping was mentioned by several delegates and especially in the context of the environment. Of course, as the Secretariat sees it we can only be interested in environmental questions as those matters are affecting fisheries directly. The environmental situation is a very broad thing, but our interest is in fisheries and fisheries affected as food, or when fish is affected in its biology and its production, so it is a question of balance, but with the growing interest in environmental matters we are getting more requests and more questions from countries asking for advice, so we have to cover this in some way.

Then there was the specific question of the list of delegates. The Report will be printed in the normal way and all the delegates will be listed. Thank you Mr Chairman.

LE PRESIDENT: Merci Monsieur Lindquist pour vos réponses claires. J'espère que les délégués ont reçu des réponses claires à leurs questions. Y a-t-il d'autres questions?

Juan NDIRY SAWCHEZ (Goba): Más para la Comisión de Redacción que para la Secretaría, antes de terminar la sesión de la mañana quisiéramos unirnos, en nombre de la Delegación cubana, al oportuno y merecido planteamiento de la Delegación de Colombia referente al reconocimiento al distinguido y valioso Representante de Filipinas, Sr. Garandang. Consideramos que debe ser recogido, tal como la planteó Colombia, precisamente en este informe final.

LE PRESIDENT: Nous sommes maintenant arrivée à la fin de ce débat très important sur les pêches. Je voudrais pour ma part intervenir en disant que le Conseil se félicite du travail excellent fait par le COFI et nous nous félicitons notamment du déroulement de cette session du programme d'action de la Conférence mondiale des pêches de 1984. Le Conseil suggère que les cinq domaines prioritaires qu'elle a définis se poursuivent après 1989 pour fournir un cadre et des orientations internationales valables pour l'aménagement et le développement des pêches. Je veux pour preuve de cette efficacité la tendance positive des apports financiers au développement des pêches qui ont dépassé les 15 millions de dollars par an et j'é mets le voeu que le chiffre indicatif de 20 millions de dollars puisse être atteint et même dépassé. Je crois que le Conseil, de manière générale, a demandé que la FAO renforce et joue un rôle accru dans le domaine de la pêche et qu'elle puisse être partie prenante dans les réflexions sur le commerce international des produits halieutiques qui sont du plus haut intérêt pour les pays en développement.

Je crois également pouvoir dire que le Conseil s'est félicité de cette augmentation de 1,9 pour cent qui est meilleure que la moyenne d'augmentation et souhaite que l'effort pour la pêche puisse être toujours renforcé.

Enfin je crois qu'on pourrait dire que notre Conseil appuie (nous sommes tenus de prendre le cas échéant une décision) le contenu du rapport de la seconde session du Comité des pêches.

Si le Conseil accepte cette conclusion nous pourrions clore ce point de l'Ordre du jour et passer au suivant.

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

14. Summary Programme of Work and Budget 1990-91

14. Sommaire du Programme de travail et budget 1990-91

14. Resumen del Programa de Labores y Presupuesto para 1990-91

LE PRESIDENT:Nous avons une demi-heure devant nous. C'est un point important. C'est le point 14 intitulé "Sommaire du programme de travail et budget 1990-91" document CL 95/3; CL 95/3 corr.1, CL 95/4, CL 95/8 et CL 95/8 corr. 1. Bien sûr l'analyse de ce document demandera plusieurs séances. Nous n'avons pas l'ambition de terminer en une seule séance. Notre agenda prévoit une séance cet après-midi, demain et, si vous voulez, après-demain matin. C'est un point essentiel de notre Ordre du jour. Si vous voulez, je vous propose donc de donner la parole à Monsieur Shah, Sous-Directeur général du Bureau des Programmes du budget et d'évaluation qui va introduire le sujet et s'il nous reste du temps avant la conclusion je serai heureux si l'Ambassadeur Bukhari en sa qualité de Président du Comité financier pouvait présenter les recommandations de la Réunion conjointe du Comité du programme et du Comité financier. Après quoi nous ouvrirons les débats.

V.J. SHAH (Assistant Director-General, Office of Programme, Budget and Evaluation):Mr Chairman, the best introduction to the item on which you are about to embark on is, quite frankly-I say this even though the Director-General is not here with us at this very moment, and I would say it with pride in front of him-the one he gave you in his inaugural address at the opening session of the Council.However, considering the Importance of this item on your agenda, he has asked me to present it on his behalf and this I am very honoured to do.

The first point Mr Chairman that I would like to submit to the Council is that the Summary Programme of Work and Budget, which you have before you, is the product of a new process.As you recall at your last session in November 1988 you decided on a process, on an experimental basis, by which the Programme and Finance Commmittees would meet in Joint Session in January, to consider a brief document indicating the budget level the Director-General intended to use in the preparation of the Programme of Work and Budget 1990-91, together with the main activities to be undertaken.

The Report of this Joint Session of the Programme and Finance Committees is before you in document CL 95/4. Mr Chairman, you will judge for yourselves the usefulness of the new process and its relative merits. In due course you and the Conference will need to decide whether you wish this experimental process to continue.

What was important for the Director-General in the preparation of the Summary Programme of Work and Budget, was that the Committees expressed appreciation for the Outline that he submitted as a policy document, that the Committees endorsed the policy approach regarding priorities and the priority areas intended to benefit from additional resources, and had an opportunity to receive a first indication of the cost increases for which budgetary provision would have to be made. The Summary Programme of Work and Budget now before you was accordingly prepared on the lines endorsed by the Programme and Finance Committees.

If I may turn now to the context of the proposals. Mr Chairman, the preparation of a Summary Programme of Work and Budget is always a time to take stock and to look forward.

From both points of view this Summary Programme of Work and Budget is presented by the Director-General with a sense of the Organization experiencing renewed vigour, a revived commitment and an enhanced promise of fulfilment. There is every reason to do so. The increasing pressures on the world food, agriculture, forestry and fishery situation are all the more urgent to resolve because of the ceaseless growth in world population, increasing by some 80 million every year; the scant success in the fight against poverty; the increasing problems of ensuring development on a sustainable basis; heightened tension in world trade; the intolerable burden of external debt on developing countries; with all these problems becoming at the same time more complex and more difficult to resolve.

Mr Chairman, as the Director-General recalled, during two biennia the Organization has been severely put to the test by problems of liquidity and had its programmes cut. The damage to the programmes since 1986 has to be seen not only in terms of the curtailed services offered to Member Nations but also in terms of preserving FAO's accumulated experience and ensuring its ability to adapt in a rapidly changing world.

Thus the large majority of Member Nations, through no fault of theirs, because of the programme cuts of US\$ 45 million, have been deprived of support and services which they rightly expected from FAO. They look forward to, indeed they demand, a substantial programme growth to compensate for the cancelled programmes and to meet their unsatisfied and increased requirements.

Mr Chairman, while the demands of Member Nations for FAO's support and services continue to span an extensive range of sectors and activities, and each individual Member Nation expects and looks to FAO to have its priority needs met, Member Nations as a whole look for a concentration of additional resources in a limited number of priority areas. We have heard this in some of the discussions which have already taken place under other agenda items, and I believe, Mr Chairman, this is a paradox which has to be recognized and which has to be faced. In order to respond to the desires of all Member Nations, the proposals request net additional resources for nine priority areas which are carefully selected on the basis of the guidance of our intergovernmental bodies and represent a concentration on activities which FAO can do best and for which it has a clear comparative advantage. They comprise: sustainable development, crop/weather monitoring, biotechnology, crop protection, agricultural data development, policy advice, activities for women in development, aquaculture and the Tropical Forestry Action Plan.

These priority areas, Mr Chairman, we are very pleased to note, have been endorsed by the Programme and Finance Committees as well as by the Committee on Agriculture and the Committee on Fisheries.

Turning now, sir, to the distribution of resources. Once again the Director-General pursues a policy, endorsed by the Council and by the Conference, of channelling additional resources to the technical and economic programmes. However, whereas in recent biennia he could repeatedly prune the resources channelled to administrative and support services, the limit has been reached, and no further cuts are possible without impairing the basic functioning of the Organization.

Accordingly, in the proposed Programme of Work and Budget, additional resources are proposed to be channelled to the Major Programmes in Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries and the Technical Cooperation Programme.

The total programme increase proposed is US\$5.5 million which represents one percent of the current budget base as recosted.

Mr Chairman, I believe it has been recognized by all who have seen the document that the proposed distribution of resources is presented in more detail than ever before, down to the programme element level. All the intergovernmental bodies which reviewed the Summary Programme of Work and Budget of relevance to them, have recognized that this permits a greater transparency and detail than has been possible before.

These committees have made a number of suggestions for further shifts in resources and indicated aspects of priorities in the proposed programmes as perceived by them. The Director-General has assured these committees that these suggestions will be taken into consideration in the formulation of the full Programme of Work and Budget. He has asked me to repeat the same assurance with regard to such recommendations as the Council may make.

The proposals comprise an estimate of cost increases amounting to US\$ 60 million. While this is a substantial amount, compared to the very modest level of the programme increase of only US\$ 5.5 million, it should be recalled that the cost increases proposed do not represent any record. The proposals for the Programme of Work and Budget 1982-83 and 1984-85 both included cost increases which were considerably higher. The cost increases for the last two biennia, on the other hand, were clearly artificially low, mainly because of the ceilings on professional staff remuneration.

It should also be recognized that the provision which is necessary for cost increases is entirely beyond the control of the Secretariat. Apart from the effects of inflation on the cost of goods and services, the cost increases represent the result of decisions of the UN General Assembly and of the International Civil Service Commission regarding remuneration for personal services.

The Council has the assurance that these cost increases have been reviewed, as in the past, by the Finance Committee; that they have been calculated on the same basic methodology used in the past, as approved by the Finance Committee, Council and Conference; and that the estimate is conservative. I emphasize that. In fact, the Director-General has deliberately not included cost increases for an amount of US\$ 3 million in order to limit the burden on Member Nations.

Further, the estimates do not cover the increases which are likely to arise as a result of the survey of General Service salaries in Rome to be conducted by the International Civil Service Commission, (ICSC), the decisions on which will be taken by the Council in due course, as well as the additional costs resulting from eventual decisions of the United Nations General Assembly following the comprehensive review of the conditions of service of staff in the Professional and higher categories, which the General Assembly has asked the ICSC to undertake.

In formulating his proposals the Director-General seeks at the same time to respond positively to those Member Nations who look to a substantial programme growth, as well as to those Member Nations who seek to limit budgetary growth. The proposals aim at reconciling these two diverse positions in order to permit a consensus among all Member Nations at the Conference.

These proposals imply raising the level of the effective working budget from US\$ 492 million to US\$ 558 million. I would however urge that the debate in this Council need not concentrate on these precise figures. I say this for three reasons. Firstly, because the Council will not be voting on or adopting a budget at the current session; that will be at the Conference.

Secondly, because the level of the effective working budget will change as a result of the budgetary rate that the Conference will adopt. At the current market exchange rate for the US dollar/Italian lire-It has been in recent days around 1450 lire to the dollar as compared to the 1235 lire to the dollar that is the basis for this presentation-the budget level will be considerably lower.

And thirdly, because the burden of assessments on Member Nations will also be affected by the amount of estimated Miscellaneous Income that will be deducted from the level of the effective working budget. This is also a matter that you will be examining when you receive the full Programme of Work and Budget, and on which you will make your recommendation to the Conference at your next Session.

In conclusion, what the Director-General requests from the Council and urges of it is to review his proposals and give such guidance it sees fit for the preparation of the full Programme of Work and Budget. The Council has much to assist it in this task. It has the views and recommendations of the Committee on Agriculture and the Committee on Fisheries as regards the proposals for these sectors. And it has the views and recommendations of the Programme and Finance Committees, each with regard to their sphere of competence. The views from all these intergovernmental bodies clearly converge on an endorsement of the Summary Programme of Work and Budget as an acceptable basis for the preparation of the full Programme of Work and Budget. The Director-General, and, if I may say, all of his colleagues, hope that the Council will also agree.

LE PRESIDENT: Je remercie M. Shah de sa communication introductive. Il nous reste dix minutes et je ne crois pas qu'il soit raisonnable d'entamer un exposé sur les travaux du Comité financier et du Comité du programme en un si bref laps de temps. Si le Conseil en convient, je pourrai donner la parole à M. Bukhari, en sa qualité de porte-parole de ces deux comités, lors de la reprise de nos travaux, à 14 h 30.

The meeting rose at 12.15 hours.

La séance est levée à 12 h 15.

Se levanta la sesión a las 12.15 horas.

council

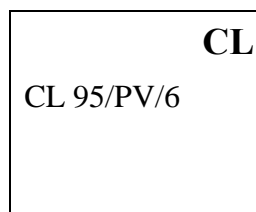
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Ninety-fifth Session

Quatre-vingt-quinzième session

95º periodo de sesiones

SIXTH PLENARY MEETING
SIXIEME SEANCE PLENIERE
SEXTA SESION PLENARIA
(21 June 1989)

The Sixth Plenary Meeting was opened at 14.45 hours Lassaad Ben Osman, Independent Chairman of the Council, presiding

La sixième seance 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)

14. Summary Programme of Work and Budget 1990-1991 (continued)

14. Sommaire du Programme de travail et budget 1990-91 (suite)

14. Resumen del Programa de Labores y Presupuesto para 1990-91 (continuación)

LE PRESIDENT: Nous avons entendu ce matin une communication introductive de M. Shah et je me permets maintenant de passer la parole à l'Ambassadeur Bukhari qui, en sa qualité de Président du Comité financier et de porte-parole du Comité du Programme et du Comité financier, va nous faire une communication sur le déroulement des réunions de ces deux comités au mois de mai 1989.

A.V. BUKHARI (Chairman, Finance Committee) (Original language Arable): I am grateful to you for giving me the opportunity at this stage to address this venerable and important Council on this item. In agreement with the Chairman of the Programme Committee, Prof. Mazoyer, I would like to address the Council on behalf of both the Programme and Finance Committees.

During our session in May we had a joint meeting to consider the Summary Programme of Work and Budget 1990/91. The Report of our joint meeting is before Council now in the form of document CL 95/8. I need only highlight the most significant points contained therein.

Mr. Chairman, as you honoured the two Committees with your presence during our discussions, you will be able to confirm my view, which is also that of Prof. Mazoyer, that the discussions in the two Committees on this topic were comprehensive and permitted all members to raise their questions and express their views as well as to receive additional information from the Secretariat. The Secretariat was at all times at the disposal of the members of both Committees. All these discussions took place in a spirit of harmony and serenity, with members respecting each others' positions. This led to an agreed report which is before Council now.

The Committees welcomed the further improvements in the format and presentation of the Summary Programme of Work and Budget. They considered that the document, while being concise, included information on the selection of priorities, programme proposals, cost increases and the proposed use of resources as required by the Summary. The Committees were satisfied that the proposals were in overall conformity with the prior guidance of FAO governing and advisory bodies, and responsive to the heartfelt needs of Member Nations, both individually and collectively, for FAO information and assistance. They recognized that the proposals built on the priorities indicated in the outline of Programme of Work and Budget, as endorsed at their January joint session, represented a balanced mix of activities despite the limited net increase in resources.

The Committees supported the approach of directing additional resources to the technical and economic programmes of FAO. They gave overall endorsement to the proposed allocation and shifts of resources, with the assurance that their comments on specific proposals—as those of the Committee on Agriculture, the Committee on Fisheries and the Council—would be taken into consideration in the formulation of the full Programme of Work and Budget. In respect of the financial framework, the Committees noted that the estimates for cost increases indicated in the Summary Programme of Work and Budget had been made on a conservative basis and were the best that could be made at this time. They took note of the deliberate exclusion of some cost increases in order to contain their overall level, and that they would be subjected to a further review in the full Programme of Work and Budget.

The Committees reiterated that the proposal for 1990 and 1991 had to be seen in a context of severely curtailed programmes into successive biennia. Accordingly, they agreed that they took account of the need to restore the technical capacity of FAO at a level more commensurate with requirements, and would permit relaunching of FAO action and initiative as desired by Member Nations. Many members of the Committees recalled the importance their Governments attached to the contribution of the TCP—the Technical Cooperation Programme—to their countries' development efforts. They stressed their wish to see a higher increase of resources for the TCP, the share in which in the total budget had fallen from 14.1% to 12.8% and could fall further despite the net increase proposed for 1990/91.

Some other members, while not questioning the importance and value of TCP, questioned the need for an increase in the level of its resources at the present time. The Committees concurred that the proposals had been formulated with the manifest intent of leading to a consensus of Member Nations at the time of the Conference. They unanimously appreciated the efforts made by the Director-General to promote the consensus approval of the Programme of Work and Budget for 1990/91.

However, recalling their discussion at the joint session in January 1989, a number of views were reiterated in connection with the budget level as proposed.

Taking all comments into account, the Committees agreed to recommend to the Council that it support the Summary Programme of Work and Budget and requests the Director-General to proceed with the preparation of the full Programme of Work and Budget on that basis. They expressed the hope that the Conference would be able to unite in a consensus approval of the Programme of Work and Budget for 1990-91.

I do not need to make any additional comments on the Finance Committee's separate consideration of the subject because the Finance Committee's views are essentially covered in what I have just conveyed to you and are faithfully reflected in our report.

LE PRESIDENT: Je remercie le Président du Comité Financier pour son exposé liminaire qui regroupe fidèlement le cours du déroulement des discussions lors du Comité Financier et du Comité du Programme auquel j'ai eu le plaisir d'assister. Je le remercie de son exposé particulièrement clair. Ceci étant, nous allons ouvrir les débats sur ce sujet et je serais heureux si nous pouvions enregistrer les demandes d'intervention soulignant qu'il s'agit de points importants et nous serions très heureux d'aboutir à une solution aussi proche que possible du consensus.

Achille RAHARISON (Madagascar): La délégation malgache voudrait adresser ses vives félicitations et chaleureux remerciements à son Excellence Monsieur Bukhari, Président du Comité financier, et Monsieur Shah, Assistant du Directeur général pour la présentation très claire qu'ils ont faite des sujets importante soumis à notre examen.

La délégation malgache félicite le Secrétariat d'avoir produit un document de qualité aussi bien du point de vue du fond que du point de vue de la présentation; le Comité du programme et le Comité financier qui ont examiné ledit document qui constitue le Sommaire du programme de travail et budget 1990-91 de l'Organisation l'ont grandement apprécié et ont reconnu que des améliorations sensibles ont été apportées notamment à la présentation.

Le plus exigeant des Etats Membres devrait trouver dans un tel outil de travail un motif de satisfaction d'autant plus que la plupart d'entre eux ont eu l'occasion d'en donner des orientations précises lors de la session spéciale conjointe de janvier des deux Comités.

Pour notre part nous avons eu la possibilité de faire part de nos commentaires sur la partie technique du programme lors de la session du Comité de l'Agriculture. Nous avons regretté à cette occasion le bas niveau du PCT et avons souhaité qu'il soit revu en hausse. Nous remercions le Directeur général d'avoir tenu compte de nos préoccupations en majorant de 2,8 pour cent la prévision initiale. Bien entendu, nous avons suggéré un taux supérieur mais nous convenons avec les Comités du Programme et des Finances qu'il faudrait une expansion régulière du PCT dans les années à venir pour atteindre un taux avoisinant les 20 pour cent du budget; son effet catalyseur serait de plus en plus indispensable au moment où les besoins d'investissement dans le secteur agricole se font plus que jamais pressants et intenses dans les PVD.

Au Comité de l'agriculture, nous avons déjà mis en doute la faible augmentation proposée au programme technique car les besoins recensés sont énormes et il faudrait en plus essayer de rattraper les programmes supprimés en 1987 et 1988 et correspondants à 45 millions de dollars, amputations qui ont concerné des programmes qui revêtent une importance fondamentale pour les Etats précise le Directeur général dans sa déclaration d'ouverture.

Par ailleurs, nous voudrions à nouveau faire part de nos préoccupations à l'endroit de certaines réductions de programmes et sous-programmes d'importance pour nos pays. Je me contenterai d'en citer quelques unes:

Réduction de ressources pour le programme international d'approvisionnement en engrais; lutte contre les mauvaises herbes; les activités de CEPD; la foresterie des zones arides, et télédétection en foresterie.

Peut-être des ressources extrabudgétaires conséquentes pourraient contribuer à résoudre ces problèmes. Nous invitons le Secrétariat à examiner cette opportunité.

Le Directeur général n'a ménagé aucun effort, n'a négligé aucune action permettant d'atteindre le consensus lors de l'approbation du projet de budget par la Conférence générale. Il a réitéré ce souhait dans son discours d'ouverture, je cite: " Le Programme de travail et budget pour 1990-91 a

été conçu en vue d'aider les Etats Membres à s'unir dans un consensus pour son approbation" (fin de citation). Déjà la Session spéciale conjointe des Comités du Programme et des Finances avait pour objectif de promouvoir et favoriser le consensus. Malheureusement il semble que les efforts du Directeur général aient été vains et on ne peut s'empêcher de se demander quelle serait l'utilité d'une telle session qui n'a pas manqué d'occasionner des dépenses importantes en cette période importante de crise financière de l'Organisation.

En fait, rien n'est perdu au contraire car cette session du Conseil pourrait encore servir à oeuvrer dans ce sens tant souhaité par la quasi-totalité des membres du Conseil. Certains arguments avancés par quelques délégations pour justifier le zéro budgeting ne nous paraissent pas valables; en effet, l'augmentation des contributions face aux difficultés financières des PVD devrait au contraire stimuler les Etats Membres à doter l'Organisation de moyens plus conséquents pour qu'elle intensifie son assistance auprès de ces pays. L'amélioration sensible de la situation économique et financière de ces derniers leur permettrait en vérité de faire face à leurs obligations.

A relever que d'ores et déjà de nombreux pays en développement comme Madagascar, en proie à des difficultés économiques et financières qui parfois dépassent tout entendement, honorent bel et bien leurs obligations statutaires. Dans ces conditions il ne semble pas logique d'insister sur cet argument.

Tout en confortant les acquis et redressant les faiblesses constatées dans l'exécution des programmes en cours, le Secrétariat propose de nouveaux programmes; ils sont qualifiés de domaines prioritaires; nous sommes d'avis qu'effectivement certains d'entre eux peuvent renforcer la capacité des PVD de développer leur production agricole et alimentaire. Ainsi la biotechnologie peut être utilisée pour améliorer les rendements, pour créer de nouvelles espèces performantes mais il faut que les détenteurs de ces techniques de pointe veuillent bien les utiliser dans la bonne voie et non chercher à développer une concurrence déloyale et en fin de compte à nuire. La FAO a un grand rôle à jouer dans ce domaine soit au point de vue formation que transfert de technologie; il faudrait en tout cas se conformer aux recommandations pertinentes de la Commission des ressources phytogénétiques et du Comité de l'agriculture. Il faudrait par ailleurs renforcer la capacité des PVD à gérer leurs ressources génétiques, végétales et animales.

Ma délégation appuie aussi chaleureusement le programme qui permettra de renforcer la FAO dans l'assistance qu'elle accorde aux pays qui mettent en oeuvre des mesures d'ajustements économiques et structurels.

Les Conférences régionales ont toujours manifesté leur vive préoccupation au regard de la dégradation de l'environnement et de la mauvaise exploitation et rentabilisation des ressources naturelles dans les PVD. Elles ont considéré et considèrent que de tels phénomènes menacent bien entendu les générations futures mais aussi et surtout mettent en péril les générations présentes dans les PVD. Les Conférences régionales ont toujours démontré que la cause principale de la dégradation de l'environnement est la pauvreté et que par conséquent, la voie la plus sûre pour parvenir à un développement durable est de vaincre la pauvreté. Cela signifie, Monsieur le Président, que toutes les actions de la FAO devraient comporter un aspect de développement durable et tous les Départements ont leur rôle à jouer dans ce sens.

Cependant, l'envergure du problème à résoudre et la nécessité de mener des actions soutenues requièrent une mobilisation de la Communauté internationale; sans un appui financier extraordinaire des pays donateurs, de telles actions ne pourraient être efficacement menées à terme. C'est pourquoi, Monsieur le Président, tout en approuvant l'inscription du sous-programme Développement durable dans les priorités de l'Organisation, ma délégation voudrait que la question soit abordée dans le sens, d'une part, de détermination des actions à mener pour vaincre définitivement la pauvreté, de définition des moyens requis et, d'autre part, de recherche des financements nécessaires. Ma délégation appuie sans réserve les priorités accordées à l'aquaculture et au Plan d'action forestier tropical.

Pour conclure, ma délégation est convaincue que tout un chacun aura à coeur d'oeuvrer dans le sens de la consolidation d'une relation internationale multilatérale fructueuse dans laquelle l'intransigeance des principes n'a ni sa place ni sa raison d'être; en revanche, un effort de compréhension mutuelle, un désir ardent de résoudre vraiment les problèmes de ceux pour qui la FAO a été créée devraient constituer la ligne directrice de la coopération étroite qui, fort heureusement, a toujours existé entre les Etats Membres.

Johnson P. MERCADER (Philippines): The Philippine delegation would like to thank Mr. Shah and Ambassador Bukhari for their succinct introduction to this most important item in this Council session. The Philippine delegation can endorse the Summary Programme of Work and Budget as the basis for the preparation of the full Programme of Work and Budget for consideration by the Conference. These proposals are in conformity with the recommendations of the subsidiary bodies of

the Council, which are the COAG, COFI and the COFO, which consider the Summary Programme of Work and Budget corresponding to their competence as well as to the Programme and Finance Committees. The COAG, in its deliberation on Major Programme 2.1 covering 78 percent of technical and economic programmes, approved the main priority areas and the Summary of said programme as a feasible and satisfactory mix of activities consonant with the requests of Member Nations as expressed in the Conference, the Council, the Regional Conferences and other intergovernmental fora. It considered that they provided an acceptable basis for the preparation of the full Programme of Work and Budget for consideration by the 25th Session of the FAO Conference. The dissenting views of a few delegations did not concern the substance of the programmes proposed, but rather the mode of presentation, the relationship of the Summary Programme of Work and Budget with the results of the Review of FAO, their views on the level of growth in the budget and the role of the Regional Offices. But I repeat that these are not related to the substance of the programmes proposed.

In a similar manner, the COFI fisheries programme as proposed was balanced, responsive to the needs of member countries, and constituted an acceptable basis for the preparation of the full Programme of Work and Budget. The Philippine delegation supports the approach of directing additional resources to the technical and economic programmes of FAO under the Technical Cooperation Programme. FAO will be able to fulfil better its main function as a technical assistance-giving agency if it has a stronger technical and economic and technical cooperation programmes. In this connection, the Philippine delegation stresses the importance it attaches to the provision of policy and planning advice FAO gives to the member countries and appreciates the budget increase accorded to the sub-programme. The Philippine delegation regards the 1 percent overall net programme budget increase as warranted by the increased demands on the Organization imposed by the greater complexity of agricultural problems and the ever-increasing population in the developing world. The Philippine delegation is happy to note that a gradual normalization in the payment of contributions of all Member Nations can be expected in the forthcoming biennium. Member countries can then expect full implementation of the Programme of Work and Budget which unfortunately had been cut substantially during the biennium to the detriment of member countries. The Philippine delegation expresses the wish that the Summary Programme of Work and Budget can be approved unanimously.

João Augusto DE MEDICIS (Brazil): As a member of the Finance Committee, Brazil has participated in the consensus by which the Summary Programme of Work and Budget 1990-91 was considered as serving as an acceptable basis for the formulation of the Programme. Therefore, the Brazilian delegation endorses the document as prepared by the Director-General and revised by the Programme and Finance Committees.

I would like, nevertheless, to draw the attention of the Council to the selection of priority areas under Chapter 2 of the document, which are proposed to receive increased allocations. As I had a chance to mention during the Tenth Session of COAG, Brazil supports the choice of the priority areas. Nonetheless, we do not consider that the order in which they are presented represents an order of preference. The areas covered in this selection are equally important and they all deserve more attention and support.

The first topic which appears in the list is "sustainable development". As it has been said by my delegation on other occasions, Brazil welcomes the emphasis FAO has been giving to direct project activities in a manner which can have a positive environmental effect. But I have some doubts if "sustainable development" is understood by us all in the same way. The "Stockholm Declaration" of 1972 recognized that, while in the industrialized countries the environmental problems generally result from industrialization and technical development, in the developing countries these problems primarily result from the conditions imposed by underdevelopment. Almost 20 years later, the world has progressed very little towards reversing the causes which nowadays lie in the patterns of consumption and waste in industrialized economies and in the vicious circle which associates, in the developing world, poverty and environment degradation. More recently, the Brundtland Report reiterated the same idea while placing the roots of poverty and its effect on the environment in an international economic system which widens instead of reducing inequality among nations.

Promoting economic and social development is the essential factor for protecting the environment. In this respect, the inequity of the international economic system represents the main obstacle for the solution of the environmental problems in the developing countries. So, with the purpose of dealing with the ecological question in a legitimate way, the international community should concentrate all efforts on eliminating poverty, hunger and unemployment in the world. FAO's role should be, therefore, to reverse this negative linkage between poverty and environment into a positive and systematic relationship. Though it would not divert its attention and scarce funds from its main task, that is assisting developing countries in their efforts to achieve their development, "Sustainable development" should in no way be considered as a new conditionally to be imposed on projects of assistance to developing countries.

The Tropical Forestry Action Plan is another topic of the priority list that we very much welcome. About this subject, I would like to call the attention of the Council to document CL 95/INF/16, which reproduces the Amazon Declaration, signed by the Presidents of the Member Countries of the Amazonian Cooperation Treaty in Manaus last May. Brazil together with the other countries which share the Amazon forest-Venezuela, Bolivia, Peru, Ecuador, Suriname and Guyana-held this meeting for the purpose of undertaking a joint reflection on their common interests in this area and, in particular, on the future of cooperation for the development and protection of the rich heritage of their respective Amazon territories. The Presidents reaffirmed the sovereign right of each country to freely manage its natural resources, bearing in mind the need for promoting the economic and social development of its people and the adequate conservation of the environment. They also expressed their willingness to accept cooperation from countries in other regions of the world as well as from International organizations which might contribute to the implementation of national and regional projects and programmes which they decide to freely adopt without external impositions, in accordance with the priorities of their Governments.

Mr. Chairman, during the meeting of the Finance and Programme Committees most Members-and I quote from our Report-recall the importance the Government attached to the contribution of TCP to their countries' development efforts. They stressed that they wished to see a higher increase in resources to the TCP, of which its share of the total budget had fallen. Mr. Chairman, I feel that I should reiterate my country's position on the subject now.

Finally, I believe that the documents submitted to the Council under this Agenda item give a comprehensive view of the considerations which guided the formulation of budgetary proposals for 1990-91 and the points of view of the members of the Programme and Finance Committees. The Brazilian delegation endorses those proposals and hopes that the Programme of Work and Budget be approved by consensus. It is my duty however to call attention to the position of some members, among which is Brazil, which expressed concern at the impact of the proposed budget level on the assessed contributions of developing countries facing economic and financial difficulties due, among other factors, to the burden of external debt.

Chentouf SID AHMED (Algérie): MM. Shah et Bukharin nous ont exposé simplement et clairement, mais avec toute la précision nécessaire, les résultats de leurs travaux, leur déroulement dans des conditions très favorables, les principes cardinaux et les priorités à la base de l'affectation des ressources et, enfin, les contraintes rencontrées en matière d'élargissement des ressources et la nécessité de poursuivre la réduction d'activités très importantes pour certains pays affectant ainsi le champ d'action de notre Organisation.

Je m'astreindrai à évoquer trois points qui, à notre sens, devraient retenir particulièrement l'attention du Conseil à sa présente session:

En premier lieu, les ressources et leur objet ou leur utilisation, c'est-à-dire les programmes. Les pays membres devraient pouvoir s'acquitter dans les plus brefs délais de leurs contributions ou pour le moins s'engager progressivement dans le règlement de ces contributions pour permettre à notre Organisation de fonctionner quasi normalement sans avoir à se poser en permanence la question quant à sa propre survie.

Depuis plusieurs années, ainsi que l'a mentionné M. Saouma, notre Directeur général, les budgets de la FAO n'ont pratiquement pas évolué et ont même regressé quand, au même moment, la demande en matière de programmes s'est faite encore plus importante. Pour le prochain biennium, l'augmentation envisagée sera probablement plus proche de zéro pour cent que d'un pour cent, avec les conséquences que cela implique sur les programmes.

A côté de ces réductions, qu'il me soit permis ici de mentionner le rôle éminent, principal, le rôle fédérateur qu'a joué la FAO lors de l'Invasion acridienne de ces dernières années. Si cette invasion semble aujourd'hui jugulée, nous devons rester vigilants et maintenir nos réseaux de surveillance en alerte encore pour longtemps. Dans le même ordre d'idée, je suggère à l'honorable assemblée ici présente d'appuyer le programme de lutte contre ce nouveau fléau dans la région Afrique, Moyen-Orient, Europe même, qu'est la mouche américaine du ver tараudeur. Un programme spécifique et un budget ad hoc devraient pouvoir être identifiés.

Parmi les nouvelles mais très importantes actions de la FAO, le Conseil devrait pouvoir suivre et permettre de concrétiser les avis du Comité pour permettre à la FAO de répondre aux demandes des Etats Membres et de les appuyer dans l'évaluation des incidences des programmes d'ajustement structurel. Nous appuyons cet objectif ainsi que les suggestions énoncées aux paragraphes 2.20 et 2.21 du document CL 95/8, tout comme nous appuyons les grandes lignes du Programme de travail et budget 1990-91 qui nous a été présenté.

Assefa YILALA (Ethiopia): Let me first of all thank Mr. Shah for the excellent introduction to the item tabled for discussion, and the FAO Secretariat for the comprehensive document on the Summary Programme of Work and Budget 1990-91 which, for the first time, was preceded by the form of programme budget process, and considered by the twenty Member Nations who are represented in the Programme and Finance Committees as was endorsed by the Ninety-fourth Session of the Council. I would also like to thank Ambassador Bukhari for the report he gave us on behalf of the Programme and Finance Committee of which I was also a member.

During the endorsement of the programme and budget process it could be admitted that there were some diverging views on the validity of such a short meeting which could have been achieved through other alternative measures. However, because of the strong demand for this additional mechanism in the preparation in the Summary Programme of Work and Budget, it was agreed to continue it on a pilot basis with a view to establishing a consensus both in the endorsement of the mechanism itself and also the whole budget preparation exercise.

The usefulness of this additional mechanism could only be seen on the understanding that it could assist in establishing a consensus, because we have gone through both the processes and also the preparation of the Summary Programme of Work and Budget for the next biennium. To our understanding the Summary Programme of Work and Budget before the Council for its consideration is in line with the budget reform process and the framework contained in this additional mechanism. As long as the original and anticipated consensus is reached, the preparation of this additional mechanism should pose no difficulty. However, if the anticipated consensus could not be reached, this additional mechanism can only cause additional cost, and therefore its continuity becomes doubtful, particularly at a time like this when financial shortages are critical.

The budgetary framework upon which this Summary Programme of Work and Budget for the biennium 1990-91 in financial terms, is based on that of the previous biennium with a very nominal increase of one percent which is meant for those additional programmes that were requested by the various committees and intergovernmental bodies which are considered as priority areas and benefiting as a result of the increase that is proposed. These priority areas are not only carried out with the proposed increase but also additional resources had to be channelled to these areas through reductions of activities which are vital and necessary for food production programmes in our respective countries. Some of these programmes, like People's Participation, home economics, small farmers' marketing, rural finances, food nutrition assessments, early warnings of food shortages, technology transfers in the reference to TCDC, insect and pest control, storage and rural structures, animal production and health, are only some of the essential areas and elements subjected to negative shortages in the resource allocation, and the desire to see this and other elements continued at least with no changes being sacrificed for a minimum increase of 5.5 million, which is far less than the negative programme change in the Summary Programme of Work and Budget that we have before us.

We therefore feel that the present budgetary request could be conceded as a minimum request to win the positive responses of all Member Countries without even going into the mention of a consensus.

In indicating this support however, I feel obliged to express my strong views on seeing most programme elements which are subjected to negative changes remain the same, even though acceptable because of the present environment for obtaining more resources.

The priority areas which are benefiting from the proposed net increase are in line with the guidelines and guidances given by the Conference, Council, original Conferences, Committees and the various intergovernmental groups. We therefore will have no other views than those expressed in the document.

The TCP is another element which is also benefiting from the increase. In spite of its support by all developing countries, the TCP's total proportion of the overall budget has gone down to 12.8 percent in the present biennium from its level of 14.1 percent in the biennium before this. The presently proposed minimum increase, which will get it to a bare minimum of 13 percent, is still far less than the previous biennium. I therefore see no significant difficulty in this minimum increase for the programme, whose acceptability has always been possible.

The cost increase which is incorporated into the Programme of Work and Budget accounts for the biennialization of the cost which is incurred in the present biennium, of which 80 percent is going for personnel services and linked to decisions of the UN General Assembly and the International Civil Service Commission.

As this is a specific technical matter based on certain criteria and conditions that need to be fulfilled, I have nothing to say other than indicating the need for presenting details of reasons for the cost increase. Mr. Chairman, whatever increase is reflected in the Summary Programme of

Work and Budget will entail additional contributions from Member Countries. At a time like this when most developing countries are faced with increasing difficulties and economic situations, particularly when production falls short of fulfilling external commitments of debts and debt servicing alone, additional contributions for developing countries is a painful attempt, but the magnitude of demand made on FAO would definitely require beyond those which are requested, and it becomes difficult to say "no" to the request which is less than the demand that we are faced with.

I would therefore like to use this opportunity of expressing my support for the Summary Programme of Work and Budget as contained in document CL 95/3.

Hartawan ADANG (Indonesia): Congratulate the Director-General and Secretariat for the successfully prepared Summary Programme of Work and Budget. We thank and appreciate Mr. Shah and Ambassador Bukhari for highlighting clearly this important agenda item.

The Indonesian delegation is pleased to endorse the Summary Programme and Budget 1990-91 for the full Programme of Work and Budget preparation. A modest cost increase is the best that could be made at this time to meet the felt need of most Member Countries. FAO's technical capacity needs to be restored at a level commensurate with the action and initiation as desired by Member Countries.

On the approach outlined in the Summary Programme, we are fully in agreement with the proposal to direct additional resources to technical and economic programmes of FAO, and reduction in the number of established posts. We would like also to express our endorsement of the priority areas within these programmes, namely; sustainable development; crop/weather monitoring; biotechnology; crop protection; agricultural data development; policy advice; women in development; aquaculture and the Tropical Forestry Action Plan. Besides this, actually we are still concerned with the great number of small farmers and rural youth looking for employment and a better future. We recall that these components of rural society were the themes of World Food Day in the last two years. We are still looking for more effective strategies to solve these problems in rural development.

We still have to pay great attention to developing income-generating activities for the rural poor and creating more job opportunities for them as well.

Indonesia has high hopes on the increased and better policy advice programme, particularly in Agricultural Policy Analysis and Commodity Policies and Trade. The programmes should be strongly accompanied by the training programme to strengthen and improve the national capability in developing possible agricultural and trade policy options. In this connection, we would like to see more TCP used for this purpose.

Finally, we would like to see clearer inter-relationship of cross-sectoral priority areas such as policy advice, sustainable development, women in agriculture and sectoral programme in the full Programme of Work and Budget. Cross-sectoral priority areas should be explicitly specified in each sectoral programme.

Ibrahima KABA (Guinée): La délégation guinéenne félicite M. Shah pour la présentation concise et compréhensible du Sommaire du Programme de travail et budget. Nous n'éprouvons aucune difficulté à soutenir les propositions qui y sont exposées et qui sont le résultat de réflexions approfondies au niveau des instances de notre Organisation.

La fourchette du budget envisagé tient compte des différentes positions des pays membres, ce qui explique la très faible augmentation du budget et la baisse du PCT, que nous regrettons évidemment.

Quant à la hiérarchie des priorités au niveau des programmes, elle prend en considération les préoccupations des Etats Membres. Nous apprécions particulièrement l'attention accordée à la nécessité d'appuyer les programmes d'ajustement structurel auxquels nos pays font face actuellement.

Ainsi, pour notre part, nous pensons que le document représente une base valable permettant à la Conférence de prendre une décision favorable.

Amin ABDEL MALEK (Liban) (langue originale arabe): M. Shah et M. Bukhari, Président du Comité financier méritent d'être remerciés pour la présentation de ce Sommaire du Programme de travail et budget 1990-91.

J'ai participé à la réunion conjointe du Comité financier et du Comité du Programme, qui s'est tenue à la fin du mois de janvier 1989, en qualité de membre du Comité de Programme. J'ai été surpris, d'ailleurs, quand le Directeur général a présenté le Sommaire du Programme de travail et budget pour la prochaine période biennale. Il était clair que le niveau du budget n'avait augmenté que de 1,1 pour cent, alors que nous nous attendions que le Directeur général présente un budget comparable à celui présenté en 1975 pour la période 1976-77, où le budget avait été augmenté de 25 pour cent. Mais lorsque nous avons discuté des différents chiffres, de la modestie des augmentations dans les différents programmes et projets, nous nous sommes aperçus que le Directeur général avait raison lorsqu'il avait décidé une augmentation de 1,1 pour cent, qui est, je le répète, extrêmement faible. Bien que la majorité des membres ait approuvé cette augmentation, certains avaient encore des objections présenter. Nous avons donc adopté et approuvé cette augmentation très réduite qui a été confirmée au mois de mai.

45 millions de dollars ont été coupés dans le budget 1988-89. Le Directeur général a fait tous les efforts possibles pour ne pas devoir emprunter aux banques bien que la Conférence l'ait autorisé à le faire. Il n'a pas voulu avoir recours aux emprunts et a fait de son mieux pour réduire les coûts administratifs et techniques afin de maintenir à flot la situation financière de l'Organisation. Mais pendant combien de temps le Directeur général pourra-t-il continuer de procéder de cette manière?

L'Organisation n'a guère de ressources pour mener à bien les activités qui lui sont demandées par les Etats Membres.

La délégation du Liban appuie les propositions faites par le Directeur général consignées dans le Sommaire du Programme de travail et budget et souhaite exprimer sa gratitude pour les augmentations substantielles proposées pour le Programme de coopération technique car nous pensons que c'est une des réalisations les plus importantes du Directeur général de l'Organisation.

Nous espérons que le Conseil fera sien unanimement ce Sommaire du Programme de travail et budget tel qu'il nous a été présenté.

Je me réserve la possibilité d'intervenir de nouveau si nécessaire.

Ms Bingrn ZHAO (China) (original language Chinese): I should like to thank Mr. Shah for his introduction this morning, and also thank the Chairman of the Finance Committee for his introduction.

The programme of the Finance Committee, which concluded its work recently, undertook a detailed examination of the 1990-91 Programme of Work and Budget. We are in agreement with the report of the Committee. We should now like to offer a few comments on the Summary Programme of Work and Budget.

Firstly, we are in agreement that the level of the budget for the next biennium be increased by 1.1%. For the last two years we have been witnessing disquieting changes in the world food situation, which means that our Organization will face a more difficult task in its struggle against poverty and hunger. The Organization will be expected to adopt more positive measures so as to exercise more forcefully its terms of reference, and to give full play to its role. An appropriate increase of the budget level is an important guarantee that the Organization will play a positive role in promoting food production throughout the world.

Secondly, we are in entire agreement with the further adoption of the past practice, namely, that the net increase be devoted mainly to technical and economic programmes, as well as to the TCP. Stepping up activities in these two programmes is a wise approach. Such an increase will not actually satisfy. However, this increase further embodies the pragmatic and action-oriented policy practised by the Organization for many years.

At the same time we hope that FAO will strive to do more with less money in an effort to seek a better economic return.

Thirdly, with respect to the Programme of Work for the next biennium, the Secretariat has proposed nine priority areas in general. The priorities are in line with the strategic objectives and aims of the Organization.

They are also in conformity with the evolution of the world food situation. We believe that whether for the immediate future or for the longer term, during the process of implementing the strategy we should base ourselves on the basic guiding principle of enhancing the capacity of developing countries to promote farm production.

In the past year the Organization has experienced unprecedented financial difficulties. Reductions were necessary in the Regular Programme of Work and Budget. However, through efforts deployed by those concerned, implementation of the present programme of work is still rather good, in particular, the implementation of technical and economic programmes has obtained relatively satisfactory results.

Of course, one has also to stress the negative impact. From the documentation provided by the Secretariat it can be seen that the situation of the collection of contributions has somewhat improved, reducing gradually the pressure on the financial situation. We hope that countries concerned will pay attention to their financial obligations so as to ensure the smooth functioning of the Organization.

Lastly, we agree that the report should be submitted for examination and adoption by the Conference.

Ki-il CHO (République de Corée): Ma délégation désire se joindre aux autres déléguée pour féliciter le Directeur général et le Secrétariat de l'excellent travail qu'ils ont élaboré. Nous voudrions également vous faire part de la disponibilité entière de notre délégation pour soutenir le Programme de travail et budget 1990-91.

En outre, ma délégation tient à exprimer sa profonde sympathie au Secrétariat pour ses efforts tendant à réduire les dépenses permanentes, y compris les réductions importantes de personnel. Nous souhaitons sincèrement que de telles mesures, si douloureuses soient-elles, qui contraignent à couper des membres de son propre corps, n'entravent pas le fonctionnement de l'Organisation et que la situation soit rétablie prochainement.

La République de Corée juge très opportuns les 9 projets prioritaires qui nous sont présentés en fonction des problèmes de l'agriculture et de l'alimentation mondiale. Nous sommes convaincus que la priorité donnée aux programmes à caractère économique et technique ainsi qu'au PCT, en dépit des difficultés budgétaires extrêmes, renforceront sans aucun doute l'efficacité de l'exécution budgétaire limitée.

Pour terminer ma brève intervention, je soulignerai que le rôle des experts sur le terrain, tels que les agents régionaux et la coopération organique au niveau horizontal parmi les agents, sont essentiels pour assurer le succès des programmes.

LE PRESIDENT: Nous suspendons notre séance 10 minutes en raison de difficultés techniques.

The meeting was suspended from 15.50 to 16.00 hours

La séance est suspendue de 15 h 50 à 16 heures

Se suspende la sesión de las 15.50 a las 16.00 horas

LE PRESIDER: Honorables délégués nous reprenons le cours de nos travaux.

LE SECRETAIRE GENERAL ADJOINT: Je tiens à m'excuser auprès des Membres du Conseil pour l'incident technique que nous venons d'avoir. C'est maintenant réparé.

Yousef Ali Mahmomd HAMD I (Egypt) (original language Arabic): I would like to thank the Chairman of the Finance Committee, Mr. Bukhari, and Mr. Shah, the Assistant Director-General, for their clear introduction of this item. The process of elaborating the Draft Programme and Budget is a very accurate and strenuous process, because the Director-General has to take two important matters into consideration. First, there are the recommendations made by Member Nations during meetings of regional conferences as well as at meetings of the major committees of FAO, such as the Committee on Agriculture, the Committee on Forestry, the Committee on Fisheries, and so on. The second matter is that he has to make sure that the plan is well balanced and that its costs will not go beyond the authorized limits of increase as compared to the base point, that is the budget of the previous biennium, while carrying out the best possible amount of technical programmes. The Director-General and his collaborators have done their best in order to produce a draft that has concentrated on the technical and economic issues involved, taking into account the priorities determined by the Member Nations.

It was necessary that the proposed budget for such programmes be more costly than that of the previous biennium. However, the increase is estimated at 1.1%. If such an increase could have been avoided, of course the Director-General would have done that. We are convinced that this very slight increase can be allowed in order that the Organization should function properly and in order that it can respond to the needs of Member Nations. We know that such requests might require additional resources.

The document relating to the draft Programme of Work and Budget is very clear. It discusses the major programmes as well as Sub-programme. It also covers the previous budget and the coming one, including changes in funding whether they be an increase or a decrease according to priorities. We are very well satisfied with the result.

In conclusion, we welcome the draft Programme of Work and Budget and endorse the priorities included in that Budget, and the budget level proposed in the document.

Roberto E.E. DALTON (Argentina): En primer término, permítame agradecer, tanto al Sr. Shah como al Presidente del Comité de Finanzas, la introducción precisa y metódica que han hecho del tema objeto de nuestra consideración. Como ya lo dijimos en los comités principales al analizar las partes correspondientes del Programa, mi Delegación respalda en términos generales el resumen del Programa y el Presupuesto sometido a consideración del Consejo. Así, apoyamos la decisión del Director General de destinar los incrementos netos a los programas técnicos y económicos de la FAO.

Compartimos la opinión que acaba de manifestar la distinguida Delegación de Brasil, respecto al criterio selectivo de asignación de recursos adicionales a nueve sectores priorizados. Tal como lo señala el informe del Comité de Agricultura, mi Delegación entiende que el orden en que esos sectores son enunciados no significa un orden de prelación. Con muchos de los oradores que me precedieron compartimos el deseo de que se vuelva a dar al PCT un nivel de recursos que permita recuperar el terreno perdido y alcanzar inclusive una expansión de esta fundamental actividad de nuestra Organización.

El Representante de mi país en el Comité del Programa señaló nuestra posición al manifestar que, aun comprendiendo la necesidad de un aumento de los programas hay que tener en consideración las consecuencias que el nivel del Presupuesto que ha sido propuesto, objetivamente mínimo, tendría para las cuotas de los países en desarrollo que enfrentan dificultades económicas y financieras a causa, entre otros factores, de la carga de la deuda externa. Sobre este particular, debemos recordar la escala de cuotas propuestas para el año 1990/91, sobre la base de la Resolución 43/223 de la Asamblea General de las Naciones Unidas, reflejada en el Anexo C del documento CL 95/8. Para los 158 Estados de nuestra Organización, se proponen 53 modificaciones de cuotas: 26 aumentos y 27 disminuciones. Lo curioso es notar el alto número de países en desarrollo cuya cuota se aumentará y el paralelamente alto número de países desarrollados cuya cuota disminuirá. Estimamos importante el apoyo técnico de la FAO a los países que enfrentan problemas por la aplicación de programas de ajuste estructural.

Por último, un breve comentario sobre el nuevo método de presupuestación que estamos ensayando. Mi Delegación estima que, hasta el momento, parece estar dando frutos. Permítame, hacer votos para que su aplicación permita alcanzar un rápido consenso, tanto aquí, en el Consejo, como en la Conferencia.

Jacques WARIN (France): En intervenant sur ce point de l'ordre du jour qui va nous occuper pendant plusieurs demi-journées j'ai bien conscience de toucher à celui de tous les problèmes que nous avons à traiter: le plus important et le plus délicat. Je regrette de ne pas avoir été personnellement présent ce matin lorsque le Sous-Directeur général, Monsieur Shah, a fait la présentation comme à son habitude brillante de ce dossier. Certes, la Conférence de novembre aura à prendre la décision finale d'approbation de budget et de programme de travail pour le prochain biennium mais dès à présent l'orientation que prendra notre Session du Conseil constituera une indication précieuse sur le climat et sur le sens des débats de novembre.

A ce stade, je voudrais me contenter de faire trois catégories de remarques qui portent sur la procédure adoptée sur la substance du programme et enfin sur le pourcentage de hausse retenue pour le budget du biennium 1990-91.

La procédure est entièrement nouvelle. Elle procède d'une décision que nous avons prise, lors de la précédente Conférence, et qui consiste à examiner le projet de budget et de programme, avec l'aide des deux Comités compétents, en plusieurs étapes:

Première étape: une esquisse de dix pages dont nous avons eu connaissance dès le mois de janvier et qui a été examinée, dès cette date, par les deux Comités.

Deuxième étape: un document plus conséquent d'une centaine de pages qui a été soumis aux deux Comités et qui nous est présenté maintenant.

Troisième étape: elle est encore à venir, ce sera un document encore plus substantiel et qui ne sera prêt qu'au mois de septembre.

De cette procédure en trois étapes, c'est, à la vérité seule la première qui est nouvelle. Elle aura eu, à mon sens, un double mérite: celui de permettre au Secrétariat d'affiner progressivement ses propositions, après en avoir discuté avec les représentants les plus qualifiés des Etats Membres, et celui de fournir à ces mêmes Etats Membres l'occasion de mieux cibler les objectifs et les priorités. A cet égard, ma délégation se félicite tout particulièrement de la valeur pédagogique qu'ont eus les entretiens menés entre les Etats Membres, les deux Comités, les représentants du Directeur général et le Directeur général au cours des six mois qui viennent de s'écouler.

Cette procédure me semble avoir fait ses preuves. D'une manière générale, elle augure bien du nouveau climat de dialogue qui s'est instauré entre le Secrétariat de l'Organisation et les Etats Membres et elle devrait permettre d'aboutir plus facilement au consensus souhaité par le Directeur général et auquel nous aspirons tous.

En ce qui concerne le contenu du programme, je me bornerai à trois indications qui concernent les domaines prioritaires, le redéploiement et l'approche intersectorielle.

Pour les domaines prioritaires, je serais tenté de reprendre l'intervention que j'ai faite, 11 y a un mois, devant le Comité de l'agriculture. Ces domaines, au nombre de neuf, sont bien définis. Tout au plus une confusion est-elle entretenue entre, d'une part, de véritables priorités intersectorielles, comme par exemple le développement ou les femmes, et de simples secteurs jugés prioritaires, comme les biotechnologies et le Plan d'action forestier tropical.

Je relèverai ensuite que, mis à part ce dernier domaine prioritaire-le Plan d'action forestier tropical-auquel la France attache une importance particulière, ce ne sont pas dans l'ensemble des domaines inexplorés par l'Organisation. Enfin, 11 y a un domaine sur lequel j'aimerais voir l'Organisation mettre plus particulièrement l'accent: les conseils en matière de politiques agricoles. Le besoin s'en fait notamment sentir dans les pays qui subissent les programmes d'ajustement structurel.

Je sais bien que c'est l'un des neuf domaines retenus: les avis en matière de politique. A cet égard, je relève une petite ambiguïté dans la formulation telle qu'elle apparaît sur la première page-page bleue du document-et à la page 15. Sur la première page, nous lisons "Avis en matière de politiques". A la page 15, dans la version française, nous lisons "Avis politiques". Ce n'est pas tout à fait la même chose. Excusez-moi de le préciser, Monsieur le Président, mais, vous le savez aussi bien que moi, la langue française est une langue extrêmement précise; sachons la respecter.

Pour ce qui est des redéploiements, on ne peut que féliciter le Secrétariat de mettre plus clairement en évidence les transferts de ressources opérés au sein des programmes de l'Organisation-pages 17 et 18 du document. On constatera toutefois qu'il s'agit d'un petit nombre d'amendements mineurs et l'on ne pourra que regretter la timidité des efforts entrepris, dans la mesure où les variations nettes de crédits proposés ne s'effectuent qu'au niveau des sous-programmes et des éléments de programme. Pour en revenir aux avis politiques, ou plutôt aux avis en matière de politiques, les crédits dégagés ne semblent pas dans ce domaine à la hauteur de la priorité désormais reconnue.

On ne peut enfin qu'encourager le Secrétariat à développer l'approche intersectorielle telle qu'elle est évoquée au paragraphe 4.32 de la page 19 du document précité.

Il n'en demeure pas moins que nous nous interrogeons encore sur la méthodologie qui sera appliquée par l'Organisation pour accorder une priorité à des matières aussi générales que, par exemple, l'environnement ou le rôle des femmes dans le processus du développement. Pour des programmes de plus en plus intégrés, 11 est essentiel que des procédures de coordination entre les services de l'Organisation soient mis en place de manière plus systématique.

J'en arrive enfin au problème qui apparaît à beaucoup comme le plus important de ceux que nous traitons aujourd'hui: quel doit être le pourcentage retenu pour l'accroissement du budget prévu pour le biennium 1990-91? La réponse à cette question doit prendre en compte deux catégories de considérations: d'une part, l'attachement proclamé par la plupart des gros contributeurs à la FAO, comme aux autres grandes institutions spécialisées, au principe connu sous le vocable de "croissance zéro"; d'autre part, la nécessité pour l'Organisation, dont les dépenses ont déjà subi au cours des récentes années un certain nombre d'amputations considérables, de se montrer à la hauteur des défis nouveaux qu'elle doit relever.

Le Directeur général, dans son allocution liminaire du 19 juin, nous a bien fait appréhender l'ampleur du problème. Le simple "rattrapage" des économies forcées opérées en 1987 et 1988 l'aurait conduit à nous proposer un budget en accroissement net de 5 pour cent. Pour tenir compte de

l'objection des gros contributeurs, 11 s'est résigné à un accroissement net de l'ordre de 5,5 millions de dollars, soit seulement un pour cent. Encore certains calculs, faisant entrer dans le budget final un montant d'absorption de coûts, notamment sur les consultants et les voyages, devraient-ils conduire, nous dit le Directeur général, à ne retenir qu'un chiffre d'accroissement de 0,45 pour cent.

J'avoue qu'il est difficile, compte tenu de ces imprécisions, de donner une interprétation univoque aux chiffres que nous avons dans le rapport. On va même jusqu'à parler d'une croissance négative. Je suis donc conduit, à ce stade, à prendre une position prudente. Nous ne savons pas encore dans quel délai le paiement des arriérés dus à l'Organisation viendra renflouer ses caisses. Mais nous ne savons pas non plus quelle est la portée réelle d'une augmentation d'un pour cent en regard des effets-largement supérieure-sur le montant final du budget des autres éléments à prendre en compte: biennialisation, accroissement des coûts, ajustement de poste, etc. Aussi bien le Président du Comité financier, M. Bukhari, nous a-t-il dit tout à l'heure qu'une actualisation des chiffres serait nécessaire lors de la présentation du troisième document, en septembre.

Dans l'attente de plus de précisions et quitte à revoir nos estimations en octobre-novembre, j'estime que les propositions contenues dans le document CL 95/3 et qui tablent sur une augmentation nette de ressources d'un pour cent sont raisonnables. Il me semble que nous sommes dans la bonne voie et que le projet de budget qui nous est présenté sur ces bases devrait être de nature à emporter le consensus.

John YENNIMATAS (Greece): The purpose of my intervention is just to give you my overall reaction in a very few lines to the Summary Programme of Work and Budget for the biennium 1990-91. We appreciate the efforts of the Director-General aiming at reconciling the various positions in order to permit the consensus of the Member Nations. I consider that the budget presented to the Council constitutes a realistic approach. As we understood from previous interventions, some countries would like to see a larger programme growth. However, I think that the political approach which has inspired the presentation of the budget will lead to its final approval.

Amor BEN ROMDHANE (Observateur de Tunisie) (langue originale arabe): Monsieur le Président, je suis heureux de vous voir présider avec tant de maîtrise les activités du Conseil. Nous connaissons tous votre compétence et votre sagesse.

Je vous remercie de m'offrir l'occasion de m'adresser à cet honorable Conseil en tant qu'observateur et je tiens à remercier M. Bukhari et M. Shah de leur présentation claire et succincte du sujet en discussion, qui est d'ailleurs un sujet névralgique parmi ceux que nous examinons.

Je voudrais féliciter l'Organisation et, en particulier, le Directeur général, M. Saouma, de leur rôle dans la lutte contre le criquet pèlerin. En coordonnant les divers efforts des pays donateurs et des pays bénéficiaires, l'Organisation a rendu possible la protection des exploitations agricoles dans bon nombre de pays en développement. L'Organisation a préparé-elle en soit remerciée, d'ailleurs-un programme spécial d'alerte et de vigilance afin d'exterminer ce funeste insecte dans les semaines et les mois qui viennent.

Je voudrais parler du nouveau fléau connu en Afrique du Nord, à savoir la mouche américaine du ver tараudeur. A ce sujet, nous nous félicitons du rôle joué par l'Organisation pour faire face à ce nouveau fléau que l'on connaît actuellement en Afrique du Nord et dans certains pays d'Asie. Au nom du Gouvernement tunisien, je tiens à faire l'éloge de la FAO et de ses cadres techniques pour les efforts qu'ils n'ont eu de cesse de déployer contre cette nouvelle menace.

Nous approuvons sans réserve le document portant sur le Programme de travail et budget 1990-91 tout en soulignant que l'augmentation proposée est peut-être trop modeste par rapport aux programmes importants et fondamentaux pour les pays membres et si l'on veut respecter les recommandations de tous les comités techniques, ce qui nous incite à soutenir les efforts du Directeur général visant à accorder une priorité particulière aux programmes de coopération technique eu égard à l'énorme importance de ces programmes pour les pays en développement.

LE PRÉSIDENT: Nous sommes arrivés à la fin des interventions pour aujourd'hui. Afin d'organiser notre travail de demain, je demande aux délégués qui souhaitent intervenir dans ce débat important de bien vouloir contacter M. Tedesco, Secrétaire général adjoint, pour s'inscrire sur la liste des orateurs.

The meeting rose at 16.30 hours.

La séance est levée à 16 h 30.

Se levanta la sesión a las 16.30 horas.

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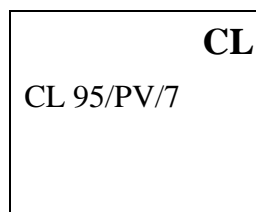
FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

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ORGANIZACION DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS PARA LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION



Ninety-fifth Session

Quatre-vingt-quinzième session

95º período de sesiones

SEVENTH PLENARY MEETING
SEPTIEME SEANCE PLENIERE
SEPTIMA SESION PLENARIA
(22 June 1989)

The Seventh Plenary Meeting was opened at 9.30 hours Lassaad Ben Osman, Independent Chairman of the Council, presiding

La septième séance plénière est ouverte à 9 h 30 sous la présidence de Lassaad Ben Osman, Président indépendant du Conseil

Se abre la séptima sesión plenaria a las 9.30 horas bajo la presidencia de Lassaad Ben Osman, Presidente Independiente del Consejo

IV. PROGRAMME, BUDGETARY, FINANCIAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS (cont'd)

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

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

14. Summary Programme of Work and Budget 1990-91 (cont'd)

14. Sommaire du Programme de travail et budget 1990-91 (suite)

14. Resumen del Programa de Labores y Presupuesto (continuación)

Hamm HALINEN (Finland): On this item I have the honour to speak on behalf of the Nordic countries. We consider that the recently adopted process of giving the Programme and Finance Committees enhanced possibilities to discuss the draft Programme of Work and Budget certainly facilitates the decision-making process biennially, which will give an appropriate basis for the preparation of the full Programme of Work and Budget which we hope will lead to a consensus solution at the next Conference.

Priorities and priority setting within FAO have been the main topic of discussion within the Nordic countries for a number of years. On several occasions we have already stressed that to be done prudently, priority setting requires a medium-term perspective. Therefore, we are concerned that the summary contains no indications as to medium-term activities, and hope that this can be changed in the future. We should spend more time discussing FAO's medium-term activities and less time discussing the coming biennium of the Programme of Work and Budget. We welcome the fact that the Programme of Work and Budget contains a concentrated set of priority areas for the next biennium. However, knowing that sustainable development, policy advice and women in development are set as individual priorities per se, we wish to stress that these themes should be considered and reflected in all aspects of the work of FAO, and not interpreted merely as separate priorities. Furthermore, we would raise some questions regarding the analytical bases for selecting priorities.

First, have they been selected in a concentrated and integrated manner within the framework of the overall view of the activities of FAO, or on an ad hoc basis? Next, what is the compatibility and inter-relationship between them, if any? -and finally, are the additional allocations to these priorities distributed in a coordinated way and clearly reflected in the budget proposals, thus justifying the special priority labelling?

May I now turn to some specific questions. Contributing to sustainable development as defined in the Report of the World Commission on Environment and Development is at the core of the mandate of FAO. These problems are often of a transboundary nature and are particularly relevant in relation to agriculture, forestry and fisheries, which makes FAO a key agency for the enhancement of sustainable development. Therefore, we give our support to this priority.

Integrating environmental considerations more adequately in development efforts, as a basic concern, represents a particular challenge to FAO, as it requires a strongly integrated multidisciplinary approach, as stressed by the 94th Session of the Council. To achieve this, it is necessary to take specific action. We therefore welcome the introduction of the new Sub-Programme 2.1.1.6, "Sustaining Resource Potentials". We note that the purpose of this Sub-Programme is partly to make the efforts of FAO in this area more visible, and also to link activities in other units conceptually to the benefits of the new Sub-Programme. However, we would like to have more information on how these links are related to the work of the Environment and Energy Programmes Coordinating Centre.

The Council stressed FAO's important role in planning processes at global, regional and national levels. In this context, the contribution of FAO to the development of national conservation strategies was underlined. Experience so far shows that the strategies produced for the agricultural, fisheries and to some extent forestry sectors do not carry the weight they deserve in the overall picture. This should be given higher priority than seems to be the case in the Programme of Work and Budget.

The increased awareness of the pressing need to improve the management of natural resources and reverse the present rapid environmental degradation also represents a challenge to review mechanisms for integrating environmental concerns and to adapt programmes and project activities. Understandably, this major task is not fully undertaken in the preparation of the Summary Programme of Work and Budget. Therefore, we draw attention to the resolution on sustainable agriculture adopted by the UNEP Governing Council on 25 May this year. The resolution recommends that a joint UNEP/FAO meeting on sustainable agriculture be convened within the framework of the preparation of the proposed UN 1992 Conference with a view to reviewing the mechanism for integrating agricultural production and environmental policies world-wide, to elaborate a world strategy for sustainable agriculture and to formulate practical action that might be taken by UNEP, FAO and others within the context of their ongoing activities. We believe such an initiative will prove particularly valuable and suggest that the FAO Council supports the action recommended by the UNEP Governing Council.

The integration of women in development was discussed at length during the last session of the Council, and the approved Plan of Action was to be implemented within the mainstream of FAO activities, funded from the Regular Programme. The Council stated that the Programme of Work and Budget 1990-91 should take into account the implementation of the Plan.

Therefore, we are pleased to note that women in development has been listed as one of the nine programme priorities. However, we are concerned that this is not clearly reflected in the detailed description of the major programmes or their sub-programmes. In fact, women are hardly mentioned except in Sub-Programme 2.1.5.4, Women in Agriculture and Rural Development, which includes the establishment of a new P-4 post.

The Nordic countries pointed out this seeming discrepancy already in the COFI session in April 1989, and it applies also to the two other major programmes, Agriculture and Forestry.

The Summary Programme in paragraph 4.33 explains that it is not possible to add special sections dealing with cross-sectoral priorities such as women-in-development, given constraints of space and the status of programme formulation at the stage of summary. Noting the fact that Member Governments have expressed interest in being apprised of the extent of attention given to these priorities and further noting that ways to present these will be considered for the full Programme of Work and Budget document, we are looking forward to relevant presentations to be included in the full Programme.

The Nordic countries also wish to stress the importance of the updated Plan of Action clarifying more specific action areas needed and the progress report on the implementation of the Resolution at the next Conference.

The role of FAO in giving policy advice has been consistently emphasized by the Nordic countries. Here, as before, we have to ask: what warrants, in concrete terms, the priority status to the policy advice? Among major programmes, in Agriculture there are a number of shifts between the sub-programmes, without any significant increase in total allocation for policy advisory activities. In Fisheries, there are not even shifts, and in Forestry, there is a clear decrease in resource allocation for these purposes. As for the Headquarters personnel, the Policy Analysis Division is proposed to get one additional person, a P-4 Economist, while losing three, a Research Assistant and two other GS posts.

The Summary clearly reflects the readiness of the Organization to step up the policy advisory role of FAO in member countries, especially in connection with adjustment processes. To achieve this goal, we would like to distinguish two key areas, both of which are irreplaceable links in the chain. At the centre, the capacity of policy analysis is to be strengthened in order to give adequate backstopping to the field. At the country level, the FAO Representatives are to be provided with technical tools and entrusted with intellectual capabilities necessary to carry out their policy advisory tasks.

In general, we agree with the Summary stating that "the consolidation and strengthening of the existing FAO country representatives scheme will be a major concern." To be able to do this, we see a need for thorough discussion and clarification of the division of work between the Regional Offices and the country offices as well as cooperation and coordination with other country representatives at the country level.

To enable us to comment more on this issue, we would hope for a clearer presentation of the work and role of the Regional Offices. It would be helpful, for example, if the provision table for the Regional Offices at the end of the Summary would include, as elsewhere, the allocations for the preceding biennium.

Fisheries is a field where we see a particular justification for regional activities. We note with satisfaction that this, to a large extent, is reflected in the proposals. We also support aquaculture as one of the priorities, extending further the desirable global coordination approach in the fisheries sector.

Forestry has always been of special importance to the Nordic countries. This emphasis will continue. Therefore, we cannot be completely satisfied with the Summary proposals in this field. The share of forestry in the budget as a whole remains the same, although the Council at its last session clearly decided otherwise. And here I quote, "it agreed in particular with the Committee's recommendation that FAO allocate an increased share of its Regular Programme budget to forestry activities." We welcome especially the proposed increased resources for the Tropical Forestry Action Plan, which we feel are fully warranted. TFAP remains the example for an integrated, cross-sectoral approach within FAO which is, as we sincerely hope, showing the way to other concentrated efforts, for instance, in the form of Special Actions Programmes in the future. However, we would like to get some further clarification on how many important and valuable programmes are being covered, whether under the TFAP umbrella or outside of it. These include

forest harvesting and transport, appropriate wood harvesting systems, forest policies and Information, planning for fuel wood, forest policy analysis, Information materials and community forestry development, which are all subject to major budget cuts in the Summary.

We acknowledge the value of the TCP programme as such, to meet the need of member countries for urgent and small-scale assistance. At the same time, we stress that the activities under the Programme be in conformity with the priorities of the Regular Programme. The activities initiated under the TCP should be of such a nature that they can continue under the umbrella of the Regular Programme.

While we are looking at the development of the programme from this point of view, we find the rationale given for the proposed increase of this programme—that the level should be commensurate with requirements—somewhat lacking.

These are only a few remarks on a comprehensive and rather complex Summary Programme of Work and Budget. In the light of the ongoing review process, they understandably can only be regarded as preliminary. The consideration of the full Programme of Work and Budget is, to a large extent, subject to the outcome of the process, which cannot now be prejudged. However, the Nordic countries are confident that adjustments agreed upon could be attainable within existing resources.

II ja HULINSKY (Czechoslovakia): Mr Chairman, permit me a few comments on the Summary Programme of Work and Budget for 1990-91.

Firstly, on the procedure, it goes from the documentation before this Council's session that a new procedure has been applied in preparation of the Summary Programme of Work and Budget for 1990-91. According to the document CL 95/4, the new procedure had been introduced on an experimental basis only. The Joint Programme and Finance Committees were not in a position to recommend its continuation beyond 1990-91. As for the Czechoslovak delegation, we will endorse the continuation of the process approved by the Council at its 94th Session, especially should it be clear from the outcome of the 25th General Conference that the new procedure would pave the way for consensus at the Conference. It is our understanding that similar procedures are being implemented by other UN specialized agencies.

Secondly, on "Evolution of FAO's Approved Budget in Programme and Financial Terms", let me start with mentioning the obvious fact that Czechoslovakia has always been supporting the interests of developing countries in FAO's providing a variety of growing technical assistance to them. The Czechoslovak contribution to FAO in convertible currencies is much higher than that to other specialized UN agencies. We fulfil our financial obligations strictly, regularly and in due time.

That is why we have to express our serious concern with the continuous contradiction between FAO's budget and the actual incomes. The table on the second blue page of document CL 95/3 regarding the evolution of FAO's Approved Budget in Programme and Financial Terms reflects only part of this contradiction. We appreciate the Director-General's efforts to ensure the required cash flow, but we do not share the optimism that the unfortunate pressure upon the Organization will be removed soon. In fact, the budgetary differences are larger than the actual reduction of the Programme by \$ 25 or 20 million in the last two two-year periods.

On the other hand, we have noted that there was a reversal of the negative trend in the FAO/UNDP programme delivery in 1988 initiated at the start of the decade. We believe it to be a source of a financial improvement of the Organization's situation. Moreover, there are countries which exhibit some accumulation of their Government's voluntary contributions to the UNDP. According to our opinion, FAO should do more than it has done until now within the IPF for a utilization of these potential additional resources following the example of UNIDO and WHO. These resources can cover both the material supplies and the services to field programmes, apart from the possibility of being used for FAO's training programmes.

Thirdly, on staff policy, more than half of the FAO budget is actually directed to Personal Services. We have always doubted the value of the permanent contracts in some professional categories, and we believe that our attitude has proved to be right during the past two programme and financial periods. In the system of permanent contracts, the Organization can hardly react flexibly to new requirements without social consequences. The WHO has used effectively a different system for a number of years. We are of the opinion that the three-year contract with prolongation to five years should become a rule for the newly recruited professional staff. The positive results can be easily calculated.

On the selected priorities, my delegation endorses the nine priority areas under Chapter 2 selected to benefit from the proposed net increased allocations. The proposed priorities are obviously based on analysis of the conclusions of FAO Governing Bodies, particularly the main technical committees. We have no intention to propose any new ones. But while taking into account that in accordance with the guidance from the Conference, Council and Regional Conferences, the requirements of the small farm sector will remain of primary concern, we would welcome that assistance of FAO be increased to the large farming sector, especially to meet the growing demand for information related to management techniques and economic viability of large farm units.

On some technical and economic programmes, in carrying out its programmes and activities on sustainable development, FAO is confronting the fact that environment has become one of the very serious global problems. We have accumulated a considerable, often bitter experience in Central Europe, regarding the effect of development on the environment.

Czechoslovakia therefore subscribes to the view that environmental impact study should be an integral part of every development project with potential effect on the environment. That should not only strengthen the project proposals but speed up their approval process as well.

Regarding the remote sensing, Czechoslovakia fully supports the increased emphasis of FAO on activities related to food security. Recognizing the importance of remote sensing for improving the information on land resources and their changes, such as land use, land degradation, crop acreages, deforestation, etc., and in view of the proposed budget reduction for remote sensing, education and training, my Government offered to jointly organize with FAO and other interested parties remote sensing training courses for developing countries in Czechoslovakia. We consider it to be the first practical step in preparing the project document for the establishment of a sub-regional institutional network for agricultural applications of remote sensing in Central Europe. The main objective of the proposed network is to speed up development of remote sensing techniques appropriate for agriculture in European conditions through the exchange of experience and cooperation in research and training. It would also continue to provide assistance to developing countries through the organization of training courses and advisory services.

Czechoslovakia welcomes the innovative proposals for starting the FAO programme dealing with non-infectious production diseases aimed at the reduction of food losses due to animal diseases. FAO emergency measures following the confirmation of the presence of the screwworm fly in North Africa have demonstrated the ability of the Organization to react promptly and in a proper way. The main technical responsibility in this field lies with the Animal Health Service where the freezing of vacant professional posts has resulted in making it difficult to cope with all the Regular Programme activities both with regard to field projects backstopping as well as emergency situations. As a result of the Director-General's decision to start defreezing professional posts, the staff situation in the technical divisions and services will hopefully improve. But the processes for filling vacant posts should be made more flexible, at least as a temporary measure. Special assistance should be given to those units responsible for FAO emergency action programmes in order to fill all vacant posts on three years' contracts with prolongation to five years, as I have mentioned above with the very minimum of delay.

As I have already stated, Czechoslovakia firmly supports the FAO's programmes and activities related to farming systems development. As a matter of fact we do share the position explained on page 41 of document CL 95/3 that it is necessary for FAO to meet the growing demand of member countries for information related to management techniques of large farms. We suggest also that the FAO assistance provided to the large-scale farming sub-sector in developing countries be strengthened so as the large farm units should become economically viable. The FAO should provide for the exchange of experiences and management practices of large farms operating in different member countries. That is why Czechoslovakia strongly suggests that the full Programme and Budget 1990-91 has to reflect the above-mentioned notions in even more concrete terms as does the document CL 95/3.

Let me add one general remark to Chapter 2 of Summary Programme of Work and Budget. Czechoslovakia attaches great importance to the FAO field activities, the cornerstone of the cooperation between FAO and developing countries. We subscribe to the view of the Group of 77 that "FAO should strengthen its field programme and thus improve its efficiency and effectiveness".

On TCP. The Technical Cooperative Programme has obviously proved to be efficient. As this programme is intended mainly for unexpected, urgent needs, for small-scale action preferably for the economically weakest member countries, we would suggest to indicate in the commentary to the full Programme of Work and Budget the distribution of TCP among the least developed countries in percentages out of the total costs. The FAO should explain the decrease in the proportion of the emergency cases which dropped to 21.5 percent in 1988, and to specify what are the two projects exceeding \$ 250 000 mentioned on page 119 of document CL 95/3 with the indication whether they could be covered by the UNDP contribution or not.

On the FAO's regional activities in Europe, at this stage I shall limit my comments on the European part of Summary Programme of Work and Budget to the general remark of principle. Because of the very limited share out of the total budget covering the FAO's regional activities in Europe, the Czechoslovakian delegation recommends to include into the full Programme of Work and Budget only the programmes and activities involving the whole of Europe. It means only those in which all European countries are interested, or at least an overwhelming majority of them. At the same time we would suggest to coordinate more effectively the European activities of FAO with those of the UN Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) in the field of agriculture and nutrition. For that purpose we think it would be useful to discuss this matter at the next European Regional Conference to be held in Venice next year.

Finally Mr Chairman, one very concrete demand. As to the Chapter "Major Programme 2.3 Forestry" Sub-programme 2.3.2.7 Europe (page 108 of the document CL 95/3)", we would ask for a specification in the full Programme of Work and Budget what kind of study is meant by "next study on long-term prospects".

On the activities of Regional Offices and Country Representatives, Czechoslovakia subscribes to the view that regional offices should work in close relations with the UN Regional Commissions. The better coordination of the headquarters, regional offices and representatives in local offices is also to be required as well as the better cooperation between UNDP and FAO representatives. We have doubts about the usefulness of global meetings of FAO representatives which are very costly and are associated with high travel costs as well as administrative expenditures. In this connection we understand the concern expressed by the group of Nordic countries that country offices' resources are spent too broadly, and we understand also their suggestion for a redefinition of the role of the FAO representatives.

Lastly, Mr Chairman, on the proposed budget level. The Czechoslovak delegation is aware of the fact that the proposed budget level had been formulated with the intent of leading to a consensus. While reserving our definitive position for the Twenty-fifth Conference of FAO, my delegation would like to express its general support for the Summary Programme of Work and Budget. We agree with the recommendation contained in the paragraph 1.10 of the document 95/8 that the Council should request the Director-General to proceed with the preparation of the full Programme of Work and Budget on the basis of the document CL 95/3 while taking into consideration the views expressed by the Council Members. I thank you, Mr Chairman.

Daniel D. C. DON NANJIRA (Kenya): Sir, we are in the second day of our deliberations of a very important item on our agenda at this session of the Council. I have already expressed my delegation's appreciation to the FAO Director-General for his introductory statement which actually described to us the critical financial situation that the Organization is going through.

Yesterday afternoon, also, Mr Chairman, Mr Shah of the FAO, and my very good friend His Excellency Ambassador Bukhari, Chairman of the Finance Committee, made important introductory statements which we noted carefully and for which now I wish to thank them.

Mr Chairman, we are all agreed, I think, that FAO is undergoing a critical financial situation. I think also that we are all agreed that the Director-General is doing everything he can to contain this crisis. I believe furthermore, sir, that nobody in this hall would dispute the fact that for FAO - and for that matter any other UN agency - to perform its tasks competently the Organization must have the necessary and adequate resources. What we are still to reach a consensus upon, however, is how to alleviate the situation and ensure that FAO's work is not hampered. This is the challenge that is on our table today.

Payments of contributions must be made that would at least reduce FAO's straitened fiscal standing. On the substantive issues on the agenda items for discussion this morning, the Kenya delegation attaches the greatest of importance to the sub-programme on livestock. We welcome the sub-components focusing on grassland, forage and feed resources, animal health and genetics. We believe there is still room for transfers and adjustments to increase resources to livestock components in order to enable a more effective development of rangelands and animal feeds. In the latter case, every effort should be made to obtain alternative commodities that do not compete with staple foods. The development of animal feeds for many countries would expand the livestock resources, especially of the dairy sector, of pork and of small ruminants. This would also help reduce protein deficiencies, among other things, in developing nations.

We therefore reiterate our support here, which we first voiced during the session of the IGG on Meat and its Sub-Committee on Hides and Skins, where strong recommendations were made to increase support for training, for example, in meat technology and for quality production. It is regrettable that these views have not been sustained.

My delegation notes with concern the reduction in emphasis in the control of rinderpest and foot-and-mouth disease. The screwworm threat in Africa is also very serious, and, unless timely and effective measures are taken to contain these threats it will be very difficult and even too late to solve the problems posed in that regard to the African countries. We believe it is essential that concrete action be taken at national, sub-regional, regional and International levels to address these problems.

My delegation, in general, supports the proposals in the Secretariat documentation relating to plant genetics, including animal genetics, and aquaculture, under the fisheries sector the Council discussed yesterday morning, and the development of marine fisheries, especially within the 200-mile exclusive zone, which requires surveillance and protection. In discussing the subject yesterday morning a number of delegations expressed views that are shared by this delegation. We deem it necessary that research and development on marine fisheries be made and that the appropriate financial and technical assistance that is required be made available in order to enable the developing nations to actively explore, exploit, develop and utilize more extensively fisheries resources, which provide food security and offer good protein intake for both human and animal feeds. The resources and species also need to be researched, and information on them should also be made available and disseminated as widely as possible. These resources also need to be conserved, and the use of their products in food components should be made on a wider scale. Similarly, fisheries species not usually popular for human consumption should be used in animal feed industries.

More information, especially on natural resources, inland fisheries and aquaculture, as well as training in marine fishery development, is essential.

On natural resources, the sub-programme also deserves our special attention, particularly in respect of sub-Saharan Africa where development of water for irrigation, for human and livestock consumption remains very critical. The development and settlement of many of the lands in Africa can be obtained effectively through the provision of water. It is because of this that we call upon the FAO to maintain a high priority for water development and for assisting concerned countries to formulate and implement sound management policies and programmes on water development. In our opinion, Mr Chairman, support to small-farm irrigation development in Africa should be maintained.

With regard to fertilizers, soil management and plant nutrition activities, we support the idea of grouping them together because of their interrelated nature.

With regard to crops, the reduction in the activities supporting training in plant genetic resources is regrettable. The developing countries need that type of training and we hope that the Commission on Plant Genetic Resources will be strengthened even more.

Stress should also be placed on crop protection, through which post-harvest losses would be halted. This will, inter alia, require post-harvest pest management and vertebrate pest management. It will also be necessary to maintain on-farm storage and farm structures. This will enable farmers to maintain sufficient stocks for their families, to regulate produce sales to achieve the best returns from the markets, and thereby reduce the cost to government for storage of short-term needs.

On forestry resources, we welcome the proposed FAO significant resource increases. The forestry programme should also benefit from the natural resources component. Protection and conservation of the environment also requires that forests be protected from fires and from phyto-sanitary complications.

The programme on mangrove management should feature more prominently since mangrove forests offer a unique ecology including the natural habitat for lobster production.

Biotechnology is another area of interest to my delegation. We attach considerable significance to the strengthening of the national capacities of the developing nations. This can and should be done inter alia through the maintenance and strengthening of applied research, especially in support of national institutions and also in regard to arid and semi-arid areas. We believe that research is required in drought-escaping crops. The improvement of rangelands is necessary, as is the development of appropriate farming systems in arid and semi-arid lands, especially of sub-Saharan Africa.

With regard to support programmes, we attach great importance to the work of the FAO Investment Centre which has just celebrated its Silver Jubilee. We deem it essential that the activities of the Centre be strengthened even more, especially in the field of training planners of developing countries and in providing advice on investment in the private and public sectors of our economies. The Centre should also step up its activities through workshops and seminars for officials from developing countries.

To sum up, this august body is meeting at a very critical time in the life of FAO. The world's poor and malnourished are on the increase. The world population is constantly on the increase, and so long as population growth outpaces food and agricultural production, our problems are bound to get worse.

The problems of debt, debt servicing and structural adjustment do not seem to be abating. Then there are the problems of disasters, including the locust menace in Africa and elsewhere, and environmental degradation. All of these difficulties pose serious challenges to the international community and to individual governments, including my own. Their durable resolution can only be achieved through concerted International action, among others, through the FAO.

It seems to me that, given the reports of the Secretariat submitted on the items for discussion and the recommendations contained therein, and the majority support shown so far by the delegations, this Council should at its current session endorse the Summary Work Programme and Budget of FAO for 1990-91. The Council should also endorse the new approach to FAO's Programme of Budget process in order to see whether it could be sustained on a longer term basis.

The Kenya delegation is one of the delegations in favour of increasing resources for TCP activities in developing nations. We believe that the selection of sustainable development, crop/weather monitoring, biotechnology, crop protection, agricultural data development, policy advice, women in development, aquaculture and the Tropical Forestry Action Plan as priority areas of action was a good one, even though the sequential enumeration does not in any way signify the importance of those sectors in that order.

The Council should further endorse the priorities as agreed by the Programme and Finance Committees at their 56th and 64th sessions respectively.

In like manner, the Kenya delegation in general agrees with the proposal to devote attention of resources to technical and economic programmes, and we pay special attention to the programme components outlined in pages 9-25 of the report of the Programme and Finance Committees as contained in document CL 95/8. All of the programme components on agriculture, natural resources, crops, livestock, research and technology development, rural development, nutrition, food and agricultural information analyses, food and agricultural policy, fisheries and forestry are very important to my delegation.

Last, but not least, the Kenya delegation welcomes with appreciation the assurance that Africa will retain priority attention, and we look forward to witnessing emphasis by the FAO on those activities in Africa which have not hitherto received the priority treatment that they deserve.

I hope that this Council will give clear policy guidelines to the FAO so that FAO can prepare a full Work Programme and Budget for the 1990-91 biennium.

LE SECRETAIRE GENERAL ADJOINT: Je suis désolé d'interrompre cette discussion très importante mais on m'informe que le nombre de réponses reçues pour l'excursion à Arezzo et Loro Ciuffenna est assez bas. Je ne vous cache pas que nous sommes un petit peu déçus car nous aurions souhaité plus de réponses à la généreuse invitation des autorités Italiennes.

Il s'agit d'une excursion très agréable qui a été organisée spécialement pour vous, participants, délégués et observateurs de cette session du Conseil. Je voudrais par conséquent vous inviter cordialement à vous inscrire et, avec votre permission, Monsieur le Président, je vais donner quelques renseignements supplémentaires.

Tout d'abord, je peux vous garantir que le temps sera beau; nous avons pris des dispositions pour cela. Et quand le temps est beau, l'Italie est très belle. Etant donné que, pour visiter Arezzo et Loro Cluffenna, vous avez des guides locaux, vous aurez l'occasion de voir des monuments qui ne sont généralement pas ouverts aux touristes normaux. Je peux aussi vous garantir une excellente nourriture parce que, en Toscane, on mange très bien et, en Italie, la Toscane est renommée pour sa cuisine.

Et surtout, nous ne voulons décevoir ni les autorités locales, qui ont déployé des efforts considérables pour organiser cette excursion, ni nos collègues membres du chœur de la FAO, qui se sont préparés avec diligence pour vous faire écouter un concert d'un niveau élevé. Et puis, ne nous découragez pas d'organiser d'autres excursions dans le futur.

Je sais que nous pouvons compter sur une adhésion plus enthousiaste. La date limite est aujourd'hui, 14 h 30, pour que nous puissions prendre les arrangements voulus avec les autorités locales.

Eduardo PESQDEIRA OLEA (México): Me complace, Sr. Presidente, hacer uso de la palabra sobre este tema inmediatamente después que nuestro país vecino y espero que con nuestros comentarios demos una muestra más de las buenas relaciones que existen entre ambos países.

La delegación mexicana felicita a los Comités y de Programa de Finanzas por el excelente trabajo realizado y a la Secretaría por la presentación de los documentos, cuyo formato y bien destacado temario permite un análisis muy comprensivo de los mismos. Complace ver los esfuerzos que cada día realiza la Organización para dar una imagen clara y transparente de cómo se constituye y cómo se aplica el Programa y el Presupuesto.

Como lo señalara el Director General en su discurso inaugural el futuro de la Organización lo estamos modelando ahora con la preparación del Programa de Labores y Presupuesto para 1990/91; por lo tanto es una tarea que tenemos que hacerla con espíritu abierto, comprensión y congruencia, y con la convicción de que de nuestro debate depende la preservación misma de esta nuestra maravillosa Organización, a la cual debemos aprestarnos a defender con todos nuestros recursos. Repito, todos nuestros recursos, entendiéndolo por ello dinero y voluntad.

De una parte, la magnitud de los problemas agrícolas y alimentarios que vivimos exigen que la Organización dé una respuesta rápida y eficiente para atender a los múltiples y variados problemas, particularmente en los países en desarrollo, pero como la FAO lleva a cabo acciones de gran interés para los países industrializados, necesitamos pues una FAO fuerte para todos.

El Director General nos ha presentado una propuesta que denota verdaderos malabarismos tratando de satisfacer a todos en búsqueda de un consenso que le dé verdadera fuerza y estabilidad a la Organización y a su gestión. Nuestra función es dar luces a través de un diálogo constructivo, buscando compromisos; sin embargo el clima no escasea de incertidumbres.

Ante un entorno de hambre y desnutrición creciente, de una dificultad cada vez mayor de nuestros países para tener acceso a los alimentos, porque el peso de la deuda consume todas las divisas para su pago, el mercado es manipulado con prácticas proteccionistas, la inflación y la crisis desincentivan la producción de nuestros agricultores, en su mayoría dependientes de factores climáticos sin tecnología ni insumos.

Es, pues, lamentable que ahora países que lo pueden hacer, cuando menos muchos de ellos, condicionen la ayuda para el desarrollo. Se ataca al sistema multilateral y se cuestiona a nuestra Organización cuya función es la de apoyar a los países en desarrollo para su autosuficiencia alimentaria y mejorar la agricultura mundial y las condiciones de vida de los campesinos y de los consumidores, garantizar verdaderamente la paz a través del pan, garantizar la supervivencia del género humano. Desalienta tener que luchar para alcanzar un mínimo de programa y de presupuesto, el cual se ve posteriormente recortado y ejercido con incertidumbre y con insuficiencia.

Hay la tendencia de preferir la ayuda alimentaria que permite colocar excedentes que con frecuencia afectan hábitos alimentarios y productivos, que reflejan la imagen misericordia de dar de comer al hambriento para sentir la conciencia feliz por el aplauso logrado por los medios de comunicación. Los programas de asistencia al desarrollo dan frutos lentos y a largo plazo, se adelanta y se retrocede, se requiere de articulaciones difíciles que maduran lentamente, dan lugar a muchas críticas y a pocos elogios, desaniman con frecuencia a los técnicos que han comenzado ya el éxodo por la incertidumbre que vive la Organización. Pero el hecho de que las voces de los países en desarrollo, que nos beneficiamos de los programas y trabajos de la FAO, estemos aquí luchando por esos programas, significa que eso es lo que queremos porque es lo que necesitamos y eso tendría que contar para la Comunidad Internacional.

Desde 1987 la Organización no ha podido cumplir con su programa porque ha tenido que aplicar recortes debidos a las presiones financieras que ha recibido. En ese año se recortaron 25 millones de dólares; en 1988, 20 y en lo que va del año 1989, 15 millones más. El Director General nos dice que estamos en un período de frágil paso a la convalecencia financiera, ya que tenemos facturas pendientes por 160 millones de dólares. Por más optimistas que queramos mostrarnos no podemos dejar de señalar el impacto que ha causado en los países y en la moral del personal y de las delegaciones ante este Organismo.

La magnitud de los ajustes efectuados hasta el momento en los programas, y las repercusiones negativas ya existentes, así como las futuras probables, la interrupción de programas, la fuga de personal preparado y la congelación de puestos, no pueden considerarse ahorros, sino serlas pérdidas que aunque tuviésemos el dinero mañana no habremos de recuperar sino en varios años. Asimismo la asistencia técnica que se nos ha tenido que diferir o negar a nuestros países ha llevado consigo desprestigio y malestar.

La delegación mexicana, Sr. Presidente, considera que el Consejo debe responder positivamente al llamamiento que nos hace el Director General al presentar la propuesta de programa y presupuesto. Nos ha indicado haberlo hecho con cierto dolor y opresión sin haber ahorrado ningún esfuerzo en aras de la búsqueda de un consenso, está invitando a un compromiso en el que, a decir verdad, los países en desarrollo tenemos que ceder sobre los aspectos que necesitamos para el desarrollo de nuestras clases tan necesitadas. Para los países desarrollados estos ajustes representan únicamente adaptaciones político-administrativas de cómo colocar las grandes cantidades de que disponen para la asistencia como efecto de porcentajes de sus altísimos productos internos.

Las argumentaciones que aquí hemos escuchado nos preocupan seriamente porque el concepto de fijación de prioridades es más bien una forma de imposición de estas. Mi gobierno, Sr. Presidente, considera que cuando se habla de la permanencia o eliminación de programas para adecuar los trabajos de nuestra Organización a las disponibilidades presupuestales, lo que debemos tener en cuenta es la prioridad que asignan los estados receptores a esos programas en función de sus políticas y planes nacionales y no un simple recorte en virtud de grandes intereses comerciales de poderosos o de capitales transnacionales. Son los países receptores los que deben decidir respecto de la prioridad de los programas que concertan con la FAO. Por ello creemos que la reflexión se impone y de manera cortés, pero firmemente, invitamos a todos a hacer un esfuerzo de entendimiento y solidaridad. Algunas veces se ataca al sistema multilateral y a la FAO cuya función es apoyarnos. Por otra parte hay que señalar respecto de las prioridades que la programación multilateral de nuestros países impide ajustar nuestras acciones a las prioridades fijadas por agencias o intereses distintos a los nuestros.

Después de esta introducción que ha tomado un tiempo que preferimos usar en justificar nuestros apoyos a los rubros programáticos, pero que creímos necesario repetir buscando fórmulas de concertar voluntades, paso a dar el voto aprobatorio de mi Gobierno a la propuesta del Programa y Presupuesto que se nos ha sometido, permítaseme, sin embargo, hacer algunas consideraciones sobre criterios a ciertos elementos del Programa que nos merecen particular atención.

En términos generales, Sr. Presidente, a mi delegación le parecen afortunados los planteamientos fundamentales del documento, tanto en lo que se refiere a criterios generales, como al aumento de los recursos para los Programas técnicos y económicos, como Agricultura, Pesca y Montes. Consideramos, sin embargo, que en el caso del Programa de Cooperación Técnica, el aumento es muy insuficiente, ya que se trata de un programa sumamente valioso que permite sentar las bases de proyectos de amplia magnitud, así como por su acción catalítica en la solución de problemas específicos que con frecuencia se presentan en el sector de la producción de alimentos en los países en desarrollo.

Estamos también de acuerdo con los criterios seguidos en las asignaciones a las nueve esferas prioritarias señaladas en el párrafo 4.6, en particular los relativos a biotecnología, protección de cultivos, plan de acción forestal tropical, el programa de la mujer en el desarrollo y la acuicultura.

En lo que respecta al Programa principal de agricultura, fundamental en las operaciones de la FAO, consideramos importante el reforzamiento de los programas de fertilizantes, el apoyo a los países en los planes y políticas integrales de riego y agricultura, con el fin de hacer más eficientes los sistemas e impedir el deterioro de suelos.

Con relación a los cultivos, consideramos necesario mantener enfoques integrados de plagas, así como un control preciso de las implicaciones del uso de plaguicidas y pesticidas. En materia de investigación, consideramos necesario impulsar el área de la biotecnología, tanto en el sector agrícola como en el ganadero y la transferencia a los países en desarrollo.

En lo relativo al Programa de Ganadería es muy importante que en materia de sanidad animal, se revitalice la capacitación a los productores en aspectos de prevención y control de enfermedades, con una orientación al manejo de ganado y de las áreas de pastoreo. Consideramos que este es un importante campo para la CTPD, que la FAO debe fomentar y en la que México está dispuesto a participar, ya hemos expresado, Sr. Presidente, el apoyo del Gobierno mexicano en la lucha contra el gusano barrenador del ganado. Actualmente trabajan en Libia técnicos mexicanos con ese propósito.

Sobre el fomento de la carne, debe considerarse prioritario el apoyo al fomento de pequeños rumiantes, aves y cerdos en sistemas de producción de traspatio que contemplen como puntos importantes el uso de esquilmos y sus productos agrícolas, así como sanitarias.

En lo que respecta al Programa de Montes, reiteramos nuestro apoyo a la orientación que se observa en esta materia, a partir del Plan de Acción Forestal Tropical. México se ha integrado plenamente a este programa.

En materia de recursos de pastizales, forrajes y piensos, sugerimos que la FAO dé prioridad al establecimiento y formación de semilleros de plantas forrajeras adaptadas a cada región o autóctonas de las mismas, así como a la formación de bancos regionales de germoplasma forrajero nativo. Igualmente debe darse prioridad a la producción de proteína unicelular mediante sus tratos de origen local, como la melaza de azúcar.

México le da gran importancia a los recursos genéticos tanto vegetales como animales. Hemos ya expresado nuestro apoyo en relación con ello en los temas 6 y 8 de este programa. Seguiremos con atención que se den los pasos para analizar y materializar las iniciativas propuestas ya que como vimos en las deliberaciones, no se han hecho las prevenciones presupuestarias que deberán reflejarse en la versión final, y asimismo las relativas al Programa de Nutrición y al Codex Alimentarius, a las cuales la delegación de México, como tantas otras, expresaron su mayor apoyo durante la última reunión del COAG.

Citando estos varios ejemplos, Sr. Presidente, deseamos referirnos a uno de los aspectos sobre los cuales se nos ha pedido pronunciarnos y que se refieren al experimento de la sesión temprana de enero del año de la Conferencia para fijar orden de prioridades y nivel presupuestario.

Mi delegación, Sr. Presidente, considera que la validez del sistema actual queda una vez más demostrado. Creemos que el flujo de información proveniente de los debates de las Conferencias Regionales y de los Comités Principales, los cuales, a su vez, se alimentan de órganos subsidiarios, son los que a la luz de los debates orientados por la situación existente en correlación con el marco de mediano plazo, deben dar las bases para que los Comités del Programa y de Finanzas en sus sesiones ordinarias de mayo y septiembre, hagan primero la propuesta y después la versión definitiva a fin de evitar al máximo problemas de adjudicación y reajustes entre los varios programas causando con ello malestar y forcejeo.

De otra parte, cuando se recortan o no se pueden celebrar reuniones que la mayoría de los países consideramos relevantes, creemos que dedicárselos a un ejercicio que viene a alterar los procesos normales es aun menos justificado.

Regresando a las consideraciones programáticas, permítaseme expresar el apoyo al Programa de Integración y Capacitación de la Mujer, que mi Gobierno considera como prioritario, así como también al de Pesca, sobre el cual ya nos hemos pronunciado.

En lo que toca al personal, mi Delegación se siente preocupada, por una parte, porque en el contexto global habrá una incidencia presupuestal difícil de prever; pero, por otra, ocurre que por varios años consecutivos la reducción del personal nos parece peligrosa. Creemos que se tienen que resistir las presiones para recortar indiscriminadamente en la Administración, pues tratar de dar satisfacción en ese sentido buscando aún explicaciones en la computerización, no es realista. Hay que evaluar hasta dónde la eficiencia del personal profesional calificado es menguada por la falta de personal de apoyo. En una Organización de asistencia técnica, la productividad es un factor cuyo valor no va en relación directa con el de los costos, y hay que analizar bien esa perspectiva en la toma de decisiones. En ese contexto, nos congratula que el programa de campo de la FAO se vea apoyado por una revitalización de la entrega de programas FAO-PNUD, y esperamos verdaderamente que sea el presagio de mayor asignación de proyectos.

Vemos con agrado que varios países donantes siguen aportando fondos fiduciarios para que la Organización los canalice en asistencia técnica a los países. Esperamos que aquéllos se aumenten y, asimismo, la flexibilidad en su aplicación programática y regional. Entendemos la preocupación expresada por algunas delegaciones respecto del costo operativo de algunas representaciones regionales y nacionales de la FAO. Se deben racionalizar; sin embargo, debemos entender que son mecanismos fundamentales para la operación regional de los programas, y no hay que olvidar que deseamos una FAO fuerte y operativa, no una institución con mezcla de burocracia y computadoras.

Finalmente, al reiterar nuestro apoyo al Programa de Presupuesto que nos ha presentado el Director General, hacemos un llamado a todos los países a unírnos en el consenso, como señal de solidaridad en la búsqueda de un objetivo que debe ser común, como el del derecho a la autosuficiencia alimentaria de nuestros pueblos. Este problema de los recortes presupuestales en función de las retenciones de cuotas nos recuerda el cuento del niño que inventa al coco y luego se espanta con él. Así, los países que retienen cuotas y luego acusan a la Organización de insuficiencia de fondos y le exigen reestructurarse, por la difícil situación económica por la que atraviesa.

Para terminar, Sr. Presidente, deseo mencionar que mi Delegación se reserva el derecho de solicitar más tarde el uso de la palabra, para el caso de que nuestros debates así lo requieran.

Istvan DOBOCZKY (Hungary): The Hungarian delegation has carefully studied the Director-General's Summary Programme of Work and Budget for the 1990-91 biennium. At our present session our task is to review this Programme of Work and Budget which has already been endorsed by the Programme and Finance Committees of FAO, and also emphasized by Dr Saouma in his Introductory Statement made on Monday morning.

At the outset, we especially support the selection of priorities or priority areas among which we particularly welcome biotechnology, crop production, women in development, and also freshwater aquaculture. But in many respects we really miss the issue of environmental protection which should be supported by conservation of valuable resources. This is a vital problem and it is justifiable to select it as the subject for World Food Day this year. We are fully aware of the fact that this issue can be linked to other priority areas; my delegation proposes to take it up as the tenth priority area.

The proposal to increase the real programme by 1% or by US\$ 5.5 million seems to us really symbolic in the first instance. However, we agree with those who say that every additional payment would cause problems for Member Nations and genuine difficulties, especially for the developing countries who are already crushed under the weight of debt. An increase in the present budget level could create difficulties for my country too, which also has serious budget constraints. I feel that some of the countries even from Eastern Europe share this view. But in spite of this, Hungary is not against the programme increase and we support the recommendation.

Of course, we understand that some of these factors are beyond the control of the Organization. We also accept that there are other measures which cannot be neglected, namely, that of the UN General Assembly and the initial International Civil Service Commission.

To summarize, we can accept the first indications on the Programme of Work and Budget for 1990-91 at this stage. The final decision will be made by the Conference in November of this year.

Ms Joan Wallace DAWKINS (United States of America): We compliment the Secretariat for the preparation of the Summary Programme of Work and Budget document and its early distribution to members. We believe the special meeting of the Programme and Finance Committees in January 1989 allowed for an early focus on the budget which resulted in the earlier preparation and distribution of the Summary Programme of Work and Budget. A number of other members have already commented on the evident usefulness of that meeting as a means of allowing an earlier dialogue between the Secretariat and members both on programme priorities and budget levels. For this reason, we strongly recommend that such a meeting be held again in 1991.

Our goal as FAO members is to arrive at a Programme of Work and Budget that can be supported by consensus at the Conference. The role of the Director-General is crucial in resolving any differences that may remain among members on aspects of the Programme of Work and Budget, and we urge him to continue using his influence to bring all members together to achieve budgetary consensus.

Before addressing the programme content of the Summary Programme of Work and Budget, we would briefly comment on the budgetary cost increases of some US\$ 60 million, as outlined in pages 20-26 of the document. Although these cost increases have been discussed at some length in the Finance Committee, and Mr Shah has made reference to them in his presentation, we still do not have a sufficiently clear understanding of the reason for such a significant budgetary cost increase of 12%. We ask the Secretariat please to submit to members in the full Programme of Work and Budget document considerably greater detail on these increases.

A particularly helpful new feature of the Summary Programme of Work and Budget is the inclusion of budget figures for programme elements. This has improved the Summary Programme of Work and Budget and we commend the Secretariat for this change.

In general, we support the nine programme priorities for 1990-91, namely, agricultural data development, crop protection, women in development, sustainable development, crop/weather monitoring, biotechnology, aquaculture, the Tropical Forestry Action Plan, and policy advice—although we do have some qualifying points to offer regarding some of these priorities.

We support policy advice as a priority, but it is not completely clear whether there are increased resources for enhancing the Organization's capacity for agricultural policy analysis and advice. Moreover, we are pleased to note that in his proposal of policy advice as a programme priority the Director-General foreshadowed a later, and similar, strong recommendation by the experts assisting in the review of FAO. The Conference, after consideration of the FAO review, may find it desirable to shift even more resources into policy advice functions. Decisions by the Conference on the FAO review will almost certainly have other effects on the Programme of Work and Budget, and members should bear this in mind.

We continue to place high priority on Codex Alimentarius, AGRIS and CARIS, and the development of the World Agricultural Information Centre.

Fisheries information is also of importance to us, and we support the budgetary increases in that area.

The priority for women in development has received strong support by the United States and seemingly unanimous support by members who have specifically addressed it both at the present Council and in the 94th Council. We look forward to visible results from increased emphasis by FAO on women in development activities.

At COAG and COFI we have addressed in more detail the sections of the Summary Programme of Work and Budget on agriculture and fisheries and we need not reiterate most of the points made previously; this is our first opportunity, however, to comment on the major programme of forestry in the Summary Programme of Work and Budget. We support the overall increases in the forestry programme; in particular, we support FAO's work on a global forest resource assessment, as available data does need to be updated. The reason for the significant cut in forest policies and information and community forestry development is not clear in the Summary Programme of Work and Budget, and this cut is of concern to us.

We fully support the large increase in funding for the Tropical Forestry Action Plan.

Having expressed our support for a number of budgetary increases, we must not neglect our responsibility to provide suggestions on areas for possible budgetary savings. We realize that reaching decisions on areas of reduced budgetary priority is a difficult and painful exercise; nonetheless, it is one that we must undertake as responsible members of the Organization. We ask other members to bear this in mind and to view our suggestions in the careful and constructive spirit in which they are presented.

As some members are aware, in the fight against the locust plague, the United States has provided both extra-budgetary support to FAO and considerable bilateral assistance to a number of member countries. In fact, our team of 28 obtained special recognition from the Secretary of Agriculture. Our commitment to resolve the locust problem is evident. Due to recent successes in the locust campaign, however, experts are now generally of the view that the locust plague is well on its way to being checked. While we must keep a watchful eye, this success may obviate the need for the proposed budgetary increase.

In indicating support for sustainable development as a FAO priority, the United States, along with other members, has advocated the integration of sustainable resource considerations in all relevant offices of FAO as the most effective way to ensure the implementation of this important principle. Thus, we question the need for a separate sub-programme for sustaining resource potentials for which \$ 560 000 is proposed in the Summary Programme of Work and Budget.

Biotechnology, a popular broadnew complex field, holds promise and challenges for the world. FAO has quickly become involved, sponsoring a number of conferences with experts on the subject. We also want to be sure that knowledge is gleaned and disseminated from the International and other research bodies, both public and private, to national centres by FAO. We also note that a total of \$ A 832 000 has been requested for various programmes in this field, an increase of \$ 988 000. We would suggest caution and a potential for reduction, since the real issue is access to information and new knowledge for the farmers.

In regard to the Technical Cooperation Programme, we note that historically only 23 percent of TCP resources are devoted to emergencies, which are vitally important to member countries. We believe that substantially greater effort should be made to the programme of TCP training and advisory services as part of the FAO regular budget or funded through other means, such as the UNDP. TCP training and advisory services should be more the exception than the rule. This could provide savings. TCP employs assessed contributions for unprogrammed activities. Although we do not deny the value of TCP as an emergency or bridging mechanism, it should be generally limited to those roles.

The United States has endorsed the programme priorities proposed by the Director-General and the proposed increases in the programmes for agriculture, fisheries and forestry. At the same time, we are committed to the principle of zero real programme growth in FAO as well as in United Nations system organizations in general. We have already suggested some areas for budgetary savings.

The United States remains convinced that FAO, along with the rest of the UN system and the development assistance community, must understand the reality that public monies are very limited and will remain so for the foreseeable future. National governments, including our own, and international organizations are confronted with a difficult choice. It would be unrealistic and ultimately damaging to those who benefit from the important work of FAO not to face this fact. For this reason, the United States is of the firm conviction that the only prudent budget policy for FAO and other UN organizations is that of zero real programme growth. The UN system is adapting to this principle. The United Nations itself has just approved a negative growth budget. FAO must also adapt to the current environment of budget stringency.

Finally, in regard to the financial resources for funding the budget, we would like to inform the Council members that the President of the United States has presented to our Congress a request for full funding for our 1989 assessed contribution to FAO. This request includes \$ 61 million for our assessed contribution and also includes \$ 8.3 million for a first installment on a plan for payment on our arrearages to FAO. We are hopeful that our President's budgetary request will be approved by our Congress which under law has final authority for appropriation of all government funds.

We are confident that the Organization can achieve the budgetary savings that would result in a zero real growth programme budget for the 1990-91 biennium, a budget we can all support.

Ray ALLEN (United Kingdom): We are pleased to see the improvements made in the method of presenting the proposed Programme of Work and Budget. The inclusion of comparative budget figures between biennia makes the proposed budgetary changes much easier to follow. I reiterate the comments made by the United Kingdom at previous Council meetings. The United Kingdom policy towards the role of FAO is clear. We consider that the improvement of agriculture in the developing countries, particularly in Africa, will remain the main global challenge well into the next century.

While we recognize that FAO has a role to play in relation to the industrialized countries in areas of statistics and technical issues which have a global aspect, we consider that the Organization should primarily be orientated towards the needs of the developing countries. In this respect, we welcome the fact that technical and economic programmes have been highlighted for more attention. We also consider that the Organization has an important role in giving policy advice, especially of a country-specific nature. Such advice should normally be made available on request or as part of some general involvement in the donor system. We are disappointed that there appears to be a reduction of staffing in this area.

As I said in my intervention on the Committee on Agriculture, we are particularly pleased that an attempt has been made to classify priorities. We welcome these moves, but although there has been a reallocation of resources within and between programmes as I pointed out with COAG, it appears that most programme elements have been retained in one form or another and any savings reabsorbed. There is little evidence of change in the work to be undertaken and few signs of programmes ending and new ones beginning. We think there is a clear need for setting much stricter priorities, gearing the programmes to those priorities and ensuring that the more valuable programmes are protected from the possible effects of lack of staff and funds.

The paper before us identifies a number of priority areas. These have our general support. It is, however, not clear from the paper how these priority areas are reflected in the budgetary proposals. We welcome the comments made in paragraphs 4.32 and 4.33 on page 17 of document CL 95/3 that ways of presenting the special sections dealing with cross-sectoral priorities such as policy advice, sustainable development and women in development, will be considered in the full Programme of Work and Budget document, and we hope this will give us a clearer picture. We recognize the difficulties regarding priority setting within programmes of the budget, but we consider this essential if we are to have a clear picture of how the priorities are reflected in the Programme of Work and Budget.

As was said by the Finnish delegation, we think that the Organization should consider the reintroduction of medium-term planning. This plan could cover a period of, say, six years and be prepared on a rolling basis, amended or updated each biennium. Priorities between sections or between different cross-cutting aspects such as the environment or sustainable development, could be dealt with in this medium-term planning process.

While, as I said earlier, we generally support the priority areas selected, particularly those areas relating to environmental protection and sustainable development, we would have liked to have seen a little more explanation of the rationale for the selection. We think, in setting priorities, FAO should be selective and concentrate on those areas where it has established a comparative advantage or can demonstrate a unique competence. Budget increases are not always necessary if proper prioritizing and more selectivity are practiced. We think that Special Action Programmes like that of the Tropical Forestry Action Plan, can lead to better focusing on priorities, particularly in the field programme, and we urge that more such programmes be adopted. Priorities set by the Governing Bodies should be applied to the regular budget, the field programmes and the TCP alike.

We see no reason to increase resources allocated to the TCP. Better forward planning would allow for more funding from other sources and less recourse to short-term financing. We also think that there should be a clear link between the Regular Programme and the Field Programme. In this respect, we consider that the Governing Bodies should have a more active role in monitoring the Field Programme, and an appropriate mechanism needs to be found to achieve this.

We note the large allocations to the Regional Offices, and question the necessity for these increases. We would like to see some clarification of the role of these offices since we consider that more emphasis should be given at the country level and the strengthening of country offices. Cost increases for this could be kept down by more use of shared offices and general services with other UN organizations.

I commented earlier that we were pleased to see the improvements made in the method of presenting the Programme of Work and Budget. We have many times commented that we feel a need for a side-by-side presentation of the proposed expenditure with actual expenditure on proposed outturn,

comments on the effectiveness of the programme, and Information on the availability of funds to be carried forward. We think this Information would greatly add to the improvements already made. An additional improvement to the process, in our view, was the introduction of the additional step of an Outline Programme of Work and Budget. We note the comments made in paragraphs 1.9, 1.10 and 1.11 of document CL 95/4 regarding continuation of this procedure beyond 1990/91, but would like to put on record that the United Kingdom thought that this was a useful process, and wholeheartedly supports the delegation of France in this respect.

The financial constraints of the Organization have been in the forefront of discussions for some time and while, as mentioned in paragraph 3.8 on page 10 of document CL 95/3, it may be—and I quote here from the document "permissible to expect that the next biennium will see a gradual normalization in the payment of contributions by all Member Nations". It goes on to say that "at the same time, the burden on Member Nations in meeting their financial obligations remains a factor which continues to warrant constraint". We echo these sentiments of restraint, and in this respect we would like to associate ourselves with the USA delegation in relation to budget growth.

Mr Chairman, we are unclear about the methodology used to calculate the cost increases, particularly that used for the calculation of inflation. For example, under "General Service Salaries", the inflation factor appears to us to be applied more than once per annum and we would appreciate some clarification of this.

We note that "post adjustment" costs seem to require a 77 percent increase over the 1988-89 figure, and the reason for this again is not entirely clear in the paper and we would be grateful if there could be some expansion on this.

Reference was made to the fact that the cost increases did not represent a record. Are we to read from this that because they are less than in previous bienniums we should automatically accept them. I have to say Mr Chairman, that the United Kingdom delegation still finds the cost increase of the Programme of Work and Budget of 12.2 percent unacceptably high, and ask that this is looked at carefully before the programme is finalized.

We also note the comments on pages 10 and 11 of the document which refer to the exchange rate fluctuations. Again we are not sure of the rationale for choosing an exchange rate pinned to single day. We would like some explanation of why perhaps an average rate for a representative past period cannot be chosen.

The comments made on page 35 of the document say that due account will be taken of the recommendations of bodies such as the Committees on Fisheries and on Agriculture as well as such views as the Programme and Finance Committees and the Council may wish to offer on the Summary Programme of Work and Budget. I would simply like to add that the final Programme of Work and Budget will also need to take account of any implications which may arise from the current review of FAO.

Mme Josefa COELHO DA CRUZ (Angola): Tout d'abord, nous tenons à féliciter M. Shah de son introduction très brillante du Sommaire du Programme de travail et budget pour 1990-91. Ce document concis et précis nous fournit des informations sur le choix des priorités, les propositions de programmes, les augmentations de coûts et l'utilisation proposée des ressources.

Nous ne pouvons passer sous silence les efforts déployés par le Directeur général pour l'élaboration de ce sommaire et nous lui rendons hommage. Ainsi, ma délégation approuve les neuf domaines prioritaires, car ils répondent aux directives données aux différents organes de l'Organisation, ainsi que l'accroissement des ressources affectées aux programmes techniques et économiques.

Nous appuyons le Programme de la santé animale mais nous voudrions attirer l'attention de la FAO sur une maladie que l'on oublie tout à fait, la peste suine africaine, qui est un fléau dans notre pays. Nous espérons son inclusion dans les priorités de l'Organisation, comme la peste bovine.

Le Programme international d'approvisionnement d'engrais était d'une importance capitale et nous ne pouvons qu'exprimer notre regret suite à son éviction.

S'agissant du problème du développement durable, nous souscrivons aux propos tenus hier par le délégué de Madagascar. Nous réitérons aussi notre appui au Programme des forêts, et en particulier au Plan d'action forestier tropical.

Parlant du Programme de coopération technique, nous exprimons nos regrets de voir que les ressources affectées à ce Programme sont très faibles, car le succès déjà enregistré depuis sa création a suffisamment démontré son dynamisme. Nous souhaitons voir accroître les ressources du PCT et nous croyons que le Directeur général reverra cette situation dans la version intégrale du Programme de travail et budget pour 1990-91.

Nous appuyons l'augmentation du budget ordinaire pour la coordination des activités de lutte contre les infestations acridiennes; et vu la persistance des infestations, nous pensons qu'un programme à long terme devra être élaboré pour une intervention rapide et continue. Nous appuyons aussi l'augmentation proposée pour le Plan d'action de la FAO pour l'intégration de la femme dans le développement agricole et rural. S'agissant des bureaux régionaux, leurs activités sont clairement décrites dans le Programme de travail et budget pour 1990-91 et notre appui est sans réserve.

Pour terminer, nous estimons que l'augmentation minimale du niveau du budget de 5,5 millions de dollars, soit un pour cent, proposée par le Directeur général, ne répond pas aux besoins ressentis par les Etats Membres et ne comblera même pas les lacunes causées par les compressions de programmes opérées au cours des deux derniers exercices. Malgré cette faible croissance, nous appuyons le Sommaire du Programme de travail et budget et nous invitons le Directeur général à poursuivre l'élaboration de la version intégrale du Programme de travail et budget sur la base de ce sommaire.

Suniji NAKAZAWA (Japan): Thank you Mr. Chairman. To begin with I would like to express our tribute to the Secretariat for the well prepared document, "Summary Programme of Work and Budget 1990-91" which is before us. I would also like to thank Mr. Shah for his lucid introduction of this most important agenda item.

We are well aware that this document is the result of long work by the Secretariat which I suppose started at the end of last year, even if it is not the final document. Unfortunately since we are not a member of the two important committees, namely the Programme and Finance Committee, we participate only from this stage in the very important work on the FAO's activities in the next biennium.

However, I have no hesitation to express our high appreciation to the Secretariat for the efforts to follow a long way in order to achieve consensus among member countries in the preparation of the Programme of Work and Budget which is the new procedure of our Organization. I hope that this experiment will be very successful and fruitful.

Mr. Chairman, we have carefully studied this document and have found that it is very useful for the preparation of the final programme of work and budget for the next biennium.

First of all I feel that we should touch upon the budget level and the priority setting which were already discussed early this year in the two committees.

As regards the budget level, we wonder if the Secretariat's proposal of the real growth by 1.1 percent is appropriate. We should take into account that this real increase is added to by 12.2 percent cost increase and the eventual increase of the percentage of assessed contribution in the case of many countries.. And the most important thing that we should consider is the overall very serious financial situation of Member Nations, of which my government is not an exception. Therefore, we would like to ask the Secretariat for further efforts to retain the same budget level as the last biennium. I would like to stress that even this level could pose heavy burdens on member countries. My government sticks to the principle of real zero growth.

In this connection I would like to refer to the Director-General's statement in which he mentioned the necessity of additional financial resources in implementing the recommendations which come up from the FAO Review. But in our understanding, the main objective of the FAO Review was to enhance the efficiency of FAO, as formulated in paragraph 1.5 of Document CL 94/4 of the last Conference. In other words, how to make FAO strengthen its capacity within the limited resources. Therefore, I am afraid that the Director-General's suggestions may well undermine the objective of the FAO Review. In this regard, as we have already suggested in the Agenda Item 8, measures such as the reduction of low priority projects, the avoidance of duplication with other organizations, more concentrated allocation of resources to high priority areas, setting an implementation period for new programmes, the evaluation and reconsideration of the implementation period for on-going programmes are all inevitable to avoid unnecessary budget increase.

As to the impact of the FAO Review on the budget, however, since we have to wait longer for the report of the Special Joint Session, at the moment we reserve our position.

Mr Chairman, as regards the priority-setting, our basic standpoint is that in order for FAO to respond promptly and effectively to the problems of world food and agriculture, FAO should firstly further promote coordination with other UN organizations and aid organizations; secondly it should strengthen the capacity of analyzing, evaluating and disseminating information as the world agricultural forum and agricultural information centre, and thirdly it should establish the efficient and effective management system of a great deal of projects, including field projects, as the expert organization. From these viewpoints, we are pleased to generally support those nine priority areas presented in the document. However, we feel that these areas are not made sufficiently clear in the individual programmes which need to be further improved.

In this connection, concerning the priority-setting, I feel we have to recall that the discussions in the regional conferences should be reflected in preparing the Programme of Work and Budget, but there is no reference in the document. Therefore, I would like to ask the Secretariat for clarification.

Now I would like to go into the individual priority areas. But before that, I wish to touch upon TCP, which is not presented as a priority area but its budget increase is outstanding and larger than that of priority areas. I think that I need not reiterate the problems of TCP, which have often been discussed. On the other hand, we do not ignore the fact that TCP is much appreciated, especially by recipient countries. But we believe that the problems remain the same and the transparency essential, which also benefits recipient countries.

In this regard we would like to ask the Secretariat to present sufficient Information on the implementation of TCP, including the contents of projects by programme area and by region, criteria and priority areas in adoption and a list of ongoing and completed projects, which should be presented to governing bodies.

We also think that the role of TCP should be clarified in relation to UNDP and the Trust Fund from donor countries. As to the budget level for TCP, such a large increase as is proposed is not acceptable as we think that scarce resources should be allocated to the priority areas.

Let us now turn to each individual priority area. Firstly, sustainable development. We recognize that it is both important and beneficial to ensure food production increase by practising ecologically sustainable agriculture for food security as an environmental issue of world concern on a global basis. When developing countries mobilize various policies for food and agricultural development it is important not only to endeavour to develop and disseminate the technology needed for ecologically sustainable agriculture, but also to pay full attention to adjusting policies in harmony with the ecosystem, including regulations by governments and other authorities. We expect FAO to take a leading role in this field.

With regard to crop/weather monitoring and agricultural data development, as mentioned earlier in Agenda Item 8, COAG Report, we fully support the strengthening of FAO's activities in this field with a view to enhancing its function as a world food and agriculture information centre.

As for biotechnology, it is our view that FAO should give priority to this area so as to promote world food and agricultural development, especially in handling policy and institutional issues of utilization in the field. Owing to its highly technical nature, FAO should pay attention to the relationship with relevant research institutes.

As concerns crop protection, we highly appreciate the FAO's activities such as the collection, analysis and dissemination of information for the desert locust. Japan has been actively assisting the FAO desert locust control programme through contribution to the Trust Fund and executing increased production aid on a bilateral and multilateral basis, with the donation of pesticides, and other materials. A recent example is the additional US\$ 8 million which was contributed through FAO to assist the desert locust control in African countries.

With regard to policy advice, this is one of FAO's most important activities in assisting the self-supporting efforts of food and agricultural development in developing countries. We feel some concern towards the proposed budget decrease in this field.

As concerns the area of women in development, we support the Resolution 1/94 of the last session of the Council and also the individual activities backed by FAO. We recognize that this activity should be incorporated into the development programme in general, and we therefore anticipate that every effort should be made in FAO activities as a whole.

As to aquaculture, we support the strengthening of activities in this field as the role of aquaculture will continue to be important in fulfilling the need for protein resources.

Finally, with regard to the Tropical Forestry Action Plan (TFAP), in recognizing the importance of establishing national tropical forestry action plans to promote concrete activities based on the TFAP and contributing a trust fund to FAO for TFAP, we support the priority given to that activity.

Igor MARINCEK (Suisse): J'aimerais d'abord remercier M. Shah et M. Bukharl pour leur introduction à ce point important de l'Ordre du jour.

Dans mon intervention, j'aimerais traiter les questions suivantes: premièrement, l'orientation du Programme ordinaire; deuxièmement la concentration sur les domaines prioritaires et l'augmentation de l'efficacité; troisièmement les domaines où des coupures et des économies seraient possibles; quatrièmement, la question des augmentations des coûts et cinquièmement, le PCT.

Avant d'aborder ces questions, j'aimerais préciser que mon pays, bien que soutenant l'objectif de croissance réelle 0, peut accepter la faible croissance réelle proposée par le Directeur général. Avec ce geste, nous voulons souligner que notre objectif n'est pas une FAO coûtant moins cher, mais une FAO donnant de meilleurs résultats.

J'en viens au premier point de mon intervention: l'orientation du Programme ordinaire.

L'action de la FAO doit viser les grands défis qui se posent dans le domaine de l'agriculture, des pêches et des forêts, et je pense qu'il y a un consensus parmi les Etats Membres sur cette question. Le défi principal est de combattre la faim et la pauvreté, comme cela est stipulé dans le Préambule des textes fondamentaux de la FAO. Notre Conseil est donc appelé à oeuvrer en faveur d'une concentration de l'action et des programmes de la FAO sur les domaines où celle-ci peut apporter la meilleure contribution à un objectif aussi fondamental.

Dans le paragraphe 4.6, on nous a proposé neuf domaines prioritaires qui devraient profiter de crédits accrus. Bien que s'agissant l en partie de moyens plutôt que d'objectifs, comme l'a dit le représentant de la France, nous pouvons soutenir ces priorités en général. Nous aimerions cependant qu'on les mette en rapport étroit avec l'objectif principal qu'est la sécurité alimentaire.

Ma délégation aimerait, par ailleurs, souligner qu'il y a intérêt à améliorer l'interaction entre programme ordinaire et programme de terrain, ce qui favorise les synergies. Un bon moyen pour cela sont les programmes spéciaux d'action du type PAFT.

Parmi les domaines prioritaires présentés au paragraphe 4.6, trois nous semblent particulièrement importante. D'abord l'analyse et les conseils en matière de politique agricole au niveau des pays, ensuite le développement des informations agricoles, notamment les statistiques, et finalement le développement durable.

Concernant ce dernier point, nous soutenons l'idée, avancée dans une récente résolution du PNUE, portant sur la tenue d'une réunion conjointe FAO-PNUE en vue de la préparation de la Conférence des Nations Unies sur le développement durable, prévue pour 1992. Une telle réunion permettrait de mieux définir le concept du développement durable, comme l'a demandé à juste titre le délégué de Madagascar.

Pour ce qui est de l'allocation des ressources aux domaines prioritaires que je viens de citer, elle ne ressort pas clairement des propositions, comme l'a aussi souligné le délégué du Royaume-Uni. Nous souhaitons que la plus grande partie possible des ressources budgétaires y soit allouée, et pas seulement l'augmentation réelle du budget.

Je me trouve donc déjà au deuxième point de mon intervention, c'est-à-dire la concentration sur les domaines prioritaires et l'augmentation de l'efficacité.

Ma délégation se félicite de l'amélioration de la transparence dans la présentation du Sommaire du programme et budget, amélioration qui est due notamment à la présentation détaillée des éléments de programme. Il y a là un progrès indéniable. Une simple analyse quantitative nous apprend cependant qu'on nous propose une augmentation du nombre de ces éléments de programme.

Dans le seul grand programme agriculture, 11 y aurait une augmentation des éléments de programme de 213 actuellement à 218. C'est dire que l'on nous propose un éparpillement des ressources.

Monsieur le Président, nous cherchons tous à faire de notre Organisation un instrument plus fort dans la lutte contre la faim et la pauvreté. Nous ne pensons pas qu'un éparpillement des ressources nous rapprochera de ce but. Pour rendre la FAO plus efficace et plus forte, il faudra renoncer à certaines activités et tirer mieux profit de la division du travail dans le système multilatéral. L'augmentation du nombre d'éléments de programme dans le programme de travail proposé montre que notre Organisation a beaucoup de difficultés à remettre en question des programmes existants, difficulté qui s'est déjà manifestée lors de la crise financière de l'Organisation.

Pour agrandir la flexibilité on pourrait limiter les éléments de programme dans le temps et leur fixer en même temps des objectifs précie. Dans les activités européennes de la FAO, cette approche a donné de bons résultats, comme en témoignent les réseaux coopératifs de recherche appelée SCORENA.

Le manque de flexibilité dans l'orientation des activités tient en grande partie aux rigidités liées à ses ressources humaines comme l'a expliqué M. Shah lors du dernier COAG. Il est clair qu'un spécialiste des maladies animales ne peut pas faire des analyses de politique agricole. Il semble qu'aujourd'hui la FAO n'ait pas encore de plan à moyen terme de ses besoins en personnel. Elle ne se pose donc pas la question d'une manière organisée de quels spécialistes et généralistes elle aura

besoin dans le futur. Cela est étonnant car pour avoir une FAO efficace et capable d'ajuster son cap, il faut une gestion rationnelle de ses ressources humaines, gestion qui doit être liée à une planification à moyen terme des activités de l'Organisation.

L'actuel manque de flexibilité dans l'utilisation des ressources humaines de la FAO rend les réorientations de notre Organisation très difficiles. Aussi nous devenons otages de nos choix précédente, et il ne reste qu'une petite partie du budget que nous pouvons effectivement utiliser pour ce que nous considérons comme priorité, M. Shah pourra nous dire, et je lui demande de le faire, quelle partie du budget est effectivement ouverte à une nouvelle programmation.

Monsieur le Président, nous sommes face à la question: comment assurer que la production-si je peux utiliser ce terme-de la FAO puisse s'adapter sans prendre du retard aux exigences d'un monde en changement.

Nous pensons qu'il n'est pas nécessaire que la FAO puisse offrir chez elle une réponse à tout problème reconnu comme prioritaire dans les débats de ses organes. A notre avis, il suffit dans bien des domaines que la FAO sache où trouver l'expertise nécessaire pour tel ou tel problème et comment la mobiliser, c'est-à-dire assurer la fonction de ce que j'appellerai un "clearing house".

Heureusement, la FAO n'est pas seule. A la différence de 1945, moment où elle a été créée, il existe aujourd'hui d'autres organisations spécifiques qui s'occupent de l'agriculture et du développement rural et qui offrent à la FAO la possibilité de se décharger de quelques responsabilités de réduire des capacités de caractère "stand by" pour mieux concentrer son action. Je pense notamment aux centres internationaux de recherche agricole, y compris l'IFPRI, je pense aussi à l'IFAD et j'en passe.

Monsieur le Président, pour illustrer notre souci de meilleure définition des activités prioritaires et indiquer des possibilités d'économies, permettez-moi de vous donner brièvement quelques exemples:

Le Sous-programme 2.1.15 "Conservation et bonification" a été flanqué d'un nouveau sous-programme 2.1.1.6 "Sauvegarde du potentiel naturel". A nos yeux, les activités de ces deux sous-programmes ne nécessitent pas une séparation qui risque d'engendrer des double-emplois.

Autre exemple: dans le sous-programme 2.1.3.1 "Pâturages, fourrages, et aliments du bétail", l'élément du Programme 03 "Fixation biologique de l'azote" a une dotation de 128 000 dollars. Nous nous demandons ce que la FAO peut apporter aux pays membres dans ce domaine, vu le budget très limité en regard de ce qui se fait dans la recherche internationale. S'agit-il de diffusion d'information, de formation?

Ensuite, sur le plan plus général, nous nous demandons si l'équilibre entre les différents grands programmes ainsi qu'entre les programmes, équilibre qui paraît pratiquement immuable, ne mériterait pas de faire l'objet d'une discussion plus approfondie dans le cadre d'une planification à moyen terme prenant en compte l'évolution des besoins.

Monsieur le Président, nous apprécions le travail qu'a fait le Comité du Programme dans l'appréciation du Programme proposé. Malheureusement, son rapport reste assez imprécis. Je prends au hasard les paragraphes 2.54 à 2.56. Dans le paragraphe 2.54, le Comité du Programme dit par exemple que l'une des priorités est d'améliorer le potentiel pastoral dans les régions arides et semi-arides. C'est effectivement une priorité très importante dans de nombreux pays. En fait, il y a beaucoup de questions très importantes pour les divers pays. Malheureusement, le rapport ne nous dit pas en quoi la FAO est particulièrement capable de fournir une contribution significative. On aurait aimé trouver quelques références au rôle des politiques des pays intéressés ainsi que des recommandations sur une division du travail entre la FAO et le CGIAR dans le domaine technique, par exemple dans le sens que la FAO serve de "clearing house" ou d'agent de vulgarisation entre le CGIAR et les pays.

Le paragraphe 2.55 du rapport du Comité du Programme parle de l'importance des campagnes contre les maladies animales. Voilà un domaine classique où la FAO a un avantage comparatif dans la coordination de telles campagnes. L'action de la FAO dans ce domaine reste très importante, comme nous le rappelle par ailleurs la menace du ver tараudeur. Le paragraphe 2.56 parle de la nécessité d'exploiter au maximum les possibilités d'application des biotechnologies. Là encore, on doit se poser la question si la FAO est vraiment le bon partenaire pour les pays qui s'intéressent à ces techniques. Il faudrait spécifier ses possibilités de contribution. Dans l'ensemble, le rapport du Comité du Programme reflète surtout les espoirs mis dans la FAO. Pour partir dans ces expectations d'une base réaliste, chaque pays devrait peut-être davantage se poser la question: Quelle est aujourd'hui la contribution effective de la FAO à son propre développement?

Il y a des économies possibles dans les services généraux de notre Organisation qui n'affectent pas les programmes. Je pense aux services d'imprimerie, aux services d'entretien et de sécurité, et j'en passe. Il semble qu'il y ait là des possibilités d'économies se chiffrant à plusieurs millions de

dollars par an. De telles économies devraient être réalisées au plus vite et pourraient de préférence profiter au chapitre 2.1.8 "Politiques alimentaires et agricoles" qui abrite les activités d'analyse et conseil en matière de politique agricole. Activités reconnues, il me semble, par consensus comme très prioritaires, et qui d'après les propositions du Secrétariat subiraient même une diminution budgétaire. Cette diminution est regrettée par de nombreuses délégations.

J'en viens à mon quatrième point: la question de l'augmentation des coûts. Le tableau dans le paragraphe 6.8 nous informe par exemple qu'il y a un accroissement des coûts de près de 80 pour cent dans l'ajustement de postes. Il y a presque 13 000 000 de dollars pour la période 1988-89. Il semble que ce chiffre soit additionnel à ce que la dernière conférence a déjà autorisé pour le biennium en cours. Il est vrai d'autre part que les ajustements de postes sont décidés à New York et que nous n'avons pas de possibilité, ici, d'influencer ces décisions. Permettez-moi cependant quelques questions. La première question: le montant de rattrapage pour 1988-89, c'est-à-dire les 12,8 millions de dollars correspondent-ils à l'effectif de personnel tel que prévu dans le Programme de travail et budget? Ou est-ce que ce chiffre est déjà corrigé pour ne tenir compte que du personnel effectivement employé par la FAO après les coupures qui ont dû avoir lieu en raison de la situation financière?

Deuxièmement, en page 25 du rapport en français, nous lisons la phrase suivante; je cite: "Dans l'attente de la fixation définitive du coefficient multiplicateur en 1989, des crédits sont prévus pour couvrir en 1990-91 les coûts correspondant à l'entrée en application de la classe 11 en janvier 1990, de la classe 12 en janvier 1991 et de la classe 13 en décembre 1991". Il semble donc que toutes les décisions pour l'année en cours ne soient pas encore prises et que l'évolution pour 1990 et 1991 reste encore très ouverte.

Vu cette incertitude, il me semble qu'une autorisation définitive des augmentations des coûts ne serait pas justifiée. Notre autorisation devrait plutôt être conditionnelle à l'évolution effective des coûts, évolutions qui devrait être vérifiées par le vérificateur des comptes. Cette proposition concerne évidemment l'ensemble des accroissements des coûts. On pourrait également envisager la création d'un fonds spécial pour les accroissements des coûts, dans lequel l'Organisation pourrait puiser dans la mesure des accroissements effectifs, sous contrôle du vérificateur des comptes. Ma délégation propose que le Comité financier étudie cette question et propose à notre prochain Conseil une formule pratique et flexible dans le sens proposé. Finalement, pour ce qui est des chiffres concrets, nous aimerions connaître du Secrétariat l'augmentation effective des coûts dans le biennium précédent, c'est-à-dire 1986-87, et en 1988. Cette information nous semble indispensable au Conseil et à la Conférence pour voir plus clair et pour pouvoir apprécier la question des augmentations des coûts.

Finalement, quelques mots concernant le TCP. Le montant budgétaire nous semble élevé, en particulier par rapport aux dépenses passées de ce programme. Mais l'important pour nous c'est de bien orienter et utiliser le TCP, c'est-à-dire en fonction des grandes priorités et comme lien étroit entre programme régulier et programme de terrain, de préférence dans le cadre de programmes d'action spéciaux du nouveau type caractérisés par le PAFT.

Nous pensons aussi que les pays membres sont en droit d'avoir des rapports plus détaillés sur l'utilisation du TCP et nous sommes en faveur d'une plus grande transparence dans le TCP comme demandé par l'honorable délégué du Japon. A notre avis, une très grande partie du TCP, par exemple 80 pour cent, devrait être réservée à l'usage exclusif des priorités mentionnées dans le paragraphe 4.6; notamment pour financer des travaux préparatoires dans ces domaines. Nous pensons, dans ce contexte, en particulier à l'objectif de la sécurité alimentaire, notamment aux analyses et conseils en matière de politique agricole pour des pays individuels et à l'assistance aux pays qui se trouvent dans un exercice d'ajustement structurel.

Permettez-moi aussi de soutenir la proposition pertinente de la Tchécoslovaquie concernant un renforcement de la coordination entre le Bureau régional de la FAO pour l'Europe et la CEE à Genève. Nous partageons également les remarques de cette délégation sur le rôle des bureaux des représentants de la FAO dans les pays. J'aimerais aussi soutenir les observations du délégué du Royaume-Uni sur le rôle des bureaux régionaux.

Pour finir, l'approbation du Sommaire du Programme de travail et budget par le Conseil devrait se faire sous réserve des résultats des débats sur la réforme et les ajustements de la FAO. Dans ce contexte nous ne pensons pas que la mise en application de recommandations de réformes, qui seront, nous l'espérons, le résultat de cet exercice, doivent amener des coûts supplémentaires. Ma délégation s'est déjà exprimée à ce sujet dans son intervention concernant le rapport du COAG.

Bashir EL MABROUK SAID (Libya) (Original language Arabic): First of all, I, on behalf of my delegation, would like to warmly congratulate my friends Mr Shah and His Excellency Ambassador Bukhari for the two excellent presentations which they have made to the Summary Programme of Work and Budget and the report of the Joint Meeting of the Programme and Finance Committees.

I will be brief, because my delegation has discussed this matter in detail during the meetings of the Programme Committee, of which I am a member. I would like to affirm that those who have followed the preparation of the Programme of Work and Budget from the very beginning are satisfied with the valuable and constructive efforts made by the Secretariat, and are appreciative of the commendable efforts made by the Director-General and his staff in order to reconcile two diametrically opposed situations. On the one hand there is the urgent and increasing needs of developing countries. There is the increase in world population-80 million additional mouths to feed every year. Desert locust swarms have spread in many countries in Africa.

In addition there is the spread of the screwworm fly in some countries of North Africa which has been seen recently in Libya. With all these problems we have very limited resources. On the other hand, voices are calling for zero growth, and I think the Secretariat is in a difficult position. The programme we are discussing now is the result of the joint effort of the Secretariat and the recommendations of the regional meetings of COAG, COFI and COFO in which all members are actively participating. All these commissions and committees form the basis on which the Secretariat and the Programme and Finance Committees can put together the different elements of the Summary Programme of Work and Budget.

I agree with the idea that the Council is not required to take a decision on this Summary Programme of Work and Budget in its current session, but is called upon to prepare objectives and priorities. I do not think we are going to vote on the budget level, but will just define the priorities.

I join with those who have said that we should be very flexible at this time. We have to strive to achieve consensus. I think the Secretariat has always sought consensus, and is always trying to find a formula acceptable to all members. We hope the Council will follow the example of the Finance and Programme Committees in reaching consensus.

Although my delegation in the past has objected to the zero growth principle, and it affirms that a 1.1 percent growth rate is necessary at a time when we can see the problems are increasing, out of respect for the wish of the majority and for the consensus I would like to join those who have supported this level and also the nine themes and priorities mentioned in the document.

Allow me to make some remarks which I deem necessary. My first remark concerns the Technical Cooperation Programme. This Programme has commanded the support of all the delegations. I hope it will be given adequate priority in the Summary Programme of Work and Budget, and that additional allocations will be made in order to enable this Programme to carry out activities which will be satisfactory to member countries.

My second remark concerns the spread of the screwworm fly in North Africa. This pest is spreading very easily in all the neighbouring countries, and in Libya, of course. Unless urgent measures are taken and unless a major programme or sub-programme is established within this programme, this threat will spread and the damage will be enormous. I take this opportunity to commend the efforts made by FAO in the past to combat this pest. I would like also to thank the Agriculture Department, Mr Bonte-Friedhelm and his collaborators for all their efforts in combatting this pest.

Those who say that the Organization should have a long-term plan do not take into account the fact that the Organization is not dealing with a rigid, unchanging thing. The Organization has already proved its ability, and the field workers who are working in rather unfavourable conditions in some countries have made every possible effort in the past to prove in this biennium that we have a flexible organization. It is a very flexible organization, and quickly responds to the needs of the developing countries. Therefore, I join previous speakers who expressed satisfaction and who gave their support to this Summary Programme of Work and Budget. I hope that the majority of delegations will accept it.

At if Y. BUKHARI (Saudi Arabia, Kingdom of) (Original language Arabic): I shall not deal with this document in a detailed manner because I am a member of Finance Committee, and because we have had ample opportunity to review the Summary Programme of Work and Budget. If I may, I would like to state that the Summary Programme of Work and Budget for 1990-91 is the final stocktaking of joint efforts which have borne fruit. We now have this document before us. I wish to avail myself of the opportunity to express my thanks to the Director-General and his collaborators for this creative piece of work and for having responded to the needs of member countries.

Likewise, I wish to address my most sincere thanks to the loyal efforts made by the Finance and Programme Committees since the very famous meeting held in January and until the publishing of this Summary. We know how heavy a burden these two Committees have borne in carrying out their tasks. My delegation wishes unreservedly to support this Programme of Work and Budget for the coming blennlum.

Our approval is given on the basis of our conviction that FAO is indeed the main channel through which solidarity and international cooperation can be achieved, especially in the area of food and agriculture. Whenever technical means are available, this main channel can achieve the transfer of technology, and can develop the role of agriculture in developing countries. But we should be realistic. We should live with reality. International economic recovery, which unfortunately has started slowing down in the past few years, has left a negative trace in the economies of developing countries. This has weakened the development plans of the latter and has not allowed those countries to proceed to the expansion of the food and agriculture sector. Whatever the efforts of developing countries may be to make up for these economic difficulties (which may be of a different nature), nonetheless the unforeseen changes in the strategies and policies of developed countries become an obstacle to those efforts, and the problems met by developing countries increase.

This is why we are convinced that FAO, which has the lead in the field of food and agriculture, is in fact the only hope, the only door on which developing countries may knock to receive unconditional support. It is our duty to give our support to FAO so that it may fully play its leadership role in this particular instance to the benefit of all countries of the world, especially developing countries, which need more and better justice in the sphere of international economics.

As you may know, Mr Chairman, the international community must be seen as a whole. It is a chain, and a single weak link in that chain can disrupt all the work of that particular chain. The budget established by FAO and the net increase in resource allocations for the Technical Cooperation Programme—all these different items will not be sufficient to eradicate hunger and malnutrition in the world. We still have a very long and harsh way ahead and cannot eradicate hunger and malnutrition unless there is a common political will, unless joint efforts are made to improve the situation which becomes constantly degraded, and unless we respect the legitimate expectations of developing countries.

Both developed and developing countries must invest more and more in the agricultural sector and ensure that the population in developing countries have the food security they require. National skills must be adapted on a regional, national and International basis. In recent years, FAO has been faced with extremely difficult situations which have led to a cash-flow crisis. Although FAO, thanks to its goodwill and management, has been able to safeguard its future and continue with its work, nonetheless cuts have become necessary in economic and technical activities which were carried out in favour of developing countries. These cuts have a negative impact on countries receiving FAO assistance. Of course, this is worsening the burden of hunger and malnutrition in these countries. This is why I would like to launch an appeal to all countries and to the biggest contributors to the FAO budget. I call on them to pay their contributions to FAO in due time and in an unconditional manner.

I would like to ask these countries to avoid policies based on pressure and menaces because the alms of FAO are humanitarian in nature, and if these pressures are removed FAO will find its dignity and freedom.

Now I would like to express the full agreement of my delegation to the nine priority areas and join all those who believe that sustainable development should not be at the top of the list. We fear that this might be prejudicial to other FAO priorities. Furthermore, this might lead to an overlapping with the specialized activities in this field such as the activities of UNIDO. UNIDO is now preparing an extended and comprehensive programme to provide assistance to developing countries, especially in the field of the environment.

Now I would like to speak very briefly about the Special Joint Session of the two Committees, the Finance and Programme Committees, which was held last January. We hope that this meeting has attained its objectives, but we would like to say that the time is not ripe or appropriate to decide now on the results of this meeting. This might be done during the next general Conference. This experience could be extended over the next two years so that we can judge this new approach.

I would like to comment on what was stated by some speakers to the effect that there must be a way of linking the results of the Council, general Conference, Programme and Finance Committees to the review of FAO activities. We are convinced that a review of FAO activities is a completely independent sector which has nothing to do with the Programme of Work and Budget for 1990-91.

Bernd von SYDOW (Germany, Federal Republic of): Let me start by thanking Mr Shah and His Excellency Mr Bukhari for very helpful introductions to the Summary Programme of Work and Budget. It was so comprehensive and enlightening that we were inclined to re-write our statement.

To begin with the FAO programme for 1990-91 as proposed, and specifically the priorities selected, I am happy to state that we are quite satisfied with the Director-General's proposals and choices. In this respect, we already fully shared the judgement of the Programme and Finance Committees at the

Special Joint Session in January this year when the Committees examined the budget Outline for the 1990-91 biennium.

On some points of the Summary Programme of Work and Budget, however, we have some comments to make which seem important to us. My first comment concerns the regional and country representatives' offices of the Organization. In view of the large financial share of both sectors in their respective chapters, we are of the opinion that we should see and evaluate first the results of the review process under way before making up our mind on the budgetary allocations for the next biennium. As we are expecting a report on the field activities of FAO, it would be very interesting to know what role the experts who wrote this report attribute to these two types of representation of FAO.

My Government welcomes the inclusion of a sub-programme, Sustaining Resource Potentials, into the overall Programme of FAO. The following points are, in our opinion, of special importance:

- Elaboration of methods to record and assess environmental impacts and environmental damage;
- strategies and technologies for an environmentally sustainable agriculture with regard to areas with different natural conditions;
- studies of the relationship between growing agricultural production and compatibility with the environment;
- finally, inclusion of environmental aspects into the criteria for the assessment of field projects.

The Federal Government is impressed by the many positive judgements on the Technical Cooperation Programme. Nevertheless, we still have reservations towards the fact that the programme continues to be financed through Regular Programme resources of FAO. Extra-budgetary funds should be mobilized to execute TCP projects, as this is being done in other UN organizations.

Mr. Shah already mentioned the relative value of the financial data deriving from the document before us. Exchange rate fluctuations and other trends beyond our influence can change considerably the data set. We therefore follow Mr. Shah's advice and desist from discussing the figures. We feel obligated, however, to mention a few of the principles guiding our attitude towards the budgets of the United Nations in general.

First, we expect that secretariats do not spare any effort to find ways and means to absorb at least part of the unavoidable cost increases in the budgeting process.

Second, considering the financial situation of the major part of Member States, approximate zero growth in real terms is, like in national budgets, the indicated aim for budgetary planning.

Third, as a matter of principle, we recommend that new programme priorities, also those probably resulting from the review process, should be financed through reallocating within the given budget.

Fourth, the recosting of the budget will, we are quite sure, as always, be extensively described in the full Programme of Work and Budget. Especially for certain aspects of staff costs, we are looking forward to further information.

To conclude, I would like to make a more general remark. On several occasions it is stated in the Summary Programme of Work and Budget that the field work of FAO is the most important task of the Organization in favour of the developing countries. On the other hand, it is, however, quite clear that no other organization is equally qualified by its knowledge and experience to provide policy advice to governments and data on world agriculture of comparable quality than FAO. These are core tasks of FAO where the Organization by its very nature has a comparable advantage. In planning FAO's future work, this should not be lost out of sight.

The meeting rose at 12.30 hours

La séance est levée á 12 h 30

Se levanta la sesión a las 12.30 horas

council

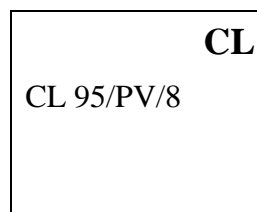
FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

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

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ORGANIZACION DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS PARA LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION



Ninety-fifth Session

Quatre-vingt-quinzième session

95º período de sesiones

EIGHTH PLENARY MEETING
HUITIEME SEANCE PLENIERE
OCTAVA SESION PLENARIA
(22 June 1989)

The Eighth Meeting was opened at 14.30 hours Lassaad Ben Osman, Independent Chairman of the Council, presiding

La huitième séance plénière est ouverte à 14 h 30 sous la présidence de Lassaad Ben Osman, Président indépendant du Conseil

Se abre la octava sesión plenaria a las 14.30 horas bajo la presidencia de Lassaad Ben Osman, Presidente Independiente del Consejo

- IV. PROGRAMME, BUDGETARY, FINANCIAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS (cont'd)
- IV. QUESTIONS CONCERNANT LE PROGRAMME, LE BUDGET, LES FINANCES ET L'ADMINISTRATION (suite)
- IV. ASUNTOS DEL PROGRAMA Y ASUNTOS PRESUPUESTARIOS, FINANCIEROS Y ADMINISTRATIVOS (continuación)
- 14. Summary Programme of Work and Budget 1990-91 (cont'd)
- 14. Sommaire du Programme de travail et budget 1990-91 (suite)
- 14. Resumen del Programa de Labores y Presupuesto (continuación)

Sra. Laurie CORDUA CRUZ (Nicaragua): La delegación de Nicaragua ha analizado con atención el resumen del Programa de Labores y Presupuesto para el bienio 1990/91 contenido en el documento CL 95/3, así como los documentos complementarios para la consideración de este tema de nuestra agenda. Agradecemos al Sr. Shah y al embajador Bukhari la clara presentación que nos hicieron el día de ayer.

Mi delegación, Sr. Presidente aprecia la ardua labor que ha realizado el Director General para conciliar, como bien lo ha señalado el mismo, las cada vez más crecientes necesidades de la mayoría de los Estados Miembros, que deseáramos un aumento mayor del presupuesto, y aquellos que desean limitar todo aumento presupuestario.

En el transcurso de estos días hemos escuchado intervenciones de casi todos los miembros de este Consejo y analizado varios documentos que reflejan, de forma generalizada, preocupación por la crítica situación de la agricultura y la alimentación en el mundo, situación en la cual confluyen una serie de factores naturales, económicos y políticos que ponen en peligro no sólo el desarrollo, sino la subsistencia misma de amplias masas de población que sufren hambre en el mundo en desarrollo.

La delegación de Nicaragua, Sr. Presidente, considera que la FAO es la Organización mundial que con eficiencia y responsabilidad ha venido, dentro del límite de sus posibilidades, contribuyendo a enfrentar y dar respuesta a la crítica situación que mencionábamos, apoyando el desarrollo de la economía agrícola, poniendo a disposición de los diferentes países adelantos técnicos fundamentales en todas las áreas de su atención.

En fin, cada vez son más las áreas en que la FAO influye positivamente en el desarrollo de nuestros pueblos, y hay que fortalecerla.

En consecuencia, mi delegación, Sr. Presidente, está por principio en contra del crecimiento cero y se opone a cualquier recorte que puedan sufrir los programas que, como es de todos conocido, ya han sufrido amputaciones a lo largo de los últimos bienios que ascienden a 45 millones de dólares.

Como ha sido destacado por el Director General y otras delegaciones que me han precedido en el uso de la palabra, el aumento de presupuesto propuesto es insuficiente para subsanar los efectos de los recortes de años anteriores, pero constituyen un esfuerzo por mantener un mínimo de crecimiento que impida un deterioro mayor de nuestra Organización. En este sentido nos unimos a otras delegaciones en el llamado a alcanzar un consenso sobre el mismo.

Mi delegación, Sr. Presidente, apoya el aumento de recursos propuesto para los programas técnicos y económicos.

Por lo que se refiere al Programa de Cooperación Técnica, mi delegación considera que es de importancia fundamental como instrumento eficaz para dar respuesta a las necesidades urgentes de nuestros países, por lo cual apoyamos un incremento mayor de los recursos asignados a este Programa, y esperamos que en el futuro se mantenga una tendencia creciente.

La delegación de Nicaragua, Sr. Presidente, está de acuerdo, en general, con las prioridades señaladas en el resumen del Programa de Labores y Presupuesto para el próximo bienio y entendemos, como ha sido expresado por las Delegaciones de Brasil y Argentina, entre otras, que el orden en que han sido presentadas no implica un orden de precedencia.

En cuanto al establecimiento de las prioridades, Sr. Presidente, la Delegación de Nicaragua considera que la elección de las mismas debe continuar basándose en las recomendaciones que emanan de los órganos rectores de la Organización, los principales Comités Técnicos y las Conferencias Regionales.

Hemos escuchado aquí, Sr. Presidente, intentos de vincular los resultados del examen de la FAO a la aprobación del Programa de Labores y Presupuesto para el próximo bienio y consideramos, como lo expresara el distinguido delegado de Arabia Saudita, que son elementos totalmente independientes y no se deben vincular.

Para finalizar, Sr. Presidente, nuestra delegación reafirma su apoyo al Resumen del Programa de Laboree y Presupuesto que nos ha sido presentado como un importante esfuerzo de consenso y considero que constituye una buena base para las propuestas que finalmente serán presentadas a la Conferencia.

Daniel R. PHORORO (Lesotho): The item under discussion is indeed the solar plexus of our patient-FAO. The patient, nearly reduced to a state of impotence over the last biennium, is convalescing, to use the apt description of the Director-General.

The nature of the convalescence has been presented to us with a high degree of professionalism by Dr. Shah and His Excellency Ambassador Bukhari. My delegation enlists its support to a consensus of acceptance of the Summary Programme of Work and Budget 1990-91, and we trust that this consensus will prevail at the forthcoming FAO Conference in November.

However, Mr. Chairman, we adopt the Programme of Work and Budget 1990-91 with some sense of trepidation and disappointment. The Director-General in his presentation reminded the Council Members that he had done everything, sometimes with a heavy heart, to reach a reasonable budget. Throughout the Reports of the Programme and the Finance Committees this heaviness of heart is not disguised. It is one that is caused by contradictions and ambivalence. We talk about savings and programme adjustments, zero growth, maximum absorption of cost increases and allocation of non-existent resources to selected priority areas. Mr. Chairman, how can insistence on these unclear ambivalent terms not result in a proposed increase of one percent turning into another negative growth budget to the detriment of most Member Nations.

We must admit Mr. Chairman that we have pushed the Director-General and also the Secretariat against the wall, with their backs against it, to apply some surgical patchwork to the budget of an Organization that we all applaud, and recognize its eminence in the field of agricultural development.

We must also admit that we have committed and compromised the Director-General and the Secretariat into an unenviable position of violating the accepted norms of financial and administrative jurisprudence. And this we do at the obvious risk of hurting further the majority of poor in the developing countries at the time when they are faced with all complex odds in the context of economic, environmental, natural disaster-related and social challenges.

We recognize, Mr. Chairman, that extreme financial discipline and efficacy must be relentlessly exercised to make optimum use of available resources, but in our case, as FAO Member Countries, even those resources are not forthcoming at the most crucial time.

We uphold the principle of cutting our cloth to suit our needs, but at the same time that cloth must be sufficient to cover the vital parts. Can we not concede that we are reaching a stage when our Organization's vital parts are being exposed? Several speakers at this Council meeting have justifiably advocated a close collaboration with other appropriate UN and non-UN agencies. To do so effectively it is imperative that we collaborate from a position of financial strength. The beneficiary member countries of FAO are individually weak in financial terms, and they look forward to the financial strength of FAO. My delegation is convinced that the potential and resourcefulness is not wanting but we must all honour our obligations to our Organization which has distinct competence in all agricultural development issues, including fisheries and forestry.

Under the circumstances, the prioritization of nine activities, with the continued policy to direct increased resources to FAO's technical and economic programmes, is a move in the right direction. And we give it our full support. But the overhanging cloud of relatively minor real increases and interprogramme budgetary transfers make us wonder how effectively the goals will be reached. Under the circumstances, there is the need to clearly translate budgetary provisions into well defined priority activities.

In order to make a good job out of a bad situation, we fully agree with the Programme Committee's call on FAO to support the trend towards increased direct government involvement in field projects as in paragraph 2.121 of document CL 95/8. Nonetheless, we must not ignore the manpower and recurrent cost constraints that characterize staff and budgetary resources of these governments. Similarly, we agree with the Committee that the FFHC unit should shift from Information sharing and exchange towards providing assistance and training to developing countries from NGOs based in developed countries. This, in essence, would strengthen the role of women in development. Related to this issue is the recommendation of the Committee for FAO to seek extra budgetary resources to expand and evaluate an assessment related to Sub-programme 2.1.4.5 of Energy Technology Development. We support this recommendation as well as urging a strong link between the International Agricultural Research Centres and national ones in a way that will enhance the capabilities of the latter.

In conclusion, my delegation has already made positive comments regarding the importance of TCP. We are happy that the Committee has noted the high demand for TCP assistance with overall priority in Africa. The catalytic nature of TCP in generating larger and long-term assistance has been the main feature of development assistance in Lesotho with regard to the UN Capital Fund, UNDP and other bilateral and multilateral follow-up funding programmes. We feel that this function can complement an important FAO role of providing advisory expert service on policy issues to Member countries. We note with satisfaction that resources within the Programme of Food and Agricultural Policy will be increased substantially.

Michel MOMBOULI (Congo): Tout comme les autres délégations qui se sont exprimées avant elle, la délégation congolaise aimerait pour commencer remercier et féliciter à son tour Monsieur Shah, qui avec son brio habituel nous a fait l'exposé introductif du document principal pertinent pour ce point 14 de notre ordre du jour, à savoir le document CL 95/3 consacré au Sommaire du Programme de travail et budget 1990-91 de la FAO.

Nos remerciements et félicitations vont aussi à Son Excellence Monsieur l'Ambassadeur Bukharl qui, en sa qualité de président du Comité financier et au nom de Monsieur Mazoyer, Président du Comité du programme, qui a été empêché, nous a présenté les excellents comptes rendus des débats qui se sont déroulés au sein des deux Comités à propos du sujet qui nous occupe.

Pour notre délégation, la profondeur et la pertinence de ces comptes rendus témoignent suffisamment, s'il en était encore besoin, du sérieux avec lequel ces deux Comités s'acquittent de leur difficile mais passionnante mission.

Ces deux exposés liminaires auxquels nous avons ainsi eu droit ont, de l'avis de notre délégation, jeté beaucoup de lumière sur les documents soumis à notre examen.

Notre délégation apprécie à leur juste valeur tous les efforts déployés par le Directeur général de la FAO en vue de parvenir à l'adoption par consensus, au sein de ce Conseil, du Sommaire du Programme de travail et budget 1990-91 de l'Organisation. Ce consensus, nous l'appelons nous aussi de tous nos vœux et espérons vivement que nous pourrions y parvenir.

Au terme de son examen profond des considérations introductives de ce Sommaire du Programme de travail et budget, telles qu'exposées par le Directeur général, notre délégation a abouti à la conclusion selon laquelle la situation de l'Organisation, compte tenu des dernières réductions opérées exigerait plutôt une augmentation substantielle des ressources pour répondre à l'attente des Gouvernements des Etats Membres qui ont de plus en plus recours aux services de l'Organisation pour faire face aux besoins de quelque 80 millions de bouches de plus à nourrir chaque année et pour inverser la tendance à la baisse de la production agricole.

En effet, malgré l'augmentation sporadique de la production vivrière relevée en 1988, les gouvernements des pays en développement rencontrent encore toute la peine du monde pour contenir l'expansion de la pauvreté, ce qui n'est pas sans inconvénient sur les bases du développement durable qu'ils tentent d'instaurer.

Pareille situation, conjuguée au traitement défavorable que reçoivent les principaux produits exportés par les pays en développement dans le commerce International, ne peut justifier une baisse des ressources et, partant, un ralentissement des activités de la FAO. Tout au contraire, face aux difficultés de plus en plus nombreuses des pays en développement, le renforcement et l'expansion des activités de l'organisation deviennent plus qu'une nécessité.

C'est en passant par ce renforcement que nous pouvons espérer encore remettre cette Organisation en état d'accomplir correctement son mandat après la récente crise de liquidité qui lui a volontairement été imposée de l'extérieur, crise qui l'a conduite à réviser à la baisse certains programmes tout aussi essentiels aux pays en développement.

A travers toutes ces considérations, nous voulons aussi vous dire combien nous sommes préoccupés de constater que ce Sommaire du Programme de travail et budget passe l'éponge sans l'ombre d'une seule hésitation sur la situation qui prévaut en asseyant ses prévisions sur une base qui ne permettra pas à l'Organisation de répondre aux besoins urgents ressentis pas ses Etats Membres en développement mais qui tient simplement compte de leur capacité limitée à tenir leurs engagements de contribution. Cette logique ne devrait pas continuer à guider le Secrétariat dans l'élaboration de ses propositions futures car, si elle se poursuit, cette logique risquerait, à terme, d'amoinrir la capacité de la FAO à accomplir son mandat.

Nous avons suivi avec une oreille attentive les arguments développés par le Directeur général pour justifier ce niveau du budget. Notre délégation les admet en se disant qu'il s'agit ici d'un budget charnière après la crise et que le Secrétariat n'a pas pour autant définitivement opté pour la croissance zéro, principe dont le charme ne nous a pas encore séduits. Persuadés que les augmentations des coûts ont largement été sous-estimées, nous notons que c'est plutôt à une croissance négative que nous avons à faire dans le cas présent. Nous déplorons qu'une augmentation plus élevée n'ait pas été proposée pour le PCT, programme auquel nous tenons, et nous espérons qu'un réel redressement des ressources de celui-ci ne tardera pas à survenir.

Le personnel qualifié: voilà bien là le capital le plus précieux de l'Organisation. Ce faisant, celui-ci ne doit pas continuer à servir de parade à la crise financière imposée de l'extérieur à l'Organisation. Pour cette raison nous demandons qu'il soit mis fin dès à présent aux suppressions des postes budgétaires qui de leur caractère exceptionnel sont devenues une pratique permanente.

Au sortir de la Conférence en novembre prochain, la nouvelle procédure d'élaboration du Programme de travail et budget de la FAO aura accompli son premier cycle de mise en oeuvre. Selon que cette nouvelle procédure aura ou n'aura pas contribué à atteindre facilement le consensus, il faudra nous prononcer sur le devenir de cette expérience.

Au sein des Comités techniques qui se sont réunis avant la présente Session du Conseil nous nous étions prononcés sur les activités ordinaires de l'Organisation qui avaient notre appui; ce sont les grands programmes d'Agriculture, Pêche et Forêts. A ce stade nous n'avons pas l'intention de les repasser en détail sous-programme par sous-programme. Ceci étant dit, pour contribuer aussi à l'accomplissement du consensus que nous souhaitons tous, mais aussi par réalisme, nous souhaitons pour terminer, donner notre appui à la palette des neuf domaines prioritaires qui nous ont été proposés pour le prochain biennium 1990-91 et qui répondent bien aux recommandations des organes directeurs de l'Organisation, à savoir les Comités techniques et les Conférences régionales.

Dans ce même esprit, visant le consensus, nous donnons notre accord pour le niveau de l'augmentation du Programme et budget 1990-91 proposée. Nous ne sommes pas d'avis que l'approbation même par consensus du présent Sommaire de Travail et budget 1990-91 au sein de ce Conseil soit subordonnée par les résultats de l'examen des activités de la FAO.

Sra. Grafila SOTO CARRERO (Coba): En primer término, la Delegación de Cuba agradece al Sr. Shah y al Embajador Bukhari por la presentación de este importante tema. Nuestra Delegación ha estudiado con sumo interés los documentos referentes al tema que nos ocupa; tema que, sin lugar a dudas, es de los más importantes, sobre los cuales debe pronunciarse nuestro Consejo. Se trata, a nuestro entender, de la espina dorsal de nuestra Organización. Con las decisiones de la reunión conjunta de los Comités del Programa y de Finanzas celebrada en enero de 1989, se nos preparó un resumen del Programa de Labores para el bienio 1990-91 y un presupuesto para su ejecución, que se somete a nuestra consideración.

En realidad, la tarea no es fácil. Se trata de conciliar todos los intereses. De una parte, como bien lo han expresado otras delegaciones, se encuentran las necesidades y los intereses de nuestros países, los países subdesarrollados; y, de otra, las posibilidades y la voluntad de los países donantes, que también estamos conscientes de que atraviesan dificultades objetivas. Lógicamente, los más afectados somos los países subdesarrollados, ya que un incremento mayor en la cuantía del Presupuesto, si bien podría hacer frente a la ejecución de un programa más amplio, significa también, como lo expresara muy claramente la distinguida Delegación de Argentina en el día de ayer, un incremento de las cuotas que con grandes dificultades tratan de poner al día. La mayoría de nuestros países, por no decir todos, se encuentran abrumados por el enorme peso de la deuda externa, lo cual empeora más nuestra posición para cumplir nuestros compromisos con los organismos internacionales.

Si bien hemos manifestado nuestro acuerdo con las asignaciones a los diferentes programas en las reuniones de los respectivos Comités que antecedieron al Consejo, nos parece oportuno indicar los criterios generales sobre los cuales se formularon las propuestas de Programa de Labores, así como los sectores prioritarios que han de desarrollarse, en especial destinar el incremento a los programas técnicos y económicos. Nos referiremos brevemente a algunos de ellos.

Sobre el "desarrollo soetenible", la Delegación de Cuba considera que debe utilizarse una terminología más precisa. "Soetenible" nos da una idea de que tal vez se lleve a cabo; para nosotros sería más preciso el término "sostenido", que representa una acción concreta. En tal sentido, proponemos un cambio del término "soetenible" por el término "sostenido." A nuestro entender, no se trata de un aspecto solamente formal, sino de fondo, y de ahí nuestra propuesta.

Sobre la biotecnología, entendemos que en este campo se pueden ejecutar acciones de mucha importancia para el desarrollo. Mi país ha hecho ingentes esfuerzos en este campo, obteniendo consiguientemente modestos logros, que ponemos a la disposición de la FAO y en especial de los países en desarrollo, tanto de nuestra región de América Latina y el Caribe como de otras regiones.

Otro aspecto al que quisiéramos referirnos es el de las actividades regionales. Consideramos que en la región de América Latina y el Caribe el trabajo de las redes de cooperación técnica ha jugado un papel muy importante, especialmente en las actividades de cooperación entre países en desarrollo.

Asimismo la Delegación de Cuba considera muy pertinente la asignación programada al Programa de Cooperación Técnica, que sin duda alguna ha demostrado su eficacia en los países en desarrollo. No queremos dejar pasar esta oportunidad para agradecer nuevamente al Gobierno de la República de Italia por su generosa contribución a este importante programa.

Hechas estas observaciones, la Delegación de Cuba, muy consciente del compromiso que asume, considera que el Programa de Presupuesto que se nos presenta constituye una base aceptable para la elaboración de un presupuesto definitivo, que nuestra Delegación apoya y que deberá recibir el total apoyo de la próxima Conferencia General, a celebrarse en noviembre próximo.

Nos resistimos a aceptar que con la situación que atraviesa la FAO y con las necesidades que afrontan los países en desarrollo se hable aún en esta sala y se hagan loas al crecimiento cero. Para nosotros es una muestra más de la falta de voluntad política a la contribución al desarrollo y una muestra más de la cruzada emprendida contra el multilateralismo y contra el sistema de las Naciones Unidas. Aunque consideramos también que el incremento propuesto sobre la base actual es absolutamente insuficiente para atender las necesidades que afrontan nuestros países, esperamos que de la misma forma que la mayoría de los países subdesarrollados hacemos enormes esfuerzos por disminuir el monto de nuestros adeudos con la Organización, los principales países donantes, y en especial el principal contribuyente, cumplimenten sus compromisos, lo cual sí tiene un elevado peso en el desarrollo de las actividades de nuestra Organización y en el cumplimiento de los objetivos fundamentales de la FAO, los cuales están desde hace años bien definidos, y que si bien pueden estar sujetos a mejoras, no consideramos que deban condicionarse las llamadas revisiones de las actividades de la FAO con la aprobación por la Conferencia de este magro Presupuesto que hoy analizamos en el Consejo.

J.E. McGOWAN (Canada): We thank Mr. Shah and Ambassador Bukhari for their introductions to this item and for putting our discussion in the context of earlier deliberations.

As a member of the Programme Committee and of the Committees of Agriculture, Fisheries, Forestry and Commodities, Canada has already provided its substantive suggestions on programming aspects and, in general, we are satisfied with the shape of the Programme, and its planned evolution, over the next biennium. The Canadian delegation, nevertheless, wishes to contribute to the work of the Council, in clarifying priorities, and the parameters of the 1990-91 Programme of Work and Budget.

My delegation supports the nine priority areas identified for the coming biennium. These quite accurately reflect the suggestions presented by many Member Nations. Canada also recognizes the importance of some on-going activities which may not be identified as a priority area, such as those in support of rural income generation.

We welcome the establishment of the new sub-programme, "Sustaining Resources Potentials". We hope that it will better place the FAO to contribute to the integration of environmental principles in agriculture, forestry and fisheries production methods and practices, both in regard to FAO's own projects and as regards the policy advice it may be asked to provide by Member States. This new unit would be instrumental in the dissemination of information and relevant experience through publications, demonstration projects and training in such areas as environmental impact assessment, sustainable development of drylands, environmental aspects of biotechnology and land tenure solutions to population pressures. We believe that this new unit should also facilitate coordination with UNEP and other agencies working on sustainable development. It could also play a key part in the development of sustainable development guidelines for new projects which could be useful for operational activities throughout the UN system.

Canada also recognizes the important role of research and technology development in agriculture, forestry and fisheries in terms of the proposed new programme element (2.1.4.1) to support national research systems regarding policy planning and information. The Canadian delegation would be interested in comments from the Secretariat on coordination of this proposal with the international system for national agricultural research of the CGIAR. We would also welcome information on how this would relate to the FAO's contribution to the CGIAR's Technical Advisory Committee which is noted in the Programme Committee's report (paragraph 2.61).

Paragraph 4.27 of the financial framework chapter of the budget provides a table on resource shifts in technical and economic programmes. While this is helpful it would be even more useful if the priority areas identified in paragraph 4.6 of document CL 95/3 could be brought out more clearly. It is clear that some activities are being discontinued and new ones introduced. Specific information on discontinued or downsized activities or declining priorities would help governments

to justify their support for new priorities. Some of this information is included in the report of the Programme Committee. Perhaps it could be assembled next time so that the Committee and Council could have a clearer picture of trends and their impact in terms of cross-sectoral activities. It would be useful to have in one place a summary of what FAO is doing in areas such as policy advice to governments, and sustainable development.

Policy advice in the area of food and agriculture is a promising area for FAO activity, especially in areas related to monitoring the impact of structural adjustment policies and offsetting the impact on the most vulnerable groups such as women and children and small farmers. The area of women in development will become an FAO priority in the next biennium. The UN system-wide medium term plan for women in development for the period 1990-95, ratified by ECOSOC, calls for the coordination of activities among the UN agencies. Considering the important role that women play in agriculture, Canada would like to stress the need for FAO's active contribution to the implementation of this plan, consistent with its own programme priority to be adopted at the forthcoming Conference.

Regarding sub-programme 2.1.2.1 and the Commission on Plant Genetic Resources, Canada maintains that the Commission should avoid consuming most of the resources of the Sub-Programme Genetic Resources at the possible expense of other programme elements. We believe that the mandate of the Commission should remain within a manageable scope. Consequently, Canada is not convinced that further additional resources for the Commission are required at this time.

With respect to Sub-Programme 2.1.3.3, Animal Genetics, the Canadian Government would be willing to share its expertise with the FAO and its members on the applications of biotechnology in animal breeding and genetics. This would include technology concerning embryo transfer, especially in dairy cattle. The Canadian ministry in question, Agriculture Canada, is also interested in the concept of networking in relation to developments in (a) biotechnology, (b) derived diagnostic methodologies for animal diseases under its mandate and (c) in other related areas.

In the area of fisheries, my delegation supports the Programme Committee's suggestion that the full Programme of Work and Budget document more fully reflect the work being done by FAO with regard to the protection of the aquatic environment. We also endorse the view that FAO should monitor the negative impact on the conservation of fish resources by long-distance fishing fleets. As we have noted under the COFI item, some savings might be achieved in this general area by programming the Sub-Committee on Fish Trade at the same time as COFI itself.

The modest increase to the Forestry Programme, in particular to the Tropical Forestry Action Plan, has our full support and was unanimously endorsed in the Programme Committee. In this general area we are concerned with moves on the part of private interest groups in some developed countries seeking the banning of tropical timber products. In our view this would have the effect of discouraging rational management and sustainable development, since it would remove the commercial incentive to harvest selectively and to re-plant. Can the FAO's public information programme and its network not do more to educate public opinion about the down-side of the overly simplistic solutions being proposed? This would be consistent with the spirit of sub-programme 2.3.2.3 which views harvesting as an integrated activity in the planning of forest management.

In the area of development support programmes, Canada believes that a uniform and consistent approach to the use of trust funds is required to ensure that they are consistent with Regular Programme priorities and that they will help FAO to reach its objectives. The FAO should be selective in accepting new projects and might develop guidelines to ensure that it does not disperse its efforts. For these reasons, the Canadian Government would encourage FAO's development of special action programmes in various sectors based on the tropical forestry action plan model. In this way, bilateral trust funds will make it possible to carry on with a large variety of projects in line with long term goals and programme priorities. Many of the reductions noted by the Programme Committee have only been possible because of the availability of trust funds.

The Canadian Government also places much importance on the evaluation of the field projects/programmes so that the Organization can learn from its successes and past difficulties, and so that new programmes can be better designed. More effort on FAO's part to document and disseminate the results of field experience to the governing bodies in our opinion would be useful.

The Canadian delegation appreciates the efforts of the Director-General to exercise restraint, and acknowledges his efforts to promote a consensus. It is apparent, however, that even the present levels of the budget pose difficulties for many members. The Finance Committee was told that more than four out of ten members are in arrears of assessments relating to 1988 and previous years. Many Member Nations, including Canada, are undertaking major public deficit reductions that will undoubtedly influence the level of resources available to the national and international agricultural sector and for official development assistance. In our view, the allocation of resources to new priorities, including any reform measures to be proposed, should be consistently financed by reallocation from lower priority areas, and not necessarily from additional assessments. We have taken a similar position in the United Nations itself and other specialized agencies. For this reason Canada must reserve its position on the level of the budget until the Conference.

We would like the Secretariat to identify for Conference areas where possible additional savings could be realized including potential savings resulting from the management review exercise. That is under consideration by the Programme and Finance Committees.

We do question whether all of the activities suspended last year should automatically be re-costed and whether some could not be discontinued. We continue to believe that some savings could be possible by adjustments to the 5.5% lapse rate used by the Secretariat in calculating the budget. We believe that it could be brought closer to the actual level of staffing (I believe there are about 200 vacancies now) without further impact on programmes than is currently the case. We look forward with interest to the Finance Committee's further report on this question. Although we do not question the priority of many members for the proposed increase in the Technical Cooperation Programme, we are concerned with the little information that has been provided in the Summary Programme of Work and Budget to governments in support of the proposed increase in the Technical Cooperation Programme's share of the regular budget and look forward to more information in the full Programme of Work and Budget.

We do believe that progress has been made since the last blennlum in the sound technical work of sectoral committees, in the opportunity for the special joint session to comment on the budget outline, in the presentation of the document and the comparative tables, in the priorities identified and in the general shape of the Programme. I hope that it will help to build a consensus at the Conference and look forward to continuing the discussion with the benefit of our Ministers in November.

Antonio BROTONS DIE (España): Felicitamos al Sr. Shah y al Sr. Bukhari por sus brillantes presentaciones de los documentos CL 95/3 relativo al Programa de Labores y Presupuesto previsto para los años 1990-1991, y CL 95/8 sobre la Reunión Conjunta de los Comités del Programa y de Finanzas del pasado mes de mayo.

Del anallele del documento CL 95/3 nos permitimos hacer algunas consideraciones inmediatas, que se deducen de la propuesta que el Director General de la FAO hace al Consejo, ratificada por los Comités del Programa y de Finanzas en su última reunión.

La consideración que nos merece el nuevo sistema de presentación del anteproyecto de Presupuesto del bienio, es muy positiva, en razón a las ventajas que supone, de una parte por las nuevas incorporaciones de transparencia y claridad, y de otra la presentación previa, a manera de declaración de intenciones, de un esbozo de la línea de actuaciones y prioridades para el examen de los Comités de Finanzas y del Programa, a la que sigue el presente anteproyecto presentado nuevamente a los Comités citados y al Consejo, que es el momento que nos ocupa ahora mismo.

Esta representación se complace en ver cumplidas con esta presentación del Resumen del Programa de Labores y Presupuesto sus indicaciones reiteradas de mayores niveles de transparencia y claridad formuladas en sesiones anteriores del Consejo.

El nivel de incremento de la presupuestación que propone el Director General, es evidentemente modesto, al no representar más que un 1% sobre el Presupuesto actualizado del bienio 1988-1989, en base a aumentos por bienallzaclón y por inflación estimada en el bienio 1990-1991, y cuyo volumen total de recursos supone 60,1 millones de dólares; es decir, un 12,2 por ciento sobre la cifra aprobada en la Conferencia General de la FAO, en noviembre de 1987.

En el documento de presentación se aclara que esta actualización de créditos probablemente es insuficiente, e incluso se estiman cantidades adicionales por inflación de gastos de consultores, reclasificación de personal de la Organización, reajustes por lugar de destino y otras actualizaciones, que suponen en total otros 4,9 millones de dólares, e incluso se afirma en la exposición que pueden surgir otros incrementos como consecuencia de la encuesta sobre sueldos de los servicios generales en Roma.

Es todavía pues, un poco pronto, para un análisis del total de los gastos necesarios para mantener en el próximo bienio el mismo nivel del Programa que el aprobado para 1988-1989, pero en todo caso estimamos que el aumento neto propuesto, después de la actualización total de gastos, que se cifra en 5,5 millones de dólares, es oportuno y favorecerá el consenso solicitado por el Director General.

Del análisis de la situación financiera de la Organización, que figura en el documento CL 95/8, se deduce la persistencia de algunos países en retrasar el pago de sus cuotas, lo que ya ha obligado a hacer ahorros a la FAO por un montante acumulado de 45 millones de dólares en los últimos ejercicios, y de no cambiar la situación es de temer que tuviera que seguir haciendo nuevos recortes en los programas. Queremos, pues, hacer un llamamiento a los países con retraso de sus obligaciones con respecto a la Organización, para que regulen su situación a fin de mantener los niveles de financiación necesarios para llevar a cabo el Programa de Labores y Presupuesto que resulte aprobado en la próxima Conferencia.

En orden a las esferas prioritarias establecidas en la documentación presupuestarla, debemos dejar patente como ya lo han hecho otras representaciones de distintos países, que su orden de enunciado no debe prejuzgar mayores niveles de prioridad, sino actuaciones equiparables en la consideración de la FAO.

En esta línea de actuaciones prioritarias, conviene recordar una vez más el interés que tiene mi país en que la FAO asuma una posición de liderazgo en el camino de conseguir una agricultura que sepa conjugar el desarrollo con la conservación de los recursos naturales. Apoyamos decididamente las actuaciones encaminadas a la mejora de las estructuras agrarias, la formación cooperativa, principalmente de los jóvenes agricultores, y la utilización de este medio también para incorporar a la mujer plenamente al desarrollo. Esta postura, tradicionalmente la hemos venido preconizando y la reiteramos.

Apoyamos las medidas encaminadas al desarrollo de la teledetección, empleada para conocer las variaciones climatológicas, así como la calidad y cantidad de recursos naturales; las medidas encaminadas a mejorar la lucha contra la erosión y la desertización, y el impulso a la agrosilvicultura y los sistemas agroforestales, así como las explotaciones conjuntas agrícolas y ganaderas en zonas áridas y semiáridas, cuyos desequilibrios causan muchas veces el fenómeno de la desertización.

En cuanto a pesca queremos significar el interés de nuestro país en el desarrollo de la actividad de los Organos Regionales de Pesca de la FAO, la potenciación de los medios del Consejo General de Pesca del Mediterráneo, y el interés para que la FAO establezca el marco jurídico y financiero que permita la continuación del proyecto CPACO (Comité de Pesca para el Atlántico Centro-Oriental).

Paul R. BRYDEN (Australia): At the outset my delegation notes, as Council is aware, that Australia supports the principle of zero real growth and maximum participation in cost increase. As other speakers have commented, many International organizations have achieved zero real growth or even below. Suggestions have been made by several delegations for sensible reductions in certain programmes in the light of recent developments which have been favourable and which perhaps reduce the demands on FAO. We also endorse the view of some delegations-notably Switzerland-that this approach is not simply to save money, but is to improve performance and delivery of FAO's efforts particularly to developing countries.

In the past, the meeting of COAG has been our first opportunity to consider the likely shape of the budget for the next biennium. Therefore, we welcomed the meeting in January, albeit on an experimental basis, of the Special Joint Session on the Outline of the Programme of Work and Budget for 1990-91. We believe the Special Joint Session was very useful in allowing members to look at the overall shape and size of the budget proposed by the Director-General at an early stage, and to inject their views into the process.

Turning now to the Programme of Work and Budget, we need a broad approach, and priorities for this were canvassed by the January Special Joint Session. The document is admirably clear and original in presentation, and provides a sound basis for the examination of the Programme of Work and Budget by the various branches of FAO.

That said as a general comment on the Programme of Work and Budget, there do not appear to be substantial or marked alterations to the work being undertaken, notwithstanding the gross percentage changes shown on page 16 at paragraph 4.27. There are some changes at the margin to reflect increases in emphasis in some places and less in others, but generally we have the feeling there is a certain stability in the work being carried out. We are concerned that there are few signs in the document of programmes ending and new ones beginning. There are some new ones, and some known changes. There are some transfers, but few substantial deletions. Innovation and adaptability are seen as keys to the development of a dynamic and responsive FAO. Unfortunately, there is little evidence in the PWB of purposeful steady change. This is not to argue for change for the sake of change, but rather to suggest some set provisions be a regular part of programme design and evaluations be more transparent and rigorous. It is, of course, appreciated that many activities have a long and at times difficult gestation period. They may enjoy widespread support and are useful over a long period of time. However, we would like to see more evidence of evaluation and further details on the assessment of each programme. A few detailed examples of how a programme is evaluated, reassessed and ranked would be useful.

Turning to Chapter 2, Field Programmes, presumably FAO field activities will be influenced by consideration of the expert brief reports of the SJS. That said, the Field Programme can be expected to remain a major FAO activity. My delegation would like to see country offices given a stronger role in supporting field activities with FAO Representatives selected accordingly. We feel that urgent action should be taken to decentralize project support functions, keeping in mind the

need for accountability at all levels. Where possible, we think country offices should perhaps install facsimile machines and computer facilities, perhaps in common with other UN agencies. We see such upgrading as an investment in enhanced productivity and efficiency which will not only help lower running costs but also help speed up programme delivery, including TCP, and assist in the systematic two-way flow of technical and policy Information between developing countries and FAO. We also see value in future establishment of the small field inspection unit to deal with field operations from a management and organizational rather than technical perspective, with field operations also being monitored by COAG, COFO and COFI.

Regarding Chapter 3, the Financial Framework, we would note that the overall situation for contributions seems better than in recent years, and we are cautiously optimistic that a cash flow crisis can be avoided. Miscellaneous Income Is exceeding expectations, and the Working Capital Fund and Special Reserve Account will be up to level by the end of the blennium.

Turning to Chapter 4, Programme Framework, we note that in formulating proposals for the budget, programme managers within FAO were asked to clearly justify high priority areas and to identify lower priority areas so as to accommodate proposals for resource increases. We welcome FAO's endeavours to assign priorities to their activities in agriculture and to take account of possible offsetting savings, but I believe that more needs to be done in this area.

We support the activities proposed within the broad priority areas in Programme Framework Section 4, which were accepted by the SJS in January. We note in particular the increased emphasis on environmental protection and climate change under sustainable development, the steps to be taken to strengthen the Organization's policy advisory role and the role of women in agricultural development.

The proposed programmes for Forestry and Fisheries appear sensible. We note that the level of budget for the Regional Offices is set to remain at essentially the same level as in 1988-89. While the role of Regional Offices will be considered in the context of the current review, the developing countries of the Southwest Pacific value the work of the Regional Office in assisting development and providing technical assistance and expertise.

We also note the greater use of computers in the budget preparation process. We support the use of such technology and hope that increased computerization will assist FAO in responding to members' requests for Information on the budget and other financial matters, thereby improving the transparency of the Organization.

Turning to Chapter 5, on the Programme Budget Impact, we find this to be a useful summary of a major programme at para. 5.3. Actual expenditure or out-turn figures for the previous blennium and if possible, the immediately preceding year, would be helpful in monitoring performance.

Turning to Chapter 6, Cost Increases, again we find the papers offer a useful explanation of cost increases, especially the summary at paras. 6.9 to 6.19. We note that some cost increases have been absorbed and wonder whether such absorption could be greater.

Turning to Chapter 7, Objects of Expenditure, again there is a useful exposition of establishment changes. However, we do find it somewhat difficult to reconcile the concern that was expressed at the last Council that the Organization was haemorrhaging with proposed increases in professional posts. Information on actual occupancy rates would help provide a better picture of the Organization's staffing situation. With regard to a specific point, we notice that 27 General Service staff are proposed for the Near East reopening. Is this the full complement or partial implementation of the 47 General Service staff envisaged in document CL 94/17?

Turning to Chapter 8 on Comparison, our position remains that of seeking to achieve the principle of zero real growth.

I move now to the Annex at pages 34-129. Programme Proposals by Major Programmes provides a useful précis of priority programme changes and proposals for agriculture. One minor editorial improvement could be to paragraph numbers to make it easier for cross-reference.

While document CL 95/3 gives a good broad description of the types of activity to be undertaken by the Organization in the next blennium and indicative costing, we must admit we have had difficulty in assessing individual programmes and in drawing comparisons between the 1988-89 budget figures presented and those given in the Programme of Work and Budget for 1988-89, Conference Doc. C 87/3. We would also query the way some changes in programme elements are presented. For instance, under Sub-programme 2.1.1.4, the work of Programme Element 6 has been changed from "establishing an intergovernmental system for technology transfer and Information sharing on water development and management" to "carrying out an inventory of proven operational techniques and methodology in irrigation and development". The way this element is presented in the table at page 43 suggests that funding was approved in 1988-89 for the new work proposed. We believe a more accurate way to

reflect what has happened is to show transfer of funds to a newly created programme element for the proposed inventory instead of simply changing the programme element name. We wonder what has happened to the technology transfer network. Has it been established or completed, or will some of the funding for Programme Element 6 go towards continued work in this area? It would be helpful if some of these presentations were clearer.

My delegation shares the reservations of a number of delegations regarding the TCP. My delegation supports the suggestion of the UK delegation that the merits of an average exchange rate being adopted for the budget be explored, possibly by the Finance Committee. Any mechanism which helps to remove uncertainty and smooth fluctuations is worthy of consideration. Indeed, such an approach is quite normal in many, if not most, International organizations. We also note the comments of a number of delegations, notably Japan, regarding cost increases flowing from the Review. There will, of course, be savings and improvements in efficiency, and at this stage we should keep an open mind until the SJS reports are in.

Reference was made by the Director-General to a donkey being starved by its owner who then expressed surprise that the animal expired. Clearly, the donkey needs regular, predictable feeding on a sustained basis. We call on all members to contribute their share in full and promptly. But we members also need to examine the load we put into the saddlebags. In our view, we need to maintain a balanced load, to check that it is gold, not lead, in the saddlebags, and ensure that as new nuggets are put in the bags, that we do not break the donkey's back. We should recognize that there are more in the team than 40 years ago. FAO is not the only entrant. This gives FAO the opportunity to share the ever-increasing overall burden, pulling in the same direction as other International agencies, playing a leading and at times unique role, but not responsible for all activities. This metaphor outlines our view that FAO and we members should establish clear priorities, focus resources on what FAO does best, and live in realistic balance and harmony with its budgetary resources. The saddlebag should balance the feedbag.

In summary, my delegation remains attached to the principle of zero real growth and maximum absorption of cost increases, regards the document as an excellent basis for mature and constructive consideration of the Director-General's proposed Programme of Work and Budget, and is hopeful that a full consensus can emerge by Conference and that the 25th Conference that we all working towards will be characterized as the Conference of consensus.

Gian Luigi VALENZA (Italie): Je ne peux évidemment pas m'associer aux précédents orateurs pour féliciter le Comité des Finances et son Président du bon travail qu'ils ont effectué puisque je fais moi-même partie de ce Comité. Ce serait évidemment un péché d'orgueil.

Je dois par contre exprimer ici l'appui du Gouvernement italien aux grandes lignes du Sommaire du Programme de travail et budget pour 1990-91.

Je voudrais toutefois évoquer le fait que plusieurs délégations ont demandé de maintenir le Programme des engrais qui est d'une importance toute particulière pour les pays en voie de développement.

Nous sommes par ailleurs heureux de constater que la situation financière de la FAO a progressé au cours des douze derniers mois, et qu'elle peut aujourd'hui justifier un prudent optimisme. La plupart des pays contributeurs en effet, et surtout les plus importants, n'ont pas manqué cette année de faire leur devoir en répondant à l'appel du Directeur général en particulier et du Secrétariat en général.

Je ne voudrais pas manquer de remercier le Directeur général pour sa remarquable introduction au document CL 95/3, et le féliciter aussi d'avoir pu éviter de recourir à ces emprunts que plusieurs délégations dans cette même salle, 11 y a plus d'un an, avaient déplorés.

Je désire terminer ma brève intervention en confirmant que le Gouvernement italien considère que l'augmentation de programme dans la limite d'un pour cent de la base budgétaire recalculée pourrait obtenir un consensus en la matière.

C. Srinivasa SASTRY (India): The Indian delegation has followed carefully the discussion in the Council on this agenda item which, as has already been pointed out, is always one of the most important items of the June session of the Council and the Conference year. We have also carefully studied the three important Council documents, CL 95/3, 95/4 and 95/8 relating to this agenda item along with the corrections to the documents in CL 95/3 and 95/8. We would like to commend the statement made by the ADG, PBE, Mr. Shah while introducing this agenda item which was brief, clear and precise and was characteristically well modulated. We would also thank the Chairman of the

Finance Committee for his remarks which have placed the issues before us in the correct perspective. As you are aware Mr. Chairman, India is also a member of the Programme Committee. In that capacity we have been participating in the discussions being held since January 1989 on the work relating to the Programme of Work and Budget. We participated in the joint session of the Programme and Finance Committee in January and February 1989; the COFI where we were on the drafting committee; the COAG where also we were on the drafting committee; the Programme Committee meeting in May, and the joint meeting of the Programme and Finance Committees in May. Our views on the Programme of Work and Budget were placed before these bodies and meetings, and are fully reflected in the three main documents now before the Council. We do not want to repeat these views which already stand well documented.

We would only add that we support the Programme items not only in relation to agriculture and fisheries but also the items relating to forestry and, more particularly, to the Tropical Rain Forestry Programme.

Another comment we would like to make on a specific Programme item is to sound a word of caution about a suggestion made by one of the distinguished delegates to step down the allocations for the locust programme. As you are aware, Mr. Chairman, the threat of locusts can materialize suddenly and unexpectedly. We would therefore suggest that the programme should be continued as a prophylactic measure. Should the locusts not materialize, the monies would remain unspent and could be reallocated.

Having said this Mr. Chairman, with your permission we would like to make some comments on a few other matters which are related to the broader issues before the FAO. We would like to deal with them in the larger perspective without necessarily going into the details of priorities and individual allocations for each Programme item or Sub-programme item.

Before I deal with these other issues, we would like to especially recognize and compliment the management of FAO, represented by the Director-General and the Secretariat under the overall guidance of the Finance Committee, on the skills and dexterity shown by them in managing FAO's finances in the current and the last biennium, when cuts to the tune of US\$20 million and US\$25 million had to be given effect to. This lopping-off exercise by the FAO management must have been hard and painful, but what in our view is more impressive is that the FAO management has been able to tide over this period without recourse to any borrowing, even though the DG had been given the power to borrow when the dimensions of the financial problems that FAO was likely to face emerged clearly during 1987 and were considered by the governing bodies of the FAO. In this process of managing the severe financial crunch it is clear that the FAO has been cut to the bone. However the technical competence and expertise of FAO have, by and large, been preserved, although to our regret there was a decline in the capacity and effectiveness of the FAO in delivering the technical support programmes required by the developing countries. Notwithstanding this we feel that the DG and his team deserve to be specially congratulated on their prudent financial management during these two biennia which were indeed very difficult.

Having tided over this very critical period, and going through, as the FAO is, the Review exercise which was agreed upon in the November 1987 session of the FAO Conference-the results of which should be going before the November 1989 session of the Conference-it is appropriate that the budget levels of FAO should be restored as quickly as possible so as to usher in a period of normality and a new era of stability. In the proposals before us the total budget is envisaged to grow from US\$492.36 million in 1988-89 to US\$558.256 million in 1990-91. Of this only US\$5.75 million is a real programme increase. The balance of US\$60.146 million in the cost increase is due to factors beyond our and FAO's control.

Even this proposed real programme increase of US\$5.75 million turns out to be a notional figure since the budgetary figures do not include the additional cost of about US\$3 million for consultants, travel and reclassification of posts which is proposed to be absorbed in the overall cost figure. Allowing for this 3 million, the Programme increase we are considering is a sum of only US\$2.75 million or a token 0.45 percent.

The viewpoints which we have heard in the Council we find have also been reflected in the documents before the Council, be it "the zero real programme growth" or "the maximum absorption of cost increases", as also reserving the final position till "the overall situation, including with regard to cost increase and review process" emerges.

During the discussion Mr. Chairman, certain questions were raised about the reliability of the figure US\$60 million cost increase. This computation involves, as was documented, certain informed guesswork, though the document does say that these are not based on what was referred to as speculations. These are questions based on computations which are normally done by the FAO Secretariat. On the basis of data that is available to us we find in the last seven biennia there was at least one other blennlum where the cost Increase was more than \$65 million. Out of the last seven biennia in percentage terms the cost increases were higher than the percentage that is being

tabled this time, which is 12.2 percent, but I am sure this is a matter of detail where the factual position can be worked out to mutual satisfaction between the Members who have raised the doubts and the FAO Secretariat.

Mr Chairman, considering that the projected cost increases are over US\$60 million and the real growth in the Programme is only US\$2.75 million, it would be evident that if the view relating to maximum absorption of cost increases were to be pressed, there would be a substantial negative growth in the budget for the next biennium. This would cause serious disappointment to the developing countries and would not be quite realistic. We would therefore urge that in keeping with past practice in the FAO, the Programme of Work and Budget should allow for the cost increases in full.

Leaving aside for the moment the "real zero growth concept" as mentioned by some distinguished delegates, we are happy to find Mr. Chairman that in the budget formulation exercise the Director-General seems to have followed the "zero based budgeting concept" which is a well known and widely used concept and tool in budgetary and financial control. This is clear from paragraphs 4.2 and 4.3 on page 12 of document CL 95/3 which gives the modalities and the basis of which this exercise has been done.

Mr Chairman, among mathematicians there is some controversy as to which old civilization first introduced the concept of zero. India also does lay some claim to this distinction. Despite this Mr. Chairman the delegation from India is not trying to suggest that the zero in the zero based budgeting concept could conceivably substitute for the zero in the real zero growth concept.

Coming back to the Programme of Work and Budget, we would submit that the discussions in this session of the Council should appropriately be looked at in the background of, and linked with, the developments in the governing bodies of the FAO for the last three years and more. Mr. Chairman, you yourself are fully and personally aware of these developments since this is the fourth year of your distinguished tenure as the independent Chairman of the Council. During the discussions in the various fora and the governing bodies of the FAO, some members have often raised five major issues which they perceived as very important and about which they felt genuinely and deeply concerned. These are: (1) the procedure for formulating the proposals for the Programme of Work and Budget; (2) prioritization; (3) adequacy of documentation and transparency; (4) TCP; and (5) the size of the budget.

With your permission I will briefly deal, Mr. Chairman, with these five issues in sequence. The first relates to the procedure for formulating the Programme of Work and Budget. You are aware that we have introduced a new procedure after the last Conference where we have gone through five to six steps for considering this, starting with a two page document on outline which went before the joint Programme and Finance Committees, which went into all the aspects like format, procedures, priorities, approach, selected priorities, TCP, cost increases and budget level, and arrived at a conclusion giving directions to the Secretariat and the DG as to how the exercise was to be carried out. This was followed by a COFI meeting which accounts for \$31.32 million out of the Programme items. The third step was the COAG meeting in April/May where a total of \$183.976 million of Programme was gone into in detail Programme wise and Sub-programme wise, it should be noted here Mr. Chairman that COAG and COFI between them account for \$215.296 million out of \$236.937 million of the Programme element. This accounts for 91 percent of the Programme content.

Thereafter we had the Programme and Finance Committee meeting-separately by the Programme Committee which went into the Programme over 24 pages of this Report and in 133 paragraphs. This was followed by the Finance Committee which went into this in 10 paragraphs and two pages. This was followed by the Joint Programme and Finance Committee which went into this in considerable detail and reached a conclusion as to how the exercise is to be completed.

Now Mr. Chairman, the papers are before the Council. Therefore it would be conceded that there is general agreement on all sides that the procedure we have followed this year provides for full consultation, discussion, involvement of Member Nations and evolution of a consensus.

However, here Mr. Chairman, I would like to refer to the point raised in paragraph 2.7 on page 6 of the proceedings of the Programme Committee where the implications for the new procedure have been gone into. This aspect has also been referred to by other distinguished delegates. In our view Mr. Chairman final view about making this procedure permanent should be taken at the next Conference. Basically this exercise introduces a lot of work in terms of paper and manpower on behalf of the Secretariat, and it would have something to recommend itself if, through this process, we are able to evolve a mechanism for hammering out a consensus. If we succeed, this procedure has something to recommend itself. Otherwise I would submit Mr. Chairman this question will have to be reconsidered. Therefore we suggest that while a decision on making use this experimental measure permanent may wait, we would submit that the new procedure has definitely facilitated the participation of all Member Nations in the budget making process.

The second question is the prioritization. We agree Mr. Chairman with the nine priorities listed by the Programme Committee and also in the Budget document, though we would underline the point made by the Programme Committee in para 2.19 where they said the priorities are not supposed to interse priorities among themselves.

The Indian delegation is conceptually in favour of prioritization but we would like to emphasize that the limitations of global priorities in the work of an organization like FAO should be clearly recognized. We would submit that the global priorities may not be valid in a national setting. Indeed, in a large country like India even the national priorities for the Government of India do not always fit in with the regional and sub-regional priorities. The FAO has perforce to take into consideration the national priorities notwithstanding the nine global priorities. Further, these nine priorities are not immutable and they have to be kept under review as the situation, being dynamic, keeps changing. They have, however, a limited use in terms of giving a broad focus to the programme activities of the FAO.

However, we should resist the temptation-and we recommend to FAO that the temptation must be resisted-of putting all the programme activities of FAO into the straitjacket of these nine priorities. We would suggest that in document CL 95/3, while taking action on cross-sectoral priorities referred to in paras 4.32 and 4.33 of the document, our views may kindly be kept in mind.

I would also seek your indulgence in that Mr. Shah in his introductory remarks did make a reference to this paradox as follows: "while the demands of Member Nations for FAO support and services continue to span an extensive range of sectors and activities, and each individual Member Nation looks to FAO to have its priority needs met, Member Nations as a whole look for a concentration of additional resources in a limited number of priority areas.". I believe this is a paradox that has to be recognized.

However, we are happy that the point of prioritization which was made by a number of Members in the discussions in the Governing Bodies, has been fully and satisfactorily met.

The third point la the adequacy of documentation and transparency. This figured repeatedly in the discussions in the governing bodies. We are very happy to note that many Member Nations participating in the discussions yesterday and today have complimented the FAO Secretariat on the changes in the format and presentation, and as a result they consider that there is an increase in transparency. We are happy with this trend and hope that it will continue.

However, we would submit that the Governing Bodies have to balance the need for detailed Information and transparency with the costs and effort involved. We should agree on a consensus about the optimum level of transparency. Such Member Nations which need additional information and data could always obtain the material directly from the FAO.

Subject to these observations, we would submit that the requirements for documentation and transparency are being largely and progressively met.

The fourth point relates to the TCP. We noticed that the views reflected in the discussions have come before the Council in the document CL 95/4, pages 3 and 4, paragraph 1.19 and 1.20, in the Programme Committee document CL 95/8; in the Finance Committee document CL 95/8, and in the Joint Meeting also. These reflect the well known positions which the Member Nations have been taking in the fora of the FAO whenever the TCP comes up for discussion in the Governing Bodies.

At this stage we would like to react to a point that has been made this morning by one of the delegates that a specified percentage of the TCP should be reserved for the nine priority programmes that have been indicated in the Programme of Work and Budget. We would strongly suggest that this suggestion should not be accepted because this will be striking at the very root of the concept of TCP in terms of doing away with the flexibility and nullifying the quickness of response, which has so far characterized the activities taken up under the TCP.

Mr. Chairman, you are aware that perceptions about TCP differ depending on the geographical location and the size of a country, its state of development, and its financial position, particularly in relation to its foreign exchange reserves based on the balance of payments and trade.

We would urge that the consensus that has been arrived at on the basis of the discussions that have gone on be taken as the basis for further action allowing for the symbolic or token increase for TCP that is provided for in the documentation.

With due respect, here we will make references to a point that was made in relation to the regional offices and country offices during the course of the discussion. We feel, with due respect to the point of view expressed by the delegate of the Federal Republic of Germany, that it may not be worthwhile to await the results of the ongoing review. These are time-tested programmes that have been going on for some time in the FAO, and the recommendations contained in the Programme of Work and Budget should be supported without waiting for the results of the ongoing review.

Lastly, the size of the budget. Ultimately, the question is what is the ideal size of a budget. We have to agree and concede that this involves a subjective judgement keeping in view the realities of the situation, although the historical growth rates should not be forgotten. The historical growth rates would indicate that in almost all of the seven biennia preceding this one there has been a sizeable increase in the real programme increase ranging from US\$ 31 million in 1976-77 to US\$ 22.312 million in the 1982-83 biennium. It is only in the last three biennia when FAO entered into a particular phase of crises that the increases fell substantially. Keeping this in view, we would suggest that the proposed programme increase of US\$ 2.7 million or 0.45% for 1990-91 is to be viewed in the historical perspective.

Having seen the relative stagnation in terms of budgetary levels during the last six years, would we as a Governing Body like to see a negative growth to top six years of relatively stagnation or should we go for a symbolic or token programme increase of US\$ 2.75 million or 0.45%, or should we go in for a negative growth which would be the result should the view that the concept of zero growth also includes maximum absorption of cost increases-which we know are estimated conservatively at a little over US\$ 60 million-be finally adopted.

Mr. Chairman, as you are aware, it is a moot point as to what is consensus in a body such as FAO and how it can be reached in the Governing Bodies in an organization such as the FAO in the United Nations system. This itself could form the basis for a detailed and long discussion. Keeping in view the wide variations in the needs, capacities, perceptions and attitudes of the Member Nations, and particularly keeping in view the scale of contributions by the 158 Member Nations for 1990-91, as documented in pages 66 to 70 of document CL 95/8, we would submit that the Member Nations, particularly from the developing countries, have done their utmost to ensure that the views of all the Members have been accorded due importance in the decision making process. Further, we would submit that the sensitivities, views and opinions of all the Member Nations have been given as much Importance and weight as possible in the procedure and decision-making processes that we have been following in an organization such as the FAO in the UN system.

Mr. Chairman, in your distinguished career in your country, you have been a Minister in your own country, an office which we refer to in India as a political executive. I myself have been a civil servant dealing with the political executive, and so have most of my distinguished colleagues, where we take orders from the political executive. As civil servants all of us would like as far as possible to deal with an authority, be it a senior civil servant or be it a political executive, who issues clear directions for their work after duly considering all the possible alternatives and attaching weight to them. While discussions and deliberations are important in the decision-making process, a stage comes when decisions are required to be taken and cannot be postponed. I presume that the FAO Secretariat, which consists of international civil servants, who work as per the decisions taken and the directions given by the Governing Bodies of the FAO such as this, also have similar perceptions and reactions about whom they report to and at what speed decision making is accomplished.

We are all aware that the documentation and meetings and discussions have a cost factor, particularly in terms of man hours. Now that we have had almost six months of discussions in different fora of the Governing Bodies on the Programme of Work and Budget, may I propose that the Summary Programme of Work and Budget before us, which has been formulated based on the widest possible discussions with the Member Nations, be adopted as the basis for the full Programme of the Work and Budget to be placed before the coming Conference. We especially request all of the delegates who have participated in the long discussions since January to use their good offices and influence to convince their governments that the best that was possible in the circumstances in the FAO has been achieved and has been sought to be obtained through consensus, and use their persuasiveness and advocacy capabilities to induce their governments to support this consensus in the shape of the Summary Programme of Work and Budget, 1990-91.

Mr. Chairman, you will note that in this rather long intervention we have not referred to any specific programme, priority or allocation. This is because, as I mentioned earlier, we have done that in the respective fora. May I therefore conclude by requesting that the delegates of the Council join the consensus that has evolved around the Summary Programme of Work and Budget, and I plead with them that the Director-General be requested to formulate the full Programme of Work and Budget on the basis of what the COAG, COFI, the Programme Committee, the Finance Committee and the Joint Finance and Programme Committees, and this Council have said in relation to various programmes, sub-programmes and activities included in the Summary Programme of Work and Budget.

Gonzalo BULA HOTOS (Colombia): A estas alturas del debate, nuestra primera reacción es la de que resulta contradictoria, para calificarla benévolamente, la actitud de algunos distinguidos representantes de países desarrollados, que han elogiado y felicitado a la Secretaría por la presentación de este documento, que han sugerido nuevas actividades y mas evaluaciones, que después

de participar en las reuniones de los comités, son países poderosos, miembros de todos los comités, estuvieron presentes en las sesiones especiales de enero, en las estatutarias de mayo y ahora están aquí en el Consejo y sin embargo dicen que todavía tienen que expresar reservas y que no entienden los argumentos con los cuales se justifica este modesto incremento propuesto.

Si aceptásemos ese razonamiento, ¿qué podríamos pensar de la posición de aquellos países en desarrollo que no son miembros de los comités y que ni siquiera tienen recursos para disponer de una oficina en Roma? Y luego agregan después de todo esto que la FAO no puede seguir trabajando con la mutilación que le han impuesto y además que la FAO debe realizar todo lo que ellos proponen con los recursos existentes y aun lograr más ahorros e insisten en el funesto e inaceptable principio del crecimiento cero.

Para no incurrir en generalizaciones, debemos reconocer que algunas declaraciones de colegas eminentes de países desarrollados han sido razonables y casi constructivas. Pero no podemos ocultar nuestra sorpresa, porque algunos distinguidos y eminentes representantes de respetables estados industrializados han llegado a hacer la afirmación increíble de que también sus países se encuentran en situaciones económicas difíciles. Nos han conmovido profundamente esas manifestaciones. Proponemos formalmente que, en la medida en que la FAO vaya recibiendo el pago de las cuotas atrasadas, se asignen a esos pocos países desarrollados algunos proyectos dentro del Programa de Cooperación Técnica, algunos PCT que pueden, a lo mejor, tener niveles de asignaciones un poco mayores que las que se conceden a los países en desarrollo, en fin alguna asistencia que pueda contribuir a que esos estados sigan siendo más ricos y más poderosos.

¿Cómo es posible que se desconozcan las condiciones verdaderamente adversas de los países en desarrollo que padecen una enorme y creciente deuda externa que los ha convertido en exportadores netos de capitales a esos estados y que, en el caso de América Latina y el Caribe, el sólo costo del servicio de esa deuda absorbe la totalidad de los ingresos por la exportación de los principales productos agropecuarios?

Los representantes de Colombia pensamos que algunas, repetimos, algunas de esas actitudes son negativas y contrarias a los más elementales principios de la cooperación internacional. Después de la lamentable situación a la que han sometido a la Organización, a la luz de la clara y franca declaración inaugural del Director General, comentarlos como éstos representan a nuestro modo de pensar juicios críticos en la función de la FAO, que nosotros rechazamos.

Los representantes de Colombia deseamos expresar al Director General de la FAO, nuestro más profundo y sincero reconocimiento por la forma pragmática, inteligente y acertada, como ha podido manejar la difícil situación financiera de la Organización, afectada por la crisis debida a la carencia de liquidez, causada por la falta de pago de algunas contribuciones, bien conocidas.

Igualmente, manifestamos aprecio positivo a aquellos Gobiernos que han pagado oportunamente sus contribuciones y que así evitaron que esa crisis adquiriera mayores proporciones. Como pudimos comprobar en la reciente reunión del Comité de Agricultura, los 45 millones que debieron ser reducidos, impusieron el aplazamiento de muchas actividades, la supresión de otras y, en general, afectaron muy negativamente los eficientes servicios que la FAO viene ofreciendo a nuestros países.

Los representantes de Colombia pensamos que este Consejo debe decir claramente en su informe que hechos tan desafortunados como esos no deberán repetirse en la ejecución del Programa para el bienio 1990-91.

Admiramos el esfuerzo del Director General para presentarnos propuestas dirigidas a obtener un consenso.

El modesto, casi simbólico aumento propuesto, no tendrá el alcance suficiente, ni siquiera para compensar las reducciones anteriores y mucho menos para dar nueva vitalidad a aquellas actividades que debieron ser suprimidas o detenidas.

Frente al siempre preocupante estado de la agricultura y de la alimentación en el mundo-como podremos comprobarlo en la discusión del tema 4-y en relación con la inmensa magnitud de los problemas y también de las cifras que se asignan a otros organismos, ¿qué puede representar, para una Organización como la FAO, el modestísimo incremento propuesto?

El criterio adecuado del Director General ha concentrado ese pequeño aumento en los Programas Técnicos y Económicos, sobre todo en el Programa Principal-Agricultura-y el capítulo IV, Programa de Cooperación Técnica.

Los programas técnicos y económicos son aquellos de mayor interés para los países beneficiarios, pero consideramos insuficiente el incremento de tan sólo 3,5 millones de dólares.

El Programa de Cooperación Técnica ha venido superando todas las pruebas y evaluaciones que se han solicitado y hoy goza del apoyo casi total, con unas pocas excepciones confirmadas en este debate, de países desarrollados y en desarrollo, que han llegado al convencimiento de que el PCT es un válido y eficaz instrumento de servicio a los Estados del Tercer Mundo.

Por primera vez, la preparación de este Resumen del Programa de Labores y Presupuesto, fue precedida, a título experimental, de la reunión conjunta de los Comités del Programa y Finanzas, que tuvo lugar del 30 de enero al primero de febrero de 1989, cuyo informe, documento CL 95/4, indica que ese experimentos-al cual nos opusimos en el Consejo de noviembre pasado-no produjo nada nuevo, nada distinto a lo que leemos siempre en los informes de esos dos Comités.

En efecto, ese documento CL 95/4 refleja las mismas tendencias sobre el nivel del presupuesto, como ocurre cada vez que esos Comités se ocupan-tradicionalmente-de este asunto en sus estatutarias reuniones de la primavera de los años en que hay Conferencia:

"Un pequeño número de miembros-dice el párrafo 1.29,

"algunos otros miembros" párrafo 1.30

"la gran mayoría de los miembros" párrafo 1.31.

¿Dónde está el consenso que se decía que se iba a lograr con esa sesión especial?

Expresiones como esas han confirmado nuestras reservas en cuanto a que una reunión de ese tipo no contribuiría a facilitar el consenso, sino que, por el contrario, constituyó una ocasión más, una oportunidad anticipada para que algunos representantes de países desarrollados, ya desde enero comenzaran a insistir sobre el funesto e inaceptable crecimiento real cero y la necesidad de una absorción máxima del aumento de gastos", como dice el párrafo 1.29.

En esas condiciones, justo es reconocer la actitud honesta de los Comités, cuyos miembros, después de recordar una posible solución de "consultas por correspondencia" párrafo 1.10 del documento 95/4, consultas que habían sugerido México y Colombia particularmente en el Consejo pasado. Ahora los Comités en el párrafo 1.11 llegaron a la conclusión de que "no estaban en condiciones, de recomendar una línea de acción definida con respecto a la continuación del procedimiento".

Los representantes de Colombia opinamos que el contenido del propio informe conjunto de esos dos Comités confirma la inutilidad de ese procedimiento, que no deberá seguirse aplicando. Nada más de reuniones conjuntas anticipadas, costosas improductivas, contraproducentes, embelecos, imposlones, oportunidades para imponer nuevas limitaciones.

Como dijo el Embajador Pes queir a de México esta mañana, no es posible que aceptemos la supresión de reuniones técnicas, verdaderamente útiles a los países en desarrollo y que continuemos apoyando la celebración de sesiones especiales de los Comités, que cuestan muchísimo y no sirven para nada. Tal vez algunos miembros del Consejo no saben que esas reuniones especiales implican gastos de pasajes y viáticos de 20 miembros, desde el mítico Lejano Oriente, India, China, las atractivas antípodas, Australia, las maravillosas pampas argentinas, América del Norte, Europa, Polo Artico. La vuelta al mundo, la vuelta al universo, la vuelta a la tierra. A la tierra que es redonda como el cero del crecimiento que ellos propugnan.

Nosotros quisiéramos que la Secretaría nos diga exactamente cuánto costó esa sesión especial de fines de enero a principios de febrero pasado. Así como también desde ahora, para facilitar el trabajo de la Secretaría, quisiéramos que cuando llegemos al tema, aunque sea para información del examen, se nos diga cuántos millones de dólares costó ese ejercicio que ya ha culminado en la redacción de ese documento. De todo lo que hemos dicho nos impresionó la declaración anterior a la nuestra, del distinguido colega y amigo Sr. Sastry de India, y por eso estamos de acuerdo con el colega de la India que, si en la Conferencia de este año se realizara el milagro de lograr el consenso en torno de las propuestas del Director General-cuyo esbozo esos Comités conocieron desde enero de este año-entonces, después de haber votado la resolución sobre el nivel del presupuesto 1990-91, se podría acaso pedir al Consejo, que se reunirá inmediatamente después de la Conferencia o aún al Consejo de noviembre 1990-hay tiempo,-que considere la posibilidad de adoptar la misma solución, siempre transitoria, para enero de 1991.

En el párrafo 2.7 del informe de los dos Comités, de sucesión, no ya especial sino estatutaria, en el documento CL 95/8, algunos miembros del Comité del Programa expresaron que "la fase intermedia del esbozo podría resultar algo redundante".

Estamos de acuerdo con ellos: hay que escoger entre el esbozo y el resumen, lo demás es inútil duplicación de actividades. Nosotros preferimos el resumen, porque, si seguimos con el esbozo, sin pasar por el resumen, prácticamente volveríamos al sistema anterior, cuando se presentaba directamente el texto definitivo del Programa de Labores y Presupuesto a los comités y al Consejo, y

no alcanzaban a reflejarse algunas prioridades, sobre todo no podían tenerse en cuenta las opiniones de los Comités Técnicos COAG y otros que se reúnen en el primer semestre del año impar de la Conferencia. Las nueve prioridades que se indican merecen el apoyo de los representantes de Colombia, pero en el entendido de que el orden en que aparecen no tiene carácter jerárquico, como lo dijo el Embajador De Medicie, de Brasil y como lo dicen los Comités en el párrafo 2.19 del documento CL 95/8. Decimos esto porque sobre la primera prioridad citada: Desarrollo Sostenible, tenemos algunas observaciones que desearíamos fueran tenidas en cuenta por la FAO.

El Desarrollo sostenible, está de moda, sobre todo bajo el justificado y loable impulso de algunos estados desarrollados, que tienen los grandes recursos y la alta tecnología para poder escoger las formas de desarrollo que preserve el medio ambiente.

Distinta es la situación de los países en desarrollo, que no pueden dedicarse a la protección y conservación del medio ambiente, "en medio de las angustiosas condiciones sociales y económicas que afligen a nuestros pueblos y que son agravadas por una coyuntura internacional cada vez más adversa", como lo declararon los ocho jefes de gobierno, entre éstos Colombia, miembros del Tratado de Cooperación Amazónica reunidos recientemente hace poco más de un mes en Manaus, Brasil donde aprobaron la Declaración de Amazonia, que como dijo nel Embajador de Brasil ha sido distribuido a este Consejo como documento: Información 16.

Pedimos, pues, que la FAO no desvíe ni disperse esos recursos en actuaciones que no sean esencialmente prioritarias para los países en desarrollo, a la vez que apoyamos todas aquellas actividades que siendo altamente prioritarias para nuestros Estados, puedan incluir importantes componentes de desarrollo sostenible. Dados los escasos recursos de nuestra Organización, convendría que se tuviera en cuenta que en relación con este tema, se ha creado recientemente en el Banco Mundial un fondo para proyectos de desarrollo sostenible, cuyo primer contribuyente es Japón. Preguntamos si está ya la FAO participando en algunos de esos proyectos de desarrollo sostenible dentro de ese fondo del Banco Mundial ¿Acaso el respetable y honorable país del Japón pudiera también en el seno de la FAO asumir actitudes positivas y con otros Estados desarrollados ofrecer a nuestra Organización recursos para que se lleven a cabo esas actividades?

Otra de las prioridades: La biotecnología, parece pertenecer también al dominio de los países desarrollados, cuya implementación exagerada podría contribuir a acentuar más el desequilibrio ya existente entre esos estados y los nuestros, en la producción, el comercio y los precios.

La FAO debe preocuparse esencialmente porque la biotecnología favorezca a los países en desarrollo, mediante la capacitación del personal nacional, el fortalecimiento de nuestros institutos, centros de investigación, las instituciones en general, y facilitar y estimular la necesaria transferencia de tecnología en condiciones de fácil y objetiva asimilación que hagan verdaderamente aplicables con resultados positivos y viables las nuevas tecnologías.

En biotecnología, las actividades de la FAO deben estar completamente al servicio de los países en desarrollo. Su acción debe adelantarse particularmente a través de la División Mixta FAO/OIEA y en cooperación con la ONUDI. Nuestra Organización debe seguir estimulando a los poderosos centros Internacionales de Investigación Agrícola para que hagan mayor uso de la biotecnología en la investigación en favor de los estados del tercer mundo y la FAO debe reunir, publicar y difundir la más amplia información posible sobre todos aquellos adelantos de la biotecnología que sean de interés para los países en desarrollo.

"Asesoramiento en materia de políticas". Como representantes de nuestro Gobierno en Roma, somos testigos directos y conducto regulares de las constantes y crecientes solicitudes de asistencia que nuestros países dirigen a la FAO, todo lo cual confirma el aprecio positivo y el reconocimiento de la experiencia y competencia de nuestra Organización.

Por ello nos complace que como se dice en el párrafo 4.15 del Resumen: "La FAO se halla en buena posición" para asesorar a nuestros países en materia de políticas. Reconocemos la atención permanente que la FAO ofrece a esas demandas de nuestros países, aunque a veces nos decepcionen ciertas respuestas negativas que, posiblemente, sólo obedecerán a la escasez de recursos.

La mujer en el desarrollo es otra prioridad que merece el pleno apoyo de la delegación de Colombia. Nos complace que según recientes declaraciones del Director General, la FAO esté seriamente dedicada a implementar la Resolución 1/94 del pasado Consejo y la ejecución del Plan de Acción para integrar a la mujer en el desarrollo agrícola y rural. Los representantes de Colombia hemos atribuido siempre gran importancia a las actividades de campo, y por ello apoyamos la concepción del Director General sobre la "Interacción entre el Programa Ordinario y el Programa de Campo de la Organización".

El documento básico señala "una vigorosa reactivación de la entrega FAO/PNUD" después de las preocupantes reducciones, años 1981 a 1984. Sin embargo los gastos totales en proyectos del PNUD siguen siendo todavía considerablemente inferiores en comparación con los niveles máximos alcanzados en los años 1980 y 1981.

Algunas preguntas. No obstante estos vaivenes ¿sigue la FAO siendo la principal agencia de ejecución del PNUD en proyectos agrícolas? El incremento de los fondos del PNUD, a la luz de los resultados de la Conferencia de Contribuciones de noviembre pasado, de 805 millones en 1987 a 1300 en 1989, ¿ese incremento permitirá que la FAO vuelva progresivamente a recuperar su posición anterior en cuanto a proyectos con fondos del PNUD? ¿Sigue el PNUD incrementando la proporción en la ejecución por sí mismo de proyectos agrícolas?

¿Viene la FAO apoyando la tendencia del PNUD a facilitar la ejecución de proyectos de los propios gobiernos beneficiarlos, cuando esto sea posible y conveniente?

Sr. Presidente, los representantes de Colombia pensamos que al llegar a la conclusión de este tema hemos afrontado un debate difícil en el cual han sobresalido la falta de comprensión y la carencia de voluntad política. Para entender las dificultades a que se ha sometido la FAO y ofrecer los recursos y los medios que permitan su recuperación. Pero el burro no va a morir, el burro cojea, el burro está herido, el burro ha sido maltratado y conocemos quiénes se han ensañado contra ese burro bueno, noble y generoso; pero el burro debe sobrevivir con el alimento del apoyo que le suministrará la contribución generosa y positiva de la gran mayoría de los estados industrializados y de toda la Comunidad Internacional.

Los representantes de Colombia opinamos que este Consejo debe sumarse al llamado que ha hecho nuestro colega y amigo el Sr. Sasty, de India, y apoyar todas las propuestas del Director General para que podamos así recomendar a la Conferencia un nivel de presupuesto que sea sólido, monolítico, sin desmoronamientos como en el pasado, sin fallas, que ojalá no vuelva a causar como en los años recientes desafortunadas e inaceptables reducciones en los Programas, después de que la Conferencia adopte el Documento definitivo sobre el Programa de Labores y Presupuesto.

En nombre del Gobierno de Colombia reiteramos nuestro más pleno apoyo al Director General de la FAO y le alentamos a que prosiga en medio de tantas dificultades la tarea valiosa que realiza con inteligencia y acierto a fin de que la FAO pueda seguir ofreciendo cada vez más y mejores servicios a los países del Tercer Mundo.

Abdul KUDDUS AHMAD (Malaysia): My delegation would like to express its appreciation to the Secretariat for the way in which the subject is presented in the Summary Programme of Work and Budget 1990-91. We would also like to thank Ambassador Bukhari, Chairman of the Finance Committee for his valuable contribution.

The effort of the Director-General and his staff in proposing a modest increase of the budget of US\$ 5.5 million or 1%, deserves our full support, although we note that in actual fact, a much higher increase is desired. Any budget director would tell us that a 1% increase on US\$ 5 million is tantamount to zero growth considering some costs, inflation and other unavoidable expenditure.

My delegation takes note that the cost increase deliberately excludes factors such as cost increases for consultants, duty travel, normal staff upgrading and the possibility of increase in staff services as a result of the UNGA Comprehensive Review of the Conditions of Service of U.N. Staff. If I might digress, one must not forget one of our principles, namely, good working conditions for staff for the good of the Organization and its programme.

Turning back to the Programme of Work and Budget, we feel there should not be any serious problems in getting the Summary Programme of Work and Budget endorsed by Council. We must also bear in mind that the Director-General has carefully taken into account the observations of member countries as well as the prior guidelines of FAO governing and advisory bodies with the objective of reaching a consensus.

My delegation would like to take this opportunity to reiterate our strong support for the importance and value attached to the Technical Cooperation Programme, TCP. Its importance cannot be too often emphasized since it has been proved to be one of the most effective means of assisting member countries, especially developing countries.

My delegation shares the views and concerns expressed by other members regarding the fall in the share of TCP in the total budget from 14.1% to 12.8%. TCP is essential for the development of the agricultural sector and as far as possible should not be cut in a budget of this size. We hope that this situation will be reversed and that TCP will be given continued support in the next biennium.

Malaysia would also like to express support for the priorities proposed in which the bulk of the additional reserve are being directed to the technical and economic programme. We fully subscribe to the idea that priority programmes should concentrate on the activities which FAO can do best, and for which it has a clear comparative advantage. In fact, this will enable FAO to use its services to the maximum and therefore strengthen its capacity. My delegation also feels that FAO could readjust its priorities without the need for the complete elimination of any programme or sub-programme.

While agreeing to the need for programme increases, my delegation believes that the proposed budget level should avoid imposing an impact on the assessed contributions of the developing countries in view of the present economic and financial difficulties faced by many of these countries.

In conclusion, on behalf of my delegation we endorse the Summary Programme of Work and Budget for 1990-91 and believe that consensus should be reached.

Mohammad Saleen KHAN (Pakistan): The Pakistan delegation received the Summary Programme of Work and Budget with mixed feelings of disappointment and welcome. As we highlighted in our intervention under Item 6, the paucity of resources does not make it possible to cater for programmes according to their actual requirements based on the growing needs of developing countries. Few new programmes can be included and budgetary provisions for highly important programmes like TCP have to be pitched at levels well below requirements.

While we feel disappointed on this account, we welcome the proposals contained in the document which have been prepared and prioritized endeavouring to lay maximum emphasis on critical areas and programmes. Moreover, the modestly increased Summary Programme of Work and Budget has been prepared with due regard to the sensitivity of a group of members of the Organization and with an interest in reaching a consensus amongst all members.

In this spirit, my delegation generally supports the Summary Programme before us and the modest increase of 1 percent proposed. However, having said this, we despair to hear in some statements from the floor today emphasis on zero real growth and comparisons to the negative UN General System Budget. While noting the need for adequate financial support on a general basis to all UN and other multilateral organizations, each of which is equally important in its respective sphere of work, nevertheless, the sphere of work of FAO relating to the most basic need of human beings, cautions against such comparisons and such cuts. We heard speakers welcome the considerable improvements in the presentation of the Summary Programme while calling for numerous additional Information and details in future presentations. We appreciate that while all such information and details certainly bring about improvement and more transparency, it entails additional efforts in terms of manpower and considerable costs thereto. The Secretariat has also been called upon to further strengthen several areas of development, which would be difficult without commensurate additionaliy in resources. FAO has done a tremendous job in accommodating so much within the proposed modest increase. Further squeeze on the Organization, to say the least, would be an unfortunate demand. We appreciate the realism with which a number of distinguished delegates from developed countries supported the modest proposal relating to 1 percent growth. We hope the great feeling of mutual accommodation and interest of consensus with which several delegates from the beneficiary countries acceded to accept a small growth in the budget, would receive a corresponding response from the member countries whose generous contributions over the years have enabled FAO to boast of considerable success.

We have studied the document with keen interest. We welcome the emphasis placed on technical and economic programmes, albeit with modest increases. We would have liked to see the TCP being raised to its earliest peak levels but are willing to agree to the 2.8 percent increase proposed and hope during the course of the coming blennlum these resources will be supplemented by extra-budgetary resources as has so commendably and generously been done by the Italian Government this biennium. In this respect we fully associate ourselves with the large number of members from developing countries who unanimously voiced their views on the extreme usefulness and responsiveness of the Technical Cooperation Programme to the needs of developing countries. We hope the views of the beneficiaries would be given due weight in determining their needs vis-à-vis the TCP.

It is becoming a convention in FAO and WFP meetings to quote anecdotes. Giving into this temptation, with your permission I would like to relate one which recently came into my view. This one, I assure you, contains no mentions of a donkey or even or an elephant. This one relates to human beings. However, any similarities to human beings living or dead, actual or implied, are merely coincidental and in no case are so intended. With reference to strong-willed personalities, the anecdote relates that one such personality, along with a group of co-workers, visited a restaurant for lunch. In response to an enquiry from the waiter regarding his or her preference for the main course, the reply came, "Beefsteak, please." "And the vegetsbles, please?" asked the waiter. Back came the reply, "They, too, will have beefsteak." So you are at liberty, if you desire, to think of us as vegetables, but please do let the vegetables exercise their prerogative to decide what they would like to have.

My delegation also finds no difficulty in endorsing the areas of priorities, with specific recognition of biotechnology, crop protection, women-in-development, policy advice and TFAP, even though not in that order or the order given in document CL 95/3.

We welcome the effort of FAO to absorb, to the extent possible, the shortfalls in administrative costs and other overhead costs. This has partly manifested itself in reduction in the number of posts. We note from the first paragraph on page 27, under Objects of Expenditure, that such reduction has "been accompanied by an increase in reliance not only on consultants but also on national institutions." We understand the rationale for the line of action adopted by FAO. However, we would like an assurance from FAO that the approach of continuing reductions in staff and the increased reliance on consultants and national authorities in effect would not impair the quality and effectiveness of the Organization and its programmes. In fact, we would like to ask FAO whether any study has been carried out on this aspect and if not, to ask for at least a brief study and assessment of the implication of this approach to be placed before the next Council and Conference sessions.

We have noted the point of some members that the 12.2 percent increase in costs is on the high side and the particular reference to increases on post adjustment costs. But we agree with the Ambassador of Mexico, and most recently with the distinguished representative of Malaysia, that welfare of the Organization staff cannot be ignored if we do not desire the Organization to lose the service of experienced hands who have for so long been working with utmost competence and dedication for the noble goals of FAO. The increasing workload coupled with continuing staff reductions unhappily do not create a good working environment. Denial of the minimum justified increases in emoluments would further compound the situation. We would, therefore, emphasize that due consideration be given to any increases in benefits proposed in the document. On the point of cost increases it is being proposed to absorb against savings cost increases amounting to \$ 2.34 million. In addition, there are cost increases which cannot be estimated at this time but may have to be ultimately adjusted during the next biennium. We feel that despite the voluntary spirit of compromise and sacrifice shown by FAO, it may be difficult to actually absorb such a large uncovered expenditure against available savings during the biennium. We would therefore request further elaboration from the Secretariat in this regard.

Before I move to some other points raised in the session and matters related to but not directly under the ambit of the Agenda Item, I would like to express the satisfaction of my delegation over the new spirit of consensus and mutual accommodation which has been progressively gaining ground amongst the membership. It is evident inter alia from the improvement in payments of assessed contributions to 76.65 percent in 1988 and also in the payment of arrears. We are most pleased by the positive announcement by the distinguished delegate of the United States earlier today in regard to contributions and clearance of arrears of the United States of America. We would like to congratulate the US Government and look forward to further positive development in this regard. We also welcome the increases in the levels of UNDP and Trust Funds. All this augers well for the future and shows us a semblance of light at the end of a dark tunnel which we had entered in 1987.

Finally, we heard several delegate linking in their interventions issues relating to the review process to their comments on the Summary Programme proposals. We feel that a process was set in momentum by us at the last Conference, and in all fairness we should await its outcome before we commit ourselves to comment on the reports of the experts or suggest changes within FAO. At least my delegation would like to await the report of the Joint Session of the Programme and Finance Committees before venturing in expressing our views thereon. Likewise, we have noted the comments in relation to the additional step on the budgetary process, but in terms of its institutionalization we look forward to an objective examination and discussion during the forthcoming Conference.

In the end, but not the least, I would be failing in my duty if I do not thank both Mr. Shah and Ambassador Bukhari, the Chairman of the Finance Committee, on their presentations on the Agenda Item yesterday. Our thanks also extend to the members of the Finance and Programme Committees for their excellent review of the Summary Programme of Work and Budget.

Pisan LUETONGCHARG (Thailand): First of all, my delegation wishes to join other previous speakers in commending Mr. Shah and Ambassador Bukhari, the Chairman of the Finance Committee, for their very clear presentations. On this item, my delegation would like to express our views and positions as follows.

First, I would like to recall that at the last Conference, the Minister of Agriculture and Cooperatives, the leader of the Thai delegation, suggested that we should accept the idea proposed by the Group of developing countries relating to the principle of budget allocation that was that FAO should allocate at least 17 percent of the total Regular Programme to the TCP. Today we are very regretful to note that the proportion of the TCP appropriation to the total budget is below the past levels. In para. 1.7 of document 95/8, it indicates that it has fallen from 14.1 percent to 12.8 percent and could fall further, despite the net increases proposed for 1990-91. This is of grave concern for my delegation because it would be very difficult for us to support such a Programme of Work and Budget at the next Conference.

Secondly, my delegation would like to draw your attention to para. 1.6 of the same document. This paragraph tells us that the Programme and Finance Committees take account of the need to restore FAO's technical capacity to a level more commensurate with requirements and would permit a relaunching of FAO's action and initiative as decided by Member Nations. But when we look at the proposed budget which the net programme increased only 1.1 percent, we are very doubtful. For example, the Director-General has told us in his opening statement that the Organization had to cancel dozens of publications. On this occasion, my delegation would like to know from Mr. Shah whether FAO can maintain the number of publications with the budget as proposed to us now. My delegation always considers that all FAO publications provide great benefit to developing countries like Thailand. They give us a lot of the basic data and information concerning agriculture. Therefore, we would like to suggest that enough budget should be allocated to this service in order to help FAO maintain the number of publications. However, in the spirit of cooperation, my delegation can go along with the other delegations to support the Summary Programme of Work and Budget and requests the Director-General to proceed with the preparation of the full Programme of Work and Budget with the hope that some amendment should be made in line with our suggestions. We reserve our right to reconsider this matter in the next Conference.

Bassin ALWHAB (Iraq) (original language Arabic): Mr Chairman, I would like to thank Mr. Shah for his excellent and clear introduction of the Summary Programme of Work and Budget. My thanks also go to the Chairman of the Finance Committee who informed us of the points of view of both the Finance and the Programme Committees on the Summary Programme of Work and Budget proposed by the Director-General. My delegation thinks that the document under discussion clearly reflects the activities and the basic duties of all the bodies of FAO. At the same time these programmes reflect the hopes and the aspirations of the Member Countries made known during the various committees and expert groups' meetings.

My delegation thinks that the proposed increase mentioned in the Summary Programme of Work and Budget is modest. It does not offset the various cuts effected during the last two biennia. We propose that this token increase be used to finance the technical and economic programmes. We support the proposed increase for the Technical Cooperation Programme although modest, because this programme is the vital programme, and it will help us achieve our objectives.

I would also like to say that we support the delegates who said that we should find additional resources to combat locusts in the next years.

Mr. Chairman, my delegation would like to appeal to all delegations when they are dealing with the adoption of the Budget and the Programme of Work to be guided by the spirit of peaceful coexistence and international cooperation for the progress and well being of our respective countries. We shall not set conditions. There is only one condition in respect of the Articles of the Agreement establishing FAO endorsed and ratified by our respective countries.

In conclusion, I would like to reiterate our support for the Summary Programme of Work and Budget which we consider the minimum for carrying out an effective cooperation with this Organization.

Javier TANTALEAN (Perú): Los comentarios que voy a realizar están en consecuencia con una función de liderazgo a nivel mundial que la FAO debe tener en materia de alimentación y de lucha contra el hambre, y van a ser comentarios sobre aspectos muy puntuales.

Luego de la evaluación realizada del Programa de Labores y Presupuesto para 1990-91, apoyamos los trabajos realizados por los delegados de los países y los esfuerzos puestos en ello. Estoy seguro de que con el devenir del tiempo este Presupuesto por programas y subprogramas vendrá acompañado de metas cualitativas y cuantitativas. Yo creo que, a estas alturas del debate, no podemos dejar de pronunciarnos sobre el tema del "presupuesto cero" planteado por algunos países desarrollados. Nos parece que es algo paradójico: si la FAO fue creada, entre otros, por estos países para combatir el hambre y la subnutrición, ¿vamos a congelar a la herramienta de lucha contra el hambre y la subnutrición, cuando los pobres y hambrientos van creciendo en términos absolutos en el mundo? Esto es algo que yo personalmente no lo entiendo.

También se han criticado los programas de cooperación técnica y los programas de campo, haciendo aparecer como si las cifras fueran un poco exageradas. Nosotros pensamos, desde el punto de vista de los intereses de los países del Tercer Mundo, que estas cifras resultan muy estrechas. Nos parece también importante mencionar el rol fundamental que debe tener la FAO en los próximos años, en el diseño de políticas, programas y proyectos de compensación social frente a los programas de ajuste, generalmente impuestos por el Fondo Monetario Internacional.

Hemos escuchado también algunas críticas a los organismos regionales de la FAO, organismos que abarcan espacios técnicos culturales similares. Permítame, Sr. Presidente, hacer una defensa de estos organismos y, sobre todo, justificar su existencia. Es muy importante-y pienso en la experiencia latinoamericana-que exista un organismo encargado de coordinar y planificar con otros organismos de la misma región, para repotenciar la lucha contra el hambre. En América Latina tenemos el caso de la Junta del Acuerdo de Cartagena, el SELA, la Comisión del Pacífico Sur, etc. De otro lado, los organismos regionales están compuestos por hombres y mujeres oriundos de la propia región, que conocen los problemas a fondo. Y además, los organismos regionales son una ayuda a la desconcentración y descentralización de la FAO. También nos parece muy conveniente del asesoramiento que la FAO brinda a los gobiernos en el tema del comercio internacional, como el mitin de la Ronda Uruguay.

En síntesis, aprobamos la modesta tasa de crecimiento prevista en el proyecto de presupuesto, puntualizando que, de todas formas, es mucho menor a las demandas existentes por parte de los países del Tercer Mundo.

Sra. Mercedes FERMIN GOMEZ (Venezuela): Vamos a ser breves, porque pienso que nuestra intervención obedece sobre todo a la obligación moral de respaldar, en primer lugar, los documentos que están en discusión y al apoyo que vamos a dar claramente a la presentación del Sr. Subdirector General de la FAO, especialmente a los puntos mayormente controvertibles que se han planteado aquí, que son los mismos que se vienen planteando desde hace uno o dos años atrás.

Quiero referirme especialmente a las intervenciones que plantean la necesidad de que la FAO deje de ocuparse de algunos programas que fueron magníficamente desarrollados por la FAO, que corresponden a su iniciativa lo, pero que hoy sería mucho mejor que lo hicieran otras organizaciones. O, lo que es lo mismo, que la FAO es un buen pionero, al que se le debe reservar el papel de un buen explorador, que va descubriendo aquellos campos en los cuales es necesaria cierta actuación y los beneficios para determinadas poblaciones, pero que una vez que ella ha tenido éxito y que ha señalado el camino debe dejar ese campo a otros, y concretamente sería muy bueno que se dedicara a su trabajo de recolección de estadísticas, de confirmación de cuáles son los éxitos y cuáles son los fracasos, para desempeñar mejor su papel.

En cierta manera, resulta algo así, indirectamente dicho, como un desmantelamiento de la FAO. Pero resulta que la FAO fue una Organización creada fundamentalmente para ocuparse de la agricultura y de la alimentación, y en este caso no pensamos, porque no fue así la expresión de sus fundadores, que fuese para dedicarse a la agricultura como un negocio ni a la alimentación de los grandes países desarrollados, que están más que satisfechos alimenticiamente. Fue precisamente para aquellos países que estaban en el llamado Tercer Mundo, necesitados de satisfacer su hambre, sus necesidades, de elevar un poco su condición humana, porque realmente no era una condición humana en la que ellos estaban en el año en que se creó la FAO, para poderlos convertir en hombres productivos, en hombres capaces de valerse por sí mismos en lo más elemental de la vida que es la satisfacción de la necesidad de comer. Esta fue la misión de la FAO, y esta es la misión de la FAO que hoy más que nunca está cumpliendo con efectividad, porque ya ha demostrado que numerosos países de ese mundo desheredado han recibido, por virtud de la FAO, el aliento, la posibilidad de actuar, la esperanza, la confianza en que ellos por sí mismos pueden levantarse de aquella situación de minusválidos a la condición de ser capaces de valerse por sí mismos. Y ¿por qué entonces, ahora que la FAO está cumpliendo esa tarea, que hay millones de seres en el mundo que gracias a la FAO hoy pueden comer-que nos lo digan si no los africanos que estuvieron prácticamente en vías de desaparecer si no hubiese sido por el Programa de la FAO, que nos lo digan aquellos países a quienes hemos escuchado aquí confesar su verdadera resurrección como naciones gracias a los programas y a la ayuda de la FAO-hoy que FAO está cumpliendo con esta tarea, hay países que piensan que ya basta? Que mejor es que la FAO se dedique a proporcionar estadísticas y a hacer planificación de proyectos para que los realice otra gente. Pero es que la FAO no fue creada para proveer de estadísticas a los países que quieren hacer negocios. No fue para los países poderosos que la FAO fue creada, sino para los países menesterosos. Y éstos todavía la están necesitando. Todavía no han recibido totalmente de ella el verdadero apoyo para el sostén de sus vidas. Por esa razón no compartimos la posición, por ejemplo de Suiza o de Canadá o de Alemania Federal. No podemos compartirla, porque nosotros estamos del lado de los países que necesitan de la FAO.

Venezuela, mi país, no había llegado a recibir nunca un proyecto de FAO, porque no estaba calificada entre los países cuyo ingreso per capita estaba por debajo de la línea de los países menesterosos. Lamentablemente, hoy Venezuela necesita un proyecto de FAO y nosotros estamos en la línea de los países que necesitan la asistencia técnica de la FAO. Por eso estamos en la línea de los países que necesitan el Programa de Cooperación Técnica de la FAO, que es el Programa más efectivo, el programa más eficiente y el más necesitado por ese Tercer Mundo y por los países en desarrollo que no quieren llamarse Tercer Mundo, pero que lo son también.

Por eso, si voy a tomar la palabra es para apoyar ese programa, así como el Trabajo de Campo. Son dos programas indispensables, porque solamente la FAO ha podido llegar al Sahel y enterarse de qué es lo que estaba pasando en el Sahel. Solamente la FAO ha podido dar con el verdadero meollo de lo que ocurre con las langostas en el desierto. Nosotros fuimos invitados a ver un documental y a enterarnos de que para poder combatir la langosta en el desierto hay que ir al propio agujero en donde se crían las larvas y depositar allí el insecticida que puede evitar que éstas evolucionen. Y ese trabajo no lo va a hacer una empresa capitalista. Ese trabajo lo hace el campesino africano que sufre las consecuencias de esa langosta, a quien la FAO entrega en sus manos el producto y el lo pone de agujero en agujero, para que la langosta no procrea. Es éste el trabajo de campo. Conocer la realidad in situ, conocer la realidad en el verdadero terreno en donde se producen los problemas y enviar allí a los técnicos de la FAO, para que capaciten a los campesinos o a los desheredados éstos, que no son ni siquiera agricultores, porque algunos de ellos no han aprendido todavía las técnicas de cultivo. A éstos es a quien la FAO entrena, educa para que puedan convertirse en defensores de su propia situación.

No es posible pensar que estos programas se suspendan. Sin embargo, hay aquí representantes que piensan que sí, que ya basta de programas de esa naturaleza, y que es mucho mejor que la FAO provea estadísticas y provea de técnicas de otra índole. Pero ¿para quién? ¿Qué necesidad tiene la gente del Sahel de estadísticas? Las estadísticas les hacen falta a los países desarrollados que pueden promover sus negocios, que pueden promover el incremento de sus capitales. Esos sí necesitan estadísticas, es decir, ellos también son beneficiarios de la FAO, pero del otro extremo. Los otros necesitan a la FAO porque son hambrientos, y éstos necesitan a la FAO porque tienen demasiado y quieren incrementar su capital. Para los dos es útil la FAO, para los dos grupos, y por eso no podemos prescindir de ella, pero para eso no es necesario desmantelarla. Para eso no es necesario que hoy le quitemos el PMA y mañana le quitemos otro proyecto, y otro día le quitemos el otro. Dejemos a la FAO integralmente constituida, porque es de esa manera como puede hacerlo. Cualquiera de esos programas nace en el Trabajo de Campo, nace, continua y se desarrolla en la Cooperación Técnica, pero no es posible que la Cooperación Técnica y Trabajo de Campo trabajen para que luego otra organización asuma la responsabilidad del desarrollo de los programas, porque sería realmente desvalijar a la FAO. Por eso no estamos de acuerdo con estos planteamientos que han hecho los representantes que me han antecedido en el uso de la palabra con estos criterios.

Nosotros vamos a apoyar las prioridades establecidas en el documento, especialmente vamos a apoyar la idea y el propósito del desarrollo sostenido, pero del desarrollo sostenido hasta donde sea posible hacerlo. Este es el desarrollo que ahora se llama soetenible, pero que hace 30 años en mi país se hablaba de desarrollo sostenido, y era la expresión con que lo ambicionamos a poner en práctica. Pero cuando hablamos de desarrollo sostenido, no es que nosotros le vamos a fijar un nivel: hasta aquí nada más les ayudamos. Vamos a hablar de los campesinos, de los llamados conuqueros, que van desforestando los bosques de la región tropical, porque ellos no pueden encontrar tierra donde sembrar. Naturalmente, ése desarrollo sostenido lo apoyamos los países en desarrollo, porque es necesario que estas gentes tengan tierras que sembrar. Pero el otro lado, que hoy y ahora se está preocupando por el bosque tropical. Ahora después de que durante tantos años, prácticamente despojaron a la corteza terrestre de casi todos los bosques, ahora estamos preocupados por el desarrollo sostenido y por la conservación de los bosques tropicales, porque ahora nos da mucho miedo que nos vayamos a quedar sin el ozono y nos vamos a quedar sin el oxígeno, pero nosotros necesitamos el desarrollo sostenido para estas personas que necesitan vivir, para estas personas que necesitan el sustento de cada día de sus hijos y de sus familiares. Por eso nos interesa el desarrollo soetenible.

También vamos a apoyar la prioridad sobre biotecnología, y eso podría yo decir que por razones obvias. Pero quiero explicar porque: debemos apoyar, sí, la prioridad sobre biotecnología, con cautela, porque ya hay países en el mundo, que no quiero nombrar, que ya experimentaron lo que significó la biotecnología cuando les cayó la gran novedad de la revolución verde. Nosotros sabemos lo que significó la revolución verde en Africa, en Asia principalmente. No fue realmente una bendición del cielo. Parecía que iba a ser la solución de todos sus problemas, pero sabemos bien que de las múltiples y numerosas variedades de arroz que existían silvestres en la India se redujeron a muy pocas, porque solamente ellas pudieron ser desarrolladas con la revolución verde. Y asimismo nos va a pasar con los países que todavía no han llegado a la plena desforestación de sus bosques, en donde todavía tenemos algunas plantas y recursos silvestres. Si no ponemos atención a lo que la FAO está luchando con este compromiso de los recursos fitogenéticos, podemos quedar también desprovistos de nuestros recursos fitogenéticos y de los zoogenéticos, por lo cual apoyamos el otro día la posición del Perú. Porque por ese camino, según los compromisos bilaterales, han sido desposeídos muchos países de importantes recursos, hoy totalmente exhaustos. Por eso la biotecnología es un arma de dos filos y tenemos que usarla y aceptarla, pero estudiarla con mucha cautela a ver hasta dónde puede sernos beneficiosa y hasta dónde no.

Voy a terminar diciendo que vamos a dar nuestro apoyo a todo lo relativo al programa de la mujer en el desarrollo. Ha sido éste un leitmotiv de mis intervenciones aquí en la FAO desde años atrás y naturalmente hoy no puedo dejar de decir que estamos totalmente de acuerdo con que la mujer debe acceder a, no solamente ser entrenada para trabajar en el campo, sino que debe ser educada para

participar en las labores de su comunidad y para convertirse realmente en un líder capaz de educar a sus hijos y de educar a los otros miembros de la comunidad. Esta sería la manera de expresar nuestro apoyo y, por lo demás, voy a remitirme a los conceptos emitidos por el connotado Embajador de Colombia, que ha dicho esta tarde uno de sus mejores discursos y por eso le aplaudimos, aunque lamentablemente no encontramos eco en quienes pensaban como yo. De manera que respaldamos la posición de Colombia, pensamos que efectivamente sus son razones ciertas y válidas para apoyar esto y termino-yo siempre para llevar la contraria-dando las gracias al Sr. Shah y al Embajador Bukhari por sus excelentes documentos, terminando finalmente por expresar nuestro total apoyo al documento del Director General de la FAO.

Antoine SAINTRAIN (Observateur de Belgique): Il est peut-être quelque peu outrecuidant pour un modeste observateur d'intervenir dans ce débat important mais, si je me permets de le faire, c'est pour deux raisons: tout d'abord parce que, lorsque j'en ai l'occasion, j'aime exposer mon point de vue et ensuite parce que, si beaucoup de choses intéressantes ont été dites, je crois que tout n'a pas été dit.

En effet, depuis mon arrivée à Rome, il y a plus de deux ans, j'ai toujours été frappé par la dimension et l'ampleur des discussions concernant le budget de la FAO, budget qui se situe entre 500 et 600 millions de dollars E-U. et qui représente, pour deux ans, à peu près le montant du budget d'un pays comme la Belgique dispose dans le domaine de la coopération pour une période d'un an, ce qui veut dire que ce budget est quand même globalement un budget réduit; mais il a une caractéristique essentielle dont nous devons tenir compte, c'est que ce budget sert de moyen et de levier pour obtenir des ressources extrabudgétaires. Je crois que c'est là le point le plus important et qu'il faut donc l'examiner dans l'optique de la mobilisation de moyens beaucoup plus importants qui proviennent d'autres sources de financement: banques de développement, Programme des Nations Unies pour le développement, différents fonds fiduciaires dont des fonds bilatéraux.

C'est pour cela que, lorsqu'on parle de croissance zéro, on peut donner des définitions à l'infini de cette croissance zéro. Pour moi, cette croissance zéro, dans un monde en pleine évolution, c'est essayer de réduire au maximum les frais administratifs inutiles pour consacrer un maximum de moyens, de façon efficace et utile, au tiers monde qui en a un pressant besoin. Alors, cette notion de croissance zéro doit quand même être mise au regard d'un autre engagement pris par un certain nombre de pays développés, qui est l'engagement d'atteindre-et l'on en parle depuis plus de dix ans-le niveau de 0,7 pour cent du produit national brut. Un certain nombre de pays-nombre, hélas, trop limité-ont atteint cet objectif mais bon nombre d'autres pays sont loin de l'avoir atteint. Si l'on parvenait déjà à remplir ce modeste engagement, on ferait plus que doubler les moyens financiers dont on dispose à l'heure actuelle. Or tout le monde est d'accord sur la priorité à réserver à l'agriculture et au développement rural.

Je crois donc que cette notion de réduction ou de croissance zéro doit être examinée de manière globale et qu'il faut savoir, dans le cadre de la famille des Nations Unies, quels sont les postes essentiels et prioritaires: agriculture, santé et un certain nombre d'organisations qui doivent recevoir notre attention spéciale. Il y a peut-être certaines branches qui se sont développées et qui peuvent présenter accessoirement un intérêt touristique ou autre mais qui pourraient éventuellement être quelque peu réduites. Je ne suis pas sûr que toutes les organisations internationales doivent recevoir la même priorité.

En tout cas, de l'ensemble du débat tel qu'il s'est déroulé, j'ai la conviction profonde que tous les participants sont bien d'accord sur la priorité à accorder à la FAO, qui est un instrument absolument indispensable. On discute beaucoup des objectifs, des priorités-des "priorités prioritaires", des "priorités non prioritaires"-, de la possibilité de renoncer à certaines activités ou éventuellement de les privatiser; mais je crois que l'optique et la philosophie d'action à adopter devraient pouvoir s'examiner dans un programme à moyen terme qui serait normalement un programme d'une dizaine d'années.

A la veille du troisième millénaire, nous avons un objectif: nous pourrions peut-être définir les grandes lignes d'un programme pour la FAO pour les dix ans à venir, de 1990 à l'an 2 000, et intégrer les cinq budgets qui vont suivre pour les bienniums qui vont s'écouler pendant ces dix ans. Cela permettrait peut-être de ne pas remettre en cause un certain nombre d'objectifs fondamentaux. Encore faudrait-il parfois savoir préciser clairement de quoi il s'agit.

Je croie aussi, et cela me paraît particulièrement significatif, qu'il serait extrêmement important, pour la sécurité du travail de la FAO et pour une certaine forme de garantie pour le personnel de qualité qui doit assumer sa tâche au sein de cet Organisme, de disposer pour les années qui viennent de ce que j'appellerai une sorte de planification des versements des contributions.

Un certain nombre de pays ont cette année et l'an dernier fait un effort pour accélérer leur procédure de versement. Est-ce que cet effort, dans le cadre d'un développement durable, ne pourrait pas être maintenu pour les dix ans qui viennent? Est-ce qu'il ne serait pas possible de prévoir une programmation des versements qui permettrait une politique de trésorerie à moyen et à long terme, sans devoir être perpétuellement confrontés à une série de problèmes immédiats?

Un autre point que je voulais aborder parmi beaucoup d'autres parce qu'il me paraît très imporant, est la nécessité pour l'administration de la FAO de disposer de ce que j'appellerai un corps de budget suffisant. J'ai un peu peur-et nous en sommes tous coupables, mon pays également-de voir que progressivement certaines activités importantes ou essentielles de la FAO, qui tiennent à la structure même de l'Organisation, sont financées par des fonds fiduciaires et ne relèvent pas directement du caractère international que la FAO doit continuer à garder. Il y a incontestablement un danger à voir certaines activités de la FAO financées par des fonds fiduciaires et non par le budget de la FAO. Il serait intéressant qu'un jour nous puissions avoir une plus ample discussion sur ce point ainsi que le relevé des postes et activités qui sont actuellement financées par des fonds fiduciaires. Mon pays, par exemple, finance le secteur de la météorologie. Plutôt que de développer cette tendance, il serait souhaitable que la FAO puisse assumer par son budget propre tous ces services essentiels.

On a parlé du rôle de catalyseur, et on a parlé assez bien d'ailleurs du PCT que nous avons toujours défendu. Le PCT n'a pas de répercussion immédiate dans ses prolongements sur le budget ordinaire puisqu'il vise essentiellement à stimuler des investissements et des sources de financement autres que les sources de financement du budget de la FAO. Cela me paraît essentiel. Mais dans tout ce qui a été déjà dit, il y a une chose qui n'a pas été soulignée peut-être suffisamment, c'est que le PCT devait répondre à des interpellations urgentes, à des besoins des pays. Un certain nombre de pays se trouvent confrontés à des problèmes angoissants et ils sont en droit de demander à la FAO d'apporter une première réponse en préparant des projets qui peuvent être financés par d'autres sources. Si cette phase de préparation des projets ne se réalise pas, un certain nombre de projets ne verront jamais le jour. C'est pourquoi ce Programme de coopération technique est essentiel. J'en entends parler depuis très longtemps. Je me souviens qu'à une réunion de notre groupe, j'avais proposé, avec l'accord du Directeur général, que les fonctionnaires chargés du PCT fassent un exposé sur le fonctionnement de ce Programme. Cette proposition est restée sans écho et la réunion avec les fonctionnaires du PCT n'a jamais eu lieu. Je me demande parfois si on a la volonté de transparence, la volonté de voir clairement des problèmes qui pour moi n'en sont pas.

Je crois également-et sur ce plan nous avons tous une fonction importante à remplir-que la FAO doit pouvoir se situer dans ses différents rôles. Madame l'Ambassadeur du Venezuela l'a expliqué de manière très claire. La FAO a trois fonctions essentielles: la fonction d'information et statistique, la fonction d'analyse que tout le monde considère comme irremplaçable, mais également la fonction d'opération sur le terrain où on laisserait la libre compétition aux différents organismes.

Or, je sais que M. Bonte-Friedheim est d'accord, la fonction d'information, la fonction d'analyse ne se conçoivent pas sans les opérations sur le terrain, sans une alimentation permanente de l'information et de l'analyse par l'expérience qui se réalise dans le concret tous les jours avec ses qualités, ses défauts, ses échecs qui sont inévitables. Il y a des leçons à tirer des échecs et se baser sur un certain nombre de projets non réussis ne sert à rien dans la mesure où on ne tire pas les leçons de l'échec. Sur ce plan-là, il y a incontestablement un vaste travail à faire.

Il ne peut être question de renoncer à certaines activités sans savoir à quoi on renonce. Nous tous avons un rôle à jouer non seulement dans cette enceinte mais dans d'autres enceintes: les banques de développement, le Fonds international de développement agricole, le Conseil d'administration du Programme des Nations Unies pour le développement, pour que le rôle central opérationnel de la FAO soit clairement précisé et déterminé. En effet, ses autres fonctions ne sont que des fonctions subsidiaires qui doivent être réellement alimentées par sa fonction principale.

Monsieur l'Ambassadeur de Colombie a parlé tout à l'heure avec beaucoup de brio de l'âne. Cet âne ne se justifie que dans la mesure où il traîne des charrettes: c'est l'ensemble des programmes de développement dans l'ensemble des pays du tiers monde.

Comme observateur, je peux me déclarer heureux d'avoir assisté à l'ensemble de ces débats qui traduisent d'abord une volonté de confiance. Le budget est par essence un acte politique et un acte de confiance en ceux qui dirigent, sur le plan de l'exécutif, le destin de la FAO. Nous leur avons

fait confiance. Nous continuons à le faire. Nous sommes persuadés que tous ensemble nous pourrions améliorer une situation qui dans le passé a souvent présenté certaines lacunes.

Hermann REDL (Observer for Austria): Like previous speakers, I would like first of all to thank Dr. Shah and Ambassador Bukhari for their excellent introduction. I have listened very carefully to this extremely important discussion, and I shall try to avoid repetition-especially at this late hour.

Agriculture and the agricultural policy are faced with serious crises, the appearance of which varies in individual regions which may jeopardize the existence of many farmers. The situation is contradictory on a global level, just as within Europe. Reorientation of agricultural policy is of great importance, also beyond the borders of agriculture. Agricultural policy is at the same time an economic, regional, social, and environmental policy. Agriculture has to present its indirect performances and its new tasks for the entire society as completely as possible. From the viewpoint of Austrian agriculture, we say that FAO should make efforts to pave the way for a socially balanced agricultural policy, geared to the demand of economy and ecology.

Regarding our position: we have raised our voices during the sessions of COAG, COFO, and other committees. I personally, as a member of the Programme Committee, had a chance to present our position in a clear and precise way. It is not my intention now to repeat what was said there; here, I would only underline that we fully support the nine priority areas which in our opinion are well selected. We especially welcome the foreseen activities in the field of environment, policy advice, biotechnology, the role of women in agricultural development, and forestry-and here especially the activities of the Tropical Forestry Action Plan. We believe the training in agriculture and forestry is of the utmost importance.

As a representative for the European Region, it is a pleasure for me to support what has been said by Council members this morning concerning the improvement in cooperation between Rome and Geneva. We would be pleased if the activities of the European Commission for Food and Mouth Disease were mentioned in the Livestock chapter of the Programme of Work and Budget, because these activities are very important, not only for the European countries. We would welcome a larger contribution by WHO to the important activities of the FAO/WHO Codex Alimentarius.

We fully support FAO's research activities-but not in sub-programme 3.3.1. We believe that research should be carried out by the appropriate bodies of FAO.

In summing up, I would like to say that my country supports the proposed Summary Programme of Work and Budget, and we hope that consensus will be reached during the Conference in November this year.

C.B. HOUTMAN (Observer for the Netherlands): First of all we would like to thank Mr. Shah, as well as the Chairman of the Finance Committee, Ambassador Bukhari, for their introduction to this agenda item. Indeed, we have often requested emphasis on certain programme areas and the reflection of these in the Regular Programme. We are therefore pleased to note that nine priority areas are proposed to receive increased allocations. All nine areas are areas to which the Netherlands attach great importance. But as always, it seems that satisfaction does not necessarily mean that no remarks or wishes are to be made-and this time is no exception. We indeed have some remarks, additional wishes, and some questions.

Firstly, policy advice is one of the nine priority areas, thus allowing for increase in resource allocation. When looking at the various sub-headings it appears that only global strategy and policy Programme formulation-of a type such as the Agriculture Towards 2000 studies and the policy analysis and planning which was the basis for that-are having increases in resources, to a large extent as a result of reallocation in the same sub-programmes. Looking at the sub-programme on food security we see even a decrease of funds, whereas we think food security policy should be one of the cornerstones of policy advice.

Secondly, during COAG there was a general concern, which was expressed by our delegation as well, at the decrease of training activities in the developing countries as well as at Headquarters. The Council documents did not succeed in taking away this concern.

Thirdly, the priority setting for Women in Development is wholeheartedly supported by our delegation. On the other hand we felt a little uncomfortable when, during the COAG Report discussion, Mr. Dutia said that because of the emphasis on the Action Programme for Women in Development, the Action Programme for peoples' participation factually was "put in the fridge". In our opinion programmes on cooperatives and other agricultural institution-building especially require an integrated Women in Development component so that those two Action Plans should be taken up concurrently and sometimes even integrated.

Fourthly, we are happy with TFAP as a priority area and with the broad support this has received from Council members here.

Fifthly, as to those Regional Offices-who account for almost ten percent of the budget-we are disappointed with the same level of expenses. We acknowledge the regional efforts for fisheries and forestry, but for many agricultural activities we would wish to have these activities decreased. From the savings effected by this, activities at the country level could then be increased. Even sub regional activities concentrated in an extended country office look more effective than activities carried out from a regional office. Thus, decrease of activities of regional offices is not meant for budgetary savings. We see this as just a reallocation of funds from regional offices to country offices.

Sixthly, we consider the TCP Programme still important. With almost 13 percent of the budget, it covers just over two pages in the Summary Programme of Work and Budget. Is this a sign of transparency or just the opposite? We hear often that the objectives of the TCP are not questionable-but the way in which allocations are being made calls for questions. This is mainly because it is just not known how and on what bases TCP projects are approved-and we all know that things which are not exactly known are not loved. We could imagine that when in future, for instance as a result of the Review, a Field Programme Committee will be established, TCP matters could also be discussed in such a committee. This takes away all uncertainties and so-called "lack of transparency"; it could even lead to an acceptance of a higher proportion of TCP in the Regular Budget. But until such a situation exists we think that the present level of TCP is sufficient for emergencies, as the Belgian Ambassador has said (for instance the response to the screw-worm fly in Libya) and for bridging purposes.

Seventhly, we have spoken a great deal about more resources, but we missed phasing out of activities which are less needed because of actuality or because other organizations are better equipped to carry them out.

Such exercises should be done in a rolling-over medium-term planning process. We strongly advise the Secretariat to make arrangements for the establishment of such a process.

Also, occasional review of almost institutionalized and important joint activities could lead to a decrease in costs for FAO. Take, for example, the important work of the Codex Alimentarius, to which the delegate of Austria referred. In 1968, 21 years ago, the cost-sharing of 80% for FAO and 20% for WHO was established. Nowadays we know that emphasis is increasingly being placed on the health aspects of food and such happens also in the framework of the Codex. Would this not lead to a more equal distribution of the costs for both organizations?

Eightly, like the delegation of Kenya, we have always thought that the Investment Centre is a good working unit which deserves our support. We are surprised to see that 8 positions were abolished (5 D-1s and 3 P-4s). Is something wrong with the cooperation with the World Bank? We hope not. We hope that FAO and the World Bank will continue to cooperate on the same high professional level, and request FAO to do what it can to prolong this cooperation.

Finally, Mr. Shah said-and the Indian delegation has referred to this already-that an amount of nearly US\$ 3 million was not included in the US\$ 60 million cost increase. Is this US\$ 3 million part of the US\$ 5.5 million programme increase? It is not clear to us why this is not added to the US\$ 60 million. We hope it is not an accounting magic solution-hiring consultants to compensate for the frozen posts.

We express the hope that we can all work together to adopt a budget based on the zero growth option in the Conference to come.

Evlogui BONEV (UNDP): Allow me at the outset to reiterate the importance my Organization attaches to the activities of FAO, regarding it as a close partner in our efforts to assist the developing countries in one of the top priority fields-that of agricultural development. FAO is a major executing agency of UNDP funded programmes and projects, and we follow with interest the programme of work of this Organization, as we consider it an important prerequisite for concerted coherence and well coordinated action for the benefit of those we serve.

We studied with attention the documents prepared by the Secretariat on this agenda item, as well as the relevant reports of the Programme and Finance Committees, and the excellent introduction by Mr. Shah. The spokesman of the two Committees, Mr. Bukhari, further illuminated this important issue. I should like to comment briefly on document CL 95/3 and more particularly on Part II-Field Programme of FAO, the latter being of direct relevance to UNDP/FAO cooperation.

In our view the programme priorities advocated by the Director-General of FAO in the document presented for your consideration merit the full attention of the Council. Generally, they are in line with the overall priorities of my Organization as well, and we are prepared to join efforts with FAO (within the limits of the mandate of UNDP, of course) to the extent that recipient governments assign priority to these programme areas, and to give our full support to the attainment of the objectives of the proposed programme of work.

The success of the programme will no doubt depend very much on the level of resources forthcoming during the biennium as was rightly pointed out by the Director-General. So far as UNDP resources are concerned, as you are well aware, Mr. Chairman, the past few consecutive years' pledging conferences proved a stable uptrend which we very much hope will be maintained by the world community, thus allowing full implementation of all country, regional and inter-regional programmes funded by UNDP during its present Fourth Programming Cycle.

Council may have noticed that the end of the UNDP Cycle coincides with the end of the biennium programme of FAO which is the subject of your consideration now. Mr. Chairman, you may recall that in anticipation of additional resources for the present cycle over and above the large amount initially established by the UNDP governing Council, the latter decided at its session last June to distribute an additional amount of US\$ 600 million, at the same time making sure that it is advantageously benefitting the neediest countries and regions. A major portion of this additional allocation will no doubt go to the agricultural sector which, as Council will be well aware, rates as first priority in the majority of the countries' regional and inter-regional programmes. Evident proof of this trend is the record increase of 24% of UNDP funded and FAO executed projects reached in 1988 against the volume for 1987. UNDP participation in the operational activities of FAO during the last year represent 50% of the total FAO delivery, and is thus back to the level it used to be in the past. This result compares even more significantly under the prevailing circumstances of advancement in applying new modalities in project implementation, such as the execution of government projects, the increased use of national project personnel and so on. I need not overstate that this increase has been the final result and expression of the priorities set by the recipient governments themselves, they being the only masters of their UNDP funds allocated through their IPFs.

Turning to the negative trends observed in the years 1982 to 1986, as mentioned in paragraph 2.7 of document CL 95/3, it should be recalled that the Third UNDP Programming Cycle, falling exactly in this same period, suffered a serious setback in resources, imposing an across-the-board decrease of all country, regional and inter-regional IPFs by 45%. Thus, most of the executing agencies of UNDP suffered a similar decline. On the contrary, the present cycle tends to be promising in respect of resources and we hope the forthcoming Fifth Cycle will continue the same trend. Hence, all partners of the tripartite partnership, recipient governments, executing agencies and UNDP should be well in advance in preparing to meet the challenges.

For your information, the Administrator of UNDP has presented at the current 36th Session of the Governing Council in New York his first report on the preparation of the Fifth UNDP Programming Cycle. The preparatory process will continue through this year and the final decision is expected at the 37th Session of the Governing Council in June 1990 in Geneva.

In his Opening Statement to the current 36th Session of the Governing Council, the Administrator of UNDP said, and I quote:

"Our report on the future role of UNDP proposed closer association with the specialized agencies in the programming of UNDP assistance to a country. Our ultimate goal is that all projects will be executed by governments themselves, but we shall continue to ensure that the experience and expertise of the agencies are utilized in the monitoring, implementation and selection of project components. Innovation and the creativity of the specialized agencies will be encouraged through the possibility of linking project formulation and implementation. Increased use of specialized agencies is also foreseen for information projects, related advisory services for information and consultancy networks and for research and analysis of technical cooperation issues. For all of these, enhanced understanding of the capacities, potentials and new roles of specialized agencies is needed."

We ask FAO to participate actively in the preparation of the Fifth Programming Cycle by assisting governments of developing countries to assess their needs and formulate their requests for technical assistance in the agricultural sector, thereby ensuring that the latter receives due priority. Closer cooperation of the FAO Representatives with the UNDP Regional Representatives in the field is of paramount importance in this respect.

Regarding the issue of support costs reflected in paragraphs 2.16 to 2.20 of the document, we are pleased to note the useful information provided by the Secretariat on the state of affairs. Council may be aware that the governing Council of UNDP at its special session in February this year approved the terms of reference for the Expert Group and selected the individuals as members of the same as follows:

- Mr. William Eric Armstrong (Barbados),
- Mr. Christoph BerInger (Federal Republic of Germany) who is well known by most of the participants of this Council as a former Senior Officer of FAO,
- Mr. Abul Naal A. Muhif (Bangladesh), and
- Mr. Gerben Ringuaida (Netherlands).

All these distinguished experts are known for their extensive knowledge of development issues, whether on the side of the donor, the recipient or the U.N. agencies.

I wish to reiterate that the study scope of the so-called successor arrangements will not be limited merely to determining the percentage of agency support costs in future. The study will actually be a very broad and comprehensive study in which the Group is expected to consider a wide range of issues, including the role and functions of the partners in the tripartite arrangement; the capacity of the U.N. System to provide all the essential elements for technical cooperation; the proliferation of funding arrangements for technical assistance and alternative arrangements for support cost reimbursement, and so on.

The Expert Group commenced its work at UNDP headquarters at the beginning of April 1989. It is envisaged that its work programme for the next few months will include visits and discussions with several agency headquarters, selected field offices and member governments of the programme. No doubt FAO is among the first of the agencies to be consulted. I should like to suggest that the FAO Secretariat take full advantage of this visit so that the views and concerns of the agency can be fully taken into account. The Expert Group is expected to present its report for the consideration of the UNDP governing Council at its next 37th Session in Geneva next year.

Finally, I would like to assure this Council that the views expressed during this meeting relating to UNDP/FAO cooperation, as well as the relevant parts from the reports of the Programme and Finance Committees, will be duly conveyed to my headquarters. We shall spare no effort in further strengthening cooperation between FAO and UNDP for the benefit of the developing countries.

LE PRESIDENT: Nous avons terminé notre débat qui a été fructueux et important sur le point central des travaux de notre Conseil. Je suggère que, compte tenu de l'importance de ce sujet, de la richesse des observations des délégués, la réponse du Secrétariat ait lieu demain matin afin que vous soyez en mesure d'avoir le temps de préparer les réponses circonstanciées pour un maximum de questions. Je me permets de donner à cette affaire l'importance qui lui revient et si vous êtes d'accord, nous allons lever la séance. Nous nous retrouvons donc demain matin à 9 h 30 pour permettre au Secrétariat de répondre aux interventions des délégués.

The meeting rose at 18 hours.

La séance est levée à 18 heures.

Se levanta la sesión a las 18 horas.

council

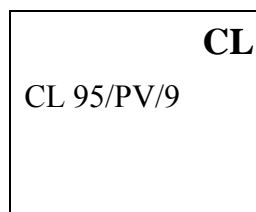
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Ninety-fifth Session

Quatre-vingt-quinzième session

95º período de sesiones

NINTH PLENARY MEETING
NEUVIEME SEANCE PLENIERE
NOVENA SESIÓN PLENARIA
(23 June 1989)

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 novena sesión plenaria a las 09.45 horas, bajo la presidencia de Lassaad Ben Osman, Presidente independiente del Consejo

IV. PROGRAMME, BUDGETARY, FINANCIAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS (cont'd)

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

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

14. Summary Programme of Work and Budget 1990-91 (cont'd)

14. Sommaire du Programme de travail et budget 1990-91 (suite)

14. Resumen del Programa de Labores y Presupuesto 1990-91 (continuación)

LE PRESIDENT: Nous reprenons nos travaux pour écouter la réponse du Secrétariat et ses éclaircissements sur le point 14 de l'ordre du jour.

Y.J. SHAH (Assistant Director-General, Office of Programme, Budget and Evaluation): The Secretariat—that is, my colleagues and I—were ready to reply to the questions raised yesterday afternoon, but I very much respect the wisdom of the Council to seek these clarifications this morning because although we were ready to give replies, of course a certain time for reflection is very helpful to us. I hope that as a result, the replies will be more clear and more comprehensive. The debate was, as usual, not only extensive, but a very rich one. Firstly, on behalf of the Secretariat, I would like to respectfully express our thanks to the Council for the very serious consideration that it has given to the proposed Summary Programme of Work and Budget.

So many questions were raised that I had to try to put some order in formulating my responses. As an approach, what I propose to do is to deal with all questions that have been raised in clusters of subjects, rather than referring to individual delegations, because the same questions or questions concerning the same subject were very often raised by more than one delegation. I think this may be more expeditious also for the consideration of the Council. Then there were certain comments made which I interpret as part of the dialogue between the members of the Council, which is very much within the tradition of the Council, and this is a dialogue to which, of course, the Secretariat is very attentive and takes note, but it is a dialogue between the distinguished members themselves. So to those comments or expressions which were not precisely addressed to the Secretariat, I would not propose to reply.

Let me start then, first of all, with comments made regarding the document itself. On behalf of the Secretariat, all my colleagues both the ones who are here and the ones who are not here, I would like to express my very sincere thanks for the expressions of satisfaction expressed by the Council. Quite frankly, you will understand that it often gets discouraging to be told, "You are not clear. You are not transparent. You don't know what you are saying. You don't understand anything." Now the Secretariat does try, and I am very, very pleased to see that some satisfaction has been expressed over the improvements made in this document. Certainly, in some cases additional information has been requested to be provided in the full Programme of Work and Budget, and as I always say, we will, of course, do our best to see how we can provide it and provide as much as we can.

There was a precise question asked about the process, and let me be very clear. The debate on the value of the process involving the January meeting of the Programme and Finance Committees is entirely a matter for Member Nations, and I am not commenting on that, but a precise question was raised about the cost of the meeting in January. This meeting cost \$ 65 000, and out of that \$ 65 000 the cost of travel of the members of the Committees who attended the sessions was \$ 28 920. The precise cost of the January meeting was \$ 64 905.

Specific questions were asked about the relative importance of the increase proposed for the Forestry Department. Yes, certainly the table on the programme budget impact gives the facts as we have them. Let me say and draw attention to the fact that the programme change, the programme increase for Forestry at 3.1 percent is higher than for any other major programme. The fact is that the share of forestry in the total budget appears to remain at 4.3 percent. However, it needs to take into account the fact that the cost increases have not yet been added. So in the final Programme of Work and Budget you will see a change in the share of the major programme for Forestry in the total budget.

A number of questions were asked about posts, the posts which were frozen, the posts which are being filled and the policy of fixed-term and continuing contracts. Out of the 200 posts which were frozen as a part of the Programme cuts at the beginning of 1988, I can now report Mr Chairman that some 155 posts are being filled. The remainder are not being filled for a specific reason, and that is that we have to consider which posts are going to be abolished in the next biennium, and therefore where a post is vacant, of course we do not proceed to fill it.

As regards the policy regarding fixed-term and continuing contracts, there is a very very definite policy, an established policy, that any new staff member recruited gets a fixed-term contract, and that fixed-term contract has a maximum of three years, which is then again, if renewed, extended

usually by another three years, but even that does not qualify for an automatic granting of a permanent appointment. So there is a very great deal of caution observed in the granting of permanent appointments.

In terms of the posts, I think it might be interesting to recall that if you look at the Programme of Work and Budget for the present biennium, and there is a table in the last Annex, Annex C, Appendix B, that gives the codification of all Regular Programme posts, and all posts under Other Funds, support costs and so on. From this table Mr. Chairman, you will see that out of the total number of professional posts under all funds 1,568, the posts which are continuing are 392.

An appeal was made about the restoration of publications which were considered of great value by Member Nations. Now here I think I can only give an assurance that in the formulation of the next Programme of Work and Budget and in the review of all the publications which we have in the current Programme of Work and Budget, maximum effort has been made to restore the publications which had to be suspended and I refer, for example, to the publications suspended like CERES, the Food and Nutrition Bulletin, Unasylva and the World Animal Review. In the case of other publications these are being reviewed for their technical justification but I think Member Nations will be pleased to see that the substance of the support that they expect from FAO publications they will see in the full Programme of Work and Budget and, Mr Chairman, you will recall in the full Programme of Work and Budget we have a supplement which lists all the main publications and documents, so you will be able to see them for yourselves in November.

There were some comments made about the changes in resources for regional offices, and I take the point that the last table given in the document before you gives the provision for regional offices for the next biennium but not for this biennium. Of course in the full Programme of Work and Budget you will see the allocation of both biennia, but there is no increase proposed in the provision for the regional offices.

A specific question was asked about a study to be conducted by the Joint Division with the UN Economic Commission for Europe, with regard to forestry. My colleagues tell me that this is the timber trends study which includes policy analysis and non-wood products and will cover a period of four years.

A specific question was asked about TCP projects approved, over a value of \$250,000. The document referred to two. You will recall that the increase in the maximum size of the TCP projects was approved by the Council at its session in November 1985, its 88th Session if I am correct. Since that time only two projects of over 250,000 have been approved. One was a project of \$310,000 for China for emergency assistance to combat forest fires, and the second was a project up to the maximum amount, that is to say up to \$400,000, for the desert locust emergency in the countries of North Africa.

Let me now turn, if I may, to some of the broader comments on which clarifications were requested. Firstly the priority areas. It has been very encouraging for us to see the wide support for the nine priority areas which have been proposed to receive additional resources, and I wish to assure those distinguished delegates who had concerns about these nine priorities being listed in any order of priority that that is not so. If any correlation may be looked for, I think you will find that correlation between the mention of specific fields and the Programme structure itself. So there is no order of priority in those priority areas.

These priority areas were not chosen at random or ad hoc. These priority areas were chosen because they respond to the concerns and the priority needs that have been expressed by you, the Member Nations, in all the various fora, and I take the fora of the Council, the Programme Committee, the Regional Conferences, the technical committees, the whole range.

A specific question was asked: how are the recommendations of the Regional Conferences taken into account? There is in fact a Conference Resolution dating back from many years which established a clear procedure for this which we are obliged to follow, and that is that at the November session of the Council in the first year of the biennium, we report to you on all the recommendations made by the Regional Conferences. You will recall this from your last session; there was an Information Document on the subject. And then at the Conference we submit another document which indicates what has been the response on all these recommendations, and specifically on each recommendation whether it was possible or not for the Director-General to respond to it, to take it into account in the formulation of his Programme of Work and Budget proposals.

I think the Council has very rightly seen that these priority areas cut across sectors. It is not a question of looking at an element or a sub-programme or even a programme. You have seen this very clearly, and as you have requested, we will do our best to give you the information which we have volunteered in the Summary, that in the full Programme of Work and Budget we give you in the most meaningful way possible, Information on these cross-sectoral priorities. But in view of the amount of discussion on policy advice, permit me to take a few minutes to give this to you as an example.

It has been noted that in the Programme 2.1.8, which is under the Major Programme Agriculture, and the title of which is Food and Agricultural Policy, there is a reduction. It seems paradoxical. In fact the reduction under that Programme is only due to the fact that there were certain major activities like the regional study for Latin America and the Caribbean, and the regional study for Europe which were undertaken and have been completed, and so naturally we have to show a reduction for those studies and the costs incurred. But if you want to look at what the range of policy advisory work covers let me say this. Firstly we have to be very clear about the definition. I do not want to include in my comments the kitchen sink and the rest. We do not want to pretend that everything is policy advisory work so it is very important to be clear about the definition, and the definition which I would propose to use is that these are activities which have a direct bearing on the decision-making processes of member countries in arriving at alternative development options and strategies.

Now such policy and planning work covers three main categories. It covers the comprehensive global policy studies and strategies. Secondly it covers the regional and sub-regional policy studies and strategies, and thirdly it covers policy advice and planning assistance at the country level. To give you some examples in the comprehensive policy studies-Agriculture: Towards 2000 and its updating, the agriculture price policy studies, the work on International agricultural adjustment-these studies have long-term policy perspective and guidance. Then there are global sector-still at the global level-sector and sub-sector strategies, whether on rural development, on the TFAP, on the fisheries Programmes of Action, on commodity trade policies and strategies, on pesticides, on conservation, on land use planning and on mechanization. Then there are development methodologies again which are global for policy analysis and planning such as the agricultural and population planning assistance.

The regional studies: I have mentioned some of them, and you are well acquainted with them. And thirdly there is policy advice at the country level, and I think this is one of the aspects which is becoming of most interest to Member Nations, certainly in the debates that we have heard.

Now this policy advice and planning assistance at the country level includes-and I give as examples-sectoral policy advice and planning assistance to individual countries, and we have recently done work for Tanzania and Malta; assistance in relation to structural and sectoral adjustment programmes-examples assistance to Indonesia and Senegal; sub-sector studies and plans-assistance to Guyana, Pakistan, Viet Nam in agricultural research planning; to Ecuador and Tanzania in dairy development; to Indonesia in fisheries policy; to Fiji in a forestry sector review, also to Honduras and Papua New Guinea; and on fertilizer strategies to Pakistan, Ethiopia and Tanzania.

I do not want to take too much time. There are many such examples that I can give, and I am pleased to assure you will be given them in full detail in the next Review of the Regular Programme. In the next review of the Regular Programme which will be submitted to the Programme and Finance Committees in September, to you in November and then to the Conference, there is a special chapter on this very subject reviewing FAO's policy and planning support.

In terms of Regular Programme resources for this cross sectoral work over the last three biennia, that is to say, including the present, we estimate a total of over US\$ 81 million. Of the US\$ 81 million, US\$ 66 million is in the agricultural sector, US\$ 9 million in fisheries, and the balance for forestry. In terms of identifiable outputs this work has represented some 1 085 advisory missions, 309 meetings and consultations, 200 training activities, and 611 publications. The work cuts across programmes, and I felt that it was relevant at this time in response to some of the comments that have been made about policy advice and cross sectoral priorities to give this as an indication.

This brings me to the point about cost increases. Certainly this is a matter that is very precise and I would like also to be very precise in my replies.

The Council has the assurance that cost increases proposed in the Summary Programme of Work and Budget were reviewed by the Finance Committee. In this connection I was a little surprised that among those members who raised questions were included one, if not more, Members of the Finance Committee. Certainly the Secretariat tries very hard to give every assurance that the Members of that Committee have the opportunity to have the information they seek. Certainly, as reported by the Chairman of the Finance Committee, this matter was discussed to the satisfaction of the Finance Committee. However, let me deal with the specific questions raised.

Firstly, there was a request that more information be provided in the Full Programme of Work and Budget. That is no problem. I want to assure you that in the Full Programme of Work and Budget you will have more information as you have asked for and which we always try to provide.

There was some suggestion that these figures have been developed off-the-cuff, that they are not reliable. With all respect, I hope I can dispel such feelings if there are any left because we have tried to do this as professionally and carefully as possible.

More Information was requested on the subject of post adjustments and the increases that are shown in the document in the table which appears, Forecast Increases. The cost increases for post adjustments give a base of US\$ 27 074 000. They indicated a biennialization cost of US\$ 12 760 000 and the inflation cost, that is, the additional cost for the next biennium, of US\$ 8 068 000. These were considered rather high; they are high, but they are the facts.

The present budgetary provision in the Programme of Work and Budget 1988-89, of US\$ 27 million. Based on the lire/dollar rate approved at the Conference of 1 235 to the dollar, this gave us a Headquarters post adjustment class of 8 in January 1988, with two additional post adjustment classes occurring in July 1988 and 1989. The actual situation was that the post adjustment at January 1988, at the beginning of the biennium, was class 9, so already the Programme of Work and Budget provision was insufficient. A further class became payable as from August 1988, and then multiplier points came into effect in 1989.

There were also modifications to the post adjustment introduced following the finalization of the Programme of Work and Budget, which the Conference approved, and which were therefore unbudgeted. These were changes in the formula for the calculation of the Remuneration Correction Factor, the adjustment reducing the lower limit on the multiplier from minus 20 to minus 5, and changes in the out-of-area price progression factor, with a formula having a faster impact on the post adjustment. The biennialization of these changes came to the figure of US\$ 12 760 000 which I mentioned.

The same thing on the General Service salaries. The Programme of Work and Budget 1988-89 was prepared assuming salary increases of between 4 percent and 5 percent occurring in February 1987, February 1988 and February 1989. Actual increases occurred in February 1987, and then in August 1987.

The latter increase was announced only in November 1987. Thus it was too late to include them in the Programme of Work and Budget. While the year started with a higher salary level than budgeted for, a further adjustment of 4.28 percent was approved in June 1988, and a further one in June 1989. The compounded effect of this General Service salary increase, which has an effect also on all the allowances which are based on the basic salary, such as the language allowance and non-resident allowance, result in a biennialization cost of US\$ 2 778 000 which is the figure that appears in the document before you. I give these examples to show that these things are developed very carefully, are reported to the Finance Committee, as the Finance Committee receives at each session a document on the changes in Professional and General Service salaries, the impact of all these changes and the dollar value of the impact, and has the opportunity to ask questions for clarification from my colleagues, Mr Crowther and Mr Bel Hadj Amor.

Have we proceeded in free flight as regards the next biennium? I am afraid not, because the impact is very real. I am not afraid to say what I have to say because they are facts which I hope to provide and to substantiate.

To give you the facts, the inadequacy of the budgetary provision for these staff costs was already felt in 1988. At least one Member of the Council implied that these things need to be looked at carefully and that we must make sure that there are funds and controls, and external auditors looking into this. Our normal process allows all of this. We provide a budgetary performance report to the Finance Committee. This budgetary performance report is attached to the report of the Finance Committee which comes to you. So the figures that I indicate are in that report.

The budgetary performance report for 1988 showed a negative staff cost variance of US\$ 8 258 000. In simple terms this means that the costs were higher than the budgeted cost. Was this figure just taken out of the blue? No, this figure has been examined and monitored in relation to every component of staff salaries. The basic salary, non-resident allowance, and the language allowance-the last two apply only to the General Service-showed a negative variance for the Professional staff of US\$ 404 000, General Service US\$ 795 000. The post adjustment, which applies only to the Professionals, showed a negative variance of US\$ 4 770 480. The health and medical insurance: for Professional staff a negative variance of US\$ 403 000 and for General Service, US\$ 372 000. All of these are facts, and the facts came to a negative variance of the US\$ 8 million for 1988.

A similar analysis has been done for 1989, and this has been monitored month by month. This is the basis for the kind of estimates we make.

A specific question was asked with regard to the post adjustment increases, as to whether this is only for the future posts, the posts proposed, or is it for the posts that are actually filled. I must be very clear. The monitoring of the costs is related to the actual posts filled in relation to the budgetary provision for the posts authorized. For the next biennium we have to take the

posts that are proposed; that will be the established posts. And let me recall that the entire cost of the posts proposed is not provided for. The full cost of the posts proposed is not provided for because we make a reduction of 5.5 percent for the lapse factor. This lapse factor, as I have often said, is among the highest in the United Nations system, and as we discussed it with the Finance Committee at its last session I can confirm that I looked into the situation in most comparable agencies and we are the highest.

Then there was a specific question referring to the multiplier points that were indicated on page 23 of the English text where we said that in making our estimates we estimated the cost equivalent of class 11 at January 1990, class 12 at January 1991 and class 13 in December 1991. The question was whether this will change in the full Programme of Work and Budget. Yes, very definitely, because these cost estimates were made at the time the Summary Programme of Work and Budget was prepared. We have assured the Finance Committee that we will review them. We do review them, and in the full Programme of Work and Budget I think you will see some changes. I believe there is no apology that I need make for it. These are facts, and we come to you very honestly.

I hope I have thus replied to most, if not all, of the questions on the cost increases, at least on the gist of the questions that were raised. Let me say that we are not alone with the fact that the cost increase provision has to be high for the next biennium. The United Nations itself has had to consider a proposal from the Secretary General for a cost increase provision of the same order of magnitude, 12.2 percent. If these cost increase provisions are high, then let us look at the cost increase provisions that were made for 1988-89 as submitted in the document that went to you and to the last Conference. We then made deductions; the Director-General reduced the cost increases for this biennium from the amount of US\$ 18 000 000, which he had originally proposed in the Summary, to US\$ 13 000 000. He had made that US\$ 5 million reduction.

You will recall also, if you look at that table, that wherever possible the biennialization costs were reduced to reflect the actual reality of the preceding biennium. I hope I have not belaboured the point, but I wanted to deal with this with all respect to those who raised the questions.

This leads me to a few final comments.

First of all, about taking into consideration the views of Member Nations. I have conveyed to you the assurance of the Director-General that we have noted this debate very carefully and that everything that has been said will be taken into consideration. But at the same time I do not want, in his name or on his behalf, to give any false illusions or false impressions. You will remember that it was in November of last year when the Director-General said that in all conscience he could not propose a negative budget in the Summary Programme of Work and Budget. I am sure you will all remember that.

Having heard this debate, I should say that he has to see his duty; he has to see, not only what one, two or five Member Nations have said at this Council, but what all Member Nations have said at this Council, and he does intend to take into consideration what everyone has said. Therefore, at this stage I consider it imprudent of me to give any impression that the Director-General can find his way to presenting a negative budget or a budget with no increases. I would like to be very clear on that.

A number of questions and comments were addressed dealing with specific programme proposals and shifts in emphasis. Out of respect for the Council, and as a demonstration of the fact that in the preparation of the Summary Programme of Work and Budget we have all worked with the Director-General in its development, I think it much more suitable that Mr. Bonte Friedhelm gives an answer on this matter, as he can deal much more fully than I with the various points raised and respond to your queries.

C.H. BONTE-FRIEDHEIM (Assistant Director-General, Agriculture Department): I would like to thank the Council for the debate during the last day and a half. The Council has raised a number of issues and questions which will, in some form or another, be taken into account—either answered now, or reflected in the full Programme of Work and Budget. It will be impossible for me to answer all the questions raised or to respond to all the comments that have been made. I do not think it is my responsibility to do this, because it was a debate among Council Members and not a debate with the Secretariat. However on behalf of all the technical departments I would like to make a very few general comments, and then on behalf of the Agriculture Department answer some specific questions.

The first point relates to the importance and relevance of sub-programmes and programme elements. Some delegates have indicated, directly or indirectly, that it is perhaps time to delete

sub-programmes or programme elements. To us in the Agriculture Department-and I think it is the same in other departments-the sub-programmes reflect a wide range of agriculture. If you look at our sub-programmes, in any good agricultural university you will get a degree in any of the sub-programmes identified in your Summary Programme of Work and Budget.

These sub-programmes hardly ever change. They cannot change, because they reflect agriculture. This time we have added one new Sub-programme, Sustaining Resource Potentials, and I shall come back to that later. Each of these sub-programmes has programme elements. In order to be more transparent and to give a clearer picture, I believe that in the Summary Programme of Work and Budget in front of you we have made more changes than ever before.

We have dropped some programme elements; we have renamed some programme elements; we have combined some programme elements; and we have added some new ones. This is so that those who read it may have a better picture of what is behind a programme element. These programme elements are still rather general, and we will need them in future as well. It is only in the full Programme of Work and Budget that you will find an indication, and not even a full indication or a full list, of the activities and the emphasis of each of these programme elements.

To make my point a little clearer, I would like to use one brief example. I would like to take programme element 2.1.3, Livestock. This has six technical sub-programmes: grassland, forage and feed resources; animal health; genetic resources; dairy development; meat development; and livestock production. Those are the six sub-programmes under the Programme Livestock. Three of those sub-programmes have received increases proposed in the Programme of Work and Budget proposed in the next biennium, and three have received decreases.

If you look at the Sub-programme Animal Health, it has five programme elements. The first is Veterinary Services Development, which is institution-building. The second is Control of Infectious Diseases. The third is Control of Parasitic Diseases. The fourth is Control of Tsetse/Trypanosomiasis. And the fifth is Application of Biotechnology and Animal Health. I would like to know how this Organization, with its mandate, can drop any of those programme elements. It is at Director-General level that we have a certain flexibility, and without that flexibility FAO could not have reacted in the way it did to the unfortunate screwworm infestation in North Africa. As I said, elimination of any of these programme elements as suggested by some would certainly threaten the global technical responsibilities of your organization.

My second general point refers to sustainability. Under the general heading of Sustainable, Sustainability (a word which I understand is very difficult to translate into French) and Sustained, I would like to cover three subjects.

Mention was made a few times in this Council of the Resolution on Sustainable Agriculture. The Resolution in this text refers to the responsibility of agriculture policies:

"-soil degradation, deforestation, desertification:

-loss of land productivity, soil and water pollution and hazards to human health caused by excessive use of agricultural chemicals:

-salinization due to inappropriate irrigation:

-genetic erosion and increased vulnerability of crops to disease and pests due in part to the use of high-yielding varieties."

The Resolution recommends a meeting to prepare for the foreseen UN Conference 1992-Environment Development. This meeting which the Resolution proposes should do three things. It should review the mechanisms for integrating agricultural production and environmental policies worldwide. It should elaborate a World Strategy for Sustainable Agriculture to guide agricultural policies at national and International levels in order to ensure that such policies encourage farmers to adopt practices which are ecologically sustainable. It should also formulate recommendations on the practical action that might be taken by International organizations concerned and in promoting sustainable agriculture.

This Resolution from which I have quoted on Sustainable Agriculture is not a FAO resolution and in its text it notes only FAO's work in Europe on integration of agricultural and environmental policies but it recommends a joint UNEP/FAO meeting and requests that the FAO Director-General be informed of the Resolution so that Council and Conference can consider the Resolution. This official notification has not yet been received, because the meeting was only last month. The meeting that this Resolution asked to be held is not foreseen in the Summary Programme of Work and Budget. There is no indication of the costs of this meeting, of how many participants there will be, how many languages, how many days it will last, or where it should be held. If you take this Resolution seriously-and it is a serious Resolution because we totally support its basic emphasis-the work that will be required under this Resolution will be substantial, and I do not know from where and how the funds will be forthcoming if we wish to have a meeting as foreseen by that UNEP Resolution.

Turning to my second point on unsustainable development: unsustainable development is due to three things-to the need for survival by the poor; to the use of inappropriate technologies or lack of technologies; and to the greed of the rich.

Since its early days, FAO has worked to help the poor and especially to find appropriate technologies. Sometimes these technologies did not exist. Sometimes they became inappropriate because of growing pressure of population on land, or movement into marginal areas of land. And sometimes these technologies were just imported from other areas, climatic zones, or soil types, without being adapted to those regions.

The work on sustainable development has been part of most-I dare say of all-the sub-programmes and programme elements of the Agriculture Department, and also of other technical departments in this Organization.

Many delegates stressed the need for sustainability issues to be taken into account in activities of all sub-programmes. Let me assure you again that this is indeed the case, as evidenced by the seven-page list of selective FAO activities related to sustainability, which we attached to the Report to the last Council, a report entitled Report on FAO's Policy Programme and Budget Related to Sustainable Agricultural Development.

If I may turn now to the new sub-programme: the objective of the new Sub-programme 2.1.1.6 Sustaining Resource Potentials is, as stated in paragraph 4.8 of the proposals, to provide a conceptual link for these activities in other sub-programmes, as well as to provide for specific work in areas where FAO has considerable advantage in comparison with other organizations, and finally to undertake work which FAO must do.

The only really new programme element is Analysis of the impact of climatic changes on agriculture. This Organization feels that this is something to which we must make a contribution. Of the \$ 560 000 funding proposed in the Summary Programme of Work and Budget only \$ 360 000 is new funding, the remainder comes from reallocations from Sub-programmes, in this case 2.1.1.1, 2.1.1.3 and 2.1.1.4.

With reference to the comments on the new sub-programme, which was a specific question from the delegate of Canada, I would like to answer that this new sub-programme is not-and I repeat is not the organization-wide focal point on the environment. That response is assigned to Sub-programme 2.1.4.5 entitled Environment and Energy which also serves the Forestry Department and the Fisheries Department, and has a programme element in it. I quote the name again-Interagency Cooperation and Inter-departmental Coordination in the Environment. In FAO there is an active Inter-Departmental Working Group on Environment and Energy which has a sub-group on sustainable development.

My last point on sustainability is that in the last biennium the Organization has tried to highlight the needs of environmental concerns. In the next biennium we will be trying to focus more than ever before on sustainability issues. Our requests to donors for extra-budgetary resources for these activities unfortunately up to now have had very little positive response.

The next question I would like to answer deals with biotechnology. It has been said-and we agree-that there is no generally acceptable definition. The United States delegation added our total expenditure and arrived at a figure of about \$ 4 million in the present biennium, and nearly \$ 5 million for the next. This figure included over \$ 3 million for the Joint Division, with the International Atomic Energy Agency in Vienna dealing with the agricultural application of isotopes and biotechnology, so it is not purely isotopes and not purely biotechnology; the smaller part is biotechnology. We have added a programme element for molecular biology. This has been added to mainly through shifts of resources and only \$ 60 000 of new funds. On biotechnology there will be only one new post in FAO, and that will be in the Plants Division. So the Secretariat has no doubt that FAO needs to assist developing countries in benefitting from biotechnologies, to be trained in these new technologies, to be informed of the developments in industries of other countries, and not to be the losers of science.

To those who say that maybe FAO should not be involved I would answer that there is an International Centre for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology dealing with agriculture, livestock and medicine. This International Centre is not under the auspices of WHO because of medicine; it is not under the auspices of FAO because of agriculture or livestock, it is under the auspices of UNIDO.

Questions have been raised here with regard to the cooperation of FAO with the CGIAR system, with the TAC Secretariat of ISNAR. I would like to repeat that FAO is a co-sponsor of the CGIAR system. FAO, is the host of the IBPGR, one of the CGIAR institutes. FAO hosts and pays for one-third of the costs of the TAC Secretariat.

The budget proposal in front of Council at the moment foresees an increase of \$ 100 000 for the next biennium for the TAC Secretariat. Personally, I am worried whether that increase will be sufficient because of the CGIAR decision (a) to include forestry research and (b) possibly to include other so far non-associated centres. Therefore, I believe the cost of the TAC Secretariat in the next biennium will have to be increased significantly.

If we look at Sub-programme 2.1.4.1, we can see the shift. We can see some of the programme elements have been dropped because of the involvement of ISNAR in them. Here the question is asked, do we cooperate with ISNAR? My answer is clearly "yes we do cooperate with them on this one". Because we have been able, for example, to drop the review and analysis of agricultural research systems it will not be a programme element in the next biennium any more. In addition, FAO cooperates very well with ISNAR because the Organization is represented on the board of ISNAR.

One final word on the CGIAR system. This system supports one centre in Kenya-ICRAD. This centre deals with two important African animal diseases-theileriosis and trypanosomiasis. The annual budget of this centre in 1988 was about \$ 11 million. For all animal health in the budget in front of Council at the moment there is a figure of between \$ 2.5 million and \$ 3 million for a world-wide mandate.

Questions have been asked about ECLO. This was established in 1986 as an emergency centre to carry out the additional work load created by grasshopper and locust invasion. It has been totally funded from extra-budgetary resources and in that respect I would express our sincere thanks for the substantial contributions received from various donors to the ECLO targets, especially from the Netherlands, the United States of America, the United Kingdom, France and the EEC. In addition to this money, other donors have made substantial contributions to the control campaigns, to whom I would like to express our thanks.

The cost increase identified in the Summary Programme of Work and Budget for 1990-91 is meant to cover one additional post under the Regular Programme to provide better services to member countries in migratory pest control. This person in particular will address improved forecasting and assistance to related field projects, and the post is fully in line with the Organization's responsibilities with reference to the desert locust, as in our Desert Locust Committee, including coordination of research. It is clearly understood in the Secretariat that ECLO is a temporary setup and will be phased out as soon as the emergency is over. I should note that the Regular Programme staff have been actively participating in the work of ECLO.

There was one other specific question on biological nitrogen fixation, and in particular the provision of assistance to various institutions in Latin America and Africa to produce their own rhizobium cultures. Agreements are established for these advisory services to be provided. This work is carried out in cooperation with UNEP and Unesco. In addition we are promoting the use of leguminous fodder crops and trees for grazing land improvement.

A question was raised about the improvement of grazing resources in arid and semi-arid regions. This is an area where progress so far has been relatively so slow, but we have an active programme in the Near East and North Africa for the introduction of new plant species and management techniques. The work is carried out partly through the establishment of Pilot Demonstration Areas which also provide the opportunity for field training. Under the same activity I mention our work on the introduction of drought resistant trees such as Prosopis which has been well received by countries both in Latin America and the Sahel.

I will go quickly through the other questions. There was a question on whether the FAO Secretariat will continue the International Fertilizer Scheme. Yes we will, but it will be amalgamated in an enlarged programme element dealing with efficiently integrated plant systems. We are grateful to the few donors who still provide fertilizers, but we are disappointed by the limited response to our call for input aid especially to Africa. The input study was a follow-up study on our major work in Africa in the next 25 years. We are convinced we will not be able to help the people in Africa if we cannot raise the fertilizer application on that continent.

The delegate of Australia asked specifically about Sub-programme 2.1.1.4, element 6. Our reply is briefly as follows. The element in the present biennium provided for activities to establish a system for the transfer and sharing of experience and knowledge on water development and management in agriculture. We did some preliminary work and had some meetings with a University in Italy, and proposals were put forward for such a system. Then we undertook an internal review of FAO, and examined the proposals and concluded that they were too broad in scope in the light of the financial situation of the Organization. However, the internal review did recognize the importance of technology transfer of proven irrigation development and management techniques, and recommended that initially activities should concentrate on the inventorising and evaluation of available technologies prior to any setting up of a system for dissemination. It was also felt that further

consideration should be given to different methods of dissemination including experience of our very successful CARIS/AGRIS networks. Concentration of initial activities on training technologies was also considered advisable.

As a result of this internal review, in the Summary Programme of Work and Budget 1990-91, activities for the technology transfer system have been narrowed to allow initial concentration on the inventorising and evaluation of techniques.

The delegate of Colombia asked about UNDP. I would like to reply as follows. First, UNDP's share in the FAO field programme has increased; second, FAO's share in UNDP's programme has not changed noticeably-it is around 19%. It is lowest in the Latin American and Caribbean region. Third, posts-UNDP and FAO as well as other organizations of the UN System fully support new dimensions, wherever possible, sustaining national experts, institutions and government execution; fourth, of the UNDP central, mainly IPF, resources, FAO is the largest executing agency; government execution last year moved to place number three with the United Nations In fourth place, UNDP itself. Fifth, of all the resources, not only central resources but all resources, available to UNDP including IPF, UNDP-administered funds, trust funds, management services, OPS-their own service is the largest executing agent for themselves. Sixth, in the field of agriculture, forestry and fisheries, UNDP/OPS in 1988 delivered nearly \$ 40 million worth of projects plus over \$ 7.5 million in the field of natural resources. I do not know how much the agricultural share would be in science and technology or in general development issues, policy and planning.

Finally, with the UNDP support to the CGIAR system, FAO is practically excluded. It is going directly from UNDP to the CGIAR institutes. And in field projects where the CGIAR institutes are used as an implementing agency, it is also mostly done without FAO. Our major point-and I made this last time in front of Council-is that on those projects financed within the UN system which deal with agriculture, forestry and fisheries, FAO should get the project proposal or project document. FAO should get the progress report, and FAO should get the terminal report. And this we do not get, and this I think is something to do if we want to remain the world institution in the field of agriculture.

And finally, I would like to thank the delegate of Czechoslovakia for offering training facilities and cooperation with our Remote Sensing Centre. FAO is the recognized lead agency in remote-sensing activities. We will certainly look for the Instruments to benefit trainees from developing countries. He also noted-and since I had a discussion with the Programme Committee, let me say this-he also noted the need not to forget that there is in many countries a sector called large-scale farms and emerging farms which require assistance. In many countries governments subsidize heavily, directly or indirectly, these large-scale farms of emerging farms. We in FAO have a very small programme element on the subject, in farming systems development, and in spite of the overall importance this Organization gives and must give to the small farmer, FAO hopes that this very, very small programme element will also serve the sector of large-scale farms and emerging farms.

LE PRESIDENT: Je remercie M. Bonte-Friedheim de ses explications très complètes sur les techniques et des réponses qu'il a données aux délégués.

Nous voici arrivés à la fin de l'examen de l'un des points les plus importants de notre Ordre du jour, à savoir l'analyse du Sommaire du Programme de travail et budget 1990-91 qui a été établi en application des nouvelles procédures d'utilisation adoptées à titre expérimental par notre Conseil et après analyse par les comités sectoriels (COFI ET COAG), le Comité du Programme et le Comité financier.

Je voudrais tout d'abord adresser mes remerciements les plus vifs à tous les délégués et observateurs qui ont bien voulu intervenir dans ce débat et enrichir la discussion par leurs contributions. J'ai noté, à cet égard, que le nombre d'intervenants a atteint le chiffre de 48, dont quatre observateurs, et que MM. les délégués et observateurs ont eu l'occasion dans ce débat de s'exprimer sans aucune limitation et sans aucune exclusive sur tous les points qui ont été soulevés.

Je voudrais remercier en votre nom le Comité du Programme et le Comité financier dont les analyses claires ont grandement facilité la tâche du Conseil et ont constitué une contribution utile et précieuse à nos travaux. Les remerciements du Conseil vont également au Secrétariat pour sa participation active et significative à nos discussions.

Je voudrais tout d'abord signaler que j'ai observé que le Conseil, par la voix de nombreux délégués, a souligné avec satisfaction les améliorations nouvelles apportées au contenu du Sommaire du Programme de travail et budget, améliorations qui se sont traduites, d'abord, par des détails et précisions plus fournies que par le passé puisque la confection du Programme de travail et budget a été réalisée au niveau des éléments de programme et, ensuite, par une claire hiérarchisation des

priorités qui sous-tendent l'élaboration de ce programme. A cet égard, j'ai été heureux de noter le consensus général sur les neuf domaines prioritaires indiquée sans que pour autant, comme l'a d'ailleurs affirmé le Secrétariat, l'ordre dénonciation de ces domaines prioritaires soit automatiquement l'ordre de priorité.

Par ailleurs, je pense qu'il n'est pas possible d'énumérer toutes les suggestions présentées individuellement en ce qui concerne les ajustements de programme et transferts de ressources; je suis persuadé que le Secrétariat les examinera avec toute l'attention qu'elles méritent.

En ce qui concerne le Sommaire du Programme de travail et budget, nous avons entendu des réactions différentes au Conseil sur le niveau du budget éventuel. La grande majorité des membres du Conseil a souligné qu'elle appuyait les propositions du Directeur général, même si l'augmentation proposée était modeste alors qu'elle aurait souhaité qu'elle puisse être plus importante. D'autres membres beaucoup moins nombreux, tout en exprimant l'appui de leur gouvernement aux programmes de l'Organisation et en reconnaissant qu'il importe de répondre aux demandes des Etats Membres, ont indiqué que leurs gouvernements se sentaient obligés d'appliquer une politique de croissance 0 des programmes et d'absorption maximale des accroissements de coûts. Enfin quelques délégués ont réservé leur position jusqu'à la Conférence.

A propos des augmentations de coûts, quelques opinions diverses ont été exprimées. Je voudrais indiquer que les estimations provisoires dans le Sommaire du Programme de travail et budget ont été examinées de façon fouillée par le Comité financier auquel j'ai eu le privilège d'assister. Il serait prématuré de tirer une conclusion définitive ce stade. En outre, le Secrétariat vient de nous donner des explications dans sa réponse et nous a assurée que des estimations encore plus affinées figureront dans le Programme de travail et budget définitif.

Compte tenu de toutes ces observations, j'estime que le Conseil dans sa très grande majorité vient d'appuyer les propositions du Directeur général en ce qui concerne le Programme de travail et budget pour le biennium 1990-91. Dans ces conditions le Conseil invite le Directeur général à préparer sur la base du Sommaire un Programme détaillé, le Programme de travail et Budget définitif, qui sera soumis à la Conférence et invite également le Directeur général à examiner les suggestions qui ont été faites à l'occasion des débats.

Je voudrais cependant, avant de terminer, émettre le voeu que la chaîne de consensus dont a parlé le Directeur général dans son discours introductif ne soit pas brisée et que Messieurs les éminents délégués mettront à profit le délai qui nous sépare de la 25ème session de la Conférence générale pour se faire les interprètes actifs de la FAO auprès de leur gouvernement en vue d'aboutir à une approbation par consensus du Programme de travail et budget de l'Organisation lors de la prochaine Conférence.

Je pense que nous avons épuisé le point 14 de notre Ordre du jour.

Il nous reste quelques minutes avant de lever la séance. Nous pouvons aborder le point suivant de l'Ordre du jour.

15. Report of the Fifty-seventh Session of the Programme Committee, including a Progress Report on the Review of FAO
15. Rapport de la cinquante-septième session du Comité du Programme, y compris un rapport sur l'état d'avancement de l'Examen de la FAO
15. Informe del 57 periodo de sesiones del Comité del Programa, incluido un informe parcial sobre el Examen de la FAO

J. MAZOYER (Président du Comité du Programme): C'est un honneur pour moi d'être ici aujourd'hui pour présenter ce point de votre Ordre du jour.

Lors de sa 57ème session en mai, le Comité du programme s'est concentré sur l'examen du Sommaire du Programme de travail et budget 1990-91, dont le Conseil a déjà discuté ces derniers jours. Il me reste donc à ajouter que, comme d'habitude, le Comité a également examiné un certain nombre de rapports du Corps commun d'inspection des Nations Unies et que vous trouverez le compte-rendu de nos débats dans notre rapport.

Par ailleurs, avec l'aide de mon collègue l'Ambassadeur Bukhari, Président du Comité financier, je voudrais dire quelques mots de plus sur les progrès réalisés par les deux Comités en ce qui concerne l'Examen de la FAO qui a été confié aux deux Comités par la résolution 6/87.

Veuillez vous rappeler, Monsieur le Président, que les deux Comités ont déjà fait rapport à la 94ème session du Conseil en novembre dernier sur l'état d'avancement de cet Examen. Encore une fois les comités, par courtoisie et par respect envers le Conseil, ont jugé opportun de tenir le Conseil au courant de l'évolution de leurs travaux.

Tout d'abord, les Comités se sont réunis en session conjointe spéciale à Rome, du 18 au 26 mai 1989. A cette occasion, ils ont examiné les rapports des deux groupes d'experts; l'un de ces rapports porte sur les objectifs, les rôles, les priorités et les stratégies de la FAO et l'autre sur les opérations de terrain de la FAO. Les deux Comités ont également examiné le rapport dans lequel le Directeur général a présenté ses premières réactions aux recommandations des groupes d'experts sans préjuger de celles qui seront contenues dans le rapport qu'il soumettra à la Conférence.

Tout à l'heure mon collègue le Président du Comité financier vous dira quelques mots sur l'étude de la gestion de la FAO, qui a aussi fait l'objet d'un débat pendant la session conjointe spéciale.

En ce qui concerne maintenant les Rapports des Experts, pendant la session les membres des Comités ont posé de nombreuses questions aux rapporteurs des deux groupes d'experts ainsi qu'au Secrétariat et ils ont obtenu tous les éclaircissements qu'ils souhaitaient. Les Comités se sont sincèrement félicités de la précieuse contribution des deux groupes d'experts. Ils ont remercié les membres de ces deux groupes et ils leur ont donné quitus des travaux qu'ils leur avaient confiés.

Les membres des Comités ont exprimé toutes les vues qu'ils ont jugées opportunes sur les rapports ainsi que sur d'autres aspects de l'examen de la FAO. Les Comités ont toutefois reconnu qu'ils n'étaient pas en mesure, au cours de la session, d'établir leur rapport et de formuler leurs recommandations. Il leur faudra faire cela lors de leur quatrième session conjointe spéciale qui aura lieu à la fin de septembre 1989.

La question de la communication officielle des rapports des experts aux membres de l'Organisation a été soulevée et les Comités ont convenu en général qu'il serait prématuré de prendre une décision en la matière avant que la dernière main ne soit mise à leur propre rapport.

En ce qui concerne maintenant la préparation du rapport des deux Comités, pour tirer profit au maximum des débats de la session de mai et pour préparer la session de septembre, les deux comités ont été d'accord pour que pendant l'été un avant-projet de leur rapport au Conseil soit préparé par les Présidents des deux comités, c'est-à-dire M. Bukhari et moi-même, chacun se chargeant des questions débattues sous sa présidence. Cet avant-projet devra être terminé à la fin de juillet; il sera traduit dans toutes les langues officielles et communiqué à tous les membres des deux comités au plus tard à la fin du mois d'août.

Il a été prévu également un Groupe d'appui rédactionnel, composé des deux Présidents et de six membres des deux Comités. Ce Groupe se réunira dès que possible-fin août/début septembre 1989-pour cinq jours environ. Il examinera les avant-projets et préparera lui-même un document qui sera soumis aux deux Comités à leur quatrième session conjointe spéciale. Dans ce document seront identifiés les points de convergence, les questions qui doivent encore être débattues et les amendements possibles au rapport des deux Présidents.

Finalement, il incombera aux deux Comités, lors de la session de septembre, d'achever la tâche qui leur a été confiée en amendant et en adoptant leur propre rapport sur l'Examen.

Bien entendu, j'apprécie hautement l'honneur que m'ont fait les deux Comités en me confiant ce travail difficile et je les remercie vivement de leur confiance. Mais je ne me méprends pas du tout sur mon rôle. Je sais fort bien que l'Examen de la FAO aura été un travail collectif auquel auront collaboré les organes directeurs et consultatifs, les Etats Membres, le Secrétariat, les experts et maintenant les deux Comités.

Voilà, Monsieur le Président, ce qu'il m'a semblé essentiel de vous rapporter aujourd'hui à propos de cet examen, et je vous remercie de m'avoir accordé la parole à ce sujet.

LE PRESIDENT: Je remercie le Président du Comité du Programme de sa communication au sujet des travaux de la session conjointe de mai 1989 relative aux réformes et aux études d'organisation de la FAO.

A. Y. BUKHARI (Chairman, Finance Committee)(original language Arabic): I would like also to thank my colleague the Chairman of the Programme Committee, Professor Mazoyer, who gave the Council a clear-cut view of the joint meeting between the two Committees. Mr Mazoyer referred also to the experts' report and I would like to add to his remarks the following.

As for the review, the Committees also received the executive summaries of the consultants' reports on the FAO Management Review together with the related preliminary comments of the Director-General. The comments of the Director-General I repeat were preliminary. In addition copies of the full report as submitted in English, were made available to interested Members.

The Committees recalled that this review, the Management Review, was not specifically called for under Conference Resolution 6/87 and had been undertaken at the initiative of the Director-General. The Committees reiterated their satisfaction with the initiative of the Director-General and in general with the quality of the six reports. The two Committees were also informed that the Director-General's comment contained the results of his first analysis pending more detailed study. Accordingly the views expressed by Committee Members could not be final. They are preliminary views, as I said.

The Committees noted that the Secretariat would review these first reactions and pursue its in-depth analysis of the consultants' recommendations so that further information on the Director-General's conclusions could be made available in time for consideration at the fourth special joint session in September 1989. The two Committees agreed that a preliminary draft of their Report to the Council on the FAO Management Reviews was also required. The preliminary draft Report should be prepared on the basis of the management consultants' report and the Director-General's preliminary conclusions as submitted to the third special joint session, and also taking into consideration the views expressed by the two Committees at that session.

The schedule for preparation of the preliminary draft Report on the management consultants' reviews would follow the same schedule as that of the preliminary draft Reports to be prepared on the other reviews. So I repeat we will have practically the same schedule.

This preliminary draft would also be considered by the drafting support group mentioned already by my colleague, the Chairman of the Programme Committee. This group, following its reviews of the preliminary draft on the management consultants' reviews, would also prepare a document to be submitted to the two Committees in time for consideration at their fourth special joint session.

This is all I have to say Mr. Chairman, and I hope I have been clear in my presentation.

LE PRESIDENT: Il nous reste quelques minutes. Je souhaiterais que les Honorables délégués qui désirent prendre part à la discussion veuillent bien se faire connaître au Secrétariat. Après quoi nous léverons la Séance.

The meeting rose at 11.15 hours.

La séance est levée à 11 h 15.

Se levanta la sesión a las 11.15 horas.

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CL

CL 95/PV/10

Ninety-fifth Session

Quatre-vingt-quinzième session

95º periodo de sesiones

TENTH PLENARY MEETING
DIXIEME SEANCE PLENIERE
DECIMA SESION PLENARIA
(23 June 1989)

The Tenth Plenary Meeting was opened at 14.30 hours Lassaad Ben Osman, Independent Chairman of the Council, presiding

La dixième séance plénière est ouverte à 14 h 30, sous la présidence de Lassaad Ben Osman, Président indépendant du Conseil

Se abre la décima sesión plenaria a las 14.30 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)
- 15. Report of the Fifty-Seventh Session of the Programme Committee, including a Progress Report on the Review of FAO (continued)
- 15. Rapport de la cinquante-septième session du Comité du Programme, y compris un rapport sur l'état d'avancement de l'Examen de la FAO (suite)
- 15. Informe del 57 periodo de sesiones del Comité del Programa, incluido un informe parcial sobre el Examen de la FAO (continuación)

Hannu HALINEN (Finland): Mr Chairman, I have the pleasure of speaking on behalf of the Nordic countries.

At the last session of the Council we expressed our hope for a substantive and comprehensive discussion on the review of FAO to be held at this Council meeting. We did that with the firm belief that by doing so our search for a consensus decision in the matter in the autumn would be greatly facilitated. Looking at the document before us, CL 95/8, we are obliged to note to our regret that the work has not progressed to the extent which would allow the Members of the Council an in-depth exchange of views on the substantive issues.

Facing the rapidly approaching Conference, the Member Countries have to think very carefully how to proceed in the short period of time left to us to discuss the issue. We are encouraged by the increasing number of informal contacts between Members. These contacts, in which the Nordic countries have been an active partner, have very substantially increased the understanding of the concept of review, as well as various questions it covers. The intensified collaboration between Member Countries no doubt plays a decisive role in finding a consensus on this question. Nevertheless, we are concerned that the Joint Session Report on the Review probably will not be distributed until the latter part of October. This leaves the Member Countries with very limited time to reach a substantive consensus on these important issues.

In our view, it is therefore important that the informal contacts between Member Countries are continued with a view to preparing elements of the consensus for decision at the Conference in November. The Nordic countries will pursue this.

As to the next Session of the Council, there seems to be a need to extend it for a couple of days for necessary preparatory talks before the Conference.

In connection with the submission of the Report from the Special Joint Session on the Review of FAO to the 96th Session of the Council, and to the 25th Session of the FAO Conference, the Nordic countries are of the opinion that it is relevant for Member Governments to receive the reports of the two expert groups, and not only governments but also other UN organizations where parallel discussions are undertaken at this moment. These reports are already available as FAO documents restricted to the Members of the Joint Session. We feel, however, that the result of the extensive efforts that have been going into the preparation of these reports should be widely distributed in order that all Member Countries can benefit from the analyses contained in the reports.

The Director-General in his opening statement to this Council expressed his view that additional financial resources will be necessary to implement the measures which might be agreed upon. While it is somewhat premature to discuss this question at any length, we want to point out that it needs to be looked at from a broader and more balanced perspective. Our national experiences as well as developments in other organizations, clearly indicate that changes are obtainable according to new priorities within existing budgetary constraints. This, obviously, is the platform to work on in FAO, too. In our view the best argument for increased resources is an efficient organization, and this is exactly what the review and reform process is all about. We should like to consider additional costs when justified as new investments in the organization leading to lower costs in the longer run.

The Nordic countries do not accept the view that the question of priorities and priority setting within FAO, an issue we have been working on for quite a long time, should be approached from a financial and budgetary point of view. Similarly, it seems natural to us that the decision on the Review precedes the decision on Budget at the Conference.

We note with special interest in the Summary of Work and Budget 1990-91 the appointment of a new Senior Evaluation Officer. We take it as a sign of the fact that, although the Conference will draw to an end on one important phase in the review process, the process itself continues on the one hand with the implementation of the Conference decisions, and as an interim evaluation exercise on the other.

R.G. PETTIT (United Kingdom): Mr Chairman, I thank Prof. Mazoyer for leading us through the Report of the Programme Committee, and I was grateful to him and Ambassador Bukhari for giving us the feel of the discussion about the review and the details of the plans to complete this phase of the review process.

I will comment only on a few points in CL 95/8 in Parts I, II, and IV as these are the few points that do not better fall into other Agenda items, and which we did not adequately deal with in the discussion of the Programme of Work and Budget. To make my remarks slightly easier to follow, I will make them in the order of the paragraphs in the Report that provoked them.

In paragraph 2.7 there is a discussion on whether the process by which we have a short overview of the budget in January could lead to our doing without the Summary of Work and Budget. In the view of my delegation this is not the case. We value the input of the Council into the Budget process and this requires a Summary Programme of Work and Budget of the sort we have now. We have commented favourably on the way it has been carried out.

I assume that we are expected to make comments on the question of immunity of the Organization if we wish to, which is covered by paragraphs 1.11 to 1.19 under the later item of Constitutional and Legal Matters.

In paragraph 2.21 I notice that the Programme Committee debated whether FAO should make special efforts to muster extra budgetary contributions to accommodate new priority concerns. Some Members said yes and others said that there were limitations, as the basic role of the Regular Programme is to cover areas of activity of universal interest. It was appropriate that no view was taken on this as there is some validity in each opinion. From time to time it may be appropriate that new activities be financed on a collective basis outside of the Regular Budget. However, for most purposes the activities are best carried out by an international basis and should be on the regular budget.

Changing priorities means changing allocations, and indeed this is a point we need to bear in mind in considering changing emphases which emerge from the Review and its implementation. One would normally expect ideas which involve new expenditure to compete with other priorities. Of course, many of the ideas which may emerge may lead to economy through greater efficiency or greater confidence in dropping programmes whose useful life has come to an end.

I notice from paragraphs 2.139 to 2.141 and the introductory note on page V that the various JIU reports are mentioned for information of the Council. It is of course appropriate that views expressed in JIU reports of interest to FAO are brought to the attention of the Council and given appropriate consideration by it-for instance, in an agenda item such as matters of interest arising from activities of the rest of the UN. I have not personally read all the JIU reports, and I would be grateful for an assurance from the Committee that all lessons that are to be learnt from them have been Identified and action taken, if appropriate, by the Secretariat.

Next I come to the Progress Report on the Review of FAO, in Part IV.

My delegation is disappointed that it will not be possible for the reports of the experts to be accessible to the membership just now, so that we can begin to acquaint ourselves with the thoughts of these distinguished and hardworking people. However my disappointment is a result of our enthusiasm and impatience. We can understand and respect the wish of members of the Committee not to be subject to excessive backseat driving. We are content that the reports come forward with the final Report of the Committees, which is of course a substantive contribution to the Review and the Annex to them, so that we can share in our languages the thoughts that have gone into the Report.

One of the reasons why we were impatient for the Report and to learn the trend of Committee's thinking is that we know that many of the ideas being discussed by the experts-we know this through our contacts with them at times-are very relevant to the major studies which we as a Member State are participating in in the rest of the UN system. One example is the key discussion currently going on in the UNDP Governing Council on the future role of UNDP. Another is the triennial review of operational activities next month in ECOSOC. A third is the study of successful arrangements for support costs for the next cycle of UNDP. Some of the ideas which must surely have been debated by the experts are most relevant to these three key discussions, which have considerable potential implications for the field programmes of the agencies and for FAO. It is important that we do not miss the opportunity to influence these key negotiations by being unready to reveal our hand. I give some examples. Many of us have at various times expressed the view that the priorities of the governing body should be reflected in the field programmes. This means that FAO may need to be selective in choosing to execute even projects financed by UNDP from country-indicative planning figures. If this becomes our view, it would mean a different relationship, and a different relationship between UNDP, or between the agencies and the funding body, and governments in their capacity of participants in UNDP need to know this.

There are implications for us in participation in the country programming process-by us, of course, I mean FAO and in the various coordinating activities such as the UNDP-led NATCAPS, or the UNDP-run "round tables"-or consultative groups for that matter. There are implications here for the UNDP future studies and the triennial review.

Secondly, as Mr Shah said this morning, one of the points that we have talked about is the importance of the provision by FAO of countries' specific advice. Of course, this morning we were looking at it just from the point of view of the budget but it has significance also for the Support Cost Study. If much of our work is to be in generalized advice and less in executing projects, then we shall need to bid for a different type of recompense from UNDP than simply a support cost for so-much; and, as the UNDP representative said yesterday the support cost team reports in October and the Governing Council takes a decision next year-actually, I think he was wrong to say "in the summer". I think the hope now is that it will take it in February. So we have to feed our ideas in early.

Then there are different forms of relationship which we would probably expect to have over the execution of projects. We may wish to promote more government execution and be more involved in more professional guided projects and more project formulations. We may need for these purposes to be recompensed differently.

From this, I read the following lessons. It is probably too late to influence the UNDP exercise on its future. Fortunately, there were excellent discussions between the membership and the agencies in New York leading to the preparation of the paper which eventually formed the basis for the debate. The FAO representative made very helpful interventions, leading to changes in the paper, which reflect a more realistic presentation of the relationships between the FAO and the Central Funding Body, or indeed the agencies generally and the Central Funding Body. Whether or not he took account of the experts' report I of course do not know, but I rather hoped he had done.

For the Triennial Review, I would hope that the Director-General's input into the papers being prepared by the Director-General for Development and International Economic Cooperation on various important matters like central funding, coordination, and so on reflect the better ideas which were discussed by members in the process of thinking about the Review.

As to the Support Cost Study, I hope that FAO staff members, as well as Member States, will take advantage of the offer mentioned by Mr Bonev yesterday of consultations which continue this month-consultations between specialist agencies and the expert group, and between Member States and the expert group. I hope too that the Secretariat will not hesitate to put forward better ideas emerging in the report of the experts or in the other thinking about this. It is important that we do not lose out through running a little late on these things.

Finally, I would ask that the wealth of useful material and ideas in the Report of the experts-or which I would suspect are in the Report of the experts-should be made available as early as makes good sense, so as to be used by the Secretariat and membership alike, to ensure that an appropriate input into these important exercises, which are now on-going, can be made.

Also, I would associate myself with the remarks made by the distinguished delegate of Finland about the need for adequate time at the November Council to discuss the Report, especially in view of the fact that it has not been possible for this Council to make its input earlier.

Ilja HULINSKY (Czechoslovakia): The Czechoslovak delegation takes note of the Progress Report on the Review of FAO contained in the document CL 95/8 Part IV. We would also like to express our thanks for the oral explanations presented to this Council's session by Professor Mazoyer and Ambassador Bukhari on behalf of the Programme and Finance Committees.

Let me state at least briefly the position of my country on the Review of certain aspects of FAO's goals and operations currently being undertaken in accordance with General Conference Resolution 6/87.

Firstly, on the Review process: my country, Czechoslovakia, welcomed the consensus which had emerged within the Programme and Financial Committees as well as within the last session of the Council on how to carry out the Review. As a new Council member, Czechoslovakia is prepared to do its best so that this consensus would be maintained through all the successive stages of the Review process, till the Twenty-fifth General Conference. We are surely interested in the positive results.

My delegation respects the spirit and letter of the resolution 6/87 of the Twenty-fourth Session of the FAO Conference. That is why we are waiting for the outcome of the Special Joint Session of the Programme and Finance Committees, which will have to formulate their recommendations to the Council and to the Conference. We shall take our position on substantive questions of the Review after having studied this joint official report of the Programme and Finance Committees as well as the final report of the Director-General to the Conference.

That does not mean that we would like to remain just passive outsiders. We do have our problems and difficulties within the present structure and functioning of FAO, issues to which we would like to seek a satisfactory reaction. We sincerely share the notion that the central objective of the review process is to strengthen the FAO so as to increase its capacity and effectiveness.

That is why we will assist all efforts to consolidate mutual cooperation and understanding in approaching the essential problems within the framework of the whole organization, within the Basic Texts of FAO, to the benefit of solving the global problem-that of eradication of hunger, malnutrition and poverty. There can really be no complacency about the world food problem. As a matter of fact we consider it to be desirable that FAO activities be further oriented toward the objectives of the New International Economic Order in the FAO's field of competence. We strongly believe that FAO can and should play an enhanced role in this respect.

Secondly, on the Progress Report on the Review of FAO as contained in doc CL/95/8.

My delegation takes note of the position expressed in paragraph 4.4 of the Progress Report on the formal release of the experts' reports to the membership of the organization.

Both the Programme and Finance Committees generally agreed that it would be premature to consider this until after their report had been finalized in September 1989. My delegation understands that such a position corresponds to the mandate given to the Programme and Finance Committees in the review of FAO activities which they were carrying out in accordance with Conference Resolution 6/87.

The Special Joint Session of the Programme and Finance Committees is expected to play a key role in considering the recommendation of the experts and presenting their own report thereon. We do not question that. At the same time, my delegation has doubts whether it was really necessary to stick to such a strict interpretation of Resolution 6/87 in this respect, that of the formal release of the experts' reports, and the Director-General's preliminary conclusions on them, at this particular moment.

The two expert groups on FAO Objectives, Role, Priorities and Strategies and the FAO's field operations have completed their work and discharged their responsibilities already. Nobody can question the natural interest of all the membership of FAO in the work of these two groups. In this Organization of the U.N. System there are no secrets. Such things could not exist. Everybody in FAO who was interested received copies of both reports, and everybody knows that. The only real result of the particular decision was that it was more difficult for those countries not represented in the Programme and Finance Committees to get hold of copies. As you know, Mr Chairman, unfortunately that happened in the case of the countries of the East European group. Consequently, they were the last ones to get the reports, though I doubt that was the intention. I am not criticizing anyone. I am just mentioning the facts. I am also underlining our deep and sincere belief that if there is a way to avoid emotions, or at least not to add to them, that would be the best approach in handling the present review process.

My last remark relates to the principal attitude of the Czechoslovak delegation in the review proceedings which take place between now and the 25th Conference. From what I have said earlier, it follows that my delegation is willing to take part in a constructive dialogue. We are ready to assist in seeking a collective solution of all the problems relating to the present review exercise in accordance with Resolution 6/87 on the basis of consensus. We are looking for close, friendly and useful cooperation with all Member Nations of FAO in that direction.

Amin ABDEL MALEK (Liban) (langue originale arabe): Je voudrais tout d'abord remercier M. Bukhari, Président du Comité financier, et M. Mazoyer, Président du Comité du Programme, pour nous avoir fort bien présenté ce matin le rapport de la session conjointe.

Certains disent que, s'ils ne recevaient le rapport des experts sur l'examen des activités de l'Organisation qu'en octobre prochain, ils ne disposeraient pas de temps suffisant pour l'étudier. Ceci est à mon avis incorrect. Car le rapport principal a fait l'objet d'une étude de la part du Comité du Programme et du Comité Financier en mai 1989. En outre, la majorité des membres ont également eu ce rapport et l'ont même bien étudié. C'est pourquoi, je pense que ce qu'en décidera le groupe d'experts fin août, et ce qu'en décideront les Comités Financier et du Programme en septembre, ne changera rien quant au fond. Je pense donc que tout le monde disposera du temps suffisant pour étudier ce rapport même s'il n'est distribué que vers la mi-octobre.

Monsieur le Président, au nom de la délégation libanaise, et non en mon nom personnel en tant que membre du Comité du Programme, je ne peux qu'appuyer en général le contenu de ce rapport, de ce document.

Joseph TCHICAYA (Congo): Je prends la parole au nom du Groupe des 77 pour voue donner la position de notre groupe sur ce sujet important.

Le Groupe des 77, comme vous le savez, a été partie prenante de la résolution 6/87 et à cet égard souhaite son application intégrale. Nous avons déjà, au cours des six premiers mois de l'année, publié une déclaration qui souhaitait que nous puissions nous conformer à la résolution 6/87 telle qu'elle avait été décidée lors de la Conférence de la FAO. Ce faisant, nous ne voulions pas esquiver le débat que nous appelons de tous nos voeux, mais au contraire nous pensions qu'il fallait rendre ce débat beaucoup plus discipliné. Effectivement, une fièvre s'est emparée de chacun des membres de la FAO pour entamer les discussions sur ces questions le plus tôt possible. Nous pensions pour notre part que la question avait été confiée au Comité du Programme et au Comité financier et que nous devrions attendre dans la sérénité le rapport de ces deux Comités. Certes, les deux Comités avaient été autorisés à désigner une équipe d'experte qui devaient leur donner un certain nombre de conseils. Mais nous pensions que les Comités chargés d'un rapport qui devait être soumis à la Conférence étaient bien le Comité du Programme et le Comité financier.

C'est pour cette raison que notre groupe n'a jamais manifesté un enthousiasme quelconque à vouloir que nous entrions en possession des rapports des experts qui évaluent, somme toute, destinée au Comité du Programme et au Comité financier.

Nous venons de voir que le Comité du Programme et le Comité financier font des progrès. Nous aussi nous aurions souhaité que le rapport des deux Comités fût prêt pour cette session pour que nous puissions entamer le débat. Mais tel n'est pas le cas, et pour notre part, nous sommes patiente. Nous attendrons que ce rapport soit prêt pour engager les débats nécessaires avec nos partenaires.

Voilà pourquoi nous voudrions encourager les deux Comités à poursuivre le travail qu'ils ont entamé et nous sommes certains que nous arriverons en septembre prochain à adopter un rapport qui pourra être examiné par la Conférence. Pour ces raisons nous pensons qu'il est prématuré d'engager un débat sur cette question au cours de cette session, parce que nous n'avons aucun élément. Certains ont étudié les documents des experts qui ont été parfois distribués sans qu'on puisse les demander et dans une langue que parfois certains ne parlent pas. C'est pour cette raison que nous considérons, pour notre part, que le Groupe des 77 ignore tout de ce qui se fait au niveau du Comité du Programme et du Comité Financier et nous attendons le rapport. Ce faisant nous ne sommes pas contre ceux qui ont proposé ici que le prochain Conseil puisse avoir un ou deux jours de plus pour nous permettre de débattre de la question, car comme je l'ai dit, le Groupe des 77 ne fuit pas le débat, au contraire, nous voulons engager un débat franc et constructif avec nos partenaires.

Voilà pourquoi il convient de ne pas faire mentionner tout ce que nous avons pu dire ici et attendre le rapport de notre Conseil. Nous devons dire tout simplement qu'il y a des opinions préliminaires qui ont été exprimées au cours de cette session, mais que le débat est renvoyé à la session prochaine et pour ce qui concerne cette session nous sommes d'accord. Je crois que tous nos collègues au niveau du Groupe des 77 partageront notre opinion, afin que nous puissions obtenir le temps nécessaire pour pouvoir débattre, au cours de cette session, de cette question importante qui nous tient à coeur.

Voilà pourquoi nous pensons qu'il est trop tôt pour dire si oui ou non le consensus auquel nous pourrions parvenir au cours de la prochaine Conférence entraînera des dépenses supplémentaires ou pas. Je crois qu'il est trop tôt pour pouvoir le dire et je ne suis pas d'accord pour affirmer qu'il n'y aura pas de dépenses, que tout cela devra être contenu dans le programme actuel que nous sommes en train d'examiner. Je crois que ces possibilités, nous l'avons toujours dit, existent et "qui veut la fin veut les moyens".

Nous avons demandé que l'examen soit fait. Nous sommes prêts à payer et c'est cela qu'il faut dire. Je suppose que tous les membres du Groupe des 77 qui voudront intervenir interviendront dans ce sens. Mieux, nous avons pensé qu'il était inutile de consacrer beaucoup de temps au cours de cette session à cette question, étant donné que nous sommes prêts à la discuter à la prochaine session.

Mohammad Saleem KHAN (Pakistan): My delegation wishes to thank Mr Mazoyer and Mr Bukhari for their presentations on the progress report and review of FAO. We welcome the progress report with great satisfaction, and are awaiting the outcome of the September meeting of Special Joint Session.

We have heard the views expressed by the delegations of Finland, the United Kingdom and some others. We respect all these views but, as explained by the Chairman of the Group of 77, Mr Tchicaya, Resolution 6/87 is a resolution adopted by the members of this Organization which should be respected. We fully agree with this view. In fact, the Chairman of the Group of 77 spoke on behalf of the Group of 77, of which Pakistan is a member, so we fully associate ourselves with the statement of Mr Tchicaya.

Gian Luigi VALENZA (Italie): Je voudrais, moi aussi, ne féliciter avec le Président Mazoyer et l'Ambassadeur Bukhari pour leurs exposés très clairs et très "matter of fact" sur les derniers travaux des deux Comités, du Comité du Programme et du comité financier en sessions conjointes, et plus particulièrement pour ce qui est du rapport intérimaire sur l'Examen de la FAO.

Je voudrais ajouter ici que nous ne comprenons pas très bien l'impatience évoquée par certaines délégations d'examiner maintenant les rapports des experts qui comme, tout le monde le sait, et comme 11 avait été du reste décidé lors de la précédente session, ont été essentiellement établis à l'intention exclusive des membres des deux Comités comme base de leurs travaux et de leurs écrits.

Comme représentant du pays de résidence permettez-moi d'attirer l'attention de ce Conseil sur les paragraphes relatifs aux locaux du Siège (du paragraphe 3.84 au para 3.88). Je voudrais ajouter ici que les travaux relatifs à l'agrandissement des locaux du Siège de la FAO sont maintenant commencés et que nous ferons tout ce qu'il est possible pour qu'ils puissent continuer sans relâche et s'achever en temps voulu et selon le calendrier prévu.

Rudolf de POURTALES (Suisse): Je m'en voudrais de prolonger par trop ces débats, mais j'aimerais faire quelques remarques sur ce sujet important de l'Examen de la FAO.

Ma délégation se félicite, avec les deux Présidents des Comités, de l'esprit très constructif qui anime les travaux concernant l'Examen de notre Organisation et les efforts faits pour identifier ses points forts ainsi que ses faiblesses. Notre objectif est d'obtenir une FAO mieux à même de faire face aux grands défis de cette fin de siècle et mieux s'intégrer dans un contexte institutionnel international qui s'est fortement modifié depuis la création de cette Organisation.

Comme le délégué de la Finlande qui a exprimé l'avis des pays nordiques, ma délégation pense que des consultations intensives entre les pays membres dans le temps qui nous sépare de la Conférence sont essentielles pour préparer un consensus sur cette question importante.

Ma délégation continuera à être active à cette fin et je constate avec plaisir que toutes les délégations qui se sont exprimées ont également fait mention de leur préparation à ces consultations.

Nous partageons également l'avis que tous les pays membres devraient pouvoir bénéficier de l'analyse en profondeur faite par les experts, afin de pouvoir prendre leurs décisions lors de la Conférence en connaissant le dossier complet. Je pense notamment aux pays qui ne sont pas représentés en permanence à Rome et qui n'ont pas eu le bénéfice des "fuites" des documents qui ont été mentionnés.

Ma délégation estime également que les réformes n'entraînent pas automatiquement des coûts supplémentaires. Une rationalisation génère normalement aussi des économies dans certains secteurs économiques, qui doivent être utilisées pour renforcer les secteurs prioritaires.

Une Organisation dont les membres sont persuadés qu'elle fonctionne rationnellement n'a en général pas de problèmes de ressources pour financer ses activités dans les secteurs reconnus prioritaires par ses membres.

Nous exprimons également le souhait d'avoir suffisamment le temps pour un débat de substance lors du prochain Conseil et nous proposons qu'une période de trois jours soit consacrée à ces débats et ce ne sera pas de trop.

Gonzalo BULA HOTOS (Colombia): Durante la discusión del Tema 14, nos había preocupado la excepcional ausencia de la voz del Presidente del Comité del Programa, profesor Mazoyer. Esta mañana nos tranquilizamos cuando pudimos observar que, después de la afanosa búsqueda del Secretario Auxiliar, el profesor Mazoyer apareció en el podium, para leernos con mucho cuidado los doce párrafos de esta parte del informe relativos a las actividades de la FAO. Perdón, dije "leernos", quise decir presentarnos.

Colombia es miembro orgulloso, pero a la vez muy obediente del Grupo de los 77, y por ello vamos a seguir las orientaciones trazadas por nuestro vecino y amigo de la derecha, el Embajador Tchicaya, quien preside nuestro Grupo. No vamos a referirnos al fondo del examen, pero si a aprovechar el tiempo que resta de esta tarde, por lo menos unos pocos minutos, para hacer referencia a algunos aspectos de procedimiento, de calendarlo y a ciertas curiosidades que hemos encontrado en este informe.

En primer lugar, los Representantes de Colombia pensamos que es útil para todos que la Secretaría nos diga cuánto ha costado este Ejercicio; cuanto ha costado en términos tangibles, en gastos físicos. Y también sería conveniente conocer una apreciación sobre los otros costos, más difíciles de cuantificar, como el tiempo de los funcionarios en las sedes y los países, las oficinas regionales, los servicios y todo lo que debió ofrecerse a los eminentes y competentes miembros de los dos grupos de expertos.

Desearíamos también preguntar al profesor Mazoyer si los Comités emplearon mucho tiempo en discutir lo que aparece en el párrafo 4.4, respecto a la posible distribución oficial de los informes de los expertos y del informe preliminar del Director General. Y preguntamos esto, porque, como lo dijo el distinguido colega de Checoslovaquia, sería conveniente también saber si los miembros de esos Comités estaban enterados de que ya todos esos informes estaban en las manos de la casi totalidad de los representantes de Gobiernos en Roma. En la Representación de Colombia tenemos el volumen que contiene los informes de los dos grupos de expertos y también los comentarios preliminares del Director General; y tuvimos suerte nosotros, porque los tenemos en español, ¡en español!, mientras que en el párrafo 4.5 los Comités dicen que apenas pudieron obtener los resúmenes operativos y los comentarios preliminares del Director General en inglés; "en inglés", dice el párrafo 4.5. Pensamos que los dos órganos asesores más importantes del Consejo nunca debieron registrar en un informe escrito una violación a los principios fundamentales según los cuales todos los idiomas oficiales de esta Organización merecen igual respeto y atención.

Los párrafos 4.9 y 4.10 indican que hubo una larga discusión sobre la constitución de un posible grupo de "Amigos del Presidente", y al fin se decidieron por crear un Grupo de Apoyo de Redacción. Queremos preguntar al profesor Mazoyer: Los Comités ¿qué diferencia encontraron entre uno y otro término? Y la denominación final adoptada ¿acaso incide en el objetivo, en el propósito que se buscaba? Es decir, ¿con un nombre los seleccionados podían hacer una cosa y con el otro su función sería la misma, o diferente? De todos modos, el resultado híbrido obtenido para asesorar a los dos Presidentes en la presentación de los informes finales esperamos que, ojalé, produzcan los mejores resultados.

Colombia, como país de América Latina y el Caribe, se siente muy bien representada en ese Grupo de Apoyo de Redacción; parece que no hubo muchos amigos de los Presidentes. Nos sentimos muy bien representados en el Embajador Médicis, del Brasil, competente miembro del Comité de Finanzas.

Espero, Sr. Presidente, que estos comentarios marginales no incomoden al profesor Mazoyer ni a mi distinguido colega y amigo el Embajador Bukhari, sino que, por el contrario, les confirmen el interés y la gran atención con que los representantes de Colombia seguimos las labores de esos importantes Comités. El hecho es que los Comités han hecho muy bien al haber analizado con serenidad y amplitud los informes-son todo un volumen de magnitud respetable-y apoyamos la decisión de que ahora no hayan presentado su informe definitivo. Toda velocidad puede ser contraproducente, la prisa es mala consejera. Como lo dijo un orador anterior, hay que tener un poco de paciencia, y una divinidad religiosa hindú ha dicho que paciencia es toda la fuerza que el hombre necesita.

Como lo ha dicho el Embajador Tchicaya, estamos de acuerdo en que el Consejo de noviembre deberá disponer de tiempo suficiente para ocuparse de este examen antes de pasar a la Conferencia, y compartimos plenamente la opinión del colega Halimen, de Finlandia, y del colega De Pourtales, de Suiza, en la conveniencia de que esos documentos deben ser distribuidos con toda anticipación a los Gobiernos. El 960 período de sesiones del Consejo está previsto-y esto lo vamos a ver luego, en el tema 18-del martes 7 al jueves 9 de noviembre, 61 mi modesto calendarlo no me equivoca. Es evidente, y la experiencia lo enseña, que la reunión del Consejo antes de la Conferencia debe concluir, por lo menos, un día antes de la Conferencia misma, para que el Comité de Candidaturas tenga tiempo de reunirse y preparar la elección de la Mesa directiva de la Conferencia. En esas condiciones, no sé si será necesario que nos reunamos en la semana anterior a la del 6 de noviembre o si bastaría que el Consejo se reúna del lunes 6 al viernes 10 de noviembre; que en uno de sus primeros días elija el Comité de Candidaturas, que podría reunirse simultáneamente con el Consejo, y que así este organismo dispusiera, por lo menos, de 5 días hábiles. Pero, como dije, lo podremos ver en el tema 18.

Hay una cosa fundamental, y son los recursos, sobre los cuales no podemos permanecer en silencio, y lamento si estoy, un poco, contraviniendo las instrucciones de mi Presidente Tchicaya. Nosotros pensábamos que quienes han propugnado y deseado este examen no vacilarían ahora en ofrecer los recursos indispensables para que se lleven a cabo las reformas que tanto ellos han querido. Lo contrario sería aumentar aún más la ya pesada carga del burro maltratado, sin darle el alimento que necesita para vivir y trabajar. Después de que conozcamos la respuesta a los costos que ha tenido este examen y a todo este proceso, ¿acaso será conveniente que nos limitemos simplemente, como se ha tratado de insinuar, a cambios cosméticos? Si es que en realidad todos queremos que el resultado de este examen produzca beneficios verdaderamente prácticos, es necesario dotar a la Organización de recursos suficientes.

Finalmente, los representantes de Colombia queremos compartir plenamente con el colega Halimen, de Finlandia, y también con el colega Pourtales, de Suiza, la necesidad de que la conclusión de este proceso debe estar enmarcada en un verdadero consenso que confirme plenamente la voluntad común, sin distinguos, entre países desarrollados y países en desarrollo, y que la FAO refuerce sus cuadros, mejore sus métodos de trabajo, revise sus prioridades y pueda así estar en condiciones de ofrecer mejores y más eficaces servicios a los países en desarrollo.

Los representantes de Colombia invocamos el espíritu de la ceremonia de esta mañana, cuando celebramos el 25° aniversario de la fundación del Grupo de los 77; ceremonia durante la cual nos sentimos complacidos y honrados por la presencia de numerosos e importantes representantes de Gobiernos de países industrializados. Queremos aprovechar esta circunstancia coyuntural de hoy para invitar a todos los miembros de la FAO a que, una vez más, confirmemos que realmente pertenecemos a un club fraternal, donde todos emulamos, y aun discutimos-tenemos ciertas controversias; es la dialéctica de la democracia-, pero en el fondo todos coincidimos en el anhelo común de que la FAO se fortalezca, supere sus dificultades y recupere el ritmo de trabajo y eficiencia que han consagrado el prestigio y el buen nombre de que goza nuestra Organización en el Sistema de las Naciones Unidas.

Sería muy lamentable que en medio de las dificultades a que se ha sometido a la Organización, sobre los resultados de este examen fueran a suscitarse grandes y enconados debates, pugnas y enfrentamientos que no corresponden al principio de entendimiento y compromiso, que debe ser base fundamental de la cooperación internacional.

Como ya han dicho algunos oradores anteriores, los representantes de Colombia opinamos que para lograr acuerdos previos que faciliten soluciones de aceptación general, la creación de pequeños grupos, formales o informales, todo contacto entre representantes de gobiernos, sobre todo en número limitado, podrá ser un factor esencial del entendimiento.

Los representantes de Colombia, muy humilde y modestamente, nos ofrecemos para participar en todo cuanto pueda conducir a ese bueno y sano propósito. Creemos que este Consejo, ya desde ahora, sin esperar nuestra sesión de noviembre, debe concluir en que este examen tiene que terminar en la Conferencia de este año. Este proceso no puede prolongarse.

I. C. FERGUSON (Canada): Thank you Mr Chairman. We thank the co-Chairmen of the Special Joint Session for their helpful introduction and will speak only briefly since, as a Member of the Programme Committee, we are still fully engaged in a process which is not yet complete.

At this stage Mr Chairman I would simply like to underline three themes related to the review process. These are comprehensiveness, transparency and participation. By comprehensiveness, Mr Chairman, we mean that the review process should address all of the clauses of Resolution 6/87. Members of the SJS should be vigilant in this respect. Conference would expect nothing less.

Some of the Articles of Resolution 6/87 deal with effectiveness, and for this reason we believe that the management studies will be a pertinent contribution to the overall review. We noted with appreciation in Ambassador Bukhari's introduction that the views of the SJS on the consultant studies will be considered in the same way as those expressed on the experts' reports.

On the issue of transparency Mr Chairman, we wish to speak to the question of the release and distribution of the experts' reports and management studies once the Committees have completed their work. We have noted the comments of some Members of the Council, including Finland and the United Kingdom, who have expressed interest in these reports. Having read them and having concurred with the satisfaction expressed in the SJS with the general overall quality of the experts' work we believe that the reports do indeed merit a wider readership in the FAO. Such eventual distribution will, of course, also be helpful for Members' understanding the logic behind the recommendations which the SJS will send to Council and Conference. These reports should, in our view, help to enrich our collective discussion in November.

This brings me Mr Chairman, to my third theme, that of participation. Canada has had a full opportunity to express its views on the substance in the Special Joint Sessions, but we believe that those who are not represented also have a lively interest and a contribution. We would therefore support the idea of setting aside adequate time for a full debate in both the Council and the Conference. This will allow a wider participation of Member States in the decision-making of the governing bodies which, in itself, is one of the recurring ideas in the review.

Before closing I would like to say a word about the eventual cost entailed in implementing the recommendations. In his opening statement of the Ninety-fifth session the Director-General suggested, without anticipating the conclusions of the Committees, that the Conference might envisage an additional allocation. We believe Mr Chairman, that it will be necessary to await the outcome of the next SJS and the precise costing which has been requested already, before the overall

net balance can be concluded. Some recommendations may need funding but there could be several possible sources. Others could lead to savings. Still others could result in no net increment. We should not assume that doing things more effectively always requires additional funds. Sometimes improvements can be made through a new approach with the same healthy result. Thank you Mr Chairman.

John G. COOK (United States of America): Thank you Mr Chairman. Mr Chairman the United States fully supports an objective and comprehensive review of FAO, with all parts of the review being fully integrated. We viewed the review as a means for the Organization to consolidate its strengths, resolve its weaknesses, and go forward into the future an improved Organization.

As a member of the Finance Committee the United States participates in the Special Joint Sessions of the Programme and Finance Committees which are conducting the review. Therefore we will be brief.

We have found the experts' reports both on FAO's role, priorities, objectives and strategies, on FAO field operations, and also the reports of the management consultants all to be informative documents providing many significant recommendations for consideration by FAO Members. The Programme and Finance Committees have not yet written their own report on the review which would draw on these various reports. The Programme and Finance Committees will present their report to the November Council. In order for the Council and Conference to debate that report it will be essential for Members to be familiar with the reports of the experts and the executive summaries of the management consultants. It has already been mentioned during this discussion that it would be helpful for Members to receive these extensive reports as early as possible in order to be fully prepared to discuss the Programme and Finance Committee's report on the review at the November Council and Conference. It is entirely understandable that FAO members who are not on the Programme and Finance Committees would desire to receive these important reports as soon as possible. The experts' reports and the executive summaries of the management consultants should be made Council and Conference documents so that all FAO Members will have an opportunity to comment on them and thus to participate fully in the review process.

One final point Mr Chairman. The review process will lead to important decisions by the Conference on implementation during the next biennium of recommendations arising from the review. We should be prepared to make any necessary changes in the Programme of Work and Budget for 1990-91 at the November Conference in order to accommodate recommendations from the review adopted by the Conference. Thank you Mr Chairman.

Sumiji NAKAZAWA (Japan): Thank you Mr Chairman. First of all I would like to extend tribute to Professor Mazoyer and Ambassador Bukhari for their lucid introduction to this very important agenda item, FAO Review, a hard work which is now being carried out by the two Committees based on the reports of experts' groups and the consultants' reports.

Mr Chairman we have up to now two progress reports of the two Committees presented to the Council which are, however, without any reference to the substance of the discussion or consideration which may require eventual reform or change of FAO and its activities; not the procedural issues which have been reported but these substantial matters which concern non-Member nations of those Committees. I have had many opportunities to discuss this issue with my colleagues from several countries. They are also very keen to know what is happening in the FAO Review. It may have a great impact on the regional office for example, which is of large interest for many countries. It is expected that the FAO Review will be finalized at the next Conference.

We have a very limited time to discuss this very important issue which may decide the future FAO and its activities. I believe that the future FAO should be decided in a very concerted manner, in consensus. For this purpose we should have a well arranged procedure such as we have just started in preparing PWB. In this regard the most critical problem is the lack of information. Therefore, we should like to urge the Secretariat to provide all the Member Nations with the necessary information on the basis of which we can discuss and may reach a common understanding leading to the final consensus. From this viewpoint the proposal made by Finland, the U.K., and other delegations is fully supported by the Japanese delegation.

As regards the implication of the FAO Review on the PWB, my delegation has already expressed its view on the agenda item 14. Therefore I feel no need to reiterate our view, only that the FAO Review should not result in requiring additional resources.

Jacques WARIN (France): Je ne prendrai que brièvement la parole. A la vérité, je n'avais pas l'intention de le faire mais, compte tenu du fait que le débat a révélé qu'une dizaine d'orateurs au moins voulaient parler, je ne peux pas rester silencieux. Mon intention était simplement, comme pour beaucoup d'entre vous, d'entendre les rapports des deux Présidents de comités, M. Bukhari et M. Mazoyer, et de les féliciter pour la bonne direction qu'ils ont prise dans leurs travaux. C'est ce que je fais, d'ailleurs, et je leur réitère donc mes félicitations.

Ce que j'aurais voulu simplement, c'est que nous en restions à ne parler que de procédure, sans aborder du tout la substance. Or il se trouve que quelques orateurs qui m'ont précédé ont délibérément dérivé sur la substance. Je crois devoir leur dire qu'il est trop tôt pour en parler. Il est trop tôt notamment pour aborder l'importante question de la "réforme", car je sais bien qu'il peut très bien ne pas y avoir de réforme, mais on ne sait pas si le résultat de l'examen doit se traduire ou non par des dépenses supplémentaires pour l'Organisation. Nous ne pouvons pas du tout prendre position à l'heure actuelle. Nous ne savons pas s'il peut y avoir une réforme sans frais, si je puis m'exprimer ainsi, ou si, au contraire, l'examen en cours se traduira par des ressources supplémentaires à dégager par la FAO. Nous ne pourrions en parler utilement qu'après avoir pris connaissance des rapports des deux présidents.

Je voudrais qu'on s'en tienne à parler uniquement de procédure et j'ai retenu trois idées des orateurs qui m'ont précédé. Je voudrais dire que ma délégation est en accord avec deux d'entre elles et en désaccord avec la troisième: en désaccord avec l'idée que les rapports d'experts puissent avoir le moins du monde un statut officiel. Ces rapports d'experts sont connus de tous, ils ont été largement distribués et vulgarisés. Ils comportent, à l'heure actuelle, plusieurs centaines de pages. L'idée de leur donner un statut officiel, avec le coût que représenteraient leur traduction et leur distribution, me paraît difficile à retenir. Chacun sait ce qu'il y a dans ces rapports et qu'effectivement les deux présidents s'en serviront pour effectuer leurs travaux. En revanche, je répète avec insistance que nous ne connaissons qu'un seul rapport: celui qui sera présenté au mois de septembre après que la session conjointe en aura débattu.

Par contre, les deux idées de procédure qui me paraissent intéressantes et que j'ai retenues de la première intervention, celle de mon voisin finlandais et de quelques autres pays du même groupe, c'est, en premier lieu, celle d'étendre la durée du Conseil de novembre; nous pourrions effectivement avoir besoin de deux jours supplémentaires pour débattre de la solution de procédure qui pourrait être prise à la Conférence: donc, un Conseil qui durerait non pas trois jours, mais cinq jours. La deuxième idée qui me paraît intéressante, c'est celle de créer un mécanisme informel de coordination pendant les mois de septembre et octobre, ou peut-être seulement d'octobre, qui permettrait à toutes les parties en cause, c'est-à-dire pas seulement aux pays représentés dans les deux comités, de se réunir pour discuter de l'éventuelle solution de procédure qui pourrait avoir cours afin de donner un résultat concret à cet examen.

Joseph TCHICAYA (Congo): Je ne sais pas si les idées que j'ai exprimées ont toutes été entendues. A mon avis, il y en a une qui ne l'a pas été sur le paragraphe 4.4. Sur ce paragraphe, le groupe des 77 a été clair. L'ensemble de notre groupe pense que c'est le Comité du Programme et le Comité financier qui ont été chargés par la Conférence de conduire l'étude. Par conséquent, 11 leur revient et à eux seuls de désigner les experts et c'est ce qui a été fait qui leur ont fait rapport. Il appartient au Comité du Programme et au Comité financier de décider, au moment où ils le jugent nécessaire, de nous communiquer les rapports des experts, s'ils le jugent nécessaire. Nous pensons qu'il n'est pas possible de demander à présent que l'on communique le rapport des experts. Nous croyons qu'il faut laisser les membres du Comité du Programme et du Comité financier libres de délibérer. Ensuite, lorsqu'ils auront fait leur rapport, ils pourront décider s'ils doivent joindre ou non le rapport des experts pour en donner connaissance aux pays membres de la FAO.

Je ne sais pas si j'ai été suffisamment clair, mais telle est la position du Groupe des 77.

M. MAZOYER (Président du Comité du Programme): Eh bien, oui, Monsieur Bula-Hoyos a raison une fois de plus. J'ai bien lu mon discours mot à mot. J'ai changé quelques mots, quelques morceaux de phrase, mais je n'ai pas fait comme d'habitude: lire la première ligne et ensuite abandonner mon texte.

En effet, j'ai remarqué depuis que je fréquente cette noble institution que la plupart des Représentante lisent des discours ou des communications qu'ils ont soigneusement préparés. Je me suis dit qu'il devait y avoir une raison à cela. J'ai essayé de le faire souvent et je n'avais jamais réussi jusqu'à aujourd'hui. Je vois que vous êtes un excellent observateur, Monsieur l'Ambassadeur, puisque vous avez remarqué que, cette fois-ci, j'ai réussi ce tour de force; tout au moins c'en est un pour moi.

Le Représentant de la Colombie a également posé une question sur la distribution des rapports d'experts aux membres des Comités.

J'ai moi-même reçu en français le rapport des experts, le rapport du Directeur général par la poste ou par DHL, je ne me souviens plus. Mais je ne l'avais pas avant. J'avais vu une version anglaise, mais je ne l'avais pas lue. Par conséquent, ce n'est pas forcément les pays membres qui ont un représentant au Comité qui ont les premiers reçu ces rapports par des voies que j'ignore. En tout cas, ce n'est pas le cas pour la représentation française. Cela étant dit, j'ai reçu des commentaires sur les rapports des experts, alors que je n'avais pas les rapports des experts.

Une question a aussi été posée sur la manière dont va s'élaborer notre Projet de rapport.

D'abord, ce qui est bien clair, c'est que le rapport des deux Comités sera finalisé et adopté par les deux Comités à la session de septembre, à leur quatrième session conjointe. Il n'y a pas d'ambiguïté là-dessus.

Nous avons, comme je l'ai dit, examiné les rapports des experts, le rapport du Directeur général et toutes les questions se rapportant à l'examen que nous avons jugées utiles au cours de notre troisième session conjointe de mal. Quand nous avons discuté de la manière dont nous allions préparer nos conclusions et recommandations, il a été proposé d'emblée par la majorité des membres des deux Comités que ce soit les Présidents des deux Comités qui élaborent un projet chacun pour la partie qu'il avait présidée ou qui le concernait plus particulièrement. Cela a failli passer tel quel, et on a reporté la discussion finale de quelques jours. Lorsqu'on est arrivé à la discussion finale sur ce sujet, on a rappelé qu'il avait été proposé, lors de la première discussion, de créer un Comité de Rédaction. Bien évidemment, puisque la majorité s'était déjà prononcée pour un rapport des Présidents, le Comité de Rédaction n'a pas reçu l'approbation de la plus grande partie des membres du Comité. Pour trouver un compromis, U a été proposé de constituer un groupe d'"Amis des Présidents" qui devait les entourer. C'est du moins ce que j'ai compris, parce que je ne savais pas ce qu'était un groupe des "Amis des Présidents" dans les termes où cela avait été présenté. J'ai pensé que cela signifiait des gens qui entoureraient les Présidents pendant leur rédaction. Je vous avoue que j'ai commencé à frémir. J'ai dit: si j'ai cinq ou six personnes autour de moi au moment où je rédige, je ne sais pas si je pourrai rédiger dans de telles conditions. J'aurais fait ce que l'on aurait décidé dans la mesure où je pouvais le faire, mais c'était quand même un peu lourd. De toute façon, ce n'est pas cela qui a été accepté.

La majorité a alors proposé une solution, que vous avez dans notre rapport, qui était de faire un avant-projet de rapport établi par les Présidents et que cet avant-projet de rapport soit soumis à un groupe d'appui rédactionnel-c'est le mot qui a été trouvé-qui aurait dit: sur tel paragraphe, 11 n'y a pas de discussion sur le fond mais 11 peut y avoir des questions de forme et chacun les réglera dans sa propre langue; ou alors: 11 y a des choses sur lesquelles tout le monde n'est pas d'accord, mais on peut peut-être trouver un compromis, ou enfin: on n'est pas d'accord, on propose simplement un amendement.

Mais ce sont les deux Comités conjointe souverains, pleinement responsables jusqu'à la dernière minute qui ont le pouvoir de décider finalement de ce qu'il y aura dans les conclusions finales. Le pouvoir d'amendement des autres membres des Comités est évidemment imprescriptible jusqu'à l'adoption du dernier paragraphe. Le Groupe d'appui de rédaction ne se substitue pas au pouvoir de décision des deux Comités pas plus que les Présidents.

Voilà la procédure. J'espère que je vous ai éclairés sur la manière dont on en est arrivé à adopter cette méthode.

J'en arrive maintenant à la question du Rapport et de sa distribution. C'est surtout à cette question que j'ai envie de répondre.

On nous dit: on aurait aimé avoir plus tôt le rapport des deux Comités. Si vous ne l'avez pas eu plus tôt, il faut savoir que c'est parce que nous avons fait la part belle aux experts. Ils ont eu beaucoup plus de temps que nous. D'autre part, nous avons hésité: fallait-il leur donner un mois et demi ou deux mois, ou fallait-il leur donner quatre ou cinq mois? En fin de compte, on a jugé qu'il valait mieux une étude de fond sérieuse et complète qu'une étude superficielle. Je vous l'ai déjà expliqué au dernier Conseil. Seulement, cela nous met maintenant dans la situation que nous connaissons.

Pour ce qui nous concerne, nous devons étudier ces rapports en Session conjointe avant d'élaborer notre rapport. Il n'y avait pas d'autre solution que celle-là.

Parlons maintenant du contenu de ces rapports. D'abord, les rapports d'experts. Je crois qu'ils nous sont très utiles, parce qu'ils ont fait des enquêtes, parce qu'ils ont étudié des dossiers, parce qu'ils se sont livrés à des auditions approfondies que nous n'avons peut-être pas toujours le temps ou la possibilité de faire. Ce faisant, ils éclairent une série de questions. Ce que nous constatons, c'est que, lorsqu'on dispose de ces informations, il y a des malentendus entre les membres des Comités-je parle de ce que j'ai vu-qui s'estompent. Il y a des raisons de soupçon qui disparaissent. Il y a des raisons d'en savoir plus sur tel point, etc. C'est un progrès considérable. Les experts ont également discuté entre eux, ils ont eu le temps de faire des analyses qui sont une contribution à notre réflexion collective.

Est-ce qu'il y a des idées absolument différentes de celles que les Etats Membres ont exposé maintes fois? Peut-être pas tellement, mais il y a des moyens de s'entendre, de se comprendre, de trouver des solutions communes qui augmentent. En tout cas, c'est ce que je peux conclure des débats qui ont eu lieu à ce sujet.

Maintenant, pour ce qui est de la distribution de ces rapports, je veux bien vous donner mon sentiment qui est dans une certaine mesure celui des Comités, c'est qu'effectivement nous avons fait la part belle aux experts. D'abord, dans la résolution 11 n'y a pas de rapport d'experts. Nous avons constitué des groupes importants, nous leur avons donné du temps, *des* mandats solides et nous leur avons demandé de faire des rapports. La résolution n'en dit pas tant, elle dit que nous ne pouvons nous faire assister par des experts. Ces rapports existent. Est-ce qu'il peut y avoir un statut officiel? C'est une autre question, mais nous ne pouvons pas, comprenons-le bien, leur donner la priorité par rapport à notre rapport à nous. Nous ne pouvons pas les substituer à notre rapport à nous, ou alors nous avons trahi la résolution et abdiqué nos responsabilités.

Il y avait deux manières de faire. Ou bien on présentait les rapports des experts avec cinq pages de commentaires des Comités (et nous aurions été très coupables) ou il y aurait une autre manière qui consisterait à faire un rapport aussi élaboré que ceux des experts. Les Comités auront fait leur travail s'ils font un rapport satisfaisant. Et qu'est-ce qu'un rapport satisfaisant? Meilleur que celui des experts? Je crois que la question ne se pose pas comme cela. Ce sont des conclusions et des recommandations, en plus des enquêtes, des analyses. Mais il faut que le rapport soit satisfaisant, et cela veut dire qu'il doit satisfaire le plus possible un maximum de membres.

Je vais vous lire une phrase de mon rapport. C'est une première. Ce ne sera pas forcément dans le rapport final. Mais on pourrait dire la chose suivante:

Nous avons abouti à un ensemble de propositions utiles aussi larges que possible permettant à la FAO de progresser significativement. Mais reconnaissons que les avancées souhaitées par les uns ne peuvent pas aller au-delà des limites acceptées par les autres. C'est la raison pour laquelle tout dépend de votre compréhension mutuelle.

LE PRESIDENT: Je remercie le Président du Comité du Programme.

Je donne la parole au Directeur général qui va contribuer à nous donner une réponse.

LE DIRECTEUR GENERAL: Monsieur le Président, la Conférence, dans sa résolution 6/87, a également chargé le Directeur général comme les deux Comités de préparer un rapport pour le Conseil et pour la Conférence.

Ce rapport, d'après la résolution de la Conférence, devrait permettre de présenter mes commentaires, mes avis et d'autres propositions si c'était le cas, concernant l'examen de la FAO au présent, mais surtout au futur.

C'est pour cette raison d'abord que je suis partie prenante, non seulement dans la formulation des avis, mais surtout après, dans la mise en oeuvre de ce que la Conférence aura décidé. Il est toujours facile de décider de grandes choses, mais il est toujours difficile de savoir et de pouvoir mettre en oeuvre.

A propos du débat de cet après-midi, je pense qu'il est de mon devoir d'émettre quelques commentaires pour le bénéfice des pays membres.

Je me suis proposé de parler sur les points suivants: rapport d'experts, rapport du Directeur général, coût de l'opération (si on peut l'appeler opération), session du Conseil de novembre prochain, discussions à propos de l'avenir de notre Organisation tel qu'un délégué l'avait évoqué et l'impact de ces discussions sur l'examen qui a lieu maintenant, consultations intensives entre délégués, consensus, examen de la "gérance" (je ne sais pas comment on dit en français "management review"), changements éventuels dans le Programme de travail et budget 1990-91.

Voilà donc les sujets sur lesquels je pense qu'il est de mon devoir d'exprimer mon avis au Conseil.

Je ne vais évidemment pas maintenant aborder le fond. L'Ambassadeur de France a bien raison quand 11 parle de procédure, mais la distinction entre le fond et la procédure n'est pas toujours aisée.

Sur le rapport des experts, je n'ai rien à ajouter. On a bien dit que c'est un rapport qui appartient aux membres du Comité du programme et du Comité financier. C'est à eux d'en discuter. S'il faut le distribuer à tous les membres du Conseil, les Comités en décideront lors de leur prochaine réunion de septembre. Quant à donner un caractère officiel à ce document, c'est à eux de dire si ce rapport doit être ou non en annexe de leur propre rapport. Mais je crois qu'il faut s'entendre sur les mots "caractère officiel". La Conférence reconnaît deux rapports, celui des deux Comités et celui du Directeur général. Je crois, Monsieur le Président, qu'il faut s'en tenir là. On a dit que le rapport des experts était entre toutes les mains. C'est peut-être vrai. En tout cas, nous ne l'avons distribué qu'aux vingt membres du Comité financier et aux treize experts.

On a parlé uniquement du rapport des experts, mais 11 y a aussi le rapport du Directeur général. Je connais cette Organisation mieux que quiconque, et c'est moi qui serai responsable de la mise en oeuvre des décisions. J'ai exprimé mon point de vue, j'ai fait des commentaires; et quand on dit "rapport des experts", "le rapport du Directeur général" qui l'accompagne est sous-entendu.

Parlons immédiatement du coût. En tant que Directeur général je suis mieux placé que d'autres pour en parler... Dire a priori que cela ne doit rien coûter ne semble pas très sérieux. J'ai déjà fait une estimation et elle se trouvera dans un document du Comité financier et du Comité du programme. On n'a rien sans rien. Evidemment, comme je l'ai dit en particulier à certains délégués, les propositions n'ont pas toutes un coût mais je préfère être clair. Je le dis dès maintenant: "Attention cela va coûter, cela peut coûter". De même, pour les allocations supplémentaires, je dis: "La Conférence voudra, éventuellement, souhaitera peut-être..." J'indique seulement une voie légale et j'ai indiqué à ce propos les précédents de 1975.

Nous allons examiner tout cela sérieusement et nous aurons l'occasion d'en reparler à la prochaine session du Conseil. Vous pouvez prendre au moins deux jours, comme cela a été indiqué par au moins deux délégués-la France et la Colombie-peut-être plus. Evidemment je compte aussi beaucoup sur des réunions entre délégués, sur ces consultations intensives, sur ces nombreux déjeuners et dîners pour créer un état de confraternité, un état d'esprit, un état d'âme qui permette un consensus... De quoi allons-nous discuter? aujourd'hui ou prochainement? puisqu'il n'y a pas encore de proposition claire et nette des Comités; déclarons que nous sommes disposés à coopérer ensemble et arriver à un consensus. Nous sommes prêts à organiser pour octobre tout ce dont vous avez besoin, salles de réunions, etc. Nous sommes prêts à le faire. Si les délégués peuvent se mettre d'accord entre eux avant l'échéance tant mieux. Je crois que c'est nécessaire.

Discussions des problèmes concernant le futur de la FAO dans d'autres enceintes: Oui. Il y a cette discussion sur le futur du PNUD et cela nous concerne car nous sommes la première institution dans l'exécution des projets PNUD, puisque la FAO exécute 21 pour cent de ces projets. Comme l'a dit le délégué de la Grande-Bretagne, il y a eu des discussions informelles à New York, entre les gouvernements et les représentants des institutions spécialisées, et je crois qu'il a apprécié l'intervention que Monsieur Renville a faite au Conseil d'administration du PNUD. La discussion continue. Nous allons au mois de septembre informer le Comité du programme et le Comité financier à ce sujet et recevoir encore leur avis. Certains me disent: "Cette discussion peut ne mener à rien". Une importante délégation qui se trouve ici aurait même dit: "Est-il bien nécessaire de poursuivre une réflexion qui n'est peut-être pas opportune?" Une autre délégation très importante a dit: "On verra plus tard ce que doit être le rôle du PNUD". Beaucoup ont dit que le futur du PNUD s'inscrit dans des réflexions plus larges au sein de l'ECOSOC. Il n'y a donc pas de raison d'en traiter indépendamment du reste. Au fait, le débat au sein du PNUD devrait se terminer dans les jours qui viennent (le débat général) avec un rapport du Conseil qui rappellera le consensus qui existe déjà entre le PNUD et les institutions spécialisées des Nations Unies depuis près de 20 ans, et la nécessité de faire mieux sans moyens supplémentaires. C'est du moins notre impression. Donc je

croie qu'il ne faut pas s'inquiéter; c'est cela le message de ce qui se discute au PNUD. Dans les rapports d'experts ces questions seront aussi évoquées. Nous ferons un rapport sur ces discussions au Comité du programme, au Comité financier et ensuite au Conseil, surtout en ce qui concerne la discussion qui a eu lieu au PNUD sur l'étude que fait le PNUD avec les institutions spécialisées sur le coût d'exécution... Nous avons déjà inscrit ce sujet à l'ordre du jour du Comité financier en septembre. C'est très important. En fait, ils nous paient 13 pour cent; tous nous demandons plus, toute la question est là. Nous ferons rapport au Conseil sur l'évolution de la question et nous demanderons au Comité financier et ensuite au Conseil de se pencher là-dessus.

Pour indiquer le rapport existant entre l'examen de la FAO et ce qui se discute ailleurs, je suis invité à aller à Genève le 13 juillet, (je n'irai pas), avec les chefs des autres institutions et des membres de l'ECOSOC, de manière informelle, pour discuter de "la revitalisation de l'ECOSOC". Je m'y suis déjà rendu plusieurs fois. Je ne pourrai pas m'y rendre, malheureusement, mais j'envoie M. Dutia. Le sujet est "situation économique, ajustements structurels, problèmes de la dette", toute une liste de sujets à traiter en très peu de temps. M. Dutia se rendra à Genève et leur fera part, entre autres, de ce que le Comité de sécurité alimentaire a dit sur les ajustements structurels et le rôle de la FAO. Mais je pense à ceux qui connaissent bien l'ECOSOC et qui restent sceptiques sur le résultat de ces discussions qui reviennent d'année en année. Mais s'il s'avère nécessaire et utile, évidemment, on prendra l'avis du Conseil.

On a demandé le coût de l'examen de la FAO. Le coût prévu est de 2,4 millions de dollars E-U. On a déjà dépensé 2 millions sans compter le coût de la session conjointe en septembre, ni celui de la session d'août du Comité,... comment l'appellez-vous,... "d'appui rédactionnel". On n'a pas compté dans tout cela le temps passé par chacun de nous... Mais notre temps est à la disposition des Etats Membres.

Il y a encore un point important, et je l'ai indiqué, c'est le consensus. Evidemment cela va de soi. Si je parle d'une façon très crue, un petit nombre de pays, importants, exigent des changements et un grand nombre de pays regardent, prudents, en pensant "de quoi s'agit-il?". Ce petit nombre de pays, qui constituent une majorité financière mais pas une majorité démocratique, doivent s'entendre avec les autres pour arriver à un consensus. Ces deux groupes doivent être aussi raisonnables pour arriver tous les deux ensemble au but. Voilà comment je vois le consensus dans l'intérêt de tout le monde. On ne peut pas réorganiser une maison comme la FAO par des votes et en créant des camps de vainqueurs et de vaincus. Nous sommes prêts à apporter notre contribution si nécessaire.

Changements dans le Programme de travail et budget: Le Programme de travail et budget doit être approuvé et ce serait très dangereux de lier son adoption à l'examen. Déjà nous avons payé dans cette affaire 2 millions et demi de dollars et peut-être encore plus... Nous ne devons pas nous retrouver à la fin de cette année sans avoir un programme de travail approuvé. Il ne faut pas, pendant les quelques jours dont nous disposons pendant le mois de novembre à la Commission, essayer de mutiler et de couper 1 million ici et là dans le programme... Ce n'est pas possible. Je crois qu'il faut d'abord l'approuver et je souhaite que vous l'approuverez comme je l'ai proposé. Mais c'est à vous de décider. Pour ce qui concerne les coûts et les changements, nous pourrons, une fois que le PTB sera approuvé, le revoir ensemble. Il ne faut pas partir du point de vue que le programme de travail est déjà hypothéqué et lié à l'approbation des décisions sur le futur de la FAO.

Je ne vous conseille pas du tout ce chemin. Vous êtes souverains pour le faire. Mais ce sera comme on dit en anglais un "mess" et jouer avec cela serait jouer avec le feu. Certains voudront couper ici, d'autres voudront couper là. C'est un tout. Mais je comprends l'esprit de ceux qui croient qu'on ne peut pas garder le même programme et le même budget, s'il y a des propositions et des décisions qui ne s'adaptent pas et ne s'accordent pas. Nous, le Secrétariat, nous ferons notre travail pour déjà détecter dans le Programme de travail et budget ce qu'il est possible d'identifier dans ce sens. Mais il ne faut pas laisser de côté le Programme de travail jusqu'à ce que l'on finisse l'autre exercice. Je crois que ce n'est pas recommandable.

Je suis confiant, je suis optimiste, je crois qu'il y a un bon esprit. Tout le monde veut aboutir à un consensus et ce pour renforcer la FAO. Il y a toujours moyen d'améliorer les choses et nous sommes tous prêts à y contribuer.

Gonzalo BULA BOYOS (Colombia): Los representantes de Colombia compartimos plenamente los pertinentes y acertados comentarios que acaba de hacer el Director General. Queremos asegurarle al Director General que también hemos leído en nuestra linda lengua castellana sus comentarios preliminares, que nos han parecido excelentes; como siempre, pragmáticos y realmente eficaces, dirigidos al mejor funcionamiento de la Organización. Como dije antes, tenemos también el volumen que contiene los informes de los dos grupos de expertos, volumen que está un poco desencuadrado ya, por la manera tan insistente como lo hemos leído, en busca de novedades.

Queremos reaccionar sobre el costo. No sé si los miembros del Consejo se dan cuenta de que ese costo-hemos hecho cálculos, así muy a la carrera-representaría más de tres millones de dólares, cerca de 399 proyectos de cooperación técnica, para distribuir entre 133 países: tres PCT por cada país.

Pero habíamos solicitado la palabra porque queremos agradecer muy sinceramente a nuestro dilecto amigo el profesor Mazoyer, competente Presidente del Comité del Programa, sus declaraciones. Las explicaciones que nos ha dado el profesor Mazoyer son completamente satisfactorias para los representantes de Colombia. Queremos reiterarle nuestro reconocimiento por la manera inteligente y dinámica como él preside ese Comité. Los Comités del Programa y de Finanzas son importantes; les toca afrontar esta tarea difícil y compleja, que, como lo ha dicho el profesor Mazoyer, da lugar a malentendidos y suscita comentarios que ojalá no sean interpretados con sentido crítico, sino como voz del aliento para que esos dos importantes órganos continúen su valiosa e importante tarea. Y finalmente deseamos reiterar al profesor Mazoyer nuestros más vivos sentimientos de admiración, amistad y simpatía.

LE PRESIDENT: Je remercie le délégué de la Colombie de ses aimables paroles, que nous partageons, adressées à M. Mazoyer.

Je crois pouvoir dire que le Conseil a pris note avec beaucoup d'intérêt du Rapport intérimaire sur l'Examen de la FAO qui a été confié au Comité du Programme et au Comité financier par la Conférence et qui nous a été présenté, au nom des deux comités, par le Président du Comité du Programme. Le Conseil attend avec beaucoup d'impatience ce document.

Une analyse approfondie du rapport définitif des deux comités et du rapport du Directeur général aura donc lieu à la session de novembre, qui devra se prolonger de deux jours ou plus. Mais nous en discuterons au titre du point 21 de l'ordre du jour.

J'ai cru comprendre également que plusieurs membres du Conseil souhaitaient que ce rapport soit publié le plus rapidement possible après la fin des travaux des deux comités afin de permettre aux Etats Membres d'avoir des contacts informels avant la session du Conseil de novembre pour que les travaux de cette session soient efficaces et que le Conseil puisse faire part à la Conférence de ses commentaires sur ce rapport.

L'examen du point 15 de l'ordre du jour est donc achevé.

The meeting rose at 16.30 h.

La séance est levée à 16 h 30.

Se levanta la sesión a las 16.30 horas.

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ORGANIZACION DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS PARA LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION

CL

CL 95/PV/11

Ninety-fifth Session

Quatre-vingt-quinzième session

95º periodo de sesiones

ELEVENTH PLENARY MEETING
ONZIEME SEANCE PLENIERE
11ª SESION PLENARIA
(26 June 1989)

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

- IV. PROGRAMME. BUDGETARY, FINANCIAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS
- IV. QUESTIONS CONCERNANT LE PROGRAMME, LE BUDGET, LES FINANCES ET L'ADMINISTRATION
- IV. ASUNTOS DEL PROGRAMA Y ASUNTOS PRESUPUESTARIOS, FINANCIEROS Y ADMINISTRATIVOS
- 16. Report of the Sixty-fifth Session of the Finance Committee
- 16. Rapport de la soixante-cinquième session du Comité financier
- 16. Informe del 650 periodo de sesiones del Comité de Finanzas
- 16.1 Budgetary Performance 1988
- 16.1 Exécution du budget 1988
- 16.1 Ejecución del presupuesto en 1988
- 16.2 Level of Support Costs from UNDP and Trust Fund Programmes
- 16.2 Montant des frais de soutien venant des programmes PNUD et Fonds fiduciaires
- 16.2 Nivel de los costos de apoyo abonables por el PNUD y los Fondos Fiduciarios
- 16.3 Scale of Contributions 1990-91
- 16.3 Montant des frais de la contribution 1990-91
- 16.3 Escala de cuotas para 1990-91
- 16.4 Other Matters Arising out of the Report of the Sixty-fifth Session of the Finance Committee
- 16.4 Autres questions découlant du rapport de la soixante-cinquième session du Comité financier
- 16.4 Otros asuntos derivados del informe del 65 periodo de sesiones del Comité de Finanzas
- 17. Financial Matters
- 17. Questions financières
- 17. Asuntos financieros
- 17.1 Financial Position of the Organization
- 17.1 Situation financière de l'Organisation
- 17.1 Situación financiera de la Organización
- 17.2 Status of Cash Flow
- 17.2 Situation de trésorerie
- 17.2 Situación del flujo de fondos

LE PRESIDENT: Messieurs les délégués, nous reprenons nos travaux.

Je vais demander au Président du Comité financier, l'Ambassadeur Bukhari, de bien vouloir présenter le point 16 de notre Ordre du jour, c'est-à-dire le rapport de la soixante-cinquième session du Comité financier. Après quoi, je demanderai à Monsieur Crowther de bien vouloir nous faire une communication sur les contributions.

La parole est à Monsieur Bukhari.

At if Y. BUKHARI (Chairman, Finance Committee) (Original language Arabic): Mr Chairman, the document under consideration is the Finance Committee Report (CL 95/8).

The Finance Committee met twice in 1989 since the last Session of the Council. It first met jointly with the Programme Committee from 30 January to 1 February 1989 for its 64th Session when the two Committees considered the outline of the Programme of Work and Budget 1990-91 submitted by the Director-General; this subject is being dealt with separately. Then the Committee met for its 65th Session from 8-17 May followed by a special joint session with the Programme Committee. Both Sessions, although heavily loaded with work were dealing with important subjects and were able to efficiently handle a large number of Agenda Items.

The Membership of the Committee changed at the 64th Session when Mr Coutts, representative of Australia, joined the Committee as the replacement for Mr Smart from the same country, and Mr Monroe, representative of the United States of America also joined the Committee to replace Ambassador Eckert.

Under Budgetary Matters the Committee reviewed the Summary Programme of Work and Budget for 1990-91 which I have already reported on separately.

With regard to Contributions to the General Fund, the Committee expressed its concern since contributions are still being received at a slow rate in spite of prior appeals for timely contributions made by the Council and the Conference. Member Nations were advised by the Director-General on 1 December 1988 of their obligations and of the fact that such assessed contributions were due by the 1 January 1989. You have now been informed of the current status of contributions in June 1989 under the prior item 17.1 as contained in CL 95/LIM/1.

At its 65th Session the Committee not only appealed to all Member Nations to remit their contributions at the earliest possible date but also appealed to all Member Nations to provide FAO with information on the expected dates and amounts of such contributions so as to permit the Organization to manage its resources and to establish cash flow projections. This information would help to avoid having recourse to borrowing arrangements. The Committee was particularly preoccupied with the risk that several Member Nations could lose their voting rights at the forthcoming Session of the Conference. Once again I must ask the Council to make a special appeal for early payments of contributions and mainly from those Nations at risk of losing their voting rights. Also, Mr Chairman, I wish to request the Council on behalf of the Finance Committee to ask Member Nations to provide information to the Director-General, as soon as possible, on the timing and amount of contributions to be paid during the remainder of the year. The timing is also very important in this respect.

The Committee considered the report on the accounts for 1988 which is the first year of the biennium 1988-89. It noted that careful management of its resources allowed the Organization to end 1988 with an excess of income over expenditure. It also noted that the Special Reserve Account had been partially replenished through payments by Member Nations of special assessments in the amount of \$7.8 million, and with a credit of \$3 million from savings on staff costs, achieved through the use of contracts for forward cover of Lire. The Committee also noted that the Working Capital Fund account had been replenished in 1988 to the level of \$15.7 million, although it is still below its established level of \$17 million for 1988.

With regard to the situation in 1989, the Committee was provided with updated figures at 31 March 1989. The Members showed concern over the need for accurate cash flow information and concurred in considering that it was essential for Member Nations to provide definite information on amounts and timing of the payments of their contributions to make possible a reliable cash flow forecast to provide information for management to make adjustments in light of the financial conditions where necessary.

In accordance with General Rule XXVII.7, the Committee reviewed the proposed scale of contributions for 1990-91 which since 1955 has always been derived from the United Nations scale of assessments. While expressing concern about the validity of the methodology used to determine the UN scale, it requested that such concern be conveyed to the United Nations so that the scale be based on balanced and up-to-date information, the Committee nevertheless recommended to the Council that it submit for adoption by the Conference a Resolution aiming at the acceptance of the proposed scale of contributions for FAO for 1990-91.

The Committee reviewed the financial situation of the Terminal Payment Fund and noted that it would be receiving proposals from the Director-General on the further extension of coverage of the Fund.

In view of the heavy schedule of the Committee in its 65th Session it was not found appropriate to discuss the appointment of the External Auditor and the Committee agreed to defer such discussion to its September Session.

The Committee noted that the implementation of measures adopted to implement Conference Resolution 18/87 regarding distribution of the interest income element of the cash surplus could not have taken place since such a cash surplus had not yet arisen.

With regard to the level of support costs from UNDP and Trust Fund Programme the Committee was informed of the progress for developing the so-called "successor arrangement" which efforts are being taken by UNDP in collaboration with other UN organizations.

The Committee reviewed the financial statement of the Commissary for 1987 and approved the establishment of a Commissary Reserve Fund for the replacement of equipment.

Under Personnel Matters the Committee was apprised of the 14th Annual Report of the International Civil Service Commission to the UN General Assembly. It noted the recommendations regarding increases in childrens' allowances and education grant. It was also informed of current developments regarding the comprehensive review of conditions of service in the professional and higher categories and particularly of the decision of the two Staff Representative bodies to resume staff participation in the work of the ICSC. The Committee made a specific remark regarding the practice of supplementary payments and deductions by certain governments to their nationals working

in the UN system and considered the continuation of such practice would suggest that UN salaries were not competitive.

The Committee also was informed that the normal operation of the post adjustment system had been resumed with effect from 1 May 1989, and that the FAO Pension Fund contributions had been increased from 14.5 to 14.8 percent and would be raised to 15 percent effective July 1989.

Under Organizational Matters the Committee was up-dated on the current developments regarding Headquarter's accommodation and expressed appreciation for the generous contribution and support from the Italian Government in making available additional premises to the Organization. Mr Chairman, the Committee was informed that construction on the new project would begin this month. The Council has also heard assurances to this effect from the Ambassador of Italy last week.

The Committee reviewed the various UN Joint Inspection Unit reports regarding several subjects, as reported from paragraphs 3.89 to 3.100 of its Report.

With regard to the important project of computerization of the financial and administrative activities of the Organization called FINSYS/PERSYS the Committee reviewed a report submitted by the Secretariat, which indicated that considerable progress had been made in anticipating the implementation of the work programme and that the staff of the Organization has already being paid by the new system as from April 1989 with full success. It was noted that the target date for the implementation of the Phase II of FINSYS, regarding mostly the financial and accounting modules of the new system, was expected to be January 1990. The Committee noted that FINSYS/PERSYS seemed to have reached a degree of success since the representatives of several UN organizations have approached the Organization with a view to exploring the possibility of sharing the system and participating in the cost of its development.

Finally, the Committee adopted by consensus an amendment to its Rules of Procedure regarding the convening of special sessions as detailed in paragraphs 3.108 to 3.110.

With regard to the Items dealing with the World Food Programme, the Committee reported as usual on this matter separately to the CFA through the Executive Director to whom I have personally addressed a copy of that section of the report produced as a Finance Committee document. The Council will be apprised of appropriate actions and comments on this section of the report through the CFA, as has been normal procedure.

The Committee concluded its deliberations in agreeing upon the dates of its next session which will be 18 to 29 September in Rome.

This concludes my introductory remarks.

D.K. CROWTHER (Assistant Director-General, Administration and Finance Department): I would like to add a few words about the contributions and give a quick update.

The Council Members have before them a copy of CL 95/LIM/1, which shows the financial position of the Organization and the contribution matters. It shows there the amounts that have been received during the days from 8 May through 16 June. Since the Council began we have received a full payment from New Zealand; we have received a payment from Peru; we have received a payment from Bahrain, and we have been advised that a payment has been placed in banking channels from the Federal Republic of Germany, which we expect to receive very shortly. Taking all of these into account I think it is important for Council Members to know that, while there are 158 Member Nations of the FAO, at the beginning of the year assessments were made of US\$ 240 920 000 to Member Nations. In order to compare the results of what has been received during the first six months of this year it might be important to look briefly at what occurred during 1988.

During 1988 the same amounts of assessments were made of the Member Nations. At the end of the year 1988, 79 Member Nations had paid in full. 27 Member Nations had made part payments, and 52 Member Nations made no payments for current assessments during 1988. For current assessments we received just over US\$ 184 million out of the US\$ 240 million assessed; that runs at about 76 percent. That is substantially less than the amounts that we have been receiving for most biennia during the history of the Organization: we normally received 90 percent, 91 percent, 92 percent of the assessed contributions during the year of assessment. Frequently a percentage ranging from 7 percent up to 8 percent remains unpaid, and we collected amounts very close to that amount from the prior years' contributions. The same pattern seems to be occurring in 1989.

We have received thus far in 1989 US\$ 103.8 million, or about 43 percent. By this time last year, and in 1987, we have received in excess of 53 percent. We are more than 10 percent slower in receiving assessed contributions this year than we have been in prior biennia. In addition to the US\$ 103 million, we have received US\$ 9.5 million in arrears. The arrears are at an all-time high

level, and I would like to spend a moment on the arrears after we have dealt with the current contributions. That means that in total we have collected US\$ 113.3 million during the first six months of this year. In order for us to even be even with the amount that was received in 1988, we must collect an unprecedented amount during the last six months: we would have to collect a minimum of \$ 127 million. That is not likely unless something very unusual occurs.

If we have to make a projection-and we do not have a great deal of Information upon which to make such a projection-but if we had to, we would probably indicate that we would collect somewhere between \$ 85 million and \$ 90 million, a long way short of the \$ 127 million; and if the rate of collection of arrears continues at the same rate (we collected \$ 9.5 million during the first six months), if we even collected another \$ 10 million we will still be between \$ 25 million and \$ 30 million short of enough money to carry out the Programme of Work and Budget during this year.

I am saying this to appeal to all Member Nations, to add to the appeal that has already been made by the Finance Committee-and I must say that the Finance Committee members spoke more strongly and seriously about this problem during the May Session than I have heard them in a number of years. The cash receipt situation is becoming rather critical. The pattern of receipt of contributions is changing, and there are more and more Member Nations deferring until later on during the year. This is creating a major problem for the Organization, and I wanted to make certain that everyone is made aware of that problem.

If I may now say a word about arrears: it has only been a very few years ago that we have a total of about 8 percent, even 7.5 percent of current contributions in arrears. In 1986 this figure started growing. At that time there was about \$ 14 million total for all the other years that were owed to the Organization, current year and prior years. That amount doubled in 1987; it doubled again in 1988; and on 1 January of this year the Organization was owed an unprecedented \$ 109 million in arrears. If we add that \$ 109 million to the \$ 240 million that was assessed to Member Nations at the beginning of the year, we can see that the Organization was due about \$ 350 million this year. It is not likely that we will collect anything like that amount.

Our concern is to collect enough contributions and/or arrears to be able to finance the current Programme of Work and Budget, and that is always the aim of the Organization. We were heartened by a number of statements made by several Member Nations during the beginning of the Council, and particularly that of the United States, to the effect that legislation is progressing and that the hope is that there will be full funding and a portion of the arrears from the United States paid this year. That certainly is positive and enlightening. Of the other large contributors, it is important to know that the patterns for some have remained the same-they have made early payments; but for others there have been further delays.

We are very concerned now about the second largest contributor. Legislation has been passed in that country, but we have not received any word as to when the Organization can expect that payment. That 16 an additional \$ 31 million. It is important to bring this matter to your attention, because the life blood of the Organization and its ability to carry out its work depend upon the receipt of contributions. Every effort is being made so that we can manage with the precarious receipt of contributions month to month, and I must say that they are more erratic now than they have been in prior biennia. Trying to anticipate the number and amount of contributions is becoming more and more difficult.

In fact, the Director-General has asked me to pass along to you the fact that he personally has to spend an unprecedented amount of his personal time on the telephone, with telexes, and in personal correspondence with Member Nations about contributions. I won't discuss the untold amount of time that I have to spend in trying to encourage Member Nations to pay, and to pay as quickly as possible.

I believe that the message that I would like to leave with you is that, firstly, we encourage all Member Nations to pay the balance of their contributions as quickly as possible; secondly, for those of you who are planning to pay your contribution during the next six months of the year, it would be most helpful if you could communicate with the Director-General and advise him of the expected amount and timing of that payment. We are trying to project precisely what we will be able to work with and where the funds will come from in the next six months-so if you can advise us when you Members would likely pay, it would be most helpful, so that we can plan our cash expenditure.

LE PRESIDENT: Je remercie M. Crowther de sa communication. Il ne fait aucun doute qu'il s'agit là de questions très importantes et je suis persuadé que les délégués sont tous conscients de la nécessité de promouvoir le financement régulier de l'Organisation et ne manqueront pas de se faire nos interprètes auprès de leurs gouvernements pour répondre à cet appel du Directeur général.

Amin ABDEL MALEK (Liban) (langue originale arabe): Je voudrais tout d'abord remercier M. Bukhari, Président du Comité financier, de même que H. Crowther, de la présentation des deux documents portant sur le Rapport de la soixante-cinquième session du Comité financier et la Situation financière de l'Organisation. Nous les remercions des données assez fouillées qu'ils nous ont présentées bien que lesdites données ne soient pas véritablement encourageantes surtout concernant le paiement des contributions par les Etats Membres et la situation financière de l'Organisation en général.

La délégation libanaise est heureuse d'annoncer que, malgré sa situation financière fragile, le Liban s'est acquitté des sommes dues au titre de 1988. Nous nous efforçons, en outre, de nous acquitter des sommes dues pour 1989 et je suis certain que notre contribution arrivera avant novembre 1989, car nous avons en effet une profonde conscience de la nécessité pour l'Organisation d'avoir les revenus indispensables pour lui permettre de s'acquitter de ses tâches. Monsieur le Président, je voudrais saisir cette occasion pour formuler le vœux de voir les Etats Membres payer leurs contributions pour permettre à l'Organisation de poursuivre ses activités.

Kota HIRAMURA (Japan): As in the past, Mr Saouma made a statement on the opening day of this Ninety-fifth Council Session. That statement touched on the financial situation of the Organization, and mentioned that the payment of both current contributions and arrears is considered to be unsatisfactory. He especially singled out the two largest donors, by saying that their contributions together account for 38 percent of the total budget and that he did not know either when or how they intended to settle their obligations. Although he did not specifically mention the names of those two largest donors, it is obvious to anybody with any common sense that those two nations are the United States of America and my country, Japan.

In this regard, my delegation feels strongly that we must explain the current position and the intention of the Government of Japan concerning the payment of contributions in 1989 in order to attain a clear and proper understanding not only of the members of this Council but also of the Member States of this Organization.

The fiscal year of the Government of Japan begins in April and ends in March of the following year. As far as the payment of contributions to this Organization in 1989 is concerned, the Government of Japan submitted its plan of budget for 1989 in January 1989 to the Japanese Diet. Although usually the plan of budget is approved by the Japanese Diet in time for the implementation of budget in and from April, this year the plan of budget was approved only on 27 May 1989, nearly two months later than usual, for internal political reasons, etc.

The Japanese delegation stresses that the Japanese Diet has given its approval for the appropriation and the payment of contributions for 1989. This delay might be considered as one of the reasons which might inevitably cause the late start of the administrative procedures to exercise the payment of the contribution for 1989. Although the Government of Japan has begun the necessary procedures, another unpredictable situation has arisen, that is, the drastic change in the currency situation between the Japanese yen and the United States dollar.

Over the period of time for the preparation and submission of the budget plan to the Diet up to the present, the Japanese yen has weakened by approximately 20% against the dollar. Bearing in mind this position, the Government of Japan is currently making every effort to pay the 1989 contribution at the earliest possible date. My Government is opposed to external borrowing and is aware of the dangers of cash flow problems which may be caused by delay of the payment. Therefore, the Government of Japan is committed to taking measures to pay the contribution for 1989 in such a timely fashion that should not cause a negative impact on the financial situation of this Organization.

Mr Chairman, we would like your permission to make further comments later on the Report of the Finance Committee.

R.G. PETTIT (United Kingdom): I would like to thank Mr Bukhari for his report on the Finance Committee. We are grateful to him for the work done, and would like to thank him and Mr. Crowther for their further impressions this morning. We have a few comments and questions on the subjects raised by the Committee in the context of substantive observations on support cost issues, which I take it are best dealt with under this item. As with my intervention on Agenda item 15 I will try

to deal with the points in the order of reference in Document CL 95/8, Part III. This is not according to the list of sub-items 16.1 to 16.4, but if I may I will identify the sub-item in case it helps us to structure the report appropriately.

First (this will come under sub-item 16.4) paragraph 3.10 which deals with a Special Reserve Account. The Director-General indicated in his budget document that he did not intend to seek another special assessment to bring the accounts to the authorized level of 5% of the budget. We trust the restoration to the approved level will be achieved by the use of arrears and the gains which have been made on staff cost currency variances. At some stage when we consider alternative ways of promoting the budget, usually from changes such as the adoption of a split-currency budget, we will need to consider the future of the Special Reserve Account.

Still on 16.4, as regards the request in paragraph 3.26 for the provision of Information with reference to payment of contributions, the pattern of payment by the British Government within the year take account of the financial situation of the Organization. Continuation of the cash position is required to enable us to continue to make payments early in the year as resort to external borrowing is not acceptable when dealing with the financial figures of the Organization.

We note that the balance of the working capital fund, now built up to near the level fixed by the Conference, as stated in paragraph 3.27 will probably be needed at the end of the biennium partly to offset the carry-over deficit in the general fund. We note there are no proposals for a further assessment. We are of the view none would be justified.

As to the scale of contributions dealt with in paragraph 3.45 and following, this is under Agenda Item 16.3-we agree that the scale for 1990-91 should derive from the United Nations scale despite the continuing doubts of some members, mentioned by Mr Bukhari this morning, about the validity of the methodology. This latter point is something to be pursued in another place. We agree that the draft Resolution should be submitted to the Conference. But it occurred to me that in other years it might not be possible to take some account of the views of countries which have recorded assessments based on data relating to a period some years ago-in the present case data ending in 1986. The United Nations assessment seems to be agreed for three-year periods, so every third biennium-our biennium-there is likely to be an FAO year which is based on an assessment scale one year behind the United Nations recommendations.

Thus, if there is a United Nations scale of assessments for the three years 1995, 1996 and 1997, if my understanding is correct and if we continue our present practice, in the biennium 1994-95 we should still be basing our assessments for both those years on the UN scale for 1992/94 which is based on data ending in 1989, as the same countries will point out. If this suggestion meets in some way the points made by the member countries which have these reservations, may I ask the Secretariat-would there be difficulties in 1993 in approving assessments for the eight years or the biennium based on UN scales in the years 1992/94, and secondly, on the possibly unknown rates for the period 1995/98? This would mean passing a budget with the assessment unknown for the second year, but at least two other agencies pursue this practice under the authorization of their Directors-General, and calculate the assessment based on the fundamental decision of the General Assembly.

I should add that this situation will not apply to the next two biennia because our current practice means we would be in phase with the United Nations. Had it been applied to the present biennium, we should now be paying in 1989 on the basis of the UN assessment for the period 1989/91 and not the previous one, as is the case.

The next section can again be classified as Item 16.4 of the Agenda. As regards the potential cash surplus dealt with in paragraph 3.58 we insist that any such surplus be dealt with strictly in accordance with the rules and conference resolutions, including Resolution 18/27 which deals with the interest element of any cash surplus.

I now come to the question of support costs covered in paragraphs 3.59 to 3.64, which we identify as Item 16.2 for discussion. The narrative in paragraph 2.16 to 2.20 of the Director-General's Summary Programme of Work and Budget is also relevant. Difficulties have been caused to the European-based agencies in the years up to 1987 due to the decline of the dollar, the currency in which the project money is supplied against the European currency in which supervision costs are carried out. In the years in which dollar appreciation was such as to trigger the relevant decision, FAO and other such agencies benefitted by an increase in the support costs of 14% from the now standard level of 13%. As regards 1987, an exceptional amount was agreed retrospectively on the understanding that for this one time the concession would lead to improvements in delivery quality and accountability.

The comments of the Director-General in the Summary Programme of Work and Budget document, paragraph 2.17, refer to the retention of the momentum of programme delivery and therefore an increased workload, but to lower performance in timeliness and quality in the implementation of

projects. This good delivery has been maintained and we are grateful to those who are working harder or longer hours, but it is not satisfactory to plan for a reduction in timeliness or quality in field projects financed by the UN system.

In the next two years, 1990 to 1991, the current arrangements continue. It has always been accepted-or at least until hitherto-by the International community that specialist regular budgets should bear a share of the support costs for projects financed by UNDP and similar organizations. This is the case with other agencies with a development remit. It is the job of FAO to maintain and supervise field projects adequately and if necessary to see that other projects receive greater flexibility than projects financed from other sources. No improvement can be expected in terms of support costs for 1988 since the dollar decline was arrested that year and no change will occur before 1992.

Member countries will wish to ensure that successor arrangements take account of the desirability of protecting the supervision of field programmes from the effect of currency changes. This was the acknowledged weakness of the current deal. If the Secretariat is not aware of it, I would commend the work being carried out in UNIDO to seek solutions to the problem in the next deal. There are some ideas here which should be used.

The report mentions the very welcome FAO input into the development of the successor arrangements for support costs. We can understand the noted intention of FAO, mentioned in paragraph 3.63

"to seek maximum reimbursement for all support costs incurred in a manner which would be both comprehensive and practical to apply."

This is not a view to which member countries could subscribe. To do so would be to create a misunderstanding of the purpose of the support costs study. The intention of this exercise which was most active in framing the Terms of Reference, was to establish a regime which leads to the best possible use of the skills and capacities of the Specialized Agencies in United Nations technical cooperation. The question of how much of this funding cooperation would be through the Regular Budgets or through the funding bodies UNDP and FPA and so on, is a matter for the International community to decide. The support costs study team are required to produce figures ranging from the net contribution made, support costs from the funding agency-in our case FAO-which would be allied to costs being covered by UNDP.

I was somewhat depressed by the remarks of the Director-General on the subject when it was raised on the Programme Committee item. I was depressed because he gave the impression that the new deal is looked at as one which is more or less an endorsement for support costs, let's say were the deal based on 20 percent, our approximate full costs at the moment, or 14 percent as it was a few years ago, or 13 percent as it is now. This is not the point. But even if it were, the advantage to the agencies would not simply lie in the size of the contribution from the funding agency. Support costs are real costs which have to be met by governments out of one pocket, by UNDP or similar bodies or from another, through the agency regular budget. It is hardly conceivable that if the new deal brings substantial relief to agencies by paying full costs, the International community will not wish to vie between the contributions to the executing agencies and the funding agencies to assure the retention of the status quo-except, of course, if they consciously wish to correct some weakness in the present arrangements. Similarly, if an arrangement is chosen which is substantially less financially attractive to the agencies, the membership would expect to take appropriate action as regards their contribution to regular agency budgets and to UNDP. I say this because support costs are a very large part of many agencies' finances. In some cases they are equivalent to as much as nearly half the regular budget. I repeat, therefore, it is not a question of going for more or less from the outside funding body. This is too simplistic an approach. It is necessary for the support cost group and the international community to find a financial relationship which does not determine or even misdirect the service which agencies such as FAO provide to developing countries, but which facilitates it. There should be no inbuilt incentive to execute a project rather than to provide specific advice, no disincentive to transfer the management of projects to governments or to outside bodies, no unreasonable pressure to maintain a flow of projects.

The agencies' contribution to capacity building and assistance to coordination and to development planning should be acknowledged in the financial arrangements eventually agreed. FAO should feed all its ideas on these matters into the support cost study, not just its wish for another percentage. Finally, on this subject my delegation considers that more thought needs to be given to the handling of the subject by the governing bodies than is evidenced in paragraph 3.64.

The International communities' decisions on the successor arrangements will be made in the February 1990 meeting of the UNDP Governing Council. Members will take account of their interests as members of the agencies in the discussion in UNDP. To ensure this, the propositions contained in the experts' group report on support costs will need to have been discussed from the FAO point of view in the November meetings of our governing bodies. A reporting to the governing bodies of the conclusions reached in UNDP's Governing Council so that, in the Director-General's words in

paragraph 2.20 of CL 95/3, they can "pronounce themselves" is not really to the point. We can pronounce ourselves or grumble or rejoice, but the decisions will have been taken. We can only decide what this means for our budget, what instructions we should give about taking on UNDP financed projects, and what we should do about Trust Funds. We need more participatory action before the decision time of next February.

That is the end of my remarks on the support costs. I just have three more certain points on the report, then I will stop. These are on agenda item 16/4 again, "Other Matters".

Paragraphs 3.71 to 3.75 deal with the problem of salaries and the remuneration and retention of staff based in Rome and in the field. There are certainly problems here, particularly affecting field staff originating from high-income countries. It may be that the international character of multilateral assistance will be adversely affected if the ICSC is not able to make acceptable recommendations. We must rely on the results of the present study. The practice of making supplementary payments mentioned in paragraph 3.76 is an unacceptable alternative. As regards the JIU reports covered in paragraphs 3.89 and 3.90, I wonder if I may have an answer to the question I posed in the discussion of the Programme Committee that we did not get then, because we were concentrating, naturally, on a new item then. Since the Finance Committee also looked at these reports, may I ask, was the Committee satisfied that all action which was appropriate was being taken by the Secretariat to learn from or to implement those parts of these reports which have relevance to FAO's work?-except, of course, on the evaluation of the United Nations Technical Cooperation Evaluation Systems, JIU/REP/88, which I gather will be discussed when the ACC comments are available.

Finally, paragraphs 3.105 and 106 discussed the suggestion that payments for the services of FINSYS and PERSYS systems might be put away in a fund to use to extend the system. We will, of course, be interested in the recommendation to be made by the Committee in September, but our initial inclination is to look with distaste at the creation of a special fund for this purpose and would expect receipts to be ordinary revenue.

As I have mixed opinions with questions, I had better just remind Ambassador Bukhari of the questions; there were two-one about assessments for 1995 and the other about JIU reports.

Hartawan ADANG (Indonesia): My intervention will be brief. Referring to the appeal of His Excellency, Ambassador Bukhari, the Chairman of the Finance Committee, as well as the Assistant Director-General of the Administration and Finance Department of FAO, especially with regard to the concerned timing, since there is a cash flow problem at FAO, my delegation is pleased to inform FAO that the Indonesian contribution is in process within our Ministry. My delegation believes that at the latest by the end of July, the Secretariat of FAO should have received the whole amount of our obligation. That is the areas of contribution of 1988, amounting to US\$ 91 744 plus the contribution of 1989, amounting to US\$ 408 544, all in all amounting to US\$ 500 288. Before my departure to Rome we sent a note to the agencies concerned regarding our contribution to the Working Capital Fund.

Achille RAMARISON (Madagascar): La Délégation malgache voudrait d'abord féliciter Son Excellence l'Ambassadeur Bukhari, Président du Comité financier, et M. Crowther pour la présentation très claire et satisfaisante du point soumis à notre examen.

Lorsque, traitant de la situation financière de l'Organisation dans son discours d'ouverture, le Directeur général a déclaré: "Dans ces conditions, nous ne sommes pas en mesure de dire comment va évoluer la situation des liquidités d'ici la fin de l'année, tout dépendra des versements que nous recevrons", tous ceux qui ont à coeur une bonne programmation des ressources et qui insistent, chaque fois que l'occasion se présente, sur une gestion rationnelle desdites ressources, devraient s'inquiéter et se poser la question de savoir si leur responsabilité n'est pas engagée dans cette situation paradoxale de l'Organisation.

En effet, ceux-là même qui ont exigé que l'on procède à l'examen de la FAO pour lui garantir plus d'efficacité, plus d'efficience, ont tendance à la plonger-que dis-je-à la jeter plutôt dans le gouffre de la paralysie.

Le montant des contributions impayées avoisine la moitié du budget, précise encore le Directeur général dans son discours. Comment, dans ces conditions, peut-on demander honnêtement à la FAO de répondre aux besoins pressants des pays en matière de sécurité alimentaire, d'assistance dans la mise en oeuvre des mesures d'ajustement structurelles. Comment peut-on aussi encourager la FAO à renforcer les domaines dans lesquels elle excelle, et qu'elle souhaite davantage compétitifs par rapport aux autres institutions, lorsqu'elle est obligée de réduire l'assistance aux Centres AGRIS et CARIS, de suspendre des publications si précieuses pour nos pays comme Unasylva, Cérès, la Revue Mondiale de la Zootechnie.

Combien d'entreprises patiemment élaborées et prometteuses de riches espérances devra-t-on encore démanteler ?

Peut-on encore parler vraiment à ce stade de la situation financière passant de la phase critique à la convalescence? En fait, pourquoi ne peut-on pas espérer ce passage salutaire dans la mesure où les principaux protagonistes sont représentés ici au Conseil ?

Je suis convaincu que les honorables délégués se feront un devoir d'atteindre le consensus sur ce point vital pour l'Organisation. Ce n'est ni la majorité, ni plusieurs délégués qui vont lancer un appel vibrant auprès des Etats Membres pour le règlement de leurs contributions en cours et des arriérés, mais c'est plutôt le Conseil dans sa totalité.

De bonnes paroles ont été prononcées par certain gros contributeur. Pourvu que lesdites paroles soient suivies sans tarder de réalisations effectives.

Le Conseil devra sonner l'alarme, car la FAO ne pourra pas continuer à vivoter et à consacrer son temps précieux à régler les difficultés financières volontairement provoquées par certains, alors que la FAO doit redoubler d'efforts pour assister les petits agriculteurs, les paysans sans terre et tous les groupes pour lesquels la FAO a été créée.

Gerhard LIEBER (Germany, Federal Republic of): I would like to express my appreciation to Ambassador Bukhari and the members of the Finance Committee for the report we have to discuss this morning. Right away, I can inform you that we agree with the main thrust of this report and that we have no difficulties with the decisions to be taken under this item. Now I would like to make just a few remarks on some points of the report. We agree in general with the considerations of the Committee on the Programme of Work and Budget, reserving, however, as usual, our final position until the examination of the full programme which we will receive in proper time. I am glad to confirm to you what Mr Crowther mentioned already, that we were able to complete payment of our contribution for the current year. However, the picture of contributions and arrears is certainly preoccupying. We urge, therefore, all member nations to fulfil their obligations to the Organization. We welcome the proposed position on the scale of contributions for the coming biennium which follows, as in the past, the United Nations scale of assessments. This is a procedure which we favour.

We take note that the level of support costs from UNDP is under review and that FAO is actively involved in this process.

As far as government trust fund programmes are concerned we tend to agree with the Committee that FAO should, at least in principle, be reimbursed as far as possible to compensate in full for the support costs incurred without, or with as little as possible burden to the Regular Programme.

We thank the Committee for keeping us closely informed about the personnel matters of the Organization, and we stress the importance and the financial implications of this very important sector which calls for continued monitoring, which we expect from the Finance Committee in the future as well as we have had the benefit in the past.

Finally Mr Chairman, we are glad to take note of the progress that the Headquarters accommodation negotiations have made, and we join the Committee in expressing our appreciation and thanks to the Italian Government for its contribution for the construction of the much needed additional premises.

Igor MARINGER (Suisse): Avant d'entrer dans le sujet de notre ordre du jour, j'aimerais remercier le Gouvernement italien pour l'organisation de l'excursion d'hier à Arezzo et Loro Ciuffenna. Les excursions de ce genre facilitent les contacts informels entre délégués, ce qui est une bonne chose. J'aimerais également remercier le chœur de la FAO de son excellente prestation.

Je remercie M. Bukhari de son introduction du rapport de la soixante-cinquième session du Comité financier. Mes remerciements vont également à M. Crowther pour ses explications concernant la situation financière. Les questions examinées dans le Comité financier sont de très grande importance pour le travail de notre Organisation, car il s'agit d'assurer la meilleure utilisation des ressources dont dispose la FAO.

J'ai une première observation concernant le paragraphe 3.5 du rapport du Comité financier.

Le Comité y donne son appréciation du Sommaire du Programme de travail et budget. Lors du débat sur l'examen de la FAO vendredi dernier, le Directeur général a suggéré que le Comité financier examine les coûts éventuels des recommandations de réforme lors de sa prochaine session.

Ma Délégation a déjà exprimé, à plusieurs reprises, qu'à notre avis les économies et les coûts supplémentaires pourraient s'équilibrer. Si cependant le Comité financier partage l'avis préliminaire du Directeur général que les réformes pourraient nécessiter des ressources budgétaires supplémentaires, ma Délégation propose que le Comité financier examine la possibilité d'un "core"-budget pour le Programme 1990-1991, de sorte que le budget total pour cette période puisse rester dans les limites discutées jusqu'ici. Dans ce contexte, le Comité financier devrait à notre avis, proposer au Directeur général de donner, dans la version complète de sa proposition du Programme de travail et budget 1990-1991, une information détaillée des dépenses 1988 et des estimations de dépenses pour 1989, ceci pour les programmes et les sous-programmes.

Mon deuxième point concerne la situation de recouvrement des contributions.

Dans le paragraphe 3.24, le Comité financier déplore la lenteur persistante du recouvrement des contributions et se déclare particulièrement déçu que plus d'Etats Membres n'aient pas répondu aux appels très énergiques lancés par le Conseil et la Conférence en vue de les inciter à régler rapidement leurs contributions en 1989. M. Crowther souligne encore ce point dans son introduction.

Mon pays appuie la position exprimée par le Comité financier à ce sujet. Il est effectivement important que la FAO puisse aborder des réformes dans une situation financière saine et prévisible. Malheureusement, le Comité financier est dans une certaine contradiction avec lui-même dans cette question, et nous regrettons que seulement quatre des neuf pays membres soient en situation régulière en ce qui concerne les contributions. Le Comité aurait pu exprimer son regret de cette situation.

Paragraphe 3.35: nous remarquons que les dépenses et engagements non liquidés du PCT en 1988, se sont élevés à seulement 9,4 millions de dollars. Ceci suggère que le Secrétariat utilise ce Programme avec soin et prudence. Cette situation est cependant remise en cause par l'assurance dans ce même paragraphe que les crédits PCT pour 1988-89 seront entièrement engagés à la fin de l'exercice. Cette phrase suggère que l'on se hâte à dépenser ces crédits. A notre avis, il ne faudrait pas dépenser pour dépenser, il s'agit d'accorder les engagements PCT avec les priorités déclarées de la FAO.

Concernant l'examen du remboursement des dépenses d'appui, mon pays attend avec intérêt les conclusions de l'étude du Groupe d'Experts du PNUD en cette matière. Nous sommes pour une approche flexible qui favorise l'amélioration de l'efficacité des programmes de terrain. Dans cette optique, le problème ne peut pas être réduit, comme l'a déjà souligné le délégué du Royaume Uni, à simplement obtenir un remboursement maximum des dépenses d'appui comme suggéré dans le paragraphe 3.63.

Pour finir une remarque encore concernant le para 3.79 ayant trait aux ajustements des postes. Le tableau en page 48 du rapport français nous informe de l'évolution des classes d'ajustement de postes entre décembre 1987 et janvier 1989.

D'après ce tableau il y a même eu une légère réduction de la classe applicable, ceci de la classe 9 à la classe 8 dans cette période. Cette évolution soutient à notre avis l'argument qu'il faut mettre au conditionnel l'estimation des augmentations sensibles de coûts pour le prochain biennium.

Yousef All Mahmoud HAMDY (Egypt) (Original Language Arabic): Thank you, Mr Chairman. I should like to thank Ambassador Bukhari for his very clear introduction for the report of the Finance Committee and the further explanations furnished by Mr Crowther. At the outset we should like to welcome and support the report of the Finance Committee, and would like to congratulate the Finance Committee for the work it has done.

We would also like to congratulate the Secretariat for the great efforts deployed in implementing the Programme under these difficult financial circumstances faced by the Organization in terms of the lack of resources. We would like to support what has been included in paragraph 3.49 regarding the scale of contributions, and we suggest that it be proposed to the Conference.

Mr Chairman, we all understand the economic conditions faced by all countries at all levels. There are many reasons behind these difficulties that lead to the late payment of contributions. We are fully confident that they have nothing to do with our confidence placed in the Organization, or with the diminishing importance of the leading role played by the FAO in the field of food and agriculture. Accordingly we join the appeal launched by the Director-General to all member countries to provide and to furnish the Organization with all the financial resources so that it may implement the Programme of Work that has been planned for the Organization.

In this context we should like to thank those countries that contributed recently and paid their contributions, and also those countries that are taking positive steps and which notified the Council of their intention to pay.

Mr Chairman, we would also like to support the members of the Finance Committee in terms of an expression of appreciation to the Italian Government regarding the support to be presented by the Italian Government in building the premises of FAO. We should like to thank the Permanent Representation of Italy to the FAO for the sound planning and for the hospitality we have all witnessed in the excursion that was organized yesterday, and we would like to convey our deep thanks to the Mayor and the Police Director for the great efforts they deployed in rendering this excursion successful and pleasant. I thank you, Mr Chairman.

Kwang-Shik WON (Korea, Republic of): Thank you, Mr Chairman. Like other distinguished delegates, I shall begin by congratulating His Excellency Ambassador Bukhari, Chairman of the Finance Committee, for his very clear and helpful introduction.

Mr Chairman, we are now discussing an utmost important agenda item which deals with the financial crisis currently faced by our Organization. As the Director-General has already stressed the gravity and magnitude of the problems in his statement at the very beginning of the session, the Korean delegation is also deeply concerned about the negative outcome of the critical financial situation which did seriously affect each and every aspect of the FAO's activities, particularly in the execution of FAO's noble goal—the eradication of hunger and malnutrition in the poor developing world.

My delegation also regrets the fact that, in spite of strong appeals for early payment of assessment to member countries, there is an increasing tendency not only of the total amount of outstanding contributions, but also the number of member nations with outstanding arrears. Paragraph 3.28 of the report well indicates how serious the problem is. The total outstanding arrears from 65 members reaches over US\$ 100 million. In this connection my delegation would like to urge that the contributions in arrears should be paid by the governments at an earlier date so that FAO can get through the stringent situation, and thus sufficient resources will be available for its full functioning.

Mr Chairman, we shall now briefly touch upon the specific issues in the report. In the first place, with regard to the annual report on Budgetary Performance to member nations, we give our full support to FAO in general for its efforts to overcome unprecedented financial difficulties through belt-tightening management and efficient project implementation over the past years. We are well aware that under the Programme reduction of US\$ 20 million in 1988 alone, the FAO could not spare its efforts to proceed with the technical programme efficiently. We, however, urge FAO to continue its efforts in enhancing efficiency and effectiveness in this regard.

With respect to the TCP project implementation, we note with concern that of a total appropriation of US\$ 63.1 million, only US\$ 9.4 million was made available to projects in 1988. We hope that the full appropriation for TCP will be utilized by the end of the 1988/89 biennium.

My delegation would like to stress the importance of extra-budgetary resources. As the number of collaborative arrangements with other agencies has grown in recent years, extra-budgetary resources from the arrangements become increasingly important for the technical backstopping of FAO field projects, particularly when the regular budget resources are in a critical situation. In this context we are of the view that FAO should pay greater attention to mobilizing and managing these valuable resources in an efficient way avoiding duplication of funding in project execution.

In relation to reimbursement of support costs from UNDP and Trust Fund programmes, we welcome the progress made in developing new arrangements for UNDP support cost reimbursement to agencies including FAO, as shown in paragraphs 3.5.9 to 3.6.4. We, however, are of the opinion that, through an active participation of FAO, arrangements should be established so that the reimbursement rate would be raised to 20% from 13% of the current level so as to cover the full support costs of FAO services in the course of executing UNDP and Trust Fund projects.

Finally, as regards the scale of contributions for 1990/91, since the FAO Scale of Contributions has been derived directly from the UN Scale of Assessments, we have no difficulties in accepting the proposed resolution in paragraphs 3.4.9 of the report. Having said that, the Korean delegation fully endorses the Report of the 65th Session of the Finance Committee.

To sum up, we sincerely hope that the current financial crisis will not continue in the next biennium, and that there will be no programme reduction in the years to come. In our belief there is a general feeling in this Session that FAO should undertake its noble tasks in combating hunger and

poverty in the world on a healthier and sound financial basis. In this regard, we reiterate that, in any circumstances, the proposed budget should be adopted by consensus at the coming Conference and thus the consensus lead all member nations to pay their contributions without any conditions and reservations.

Juan NUIRY SANCHEZ (Cuba): Muy brevemente, Señor Presidente, pues no son palabras, sino hechos contantes y sonantes los que se necesitan y cualquier comentarlo no puede alejarse de esta realidad.

Como país en vías de desarrollo, la delegación cubana ha oído con mucha atención, repito, mucha atención, las intervenciones sobre este fundamental aspecto, tanto la del Embajador Bukhari, como la del señor Crowther, que han sido muy claras precisas y sinceras exponiendo los ritmos lentos, los pagos atrasados, la deuda, que asciende a 300 millones de dólares a la Organización, así como la crítica situación. Durante estos días, tanto en la Sesión inagural como en el acto por el 25° Aniversario del Grupo de los 77, sólo para poner dos altos exponentes, hemos oído al Director General de la FAO, Señor Saouma, y a nuestro Presidente del Grupo de los 77, Embajador Tchicaya relatar la crítica y grave situación que atraviesa la humanidad, en la situación actual de la alimentación y sus reservas y la necesidad que representa para esta realidad la FAO, como organismo fundamental del Sistema de las Naciones Unidas para resolver los problemas más acuciantes de los países del Tercer Mundo.

A la FAO nadie le pone en duda su trabajo y proyección, pues la propia existencia de la FAO es poder cumplir su fundamental compromiso con su Programa de Labores y Presupuesto, pues esto constituye el motor para impulsar sus grandes proyecciones. Nuestra delegación lo ha manifestado siempre, y repite ahora, que aunque haga esfuerzos o sacrificios como lo ha hecho para su pago, y así conjuntamente los países en vías de desarrollo, hay que decirlo claro, que esto corresponde, fundamentalmente, a los principales contribuyentes. Hay que dejar a un lado cualquier mecanismo interno o administrativo y comprender que está en juego algo más importante y fundamental. Si esto no se comprende, aunque el Director General, Señor Saouma, y el Asistente del Director General, Señor Crowther, hagan todos sus esfuerzos, tiempo y paciencia, si éstos no tienen oído receptor y voluntad, todas nuestras excelentes intervenciones caerán en el vacío.

Este punto que nos ocupa es fundamental, y no queremos repetir por conocido los argumentos. El no resolver lo expuesto por el señor Crowther y dilatar esto, es como estar harando en el mar; y el no comprenderlo es estar de espalda a la realidad más acuciente de la Humanidad.

Angus MACDONALD (Australia): As Australia is represented on the Finance Committee, my intervention can be exceedingly brief. At the outset let me thank Ambassador Bukhari for his enlightening commente, and the facts and figures provided by Mr Crowther.

My delegation supports that part of the Finance Committee report before us and the recommendations contained therein. We would point out that the entire report is not before the Council and that the Australian Representative on the Finance Committee intends to clarify at the next Finance Committee meeting the procedure for handling future reports.

We appreciate Ambassador Bukhari's explanation in his introduction of that part of the report relating to other matters, but recognize that, as they come up through the World Food Programme annual report, they will not be received by this Council until November 1990.

On specific issues I would like to turn to the Technical Cooperation Programmes. We appreciate that the TCP expenditures cannot be prorated over the course of a biennium equally. We do note that expenditures and commitments on TCP at the half way point, that is, at the end of 1988, amounted to US\$ 9.4 million out of a total appropriation of US\$ 63.1 million. We note that US\$ 32 million has been committed to projects to governments as at 31 March.

On paragraph 3.16 relating to the lapse factor of 5.5%, we would note that this implies approximately one position in about 19 not being filled within the Organization. While this may not be desirable, and while the lapse factor figure of 5.5% is high relative to other UN agencies, it does not necessarily imply a major problem with such a number of unfilled positions.

On the payment of contributions, again we call on all Members to pay their dues in full and on time, and we welcome the efforts made by a number of developing countries mentioned this morning to pay their dues, as well as the recent news conveyed by Mr Crowther of the USA position and that of Japan.

On the scale of assessments, we support the position taken in the report before us. We would wish to see the assessment process of the United Nations to be more up to date reflecting the latest economic situation in Member Countries.

With regard to paragraph 3.77, we note reference to the introduction of a freeze on take-home pay of FAO employees. As a point of clarification we would ask if there are any expenditure implications or savings to the Organization from this measure.

Turning now to support costs, we recognize the significance of these to FAO and its management. In paragraphs 3.59 to 3.64 the issue was discussed. Perhaps the Secretariat could clarify the position with regard to the support cost payment. The Organization receives something like 13% of Trust Fund payments from UNDP and other Trust Fund donors for carrying out extra budgetary work. In dollar terms we note that for the past biennium this could exceed a figure of about US\$ 65 million. Presumably, these funds represent an injection in some way of additional funds over and above the approved budget level for staff costs. There are, of course, outgoing support costs and they appear to be higher than receipts. We do, however, assume that salaries would still be paid if personnel were not working on Trust Fund activities and they would be applying themselves to Regular Programme activities. In this case it seems to us that the approximately US\$ 65 million would appear to be extra resources.

Finally, I will simply say that we can support the United Kingdom view on the Special Reserve Account, and we believe that the proposal of the delegation of Switzerland for core budgeting has considerable merit, which the Finance Committee could develop and consider at a later date.

Abdul KUDDUS AHMAD (Malaysia): My delegation would like to thank Ambassador Bukhari and Mr Crowther for their informative statements on the document before us.

As I have mentioned in my previous intervention on SPWB last week, my delegation is of the opinion that in agreeing to the programme increase the proposed budget level should not be solved by imposing extra financial burdens on Members of the Organization.

My delegation has some difficulty with the FAO scale of contributions that has been derived directly from the UN scale of assessment since 1955. We observe that in some of the changes from 1988 to 1989 the FAO scale did not correspond to the recent changes in the economic position of the Members Nations concerned. This is mainly because a 10-year statistical base period is being used to determine the capacity of each Member country to pay. In this case the statistical period that ended with 1986 therefore does not reflect the recent economic changes in the countries concerned.

In this respect my delegation wishes to express its concern about the validity of the methodology and criteria used by the UN, and urges that a more appropriate up-to-date scale be made available so that a more realistic 1990/91 scale of contributions would be tabled for consideration by the Conference.

Turning to the need to review the application of the lapse factor in budgetary provision, my delegation wishes to recommend that FAO adopt a lower lapse factor because we feel it would be more practical in view of the exercises undertaken by the Organization to reduce the number of posts considered to be not critical to the Organization's functions. My delegation is fully aware of the difficulties arising from the financial problems facing the Organization concerning the preparation of the full Programme of Work and Budget. We therefore believe that the Council should once more appeal to Member Countries to honour their constitutional obligations to the Organization. As far as Malaysia is concerned, we would like to announce with all humility that we have always fulfilled our financial obligations.

Finally, Malaysia, being a member of the Finance Committee, would like to reiterate our support of the report made by the Committee's Sixty-fifth Session.

Bashir EL MABROUK SAID (Libya): I should like to join the previous speakers who have expressed their congratulations to Ambassador Bukhari on his very good and concise report on the Sixty-fifth Session of the Finance Committee. I would also like to thank Mr Crowther for his clarifications on this item.

My delegation also joins previous speakers who have expressed concern about the unfavourable position of the Organization, which, as in the last biennium, would be detrimental to the programmes of FAO. This is simply due to the fact that so many Member Nations do not pay their contributions, some for political reasons (which is to be regretted) and others for financial and economic reasons. However we should like to appeal to all Member Nations to fulfil their obligations in this respect.

In this context we would like to confirm to Mr Crowther that the Jamahiriya will fulfil its obligations for this year, and that procedures are speedily being adopted to pay our contribution very shortly. We hope that this will take place before the Conference.

Regarding contributions for the next biennium, 1990-91: In view of the fact that, as my delegation has confirmed, the scale of assessment, which is derived from that of the United Nations, does not take into account economic variables encountered by many countries-particularly those which have affected oil-producing countries, which have that sole source of income, in recent years-ve would hope that the Finance Committee in future sessions will consider this matter so that contributions may be more equitable and also take into account the economic changes which have taken place in many developing countries, including oil producing countries.

We do however fully endorse the Report of the Finance Committee, and ve agree that for the present such contributions should be the same as in the last biennia-that is, derived from the United Nations scale.

John G. COOK (United States of America): We are members of the Finance Committee, and therefore feel ourselves in a position to completely support the report of that Committee. As one who sat with Ambassador Bukhari in that capacity, I am particularly pleased to thank him for his very skilful distillation of what vere, in fact, some very lengthy and complex deliberations.

Much of what the United States would have wished to say this morning has already been said, or is present in the Report. I would however like to make one or two very brief points. They refer specifically to paragraphs 3.36 and 3.43 of the Report.

We say that as of March 31 1989 the Special Reserve Account was replenished to a level of US\$ 12.2 million, of which US\$ 4.2 million was due to savings resulting from the Organization's purchase of forward exchange contracts for Lire. The Secretariat projects additional savings of this nature during 1989. As we have indicated in the Finance Committee, we support the practice of purchasing forward foreign exchange contracts, and we note that the result of that practice would be to protect the Budget against Dollar/Lira currency fluctuations. Since an important purpose of the Special Reserve Account is to provide protection against Dollar/Lira currency fluctuations, and such protection will no longer be necessary with the practice which I have just mentioned, the need for the Special Reserve Account needs further review in our judgement. We feel that this should be borne in mind as the Council and Conference make decisions on the budget, the appropriate level of the Special Reserve Account and the recommendation of the management consultants.

One further very brief point: the United States has a long-held position on the question of borrowing within the United Nations system by United Nations agencies. This has been expressed this morning by several other delegations, particularly the United Kingdom delegation, and I would like simply to remind the Council of that position.

Bernard LEDUN (France): Mon intervention sera relativement brève car beaucoup de délégués ici présents sont intervenus pour dire l'essentiel des commentaires qu'il fallait faire sur le document qui fait l'objet de notre examen.

Il va sans dire que notre délégation approuve le rapport du Comité financier présidé par M. Bukhari, qu'elle tient à complimenter pour la présentation claire qu'il en a faite.

Si j'interviens à la fin des débats, c'est peut-être pour tenter de tirer un peu la morale de la discussion que nous avons eue sur ce point de l'Ordre du jour.

Le Directeur général, dans son discours introductif, a parlé, à propos de la situation de trésorerie de l'Organisation, d'une situation de convalescence. Ce mot nous paraît un peu prématuré. Peut-on en effet parler de situation de convalescence à propos de la situation de trésorerie de la FAO quand on sait-d'ailleurs, ces chiffres sont connus de tous mais peut-être faut-il encore les rappeler-que 122 Etats Membres n'ont pas réglé ou n'ont réglé que partiellement leurs contributions de 1989, que 61 sont redevables d'arriérés pour 1989 et des périodes antérieures, que par ailleurs le montant total des arriérés dépasse 100 millions de dollars E-U., qu'en outre-M. Crowther a bien voulu nous le rappeler tout à l'heure-le montant total des arriérés et des contributions statutaires qui restent dues à l'Organisation s'élève à 350 millions de dollars E-U., si j'ai bien entendu ce chiffre?

Dans ces conditions, parler de convalescence peut sembler en effet optimiste et les chiffres que je viens de citer tendent à prouver le contraire. En fait, la situation de trésorerie de la FAO reste éminemment critique.

A propos des défauts de contributions de la part d'un grand nombre de pays, et surtout de la part des plus gros contributeurs de l'Organisation, je pense qu'il faut indiquer ici avec force qu'en ce qui nous concerne, nous ne pouvons prendre au sérieux les propositions, les intentions ou les

discours tenue par les représentants de ces pays-là qu'à l'aune des versements effectifs qu'ils ont faite ou vont faire à l'Organisation. On ne peut pas en effet-notamment sur un chapitre aussi important que le budget de l'Organisation-prendre au sérieux certaines déclarations selon lesquelles l'Organisation vit au-dessus de ses moyens, selon lesquelles on estime qu'il faut tenir compte impérativement du principe de la croissance zéro, alors que les auteurs de ces déclarations représentent des Etats qui n'ont pas versé et qui continuent de ne pas verser leurs contributions. Et je ne parle pas seulement des contributions de 1989 mais également de celles des années antérieures.

Voilà les réflexions que je voulais livrer en conclusion de ce débat. Bien entendu, je ne voudrais pas terminer sans lancer à nouveau un appel-un enième appel-à ces principaux contributeurs pour qu'ils s'acquittent de leurs contributions. Jusqu'à présent, malheureusement, ces appels, il faut bien le dire, n'ont guère été entendus. Espérons que la proximité de la Conférence et que la situation difficile que connaît et risque encore de connaître l'Organisation dans les mois qui viennent fera réfléchir ces pays et les incitera à aligner leurs actes sur leurs discours.

Atif Y. BUKHARI (Saudi Arabia): I do not wish to delve into the details of the Report submitted by the Finance Committee: nonetheless, I would like to tackle the scale of contributions for 1990-91 for this Organization.

The members of the Committee in fact unanimously expressed a certain concern about this scale, and I was one of those who qualified the method of use to determine scale as being somewhat faulty, and I also have criticism as to the procedure used for drawing up the scale of contributions. Perhaps it might be easier if the developing countries were to know exactly what the position is as we can see that the shares relative to their contributions are increasing constantly, whereas the contributions of the other countries seem to be dropping.

I am not trying to throw the blame on the Organization, nor would I be tempted to throw the blame on the Finance Committee and its members. Quite obviously this whole problem goes far beyond and surpasses the will of the Organization and of the Finance Committee.

The Finance Committee cannot change or alter or amend what has been agreed on within the UN system. On numerous occasions Council has recommended that the basic inspiration of what is applied in a general United Nations system should be accepted. On that basis we ask Council to forward to the United Nations, and especially to the United Nations Contributions Committee, our wish relevant to an overall review of the methods and procedures used in the establishment of this scale. We should call on that same Committee or Commission to develop criteria for a scale of contributions which could inject a greater degree of equality between the various members of the United Nations family, especially vis-a-vis developing countries, including therein statistical yardsticks or parameters which at all times give our representation of the economic situation affecting numerous countries throughout the world.

The United Nations Contributions Committee bases its considerations essentially on the per capita income in countries. That is a criterion which very often fosters distortions because per capita income cannot be looked at as an overall indication of an economic situation. My brother from the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya refers to the current situation affecting the petroleum exporting countries. If the average per capita income of oil-exporting countries were to surpass that which is evident in an average European country, quite obviously that would not really translate the real situation according to which that European country's position may be behind that of an exporting country-nor does this mean that the petroleum exporting country is better able to pay its contributions. There are many variables which have to be respected if people want to take an overall and objective look at the situation. One thing is a theoretical and mathematical model, but another is the national situation. We are deploying every effort, as is done by other developing countries, to increase our development. Obviously these efforts require the use of great potential. I do not want to boast about Saudi Arabia, but its contribution was increased for the last biennium, and for this year as well. We have foreseen for the new biennium 1990/91 that there will be a further increase in our contribution, and I can tell you, Mr Chairman, that this is a cause for concern. This is why we would very much like to see a review of the setting up of scales.

C. Srinivase SASTRY (India): We thank Mr Bukhari for his statement introducing the Report of the Finance Committee and the Assistant Director-General, Mr Crowther, for presenting the latest financial position of FAO and updating the figures contained in Document CL/95/LIM/1.

We congratulate the Finance Committee on its report and compliment it on its work during a period when the Organization has been passing through a difficult phase. We support the proposals of the Finance Committee about the scale of contributions for the biennium 1990/91, and also the Draft Resolution in paragraph 3.49.

However, we feel that the suggestion made by the delegate of the United Kingdom about adopting a different base period for the first and second years of the FAO biennium merits careful consideration as this would provide for considering more up-to-date statistical data reflecting recent economic changes. It was also mentioned that in at least two other organizations in the United Nations system this method is being followed. We request the Finance Committee carefully to go into this matter and make recommendations for consideration in the next meeting of the Council.

On the question of splitting the assessments into different currencies, this aspect is being gone into by one of the management consultants. Therefore, we feel that the recommendations should be awaited.

On the budgetary performance bearing in mind the financial situation of the Organization, we strongly support the conclusion of the Finance Committee in paragraph 3.26

"that the best approach, at this stage, continued to be the appeals to Member Nations"

as compared to other possible approaches. We also support the appeal of the Finance Committee contained in paragraph 3.27 "to all member nations".

We have followed with interest the views expressed on the ongoing study in the UNDP, by a group of four experts appointed by UNDP. Reacting to the Finance Committee's views, a suggestion was made by one of the delegates whether it would not be advisable to adopt a system in which each UN specialized agency like FAO bears its own support costs without endeavouring to get a support cost contribution from his sister UN agencies like UNDP. The logic of this argument seems to be that anyway it is the Member Nations who pay the support costs, be it in FAO, UNDP, or the other agencies in the system. We submit this proposition should be looked at in the background of the data contained in page 5 of document CL 95/3, which gives the detailed breakup over the last eight years of the different sources of funding for FAO field operations. We notice that by and large UNDP has been meeting only 50% of the total field operation costs of FAO, and for 1988 as much as US\$ 109 million out of US\$ 320 million has come from sources like the FAO and government cooperation programmes and unilateral trust funds. In this background we feel that there are certain advantages which would recommend the continuance of the current system.

First, having an external agency like UNDP or an independent group of experts to look at FAO project execution costs would possibly throw light on any hidden costs or inefficiencies in the ways of working, which would aid transparency in the work of FAO and bring the matter to the notice of the government bodies.

Secondly, when we have an independent body like the UNDP which is external to the FAO to focus on FAO's costs, we would have a better conscience in asking the other funding agencies to pitch their support costs at least on the same level as UNDP. We request the Finance Committee to go into this suggestion after it has been examined by the Secretariat.

I would also like to thank the host country on what it is doing to help FAO in terms of headquarters accommodation, as indicated in paragraphs 3.84 to 3.88. My delegation joins other delegations in thanking the host country for the excellent visit organized yesterday.

We support the Finance Committee in its observation in paragraph 3.95 dealing with the JIU study on the use of equipment provided to TCP in the developing countries. We endorse the suggestion that more emphasis should be laid on the supply of equipment from developing country sources. We also note that FAO was intent on increasing the supply of project equipment from developing countries wherever the available supply was judged appropriate and feasible.

On FINSYS/PERSYS, we have had reports that possibly the project was going slowly. However, we are happy and reassured to find from paragraph 3.107 that the project was proceeding on schedule and within the same fixed price as already decided.

Kota HIRAMURA (Japan): I am grateful to you, Mr Chairman, for giving me the opportunity to speak a second time. I sincerely apologise to other delegations that I have spoken twice.

On behalf of my delegation I would like to make a few comments on the Report of the 65th Session of the Finance Committee. First of all, with regard to the level of support costs for UNDP and the Trust Fund programmes which is at present being reviewed by a group of four experts appointed by UNDP we recognize that this very important review should be done very carefully with assistance from all the agencies concerned, one of which is FAO. Therefore, an internal, inter-departmental group constituted within FAO should play an important role in assisting UNDP in preparing the report with reference to the level of support costs. We request the Secretariat to provide us with sufficient information to examine the level of support costs, taking into account types of projects such as training, institutional assistance, and so on.

Secondly, with reference to paragraph 3.62, the Report points out the contribution of field projects to the regular programme. May I ask the Secretariat for further clarification of the way in which field projects contribute to the regular programme. In this regard, we think that FAO should promote field activities since the field programme is one of the major programmes of FAO.

Concerning the scale of contributions for the biennium 1990-91, at present the system has applied to FAO since 1955. It was reviewed and adopted by the FAO Conferences in 1975 and 1983. We have no objection to the recommendation of the Finance Committee for the scale of contribution in 1991 to be increased from 13% in the current biennium to 13.592 for Japan in 1991.

However, as for the proposal to urge the United Nations that further consideration be given to the provision of a scale based on balanced and up-to-date Information, we are of the view that such a proposal should be made to the United Nations after a thorough and precise study has been conducted, concluding by clarifying and analysing what kinds of programmes exist in the present United Nations' scale of assessments.

Finally, I would like to touch upon the cost increase which was already discussed in agenda item 14. The Japanese delegation shares with other delegations the view that a request for further information about details of the cost increase is needed. Therefore, we strongly hope such information of details will be included in the full Programme of Work and Budget, well in advance of the Conference, as clearly mentioned by Mr Shah in his explanation of agenda item 14, and that this information should be presented before us before the Conference for careful consideration by all of us.

Gérard BIRAUD (PNUD): Je voudrais remercier l'Ambassadeur Bukhari et le sous-directeur général Crowther pour la façon dont ils ont introduit ce débat sur le rapport du Comité financier, et je voudrais rappeler, sur l'un des points qui Intéresse particulièrement le PNUD au cours de ce débat et qui est le point 3.59 à 3.64 concernant les dépenses d'appui, les paroles de mon collègue qui est intervenu la semaine dernière dans le document CL 95/PV/8. Il était le dernier orateur à ce débat, et je ne saurais mieux que lui reprendre cette question des coûts d'appui qu'il a traitée à la fin de son intervention.

Je voudrais seulement assurer tous ceux qui ont évoqué cette question ce matin qu'ils ont été entendus et écoutés et entendus avec beaucoup d'attention. Je me ferai le transmetteur des différentes idées que j'ai pu entendre auprès du Siège du PNUD.

D'autre part je voudrais rassurer tous ceux qui ont souhaité très légitimement qu'un dialogue très approfondi se fasse, s'établisse entre nos deux institutions. Je puis leur dire que dans les semaines qui viennent le Groupe d'experts du PNUD aera en Europe pour prendre contact avec les différentes institutions des agences des Nations Unies et je pense que cette venue d Rome, notamment, donnera l'occasion à ses membres d'avoir un dialogue extrêmement fourni avec le Secrétariat qui a cependant entendu lui aussi et écouté avec beaucoup d'intérêt les Etats Membres.

Je voudrais dire que je suis convaincu (et le PNUD est convaincu) que ce dialogue sera considérablement facilité puisque au fond les deux institutions partagent pleinement un certain nombre de soucis et je me réfère notamment ici à ce qu'a dit le Représentant de la FAO ces jours-ci à New York au Conseil d'administration du PNUD.

D'abord le souci d'une coopération technique qui soit de la meilleure qualité, du meilleur rapport qualité-prix, du meilleur coût et avantage; une coopération technique dont nous savons les uns et les autres qu'elle évolue, qu'elle a déjà évolué et qu'elle doit encore évoluer. Nous partageons également la commune préoccupation de la pleine souveraineté des pays concernée et nous partageons enfin le souhait d'avoir renforcé leur capacité en matière d'assistance technique.

Je suis donc très confiant dans l'avenir de ce dialogue et j'apporterai peut-être simplement une note de prudence. Le précédent orateur vient de prononcer ce mot de prudence. Il y a un aspect de cette prudence qui ne vient à l'esprit en ayant écouté l'ensemble de notre discussion. Nous sommes, notamment, au bureau de Genève, bien placés pour observer les différentes institutions et leurs difficultés financières, institutions spécialisées des Nations Unies. Nous constatons une dégradation qui nous préoccupe, notamment en ce qui concerne le paiement des contributions. Ce n'est pas à une organisation ou aux représentants d'une organisation internationale telle que la mienne d'apprécier ou de porter des jugements, mais je voudrais simplement souligner que cette préoccupation, que cette déclaration ne devrait pas interférer dans la discussion que les deux secrétariats de nos institutions vont avoir ensemble. Car, à l'évidence, le PNUD ne peut, en aucun cas, être considéré comme responsable d'une telle situation.

Je pense donc que nous trouverons dans un approfondissement de ces principes auxquels nous sommes les uns et les autres attachés, les germes d'une solution qui fasse d'abord pleinement justice aux Etats Membres, aux Etats bénéficiaires, d'une coopération à laquelle nous collaborons ensemble. Je suis heureux que le cours actuel des relations entre le PNUD et la FAO encore une fois me permette d'avoir bon espoir à l'égard d'une situation qui satisfasse d'abord nos Gouvernements, parties aux deux institutions, l'ensemble des gouvernements bénéficiaires et donateurs, et qui satisfasse nos deux secrétariats.

Atif Y. BUKHARI (Chairman, Finance Committee) (original language Arabic): I would like to begin by thanking all my brothers and colleagues of the Council who have expressed their support of the Finance Committee's Report. I would also like to mention the proposals that have been made by the members of the Council. I can assure them that we have certainly taken note of their suggestions, and I will get into contact with the Secretariat so that we can take the necessary steps so as to prepare the documents on those suggestions. In this way, the Finance Committee will be able to study them at their next session.

D.K. CROWTHER (Assistant Director-General, Administration and Finance Committee): First, I would like to thank the members of the Council for their heartening remarks of support, both for the Finance Committee Report as well as for the strong appeal that has been made for all member countries to pay their contributions. I would particularly like to recognize the tremendous effort that has been made and put forth by a fairly large number of developing countries to pay their contributions, in extreme cases of economic poverty, in cases where hard currency is very difficult to come by. I am certainly heartened by the remarks and efforts that have been made there.

Secondly, I think it is important to recognize the statement made today by Japan. That is certainly heartening. We look forward to the efforts that the government will put forward to make a prompt payment as early as they possibly can. That, too, certainly will go a long way to help.

There were some specific questions raised by a few delegates. I will attempt to answer those that were specifically addressed to me, and Mr Shah, my colleague, will answer some of the other questions. We will divide them between us.

First, the delegate of the U.K. raised some questions I would like to address. The first one had to do with a contribution from the U.K. The statement was made that the U.K. would need information on cash requirements of FAO before the U.K. could decide when to pay. In this regard, I would just like to point out to all the members that the Basic Text in paragraph 5.5-and here let me quote-calls for "contributions and advances shall be due and payable in full within 30 days of the receipt of the communication of the Director-General referred to in Regulation 5.4 above or as of the first day of the calendar year to which they relate, whichever is the later". The Director-General was very concerned about putting out his call early, and he put it out in early December 1988 so that the contributions would fall due on 1 January. All members have the same obligation to pay, rather than to determine whether the FAO needs the cash or not.

Questions were raised concerning the Working Capital Fund and the Special Reserve Account and its replenishment.

Here again let me say that without going into the history of the establishment of both of those funds, but essentially they were established as safety nets to offset the needs of cash short falls, or in the case of the Special Reserve Account it has an additional purpose of offsetting monetary fluctuations due to staff cost variance. I might add Mr Chairman, that both of these funds, the Working Capital Fund and the Special Reserve Account, were well established to assist the

Organization in those cases when there has been a substantial short fall in contributions. The Special Reserve Account has that added dimension to assist the Working Capital Fund if needed. Fortunately, we have never had to call upon it for that reason, but it is a very important function of the Special Reserve Account.

Secondly the Director-General has not called for replenishment and reimbursement at this point in time, but with the contribution situation like it is certainly that could change, and we look forward to seeing how the contributions respond.

Mr Chairman, the UK delegate also raised a question on the UK scale, and a number of other delegates raised the same question. The scale, as adequately explained by Ambassador Bukhari, is established by the UN Committee on Contributions, and it does cover this ten-year rolling period and the current period ends in 1986. That does create a number of problems for member nations because, even though the information was requested in 1987 by the Committee on Contributions, it took members the better part of 1987 and some part of 1988 to submit the information to the UN so that it could be analysed. The UN did analyse it, and the Committee on Contributions pronounced it itself, and the resolution was passed by the General Assembly in December 1988. The problem that creates, as has been expressed, is that you are talking about economic data that runs through 1986 but will not be applied in our case until 1990/91.

We have taken due note of those concerns and the Council certainly remembers that in the last Conference that same reference was made in the Conference, and asked the Director-General to make those concerns known to the Committee on Contributions which he promptly did through the Secretary-General, and as a result of our concerns being raised, and those of many other UN agencies being raised, some consideration was given this time to the debt of a number of member nations. That methodology needs to be improved and the Finance Committee recognized that very strongly.

We will pass along these concerns, and I am sure those of the Finance Committee, to the UN so that further consideration may be given to improving the methodology where possible.

With regard to the UN scale itself, it is set for a three-year period, and because FAO operates on a two-year biennium there is a period every few years when we have to use the old scale before the new scale is adopted. A question was raised as to whether or not we could adopt the scale two bienniums from now for the biennium 1994/95 when this programme will next arise, and adopt it for one year. Mr Chairman, it is difficult for the Organization to adopt a scale for its biennium by piecemeal, not knowing where it will collect its contributions, and it would create a number of very serious problems for the Organization in the assessment and collection as has already been evidenced. We have enough serious problems in collecting contributions as it is. Our preference, Mr Chairman, would be to again reiterate the problem to the UN Committee on Contributions, and try and determine whether the methodology could be improved to overcome this problem, and then we can be back to the normal situation.

There was considerable discussion on support costs and the replacement programme that is underway, and while my colleague Mr Shah touches on that more specifically, I would like to just point out that while we recognize the need for such a study, and certainly FAO will participate heavily in every aspect of this study because it is extremely important to the Organization, we do report on a regular basis to the Finance Committee on the share of the Regular Programme that is necessary to subsidize a portion of the support costs, and while it may seem that our preoccupation is in collecting more on support costs, quite frankly the only thing we are attempting to do is to make certain we protect the Regular Programme while at the same time carrying out the basic objective of assisting the member nations in their development through various projects and the backstopping that is required to do that.

I can assure the Council, Mr Chairman, through you, that the Organization will do everything at its disposal to cooperate to find the best means possible in assisting the study group as they develop a programme for recommendation to the member nations. It is quite right that in the end it is member nations who decide. It is important to the FAO Council in that, for the moment at least, some portion-and it is becoming larger and larger each year in the Regular Programme-is used to subsidize a portion of support costs. We have concern over that and the Director-General has evidenced it on a number of occasions.

Mr Chairman, I think that covers the areas that I wanted to address myself to, and if I can I will ask you to give Mr Shah the floor.

V.J. SHAH (Assistant Director-General, Office of Programme, Budget and Evaluation): Mr Chairman, there are six questions which I have noted, raised either individually or by more than one member of the Council which, with your permission, I would like to address.

Firstly there was a question from the distinguished representative of the United Kingdom referring to the follow-up of JIU reports, and as we do recall, this was a question which was considered also in reference to the Programme Committee. My answer Mr Chairman, and let me add a personal note here-I happen to be the focal point in FAO for dealings with the JIU and this helps very much in ensuring that when JIU reports are considered by both of the Programme and Finance Committees, this continuity of contacts helps the Secretariat in drawing to the attention of the two Committees recommendations, not only in the reports before them but also of related reports which have been issued before.

It also helps the Secretariat, and I hope the Committees, in recalling recommendations of the JIU which the Organisation has undertaken to implement. To give you just one example: there was a report some years ago on cash managements in the UN system. This issue of cash management involved a certain number of recommendations. When the Finance Committee looks at items dealing with cash management, we make it a matter of course, to recall what had been recommended and what we had been expected to implement. Of course I cannot speak for the two Committees, but I hope this response of the Secretariat will be satisfactory.

Mr Chairman, a small number of références were made to the issue of the application of the lapse factor in the Programme of Work and Budget. I would only react at this stage by assuring those members who made comments, that the Finance Committee has not, as you will have noted, taken a position on the matter. It will revert to the matter at its September Session on the basis of a document which the Secretariat will provide, and I am sure that the Finance Committee will take into account the views which have been mentioned today. From the point of view of the Secretariat I do not wish to prolong or to harden the position by saying we insist or we will take a strong position on this or that aspect, so I trust Mr Chairman, that I do not need to elaborate too much on that.

However, one aspect which I would like to leave with the Council is that, in considering the filling of established posts let us all recall that under the system of Programme Budgeting, which you and the Conference decided upon almost two decades ago and which is in operation, our Programme of Work has to be implemented as approved with the resources as approved. Why do I say this? What is important Mr Chairman under programme budgeting is not that a post is filled. What is important is that the programme is carried out, and programme budgeting has the flexibility to provide that, as long as the programme is carried out-and that is the important point for member nations-it does not really matter whether it is carried out through the filling of one or more posts, or whether it is carried out through recourse to other expertise such as through consultancies or through contracts. I mention this only to recall an aspect which I do think we should all bear in mind.

Mr Chairman, the third point was in relation to the post adjustments and to the post adjustment multiplier. There were two or three distinguished representatives who referred to this point. Firstly I would like to reiterate my assurance that information on the cost increases will be given in more detail in the full Programme of the Work and Budget, so you need not have any fear there. But one distinguished representative-if I recall correctly that of Switzerland-referred to the table which appears under the section of Changes in Salary Scales and Allowances in the Finance Committee's Report and this appears under paragraph 3.79. In the English it is at the top of page 46. He referred to the fact that the index and the multiplier has shown certain decreases over the period December 1987 to January 1989. Mr Chairman, the first point I would like to make is that looking at the column of the index, please do bear in mind that the base of the index as given in that table changes from March 1988 onwards. That is to say for the first four months it is on a base of March 1983 to 100. Subsequently-it changes from April 1988-it is rebased on a scale of November 1987 to 100. That is why there is suddenly a difference. In March 1988 you are at an Index of 157.0, and then in April 1988 you are suddenly at 103.2.

The second point I would like to make is that the multiplier, that is in the last column of the table, deals with the currency factor on the post adjustment, and that is why it is important not only to look at the actual amount of the multiplier but to look at it in relation to the Lire/Dollar exchange rate, and that is why when the exchange rate was 1240 the multiplier was at one level and when it changes to 1400 or 1364 you see a different multiplier. But I think the core of the question is, has there been an increased cost or not, or has there been a currency gain or not, and my answer is there has been both. The currency gain has led to the crediting of the Special Reserve Account during 1988 with an amount of US\$ 2 984 000, so the changes in the currency had a positive factor. But then, as we discussed last Friday, and as it is given also in the Budgetary Performance Report, the staff cost variance deteriorated, declined-there was a negative variance-of US\$ 8 258 000 and that is an actual cost which has to be borne by the budget.

I think the Council may have assurance-et least there is no doubt on any part-that these matters we are perfectly ready to pursue with the Finance Committee and with yourselves and the opportunities are provided for this.

Then there were some references to the TCP and the observations were really of two aspects. One was whether the expenditure and obligations, commitments, under the TCP for the first year of the biennium 1988 in the amount of US\$ 9 370 000 is too low. Is there something wrong when you consider that the appropriations for this biennium is at a level of US\$ 63.1 million? Related to that there was at least one comment suggesting that care should be ensured in providing a prudent and a proper use of the TCP resources so that if the level of approvals is too low in the first year of the biennium that one should not press ahead to earmark and commit funds during the second year in order to show that the funds have been utilized.

The Secretariat wishes to be fully open and sincere in its response. I think our record of the TCP utilisation shows that we are prudent, that we do not rush to approve projects or to utilise resources just to show that the funds have been utilized. Let me give you one example of that. If you take that amount of the TCP appropriation that is underutilized after its due period and reverts to miscellaneous income, what is the pattern? Over the biennia since 1976/77 when the TCP was established from the appropriation relating to that first biennium the underutilised amount was US\$ 2 000. From 1978/79 there was nothing. In 1980/81 there was another US\$ 2 000. In 1982/83 there was US\$ 3 077. In 1984/85 it jumped up-I make no apology for it and I think it is good to show-to US\$ 6 824 000. I hope that proves my point.

Is the fact that only US\$ 9.4 million has been expended and committed a bad sign or a good sign? I would like to give you two points here. Firstly, we have to look at the part of the TCP appropriation that is set aside for approved projects each year, and what did we have at the end of 1988? At the end of 1988 40% of the biennium appropriation was set aside for approved projects. This to me is quite reasonable. Looking again over the past biennia, here was a low in one biennium of 25.5% and there was a high in only one biennium of 57%. In most biennia it has been about 40 to 45%. I think this is reasonable and the Secretariat should neither alarm you nor make any apology.

Secondly, the expenditures and commitments in the first year of the biennium are also at the same level. I am just giving you the figures going back. in the appropriation for 1986/7, out of US\$ 61.4 million, the expenditures and commitments were US\$ 10.6 million; 1984/85, US\$ 10.3 million; 1982/83, US\$ 9 million; 1980/81, US\$ 6.4 million. I hope you see the trend and perspective in which I would suggest this aspect be viewed.

The fifth point relates to the issue of the cost of implementing whatever recommendations may result from the review and as may be decided upon by the Conference. With all due respect, these matters were discussed under your item on the Review last Friday. I do not feel that it is necessary or appropriate for me to add anything more.

However, the representative of Switzerland suggested that the Finance Committee look into the feasibility or the desirability of a core budget. This suggestion finds favor of only one other representative, Australia, whose delegate said that he could see some merit in these suggestions, but did not press for any time specificity. I would like to recall that this question of core budget has been considered not only by the Council, but by the Conference on at least two occasions if my memory is correct, and most Member Nations have not accepted that it be done. I mention this because I would not like the Council to leave this discussion with any erroneous impression that the Council has changed its mind on the matter or that the Conference said otherwise. Certainly from the point of view of the Secretariat I have explained at earlier Council and Conference Sessions why we do not consider it feasible or desirable.

The final issue is support cost, which Mr Crowther said I would have something to say about. This is something on which not only he and I but our other colleagues including Mr Rinvile, the Assistant Director-General of the Development Department, have worked closely together on.

The first point I would like to emphasise is that from the point of view of the Council, and in fact from the point of view of all Member Nations, what are the issues that are in our minds most important? One is that the cost of implementing field activities be appropriate and realistic. It is not a question of our saying that we should push the costs to the maximum or should reduce them to a minimum. I do not think it can be taken in abstract. Field activities should have the right level of support. The right level of support from whose point of view? From the point of view essentially of the countries receiving the benefits of these activities. Of course, we should make sure that the costs are contained as much as possible, that we are as effective and efficient as possible, but nothing should be sacrificed to the quality and effectiveness of the field programme. I do not believe anyone would quarrel with that. The second point is who should pay for it? I think there again we can all agree that it is important to recognize that the costs as reasonable and realistic have to be provided for.

The third issue is who provides for them. Here I see that we have to face a number of different situations. The first situation is as regards UNDP, because for that field programme, which is funded by the UNDP and which is executed by FAO, the question comes, as initially raised by the representatives of the United Kingdom and then by others, that after all it is the member governments who pay for the support costs. They pay through two different channels. What is important from FAO's point of view? From the point of view of FAO the Member Nations should agree to reach a point on which they agree that the reimbursement should be met and in what proportions. But what is very important is that when the Member Nations agree that only a part of the support cost is going to be reimbursed through UNDP, then those same Member Governments must agree among themselves that the balance of the support costs have to be met through other means-through the Regular Budget.

The issue becomes a little more complicated, or it has different aspects, when you look at the issue of Trust Funds, because Member Nations may agree, since they are represented both in the UNDP and in the specialized agencies, that the balance of support cost reimbursement will be according to a certain formula for the UNDP. What about Trust Funds? For Trust Funds it would be, again, up to those in the FAO fora to say whether you decide to apply the same formula for the reimbursement of Trust Fund costs or not. This is why we in the Secretariat have always wanted to stress and to assure the Finance Committee and the Council, and eventually the Conference that these matters are not within the purview of anyone from outside FAO.

The point that the Director-General emphasized, as he did in 1981, is that whatever may be decided upon for support-cost reimbursement in the UNDP Governing Council, in which you have participated, the decision would be brought to the FAO Governing Bodies so that you may decide for FAO whether you accept it. The logic is that if Member Nations have accepted something, as regards UNDP support costs, in the forum of the UNDP Governing Council, I would find it difficult to see how they could not accept it in the forum of FAO. But the point has to be brought to you, especially because of the implication for the Trust Fund support costs.

I think that the only other factor is: are there decisions going to be taken in other fora which in a time frame will preclude the consideration of the matter in the FAO governing bodies?

From our point of view we intend to bring the matter to you with all of its developments and all of its options, at each stage, that is to say, in the Finance Committee in the September Session, to the Council in November with the report of the Finance Committee, and then to the Conference. Of course, at the time of the Conference the decisions of the UNDP Governing Council will not be taken, but what we will be able to indicate to you is what are the options that have been discussed, that have been considered, so as to seek the advice of the Conference and receive its instructions on where it wishes the FAO to react and in what form.

I have taken a lot of time; I hope I have done justice to the questions.

Igor MARINCEK (Switzerland): A point was made by Mr Shah on the question of core budgeting as raised by my delegation. I want to clarify. Two years ago the question which was discussed by this Council was different. There the suggestion was made to have a lower budget in accordance with the difficult financial situation.

The proposal made by my delegation does not point at all in that direction. Our suggestion is rather to create some provision, if this is considered to be necessary, for implementing the eventual recommendations following the FAO review. We think that this provision should be made within the proposed budget level.

I really would like to point out that the proposal does not at all suggest a budget decrease, as was the case with the core budgeting proposal two years ago. It rather aims at helping us to make the necessary reforms without adding to the burden of the member countries concerned, a burden that I think is felt by countries from different places of our membership.

LE PRESIDENT: Nous sommes arrivés à la fin d'une question très importante. Je crois être l'interprète du Conseil pour signaler que vous avez noté avec une vive préoccupation le montant élevé des arriérés de contributions et la cadence trop faible de versement des contributions. Cette situation risque de freiner vivement l'Organisation et de ne pas lui permettre de remplir sa tâche dans des conditions acceptables, surtout dans cette phase particulièrement importante pour la FAO.

Le Conseil lance encore une fois-et c'est son devoir-un appel pressant à tous les Etats Membres pour qu'ils versent aussitôt que possible leur contribution et qu'ils fassent connaître la date à laquelle ils entendent le faire, ce qui permettra à la prochaine Conférence de prendre, en toute connaissance de cause, les décisions qui s'imposent.

En ce qui concerne le barème des contributions, le Conseil approuve le projet de résolution présenté par le Comité financier pour le barème des contributions 1990-91 mais, comme l'a dit le Secrétaire général, il souhaiterait que cette question soit suivie auprès du Comité des contributions des Nations Unies pour aboutir à un barème plus adapté aux conditions économiques actuelles des pays membres.

En ce qui concerne les dépenses d'appui du PNUD, le Conseil a noté avec intérêt que de nouveaux arrangements pour le remboursement de ces dépenses entrera en vigueur en 1992. Il suivra avec attention les progrès de la Commission d'analyse de ces dépenses d'appui. A cet égard, il se félicite de la participation active de la FAO aux travaux de ce Comité. C'est une question très importante et nous espérons que le Conseil, lors d'une prochaine session, pourra être saisi de ce problème.

Je crois pouvoir dire également que le Conseil a adressé ses remerciements au Représentant de l'Italie pour l'effort d'élargissement des locaux du siège, qui a permis de faire démarrer ces travaux plus vite encore que prévu.

Enfin, le Conseil apporte son appui au rapport du Comité financier à la suite de sa soixante-cinquième session.

Si vous en convenez, nous pourrions arrêter les débats sur cette question très importante et nous pourrions, si le Conseil n'y voit pas d'objections, puisque nous sommes en avance, aborder cet après-midi le point 11: Faits nouveaux survenus dans le système des Nations Unies, qui était prévu pour demain matin. Le document relatif est le CL 95/17.

Amin ABDEL MALIK (Liban) (langue originale arabe): Je voudrais signaler que nous sommes rentrés hier soir à minuit de l'excursion organisée par le Gouvernement italien et que nous n'avons pas eu malheureusement beaucoup de repos. Je pense que nous devrions aborder ce point demain, comme prévu dans le calendrier.

LE PRESIDENT: La décision appartient au Conseil. Est-ce qu'il y a des objections à la proposition du délégué du Liban ?

C. Srinivasa SASTRY (India): I would submit that, as the time schedule has been adhered to, if it is possible to discuss any further items this course should be adopted, so that the work before us can be disposed of as quickly as possible.

Daniel D.C. DON NANJIRA (Kenya): Unfortunately I was not on the excursion-and it seems from what the distinguished delegate for the Lebanon says that I have missed a lot!-but I support his view that we discuss this item as scheduled. Some of us have been looking forward to debating it tomorrow. We will have no problem if you do bring it forward, provided that you allow us time to discuss it tomorrow. In that way, time will still be saved.

R.G. PETTIT (United Kingdom): In general, I would prefer that we do such business as we can, as there is now space available. The particular item which you suggest is one that can readily be divided, some speakers intervening this afternoon and some tomorrow. I would suggest that we allow those who are in a position to speak this afternoon to do so, and that we give those suffering from "bus lag" an opportunity to speak tomorrow.

LE, PRESIDENT: Je crois que l'on pourrait convenir d'une cote mal taillée. Nous allons nous réunir à 15 h 30, pour permettre, à ceux qui le désirent, de se reposer.

The meeting rose at 12.30 hours.

La séance est levée à 12 h 30.

Se levanta la sesión a las 12.30 horas.

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ORGANIZACION DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS PARA LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION

CL

CL 95/PV/12

Ninety-fifth Session

Quatre-vingt-quinzième session

95º período de sesiones

TWELFTH PLENARY MEETING
DOUXIEME SEANCE PLENIERE
120 SESION PLENARIA
(26 June 1989)

The Twelfth Plenary Meeting was opened at 15.30 hours Lassaad Ben Osman, Independent Chairman of the Council, presiding

La douzième séance plénière est ouverte à 15 h 30 sous la présidence de Lassaad Ben Osman, Président indépendant du Conseil

Se abre la 120 Sesión Plenaria a las 15.30 horas bajo la presidencia de Lassaad Ben Osman, Presidente Independiente del Consejo

Le RESIDENT: Honorables délégués nous reprenons la suite de nos travaux.

III. ACTIVITIES OF FAO AND WFP (continued)

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

III. ACTIVIDADES DE LA FAO Y DEL PMA (continuación)

11. Recent Developments in the UN System of Interest to FAO:

11. Faits nouveaux survenus dans le système des Nations Unies

11. Novedades recientes de interes para la FAO registradas en el sistema de las Naciones Unidas

Eberhard E. LUHE (Director, Office for Inter-Agency Affairs): It gives me great pleasure to introduce Item 11 on the agenda of the Council entitled "Recent Developments in the United Nations System of Interest to FAO". The Council has before it document CL 95/17, which has been prepared to provide an overview of developments since the last session of the Council in November 1988, when the item was discussed on the basis of a similar document.

As you may recall, the Council on that occasion expressed general satisfaction with the document. However, a few members suggested that a more analytical approach would have enhanced the usefulness of the document. This suggestion has been taken into consideration and the document is now more succinct, as I promised last time, and I hope Council will find it also more analytical, always bearing in mind that a full analysis of the technical subjects is really beyond the scope of this document and left to the relevant technical documents which are presented as appropriate to the various Committees and the governing bodies of FAO. The main purpose of this document is to report to the Council on developments regarding inter-agency cooperation of relevance to FAO.

Accordingly, there are numerous activities pursued on a daily basis which, of necessity, must remain unreported. As for the technical aspects of the subjects covered in this document of particular importance to FAO, these are analysed and brought separately to Council's attention, as needed. As the document before you is self-explanatory, I shall limit my introductory remarks to a few points of particular interest.

Since reporting at the last session of the Council, FAO has continued its close cooperation with the other organizations of the United Nations system on matters of mutual interest. Cooperation with sister organizations of the system is pursued through informal and formal channels, including the Administrative Committee on Coordination (ACC) and its so-called machinery. Our efforts in this regard are directed at enhancing the efficiency of the system and optimizing the use of resources.

The Director-General attended the first regular session of 1989 of ACC held in Geneva in April this year. He will also attend a special session of ACC in July in Geneva. This meeting has been convened at the special request of the Director-General and will deal exclusively with personnel matters, and more specifically with the comprehensive review of conditions of service of professional staff in the UN system, a review being undertaken by the International Civil Service Commission at the request of the United Nations General Assembly.

The other matter I wanted to highlight in the document is that the ACC Sub-Committee on Nutrition held its fifteenth session in February/March this year. As usual FAO played an important role in this Committee. The outcome of the session has been reported in the document before Council. FAO also provided leadership to the ACC Task Force on Rural Development and chaired its seventeenth meeting held from 31 May to 2 June 1989. A report on this meeting will be provided in our next document which will be submitted to the FAO Council and Conference in November this year.

Other subsidiary bodies of ACC in which FAO participated actively include the Consultative Committee on Substantive Questions with the terrible acronym CCSQ-OPS dealing with operational activities; the Consultative Committee on Administration Questions (CCAQ-PER) dealing with personnel questions which is now chaired by FAO, the ACC Inter-Secretariat Group on Water Resources, the ACC Task Force on Long-term Development Objectives, the ACC Task Force on Science and Technology for Development-you name them...!

FAO also participated in meetings of governing bodies of a number of United Nations organizations which were of particular interest to it. These include the fifteenth Ministerial session of the World Food Council held in Cairo from 22 to 25 May 1989 on which you will later hear an address by Mr Trant, the Executive Director of the World Food Council; the fifteenth session of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) held in Nairobi in May this year, and the Governing Council of UNDP being held in New York from 5 to 30 June 1989. We shall report on these meetings in greater detail at the autumn session of the Conference.

Nov I would like to refer to paragraph 70 of the document where Information is provided on the Japanese contribution of US\$10 million earmarked for FAO for Afghanistan. Meanwhile, four projects under this fund have now received the approval of the UN Coordinator and the Japanese Government. They relate to rehabilitation of agriculture, provision of essential agricultural inputs, and management support for agricultural rehabilitation, including the utilisation of funds for the transport and multiplication of the seeds provided by the Turkish Government. The Turkish Government has provided 35 tons of basic wheat seed as a gift to the people of Afghanistan, which on multiplication will yield 700 tons of certified seed.

Subsequent to the preparation of document CL 95/17 before you, there have been further developments with regard to a few items. These include the Uruguay Round of Multilateral Trade Negotiations, the Common Fund for Commodities, the International Development Strategy for the fourth United Nations development decade, and the Special Session of the General Assembly devoted to international economic cooperation. Since the technical aspects of these subjects are dealt with by the Economic and Social Policy Department I would request, with your approval, Mr Chairman, that Mr Dutia, the Assistant Director-General of the Department, inform you of the developments in detail.

Also, with regard to the proposal of the ACC Sub-Committee on Nutrition for convening an international conference on nutrition, as mentioned in paragraph 56 of the document before Council I would propose, with your approval, Mr Chairman, that Mr Lunven, Director of the Food Policy and Nutrition Division, who represented FAO at the Sub-Committee, explain to you in greater detail the background and the developments relating to this subject.

Before I conclude, may I say that I would be happy to provide any information or clarification which the members of the Council may wish to have in the course of their deliberations on this item.

B.P DUTIA (Assistant Director-General, Economic and Social Policy Department): With your permission, I take this opportunity to inform Council about interesting and important recent developments regarding the Uruguay Round of the GATT multilateral trade negotiations, the Common Fund of Commodities, the International Development Strategy, the Special Session of the General Assembly devoted to international economic cooperation as well as the programme of action for Africa's economic recovery and development.

Firstly, I refer to the recent developments concerning the GATT Uruguay Round in the sphere of agriculture and tropical products. This will supplement the information given in paragraphs 9 to 18 of document CL 95/17. As regards agriculture, the agreement reached by the Trade Negotiations Committee in early April contains two important details. One concerns the long-term elements of reform of agricultural policies, and the other concerns the short-term elements of such reform.

As regards the former, participants are invited to submit detailed proposals on a number of important subjects by December of this year. Substantive work on these subjects of long-term reform is expected to begin next month in the GATT Negotiating Group on Agriculture. As regards short-term elements of agricultural policy reform, participants are expected to submit notifications to reduce support and production levels for 1990 by October 1989. Then, starting no later than 1 December 1989 participants will report on their compliance with the agreed undertakings at six-monthly intervals.

The Trade Negotiations Committee meeting in April also endorsed the programme of harmonization of national regulations on sanitary and phytosanitary regulations as a long-term objective. This has substantial implications for the future work programmes of the FAO/WHO Codex Alimentarius Commission as well as FAO's International Plant Protection Convention. GATT action in this direction would strengthen the work of the Codex Alimentarius Commission by establishing Codex standards as a point of reference for the harmonization of national regulations. Relationships between the work of the Codex Alimentarius and the Uruguay Round are on the agenda of the meeting of the Commission in July of this year.

With regard to the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC), a technical meeting with Regional Plant Protection Organizations will be held in early September 1989 to obtain technical advice in defining FAO's specific involvement in the GATT efforts to remove undue barriers to trade arising out of phytosanitary regulations. Subsequently, Mr. Chairman, taking into account that all the IPPC signatories are expected to participate in the FAO Conference in November, the Director-General plans to arrange for discussion at that time of the implications of the proposals in GATT with a view to developing a stronger relationship between FAO and the GATT in this area.

I should also like to refer to some recent positive developments concerning tropical products in the Uruguay Round. Following the unblocking of the negotiations as a whole after the agreement in the meeting in April of the Trade Negotiations Committee, a large number of countries have now started implementing contributions already set out at the end of 1988, and the Negotiating Group on Tropical Products is moving ahead with further negotiations with a view to achieving the fullest liberalization of trade in tropical products, as agreed in the Montreal meeting.

Secondly, I should like to inform the Council of recent developments concerning the Common Fund for Commodities. This is referred to in paragraphs 19 to 22 of document CL 95/17. The representatives of the 64 States which had ratified the Agreement Establishing the Common Fund met in New York on 19 June, one week ago, and decided that the Common Fund would formally enter into force on that day, that is on 19 June 1989. The first meeting of the Governing Council of the Fund, which is a new specialized Agency of the United Nations family, has been scheduled for 10 to 21 July 1989 in Geneva. At this meeting the Governing Council is expected to elect the members of the Executive Board, appoint the Managing Director of the Fund and decide upon the location of its headquarters.

These developments concerning the Common Fund for Commodities are also of direct interest to FAO as noted in paragraph 22 of the document. The Committee on Commodity Problems which met from 12 to 16 June endorsed the requests of the Intergovernmental Groups on Hard Fibres, Bananas, Rice, Oilseeds, Oils and Fats, Meat, Tea and the Sub-Group on Hides and Skins to encourage the Director-General of FAO to approach the Common Fund when it becomes operational, requesting it to designate these Groups as eligible International Commodity Bodies (ICBs) for sponsoring and following up projects for their respective commodities which may be financed from the Second Account of the Common Fund. Finally, and for the sake of completeness only, as the Council has already discussed the matter, the Committee on Fisheries at its 18th Session, also reached a similar agreement regarding designation of the Sub-Committee on Fish Trade as an ICB on fishery commodities.

I will now report on recent developments concerning International Development Strategy referred to in paragraphs 23 to 25 and the Special Session of the General Assembly devoted to International economic cooperation which is referred to in paragraphs 26 to 30 of the document.

The two Committees of the Whole, to prepare for the International Development Strategy and the Special Session held their first substantive sessions early this month. These meetings provided the first opportunity to Member Governments to give their views on these exercises. I had the honour to represent FAO at both these meetings.

Concerning the Preparatory Committee for the Special Session, the discussion was based on a document entitled "Preliminary outline of the comprehensive report of the Secretary-General on the state of international economic co-operation, in particular on effective ways and means of revitalizing the economic growth and development of the developing countries". This document, inter alia, identified several issues that are important for the revitalization of growth and development. These were: strengthening International economic co-operation; reinstating the development objective; overcoming the debt crisis; enhancing financial flows to developing countries; towards international monetary stability; opening of markets and strengthening the trading system; encouraging regional and subregional co-operation among developing countries; Africa and sustained development and the environment. During the debate there was broad agreement for the Special Session to address a number of these areas, but the final decision on the agenda for the Special Session is yet to be taken.

The Chairman of the Preparatory Committee, Ambassador Constantine D. Zepos of Greece has been invited to conduct informal consultations with the various delegations to prepare for the Special Session and the Report to the U.N. General Assembly Session later this year. The second session of the Preparatory Committee for the Special Session will be held from 26 February to 3 March 1990.

Concerning the International Development Strategy, the ad hoc Committee of the Whole had before it a number of documents addressing the issues that might need to be covered. These included: a report from the ACC Task Force on Long-term Development Objectives which had been prepared by the Secretariats of the UN system and to which FAO had contributed; a report by the Committee for Development Planning, a group of independent advisers appointed by the Secretary-General, a note by the UNCTAD Secretariat and a Report by the Secretary General. The latter summarized the tentative general conclusions concerning the building blocks of an IDS as follows: International economic relations; acceleration of socio-economic progress on a wide front; developing countries' debt, market access and financial flows for development; development of human resources with emphasis on women and youth, education, health, employment and food security; and environment.

As in the case of the Special Session, there was a broad measure of consensus on a number of these areas, but no final decision has been reached. The ad hoc Committee will hold its second session from 11 to 15 September of this year.

FAO's mandate and acknowledged expertise and experience in the crucial sectors of agriculture, forestry, fisheries, food and nutrition and rural development make its contributions particularly important in the preparations for both the International Development Strategy and the Special Session. In view of the undisputed importance of the food and agriculture sectors in the great majority of the developing countries for socio-economic development, for eradicating poverty and hunger and for ensuring food security, FAO's contributions would be of particular relevance in the preparation of a strategy which focuses on the revitalization of economic growth together with the stress on objectives in the areas of human resources, reduction of poverty and undernutrition,

Protection of the environment and sustainable development.

FAO has already contributed to the preparatory work undertaken so far in the UN system at the Secretariat level as well as that of the ACC. In addition, for preparing further contributions, the Director-General has initiated work for the preparation of a long-term strategy for the food and agriculture sector for the 1990s and beyond. This should provide a framework for preparing the FAO contributions, to both the Special Session of the General Assembly and to the International Development Strategy. An outline of the Strategy with a tentative preview of the main contents will be submitted to the 25th Conference and the full Strategy document for the food and agriculture sector will be submitted to the 98th session of the Council in November 1990. On the basis of this framework, and in the course of its preparation, appropriate inputs will be prepared for submission to the Special Session of the General Assembly and to the International Development Strategy.

Let me now report on recent developments concerning the U.N. Programme of Action for Africa's Economic Recovery and Development. As indicated in para. 38 of the document, FAO is very closely engaged in a cooperative system-wide monitoring/assessment programme. At the recent meeting of Interagency Task Force in Geneva in May, FAO has been confirmed as the lead agency for the preparation of the monitoring/assessment reports, covering all aspects of development in six important areas directly related to agriculture; and these are intensified efforts for early warning systems; national food security arrangements; food processing and other agro-based industries; strengthening capacity of African women farmers; agricultural investment; and structural change in agriculture. In addition, FAO will contribute to the preparation of about 10 reports for which a lead role has been assigned to other agencies.

FAO is also a member, together with ECA, World Bank and UNCTAD of an inter-agency group that has been set up to prepare the draft of the Secretary-General's final report to the UN General Assembly on the implementation of UNPAAERD. FAO also serves as a member of the Preparatory Committee for an International Conference on Popular Participation in the Recovery and Development Process in Africa which will be convened in 1990.

Finally, as reported in paragraph 39, FAO continues to support the eminent Group of Experts established by the UN Secretary-General for the assessment of prospects for African commodities and scope for export diversification. This Group of Experts, which is chaired by Mr. Malcolm Fraser, former Prime Minister of Australia, at its first meeting drew up a list of studies to be considered by the Group during 1989. FAO has agreed with the request of the group to prepare four of these studies, and the work is underway. Mr. Fraser will discuss on 13 July this subject with the Director-General including modalities of FAO's support.

F. LUNVEN (Directeur de la Division des politiques alimentaires et de la nutrition): Je suis heureux d'avoir l'occasion de dire quelques mots au Conseil à propos de la Conférence internationale sur la nutrition dont M. Lühe a parlé, il y a quelques instants, et dont il a été fait mention pour la première fois lors de la quinzième session du Sous-Comité du Comité administratif de coordination (CAC) sur la nutrition.

La nutrition est l'un des grands domaines d'activité de notre Organisation. Mandat lui en a été donné dans l'Acte constitutif même de la FAO qui a, entre autres objectifs principaux, celui "d'élever le niveau de nutrition des populations". La FAO est d'ailleurs la seule organisation du système des Nations Unies à savoir une division entière pour traiter de ces problèmes. La FAO n'a cependant pas et ne prétend pas avoir l'exclusivité ni le monopole en matière de nutrition. C'est un domaine très vaste, qui peut relever des compétences des autres organisations à l'intérieur même du système des Nations Unies: l'OMS, bien sûr, où la nutrition joue un rôle clé dans la santé publique, mais aussi des organisations comme la Banque mondiale, l'UNICEF, le PNUD, l'Unesco, etc.

Afin d'harmoniser les différentes activités menées à l'intérieur du système des Nations Unies en matière de nutrition, le Comité administratif de coordination, organe suprême de coordination interinstitutionnel où siègent les chefs exécutifs de tous les organismes du système des Nations Unies, sous la présidence du Secrétaire général des Nations Unies, a créé un sous-comité qui se consacre entièrement aux questions de nutrition. C'est au sein de ce sous-comité que les institutions spécialisées du système réfléchissent ensemble sur les grandes orientations à donner en la matière. C'est là que sont mûries les principales initiatives dans cet important secteur.

Lors de sa quinzième réunion tenue cette année, en février, à New York, le Sous-Comité a retenu l'idée d'une conférence internationale sur la nutrition, la malnutrition étant encore, hélas, l'un des grands scandales de notre temps. Cette initiative fera l'objet d'une proposition formelle pour examen, en octobre, par le Comité administratif de coordination.

Le Directeur général a par ailleurs reçu récemment une lettre du Directeur général de l'OMS proposant une action conjointe pour promouvoir cette initiative. Dans sa réponse, le Directeur général a indiqué que la question serait soumise sans plus tarder au Conseil de l'Organisation. La FAO, en effet, loin de vouloir se dérober à ses responsabilités primordiales en la matière, considère qu'il est de son devoir de prendre le flambeau en s'assurant de l'étroite collaboration de l'OMS et des autres organisations qui ont pu leur mot à dire en matière de nutrition.

Tous les Indicateurs démontrent que la malnutrition a progressé au cours des années 80 dans de très nombreux pays, contrairement à ce qui s'était produit au cours de la décennie précédente. La malnutrition restera sans aucun doute l'un des grands problèmes des années 90, et ceci largement jusqu'à l'an 2000.

J'ai cru important d'attirer l'attention du Conseil sur cette initiative, qui a reçu l'approbation de principe de l'ensemble des organisations intéressées à l'intérieur du système des Nations Unies, afin que le Conseil puisse nous encourager à négocier avec nos partenaires du Comité administratif de coordination, et en particulier avec l'OMS, toutes les dispositions nécessaires à la tenue de cette importante conférence. A cet égard, le Directeur général a l'intention d'en discuter en détail avec le Dr Namakajima, Directeur général de l'OMS, au cours de sa prochaine visite à Genève au début du mois prochain.

Le Directeur général entend présenter un document détaillé sur cette question à la prochaine session de la Conférence, en novembre. Ce document analysera tous les aspects du projet afin que la Conférence puisse décider si la FAO peut tenir la première conférence Internationale sur la nutrition, en coopération avec l'ensemble des organisations intéressées, et en particulier l'OMS, au cours de l'exercice budgétaire 1992-93. Les préparatifs commenceront au cours du prochain exercice sans pour autant solliciter des ressources financières nouvelles autres que celles qui sont déjà inscrites dans le budget de la Division des politiques alimentaires et de la nutrition pour 1990-91. La conférence aurait lieu à Rome, au siège de l'Organisation, pour mieux marquer le rôle de la FAO en la matière et restreindre les dépenses au maximum.

LE PRESIDENT: Je remercie le Docteur Lunven de son Intervention.

Je vais demander au Conseil de prendre position, avant la prochaine Conférence de la FAO, sur le principe de la Conférence internationale de la nutrition, qui pourrait avoir lieu au cours de l'exercice 1992-93 en relation avec l'OMS. L'avis du Conseil est formellement requis sur ce point.

Gerald Ion TEAR (United Nations World Food Council): Distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen, I am pleased to have the opportunity of addressing this ninety-fifth session of the FAO Council and, in the context of agenda item 11, "Recent developments in the UN system of interest to FAO", of bringing to your attention the results of the fifteenth ministerial meeting of the World Food Council, which was held in Cairo last month and chaired by Mr. Eduardo Pesqueira Olea of Mexico.

In their "Cairo Declaration", which embodies the conclusions and recommendations from that meeting, Council ministers expressed their frustration and impatience that efforts to date to eliminate hunger and poverty had fallen short of what can be done, and urged the international community to strengthen both political determination and practical measures to more effectively combat the scourge of hunger and poverty throughout the world.

May I outline the main proposals in the Programme for Co-operative Action which was placed before ministers in Cairo, and which they wished to see attached to the report of the World Food Council's fifteenth session. I believe this Programme represents an important step towards a truly global effort in the fight against hunger.

The Programme includes a number of social, economic and political measures to reverse the trend of growing hunger and malnutrition. It recognizes that hunger is a complex phenomenon, and that each country must determine how to address the problem in the context of its own national uniqueness. Accordingly, the Programme's guidelines provide a framework for structuring the social and economic activities of Governments, international organizations and non-governmental organizations, so that they can step up their efforts against hunger and poverty.

An important feature of the Programme of Action is the recommendation that the Council members themselves serve as an example to the rest of the world by putting in place effective programmes to provide food security for their people. The Programme recommends that the improvement of the human condition be the central objective of development; hence its emphasis on social and economic measures to benefit the hungry poor.

Specifically, the Programme proposes national and International action directed at: improving access to food; increasing food production; directing the benefits of economic growth to the poor; improving the international economic and political environment (through action in the fields of trade, aid, debt, resource flows, South-South cooperation, peace and reduced military spending, and international action to meet food emergencies). In this respect, Council members and the international community should seek to achieve, over the next decade: a reduction in chronic hunger and the virtual elimination of major nutritional deficiency diseases, as well as the reduction of malnutrition and mortality among young children and the elimination of starvation and death caused by famine.

Council ministers noted the extreme importance of human resource development, particularly in the area of food policy management. They welcomed the initiatives undertaken by the World Food Council in this area within the framework of the United Nations Programme of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development and urged the World Food Council to continue its useful efforts in this direction.

The Programme of Co-operative Action recognizes that, while every Government can and must undertake initiatives of its own to fight hunger, the greatest good will clearly be done if Governments work together co-ordinating their efforts to maximize impact. In this spirit, World Food Council member States recommended: to provide food security for all their people and, by joining forces in a co-operative effort, to assist each other, and other countries, in the fight against hunger and malnutrition.

The Programme also recommends measures to facilitate the safe transport of humanitarian food aid to people in need and for the pre-positioning of food supplies to meet emergencies, while working towards International agreements in these areas.

At the same time, the Programme of Co-operative Action calls for a greater focus and co-ordinated support by bilateral and multilateral agencies to social objectives. It recommends that bilateral and multilateral agencies focus more directly on:

Programmes related to areas which would promote the implementation of economic and social policies of direct benefit to the poor, and having a clear impact on their food security;

Supporting programmes leading to increased production of "self-targeting commodities";

Co-ordinating their activities more effectively in creating an awareness of, and developing expertise in, food policy management issues, as was promoted by the World Food Council in Africa.

Finally, the Programme stresses that the level of political support to the eradication of hunger and malnutrition must be raised, both nationally and internationally. At the international level, hunger and poverty elimination should be a major theme on the agenda of the United Nations General Assembly Special Session on International Economic Co-operation, to be held in April 1990.

As the Special Session provides a unique opportunity for policy review and co-ordination, the inclusion on the agenda of an item on hunger and poverty would highlight the significance of hunger and poverty elimination for sustainable economic development, providing a strong impetus to effective policy action.

In addition, the Programme stresses that the International Development Strategy for the 1990s should also envisage as a central objective the eradication of hunger and poverty. The reduction and eradication of hunger and poverty within a supportive policy environment will be the key to the success of any integrated approach.

Since the Cairo meeting, the World Food Council President, Deputy Prime Minister of Egypt Mr. WALLY and I, have already consulted with a number of member **governments** and the heads of United Nations and other international organizations, seeking their informed advice on the work now to be undertaken. The Programme for Co-operative Action recognizes that FAO will continue to play a central role in the struggle against hunger, malnutrition and poverty. The contribution of this organization, with its vast expertise and broad outreach, will be of prime importance in forging an ongoing co-operative programme of practical and effective action.

On behalf of World Food Council ministers, I thank you for the opportunity of presenting the results of their deliberations in Cairo to this important forum, and wish you every success in your work at this meeting.

Gonzalo BULA-HOYOS (Colombia): Como siempre, nuestro amigo Eberhard Luhe hizo una magnífica presentación de este documento. Las declaraciones de los Dres. Dutia y Lunven actualizaron la situación, pero tal vez también habría sido conveniente que se hubieran referido a la Tercera Reposición de los recursos del Fondo Internacional de Desarrollo Agrícola (FIDA), Tercera Reposición que se logró a principios de este mes de junio a un nivel insatisfactorio, en condiciones difíciles, pero que por lo menos se obtuvo.

La información del Sr. Lunven acerca de la posible Conferencia sobre Nutrición nos parece interesante. Obviamente nuestra reacción es muy preliminar, pero celebramos que la FAO coopere con la OMS y con las demás organizaciones competentes en esa iniciativa.

Hemos escuchado con placer la intervención de nuestro distinguido amigo el Sr. Gerald Trant, Director Ejecutivo del Consejo Mundial de Alimentación. Tuvimos el placer de asistir a la última reunión del CMA en El Cairo, bajo la Presidencia, siempre competente, de nuestro distinguido colega y amigo el Embajador Eduardo Pesqueira, de México; y, naturalmente, como lo ha dicho el Sr. Trant, los representantes de Colombia también sentimos, como lo expresaron los Ministros en la declaración de El Cairo, frustración e impaciencia por la falta de voluntad política, que no permite contribuir a la solución de los problemas del hambre, de la pobreza y de la malnutrición.

Convendrá reconocer que el CMA, no obstante su reducida Secretaría y los escasos recursos de que dispone, viene haciendo esfuerzos para cumplir los objetivos que se le han confiado. Sin embargo, quienes venimos participando en esas reuniones, podemos notar que ya la iniciativa de Chipre contra el hambre, que tanto nos había entusiasmado, comienza a desaparecer. Ahora volvemos nuestros ojos hacia las Pirámides y la Esfinge la declaración de El Cairo, y así seguiremos en el futuro, como lo vamos a demostrar a través de esta intervención.

En efecto, una breve ojeada a este documento indica claramente que en todo el Sistema de las Naciones Unidas los acontecimientos siguen siendo desfavorables, como siempre, para los países en desarrollo. Del párrafo 9 en adelante, la Ronda Uruguay, a traspies, sigue el "suspense" creado en Montreal en diciembre pasado-"por falta de consenso", dice el párrafo 13-, lo cual se compensa un poco con la información reciente del Dr. Dutia sobre ciertos acuerdos preliminares y algunos plazos que ojalá se cumplan y no se queden escritos. El párrafo 17 hace referencia a los objetivos de la Ronda Uruguay, que están muy lejos de lograrse: "la mayor liberalización del comercio de productos agropecuarios".

Esperamos que la participación de la FAO pueda contribuir a que en realidad la Ronda Uruguay cumpla su cometido y que también la participación de nuestra Organización, como lo dijo el Sr. Lunven, nuestro Director de la División de Nutrición y Política Alimentaria, pueda igualmente influir para que se vayan eliminando las medidas limitativas sanitarias, que han interferido la penetración de nuestros productos de exportación a los mercados industrializados.

El Fondo Común para los Productos Básicos, desde 1980, hace nueve años, estábamos esperando que comenzara; parece que ahora, gracias a la decisiva intervención de la Unión de Repúblicas Socialistas Soviéticas, podría empezar a funcionar.

El párrafo 20 decía-decía, repetimos-que "aún se debía adoptar una decisión sobre la fecha de entrada en vigor"; el Dr. Dutia nos ha animado un poco; empezó ya el 19 de junio de este año; del 10 al 21 de julio se va a reunir en Ginebra el Consejo de Gobernadores y, en fin, algunas luces, aunque sean tenues, de esperanza se asoman en el porvenir. La referencia del Sr. Lunven, párrafo 70, sobre la contribución del Japón, es también uno de los pocos hechos positivos. El párrafo 35 dice que "no obstante los esfuerzos realizados por los países africanos, en general la situación económica de Africa continúa siendo crítica". Esperamos que la participación de FAO en estas actividades pueda contribuir también a que se mejore esa situación de los países africanos.

El párrafo 63 hace referencia al Plan Especial de Cooperación Económica para Centroamérica. No hubo ninguna actualización a este respecto; por ello nos complace que la FAO haya, como dice el documento, garantizado al PNUD su total colaboración en la ejecución del Plan. Pero como estamos cansados de promesas, quisiéramos preguntar: ¿Cuándo y cómo se estaba concretando esa cooperación entre la FAO y el PNUD en favor de los países centroamericanos? ¿Está ya la FAO participando concretamente en proyectos del PNUD en favor de Centroamérica? Los representantes de Colombia pedimos que este Consejo solicite en su informe el pleno apoyo de la FAO a ese Plan en favor de Centroamérica. Colombia como miembro del Grupo de Contadora y del grupo de los Ocho, está comprometida a fortalecer los empeños que se hagan en favor de la paz y la recuperación económica de los países centroamericanos.

A partir del párrafo 23, se habla de la Estrategia Internacional del Desarrollo; la cuarta, para quienes ya hemos participado en otras tantas anteriores. Se trata ya del cuarto decenio de las Naciones Unidas, cuando la evaluación de la tercera y de todas las anteriores han dado siempre resultados completamente negativos. Lo importante es redactar, escribir, elaborar estrategias; no

importa que no produzcan ningún resultado positivo.

Entre las cuatro presentaciones que oímos esta tarde, nos alarmó-usamos este término de manera muy cordial-una serie de referencias a informes, reuniones y conferencias. Realmente, todo ello indica que hay mucha literatura y mucha retórica pero poca realidad en las actividades que se cumplen en el seno de las Naciones Unidas.

Esta tarde, antes de entrar a esta Sala Roja, un distinguido colega, que es modesto observador, me hizo ver una importante publicación, cuyo editorial se titula "Los mercados de las ilusiones", y es interesante esa publicación, porque, justamente como resultado de la frustración de todo este proceso al cual estamos haciendo referencia, un grupo de economistas africanos ha conseguido la iniciativa de reunir- paralelamente al encuentro de los siete Jefes de Estado o de Gobierno más ricos del mundo, que tendrá lugar en julio entrante en París-, reunir a los siete Jefes de Estado o de Gobierno de los siete países más pobres del mundo.

Pensamos que seguramente la constatación de todos esos fracasos ha determinado, según el párrafo 26 y seguidos, el periodo extraordinario de sesiones de la Asamblea General, dedicado a la cooperación económica internacional, y en especial a la revitalización del crecimiento económico y el desarrollo de los países del Tercer Mundo", términos que suenan sumamente agradables.

Temas como éste, acontecimientos recientes en las Naciones Unidas, nos hacen reflexionar para pensar cómo es posible que todavía haya algunos,-pocos, afortunadamente-Estados industrializados, que siguen actuando en búsqueda sólo de su propio beneficio, muchas veces a expensas de los intereses-las aspiraciones y las necesidades del Tercer Mundo. Los representantes de Colombia somos conscientes de que la lucha contra la pobreza es un problema a muy largo lazo, que no se va a resolver en cinco o diez años, sino que se extenderá por dos o tree generaciones, cuarenta o cincuenta años en el porvenir.

El Presidente de Colombia, Virgilio Barco, en su presentación como Jefe de Estado ante la Asamblea General de las Naciones Unidas, enunció como uno de los objetivos del Gobierno colombiano, la lucha por erradicar la pobreza absoluta, y nuestro Jefe de Estado ha puesto en práctica ese propósito, mediante reuniones internacionales importantes y acciones específicas.

En el contexto de las Naciones Unidas, es tan grave la situación de injusticia para el Tercer Mundo y tan ancha y creciente la brecha que separa el Norte del Sur, que ayer, en nuestro reposo dominical,-porque no tuvimos el privilegio de ir a la excursión-, nos impresionó, una vez más, en sus acostumbradas giras, Su Santidad el Papa, Juan Pablo II, líder espiritual de profunda conciencia humana y social, quien ha hecho afirmaciones que vamos a citar, con la venia de Monseñor Ferrari Tognioli y Monseñor Bernardi, observadores de la Santa Sede. El Papa ha dicho: "Es necesario denunciar la existencia de unos mecanismos económicos, financieros y sociales, los cuales, aunque manejados por la voluntad de los hombres, funcionan de modo casi automático, haciendo más rígida la situación de riqueza de los unos y de pobreza de los otros. Estoe mecanismos, maniobrados por los países más desarrollados, de modo directo o indirecto, favorecen, a causa de su mismo funcionamiento, los intereses de los que los maniobran, aunque terminan por sofocar o condicionar las economías de los países menos desarrollados."

La batalla por el crecimiento económico de los países en desarrollo por la superación del subdesarrollo, con todas sus consecuencias de pobreza, hambre y malnutrición, es el gran desafío del futuro. En los últimos años, la paz universal tiende a consolidarse, sobre todo por una política clara y definida de uno de los grandes países del mundo. Pero los representantes de Colombia pensamos que nunca podrá lograrse cabalmente, mientras subsistan los factores de pobreza, angustia y desempleo, que tan profundamente afectan al 80 por ciento de la población del mundo.

Los países desarrollados deberían darse cuenta de que no podrán disfrutar plenamente de sus sociedades de consumo y de todos los privilegios que han conquistado dentro de una sociedad inigualitaria e injusta, mientras subsistan esas desigualdades e injusticias, que constantemente causarán conflictos regionales con proyecciones universales que amenazan seriamente la paz y la seguridad de todos.

En este Consejo los representantes de Colombia hemos oído en varios temas la voz autorizada y muy genuina de nuestra colega y amiga la Embajadora Fermín Gómez, de Venezuela, quien nos ha hablado basada en una experiencia y un conocimiento directo. Ojalá nos induzca a la meditación.

Los representantes de Colombia pensamos que para combatir la pobreza y lograr su crecimiento económico, los países en desarrollo necesitan de ingresos y no de paliativos en forma de préstamos o asistencia. La eliminación del proteccionismo de los subsidios y de todas las otras barreras que distorsionan un libre comercio internacional, tendría mucho mayor impacto favorable en las economías de nuestros países que cualquier nivel de préstamos y de asistencia.

Todos los hechos a que se refiere este documento confirman, una vez más, que para los países en desarrollo, los años 80 han sido un decenio completamente perdido. Circunstancias, nombres y hechos los identificarán y juzgará la historia.

Esta declaración es una mínima parte del testimonio de una larga aunque modesta experiencia en el seno de las Naciones Unidas, con un resultado decepcionante y triste, pero con una fe profunda e inquebrantable en el futuro mejor de los países en desarrollo.

R.G. PETTIT (United Kingdom): I thank Dr. Luhe for document CL 95/17. I am grateful to him and to his colleagues for the information updating the paper and also for the address by Mr. Trant. Papers in this series have in recent years been clearly and objectively written, and have performed well their original function of providing information to the Council on developments in the United Nations system. This paper is better than previous ones, because attempts have been made to make it more succinct. However, in case there are further attempts to structure a successor paper differently, I would wish to point out two functions performed by such a paper which are perhaps more important than the original, and possibly now rather old fashioned ideas of keeping the Council generally informed of events in other bodies. We should make sure that papers in the series serve usefully both these purposes.

One purpose is to make sure that the Council is aware of the extent to which FAO's membership of the United Nations system places burdens and responsibilities on the Organization. This is important, both so that we recognize the cost and size of this burden in deciding the budgetary allocation, and so that we, as Member States of the United Nations family, can be reminded that it is also our job to ensure that in other bodies burdens are not unnecessarily imposed on FAO. I have in mind such things as unnecessary reports.

Secondly, we need such a report as a way of ensuring that FAO responds to the requirements of the UN system, and is a cooperative participant. It is a matter of special concern to the British Government that FAO should be such a collaborative body, especially in ways which make the contribution of the United Nations system to development stronger by harmony between the parts. In this connection it is important that the practice of quoting the General Assembly and ECOSOC resolutions continues: we have already I think dropped the habit of quoting the resolutions in full.

The Council will, as the Report says, be taking some of the objectives covered under action items, so I shall save most comment until then and deal mainly with Operational Activities (paragraphs 4-8) and the proposed new International Development Strategy (paragraphs 23-25).

As to Operational Activities, we Members are looking forward to the Triennial Review of Operational Activities in ECOSOC. Whether or not we agree with the robustly expressed opinion that the Director-General made last week about the value of ECOSOC work, there must surely be agreement that the Triennial Review in ECOSOC and subsequently in the General Assembly is important. It brings together the international communities' thinking on many issues of importance to the effectiveness of the work of the UN system in the field. There has been much work by the Secretariat for the system and by the Governing Bodies, dealing with such issues as coordination, the role of the Resident Coordinator, central programming, harmonization of procedures, and procurement, all following General Assembly Resolutions 42/196 and 43/199.

In order to ensure that Member Countries in ECOSOC take account of the FAO aspect, I would repeat the request I made last November. In addition to the FAO responsibility on the Jansson Report, which we prepared last year and which of course we have, could either the Council as a whole or interested Member Countries—and this includes the United Kingdom—be informed of or shown copies of key submissions made by the Secretariat to the Director-General for the development of International economic cooperation for the purposes of his Report to the Triennial Review, notably on the subjects mentioned in paragraph 4 of CL 95/17.

Secondly, I turn to the proposed International Development Strategy. Here again a General Assembly Resolution asks governing bodies of the United Nations system to consider their input into the preparation of an IDS. It is appropriate that this issue should be on the agenda of the Conference, if this meets the necessary planning deadlines—and I understand from Mr. Dutia's remarks today that it does so. Much inter-Secretariat activity has been carried out on this, and I was in fact going to ask the Secretariat if they could give orally an account of the contributions which have been made by FAO to inter-Secretariat discussions, and also to indicate what sort of documentation they would hope to provide for the Conference. I think that Mr. Dutia has to a large measure answered my queries, although perhaps he went a little fast for me and I must study his remarks when I see the verbatim.

May I just check on one point? Has the approach of FAO been in keeping with the emerging consensus that the strategy for the fourth decade should emphasize the human aspect of development and concentrate on improving the capacity of governments and people to manage their development?

On the presentation of papers to the Conference, am I right in thinking that the idea is that there will be a draft of the agricultural element in a strategy prepared by the Secretariat without prior member involvement placed before the Conference for consideration? If this is the plan, the paper should be made available at a very early stage so as to allow the membership to be able to give guidance and redraft any FAO input.

I agree with the point made in paragraph 40 that the planned contribution by FAO to the preparation of an IDS can form the basis of the preparatory work for the special Session of the General Assembly to be devoted to international economic cooperation.

My delegation notes with approval the report in paragraph 69 and adjacent paragraphs on the work in FAO in cooperation with the Resident Coordinator in Afghanistan in the international community's attempts to help the people of that country. It is an attempt in which many of us are involved as bilateral donors as well as contributors to the United Nations system.

Finally, Mr. Chairman, on the specific request which you have just made for the Council to give a view on the proposed International Nutrition Conference, I am sorry that my delegation was not aware that a decision was being sought in this Information paper or, I suppose, in paragraph 56 which covers it. Consequently we are not yet in a position to agree to the Council expressing any particular view. Other delegations may be in the same position. I would therefore suggest that this matter be held over till later in the Council to allow for necessary consultations. Also, to make it perhaps simpler, we could see on the paper precisely what we are invited to approve.

Gian Luigi VALENZA (Italie): Je voudrais avant tout me féliciter avec les trois orateurs qui ont pris la parole sur le point que nous sommes en train d'examiner: Monsieur Luhe, Monsieur Dutia, Monsieur Trant. Je tiens à dire publiquement à Monsieur Trant que malheureusement je n'ai pas pu participer cette année à la réunion du Conseil mondial de l'alimentation. Mais je vols qu'il n'est pas présent dans la salle; donc décidément je n'ai pas beaucoup de chance avec le Conseil mondial de l'alimentation. En ce qui concerne ce qu'a dit Monsieur Lunven nous avons pris bonne note de l'idée de tenir éventuellement à Rome une conférence Internationale sur la nutrition, en collaboration avec l'Organisation mondiale de la santé.

Nous avons remarqué que sur le budget 1990-91 rien ne sera dû pour cette future conférence et que cela affectera seulement le budget 1990-91. A cet égard, je voudrais d'ores et déjà dire que le Gouvernement italien est très heureux de cette idée. Il pense que c'est une chose très importante et nous sommes très heureux qu'une conférence internationale puisse se tenir à Rome en 1992-93.

Amin ABDEL MALEK (Liban) (Langue originale arabe): Je voudrais saisir cette occasion pour féliciter Messieurs Luhe et Dutia ainsi que Monsieur Lunven et Monsieur Trant pour avoir présenté le document concernant les dernières évolutions au sein des Nations Unies et du Conseil mondial de l'alimentation, surtout en ce qui concerne le rapport du Sous-Comité du CAC sur la nutrition au cours de sa quinzième session. Je voudrais également les remercier pour les éclaircissements qu'ils nous ont donnés.

Nous apprécions les travaux de ce Sous-Comité, qui ont abouti à une coopération interagences afin de réaliser un progrès dans le domaine de la carence en vitamine A et en iode et enfin d'avoir précisé le rôle de la femme dans le domaine de la nutrition et le planning familial, et de la garantie de la sécurité alimentaire pour la famille. Nous pensons également que ces activités ne sont pas suffisantes pour nourrir les millions de personnes qui ont faim dans le monde. La diminution du poids et de la taille chez les enfants ainsi que la malnutrition sont causes de mortalité et de maladie et tout ceci nous fait insister sur le rôle important de l'Organisation dans ce domaine, dans le cadre de ses compétences, et de ses responsabilités, qui figurent dans la Constitution, afin de jouer un rôle dans l'amélioration de la nutrition, de l'aide alimentaire et afin de jouer un rôle primordial pour améliorer cette situation dont beaucoup de gens souffrent. Le Sous-Comité de la nutrition n'a pas encore pris une décision concernant la tenue de conférences internationales sur la nutrition en 1991 et 1992 et c'est pour cela que nous insistons sur la nécessité qu'il y a à ce que des mesures soient prises par la FAO afin de tenir une telle conférence le plus tôt possible.

Nous pensons qu'il n'est pas permis de nos jours que les populations de certaines parties du monde soient trop nourries alors que d'autres meurent de faim et de malnutrition. La délégation du Liban pense que la FAO doit être responsable au premier chef en matière de nutrition. Aussi allons-nous lui apporter tout l'appui nécessaire afin qu'elle puisse s'acquitter de sa mission.

Bernard LEDUN (France): Je m'associe aux orateurs qui m'ont précédé pour adresser nos compliments et nos remerciements aux différents intervenants du Secrétariat qui ont apporté des éclaircissements sur le document qui nous occupe ainsi, bien entendu, qu'à M. Trant pour l'exposé qu'il a fait sur les travaux de la Conférence du Conseil mondial de l'alimentation.

Nous avons pris connaissance avec intérêt du document CL 95/17 préparé par le Secrétariat, qui apporte des informations claires et précises sur les nombreuses actions auxquelles est associée la FAO au sein du système des Nations Unies.

S'agissant essentiellement d'informations qui sont portées à la connaissance du Conseil, la France n'a que peu d'éléments particuliers à ajouter à l'excellente présentation faite par le Secrétariat.

Ma délégation tient à se féliciter de la part importante prise par la FAO dans les travaux menés plus directement dans d'autres enceintes telles que le PNUD, le GATT, le PNUE et la CNUCED, enfin, auprès de laquelle la FAO sera très certainement amenée à jouer un rôle essentiel dans l'orientation des moyens du deuxième compte du Fonds commun pour les produits de base. A ce propos, j'ajouterai en passant que la France suit attentivement les travaux du groupe d'experts nommé par le Secrétaire général des Nations Unies, qui sera chargé particulièrement d'étudier les moyens propres à remédier à la situation des produits de base sur le continent africain, groupe d'experts qui est dirigé par M. Malcolm Fraser, comme vous nous l'avez rappelé tout à l'heure. M. Fraser était pas plus tard que la semaine dernière à Paris pour en discuter avec les plus hautes autorités.

La FAO est également très présente et active dans tous les travaux concernant la nutrition qui est un domaine essentiel pour l'Organisation, compte tenu de son mandat et de ses compétences techniques. Notre pays suit donc avec attention les activités du Sous-Comité du CAC sur la nutrition et entend continuer à participer à ses travaux.

Notre délégation approuve pleinement, dans ces conditions, l'initiative prise par ce sous-comité d'organiser une conférence internationale sur la nutrition en 1992. Une telle conférence devrait permettre de mieux sensibiliser la communauté internationale quant aux dimensions, aux causes et aux conséquences de la malnutrition ainsi qu'à la nécessité de mobiliser davantage les énergies pour y faire face avec la plus grande efficacité.

La FAO est à l'évidence très bien placée pour jouer un rôle prépondérant dans l'organisation de cette conférence et je tiens ici à faire part du fait que la France appuie pleinement les initiatives du Directeur général à cet égard.

LE PRESIDENT: J'aimerais quand même entendre des réactions à la proposition faite par la France sur cette question, de manière à voir quelle est la tendance du Conseil sur ce point. Etant donné que celui-ci sera débattu prochainement à la Conférence, 11 serait bon de savoir où nous en sommes.

Hannu HALINKN (Finland): My delegation welcomes the document CL 95/17 on Recent Developments in the United Nations System of Interest to the FAO. I have noted the Secretariat's efforts to improve its quality while keeping in mind that its main purpose is to provide information to the Council on these events without requiring any specific action by the Council.

Over the past few years Finland has been among those delegations who have seen also other purposes for this kind of reporting. I take the point in paragraph 2 which states that factual information about decisions in the UN system which are of interest to FAO should get substantive treatment in the right technical bodies of the Organization and should not be elaborated in a document presented under this agenda item. Reporting could, however, be improved even further so that information could be better used. Here I should like to give an example.

In the document before us proceedings of the ACC Sub-Committee on Nutrition are explained. In paragraph 56 my delegation noted a statement which emphasizes the role of FAO in the field of nutrition. In this particular context Finland would have welcomed additional information about the processing within the FAO technical and policy-making bodies of the proposal of the ACC to organize an international conference on nutrition in 1991/92. This would have made the information more operative for its users, and in this case help us to make the decision in the matter. I welcomed the further information given by Mr. Lunven at the beginning of this session.

A major part of the document deals with issues which have system-wide implications. Here I should just like to mention as examples the preparation of the International Development Strategy (IDS) for the 1990s and the Special Session of the General Assembly of the United Nations devoted to International Economic Cooperation.

In the case of the IDS the document before us states in paragraph 25 that FAO has to make a major contribution to the debate and the final formulation of the IDS. My delegation agrees with this but would have liked to see how this will be done. This is even more important to know because paragraph 30 of the document states that the planned contribution of FAO to the preparation of an IDS can form the basis for making appropriate contributions to the preparation work for the Special Session. As other delegations, my delegation would like clarification from the Secretariat on the procedures to be followed by the FAO governing bodies so that the planned contribution can, indeed, be made in time. I thank Mr. Dutia for providing this information, namely, that the item will be discussed at the 25th Session of Conference and also by the 98th Session of Council.

As an example of interesting and informative reporting my delegation would like to take up the section which deals with the mid-term review of the UN Programme of Action for Africa's Economic Recovery and Development. Finland welcomes the FAO lead agency role in the preparation of assessments and progress reports to the final review of the Programme in 1991.

With regard to sustainable development and environment we note with satisfaction that this has been discussed before, notably in a discussion on the Summary Programme of Work and Budget. We would like to reiterate one question which has considerable interest for us as well as having practical significance for the Organization—that is, the joint FAO/UNEP meeting. We accept the need for this meeting so that Council and Conference can be in a position to consider this question to which our initial reaction is favourable. Taking into account the important system-wide issues before us, we take the opportunity of discussing with the Secretariat and others the reporting procedures under this item with a view to reaching still more unified and useful reports.

Gerhard LIEBER (Germany, Fed. Rep. of): We would like first of all to thank Mr. Luhe, Mr. Dutia and Mr. Lunven for their introduction of this agenda item which, in our opinion, is an item of major importance. Only by FAO's active cooperation and coordination within the information system, can we avoid duplication and assure the smooth functioning of the multilateral system.

We appreciate the document before us is a short and informative summary of recent developments within the sphere of interest to FAO. We appreciate also that the document is selective. Allow me now to comment on three points which we think have certain importance.

Firstly, my Government proposes that FAO play an active role in pursuing the aims of the Second Account of the Common Fund whenever the Fund becomes operational. We have heard from Mr. Dutia that this has recently been the case. As spelt out in paragraph 22 of the Report, we encourage FAO to offer its commodity groups as the International commodity bodies foreseen in the agreement to sponsor and follow up projects financed from the Second Account of the Common Fund. This would certainly ensure close cooperation between the Fund and FAO which is really important for the future.

Secondly, as has already been mentioned, we are approaching the Special Session of the General Assembly on International Economic Cooperation, and in particular on economic growth, to be convened in April next year. FAO participation in the preparatory process should ensure that items like infrastructure in rural areas, rural development, agricultural research, poverty and the nutritional level of people, especially that of the vulnerable groups like children, are accommodated in the agenda. The interdependence of national bilateral and multilateral actions and strategies should also be stressed. Reports and actions should be targetted to the country level in order to take account of the specific situation and needs of each given country.

The third item I would like to discuss is not to be found in the document. It is a somewhat more specific European project. Please take it as a proposal from our side to be thought about in a somewhat more long-term framework.

We would like to refer to the cooperation within the European region as far as agriculture is concerned. We think it should in the long run be considered to hold a session of the Committee on Agricultural Problems of the Economic Commission for Europe in Geneva and the European Commission of Agriculture in FAO, the ECA, together. We think that such a joint session should certainly give members as well as secretariats a good opportunity to streamline and coordinate their further work. I mention this proposal under this agenda item because it deals with the cooperation within the United Nations family, within the System.

Roger PASQUIER (Suisse): L'intérêt de ce point de l'ordre du jour est de nous permettre de mieux ajuster le rôle de la FAO par rapport à celui des autres institutions des Nations Unies et, réciproquement, de nous permettre, lorsque nous siégeons dans les organes directeurs des autres institutions multilatérales, de mieux tenir compte du rôle de la FAO; tout cela pour qu'une synergie optimale s'établisse au sein du système multilatéral.

Après les interventions pertinentes des délégations qui l'ont précédée, la délégation suisse voudrait se concentrer sur un seul point: il s'agit du projet d'accord sur les relations entre la FAO et l'ONUDI, qui est traité aux paragraphes 72 et 73 du document qui nous est soumis.

L'introduction à ce projet d'accord est précisément donnée dans ce document, mais nous savons que la discussion sur cette question aura lieu dans le cadre de l'examen d'un autre point de l'ordre du jour: le point 19, si je ne me trompe pas.

Cependant, je voudrais poser quelques questions au Secrétariat pour que, lorsque nous arriverons à ce point de l'ordre du jour, il puisse nous donner les éclaircissements nécessaires afin que nous soyons en mesure de traiter la question correctement.

Tout d'abord, le projet d'accord en question parle, dans son début, d'un mémorandum d'accord qui continuera d'être appliqué entre l'ONUDI et la FAO, sans que l'on dise au Conseil ce que contient ce mémorandum d'accord et dans quelle mesure le projet d'accord que l'on nous soumet pour approbation est complémentaire ou non.

Une autre question qu'il me semble nécessaire de traiter est la suivante: chacun sait que le Secrétariat de la FAO examine la possibilité d'une éventuelle division conjointe FAO-ONUDI. Cela dit, est-il souhaitable d'approuver un accord qui, tel qu'il nous est soumis, ne délimite pas complètement le champ de compétence des deux organisations mais traite plutôt d'aspects plus administratifs?

Il appartient aux pays membres de délimiter clairement les compétences des deux organisations. Les Directeurs généraux des deux organisations ne devraient signer d'arrangements additionnels que pour l'exécution de détails de l'accord lorsqu'à un moment donné, il sera signé ou approuvé par les organes directeurs des deux organisations. Je n'entre pas davantage dans les détails. Le Secrétariat, qui a traité des questions constitutionnelles et juridiques, le Comité, le Président et le Rapporteur du Comité des questions constitutionnelles et juridiques savent à quoi je fais allusion et pourront se préparer, je pense, à éclairer le Conseil sur ces points, le moment venu.

Sra. Laura CORONA CUB (Nicaragua): Permítame, en primer lugar, Sr. Presidente, agradecer a los Sres. Dutia, Luhe y Lunven la clara presentación del tema que nos ocupa. La Delegación de Nicaragua considera de mucho interés la información relativa a los preparativos de la Estrategia Internacional del Desarrollo IDS, así como la relativa a la celebración de un periodo extraordinario de sesiones de la Asamblea General de las Naciones Unidas dedicado a la cooperación económica internacional. Mi Delegación considera de mucha importancia la contribución de la FAO, tanto a los preparativos de la IDS como al periodo extraordinario de sesiones mencionado, dados su experiencia y conocimiento de las necesidades y problemas que afectan al mundo en desarrollo, así como su competencia en el campo de la agricultura, bosques, pesca, nutrición y alimentación.

Igualmente, mi Delegación considera de particular interés la información contenida en los párrafos 53 a 58 relativa a los temas examinados por el Subcomité de Nutrición del Comité Administrativo de Coordinación, en su 15% periodo de sesiones. Al respecto, queremos dejar constancia de nuestro apoyo a la propuesta de celebrar una conferencia internacional sobre nutrición, a celebrarse en el bienio 1992/93, en Roma, según expresara el Sr. Lunven en su introducción. Como bien se señala en el párrafo 56, la FAO, dadas sus capacidades técnicas y su mandato constitucional, es el organismo idóneo para asumir un rol primordial en la organización de esa conferencia.

Por lo que se refiere al párrafo 63, que menciona la Resolución 43/210, denominada Plan Especial de Cooperación Económica para Centroamérica, la Delegación de Nicaragua reitera el llamado que hiciera la Asamblea General a los Estados Miembros, observadores y organizaciones intergubernamentales, a adoptar medidas inmediatas en materia de apoyo al PEC. Como expresaron los Presidentes centroamericanos en la firma del acuerdo de Esquipulas, en agosto de 1987, no puede haber paz sin desarrollo económico y social. Apoyar el Plan Especial de Cooperación Económica para Centroamérica es contribuir a alcanzar esa paz, tan necesaria para nuestros países.

Acogemos con satisfacción la total colaboración ofrecida por la FAO al PNUD en la ejecución del Plan, ya que estamos convencidos de que la FAO es un organismo idóneo para llevar a cabo muchos de los proyectos identificados en el marco del PEC.

Para finalizar, como representante de un país centroamericano, deseo expresar el agradecimiento de mi Delegación al Embajador Bula Hoyos por sus sinceras palabras de interés y apoyo al PEC y a la búsqueda de la paz en nuestra región.

Sra. Mónica DKREGIBUS (Argentina): Nos unimos a otras delegaciones en agradecer a los Sres. Dutia, Lunven y Luhe y también al Sr. Director Ejecutivo del Consejo Mundial de la Alimentación, en la presentación de las diversas cuestiones que nos llaman la atención en este momento.

Vemos que en la Sala hay diversas opiniones acerca de la función exacta que debe cumplir el documento que estamos ahora considerando. Esta cuestión dio lugar a un pequeño debate también en un anterior período de sesiones del Consejo, y vemos que todavía no hay un consenso acerca del rol que el documento debe cumplir exactamente. Por nuestra parte, pensamos que es buena la solución de haber asociado, para su discusión, las cuestiones sustantivas que fueron tratadas en otros temas de la agenda con estos otros temas y que se limitara este documento a presentarnos algunas otras novedades que no pudieran ser cubiertas en temas específicos de la agenda de este Consejo.

Tenemos la impresión de que, resumidos los temas como están y presentado de esta manera el tratamiento de la problemática económica y social en otras agencias del Sistema, cumple una doble función el análisis de este documento, que es tanto la de alimentar a la FAO con las novedades de fuera de esta propia Agencia, con las novedades del sistema, cuanto la de que la FAO y los miembros de la FAO puedan contribuir sustancialmente también a estos acontecimientos que están llevándose a cabo en otros foros. O sea, que, en ese sentido, la función es doble: es de alimentación y también de producción. Por consiguiente, creemos que es muy útil que continuemos con esta práctica, y queremos señalar al respecto tres o cuatro cuestiones que nos parecen de particular interés.

En primer lugar, coincidimos con el documento en que la FAO tiene-y no solo hablo de Secretariado de la FAO, sino de Estados Miembros de la FAO, de representantes de Gobiernos especializados en materia de alimentación y agricultura-la FAO tiene una función muy importante que cumplir en la delineación de la Estrategia Internacional del Desarrollo, para el cuarto decenio de las Naciones Unidas para el desarrollo y también tiene una contribución importante que cumplir en cuanto al período extraordinario de sesiones de la Asamblea General dedicado a la cooperación económica internacional.

Si bien éstas son dos cosas, dos eventos, que se están dando de una manera paralela en el tiempo o que tienen una gestación común, la Asamblea va a ser puntual, puesto que se va a reunir y en cambio, la Estrategia llevará más tiempo en cuanto a su formulación.

Creemos que la temática es común y que por eso es adecuado lo que se sugiere en el párrafo 30 en cuanto dice que la contribución prevista de la FAO a la preparación de una IDS para el cuarto decenio de las Naciones Unidas puede constituir la base para las contribuciones correspondientes a la labor preparatoria del período extraordinario de sesiones. No obstante, quisiéramos aquí dejar solicitado a la Secretaría que la documentación de base para el tema se incluía en el período de sesiones de la Conferencia de este año y sea proporcionada con suficiente antelación. Nosotros creemos que esta contribución sustancial que la FAO debe realizar para la Asamblea y para la Estrategia debe merecer por parte de nuestros gobiernos un análisis que realmente permita que la Conferencia pueda hacer un aporte de valor, un aporte de interés y un aporte que sea acorde con sus posibilidades: con las posibilidades y con las ventajas comparativas de la FAO.

Creemos que, además de los temas que fueron mencionados por otras delegaciones, la FAO tendría que intentar concentrar sus esfuerzos en el desarrollo de ideas y de medios que continúen la labor que de alguna manera ha sido iniciada por el Consejo Mundial de la Alimentación y que ha quedado cristalizada en el Programa de Acción Cooperativo que fue aprobado en la 15ª reunión Ministerial en El Cairo hace muy poco tiempo y del cual nos hablaba el Sr. Trant.

Nosotros creemos que el Programa de Acción Cooperativo debe ser considerado como una contribución importante en el proceso de detención y de eliminación del hambre y la malnutrición en el mundo. Creemos que debe dársele, por ello, amplia difusión y debe instarse permanentemente a que sea objeto de la mayor atención y de la voluntad política de los Estados.

En otro orden de cosas, la Delegación argentina quisiera aquí dejar aclarado que esta Estrategia Internacional de Desarrollo para la cuarta década de las Naciones Unidas y este período especial de sesiones de la Asamblea General tienen que considerar también una problemática que se ha dado en los países en desarrollo en los últimos años y que tal vez por ese motivo no haya sido objeto de atención específica en anteriores sesiones y en anteriores estrategias. ¿Cuál es el problema de los programas de ajuste estructural? Como ha sido demostrado, son un problema, por cuanto tienen amplios alcances económicos y sociales que en este momento se están demostrando claramente visibles. Por consiguiente, todo lo que sobre este tema ha elaborado la FAO-ya sea en el Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria o el Consejo Mundial de la Alimentación, en Egipto, o lo mismo que se dijo en el Consejo aquí-creo que debería llevarnos a tratar de lograr que la FAO impulse que se haga una aproximación sofisticada, una aproximación compleja y metodológicamente válida, no sólo para arreglar los platos rotos, como se dice en español, cuando los programas ya han deteriorado el nivel nutricional o los ingresos de las poblaciones más vulnerables, sino que se intente, a través de las Naciones Unidas, imponer la idea de que es necesario prevenir antes que curar, y que, por consiguiente, la FAO es

partidaria de este enfoque global y previsor en el cual participen tanto las organizaciones internacionales especializadas cuanto los organismos financieros y los propios Gobiernos de los países en desarrollo interesados.

Con relación al avance de las negociaciones comerciales multilaterales que se están llevando a cabo en la Ronda Uruguay y en el GATT, mi Delegación quiere expresar su satisfacción por el acuerdo marco, por el enfoque marco al cual se llegara en Ginebra en el mes de abril último, y quiere expresar su esperanza en que este enfoque marco abra realmente el camino a las realizaciones. Al mismo tiempo, deseamos dar nuestro apoyo, nuestra aprobación al papel que la FAO está cumpliendo en la cuestión de las reglamentaciones y barreras sanitarias y fitosanitarias.

Por último, le pido a usted que excuse a nuestra Delegación por no poder dar en este momento una opinión fundamentada con relación a la programación de la Conferencia Internacional sobre Nutrición; esperamos en un período de sesiones posterior poder decirles a ustedes cuál es la opinión de la República Argentina.

Eduardo PESQUEIRA (México): Mi delegación agradece al Dr. Dutia por la clara introducción a un tema que mantiene al día la información sobre la situación de los acuerdos y actividades más recientes dentro del Sistema de las Naciones Unidas, relacionadas con las actividades de la agricultura y la alimentación. Igualmente agradecemos la presentación interesante de los señores Lunven y Luhe.

Por lo que toca a las actividades operacionales para el desarrollo, nos complace escuchar que se están tomando acciones para armonizar las actividades del desarrollo y la cooperación económica internacional dentro del Sistema de las Naciones Unidas y esperamos que la FAO participe activamente en la preparación del documento sobre la "función futura", así como del importante "estudio respecto de las nuevas tendencias de cooperación para el desarrollo y sus implicaciones en el sistema de desarrollo de las Naciones Unidas".

En relación con la Ronda Uruguay de negociaciones comerciales multilaterales, sobre las cuales mucho hemos esperado todos los países a fin de establecer términos de negociaciones comerciales más justos, hemos lamentado el bloqueo que en varias ocasiones se ha dado en relación con el sector de la agricultura, si bien, al parecer, en los últimos tiempos aparentemente hay una cierta distensión y apertura. Queremos hacer énfasis en esta ocasión, que nuestro país considera de importancia fundamental la participación de la FAO en las negociaciones del GATT, por ejemplo en el grupo de trabajo sobre las reglamentaciones y barreras sanitarias encargadas de examinar y presentar el informe acerca de un enfoque común para la promoción de una mayor armonización y la aceptación de normas internacionales incluidas las de la Comisión FAO/OMS del Codex Alimentarius, la convención Internacional de Protección Fitosanitaria, y la Oficina Intergubernamental de Epizootias, mejorando los conductos entre el GATT y las correspondientes organizaciones internacionales. Por ello, nuestro país, apoya que la FAO tenga una participación más activa en apoyo de los países en desarrollo. Hasta ahora, los avances en el GATT han sido para liberalizar lo que se nos vende, pero se mantiene protegido lo que vendemos.

Respecto al Fondo Común para los Productos Básicos de la UNCTAD, nos congratula que el Convenio Constitutivo del Fondo sea ya un hecho y que pueda entrar en vigor en fecha próxima.

En lo que se refiere a la Estrategia Internacional del Desarrollo para el Cuarto Decenio de las Naciones Unidas mi delegación, se ha pronunciado ya sobre la importancia de la participación de la FAO y nos complace que en el 25% período de sesiones de la Conferencia se incluirá un tema sobre la contribución de la FAO a este evento.

La delegación ha tomado nota de la decisión de la Asamblea General de las Naciones Unidas de convocar un período extraordinario de sesiones que se celebrará en abril del año próximo, dedicado a la cooperación económica internacional y en especial a la revitalización del crecimiento económico y el desarrollo de los países en desarrollo.

No podemos menos que congratularnos de que se dedique una especial sesión a este tema vital para nuestros países, particularmente después del reconocimiento general que hicieron las Naciones Unidas al considerar que para Africa y para América Latina el decenio de los años ochenta ha sido un decenio perdido para el desarrollo. Creemos que la convergencia de todos los organismos y la decisión y voluntad política de todos los países tendrá que conjugarse para invertir una tendencia catastrófica y darle un giro de eficiencia y solidaridad.

En relación con el examen de mitad del período de acción de las Naciones Unidas para la recuperación económica y el desarrollo de Africa, nuestra delegación reitera su apoyo solidario a los pueblos africanos, a fin de que se les permita tener elementos para lograr su crecimiento y desarrollo agropecuario, económico, político y social, como corresponde a naciones jóvenes que deben consolidar sus procesos de independencia y autosuficiencia.

Hubiéramos querido ver también entre nosotros avances sustanciales en los apoyos de la FAO a América Central. Así como hay uno importante de proyectos de Afganistán, que apoyamos de forma entusiasta.

Desarrollo sostenido y medio ambiente: En relación con este tema, que es común a muchos de los aspectos ya tratados en otros foros técnicos y en éste, en el Consejo, nuestra delegación ha tenido oportunidad de expresarse ya extensivamente, por lo cual en esta ocasión resumiremos nuestra postura en el sentido de que México da gran importancia tanto a todos los aspectos de medio ambiente como a los de desarrollo porque de ello depende el futuro de la humanidad, entiende y practica el que ambos aspectos pueden y deben ser tratados en conjunto y siempre en función de prioridades nacionales con todo apego a la soberanía nacional y en beneficio de los países en desarrollo. Consideramos, asimismo, que se deben realizar los programas en forma complementaria e integral a fin de promover calidad y abundancia en la producción agropecuaria, forestal y pesquera, tomando en cuenta la salvaguardia de los aspectos ambientales y, además las condiciones actuales de vida de las comunidades asentadas en las áreas que se pretende proteger.

México da particular importancia a los aspectos nutricionales. Nuestro país en el período precolonial se preció de tener una alimentación equilibrada y suficiente y por qué no decirlo, en consecuencia con su propio entorno. Posteriormente, como en el caso de todas las funciones culturales, se dan cambios en los sistemas alimenticios, y en las tecnologías de producción.

Tecnologías de producción. Y a ello se suman el crecimiento poblacional, las consecuencias modernas de la excesiva urbanización, el peso grave del servicio de la deuda y el deterioro del sistema económico internacional que como se ha demostrado está gravitando seriamente en la nutrición de las grandes masas de nuestras poblaciones. Nos hemos preocupado de establecer sistemas de seguimiento y orientación nutricional sobre los que hemos obtenido ya algunos resultados positivos. Nos complace coincidir con los demás países en el sentido de que en materia de nutrición lo que cuentan son las bases mismas de ésta y su relación con la seguridad alimentaria. Un pueblo bien alimentado es menos susceptible de enfermedades, la nutrición es la base ineludible de una buena salud e incluso de un adecuado desarrollo psicosocial.

Como parte importante del Plan Nacional de Desarrollo, México ha formulado en lo interno un Programa Nacional de Alimentación en el cual el aspecto nutricional juega también un papel fundamental. En este contexto, la delegación mexicana al tomar nota de que el Subcomité de Nutrición del CAC en su 15º período de sesiones propuso la celebración de una conferencia internacional sobre nutrición para celebrarse en el bienio 1991-92, considera que es de la mayor importancia ya que permitirá reflexionar sobre la situación alimentaria y nutricional que se encuentra a nivel mundial, regional y nacional, a fin de que, de ella se deriven estrategias y programas de acción que vengan a revitalizar las emanadas de la Conferencia Mundial de la Alimentación, celebradas 15 años atrás y que requiere ponerse al día.

Consideramos, pues, que la nutrición debe verse como una base y no como un efecto. Por ello creemos que la FAO debe participar en estrecha forma con la Organización Mundial de la Salud y con otras agencias para el desarrollo, así como con agencias financieras para ocuparse de diseñar la organización y ejecución, en una tarea en la que debemos participar todos los países involucrados.

En relación con la Asistencia Económica Especial y de Socorro en casos de desastre, mi delegación, apoya la resolución 43/206 de la Asamblea General de las Naciones Unidas, y la 43/210 y se une al exhorto hacia los estados miembros y organizaciones intergubernamentales y no gubernamentales para que se apoye a los países flagelados por las catástrofes.

En relación con el acuerdo de relaciones FAO/ONU, México da su aprobación a fin de que sea éste transmitido para su confirmación por la Conferencia.

Quiero referirme ahora a lo que hemos escuchado en relación con los trabajos del Consejo Mundial de Alimentación.

Tuve el privilegio de ser nombrado Presidente del Consejo en su XIII Sesión Ministerial celebrada en Pekín (China) en 1987. En esa oportunidad la delegación de México expresó lo que ahora reitera en el sentido de que, como todos los organismos del Sistema de las Naciones Unidas, el Consejo Mundial de la Alimentación debe vincular sus trabajos directamente con las otras dependencias y agencias que tengan relación con la agricultura y los alimentos. Deben vincularse entre sí sus acciones y procurar la colaboración y la cooperación antes que la competencia o la confrontación.

Debe entenderse que el problema del hambre en el mundo es un problema ligado al de la pobreza, por lo tanto las acciones para combatir la una deben tener la integralidad y la multisectorialidad que requieren los programas de desarrollo para atacar la otra.

Que el tiempo para actuar se acaba; que los pobres del mundo, que son los que sufren hambre no pueden esperar la buena o mala voluntad de ricos y poderosos, y que a pesar de que no se alimentan a más individuos, el hambre ha ganado terreno desde que hace 15 años la Conferencia Mundial de la Alimentación acordó la lucha frontal para erradicar el hambre. Esto es, hay que trabajar ya todos en la lucha contra el hambre en el mundo.

Envueltos en un mundo lleno de crisis, con tensiones y distensiones, con compromisos y acciones y con rupturas y amenazas, los países en desarrollo, que son los que sufren hambre, se ven en la escena de los juegos de los poderosos y caen en las provocaciones en las guerras y en la violencia, con frecuencia entre hermanos.

¿Qué agricultura es posible llevar a cabo así? ¿Qué posibilidad hay de nutrir a madres lactantes o gestantes y a niños en la primera etapa de la vida? La paz es, pues, Señor Presidente, en forma reiterada, insumo fundamental en la lucha contra el hambre en el mundo, en que esta empeñado el Consejo Mundial de la Alimentación.

Enhorabuena que se trate de un consejo de ministros de agricultura, de los responsables de la producción de alimentos, de los promotores del desarrollo rural de las comunidades rurales.

A partir de Pekín, el Consejo preparó, como hemos escuchado, la XIV Reunión Ministerial en Chipre, que se llevó a cabo en 1988 y que produjo la iniciativa de Chipre contra el hambre en el mundo. Esta tuvo una extraordinaria acogida a nivel mundial, y el Consejo organizó un grupo de trabajo para plasmar en acciones concretas los compromisos de los ministros. Así, después de Chipre, en Nueva York, París y Nicosia nuevamente, se dieron forma a las propuestas sometidas al Consejo en el Cairo, entre las que se destaca un llamado a la acción en el Plan de Acción Cooperativa Inmediata, a lo que ha hecho referencia la delegación de Argentina. A la acción por parte de todos. Por ejemplo, el Consejo acordó que todos los países deben comprometerse a lograr un resultado positivo en las negociaciones del GATT; que las negociaciones sean de todos, de los poderosos con su participación en programas multilaterales, y de los países en desarrollo, tomando en consideración su situación agroalimentaria en sus planes y programas internos.

Se produjeron recomendaciones precisas como programas de alimentos en zonas rurales, programas de generación de empleo a demandantes y productores potenciales de alimentos, programas de capacitación, salud, educación, tecnología y preservación de recursos naturales.

Se insistió en la necesaria coordinación entre la FAO, el Programa Mundial de Alimentos, el PNUD, la UNICEF, la Organización Internacional del Trabajo, el GATT, el Banco Mundial y el Fondo Monetario Internacional. Todas ellas son organizaciones que algo tienen que decir en lo técnico y en lo económico en la alimentación de los países en desarrollo.

En lo económico poner atención a la deuda; dar instrucciones a los representantes de los Consejos Directivos del Banco Mundial y del Fondo Monetario Internacional para que cuando otorguen financiamiento respecto de los cuales exijan ajustes estructurales a los países en desarrollo, y se tome en cuenta la situación agropecuaria de los países afectados.

Se propuso y se acordó ahondar en la posibilidad de su implantación en un mecanismo que revertiera al financiamiento del sector agroalimentario, los pagos que los países con problemas de importaciones desproporcionadas o de insuficiencias en el abasto hicieran por el servicio de su deuda.

Se reiteró el llamado a la paz, no pienso repetir aquí, después de todo lo que hemos escuchado. Sólo hacer un llamado a las organizaciones y países para hacer suyos y hacer cumplir los postulados de las declaraciones de Pekín, Chipre, El Cairo, y sumarse a los esfuerzos del Consejo Mundial de Alimentación, a quienes felicito en la persona de su Director Ejecutivo y su personal de apoyo para hacer frente a los esfuerzos del mundo en contra del hambre.

Por último, aprovecho esta ocasión para agradecer a los Excmos. Sres. Ministros de Agricultura, Miembros del Consejo que me acompañaron en esos esfuerzos y muy especialmente al Señor Ministro Hekan, de China, Gabrielides, de Chipre y Janseph Walli, de Egipto en cuyas manos sabias me honré en dejar la Presidencia del Consejo, por el apoyo que brindaron a mi persona y a mis trabajos como Presidente del mismo, y por la lucha que llevaron a cabo y que se seguirá llevando a cabo, para convocar a la Comunidad Internacional en su conjunto por esta cruzada contra el hambre, la pobreza y la injusticia.

Mercedes FERMIN GOMEZ (Venezuela): La delegación de Venezuela va a expresar en primer lugar su apoyo a este documento y deseamos puntualizar algunas especiales posiciones en relación con los programas que allí se exponen. En primer lugar, como Venezuela se ha asociado recientemente al GATT, nos vamos a referir a lo mencionado aquí sobre la Ronda Uruguay.

Hace tiempo que venimos asistiendo a estas reuniones que confrontan la situación de los países latinoamericanos, que han estado intentando penetrar los mercados internacionales con sus productos agrícolas. Como no pertenecemos al GATT y como hay siempre unas cuantas excusas para rechazar nuestros productos, pues no es necesario incorporarse al GATT. Ahora faltará saber cuales serán las nuevas excusas para que nuestros productos agrícolas sigan siendo dejados de lado cuando intentan penetrar el mercado europeo, ya sea la Comisión Económica o sea cualquier otra decisión en relación con las medidas establecidas por el GATT. Pero en este caso nos complace saber que el GATT ha ineistido en esta ultima reunión en mejorar las condiciones para los países productores latinoamericanos que no pertenecen a la verdadera dominación de los países constituyentes de la Ronda Uruguay y por eso nos complace apoyar esto.

En segundo lugar nos referiremos a la decisión de las Naciones Unidas de declarar un periodo extraordinario de sesiones para la cooperación económica internacional y en especial, de acuerdo con esta decisión, centrar su atención en el fomento de la cooperación económica internacional y regional en la coordinación de las políticas y recomendaciones que caben a nuestros países.

En este sentido vamos a apoyar las medidas referidas a aquellos problemas pertinentes a nuestra reglón, que en la mayoría de los casos siempre es mayormente afectada por las decisiones de estas reuniones internacionales.

Apoyamos en principio y realmente con todo fervor, esta iniciativa de la FAO de continuar su trabajo con los otros organismos que constituyen agencias de las Naciones Unidas y que hasta ahora no habían integrado una verdadera coordinación en los estudios y los trabajos a realizarse. Entre ellos vamos a apoyar con decisión el documento que va a ocuparse del proyecto sobre apoyo de Centroamérica, poniendo atención al Tratado de Esquipulas, porque allí, por primera vez vamos a encontrar el verdadero panorama internacional apoyado por Naciones Unidas a este problema de la situación económica, y vamos a hablar claramente del atraso y del subdesarrollo que ha venido minando las poblaciones de los países centroamericanos, sin que más allá del Comité de los Ocho y de las naciones que están integradas al Grupo de Contadora hubieran encontrado una verdadera repercusión para preocuparse de los problemas de América Central.

Creemos que de ahora en adelante este apoyo encontrado en esta nueva actitud de Naciones Unidas, pueda servir para que las condiciones de vida de estos países que no tienen razón de permanecer atrasados, pudieran avanzar, ya que estamos apoyados totalmente por Naciones Unidas.

Al mismo tiempo, queremos expresar nuestro apoyo total al proyecto, o a la idea del proyecto de un Comité de Nutrición que lleva a proponer a la FAO una conferencia especial sobre nutrición para el próximo bienio. Y lo hacemos porque ésta es una excelente oportunidad para que se realice un balance y una evaluación de la situación no solamente económica sino de la capacidad de supervivencia de nuestros países del Tercer Mundo que realmente hasta ahora han sido dejados de lado cuando se trata de programas efectivos en el combate contra el hambre y contra la malnutrición. No nos quejamos como latinoamericanos, pero la década del 70 fue muy efectiva para combatir el hambre en el continente asiático, y en esta década de los 80 la atención que compartimos plenamente hacia la situación africana ha sido más que efectiva, y en ambos casos la iniciativa de la FAO ha sido de primera importancia para que se llevara a cabo un programa que se ha realizado en beneficio de estos países hermanos. Pero especialmente el hecho de que se realicen en la sede de la FAO estas conferencias sobre nutrición, será propicia para que asistan a ella trayendo su testimonio, tanto los países de Asia como de Africa, y también deberían asistir en su casi totalidad los países de América Latina. Pensamos que estos países deberían hacer todos los esfuerzos posibles por iniciar desde ya estudios más allá de las estadísticas con relación a su situación nutricional y a las condiciones de vida de toda la población, porque, hasta ahora, generalmente, las Naciones Unidas clasifican a los países que a ella pertenecen a través de un porcentaje estadístico sobre el cual hacen sus mapas, sus apreciaciones, sus clasificaciones, incluyendo las cuotas que aportan estos países a la Organización.

Estamos acostumbrados a mirar el panorama mundial con algunos puntos en sombra que generalmente se refieren a aquellos países en donde el hambre y la miseria azotan un gran porcentaje. Pero en esos mapas no figuran exactamente ni los hambrientos, ni las verdaderas poblaciones de pobreza crítica de nuestros países, porque nuestros países están encubiertos por un llamado ingreso per capita, que no toma en cuenta la realidad, que es un verdadero señuelo estadístico. Por esa razón creemos que los países deben traer no las estadísticas, sino concretamente los estudios más directos porque en cualquiera de los países nuestros existen lo que con un eufemismo se llama "bolsones de pobreza" y

que son verdaderas áreas de miseria en donde hay gentes que están en condiciones más allá de la pobreza misma. Por esto creemos que esta Conferencia sobre la nutrición, si se realiza a fondo con un estudio pertinente como lo merece, pondrá de relieve, y pondrá realmente en claro, cual es la situación en que vive nuestra humanidad en este cuarto decenio de las Naciones Unidas, en este último decenio de nuestro siglo, y en el comienzo del próximo milenio. Ojalá que pueda realizarse esta conferencia, que lleguemos a un auténtico consenso para apoyar esta iniciativa de la FAO y que así como aspiramos se vean cumplidos los proyectos con relación a América Central y nos permitirá superar la situación de pobreza y de hambre, y podamos verlo satisfactoriamente realizado.

LE PRESIDENT: Nous allons arrêter aujourd'hui les débats.

Je voudrais au préalable vous signaler que dans le programme prévu pour demain nous avons le point 13.2-"Désignation du Président et des autres membres du Bureau de la Conférence". Traditionnellement ce point est étudié à huis clos par les Présidents et les Chefs des délégations. Je suggère au Conseil que cette réunion à huis clos ait lieu demain en fin d'après-midi ou au plus tard après-demain en fin de matinée. Ce serait une chose rationnelle qui nous permettrait de respecter le calendrier. Donc, si vous le voulez bien, on pourrait envisager que demain en fin d'après-midi 11 y ait une séance à huis clos entre les chefs de délégations pour traiter du point 13.2.

The meeting rose at 17.45 hours.

La séance est levée à 17 h 45.

Se levanta la sesión a las 17.45 horas.

council

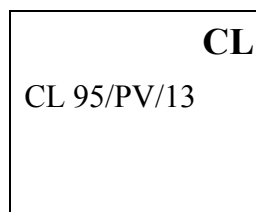
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ORGANIZACION DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS PARA LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION



Ninety-fifth Session

Quatre-vingt-quinzième session

95º periodo de sesiones

THIRTEENTH PLENARY MEETING
TREIZIEME SEANCE PLENIERE
13ª SESION PLENARIA
(27 June 1989)

The Thirteenth Plenary Meeting was opened at 9.45 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 9.45 horas bajo la presidencia de Lassaad Ben Osman, Presidente Independiente del Consejo

- II. ACTIVITIES OF FAO AND WPP (continued)
- II. ACTIVITES DE LA FAO ET DU PAM (suite)
- II. ACTIVIDADES DE LA FAO Y EL PMA (continuación)
- 11. Recent Developments in the UN System of Interest to FAO (continued)
- 11. Faits nouveaux survenus dans le système des Nations Unies qui intéressent la FAO (suite)
- 11. Novedades recientes de interés para la FAO registradas en el sistema de las Naciones Unidas (continuación)

Angel BARBERO MARTIN (España): Hemos leído con atención el documento CL 95/17, y nos ha parecido sucinto pero, al mismo tiempo, muy clarificador, por lo cual nos unimos a otras delegaciones que han felicitado a la Secretaría de la FAO y a los ponentes, que nos han completado con mucha precisión su contenido; contenido muy interesante y lleno de aspectos que, en nuestra opinión, son del máximo interés para la Organización. Otros oradores han comentado ya aquí prácticamente todos los puntos, por lo que nosotros nos limitaremos a comentar los que nos parecen más importantes.

En primer lugar, expresaremos nuestra satisfacción por las novedades procedentes de la Ronda de Uruguay, que nos ha ampliado muy amablemente el Sr. Dutia, con un sentido muy positivo, especialmente en lo que se refiere a las negociaciones sobre los productos tropicales y, sobre todo, al consenso logrado en el sector agrícola, que permite reemprender un camino esperanzador hacia los plazos previstos en las reducciones de ayudas y protecciones internas, así como en la eliminación de ciertas barreras arancelarias.

También nos ha agradado conocer el papel, cada vez más activo, de la FAO cerca del GATT, en materias como el Codex Alimentarius o la protección fitosanitaria, porque con ello, sin ninguna duda, se contribuye al avance de las negociaciones.

Volvemos a apoyar, como lo hicimos en su momento, dentro de los Grupos Intergubernamentales de Productos Básicos, la petición que se ha dirigido al Director General para que realice gestiones cerca del Fondo Común, a fin de que estos grupos sean designados organismos internacionales idóneos en los proyectos financiados por la Segunda Cuenta del Fondo Común.

Seguiremos con el mayor interés la marcha de la preparación de la nueva Estrategia Internacional del Desarrollo, así como el examen de los medios dedicados a la cooperación económica internacional, y muy especialmente cómo se va desarrollando el papel de la FAO en sus contactos con la Oficina del Director General de Desarrollo y Cooperación Económica Internacional. Querriamos estar informados de la preparación que está realizando el PNUD sobre el documento relativo a la función futura de su Consejo de Administración, porque entendemos que todas estas actividades afectarán muy profundamente a la esencia y a la razón de ser de la FAO. Nos gustaría que se estableciese un procedimiento por el cual nuestras Delegaciones pudieran participar más estrechamente en estos debates, aunque sea indirectamente.

Nuestra Delegación está profundamente interesada también en el desarrollo del Plan Especial de Cooperación para Centroamérica, región hacia la cual mi Gobierno ha destinado esfuerzos y medios realmente importantes. Lo mismo podríamos decir respecto a los contactos y la colaboración que está desarrollando la FAO con el PNUMA y el ONUDI. Entendemos que estos contactos, especialmente con el PNUMA, están proporcionando a la FAO una oportunidad única para que desarrolle todas sus capacidades en relación con el medio ambiente y la conservación de los recursos naturales. Esperamos que la Conferencia Regional sobre Medio Ambiente y Desarrollo en África constituya un éxito, dados los problemas enormes, podríamos decir que catastróficos que, relacionados con la desertización y la erosión, aquejan a ese continente.

Por último, hemos acogido con el mayor interés el anuncio de la Conferencia Internacional sobre Nutrición, que nos ha expuesto el Sr. Lunven, y podemos asegurar que nuestro Gobierno estudiará esta iniciativa con mucho interés, dado que contamos con recursos y técnicos en este aspecto de la nutrición que podrían constituir una ayuda importante.

David McGAFFEY (United States of America): I am pleased to be speaking on the subject of Recent Developments in the United Nations System of Interest to FAO. I note that in the previous Council the Council requested that this Report become more succinct and more analytical. I would like to congratulate Mr Luhe on a much improved product-it is indeed more succinct, it is more descriptive. I would however like to join with my Finnish colleague in the hope that improvements will continue. There are some areas which could have benefited from more information.

On Operational Activities for Development, we commend FAO for its close cooperation with the Office of the Director-General for Development and International Economic Cooperation and with its other partners in the UN system, particularly on the Consultative Committee on Substantive Questions. We also note with satisfaction that the FAO has established an internal interdepartmental group to deal with the "successor arrangements" for UNDP support cost reimbursement to agencies and is actively participating in the CCSQ (OPS) Task Force on this subject. We look forward to reports from the Secretariat on FAO's participation in the Triennial Review in the autumn of 1989 on this subject.

Turning to the Mid-term Review of the United Nations Programme of Action for Africa's Economic Recovery and Development, again this delegation would like to commend FAO for its continuing focus on Africa, and on the various initiatives within the Organization's programmes which support African countries in the implementation of UNPAAERD. We note with interest FAO's agreement to serve as the lead agency in the preparation of assessment and progress reports on such subjects as early warning systems, national food strategies, food production, food processing, other agro-based Industries, women farmers, drought and desertification. We suggest that FAO may wish to broaden the scope of its examination of women in development to include not only women farmers, but also women participating in markets and agro-industry, particularly in the informal sector.

On the ACC Sub-committee on Nutrition, FAO's report of the activities of the Sub-committee on Nutrition is welcomed. We commend the interagency cooperation that has contributed to the various outcomes outlined here, such as work on vitamin A and iodine deficiencies; interagency strategies on nutrition surveillance; assessment of nutritional impact of adjustment policies. We also welcome the special emphasis placed on the role of women in ensuring household food security, and agree that additional research on malnutrition and nutrition issues is required.

The United States was very pleased to contribute to the recently released "Update on the World Nutrition Situation and Recent Trends". This publication is welcomed by the nutrition community. We also view the progress outlined with respect to nutritional indicators as promising.

We note with interest FAO's proposal to organize a conference, in cooperation with WHO and other relevant United Nations organizations, on international nutrition in 1991-92. We suggest that consideration be given to the relative importance of visiting the topic of malnutrition as a major cause of sickness and death vis-a-vis other possible topics for special attention. Additionally, the cost of such a meeting and its potential benefits would have to be weighed.

There are a number of international nutrition conferences planned for 1989 in which FAO and others in the UN system participate. One conference for example, the International Union of Nutrition Scientists, will meet this year in August, and again four years from now. Another conference, the IVACG, will convene in Nepal in November. The issues of malnutrition, such as vitamin A deficiency, nutrition surveillance and monitoring, are nutrition education which interest the FAO and other UN organizations, may be on, or possibly could be added to, the agendas of these meetings. Given budget constraints, we suggest that FAO recommend to the ACC the possibility of appending their proposed agenda to an international meeting that is already planned. This could result in savings of budget resources that might otherwise be used on conducting parallel and duplicative meetings.

On the FAO/UNIDO Relationship Agreement, we note that FAO's relationship with UNIDO poses more complex problems than its relationships with other agencies. There are conflicting views among the two agencies concerning their respective areas of competence, which heighten chances for wasteful overlap. We suggest that the problem be addressed by both agencies at a very senior level.

We hope that the new agreement will prevent duplication, strengthen the complementarity of technical assistance activities of both agencies, and lead to increased coordination and cooperation between FAO and UNIDO.

On the subject of the Uruguay Round of Multilateral Negotiations, the United States would like to draw special attention to the discussion of the Uruguay Round of Multinational Trade Negotiations in this document and to the framework agreement for agriculture that was reached in April this year in the context of the Uruguay Round. We believe that this is an important step in furthering necessary reforms of agricultural policies.

The United States would like to urge this body to endorse the important objectives laid out in the Mid-term Agreement on Agriculture, namely, that the "long-term objective is to provide substantial, progressive reductions in agricultural support and protection sustained over an agreed period of time, resulting in correcting and preventing restrictions and distortions in world agricultural markets".

The United States also welcomes the technical work that FAO has done to support the current round of GATT negotiations. We encourage the continued FAO support of the trade round. We find especially interesting the work done concerning sanitary and phytosanitary regulations since the input of the Codex Alimentarius Commission and the International Plant Protection Convention is invaluable in this area.

On the subject of FAO's input to the proposed fourth IDS and the Special Session on Economic Issues, I would like to support the distinguished delegate from Colombia in his call for results and not rhetoric. I would commend to FAO's attention the words of Mr Trant relating to findings of the Agriculture Ministers at the recent meeting in Cairo, which said that each country must determine how to address its problems according to its national uniqueness. I urge FAO, in its input to the IDC, to join those voices seeking a flexible strategy that is able to meet the differing needs of the differing developing countries.

Finally, I would like to express my country's pleasure at the news of FAO's expanded involvement in the reconstruction and rehabilitation of Afghanistan and the appointment of a Special Coordinator. As you know, the United States has been a strong supporter of the people of Afghanistan, and are pleased to see both the United Nations system and, particularly, FAO taking a lead role in overcoming the effects of ten years of war in that country.

Paul R. BRYDEN (Australia): A few brief comments. We commend the Secretariat for their concise, helpful document prepared for our discussions, and thank them and Dr Trant for their introductory remarks.

With regard to paragraphs 9-18 of the document concerning the Uruguay Round, we welcome the important progress noted, in particular that the April meeting of the TNC succeeded in adopting agreements in areas where no consensus was achieved in November, and we look forward to a successful outcome.

We also welcome FAO's continued technical support to the GATT, in particular on sanitary and phytosanitary issues.

With regard to paragraphs 19-22 the Common Fund for Commodities, established last week, we do urge interested member countries to ensure that their delegations to Common Fund discussions are fully briefed on the desire of FAO Governing Bodies that FAO's Inter-governmental Groups on Commodities, and of course the COFI Sub-committee on Fish Trade, be associated with the Second Account of the Fund. These FAO bodies will no doubt be competing with a range of other international commodity bodies for scarce resources.

With regard to paragraph 46 Climate Change, we agree that FAO has a unique role to play, namely, assessment of climate change problems and welcome its continuing contribution to international considerations of the implications of climate change. We endorse the areas chosen for concentration of FAO's efforts.

My delegation supports other delegations, particularly Argentina, in requesting that documentation for conference regarding the International Development Strategy be circulated as early as possible in order to ensure fruitful deliberations that will produce results, not rhetoric: especially as those papers and conference discussions will also probably contribute to the United Nations Special Session on International Economic Cooperation in April next year.

One further thought, not covered in this document, nor can I see clearly where to mention it on our agenda-although it does involve another UN organization, WHO-namely, the impact of AIDS on agricultural production and rural societies. I need not elaborate, but assume that the Secretariat will be keeping an eye on whatever international research, studies and findings may be indicating and, as appropriate, participate or support relevant meetings, discussions, etc.

Finally, with regard to the proposed Nutrition Conference, I would need to reserve our position until our relevant authorities have had an opportunity to reflect on this.

C. Srinivasa SASTRI (India): I shall start by thanking the four distinguished functionaries who sat with you, Mr Chairman, on the podium yesterday, for their statements in which the important aspects of document CL 95/17 have been highlighted, and some of the information provided in this document has been up-dated by bringing to our notice the most recent developments related to the issues under discussion.

Although paragraph 2 of this document makes it clear that "no specific action by the Council on any part of this document is requested," we would have liked to receive this document in the national capital in advance of the Council meeting. If a Council document were dealing only with

agriculture, then it would not be necessary for the Ministry of Agriculture in the national government to consult with other ministries. However, this Council document, dealing as it does with the UN system as a whole, covers and deals with organizations and agencies which deal with a variety of subjects and issues, not all of which are handled in the Agricultural Ministries of the national governments, but by different departments and ministries in the national governments. As such, we would have very much liked to have the benefit of consultations with, and obtain the views, comments and reactions of the concerned ministries and departments in the Government of India.

Against this background, we would be grateful if in future such documents could be made available to us before the delegation leaves for Rome. As the information contained in all such documents will at any rate have to be up-dated by appropriate introductory statements when the subject is taken up for discussion, sending the documents to the Member Nations at least a couple of weeks in advance should not pose any special problems or detract from the quality of the document.

We note with interest the major perspective study of emerging trends in development cooperation and the implications for the UN development system which the Director-General/DIEC referred to in paragraph 8 of the document CL 95/17. We look forward to being kept informed of further developments in this regard.

We have a couple of observations on the section relating to sustainable development and environment.

After carefully reading paragraphs 42 to 46 dealing with climatic change, one has an element of doubt whether, in working through the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), FAO has fully discharged its responsibilities arising from its mandate. In paragraph 46^a reference is made to the unique role FAO has to play in the assessment of problems relating to climate change because of its technical capabilities and long-standing work on agro-ecological zones, land use suitability of crops and forest resources assessment. We are not unaware that some organizations and agencies in the UN system do not seem to be averse to taking over the roles mandated to their sister agencies in the system. We would like to be reassured that in this important area of climate change, FAO is playing its mandated role fully and unequivocally, particularly keeping in view the assertions in paragraph 46 of Document CL 95/17.

I also request the Secretariat to inform us, if possible, about the outcome of the conference referred to in paragraph 47, held from 12-16 June in Kampala, to consider how the Brundtland Commission's Report and the UNEP Report on "Environmental Perspectives to the Year 2000 and Beyond" can be translated into practical action in Africa. We would also like to enquire about the role, if any, assigned to FAO as a co-sponsor in the follow-up activities.

I would like to conclude this statement by indicating our reactions to the proposed International Nutrition Conference. We note the proposal for the International Conference stemmed from the draft statements on malnutrition. Evidently, the other two statements considered by the ACC Sub-Committee on Nutrition, namely, on nutrition in times of disaster and small body size in populations were adapted by the ACC.

We have earlier referred to a tendency in some agencies in the UN system to encroach on the turf of their sister agencies in the system. Considering that the proposal to have the International Nutrition Conference arose out of the draft statement on malnutrition, and in view of the technical capabilities and constitutional mandate of FAO to raise levels of nutrition, promote and recommend action regarding nutritional research, public knowledge of nutritional science and improved education and administration relating to nutrition, and keeping in view the comparative advantages of FAO, we are in favour of FAO playing a leading role in holding this International Nutrition Conference in cooperation with other UN organizations or agencies.

We thought we should make our position clear, particularly in the context of the information furnished from the podium about the letter received from the Director-General of WHO, and the proposed meeting between the Directors-General of WHO and FAO, likely to be held in Geneva in early July. We feel that FAO's taking a leading role in holding the nutrition conference in Rome is especially appropriate in the context of the offer from the delegate of Italy who generously suggested Rome as the venue for the proposed conference. Since the conference would be in the biennium 1992/93, in our view there should not be much difficulty in making the required allocations in the budget for the biennium 1992/93.

I.C. FERGUSON (Canada); I would like to thank the members of the Secretariat and the Executive Director of the World Food Council for their presentations. We also compliment the FAO Secretariat on the production of a very concise and easily-oriented document. Unfortunately, Document CL 95/17 was received by my delegation only last week. This precluded more complete consultation with all of the Canadian authorities concerned, particularly on the new proposal for a nutrition conference. We would hope that documentation can be made available earlier when developments in the UN system next appear on our agenda.

We were encouraged to see the extensive cooperation of FAO with its sister organizations in the UN system. We attach particular importance to FAO's technical support for efforts under the Uruguay Round to liberalize and expand trade in agricultural products, one concrete example being FAO's cooperation with the Working Group on Sanitary and Phyto-Sanitary Regulations and Barriers.

We would also like to register our support for the active participation of FAO in preparations for a new international development strategy and the United Nations General Assembly Special Session on International Economic Cooperation.

With regard to the UN Programme of Action for Africa's Economic Recovery and Development, as pointed out in paragraph 31 of the document, recent international meetings have provided added justification for FAO to continue focussing on Africa, and the FAO on-going lead in assessing progress in several key issues, including women farmers, drought, and desertification.

In the area of sustainable development, we have taken note from the introduction of the Director of the Office of Inter-Agency Affairs that the latest decision of the UNEP Governing Council will be brought to the notice of this Council in November. With other delegations, including that of Finland, we look forward to discussing at that time one of the UNEP recommendations dealing with a joint UNEP/FAO meeting on sustainable agriculture. Such a meeting would fall within the framework of the preparations for the proposed 1992 Conference on Environment and Development. We believe that the FAO Secretariat and governing bodies should be fully involved with preparations for that conference.

Finally, we welcome the report of Mr Trant, Executive Director of the WFC, outlining the highlights of the recent Cairo Declaration. My delegation is happy to join with other members of the WFC in endorsing this important call to action for members and non-members. One innovative proposal we would like to mention is taken up in paragraph 20 of the Cairo Declaration concerning support in principle for an international agreement on the safe passage of emergency food aid to those in need, and support for practical measures to protect vulnerable groups from the effects of civil strife, war and natural disasters. This will be an important undertaking requiring further attention by governments and international food agencies.

Horacio CARANDANG (Philippines): My delegation expresses its appreciation for document CL 95/17 which provides information to the Council on recent developments in the UN system of interest to FAO. My delegation is pleased that FAO has been providing technical support to the GATT Secretariat and the negotiating groups in connection with the Uruguay Round. Of course, FAO is aware of the views of member countries on the issues relating to the various commodities through the Committee on Commodity Problems and the various intergovernmental groups reporting to it. In this connection my delegation wishes to refer to some of the comments it made related to the Uruguay Round and multilateral negotiations during the last meeting of the CCP.

In the meeting, we reviewed one of the objectives of a certain group of countries in the Round which was to "adapt, support and protect". To my delegation, "adapt" means to adjust or to adjust protection which, according to the said group of countries, suffers from some disharmonization because of the availability of protection in one sector, cereals, and the lack of this protection in another sector, that is oilseeds. Therefore, to adapt protection means to balance the uncertainties and the disharmonization in external arrangements with the reduction of protection in one sector being balanced by increased production in another sector, or the reduction of import levies on cereals and the Introduction of levies on oilseeds. We hope this debate does not result in higher protection of any agricultural commodities of interest to developing countries, particularly the interests of the Philippines.

It appears strange that greater protectionism can be pursued in the oilseed sector when the great aim of all those taking part in the Uruguay Round is liberalization of trade. In this connection, my delegation supports the appeal made by the delegate of Colombia and many others for greater liberalization of trade and less protection and subsidized export of agricultural trade.

My delegation has also noted that FAO is likely to be called upon to play a more important role in relation to the Sanitary and Phyto-Sanitary Regulations and Barriers in view of the endorsement of the TNC at its meeting in April 1989 during the FAO Codex Alimentarius. The greater harmonization and acceptance of international standards accepted by all members of FAO, WHO, Codex Alimentarius and others, can help minimize the adverse affects of sanitary and phyto-sanitary regulations and barriers in agricultural trade.

My delegation is of the view that the Council should endorse the request of the various intergovernmental commodity groups that the FAO Director-General should approach the Common Fund when it becomes operational to designate these groups as eligible ICBs for sponsoring and following

up projects which may be financed from the Second Account of the Common Fund. My delegation has collaborated in the preparations for the Special Session of the General Assembly on International Economic Development.

Finally, my delegation notes with satisfaction the FAO/UNIDO relationship arrangement to be signed by the Directors-General of the two organizations after due consultation with the respective governing bodies. We are of the belief that this agreement is of paramount importance. In some cases it may not be possible to solve problems in agriculture only in terms of increased agricultural production, particularly in cases where surplus labour cannot be siphoned off to the agricultural sector. In many cases, from 50% to 70% of the population remains in agriculture when only a small fraction of that number would be sufficient to do the work. Greater collaboration between UNIDO and FAO to promote the processing of agricultural products in the rural areas of developing countries could help to alleviate problems of underemployment in the agricultural sector of developing countries.

Bashir El MABROUK SAID (Libya) (Original language Arabic): First of all, I would like to join the previous speakers in congratulating the Secretariat which has prepared this excellent paper which has been introduced in a very brief and clear way by Mr Dutia and his colleagues. I would like also to thank Mr Trant for his excellent introduction on the work by the World Food Council and the Cairo meeting. I support the conclusions reached at the Cairo meeting.

I do not have much to add to what has been said by the Ambassador from Mexico and from India, the Philippines and Cuba, especially when they referred to the Uruguay Round and the International Development Strategy, but I have a remark on paragraph 56 on the ACC Sub-Committee on Nutrition. We note the importance given to the problems of nutrition, and I think this importance is increasing day after day. This is a very encouraging development. The fact that we are thinking of holding an international conference on nutrition in the biennium 1990/91 is the proof of that. That, of course, will help mobilize world opinion on the problems in the field of nutrition. At the same time, we believe that FAO is the organization in a better position to find the solutions for these problems. Therefore, it should play a leading role.

Now I would like to comment on the Sub-Committee on Nutrition. I would like to ask Mr Dutia what is the role of this Sub-Committee? Do you think that the role of this Sub-Committee is of a coordination nature, and it does not have a role to play in formulating strategies on nutrition and agriculture and food? I think this role should be played by FAO, its General Conference and its organs. We think that when we propose holding such meetings, this should be done within the framework of FAO and its leading organs, any problem dealing, of course, with agriculture and food. We should concentrate on this role, and the other institutions and agencies will have a very subsidiary or secondary role to play. FAO should play the major role in this field.

Daniel D.C. DON NANJIRA (Kenya): Agenda item 11 highlights the recent development activities that have occurred or are planned within the UN System which are relevant to the work of FAO. These development issues have already been addressed by many delegations who have spoken before me. Particularly encouraging have been those interventions that have recognized the peculiar situation of the African continent which, as the documentation of the Secretariat has rightly pointed out, deserves particular, though not, of course, exclusive attention as the most seriously affected of all the continents by the critical economic and social situation of the world. I wish, therefore, to go into the substance of my intervention this morning at the meeting of the Council by addressing some remarks on the situation of one continent where it is held that homo sapiens originated. You can see how the various food habits of the world and its climatic conditions have had an impact on the human species. I do not know how often many of us stop for a moment and reflect on the fact that Africa is the mother of the human race. As some serious studies have concluded, humankind originated in Africa.

If this is the situation, the question that one can ask-and rightly so, I believe-is why on earth should Africa retain priority treatment by the International Community in the allocation of resources for development? I believe this is justifiable for a number of reasons. The fact is that Africa contains the largest number of least developed and most seriously affected countries. Africa has the poorest and weakest countries in the world, whose economic and social condition is so critical that the African countries need special treatment by the International Community. Africa has very poor countries with very high percentages of their populations depending on agriculture, predominantly at a subsistence level or, at best, having only limited access to monetized economic activities.

The African countries have an overwhelming proportion of the population living in rural areas, typically very badly served by transport and communications. Africa has rates of economic growth

which are very low indeed. Most of the African countries suffer either from severe geographical handicaps or from severe climatic conditions. The countries of Africa have a very low global level of development. They are low-income developing nations which are particularly vulnerable to sharp increases in the costs of their imports relative to export earnings. These countries suffer from an insufficiency of export earnings. Most of them are landlocked, an island of developing nations with serious structural adjustment problems.

Most of the African countries also are particularly disadvantaged in that they have especially low levels of income and developed economic structures and excessive dependence on international processes beyond their control. They have ecological and environmental constraints. They have natural disasters which are beyond their control, and in many cases they have a very strange geographical location. These forces constitute exceptionally serious obstacles in the way of the transition of the African nations to sustained development.

Africa also has little surplus income after essential consumption for the savings and investment needed for economic development. The production structures of the African countries often work against growth and necessary change. They have a dismal inadequacy of their human financial commercial networks and infrastructures. They highly depend on subsistence or near subsistence agricultural production. These countries are experiencing serious debt problems with soft currencies which require these African nations to pay for their imports in the hard currencies of the Western industrial countries. The latter's protectionist policies and measures imposed on the manufactured imports of the African states undermine attempts by these nations to build up their industrial base, the very fabric of their economic security and social well-being. By reducing the outlets and earnings of these African nations' infrastructured manufactured exports, the North shrinks the South's capacity to absorb exports from the North. Africa is a continent that suffers greatly from this type of arrangement. Africa also is the hardest hit victim of all these external forces, and hence the justified call for increased resource allocation to help alleviate the critical social and economic situation of the African continent.

It is because of the foregoing facts that the Kenya Delegation notes with approval the decision of the World Organization to undertake a mid-term review of the UN Action Programme for Africa's Economic Recovery and Development 1986-1990. The review should be continued to its fruitful conclusion. The efforts of the African governments themselves in the exercise are commendable. The African states know and accept the fact that the primary responsibility of developing their territories lies with these governments themselves. We therefore call upon our bilateral and multilateral donors to intensify their supplementary support to our governments which are exhibiting every determination to develop agriculture and its related sectors in Africa. I believe that it is the moral imperative of the International Community to help Africa solve its agricultural and economic problems. If this common objective requires a longer time to attain them, then we would recommend that the Action Programme be extended to allow for longer term investment.

Turning to the International Development Strategy for the fourth UN development decade, we also call for a thorough preparation for this strategy. It is an important exercise in which Kenya is and will continue to be involved. This new development strategy should provide for a review and appraisal mechanism for the implementation process. In like manner, we believe that the other planned conferences and meetings of the UN System will require inputs to the various governments and international governments of the United Nations System.

This is particularly the case Sir, for the International Conference on Nutrition to be convened in 1991/92 biennium. Increasing food production in itself will not alleviate hunger and malnutrition in the world. A faster growth of food production must be associated with appropriate policies which strengthen the economic command of poor people over food.

Improvements in health and sanitation are also important for better utilization of the food consumed. The planned Conference on Nutrition is thus important. We need however, an additional explanation as to the preparatory process for the Conference and I hope Sir, that the FAO Secretariat can do this soon if only in order to enable the interested Member States to prepare their inputs into the preparations.

As for the other conferences already held in the course of 1989, namely the Regional Conference on Environment and Development in Africa and the Conference on Hazardous Wastes, it will be necessary to submit progress reports of these meetings to the FAO Conference later in the year.

Those agencies concerned, including WHO, should consult with one another and with their counterparts at national and regional levels to assure that the local nutritional needs and conditions, especially of the developing nations, are met. The national capacities of these States should also

be enhanced so that better qualified nutritionists to study and find solutions to related diseases can be trained and utilized in the developing world.

Mr Chairman, the Special Session of the UN General Assembly on International Economic Cooperation for Development scheduled in New York from 23-27 April 1990 will offer us an opportunity to review developments in the world economy and map out a strategy for the 1990s. We believe that that Should not be another occasion for empty talk and lamentation over the critical economic situation of the world. Both individual and collective measures should be taken by the members of the International community to ensure the success of the session.

The period 1989-91 with significant reviews is thus important Mr Chairman, and we hope there will be significant reviews which will be brought to our attention for consideration and ultimate adoption.

As for the Common Fund for Commodities, particularly interesting and welcome to this delegation is the announcement that the negotiating process for the entry into force of the agreement to establish a Common Fund for Commodities has been completed, with the Common Fund becoming operational and effective on the 19 June of this year. As I understand it Mr Chairman, the fund is being established with a budget of US\$ 400 million or so to finance 18 commodities selected during the Nairobi UNCTAD meeting, and to be developed through research and other measures for the benefit of the developing countries. To facilitate the implementation of the R and D programmes especially under the Second Account, it will be necessary to appoint a management of the fund which will be expected to examine inter alia the various recommendations of the Member States of the International Commodity Bodies which will be established, hopefully, in the near future as the supervisory bodies of the Common Fund.

This matter Mr Chairman, needs further careful coordination and study to ensure that there is no conflict between the arrangements under the UNCTAD and those that may be established under other UN Agencies and/or bodies of the UN system. The limited resources of the fund will not allow for a wider programme financing. The Second Account will thus have to be used on a priority basis, and we look forward to an explanation of how this system will be functioning.

We in this delegation Mr Chairman, note with approval the objectives of the Uruguay Round as stipulated in paragraph 17 of the Secretariat document CL 95/17. It is an important document Mr Chairman. We hope that it will be well and carefully studied. We particularly welcome the negotiations leading to the liberalization of trade in tropical products. We want to see these products reach international markets without restriction. We believe it is necessary to allocate more resources to develop and improve the tropical products. We would like to see more of our basic export commodities such as coffee, tea, pyrethrum and horticulture products reach the international market more easily than hitherto. Thus Mr Chairman, protectionist measures that hurt the economies of the developing nations should be removed. Special attention should be given to tropical products, fisheries products, and natural resource based products. The access of the developing country products to the International markets should be guaranteed and the Uruguay Round should be brought to an early conclusion by 1990.

Under the operational activities for development, stress must be placed on the effectiveness of field operations and the role of the resident coordinators at the country level. Coordination must also be efficient at the International level; this would minimize duplication of efforts and avoid wastage of limited resources. The international community has recommended measures at all levels which should be observed. The purpose of coordination is thus to ensure efficient and maximum utilization of very scarce resources. Coordination at the international level may require the designation of lead entities and Member States have the primary responsibilities of requiring cooperative action to be taken by the participating agencies.

Let me now Mr Chairman, talk about those agencies including FAO, UNDP, GATT, that are involved in the exercise. These organizations and bodies of the UN system, and in particular, and in this case, IFAD, WFP, FAO, and WFC should undertake regular consultations, constructive dialogue and the availability of information necessary for efficient implementation of the decisions and recommendations made by member States. It is, for instance, essential in the cases of natural disasters and other disaster situations which would require that consultations, collaboration and coordination be effected between and among FAO and the other food and agricultural organizations of the UN system. These would include UNDRO, UNHCR, WHO, UNDP, UNICEF and the like, and even non-governmental organizations. All these agencies are expected to play major and thorough roles in the preparatory processes for the forthcoming meeting of the UN family of nations. FAO should, in particular, clearly indicate the kind of contribution that it intends to make within its competence. The FAO should prepare progress reports on the planned and executed activities of the UN Agencies mentioned in FAO document CL 95/17 and submit them to the FAO Conference later this year. FAO should, for instance, explain how they intend to finance projects from the Common Fund now that it has become operational; what working relationship does it intend to establish with UNCTAD in this respect; what inputs does it plan to take in mid-term review session on the UN Action Plan for

Africa, the IDS and the UN General Assembly Special Session on Development, and how does the FAO intend to coordinate its inputs with those of the other agencies based in Rome? All these, Mr Chairman, are quite relevant questions I feel, upon which we would like to be enlightened.

I cannot let this opportunity pass Mr Chairman, without making some remarks about the activities of the World Food Council. We too appreciate the information we received yesterday from Dr Trant, the Executive Director of WFC, on the recent session of the World Food Council in Cairo. Kenya has greatly benefited from the work of WFC. The Cyprus initiative, if fully implemented will go a long way in improving and alleviating the situation of the hungry and malnourished of the world. WFC has a duty to promote world food security and assist in the development of human resources of the developing nations. This is why Mr Chairman, my delegation welcomes the Declaration of Cairo and the measures proposed therein in the Programme of Cooperative Action. We appreciate the assistance the WFC, like FAO, IFAD and WFP, have extended to Kenya. We look forward to closer cooperation between these agencies and the Kenya Government, and they can count on the fullest and constructive support of the Kenya Delegation and Embassy in Rome.

As you can see Mr Chairman, I have been very short but I thank you very much for giving me the floor.

Kota HIRAMURA (Japan): I would like to make some comments on this subject. My first comment is on Japan's contribution to FAO for the Afghan Rehabilitation Assistance Programme. As is mentioned in document CL 95/17 which was especially referred to by Mr Lüne in his introduction, my government has made a special contribution of US\$ 105 million to the United Nations trust funds of the Office of the Coordinator for the UN Humanitarian and Economic Assistance Programme for the Afghan refugees, out of which US\$ 10 million has been earmarked for the FAO programme for agricultural sectors.

Japan fully supports that FAO plays a major role in Afghanistan. In this regard we hope that the International donor community will make similar efforts as my country does to help in the rehabilitation of Afghan agriculture which needs a great deal of assistance.

Secondly, as for Uruguay Round, my country considers it is a great progress that an agreement was reached in agricultural negotiations together with the other three fields at the Trade Negotiation Committee held in April, and that further negotiation was reopened in every field resolving the situation of "freeze" which continued since last December. Japan strongly hopes that the negotiations will make smooth progress, and that fair and market-oriented trade systems will be established in the near future.

The Japanese basic position for negotiation is to accomplish further liberalization of agricultural trade following the Punta del Este Declaration. In the upcoming substantial negotiations, in line with the agreement reached in the TNC meeting, my country will continue to advocate establishment of a fair and market-oriented agricultural trading system through the setting up of new GATT rules and disciplines for every measure affecting agricultural trade, taking into consideration various aspects that are required for individual agriculture, such as food security, land and environmental conservation, and other important roles of agriculture. Finally, as for the FAO/UNIDO relationship agreement, it will be welcomed from the viewpoint of cooperation and coordination between international organizations, and my government hopes that it will help to strengthen the partnership between FAO and UNIDO.

Tawfik A.H. Al MESH-HEDANI (Iraq) (Original language Arabic): Mr Chairman, upon reading the document and listening to the excellent explanations given by the Secretariat, and especially Mr Dutia, I find no difficulty in supporting the achievements realized so far. I do not need to reiterate those achievements.

I would like to commend the current cooperation between FAO and the other organizations of the United Nations system.

I would like to highlight the findings of the ACC Sub-committee on Nutrition in view of their importance for the future of mankind.

I would like to support the proposal to hold an International Conference on Nutrition. FAO should play a leading role in this field, because it is technologically and constitutionally qualified to do so. We are of the view that nutritional standards should be underlined, as well as the role of research and development in the field of nutrition. There should also be a study on how to increase the role of matters related to nutrition in the world.

Jang-Eae YOUN (Korea, Republic of) May I first of all express our appreciation to the FAO Secretariat for the high quality of the document before us. The document CL/95/17 clearly demonstrates that FAO has done very active and constructive work in collaboration with other UN agencies. Since many other delegations have already expressed valuable comments on this item, we shall be very brief. My comments will be on the Uruguay Round of GATT trade negotiations.

Firstly, noting that significant progress has been made in the GATT negotiations, we would like to emphasize the important role of FAO in providing technical expertise and information to the negotiating group on agriculture and the Working Group on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Regulations and Barriers. It is, however, foreseeable that there will be an increasing demand for FAO technical support as the negotiations progress. We therefore fully support FAO continuing to play a leading role in that regard.

Secondly, in relation to paragraph 10, my delegation would like to stress one of the important aspects of agricultural trade matters concerning the principle of special and differential treatment for developing countries. Problems arising from the negotiations between developing and developed countries could be solved in such a way that the specific economic and social conditions in developing countries are taken into account so that the developing countries would be able to implement their agricultural development policies, including structural adjustment measures, on a longer term basis, which would contribute to improving their food security situation and protecting the small and poor farmers, as well.

Joseph TCHICAYA (Congo): L'importance des sujets abordés dans la présentation de ce document nous donne l'occasion de faire quelques observations. Nos observations seront brèves étant donné que plusieurs délégués avant nous ont pris la parole et ont passé en revue toutes les questions importantes qui sont soulevées dans ce document.

La délégation de mon pays a accueilli avec satisfaction le document CL 95/17 qui traite des faits nouveaux survenus dans le système des Nations Unies intéressant la FAO.

La présentation qui a été faite par quatre hauts fonctionnaires de nos organisations prouve à suffisance l'importance du sujet, et en tous cas nous nous félicitons de la concision du document présenté.

Certes, ma délégation aurait également souhaité que ce document nous parvienne plus tôt pour un examen plus large et plus approfondi, mais nous comprenons que la compétence et la qualité font qu'il ait été difficile de le présenter très tôt.

Cela dit, nous voudrions nous féliciter de la participation active de la FAO notamment dans l'examen à mi-parcours de l'exécution du Programme des Nations Unies pour le redressement économique et le développement de l'Afrique 1986-1990. Nous nous réjouissons des diverses initiatives prises par notre Organisation pour l'application de ce Programme. Nous nous félicitons également de l'évolution des relations entre la FAO et l'ONUDI dont les mandats sont complémentaires, et nous encourageons l'accord qui est en cours.

Notre appui à l'organisation d'une Conférence internationale sur la nutrition à organiser en 1991-92 est acquis. Voilà une Conférence qui vient à point nommé au moment où tout indique que la malnutrition continue à gagner du terrain dans nos pays. C'est une occasion que la FAO doit saisir en tant qu'organisation et chef de file pour les questions alimentaires et nutritionnelles. Le Conseil devrait donc donner mandat au Secrétariat pour que la FAO joue pleinement ce rôle de chef de file pour organiser, de préférence à Rome, une telle Conférence et ce, en étroite collaboration avec l'OMS et toutes les autres organisations intéressées par ces questions.

Nous partageons ce qui a été dit par certaines délégations sur le rôle de la stratégie internationale du développement pour la quatrième décennie des Nations Unies pour le développement. En effet, chacun sait que la troisième décennie du développement est considérée d'ores et déjà comme perdue, et nous souhaitons qu'il n'en soit pas de même pour la quatrième. Étant donné le rôle particulier de l'agriculture dans nos pays, il est souhaitable que le document en préparation à la FAO nous parvienne tôt pour être analysé en détail par les pays membres et faire bénéficier l'Organisation de l'expérience de nos gouvernements.

Ma délégation se félicite de la contribution de la FAO à la préparation de la session extraordinaire de l'Assemblée générale des Nations Unies consacrée à la coopération économique internationale, afin de promouvoir la relance et la croissance économique et le développement des pays en voie de développement. Voilà une occasion de plus qui devrait être saisie pour prendre des mesures hardies en faveur des pays en développement.

Nous espérons que la question de la dette sera abordée avec pragmatisme et une volonté politique d'aboutir à des solutions satisfaisantes.

Je vous remercie Monsieur le Président.

Amador VELASQUEZ (Perú): En primer lugar, nuestro agradecimiento a la Secretaría por el documento CL 95/17 por el nuevo enfoque que presenta, por su concisión y por la información que, no obstante, dicha concisión aporta.

En segundo lugar, con respecto al acápite: Actividades operacionales para el desarrollo, deseamos expresar nuestro reconocimiento a la Oficina del Director General de Desarrollo y Cooperación Económica Internacional de las Naciones Unidas por la consulta ya hecha a la FAO sobre el estudio prospectivo de las nuevas tendencias en la cooperación para el desarrollo y sus implicaciones para el sistema de desarrollo de las Naciones Unidas, y agradecemos asimismo el ofrecimiento de información a los órganos rectores de la FAO sobre la marcha de este importante estudio.

En tercer lugar, sobre la Ronda Uruguay de negociaciones comerciales multilaterales, queremos insistir en que la participación de la FAO en el grupo de trabajo al que se hace alusión en el párrafo 18, mantenga la finalidad de lograr una mayor liberalización del comercio de productos agropecuarios y someter todas las medidas que afectan al acceso de las importaciones y a la competencia de las exportaciones a normas y disciplinas del GATT reforzadas y operativas.

En cuarto lugar, sobre el acápite: Fondo común para los productos básicos, creemos que si bien aun no está en condiciones de funcionar, también es cierto que los preparativos deben avanzar. Y al respecto, manifestamos nuestra conformidad con los avances que en la FAO hemos hecho sobre las propuestas para la designación de los organismos internacionales de productos básicos, que financiarán proyectos con cargo a la segunda cuenta del Fondo Común.

En quinto lugar, sobre la Estrategia de Desarrollo, la IDS, para el Cuarto Decenio de las Naciones Unidas para el Desarrollo y el periodo extraordinario de sesiones de la Asamblea General dedicado a la cooperación económica internacional, encontramos no sólo una ligazón entre ambos acápites y finalidades a través de la FAO, la misma que participará en el IDS, sino también con relación a la Conferencia Internacional sobre la Nutrición 1991-1992, donde la FAO deberá asumir un papel primordial en cooperación con otras organizaciones de las Naciones Unidas y tomando una línea de acción coordinada y consecuente con el llamado de la última reunión de ministros del Consejo Mundial de Alimentación, donde se pidió que temas como el hambre y la malnutrición tuvieran tratamiento prioritario en todo evento internacional importante.

En sexto lugar y con respecto a los acápites relativos al desarrollo sostenible, al medio ambiente y cambios climáticos, mi delegación se remite a las reflexiones y comentarlos que efectuó al tratar el tema 6.

En séptimo y último lugar, deseamos expresar nuestra conformidad al proyecto de acuerdo de relaciones entre la FAO y la ONUDI.

Antoine SAINTRAINT (Observateur de Belgique): Monsieur le Président, vous pardonneriez un observateur d'intervenir pour la seconde fois dans le courant de cet intéressant Conseil. Je me permettrais de parler en style télégraphique pour aborder deux points.

Le premier est l'intention d'organiser une conférence sur la nutrition et je voudrais dire tout l'intérêt que nous attachons à cette conférence. La nutrition est un élément essentiel de l'alimentation, et nous sommes convaincus que si la conférence est organisée sur un plan très pratique, concret et opérationnel-et sur ce point nous espérons que dans la prévision de la conférence, nous pourrions disposer d'un premier document nous permettant de tracer les axes d'organisation de la conférence-incontestablement elle pourra être d'un apport utile. Quand on songe que dans un certain nombre de pays du monde il existe des milliers d'aveugles pour des problèmes de carence de vitamines, pour des problèmes de malnutrition, je crois que les sommes qui seraient affectées à l'organisation de cette conférence constitueraient incontestablement un bon investissement. Se nourrir est une chose, bien se nourrir est autre chose, et les relations entre les problèmes nutritionnels et les problèmes d'alimentation sont incontestablement une priorité absolue. La FAO a un rôle de chef de file à jouer. La FAO doit tenir ce rôle en concertation avec l'Organisation Mondiale de la Santé. Mais nous apportons en ce qui nous concerne notre plein et entier appui à l'organisation de cette conférence.

Le second point que je voulais rapidement traiter est la Résolution 43/210 intitulée "Plan spécial de coopération économique pour l'Amérique centrale".

Je crois qu'incontestablement le PNUD, qui a été chargé d'une mission de relance d'une situation économique parfois tragique dans les six pays d'Amérique centrale, a un rôle de coordination à jouer, mais qu'il est très souhaitable que le PNUD-et nous avons déjà eu l'occasion de le dire à plusieurs reprises-utilise dans les domaines techniques de leur spécialisation les organismes des Nations Unies opérationnels dans leur spécialité, ce qui est incontestablement le cas de la FAO dans le domaine de l'agriculture.

On a parlé longuement hier de tous les problèmes de l'OPE et je crois que nous nous devons dans cette enceinte, au sein du Conseil d'Administration du PNUD, de lutter contre la tendance du PNUD, qui est un organisme par excellence de coordination et de concertation, à se constituer en organisme d'exécution de ses propres projets. Je crois que ce n'est pas bon, que ce n'est pas sain, et que l'OPE, qui peut avoir un rôle à jouer, ne doit pas se substituer aux organisations spécialisées de la famille des Nations Unies.

Je sais que les pays ont à décider quelles seront les organisations opérationnelles qui auront un rôle à jouer et c'est leur décision qui est un élément essentiel. Mais je fais un appel pour que le problème soit posé de manière très claire et que dans le domaine de la relance agricole et dans le développement de l'agriculture, dans le cadre de ce besoin de coopération économique pour l'Amérique centrale, la FAO puisse jouer le rôle important qu'elle a à jouer en coordination avec le gouvernement des pays intéressés.

Tels étaient les deux points que je désirais soulever au cours du débat de cet intéressant document qui recouvre un très vaste horizon.

Je n'entrerai pas dans le détail des autres points, mais je crois que ces deux points étaient suffisamment importants pour me permettre, comme observateur, d'intervenir et je vous remercie, Monsieur le Président, d'avoir bien voulu me donner la parole.

LE PRÉSIDENT: Je vais donner la parole au représentant du Centre des Nations Unies pour l'établissement humain, Habitat, qui va nous lire un bref résumé du message que le Directeur Exécutif d'Habitat nous adresse à l'occasion de cette session du Conseil. Le texte intégral du message sera incluse dans le texte du Procès Verbal de la réunion de ce matin.

F. GUARDIA-BUTRON (UNCHS): On behalf of the Executive Director of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat), it is my honour to etate his message on the occasion of the Ninety-fifth Session of the Council of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations.

The developing countries are experiencing economic crisis of extraordinary magnitude caused, among other things, by demographic and physical changes of the type and scale never witnessed before. The recent past has specifically been marked by accelerated population growth accompanied by a rapid process of urbanization; shifting both production and employment opportunities from rural to urban areas.

In the urban areas of the developing world, crisis of over-population and over-concentration is usually manifested in the form of deterioration of the living environment; housing shortages, overcrowding of residential buildings, lack of services such as water, sanitation, garbage disposal, congested thoroughfares, air pollution and other environmental ills caused by congestion.

The Executive Director of UNCHS (Habitat) in his introduction to the International Year of Shelter for the Homeless, in referring to the visible deterioration of quality of living environment, said: "Inadequate shelter is only one visual manifestation of a complex of physical and socio-economic factors that determine overall living conditions-the degree of access people have to land, security of tenure, living space, sanitary and environmental amenities, primary health care, community services, employment and education". This broad statement clearly describes s situation which affects the majority of population of developing countries, where the deterioration of the living conditions of the rural and urban poor can no longer be ignored. By the Year 2000, half of the world population would still be living in rural areas. If the issue of rural-urban is considered as a continuum and the process of urbanization as s necessary condition for growth and development; then the living conditions of rural settlements are very much related to the well-being of the urban residents.

Rural-urban unbalanced development contributes to the acute deficiencies in the quality of life of human settlements. The predominance of the urban sector and its lack of complementarity with the rural development is producing a rapidly unmanageable situation in the decades ahead, forcing multitudes of the poor people to move from rural areas to slums and squatter settlements in the cities, beyond the needs of these for productive labour force. If the present gap between urban and rural areas is to be reduced, effective government policies are required to distribute resources more equitably between the urban and rural poor. The eradication of poverty should include balanced development of rural and urban areas and equity and social justice in the sharing of productive resources and the benefits of progress.

The problem of rural poverty side by side with urban poverty is going to take on a new urgency in the 1990s as the developing countries embark on a new initiative for recovery and resurgence. It is, therefore, imperative to reconsider the content and direction of national development strategies in all sectors, including those dealing with shelter and human settlements.

Human settlements as centres of social, economic and cultural activities, in physical terms are comprised of housing, community buildings, schools, health facilities, recreation and open spaces, transportation, communications and energy systems. They are bases for creation of jobs, income, education and culture. As such, they are absolutely vital to the achievement of a satisfactory quality of life for all segments of the population. One of the first requirements for securing a satisfactory living environment is access to shelter.

Meeting basic shelter needs for all is a global responsibility. Inadequate and insecure shelter will lead to social and political instability and will certainly hamper physical and economic development. The right to adequate shelter is recognized universally and constitutes the basis for national obligations to meet shelter needs. However, no nation can claim to have reached the objective of adequate shelter for all, with current programmes incapable of coping with the scale of shelter needs of the population. The extent of the poverty to be found in the developing countries' marginal areas and in the countryside has already been well documented, and despite efforts by governments and International organizations, more than 1 billion people have shelter unfit for habitation. This number will expand dramatically unless determined measures are taken immediately. To address this obligation, governments must make a number of fundamental changes in existing approaches to the human settlements development. The measures must be taken aimed at profiting from the population trends, rather than being penalized by them. Moreover, it is a matter of satisfying one of the most elemental human needs. in order to avoid the fracturing of the social and political structures.

Recognizing and confirming the need to intensify national and International efforts to produce, deliver and Improve shelter for all, with specific emphasis on the poor and the disadvantaged, the United Nations General Assembly, at its 43rd Session, adopted Resolution 43/181 on "Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000". The Commission on Human Rights adopted a resolution proclaiming shelter as a basic human right. Shelter problems are a global concern requiring solutions, not in isolation but in relation to other global problems. Shelter for all, as understood here, means adequate shelter conditions for all population groups, irrespective of income, gender, age and physical capacity, in all types of settlements, ranging from rural hamlets and villages, through intermediate towns, to cities and metropolitan areas. The core of the Strategy consists of integrated national shelter strategies that need to be based on a full understanding of the scale and nature of the problem and the national resource base available to address the situation. Its successful development involves the adoption of an "enabling" approach, whereby the full potential and resources of all the actors in the field of human settlements and in the shelter production and improvement process are mobilized; urging Governments to develop appropriate national and sub-national strategies for shelter and regularly report to the Commission on Human Settlements on their relevant experience and progress in implementing those strategies. The people concerned would be given the opportunity to improve their housing conditions according to their own needs and priorities.

The General Assembly designated the Commission on Human Settlements to act as the United Nations intergovernmental body responsible for co-ordinating, evaluating and monitoring the Strategy, and appointed the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) as the Secretariat for the Strategy and the lead agency for co-ordinating and monitoring the relevant programmes and activities of the other United Nations organizations and agencies concerned. The final results should contribute to the achievement of favourable conditions for national growth, the improvement of the living conditions of the poor and the alleviation of poverty in all developing countries.

In achieving the overall objective of the Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000, there is a need to support projects related to provision and improvement of shelter. Priorities must therefore be reconsidered concerning both the recipients of the assistance and the types of projects. Activities relating to shelter and services development accord well with these priorities, and they are particularly suitable for support by food aid as one of the most effective incentives for improving the quality of life of the poor and disadvantaged by themselves. Given the precarious

state of the developing countries' economies and its severe impact on employment possibilities, food aid is becoming increasingly important as support to broader national economic policies, and as a complementary input to technical and financial assistance to accelerate economic development. The significance of the food aid in relation to shelter and services projects rests on the fact that food aid in connection with specifically defined objectives, is instrumental in creating employment, income and other possibilities for improvement and maintenance of an acceptable quality of life.

There is no doubt finally that the deplorable shelter conditions of the poor in the developing world are rooted in poverty, and that any strategy to improve this situation cannot be formulated outside a national economic context. It should be recognized that overall human settlements improvement, which includes the shelter situation is an investment in development. Shelter and development are mutually supportive and interdependent and policies must be developed in full recognition of the important links between shelter and economic development. The concept of sustainable development implies that shelter provision and human settlements development must be reconcilable with a sustainable management of the environment. An approach to overcoming this problem is to stimulate a greater involvement of the people themselves in the improvement of their surroundings. In this sense, food aid may serve as an incentive to stimulate and encourage self-help and co-operation efforts in the context of a durable popular participation, and as an avenue for social and economic mobility and not simply a short-term absorber of surplus labour. The flow, direction and use of food aid should be re-examined to determine their relevancy and appropriateness toward the targets of ending hunger and providing shelter.

No single aid agency or organization intent on assisting the development and improvement of the global shelter conditions has the resources, human, financial or material, to tackle the complex tasks envisaged. "Towards this end, co-operation within the United Nations system and with bilateral and multilateral organizations must be strengthened. There is a need for project funding and for specialized technical assistance for all stages of this work. Technical support is critical for the effective use of the manpower resulting from food-assisted projects applied to such complicated and technical fields. The restoration of the living environment through the availability of food and shelter, together with increased work opportunity should benefit the workers and assure the stability of the workforce and also benefit governments through higher productivity, increased earnings and stable employment.

The United Nations agencies are supporting the developing countries in the design and execution of inter-agency and inter-sectoral development, as an essential component of balanced socio-economic development remains a primary concern of the majority of developing countries. In this regard, the FAO's programmes are supporting a wide spectrum of national actions with the primary role in improving agricultural productivity, closely linked to the need to improve living conditions in rural settlements, which is increasingly recognized as an important dimension of development. At the threshold of the formulation of the New International Development Strategy for the Fourth United Nations Development Decade, and in view of the importance of the agricultural sector to the developing countries, the FAO's technical expertise should be most valuable in the formulation of a new food and agriculture policy guidelines coupled with an appropriate strategy oriented at reversing the alarming trends in the field of human settlements, in order to produce clear and visible improvements in the shelter and environment of the poor and disadvantaged by the Year 2000.

Habitat improvement in rural areas depends on the availability of food and water; shelter and infrastructure; as well as securing the necessary social climate and institutions, for maintaining a dignified life for rural inhabitants. Therefore, the upgrading of living conditions is, in most cases, linked with projects intended to increase production, create job opportunities, raise incomes and conserve natural resources. It has become increasingly apparent however, that the complex systems of inter-relationships-political, economic, socio-cultural and physical-require a more comprehensive and integrated approach in development efforts. Towards this end, the FAO has emphasized a series of actions over a period of time aimed at a comprehensive and increasingly integrated programme of development, which would functionally interlock with the objectives of the Global Shelter Strategy of the United Nations, with a view to experiment with new and more effective forms for the organization of living space, the provision of facilities and the structures required for a better life and a more viable human habitat-using available resources.

UNCHS Habitat in co-ordinating the activities of the United Nations system in achieving the overall objective of the Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000 is looking forward to development of co-operative efforts with all United Nations agencies, especially with the FAO on the basis of the theme of "Food and Shelter".

The Executive Director in conveying his best wishes for the successful deliberations of the Council, would like to solicit the assistance of this august body in making such a collaborative effort possible.

LE PRESIDENT: Je remercie le représentant d'Habitat. Nous arrivons à la fin du débat sur cette question très intéressante. Avec la permission du Conseil, je vais passer la parole à Monsieur Luhe et ensuite à Messieurs Dutia et Bonte-Friedheim pour apporter à notre Conseil les éclaircissements et les précisions demandée par les délégués.

Eberhard E. LUHE (Director, Office for Inter-Agency Affairs): First of all, I would like to thank all Council Members, Observers, Agency Representatives and, of course, in particular Mr Trant, for their most interesting contributions to the debate. I do not think I will reply to all the questions that were raised, first of all because I do not think it would be possible for me to do that-the document covers many, if not all, of the activities of the Organization, and secondly because after all, this is a debate of Council and many of the statements and comments made were addressed to governments rather than to the Secretariat of FAO.

On the format and content of the document itself, we were encouraged to note that our efforts to make the document more succinct and analytical were appreciated by many speakers. I should like to assure the delegate of the United Kingdom that we shall continue to try to improve the document even further. His proposals to this effect, to which I may come in a moment, were noted with great interest. The same is true for all other proposals made to improve the document. In particular, I am thinking of the delegates of Finland and Argentina. The delegate of Finland who was joined by the delegate of the United States this morning and others made the practical proposal, and I think in connection with paragraph 56 of the document requesting more technical information on arrangements to be made, etc-we can certainly do this, but there is always the risk if we put too much technical information into a document that it becomes unwieldy, with 150 or 200 pages, so we have to try to strike a balance between the two extremes.

The delegate of Argentina expressed some interesting thoughts about the purpose of the document. She wanted to have information well in advance, more specifically information on the IDS. Of course we try to do this, but there are certain limitations set by deadlines for printing, distribution, and so on. I can assure all those delegates who complained that the document was late that we are trying to do our best, and shall continue to try to do better.

Many speakers underlined the importance of coordination and cooperation between the agencies. Therefore may I make some very brief remarks on coordination in general. I would reiterate that the Director-General of FAO and the FAO Secretariat attach the greatest importance to coordination. Coordination aims at greater compatibility, on mutual complementarity of the activities of the organization and programmes of the Organizations of the system. It should concentrate on those issues and problems which require attention by the International community and effective joint action on the part of the system. Coordination is a policy instrument which should improve the performance; it is aimed at improving performance by enhancing the quality of the output of the agencies of the UN System, and should be aimed at avoiding unnecessary duplication of work. In my introduction I mentioned a few of those Instruments. We have the ACC with its so-called machinery. We have joint sessions of the ACC and the CPC, which is the Programme Committee of the United Nations. We have annual overview reports on the Administrative Committee on Coordination. We have cross-organizational reports, and so on. I am talking only about the formal instruments, not the day-to-day coordination and cooperation between agencies which is going on on a technical level. Here again, I can assure the delegate of the United Kingdom that FAO is responding to these coordination requirements to the best of its ability.

The delegate of the United Kingdom in particular wanted to know what FAO submitted to the Director-General for Development of International Economic Cooperation as input to the preparation for the triennial review of organization activities. FAO had an opportunity to comment on the draft of the report of the Director-General through the ACC mechanism, and more specifically through CCSQ-OPS, which is the substantive committee for operations. There is another substantive committee on substantive questions for programme matters. There was a one-day meeting organized in Geneva at which the agencies had the opportunity to comment on that draft.

Yesterday, Mr Pettit himself suggested that coordination must not become an undue burden. It should not be unreasonably and unnecessarily imposed on organizations. It should not become an end in itself, as it were. In fact, I think I mentioned last year in November, when we were discussing this item, that coordination costs money-not thousands of dollars, but millions of dollars. This is why coordination has budgetary limits, and it should not become an end in itself, as I have said. Obviously it can never be a one-way street; it has always to be a two-way procedure.

In the interesting discussion yesterday afternoon and this morning, the delegate of Colombia made a remarkable and thought-provoking statement on the general trend of the document. He did not see many favourable developments for developing countries-of course, I am not going to try to reply to that, but I should like to tell him that I have attended quite a number of discussions of

inter-agency and intergovernmental bodies, mainly last year, about the new international development strategy. I must say there was a lot of scepticism expressed by many about the usefulness of another international development strategy. Yet, in the end, there was broad support for the adoption of another strategy. What would be the alternative?-no strategy at all? Everybody agrees, of course, that the new strategy has to be radically different from all its predecessors. It has to be less rethorical and more practical, more modest in objective and more ambitious in action; it has to be more analytical and more flexible; it should avoid rigourous growth targets, etc.

In this connection I should like to reply briefly to comments made by the delegate of Argentina and again by the delegate of the United Kingdom. The question was asked, "Does FAO and the United Nations System take into account the human factor, human development in a development strategy"? is "yes". At the interagency level, and in particular in the FAO contributions, the human aspect of any development strategy and of structural adjustment programmes is strongly emphasized. I should mention here that when the ACC discussed the IDS last year it adopted a decision which, inter alia, said that the emphasis of an international development strategy should be on human development and the well-being of people, with economic objectives and means for achieving the human goals. This is in line with FAO thinking. I am sure Mr Dutia will elaborate on this.

I will give a few quick replies to a few straightforward questions. To the delegate of Colombia-no, we have not forgotten IFAD in our document. We shall report on the financial relationships with financial institutions and developments in those institutions to the tall Session of the Council, so there will be full Information on IFAD in our next document in November.

Then some reference was made by a number of delegates to the Plan for Central America, to which FAO has contributed in various ways. As delegates may know, the Secretary-General of the United Nations has prepared a report on the Special Plan of Economic Cooperation. FAO has elaborated project profiles appended to the report and we are now waiting to hear from UNDP. I can assure Council we remain fully prepared to develop the project profiles, and to proceed further.

We have also participated in the recent Guatemalan conference on Latin American refugees organized by UNHCR, UNDP and others. In early July-next week-there is a conference on assistance to Central America due to be held in Geneva. FAO has been invited to the Conference and will participate at a senior level. I fully agree with those speakers who said that the most important thing in Latin America is peace. On the process of achieving peace and stability in Central America there is a firm commitment by the donor community which is trying to help finance the economic recovery of this sub-region.

On the economic side, the main donors support the strategy of associating aid with the attainment of peace and stability. As I said, FAO is very closely involved in this because the recovery of the agricultural sector in Central America is vital, as many speakers have said.

On the UNIDO/FAO Agreement which is mentioned in paragraph 72 of the document and which was referred to yesterday by the distinguished delegate of Switzerland and this morning by Japan and others, I would agree with Mr Pasquier (Switzerland) that the new agreement and the Memorandum of Understanding which is here-I have got it here, but it is rather detailed, and I shouldn't bother the Council members at this stage with it-that should be discussed under item 19 where the Council is requested to approve the Agreement. Of course, for this discussion we shall provide the Council with all relevant documentation and the necessary clarification.

The distinguished delegate of the Federal Republic of Germany yesterday raised a matter concerning cooperation within the European region in the field of agriculture. Mr Chairman, if you do not mind and if the distinguished delegate of Germany does not mind, I shall take up this bilaterally, and we can discuss it bilaterally.

I should express gratitude to the distinguished delegate of Japan for his government's contribution to Afghanistan of which FAO will receive or has received about \$10 million for the rehabilitation of agriculture.

Finally, I am more than pleased about the very positive reaction of the Council to the planned international conference of nutrition for which there was very broad support by Council members. I should like to thank in particular the distinguished Ambassador of Italy who announced generously that Italy would be pleased to host the Conference. But I think here I am already encroaching on my neighbour's responsibility and what he is going to say. I stop here, Mr Chairman. I think here you may ask Mr Dutia to elaborate.

B.P. DUTIA (Assistant Director-General, Economic and Social Policy Département): I shall try to respond to some of the observations and questions that have been raised by the distinguished members of the Council concerning the International Development Strategy, the Nutrition Conference proposal

and the Common Fund. First of all, I would like to express our appreciation for the general support that the members of the Council have given to the Director-General's plans to initiate work in support of the International Development Strategy and the Special Session. In this connection, some members wanted to have more information on the type of contributions that FAO intends to make. They also wanted to know what contributions have been made so far. Concerning the latter point, I would like to inform the Council that FAO contributions so far to this exercise have been made in two ways. One is through FAO's participation in the ACC Task Force on long-term development which, *inter alia*, at one of its recent sessions, considered the possible broad approaches and issues that could be covered by the International Development Strategy. The report of this Task Force, in the preparation of which FAO has collaborated with other U.N. agencies, was one of the documents submitted to the June meeting of the Ad Hoc Committee of the Whole for the preparation of the International Development Strategy. The second way in which FAO contributions have been provided is through the Secretariat of the U.N. Some documents have been given to the participants at the Ad Hoc Committee of the Whole. These background documents include the three documents that we gave to them. One is the major issues involving food and agriculture in the 1990s. The second was World Agricultural Trends to the Year 2000. The third was a position paper on climate change and its implications for agriculture, forestry and fisheries. The first two of these documents were based largely on the findings of the Agriculture Towards 2000, and the third document was based on the in-house work of an *ad hoc* group to prepare contributions for U.N. system-wide meetings including the meeting of the IPPC.

The distinguished delegates of the United Kingdom and Finland and, later on, the Ambassador of Kenya, also wanted to know more about the plans for our further contributions to these exercises as well as the nature of the documents that will be prepared by FAO for consideration by the governing bodies. As I mentioned in my introductory statement yesterday, the Director-General has initiated work within FAO for the preparation of a long-term strategy for the food and agriculture sector for the 1990s and beyond. This long-term strategy will be prepared with active participation of all technical departments and divisions concerned within FAO. This strategy should provide a framework for preparing FAO contributions to the International Development Strategy as well as to the Special Session of the General Assembly.

The Director-General plans to submit to the FAO Conference in November 1989 a very detailed outline of this long-term strategy for the food and agriculture sector with a preview of the main issues and approaches that will be developed. We shall revise this outline in the light of the discussions and suggestions made at the Conference and the general guidance that the Conference will provide to us on this matter. Later on, it is our intention to elaborate this outline document further, and the full strategy document will be submitted to the 98th Session of the Council in November 1990.

As yet, no definitive view has emerged at the intergovernmental level on the issues that would be finally selected for inclusion in the agenda of either the Special Session or the International Development Strategy. These subjects are still under consideration at the inter-governmental level. Given this situation and also the need for FAO contributions to reflect to the maximum extent possible the views of our governing bodies, the strategy and the preparation within FAO will be based on an elaboration of the assessments and recommendations of the global and regional studies that have already been undertaken by FAO, such as the Agriculture Towards 2000 as well as the regional studies on Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean and Europe. In addition, the FAO or FAO-sponsored sectoral strategies, plans of action and undertakings will also be drawn upon to the maximum extent possible, as appropriate, in preparing this long-term strategy. Such strategies and plans of action from which we will draw include-and of course, this is not an exhaustive list-but these include the WCARRD Programme of Action, the Plan of Action for the Integration of Remaining Development, the Guidelines for International Agricultural Adjustment, the World Food Security Compact, the Tropical Forestry Action Plan, the Strategy for Fisheries Management and Development, the International Code of Conduct on the Distribution and Use of Pesticides, the Codex Alimentarius, and the Plant Protection Convention.

The question was also raised whether the contributions that we have made reflect the importance of human development. As my colleague, Dr Luhe, already mentioned, yes, it is so. We do emphasise the need to address the priority issues of undernutrition and poverty, and in particular the rural poverty, which indeed have been emphasised in the studies that we have already undertaken on a number of occasions. We believe that inadequate access to food by poor countries and by poor population groups is the one aspect of world food security which is likely to dominate for years to come.

Let me now turn, with your permission, to certain observations, comments that were made in relation to the proposal to convene an international conference on nutrition. On the whole, we are gratified and also encouraged by the general support that has been given to the proposal for convening by FAO an international nutrition conference in the biennium 1992-1993, of course, in cooperation with WHO and other concerned agencies. In this context, we very much welcome with great appreciation the generous offer made by Ambassador Valenza, the distinguished delegate of Italy, for his country's readiness to host this Conference and we thank him for this. Some delegates, while

nothing this proposal with interest, have indicated that they would like to have more Information and more time to take a final view on this matter. We understand this position, and we are of course ready to provide more Information to them in order to help in reaching an early decision. Of course, more information will also be generated through the discussions which the Director-General intends to have with the Director-General of the World Health Organization.

In this connection therefore, Mr Chairman. I would also like to invite the attention of the members of the Council to the fact that the Director-General intends to present to the Conference in November 1989 a detailed document on this subject, on the basis of which the Conference will be in a position to take a final decision. Meanwhile the general support that has been expressed by the Council at this session to this proposal, and the lead role that it expects that FAO should play in the organization of this international conference, has been very encouraging.

Mr Chairman, the question was also raised by the distinguished delegate of Libya about the role of the Sub-committee on Nutrition. This is an ACC Sub-committee and its main purpose is to avoid duplication of efforts and waste of resources within the UN System in dealing with nutrition problems which have got multi-dimensional aspects. It is basically an advisory body which leaves the policy issues and decisions to the respective agencies which are members of the ACC itself.

Finally, Mr Chairman, I would like to turn to some of the questions that have been raised in connection with the Common Fund for Commodities. In the first place Mr Chairman, I would like to clarify that the Common Fund for Commodities has already come into force from 19 June 1989.

The second point I want to clarify is that the Common Fund is a specialized Agency of the United Nations. There was some misunderstanding that it is part of UNCTAD. It is not so; it is a separate specialized agency of the United Nations. Of course, the agreement establishing the Common Fund makes special provision for UNCTAD association with the Fund as well as, of course, with other concerned organizations.

Mr Chairman, I would also like to clarify in response to some questions about what the inter-governmental groups are doing or are planning to do in order to develop the projects which could eventually be submitted for financing by the Common Fund. Mr Chairman, in the past few years-I think about 5 or 6 years-various inter-governmental groups in FAO had developed project ideas for eventual preparation of full project documents which could be submitted to the Common Fund. Of course the Common Fund negotiations took a long time to come to fruition and this work was in a sense kept in abeyance, and now various inter-governmental groups of FAO are beginning to give attention to the development of project ideas and priorities for consideration by the Second Account financing in anticipation that the Fund will become operational in the second half of 1990.

Mr Chairman, I would also like to express Secretariat's gratification at the general support that has been expressed by the members of the Council to the decisions taken by various inter-governmental groups to encourage the Director-General to approach the Common Fund when, it becomes operational, with a view to the designation of the inter-governmental commodity groups as eligible inter-governmental commodity bodies, to sponsor and follow-up on the projects for consideration by the Second Account of the Common Fund. Of course, it is to be recognized that the final decision on the designation of the ICBs will rest with the Executive Board of the Common Fund, taking into account the criteria for such designation contained in the agreement on the Common Fund.

I think Mr Chairman, I have responded to the questions and observations made on these items by the members of the delegation. Again I would like to thank the members of the Council for the general support they have expressed.

C.H. BONTE-FRIEDHEIM (Assistant Director-General, Agriculture Department): I would like to briefly reply to six important points which were made this morning and also some of them yesterday. The first one deals with two aspects and that is the importance of environmental sustainability.

First I would like to advise the Council that ACC in April of this year, prior to the UNEP meeting, agreed or made a decision which says that the ACC agreed to establish, under the authority of the Secretary-General, an ad hoc task force at the executive head level which would serve as an inter-agency mechanism for the system by preparation for the United Nations conference on environmental development. This to me is the first time that such an ad hoc task force at the executive head level has been established. This task force consists of a core group of members of which FAO is a member.

With regard to sustainable agriculture, the resolution-not recommendation but resolution-from UNEP. We hope that what we have discussed before on the Code of Conduct that PIC, which means Prior

Informed Consent, will also be used when we talk about sustainable agriculture between agencies, and that PIC means what it meant in the Code-Prior Informed Consent-and not post-injunction conditions.

With regard to the Conference which was held in Kampala in June this year, it was a UNEP/ECA (Economic Commission for Africa), first regional conference on the environment and sustainable development in Africa, and FAO was requested earlier this year to become a co-sponsor and we agreed because of the importance of the subject. The co-sponsors of this conference were UNESCO, UNIDO, UNDP and FAO. This conference was preceded by a meeting of experts, and then followed a ministerial session. It was held from 12-16 June in Kampala. Thirty-five African countries participated, 12 at ministerial level. In addition we had some observers from four countries, some inter-governmental organizations and 16 UN organizations which attended the meeting.

The major recommendations were goals identified by the conference as seven, out of which some of them are of great and direct interest to FAO. The seven are: (1) managing demographic change and pressure; (2) achieving food self-sufficiency and security; (3) ensuring efficient and equitable use of water resources; (4) securing greater energy self-sufficiency; (5) optimising industrial production; (6) maintaining species and ecosystems, which is genetic resources, and lastly (7) preventing and reversing desertification. These recommendations are really recommendations to the governments, and government action and policy changes are expected. The follow-up action on the UN side will be coordinated by ECA and UNEP together with the other agencies which have an interest in these technical fields.

The third point I would like to make, Mr Chairman, is in regard to AIDS. We do agree that FAO should not merely monitor the work of others concerning AIDS. Current analytical efforts in and outside the UN System are focussed largely on short-term issues particularly those related to the incidence and transmission of the disease and potential medical costs. Longer-term issues and wider socio-economic aspects are receiving only limited attention. It is conceivable, however, that within 10-15 years AIDS could have an appreciable negative effect on food production and consumption in some countries, particularly in sub-Saharan Africa, through its impact on agricultural labour supply and incomes. FAO therefore prepared last year a joint FAO/WHO research project on the potential impact of AIDS on food production and consumption. Two country desk studies completed by FAO have confirmed the potential seriousness of the impact of AIDS on food production and consumption and export earnings.

Mr Chairman, the delegate of India asked whether FAO has fulfilled or is fulfilling its mandate with regard to climatic change. It is the Secretariat's feeling, although we cooperate with the WMO that we have not been able to do it in the present biennium, but I refer to the Summary Report of the Programme of Work and Budget where the new Sub-Programme 2.1.1.6 Sustaining Resource Potentials has one brand new programme element which is called the Analysis of the Impact of Climatic Change on Agriculture, and it is exactly this programme element that will, we hope, at least partially fulfil the mandate this Organization has with regard to climatic change and its impact on agriculture.

Two final points, sir, one with regard to GATT and the role of FAO with regard to sanitary and phytosanitary aspects. FAO is aware of the role that the IPPC, the International Plant Protection Convention, and the Regional Plant Protection Organizations will have to play, and therefore FAO is already calling in September of this year a technical consultation in order to prepare for the day when we will be called upon to assist. The Secretary of Council and Conference will advise you, when you discuss the agenda for the forthcoming Conference, under what agenda item we will talk about that aspect of our work and cooperation with GATT.

My final point is the point raised specifically today by the delegate of Spain, but also by others, and that has to do with the special plan of economic cooperation for Central America. FAO has assisted the Secretary-General in preparing the background studies, and has assisted in identifying projects and programmes for implementation to fulfil the objectives of this plan. The Secretary-General has assigned the responsibility for the follow-up work to UNDP. A meeting of donors will take place I think next week in Geneva, but FAO has indicated to the UN, to the Secretary-General as well as to UNDP, that FAO has indicated to the member countries who are in Central America-and FAO has and is doing it now-indicating to the donors that FAO stands ready to assist in the implementation of this plan for the benefit of the people of Central America. In this respect I have nothing more to add to what has been said by the Ambassador of Belgium.

R.G. PETTIT (United Kingdom): Thank you, Mr Chairman. Before you close the plenary discussion on this item I would just like to make a clarification on the question of the suggested conference on nutrition. My delegation did not express a view on whether FAO should have a lead role in this conference because we wished to have the opportunity to have further details of the proposal, and the opportunity to consult with other members of our government on both whether or not there should

be a conference, and the precise role in it of FAO and WHO and the other agencies should, in our view, await the views after the July meeting of the two Director-Generals and the decision of the relevant governing bodies including our conference.

Iija HULIKSKY (Czechoslovakia): As a newcomer to this august body, I have to confess that I have learned just from the document CL 95/17 about the suggestion that an international nutrition conference be convened in 1991-92. As I understand from the document before us, a decision on this matter has not been taken as yet. After having listened to the debate in this Council, and after having done some homework of my own, I would like to put on record the position of my country on that suggestion.

The Czechoslovak delegation is of the opinion that FAO should be encouraged to follow up negotiations with other interested UN agencies, and especially WHO, on the suggestion of convening the nutrition conference. My delegation supports the view that FAO, by virtue of its mandate, and thanks to its technical and administrative resources, should play a leading role in cooperation with WHO in the organization and running of the conference.

B.P. DUTIA (Assistant Director-General, Economic and Social Policy Department): Mr Chairman, we have noted carefully the observations and explanation given by the delegate of the United Kingdom. We understand that and, of course, all the views that have been expressed on this matter will be duly reflected in the report of the discussion on this item by the Members of the Council. We certainly note, as I said in my remarks, that there are some delegations that wish to have more information and more time to consider this issue.

In that context, I also refer to the intention of the Director-General to put a detailed document to the Conference in November 1989 that will examine this question in all its facets with a view to helping the Member Governments to take a final decision on this matter.

I hope this will satisfy the delegate of the United Kingdom.

LE PRESIDENT: A la fin de ce débat, je voudrais me faire l'interprète du Conseil en disant qu'il a noté avec satisfaction l'intérêt particulier du document préenté et a donné son appréciation sur la qualité du document CL 95/17 traitant des faits nouveaux intervenus dans le système des Nations Unies qui intéressent la FAO.

Le Conseil souhaite vivement que les efforts appréciés du Secrétariat dans le cadre de cette clarification puissent être poursuivis. Ce document a permis de voir le rôle joué par la FAO dans le système des Nations Unies et d'apprécier l'intérêt du développement d'une coopération maximum de la FAO avec les autres organismes des Nations Unies. Les interventions de la FAO dans les domaines de sa compétence ont été constructives et efficaces dans les organisations économiques internationales. A cet égard le Conseil déclare que la FAO est particulièrement qualifiée pour participer activement à la préparation de la stratégie Internationale de développement pour la quatrième décennie, et il a pris note des dispositions déjà prises par le Secrétariat pour préparer aussi bien cette conférence que celle de la session extraordinaire des Nations Unies pour la coopération économique. Le document qu'est en train de rédiger le Secrétariat pour les perspectives de l'agriculture sera le bienvenu et permettra probablement d'éviter qu'il s'agisse uniquement de stratégie technocratique, mais aboutira à des résultats précis, concrets, à des actions qui permettent réellement de lutter contre la pauvreté et que cette décennie soit une décennie à visage humain, tant il est vrai que la décennie des années 80 peut être considérée comme perdue pour les pays en développement, et notamment pour l'Afrique et l'Amérique latine.

On peut dire également que le Conseil est heureux de l'entrée en vigueur de ce fonds commun des produits de base qui était attendu depuis neuf ans et formule le vœu que toutes les dispositions soient prises pour qu'on puisse agréer aussi clairement que possible les produits et les projets susceptibles d'être financés par le deuxième guichet de ce plan.

En ce qui concerne l'Uruguay round, le Conseil a formulé le vœu que l'accord-cadre sur l'agriculture, enregistré à Genève en avril dernier, puisse déboucher sur des actions concrètes en vue d'une plus grande libéralisation du commerce des produits agricoles notamment tropicaux.

Compte tenu de l'importance du rôle de l'Afrique dans le cadre des efforts de la FAO, on peut confirmer que le Conseil a été heureux de noter la participation utile de la FAO à l'examen à mi-parcours de la stratégie du développement économique et de redressement économique de l'Afrique. Le Conseil souligne que la FAO doit pouvoir continuer à jouer dans ce domaine pour l'avenir le rôle qui lui revient.

La majorité des membres du Conseil a souligné l'intérêt attaché au plan d'action spéciale de coopération économique de l'Amérique latine qui devrait être également l'objet d'une attention importante, compte tenu du caractère précis des besoins de cette région.

En ce qui concerne la Conférence internationale sur la nutrition, 25 délégations ont pris la parole sur ce point, 14 délégués ont émis un jugement favorable à l'organisation d'une telle conférence, du fait qu'elle touche un point fondamental soulevé depuis plusieurs années dans ce Conseil auquel j'ai eu le privilège d'assister: la nutrition, qui figure dans l'acte constitutif de la FAO. D'autres délégations, à juste titre, ont dit qu'elles n'avaient pas reçu à temps les matériaux suffisants pour prendre une décision en la matière et je souhaite vivement que l'Organisation puisse mettre à la disposition de toutes les délégations les éléments utiles permettant aux gouvernements de prendre la position qu'il faut, au moment où il le faut.

J'ai noté cette tendance du Conseil; c'est donc l'intérêt de la Conférence que les membres aient aussi rapidement que possible les moyens pertinents leur permettant de prendre leurs positions et des décisions circonstanciées en la matière. Voilà ce que je pourrais dire à la fin de cette réunion. J'ai été très intéressé par la qualité et l'intensité de cette discussion. Il s'agit d'un des points traditionnels du Conseil, extrêmement important, pour nous permettre d'avoir un round-up sur les activités générales des Nations Unies et la part de la FAO.

Mohammed Saleem KHAN (Pakistan): Mr Chairman, my delegation had refrained from taking the floor on this item because, as the delegate of India said, there are various issues on which we do not have a mandate from the Government of Pakistan, particularly the issue on Afghanistan, which is very important to us, and perhaps my Government may have wished to make some comments in that regard.

However, my purpose in taking the floor was not on that account. I noted that you were taking account of those delegates supporting the nutrition conference by FAO. Having heard the reasons given by India, Czechoslovakia, and the generous offer made by Italy, I think my delegation would also like to associate itself with those delegations supporting that FAO should play a leading role in that Conference.

LE PRESIDENT: Nous avons un Conseil très chargé cet après-midi et ce afin de préparer la prochaine Conférence. Il est important plusieurs titres et l'un des rôles les plus importants c'est de bien préparer la Conférence et le budget. Il faut également organiser la Conférence. Mieux on travaille, plus la Conférence a de chances de se dérouler dans des conditions optimales. Donc nous allons nous séparer et je propose aux Honorables délégués d'être présents à 14 h 30 aussi nombreux que possible car ce problème de l'organisation de la Conférence est très important.

Gonzalo BULA-HOYOS (Colombia): Pensamos, Señor Presidente, que la experiencia de ayer tarde cuando nos reunimos a las 3.30 fue satisfactoria. Queremos apoyar su empeño por el avance de nuestros trabajos, aunque observamos que el punto 13 podría no tomar demasiado tiempo. Por ello, de manera respetuosa, Señor Presidente, y muy cordialmente, le pedimos una nueva hora de reposo en medio del calor romano y, ojalá, nos reuniéramos a las 3.30.

LE PRESIDENT: Je voudrais répondre aux délégués de la Colombie que l'année dernière en novembre nous avons eu un télescopage entre les travaux du Conseil et ceux des Commissions et nous avons connu les difficultés que vous connaissez. Je crois qu'il serait souhaitable qu'on laisse au Comité de rédaction le soin de préparer son travail. Il y a une réunion à 18 heures cet après-midi. Notre devoir consiste à lui permettre de préparer son rapport en toute quiétude. Je vous laisse donc le soin d'apprécier. Si l'on commence plus tôt, on finit plus tôt nos débats. Tout dépend de ce que les délégués préfèrent. Veulent-ils partir 5 heures et avoir l'après-midi libre? Ce que j'ai noté hier, c'est que beaucoup de délégués ont reconnu qu'il n'avaient rien à faire jusqu'à 15 h 30. Je crois que lorsqu'on est sur un cheval il vaut mieux continuer et, si vous voulez, je vais donc lever la séance.

Hannu HALINEN (Chairman, Drafting Committee): I should like to inform the Council that the Drafting Committee is in the middle of a very important discussion at this moment, and I would like if possible to commence even earlier than 6.00 o'clock. Therefore, I would very much hope that we keep to the schedule for this afternoon and return at 2.30 p.m.

Gonzalo BULA-HOYOS (Colombia): Debemos confesar, Señor Presidente, que nos convencen las razones expuestas por usted y que los representantes de Colombia estaremos aquí a las 14.30 en punto.

Pero si he pedido la palabra es porque nos interesa mucho la labor que adelanta el Comité de Redacción. Quisiéramos saber, si es posible, que el Presidente, que acaba de intervenir Señor Halinen, de Finlandia, en el momento en que lo considere oportuno nos diga, cuál ha sido la marcha de este Comité, cuantos temas se han estudiado, cuáles faltan y que a la vez la Secretaria y usted, cuando sea posible, nos hagan una estimación, por lo menos una proyección, de qué parte del Informe, qué temas estarán listos, cuándo y dónde y también cuáles son las posibilidades de concluir este período de sesiones.

LE PRESIDENT: Je crois que le délégué de la Finlande en tant que rapporteur général pourrait s'exprimer sur cette question pertinente car il est bon que nous travaillions en symbiose, Conseil et Comité de rédaction. Si vous pouvez donner quelques informations je crois qu'elles seront utiles.

Hannu HALDEN (Chairman, Drafting Committee): Mr Chairman, I will be glad to do that. The Drafting Committee has finalized the items up to the budget, and as I understand, the document on those items has been printed.

Yesterday evening the Drafting Committee started to discuss the Report of the Programme Committee, including the progress report on the review. It is our intention to continue tonight. Referring to my comment that we are in the middle of a very important discussion, it seems that this is one of the key questions, the review of the budget.

But as I said, the other items have already been finalized and are ready to go to the Council in due course.

LE PRESIDENT: Je remercie le délégué de la Finlande en sa qualité de rapporteur et je vais formuler un vœu, c'est qu'au cours de nos travaux nous puissions arriver à permettre au Conseil, lors de l'adoption du rapport, d'avoir le temps qu'il convient pour cette adoption. Habituellement il faut une journée et l'expérience montre que c'est une action importante, même très importante. Je vous propose de faire tout ce qu'il vous sera possible pour donner ce rapport à temps et permettre aux délégués de faire leur devoir sans être soumis à des pressions insupportables. Nous sommes arrivés à la fin des débats sur ces questions.

The meeting rose at 12.15 hours.

La séance s'est levée à 12 h 15.

Se levanta la sesión a las 12.15 horas.

council

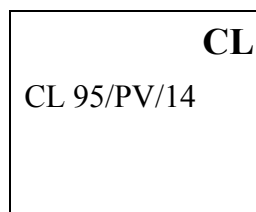
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ORGANIZACION DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS PARA LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION



Ninety-fifth Session

Quatre-vingt-quinzième session

95º periodo de sesiones

FOURTEENTH PLENARY MEETING
QUATORZIEME SEANCE PLENIERE
14ª SESION PLENARIA
(27 June 1989)

The Fourteenth Plenary Meeting was opened at 14.45 hours Lassaad Ben Osman, Independent Chairman of the Council, presiding

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

Se abre la 14ª Sesión Plenaria a las 14.45 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)
- 13. Preparations for the Twenty-fifth Session of the FAO Conference
- 13. Préparation de la vingt-cinquième session de la Conférence de la FAO
- 13. Preparativos para el 25° periodo de sesiones de la Conferencia de la FAO
- 13.1 Arrangements for the Session and Provisional Timetable
- 13.1 Organisation de la session et calendrier provisoire
- 13.1 Organización y calendario provisional del periodo de sesiones

LE RESIDER: Nous reprenons le cours de nos travaux avec la discussion du point 13 de l'ordre du jour, point très important qui concerne la préparation de la vingt-cinquième session de la Conférence de la FAO. Avec votre autorisation, je vais donner la parole au Secrétaire général, M. Alessi, qui va faire une communication introductive.

Je rappelle qu'à la fin de cette séance plénière, nous aurons une réunion avec les chefs de délégation pour examiner le point 13.2, à savoir la désignation du Præident et des autres membres du bureau de la Conférence (CL 95/11, par. 8).

Nous examinerons aussi aujourd'hui le point 12 intitulé "Lieu du dixième Congrès forestier mondial 1991: pour décision".

LE SECRETAIRE GERERAI: Monsieur le Præident, le point 13 comporte trois sous-points. Le sous-point 13.2 fera l'objet d'une séance à huis clos. Avec votre permission, je vais présenter les sous-points 13.1, qui s'intitule "Organisation de la session et calendrier provisoire", et 13.3, qui s'intitule "Date limite de présentation des candidatures au poste de Præident indépendant du Conseil". Ces deux sous-points sont soumis au Conseil pour décision.

Le document CL 95/11 est en fait un projet de document pour la vingt-cinquième session de la Conférence, auquel sont joints l'ordre du jour provisoire et le calendrier provisoire. Le Secrétariat a seulement deux points à préciser à propos de l'ordre du jour provisoire. Le premier point concerne le point 8: "Rapport intérimaire sur les négociations commerciales multilatérales du GATT (négociations d'Uruguay) et conséquences pour la FAO". La Conférence sera saisie d'un document sur les applications de la Convention internationale pour la protection des végétaux en plus du rapport intérimaire sur les négociations et leurs conséquences pour la FAO.

En ce qui concerne le point 17.1, le Conseil, en examinant ce matin le point relatif aux faits nouveaux survenus dans le système des Nations Unies, a marqué son intérêt pour l'idée d'une conférence internationale sur la nutrition. En vue du débat, et pour donner suite à cette suggestion, il est proposé que le point 17.1 de l'ordre du jour provisoire de la Conférence soit libellé comme suit: "Faits nouveaux survenus dans le système des Nations Unies intéressant la FAO (y compris la conférence internationale sur la nutrition)". Le calendrier de la Conférence sera adapté en conséquence.

En ce qui concerne le sous-point 13.3 de l'ordre du jour, c'est-à-dire le paragraphe 39 du document CL 95/11, les dates qu'il est suggéré d'insérer pour la présentation des candidatures au poste de Præident indépendant du Conseil sont respectivement le vendredi 1er septembre et le vendredi 8 septembre 1989, comme il est indiqué dans le document CL 95/12. Comme par le passé, ces dates se situent à mi-chemin entre la session de juin du Conseil et la session de novembre de la Conférence, ce qui laisse aux gouvernements des Etats Membres environ deux mois après la session du Conseil et avant la date limite et environ deux mois après la notification des candidatures avant la session de la Conférence.

Gonzalo BUIA HOTOS (Colombia): Nuestro competente y dinamico Secretario, el Sr. Alessi, ha hecho una magnifica y pragmatica presentación de los temas 13.1 y 13.3, lo cual facilita nuestra declaración. En relación con el documento CL 95/11 en cuanto a las adiciones que el Sr. Alessi ha propuesto al Programa Provisional de la Conferencia, las apoyamos plenamente; son coherentes, a la luz de los resultados de nuestras discusiones de ayer tarde y esta mañana.

Queremos referirnos solamente el párrafo 7 del documento CL 95/11. El párrafo 7 habla ya del 96° período de sesiones del Consejo, que está previsto del 7 al 9 de noviembre. Cuando discutimos el tema 15, el informe preliminar de los Comités de Programa y de Finanzas sobre el examen de la FAO, creemos que el Embajador Warin, de Francia, nosotros y otras delegaciones hicimos referencias a la posibilidad de prolongar la duración de ese período de sesiones. Entendemos también-esto lo decimos con respeto-que el Director General manifestó que posiblemente no habría inconveniente en que se prolongara la duración de ese período de sesiones.

Queremos ahora hacer una propuesta concreta, bien sea que se adopte en este momento, bien sea que sus términos sirvan de meditación a los miembros del Consejo y a la Secretaría para adoptar una decisión definitiva, cuando llegemos a los temas 18 y 21, que están interrelacionados muy directamente. Proponemos que el 96° de sesiones del Consejo de la FAO se celebre el lunes 6 al viernes 10 de noviembre. Estamos seguros que la Secretaría compartirá con nosotros la idea de que convendría limitar al menor número posible los temas sometidos a esa reunión. Todos recordamos que en esa sesión del Consejo inmediatamente anterior a la Conferencia, los documentos de mayor fondo y más voluminosos son el Programa de Labores y Presupuesto, con los objetivos a plexo medio y las actividades de campo, todos documentos que pasan directamente a la Conferencia.

De manera que al tenemos un número de temas reducido, propondríamos desde luego a la consideración muy atenta de usted, Sr. Presidente, y de la Secretaría que los tres primeros días de esa semana se dedicaran al examen de las actividades de la FAO, o sea, al informe que preentarán los Comités del Programa y de Finanzas y, obviamente, a las reacciones, a los comentarios, a las opiniones del Director General sobre los informes de los dos Comités. Si fuera así, el cuarto día podría dedicarse a los temas restantes, y sería conveniente también que para esa fecha se hubiesen adelantado las consultas indispensables que permitiesen ya la elección del Comité de Candidaturas. Como todos sabemos, el Comité de Candidaturas es un paso indispensable que debe dar el Consejo de noviembre para que la Conferencia pueda comenzar sus labores. El viernes 10 lo dedicaríamos a la discusión del informe, y, si fuera necesario-estamos seguros de que la Secretaría facilitaría el apoyo indispensable-, el Comité de Candidaturas podría reunirse incluso simultáneamente con el Consejo. En esas condiciones, la Conferencia podría iniciar sus labores, como está previsto, el sábado 11.

LE DIRECTEUR GÉNÉRAL: Je crois que nous discutons en ce moment des dispositions à prendre pour la prochaine Conférence et non pas de l'organisation de la session du Conseil qui précède la Conférence. Comme le délégué de la Colombie l'a dit, celle-ci fait l'objet d'un point différent de l'ordre du jour. Voilà mon premier point.

Mon second point, c'est que je n'irai pas jusqu'à dire quel est le calendrier que le Conseil doit adopter au mois de novembre, bien que ce soit la proposition faite par le chef de la délégation colombienne qui propose: les trois premiers jours pour ceci, deux autres jours pour cela ... C'est vous qui approuverez cela au mois de novembre, lorsque vous vous réunirez. En tant que Directeur général, je ne veux pas me livrer à ce jeu, car je ne vois pas sur quelle base je devrais décider que les questions relevant de l'examen de la FAO doivent passer avant ou après la question du budget, par exemple: il ne doit pas y avoir de curiosité morbide.

Il s'agit d'un point qui sera discuté par vous, au mois de novembre, mais pas maintenant. Cette façon de faire me semble plus saine et mieux équilibrée.

Gonzalo BULA BOTOS (Colombia): El Sr. Director General ha reconocido lo que dijimos al principio de nuestra intervención. Este punto está relacionado con el tema 18 que es la revisión del Calendario de los períodos de sesiones del Consejo y con el tema 21: Fecha del próximo período de sesiones. Pero es indudable que nuestra declaración se basa en el hecho de que en la página 3 de este documento CL 95/11 y en el párrafo 7 se hace referencia a ese 96° período de sesiones del Consejo.

Estamos de acuerdo con el Director General porque nosotros somos uno entre los 49 miembros del Consejo.

Los delegados de Colombia nunca reclamamos ningún privilegio para nosotros, pero cada miembro del Consejo es libre de plantear ideas, de lanzar iniciativas, de promover inquietudes que justamente son sometidas a la democrática controversia de los miembros de este organismo, de manera que sólo hemos querido avanzar un poco en nuestros puntos de vista, sin ánimo de imponerlos y muchos menos de dificultar la labor de la Secretaría de la FAO, porque sabemos que la FAO siempre actúa de manera muy sabia y muy eficaz.

LE PRESIDENT: Y a-t-il d'autres observations sur ce point précis ?

Si le Conseil en convient, nous avons effectivement au point 21 de notre Ordre du jour la date et le lieu de la quatre-vingt-sixième session du Conseil. Il semble qu'il y ait un consensus général pour, que le Conseil dure deux jours supplémentaires. C'est une nécessité pour permettre au Conseil de jouer son rôle et de donner ses commentaires sur les deux rapports du Comité du Programme et du Comité financier. Lorsque nous arriverons au point 21 nous pourrons définir les dates précises. Mais le principe est d'ores et déjà acquis. Comme je vous l'ai dit, il faut au moins deux jours supplémentaires, et, probablement, nous nous mettrons d'accord sur le calendrier du 6 au 10 novembre pour la session préliminaire du Conseil.

Nous pouvons donc admettre que le point 13.1 est retenu et nous passons au point 13.3, date limite de présentation des candidatures au poste de Président indépendant du Conseil.

La date limite est fixée au 1er septembre, c'est une tradition de la FAO.

La parole est au représentant du Congo.

13.3 Deadline for Nominations for Independent Chairman of the Council

13.3 Date limite de présentation des candidatures au poste de Président indépendant du Conseil

13.3 Plaza para las propuestas de candidaturas para el cargo de Presidente Independiente del Consejo

Joseph TCHICAYA (Congo): En fait, je ne pensais pas prendre la parole sur ce point. Comme vous l'avez dit, Monsieur le Président, c'est une question qui est traditionnellement réglée de cette manière. Par conséquent, je trouve qu'il est normal que ce point soit adopté tel qu'il est présenté. La délégation congolaise est d'accord avec ce qui est proposé.

LE PRESIDENT: Si le Conseil n'a pas d'objection, nous retenons la date proposée par le Secrétariat comme date limite de présentation des candidatures au poste de Président indépendant du Conseil de la FAO.

Horacio GABANDANG (Philippines): The Philippine Delegation also takes the pleasure of supporting the dates proposed in Council document CL 95/12 regarding the deadline for the submission of nominations and the deadline for the circulation of the documents by the Secretary General.

12. Venue of the Tenth World Forestry Congress 1991

12. Lieu du dixième Congrès forestier mondial 1991

12. Lugar de celebración del Décimo Congreso Forestal Mundial en 1991

LE PRESIDER: Nous passons maintenant au point 12 de l'Ordre du jour: lieu du dixième Congrès forestier mondial 1991 (CL 95/6).

Je donne la parole au Sous-Directeur général chargé des forêts.

C.B. MURRAY (Assistant Director-Cenerai, Forestry Department): Perhaps I should begin by reminding the distinguished delegates that World Forestry Congresses normally take place once every six years. As indicated in the very short paper CL 95/6, the tenth Congress is due to be held in 1991. In accordance with the responsibilities assumed by FAO when it absorbed the functions of the former International Institute of Agriculture, the Council selects the host country for successive congresses. In response to a circular from the Director-General to all member states of FAO, the 94th Session of the Council in November 1988 was informed that five countries had offered to host the 10th Congress. They were Burkina Faso, Equatorial Guinea, France, Italy and Tanzania. The matter was first discussed last November when the Council agreed that delegates of the prospective host countries should consult each other with a view to arriving at consensus. When the discussion was resumed, the delegates for France and Tanzania reconfirmed their candidacies. Thus, in order to allow more time for the two countries and the Secretariat to reach consensus, the Council decided to postpone the decision on the venue until this session, the 95th. Since then, by letter of May 1989, the Director-General has been advised that the Government of Tanzania will not be in a position to host the Congress. This leaves France as the only candidate. The matter is now before the Council for decision.

Jacques WARIN (France): Ma délégation est heureuse de pouvoir vous confirmer que la France souhaite organiser le dixième Congrès forestier mondial sur son territoire, ainsi qu'elle en avait exprimé l'intention, notamment lors du dernier Conseil de l'Organisation en novembre 1988.

Depuis cette date, de nombreuses initiatives ont été prises pour favoriser l'émergence d'une candidature de consensus pour la préparation de cette importante manifestation. Il semble que ces démarches soient aujourd'hui sur le point d'aboutir. Que Monsieur le Directeur général et le Sous-Directeur général du Département des forêts en soient remerciés.

Ce Congrès se tiendra au moment même où la communauté Internationale dans son ensemble prend pleinement conscience de l'importance du maintien et du développement des forêts pour l'équilibre des sociétés humaines. Plus que jamais, la forêt s'affirme être l'un des éléments essentiels du patrimoine de l'humanité. Peut-être pourrions-nous puiser dans ce constat l'inspiration des thèmes de notre prochain Congrès.

La forêt est un patrimoine biologique universel. Elle recèle, en effet, d'innombrables ressources de vie et constitue un élément fondamental de l'équilibre des milieux naturels. Les générations futures devront pouvoir rechercher dans les richesses génétiques qu'elle contient les éléments immuables nécessaires à la pérennité du développement, selon le principe du développement durable désormais familier à notre Organisation.

La forêt est aussi un patrimoine économique. Elle constitue, pour les activités humaines, un capital dont l'utilisation nécessite une gestion rationnelle permettant son renouvellement, son extension et la valorisation de ses produits.

La forêt, enfin, est un patrimoine culturel. Berceau de nos civilisations primitives, elle garde aujourd'hui encore ses valeurs symboliques.

Si l'ardente obligation de protéger et d'assurer le renouvellement et la transmission du patrimoine forestier est désormais généralement reconnue, il importe que la communauté internationale s'organise et définisse les responsabilités et les actions à engager pour que la préoccupation d'une gestion patrimoniale de la forêt devienne universelle.

Pour sa part, la délégation française formule le vœu que le dixième Congrès forestier mondial soit l'occasion privilégiée de relever cet important défi.

Sans doute est-il trop tôt pour définir dès à présent la place respective des différents thèmes qui seront abordés lors du Congrès, car la réflexion à cet égard doit être approfondie avec le Secrétariat comme avec ceux de nos partenaires, notamment européens et africains, qui voudront bien s'y associer. Il reste toutefois évident qu'une part importante des travaux du Congrès sera consacrée aux forêts et à la filière bois des régions sud, forêts tropicales, sub-tropicales et méditerranéennes.

A cet égard, le dixième Congrès, dont le caractère technique et professionnel doit être rappelé, cherchera à dépasser le stade de l'analyse des situations souvent difficiles et critiques, pour dégager les mesures de sauvegarde et les aménagements à promouvoir.

L'ordre du jour du Congrès devrait donc ménager la place qu'il convient aux interventions de quelque deux mille participants sur les méthodes et techniques élaborées pour la défense et le développement des forêts des régions sud. Dans ce contexte, le dixième Congrès permettra de débattre de la mise en œuvre du Programme d'action forestier tropical dont le caractère prioritaire se confirme dans les programmes de notre Organisation.

L'ordre du jour du Congrès ne saurait pour autant ignorer d'autres thèmes importants concernant les forêts des régions tempérées, ne serait-ce qu'en raison du choix du pays d'accueil, voire des forêts des régions nord. Ces sujets pourront être abordés dans la perspective d'une conception dynamique de la gestion et de la défense du patrimoine forestier, tant il est vrai que les expériences acquises, par exemple au plan de la protection contre les incendies, de la lutte contre la pollution atmosphérique, de la défense contre les ennemis de nos forêts, doivent être mieux partagées. La notion de gestion patrimoniale devrait donc garantir l'unité de ce Congrès qui s'apprête à traiter quelques deux cents sujets parmi les plus divers, comme l'exige la situation mondiale de nos forêts.

En ce qui concerne la date, ma délégation est en mesure de proposer que ce Congrès se tienne en France au début de l'automne 1991, et qu'il dure une quinzaine de jours.

Sous réserve de l'avis du Comité d'organisation qui pourrait être mis en place très rapidement, en liaison avec le Secrétariat, après la décision de ce Conseil, la France propose que soit prévue une série de sessions plénières, accompagnées de sessions de commissions spécialisées sur les différents thèmes.

En marge du Congrès, des voyages d'étude pourraient être organisés pour illustrer les thèmes que nous venons d'évoquer, notamment ceux intéressant les forêts tropicales humides, les forêts tropicales sèches et les forêts méditerranéennes. Enfin, des voyages à travers l'Europe permettront d'associer les pays de la Communauté Européenne, qui à plusieurs reprises a illustré son soutien à la candidature française. A cette occasion pourraient être couverts les principaux aspects des forêts de cette région, que ce soient les forêts méditerranéennes, les forêts de montagne, les forêts de feuillus tempérés, les forêts résineuses ou les espaces forestiers péri-urbaine.

Telles sont, dans l'état actuel de nos réflexions, les principales dispositions que le Gouvernement français soumet à la réflexion de ses partenaires, pour contribuer à la réussite de cette importante manifestation.

Je puis vous assurer qu'aucun effort ne sera ménagé par mon gouvernement pour préparer et accueillir le dixième Congrès forestier mondial.

LE PRESIDENT: Je remercie le représentant de la France pour les précisions qu'il a bien voulu donner concernant l'organisation de ce Congrès mondial et pour la volonté qu'il a manifestée, au nom de son gouvernement, de ne ménager aucun effort pour la réussite de ce Congrès.

Gonzalo BULA HOTOS (Colombia): Como lo dijo el Sr. Murray en su adecuada presentación, originalmente existían cinco candidaturas para hospedar el décimo Congreso Forestal Mundial. En esa ocasión, los representantes de Colombia cuando se debatió el tema en este Consejo apoyamos con sinceridad y entusiasmo la candidatura de Tanzania, porque consideramos que Tanzania es un país africano que tiene características y condiciones atractivas, y además dispone de medios y recursos para celebrar un acontecimiento tan importante como éste. Dijimos en esa ocasión que expresábamos nuestra preferencia por un país del Tercer Mundo, tal vez basados en la experiencia satisfactoria que hablamos obtenido con nuestra asistencia al noveno Congreso Forestal Mundial, que se celebró en México, para el hermano de América Latina y el Caribe.

Cuando no se logró el acuerdo propugnamos las consultas y ahora nos complace que como resultado de esas consultas se haya escogido a un gran país amigo como Francia.

La interesante declaración que acaba de hacer el Embajador de Francia ha sido seguida por nosotros con la mayor atención y la encontramos sumamente constructiva y alentadora. Pensamos que Francia tiene grandes facilidades, dispone además de extensiones forestales que facilitarán las excursiones de los delegados y así, además del aspecto profesional, la experiencia práctica y directa sobre el terreno complementará la participación en ese importante Congreso.

Estamos de acuerdo con el Embajador de Francia sobre el principio de las reservas forestales como patrimonio universal de la humanidad. Estamos seguros de que el Gobierno de Francia asumirá todas sus responsabilidades, ofrecerá, como siempre lo hace un país como Francia, el apoyo indispensable para ese Congreso que así habrá de celebrarse con general complacencia y de manera muy satisfactoria.

Eduardo PESQUEIRA OLEA (México): En los países en desarrollo, Señor Presidente, subsiste la paradoja de campesinos pobres en medio de la enorme riqueza que significan los bosques.

México celebró lo que consideramos fue un éxito: el Noveno Congreso Mundial Forestal y por ello ponemos a disposición, tanto de la FAO como del país organizador que se defina, toda la experiencia que obtuvo nuestro país en la celebración del Noveno Congreso Mundial Forestal en 1985.

Cuando en busca del apoyo de la Comunidad Internacional las autoridades francesas me adelantaron su interés por organizar el Décimo Congreso Mundial Forestal, desde entonces en representación de México e independientemente de los compromisos que surgieran con otros países amigos, en desarrollo, como Tanzania, miembro del Grupo de los 77, México comprometió en principio su apoyo al Gobierno francés para la celebración del Décimo Congreso Mundial Forestal, apoyo que me es hoy muy grato ratificar, seguro del éxito que habrá de imprimir a esta acción el pueblo y las autoridades francesas. Nos congratulamos por ello, Señor Presidente.

Mae Anna Teresa FRITTELLI ANNIBALDI (Italic): Ainsi qu'elle a eu l'occasion de le souligner précédemment, lorsque ce thème a été discuté, l'Italie avait proposé sa candidature afin d'accueillir le dixième Congrès forestier mondial, puisqu'elle attache la plus grande importance aux forêts qui sont un patrimoine de l'humanité. Elle considérait donc comme un grand honneur de pouvoir accueillir ce Congrès et de pouvoir exprimer aussi en cette forme sa coopération et son effort en la matière. Cela a été dans ce même esprit de coopération et de bonne volonté que, ainsi qu'on l'a souligné lors du dernier Conseil, elle a offert sa renonciation. Maintenant elle ne peut que prendre acte avec satisfaction et arriver à une solution. Elle désire formuler tous ses meilleurs voeux au Pays qui aura le privilège d'accueillir le Congrès et elle est certaine de la meilleure réussite de cette initiative que nous regardons tous avec l'intérêt qu'elle mérite. Ainsi que nous l'avons souligné, nous avons toujours considéré ce Congrès forestier mondial comme étant le Congrès de la coopération internationale en la matière. C'est donc dans cet esprit que nous nous renouvelons ici.

Gerhard LIEBER (Germany. Federal Republic of): Thank you Mr. Chairman. We wholeheartedly welcome that agreement has been reached on the venue of the 10th World Forestry Congress. My Government pledges its full support to the French delegation in FAO for the preparation of this event. We shall certainly participate with great pleasure and interest.

Mr. Chairman, the World Forestry Congress will, amongst other important questions of worldwide interest, certainly also have the problems of tropical forests on its agenda. These problems are, as we all know, extremely complex. Apart from technical forestry aspects, political development policy, economic and social aspects, and in particular the effects on the environment must be taken into consideration. In our opinion, Mr. Chairman, progress can only be achieved through close cooperation in the UN system as well as between interested countries. In our opinion it is time for the international community to deal in more depth with these questions. The Congress is a very good opportunity to do this.

The Congress should also contribute to overcoming difficulties and one or other misunderstandings amongst parties who participate in the discussions. It should have to achieve a better climate for cooperation towards the resolution of many problems ahead, and to pave the way for the common understanding of global dangers towards global action. In this connection we consider the legitimate interests of developing countries, including the necessity to maintain adequate growth rates of their economies and the financial and technological requirements connected with the protection of tropical forests, as of prime importance.

Assefa YILALA (Ethiopia): Thank you Mr. Chairman. We would also like to thank Mr. Murray for introducing this item. Mr. Chairman, we understand from the very small information that was provided in document CL 95/6 that a consensus was reached between Tanzania and France on hosting the 10th World Forestry Congress in 1991. In respect of this particular reference, our delegation will have no reservation in respecting the consensus that was reached with the venue being France where preparation is already in progress.

In this connection we would like to thank both France and Tanzania for their expressed zeal and interest in hosting the 10th World Forestry Congress. We therefore look forward to the success of the Congress in France.

In the past Europe has hosted this Congress four times; this is the fifth time Europe is hosting it. Asia and Latin America each have had an opportunity of hosting the Congress twice, with North America once. Africa has had no chance to host this Congress, which I feel could have an impact on forestry development in the region. Africa is also a region where such a Congress would have significant impact because of the presently deteriorating conditions. I am aware of the infrastructure resource requirements, which could be beyond the capability of most African countries for hosting such a Congress. But I do feel that there should be some way to provide a chance for Africa to host this Congress. All Member Countries could cooperate and work together to ensure that Africa gets the chance to host this Congress at some future date.

Jomo Augusto DE MEDICIS (Brésil): Nous appuyons la tenue du dixième Congrès forestier mondial et le Brésil voudrait manifester son point de vue en ce qui concerne l'agenda de ce congrès. On a écouté quelques idées qui ont été évoquées ici par la France et l'Allemagne. La délégation du Brésil tient à dire qu'à son avis cet agenda doit être surveillé avec la plus grande attention, le plus grand soin et le plus grand équilibre, et doit tenir compte en particulier des nécessités des pays en développement. En particulier l'utilisation des ressources forestières d'une manière économiquement rationnelle pour le développement de ces pays. Le Brésil pense que l'agenda doit tenir compte du principe de la souveraineté des Etats sur les ressources forestières.

Angel BARBER MARTIN (España): Nosotros también nos congratulamos de que el Décimo Congreso Forestal Mundial se celebre en un país vecino al nuestro y amigo. Tuvimos ocasión de comprobar personalmente la eficacia organizativa y el interés que despiertan los bosques en ese país con motivo de la Conferencia Silva que se celebró en París en 1985. Por eso auguramos que nuevamente una celebración de este tipo que va a contemplar el problema mundial que representan los bosques actualmente, tendrá un éxito que no dudamos.

Los temas que se han adelantado tendrán que ser tratados evidentemente más en detalle y tendrán que ser concretizados, pero no dudo que la amplitud de miras de la nación francesa y la amplitud de miras también de la FAO, y de todas las delegaciones que participan que tienen especial interés en los recursos forestales del mundo, van a lograr un programa que por fin servirá, como sirvió en su momento durante el Congreso Forestal de México, al que también asistimos, y en el que pudimos constatar el paso gigantesco que se dio a partir de su celebración, creo que volverá a ser otro paso más adelante en este empeño común que nos hemos trazado todos nosotros para conservar los bosques en el mundo.

Amin ABDEL MALIK (Liban) (langue originale arabe): La délégation du Liban remercie le Secrétariat d'avoir présenté la documentation relative au dixième Congrès forestier mondial de 1991. Nous aimerions remercier l'Ambassadeur Warin de la France, qui est un pays ami d'ailleurs, d'avoir bien voulu réitérer l'intérêt que manifeste la France à accueillir le dixième Congrès forestier mondial. Il a également déclaré que le Gouvernement français assumera tous les coûts relatifs à ce Congrès et procurera tous les services d'organisation quant à la tenue de ce Congrès, inhérente à la FAO, et subviendra aux coûts d'organisation de ce Congrès. Notre gouvernement souhaite remercier le Gouvernement français.

István DOBOCZKY (Hungary): Mr Chairman, my Government fully supports the French Government's offer to be the host of the Tenth World Forestry Congress because of the competence and long tradition of French forestry, and because of France's close relationship in protecting the environment.

Sra. Mercedes FERMIN GOMEZ (Venezuela): Venezuela va a apoyar decididamente, Señor Presidente, la celebración de este Congreso en Francia. Conocida es la tradición y la experiencia de este país en una materia que ya le es reconocida mundialmente. Nosotros esperamos que además del panorama forestal en general, este Congreso hará hincapié en cuanto a que la FAO aprovechará su oportunidad para ampliar y para profundizar sus programas sobre el movimiento adelantado de los bosques tropicales especialmente. Al mismo tiempo será ésta otra oportunidad para reafirmar el compromiso en relación con los recursos fitogenéticos, ya que esto sería una extraordinaria oportunidad para que todos los países asistentes pudieran traer sus inquietudes en relación con este problema.

De manera que no nos queda más que apoyar esta situación, esta celebración y esta decisión que ha tomado la FAO. Y apoyamos y reafirmamos lo dicho por Brasil, con quien nos identificamos en cuanto al mismo problema.

Gian Paolo PAPA (CEE): La CEE prend acte avec satisfaction de la décision que le Conseil de la FAO s'apprête à prendre au sujet de la tenue du dixième Congrès forestier mondial en 1991 et se réjouit que la candidature de l'un de ses membres, en l'occurrence la France, ait été retenue pour l'organisation de ce Congrès. La CEE se déclare prête à participer de concert en relation étroite avec les autorités des pays hôtes à cette manifestation de portée internationale.

Dans ce contexte, la CEE entend stimuler la participation active de ses Etats Membres à ce Congrès pour que celui-ci donne aux forestiers du monde entier une vue d'ensemble sur les enjeux et les défis auxquels est confrontée la foresterie européenne.

La CEE souhaite aussi apporter une contribution valable à la sauvegarde, au développement et à la mise en valeur des forêts dans les autres parties du monde.

C.H. MURRAY (Assistant Director-General, Forestry Department): It is encouraging and cheering to hear the unanimity of approval and consensus for the Government of France to host the Tenth World Forestry Congress.

It is perhaps important to be reminded that such Congresses are not FAO Conferences. They are hosted and organized under the full responsibility of the host country with close and intimate

collaboration of the Secretariat of FAO. Once the host country has decided, there is immediate and very close consultation to bring the accumulated experience of the FAO Secretariat to bear on the planning and organizing of the meeting. In this context, it is noted that the EEC wishes to associate itself with the efforts involved.

Members may be assured that in deliberating and planning the agenda for the Congress in collaboration with the representative of France, the concerns expressed here by delegates, especially of those delegates whose countries possess rain forests or tropical forests as an important part of their natural resource base, will be fully taken into account and borne in mind. It is hoped also, as has been the case in the past, that the host country would give consideration to provide facilities for the participation of representatives of developing countries. Many developing countries are facing severe financial difficulties and any support that could be provided by the host country would be most welcome, not only because it supports the possibility of such representation and such representatives benefitting from the Conference, but it enhances the universality of the meeting. I might add that this is not novel; this has been the case in the past and we hope that it will continue to be so in the future.

The only point I should add is that as the host country has been confirmed, the Secretariat as soon as possible will convey to France the provisions and principles governing the convening of World Forestry Congresses, as well as the provisions to be included in the rules of procedure, which is a standing matter that all Congresses must take into account.

LE PRESIDENT: Je remercie Monsieur Murray pour les éclaircissements et les explications complémentaires qu'il a donnée. Je voudrais à mon tour apporter mes félicitations à la France pour se présenter en tant que pays hôte au dixième Congrès forestier mondial. Je ne doute pas un instant que, compte tenu de la compétence et de la sensibilité de la France sur ce problème précis des forêts et de l'expérience connue et reconnue de la FAO dans ce domaine, ce dixième Congrès sera un succès. Nous déclarons ce point 12 clos et nous allons maintenant passer au point 13.3.

13.1 Arrangements for the Session and Provisional Timetable (CL 95/11)

13.1 Organisation de la session et calendrier provisoire (CL 95/11)

13.1 Organización y calendarlo provisional del periodo de sesiones (CL 95/11)

Paul R. BRYDEN (Ametralla): I may have been a little confused, but we seem to have had a discussion on item 13.1, the arrangements for the Conference. There was a brief discussion about the timing of the next Council, and it was agreed that that could be looked at under items 18 and 21. We did not seem to have much discussion on the timetable and we went on fairly quickly. I do have one specific and rather minor suggestion about the timetable, and another reflection which I would like to offer but I am in your hands, Mr. Chairman, as to whether I can go back to that or not.

LE PRESIDENT: Il s'agit de la date du prochain Conseil qui figure dans le document relatif au point 18 de l'ordre du jour.

Paul E. BRYDEN (Australia): At present, the Progress Report on the GATT Multilateral Trade Negotiations is scheduled for discussion at the Ninth Meeting in Commission I. I would suggest that this subject might usefully be brought up to the Seventh Meeting, so that it immediately follows discussion on the state of world food and agriculture. I suggest this simply because I anticipate that many speakers on that item, as well as Ministers in Plenary, will be reflecting on the state of the GATT negotiations. It is really a question of rearranging two Sessions, which I should think would be a fairly minor organizational matter. That is my suggestion.

My other reflection relates to the possible relationship between the discussions on the Programme of Work and Budget and the Review discussions. It has often been said that there will be costs, others feel that there may be savings or investments or whatever. I would just reflect that it may be desirable for us at our next Council session, when we have the full details of the SJS Report, plus the full costing from the Secretariat, to consider again whether there is need to rearrange or intertwine the timetable. I offer that as a suggestion.

Joseph TCHICAYA (Congo): J'ai demandé la parole parce que je suis un peu perdu. Je pensais que toutes ces questions avaient déjà été épuisées, mais on semble revenir sur ce sujet. Est-ce que l'on rouvre le débat sur ce point?

LE PRESIDENT: Je ne suis pas d'accord pour que l'on rouvre le débat sur la réforme et le budget, mais une question précise a été posée sur un ajustement des paragraphes 7 et 9. Je crois que l'on peut accepter que le Directeur général réponde à cette question sans rouvrir pour autant le débat.

LE DIRECTEUR GENERAL: Je voudrais tout d'abord répondre que la Commission est souveraine pour approuver l'ordre dans lequel elle veut discuter des différents points de son ordre du jour. Ce que je dis ici est simplement à titre indicatif. Le jour où la Commission se réunira, la délégation de l'Australie pourra faire sa proposition et la Commission elle-même statuera. Si vous voulez discuter de ces questions lorsque les ministres seront là, le Secrétariat n'y voit aucun inconvénient. C'est à la Commission elle-même d'en décider.

LE PRESIDENT: Je considère donc que l'examen de ce point est terminé. Avec votre permission, je vais lever la séance et nous allons entreprendre l'examen du point 13.2, qui est limité aux chefs de délégation. Mais auparavant, je donne la parole au délégué de l'Italie.

Gian Luigi VALENZA (Italie): Monsieur le Président, je voulais seulement vous demander la permission de faire une petite annonce avant la réunion des chefs de délégation. Je voudrais demander aux chefs de délégation des pays de l'OCDE de se réunir avec moi dans le Nordic Lounge, à côté, au moment de l'interruption.

LE PRESIDENT: Nous nous réunirons ici-les chefs de délégation seulement-d'Ici un quart d'heure, vingt minutes.

The meeting rose at 16.20 hours

La séance est levée à 16 h 20

Se levanta la sesión a las 16.20 horas

council

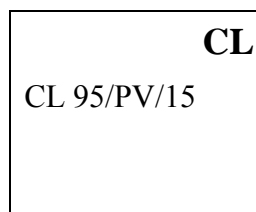
FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

conseil

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

consejo

ORGANIZACION DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS PARA LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION



Ninety-fifth Session

Quatre-vingt-quinzième session

95º período de sesiones

FIFTEENTH PLENARY MEETING
QUINZIEME SEANCE PLENIERE
15ª SESION PLENARIA
(28 June 1989)

The Fifteenth Plenary Meeting was opened at 9.45 hours Lassaad Ben Osman, Independent Chairman of the Council, presiding

La quinzième séance plénière est ouverte à 9 h 45 sous la présidence de Lassaad Ben Osman, Président indépendant du Conseil

Se abre la 15ª Sesión Plenaria a las 9.45 horas bajo la presidencia de Lassaad Ben Osman, Presidente Independiente del Consejo

LE PRESIDENT: Honorables délégués, nous reprenons la suite de nos travaux.

III. ACTIVITIES OF FAO AND WFP (continued)

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

III. ACTIVIDADES DE LA FAO Y DEL PMA (continuación)

10. Fourteenth Annual Report of the WFP Committee on Food Aid Policies and Programmes

10. Quatorzième rapport annuel du Comité des politiques et programmes d'aide alimentaire du PAM

10. 14° Informe Anual del Comité de Políticas y Programas de Ayuda Alimentaria del PMA

James INGRAM (WFP): You have before you the Fourteenth Annual Report of the Committee on Food Aid Policies and Programmes, which deals with the activities of the World Food Programme during 1988 (Document CL 95/13).

I believe that there is much about the WFP's activities of which we, the Secretariat, the donors who support us, and the countries in which we work, can be proud. In 1988 WFP was the largest donor of food to over two-thirds of the countries receiving food aid. We gave one quarter of development grants to developing countries from the entire UN system. Every year, WFP's assistance to over 100 countries helps tens of millions of people both to survive emergencies and to make lasting improvements in their lives.

The most comprehensive measure of the scale of our work is our annual turnover-that is to say, the sum of the totality of resources managed by the Programme. It is a figure which is not included in the document as such before you, although the components of the figure are all there. In 1988 our turnover was almost \$ 1.25 billion. This was the highest on record and represented a 39 percent increase over 1986 and a 24 percent increase over 1987. Our administrative and programme support costs as a proportion of turnover have fallen to just over 5 percent in the same period.

Let me put these figures in another way. The total staff costs of the Programme in 1988 were just \$ 39 million. That is only 3.2 percent of our total turnover-in other words, for every dollar expended through the WFP, 97 cents reaches the developing countries. Only 3 percent is absorbed in staff costs.

That there is a very considerable increase in our turnover is evidence that the Programme is increasingly being asked to do still more, but with proportionately fewer staff resources available to assist.

Also contained in this turnover expenditure are purchases of more than \$ 136 million worth of food including an all-time high of more than \$ 118 million from developing countries. We spent over \$ 200 million on transport alone, of which a quarter was to the account of developing countries. Thus, WFP assistance not only feeds the hunger and promotes economic and social development, but provides substantial funding for the purchase of goods and services from developing countries expenditure which has been increasing rapidly in recent years, thanks to the enlightenment of donors.

Paradoxically, however, when the need for food aid is greater than ever, if only because of the increase in world cereal prices, all the major food aid donors indicated they will be providing less food aid in the coming period. The currently available data suggest that for the first time for over five years cereal food aid in 1988/89 may not reach the annual target of \$ 60 million set by the World Food Conference in 1974. Latest figures also indicate the proportion of food aid provided multilaterally may be declining. Thus, two years ago Council approved the \$ 1.4 billion target established for development resources for the WFP for the current biennium 1989/90. But at this point we have received only some \$ 936 million towards this.

On the basis of past experience and on non-donor intentions, we currently expect to receive just over \$ 1.1 billion in development resources for the current biennium. This represents 80 percent of the pledged target as compared to the 99 percent achieved in the previous biennium. At the same time, because most pledges are made in terms of value, increasing food prices result in lower quantities of commodities available to the Programme. Over the past 18 months, the cost of the WFP food basket increased by almost 20 percent, thus our development projects are in a double squeeze. Some donors are reducing the value of their pledges at the very time those pledges are procuring less food for the developing countries.

If we are to continue to maintain the level of WFP development assistance, we foresee we will need a modest increase in the pledging target for 1991/92 from \$ 1.4 billion to \$ 1.5 billion. Both the

Secretary-General of the United Nations and the Director-General of FAO support this target level which has been approved by the CFA. Council has before it a draft resolution in Annex 3 of the document transmitted to you by the CFA, which I commend for your approval.

You may wonder why we ask even more for the 1991/92 biennium when it looks as though we may fail to reach the target for the current one. The reasons are rather simple. First of all, as I have indicated there has been no reduction in the need for food aid. On the contrary, the challenge of hunger in the developing world remains formidable, made worse by the fact that the cost of commercial food imports is rising. The impact is especially serious for the food-deficit countries burdened by debt. Food aid attacks hunger directly and our emergency assistance is used exclusively to this end. But as we all know, food aid can be even more effective when used to create assistance which leads to longer-term improvements in the economy and well-being of the poor. Food aid used to help irrigate fields, to build farm-to-market roads, diversify crops and carry out other activities that increase food production or provide alternative sources of income is of far more benefit to the poor than any sort of temporary handout. As Council may know, WFP is skilled in the use of food aid to promote rural development. Over the years, working closely with our United Nations partners, especially FAO, much has been learned.

Secondly, there is no lack of food available despite poor harvests in North America, and the reduction of agricultural production in many of the main donor countries. The fact is that in 1987/88 cereal food aid shipments represented less than 1 percent of world cereal production and only 5 percent of the stocks held in the developed countries. There is no absolute lack of resources. Rather, the question is one of how those resources will be used.

The other important aspect of the target proposed for the 1991/92 biennium is that the cash requirement is set at one-third of the total. This is in line with the relevant general regulation of WFP, but considerably higher than the 24 percent that the Programme has actually received over the past several biennia. Previously, we have been able to get by with relatively low cash receipts. For a number of years we benefited from substantial cash earnings during a period of high interest rates on large cash holdings. Subsequently ocean freight rates declined, with the result that transport costs were relatively modest.

However, we have now moved into a period when that sort of cushion is no longer available. While it is difficult to predict what ocean freight rates will be several years in advance, a recent and continuing upward movement of these rates suggests that the cost of ocean freight will take up a much higher proportion of our expenditure. For example, while the value of our food aid provided for emergency purposes increased by 17 percent between 1986 and 1988, expenditure on transport rose by over 80 percent. I may say it has not yet reached those levels. The costs are not as high as they were some ten years ago.

Despite the pressure on development resources that I have sketched out here, I do not foresee at this stage any decline in the value of projects going forward to the coming session of CFA for approval. From past experience we know the resource picture can change rapidly and that it will be unwise not to have a pipeline of well-chosen projects ready to implement when the situation so permits. Nevertheless, I feel it is my duty to warn the Council that unless donors increase the level of their pledgee for the current biennium and meet the targets set for 1991/92, and unless we receive one-third of pledges in cash, then we will have no alternative but to reduce shipments to ongoing projects, delay the implementation of new projects and slow down some of our current development projects.

I want to stress that it is not only our development activities that will suffer if these pledged levels are not met. Our ability to respond rapidly to requests for emergency assistance also will be affected. For all the Programme's overhead costs for both development and emergency activities are covered by cash produced from regular resources, that is by development resources. The infrastructure of field officers is so funded, as is the HQ infrastructure for the mobilisation and shipping of large quantities of food aid from and to a great many countries. Assistance is provided through IEFER and includes no overhead costs. Assistance from some donors does not include the cost of internal transport which consequently must be catered for with cash from WFP development sources.

Therefore, in considering my proposed target for the next biennium and even more importantly your actual contributions both for the current biennium and the forthcoming one, I repeat what I said to CFA 27 just a few weeks ago—please remember that the development side of our work cannot be short-changed without impairing the capabilities of the Programme on the emergency aid as well.

I regret that I have had to paint a rather ominous picture here today, but I would have been less than honest had I not done so. However, let me emphasize that the future does not have to be a bleak one. It is in the hands of donors and I appeal to them to contribute to WFP for our development resources a higher proportion of their food aid so that our contribution to development can be sustained as well as our ability as a Secretariat to respond to crisis situations.

We are engaged in noble work. Our staff in many countries risk their lives-and that is not a rhetorical turn of phrase. In the last few weeks, several have had miraculous escapes in southern Sudan. Let us not fall them in their dedication to the work of overcoming poverty and saving lives.

B.P. DUTIA (Assistant Director-General, Economic and Social Policy Department): On behalf of the Director-General I would like to make a few remarks on the 14th Annual Report of the Committee on Food Aid Policies and Programmes which is before Council for consideration.

The World Food Programme in 1988 completed its 25th year of operations. Launched as a small experimental programme in 1963 by Member Nations of FAO and the United Nations, the Programme has grown to handle a significant share of food aid flows today. FAO as a parent organisation has been closely associated with the evaluation and growth of the World Food Programme, and is indeed proud that the Programme has emerged as one of the important institutions for channelling multilateral development assistance. Council may wish to commend the donor support, the hard work and the collaboration between the organizations which has made this achievement possible.

While 1988 was a landmark for the World Food Programme, it was also a year during which radical changes in the global food security setting took place. This has underlined the continuing need for vigilance and fresh thinking on policies and projects concerning the role of food aid. The deterioration in the world food situation may indeed have important implications for WFP. To some of these, the Executive Director of the World Food Programme has just referred. There is renewed concern about the overall adequacy of food aid resources in the present situation. The volume of food aid in cereals has declined by about one quarter. Prices of basic foods like cereals, vegetable oils and dairy products, have risen sharply in the past two years. Freight rates have increased, and the food import costs of developing countries are correspondingly less affordable. At the same time, unfortunately, food emergencies afflict more and more people. Yet, the principal resource designed to cope with their needs-and I refer to the International Emergency Food Reserve-remains inadequate and unpredictable. In these circumstances, it is indeed necessary to ensure that food aid programmes are sufficiently equipped to meet the challenges of food insecurity today. Equally important is the challenge to address the role of food aid in the rapidly changing global economic and social environment which could confront us in the 1990s and beyond.

The Director-General, in his address to the Committee on Food Aid Policies and Programmes a few weeks ago, recalled that when the World Food Conference reviewed the role of food aid in 1974, it had perceived food aid as an interim measure. Fifteen years later, it is appropriate to ask whether food aid programmes themselves are contributing to making food aid ultimately redundant except, of course, in emergency situations. Numerous initiatives have been taken over the years for improving access to food supplies such as the establishment of the International Emergency Food Reserve and the International Monetary Fund's compensatory facility for cereal imports. But global circumstances which may affect food aid availability are changing. In the first place, while it is agreed that food aid needs to be fully integrated in overall development plans, much needs to be done to give concrete effect to these objectives. At the same time, challenges are mounting as to how food aid can best be used in structural adjustments and austerity programmes so as to enhance access to food by the poor and to stimulate economic growth.

Secondly, it has also been recognized that increased support from donors is necessary to finance triangular transactions and the purchase of local surpluses. However, it is necessary also to examine the scope for complementary measures, including the strengthening of local storage, as part of the comprehensive assessment of the best ways of assuring longer term availability of adequate food supplies and stabilization of domestic markets.

Thirdly, the Director-General had drawn attention to new visions regarding agricultural policy reforms, especially in the GATT, which could have major longer term effects on world food markets and on both food exporters and importers. In this connection, for instance, the GATT negotiations on agriculture make provision for proposals on ways to take account of the possible negative effects of the reform process on net food importing developing countries. Moreover, the thrust towards establishment of a market-oriented agricultural trading system may well have implications for food aid in the post Uruguay Round world. These emerging challenges are of a global nature, and their impact on food aid merits our full consideration.

Fourthly, there is a need to consider anew the adequacy of food aid mechanisms themselves. For instance, FAO has long advocated the need to raise the resource base of the International Emergency Food Reserve in the light of rapidly increasing needs for emergency food aid, particularly for man-made emergencies. Other issues that need to be addressed include the pre-positioning of stocks to expedite delivery of food aid in emergencies and the feasibility of strengthening the Food Aid Convention itself.

All of these developments necessitate an in-depth consideration of the role of food aid in the 1990s and beyond. The Director-General, therefore, considers it important that the Committee on Food Aid Policies and Programmes make a comprehensive review and analysis of the implications of these and other related developments on food aid for the future. FAO, of course, stands ready to fully collaborate with the World Food Programme in this important and challenging endeavour. The concerns highlighted above are often brought to the forefront in debates in the Committee on Food Aid Policies and Programmes itself, as well as in other international fora which deal with food security issues. It is the Director-General's strong belief that there are important issues which the Committee on Food Aid Policies and Programmes, as the governing body of the World Food Programme, should bring to the attention of other relevant bodies in order to receive their views and guidance.

The present Annual Report of the Committee on Food Aid Policies and Programmes to the Council is indeed very informative on the activities of the Programme during the past year. However, while highlighting the collaboration with other Organizations, it is perhaps surprising that there is no reference to collaboration with FAO. Moreover, unlike the reports of recent years, the present report does not cover the CFA's deliberations on policy issues. I would recall that during its 25th Session in 1988, the Committee on Food Aid Policies and Programmes held important debates on food aid and dairy development and on the World Food Programme's Plan of Action for Africa. At its most recent session, too, the Committee held important policy discussions, notably on protracted emergency operations for refugees and displaced persons.

Edwardo PESQUEIRA OLEA (México): El Gobierno de México concede gran importancia a la labor que realiza el Programa Mundial de Alimentos y continuamente ha dado su mayor reconocimiento por el apoyo y eficiencia con que ha trabajado y ha contribuido al desarrollo de nuestro país. Por lo que se refiere al papel del Comité de Políticas y Programas de Ayuda Alimentaria del Programa Mundial de Alimentación, mi Delegación desea hacer un análisis amplio del documento CL 95/13, el cual resume las tareas que realizó el Programa durante 1988 en los campos de ayuda de emergencia y asistencia técnica para el desarrollo.

En cuanto a los recursos del Programa, mi Delegación apoya el objetivo propuesto de contribución para el período 1991-92, de 1 500 millones de dólares, cien millones de dólares más que los propuestos en los bienios 1987-88 y 1989-90. Hay que olvidar, sin embargo, que la inflación y la elevación de costos afecta a estos programas, así se gasta parte importante de los fondos en países industrializados. Con este aumento apenas se compensa el deterioro inflacionario. Exhortamos a todos los países integrantes del Programa Mundial de Alimentos a tomar en cuenta esta circunstancia, así como la del incremento en la demanda a la hora de determinar futuras aportaciones. Me preocupa que dicho informe refleje ciertas señales de insuficiencia sobre los recursos actualmente existentes para brindar ayuda de emergencia necesaria. Por ejemplo, el hecho de que la meta de 500 000 toneladas de cereales no se haya logrado; que los precios de los principales alimentos utilizados en el Programa se hayan incrementado rápidamente; que esto haya causado que el Programa realice drásticas disminuciones en el uso de leche en polvo en sus proyectos de desarrollo. Quiero dejar constancia de nuestra preocupación por el hecho de que, al sugerirse en el CPA la propuesta de contribución de 1 500 millones de dólares para el bienio 1991-92, muchos delegados expresaran su imposibilidad de comprometerse para incrementar contribuciones. Ello significa que el volumen de ayuda alimenticia multilateral, en el mejor de los casos, será mínimo. Por otra parte, ante el hecho de que las necesidades de ayuda alimenticia continúen incrementándose, se puede deducir que la ayuda no será suficiente, y no quisiéramos ver en riesgo la seguridad alimentaria mundial. En este contexto, reiteremos nuestra consternación y desacuerdo por que el informe que se nos ha presentado no someta a la consideración de este Consejo deliberaciones sobre estrategia y seguir d consideraciones de carácter político. En sus anteriores periodos de sesiones, el Programa Mundial de Alimentación tomó decisiones importantes sobre algunas cuestiones de carácter político, como se le ayuda alimentaria, el desarrollo lácteo, el Plan de Acción del Programa Mundial de Alimentación para África. Sin embargo, el informe recibido menciona estas circunstancias en una forma muy superficial: porcentajes, cifras, millones de dólares, millones de toneladas, pero muy poco de sus políticas y de sus estrategias a mediano y a largo plazo y los efectos en cuanto a países, organizaciones y sus interrelaciones. Solicitamos al Programa Mundial de Alimentación que, al igual que los demás Comités principales de la FAO, reporte a este Consejo las deliberaciones y acuerdos que se adopten en ese Programa, con objeto de que los demás países del Sistema se enteren de estas nuevas modalidades que afecten a los intereses de la gran mayoría de los países desarrollados y en desarrollo.

Por otra parte, me preocupa el giro que está tomando la instrumentación de reformas en el Programa Mundial de Alimentación y el CPA. Se están imponiendo medidas experimentales y definitivas que crean confusión, y para su adopción no se han dado los márgenes de tiempo necesarios para consultas, por más que extraoficialmente hayamos expresado no sólo dudas sino el formal y frontal rechazo a

algunas de las acciones propuestas y puestas en marcha, y se han tomado las medidas en tanto solicitamos la opinión y el acuerdo de nuestras autoridades. Ello no habla bien del celo con que los organismos internacionales deben vigilar el respeto a las opiniones diversas de sus Estados Miembros.

Algunos comentarios sobre el último periodo de sesiones. Por lo que se refiere a la reforma operacional que separa la asistencia a refugiados del resto de los programas de emergencia, creo que ello no va de acuerdo ni con los intereses ni con los derechos de los países en desarrollo. Nos hemos opuesto y nos seguimos oponiendo a esa práctica, y así lo hemos dicho enfáticamente, pero ni nuestra voz ni nuestra razón aparecen en el informe. Por ello insistimos en que el informe del CPA deberá traer a este Consejo su deliberación. Hemos procurado acudir, como refugio de legitimidad, a las reglas operativas del Organismo, sin éxito. Digo por ello que basamos, como siempre procuramos hacerlo, nuestros argumentos en la razón y en derecho.

La posición de mi Delegación en el CPA sobre el tema de la situación permanente de los refugiados fue contraria a que se separara la ayuda que éstos recibían del Programa Ordinario, porque esto no garantiza de que en esta forma se consigan mayores aportaciones para los refugiados, y se corre el riesgo de que no se cuente con suficiente ayuda y sta quede supeditada a donaciones específicas que no pueden ser otorgadas si los donadores no están de acuerdo con los movimientos políticos que operan. Esto sería utilizar la ayuda alimentaria como arma política, a lo que mi país se ha opuesto siempre. Por consiguiente, sugerimos que en el CPA este tema se decidiera y se mandara a este Consejo, en donde además, como ya se dijo, se cuenta con un mayor número de países interesados. Estas modificaciones abren las puertas a un uso de privilegio político en la ayuda alimentaria: "Quien quiera de mi pan lo deberá beber o con mi vino, o con mi coca cola, o con mi aceite, o no comer", según el interés de los donantes.

No es éste el espíritu del Programa ni de la cooperación multilateral. ¿Quién debe aprobar los cambios estructurales según las reglas de operación del PMA? Los Órganos directivos de FAO y las Naciones Unidas, está claro. ¿Con qué elementos este Consejo, que es órgano rector de primera importancia, va a calificar cuestiones trascendentes, si no se le someten a su consideración? ¿Por qué treinta miembros del PMA deciden por los cincuenta que integran el Consejo, que, después de su Conferencia, es el órgano supremo de nuestro organismo? En suma, menciono este aspecto, ya que el no informar el CPA temas de carácter político de tal envergadura a este Consejo es una seria omisión que priva a otros Estados Miembros de la oportunidad de considerar y manifestar sus puntos de vista en la materia.

Por consiguiente, mi Delegación insta a las autoridades del Programa a que se apeguen a las obligaciones reglamentadas en los textos básicos y a que mantengan una relación de diálogo abierto y respetuoso con las otras instituciones del sistema de las Naciones Unidas, sobre todo con aquellas encargadas de la agricultura y la alimentación, con sede en Roma.

Sometemos a consideración de este Consejo la adopción de un acuerdo en que se inste al PMA y al CPA para que, en lo sucesivo, cualesquiera temas en los que se consideren asuntos de política o de estrategia, una vez aprobados en el seno del CPA, se sometan a consideración de este Consejo y, en su caso, de la Conferencia. Sólo así se dará cumplimiento a los objetivos para los que fue creado este organismo y a las aspiraciones de los países que conforman el Sistema de las Naciones Unidas, lo que nos permitirá contar con una Organización en la que se discutan a la luz de la razón y del derecho los asuntos que nos incumben.

Por último, debido a la importancia que mi Delegación concede a la decisión tomada sobre la situación permanente de los refugiados, y en vista de que una decisión de esta naturaleza concierne a todos los Gobiernos del Sistema de las Naciones Unidas, y no sólo a los miembros del CPA, formalmente propongo que este tema sea incluido y considerado en la próxima Conferencia de la FAO, que tendrá lugar el próximo noviembre.

Dice el Sr. Presidente que las intervenciones, para ser buenas, son redondas. Para pretender la circunferencia de ésta, quisiera terminar por donde empecé. Que no se confunda nadie: el expresar puntos de vista divergentes de otras delegaciones o de la Administración del organismo, de ninguna manera supone nuestra oposición a sus actividades. Por el contrario, pretendemos expresar nuestra preocupación por su defensa. México apoya el Programa Mundial de Alimentos.

Javier TANIALEAN ARBULU (Perú): En primer lugar, quisiera saludar y felicitar las exposiciones del Sr. Ingram, Director Ejecutivo, y del Sr. Dutia, representante del Director General. Las observaciones o comentarios que voy a realizar son muy puntuales y tocan ciertos aspectos específicos del informe que hemos recibido del Programa Mundial de Alimentos. En el punto 20 de este informe se menciona que la "concentración de esfuerzos y de recursos para los campesinos pobres es una característica de la ayuda alimentaria para proyectos del PMA." Hoy día, hay una discusión sobre la pobreza crítica: si ésta es mayor en el campesinado, en las áreas rurales, o en el llamado

sector informal urbano. Yo creo que debería ampliarse, como grupo objetivo dentro de la política del PMA todo lo que es la pobreza en el sector informal urbano o semiurbano, que se está desarrollando aceleradamente en Latinoamérica, y, dentro de ello, al binomio mujer-niño, como uno de los grupos más vulnerables.

Por otro lado, Perú recibe y agradece a los países donantes una buena parte de la ayuda alimentaria. Pero ¿qué pasa en mi país?, y es lo que sé de otros países: la parte más crítica está en el desaduanaje de los alimentos, el transporte interno, el almacenamiento y su distribución para el consumo. Nosotros quisiéramos el apoyo del Programa Mundial de Alimentos con proyectos específicos porque se dan casos alarmantes en que los alimentos se malogran en la propia aduana, por el complejo sistema burocrático de nuestros países.

Pienso que el trabajo que el PMA debe realizar en cada país tiene que tener una filosofía pluralista. ¿Qué entiendo por "filosofía pluralista"? Trabajar no sólo con el Gobierno, con el Estado, sino con la sociedad civil. Me refiero a las organizaciones populares de base, a las organizaciones no Gubernamentales y a la propia Iglesia Católica.

Por otro lado apoyamos que la ayuda venga en productos sobre la base de tonelaje y no sobre la base en valor, porque esto permite, en épocas de inflación, reservar y preservar lo que es el volumen y el cuántum físico de los alimentos.

Ahora quiero referirme a un aspecto que para la Delegación de Perú es muy importante. Como mencioné en una intervención en el Comité de Productos Básicos, mi país, a raíz de los programas de estabilización económica, ha pasado a ser un país en emergencia alimentaria, como lo reconoce el documento de la FAO que vamos a ver en la tarde, y con un crecimiento de menos 8 por ciento en lo que es la producción de alimentos. Estamos, pues, en una situación muy difícil. Y esto ¿debido a qué? Debido a los programas de estabilización económica que han hecho bajar los ingresos sustancialmente. El consumo físico de alimentos en el Perú, luego de cuatro ajustes que se hicieron en programas de estabilización económica, ha disminuido en un 30 por ciento el cuántum físico de gestión de alimentos. Son cifras del año pasado.

Por eso, Perú está pidiendo a la comunidad internacional, en materia de ayuda para los grupos más vulnerables-campesinado pobre, sector informal urbano, binomio madre-niño, tuberculosos y otros enfermos-un total de 160 000 toneladas para poder cubrir esas emergencias. De ahí que consideremos muy importante el incremento de la Reserva Alimentaria Internacional de Emergencia.

Pero hay un aspecto más de fondo que yo quisiera mencionar, con respecto a los programas de estabilización económica y al rol de la FAO y al rol del PMA. Ha llegado el momento de preguntarse, y preguntarse conjuntamente con los gobiernos, cómo proteger los grupos más vulnerables y cómo proteger sus ingresos frente a los programas de estabilización económica, cómo definir estrategias de supervivencia de los más pobres, que en mi país alcanzan 7 millones de personas. Yo creo que la respuesta está en el diseño de macropolíticas alternativas a los programas de estabilización económica para proteger sobre todo la nutrición, la salud y la educación de los grupos vulnerables. El desafío está en el diseño de políticas que vayan a un ajuste orientado al crecimiento, protegiendo los grupos vulnerables y reestructurando el sector productivo. Yo creo que es el momento de que los organismos internacionales, más sensibles a lo que es la injusticia humana, tienen que tener una parte más activa para poder dar respuestas alternativas a los programas de estabilización económica. De otro lado, los programas del PMA tienen que jugar un rol importante en lo que es la redistribución de ingresos a favor de los más pobres. Sólo bajo una filosofía de este tipo tienen un contenido y una justificación social.

Y por último, yo quisiera hacer un llamado tanto a la FAO como al PMA para que exista un trabajo estrecho y una colaboración entre las dos instituciones y una reciprocidad, porque esto es lo que redundaría en favor de los países pobres, y en tal sentido, apoyamos los proyectos de resoluciones presentados en el informe en el Anexo N°-3.

Kwang-Shik WON (Korea, Republic of:) On behalf of my delegation I would like to express our thanks to Mr Ingram for his excellent presentation and Mr Dutia for his comprehensive and analytical remarks.

Firstly, with respect to the development assistance by region in paragraphs 21 and 22, my delegation presents our views with deep concern that firstly the proportion of the commitments to sub-Saharan Africa has been trending down over the last three years. Secondly, this downward trend has been mainly due to a scarcity of technical, administrative and managerial capacity.

In this regard, my delegation would like to emphasize that due consideration should be given to the specific conditions of recipient countries in order to enhance the effects of the development assistance.

My delegation with great satisfaction would like to note that the WFP has been placing much importance on promotion of environmentally sustainable development. At the same time, I would like to commend the WFP for its successful performance on the International Food Aid Information System, which has shown considerable progress in only three years from its establishment in 1987.

Finally, with regard to the WFP pledging target for 1991/92, we welcome that the target pledge has increased to US\$ 1.5 billion, which is US\$ 100 million above that in 1988/89, and its cash proportion was also raised to one-third from 30 percent of the total pledge in order to cover increased transportation costs.

In closing, my delegation would like to associate with other delegations in supporting the report and the draft resolution in Annex III.

Mauricio CUADRA SCHULTZ (Nicaragua): Mi delegación ha estudiado detenidamente el documento que se nos presenta conteniendo el 14 Informe Anual del Comité de Políticas y Programas de Ayuda Alimentaria. Deseamos en primer término felicitar al Dr. Ingram, Director Ejecutivo del PMA por el Informe recibido, el cual nos brinda datos que necesitamos para poder, con propiedad, pronunciarnos al respecto de las actividades presentes y futuras del PMA. Asimismo, agradecemos al Sr. Dutia por su presentación en nombre del Director General.

Mi delegación, durante el recién pasado 942 período de sesiones de este Consejo presentó un pormenorizado relato de las actividades del Programa Mundial de Alimentos en Nicaragua. Entonces estábamos terminando de evaluar las desastrosas secuelas dejadas por el huracán "Juana" y fue propicia la ocasión para dejar constancia de la efectividad con que el PMA ha venido acudiendo en nuestra ayuda en ésta y en otras ocasiones, no sólo con proyectos de ayuda alimenticia de urgencia, sino también con proyectos de desarrollo rural y desarrollo de recursos humanos. La importancia que tienen los programas del PMA para Nicaragua la reiteramos hoy junto con nuestro aprecio al PMA y al Director Ejecutivo.

Al revisar el informe tomamos mayor conciencia de la importante labor que el PMA lleva a cabo en todos los países en desarrollo, sobre todo en aquellos de más bajos ingresos, donde ya no se habla sólo de problemas de malnutrición sino donde día a día, ante los ojos del mundo entero, mueren miles de personas a causa del hambre. Aquí, en estos países, los programas de ayuda alimentaria son destinados a salvar vidas humanas. De nuevo encontramos en el Informe el denominador común que todos conocemos; que la situación de la agricultura y la alimentación en el mundo se ha deteriorado a niveles tan alarmantes que los programas del PMA se convierten en programas de urgencia permanente.

Hemos apreciado en el Informe que no sólo países pequeños o en desarrollo son beneficiados con estos programas, sino también países grandes de Asia y de otras regiones, y que también reciben beneficios los donantes al utilizar sus compañías, sus propios medios de transporte para transportar los alimentos. Se recoge de forma clara una situación que es común a muchos de nuestros países. Me refiero a los problemas del atraso e infraestructura inadecuada que obstaculizan los programas de desarrollo rural obligando a destinar más recursos para poder lograr que éstos surtan el efecto que persiguen. Son éstos, problemas clásicos del subdesarrollo: escasez de capacidad técnica, administrativa y de gestión. Son producto de una herencia nefasta de nuestros pueblos tras siglos de explotación de nuestros recursos, que forman cadenas difíciles de romper.

Consideramos, en consecuencia, que algunos países que regatean sus contribuciones deben de recordar esta realidad para considerar de verdad estas contribuciones como una obligación, si es que vamos a hablar aquí con seriedad de un mundo más igualitario y de deseos de erradicar el hambre y promover el desarrollo.

Saludamos por tanto que se informa en el párrafo 22 sobre los pasos que se están dando para superar este lastre que impide, incluso como se menciona en el informe, la utilización constructiva de la ayuda alimentaria en algunos países del mundo. Tal como hemos analizado en otros documentos, el Informe nos ilustra sobre los ya tristemente célebres Programas de Ajuste y el impacto negativo que tienen los mismos en las condiciones de vida de las poblaciones más necesitadas. Estamos de acuerdo, como se menciona en los párrafos 31 al 34, en que el PMA en conjunto con la FAO y otras organizaciones pueden apoyar, aportando recursos que ayuden a reducir el impacto de estos Programas de Ajuste, cuando sean necesarios. Se registra también claramente la problemática planteada por el aumento de los precios de los alimentos y como esto afecta directamente la cantidad de productos disponibles. En consecuencia, consideramos lógica la solicitud de que se aumenten las contribuciones. El Informe, nos refleja en síntesis, un incremento de las necesidades mundiales por las causas ya mencionadas, a la par de un incremento de los precios de los productos, un incremento de los precios de los costos de transporte y flete y una reducción de las contribuciones. No podemos por tanto, dejar de hacer un llamado de apoyo al objetivo de promesas de contribución hecho por el Director Ejecutivo, así como que al menos una tercera parte sea en efectivo.

No queremos abundar en más detalles, puesto que a lo largo de estos días hemos venido analizando la crítica situación que mencionamos. Por tanto, queremos reiterar nuestro apoyo al PMA y queremos dejar claro el apoyo de nuestro país a los proyectos de resolución que se nos presentan, así como hacer un llamado a aquellos países que todavía ponen alguna resistencia a que, al menos cuando se trata de programas de ayuda alimentaria, dejen de lado ingratitudes y por fin pongan mucho más de su parte para que los programas del PMA, en realidad, continúen surtiendo el efecto benéfico que hacen para el Tercer Mundo y para muchos otros países.

Juan Felipe ROY ROMERO (España): Una vez estudiado atentamente el documento CL 95/13 y escuchado la excelente exposición de él, pasamos a señalar los puntos que a nuestro juicio son de la máxima importancia.

Expresamos nuestra satisfacción por el aumento del 28% en la cantidad de alimentos enviados a los países, en desarrollo, lamentando que dicha cantidad sea todavía muy insuficiente para las necesidades de ellos. Asimismo, mi país se congratula por el incremento de las asignaciones para proyectos en desarrollo, hecho que estimamos de la máxima importancia, bien sea para el desarrollo agrícola y rural o para el desarrollo de los recursos humanos, instando al mismo tiempo a que se siga perseverando en este punto tan importante de ayuda a los países en desarrollo. Lamentamos que las asignaciones para las operaciones de urgencia hayan alcanzado un nivel tan elevado, especialmente las motivadas por catástrofes causadas por el hombre, haciendo votos para que éstas disminuyan cada vez más y sólo las alteraciones meteorológicas sean las razones que propicien estas ayudas.

En relación a una política futura de proyectos, nos permitimos indicar los siguientes, que consideramos primordiales:

Primero. Ya hemos expresado nuestro total aliento a los proyectos en desarrollo, fomentando el máximo aprovechamiento de las tierras, la mejora forestal, ayudas a madres y niños en edad preescolar y escolar, etc.

Segundo. El avance del Sistema Internacional de Información sobre Ayuda Alimentaria (INTERFAIS), lo consideramos fundamental para un mejor aprovechamiento de ésta, ya que al tener más y mejores informes de los diversos factores que inciden en determinadas ayudas alimentarias, como cuadro detallado sobre expediciones a ciertos países, información de algunos puertos o rutas de transporte, etc., permitirán que los recursos del PMA se apliquen lo más utilmente posible.

Tercero. La cooperación entre el PMA, Banco Mundial, PNUD, UNICEF, FIDA y otras organizaciones no gubernamentales, mejorarán la eficacia de las distintas ayudas a los países más necesitados.

Cuarto. Por último y como es bien sabido, sin una ayuda económica considerable no es posible realizar ningún programa eficiente, por ello la delegación española vería con gran satisfacción que se alcancen los objetivos de contribuciones voluntarias para los años venideros, con la seguridad de que en algo se paliarían las necesidades de los seres más desafortunados.

Assefa YILALA (Ethiopia): The Ethiopian delegation would like to thank Mr Ingram, the Executive Director of the World Food Programme, and Mr Dutia, Assistant Director-General, for introducing the item just presented on the Fourteenth 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.

Our observation on this item is limited to the pledge and endorsement of the document for the concerned bodies within the UN system, and therefore very brief.

With respect to the document, we would like to thank the Committee on Food Aid Policies and Programmes and the Secretariat of the World Food Programme for the information contained in the Fourteenth Annual Report to the ECOSOC, the FAO Council and the World Food Council.

In paragraphs 66 to 68 of the document it is indicated that the total pledge or contribution to the regular resource programme, food aid conventions and IEFR, International Emergency Food Reserve, in 1987/88 reached US\$ 1.6 billion against WFP's target of US\$ 1.4 billion, a target that was set for the Regular Programme. This is a difference of 200 000 tons. Yet we feel that the achievement with regard to total food availabilities for Food Aid Programmes, including the WFP, Food Aid Conventions and IEFR, was an encouragement, and would like to thank all those who contributed towards the success for overall resource availabilities.

Contributions to the Regular Programme of the WFP, however, fall considerably short of the pledged target, which we feel requires serious consideration by the donor communities. The target set for 1990-91 is US\$ 1.5 billion, which is less than the total achievement in the Food Aid Programmes in 1987 and 1988. We therefore hope that the achievement in 1990-91 will be at least as much as that

of the pledge for the 1991 biennium, and we appeal to all donors for their continued support. In this connection we would like to express the desirability of the one-third cash contribution for the success of the Programme's operation, which we hope will be seriously considered and met by the donor communities, as it has been in the past.

Our delegation would also support the Draft Resolution of the Council, and endorse that of the Conference contained in Annex III of the document. We would also join with the Executive Director in his appeal for increased contributions to the Programme's resources.

Like the document concerning Recent Developments in the UN System of Interest to FAO, this particular document was also received by our delegation after the Council session had started. This being the case, adequate examination of the Report was not possible. We hope that such difficulties will be overcome in future sessions. In these circumstances, we may request the floor again, if we find it necessary to raise some point as discussion progresses.

Kiichi NARITA (Japan): First of all, I would like to join previous speakers in paying tribute to the Executive Director, Mr Ingram, for his succinct presentation of the Fourteenth Annual Report. I should also like to express our high regard for the whole staff of WFP, as only with their efforts could 1988 have marked a record-breaking year in various aspects of operational activities.

There are many areas which are commendable in the 1988 operations. Let me focus on one area which we are very pleased to note, namely that WFP has been actively promoting cooperation and coordination with international organizations such as the World Bank, UNDP, WHO and also NGOs, as mentioned in paragraph 23 of the document CL 95/13, with a view to strengthening further the implementation of WFP development projects for agricultural and rural development in the low income and food deficit countries. We welcome particularly WFP's initiatives in co-financing with the World Bank, so that WFP food aid and the World Bank's financial loans are provided in a coordinated and complementary manner.

My delegation also appreciates the WFP's elaboration for the emergency aid programme for displaced persons and refugees. WFP's support for them has increased seven-fold over the last ten years.

From a humanitarian viewpoint, my Government also has been cooperating with international organizations to assist refugees and displaced persons. For example, Japan contributed US\$ 105 million to the UN Trust Fund of the Office of the Coordinator for UN Humanitarian and Economic Assistance Programmes for Afghan refugees, among which \$ 20 million was earmarked for WFP projects.

My delegation would like to take this opportunity to make a few comments concerning the pledging target for 1991-92.

The proposed pledging target of US\$ 1.5 billion for the period of 1991-92 is a huge amount of financial resources to be collected from the international community, and it has to be a realistic one. When we see the fact that the proposed pledging target for 1987-88 was achieved by 89 percent and that only 65 percent of the target for the current biennium was achieved by the end of 1988, it seems very difficult to say what percentage of the proposed pledging target for 1991-92 will be achieved. However, there must be no objection to saying that the donor countries, including Japan, should make every effort to achieve this goal once it is adopted.

Also, the increased pledging target would naturally lead to an increased requirement of administrative expenses which all the donors, whether small or big, have to bear. From this point of view, we have to keep in mind the importance of operating the WFP projects as effectively and efficiently as possible.

Juan NUIRY-SANCHEZ (Cuba): La delegación de Cuba agradece al Director Ejecutivo del PMA, señor James Ingram, por la presentación del documento CL 95/13, el cual ya nos era familiar desde el pasado período de sesiones del CPA celebrado en mayo pasado y en el cual nuestra delegación participó activamente. Así como también agradecemos la clara y precisa presentación del señor Dutia.

La delegación de mi país quisiera expresar su apoyo y agradecimiento a la labor desarrollada por el Programa Mundial de Alimentos en el período analizado. Consideramos que se trata de un programa ágil, activo y eficaz donde los países subdesarrollados encontramos excelente colaboración para satisfacer nuestras necesidades alimentarias, especialmente los países de bajos ingresos y países menos adelantados.

Apoyamos las asignaciones por tipos de proyectos hechas por el PMA. A saber, proyectos de desarrollo agrícola y rural y desarrollo de recursos humanos. El hecho de que en ambas categorías de proyectos de desarrollo se haga gran hincapié en el apoyo que presta a las zonas rurales, y en especial a los grupos más necesitados de la población rural, como se expresa en el Párrafo 20, nos indica el carácter amplio de su ayuda.

Teniendo en cuenta las características del Programa, nos preocupa la situación de falta de recursos que nos ha sido expuesta. Como nos indicara el señor Ingram hay muchas personas que tienen sus vidas en peligro por falta de alimentos y en realidad con las excelentes concepciones del PMA y con la buena administración no basta. Hacen falta recursos, recursos que deben ser aportados por los países donantes. Esperamos que la exhortación hecha por el señor Ingram y por las otras delegaciones, a las que unimos nuestra voz, no caigan en el vacío y puedan cumplimentarse las necesidades del Programa, ya que en términos generales están disminuyendo y, como ya hemos expresado, las necesidades de alimentos aumenta. Tal como ha sido comprobado fehacientemente en este Consejo de la FAO.

Para finalizar, Señor Presidente, reiteramos la complacencia de la delegación de Cuba a las acciones amplias del PMA, que dentro de la colaboración multilateral desempeña un papel de tanta importancia, por lo que no duda nuestra delegación en brindar su apoyo a la resolución que se nos presenta en el Anexo III del documento.

Mohammad Salees KHAN (Pakistan): I too would like to thank Mr James Ingram, the Executive Director of the WFP, for his presentation of the Fourteenth Annual Report of the Committee on Food Aid Policies and Programmes, and Mr Dutia for his additional comments on behalf of the Director-General of FAO.

Pakistan is privileged to be a member of the Committee on Food Aid Policies and Programmes and thus has had an opportunity to reflect on the issues contained in the CFA Report during the Twenty-fifth, Twenty-sixth and Twenty-seventh Sessions of the CFA. We will therefore attempt to confine our comments to only a few aspects of the Report today.

First and foremost, we are pleased to note that the twenty-fifth year of WFP has been marked by another sound year of performance. This is particularly creditable when viewed in the light of the fact that the performance was achieved in a situation where the Programme had to struggle to match scarce resources against ever-increasing demands vis-à-vis emergency operations. Yet the Programme was also able to record a 25 percent increase in commitments for development projects.

While recognizing the record level of contributions to the regular resources of the Programme, we note that these were still short of the target. Likewise, we note the shortfall in contributions to the IEFR. These, coupled with increased international cereal prices, severely affected the overall availability of food supplies to WFP, forcing it to draw in advance against pledges of 1989, with severe through-forward effects.

The Executive Director in his presentation of the agenda item extensively and justifiably expressed apprehension regarding the shortfalls in pledges to the regular resources of IEFR, as well as the inadequacy of cash resources. We fully support the proposed pledging target of US\$ 1.25 billion in the biennium 1990-91 with at least one third of contributions being in cash. In pursuance of this, we endorse the annexed Resolution attached to document CL 95/13.

Mr Dutia, in his statement on behalf of the Director-General, underscored the need for strengthening the IEFR, and of the pre-positioning of food aid. Our delegation, at the Twenty-seventh CFA Session, fully supported this view, and would once again like to record its support.

We welcome the sizeable pledges so far against the 1989-90 pledging targets and hope not only that the tempo would be maintained, but that it would be supplemented with additional resources over and above the pledging target of US\$ 1.5 billion. Moreover we would emphasize the sensitization of pledges to price fluctuations in order to ensure availability of food commodities to WFP at originally planned levels and to protect against shortfalls resulting from increases in prices of commodities during the course of the biennium.

We note the record level of shipments handled by WFP in 1988 and a 71 percent increase in shipments on behalf of bilateral donors. We would request from WFP some further information regarding the adjustment of costs of bilateral shipments pertaining to procurement handling, freight charges, etc., which are handled by the WFP.

In the case of purchases of food commodities in the developing countries and their share in the transportation expenditure outlay, we note with satisfaction the position indicated in paragraphs 11 and 65 respectively. However, we would call for further efforts to enhance food procurement through local purchases and triangular transactions in developing countries.

With regard to paragraph 65 we would like to ask the Secretariat to clarify what percentage does the figure of 24 percent quoted in the paragraph constitute of the total shipping tonnage.

Turning to Section 1 on development assistance, we endorse the allocation of resources mentioned in paragraph 19 between agriculture and other development activities and human resource development commitments, as well as the rural bias of WFP projects. We also endorse the high priority given to sub-Saharan Africa and other less developed countries. We share the view expressed in paragraph 22 that their severe economic problems constrain the ability of governments in developing countries to provide necessary non-food inputs essential to achieve effective project implementation, and we hope that progressively a larger proportion of local costs of projects and internal costs relating to food handling and management will be met out of cash resources available to WFP and the monetization of food aid.

To this end we would appeal to the donors to make available a large percentage of their pledges to WFP in cash, as was requested by the Executive Director in his introduction.

Turning to emergency operations my delegation associates itself with the regret in paragraph 5 that the commitments to this end in 1988 matched the record levels 1987. While we hope that the major leaps towards peace throughout the world ever since the signing of the Geneva Accord on Afghanistan in April 1988 will obviate the need for such large-scale emergency operations in the future, we take this opportunity of congratulating WFP on its admirable response to numerous emergencies in 1988, including the situation in Pakistan.

On the subject of Afghan refugees, members will be well aware of the resolute and unstinting effort of the Government and people of Pakistan in hosting and sustaining the refugees, now 3.27 million in registered numbers alone, over the past decade. Despite our own severe economic difficulties and the tremendous economic and social pressures brought about by the presence of such a large number of refugees on our economic and social facilities and our physical environment, we are resolved to continue our support efforts until the honourable return of the refugees to their homeland. In this we remain unwavering.

WFP, UNHCR and several bilateral and multilateral donors, as well as private aid agencies, have been generously assisting us in the past in our endeavours, for which we are extremely grateful. However, as our delegation reported at the 27th Session of CFA, donor fatigue is becoming increasingly perceptible, and we are required to meet our increasingly larger percentage of refugee requirements from our own meagre stocks and financial resources. In many cases we have to meet refugee requirements with items which we have imported for our own requirements at a considerable foreign exchange cost.

In our statement we pointed out the considerable shortages of food aid supplies received from WFP and other donors vis-à-vis the actual requirements of the refugees. Our submissions in this respect are contained in the Summary Record of the 27th Session of the CFA, and I do not intend to reiterate these. However, we would like to underline the fact that the difficult economic situation in my country and the persistent crop failures over the past two years have severely constrained the ability of my Government to continue to meet the shortages in food requirements and the costs of internal logistics and refugee maintenance from our resources.

On the other hand, the refugee situation, contrary to earlier expectations, is not abating. In fact, from February to April 1989, a further influx of 66,000 refugees into Pakistan was recorded. Therefore we hope that WFP and other donors will help us in our noble goal, by covering the shortages of supplies and the cost of internal transportation and refugee maintenance as identified in our statement before the 27th Session of CFA.

My Government extends full support to WFP and other agencies in the United Nations in the setting up of the task referred to in paragraph 27 and we can assure FAO that we will continue to support this endeavour.

Finally, on the point raised by Mr Dutia and other delegations on the contents of the CFA Report, as a member of CFA Pakistan has no difficulty at the moment with the report. We fully participated in the deliberations of the CFA, and despite a difference of views have proceeded with the consensus. We fully accept the decision of the CFA. However, we understand the difficulties of the member countries who are not members of CFA even if they participate as observers during the session. Therefore, we feel it would be only fair to those people to have other aspects of the CFA sessions included in the Report when it is being presented to Council and to ECOSOC.

Amin ABDEL MALEK (Liban) (langue originale arabe): La délégation libanaise a examiné le 14ème Rapport annuel présenté par le CPA à l'ECOSOC, ainsi qu'au Conseil de la FAO et au Programme alimentaire mondial. Nous avons également examiné l'aide alimentaire fournie par ce programme aux pays en développement et nous avons également examiné les engagements pris dans le cadre de la recherche alimentaire internationale d'urgence et de l'aide fournie aux pauvres ainsi que les activités afin d'améliorer l'environnement. La délégation libanaise voudrait faire une observation sur un point important de ce rapport. Le CPA se compose de 30 membres dont la moitié sont élus par le Conseil de la FAO; quant à l'autre moitié elle est désignée par l'ECOSOC, et, partant, nous pensons qu'il est nécessaire que le Conseil de la FAO examine les travaux du CPA de manière approfondie. Le Conseil devrait examiner les questions relatives aux politiques et aux méthodes, "policy matters" dit le délégué en anglais, adoptées par le CPA.

Nous éprouvons une inquiétude à savoir que certains pays souhaitent une totale indépendance du CPA sans intervention de la FAO. Ceci est une chose que nous ne pouvons pas accepter car, comme nous l'avons déjà dit, le CPA devrait coopérer totalement avec la FAO ainsi qu'avec le Conseil dans l'intérêt des pays en développement. Nous pensons également que dans le rapport que nous examinons et dans les paragraphes 37 à 40, 11 est dit que ce programme coopère avec la Banque Mondiale.

Au paragraphe 43 du rapport, on parle de la coordination entre le PAM et les différentes organisations membres du Groupe consultatif mixte des politiques et l'on dit que le PAM va assurer la présidence de ce groupe lors d'une réunion qui va se tenir à Rome en juillet 1989. Ce sont les présidents exécutifs des organisations membres du Groupe consultatif mixte des politiques qui participeront à cette réunion.

Tout cela est très joli, mais quelle n'a pas été notre surprise lorsque nous avons appris que le PAM collabore avec la Banque Mondiale mais ne coopère pas avec la FAO! Notre surprise a été encore plus grande lorsque nous avons constaté que la FAO ne sera pas représentée au cours de cette réunion qui, comme cela ressort du rapport, sera une réunion de haut niveau.

Nous refusons cette façon de traiter et nous exigeons une plus grande coopération à l'avenir entre la FAO et le Programme alimentaire mondial.

Angus MACDONALD (Australia): My delegation has read with great interest the 14th Annual Report of the WFP and endorse it. We also note with satisfaction the remarks made in the introduction which Mr Ingram made to this item.

I will be quite short. We have observed that in the twenty-five years of its existence the Programme has grown from a small experimental agency utilising surplus food commodities for the benefit of countries to one of the United Nations most important development agencies discharging a programme of over \$ 700 million per annum. That it has managed to do this with a staff structure of some 350 professional officers, fewer than half of whom are here, is a testament to the diligence and hard work of those officers. We believe the restructuring of the Organization along the lines of what were called the McKinsey proposals has clearly been a major success, as has we feel the restructuring of the project approval process through the Sub-committee on Projects. We believe the continuing evaluation of WFP's role, management autonomy and structure is also clearly warranted and necessary to maintain its efficiency and effectiveness.

There are one or two specific issues. We would commend the Programme on its development activities, some 289 active projects to a total value of \$ 3.5 billion. Clearly, the Programme is now using food aid as an effective development tool and has put to bed well and truly the old argument that food aid could have been a disincentive to agricultural production. While regretting the necessity for WFP's emergency relief activities, we again commend the work done in helping to relieve human suffering because of natural and man-made disasters to the value of around \$ 250 million per annum. That some two-thirds of these were directly man-made disasters and are thus potentially avoidable is doubly regrettable and a sad reflection on the present state of humanity.

We commend the recent changes to the International Emergency Food Reserve to better ensure its on-going development impact. Emergency disasters all too often create the problems mentioned by Mr Dutia in his introduction, and arise because of inadequacy and lack of predictability.

We note that decisions were made unanimously only a few weeks ago and we imagine these will be reflected in the 1989 Report before this Council next year. As such, my delegation cannot support the Mexican proposal on the issue of the protracted refugee situation, which cannot be reconsidered after that decision was unanimously taken.

Finally, we endorse the 1991/92 biennium target of \$ 1.5 billion. When Australia announces its pledge we will be endeavouring to maintain our present policy of providing one-third of our pledge as cash in our future support of the Programme.

Zhenhuan LI (China) (original language Chinese): As a CFA member China participated in the discussion of the Annual Report submitted by the Executive Director, Mr Ingram, to the 27th Session of CFA. As such, we will not repeat statements that have already been made.

The work of WFP during 1988 has made remarkable achievements as explained in the document now under discussion. My present statement now will be limited to the following three points-firstly, food aid development; secondly, WFP resources; and thirdly the pledge target for the period 1991/92.

First and foremost food for development-use and practice has demonstrated the far-reaching significance of food for development in support of the efforts to overcome rural poverty, to enhance capability for development in the receiving countries, and to eradicate hunger and malnutrition.

Therefore, it is highly necessary to further this work by adopting measures in the areas of resources and policies. Firstly, food aid should be closely linked with the countries' long-term development plan and the adjustment programme. We share the view stated in paragraph 32 of the document-and I quote-"Food aid was viewed as a major and under-exploited resource for the financing of adjustment programmes".

Secondly, a problem to be solved is the insufficient capability on the part of the recipient countries to implement projects. Countries that lack implementing capabilities are the ones that need aid the most, a fact that is mentioned in paragraphs 21 and 22 of the document CL 95/13. The emphasis placed on human resource development and personnel training will be conducive to increasing the social and economic returns of WFP projects.

Thirdly, the cooperation with other international organizations needs to be strengthened, and a general identity of view taken on the purpose of international aid, that is to say the development of production, and the reduction of poverty. Therefore, we wish that WFP will continue to strengthen its cooperation with other international agencies which will facilitate the improvement of social and economic efficiency of the projects. I think that technical assistance and financial assistance should be complementary and should be executed in conjunction so that these positive efforts will be given full play. In 1988, the WFP has strengthened work in this area and has received positive response from other international agencies. In this connection, we should like to state our appreciation.

Regarding the resources of WFP, a stable increase of resources is essential for WFP to carry out its operations and to fulfil its mandate. We are pleased to note that many countries, including developing countries, made positive contributions during the previous two biennia. However, owing to the rise of food prices, the actual contributions have registered a noticeable decline in recent years in terms of real value, and this has adversely affected the operation of WFP. It has also had a negative impact on the agricultural and food development of the developing countries. I think we should pay attention to these issues. We should also work together in finding ways and means of making it possible for WFP to cope with the fluctuation of food prices on the international market.

Finally, I would like to say a few words about the project target for 1991/92. In view of the performance of WFP in the past and the current global food and agriculture situation, the Chinese delegation fully supports the \$ 1.5 billion project target for 1991/92 of which one-third should be in cash. Despite the financial difficulties confronting China, our Government will do its level best to meet its pledged target for 1991/92 in an effort to support WFP's work.

In conclusion, the delegation of China would reiterate that the Chinese Government supports the work carried out by WFP, that we are paying attention, and we are also attaching great importance to the relationship of cooperation with WFP. Our delegation would like to recommend that the Draft Resolution for a pledging target contained in Annex III of this report be adopted by the current Session of the Council.

Me Gunilla KURTEN (Finland): The Finnish delegation takes note that the amount of food shipped by WFP to developing countries reached a record high of 3.1 million tons in 1988, the World Food Programme being either the first or second donor of food aid to almost 70 percent of all food aid recipient countries.

Commitments for development projects increased by 25 percent over 1987, but regrettably also the commitments for emergency operations almost matched the 1987 record and caused the greatest emergency resource crisis in the 25 years of World Food Programme operations. More than two-thirds of the emergency food aid during 1988 was allocated to man-made disasters, with long-term assistance needed for large numbers of refugees and displaced persons. This trend appears to be continuing and requires a new approach to the allocation of assistance to emergency situations.

The year 1988, however, also brought new hope of peace in several long-term emergency situations. A special umbrella programme has already been established for the repatriation of some 6 million refugees from Iran and Pakistan to Afghanistan, and Finland has endorsed and given financial support to the planned activities of this programme.

Finland fully endorses continuing the World Food Programme policy of giving priority to, assistance to the poorest countries, and the strong emphasis on support to the rural areas and specifically to the neediest groups of the rural population, which is characteristic of the World Food Programme Project Food Aid.

The continuing policy of giving sub-Saharan Africa the highest priority is also supported. However, experience shows that it is increasingly difficult to formulate sound food-related projects in that region due to the scarcity of technical, administrative and managerial capacity, logistics problems, and severe economic constraints. We therefore note with satisfaction that the World Food Programme is taking a number of steps in order to increase the proportion of resources allocated to the region. We find the steps very appropriate, especially the efforts to increase the cooperation with the World Bank and other financing institutions, NGOs and the United Nations technical cooperation agencies.

This cooperation should not, of course, be restricted only to sub-Saharan Africa, and we are pleased to note that increased cooperation and coordination with other development assistance organizations in general is given emphasis within the activities of the World Food Programme.

Finland wishes to endorse the proposed pledging target of \$ 1.5 billion for 1991/92, considering it both well justified and realistic, and especially wishes to stress the requirement for one-third of the pledges to be made in cash. Consequently Finland also endorses the adoption of the Draft Resolution proposed by the CFA to the Council.

David W. JOSLYN (United States of America): The United States is a member of the CFA, and therefore we have had ample opportunity to comment on the contents of the Annual Report for 1988. Nevertheless, we would like to make a few comments to highlight what we believe is most noteworthy in this Report.

First, the United States would like to commend the World Food Programme for its successes in 1988. WFP staff and administrators continue to exhibit exemplary dedication and exceptional achievement in saving lives and combatting hunger and malnutrition. The United States shares with the WFP the belief that food aid priorities should correspond to the needs of the poorest segments of populations, those who are unable to secure food. We welcome WFP's innovations in the use of food aid to help these populations to help themselves.

Second, we support WFP's continued emphasis on sub-Saharan Africa despite constraints to the effective use of food aid in this region. We applaud the steps to increase and improve programmes in sub-Saharan Africa in collaboration with the World Bank and other multilateral development banks, with IFAD, with FAO, with WHO, and with nongovernmental organizations. We encourage WFP to continue searching for better ways to increase development assistance through food aid to this part of the world.

Third, we note WFP's aggressive and positive contribution to programmes of economic recovery, including structural adjustment, and call on WFP to continue cooperation and coordination with other multilateral organizations, with bilateral organizations, and with nongovernmental organizations, to ensure that economic recovery and structural adjustment activities include attention to food security needs of the poor, social issues and environmental degradation.

Fourth, as regards the status of the IEF, the United States recognizes the difficulties the World Food Programme faces with the present IEF operation and the level of pledges to WFP for the IEF.

We do believe sincerely however, that the two initiatives being taken by the WFP and the FAO should help strengthen WFP's ability to contribute to emergency feeding needs. The procedure just approved in CFA 27 for dealing with protracted refugee feeding programmes received our approval, and we will work closely with WFP to implement this new programme. In this regard Mr Chairman, my delegation believes that the next CFA report to FAO Council should accurately note the unanimous decision reached by CFA 27 on the arrangements for dealing with the protracted refugee programmes, a decision that is clearly within the purview and the authority of CFA.

In addition, the analysis to be done by WFP and FAO on ways to strengthen the IEFM mechanism to deal more effectively with sudden emergencies should be very helpful. We urge all member countries to contribute to this analysis and we look forward to CFA 29 for the presentation and discussion of that analysis.

Lastly, the United States delegation supported at CFA 27 the pledging target for 1991/92 of US\$ 1.5 billion, and therefore endorses the resolution to this effect in Annex III of document CL 95/13. We do believe however, that this increased pledging target will be difficult to reach unless other than traditional major donors increase their pledging levels and new donors make significant pledges. While it is too early to discuss our own specific pledge we will maintain our strong support for food aid and for WFP. In the upcoming months we will carefully review both our total food aid plan and the appropriate level of our contribution to the World Food Programme. Thank you very much.

Zoltàn KALMAN (Hungary): First of all I wish to join those distinguished delegates who congratulated the Secretariat for the preparation, and Mr Ingram and Mr Dutia for their introductory statements.

Since Hungary is a member of the Committee on Food Aid Policies and Programmes our delegation, participating in the 27th session of CFA, had the possibility and the opportunity to express its views about WFP's activities in 1988. Therefore we do not wish to make a long statement on this issue, and also because this report, in our opinion, faithfully reflects and summarizes the discussions which took place during that CFA session.

There is one point, however, which-as we think-cannot be over-emphasized; namely the need for better cooperation and coordination among various international organizations and funding agencies. Considering the increasing need for both emergency and development assistance, and the limited resources available to meet these needs, coordinated efforts and actions are required and essential to provide longer-term solutions to the food shortage problems of the needy people.

In this regard our delegation wishes to express its appreciation to WFP for the fruitful cooperation with the World Bank in providing development assistance as stated in paragraphs 37 through 40 of this document. We must also complement WFP for its close and exemplary collaboration with UNHCR to better meet the needs of refugees in several countries.

Having said this, I would like to add that we would be very pleased and happy if we could see references in this Report about fruitful and close cooperation between FAO and WFP, the largest international organizations in Rome. This cooperation in our opinion would be and should be considered by both parties concerned as important and indispensable for the benefit of all, especially for the people of the developing countries.

Finally I wish to express our full support to the Draft Resolutions presented in Annex III of this document.

João Augusto DE MEDICIS (Brazil): My delegation welcomes the 14th Annual Report of the Committee on Food Aid Policies and Programmes and, as a member of the Committee, we are certainly pleased to approve and commend WFP for its achievements.

My delegation's position in regard to the relationship between FAO and WFP has consistently been voiced before in this Council, and in CFA as well as in many other international fora, and I can briefly reiterate it today by saying that we consider it of great importance that WFP keeps its overall reliance on FAO's policy advice and technical expertise. We also think it is indispensable for the sake of the achievement of the goals of the programme that cooperation at all levels be strengthened between FAO and WFP. I am therefore prepared to support the proposition put to the floor by the distinguished representative of Mexico and supported by other delegations, as to the interest for this Council to receive not only a factual report of the CFA on the achievements of the programme, but also further information on the policy issues dealt with in that Committee.

In this context I would like also to support the suggestion presented by the Mexican delegation that the problems of protracted refugees should be debated by the next FAO Conference. The members of the Council might recall that our delegation expressed its reserves on the line of action approved by the CFA.

The composition of this Council being better balanced than that of the CFA, allows for a more adequate expression of views of FAO membership as a whole, which is another reason for airing here matters related to Food Aid Programmes and Policies. My delegation reserves its right to address

either in this Council or in the Conference, the need for a review in the composition of the CFA so as to give it a more balanced geographic distribution, especially now in view of the request by the European Economic Community to join FAO.

Disagreement with measures taken by the World Food Programme and with the decisions adopted by CFA has often been misinterpreted as an opposition to the Programme. My delegation cannot accept this misunderstanding, but nevertheless, in order to avoid any doubts regarding our feeling, I would like to reiterate our support to the Programme and our confidence in its administration. My delegation therefore supports the Draft Resolutions before us.

Real LALANDE (Canada): Ma déclaration sera assez brève puisque le Canada est membre du Comité des politiques et programmes d'aide alimentaire du PAM et que le présent rapport a déjà fait l'objet d'approbation au niveau de ce Comité. Je me limiterai dans ma déclaration à quelques commentaires généraux.

Je voudrais tout d'abord souligner que le rapport qui nous est présenté illustre bien, selon nous, les réalisations fort impressionnantes du PAM au cours de l'année 1988. Des niveaux records furent atteints au niveau des envois totaux d'aide alimentaire et au niveau des quantités destinées aux projets de développement, au niveau des achats locaux de céréales. Ces différentes réalisations représentent bien le bon travail effectué par le PAM et nous croyons que le Programme peut être fier, à juste titre, de ces différents succès.

Ma délégation note avec satisfaction le maintien, au cours de 1988, de la priorité accordée aux pays les plus pauvres et les moins développés dans le programme du PAM.

Nous désirons également apporter notre appui aux efforts effectués par le PAM afin de renverser la tendance à la baisse connue au cours des récentes années dans les projets de développement orientés vers les pays africains au sud Sahara, tel que cela est dit aux articles 21 et 22 du rapport.

Nous croyons que les efforts de collaboration du PAM avec les institutions financières internationales, telle que la Banque mondiale, le Fonds international de développement agricole, la Banque africaine de développement, de même que la collaboration avec les organisations non gouvernementales, devraient permettre une meilleure intégration de l'aide alimentaire du PAM et des différents donateurs avec les autres institutions internationales en matière d'assistance technique et financière.

Ma délégation est également fort satisfaite des efforts effectués par le PAM dans le but de clarifier le rôle de l'aide alimentaire, de même que le rôle du PAM lui-même dans le cadre des programmes d'ajustement structurel mis en oeuvre en collaboration avec la Banque mondiale.

La délégation canadienne croit en effet qu'une aide alimentaire bien ciblée peut jouer un rôle unique dans la réduction des effets négatifs entraînés par le programme d'ajustement structurel auprès des populations les plus directement touchées par ces mesures.

La vingt-septième session du Comité des politiques et programmes du PAM a également approuvé l'objectif pour la période 1991-92 de 1,5 milliard de dollars et ma délégation s'est déjà associée à cet objectif retenu par le Comité par consensus, suite à la formulation de différentes observations, tel que cela est décrit dans le rapport au paragraphe 80 du document.

Nous pouvons donc approuver la résolution soumise à l'Annexe 3 du document CL 95/13.

Finalement, ma délégation reconnaît que certaines décisions prises lors de la vingt-septième session ne sont pas reflétées dans le document CL 95/13; mais nous considérons néanmoins que ce rapport est bien documenté et reflète bien la situation de l'année 1988 pour laquelle ce rapport a été préparé.

Nous désirons souligner que certaines décisions prises lors de la vingt-septième session du Comité des politiques et programmes auquel il a été fait référence au début de ce débat, le furent sur une base de consensus, et nous acceptons les décisions prises par ce Comité.

Nous ne croyons pas que les discussions qui ont déjà eu lieu au niveau de la vingt-septième session du Comité des politiques et programmes du PAM nécessitent d'être reprises et réouvertes au niveau du Conseil et de la Conférence de la FAO.

Nous ne pouvons donc pas soutenir la proposition formulée pour qu'une telle discussion soit réouverte, compte tenu du consensus déjà obtenu lors de la discussion du Comité des politiques et programmes d'aide alimentaire du PAM qui dispose de l'autorité nécessaire pour adopter de telles décisions.

Gonzalo BULA-HOYOS (Colombia): Los representantes de Colombia acogemos siempre con complacencia y simpatía la presencia en esta Sala Roja del Sr. James Ingram, Director Ejecutivo del PMA. Gracias al Dr. Dutia por su presentación.

Pensamos que éste es un Informe completo. Su contenido es adecuado. En general contiene lo esencial para el conocimiento de este Consejo. No obstante, compartimos la declaración de nuestro colega Saleem Khan, de Pakistán, en el sentido de que para el futuro podría considerarse la posibilidad de que se incluyeran algunos otros aspectos de políticas discutidos en el CPA.

Los representantes de Colombia opinamos que el PMA trabaja muy bien, evoluciona satisfactoriamente, acorde con su creciente importancia y aplica reformas que han sido decididas por el CPA que es el órgano rector del Programa. Informes como éste se presentan a nuestro Consejo y al ECOSOC justamente para que, sobre todo, aquellos representantes de gobiernos que no son miembros del CPA, puedan ocuparse de estos asuntos. De manera que todas las declaraciones que se hagan son el fruto de ese proceso institucional.

A estas alturas del debate, después de que han intervenido tantos colegas y todavía existe una lista larga de oradores, todo lo cual confirma el prestigio y la solidez del Programa, no vamos a repetir cifras y hechos que destacan la importancia del PMA y su condición de válido instrumento para el desarrollo. Los representantes de Colombia sentimos gran complacencia el año pasado por que el PMA llegara a sus 25 años de operaciones y en esta oportunidad queremos rendir homenaje al Sr. A. H. Boerma, Primer Director Ejecutivo del PMA, distinguido ciudadano de los Países Bajos, estado al cual estamos gratamente vinculados. El Dr. Boerma, después de haber ejercido por los primeros cinco años el cargo de Director Ejecutivo del PMA, ocupó durante ocho años el puesto de Director General de la FAO y en todas sus actuaciones se caracterizó por su inteligencia, competencia y profundo sentido humano de comprensión y tolerancia. Hacemos propicia esta oportunidad para reiterar a usted, Sr. Ingram, en nombre del Gobierno de Colombia, nuestro más pleno apoyo a las realizaciones del PMA en 1988 y reconocer una vez más la valiosa función del Programa en favor de las aspiraciones y necesidades del Tercer Mundo.

Queremos apoyar a aquellas delegaciones que han dicho que en nuestro informe debemos consignar el agradecimiento de la comunidad internacional a los donantes que con sus contribuciones han permitido estas realizaciones del PMA y paralelamente también, hacer un llamado a los donantes actuales y potenciales para que contribuyan de manera que pueda lograrse el objetivo de 1 500 millones de dólares para el bienio 1991-1992.

Hemos tomado nota respetuosa del escepticismo manifestado por los representantes de algunos grandes donantes, pero no obstante, confiamos en que la generosidad y la actitud positiva con que han actuado en el pasado permitirán que el PMA siga consolidando sus realizaciones.

Apoyamos lo que ha dicho recientemente nuestra colega Gunilla, de Finlandia, y otros en el sentido de que convendrá que se cumpla la recomendación de que un tercio de esas contribuciones se haga efectivo para facilitar el funcionamiento del Programa.

De forma positiva y eficaz ha sido considerada la labor del Programa, y ha sido descrita entre otros de manera clara y adecuada por nuestro colega y amigo el Embajador Mauricio Cuadra, representante de Nicaragua, país en el cual, como se dijo en el Consejo pasado y en éste, el PMA lleva a cabo una valiosa tarea de asistencia. El colega y amigo Mauricio Cuadra hizo además algunas referencias a ciertos aspectos políticos, sociales, económicos y humanos, que nosotros compartimos y que nos induce a expresar también algunas consideraciones breves de orden político.

Nuestra larga e intensa participación en el PMA desde sus comienzos nos permite afirmar que ese importante organismo lleva a cabo la distribución alimentaria de manera muy objetiva, sin discriminación de ninguna clase, independientemente, sin condicionamientos de los donantes. Los representantes de Colombia pensamos que el Programa debe mantener y fortalecer esa política para que dentro de ese marco universal aceptado siga gozando del respeto que hoy disfruta de los gobiernos del mundo.

Compartimos también la opinión de algunos colegas en el sentido de que convendría que en nuestro Informe expresemos reconocimiento a la devoción y abnegación con que trabajan algunos funcionarios del Programa Mundial de Alimentos en ciertos lugares del mundo arriesgando hasta sus propias vidas.

En su declaración inaugural el señor Ingram, Director Ejecutivo del Programa Mundial de Alimentos, destacó el notable beneficio que el Programa había obtenido de la experiencia y de los conocimientos de la FAO; y en su declaración el señor Dutia afirmó algo que todos reconocemos y exaltamos: la forma activa y eficaz en que la FAO durante estos 26 años ha contribuido a los logros, a las realizaciones y a los progresos del PMA. En esos términos, dentro de esos parámetros, es como el Gobierno de Colombia concibe y acepta la relación entre la FAO y el PMA, que debe ser cada vez más estrecha y en armónicas relaciones compitiendo, eso sí, en la búsqueda del logro del objetivo común de las organizaciones, que debe ser la mejor asistencia a los países del Tercer Mundo.

Joseph TCHICAYA (Congo): La délégation de mon pays a examiné avec beaucoup d'attention le document CL 95/13 relatif au 14ème Rapport des politiques et programmes d'aide alimentaire soumis à notre Conseil.

Ce rapport pourrait être un excellent document qui retrace les activités du PAM et présente les bons résultats obtenus, tout en attirant l'attention des membres du Conseil sur les zones d'ombre qui obscurcissent quelque peu l'avenir du programme.

La délégation de mon pays remercie et félicite Monsieur Ingram et Monsieur Dutia pour leurs excellentes présentations dont le caractère complémentaire est indubitable.

L'occasion est ici belle pour exprimer notre reconnaissance à l'action que mène le PAM sur le terrain grâce au dévouement et à l'abnégation des fonctionnaires du Programme qui oeuvrent parfois dans des conditions très difficiles.

A cet égard, ma délégation tient à s'associer à l'appel lancé par le Directeur exécutif pour que les donateurs accroissent leur soutien à ces objectifs de contribution. Nous partageons également son évaluation de la situation lorsqu'il dit que l'objectif de contribution est à la portée de la Communauté internationale et c'est pourquoi ma délégation souhaite, dès à présent, dire que nous apportons notre soutien au projet de soutien joint à l'Annexe 3 concernant l'objectif de contribution au PAM pour la période 1991-92.

Nous réitérons notre appui, comme nous l'avons fait au CPA, à la nécessité d'accroître la RAIU en rapport avec les besoins réels et de faire les efforts utiles pour la rendre plus prévisible afin d'en améliorer l'efficacité. A cet égard, nous attendons avec intérêt l'étude que va présenter le Directeur exécutif en étroite coopération avec la FAO sur ce sujet.

Il est indéniable que le PAM a pris de plus en plus d'importance dans la vie économique et sociale de nos pays.

A cet égard, la délégation de mon pays tient à réitérer ses préoccupations sur l'évolution négative de l'aide alimentaire au développement consacrée à l'Afrique, dont chacun sait qu'elle a un très grand besoin de ressources pour son développement.

Nous attendons avec la plus grande attention les résultats que mène le Directeur exécutif pour obtenir l'appui des institutions financières nécessaires à un accroissement substantiel de cette aide pour mieux répondre aux besoins des pays de la région.

Cela dit, notre Conseil devrait prendre en considération certaines observations faites par le distingué délégué du Mexique et appuyées par d'autres pour que, dans le rapport du PAM destiné à l'ECOSOC et au Conseil de la FAO en tant qu'organes devant lesquels le CPA est responsable, celui-ci rende compte de son action de manière complète et à cet égard notre Conseil pourrait se satisfaire d'un rapport qui traite de manière séparée les aspects de politiques et ceux liés aux programmes de façon que les deux organes que je viens de rappeler aient la possibilité de débattre de ces questions étant donné leur composition.

Bien entendu ceci doit être considéré comme une directive que le Conseil adresse au CPA. Nous sommes certains que le Secrétariat aidera à l'application de cette directive dont l'utilité pour le plus grand nombre des Etats Membres des Nations Unies et de la FAO nous apparaît évidente.

Bien entendu, ceci aurait pu s'avérer inutile si la composition du CPA avait une représentation géographique mieux équilibrée.

Nous sommes satisfaits, pour ce qui nous concerne, de la manière dont est géré le PAM qui s'efforce, ces dernières années, à réduire progressivement les inégalités dans la répartition géographique du personnel, qui prévalait au sein de ce programme.

Nous sommes certains que les efforts que nous poursuivons continueront à s'accroître ainsi que l'efficacité.

Gerhard LIEBER (Germany, Federal Republic of): My delegation associates itself with others in thanking the Executive Director of the WFP, Mr Ingram, and the representative of the Director-General of FAO, Mr Dutia, for their informative introductions. Let me say right away that we welcome and agree to the Fourteenth Annual Report on Food Aid Policies and Programmes. My delegation will therefore refrain from commenting on single aspects of the Report and will limit itself to some more general remarks.

Food aid continues to be an important instrument of development cooperation, which-unfortunately-we will probably not be able to dispense with for a long time to come. This does not only apply to emergency cases and to use in times of crisis-for instance, to support refugees-but also to project-orientated food aid. WFP's work in all these areas is much appreciated by my Government. What is in our view important, is not only to think about adjusting the volume of food aid to needs, but to improve constantly the quality of Food Aid Programmes. Undoubtedly this aspect now benefits from the fact that recipient countries in general are more and more in a position to use food aid in ways which will limit detrimental effects on production and markets. In this connection local consumption habits are important, and also merit further consideration.

In food aid projects, the aspects of sustained agricultural growth, environmental questions, and the participation of women in development also seem important to us. In this connection, WFP should give greater attention to monitoring and evaluating food aid projects and the related policies.

In conclusion: My Government would very much welcome it if FAO and WFP could reach as expeditiously as possible, agreement on all open questions between both organizations-both of which we support-and work closely together. Considering the important tasks before us, we have nor time nor resources to waste.

Daniel D.C. DON NANJIRA (Kenya): The first thing the Kenya delegation would like to do is to express its gratitude to the Executive Director of the WFP and to Dr Dutia for their introductory statements. The documentation given to us is excellent, and I would like to make some remarks as both a member of the CFA and as a member of the Kenya delegation participating in this Council.

During the Twenty-seventh Session of the CFA, which the Kenya delegation found to be quite frank and constructive, there were lots of discussions. The importance of sovereignty was stressed. The importance of discipline and cooperation was stressed. The financial status of the WFP was recognized.

The WFP is a very interesting creation. It was started as an experiment, and last year it celebrated its silver anniversary. If my information is accurate-it may not be accurate, but it may be correct-the WFP has the second largest budget in the UN system. I do not think that there is anybody in this hall who would doubt the competence and delivery capacity of this Programme. Their reports are precise and to the point.

It is therefore surprising to my delegation that there should be some delegations who are asking for extra information, in addition to the Report which has been given. I don't think we can have it both ways. I know very well that when we have short reports some delegations say, "It is too short, you should have done more, given more meat to it". When we have long reports, "Look here-it is very expensive, we are going to spend a lot of money on documentation, reproducing documents, so we believe that the money that goes to reproducing this document could be utilized elsewhere". What do we want? I do not think there is any organization-any committee for that matter-that I know of, which can afford to give each and every thing that is sought by delegations. I therefore believe that our fate as members of this Committee-and Kenya is a member of the CFA Committee--if we want whatever we say to come up in the Report, we should give clear and specific-I repeat, clear and specific-instructions or guidelines as to how these reports, reflecting on the discussions that took place, should be submitted to higher bodies. But this must be done at the level where these committees are meeting, so that we make sure that when these reports come out they do indeed give guidelines as requested by the delegations. Otherwise, if we keep quiet at that level with a view to raising some points-and especially critical points-later, we are not being fair to the Secretariat-and I say this, not just towards the WFP, but towards any other Secretariat. So the duty, the ball if you like, is in our court to indicate.

I think that as far as the documentation of this item is concerned, it is accurate and we should endorse it. Having said that, I would now like to turn to specific views which the Kenya delegation would like to state on this document, but before I do so I wish to express the sincere gratitude of the Kenya delegation for the excellent work that Dr Ingram and his staff are doing. I have talked about the competent documentation that we have. The majority of those who have spoken before me have indicated that the information contained in the Report before us for discussion is accurate and reflects many of the views that were discussed by the CFA. We therefore, as a member of the CFA, and as a member of this Council, endorse the conclusions and recommendations in document CL 95/13, and commend the tireless efforts of the WFP to alleviate the critical food situation of the needy in the developing countries.

We reiterate the great importance we attach to use of food, not as a weapon against any nation or any group of society, but as a tool for development. Food aid should never perpetuate the dependency of recipient nations, rather, it should help to strengthen the national capacities of the recipient countries which aim at being self-reliant in food production.

Emergency food aid should of course be very welcome to relieve the immediate and short-term needs of the needy populations: for example, when these needs occur as a result of acts of God, emergencies, whether they be drought, locust menaces or other natural disasters, or other disaster situations-because disasters are not limited to natural disasters. We have other disaster situations-whether you call them man-made or not, they are disasters. There is an accident: there is a disaster. Man is only human, he does make mistakes. But when a disaster occurs, it is a disaster whether man-made or natural; and in this case it is necessary that assistance be given to alleviate the suffering which may result from this type of disaster.

The situation of refugees and displaced persons deserves careful attention, and the available resources to assist them should be allocated in such a manner as to be fairly balanced between those that go to the assistance of refugees and displaced persons on the one hand, and those to be utilized to alleviate the negative impact of natural disasters and other disaster situations. We endorse the new approach as recommended by the Executive Director in this regard, and hope that this Council will likewise endorse it.

We support the Committee's recommendation regarding the pledging target of US\$ 1.5 billion for the regular resources of the Programme for the 1991-92 biennium. We also endorse the Draft Resolution which is attached to the Report now before this Council for discussion.

Kenya is only one of the beneficiaries of the WFP's assistance. Its programme has done an excellent job in project planning formulae and implementation in developing countries. I know that other countries in Africa have, like my own Kenya, benefited from WFP's Action Plan for Africa which was presented in 1988. We are urging a programme to intensify this assistance to the community countries of the developing world. To do this competently, the Programme requires the necessary financial support which we urge members of the international community to provide on an assured and regular basis.

At the same time my delegation is grateful to the donor nations which enabled the WFP to do the good work that it has been doing, especially in the field. I believe that this Council knows the importance my delegation attaches to coordination, consultation and collaboration among UN agencies. We believe that in the service of Member Nations harmonious working relationships and exchanges of Information on financial, administrative and other issues, especially where the mandates of these agencies do seem to overlap, is essential. This type of procedure will prevent unnecessary wastage of various scarce resources, and duplication of effort. It will also ensure the effectiveness of these agencies in the discharge of their respective mandates.

We should never compromise on the effectiveness of the work of the international organizations we have created to serve our peoples and nations. It should be noted that the resources to the sub-African region have been falling over the last three years. This is a dangerous trend which should be arrested.

Finally, but not least, we endorse the Report of CFA at its 27th Session and call upon this Council to approve it, together with, as I have said, the draft resolution annexed to it. Like ECOSOC, the FAO Council has a duty to discuss and agree on the activities of CFA before going to the General Assembly of the United Nations for ultimate decision. My delegation reiterates its full support for the work of WFP and promises to maintain this support.

Tawfik A.H. AL MESH-HEDANI (Iraq) (original language Arabic): I am grateful for the opportunity to speak on this subject of the Report of the CFA. I would like to thank the Executive Director of the WFP on the useful introduction he gave, and to thank Mr Dutia for his presentation on behalf of the Director-General of FAO. I have a few points which with your permission, Mr Chairman, I would like to put forward.

In this Report we have been given a lot of data which I think give cause for satisfaction with regard to the efforts being made to assist the poorest countries, but we feel that this Report should have something more in it; some more spirit, a feeling of dynamic approach, and not just a list of data. It is possible that the data there might need to have some kind of correction introduced. Some of the definitions and explanations of projects, and so on, could perhaps go into more detail. For example, paragraph 18 contains rather vague and general details, general in the sense of the wording, and paragraphs 21, 24 and 25 could benefit from greater detail.

In passing when reference is made to the activities of various regions, there is no study of the impact of the projects. In paragraph 21, reference is made to obstacles to some problems but, of course, this augurs not too well for the future because we are told there is a scarcity of technical administration and managerial capacity. I would like to know what is being done to correct this state of affairs.

In paragraph 29, reference is made to the economic problems of developing countries which make it difficult for them to provide the inputs they should be providing, this at a time when there is the greatest need for development and growth. The efforts of countries, particularly African countries, are weakening. May we have guidance as to what should be done there? Should we be doing things differently, or should other things be done? All these matters should be gone into in detail. An in-depth look should have been included in this document in our view.

I wish also to refer to the draft resolution we have in this document. Certainly we need more funds, but how will CFA get to that particular target? It is a good target, but how did they define it? I would have been glad to know how this had been achieved, because I understand and we see in the Report that some countries expressed reservations on the target, and others were opposed to it. Other countries said they would not be able to increase their contributions for the next biennium. How are these things compatible with the resolution then being presented in this manner? What was the degree of realism that prevailed when the figure of \$ 1.5 billion was arrived at? Was it realistic?

CFA has many and various staff who are working hard and doing their best to achieve the best possible results with whatever means that they are given. We recognize this, but feel that the Report should have been more complete, going more into depth. It should have been more informative because, after all, Council here is a full partner involved in these matters and has to report to the Conference. Obviously we cannot give the best advice to Conference if we are not given information on which to base our judgement. How do we know there is no wastage whatever in the Programme? Perhaps there is some wastage—we do not know. We would like more information on the manner in which projects are integrated into the development efforts of the developing countries.

In conclusion I would say that certainly we can support what was said by the delegate of Mexico. I may have sounded critical but I am saying these things with the best interests of the Programme at heart.

C. Srinivasa SASTRY (India): We would like to thank the Executive Director of the World Food Programme, Mr. Ingram, for his address dealing with the important facets of information contained in Document CL 95/13. He has given us an overview of the work done by WFP, the order of magnitude involved, the commendable work being put in by the committed staff of the Programme, particularly in the field at considerable personal risk. We compliment the WFP on the good work it is doing, particularly at the low operational cost of only 3.2 percent.

We are also grateful to Mr. Dutia for the statement made by him on behalf of the Director-General of FAO, and we will have an occasion to refer to some of these points later. India is a member of the CFA, being one of the 15 Member Nations on it from ECOSOC. We have been participating in the meetings of the CFA and its sub-committees. Thus, we are fully in the picture on the subject about the agenda items discussed in the CFA and the stand taken and also on some of the pending issues which are not particularly conducive to the harmonious functioning of CFA.

We also receive through WFP multilateral food aid for the implementation of development projects and programmes. We are aware how much work is involved in formulating programmes and projects for receipt of multilateral food aid through WFP and what is more important, how difficult and complex a task it is to implement these programmes and projects in the field. Council will be aware that the recipient country, under the WFP regulations, also has to bear some part of the expenditure in terms of the costs of unloading, internal transport, storage and handling, and technical and administrative supervision. Depending on the nature of the project and its physical location within the country, the costs to be borne by the recipient country vary widely. While taking an overall view of the cost of implementing developmental programmes and projects for food aid, these inputs may also have to be kept in view.

In this context, we are gratified that in its recent 27th Session, the CFA welcomed the steps that WFP was taking to overcome constraints on the provision of food aid for sound development projects in sub-Saharan Africa. The CFA also recommended that training of local personnel in project planning and project formulation should be an integral part of WFP development assistance. The CFA also supported the proposal of the Executive Director to increase WFP's assistance on a case-by-case basis to help the least developed countries to bear the costs of internal transport, storage and handling of food provided by WFP, while requesting a paper with the details of WFP's proposals on its behalf.

While expressing concern over the high level of losses after delivery to recipient governments, the CFA called for an analytical study on a geographical basis to facilitate better focusing on food delivery systems. These are all very helpful and positive proposals emanating from the CFA which should further strengthen and improve the useful and good work being done by WFP. Therefore, we strongly support the resolution before us in Annex 3 to the document. We strongly endorse the appeal of the Executive Director in his address on the pledging levels for 1991/92 to the donor countries.

As was pointed out in paragraph 1 of document CL 95/13, and as was highlighted by the Executive Director in his address, the World Food Programme completed its 25th year in 1988. The Silver Jubilee is an appropriate occasion for taking stock of the work of the WFP and looking into the future as to what lies ahead.

The Basic Texts of the World Food Programme envisage, as contained in the U.N. General Assembly Resolution 2095 adopted in December 1965, that WFP would continue "as long as multilateral food aid is found feasible and desirable, on the understanding that the Programme will be regularly reviewed before each Pledging Conference and that if circumstances so require it may be enlarged, curtailed or terminated at the end of any period for which resources have been pledged."

The Basic Texts of the World Food Programme also envisage that the CFA should "formulate proposals for more effective coordination of multilateral, bilateral and non-governmental food aid programmes, including emergency food aid,"

In this background, we would support the suggestion made on behalf of the Director-General of FAO that the CFA, on the occasion of the completion of the Silver Jubilee, makes a comprehensive review and analysis of the various issues and implications for food aid for the future.

We would also support the view that the report from the CFA to the FAO Council, ECOSOC, and the World Food Council should reflect the policy decisions and initiatives taken by the World Food Programme during the period under review with the approval of the CFA. In this context, the CFA may be requested to consider at its 28th or 29th meeting whether the format of the CFA's report to the FAO Council, ECOSOC and the World Food Council would require some changes.

A reference was made when we discussed the report of the Committee on World Food Security in the Council the other day about the purchase of food surpluses, particularly in the developing countries of Africa as also possible triangular transactions. This also figured into the proceedings of the recent CFA meeting when it reviewed the Netherlands experience in food aid. The World Food Programme, as the biggest purchaser of food, could play an important role in this behalf. Being in the CFA, we are aware of the difficulties and problems in such operations which have been gone into in the recent CFA meeting. I am sure the members of the FAO Council would be interested in knowing what the World Food Programme has been trying to do in this behalf, either as a part of the next report or on any other appropriate occasion.

In conclusion, I refer to the point made by some distinguished delegates about placing some of the subjects before the next Conference of the FAO. The pending issues between the WFP and FAO have been recently gone into by the CFA. The CFA urged the WFP and FAO to continue in dialogue with a view to resolving the problems and expressed its satisfaction that the ACABQ had decided to examine the matter at its next session and requested the FAO Finance Committee to also deal with the matter at its next session so that both bodies could present their reports to the 28th Session of the CFA, and decided that it would be desirable to solve the problem at its 28th Session. For this purpose, the CFA wanted also to meet for three days. We have every hope that these bodies would be able to satisfactorily resolve all the pending issues. In our view, the need for going before the highest governing bodies of the FAO and the United Nations might arise only if the ongoing efforts do not result in the successful resolution of all the pending issues.

The meeting rose at 12.30 hours

La séance est levée à 12 h 30

Se levanta la sesión a las 12.30 horas

council

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

conseil

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

consejo

ORGANIZACION DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS PARA LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION

CL

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Ninety-fifth Session

Quatre-vingt-quinzième session

95º periodo de sesiones

SIXTEENTH PLENARY MEETING
SEIZIEME SEANCE PLENIERE
16ª SESION PLENARIA
(28 June 1989)

The Sixteenth Plenary Meeting was opened at 14.30 hours Lassaad Ben Osman, Independent Chairman of the Council, presiding

La seizième séance plénière est ouverte à 14 h 30 sous la présidence de Lassaad Ben Osman, Président indépendant du Conseil

Se abre la 16ª Sesión Plenaria a las 14.30 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)
- 10. Fourteenth Annual Report of the WFP Committee on Food Aid Policies and Programmes (continued)
- 10. Quatorzième rapport annuel du Comité des politiques et programmes d'aide alimentaire du PAM (suite)
- 10. 14° Informe Anual del Comité de Políticas y Programas de Ayuda Alimentaria del PMA (continuación)

Sra. Mónica DEREGBUS (Argentina): Agradecemos al señor Director Ejecutivo del Programa Mundial de Alimentos, Señor Ingram, por su introducción al tema que nos ocupa hoy. También nuestro agradecimiento al señor Dutia por los comentarios que formulara.

Aplaudimos los excepcionales niveles de actividad alcanzados por el Programa Mundial de Alimentos en 1988, año en que cumplió su 25 aniversario, expuestos en el Informe, que cuenta con nuestra aprobación.

Nos preocupa, Señor Presidente, como al señor Director Ejecutivo, y a otras delegaciones, que el nivel de ayuda alimentaria pueda disminuir sensiblemente a corto plazo. Al respecto estimamos adecuado que este Consejo haga suyo el objetivo de contribuciones voluntarias propuesto y recomiende el texto de las resoluciones incluidas en el Informe que estamos examinando.

Nos unimos asimismo al llamamiento de numerosas delegaciones en el sentido de que se hagan los mayores esfuerzos para mantener el tonelaje de los envíos, a la vez que se asegure un porcentaje adecuado de contribuciones en dinero o/en servicios.

En relación con la cuestión de los informes que el Comité de Políticas y Programas de Ayuda Alimentaria debe elevar, de conformidad con la Regla 14/4 de su Reglamento, que ha sido planteada durante esta sesión, quisiéramos expresar nuestra opinión en el sentido de que dichos informes deben contener tanto los aspectos operacionales cubiertos en el que estamos analizando, cuanto los asuntos de política en materia de asistencia alimentaria y las cuestiones de organización, administración y gestión y cualesquiera otra de relevancia que hayan sido motivo de consideración por el CPA. Varias delegaciones se han referido a esta necesidad: México, Congo, Pakistán, Kenia, entre otras. Y apoyamos su posición en el sentido de que la información que se ponga a disposición de este Consejo y del ECOSOC sea completa y oportuna.

Esta última condición, Señor Presidente, nos parece de primordial importancia, ya que no resultaría útil ni conducente, que los órganos a quienes informa el CPA se enteraran con un año o más de atraso de trascendentes decisiones que ellos deberían ratificar o modificar. Al respecto estimamos necesario que se estudie la posibilidad de que conjuntamente con el Informe operacional que se eleva anualmente, se pongan a consideración del Consejo y del ECOSOC también los informes de los períodos de sesiones del Comité de Políticas y Programas de Ayuda Alimentaria en tiempo útil y oportuno.

Horacio CARANDANG (Philippines): The Philippine delegation expresses its appreciation to Mr. Ingram for his most eloquent introduction to the 14th Annual Report of the Committee on Food Aid Policies and Programmes, and to Dr. Dutia for his pertinent remarks on the report on behalf of FAO.

The present report covering the 25th year of WFP operations show how much the World Food Programme has grown from the initial experimental programme of approximately of US\$ 100 million to the present level of operations of about US\$ 750 million per year. We note with great satisfaction that the total resources made available to the WFP for the 1987/88 biennium had reached nearly 1.6 billion including the Food Aid Convention and IEFER resources, and that the pledges to the regular resources of the Programme for the 1987/88 biennium amounted to 1.24 billion, exceeding the record 1.1 billion pledged for the previous biennium.

The increase in prices of food commodities however, at present would mean lower quantities of commodities by the end of 1988, and would require higher pledges of dollar value to maintain the quantity of food provided to WFP programmes.

The Philippine delegation takes this opportunity to thank the WFP and the donors for the projects being implemented in the Philippines, particularly the food aid for refugees and for emergencies which, unfortunately, the Philippines has to resort to, because it is subject to typhoons which destroy property and lives and reduce harvests. After 25 years of operation a lot has been learned

on how to avoid the disincentive effects of food aid and how to use food aid, which would have been considered a surplus if sold, and if sold would have depressed the prices of agricultural commodities in the world market. Instead, this food is now being used to promote development and produce more food for the hungry.

The Philippines has still problems on how to use food for work because of difficulties in finding sufficient counterpart funding to complement the food aid component to reach the level of a daily wage. The Philippine delegation supports the Indian delegation's proposal on the occasion of the 25th Anniversary of the World Food Programme for a comprehensive study of the role of food aid in the past, the principle issues arising therefrom, and the future course of action and the required collaboration with other agencies concerned with food and agriculture. The Philippine delegation understands the problem of many of the members of the Council regarding the type of the report presented by the CFA to the Council. If the Council has the right to give its views on the report it receives from the CFA, it also has the right to give its views on the kind of report it wishes to receive from the CFA to enable all members of the Council, particularly those members of the Council who are not members of the CFA, to express their views on the policy decisions taken by the CFA.

The Philippine delegation reiterates its support for the good work being done by the Programme, and expresses its appreciation for the work of the dedicated members of the management and staff of the World Food Programme.

Sra. Mercedes FERMIN GOMEZ (Venezuela): Nosotros, Señor Presidente, vamos a tratar de ser breves, pero no queríamos quedarnos callados frente a la discusión de un problema tan interesante como el Programa de Alimentos, que tiene, sin duda, muchas realizaciones positivas, pero que todavía algunos países están esperando satisfacer sus necesidades, porque, en realidad, se argumenta que este Programa de Ayuda Alimentaria, no está programado, o no está realizado atendiendo principalmente los intereses de aquellos países que tienen hambre, que están necesitados realmente de alimentos, ya que están imposibilitados de producirlos, sino que más bien atiende a las necesidades de los países que tienen exceso de producción de ciertos productos alimenticios y que deben colocarlos.

Yo no quisiera molestarles a ustedes citándoles detalladamente un trabajo llamado "rapporto-terra", publicado por WWF. Estos grupos de ecólogos, que no están precisamente tratando de combatir los programas alimenticios, sino que están mirando más allá de lo que en cierta manera estos programas inciden en la destrucción de recursos que en el futuro del próximo milenio quizá van a estar agotados, como es el caso del suelo, de los bosques, de las posibilidades de tener una agricultura natural y no con abuso de fertilizantes químicos.

Este trabajo, que se lo recomiendo a los amigos, y que se llama: "La Política de la ayuda Alimentaria" de un señor llamado Lloyd Timberlake, y que no estará acusado de ser un latinoamericano, o un africano, porque es un ciudadano de Estados Unidos, y que habla y cita casos muy concretos, históricamente verídicos, ayudado por citas de otros investigadores, algunos de ellos ingleses, o tal vez norteamericanos, en los que también citan casos entre los cuales la ayuda alimentaria no ha ido exactamente en beneficio de los países necesitados, sino que más bien se ha caracterizado por ser una ayuda alimentaria enfocada con otras miras y con otros objetivos.

Se hablaba aquí por ejemplo, en anteriores intervenciones, de la necesidad de poner a tono esta satisfacción del Programa Mundial de Alimentos con aquellos países necesitados, por la circunstancia de que esta ayuda enviada por el Programa Mundial de Alimentos en años atrás-espero que todo eso se haya ido mejorando-, llegaban los alimentos en momento inoportuno, no eran bien distribuidos y no había posibilidad de organizar la distribución internamente en los países necesitados. Todo esto traía como consecuencia que la verdadera necesidad en el momento oportuno no era satisfecha.

Aquí hay casos, por ejemplo, mencionados, y que ya los conocíamos, de Etiopía, o el caso de Kenya, o el caso de Guatemala cuando el terremoto, o algunos otros casos, pero es que según este 'report', eso se hace crónico, y realmente no se satisfacen las necesidades inmediatas mediante la ayuda de la capacitación a aquellos países pobres para que ellos mismos puedan producir sus alimentos. Por esa razón, los países que objetan a la FAO no quieren el "programa de campo". Precisamente ésa es la razón y la conveniencia del programa de campo de FAO y es que éste permite la capacitación del individuo o de la comunidad in situ y los persuade de la necesidad de que produzcan ellos mismos sus alimentos y no continuar recibiendo el alimento del Programa Mundial de Alimentos. Está también el caso, por ejemplo, que citan aquí, de una comunidad que recibía según ese programa de "alimentos por trabajo",-que es uno de los que realmente son bastante efectivos-, pero que en un momento dado, un Gobierno que no quiero citar aquí resultó que "descontinuó"-para usar un término que a mí no me gusta pero es el que se acostumbra-, descontinuó el programa y lo cambió por la ayuda alimentaria. Esto dejó sin trabajo a varios miles de padres de familia, con lo cual aumentó el número de necesitados de alimentos casi por triplicado, por no haber continuado este programa de "alimentos por trabajo", que es uno de los mas eficientes que se hacen en el Programa Mundial de Alimentos.

Después hay otro caso, que es el de "madre e hijo", en el cual se daba el alimento a la madre y luego ella podría ser beneficiada, porque se convertía en un programa verdaderamente de ayuda social. Pero esto tuvo un inconveniente. Fue en un país de América Central. Tuvo el inconveniente de que, como lo que se les proveía era pan y mantequilla, las madres se acostumbraron a darles pan y mantequilla a los niños, y entonces eso va hacia otro aspecto negativo de este programa, que es el de cambiar la base alimenticia de las comunidades. No solamente es el caso éste de la "madre y el niño", sino también el caso de países que tenían su base alimenticia con productos indígenas, vernáculos, y que se acostumbraron a comer el alimento que se les llevaba como ayuda. Eso los hizo depender por ejemplo, del pan de trigo, cuando ellos estaban acostumbrados a comer su pan exclusivamente indígena. Esto, naturalmente, va en desmedro de la capacidad de producir sus alimentos las comunidades mismas para seguir siendo independientes de la ayuda alimentaria y, cuando más, convertirse en dependientes de compra de alimentos extraños a su propia naturaleza, lo cual también es un aspecto negativo de esta ayuda alimentaria.

Las personas que citan esto son personas responsables, pienso yo; no son gente que no conoce el problema, sino gente que se ha dedicado a esta investigación. Se cita, por ejemplo, el Comité para la Ayuda del Hambre y del Socorro contra las Necesidades, de Oxford; se cita a la Dra. Frances Stewart; del Sommerville College of Oxford, que también tiene un libro publicado sobre esos problemas; se cita a Paul Harrison, que tiene un libro reciente, llamado "L'Africa verdeggiante", que también habla del problema.

El caso de Nueva Guinea, por ejemplo, es citado en uno de estos "reports" de los investigadores, Francis Moore Lappe y otros. En Nueva Guinea, por recibir una ayuda alimentaria que era principalmente de arroz y de atún, la comunidad se acostumbró a esta base alimenticia y ya no quería cambiar a su antigua alimentación natural.

Estos casos los cito porque pienso que no hemos llegado todavía al momento en que esta tendencia es irreversible. Yo creo que es perfectamente posible que, a través de ese programa tan criticado y tan poco deseado de FAO, el trabajo de campo y la cooperación técnica, estos países que no tienen actualmente la capacidad por falta de educación, por falta de entrenamiento o de conocimientos técnicos puedan comenzar a producir su propia base alimenticia. En ultimo caso-no los voy a aburrir demasiado-, menciona los Estados Unidos, que generosamente manda a Mozambique, como su ayuda alimentaria, 28 000 toneladas de grano turco pero resulta que los malgash no comen maíz amarillo, como no lo comen muchos de nuestros países; ellos comen maíz blanco, y Estados Unidos les manda maíz amarillo, con lo cual reciben más bien un insulto que una ayuda.

Casos de esta naturaleza han ocurrido ya anteriormente, en razón de la ayuda alimentaria; casos en que los países reciben o demasiado de lo que no quieren o algunas cosas que a ellos no les gustan, porque la gente tiene sus apetencias alimentarias. Nosotros conocemos perfectamente bien lo que a los pueblos les gusta comer y lo que no les gusta comer. En Venezuela, por ejemplo, en mi país, donde hay diferentes bases alimenticias según las regiones, los montañeses no comen por nada del mundo un pan hecho de mandioca, que se llama casabe; no les gusta, no lo comen. La gente del Oriente no come pan de trigo; a la gente de Maracaibo le gustan los plátanos, que es la base de su alimentación. Y así, por ejemplo, si ustedes comienzan a obligarles a comer, dentro del mismo país, las diferentes clases de pan, no les agrada; con mucha menos razón, estas otras que son culturas milenarias, aunque sean culturas primitivas; pero son gentes que tienen su propia manera de alimentarse y que no porque sea regalado tengan que comer lo que me mandan. Esa es la razón con que ellos reaccionan.

Hay muchos casos, pues citados en esto, que nos demuestran que la ayuda alimentaria-y, naturalmente del Programa Mundial de Alimentos-debe prestar un poco de atención no solamente a las necesidades de satisfacer el hambre, sino también de que esta ayuda alimentaria sea recibida no como lo que dice por aquí y lo que comentan muchos, no como una necesidad de los benefactores de deshacerse del excedente, generalmente de trigo, o de cualquier otro producto, sino como la necesidad que tienen estos países de recibir algo que les sea realmente conveniente para su hambre.

Esto no lo digo por el deseo de criticar el Programa, sino porque encuentro base aquí para refutar las críticas que se hacen a los programas de FAO, que son la Cooperación Técnica y el Programa de Campo. La razón del Programa de Campo es precisamente investigar y conocer la realidad de aquellos países pobres. Lo mismo que el Programa Mundial de Alimentos estudia cuáles son las necesidades en cantidad, cuáles son las necesidades en oportunidad, también debería estudiar las necesidades de capacitación y proveerles, no sé si de fertilizantes, las semillas etc., para poder iniciar una especie de recuperación de su vida de pobreza, de su vida de miseria.

Y finalmente quería hacer la observación, sobre lo que es el objetivo final de este trabajo que estoy citando, es decir, la preocupación por la conservación de esos elementos de nuestro suelo, de nuestra tierra, para que pueda sobrevivir; no abusar de los fertilizantes químicos, no excederse en

la deforestación or la ambición de usar mayor extensión de tierra. Esto es lo que pasa con los países-no quiero usar la palabra y voy a decir "superdesarrollados"-que ya tienen una agricultura, con miras hacia la posibilidad de aprovechamiento económico y no sencillamente para satisfacción de las necesidades.

Esto es lo que quería decir, lo cual no significa que vaya en mengua del apoyo que podamos prestar al Programa Mundial de Alimentos, tal como está. Pero como ha recibido tantos elogios, con los cuales yo acompañe al Sr. Ingram en su trabajo, siempre tiene que haber una oveja negra en el redil, y ésa soy yo; en este caso, para hacer estas puntualizaciones negativas, y me excusa.

Bashir EL MABROUK SAID (Libya) (original language Arabic): Firstly, I wish to extend very heartfelt thanks to Mr. Ingram for having given such a clear and explicit introduction to this agenda item, and I also wish to thank Mr. Dutia for the additional information that he provided.

We fully support the Fourteenth Report of the Committee on Food Aid, and we consider that the report submitted for our consideration covers very well what has been done over the latest period. We feel that the World Food Programme deserves praise for its worthy efforts in providing aid to the developing countries.

Having listened to what has been said so clearly and frankly by the representatives of Mexico and Brazil, I have not many comments to make.

Nonetheless, despite that, let me specify the following:

The first item I would like to touch upon concerns the Report submitted to Council for consideration. Those of us who have been reading those reports for a certain number of years observe that the Report itself is very often limited to statistics. Statistics are of course very important indeed, but the Report itself does not delve into the issues surrounding CFA policy. I would therefore add my voice to those of other speakers who expressed concern that the Report should refer to all of the issues and questions discussed within the FAO.

Another matter on which I would like to touch is the regional balance in the composition of the CFA. We note that the make-up of CFA member states-as indicated so clearly by the distinguished Ambassador of Brazil-does not take into consideration the geographical breakdown of the various regions. For example, the Near East region is represented by only two organizations within CFA; it is not therefore well represented. We hope that this matter will be taken into consideration and that the responsible bodies analyse the problem, so that representation on CFA can be equitable vis-a-vis the Member States.

Another point I would like to make by way of observation is with regard to the relationship between the FAO and WFP at this time. We would like to point out that this relationship should be an excellent relationship in the interests of developing countries, and all imbalance elements in that relationship would necessarily have consequences on the interests of developing countries. The relationship which now exists between FAO and WFP should be in conformity with the competence and the mandate, or terms of reference, within the constitutions of the two organizations. We should affirm that any and all imbalances in the carrying out of the mandates of the two organizations, FAO and WFP, would once again have consequences on the interests of all parties concerned, especially on those of the developing countries.

Cooperation and discipline are very important elements in any organization, and this applies to both FAO and WFP. We affirm that the excellent work which has been accomplished by the WFP, and the achievements which have been tabled so far, are the strongest possible evidence of the importance of the WFP.

One final point by way of conclusion: I would like to support the Draft Resolution annexed to this document, concerning the WFP during biennium 1991-92. We do however trust and hope that the countries that are in a position to do so, including the developing countries, will be able to increase their contributions so that it will be possible to achieve the desired objective.

Gian Luigi VALENZA (Italia): Je voudrais, moi aussi, féliciter le Directeur exécutif du PAM et M. Dutia, représentant du Directeur général de la FAO, pour leurs exposés factuels, clairs et précis.

L'Italie, comme vous le savez, est membre du Comité des politiques et programmes d'aide alimentaire du PAM et, en cette qualité, elle a déjà eu l'occasion d'exprimer son point de vue lors de la dernière réunion de ce comité. Je ne crois donc pas indispensable de le réitérer aujourd'hui.

Par contre, je voudrais me limiter ici à m'associer vivement et sincèrement au souhait déjà exprimé par plusieurs délégués de voir améliorée et accrue la coopération entre la FAO et le Programme alimentaire mondial, tout en approuvant le document CL 95/13 que nous sommes en train d'examiner.

Atif T. BUKHARI (Saudi Arabia, Kingdom of): In the opinion of my delegation, this Report reflects many important ideas and valuable information, as well as other information. We do however believe that there is no perfect work-there can be no perfection. There are many different ways and means of improving any good work and this applies to the Report submitted to us, because there are many improvements that could be introduced to this Report.

We, as members of the CFA, have asked during previous years that this Annual Report should include the recommendations and resolutions adopted by the CFA, particularly those sections referring to activities which will be implemented, as well as the projects and the evaluation projects relating to refugees and others. Perhaps however there was insufficient time for the Secretariat to take our points of view into account in this connection.

Some delegations have asked for the introduction of reforms in the drafting and contents of this Report. I believe that it is the right of the Council to express its points of view and recommendations if it is to consider this Report. It is quite natural that it should raise such matters. It is the keenness and cooperation of Council members which have led to requests that this document should become more transparent, and a more deeply analytical paper that would give further importance to the work of WFP. We of course support this trend, and everything that has been mentioned by the distinguished delegates in this Council. We believe that if there are good intentions, we will not find embarrassment in accepting those proposals which are aimed at enriching the discussions of the Council and at providing the Council with very important information, particularly in view of the fact that many Council members are not members of the CFA.

We do not say this with the intention of opening the door for discussions once again on the contents of this Report. We do not approve of doing that. This Report is for the information of the Council, and the Council has to consider this Report briefly. We do not believe that the Annual Report of WFP should be the subject of a second discussion by Council members-that is a waste of time.

There are some basic principles which govern the activities of all the commissions affiliated to UN agencies, and we should not overlook these legislations and principles, or deviate from them. In our opinion that would be a principle of the jungle, and we do not approve of that. We say this because the CFA is governed by some systems and laws which are quite appropriate, and we must abide by them. These are laws that would not adversely affect the activities of the Council, nor would they undermine the importance of the CFA activities. However, we must always remember that there are certain rules which must be observed, which add further respect to the WFP and the CFA.

We are very confident that the WFP and its Executive Director will take into account the Committee's proposals and recommendations adopted by the Council, in good faith and in a good spirit. We reiterate our full support of the WFP and the great services rendered by the Programme. This is exactly the kind of constructive dialogue that we are encouraging among organizations and governments.

C.B. HOUTMAN (Observer for Netherlands): I had not originally intended to ask for the floor, but as we listened to the debate we, as a member of the CFA, thought we should voice our growing concern. During the CFA debate on the level of the target for 1991-92, some countries preferred to keep the target at the same level as of this biennium. However in order not to block a consensus they agreed to the level of \$ 1.5 billion and they adhered to that today.

On another occasion, during the debate on protracted emergencies, there was also not a consensus in the beginning, but the very few countries that could not immediately agree also finally did not block the consensus. However, they did not adhere to it today and I think that this is regrettable.

Secondly, listening to the delegate from Lebanon I could not help but get the impression that he was suggesting that FAO should participate in each high-level meeting in which WFP participates. This looks like reversing developments. We do agree that there should be cooperation between FAO and WFP and we all hope that this cooperation should continue and even that an improved cooperation will be created. This requires cooperation from both sides. Cooperation is something completely different from being patronising and I hope that the delegate from the Lebanon did not mean that.

Thirdly, with regard to more information on policy and programme issues in the Annual Report, we can imagine that there is an honest and genuine wish for more information. Therefore, we associate ourselves with what the delegate of Pakistan said on this and also with what the delegate of Kenya said regarding the restrictions we should put on ourselves. After all, it is possible for all delegations, irrespective of their regions, to obtain the CFA documents with all the things that are in them. It is possible for them to attend CFA meetings and express their views on certain issues during the debate in this governing body of the World Food Programme.

Therefore, we think it is not advisable to duplicate in the FAO Council or ECOSOC, or wherever these debates are held, as was said most fortunately by the delegate of Saudi Arabia. It requires consistency of position here and in other fora, but that should not be too difficult. We should not try to make this an issue. Needless to say, we do not consider it a good idea to put issues on the FAO agenda that are already dealt with in depth by the CFA.

G. SCHIRATTI (EEC): The report under discussion provides a succinct and precise account of the achievements of the World Food Programme in 1988, and achievements they certainly were. There was the shipment of 3.1 million tons of food to developing countries, compared with 2.4 million tons in the previous year; an increase in commitments to \$779 million, 25 more than in 1987; the record shipment of 566,000 tons on behalf of bilateral donors and finally, the approval of projects estimated to benefit directly some 14 million individuals.

However, there is less cause for satisfaction in noting that the provision of emergency assistance placed heavy demands upon the Programme in 1988. The greater part of this was made available, it is sad to say, in response to man-made disasters. There was also a greatly increased need for food aid as a result of natural calamities such as hurricanes and floods. In the event, more than 15 million people in 29 countries received emergency food assistance, involving the commitment of 828,000 tons of commodities.

Of particular interest is the contribution of the Programme to environmental improvement. We attach considerable importance to the promotion of development which is environmentally sustainable. We welcome the fact that in July this year, the World Food Programme will chair a high-level meeting of the relevant United Nations organizations on the theme of environment and sustainable development.

It is noted that by the end of 1988 89 of the pledging target for the 1987/88 biennium had been realised. However, in the case of the current biennium 1989/90, pledges announced up to 31 December 1988 amounted to only 65% of the target of \$1.4 billion. This explains why the Community had some misgivings, quickly overcome, in subscribing to the consensus reached at a recent session of the Committee on Food Aid Policies and Programmes that the pledging target for the 1991/92 biennium should be raised to \$1.5 billion.

We congratulate the World Food Programme on the work carried out in 1988 and look forward to maintaining with it in the future the close collaboration which we have enjoyed in the past.

Amin ABDEL MALER (Liban) (langue originale arabe): Je voudrais demander au Président si l'Observateur des Pays-Bas a été prié par le PAM de répondre ou faire des commentaires au nom du PAM sur les déclarations faites par les délégués des gouvernements représentés à ce Conseil. Si tel était le cas, je n'en félicite pas le PAM car les responsables du PAM pourraient répondre aux questions posées. Mais si le représentant des Pays-Bas veut faire l'avocat du diable, ce serait autre chose. Quant à ce que j'avais dit ce matin, je crois que ce que j'avais dit était clair et je crois sincérement en ce que j'avais dit.

Yousef Ali Mahmoud HAMDY (Egypt)(original language Arabic): I apologise for requesting an opportunity to speak at this late hour but at the outset I would like to thank Mr. Ingram and Mr. Dutia for presenting this report which includes the Annual Report for the World Food Programme for the year 1988. Once again, we would like to welcome the great efforts exerted by WFP in order to achieve the sublime objectives in terms of using food in the different development programmes. Moreover, we are fully satisfied with the achievements of the WFP in terms of operations within the context of the regular programmes or the emergency programmes.

We approve of this report and accept the resolution submitted to the Economic and Social Council regarding their updated target for aid in the biennium 1990/91. I draw attention to the importance of strengthening relationships already existing between the two giant organizations, that is, FAO and WFP, in order to fully benefit from the available resources which are at the disposal of the two organizations to combat poverty-which is prevailing everywhere. I believe that only through these integrated efforts can we put an end to such poverty.

A.K.M. Fazley RABBI (Bangladesh): Mr Chairman, I am grateful to you for giving me an opportunity to speak because I am not a member of the Council. Bangladesh is a member of CFA, and that is why I want to speak on this subject. If you will give me four or five minutes, I would like to say that we give our full support to the Report. In this regard, without going into the substance of the debate of the Council, we would like just to say that CFA is unlike other such committees. It is the governing body of an organization. So we think the distinguished members will remember this, that this is unlike other statutory committees; it is a governing body. The report which was adopted by consensus in the governing body, as the distinguished representative of Saudia Arabia said, it should not be discussed at length again, in any other forum, whatever it may be. Without going into the text, I would only say that it is a story of success and achievement, and this success and achievement means improved services, more services to the millions of poor people in the developing countries. As I said, the report was adopted by consensus, so we do not feel there should be any problem in approving the Resolution as contained in the Annex and also approving the report as a whole.

James INGRAM (WFP): This was, as usual, a very interesting debate which raised a number of issues which I would like to say something about. Before I turn to the general issues, there were two particular questions that were raised from one delegation. The questions were whether all ancillary costs related to bilateral services are met by the bilateral donors themselves or whether part of them has to be borne by the Programme from its general resources. The answer is really quite simple. The bilateral donors pay all the costs related to the service itself. In addition, they pay a service fee. In 1988 we got approximately \$3 million in service fees which make some contribution towards the overhead costs of the Programme. These fees are reviewed periodically, and it may indeed be timely to review them.

The other question related to the proportion of the transport cost for development projects. In fact, it was 56 percent. The cost of the transportation was for development projects. Development projects themselves took 58 percent of the tonnage.

I would like now to say a few words about the Report. Of course, it is true-of course, it is absolutely correct that any document, anything can be improved. Indeed, that is the philosophy that WFP follows in all its work, that anything and everything can be done better. Just because it has been done one way once for five years, ten years or twenty-five years, that does not mean it should not be reviewed periodically. And of course, it is obviously appropriate for this Council to make such observations as it wishes about the content of the report. It is equally clear that the Secretariat would take full account of what the Council says. We always do that in relation to any matters that are raised. This discussion itself draws to our attention various aspects, some of which I will touch on in a moment, in relation to the work of the Programme, which we find quite valuable, and equally your comments on the report are valuable. I suppose I have to point out, of course, though, that as many of you have noted, it is a report to three organizations, to three bodies: this body, the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations, and it also goes to the World Food Council. Such a report is necessarily rather costly to produce. Its distribution is, in fact, very wide, and in the interests of economy some sort of choice has to be made as to what goes into it. It is, in fact, a synopsis of the Annual Report of the Executive Director, which is 82 pages long. Indeed, if we started circulating that eighty-two page document to all the various bodies that are interested, the cost would be entirely disproportionate. On the other hand, that Annual Report is available to, if not circulated to, every delegation in Rome. They may transmit it, and many do, to their capitals. So the problem essentially is what to put in it. I suppose for twenty-five years the format before you has been essentially maintained. This is not to say that there is not scope for modifying it to include more specific information about some of the important policy decisions taken by the CFA, and we will certainly have a good look at that.

By the way, I would also have to point out-and I hope the Committee will forgive me-the report that you have was, of course, approved not simply by consensus, but unanimously by the CFA. Not one delegation, including some who raised issues this morning and this afternoon, made any criticism of the report. There were no criticisms. It was simply accepted as an excellent report for transmission to the Council. So as I say, I hope you will not mind my pointing it out, because some of the delegates who were more vocal in their criticisms were, of course, members of the CFA. As I say, we are interested in improvement, and we will certainly consider, very carefully, the possibility of including a short synopsis of the major policy decisions taken.

I would also have to say that we also hope that delegates will read even the one that we have, which is relatively brief, because I noted two criticisms that were made which are not really substantiated, if you look at the documents. One of the criticisms that was voiced by some delegates is that a very important decision of the CFA last year related to our Action Plan for Africa. But there are, in fact, three paragraphs about the Action Plan for Africa. It was, in our view, the most important decision taken by the CFA last year, and it is substantially reflected in the report in three paragraphs. Moreover, the third of the three paragraphs, paragraph 23, in fact, does deal with what we regard as some of the measures that need to be taken if the problems of the African region are to be dealt with. So again, I feel it is a little unfair to suggest that somehow we raise issues or do not raise them at all and then, when we do raise them, that we do not say anything substantive. There is a very substantive synopsis in relation to that important policy decision. Indeed, in your discussion this morning and this afternoon, that was basically the one issue of policy substance on which a number of delegates expressed views; that is to say, the problems facing the poorest, least developed countries in carrying out food development projects. This is an enormously difficult area, and I was pleased that a number of delegates this morning drew attention to the seriousness of this problem. I was also pleased that one or two referred to what I said to the CFA at its last session and which is reflected in the CFA's report, namely that the Programme in relation to the least developed countries will, on an experimental basis, examine-and indeed, not only examine-will actually, in fact, increase its financial support for these problems of internal transport and handling for the least developed countries and the whole management of projects. So I was pleased that a number of delegates recognized that it was a very important decision that had, in fact, been taken by the CFA at its last session in the interest of the least developed countries, not only in Africa, but in all the least developed countries.

A rather interesting issue was raised by the Distinguished Representative of Venezuela. She referred to herself as the black sheep of the Committee because she proceeded to draw attention and to speak against the grain, I suppose, to draw attention to the sins of food aid. I would have to say, of course, that in WFP those generalized criticisms to which she referred are, as far as we are concerned, long things of the past. It is unfortunate, I think, that many general statements based on practice, often of many years ago, which did not, in fact, even then involve the World Food Programme are sometimes extended as if they applied to the Programme, and in particular, this issue of the provision of the wrong food. I would like to say quite categorically that except in countries such as Pakistan and China and others where wheat, for example, is a staple, and where it is provided for direct distribution, WFP almost always exchanges a commodity like wheat for the traditional cereal of the country. For example, in Kenya, WFP wheat is always exchanged for maize and beans. It is the same in Uganda. We have done a great deal of similar exchanges for maize, for Central American maize. We are well aware of the preference for white maize and always seek to supply it. Of course, occasionally it is not always possible. When it is not possible it is truly an exception. Similarly in a country like the Sudan we exchange wheat for sorghum, the traditional cereal. We provide white maize in southern Africa, in Mozambique, in Lesotho, and in Botswana and so on-in that case often purchased in Zimbabwe. So I cannot take up all the points the distinguished representative made, but I would certainly like to make it clear the WFP is not dumping unwanted food on countries. I have to say on that point, the fact of the matter is that we have enormous demand for our food aid, far in excess what we are able to supply. I think that is understandable in a situation where governments face very severe balance of payments problems, where they face a situation for many of them where their debt repayments are in excess of the net flows to them of aid, and where we had a very eloquent appeal this morning from the distinguished representative of Peru about the circumstances of poor people of Peru. As we know in situations of structural adjustment which tend to bear very heavily on the poor, we know that in these countries people are hungrier than they have ever been, so it is natural and inevitable that there will be tremendous pressure, as there currently is, on the availability of WFP resources. We are not in the business of ramming it down anybody's throat if they don't want it. It is a relief for us because we are having great difficulty in rationing the limited supplies available.

That brings me Mr. Chairman, to an issue which was raised in the intervention of Mr Dutia, where he suggested that it might be desirable to have a comprehensive review and analysis on food aid. Well the CFA is certainly the body that would do such a thing, but the approach that has been taken

which I must say I find the most effective approach, is to deal with policy issues in terms of their practicalities, and Mr. Dutia's statement lists a number of reasons why he thinks that this would be a good thing, and one of them he mentions is the challenge of using food aid in support of structural adjustment. Well the CFA has already had a very long and full debate on that matter which led to certain decisions and which, if currently exercised, is the approach that we follow in relation to structural adjustments. Some of you this morning referred to the importance of food aid in relation to structural adjustment. In that regard we are in fact, I believe, collaborating with FAO in relation to the certain particular case studies that are to be made in Africa, and we are also collaborating with the World Bank. We are also going our own way in various countries in this particular area, but it has in fact been exhaustively considered.

The issue of the complementary measures to strengthen local storage is, of course, one that is always in our minds, and many of you will know-or perhaps you do not know but in your capitals they will know-that WFP has either itself funded or it has been instrumental in the provision of very substantial storage capacities in your countries. That does not mean that the storage situation is ideal in every country. The point that I am simply making is that it is an inherent part of the Programme's policy to ensure to the greatest extent possible that storage capacity is sufficient. The issue that, quite rightly, Mr. Dutia has drawn attention to is the fact that FAO has long advocated the need to raise the resource base of the IEFRR, but again that will be the subject of a major policy paper at the CFA 29 in May of next year.

So I suppose WFP as the governing body-and I was pleased that that point was mentioned by many, and of course it is provided for in the Basic Text-is a different sort of committee from a generalized committee. It is very concrete and specific about issues which affect the work of WFP, and over the years there is not one significant policy issue which has not been discussed exhaustively and quite often more than once. If you simply have generalized discussions in such a forum they tend to lead nowhere because they are not a guide to action. We are concerned with the concrete here and now of reaching millions of people with millions of tons of food, and how we go about this and the policy framework within which we operate needs to be specific and essentially expert.

Mr. Chairman, another subject came up which rather disappointed me a little and it is this issue of cooperation with FAO, but in particular the fact-and Mr. Dutia also drew attention to it-that FAO is not referred to in the report as worthy of being singled out. You know the fact of the matter is, within the United Nations system there are over 30 different agencies, and WFP is cooperating in one way or another with nearly all of them. It has a day-to-day cooperation with specialized agencies like the FAO, like the World Health Organization, like UNESCO and so on. This report does not refer to every example of ongoing cooperation. If it did it would be a different sort of report. What it does is single out the more particularly outstanding examples of cooperation during the year. So I hope-and I in fact singled out in my speech this morning a reference to FAO which was the only agency I referred to. Also in my speech to the CFA I referred to our continuing desire to improve the technical support from FAO for our projects, and that of course is an ongoing situation. The fact of the matter is that of the 160 or so experts financed by the Programme from the specialized agencies last year who participated in the development of our projects, almost a 100 were from FAO. They were financed from WFP. Of course sometimes when they go to a developing country they do not even know that WFP is financing them. Of course everybody thinks it is FAO but it is not, it is WFP who is financing them, and 60% of those experts were from FAO. So the continuing cooperation is very important to the Programme and very valuable to us. We in fact are spending US\$ 6 million per biennium on that technical cooperation from FAO. It is not an insubstantial expenditure.

Referring to the reference to the JCGP again, we have to come back to what I said earlier about this report. It is not just for the FAO Council; it is for the ECOSOC, and different bodies have different Interests, and in the Economic and Social Council the sort of things they are interested in as distinct from this body are at least two things: (1) development issues in general, i.e. development as distinct from support for agriculture and food production. Indeed that is why WFP is a joint UN/FAO agency because it is not simply an agency concerned about food production; it is an agency concerned with general issues of development.

The other aspect that ECOSOC is deeply concerned with is the issue of relationships with similar sorts of agencies. Now WFP is not a technical assistance agency. We buy technical assistance from FAO and other specialized agencies. WFP is about the transfer of resources in large amounts to developing countries. It is what is called in the UN parlance a funding agency, even though a lot of it is provided in kind. The ECOSOC is very anxious that the cooperation between the funding agencies be particularly close, and the principal funding agency with which we collaborate is the UNDP. We also collaborate very closely with UNICEF, less so with UNFPA, and of course to the extent that IFAD's resources allow, very closely indeed with IFAD. So this JCGP is in fact an organization of the five principal funding agencies in the UN system.

For the particular meeting that we are having next week which is about the environment and sustainable development which involves the five agencies, we have turned to certain outside expert advice. It is a sort of seminar really. I am pleased to say that one of these experts that we have invited is from FAO, so there you are. There is always a lot of misunderstanding about what really goes on in Rome.

To conclude Mr. Chairman, I would like to say first of all that we are particularly appreciative of the remarks made by the representatives of a number of developing countries in which they expressed appreciation for support provided for the Programme. You know, it is quite demanding and exacting the work that we undertake, and it always gives a lift to the staff if their efforts are seen to be appreciated by the governments with whom we are working together. So I am sure that the staff will appreciate the remarks from those countries who felt that they wanted to express their thanks to us.

The other remark that I appreciated which was made by two or three delegates, was that they took up the reference I made to the fact that many of our staff are in fact risking their lives. It is not so long ago that one man was shot and had to have his arm amputated. In the last few weeks several have narrowly escaped-and I am not exaggerating at all-narrowly escaped miraculously, and we appreciate the fact that two or three of you felt it worthwhile to express thanks through the Chairman to our staff for that sort of work.

You know WFP is rather unique in the UN system. I think it does probably transfer-the statistics vary a bit-but I think that it does at the moment transfer the largest volume of resources. I mentioned this morning that of the one and a quarter billion that we transferred last year only three percent went for staff costs. It is unusual in another aspect too (sorry I have got something in my eye that is disturbing me)-it is unusual in another respect in that it is entirely a-political in the distribution of its resources. The record of course is absolutely clear on this, and again I have to thank those delegates this morning who made it abundantly clear, through their interventions, that that is in fact the situation.

So with those words Mr. Chairman, I would like through you to thank the Committee once again for its attention that it has given to our work, and to leave with the assurance that we will examine very carefully how best to improve the report to you, ECOSOC and the World Food Council. Thank you.

B.P. DUTIA (Assistant Director-General, Economic and Social Policy Department): I would like to make a few observations concerning the proposal made by the Director-General at the last CFA session, which I had the honour to bring to the attention of the Council this morning, and to namely undertake a comprehensive study for the future of food aid in the nineties and beyond, and to which Mr. Ingram also referred in his remarks just now.

Of course, I am happy to note that this proposal has received some support from the Members of the Council. I also understand and appreciate the observation made by Mr. Ingram about the need to look at practical aspects, particularly in relation to the food aid provided by the World Food Programme. I also know fully well that the CFA has looked at a number of these questions in relation to the operations of the World Food Programme. However, I would like to submit that the Committee on Food Aid Policies and Programmes has a wider mandate than just looking at the food aid programme of the World Food Programme itself.

For example, if one were to look at the mandate of the CFA, it says apart from providing general guidance and policy administration and operation of the World Food Programme, the CFA also provides a forum for inter-governmental consultations on national and international food aid programmes and policies. It also reviews periodically general trends in food aid requirements and availabilities. It also recommends to governments improvements in food aid policies and programmes on such matters as programme priorities, composition of food aid and other related matters.

When the Director-General made the suggestion for a comprehensive review of food aid and its role in the nineties and beyond, what he had in mind was the overall subject of food aid and not just the food aid provided by the World Food Programme. Of course, the World Food Programme plays a very important role in the multilateral aspect of food aid, and in this study certainly its role will be an important issue to consider.

In relation to the observation that the CFA has always given attention to practical aspects, while not in any way disputing this, I would also state that in the past the CFA has developed some important general criteria and guidelines for food aid as a whole. In a way, these serve as a charter for the operation of the food aid programme both bilaterally and multilaterally.

In the light of the past experience as well as what is needed for the future, the Director-General

is of the view that now is the time to look at the future of food aid, especially as the new factors that seem to be emerging in the overall food situation call for a certain pause and a certain reflection as to what food aid should be doing in the nineties and beyond.

Secondly, there have been references by a number of Members to the need for strengthening the cooperation between the FAO and the World Food Programme. Mr. Ingram, the Executive Director also made reference to that. I fully agree with him that there is a considerable amount of cooperation that is going on between the two organizations at the working level, and that certainly is amplified and demonstrated by the figures that Mr. Ingram just quoted on the FAO experts that are in the field financed by the World Food Programme.

While in general not disputing what has been stated, I would like to make a brief observation, particularly speaking on behalf of the Economic and Social Policy Department of FAO, that over the past several years the assistance required, in the policy area, from this Department seems to be rather declining. I do not know whether this is a trend that will continue in the future or it is just an accident. Certainly we from our side are very ready and willing to provide cooperation and full support in this area to the World Food Programme. This is especially so in the light of Article 31 of the general regulations of the World Food Programme, which does call for cooperation on food aid studies with the FAO and other UN agencies. However, again I would repeat that this is not in any way to underestimate or to deny the fact that the cooperation at the working level is continuing.

I would like to refer to an observation made by the delegate of Australia. He referred to the recent decision by the CFA at the last session concerning the use of IEFER resources for the need of protecting refugees and displaced persons. As far as I understand, he seemed to imply that this decision addressed the concerns I had referred to this morning on behalf of the Director-General.

With due respect, I wish to differ from the delegate of Australia on this point, because even in the document that was submitted by the World Food Programme to the CFA for consideration of this subject it was recognized that the decision to this effect would have a negative effect on the resources available to the International Emergency Food Reserve, although at the same time it was hoped that greater transparency may increase the resources for the IEFER.

This is also reflected in a way in the decision by the CFA itself that the question of the resources should be addressed in a separate document to be prepared by the Executive Director in consultation with the Director-General. Therefore, the question of the resources of the IEFER for meeting the needs of the emergencies that are other than the refugees remains to be considered.

In my statement I also referred to the long-term role of food aid, which again is not addressed by this particular decision by the CFA.

James INGRAM (WFP): To supplement what I said earlier, the CFA, of course, has on its agenda at every session a document that reviews food aid policies and programmes generally and collectively, not WFP. That document has been prepared and has been on the agenda as a result of the decision of the World Food Conference, which made the CFA responsible not only for being the governing body of WFP, but also to have the oversight of food aid generally. So at every session the Committee has before it a very comprehensive document. Indeed, at the last session, there were many complaints that the document was too comprehensive, too long and contained too much information. As a result, we are going to review the document. So the fact is that there is a document already prepared by the Secretariat every year. As Mr. Dutia said, from time to time the CFA has taken decisions.

So I quite agree that there is no reason as such why the CFA cannot review general aspects of food aid. On the contrary, it reviews them already. My feeling is that it is very difficult to see that anything more than is being done already is needed. However, I believe it is up to the member governments of the CFA to decide, and we will be happy to do whatever is asked.

I do not know whether I heard Mr. Dutia correctly, but I think he said that the WFP paper in relation to protracted refugees said that there would be a negative effect on the IEFER. We definitely did not say that; I want to make that clear. The proposals adopted by consensus do not have an adverse effect on the IEFER. The debate made clear that the expectation of the WFP Secretariat that implementation of the proposals would lead to more resources being available for sudden disasters was rather an important factor in the consensus that was reached. In any event, this whole issue of resources for sudden disasters is, as I mentioned in my remarks, scheduled for CFA 29. It is a very important subject, and indeed I had already written to the Director-General asking to have the views of FAO as soon as possible on how we are to deal with this very important issue. We know some of their views, but we would like to know in greater depth the views of FAO

because we see those views as a very important starting point for the paper to be prepared for CFA 29.

B.P. DUTIA (Assistant Director-General, Economic and Social Policy Department): I wish to make a very brief observation. When I said that it would lead to a negative effect, I was really referring to paragraph 49 of the document submitted to the CFA on the subject of meeting the problem of protracted refugees and displaced person situations. The first sentence of this paragraph reads as follows: "While a decision by donors to shift resources currently provided by them for protracted refugee and disaster situations to a subset of the regular resources would, of course, necessarily lead to a reduction in the amount pledged to the IEF, the Programme is of the view that the resulting transparency in relation to the overall use of resources as between emergencies and protracted refugee/displaced person situations should contribute to an increase in resources available for dealing with sudden disasters including crop failure". On behalf of the Director-General of FAO, I am very happy to assure the Council and also the Executive Director of WFP that we would be very happy to collaborate with him on the preparation of the document to be prepared for CFA-29.

Sra. Mercedes FERMIN GOMEZ (Venezuela): Le agradezco su gentileza por concederme la palabra, haciendo uso del derecho parlamentario universal de responder cuando se le alude a uno por su nombre propio, y ese ha sido el caso del Sr. Ingram. Yo no puedo intervenir aquí sino con cuestiones generales, porque yo no estoy aquí en calidad de experta de los problemas de la alimentación y no conozco, Sr. Ingram, lamentablemente, las Interioridades del Programa Mundial de Alimentos y de sus relaciones con otros organismos. Estoy haciendo uso de un documento público en el cual, en primer lugar, he citado, ahora puedo decirlo, una cita de la Banca Mundial en el bienio de 1984/85 en donde dice que: "25 países donantes han proporcionado alimentos para más de 100 naciones" entre los cuales da una enumeración de la cantidad de toneladas que han proporcionado. Pero, lo que me interesaba precisar es que esa misma Banca Mundial dice-comentando a los que escriben, que generalmente es un organismo conservador, que está propenso a minimizar los hechos-sin embargo, la Banca Mundial dice: "la cantidad de ayuda alimentarla es, en muy estrecha relación con las exigencias del donador, más bien que con las necesidades del beneficiario" y Sir William Kyrie, Jefe de la Administración de "Oversea Development", un ente británico, ha escrito en 1986, cito: "constituye la masa de la ayuda alimentaria, con toda franqueza, un medio para liberarse de los excedentes agrícolas de Europa, antes que una manera de ayudar a los pobres" y termina diciendo: "en realidad, para ser sinceros, muy a menudo tales adquisiciones significan en vez de un "excedente" de alimento para ayudar a los pobres, una manera de ayudar a los ricos. La otra cita es del llamado "Report Brundtland", que no necesito decir quien es el señor y quería simplemente leer un párrafo de ese "Report Brundtland" "la producción en los países industrializados disfruta exclusivamente de un subsidio consistente y siempre ha estado protegida por la competencia a nivel internacional. Tal subsidio ha permitido, y favorece el abuso del suelo y de los fertilizantes químicos, que trae consigo el degrado de las regiones rurales y por consiguiente otros han sabido aprovechar y producir el efecto de crear los excedentes de producción, con el consiguiente daño para los suelos y con el consiguiente beneficio del cual derivan. Buena parte de estos excedentes, del Programa de Ayuda Alimentaria han sido enviados en condiciones agravantes, a aquellos países en vías de desarrollo, minando así la política agrícola de las naciones beneficiarias". Cierro las comillas y termino mis palabras. Sin comentarios.

LE PRESIDENT: Nous 8000 riviés à la fin d'un débat extrêmement intéressant sur un point très important de notre ordre du jour. Nous pouvons considérer que le Conseil félicite le PAM pour l'excellent travail accompli pour fournir de l'aide alimentaire à plusieurs millions de personnes dans des conditions souvent très difficiles, qui souvent nécessitent un courage physique de la part du personnel du PAM.

Nous pouvons dire également que le Conseil s'est déclaré particulièrement préoccupé par l'insuffisance des ressources alimentaires, puisqu'au 31 décembre 1988, 65% seulement de l'objectif d'un milliard quatre cents millions de dollars a été atteint. Le Conseil s'associe à l'appel pressant lancé par le PAM pour que les pays développés maintiennent leurs efforts afin d'atteindre l'objectif de contribution de 1 500 millions de dollars pour la période 1991-92, objectif qui a été admis à l'unanimité par le CPA.

Le Conseil appuie le projet de résolution du CPA au Conseil et l'ECOSOC concernant l'objectif de production. Il souligne par ailleurs la nécessité évidente de renforcer la RAIU par tous les moyens. Nous avons eu l'occasion de noter que la RAIU se trouve à un niveau inférieur au niveau requis.

On peut souligner par ailleurs que le Conseil a noté avec préoccupation la baisse des engagements en faveur de l'Afrique sub-saharienne enregistrée depuis trois ans. Il souligne son appui au maintien et au renforcement de l'aide alimentaire à l'Afrique sub-saharienne.

A cet égard, nous pouvons souligner que le Conseil a manifesté son intérêt pour que le PAM intervienne pour réduire les effets négatifs des programmes d'ajustement structurel sur l'accès des pauvres à la nourriture.

Par ailleurs, le Conseil, d'une manière générale, tout en affirmant sa considération pour l'activité excellente du PAM, a souligné sa conviction que le rapport du CPA au Conseil de l'ECOSOC pourrait inclure des questions d'orientation, de politique d'aide alimentaire, et a noté avec satisfaction la disponibilité du Directeur exécutif du PAM pour étudier la question en vue de l'amélioration du contenu du rapport du CPA au Conseil pour l'avenir.

Enfin, je crois que je suis l'interprète de ce Conseil pour souligner que le Conseil a rappelé l'intérêt d'une coopération accrue et renforcée entre la FAO et le PAM dans l'intérêt des pays en voie de développement pour lesquels opèrent avec enthousiasme ces deux organisations. Il n'y a pas de doute que les activités de la FAO et du PAM sont particulièrement inter-dépendantes et militent en faveur d'une coopération privilégiée et préférentielle entre ces deux organisations.

Enfin, je peux dire que le Conseil approuve le quatorzième rapport annuel du CPA. Tous nos vœux accompagnent les deux organisations PAM et FAO pour le plus grand bien des pays du tiers monde.

C.B. HOUTMAN (Observer for Hetherlands): I would like to make it very clear that my delegation is not working under the instructions of any Secretariat, whether it be that of WFP, that of FAO, or any other. My delegation works only under the instructions of my Government, the Government of the Netherlands. We do however like both organizations-WFP and FAO-as is proved by the fact that the Netherlands is the third or fourth largest donor of WFP, and the third largest donor of FAO.

LE PRESIDENT: Je voudrais en clôturant ce point remercier M. Ingram et ses collaborateurs pour leur participation significative à ce débat.

Le Président du Comité de rédaction me signale qu'il souhaiterait que nous puissions travailler le plus longtemps possible aujourd'hui, de façon à faciliter la tâche du Comité qui a encore beaucoup de travail à faire. Dans ces conditions, nous vous proposons de travailler aujourd'hui jusqu'à 19 heures. Cela permettrait au Comité de rédaction d'avancer son travail et cela faciliterait notre approbation du rapport vendredi.

Hannu HALINEN (Chairman, Drafting Committee): To facilitate the work of the Drafting Committee, it is highly desirable that every effort be made to conclude the items on the agenda today. The Committee will commence work immediately after the Plenary Session concludes, and will work as long as necessary tonight. The final part of the draft text upon which we will work will be ready tomorrow morning, or at the latest by noon, so that the Committee can be convened again tomorrow afternoon in order to finish its work by the end of the day. Plenary would have the whole day on Friday to consider the Council Report, and this will enable it to bring the Session to a conclusion on schedule and in a normal manner.

LE PRESIDENT: Nos travaux sont complémentaires. Nous avons constaté que les discussions au sein du Comité de rédaction étaient très soutenues et nous devons faciliter la tâche de ce Comité. C'est la raison pour laquelle je propose au Conseil de poursuivre ses activités jusqu'à 19 heures.

Avec votre permission, je proposerais au Docteur Lieber, Vice-Président de notre Conseil, de bien vouloir présider la suite des délibérations, qui comporterait la suite de notre ordre du jour, et laisser pour la séance de demain matin le point 19 qui mérite toute une matinée.

Je demande au Docteur Lieber de bien vouloir présider la séance.

Gerhard Lieber, Vice-Chairman of the Council, took the chair

Gerhard Lieber, Vice-Président du Conseil, assume la présidence

Ocupa la presidencia Gerhard Lieber, Vicepresidente del Consejo

IV. PROGRAMME, BUDGETARY, FINANCIAL AND ADMINISTRATION MATTERS (cont't)

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

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

4. Current World Food Situation

4. Situation mondiale actuelle de l'alimentation

4. Situación actual de la alimentación en el mundo

CHAIRMAN: For the first time during this Council we are actually behind schedule so I would ask speakers to be concise, because we have a long list of speakers.

B.P. DUTLA (Assistant Director-General, Economic and Social Policy Department): The document CL 95/2 together with Corr.1 for this agenda item review the current world food situation. The document for this agenda item largely focusses on the food situation, leaving discussion of other issues to the SOFA document that will be considered later this year.

The current world food situation, as Council has already noted during its discussion on some previous agenda items, is markedly different from the one that prevailed a year ago. Global stocks of cereals, vegetable oils, dairy products and sugar have been reduced, and food prices on international markets, which had fallen in real terms to their lowest levels in many years, have shown significant increases.

This marked reversal in the world food supply and security situations has arisen mainly because of natural events, although for some products policy changes have also been important. Droughts, floods, hurricanes and locust infestations severely hit many developing countries including Bangladesh in Asia and several countries in Africa and the Caribbean. In a global food security perspective, however, the protracted drought in North America had the most far-reaching impact. It led to heavy losses in crop yields on a planted area that already had been restricted by government programmes. The resulting heavy reduction in food output, coupled with small crops in some other developed regions, led to a stagnation in world food production in 1988, for the second consecutive year.

While prospects for this year are for a recovery in cereal production, its extent is still uncertain. However, this year's increase in production is not expected to permit an early replenishment of cereal stocks to more comfortable levels and to restore trend levels of consumption. Although much depends on the outcome of the crops that are still to be harvested in the remainder of this year a tight world food supply and security situation is likely to persist in 1989/90.

In the meantime, changes in world food markets are having contrasting implications. On the positive side, the strengthening in International prices of some agricultural commodities has benefited exporters. Higher prices are also likely to enhance farm incomes, reduce the fiscal burden of government farm support programmes and encourage production. In a longer perspective, the persistence of high international prices for food commodities may help restore competitiveness to production in those countries, where world market prices determine the returns to producers. In the short-run, however, many developing countries are experiencing the negative impact of the tighter food supply situation. Against the background of a continuing adverse external economic environment and economic difficulties, including heavy external debt burdens, the increase in international prices of cereals, as well as lower food aid availability, have posed difficult problems for many food deficit developing countries.

In this overall context, it has been fortunate that many developing countries recorded improved harvests in 1988, thus limiting the negative effects of the tighter global food supply situation. Food production in developing countries as a whole increased by 3.2% in 1988, leading to an increase of 1.2% in per capita food production. Recovery in production from the sharp 1987 decline in some countries in Asia was most pronounced. Africa also achieved a marked food production increase of 4 percent, following the setback of 1987. As a result, per capita food production increased or remained stable in 53% of the total number of reporting developing countries in 1988 compared to only 28% in the previous year. In the case of Africa, the per capita food production increased by almost 1 percent, but it still remained 7 percent below the regional average level of a decade ago.

Against the background of a vigorous expansion of total merchandise trade, agricultural trade was also buoyant in 1987, the latest year for which detailed estimates are currently available. World exports of fishery and, to a lesser extent forestry products, showed the most dynamic expansion, which mainly benefited developed countries and some Asian countries. Export earnings from agriculture, however, declined for a large majority of developing countries. Overall, out of a group of 117 developing countries, nearly two-thirds experienced declining export earnings from agriculture, compared to only 40 percent in 1986.

Complete trade data are not yet in for 1988, but it is expected that growth in the value of world agricultural trade, while showing less dynamism than trade in other sectors, will at least equal that of 1987. However, this growth will arise from increases in prices, rather than volumes, and in food and feed products, rather than in beverages and raw materials.

Nevertheless, a recovery in the terms of trade and purchasing power of agricultural exports is expected to have occurred in 1988, as prices exceeded the average levels of 1987 for a number of major trade-aid commodities. The main exceptions included cotton, cocoa and robusta coffee.

An important positive development has been that the Uruguay Round of multilateral trade negotiations, which became stalled at the mid term review at Montreal last December, got moving again in April. This has enabled the trade liberalization measures, already agreed, for tropical products to enter the implementation phase which has already been noted by Council in its discussion of some of the previous agenda items.

With regard to recent trends in external resource flows for food development, concessional multilateral commitments in 1987 rose considerably above the previous year's low figure. However, in real terms they were only slightly higher than the average of the previous three years. Non-concessional commitments fell in 1987, but from the exceptionally high level of 1986. Total multilateral commitments are estimated to have increased slightly in 1988, but their concessional component will be lower than in 1987. On the positive side, the recovery in concessional commitments to agriculture by the IDA in 1987 and 1988, and in the increase in the World Bank's total authorized capital, are expected to benefit investment in food and agriculture in the future. The ninth replenishment of IDA, negotiations on which have recently begun in earnest, will be an important element in determining concessional flows in the early 1990s. Also, the Governing Council of the International Fund for Agricultural Development at its session on 6-7 June 1989 has set a level of 522.9 million dollars for the third replenishment for the period ending 30 June 1992. At the same time, new private external lending remains at very low levels, which, coupled with rising interest rates, has perpetuated the disquietening situation of reverse flow of resources from the indebted developing countries.

The document CL 95/2 contains also a review of trends in food availability. This review shows that in terms of per capita calorie supply, the nutritional gap between developed and developing regions has significantly narrowed during the past two decades. However, this gap still remains of the order of 900 calories per capita per day. Furthermore, the rate of growth in per capita calorie supply has markedly slowed during the difficult period of the 1980s in all developing regions except Asia, and has actually been negative in Africa. The number of undernourished people is also estimated to have considerably increased during the first half of the current decade, to well over 500 million people, but the proportion in relation to the total population has continued to decline. The exception is again Africa, where one out of three people is estimated to be undernourished, virtually the same proportion as in the early 1970s.

Gonzalo BULA HOTOS (Colombia) A los representantes de Colombia nos causa gran placer verlo a usted, distinguido colega y amigo Lieber, representante de ese gran país la República Federal de Alemania, dirigiendo nuestros trabajos esta tarde.

Como siempre el Doctor Dutia ha hecho una presentación excelente. Durante muchos años este punto ha sido el primer tema de fondo de que se ocupara el Consejo, esto era lógico porque de la consideración de la situación alimentaria mundial surgen elementos directamente relacionados con el Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria Mundial y el Programa de Labores y Presupuesto.

A estas alturas, Señor Presidente, pensamos que no tiene mucho sentido entrar a fondo en la discusión de este tema. Esto no es una crítica a nadie, ya que nosotros los miembros del Consejo somos responsables porque aprobamos el Proyecto de calendario que se sometió a nuestra consideración el lunes pasado; pero queremos decir que los representantes de Colombia pensamos que esa innovación ha dado resultados desfavorables y convendrá que en el futuro se vuelva al sistema original de que este punto sea el primero entre aquellos de fondo.

Los representantes de Colombia hemos atribuido gran importancia a este tema, por ello habíamos preparado nuestras notas para intervenir, 27 páginas, 27; las hemos reducido a 19, y hemos dejado aquellas que tienen mayor contenido tercermundista. Miramos el reloj, atendemos los llamados de los Presidentes del Consejo y del Comité de Redacción y solicitamos la venia suya, Señor Presidente, y del Consejo, para entregar este texto a la Secretaría y pedir que se incluyan las actas.

CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much, Distinguished Delegate from Colombia, for your constructive proposal. May I remind you that there is always the possibility that you hand your statement over to the Secretariat, and the Secretariat will see that it will be put into the verbatim record.

Mohammad Salees KHAN (Pakistan): Before starting. I think my delegation would also like to share the view expressed by the Distinguished Ambassador from Colombia that we would have liked to see this document earlier on the agenda, perhaps in conjunction with the report of CFS. It would have facilitated things because there are so many commonalities between the items. It would have facilitated the discussion and helped us proceed more quickly on the agenda items.

Having said that, we thank the FAO for presenting us with a most realistic review of the current world food situation. We would also like to thank Mr. Dutia for his presentation. We note with considerable concern that after two years of low cereal production and decline in world cereal stocks, the currently estimated prospects for 1989 cereal crops also do not indicate an increase in overall production to the levels that would be required to restore trend consumption and to rebuild stocks to more adequate levels. It is heartening to note that food output in developing countries increased in per caput terms by 1.2 percent. However, this increase was not evenly spread, and 52 out of 110 developing countries failed to record any such increase. The increase of one percent in per caput food production recorded in Africa in 1988 was still 7 percent below its average per caput production a decade ago. Moreover, after a prolonged period of drought and locust infestation, African countries which had been able to harvest food crops found themselves with undisposable surpluses. This all presents quite a bleak situation. Equally disturbing is the rise in world cereal prices which forced developing countries to reduce imports of food to the detriment of their food security. Even after significant cutbacks in volumes of imports, in value terms the developing countries were required to foot increasingly large food bills, accounting for an extremely high or even increasing percentage of their total export earnings. For 1989/90 it is estimated that despite a small increase in cereal import volumes, the cost of imports for these countries is likely to increase by something like 40 percent.

On the other hand, while a vigorous increase of 11.1 percent in the value of agricultural trade has been reported, the agricultural exports of developing countries have been reported to have declined by one percent. Moreover, within this group of countries 6 percent of 117 developing countries are reported to have declining export earnings from agriculture. Needless to say, all the adverse factors, coupled with reductions in food aid reported in paragraph 39 and commitments in external financing for agriculture reported in paragraph 33, do not constitute a conducive atmosphere for ensuring food security in developing countries.

Despite repeated recognition of this dilemma, it is sad to note that little is being done to overcome the global economic crises which is eroding the vitality of developing nations. Third World countries continue to face problems, including crippling debt burdens, low levels of development assistance, reverse flow of resources, trade barriers, protectionism, low commodity prices, adverse terms of trade, and an inequitable international monetary system. The problems of developing countries have been exacerbated by the economic stabilization structural adjustment programme they are forced to undertake by international monetary and financial assistance agencies without accompanying relief on the above accounts.

It is distressing to note that the North-South dialogue to establish an equitable international economic order still remains unresolved. In this interdependent world, the destinies of North and South are closely linked. We hope, therefore, that the developed nations would be responsive to the needs to introduce urgent reforms to make the international economic system just and equitable and to provide increased net flow of development assistance, easier access to the markets of developed countries, stabilization of commodity prices, easing of the debt burden, and the creation of a more democratic international monetary system.

We are encouraged by the proposal made by the Group of 77 last year before a special session of the U.N. General Assembly devoted to the reactivation of economic growth and development of the developing countries has been adopted by the U.N. General Assembly, what we hope will be an historic session addressing itself comprehensively to the problems of development in Third World countries.

The U.N. General Assembly has also set in motion the process of formulating an international development strategy for the fourth U.N. Development Decade. We hope that this Strategy will promote economic development in a realistic and effective manner.

Finally, a few brief statistics about the food production situation in Pakistan. After two years of drought, we have been blessed by a good monsoon this year, and we estimate a wheat crop of 14.2 to 14.5 million tons. Although less than the target of 15 million tons, it will be considerably higher than the 12.7 million tons we produced in 1987/88. In the case of rice, we estimate a production of 3.2 million tons during 1988/89 as against 3.24 million tons during 1987/88. With the bumper wheat crop this year, we hope our imports will be confined to small quantities to beef up our other stock. I also have statistics on other minor crops. If these are required by the Secretariat I can provide them.

Paul R. BRYDEN (Australia): We are appreciative of the Secretariat's efforts in producing the report which provides a very useful and precise description of the features of the present world food situation. We share FAO's concern at the present tight global food supply situation and the low level of cereal stocks which has resulted from the severe North American drought and poor international trading conditions. Our view is that the tight supply of grains and other commodity markets is a consequence of producers adjusting to the previous seven years of very poor international trading conditions. Adjustment has been by allowing stocks to run down and by, not increasing investment in capacity. Relatively high interest rates have contributed to the adjustment by making stocks expensive to hold and new investment expensive to finance. We therefore expect markets to hold their price gains for some time. We would expect that world production of food should recover over the next few years because of firmer prices and would hope that countries can rebuild stocks purposefully to more adequate levels.

Finally, I refer to the suggestion made by the Distinguished Delegate of Colombia regarding the ordering of our agenda and joining the Committee on Food Security discussion to it. Our colleague always makes interesting proposals, and I am pleased on this occasion that I can agree with him.

Juan NUIRY SANCHEZ (Cuba): Señor Presidente, de acuerdo con su solicitud de brevedad, hecha como Presidente de esta sesión de la tarde, permítame saludarlo con respeto y satisfacción, expresándole que acataremos, por justo, su pedido. En primer lugar, nos unimos al planteamiento de la distinguida Delegación de Colombia, en relación a la Orden del Día sobre este punto 4. De acuerdo con esto, y teniendo en cuenta que en nuestra intervención de la sesión inaugural de este 952 Consejo reflejamos temas que además de estar muy relacionados inciden muy directamente sobre este importante aspecto de situación actual de la alimentación en el mundo, y en aras de evitar repeticiones, no vamos a hacer referencia a aspectos planteados, pero sí dejar por sentado que están implícitos también en este punto, pues ellos son reflejo de cuestiones cruciales, tanto para el presente y para el futuro de la FAO como para nuestros pueblos, que con mil sacrificios se esfuerzan por salir del subdesarrollo, teniendo en cuenta que la FAO debe constituir factor catalizador en estos acuciantes problemas, en búsqueda de soluciones a la crítica situación actual de la alimentación en el mundo.

La Delegación de Cuba ha estudiado con sumo interés el documento preparado por la Secretaría y presentado de manera tan completa y clara por el Sr. Dutia. Consideramos que se trata de un documento actualizado, que refleja de manera clara y precisa los elementos más importantes de la economía mundial y, en particular, de la situación de la agricultura y la alimentación en los momentos actuales. En 1988, la producción mundial de alimentos estuvo por debajo del consumo, y solamente gracias a las existencias acumuladas de años anteriores, en que se obtuvieron cosechas excepcionales, se pudo abastecer la demanda. De otra parte, las perspectivas de la producción de cereales de 1989 no son tan favorables para esperar un cambio en esas tendencias ni consecuentemente, una reposición adecuada de las existencias. Las propias informaciones de la FAO nos indican que el año agrícola 1989/90 ha comenzado con unas existencias que significan solamente el 16 por ciento de la tendencia del consumo, lo cual representa la producción más baja desde la crisis de la década del 70. En las publicaciones "Perspectivas alimentarias" número 3, de 1989, se nos informa que los suministros mundiales de cereales seguirán siendo escasos en 1989/90, en particular respecto al trigo y al arroz. Suponiendo condiciones climáticas normales para el resto de la temporada en producción de cereales no aumentará este año en las medidas necesarias para restablecer la normalidad del consumo y reponer las existencias hasta los niveles mínimos requeridos para la seguridad alimentaria mundial.

Esta situación se repite constantemente, y usted conoce, Sr. Presidente, que la llamada crisis alimentaria no es un fenómeno correspondiente a los últimos años, aunque la profunda crisis económica actual contribuya a acentuarla. Y en particular los problemas derivados de la deuda externa y del rápido aumento de los tipos reales de interés, el endeudamiento, las deformaciones de las modalidades de comercio y el proceso inflacionario han provocado en los países en desarrollo una creciente escasez de recursos que le impiden sufragar su desarrollo.

La transferencia neta de recursos de los países en desarrollo a los países subdesarrollados es realmente dramática en nuestra región de América Latina y el Caribe. El impacto de la crisis económica ha traído como consecuencia estancamientos de su crecimiento, no sólo en los campos de la producción y el comercio, sino que incluye también las repercusiones sociales derivadas de tal contradicción. En tal sentido, la Delegación de Cuba considera que la situación de la crisis actual exige de la comunidad internacional respuestas que tiendan a encontrar un desarrollo permanente que garantice el derecho alimentario de cada pueblo, efectuando una distribución más equitativa de los recursos de que se dispone.

Amador VELASQUEZ (Péru): En primer lugar, señor Presidente, le expresamos nuestra satisfacción de verlo presidiendo esta sesión de la tarde. Agradecemos la presentación de la Secretaría y la presentación del Sr. Dutia. Deseo expresar que estamos de acuerdo con lo señalado por el distinguido Delegado de Colombia, en el sentido de que no ha sido del todo acertado el cambio que se introdujo en el tratamiento de este tema; es decir, tratar de retornar en próximas oportunidades a su consideración junto al tema de seguridad alimentaria.

Sin embargo, debo manifestar, un poco paradójicamente, la complacencia para el Perú, porque en este caso excepcional nos da la oportunidad de aprovechar el tema para exponer asuntos que debíamos haber tocado en el tema de seguridad alimentaria, del que todos ustedes saben por qué no pudimos intervenir. Por eso, lamentablemente, no puedo seguir el ejemplo del distinguido Delegado de Colombia y de otros que me han precedido en el uso de la palabra; pero, haciendo caso de su llamado sobre lo avanzado de la hora, trataré de ser lo más conciso posible. Haré una pequeña referencia a siete párrafos del documento. Pero, antes de comenzar con el tema concreto, quiero pedir disculpas también a la Presidencia y a los colegas del Consejo, porque la Delegación de Perú hará uso, en el legítimo sentido de la palabra, de este tema para hacer un llamado internacional, cumpliendo instrucciones precisas. Por eso es que debe usted haber recibido en este momento, señor Presidente, un cuadro fotocopiado, al que me referiré en esta exposición.

Teniendo en cuenta, pues, señor Presidente y señores Delegados, la realidad expuesta en la intervención que sobre el tema 6 tuvimos, haciendo un recuento simbólico de la situación de crisis en el Perú, así como la alusión o referencia que al respecto hicimos en el tema 10, esperamos la comprensión de este Consejo para que apoye un llamado internacional de emergencia que permita la obtención urgente de 160 000 toneladas métricas de alimentos, para que el Perú dé de comer en el segundo semestre de este año, que se inicia dentro de una semana, a su población pobre, que llega a 7 200 000 habitantes, de la cual 1 600 000 ha sido considerada de alta vulnerabilidad.

La situación de la alimentación en el mundo, que nos revela objetivamente el documento CL 95/2, es contundente y no deja lugar a dudas. Si bien los precios internacionales de los cereales se han reforzado considerablemente, lo que podría ser, en efecto, un incentivo para mejorar la producción a corto plazo y a continuación cito entre comillas "constituye un golpe devastador para muchos países con déficit de alimentos que se encuentran con dificultades en la balanza de pagos y unas necesidades crecientes de importación de alimentos."

En el párrafo 12 del documento se identifica a pie de página al Perú como uno de los dieciséis países que registraron situaciones de emergencia alimentaria recientemente; vale decir en abril de este año, lo que no implica que haya terminado. De otro lado, en el párrafo 14 se señala que la producción pesquera de los países en desarrollo aumentará en un 4 por ciento, debido sobre todo a la recuperación en América del Sur, y particularmente de Chile y del Perú. Nos agrada decir que ello obedece a otro tipo de causas, pero se debe a que, felizmente, no se han repetido los problemas creados por la corriente del Niño causante de daños en otras oportunidades.

Por tales razones, sin ignorar, sino más bien basándonos en el informe CL 95/2, que podrían resumirse en que la producción total de alimentos no alcanzará los niveles necesarios y que la escasez de suministros persistirá. Es pues, repito, por ello, que mi país no encuentra foro ni tema más apropiado y ad hoc que éste para reiterar su llamado de solidaridad internacional. Las mismas estimaciones de la FAO proyectan un descenso de 3,3 millones de toneladas con respecto a la ayuda alimentaria en cereales 1988/89. Los envíos de ayuda alimentaria serán los más bajos desde 1983/84 y no llegarán a los 10 millones de toneladas establecidos por la Conferencia Mundial de Alimentación de 1974. No obstante, insistimos con cierta esperanza, porque todavía las 9,8 toneladas proyectadas serán superiores al mínimo de 7,6 toneladas de cereales fijadas en el Convenio sobre la Ayuda Alimentaria por lo que, en caso de que este llamado fuera encontrado, y lo comprenderíamos eventualmente, como poco ortodoxo para foros como éste, pido se permita por lo menos, Sr. Presidente, la circulación oficial del Cuadro Revelador, actualizado al 20 de mayo de este año, que identifica, y que usted tiene a la mano, nuestras necesidades alimentarias, muy pero muy urgentes, las mismas que como verá llegan a 210 000 toneladas pero de las cuales ya la AID de Estados Unidos, el PMA, la Comunidad Económica Europea, Francia e Italia se han hecho presentes, reduciendo parcialmente dicho monto a las 160 000 ahora faltantes y de las cuales solamente 90 000 corresponden a cereales. Yo, de nuevo agradezco, Sr. Presidente, la comprensión, reitero las disculpas y esperamos una atención favorable a nuestro planteamiento en este tema que obviamente hubiera sido más propio en el de seguridad alimentaria pero que agradecemos la comprensión por haberlo tocado ahora.

CHAIRMAN: I thank the distinguished delegate of Peru. I listened with great care to your appeal. The Secretariat will certainly be ready to discuss with you, somewhat more in depth, what you have told us in your statement. Be assured that also the potential donors here in the room have listened quite carefully, and that your appeal will be heard within the measure of the possible.

Karl W. WEYBRECHT (Canada): We would like to express our pleasure at seeing you in the Chair. I would also like to thank Mr. Dutia for his introduction to this item. Along with others I would like to express my support to the point made earlier by the distinguished delegate of Colombia on the ordering of this particular agenda item.

Mr Chairman, we find the documents produced under this item to be a fairly concise and an accurate perspective on the global food situation. We note that food production in the developing market economies has shown some positive development, although growth in production has been uneven in regions and between regions.

The paper also highlights the sharp reduction in cereal production in North America caused by adverse climatic conditions, and the impact that this has had on global food supply conditions. We are in agreement with preliminary production forecasts for wheat and coarse grain production in 1989 as set out in the document. We agree that the recovery is dependent on continuation of normal weather conditions for the balance of the growing season. The current cereals outlook in Canada for the 1989/90 crop year is positive. Rain in the first half of June has further improved moisture conditions in most areas. If weather conditions hold in the major growing areas, the wheat crop could increase by 66% over 1988 to reach 26 million tons. Our coarse grain production may rise approximately 10% to over 21 million tons. This increase in production is a result of improved growing conditions and market prices, and not the result of any specific policies to stimulate increased production.

Some rebuilding of stocks is likely in 1989/90 in North America, and in particular for coarse grain. Cereal stock in Canada will increase from the extremely low levels of the 1988/89 period if yields are to be above average in 1989. However, because of the extremely low 1989/90 carry-over levels, our exports will not likely be able to reach the 1987/88 export levels in the coming years. With respect to fishery production, reference is made to increases in fish catches in Canada in 1988. Recently, however, scientific evaluation of the level has indicated lower level of stocks than originally estimated for some species such as Northern Cod. Authorized catches for such stocks may be lowered to protect future resource viability. Overall catches of fish by Canada are likely to continue to be of the same magnitude as in recent years. Reference has been made on many occasions in this Council to the Uruguay Round of trade negotiations. Canada attaches importance to improvements in the international trading environment in agricultural products, and with others has been seeking reform in the international trading system. The agreement worked out in April in Geneva of a framework for agriculture in the MFN represents significant progress.

Assefa YILALA (Ethiopia): The Ethiopia delegation would like to express its pleasure in seeing you chairing the Council this afternoon, and we thank Mr Dutia for his comprehensive introduction.

The document before us indicates that the global food production has fallen below the aggregate consumption level for the second consecutive year mainly due to the drought in North America. This reduction in food production has also become a cause for increases in the food prices, thus adding to the difficulties of food deficit countries that are forced to import a reduced volume of food than in the previous year because the prospect for increasing resources so as to even by maintain the same level is not possible.

The same effect is also reflected in the food aid programmes. In examining the per caput food production we notice that 52 developing countries had a negative rate of change, which means that their additional requirement has to be met through importation. We therefore feel that the international community will have to use a cautious approach in maintaining the prices of food in order to at least maintain the nutritional intake at the existing level, which is precarious and below the acceptable level.

Even in those countries where the per caput food production rate of change is positive, we see that the food requirement is higher than the production. In Ethiopia, for example, the percentage rate of change in per caput food production is positive even though at a bare minimum. But the gap between food requirement and food production comes to about half a million or a little over half a million tons without accounting for the needs of about one million refugees and some displaced persons. The gap between the required consumption level and actual food production is much more severe than has been pointed out in the document. We feel that the mention of food production recovery without its relationship to the actual requirement might not be reflective of the actual situation, and we feel that it will have repercussions on the food flow.

Therefore, I would like to indicate that a mention of this relationship in future reporting will improve the practicality of the report. In this connection I would like to mention that the donor community will need to see the report in the light of the relationship that I have attempted to explain in the consideration of their food aid provisions. In stating this, let me admit that the food shortage situation is pointed out in paragraphs 12 and 13, even though in isolation with the recovery that was indicated previously.

Looking at the food trade changes, Table 5, we noticed that changes in both imports and exports were negatively directed for Africa and Latin America, and in most cases a continuation of the previous period. This negative trend in world agricultural trade is in some way indicative of the unhealthy situation that will require the attention of the International community.

In paragraph 35 of the document we observe that Africa's share of capital, assistance, commitment steadily increased in response to the acute financing needs of the region as articulated by the UN Programme of Action for Africa's Economic Recovery and Development. We feel that this is a very positive development, and we would like to thank all of those who contributed towards this positive effort. We would, however, like to see some more details that would assist us in analysing this situation and direct the attention of the international community towards areas that will require more attention.

Paragraph 53 of the document refers to incidence of undernourishment in areas increasing to a total of 512 million, of which the proportion of the undernourishment incidence is considerably higher than in Africa. While our belief is firm in the complete elimination of undernourishment incidences, focusing the attention of the international community according to requirements will also require equally as much firmness.

The document outlines very clearly the prevailing food production difficulties without any reference to possible measures to remedy the situation. Therefore, we feel that some proposals that will assist in improving this situation along with the reporting of the food situation would improve the deliberations of the Council.

Having said that, we want to state that we are fully convinced that the document before us deserves our support and endorsement.

Finally, I would like to share the views expressed by the Ambassador of Colombia at the beginning of the Session with regard to handling the current world food situation because of its bearing on subsequent discussions and conclusions.

Zhenhuan LI (China) (original language Chinese): The Chinese delegation is pleased to see you presiding over the discussion this afternoon. We would like to thank Mr. Dutia for his precise introduction.

Over the past two years the world food situation has undergone another change for the worse, which is a source of grave concern. Particularly noteworthy is the fact that cereal production has declined by 3 percent for two consecutive years. The world per caput food production has decreased by about 30 kg and a greater production has been registered in the actual per caput availability in developing countries. The global food stock has fallen below the security level, which is an unprecedented phenomenon. Although the decline in global food production occurred in a few countries, as shown in the various statistical tables, yet its repercussions are of a global nature.

Facts have proved very convincingly that in order to meet the basic needs of mankind it is the common responsibility of all countries, be they developed or developing, to actively develop food agricultural production. In this respect I wish to make a few comments.

Firstly, food and agricultural development should always be accorded priority. During recent years many developing countries have adopted a series of policy adjustment measures designed to give top priority to food and agricultural production in their national economic development. They have effectively achieved growth in their food production. This has had a favourable bearing on efforts to stabilize the food situation in the world in general and in developing countries in particular. However, given, among other things, financial and technical restraints, the huge potential of developing countries in food and agricultural production has not yet been fully tapped. It is our hope that the International community can duly recognize this fact.

Secondly, it is essential to create an international economic environment conducive to the solution of problems in the food and agriculture field. The problem of food in the world is not an isolated issue. It has never been so closely related to the overall social and economic development and international economic environment as it is today.

Agricultural development in the world, particularly in the developing countries, is restrained to a large extent by prevailing external debt, trade and other problems. Therefore, we believe that joint efforts and concerted actions on the part of various countries are needed to overcome unfavourable external factors in order to promote food and agricultural development in the world.

Thirdly, the international economic cooperation technical transfer in the food and agricultural field should be further enhanced as it is an important way to promote agricultural development in the world, in the developing countries in particular. While we are very pleased to note that certain progress has been made in this field in recent years, efforts are still required to explore various means of effective technical and financial transfer.

I wish to recall here a well known fact, namely, in recent years external assistance has been decreasing and food aid is on the decline. This fact has caused us concern.

In conclusion, I would like to give a brief account of our situation in China. In 1988 China's cereal production was 2.2 percent less than the previous year. In order to redress the stagnation in food production the government has adopted this year a series of practical measures. They include, in addition to continuing rural reform, considerably increasing financial and technical input, raising cereal purchase prices and expanding the acreage sowed in cereal crops. The summer crops are doing better now than last year, offering promise of increase in the total production for this year if there are no unexpected calamities. China will continue to make its due contribution to world food security.

CHAIRMAN: Before I give the floor to the next speaker from Thailand I would like to explain to you in a few words where we stand. As far as item 4 is concerned, I have ten speakers on my list. The speakers on my list are: Thailand, Japan, Hungary, Nicaragua, Finland, the Federal Republic of Germany, Kenya, Korea, the United States and Spain. To help the Drafting Committee, I plan that we finish, in addition to agenda item 4 tonight, agenda item 20, which has three sub items, at least two of which should not take very long to conclude as they are for information. We have interpretation until seven o'clock so that is the limit of time for our Session. I therefore renew my appeal for brevity, and I would mention that the only Observer that we have on our speakers' list, the distinguished Observer from the EEC, has kindly offered to submit his remarks in writing to the Secretariat. I hope that that will be a good example to us all.

Mrs. Marasee SURAKDL (Thailand): First of all I would like to thank Mr. Dutia for his lucid introduction. My delegation would like to submit to this Council a brief comment on document CL 95/2. My delegation regrets to note that food aid in cereals in 1988 and 1989 will be 3.3 million tons lower than the previous season, as indicated in paragraph 39. This information confirms a phenomenon of food aid that we have observed before, which is that the food aid is always reduced in the year when the recipient countries need it more. It seems to us that some donor countries use food aid as a vehicle for disposal of their surpluses, and we hope that our observation of this will be noted. In this connection, my delegation would like to suggest that food aid should not be only the disposal vehicle of surpluses of some donor countries, but should be required to help the needy people in the recipient countries.

Norboru SAITO (Japan): My delegation, first of all, would like to present our compliments to the Secretariat for the excellent preparation of the document before us, CL 95/2, and we appreciate the comprehensive brief on the current world food situation made by Mr. Dutia. I am pleased to say that we are in principle in agreement with the contents of the document. However, I would like to make the following specific comments:

World agricultural production in 1988 has marked a decline for two consecutive years and the cereal produce will be one billion 700 million tons because of severe drought in Northern American countries in addition to the set-aside policy adopted by major cereal producers. World cereal stocks at the end of 1988-89 are forecast to be at the level of 16 percent of world consumption volume, which is less than the minimum level, 17-18 percent, indicated by FAO from the viewpoint of world food security. Although the production estimate of rice in 1989 is not yet made, those of wheat and coarse grains show 1 billion 600 million tons. That means an 11 percent increase from the last years' one billion 200 million tone due to the increased cropping by major producers, providing that weather is favourable. But this production increase is not estimated to be enough to replenish the world stocks.

It therefore seems that more production increase is required from the viewpoint of world food security. My country anticipates that flexible measures will be taken reflecting the world supply and demand situation so that the short-term production increase is only for the recovery of world cereal stocks to the necessary level and should not bring about structural changes of production which will lead to perpetual surplus of production on a medium-to-long-term basis.

My country fully recognizes the importance of the need to study and analyse the various factors affecting world food supply and demand. There are uneven and unforeseeable factors, such as policy changes in main producing and consuming countries, fluctuation of production owing to climate changes, increase in demand in developing countries due to a rise in the population and/or income. We expect that related fora in FAO, such as the Committee on World Food Security, the Committee on Agriculture, and Commodity Committees, will cooperate to complement with each other and carry out their roles efficiently and effectively, because we believe that FAO is the most suitable and capable organization having all of those studying and analysing capacities necessary to carry out these tasks.

My country believes it is important that, in order to solve food problems in developing countries, food-deficit developing countries should really place their priorities in the food and agriculture field, and adopt and implement the strategy including policies and social systems to guarantee that producers ensure results commensurate with their efforts. From this viewpoint, Japan believes it is essential that these developing countries should implement comprehensive rural development programmes, including agrarian reform policies aimed at medium and small scale farmers, as well as improving production methods and disseminating agricultural technologies. My country has been executing and will continue to promote financial and technical assistance through bilateral and multilateral channels in order to support those self-reliance efforts.

The FAO Secretariat forecasts that food aid volume in 1988-89 will decrease to 9.8 million tons, the lowest level in the last six years. On the other hand, some countries request the use of their surplus crops which come from last year's good harvest for the food assistance items. Recognizing the importance of food aid as a short-term measure for food-deficit developing countries, Japan has been carrying out food aid on bilateral and multilateral bases, and actively conducting triangular transactions for this purpose.

Finally, my delegation highly appreciates the FAO activities on food and agriculture information such as the Global Information and Early Warning System. I think those activities help us execute aid timely and smoothly.

István DOBOCZKY (Hungary): All the factors which are characteristic of the present world food situation have been comprehensively summed up in the excellent paper before us, presented by Mr. Dutia. This document points out the serious facts which have already been considered at the World Food Security Session—that the food situation of the world is very fragile. There is a necessity to increase food production, to stabilize and improve the sensitive balances on the international food markets, and to enhance the access of food to the needy in a way which is timely and appropriate.

The increase of food production needs not only technicolgical developments, but it includes improvements of economic environment in the country as well.

The adjustments in my country's agricultural policies have to be mentioned in this respect. It has been called for by both our accumulated troubles affecting the national economy as a whole, and the need which has been manifested towards it. Our efforts have been led by the intention to develop food production conditions, and at the same time to work hard on creating better living conditions for our agricultural producers. We are to mobilize both internal and external resources, subordinating them to these objectives. Subsequently, it is our firm intention to give the green light to productive enterprises.

Permit me to note that Hungary has very early become a partner in drastic cuts in agricultural subsidies, in an effort to promote International convention. We have practically set some of the principal objectives of GATT to ourselves at a time when a global agreement could not yet successfully be completed. As an example, I may mention the revision of the system of custom-tariffs, from which we expect a sizeable reduction of levies on agricultural products in Hungary. We believe that this policy would prove to be of benefit for all of us. My country is trying to do her best for the benefit of all developing countries as well.

Mauricio CUADRA SCHULTZ (Nicaragua): Nos complace, Señor Presidente, verlo presidiendo los trabajos en esta tarde. Agradecemos al señor Dutia por su presentación.

Nuestra delegación, Señor Presidente, está de acuerdo con lo expresado por nuestro colega, el Embajador Bula Hoyos de Colombia, en cuanto al orden de presentación de este tema; sin embargo, ya que en nuestro país la comida, cuando hay, no se puede repetir, en palabras vamos a hacer algunas repeticiones en esta tarde.

Vamos a limitar nuestra intervención y entregaremos después el texto a la Secretaría.

Ha quedado claro, Señor Presidente, a lo largo de nuestros debates la precaria situación que atraviesa la Humanidad en cuanto a la alimentación y a la agricultura, y esta situación es de particular preocupación para los países en desarrollo, cuya dependencia del suministro de alimentos agrava la situación social existente con resultados explosivos que provocan la desesperación de sus poblaciones hambrientas, llegando a situaciones explosivas imposibles de controlar, muchas de las cuales hemos podido testificar en estos últimos meses en países latinoamericanos.

Vemos que se han señalado causas climatológicas, huracanes, inundaciones, sequías y otras; sin embargo, creemos que las causas principales del problema no sólo subsisten, sino que se acentúan haciendo la situación mucho más difícil para los países en desarrollo. Subsiste la situación de injusticia en la distribución internacional de los recursos, y la deuda externa continua agobiando a nuestros países frenando toda posibilidad de salida; los programas de ajuste continúan siendo un arma de doble filo que al final han terminado agravando la situación de muchos países; en fin, subsiste esta injusta relación en general en los términos de intercambio internacionales.

Al proteccionismo, la enorme deuda externa y a todas estas condiciones que existen, nuestro país debe agregar el bloqueo económico y financiero que se nos impone, y la injusta guerra de agresión que sufrimos por parte de la mayor potencia de nuestro continente. Esta situación, cuya cifra en números y daño ha sido de sobra dado a conocer a este honorable Consejo, vamos a no mencionarla en esta ocasión. Incluso esta situación ha merecido la condena de organismos internacionales, entre ellos la Corte Internacional de Justicia de La Haya. Nicaragua sigue colocada en una situación de déficit permanente cuando podría ser un país no solamente autosuficiente, sino un país exportador. Con esta situación se nos destruyen nuestras capacidades no sólo de producir más, sino nuestra capacidad de ayudar a nuestros hermanos vecinos colaborando en la producción y compartiendo algunos de nuestros excedentes en Centroamérica. Esta injusta relación afecta obviamente a otros países vecinos, con lo cual Nicaragua demanda, Señor Presidente, el cese del bloqueo y la agresión que vendría a contribuir fundamentalmente a la paz de los pueblos centroamericanos.

A nuestra delegación preocupa además, Señor Presidente, que por encima de esta injusticia que subsiste, se nos presenta la reducción de los Programas de Ayuda Alimentaria, sobre todo a poblaciones de bajos ingresos. Creemos que esta situación, junto con el incremento de los precios de los alimentos va a ser sumamente explosiva y a incrementar las dificultades en el futuro próximo. Es necesario, por tanto, Señor Presidente, que se recomiende un esfuerzo especial por mantener los programas de emergencia alimentaria, ya que si la tendencia negativa persiste y las injustas condiciones económicas y tecnológicas no se van a resolver de un día para otro, estos programas se tornan vitales para aliviar las necesidades alimentarias de grandes masas de población en el mundo. Insistimos, sin embargo, que la solución pasa por la adopción de medidas estructurales que corrijan de una vez por todas las desigualdades existentes.

Para nuestro país sigue siendo prioritario, Señor Presidente, el fin de la guerra de agresión y el bloqueo que destruye principalmente nuestra capacidad productiva. Nosotros creemos que sin paz no hay desarrollo, que sin paz no hay alimentación, y que la guerra acaba con lo más preciado de nuestro patrimonio que es la vida de nuestros pueblos.

Finalmente, Señor Presidente, habiendo tenido quien habla el honor de representar a mi país por más de cinco años ante el pueblo peruano, quisiera apoyar y solidarizarme con el llamado de ayuda de este pueblo hermano y dejar patente la solidaridad de Nicaragua con el Perú en esta situación particular que atraviésalo

Leo GRANBERG (Finland): I wish to thank Mr. Dutia for his clear introduction, and the Secretariat for the interesting document before us. The topics in this document are of crucial importance and fit especially well into the basic role of FAO. In this connection my delegation wishes only to underline the need to analyse both short-term and long-term prospects of agricultural and food production and markets. Therefore, we welcome the information given under Item 11 about the planned activities of FAO concerning the issue of possible climatic changes. We are looking forward to being further informed on this issue in the future.

Having said this, I shall give the next delegate the opportunity to speak, following the example of the delegate of Colombia and other previous speakers who left their written texts with the Secretariat.

CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much for your help and your comprehension.

Bernd von SYDOW (Germany, Federal Republic of): In line with other speakers before me I should like to express my appreciation at seeing you in the chair, Sir. (laughter)

My delegation thanks Mr Dutia for his introduction. We very much appreciate the document which is most analytical and informative. The document gives us an update of the current world food situation. Due to last years drought in North America, the situation on the world grain markets has fundamentally changed compared to previous years. Rising prices and declining stocks as a consequence of the reduction in production mean on the one hand production incentives for the producer, but on the other hand they mean problems for the food deficit countries, especially for low-income population groups in these countries.

We note with satisfaction that many countries in Africa are producing surpluses which can be exported to other deficit countries in the region. In our view in the coming years an important task for national and international agricultural policies will be to stabilise the production levels in these countries. This can only be achieved if producers in these countries have stable access to export markets. Parallel to that, however, is the need for increasing the income capacity of those sections of the population which presently have no adequate access to food. In this respect, it is absolutely necessary to give the highest priority to the development of rural areas where the vast majority of the poor in developing countries live. Efforts in this direction, of course, would make a greater impact when the current rate of population growth in many countries can be reduced.

Daniel D.C. DON NANJIRE (Kenya): I want to assure everyone who may be apprehensive as to how long I am going to speak that I intend this time to be very brief. I hope that will please many, including the Secretariat, on the understanding that the full text from my delegation will be reproduced in the verbatim documents. I think this is a very good way out of this situation.

Like the delegate of the Federal Republic of Germany I am very happy to see you in the Chair, Mr Chairman, and I hope that you feel in excellent form, as I do. I also hope that all of us are prepared to meet after 7 o'clock so we can finish everything and then relax a little. This has been a very tight session, and I hope that the Drafting Committee will be able to finish its work. They can work until tomorrow morning actually, and there will be no problem. Then they will be free on Friday. That is all I have to say. I thank you, Mr Chairman, for the opportunity. I look forward to seeing the text from my delegation in the verbatim report tomorrow-I see that a member of the Secretariat is nodding, so I think that is acceptable.

The item for our discussion now is the first item that we had planned to talk about when this session of the Council began its deliberations last week. That was going to be the best procedure following Council tradition, since the item actually covers all the items on the agenda of the session, and by speaking on it at the end of the Session it is inevitable that we shall repeat many of the points already raised while deliberating on other items.

Be this as it may, the current world food and agricultural situation is fraught with many fluctuations, tight food supplies, and the like. As we have said before, one of the ways of improving the current state of food and agriculture in the world is to increase resource flows to the agricultural sector of the developing countries. This would help arrest the decline and/or stagnation in food and agricultural production, including cereal production in the developing countries. Actions and policies intended to deny access of the traditional export crops of the developing nations to the international market should be removed.

I have already spoken about the food and agricultural situation of Africa and the measures required to improve it. We hope that the international community and FAO will continue to assist and increase their financial and other necessary supports to the African governments to supplement the efforts of these countries to increase the living conditions of the African peoples.

Likewise, I have touched on the experience of the Kenya Government in tackling some of the problems relating to the food and agricultural situation in Kenya. His Excellency President Daniel Arap Moi of the Republic of Kenya has initiated institutional and administrative measures which have gone a long way in alleviating Kenya's development problems. These measures include the establishment of the Permanent Commission for Soil Conservation and Afforestation which, inter alia, reviews legislation on soil and water conservation, afforestation and flood controls.

Creation of a Presidential Commission on a Tree Planting Fund in February, 1985 in order to involve all Kenyans in public and private sectors to contribute toward financing tree-planting projects. According to the presidential directive, tree nurseries have to be maintained by chiefs and sub-chiefs and for every tree cut down must be replaced by the planting of five (5) trees.

The Forestry Department in the Environment and Natural Resources Ministry campaigns for increased planting of indigenous trees. Similarly, the President has initiated anti-soil erosion campaigns throughout the country which terrace farms, irrigate schemes and construct water catchment dams especially in arid and semi-arid regions of the country.

Creation of the National Water Conservation and Pipeline Corporation in September, 1988 and creation on May 1, 1989 of a new ministry of arid and semi-arid lands and reclamation of marginal lands.

Thus, as you can see, Mr Chairman our President has shown and continues to exert every effort and determination to protect and conserve the environment as well as to attain increased food and agricultural production in marginal areas of Kenya. These efforts have earned him awards of international distinction and recognition. He, with the other Heads of State of East Africa, became founding fathers of the Intergovernmental Authority on Drought and Development (IGADD) which was created several years ago by the UN to serve the East African countries of Djibouti, Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, Sudan and Uganda.

From the severe and protracted drought of 1983-84, fortunately and thanks to the kindness of mother nature, and the determined efforts of our President and my Government, the problems of that drought were overcome within a short period of time, and now Kenya maintains an exportable surplus in coarse grains, with more than 2.9 million tons of maize, and about 500 000 tons of grain bean; and with an expected surplus of over 660 000 tons, we have an exportable surplus in white maize, amounting to 350 000 tons. We shall, however, need up to 164 000 tons of wheat, and 46 700 tons of rice, the bulk of which we hope could be covered through commodity food aid arrangements.

Our Projections for the 1990s are as follows:

Maize: 1 600 000 hectares, with a production of 3 360 000 tons;

Wheat: 160 000 hectares producing 342 000 tons;

Rice: 19 000 hectares producing 57 000 tons; and

Beans: 560 000 hectares producing about 500 000 tons.

It should be noted, however, that Kenya's situation is not all that predictable, since historically Kenya undergoes a 5 to 10 year cyclic weather phenomenon, with drought following years of abundance. Kenya is not alone in this uncertain situation as most of the sub-Saharan Africa experiences similar, unpredictable weather conditions.

As I have said before, the food and agriculture situation of the world can only be improved through concerted national and international action. To succeed in the effective cooperation of the international community in improving the food and agricultural situation, certain conditions have to be met. These include the following.

First, there must be consultation, collaboration, and coordination of efforts of all concerned-governments and international secretariats alike; scarce resources must never be wasted. Information must be shared by all and for good ends only.

Second, governments should adopt policies which will only accelerate the implementation processes of the decisions that they adopt in international fora.

Third, harmful agricultural policies should be avoided. Strings and conditionalities attached to structural policies or pricing policies of commodities will not help alleviate the economic problems of the majority of the international community members.

Thus, protectionist policies will not help, for example, attain increased food and agricultural production in developing nations. To do this, it is essential to remove the protectionist policies of some of the industrialized nations; evolve sound food and agricultural policies at national, regional and international levels to give farmers incentives to produce more food; encourage self-reliance in food production; formulate and apply sound soil and water conservation besides afforestation policies; use of food aid only as an instrument for development; devise efficient and effective early warning mechanisms to help especially developing nations to monitor crop prospects, crop movements and their supply situation, and to deter negative trends and gather, analyse and disseminate the necessary information. The FAO early warning system has been quite effective.

Fourth, economic and technical cooperation, including in science, research and technology development among the developing nations should be enhanced in the food and agricultural sector. Similarly, the use of traditional foods should be stepped up. To this end, the observations and recommendations of the secretariat document CL 95/10 are well-taken, and should be translated into concrete action.

Fifth, offer every support, financial, material and other support, to enable FAO to carry out its mandate competently. Policies and ideas, no matter how good they may be, are useless until and unless they are translated into action.

Sixth and especially in Africa, there is need to:

Develop, and coordinate fisheries, as well as elevate and prioritize even more fish production with the assistance of FAO and other concerned International agencies to increase training and other capacities.

Reduce post-harvest losses through the increase of storage processing, transport and credit facilities to farmers, especially the small-scale farmers who need technology transfers and financial assistance. Again, FAO could play a major role in strengthening the fisheries sector through manpower training and studies to help African aquaculture, etc.

Identify markets for foods that fit the changing demographics and lifestyles of society.

Agro-industries can be among the best markets for farmers. Agro-industries can display imports and thereby help in the resolution of the problem of the purchasing power of consumers.

The need for good research which must relate to the food in industry, consumers, involving people from the very beginning, in order to ensure the chances of success for R and D.

In conclusion, Mr Chairman, I hasten to reiterate the fact that we the members of the International community have no choice but to cooperate in the resolution of development problems facing human-kind. Collaboration is not a favour, but a necessity. The idea of assistance is devoid of compulsion, but the moral imperative for human dignity, requiring that the "haves" help the "have-nots", imposes an obligatory nature to the act of giving. To challenge this reality would, Mr Chairman, be to challenge the fundamental UN charter principle of "We the People-----" being and agreeing to be obligated to protect and promote human dignity and welfare on the one hand, and keep world peace through cooperation for International development, on the other.

Thus, sir, whether we like it or not, we, all of us the members of the world community, have been condemned to succeed, but I can think of no lasting success, other than the one that assures adequate food and agricultural well-being to human-kind wherever he may be, on this "one globe" of ours.

CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much. I am really moved by your words. I say thank you again in the name of the Drafting Committee.

Jang-Bae YOUNG (Korea, Republic of): Mr Chairman, my delegation is also pleased to see you in the Chair, and we express our thanks to the Secretariat for their excellent preparation of the document. The document gives us a realistic and helpful overview of the current situation and the outlook for the food and agricultural sector of the world. As we are all aware, a tighter supply and high-price situation persists in the current world cereal markets. Cereal stocks are expected to draw down further and to fall below the level of world food security by the end of 1989. Therefore, a substantial increase in cereal output is needed for those stocks to be at adequate levels. We welcome the fact that growing conditions for cereal crops at global level by and large are good so far, and a sizeable recovery is expected for overall cereal output.

We note with satisfaction a substantial increase in Spring grain plantings has been achieved in the northern hemisphere. However, we note that exceptional measures in the major developed countries in the northern hemisphere should be carefully implemented in such a way that the longer-term production adjustment goals should be kept in order to avoid the structural surpluses experienced in past years.

With regard to the developing world, particularly low-income food-deficit countries, high international cereal prices and reduced food aid availabilities are exacerbating the difficulties in meeting requirements for staple food consumption. Since many developing countries have to face balance of payments problems, their capacity to import the required cereals from the world market is limited, in particular when the market is tight. Therefore, we are of the opinion that the governments of the food-deficit developing countries should pay greater attention to increasing production. On the other hand, however, donor countries and International organizations, including FAO, should provide increased technical and financial assistance in order to encourage them to produce more and consequently to enhance their food security levels.

E. Wayne DENNEY (United States of America): To follow the good habit of others I will be much more brief than I would have been, and would like to augment what I will say with a couple of paragraphs in the verbatim texts.

We appreciate the opportunity to comment on the world food situation and in particular on the outlook for food supplies in the United States.

The United States views the global food security situation as somewhat improved at this time, especially given the encouraging food production increases in the developing countries, particularly in many African countries. Obviously, the situation would be better if food stocks were larger and more broadly distributed. Nevertheless, the basic outlook remains favourable. Currently we expect world grain production to rise by 9 percent over last year with coarse grain production outside the United States at the highest level ever. Wheat and oilseed production outside the United States should also be regarded as the highest.

The United States again expects adequate food supplies to meet both domestic and export needs, especially given the record foreign grain production being projected. U.S. crop production in 1989/90 should recover from the depressed levels of 1988/89, although overall supplies are likely to remain tight. Our total grain production in the United States is expected to rise about 44 percent to some 294 million tons. We do not expect wheat production to rebound completely to 1987/88 levels, but coarse grain output could exceed 1987/88 production by 10 percent. Total U.S. grain supplies for the 1989 trade year about to begin are expected to remain unchanged from 1988/89, and stocks are projected to rise only about 4 million tons above the 80 million tons carried over at the end of the 1988/89 trade year. We expect total grain exports for 1989/90 to be 91 million tons, down 13 percent. The outlook for individual crops varies. Our wheat output is forecast to rise 12 percent to 55 million tons in 1989/90, but our total supplies are expected to fall 14 percent to 72.5 million tons. It is important to note, however, that this will still be substantially above projected domestic consumption and exports. Wheat prices are expected to be considerably higher. Availability and price will, of course, vary with the type of wheat. Our winter wheat crop was hurt by poor weather, but we anticipate a good harvest of spring wheat. We forecast U.S. production of coarse grains to rise 56 percent to 234 million tons in 1989/90. Again, supplies will be more than adequate and represent 130 percent of expected domestic use and exports. Ending stocks are expected to increase about 7 million tons from the 62 million tons at the end of 1989/90.

Regarding our U.S. agricultural policies, the United States remains strongly committed to major reforms in international agricultural trade through the Uruguay Round. Our goal for these negotiations is an International Agreement to progressively reduce and eventually eliminate subsidies, trade barriers and other practices that distort agricultural trade. Adoption of these reforms is intended to provide for a more open, flexible and equitable system of International agricultural trade of benefit to all nations that will spur further growth in trade flows worldwide.

Domestically, U.S. agricultural programmes are undergoing fundamental change to increase their market orientation by setting price support levels for major grains that are more in line with market signals. Price support rates have been reduced each year since 1986 for wheat, feed grains and rice. Beginning with 1988 crops, reductions in income supports are also authorized over a three-year period. For the 1988 crops of wheat and feed grains, target prices which determine the level of income support provided to producers were reduced by just over 3 percent. For rice, the reduction was 4 percent. Additional target price reductions have been announced for the 1989 crop.

Over the longer term, as U.S. crop production adjusts better to reflect the market demand, we expect the need for acreage reduction programmes to diminish. However, these programmes continue to be authorized with a level of reduction related to carryover stock levels.

The United States will maintain its strong commitment to providing food assistance. We are continuing to provide substantial food assistance this fiscal year including 5.6 million tons under PL 480 programmes. The Administration has requested \$1.5 billion for these programmes for next fiscal year which should provide commodity shipments near the 1989 level. In addition to food donations under Title II of PL 480, in 1989 we have also donated about 900 000 tons of corn, sorghum and butter under Section 416 authority.

We continue to make food aid available in support of efforts to reform agricultural policies and promote development efforts. PL 480 commodities may be sold for foreign currencies which are then loaned to corporations, cooperatives and individuals to help finance private sector investment in participating developing countries. The Food for Progress programme is now authorized through 1990 and makes commodities available to countries either on a concessional or donation basis in support of sectoral reform in agriculture to promote market pricing of commodities at levels that give farmers adequate incentives, the growth of private sector markets and the timely availability of needed farm inputs.

Finally, like other speakers before us, we were surprised that this agenda item was not the first one before us. Perhaps suggestions made by Colombia for ensuring that this item is the first one, followed by suggestions of Australia and Peru of combining this item with the report on the Committee on World Food Security report have some merit. We would like to hear the Secretariat's view on this proposal.

Gian Paolo PAPA (EEC): Firstly, I would like to compliment the Secretariat for document 95/2 which presents a very clear and detailed picture of the world food situation over the last two years.

While the food situation in many parts of the world remained perilous over the last two years there were some positive developments, such as the 1.2 percent pro capite increase in production in developing countries and the decline over 1988/89 in a number of countries experiencing emergency food situations. These are quite significant developments and in my view far outweigh the importance attached to the global stagnation in food production due largely to the drought in North America and cutbacks in the Community.

Improving the food situation in developing countries in the long term is very dependant on the development of sustainable agricultural production and the 1988/89 experience would suggest that some advances are being made in this area.

Of course food supply in any particular region is not only a function of production but is also very dependant on, among other factors, distribution, food losses and population growth.

Given the infrastructural problems existing in many developing countries improving the food distribution systems will require much assistance from developed countries and is more of a medium to long term objective.

The reduction of food losses on the other hand, which can account for a large percentage of production can be more easily achieved through the provision of aid and technical assistance at local level.

On the question of global cereal production, while it has to be recognized that there has been a substantial reduction in stocks over the last two years, it is somewhat of an exaggeration to suggest that world food security is being threatened. Given that the situation in North America is due largely to climatic factors one should be cautious in suggesting an increase in production lest we revert back to one of surpluses and depressed markets. The long term interest of developing countries is best served by a stable world market which reduces uncertainty and encourages the expansion of indigenous production.

The Community has already made a major contribution towards obtaining this stability through our unilateral reductions in agricultural support and production, and we will maintain our efforts aimed at achieving this objective in the context of the Uruguay Round of multilateral negotiations.

Conscious of the implications of the multilateral negotiations for developing countries, the Community has always maintained that it would be necessary to allow for special and differential treatment for these countries according to their needs.

In this context the Community welcomes the agreement on the liberalisation of trade in tropical products reached at the mid-term review in April, which we will implement it in January. This of course is supplementary to our commitments to developing countries under Lomé and the Generalized System of Preferences.

Finally, I believe the reference to the expected decline in food aid shipments of cereals from the Community and its Member States gives an unreasonably unfavourable impression of the situation. Administrative factors determine the promptness with which the Community's annual food aid programmes are executed and this accounts in part for the fact that shipments vary from year to year. A year in which a large quantity shipped-due to catching up with the execution of arrears of food aid is likely to be followed by one in which the quantity shipped is appreciably smaller. Since the total shipped in 1987/88 was 2 655 420 tonnes. It is probable that the 1988/89 total will be somewhat lower. However it should be noted that shipments for the July-December period of 1988 amounted to over 1.2 m tonnes.

I would like to point out however that the provision in the Community's annual food aid programmes has year on year either remained constant or has increased and that the 1989 programme provides for the supply of the same quantity of cereals as in the 1988 programme 1

1\ Statement inserted in the verbatim records on request.

B.P. DUTIA (Assistant Director-General, Economic and Social Policy Department): On behalf of the Secretariat, I would like to thank the Members of the Council for their reception to this document and their general appreciation of the quality of analysis that is contained therein. Until the last but one speaker asked me a specific question, I was in the happy position to say that I had no questions to answer. But now I will try to reply to the specific question that was raised by the Distinguished Delegate of the United States of America.

As regards the ordering of the items to be taken up for consideration by the Council, it indeed is a matter for decision by the Council itself. As you will recall, the timetable for considering different items that are on the agenda of the Council was approved unanimously by the Council on the first day. That is the way in which we have taken up the items. However, we have noted carefully the views that have been expressed and the suggestions that have been made regarding the consideration of this item in the future, and of course, as always, the Secretariat will pay due attention to all these suggestions.

Paul R. BRYDEN (Australia): If I could just reflect briefly on the last point that Mr. Dutia mentioned as one of the delegations who also raised it, I think part of the problem was that we only got the timetable five minutes before the meeting.

CHAIRMAN: I shall certainly not venture to summarise a debate on such a complicated issue and on such a high quality analytic paper. Just a few points. I think the Council agreed about the high quality of the paper before us, on the data and the validity of the forecasts. Another point which was stressed by a majority, I would say, of speakers is the importance of the Uruguay/GATT Round and the hope we all have for its successful conclusion. The Council agreed also that the actual situation is not an absolutely critical one, but it is a situation which has to be closely observed. The decline of the cereal productions caused prices to soar up and food aid to go down at a time when many countries really needed help very badly. Mr. Dutia has already mentioned the fourth point which was on my list, more of an organizational kind. I think everybody mentioned the ordering of this point or the fitting in of this point in the agenda. As a matter of fact, this is a very valid point, and it will be taken note of. We hope that for the next Council meeting things can be arranged and proposals can be made for the Council to avoid the dismantling of those two items on our agenda: the discussion of the results of the Committee on World Food Security and the Current World Food Situation.

V. CONSTITUTIONAL AND LEGAL MATTERS

V. QUESTIONS CONSTITUTIONNELLES ET JURIDIQUES

V. ASUNTOS CONSTITUCIONALES Y JURIDICOS

20. Other Constitutional and Legal Matters

20. Autres questions constitutionnelles et juridiques

20. Otros asuntos constitucionales y jurídicos

20.1 Invitations to Non-Member Nations to attend FAO Sessions

20.1 Invitations à participer à des réunions de la FAO adressées à des Etats non membres

20.1 Invitaciones a los Estados no miembros para que asistan a reuniones de la FAO

LE SECRETAIRE GENERAL: Le point 20.1. traite des invitations à participer à des réunions de la FAO adressées à des Etats non membres. Il est soumis au Conseil pour information (CL 95/INF/8-Rev.1). Ce document indique dans le détail les sessions auxquelles des Etats non membres ont été invités.

J'ajouterai seulement, comme les membres du Conseil s'en souviendront et comme il est indiqué au paragraphe 3 de ce document, que le Conseil a accepté le lundi 19 juin que l'URSS assiste, en qualité d'Observateur, à sa quatre-vingt-quinzième session actuellement en cours.

Gonzalo BULA-HOYOS (Colombia): El Sr. Alessi explicó muy bien la situación. Una vez más deseamos reiterar la satisfacción de los representantes del Gobierno de Colombia por el interés creciente de la Unión de Repúblicas Socialistas Soviéticas en las actividades de la FAO. La URSS, ahora fortalecida en la comunidad internacional con la Perestroika y la Glasnost, son miembros fundadores de nuestra Organización. Esperamos que cuanto antes puedan ejercer el derecho de asociarse formal y oficialmente a la FAO. Igualmente consideramos importante que la República Democrática Alemana también participe en estas actividades.

Paul R. BRYDEN (Australia): Once again I am very happy to be able to associate my delegation fully with the sentiments of the delegate of Colombia.

Mlle FAOUZIA BOUMAIZA (Algérie): Je crois que tous les délégués s'associent à ce qu'a dit le Représentant de la Colombie. On peut donc mettre un terme au débat en disant que le Conseil reprend ce qui a été dit par le Délégué de la Colombie.

CHAIRMAN: Very good, but I am the head of the Council, and as long as there are speakers I intend to give them the floor. Thank you very much.

Then I suppose that the Council took note of the document before us which is CL 95/INF/8 Rev.1 and that the Council took note of the communication of Mr Alessi. Can we close this point and go on to the next one?

20.2 Changes in Representation of Member Nations on the Programme and Finance Committees

20.2 Modifications de la représentation des Etats Membres au Comité du Programme et au Comité financier

20.2 Cambios en la representación de los Estados Miembros en los Comités del Programa y de Finanzas

LE SECRETAIRE GENERAL: Le point 20.2 s'intitule: Modifications de la représentation des Etats Membres au Comité du Programme et au Comité financier. Il est présenté au Conseil pour information. Le document CL 95/INF/9 indique les modifications intervenues au Comité du Programme (Nigéria) et au Comité financier (Australie et Etats-Unis d'Amérique), depuis novembre dernier.

Gonzalo BULA-HOYOS (Colombia): Proponemos, que como es costumbre, en el Informe se agradezca a aquellos colegas que prestaron sus servicios en los importantes Comités del Programa y de Finanzas y se dé la bienvenida a los nuevos miembros de esos Comités.

CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much for your proposal. If there are any other remarks... No. That does not seem to be the case. Then we have concluded Agenda Item 20.2 as speedily as I expected. Thank you very much.

20.3 Communication from the Government of Spain regarding the Status of the EEC with respect to FAO

20.3 Communication du Gouvernement de l'Espagne concernant le statut de la Communauté économique européenne auprès de la FAO

20.3 Comunicación del Gobierno de España relativa al estatuto de la CEE con respecto a la FAO

LEGAL COUNSEL: Mr Chairman, this item has been placed on the Agenda of this Council session at the request of the Government of Spain in accordance with Article XXV.7 (b) of the General Rules of the Organization.

On 17 May 1989 the Director-General received a letter from the Permanent Representative of Spain to FAO communicating a letter from the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Spain, the country holding the Presidency of the Council of Ministers of the European Communities. The text of the letter is set out in the document before you which is CL 95/19. In his letter the Minister of Foreign Affairs recalls that the EEC has had Observer status with FAO since 1962 but this status has, in the EEC view, proved inadequate to support a fully effective role for the EEC in the Organization in the areas in which it exercises authority on its own account, and indicates that the EEC Council is currently considering the possibility of the Community obtaining a status of Member commensurate with its powers. As this possibility raises a number of questions that need to be answered before any final request can be made to FAO, the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Spain has requested that the matter be placed on the Agenda of the present session of the Council so that the possibility of devising such a status for the Community can be explored with the Commission.

Mr Chairman, the present status of the EEC with the Organization is that of an Observer. This status has been established by an exchange of letters between the President of the Commission of the European Communities and the Director-General in 1962. Observer status means that the EEC has certain rights to attend meetings of the Organization and participate in the discussions of these meetings on the request of the Chairman of the meeting. Normally Observers are required to wait until all Member Nations have spoken before making any statement. In practice however, a rather special and privileged status for the EEC has been developed over the last few years in recognition of the fact that in some subject areas, exclusive competence has been transferred to the Community by its Member States.

Under the special status, the Observer from the EEC is normally allowed to speak on behalf of its Member States during the course of discussions without waiting until all Member Nations have spoken. The practice is for the Member Nation holding the presidency of the Council of Ministers to request that the Observer from the EEC be given the floor to speak on behalf of its members, and unless there is an objection from the floor of the meeting this is normally done. In no case, however, is the EEC accorded the right to vote, this being an attribute of the membership.

The letter from the Foreign Minister of Spain raises the question of possible membership of the EEC in FAO. On this point it is clear that under the FAO Constitution as it presently stands, membership of the Organization is reserved to states only. The EEC would thus not be eligible to apply for membership in the Organization, nor could the Director-General accept any such application unless and until the Constitution and the other Basic Texts of the Organization are amended appropriately. However, such amendments, while complex, would not present insurmountable problems of a legal nature.

In the paper before you Mr Chairman, two possible avenues of approach have been suggested. One would be to refer the matter directly to the next session of the Conference in November for a political decision on the desirability of proceeding further with the question of possible membership. It may however, prove difficult for the Conference to take such a decision without having full information on the possible implications of the membership, the mechanics of such a membership, and the amendments to the Basic Texts that would be required.

With this in mind, the second possible avenue of approach would be for the Council itself to invite the Director-General to explore with the EEC Commission all of the implications of membership with a view to devising suitable proposals for presentation through the Council to the 26th Session of the FAO Conference in 1991 for decision. In any event the Conference will be informed at its 25th Session in November of the approach decided upon by the present Council session. Thank you Mr Chairman.

CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much Mr Moore. For the first speaker on the list I have the distinguished delegate from Spain.

Angel BARBERO MARTIN (España): Señor Presidente, en nombre de la Comunidad Europea le agradezco que haya comunicado a nuestro Consejo la carta que mi Gobierno dirigió al Director General de la FAO y que haya incluido en el orden del día la cuestión que se plantea en dicha carta.

Asimismo, quisiera agradecer a la Secretaría de la FAO la nota CL 95/19, expuesta puntualmente por el señor Moore, en la actualidad, que hace un análisis de la situación ajustado a la realidad a la que se enfrenta la Comunidad en la FAO.

En efecto, confirmo que el tratado constitutivo de la Comunidad Económica Europea traspasó a ésta determinadas competencias que correspondían antes a sus Estados Miembros, de manera que, en esos ámbitos, corresponde a la Comunidad pronunciarse y actuar en su propio nombre.

Habida cuenta de que la Organización de las Naciones Unidas para la Agricultura y la Alimentación actuaba en algunos de esos ámbitos y de que el Acta Constitutiva de la Organización no contemplaba que una Organización Internacional pudiera participar en sus trabajos de la misma manera que los Estados que son miembros de ella, se convino, en 1962, mediante Canje de Notas entre el Presidente de la Comisión de las Comunidades Europeas y el Director General de la Organización, que, de conformidad con el Acta Constitutiva, se podría invitar a la Comisión a que participara, a título de observador, en determinados trabajos de la Organización.

A la vista de la evolución registrada y de la experiencia adquirida desde 1962, se ha comprobado que, en la actual situación, ni la Comunidad ni sus Estados Miembros pueden participar de forma satisfactoria en los trabajos de la Organización en aquellos ámbitos en que los Estados Miembros de la Comunidad han transferido sus competencias a ésta. Además, la Comunidad no puede participar con toda la eficacia posible en las actividades de su Organización en aquellos ámbitos en los que ejerce una competencia propia, en paralelo con sus Estados Miembros. Por estas razones, el Consejo de las Comunidades Europeas estudia en la actualidad la posibilidad de que la Comunidad goce del régimen de Miembro de la FAO que corresponda a sus competencias.

Esta eventualidad plantea algunas cuestiones que convendría aclarar antes de que, llegado el caso, se presente una solicitud formal a la FAO.

Esta es la razón por la que, en calidad de Representante del Estado Miembro que desempeña actualmente la Presidencia del Consejo de las Comunidades Europeas, tengo el honor de solicitar de usted, en nombre de los Estados Miembros, que también son miembros de la FAO y con arreglo al apartado 7 del Artículo XXV del Reglamento General de la Organización, que tenga a bien someter el asunto a los órganos competentes de la FAO, a fin de que puedan ustedes analizar con la Comisión las posibilidades de definir para la Comunidad este régimen. El Consejo decidirá basándose en los resultados de esas conversaciones exploratorias, las iniciativas que deben tomarse.

Observo, Señor Presidente, que la Secretaría de la FAO, en su nota CL 95/19 pregunta al Consejo si desea pronunciarse sobre dos posibles orientaciones. Responderé a su invitación señalando que la Comunidad y sus Estados Miembros consideran que la segunda orientación resulta por completo adecuada. Por ello sería deseable, Señor Presidente, que nuestro Consejo se pronunciara a favor de ésta para permitir que el Director General de la FAO inicie los estudios necesarios.

Gonzalo BOLA HOYOS (Colombia): Señor Presidente, con los representantes de la Comunidad Económica Europea, los delegados de Colombia hemos tenido algunas dificultades.

Muchas veces criticamos con franqueza las lamentables consecuencias de la que entonces llamábamos funesta Política Agrícola Común (PAC); pero todo ello pertenece al pasado. Hoy debemos reconocer que en el campo político y en el campo económico más amplio, la Comunidad Económica Europea viene adelantando una fusión muy importante, cuyos beneficios han comenzado a llegar hasta los países de América Latina y el Caribe. Se han realizado contactos a muy alto nivel con representantes de nuestros Estados y destacamos particularmente la cooperación de la CEE en favor de la recuperación de la paz y del progreso de la martirizada región de Centroamérica.

El gobierno de Colombia esté igualmente muy reconocido a la CEE por las actividades recientes que demuestran el interés de esa importante fuerza económica y política en su asistencia a nuestro país.

Además, en el seno de la CEE, los países latinoamericanos y del Caribe hemos tenido siempre nuestros propios voceros: Francia, Bélgica, Italia, **República** Federal de Alemania, todos, Señor Presidente, situación favorable y, más aún, desde el ingreso de España y Portugal, que son las dos naturales puertas de entrada de los países de América Latina y el Caribe a la Comunidad Económica Europea.

Nos complace que este tema se haya presentado en el año 1989, porque es un año particularmente favorable para la comunicación entre los representantes de Colombia y la Comunidad Económica Europea. El primer semestre de este año ha sido el Presidente de la Comisión de las Comunidades España, querido país, al cual estamos vinculados por gratos vínculos de tradición y amistad. Dentro de tres días, Francia, la gran nación de Francia, asumirá esa posición. Los representantes franceses en todos los organismos internacionales han demostrado siempre mucha comprensión y simpatía por la causa de los países del Tercer Mundo.

El distinguido representante de España hizo una declaración muy interesante y objetiva que señalamos como una contribución valiosa a este debate; sin embargo, permítasenos algunas referencias muy respetuosas a la propia declaración del colega de España, que ya aparece en cierta medida reflejado en el Párrafo 2 del documento, cuando se habla de "Situación insatisfactoria". Lo decimos realmente tal vez, esto lo decimos cordialmente, es algo exagerada esa expresión. Los observadores de la CEE participan tan ampliamente como lo desean en todas nuestras reuniones, e inclusive muchas veces hablan antes de los propios representantes de los gobiernos, y nadie dice nada, por el contrario, todos estamos complacidos porque generalmente esas contribuciones son positivas. Tal vez lo único insatisfactorio, y ojalá se pueda arreglar más adelante, es la carencia de la prerrogativa del voto del que habla el Párrafo 3. En el mismo párrafo se dice algo que no entendemos, ni siquiera en este caso-y en este caso ni siquiera podemos invocar error de traducción porque la carta está escrita en la magnífica lengua castellana de nuestra Madre Patria-. Dice textualmente el Párrafo 3: "ni la Comunidad ni sus Estados Miembros pueden participar de forma satisfactoria en los trabajos de la Organización".

Los representantes de Colombia compartimos gratísimamente nuestra participación con todos los representantes de gobiernos miembros de la CEE y encontramos muy satisfactorio y, generalmente, constructivas sus actuaciones. Pensamos que este primer paso de la CEE hacia su calidad de miembro de la Organización como Estado, es muy importante y deberíamos facilitar, dentro de ciertos parámetros razonables, todos los trámites que puedan conducir a una solución satisfactoria.

El problema jurídico que plantea el Párrafo A del documento, opinamos que podría obviarse. En efecto ese párrafo concluye afirmando que: "no se plantearían problemas insolubles de carácter jurídico". Esperamos que la CEE-el colega de España entendemos que no lo dijo muy claramente-será un Estado más y no sustituirá a los 12 respetables países que la integran.

La contribución, habrá tiempo de considerarla, pero, en fin, como idea, como ejemplo, se nos ocurre podría ser como la suma de las contribuciones más altas de los tres países de la Comunidad Económica, más la última en nivel de contribución. Esto podría ser para un tema de discusión.

Para concluir algunas preguntas al colega de España Observador de la CEE. ¿Será la FAO la única agencia de Naciones Unidas en la cual la CEE sería miembro como Estado? En caso afirmativo ¿Por qué razones? ¿Cuál sería la posición de la CEE como Estado frente al Programa Mundial de Alimentos que es copatrocinado por Naciones Unidas y FAO y en el cual, en el PMA, la CEE es uno de los mayores donantes?

Sobre los dos apartados del Párrafo 5 concordamos perfectamente con el colega español en el sentido de que convendría disponer de tiempo para que se analicen todos los aspectos pendientes y una posible decisión definitiva se tome en la Conferencia de 1991. Una última pregunta, Señor Presidente, si como lo esperamos, la CEE será nuevo miembro de la FAO, ¿en que grupo regional se ubicará la CEE? ¿En la OCDE, en el Grupo de Camberley o en el Grupo de los 77?

CHAIRMAN: Your questions are noted; we shall come back to that. Just let me say that you have once again confirmed that your mind is sharp and analytical, and that your rhetoric qualities are unbeatable.

Masayuki KOMATSU (Japan): My delegation has listened carefully to the explanations made by Mr Moore, and also the comment made by the delegate from Spain. We have also reviewed with significant interest the document before us, "Communication from the Government of Spain Regarding the Status of the EEC with Respect to FAO".

Needless to say, for my country of Japan both FAO and the EEC have been of vital importance in the field of international cooperation and the economic relationship of various aspects. We recognize the significant contributions made to Member Countries by the EEC and indirectly by the Member States of EEC to the development of agriculture, forestry and fisheries in the areas where they are needed.

At the occasion of the meeting for discussion of the draft agreement on the establishment of the Indian Ocean tuna management body, we were fully aware of the problems involving the legal status of the EEC will; respect to its full membership in the FAO. We were informed by the EEC that the EEC is the exclusive authority to manage the fishing activity on behalf of the member nations. However, since the EEC is an Observer of FAO, the current legal framework of the FAO will not allow the EEC to participate as a full Member. We know in that sense the FAO cannot allow the EEC to participate in any FAO body, as stipulated in the FAO Constitution, if the Constitution remains as it is in its current form.

Our delegation is not in a position at this stage to immediately agree that this problem should be solved by accepting that the EEC becomes a full Member of the FAO, because the matter is so grave and very complicated. As the Legal Counsel and the delegate of Spain made clear, the EEC has several or more areas of competence and authority where Member Nations are not given any authoritative powers. Also, some are areas where both the EEC and Member Nations have authoritative competence according to their respective authorities. Therefore, we have to know exactly and with specific names of areas which ones are under the EEC's competence and which areas belong to the domain of Member States, and which areas may lie between those two.

Questions remain in immense areas with significant and grave implications. Perhaps we cannot simply say let us change the FAO Constitution to allow the EEC to become a full Member of the FAO, because of reasons such as mentioned above.

In addition, we have to pay attention to how it will or will not affect the voting rights and other factors, including possible participation by intergovernmental organizations other than the EEC.

On the other hand, the problem will also be grave if the current situation remains as it is and does not accommodate full participation, if not full membership, of the EEC in the FAO intergovernmental activities, such as I have mentioned in the case of the Indian Ocean Tuna Agreement, because the effectiveness of the body would be damaged.

Having said that, I do not think that I have exhausted all concerns and questions as the matter is so complicated and its implications are so immense. Japan has the advantage of being familiar with this issue since we participated in the draft agreement meeting of the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission. However, this issue will definitely influence the areas of agriculture, forestry and fisheries. As it is clearly recognized, today is the first time we have discussed this important agenda item. The Japanese delegation believes that after discussion here we should consult with our governments. The Japanese delegation recommends that at this time we do not take any action that could be premature, and that we do not take the decision as described in document CL 95/19, paragraph 5.

Paul R. BRYDEN (Australia): May I commence briefly by saying that once again I am very pleased to be able to associate myself with at least one of the remarks of the delegate from Colombia, and that is that the Camberley group might get an extra vote. I am sure that several Members of our Council would probably support that.

Regarding the desire of the EEC to have membership additional to its Member Countries, we note that this arrangement seems to work well in other cases such as the OECD. We should point out that while the EEC participates actively in the OECD it is not a member, it is not required to contribute to the budget and does not participate in decision making. Similarly in the Common Fund context the EEC could participate actively, in this case as a member, but would not be entitled to vote or participate in decision making. In these examples the EEC may participate, but within clear guidelines which restrict its "membership" status and we would have no objections to such an approach.

We note that the communication from the Government of Spain canvasses the possibility of the Community gaining a status of member "commensurate with its powers".

Australia has no objection in principle to the EEC becoming party to a treaty as long as the conditions of EEC accession satisfy three criteria:

Firstly, the EEC should not have a vote additional to the votes of its member states.

Secondly, if the EEC does not have full competence in the subject matter of the treaty, then the EEC and its member states should be required to specify their relative competences.

Thirdly, if the EEC does not have full competence, then it should be eligible to become a party to the treaty only if all member states are also parties.

The first of these criteria means that the EEC, although represented on the Conference of the Organization as defined under Article III, should have no vote of its own. However, we would have no objection to its being able to exercise the votes of its member states.

The second criterion reflects our requirement that in the case of any breach of a treaty by an EEC member, it should be clear from whom an aggrieved party may seek redress. In a treaty such as the FAO Constitution, this is unlikely to be of great importance, but in some treaties it is an important consideration, and it would be preferable to avoid setting an undesirable precedent. However, it may well be that EEC has full competence in the area covered by the FAO Constitution, so that it is answerable for the actions of its member states in relation to the Constitution.

The third criterion is not an issue here, because all the EEC states are parties to the FAO treaty.

At present the FAO Constitution provides for Membership and Associate Membership (Article II). Membership is open to any "nation" on the approval of a two-thirds majority of the Conference. Associate Membership is open to a territory "not responsible for the conduct of its international relations" provided that the authority having that responsibility accepts the obligations of the Constitution on the Associate Member's behalf. The terms "Member Nation" and "Associate Member" are used throughout the Constitution.

It is clear that the EEC does not qualify for either category. However, Article XX provides that the Conference may amend the Constitution by a two thirds majority and that such an amendment will enter into force immediately for all members if it does not involve new obligations for members. Thus it would be straightforward for the Conference to amend the Constitution to admit the EEC. It would be preferable to assimilate its membership to one of the two existing categories, as otherwise consequential changes would be required throughout the Constitution. Since the EEC should not have a vote, the appropriate category would be that of Associate Member.

If it is decided to provide for EEC Associate Membership of the FAO, we would expect that this could be done by adding to Article II a paragraph along the following lines:

"3A The Conference may, under the same conditions regarding the required majority and quorum as prescribed in paragraph 2 above, decide to admit as an Associate Member of the Organization any intergovernmental organization of regional economic integration which exercises competence in fields of activity of the Organization. A reference in this Constitution and the Rules and Regulations of the Organization to the Member Nation or authority having responsibility for the international relations of an Associate Member shall, in the case of an international organization, be taken to be a reference to the competent organ of that international organization".

With regard to the proposed lines of action in paragraph 5a and 5b, my delegation would prefer to see action along the lines of paragraph 5b, namely, inviting the Director-General "to explore with the EEC..." but could we suggest that there be some more precision as to just which Council this process will report to-and could I suggest that, if this were to be proposed by our Council, we should make it whichever is the Session in November 1990, because otherwise we could be in a situation where it could be the Council immediately preceding the Twenty-sixth Session.

May I also suggest that the organs of the FAO which would normally deal with financial and legal matters should receive progress reports on the discussions taking place with the EEC, in order to ensure that the full membership is aware of developments.

Ilja HULIHSKY (Czechoslovakia): I would like to make two brief comments on Item 20.3 of our agenda. But before doing so I have to refer also very briefly to another question.

In the provisional verbatim record of the Council's seventh plenary meeting (document CL/PV/7, page 5) one may read in the record of the Czechoslovak delegation's statement a sentence that goes as follows: "...we would suggest to coordinate more effectively the European activities of FAO with those of EEC in the field of agriculture and nutrition". What I had been really suggesting was the coordination of FAO's activities with those of ECE (UN Economic Commission for Europe), not with the EEC, the European Economic Community. I have to ask for correction to be made in the official verbatim record.

I have to disappoint my colleague, Mr. Papa, the distinguished Observer of the EEC to FAO, also on another point. I am now turning back to my intervention on Item 20.3 of our agenda:

Firstly, I regret to say that the Czechoslovak delegation cannot and will not support the potential request of granting to any-I repeat, any-international organization the status of a FAO member. Such a request is incompatible with the very philosophy of the contemporary law of international organizations which has been inter alia based on the premise that only sovereign states represented by their government can become members of the family of UN organizations. To use the words of the document CL 95/19: "...only states are eligible to apply for membership in the Organization". "Only states", not groupings of states. Indeed, to oblige to such a request, the FAO would create a precedent capable of undermining the very fabric of the whole present UN system.

Secondly, as for the document 95/19, it is my understanding that the Council is only requested to decide on procedural steps at this stage, inter alia to refer the request contained in that document to the next session of the Conference. While suggesting that if we decide we are going to engage the FAO in a debate that could turn to be a waste of time, my delegation may be flexible. If the Council wishes to decide so, the Czechoslovak delegation will not obstruct the reaching of consensus on that particular request, with the understanding that should the Council take a vote on paragraph 5(a) of document CL 95/19, my delegation would abstain. However as far as paragraph 5(b) is concerned, I am obliged to put in the record that my delegation shares the view of those who cannot support it. Any decision in this respect would require engagement by the FAO in the process of revision of the FAO's Constitution and would, to put it mildly, be premature at this stage, before waiting the outcome of the Twenty-fifth General Conference of FAO.

Istávn DOBOCZKY (Hnngary): In my opinion, the EEC is not a simple organization. It leads its own real life in the field of policies and culture and economic, beside its member states. That is a fact and practice-even more, it is a fact from 1992.

It is in the interests of all of us to have the EEC as a unity among us, with a full official aspect. The legal problems do exist, and are very sophisticated, but hopefully they can be solved.

For this reason, I propose that the paragraph 5(b) variation given by the Secretariat be accepted.

Joao Augusto DE MEDICIS (Brazil): At this stage, my delegation will not deal with the substantive nature of the request presented by the EEC, and for the sake of brevity, may I support the procedural section of the statement just made by the distinguished representative of Australia, and accept alternative (b) of the proposal by the Secretariat, with the qualification and additions indicated by Australia.

CHAIRMAN: After consultation with the Secretariat, I venture to state that we have a number of delegations who have spoken indicating that they can accept the solution proposed for the time being under paragraph 5(b) of document CL 95/19. I would like to put before the Council this question for decision—does the Council feel itself to be in a position to accept this proposal? In the case that a majority accepts it we can conclude our debate for the time being, in which case the Secretariat will have a clear-cut mandate. Delegations who are not able to agree, for them I would propose a footnote to this part of our report, recording their vote.

H ja HULINSKY (Czechoslovakia): With all due respect to Council, may I put one question very briefly. My delegation does not question the motives and intentions of the Representative of the EEC. What I am questioning is the possible consequence of the request for EEC membership in FAO. I will go even further and state that I can sympathize with my EEC colleagues' efforts to overcome their problems. At least I am doing my best to understand those problems, but I am of the opinion that they could find other ways of solving them, without creating an unacceptable precedent for the whole system of UN organizations.

Turning to sub-paragraph (b) of paragraph 5, I said quite clearly that we are not in a position to support it. How can you expect the delegation of Czechoslovakia to support such a wording, that the Director-General would be invited "to explore with the EEC the full financial, legal and other implications for the Organization, of membership in the Organization of a regional organization such as the EEC, with a view to presenting suitable proposals...", etc. You are giving here mandate to the Director-General and to the EEC to discuss all of this. I am not suggesting for example that COMECON is also ready to apply for membership, but you are giving the Director-General a mandate to discuss all of this with EEC i.e. about other regional organizations without their presence.

I have said my delegation will have no problem with consensus if we should refer the question for discussion in General Conference. We are not against the objective as a democratic discussion so that all views can be presented, but not with the precondition that someone will prepare that discussion with the EEC.

CHAIRMAN: You have made your point clear and it is taken note of.

Masayuki KOMATSU (Japan): As I mentioned before, this huge matter involves both the EEC and international organizations such as FAO. We do not know how much and to what extent problems exist with us, although we all recognize there is a tremendous problem here. In that sense we wish to give further careful consideration as to how we as a government can respond to any course of action even of the kind suggested in paragraphs (a) and (b) of paragraph 5. We do not know what is meant exactly by it considering the grave consequences for the future. At this stage of considering such a grave matter I do not see any reason for putting in something which makes us take a certain position even if it is just a course of action. I repeat that today we are just listening so that we can take this information back to our own governments for consideration. Maybe the delegate of Spain would like to raise this matter in the next Council. Maybe he would ask that Council to discuss the same agenda item. As this matter is too grave and important, I do not think we are in a position to respond to the course of action.

Paul R. BRYDEN (Australia): As I indicated in my intervention, I made the suggestion that there needed to be more precision in paragraph 5(b) regarding the Council, the Legal Committee and the Finance Committee, etc., so before I can agree to a procedure on the lines of paragraph 5(b) I would like to see that in, and the delegate of Brazil associated himself with that view.

I have listened very carefully to the delegates of Japan and Czechoslovakia and reflected that in my own statement I made it clear we could support associate membership. I now realize that in paragraph 5(b) it says "membership" and I wonder whether, without getting into a Drafting Committee here, which I shall be in in about ten minutes, the Director-General should be not only exploring with the EEC the full financial, legal and other implications for the Organization, but also exploring options for forms of membership commensurate with the status of the EEC. That way it does not prejudge something we have not yet thought of. I offer that as a suggestion.

Earl W. WEYBRECHT (Canada): I would just like to note that the documentation we have before us, including the communication from the Government of Spain, was circulated to members during the course of this Council session. Consequently, we are not in a position to give any definitive views on this matter. However, we believe that the delegate of Australia has raised a number of relevant points that should be given careful consideration under this item.

Rudolf de POURTALES (Suisse): Comme la délégation du Canada, ma délégation n'a pas eu le temps de recevoir les instructions de sa capitale et ne peut pas se prononcer sur ce document à cet instant.

Joseph TCHICAYA (Congo): A l'image de ceux qui m'ont précédé, je dois dire que je n'ai pas d'instructions précises sur cette question, malgré bien entendu les bons rapports qui existent entre la CEE et mon pays.

Mais je voudrais toutefois indiquer que, pour notre part, nous pourrions accepter la proposition b), mais je comprends également les objections qui sont faites ici et là et je me demande si, pour essayer de clarifier les choses, il ne serait pas possible que nous adoptions la position 5 a) de saisir la Conférence sur cette question, afin que la Conférence puisse dégager un certain nombre d'orientations pour amener le Directeur général à engager des contacts avec la CEE.

Nous pensons qu'il est bon que tous les Etats Membres puissent être saisis de cette question, avant qu'elle ne puisse aller de l'avant. Si nous devons déjà donner un mandat et s'il y a des oppositions catégoriques, comme il semble s'en dessiner ici, je me demande s'il n'est pas plus utile de proposer cette question mais qu'entre temps certaines dispositions soient prises pour avoir le maximum d'éléments possible à mettre à la disposition de la Conférence, pour lui permettre de donner des orientations plus claires sur cette question.

CHAIRMAN: Thank you for your constructive proposal.

C. Srinivasa SASTRY (India): Before we make our intervention may I enquire whether you intend to extend the session after 7 o'clock, Mr Chairman, and if so, for how long?

CHAIRMAN: The delegate of India has asked a relevant question. As a matter of fact I expect advice any minute from the interpreters. The Chairman of the Drafting Committee is looking in my direction as well, but I have two other speakers on my list. I would like to conclude our discussion so that we can think about the matter until tomorrow morning and come back tomorrow to a speedy conclusion of our debate on this item. That is my intention.

C. Srinivasa SASTRY (India): As we see in the document before us the operative paragraphs are 3 and A in the letter dated 26 April from the Government of Spain addressed to the Director-General. The really operational sentences in paragraph 3 are the last two, which make it clear that we have not considering a request from the EEC for membership. What is being sought to be elicited from this letter is an exploratory exercise, on the outcome of which eventually the question of membership may arise.

As has been mentioned earlier by some delegates, this particular proposal has implications not only for FAO but for the United Nations system as a whole, considering that the EEC is an important regional organization in the world setting. In this context we would have liked to get a definitive direction from our Government before we opt for either alternative (a) or (b) of paragraph 5.

Having said that, may I venture to suggest that in our opinion the Director-General does not require a mandate from the Council to conduct any dialogue with the EEC on the lines suggested in paragraph 5(b).

We would therefore respectfully submit that without the Council committing itself to any of the two alternatives posed in paragraph 5, either (a) or (b), the matter could be left hanging so that the Director-General could conduct any dialogue which he deems fit. Then, at an appropriate stage, he brings this matter before the appropriate decision making bodies, depending on the decision taken by the EEC, whether to formally apply for membership, associate membership, and if so, with what commitments and responsibilities.

Gonzalo BULA HOYOS (Colombia): Nosotros respetamos mucho su competencia y desde luego estamos en sus manos, pero pensamos que la prolongación de este tema para mañana podría quebrantar los esfuerzos que venimos haciendo para avanzar en nuestros trabajos. Por ello, deseamos hacer una propuesta concreta y específica en dos puntos:

Primero. En el Informe constarán las opiniones en el texto del Informe y no al pie de página. Las opiniones de aquellos colegas que como Checoslovaquia, Japón, Australia y otros han expresado consideraciones de gran respetabilidad.

Segundo. El Consejo se pronuncia en favor de la alternativa 5b, pero modificada, precisada y revisada, sobre todo a la luz de las observaciones muy pertinentes del colega de Australia.

Si el Consejo estuviera de acuerdo a ese respecto, con base en estas dos consideraciones el asunto pasaría al Comité de Redacción. Tenemos aquí con nosotros en el sitio de Finlandia al Sr. Halinen, quien es el Presidente de ese Comité, Australia es miembro del Comité de Redacción, Francia dentro de tres días representante del Presidente del Consejo de la CEE, es miembro del Comité de Redacción y así podríamos después el viernes en el Proyecto de Informe tratar de llegar a un acuerdo satisfactorio.

Espero que esto nos permita terminar hoy este tema. Prolongarlo mañana nos haría que la noche, seguramente haga venir a nuestras mentes más ideas y más inquietudes, y quién sabe cuándo terminaríamos este tema.

CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much, delegate of Colombia. This possibility you mentioned always exists. I recognize it.

István DOBOCZKY (Hungary): Listening to the debate, I should like to modify my original proposal. Frankly, I do not see why we should not discuss this question, for example, at the next Council meeting. That is the reason why I would propose that 5(b) would be altered so that the Director-General explore with the EEC their full financial, legal and other implications, and refer this matter to the November Council.

Hannu HALINEN (Chairman. Drafting Committee): As Chairman of the Drafting Committee, I would like to point out that at the Drafting Committee we are trying to reflect the views from the Plenary, from the discussion, from the documentation, as well as we can. That would include, of course, the remarks made here, including the remark from Colombia, among others. But we would hesitate to try to create new views or positions in the Drafting Committee. I do not see that as our job.

CHAIRMAN: Distinguished delegates, we must come to a conclusion. The Drafting Committee has to start its work, which will certainly be quite difficult and lengthy, so to help the colleagues, I would try to come to a conclusion proposing that we might maybe as quickly as possible think about the proposal of the distinguished delegate of Colombia. That would mean that we draft a report from this discussion which takes full note of all the points of view brought forward in our discussion, and we try, maybe outside the Drafting Group-as far as that is concerned, I really agree with the Chairman of the Drafting Group; we should not ask for there to be extra work from the colleagues which we would have to perform anyhow in the Plenary of the Council-we should try to find a formula for proposal 5(b) which takes note of the main thrust of our discussion. Would that be acceptable?

Ilja HULINSKY (Czechoslovakia): I would go along with that suggestion although I would prefer the suggestion made by the Distinguished Delegate of India. It has the best outcome in my opinion. But let us say that I am giving the matter to those who will reflect on it that we modify 5(b), to say to invite the Director-General to explore not with the EEC, but with all the member states. I think it may be one way of thinking how to get out of it. This is my contribution to the discussions of the Drafting Group.

Gonzalo BULA HOTOS (Colombia): No sé si en esta ocasión falló la traducción del castellano que yo hablo, aunque algunos colegas me dicen que hablo muy bien mi propio idioma. Yo no estaba proponiendo nada nuevo ni ninguna carga adicional para el Comité de Redacción. Son hechos procedimentales acostumbrados. La primera parte de mi propuesta, reflejar en el Informe las opiniones de

Checoslovaquia, Japón y Australia, eso corresponde siempre a la Secretaría: prepara el texto y lo manda al Comité de Redacción. La segunda parte de mi propuesta está en las actas, está además en el propio Comité de Redacción el colega de Australia, de manera que no creo que esto represente nada difícil ni imposible para el Comité de Redacción, pero desde luego, si por ejemplo Australia y España deciden ponerse de acuerdo para facilitar la tarea del Comité de Redacción, bienvenida esa solución. Pero no estamos inventando nada nuevo, estamos tratando de facilitar la conclusión de un tema para que podamos todos quedar relativamente satisfechos.

CHAIRMAN: Thank you for your clarification. The last part of your proposal, that a few of us should come together and maybe help the Drafting Committee through with the help of the Secretariat, was exactly what I meant.

Roberto E. DALTON (Argentina): Mi delegación, que como algunas otras en este Consejo carece de instrucciones precisas, había pensado en un principio si emergía un rápido consenso, abstenerse de señalar esta circunstancia, por cuanto mi país tiene especialmente buenas relaciones con la Comunidad. Ante el hecho de que el debate, lamentablemente, no nos ha llevado a un rápido consenso, mi delegación pide que quede en actas que no tiene instrucciones en esta etapa.

CHAIRMAN: That will be taken care of, Delegate of Argentina.

Mohammad Saleem KHAN (Pakistan): My delegation also, of course, has no instructions on this. We are just trying to help out of this and keep the various viewpoints which have been expressed here. We have a suggestion to make, which is to alter paragraph (b) and say that the Council, after having considered the proposal, decided to request the Director-General to examine fully the financial, legal and other implications for the organization of membership in the Organization of a regional Organization such as the EEC, and submit his report to the 98th Session of the Council. So in this case, while we are not prejudging anything and the Director-General examines the full implications, and then by the 98th Council, by that time probably the EEC would have finally decided whether they are seeking membership or not. We are just talking about an examination rather than an exploration. I do not know whether that would help.

Paul R. BRYDEN (Australia): My Pakistani colleague beat me to the punch, actually, because that seemed so glaringly obvious when we started talking about it here. If you remove the reference to the EEC being involved in the exploration, then it is a thing that the Secretariat is doing on behalf of the membership, not involving the EEC. Then I think if we include those references to the Finance Committee, the CCLM and the Council so that the full membership receive progressive reports as to how things are going, if we also mention options for participation, commensurate status, to remove the concept that membership has already been granted, I think we might be getting somewhere that we could work on in the Drafting Committee.

CHAIRMAN: That seems to be a very constructive proposal. The meeting is called to order. I have a proposal to make. Considering the very constructive ideas and proposals of the delegates from Colombia, Pakistan and Australia, I would like to ask the Legal Counsel to summarize, not a draft for the report, but to summarize that part which would practically come to a revision of 5 (b) of document CL 95/19, and we would put that before the Council tomorrow morning first thing. Then everybody would have, as it is a complicated matter, the text in writing on the table. Maybe that would facilitate a decision how to proceed, and it would also certainly facilitate the work of the Drafting Group. May I repeat, that would mean that we instruct the Drafting Group to reflect our discussion fully, not with footnotes, which would have everything that has been said in the full text of the report. That is one thing.

The second point would be that we decide on a mandate for the Secretariat to carry on, and this mandate is formulated by the Legal Counsel as a proposal, and would be before us for our decision tomorrow morning. That is my proposal. Is that accepted?

Maeayuki KOMATSU (Japan): I have to apologize that I have again taken the floor. I have no intention to disturb this constructive proposal from you Mr Chairman, but rather than coming to express our delegation's opinion first thing tomorrow, I think that to express it now would be much more constructive myself. That is why I would like to make this comment because, to be honest, with respect to both proposals (a) and (b), our delegation does not know the significance or the exact meaning itself, particularly paragraph 5(b), because we do not know whether the EEC or other intergovernmental organizations may just come to this Organization or may be going to other UN organizations, and in that sense (although this is our first thought) whether this kind of legal analysis should be taken by the FAO or not. This is just an immediate thought, but the point is that we think that we need to ponder what is the meaning of any course of action, particularly the meaning of paragraph (b). Also again, I would like to repeat my comments which I made before on this important matter, how come we have to take action like now. That is my point, since this is a very important matter. So we need the time to respond even though it is just the course of the action. That is my comment.

CHAIRMAN: Action has to be taken in one or the other way because this item is on our agenda. We have to deliberate on that one way or the other. ' As far as paragraph 5(b) is concerned, I would ask you kindly to at least give the revised paragraph 5(b) a chance, like a majority in the Council seems to be inclined. I would not like to reopen the discussion; we really do not have the time to do that right now. I would prefer to stick to my proposal: reflect on the discussion in the report and to have a paragraph 5(b) tomorrow morning before us, and take the decision on the agenda item tomorrow morning one way or the other. Is that acceptable?

C. Srinivasa SASTRY (India): Before you take that view Mr Chairman, while apologizing for taking the floor for a second time, may I request the Legal Counsel to clarify one factual point. Under General Rule XXV.7 (b), a subject will come before the Council only if a letter reaches the Director-General not less than 30 days before the proposed date of any session. This session was starting on the 19 June, and the letter according to this document reached the Director-General on the 17th of May but was confirmed on the 2nd of June. Legally, which is the effective date of receipt: is it the 17th of May, or the 2nd of June?

LEGAL COUNSEL: I can confirm that the letter was received on the 17th of May. It was sent in the form of a telefax which was attached to a letter from the Permanent Representative of Spain. We requested a copy of the original letter from the Minister of Foreign Affairs in Spain and that was received on the 2nd of June. We considered that the first letter although in the form of a telefax was a valid request.

Ilja HDLINSKY (Czechoslovakia): Mr Chairman, I may go along with the second part of your suggestion that tomorrow morning we will have the text of that which we should decide on, but I have certain doubts about the reflection in the report of our debate. It will be disproportional. I understand that our main interest to have in the report would be the programme of the Organization, budget, etc., etc. If we have to reflect on everything that has been said here then I have some doubts how to do it. I think it will be disproportional to the main consent of us in the report. Therefore by going with your suggestion tomorrow morning-the morning is always brighter than the evening-I have my doubts about the second part, and to be sincere, I would not like in the end to be in the shoes of the Chairman of the Drafting Committee!

CHAIRMAN: A report normally-at least to my understanding-should always reflect proportionately what has been said. This seems to be-at least the outcome of our discussion-a confirmation for that very delicate point which arouses a lot of interest. So if we report faithfully on that interest, no report can be disproportional. That is at least my reading of the situation.

Hannu HALINEN (Chairman, Drafting committee): I am happy to confirm here that of course this is perfectly clear as a mandate to the Drafting Committee to reflect appropriately the discussion as a part of the whole report. This we would gladly do, so there is no problem with that.

CHAIRMAN: So I take it that we agree. I would like to close the session. We have not reached a final decision on item 20.3 of our agenda. This point is adjourned until tomorrow in the hope that we are wiser tomorrow as the honourable delegate from Czechoslovakia indicated. Thank you very much for your patience.

Meeting rose at 19.45 hours

La séance est levée à 19 h 45

Se levanta la sesión a las 19.45 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 95/PV/17

Ninety-fifth Session

Quatre-vingt-quinzième session

95º período de sesiones

SEVENTEENTH PLENARY MEETING
DIX-SEPTIEME SEANCE PLENIERE
17ª SESION PLENARIA
(29 June 1989)

The Seventeenth Plenary Meeting was opened at 9.45 hours Gerhard Lieber, Vice-chairman of the Council, presiding

La dix-septième séance plénière est ouverte à 9 h 45 sous la présidence de Gerhard Lieber, Vice-Président du Conseil

Se abre la 17 Sesión Plenaria a las 9.45 horas bajo la presidencia de Gerhard Lieber, Vicepresidente del Consejo

- V. CONSTITUTIONAL AND LEGAL MATTERS (continued)
- V. QUESTIONS CONSTITUTIONNELLES ET JURIDIQUES (suite)
- V. ASUNTOS CONSTITUCIONALES Y JURIDICOS (continuación)
- 20. Other Constitutional and Legal Matters (continued)
- 20. Autres questions constitutionnelles et juridiques (suite)
- 20. Otros asuntos constitucionales y jurídicos (continuación)
- 20.3 Communication from the Government of Spain regarding the Status of the EEC with respect to FAO (continued)
- 20.3 Communication du Gouvernement de l'Espagne concernant le statut de la Communauté économique européenne auprès de la FAO (suite)
- 20.3 Comunicación del Gobierno de España relativa al estatuto de la CEE con respecto a la FAO (continuación)

CHAIRMAN: Good morning. I hope you have all had a good rest because as the delegate of Czechoslovakia said, we are always wiser in the morning than at night. I hope all delegations have the new text on paragraph 5 contained in document CL 95/LIM/2 which is printed in English, French and Spanish. I hope you have all had time to go through it. It is a very short text in which we have done our best to reflect the results of Council's consideration last night. Are there any general comments on that text?

Ilja HULINSKY (Czechoslovakia): I will come directly to the point. The first thing that came to my mind when reading the text prepared by the Legal Counsel was that the text is concerned with the status of the EEC. The text says "...organization such as the EEC that would be commensurate with its status...". My delegation is concerned with the constitution of FAO. Therefore, why not replace the two words "its status" with another three words "this FAO constitution"?

LEGAL COUNSEL: I would like to point out that, of course, there will be implications of a constitutional nature that will arise during the exploration of the options. I was wondering whether it might not be appropriate to reflect this in the second part of the sentence and to say "as well as the full financial, constitutional, legal and other implications for the Organization". This may perhaps take into account the point made by the delegate of Czechoslovakia.

CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Legal Counsel. May I ask the Delegate of Czechoslovakia, is he satisfied with that proposal?

Ilja HULINSKY (Czechoslovakia): Well, to be frank, to say "satisfied" I would go too far. But if other members of the Council are not against such a possibility, I may go along, but I will register my position after all of the debate.

Angel BARBERO MARTIN (España): Muchas gracias, señor Presidente, por darme de nuevo la palabra, después de mi intervención de ayer, que creo que desencadenó una serie de declaraciones interesantísimas, y yo estoy por asegurar que para los miembros de la Comunidad que estamos en este Consejo fueron altamente enriquecedoras. Por eso creo que el texto que se nos ha presentado por la Secretaría recoge fielmente los deseos y las propuestas que se hicieron en su momento.

Nosotros-y sigo hablando en nombre de la Comunidad, especialmente en el de los seis miembros del Consejo que pertenecen a ella-creemos que el nuevo texto recoge, como digo, estas propuestas, quizás satisfice las inquietudes que expresaron muchos de los delegados; inquietudes, por otro lado muy legítimas, porque nosotros reconocemos que la cuestión tiene unos aspectos jurídicos, constitucionales, etcétera, muy difíciles. Por ello nos gustaría también aclarar algunas cuestiones, pues ayer tuvimos la sensación de que muchas delegaciones habían contemplado este texto con una visión quizás mas complicada de lo que en realidad entendemos nosotros que posee. Lo que nuestra Delegación, en nombre de la Comunidad, había propuesto es muy sencillo; tan sencillo como que otras delegaciones expresaron su deseo de consultar a sus gobiernos, puesto que entendían que las implicaciones, como acabo de decir, pueden ser tan numerosas y tan importantes.

Esa es nuestra situación. Entendemos que esto tiene unas repercusiones tan importantes, tan profundas, que necesitamos tiempo, y queremos dar tiempo, tanto a la FAO como a nosotros mismos, para encontrar, recoger, analizar y, como dice el texto, "explorar" todas estas implicaciones; es decir, recoger todos los datos posibles que nos puedan llevar después a proponer decisiones mucho mejor basadas y que a la FAO la puedan también guiar y darle luz a la hora de escucharnos y, a su vez, de proponer a todas las delegaciones que componen no solo el Consejo, sino la Conferencia, una cuestión perfectamente estudiada, en la que todos los puntos se esclarezcan al máximo posible y en la que-todos-podamos entonces adoptar las acciones políticas que entendamos son las pertinentes.

No es más que eso, tan simple como eso: darnos tiempo a todos para estudiar este tema y poder tomar después otras decisiones. Yo quisiera llevar al ánimo de todos el que esta propuesta que se hace al Director General no tiene implicaciones políticas previas. Dos equipos de técnicos, de expertos legales y constitucionales de ambas partes, van a estudiar este asunto y van a proporcionar después el máximo de datos posible para tomar esas decisiones. No es nada más que eso.

Por otro lado, creo que el texto lo podemos aceptar. Esta enmienda propuesta por el Sr. Moore, de añadir, como he querido entender, entre las repercusiones financieras y jurídicas, las constitucionales, la aceptamos también, puesto que completa el amplio abanico de las repercusiones. Unidamente en el texto inglés, si me permite, señor Presidente, querría hacer una pequeña indicación, exclusivamente gramatical, y es que cuando dice "for a form of membership in FAO", quizás-y esto los delegados de habla inglesa lo sabrán mejor que yo-podríamos sustituir "in" por "of".

C. Srinivasa SASTRY (India): We have three points to make, one substantive and two of a minor drafting nature. To deal with the substantive point first, in the letter dated 26 April 1989, the word "status" in relation to the EEC appears twice. On both occasions it relates to the status of the EEC in relation to FAO, not the status of the EEC as an Organization. Similarly, if you go to the agenda note at the end of the document placed before us, all the times that the word "status" is used-it is used twice-on all the occasions it is used in relation to the status of the EEC vis-à-vis FAO. In this context, we would think that requesting the Director-General "to explore a form of membership of the FAO of a Regional Organization like the EEC that would be commensurate with the status of the Organization outside the FAO" may not be quite appropriate. Keeping that in view, we would suggest that the second point in this Resolution should not, in our view, be related to an individual regional organization, but could be applicable to a wider number of regional organizations which are now emerging all over the world. Keeping that in view, we would suggest including the two verbal corrections we would like to suggest. Drafting suggestions are: one, we would prefer 5(b) line one, instead of "to request the Director-General", to "invite the Director-General". The second drafting suggestion is in sub-paragraph 5(b)i line three. Instead of the words "as well as," "along with" would be better. If our suggestions are accepted, this paragraph will read as follows: "To explore the options for a form of membership of FAO of regional organizations such as the EEC, along with the full financial, legal, and constitutional implications." Thereafter, there is no change. We would submit this for your consideration, through you to the Council.

CHAIRMAN: I would like to ask Mr. Moore. I hope you got the Indian suggestion down. Could you read that again?

LEGAL COUNSEL: Certainly, Sir. As I understand it, the Indian suggestion was that in the first line the word "request" should be replaced with "invite." In sub-paragraph 1, the word in the first line "in" should be replaced with "of", and in the second and third lines, the words "that would be commensurate with its status," "as well as" should be deleted, and the words "along with" should be substituted therefor.

C. Srinivasa SASTRY (India): There are two other constitutional amendments. In line one, after "FAO of," "a" is deleted. In the second line, "regional organization" should read as "regional organizations", plural.

CHAIRMAN: I hope you all got these amendments down. May I now ask the Council Members, invite the Council Members, to comment on that or if we are already focused so that I could venture to put the question before you, is this version acceptable? I am in your hands. There is no reaction? Then I would rule that we have adopted paragraph 5(b) as amended, and I am very happy to say that this brings us no, I recognize the Delegate of Spain.

Angel BARBERO MARTIN (España): Señor Presidente, yo le pediría un pequeño momento antes de aceptar esto, para poder consultar con los otros miembros y poder decirle nuestra opinión sobre ello. Si puede entonces retrasar dos minutos la Resolución, por favor.

CHAIRMAN: Distinguished delegates, you have heard the demand of the Spanish Delegation. If you are agreeable we can suspend this session for fifteen minutes.

Atif Y. BUKHARI (Saudi Arabia, Kingdom of): In actual fact, Sir, I think we could move to the next item on our agenda. I do not think we need to adjourn. Why do we have to adjourn for fifteen minutes? Fifteen minutes? It will be half an hour, perhaps more than half an hour, so I would advise the Council to continue taking the other agenda item.

CHAIRMAN: I thank you, Distinguished Delegate of Saudi Arabia. You are a very experienced man and thinking realistically. That is O.K. In this case, the Council would have to reopen after this consultation amongst the EEC members, the discussion on this point. I already have a number of speakers. Maybe we should, really, in order to save time-it is our last day-continue today with the agenda while the EEC countries are consulting and then, as I said, we have to reopen the discussion for, hopefully, the final decision on this point. Is the Council agreeable? I am informed that the delegates from Czechoslovakia and Japan have asked for the floor. Is that on the procedure we have to follow, or the substance?

Masayuki KOMATSU (Japan): Mr Chairman, can we speak on the substance?

CHAIRMAN: Would you prefer to speak after we have heard what the EEC member countries have resolved on the text proposed.

Masayuki KOMATSU (Japan): I would prefer later if I am allowed. **CHAIRMAN:** Well, you are always allowed, distinguished delegate of Japan.

Distinguished delegates, I would propose that we now continue with the item 19. I will leave this chair and as soon as we have exhausted the substantial points of the agenda still to be taken care of, we will take up item 20.3 to finalize this item as well. If you are in agreement please remain in your seats. I see nobody wishing to speak so it is so decided. Thank you.

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

19. Report of the Fifty-second Session of the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters (Rome, 2-4 May 1989)
19. Rapport de la cinquante-deuxième session du Comité des questions constitutionnelles et juridiques (Rome, 2-4 mai 1989)
19. Informe del 523 período de sesiones del Comité de Asuntos Constitucionales y Jurídicos (Roma, 2-4 de mayo de 1989)
- 19.1 Procedure for Election of Chairmen and Members of the Programme and Finance Committees
- 19.1 Procédure d'élection du Président et des membres du Comité du Programme et du Comité financier
- 19.1 Procedimiento para la elección de los presidentes y miembros de los Comités del Programa y de Finanzas
- 19.2 Draft Agreement on the Establishment of the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission
- 19.2 Project d'accord portant création de la Commission des thons de l'océan Indien
- 19.2 Proyecto de Acuerdo para la creación de la Comisión del Atún para el Océano Indico
- 19.3 Draft Agreement between the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and the United Nations Industrial Development Organization
- 19.3 Projet d'accord entre l'Organisation des Nations Unies pour l'alimentation et l'agriculture et l'Organisation des Nations Unies pour le développement industriel
- 19.3 Proyecto de Acuerdo entre la Organización de las Naciones Unidas para la Agricultura y la Alimentación y la Organización de las Naciones Unidas para el Desarrollo Industrial
- 19.4 Proposed signature of the Declaration of Environmental Policies and Procedures related to Economic Development
- 19.4 Proposition de signature de la Déclaration concernant les politiques de l'environnement et les procédures relatives au développement économique
- 19.4 Firma propuesta de la Declaración sobre Políticas y Procedimientos Ambientales relativos al Desarrollo económico
- 19.5 Other Matters Arising out of the Report of the Fifty-second Session of the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters
- 19.5 Autres questions découlant du rapport de la cinquante-deuxième session du Comité des questions constitutionnelles et juridiques
- 19.5 Otros Asuntos derivados del informe del 52º período de sesiones del Comité de Asuntos Constitucionales y Jurídicos

LE PRESIDENT: Nous allons prendre l'étude du point 19 de notre ordre du jour intitulé: Rapport de la cinquante-deuxième session du Comité des questions constitutionnelles et juridiques (CL 95/5 et CL 95/5 Sup.1). Ce point sera présenté par le Président du Comité des questions constitutionnelles et juridiques.

Afin de faciliter la discussion du Conseil, je propose de diviser ce point en trois parties. La première partie comprendrait le point 19.1: Procédure d'élection du Président et des membres du Comité du Programme et du Comité financier. La seconde partie concernerait les points 19.2, 19.3 et 19.4. Enfin, la troisième partie concernerait le point 19.5 relatif aux questions d'immunité de juridiction de l'Organisation.

Au préalable, je signale à l'attention du Conseil que, sur demande du Comité de rédaction, on émette le vœu que le Conseil puisse terminer ses travaux aussi rapidement que possible de façon à laisser le maximum de temps au Comité de rédaction, pour que nous puissions consacrer toute la journée de demain à l'adoption du rapport. Je vous propose de bien vouloir tenir compte de cette contrainte de temps et terminer rapidement l'examen de toutes les questions avant la fin de la séance pour laisser le temps matériel au Comité de rédaction de faire son travail.

A la fin du point 19, nous reviendrons au point 20.3 pour prendre une position définitive sur ce point 20.3.

Je donne la parole à Monsieur l'Ambassadeur Poulides, Président du Comité des questions constitutionnelles et juridiques.

Fotis G. POULIDES (Chairman, Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters): Mr. Chairman, Distinguished Delegates, as Chairman of the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters, it is my pleasure to introduce the Report of the Fifty-second Session of the CCLM which took place in Rome from 2 to 5 May 1989. The various matters which the CCLM considered constitute Item 19 of your Agenda. In order to facilitate the discussion, the five sub-items could be grouped as follows:

1st, Item 19.1, Procedure for the Election of the Chairman and Members of the Programme and Finance Committees;

2nd, Item 19.2 concerning the proposed Indian Ocean Tuna Commission, and Item 19.3 on CIDIE and Item 19.4 concerning UNIDO;

Finally, Item 19.5, Other Matters.

Item 19.1: Procedure for the Election of the Chairman and Members of the Programme and Finance Committees: The Council will recall that the question of the procedure for the election of the Chairman and members of the Programme and Finance Committees arose first at its 89th Session in 1985 when the members of the Finance Committee were elected. Since that time the matter has been considered on several occasions by both the CCLM and the Council. Finally, at its Twenty-fourth Session in 1987, the Conference adopted a Resolution calling on Members of the Council to bear in mind certain criteria when electing members of these Committees. Nevertheless, a similar problem arose at the Ninety-third Session of the Council in November 1987 following election of the members of the Programme Committee.

At the last Session of the Council in November 1988, the Council requested the CCLM to review the matter once again and to report on it.

In so doing, the Council underlined that the basis for reaching an effective solution was that of regional understandings. Care had to be taken to give due regard to the consequences which any proposals might entail for other bodies of FAO. Finally, the CCLM should seek the most effective and desirable means of achieving the objective of just and equitable representation, taking full account of the various views expressed by the Council, without prejudice to the type of solution which the CCLM might recommend.

The CCLM explored three possible orientations which would ensure conformity with Council Resolution 11/87 and, in particular, with the following criteria set out therein:

- (1) the need for just and equitable representation of the various regions on the Programme Committee and the Finance Committee;
- (2) that the essential element of such representation is that all regions that so wish are in fact represented on the Committees; and
- (3) that members of the Council should bear the above in mind, as well as the importance of securing equitable rotation among the countries constituting each region, when electing the Chairmen and members of the two Committees in accordance with Rules XXVI.3 and XXVII.3 respectively.

As you will see from the Report of the CCLM, in particular paragraphs 6 to 12, the three orientations were considered in detail, in particular the second orientation which envisaged the establishment of a pre-election and nomination procedure for achieving regional understandings. However, the Committee recognized that each of the three orientations would appear to meet the criteria set forth in the Conference Resolution as well as those contained in the guidance which the Council gave at its 94th Session in November 1988.

As the various proposals are set out in the Report, I think that it will not be necessary for me to repeat them. Naturally, should the Council Members have any questions, I should be most pleased to reply to their queries.

LEGAL COUNSEL: Thank you Mr. Chairman. The Director-General has asked me to convey to the Council his views on the suggestions put forward by the CCLM with respect to procedures for the election of the Chairman and members of the Programme and Finance Committees. The Director-General has noted that three possible orientations have been put forward by the CCLM. The first orientation as described by Ambassador Poulides, the Chairman of the CCLM, would consist in expanding the criteria set out in the existing Conference Resolution, that is Conference Resolution 11/87, to reflect the need for substantial representation for regions that are priority areas for development assistance. Adopting this approach would entail the adoption of a further Conference Resolution calling on Council members to take this into account in addition to the other considerations set out in Conference Resolution 11/87.

The second orientation would be to establish a more formal pre-election or nomination procedure for implementing regional understandings among and within regions with respect to the election of the Chairman and members of the Programme and Finance Committees.

The third orientation would be to introduce a formal procedure entailing separate elections for each region seeking representation on the Committees according to a fixed and precise allocation of seats among the regions. This third orientation would, of course, require an amendment of the General Rules of the Organization.

The Director-General has noted that the Committee has decided to pursue in more detail the second orientation. On this point the Director-General has some concerns regarding the possible effects of such an approach which he wishes to share with the Council. These concerns are based on two fundamental concepts. The first is that it is up to the regions themselves to determine how they should adopt their own consultation and coordination, and that it would not be commensurate with this idea for the Conference in any way to give instructions, however vaguely formulated, to the regions on these matters.

The second concern is that the orientation proposed, in his view, is unlikely to provide a proper solution to the problem of equitable representation, but is almost certain to have the effect of creating unnecessary divisions and differences within the regions themselves, and in particular within those such as Africa, Asia, and Latin America which have a more numerous membership.

The present system provides a safety valve and is conducive to working out consensus among and within the regions. Informal consultations take place regarding the allocation of seats among the various regions in each group and regarding the representation of a particular region on the Programme Committee and Finance Committee. Where, however, it is impossible to reach consensus the final decision is left to the Council Members themselves.

Under the proposed orientation this safety valve will be removed and the pressure of any divisions or divergencies of opinion would be internalized within those regions and the positions of individual countries may tend to become crystalized. The Director-General therefore believes that this orientation might well tend to exacerbate divisions and thus complicate matters further rather than to provide a workable solution.

In practice the Director-General believes that the problems regarding equitable representation on the Programme and Finance Committees are more apparent than they are real. In practice the present system and procedures for election of Members of the Committees have worked well over the last forty years in his opinion. The lapses in the existing system, which occurred in 1985 with respect to the Finance Committee, and in 1987 with respect to the Programme Committee, are in his view isolated instances that should be viewed against the long history of successful practice.

There is every reason to believe that the particular problem of non-representation of a region that desires to be represented on the Committees has been settled by the Conference Resolution 11/87.

João Augusto DE MEDICIS (Brazil): The views of my delegation on this issue have been aired more than once during the Council Sessions since 1986 and in Commission III of the 24th Conference. Our opinion remains unchanged.

We consider that in the current framework Resolution 11/87 adopted by the 24th Conference is perfectly satisfactory, and we are sure that coordination within and among regions can guarantee the principle of just and equitable representation with this safeguard.

We therefore cannot in any way support the conclusions of the CCLM as contained in paragraphs 10 and 11 of its Report, in particular the pre-election system proposed for selections and nominations of candidates.

My delegation has, however, on many occasions challenged the efficacy of geographic distribution prevailing in FAO, which in our opinion does not conform to the usual grouping in the UN system. This same point was raised by the Indian delegation during the 94th Session of the Council.

I move that the issue before us is actually the current geographical distribution in FAO, and therefore that consideration should be given to review it and conform it to the UN system. The CCLM could be entrusted with that review and report to us before the 26th Session of the Conference on the measures needed to render the grouping less artificial. We are convinced that no satisfactory solution for the principle of equitable representation will be found if we do not tackle this basic issue.

Gonzalo BUIA HOTOS (Colombia): Los representantes de Colombia apoyamos plenamente la declaración que acaba de hacer el Embajador De Medicis, de Brasil.

Roberto E. DALTON (Argentina): Nosotros también, Señor Presidente, tenemos preocupaciones con respecto a la propuesta del Comité de Asuntos Constitucionales y Jurídicos, particularmente consideramos que los Grupos Regionales son un eficaz instrumento para llevar adelante el trabajo de nuestra Organización, y de todo el trabajo de la familia de las Naciones Unidas; pero debo decir, Señor Presidente, que coincidimos con lo que acaba de exponer el señor representante del Brasil sobre este particular.

Los Grupos Regionales, Señor Presidente, no son sino foros de discusión y debate, no tienen ellos convenio constitutivo y los miembros no han hecho delegación alguna en favor de ellos. A nuestro entender, Señor Presidente, la propuesta del Comité de Asuntos Constitucionales y Jurídicos crearía una progresión en las decisiones que dejaría a la decisión de los propios Estados en el escalón más bajo. No podemos respaldar por tanto, Señor Presidente, esa posición.

Paul R. BRYDEN (Australia): Could I say that we would be very reluctant to agree with the suggestions from our neighbours that the CCLM look at the whole question of the geographic basis of our regional system. It seems to my delegation that the system has served FAO well for 44 years and that it would be a retrograde step to move away from groupings of countries with similar agricultural problems and issues.

In the case of my country we are a Southwest Pacific country and we share many of the interests of our South Pacific neighbours and very different ecosystems and farming systems to that of our North American and European neighbours.

We would be very reluctant to see a process whereby FAO moved into the UN system with Western European groups, Group 77s, and so on.

I wonder whether, with regard to the CCLM's recommendation, it might be possible that where a geographic region does have a problem which becomes a problem of the whole Council who have to vote among friends, it might be possible to ask the Secretariat's assistance in arranging for a ballot to take place without necessarily recommendations from the Council or changes to the Constitution, a rather informal approach with the Secretariat assisting that region to come to a decision.

Atif Y. BUKHARI (Saudi Arabia, Kingdom of) (Original language Arabic): At the beginning we would like to extend our heartfelt congratulations to Ambassador Poulides for the great efforts of the CCLM. I believe that the activities of this Committee are worthy of all praise.

I believe that understanding within regions and among regions is a necessity. Resolution 11/87 has helped us to solve many misunderstandings. We all know that there has never been a problem related to regional distribution and regional understandings with the exception of very few cases.

We do fully support what has been said by the representative of Brazil, and I hope that we will follow his suggestion.

Ilja HULINSKY (Czechoslovakia): I would like to thank the Chairman of the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters, Ambassador Poulides, for his clear and precise introduction to the report.

On the question of the procedure for election of the Chairman and Members of the Programme and Finance Committees, I have to start with a general remark of deep concern. Speaking not only as the representative of my country of Czechoslovakia but as well in my capacity as Chairman of the East European Group of States, I feel obliged to draw your attention to the fact that not one representative of our group has, at least to my knowledge, ever been elected to the Programme or to the Finance Committee. Let me express my doubt that it has been due only to the fact that the candidates of our country were less qualified.

The Czechoslovak delegation therefore strongly supports the notion that there is an urgent need for drafting the most effective and desirable means to achieve the objective of just representation of all the various regions on the Programme Committee and the Finance Committee, and that of equitable representation among the countries constituting each region when electing the Chairman and Members of the two Committees.

Among the possible orientations that could be adopted by the Council and Conference in this respect, as explored by the CCLM, my delegation would favor the third one outlined in paragraph 8 of document CL 95/5, that of introducing a formal procedure for reaching regional understandings. Such an approach could ensure that each region and subregion would have a fixed number of seats. Such an approach would correspond more closely to the practice generally adopted in the United Nations. However, I have to add that my delegation would have no difficulty in supporting the suggestion just made by the delegate of Brazil.

At the same time I have to admit that my delegation understands the position of those who are pointing at specifics in the FAO that have been formed over years. That is why my delegation sees a certain merit in the second orientation outlined in paragraph 7 of CL 95/5 that of introducing a greater degree of formality into the procedures by establishing a pre-election and nomination procedure for achieving such regional understandings among the various regions.

My delegation's position to the 25th Conference will be flexible, especially if a formula could be found in a new Conference Resolution or in a gentlemen's agreement that would ensure just and equitable rotation among the subgroups and countries considered in each region referred to in Rules XXVI.3 (c) and XXVII.3 (c) of the General Rules of the Organization.

Joseph TCHICAYA (Congo): Je voudrais avant tout féliciter l'Ambassadeur Fotis Poulides de Chypre pour le travail effectué par le CQCJ. Nous estimons effectivement que ce comité a accompli une tâche ardue car sa mission, dès le départ, n'était pas du tout facile. Elle n'était pas facile parce que, comme on le sait, il est toujours difficile d'améliorer ce qui existe déjà et qui a été expérimenté pendant près de 45 ans. Nous estimons, pour notre part, qu'il convient de prendre beaucoup de précautions avant d'engager toute procédure visant à modifier ce qui, à notre avis, est un acquis et un acquis qui n'est pas si mal.

Bien sûr, il y a eu quelques bavures, mais je crois qu'une bavure ici et là ne devrait pas entraîner de bouleversements. Voilà pourquoi je pense qu'il convient d'inviter le Conseil à ratifier la position exprimée ici par l'Ambassadeur du Brésil. Nous pensons qu'il s'agit là d'une position sage et qu'il convient de ne pas nous lancer dans des modifications du Règlement général de la FAO.

Bashir EL MABROUK SAID (Libya): First of all, I would like to join all those who have expressed thanks to Mr. Fotis Poulides for his efforts in preparing this Report.

When this matter was first taken up in past meetings, we felt that it was really quite useless and unwarranted. We thought that the decision of the Conference (Resolution 11/87) was wise and that this matter was not to be tabled again. However, calls for an equitable rotation of posts among the different regions have been made. That is quite fair—every one should be represented equitably in the Programme and Finance Committees. We share this view, but there is one point which we should not overlook.

There are different criteria and parameters to be taken into account when selecting the members for the Programme and Finance Committees. I have already said that the delegates who are members of the Programme and Finance Committees do not represent their countries: they represent Council. Therefore, one is selecting an individual, not a country. It is Council which selects the members of the two committees and therefore the decision of the General Conference (Resolution 11/87) is a fair and equitable decision.

It is of course the role of the regions to review and examine all these parameters before submitting nominations. By way of example I shall take the Near East. For the past 20 or 30 years we have really had no problems in our Near East Region, because we always reached prior agreement and we only propose the number of candidates which is equal to the number of available seats. However, I must say that the choice of members is a personal choice. It is a choice *ad personam*. It has been stated at a number of meetings that Africa is only represented by one person, but I must say that in fact two members represent Africa, and the Group of Seventy-seven must, among themselves, try to resolve these difficulties.

I must apologise to the Ambassador of Czechoslovakia if I raise this point, but the distinguished representative from Czechoslovakia has said that it is a long time since the Eastern European Region has been represented. I recall that Ambassador Trkulja was a member of the Programme Committee for ten years. Therefore this really is a problem which is internal to the regions, and this point must not be raised time and again before Council.

Some regions call for a just and equitable distribution, but we must distinguish between regions in which there are 52 countries, like Africa, and others where there are only five or six countries. How can representation be truly just and equitable?

I think it wiser not to belabour this point, but to concentrate on Resolution 11/87. We would like to support Brazil.

Steven D. HILL (United States of America): In regard to the proposal made this morning by the distinguished representative of Brazil, my delegation supports the comments made by the distinguished representative of Australia. The system of regional representation has worked well, and the proposal which has been made would necessitate changes in rules which the FAO has been using since its foundation. The system of regional groupings, set out in the FAO rules, has worked well for FAO, and it would be unreasonable to ask the Organization to change this now. This is FAO, and we have no need to conform to other procedures used in the United Nations system. I would ask Council to consider this carefully.

Assefa YILALA (Ethiopia): The Ethiopian delegation would like to thank the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters, and Ambassador Poulides for the very good introduction which he gave. We have examined the document, and have found it to be sound and balanced.

Part II of the document, referring to Procedure for the Election of the Chairman and Members of the Programme and Finance Committees, was of particular interest to our delegation because we felt that the outcome of this consultation would solve some of the problems that have prevailed during the election of members of these two committees. Even so, the second alternative could have been written differently regarding election of members to these two committees. We do not necessarily see significant differences from the conventional understanding that prevailed during previous years, that the regional distribution of members in these two committees was unacceptable. We still feel that the arrangement indicated in the document might not solve the problem faced in 1985 and 1987. In fact, to our understanding the procedure used was similar to that outlined in the second recommendation, apart from the fact that it is here in written form. We do however understand that this is a recommendation based on a practical difficulty and it may have been difficult to go further than the proposal in the second alternative.

Our delegation therefore supports it, even though we might have wished that the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters had gone a little further in this recommendation, preferably along the lines of the third alternative indicated in the document before us. Furthermore, our delegation feels that this recommendation will serve as a springboard towards the next move, if we happen to face similar problems to those encountered in 1985 and 1987, by applying the recommendations that we have before us.

We would therefore like to see the Resolution in this regard presented to the Conference, while at the same time endorsing the recommendation for consideration by the Conference.

Daniel D.C. DON NANJIRA (Kenya): I too would like to thank the Ambassador of Cyprus for his introductory statement, and to thank the Legal Counsel for the explanations given.

This is an important procedural question. However, I do not see enough reasons advanced, at least in the documentation, as to the need to change the system which has been applied up to now. Perhaps we need more information to justify any contemplated changes. However, I intend to speak on the existing principles within the UN system-and of course, FAO is a UN system organization. Therefore, if there is any intention to regard FAO as a completely different organization which is not required to do what is done within the UN system, I would find difficulty in accepting that, because there are many other agencies which are similar to FAO, and if you want to change FAO from what is done and applied by all the other agencies of the UN system, then you are setting a precedent, and I think we have always wanted to avoid procedures that consume a lot of our time. We are supposed to be discussing substance in the UN system.

Needless to say, the responsibility for deciding at the regional level what is good for that region, what is in the interests of that region, and how they can be presented to the international communities, rests solely with that region. Matters may start at the sub-regional level, but it is the region which starts, and that is the case even within the Group of Seventy-seven. We have regions in that Group, they originate their own concerns, their own interests, and they bring them to the Group of Seventy-seven for discussion. It is after long discussions within the Group of Seventy-seven that we have a Group of Seventy-seven position.

We cannot reverse things. If we reverse things, we are looking for trouble. Therefore, the system of consultation at the sub-regional and regional level is sacrosanct, and the region must be the master of its own interests and must retain the sole responsibility of telling the international community what its requirements are.

It is only when there is no consensus that we can refer matters to higher authorities like Council, Conference or the General Assembly of the United Nations, but we cannot let the General Assembly decide things and impose them on nations. It should be the other way round. I hope there is no attempt in this gathering to change that system. If it is a fact that the proposals to change the system are important, we need to know reasons why that is going to be the case. So far even a good report does not give us the reasons. This leads me to my next point, the question of transparency-information sharing.

It is important that we know what is going on within these Committees that we set up. It is only when we have access to information, when we have everything required, that we can give proper guidance to these committees. So if the Legal Committee has some reason as to why things must be changed, let us hear about them. If there is nothing to substantiate this I strongly recommend we do not entertain any changes at this level until such time as we are convinced that it is necessary, and even if it is necessary to refer this matter back to the Committee, to instruct it to come up with more information, we should do so, but we cannot jeopardise this. We do not have a duty to create precedents that will imprison us in the future.

Earl W. WEYBRECHT (Canada): We appreciate the document provided under this Agenda item and the introductions given earlier. The proposal put forward by the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters will constitute an improvement on the present procedure and add an additional degree of predictability. It means that our approval providing the existing system of regions and regional membership is maintained.

We believe the existing system of regions in FAO has worked well and, like the delegates of Australia and the United States, we would not wish to see the system of regional distribution opened at this time.

Ibrahim KABA (Guinée): Nous serons très brefs. La délégation guinéenne, tout en appréciant le travail de recherche et d'amélioration effectué par le CQCJ, sous la présidence de Son Excellence l'Ambassadeur Poulides, continue à penser que la méthode de consultation interne au sein des régions pour la désignation des candidats reste valable.

Par ailleurs, à notre avis, la particularité de notre Organisation justifie pleinement la répartition régionale que nous connaissons et qui donne entière satisfaction. C'est pourquoi nous adhérons à la proposition de la délégation brésilienne.

István DOBOCZKY (Hungary): We are very pleased with the presentation of this paper on this delicate question. Listening to the debate, I am of the opinion that there should be an Eastern European member in the Programme Committee or the Finance Committee, but not necessarily by changing the procedure for election. This could be solved by consultation and consensus among the European countries.

Pedro Agostinho KANGA (ANGOLA): Ma délégation voudrait joindre sa voix aux délégations qui l'ont précédée pour féliciter en premier lieu le Président du Comité des questions constitutionnelles et juridiques et le Conseiller juridique.

Nous serons très brefs. Je crois que la méthode utilisée de consultation interne reste toujours valable et ma délégation appuie la proposition faite par l'Honorable Ambassadeur du Brésil.

Yousef Ali Mahmoud HAMDY (Egypt) (Original language Arabic): First of all I would like to extend my thanks to His Excellency Ambassador Poulides for introducing the Report of the CCLM. I wish to pay tribute to all the members of the Committee for the efforts made to draw up the report on this agenda item. We believe that the pre-election period in which all regions can reach agreement on the candidate for their region is a procedure which is adopted in all the consultations within regional groupings. They are conducive to the selection of one candidate, whose name is submitted during the elections. The difference between the proposal of the CCLM and the one I have just mentioned is that this consultation system becomes uncoded and formalized and we do not need formalization of this procedure. For over forty-five years we have had a method which has been satisfactory, and this is why I cannot agree to any amendment or change to such a procedure.

Igor MARINCEK (Switzerland): I will be brief. We acknowledge that there are some imperfections in the present system, but think that the regional distribution has a very delicate balance and there exists virtually no perfect solution. Therefore, we think we should be careful not to touch the regional distribution.

Another point is that within the regions we should encourage rotation. I would like also to stress the point raised by the delegate of Libya. This is the kind of election which goes to a person and in the beginning there is a possibility of changing that person. We should aim at having well qualified people, which is the main point I wish to stress. These people have a difficult task so the most important criterion is to elect people who can do a good job because they are well qualified and have the time to devote to it.

LE PRESIDENT: Il se dégage de ce débat que le Conseil a lieu d'être satisfait des procédures actuellement en vigueur. Il s'agit du principe d'entente régionale, ce principe sacro-saint, comme l'ont dit plusieurs délégués. Il faut lui laisser le maximum de souplesse pour ne pas créer de rigidité dont on pourrait ne pas être satisfaits après coup. Donc, si le Conseil en convient, il faut peut-être laisser les choses en l'état et faire appel aux régions pour qu'à l'intérieur des régions on puisse organiser, selon des méthodes propres, un consensus et venir au Conseil avec des propositions qui auront obtenu le consensus interne, sans que nous ayons à modifier la résolution qui a été prise par la dernière conférence générale de 1987.

Nous pourrions donc retenir cette option et passer aux questions suivantes de l'ordre du jour.

Le point 20.3 est resté en suspens. Je crois savoir que les représentants de la CEE avaient demandé à se consulter. Nous pourrions donc continuer le point 19 et laisser aux délégués le temps de réfléchir.

Nous passons au point 19.2: Projet d'accord portant création de la Commission des thons de l'océan Indien; au point 19.3: Projet d'accord entre l'OAA et l'ONUDI, et au point 19.4: Proposition de signature de la déclaration concernant les politiques de l'environnement et les procédures relatives au développement économique.

Je demanderai à Monsieur Poulides de bien vouloir nous exposer ces trois questions.

Fotis G. POULIDES (Chairman, Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters): We will continue with Item 19.2 Draft Agreement on the Establishment of the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission, which has been submitted to the CCLM for information since the conference held in Rome in April 1981 to consider a draft consensus on a final text. Thus, the conference adopted a report which would serve as a basis for further consultations and ultimately a new conference. The CCLM took note of the draft agreement, the report of that conference, and in particular of the fact that the question of whether a new commission should be established under Article XIV of the FAO Constitution or outside the framework of FAO was still under consideration. As a result, no action by the Council would seem to **be required** at this stage.

Item 19.3, Draft Agreement between the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and the United Nations Industrial Development Organization-it will be recalled that both the Council and the Conference have already expressed themselves in favour of the possibility of the conclusion of the final agreement between FAO and UNIDO. Working relations have existed between these organizations since 1969, following the conclusion of an agreement setting out guidelines for cooperation between FAO and UNIDO in the field of industrial development.

The CCLM reviewed the text of the draft agreement and concluded it was consistent with the basic text of the Organization, in particular with Section M, Cooperation with Intergovernmental Organizations and Section N, Guidelines Regarding Relationship Agreements between FAO and Intergovernmental Organizations. It should be recalled that pursuant to Article XIII of the FAO Constitution, paragraph 1;

"In order to provide for close cooperation between the Organization and other international organizations with related responsibilities, the Conference may enter into agreements with the competent authorities of such organizations, defining the distribution of responsibilities and methods of cooperation".

Thus, the Council is being asked to take a decision whether to enter into the agreement with UNIDO and to submit the agreement to Conference for confirmation.

Item 19.4, Proposed Signature of the Declaration of Environmental Policies and Procedures Related to Economic Development, CIDIE-and the proposed participation of FAO.

The item concerns the possibility that FAO participate in the Committee of International Development Institutions for the Environment, CIDIE, and that the Director-General sign the Declaration of Environmental Policies and Procedures Relating to Economic Development on behalf of FAO. The Declaration of Environmental Policies and Procedures Relating to Economic Development was signed on 1 February 1988 by eleven international development institutions. The signatories set up an inter-secretarial body, the Committee of International Development Institutions for the Environment, referred to as the CIDIE, with a view to constitute an appropriate forum for periodic review and appraisal of problems encountered and progress achieved in the implementation of the Declaration. The text of the Declaration and information concerning the membership of CIDIE has been made available to you in document CL 95/5 Supplement 1. The Director-General examined carefully the possibility of FAO's participation in CIDIE in view of the increasing attention paid by the Organization to environmental issues related to agricultural and rural development in each programme and field project and the constant need to ensure coordination with the other major agencies concerned. He then referred the matter to the CCLM in order to have its view on the participation of FAO. The CCLM concluded that FAO's participation in CIDIE and the signature of the Declaration would be consistent with the Basic Texts of the Organization, in particular the preamble and Article I of the FAO Constitution and Rule XXXVII.2(k) of the General Rules of the Organization as well as the Mandate of FAO in the field of the environment. In so doing, the CCLM noted that the conceptual impact of such participation in future activities of FAO was a matter for consideration by the FAO governing bodies.

LEGAL COUNSEL: My comments relate only to agenda item 19.3, the Draft Agreement between FAO and UNIDO. Some queries were raised by the Distinguished Delegate of Switzerland some three days ago. He asked that replies be given to these queries. I would therefore like to give some supplementary information regarding the proposed Agreement.

First of all, the origins of the Agreement. The proposed conclusion of the Agreement has been occasioned by the attainment by UNIDO of the status of a U.N. Specialized Agency in 1985. The General Conference of UNIDO at its first session in 1985 called for the conclusion of relationship agreements with all other international intergovernmental organizations of the U.N. System. So this really was the reason for the new Agreement. The intention to conclude a formal relationship agreement with UNIDO has been reported to the Council and to the Conference in 1987, as the Chairman of the CCLM has pointed out. At its twenty-fourth session in 1987, the Conference, and I quote, "noted with satisfaction that a formal relationship agreement between the two Organizations would be concluded in 1988/89." The text of the Draft Agreement was finalized by an exchange of letters in 1988 between the Directors-General of FAO and UNIDO. The Agreement proposed is a formal framework relationship agreement, and it follows the lines of the other relationship agreements in the U.N. System. It therefore deals only in general terms with the division of competence between FAO and UNIDO. This is a point on which a query was raised by the Distinguished Delegate of Switzerland three days ago. Detailed provisions regarding the division of competence between FAO and UNIDO are set out in a separate Agreement, the Memorandum of Understanding between the Director-General of FAO and the Executive Director of UNIDO, then an integral part of the U.N., which was concluded in 1969. The provisions of this Agreement setting out the detailed division of competence are continued in force by Article I.2 of the new Agreement. I hope this resolves some of the queries that were raised by Switzerland.

Gonzalo BULA HOYOS (Colombia): Nuestro distinguido colega y amigo Poulides, Embajador de Chipre, sabe como le queremos y cuanto apreciamos su trabajo como Presidente del Comité de Asuntos Constitucionales y Jurídicos.

Sobre el 19.3, los representantes de Colombia estamos agradecidos al colega Marincek, de Suiza, quien planteó aclaraciones que han sido suministradas, a nuestro juicio satisfactoriamente, y que nos permite apoyar el acuerdo FAO/ONUDI, sobre todo porque el Gobierno de Colombia considera esencial que todos los organismos internacionales sumen sus esfuerzos y recursos en favor de los países en desarrollo.

Sobre el 19.4, estamos de acuerdo también en que la FAO firme esa declaración. Se trata de integrar medidas ambientales. No es un tratado multilateral con obligaciones jurídicas, está dirigida simplemente a que la FAO siga ciertas políticas, y además no implica ninguna obligación financiera.

Mrs. Marasee SURAKUL (Thailand): Thank you Mr. Chairman. First of all I would like to commend Ambassador Poulides for the lucid introduction of the document before us.

Mr. Chairman, my delegation wishes to make comment on sub-item 19.2, Draft Agreement on the Establishment of the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission, as follows.

Mr. Chairman, Thailand has a great interest in the rational utilization of tuna resources in the Indian Ocean and has followed closely the development with respect to a new tuna management body for the Indian Ocean. We have participated in the two IOFC Government consultations on Long-term Institutional Arrangements for the Management of Indian Ocean Tuna held in Rome in May 1987 and in Bangkok in March 1988 and also in the Conference for the Adoption of a Draft Agreement for the Establishment of the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission held in Rome last April.

My delegation agrees that there is a need to manage Indian Ocean tuna resources. However, we would also like to underline the need for the new body, if established, to promote the development of the fishing capacity of developing coastal States.

My delegation believes that it would be to the best interest of the countries in the region if the proposed establishment of this new tuna body in the Indian Ocean is carefully planned in close consultation with the coastal States. In the meantime, the existing mechanism, the IOFC Committee for the Management of Indian Ocean Tuna, should be used to the fullest extent in the mutual efforts to effect the sustained development of tuna resources in the Indian Ocean.

Angel BARBERO MARTIN (España): Me voy a referir, Señor Presidente, al Punto 19.2 para transmitirle el deseo del Representante de la Comunidad de tomar la palabra sobre este punto y hacer una declaración en nombre de la Comunidad. Dejo a su entender, Señor Presidente, si tiene usted la bondad de darle la palabra, aprovechando mi turno, o si encuentra mas conveniente que lo haga después en el turno de los observadores. Le repito, Señor Presidente, que habla en nombre de la Comunidad.

Igor MARINCEK (Suisse): Ma délégation a posé il y a trois jours des questions au sujet de l'accord entre la FAO et l'ONUDI. Je veux remercier le Conseiller juridique pour ses explications très utiles à ce sujet. Donc ce que je retiens c'est que l'accord devrait mettre la coopération entre la FAO et l'ONUDI sur de nouvelles bases, mais surtout pour tenir compte du fait que l'ONUDI est devenue une agence spécialisée. D'autre part je voudrais quand même rappeler le fait que notre organisation se trouve actuellement dans un exercice d'examen et la coopération et la division de travail dans le système multilatéral est une des questions abordées lors de cet examen. De l'avis de notre délégation la modification des relations de travail entre la FAO et l'ONUDI devrait être abordée à la lumière des conclusions de cet examen. Pour ma délégation l'intérêt le plus grand c'est la division du travail et la coordination entre ces deux agences.

Donc, à notre avis, nous avons deux possibilités. L'une c'est de renvoyer la question jusqu'à la fin des conclusions de la réforme, l'autre, je pense surtout à la lumière des explications juridiques, c'est peut-être celle-ci qu'il faudrait choisir, c'est que notre Conseil décide ou suggère que le "memorandum of understanding" (je ne connais pas l'expression en français) qui définit déjà aujourd'hui la division du travail et la coopération entre la FAO et l'ONUDI, qu'il est entendu que ce "memorandum of understanding" devra être modifié à la lumière des conclusions des débats sur la réforme et que l'accord dont il est question maintenant, qui donne en quelque sorte le "chapeau" si je comprends bien, ne devrait pas préjuger les conclusions de la Conférence à ce sujet.

Mohammad Saleem KHAN (Pakistan): I would like to thank Ambassador Poulides for his excellent presentation of the CCLM report. My delegation has generally no problem with either of the three items under discussion, and we support them. I have just taken the floor to seek one clarification either from the Legal Counsel or from the Chairman. On item 19.2, the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission, at the end of paragraph 14 it is said that a report has been adopted which will serve as a basis for further consultation, whether the word "basis" implies a framework or just implies that it is a starting point and further consultations will continue.

Masayuki KOMATSU (Japan): Thank you Mr. Chairman. I would like to touch upon three items-19.2, 19.3, and 19.4. First of all I would like to speak on 19.2, the Draft Agreement on the Establishment of Indian Ocean Tuna Commission. Japan, as a fishing nation for Tuna in the Indian Ocean has participated in the conference for the adoption of a draft agreement for the establishment of the Indian Ocean Tuna, and we are of the view that the new framework for establishing the management of the Indian Ocean Tuna is indispensable because Japan doubts the existing body, such as IOFC, has no management function, and the recent increased necessity for the management for the Tuna is recognized strongly.

The management body which we are discussing for the new establishment should have the most effective functions for achieving the objectives of the body. In this sense the Japanese delegation believes that not only all coastal countries but also all fishing nations should participate in, and should be allowed to participate in the newly established body. Therefore we are of the view that the Soviet Union and the EEC should participate in this body to the fullest extent for the effective functioning of the body.

It seems to our delegation that FAO Article XIV is the desirable body to deal with the Indian Ocean Tuna management body for the reason that FAO is the most competent body in this region, and Article XIV could accommodate the full support of the FAO to this management body through various functions such as back-stopping from FAO Headquarters.

On the other hand, if the FAO Article XIV at this stage cannot accommodate the full participation of the EEC, we think that the possibility of establishing such a body outside of the FAO framework should be positively sought, and the foundation of such a body should be allowed to have the participation of any fishing nations and the EEC, and to have the technical support from FAO Headquarters.

The same significance can be referred to the participation of the coastal countries in the Indian Ocean area. As our delegation strongly stressed in the Conference in April, the exclusion of any exclusive economic zone will be detrimental in achieving the objectives of this management body.

Finally Mr. Chairman, as far as this item is concerned, the Japanese delegation would like to urge the early correspondence to the participating nations and the distribution of the documents by the FAO Secretariat, to allow us to have careful deep consideration by our home government to prepare for the coming meeting where we hope the draft agreement will be finalized with a full consensus in the Conference to be held in the later stage of this year.

Secondly I would like to touch upon 19.3-Draft Agreement between FAO and UNIDO. As we have mentioned already in Agenda Item 11, Japan fully supports the positive efforts and draft agreement by FAO and UNIDO to promote further consideration and coordination between them. Therefore such an agreement will be welcomed as a basis for cooperation. Moreover, as stated in the article in this draft agreement quoting that the Director-General of FAO and UNIDO may enter such arrangements for the implementation of the agreement as may be found desirable in the light of the operating experience of the two organizations, we also hope that such an arrangement will be finalized through mutual understanding and due consideration with a view to facilitating their cooperation in practical activities.

Finally I would like to touch upon 19.4. The Japanese delegation would like to express our full support to the proposed signature of the Declaration of Environmental Policies and Procedures related to Economic Development. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

Daniel D.C. DON NANJIRA (Kenya): Thank you very much Mr. Chairman. I shall limit my intervention to sub-item 19.2 on the Draft Agreement for the Establishment of the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission, which is section III of the report contained in CL 95/5.

This does not mean Mr. Chairman, that other sections of the report are unimportant to the Kenya delegation. They are of course important issues, and it is our hope that the Council will reach an early consensus on them.

On the Draft Agreement, Mr. Chairman, we know that it is important. Kenya is a coastal state. We believe that this agreement should be reached as soon as possible and put into practice. This would normalize on a global basis the management and conservation of Tuna fish. Our view is that the Convention on the Law of the Sea contains clear stipulations to which all members of the international community should adhere.

The Tuna Commission, once established, should protect and promote the fishing rights of the coastal nations of the Indian Ocean. The 200 mile exclusive economic zone should be respected and the benefits for the coastal states of the Indian Ocean should be acknowledged and assured. The distant fishing states should, of course, be accommodated in the new commission in the area of conservation and management of Tuna. The distant fishing states should assist in the development, strengthening and expansion of the capacities of the fishing fleets of the Indian Ocean countries, and of these countries' research capacities in marine fisheries as well as in the protection of their exclusive economic zones.

Fishing under the 200 mile zone should hence be prohibited unless agreement has been reached on a bilateral government to government basis which would involve compensation for example. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

Sra. Grafia SOTO CARRERO (Cuba): A estas alturas, seremos sumamente breves en nuestra intervención. La Delegación de Cuba quiere agradecer a nuestro amigo el Embajador Poulides por el magnífico trabajo hecho en el Comité de Asuntos Constitucionales y Jurídicos. Este agradecimiento lo hacemos extensivo a sus colegas de dicho Comité. Nuestra Delegación no tiene problemas en apoyar los tres temas que estén sujetos a la consideración del Consejo en este momento.

En especial queremos referirnos al apoyo de la Delegación de Cuba al acuerdo entre la FAO y la ONUDI. Consideramos que se trata de una magnífica muestra de la cooperación que debe existir entre las organizaciones del Sistema de Naciones Unidas. Esta **complementación**, sin lugar a dudas, repercutirá favorablemente en las acciones de ambos organismos en nuestros países.

S. BILL (EEC): Thank you Mr. Chairman. I would like to speak on behalf of the European Community simply on item 19.2. That is the question of the Draft Agreement on the Establishment of the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission.

As its representatives have stated during all previous discussions on this matter, the European Community has exclusive competence in respect of the management and conservation of fisheries resources.

Consequently, the Community-and not as was stated in the report of the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters, the Commission of the European Communities which is merely the executive arm of the European Community-the European Community wishes to become a full member in any future fisheries management body set up in the Indian Ocean in order to ensure that it is in a position to implement any management measures proposed by such a body, and thus avoid the possibility that those measures would not be binding upon Community vessels operating within the region and that the Organization would therefore lose much of its effectiveness.

Since the Community cannot for the time being at least join a fisheries management body set up within the framework of the FAO constitution, it has favoured the establishment of an independent organization in which it could play a full role. However, the Community fully recognizes that the technical and administrative support that the FAO could offer to a new organization would be invaluable, particularly in the early stages. For that reason the Community has consistently suggested that a relationship agreement could be drawn between the FAO and a new independent body under which the FAO would provide appropriate technical and secretarial support.

Such a possibility appears to be envisaged in FAO Conference resolution 47/57. The Community is convinced that a solution along these lines should meet the wish expressed in the report of the Conference that met here in Rome in April of this year that every effort should be made to find an arrangement or a mechanism that would allow for the technical support of FAO to be made available, while at the same time enabling active participation by the EEC in the new fisheries commission.

If we proceed along the lines that I have suggested, we should be able to obtain the objective of establishing an effective and stable tuna management body in the Indian Ocean, which I believe is the wish of all here present, and we should be able to achieve this in the very near future.

Michael McGILL (United Kingdom): The United Kingdom delegation has noted with some regret that the recent Conference to consider the establishment of an Indian Ocean Tuna Commission failed to identify an appropriate legal structure to permit the membership of the EEC, as well as Member States of the FAO.

The United Kingdom is of the opinion that the work of the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission will be adversely affected if the EEC is not able to participate as a full member in view of its competence for European fishing fleets, which are well established in the tuna fisheries of the Indian Ocean.

As a coastal state with rights of full membership, the United Kingdom delegation calls upon the FAO to continue efforts to establish an Indian Ocean Tuna Commission with all relevant bodies fully represented in the membership.

Atif Y. BUKHARI (Saudi Arabia, Kingdom of) (original language Arabic): I should like to begin by referring to the Draft Agreement for the establishment of the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission. I wholeheartedly support what was said by the delegate of Kenya on this subject.

We support the view of the CCLM as expressed in paragraph 5 of this document. We agree that this Commission should be set up in accordance with Article XIV of the FAO Constitution because the Commission would have full competence in the subject.

Eduardo PESQUEIRA OLEA (México): En primer término, quisiera aprovechar esta oportunidad para felicitar muy calurosamente al señor Embajador Poulides, por su trabajo al frente de la Comisión de Asuntos Constitucionales y Jurídicos y por su presentación de los temas que nos ocupan.

En cuanto al tema 19.2, quiero expresar el apoyo de la Delegación mexicana a lo expresado aquí por la Delegación de Kenya y recientemente apoyado por la Delegación de Arabia Saudita; y en cuanto al punto 19.3, el apoyo de la Delegación Mexicana para que la FAO proceda a la suscripción del acuerdo con la ONUDI.

LEGAL COUNSEL: We have taken careful note of all the comments that have been made during the course of this interesting discussion, and we will certainly do what is required. On item 19.2 there were two specific questions raised in regard to the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission Agreement. The first regards the circulation of the report of the Conference and of the **annexed** Draft Agreement. I can confirm that these will be circulated during the month of July.

A second point was raised by the delegate of Pakistan regarding the meaning of the last part of paragraph 14 of the CCLM Report, "... the Conference had adopted a report which would serve as a basis for further consultations and ultimately a new Conference".

I should confirm that the meaning of that, as I understand it, is that the report will be used as a starting point for the further consultations and ultimately a new Conference, and in fact consultations will be taking place very shortly with the countries concerned.

The final point raised by the delegate of Switzerland relates to the UNIDO agreement and the need not to prejudice the results of the review. I would like to make a comment on that.

The action of the Council at this Session in approving the relationship Agreement is subject to confirmation by the Conference. The Conference itself will have an opportunity to look at the Agreement during its Session, and I believe that will be after the discussion on the review has taken place. So I think that issue is already covered by this sequence of events.

Of course, when any consequential agreement or subsidiary arrangements are worked out with UNIDO they will take into account all the dictates of the Council and of the Conference.

A.H. LINDQUIST (Assistant Director-General, Fisheries Department): I have some additional information. The Director-General is very keen to find a solution for the management of the Indian Ocean Tuna, and as we have heard there are different possibilities.

I will go next week on a mission to some of the countries in the Indian Ocean to have discussions in more detail on what is possible. I would also like to add that the result of those discussions and the views that have been received in the meantime will be discussed during the next meeting of the Indian Ocean Fisheries Commission, which will be held in the beginning of October this year.

LE PRESIDENT: Je crois que, d'une manière générale, le Conseil donne son agrément au projet d'accord entre la FAO et l'Organisation des Nations Unies pour le développement industriel (ONUDI), qui respecte les procédures réglementaires en vigueur, se félicite de la participation de la FAO au Comité des institutions de développement international pour l'environnement (CIDIE) et donne son agrément au projet d'accord portant création de la Commission des thons de l'océan Indien. Les questions qui ont été posées au sujet de la structure de cette Commission seront examinées par le Secrétariat en vue de la prochaine Conférence.

Cela étant, avec votre accord, nous allons entreprendre l'examen du point 19.5. Je vais tout d'abord donner la parole à l'Ambassadeur Poulides en soulignant que le Conseil le félicite ainsi que le Comité des questions constitutionnelles et juridiques pour le travail remarquable qu'ils ont accompli.

Fotis G. POULIDES (Président du Comité des questions constitutionnelles et juridiques): Je vous remercie et je le fais aussi de la part de mes collègues qui ont vraiment travaillé d'une manière constructive.

(continues in English)

With regard to the immunity of the Organization from legal process in Italy, the CCLM was informed that two lawsuits against the Organization were now pending before the Italian courts. The first case was brought by a former Italian General Service staff member who alleged that the immunity of the Organization did not extend to the staff member's employment relationship with the Organization. The details of the claim have been described in paragraph 20 of the CCLM Report.

A second legal action has also been brought against FAO by the former official removers of the Organization. The CCLM discussed at some length the consequences of these legal actions.

As we have seen in paragraph 21 of its report, the CCLM expressed its deep concern over the possibility that the Italian courts might not recognize the immunity of the Organization, in particular cases brought against it by staff members.

The CCLM recommended that the Organization should do everything possible to settle the matter in consultation with the Government of the host country in accordance with provisions of the Headquarters Agreement in order to avoid the matter being adjudicated in the courts.

(suite en français)

J'ai terminé avec ce rapport, Monsieur le Président, mais je voudrais vous prier de donner la parole à M. Moore afin qu'il complète l'examen de ce point.

LEGAL COUNSEL I should like to give the Council some further information on one of the legal actions referred to by the Chairman of the CCLM.

As the Chairman has said, the case involves an attempt by an ex-member of the General Service staff to get the Italian courts to apply Italian labour legislation to her employment relationship with FAO. The staff member concerned was separated from the Organization at the end of a fixed contract.

She claims that under Italian law a fixed-term contract is automatically converted into a contract of indeterminate length, and that she should thus be reinstated.

One of the objectives of the legal action will be to allow General Service staff to pick and choose the best from the FAO employment package and that provided by Italian labour legislation.

I cannot over-emphasize the importance of this case and the consequences for the Organization, should the final judgement go against it.

For the Italian courts to take jurisdiction in this case and to apply Italian labour legislation to the employment relationship between FAO and its staff would undermine the basic concept of the independence and integrity of the International Civil Service by subjecting that Service to the over-riding requirements of a single national government. It is a fundamental concept of all international organizations, including those of the UN system, that the employment relationship between the organizations and their staff members should be independent from any interference by any independent government, and should be subject only to the internal law of the Organization as laid down by its Member Nations through its Governing Bodies, taking into account the UN common system on terms and conditions of service. Should the court apply Italian law to this employment relationship it would also undermine the whole system of international adjudication of disputes through our own internal appeals procedures and the ILO Administrative Tribunal. In short, it would place the Organization in an untenable situation.

In principle the Organization should be in a strong legal position. The FAO Headquarters Agreement plainly guarantees the immunity of FAO from every form of legal process-woording, incidentally which is clearer in the English version of the Agreement than in the Italian. The Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the Specialized Agencies has similar wording, and the Italian Government has strengthened the position of the Organization by acceding to this Convention without reservations in 1985, and by concluding an exchange of letters with FAO reaffirming the Organization's immunity in 1986. The Italian courts on the other hand have tended to take a restrictive view of the immunity of the Organization.

In view of its possible significance, the Director-General has reported on this case to both the CCLM and to the Joint Session of the Programme and Finance Committees. Both of these bodies have expressed their deep concern over the possibility that the Italian courts might not fully recognize the immunity of the Organization. Both, while expressing their support for the measures we are now taking, have urged the Director-General to meet with the host government to ensure that it will take the necessary action to guarantee the full immunity of the Organization.

I am now informed that the Director-General met three weeks ago with the Secretary-General of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The Director-General referred to this in his statement last week. The discussions were very constructive. In particular, the Secretary-General has agreed that we should review the provisions of the Headquarters Agreement dealing with the immunity of the Organization, so that we might either ammend them or conclude an agreement regarding their interpretation in order to remove any possible ambiguity. An amended Headquarters Agreement, or an agreed interpretation, would be presented to Parliament for approval and enactment as a law of the Italian Republic.

In the meantime, the Director-General, in accordance with the mandate given to him by the Conference in 1987, has called upon the services of the Italian Avvocatura Generale dello Stato to defend the Organization's immunity in court.

This then is the case which causes us a good deal of concern. We look forward to hearing your comments on this case, and the action which you feel the Organization should be taking.

LE RESIDENT: Je remercie le Conseil juridique pour sa communication, ainsi que l'Ambassadeur Poulides qui a introduit cette question importante. J'ouvre le débat sur cette question.

Carlos di MOTTOLA (Observador de Costa Rica): Señor Presidente le agradezco por darme el uso de la palabra, aun siendo observador, sobre este tema que mi delegación conoce a fondo por haberlo tenido a la vista durante muchos años ya que ha pertenecido al Comité de Asuntos Constitucionales y Jurídicos. También conoce la trascendencia de este tema porque en ese momento cubrimos el cargo de Copresidente de la Comisión de Apelaciones y nos damos cuenta de la trascendencia que tendría el aplicar dos tipos de reglamentos y de leyes a los funcionarios de acuerdo con su nacionalidad. Yo creo que no hay ninguna duda, que en este momento el Gobierno de Italia se ha dado cuenta de la enorme gravedad de la situación, porque estamos frente a una situación que podría también llegar a imponer el traslado de la FAO a otra sede, por lo tanto el problema hoy día, frente al que se encuentra, sea el Director de la FAO, sea el Gobierno italiano es: cómo eliminar una jurisprudencia, que desgraciadamente se ha creado en Italia y contradice completamente las obligaciones del Tratado de Sede. Yo creo que el problema de renegociar el Tratado de Sede sería peligrosísimo. El Tratado de Sede esta extremadamente bien hecho y prevé para la FAO una inmunidad completa. El Artículo 8 del Tratado de Sede es auténtico, como también el Tratado de Sede es auténtico en sus dos textos: el texto inglés y el texto italiano. El Artículo 8 del Tratado de Sede en inglés es exhaustivo y absolutamente no prevé ninguna posibilidad de una interpretación diferente de su parte literal. En inglés se dice que la FAO "enjoys immunity from every form of legal jurisdiction". Yo no veo como esto se puede interpretar en una manera restrictiva. Se puede, sí, interpretar en una manera restrictiva el texto italiano que dice simplemente: "es inmune de la jurisdicción" pero debido a que también el Tratado de Sede es auténtico hay una obligación de aplicar lo que esta más claro: lo que protege la FAO. Renegociar ahora esto que esta tan claro a mí me parece que sea absurdo. Hay un sistema clasico que se usa en diplomacia y se usa en la redacción de los tratados, ya sea para eliminar lo que hizo erróneamente la "Cassazione delle Corti Riunite", aunque sea la máxima autoridad. Es suficiente un intercambio de cartas de interpretación. Lo que hay que llevar a cabo no es un cambio en la jurisdicción sino un cambio en la jurisprudencia italiana, porque la ley es clarísima. Es clarísimo que el Tratado de Sede protege completamente la inmunidad de la FAO. Sobre esto no hay duda. El cambio de jurisprudencia se hace con un intercambio de cartas entre el Director General de la FAO y el Ministro de Relaciones, ratificadas por la Asamblea. Esto de dirigirse a la "Cassazione" para una nueva interpretación sería otro error, porque el Artículo 18 es clarísimo. El cumplimiento del Tratado de Sede es una obligación del Gobierno italiano, no es una obligación de la FAO o de los países miembros. Si el Gobierno italiano se ve en la imposibilidad de cumplir con el Tratado de Sede tiene que recurrir al medio que jurídicamente se usa y que internacionalmente es reconocido como valido, o sea, simplemente, un intercambio de cartas interpretativas. Yo recomiendo que se proceda en ese sentido.

John YENNIMATAS (Greece): I wish to join previous speakers in congratulating Ambassador Poulides for the work done by the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters under his Chairmanship.

I would refer to the statement made by the Director-General on page 15, a passage which has been referred to in slightly different terms by the Legal Service: "The Government of the host country is prepared to negotiate any amendment to the Headquarters Agreement which may prove necessary in this respect". May I ask if any decision has been taken in regard to opening negotiations?

Amin ABDEL MALER (Liban) (langue originale arabe): Je vous remercie, M. le Président. Je pense que cette question a été amplement discutée et je crois que nous pouvons considérer que le débat à ce sujet est clos d'autant que le Directeur général a rencontré le Secrétaire général du Ministère des affaires étrangères italien qui a promis que le gouvernement présentera un projet de loi qui garantira à l'Organisation toutes les immunités nécessaires. Je pense également que mon ami l'Ambassadeur Valenza fera tout pour aboutir à cet objectif. Si vous le permettez donc, et si le Conseil est de cet avis, nous pouvons, vu le peu de temps qui nous reste, considérer le débat clos et laisser le soin au Gouvernement italien de prendre les mesures nécessaires à cet égard.

Paul R. BRYDEN (Australia): I would like to assure the Legal Counsel that my delegation is fully aware of the significance of this case, and that we look forward to a speedy and hopefully successful resolution.

Steven D. HILL (United States of America): The united States is also a member of the CCLM, and recognizes the importance of this issue. We fully share the concern expressed in the Committee's Report that FAO's immunity be respected.

Gonzalo BUIA HOTOS (Colombia): Los representantes de Colombia deseamos apoyar la declaración que ha hecho nuestro colega y amigo Abdel Malek del Líbano. Creo que a estas alturas sólo corresponde al Consejo apoyar y respaldar las gestiones que viene adelantando el Director General en favor de la conservación y el mantenimiento de los privilegios de la Organización y pedir al Gobierno de Italia que proceda de conformidad.

LE PRESIDENT: Nous pouvons dire que le Conseil appuie les efforts du Directeur général pour préserver l'immunité diplomatique de l'Organisation et fait confiance au pays hôte pour aider à une solution heureuse de cette question.

La parole est au Conseiller juridique qui répondra à une question posée par le délégué de la Grèce.

LEGAL COUNSEL: Just to respond to the question from the delegate of Greece. Yes indeed, the decision has been taken in principle at the meeting between the Director-General, and the Secretary-General of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in the very near future-in fact, I am already in contact with the Legal Adviser of that Ministry and the Ambassador of Italy regarding these matters, and in particular looking into whether it is desirable to have an amendment to the Agreement or merely an interpretative agreement. In either case we must make sure that this agreement is ratified by the Italian Parliament because we need it to have the force of law if it is to overturn the jurisprudence already set by the Corte di Cassazione.

LE PRESIDENT: En votre nom je remercie l'Ambassadeur Poulides pour l'excellent travail de sa Commission.

Nous passons au point 20.3, qui était resté en suspens. Je vais demander à Monsieur Moore de bien vouloir lire le texte du document CL 95/LIM/2, sur lequel nous devons prendre position.

V. CONSTITUTIONAL AND LEGAL MATTERS (continued)

V. QUESTIONS CONSTITUTIONNELLES ET JURIDIQUES (suite)

V. ASUNTOS CONSTITUCIONALES Y JURIDICOS (continuación)

20. Other Constitutional and Legal Matters (continued)

20. Autres questions constitutionnelles et juridiques (suite)

20. Otros asuntos constitucionales y jurídicos

20.3 Communication from the Government of Spain regarding the Status of the EEC with respect to FAO (continued)

20.3 Communication du Gouvernement de l'Espagne concernant le statut de la Communauté économique européenne auprès de la FAO (suite)

20.3 Comunicación del Gobierno de España relativa al estatuto de la CEE con respecto a la FAO (continuación)

LEGAL COUNSEL: The text in English reads as follows:

"5(b) To invite the Director-General

(i) to explore the options for a form of membership of FAO of a regional organization such as EEC along with the full financial, constitutional, legal and other implications for the Organization of such options, keeping the Finance Committee and the CCLM fully informed of the progress thereof, and

(ii) to report thereon to the 98th Session of the Council in November 1990".

Delegates have the text in French.

LE PRESIDENT: Nous ouvrons le débat sur cette question et je passe la parole à l'Australie.

Paul R. BRYDEN (Australia): I thought that our Indian colleague proposed amendments which were quite significant even if they were only concerned with one letter or so. I do not think I heard that read through. I recall that the amendment was for a form of membership in FAO of regional organizations in the plural, which is acceptable to me.

LEGAL COUNSEL: May I request clarification of this?-because I had a note that this change had been withdrawn. Does it still remain?

C. Srinivasa SASTRY (India): I thought in the Council we were resuming discussion where we left it. When we left it, this is how the wording was.

LE PRESIDENT: "Organisations régionales" au pluriel.

C. Srinivasa SASTRY (India): When we stopped the discussion, the draft before us did not have "a" in the last word of line one and had "s" after "Organization". We are resuming at that stage.

Angel BARBERO MARTIN (España): Creo que nosotros, si se acepta esta versión, no estamos de acuerdo. Creíamos que se había acordado un texto en el que el plural de organizaciones regionales se había suprimido. Si ese texto se mantiene nosotros discrepamos. Por otro lado nos gustaría tener también la versión en español del documento.

Eduardo PESQUEIRA OLEA (México): Simplemente para apoyar lo recientemente dicho por España. Los plurales, los singulares, los condicionales y los participios tienen efectos distintos en los distintos idiomas. Yo sí solicitaría, en representación de la delegación de México que se nos dé a conocer el texto formal en castellano para poder opinar sobre el particular.

LE PRESIDENT: C'est clair et légitime. Nous allons donc demander au Secrétariat de bien vouloir traduire dans toutes les langues officielles de l'Organisation le paragraphe tout entier du document CL 95/LIM/2, ceci afin de respecter la forme. Donc il sera traduit en arabe, chinois, français et en espagnol. Je demande au Secrétariat de présenter un texte formel à tout le monde afin que tout le monde puisse le lire.

Atif Y. BUKHARI (Saudi Arabia, Kingdom of) (Original language Arabic): We have a document in Arabic, but the amendments which have just been read by Mr Sastry do not appear in the text in Arabic, but I do not think they are essential amendments in the Arabic text. We are not specialists in the English language, but the Arabic reads: "to explore the options for a form of accession of a regional organization such as the EEC". Of course, this is the text we had in Arabic before the amendment. Does this mean that this exploration, this study, must also apply to other regional organizations, or does it apply only to the EEC? Could Mr Moore clarify this point?

C. Srinivasa SASTRY (India): Mr Chairman, with your permission I would like to give personal clarification. The amendment suggested as read out by me, omitting "a" and adding "s", was the formulation before the Council when the discussion was adjourned. My understanding was that the adjournment was to facilitate discussion by members of the EEC among themselves outside the room as to whether this formulation was acceptable to them. Following their discussion they invited me to a consultation outside, when it was mentioned to me that from their point of view, deletion of "a" at the end of line 1 and the addition of "s" after "Organization" would not be in consonance with their expectations.

After discussion of the two formulations which will be "of FAO of regional organizations" or "of FAO of a regional organization such as EEC". I felt the difference between them was not much. In one the implication was implicit and in the other it was explicit, so I said that from my point of view I could see no difficulty in supporting the change. Obviously, this was communicated to the Legal Counsel. He possibly thought that was the basis on which the statement was made.

I thought I should give that personal clarification so that everybody is clear as to what is being discussed.

LE PRESIDENT: Avant tout j'ai une demande à formuler. Les délégués de l'Espagne et du Mexique ont demandé le texte en espagnol. Je ne veux pas continuer la discussion s'ils n'ont pas reçu ce texte. Qu'en pense le Mexique? Si vous voulez qu'on arrête la réunion, on vous donne le texte en espagnol.

Eduardo PESQUEIRA OLKA (México): To no tengo la pretensión, Señor Presidente, de que se suspenda la discusión. Simplemente para poder expresar nuestra opinión quisiera tener el texto en español.

Joto Augusto DE MEDICIS (Brasil): To no soy de habla española, Señor Presidente, pero el texto lo tenemos aquí. No creo que haya dificultades; las enmiendas se íárn presentando.

LE PRESIDENT: Peut-on transcender les difficultés de langue et nous prononcer sur le texte final? L'Inde a bien voulu dire qu'elle acceptait la formulation présentée. Pouvons-nous accepter cette formulation? Pas de problèmes?

Atif T. BUKHARY (Saudi Arabia, Kingdom) (Original language Arabic): I do not think I got an answer to my question. I asked the following. Be it "Organization" or "Organizations", will this exploration include a review of all regional organizations, or will it just concern the EEC?

LE PRESIDER: Je m'excuse de ne pas avoir posé la question au Conseil juridique. Il faut éclaircir.

LEGAL COUNSEL: I do not think it would make too much difference, because in practice I understand there is only one organisation to which competence has been transferred by the Member Nations to enter into treaties on matters of agriculture, etc., and that is the EEC. Therefore, I think that if we say "regional organisations" or if we say "a regional organization" in practice it would not make any difference so far as the exploratory talks are concerned".

Atif T. BUKHARI (Saudi Arabia, Kingdom of) (Original language Arabic): I have understood from the explanation that the study, the exploration, will only concern the request submitted by the EEC. This is what I have understood. But I believe that this is not fair if the Council adopted such a decision because there are other regional intergovernmental organisations, and if we give this privilege to the EEC, these other organizations must benefit from the very same treatment. So I would like to ask that this study, this exploration, also include all regional organizations without making special reference to the EEC or any other specific organization and therefore that we explore all the negative or positive effects of such a membership. So we would like to ask and stress that this be a global study, a global exploration, and not be confined to one given organisation.

Eduardo PESQUEIRA OLEA (México): To, Señor Presidente, quisiera apoyar lo dicho por el Representante de Arabia Saudita. Creo que si hay diferencias si el texto se refiere a una Organización en particular o varias organizaciones en general.

La delegación de México da la bienvenida a que se analicen las reformas correspondientes para el ingreso de la Comunidad Económica Europea, pero considera que esas reformas también pueden abrir la puerta para que otras de tipo semejante puedan ser analizadas en su incorporación en condiciones iguales o parecidas a nuestra Organización. To pienso, que si lo único que vamos a resolver en este problema va a ser atender las modificaciones financieras y jurídicas relacionadas con la Comunidad Económica Europea, incluso sale sobrando toda la frase que dice: de una Organización Regional, para analizar opciones para una forma de admisión como miembro de la FAO de la Comunidad Económica Europea. Si vamos a hablar exclusivamente de la Comunidad Económica Europea, vamos diciéndolo así y si vamos a analizar las posibilidades de ingreso de organizaciones multinacionales vamos diciéndolo así, en plural.

Amin ABDEL MALEK (Liban) (langue originale arabe): Merci, M. le Préaident. Pour être bref, je voudrais appuyer la proposition formulée par l'Arable saoudite et que S.E. l'Ambassadeur du Mexique a également fait sienne.

Ibrahim KARA (Guinée): La délégation guinéense appuie la proposition faite par le distingué délégué de l'Arabie Saoudite, car nous considérons que le cas de la CEE constitue pour nous un précédent. A partir de cela nous sommes invités à un travail de réflexion collectif tant au niveau de la FAO, de

la direction de la FAO, qu'au niveau des Membres de la FAO. Nous ne pouvons pas revoir le statut de la FAO uniquement à la dimension de la CEE. Nous devrions prévoir les cas éventuels. C'est pourquoi nous appuyons la proposition de l'Arable Saoudite.

Rashir EL MABROUK SAID (Libya) (Original language Arabic): I wish to support all the delegates that have spoken before me. I, too, think the amendment should be "to explore the possible options of membership for regional organizations such as the EEC and other organizations that would be commensurate with their status." et cetera, et cetera.

Aagel BARBERO MARTIN (España): Sólo quería Intervenir, Señor Presidente, a este respecto, diciendo que estamos abiertos, evidentemente, a que los estudios puedan ser de otro tipo, pero quería aclarar que la petición que se ha hecho por parte de la Comunidad ha sido basada en su especial Estatuto que permite a los Estados Miembros ceder sus competencias a un Ente como es la Comunidad. Los problemas se han creado en virtud de este Estatuto, por tanto la petición se ha dirigido así, lo cual no obsta para que otras instituciones, si hubiera otras instituciones, con estas mismas características y su concesión de su soberanía a una entidad como la Comunidad, naturalmente que entraría dentro de este estudio. Otro estudio de otro tipo de organizaciones, también se pueden hacer, lógicamente, pero la exploración que se pide en esta opción, se refiere exclusivamente a los problemas que ha creado el Estatuto de la Comunidad Económica Europea.

Sra. Graflia SOTO CARRERO (Cuba): La delegación de Cuba quiere hacer, Señor Presidente, una breve intervención en este largo debate. En primer término quisieramos apoyar la propuesta hecha por el distinguido Embajador de Arabia Saudita y ampliada por el Embajador de México. Aceptamos el análisis que se pretende hacer para el ingreso de la Comunidad Económica Europea como miembro pleno de esta Organización, pero consideramos que sería injusto imponer al Consejo un nuevo análisis si otra Organización Regional pide su ingreso a la FAO. En tal sentido, ratificamos nuestro apoyo a la propuesta de que se consideren Organizaciones Regionales.

Igor MARIDCEK (Switzerland): I do not know if the explanations given some time ago by Mr. Moore would not lead to a way out of this problem. He addressed the specific authority of EEC to enter into arrangements. I do not know if in the sentence we are examining now, if one could not introduce some reference to explore also what kind of nature an organization should be in order to be able to apply for FAO membership, something along this line. But I would leave the phrasing to the Secretariat.

Jacques WARIN (France): J'interviendrai brièvement pour appuyer ce que vient de dire mon collègue espagnol au nom de la CEE. Je voudrais faire deux remarques. La première c'est que ce point de l'ordre du jour a été inscrit sur la base d'une communication du Gouvernement espagnol, qui concernait le problème spécifique de la CEE. Il paraît donc bien naturel que le Conseil tâche de répondre à ce voeu qui, pour le moment, n'a été formulé que par la CEE. La seconde remarque c'est que se lancer dans une étude juridique qui s'intéresse à toutes les organisations impliquerait un travail qui me paraît d'une ampleur et d'un coût considérables et dans lequel j'aurai scrupule à demander à l'organisation de se lancer maintenant.

Je voudrais avoir une solution relativement rapide, quoiqu'elle prendra forcément une année et peut-être deux. Voilà les deux raisons qui me paraissent aller dans le sens de prendre la solution la plus restrictive, qui consiste à lancer à l'heure actuelle ces études et à les concentrer sur le seul cas de la Communauté Européenne.

J'ai entendu les arguments développés par les Ambassadeurs de l'Arable Saoudite et du Mexique. Je n'ai pas compris qu'ils étalent tous les deux sur le même plan car mon honorable collègue Pesqueira a fait une proposition que je suis, je crois, en mesure de prouver, avec tous les membres de la CEE, c'est-à-dire étudier les modalités possibles de l'adhésion de la CEE à un Statut de membre de la FAO. Si on pouvait en arriver là, on supprimerait toute référence à "Organisations Régionales". Je pense que cela nous conviendrait. Mais je n'aimerais surtout pas qu'on laisse dériver cette décision vers la possibilité d'impliquer toutes les Organisations Régionales. Cela me paraît à la fois dangereux, trop long et trop coûteux pour l'Organisation.

Atif T. BUKHARI (Saudi Arabia, Kingdom of) (Original language Arabic): I am faced with a problem. I have listened to my Spanish colleague, and I have listened to the Arabic, and then I have listened to the English translation of French, and when Mexico spoke, I did not hear the end of his statement. Otherwise, I would have been against the last point he raised. I must say that we are not opposed to the entry of the EEC into FAO as a full-fledged member, but this would be a precedent, and we must be ready, FAO must be in a position to deal with such matters. As the colleague from Cuba said, it would be unfair and illogical to ask FAO to proceed to a new study every time a regional organization submits such a request. This is not logical. Perhaps tomorrow another regional organization will submit a similar request, and will this particular case require an independent study? We just ask that this study be global and exhaustive and also open. And if so, as to allow us to solve problems which might arise in the future, and we would not like FAO and the Council to waste time everytime such requests are made. This was the purpose of our statement. As I said, this must be a comprehensive, exhaustive study, and not deal only with the EEC. Of course the EEC is mentioned as having special competence. Well, other regional organizations might have the very same status, and therefore if the EEC believes that its status is special, other organizations might claim the very same. So we do not really know what the special status of the EEC is.

Angel BARBERO MARTIN (España): Vamos a intentarlo; vamos a intentar que se conciten todas las opiniones que se han declarado aquí. Efectivamente, otra organización que sea de integración económica regional entraría en este estudio. Yo propondría, entonces, suprimir la alusión concreta a la Comunidad Económica Europea y dejarlo en una "organización de integración económica regional", con lo cual queda abierto a otra organización que sea así, de integración económica regional.

Joseph TCEICAYA (Congo): Je dois dire que notre ami de l'Espagne vient de me prendre les mots car j'allais dire moi-même que nous pensons nécessaire, si l'on doit mener une étude, que celle-ci puisse être ouverte à d'autres possibilités; mais nous savons également que l'on ne peut pas faire une étude qui concerne toutes les organisations régionales existantes. C'est pour cette raison qu'à mon sens, il convient de délimiter le champ de cette étude.

Ce que l'on vient de nous proposer nous convient parfaitement. Il faut que l'on sache exactement quelles sont les organisations qui pourraient être concernées par une telle étude. Cela se fera évidemment à partir d'une base, la CEE, qui est l'organisation qui demande cette intégration. A partir de cela, il est possible qu'après la CEE d'autres organisations qui poursuivent le même objectif puissent être acceptées au sein de l'Organisation.

Voilà ce que je voulais dire et je crois que cela rejoint ce que le délégué de la Suisse a dit tout à l'heure. Il me semble qu'à partir de cela nous pouvons avancer et je lance un appel à tous les membres du Conseil pour qu'ils se rallient à cette position.

João Augusto DE MEDICIS (Brazil): Chairman, thank you for giving me the floor. I was going to announce that we are prepared to accept and support what has been proposed by Spain and Congo.

John YENNIHATAS (Grèce): Je voudrais simplement soutenir l'argumentation de notre collègue français. En effet, c'est la CEE qui a fait une demande pour ouvrir une discussion exploratoire. Je crois donc que le Conseil doit se prononcer sur cette demande particulière.

Eduardo PESQUEIRA OLEA (México): Para apoyar lo dicho por España, señor Presidente.

Antoine SAINTRAIT (Observateur de Belgique): Bien qu'observateur, je voudrais quand même intervenir pour que nous sortions du débat dans lequel nous sommes enfoncés pour le moment. Je crois que la proposition de l'Ambassadeur Tchicaya est raisonnable; c'est une proposition de compromis. En fait, il appuie la proposition de compromis de notre collègue espagnol. Il me semble que la solution la plus sage est de retenir cette formule, qui est une formule large et souple et qui est de nature à obtenir le consensus.

Il est absolument inutile de vouloir tout prix trouver la perfection. En ce qui me concerne, je dois dire que la formule telle que présentée par l'Ambassadeur du Congo est de nature à satisfaire entièrement mon pays.

LEGAL COUNSEL: Thank you Mr. Chairman. I was just going to draw the attention of the Council to some formulas that have been used in various International agreements and to see whether they may provide a useful way of defining what kind of regional economic organization we may be talking about.

The agreement establishing the Common Fund for Commodities refers to: "Any inter-governmental organization of regional economic integration which exercises competence in fields of activity of the Fund". Again in the Law of the Sea Convention the words used are: "International Organizations shall mean international inter-governmental organizations constituted by states, to which states members of such organizations have transferred competence over matters governed by this Convention". I think this kind of formula is repeated in most of the agreements. It comprises two elements; (1) the element of regional economic integration organization, and (2) the element of the member states having transferred competence in matters governed by the organization. Maybe these examples may be a way of getting out of this particular dilemma.

LE PRESIDENT: Il s'agit d'une proposition formulée par le délégué de l'Espagne en sa qualité de Président actuel de la Communauté économique européenne visant à retirer les mots "telle que la CEE" et à trouver une formule faisant référence à l'intégration économique. Il y a une autre possibilité: celle de maintenir la référence à la CEE ou à d'autres organisations en laissant le soin à la FAO de conclure dans son étude que seules les organisations qui ont l'intégration économique peuvent espérer être admises à la FAO. Les deux possibilités existent. C'est au Conseil de décider s'il est d'accord sur la proposition relative à l'intégration économique. Cela permettrait de voir s'il y a d'autres organisations-l'UMA et d'autres-qui vont dans cette direction et d'orienter l'avenir, comme l'a dit le délégué de l'Arabie Saoudite.

Il y a donc deux hypothèses: le Conseil peut accepter la proposition de l'Espagne ou, s'il veut une option plus ouverte, il peut laisser le soin à l'Organisation de faire une recommandation, à la suite de l'étude qu'elle aura effectuée, à savoir que les organisations qui n'ont pas l'intégration économique ne sont pas éligibles.

LEGAL COUNSEL: I think we would appreciate clear guidelines for the kind of study that you wish us to do. My feeling on this was that the formula which I had mentioned, as drawn from international agreements, was in fact a refinement of what had already been talked about, with respect to regional economic integration organizations. I think that there are two elements; economic integration organization and transfer of competence. But I am in your hands, the hands of the Council, as to the instructions you wish to give us.

LE PRESIDENT: Le Conseil est-il d'accord sur cette option de l'intégration économique? Y a-t-il un consensus pour enlever les mots "telle que la CEE" et les remplacer par "à intégration économique"?

Joseph TCHICAYA (Congo): En intervenant sur cette question, j'ai indiqué qu'il fallait tenir compte au moins de deux éléments. Le premier est l'intégration économique, mais le deuxième est tout aussi important: c'est qu'il faut qu'il y ait un transfert de pouvoir de ses Etats membres à cette organisation. Si ces deux éléments ne sont pas là, nous risquons d'avoir mille organisations dans ce cas.

Ilja HDLIMSKT (Czechoslovakia): I raise my flag just to remind you that I would like to make my statement after agreement is reached.

LE PRESIDENT: Le Conseil est-il d'accord pour que, dans ce paragraphe 5 b), il soit fait mention explicite du transfert effectif de compétence dans le cadre de l'intégration économique?

Daniel D.C. DON NANJIRA (Kenya): Thank you, Mr Chairman. Could you read the entire subparagraph as it will then be?

LEGAL COUNSEL: Thank you Mr. Chairman. I will try to read it and compose it at the same time. I think it will read as follows: "5.b. To invite the Director-General (i) to explore the options for a form of membership of FAO of a regional economic integration organization to which the members have transferred competence in the fields of activity of FAO, along with the full financial constitutional, legal and other implications for the Organization of such options, keeping the Finance Committee and the CCLM fully informed of the progress thereof, and (ii) to report thereon to the 98th Session of the Council in November 1990". Is that satisfactory?

C. Srinivasa SASTRY (India): Mr. Chairman, in our view the Council must be clear whether the study is to be exclusively only for the EEC or whether it should cover other organizations also. If we are clear, as the formulation now seems to be, that only the EEC requests this study, I think it would be much more straightforward to say: "to explore the options for a form of membership of FAO of the EEC along with" and add a proviso saying that similar studies should be conducted should other organizations also approach the FAO, because the concern that was expressed was are we going to make an addition only in relation to the EEC?

Daniel D.C. DON NANJIRA (Kenya): I started to take down the paragraph as read by the Legal Counsel but was unable to do so. However, if the entire Council has understood what the Legal Counsel has said, of course the Kenya delegation would have no problem.

The problem we are having is that this paragraph is so long, and unless we have it to read, these apprehensions, for example, such as the Indian delegate has raised, are bound to continue. I think that before we adopt this text we need to see the exact language so that fears such as those raised by the Indian delegation do not continue to arise. We must be clear in what we want.

LE PRESIDENT: Je propose au Conseil que cet après-midi heures-parce que nous ne pourrons pas terminer ce matin-le Secrétariat nous communique le texte définitif tel qu'amendé afin que tout le monde puisse se prononcer en pleine connaissance de cause.

Nous revenons à notre ordre du jour, à savoir le point 18-Calendarier révisé des sessions 1988-89 du Conseil et des organes qui relèvent du Conseil (CL 95/16)-et le point 21-Date et lieu de la quatre-vingt-seizième session du Conseil (CL 95/16). Pouvons-nous entreprendre l'examen de ces points?

IV. PROGRAMME, BUDGETARY, FINANCIAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS (cont'd)

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

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

18. Revised Calendar of 1988-89 Sessions of the Council and of Those Bodies which Report to the Council

18. Calendarier révisé des sessions 1988-89 du Conseil et des organes qui relèvent du Conseil

18. Calendarlo revisado para 1988-89 de los periodos de sesiones del Consejo y de los órganos que le rinden informes

VI. OTHER MATTERS

VI. QUESTIONS DIVERSES

VI. OTROS ASUNTOS

21. Date and Place of the Ninety-sixth Session of the Council

21. Date et lieu de la quatre-vingt-seizième session du Conseil

21. Fecha y lugar del 96º período de sesiones del Consejo

Gonzalo BULA HOTOS (Colombia): Como usted ha dicho los puntos 18 y 21 estén vinculados. Vamos a referimos al documento CL 95/16, parte posterior, en la cual aparecen para el 968 período de sesiones del Consejo de noviembre las fechas del 7 al 9, que son martes a jueves. Nosotros proponemos que se extienda ese período del lunes 6 al viernes 10.

Los representantes de Colombia atribuimos gran importancia a la función del Consejo de noviembre en relación con este examen. Pensamos que si en ese Consejo se lleva a cabo un debate amplio, profundo y serio que posiblemente nos permita lograr el consenso, esto facilitaría la labor de la Conferencia. No se necesita tener gran experiencia para saber de antemano cuáles son los puntos de la Agenda del Consejo de noviembre. Por eso proponemos desde ahora que, preferiblemente, hasta donde sea posible, los tres primeros días de las sesiones del Consejo de noviembre se dediquen a este punto. No creemos que el tema del examen deba figurar al final del calendario de la reunión de noviembre. Pensamos que si se hace ese examen en los tres primeros días, podríamos acaso utilizar los dos días restantes para solucionar cualquier problema que surja a través de consultas o de pequeños grupos. Hacemos esta propuesta basados sólo en nuestro buen y sincero propósito de contribuir a que ese examen sea realizado de manera cuidadosa, como pensamos que debe ser hecho. No vamos a revivir ninguna polémica ni ningún debate, pero tenemos la obligación de decir que al hacer esta declaración nos basamos en un principio que los delegados de Colombia sostenemos firmemente, no sólo en la FAO sino en todas las organizaciones internacionales: la relación entre la Secretaría y los representantes de los Gobiernos. La Secretaría representa a la administración y debe ofrecer el apoyo necesario a los representantes de los Gobiernos, que somos los responsables de las decisiones. Naturalmente, esa relación debe adelantarse de manera mutuamente constructiva y con pleno entendimiento, pero para nosotros, los términos de esa relación no deben nunca alterarse y muchos menos invertirse. A la luz de estas consideraciones, nosotros pensamos que si esta propuesta concreta recibe apoyo del Consejo, debería reflejarse en el Informe de manera flexible, de manera indicativa, como sugerición. No quiere esto decir que los representantes de Colombia estemos desde ahora preparando ya el Calendario Provisional que le corresponde adelantar a usted y a la Secretaría. Pero si nadie apoya esta proposición nosotros no vamos a insistir. No somos propietarios del dogma de la infalibilidad, ni tampoco hacemos de esto una cuestión de prestigio, pero, eso sí, nosotros procederemos a la luz de la decisión del Consejo y no en base a una negativa anticipada de la Secretaría.

LE PRESIDENT: Il y a une proposition de la Colombie qui tend à ce que le Conseil de novembre ait lieu du lundi 6 au vendredi 10 novembre 1989, au lieu du 7 au 9 novembre, comme cela avait été inscrit dans l'ordre du jour.

De toute façon, nous sommes en train d'étudier la question du calendrier des sessions et non pas de l'ordre du jour des sessions.

Bashir EL MABROUK SAID (Libya) (Original language Arabic): Generally speaking I always agree with my friend, Ambassador Bula Hoyas, but this time I think that I have to differ because we are talking about the work of the next Session of the Council according to the documents that have been presented to us.

The agenda items referred to by the delegate from Colombia should be discussed at a later stage as we are talking about the dates and not about the timetable.

Atif Y-BUKHARI (Saudi Arabia, Kingdom of) (Original language Arabic): Are we discussing now the proposal made by the delegate from Colombia paragraph by paragraph or as a proposal, because it falls into two parts?

LE PRESIDENT: Nous discutons actuellement du calendrier des sessions (CL 95/16), nous ne discutons pas de l'ordre du jour du prochain Conseil qui sera discuté par le prochain Conseil, lors de sa première séance. On sait que le premier point de l'ordre du jour du Conseil est de fixer l'ordre du jour.

Atif Y. BuKARI (Saudi Arabia, Kingdom of) (Original language Arabic): If we are talking about the period during which the Council will be held, we propose that it should be Monday, 6 November through 9 November, in order that we may leave aside 10 November for the meeting of the Committee to review the other matters.

Igor MARINCEK (Suisse): Comme la question du calendrier est un peu liée à l'ordre du jour, nous devrions voir les deux questions ensemble.

Ma délégation appuie la proposition de la Colombie, à savoir que notre Conseil consacrerait les 6, 7 et 8 novembre à l'examen de la FAO. Nous commencerions donc plus tôt. Nous pensons que c'est à nous, membres du Conseil, qu'il appartient de prévoir dès maintenant le temps que nous voulons consacrer à l'examen de la FAO, pour être en mesure de le traiter calmement et éviter de le traiter sous pression durant la dernière partie du Conseil.

Nous appuyons également la proposition de l'Ambassadeur Bula Hoyos-qui l'avait déjà faite, si je me souviens bien, dans le contexte de notre débat du point 13 de l'ordre du jour-de mettre sur pied le Comité des candidatures dès le 6 novembre.

En résumé, la session du Conseil durerait du 6 au 10 octobre.

Paul R. BRYDEN (Australia): May I also lend my support to the proposals of the delegate from Colombia. It seems to my delegation that after two years of intensive discussions in various Committees with group of experts we really owe it to ourselves and to the broader membership to ensure that we bring the fruits of that in the best possible shape to the Conference in order to allow for a discussion in Commission II.

With regard to the length of time, Monday, 6 November to Friday, 10 November would seem appropriate to us.

With regard to the actual allocation of the agenda and the distribution of items, that is totally up to the Council at that time. But could I please plead with the Secretariat to give us more than five minutes to look at the timetable. This discussion we are now having should help with drafting the timetable.

Joseph TCHICAYA (Congo): Je voudrais intervenir sur les propositions faites par mon collègue et ami, l'Ambassadeur Bula Hoyos.

Je n'ai aucune peine à accepter le calendrier qu'il a proposé, c'est-à-dire du 6 au 10 novembre. Je pense aussi que, si la session peut se terminer le 9, cela pourra n'en être que mieux pour nous et nous pourrions mieux nous préparer à la Conférence.

Mais que l'on donne 3 ou 5 jours au Conseil, je ne crois pas que le Conseil sera en mesure de terminer ce débat. Je crois que la Commission II est très indiquée pour pouvoir mener ce débat et peut-être sera-t-on obligé d'avoir recours à tel ou tel groupe de contact.

Pour cette raison, il serait souhaitable de permettre au Secrétariat de s'exprimer sur cette question, pour savoir si la réunion peut s'inscrire du 6 au 10 novembre sans inconvénient pour la préparation de la Conférence, ou du 6 au 9 novembre, car je suis souple sur ce point.

Quant à l'ordre du jour de la réunion, nous connaissons les points mais il ne nous appartient pas ici de décider quel point sera débattu avant tel autre. Je crois qu'il convient, comme l'a dit le Représentant de l'Australie, de laisser le soin au Conseil de pouvoir délibérer sur le calendrier et de voir quels sont les points qu'il estime nécessaire de débattre avant d'autres.

Voilà ma contribution à ce sujet.

Atif T. BUTHARI (Saudi Arabia, Kingdom of) (Original language Arabic) This is not just the floor talking. You have not given me the chance to tackle the agenda of the Council during its coming Session.

We have no particular objection to either calendar, the 6-9 or 6-10. We believe that the Secretariat should inform us which they think is the better.

Regarding the agenda, during the forthcoming Session when there is discussion on the agenda, any member can then propose a change or a re-ordering of the the agenda items. I do not think we need waste time on it now, as it can be discussed at the beginning of the next Session, when, as we know, you, Mr. Chairman, will call for the adoption of the agenda. If there are proposals by members concerning re-ordering of the items, these can be dealt with then.

I would like to support fully what has been said by the distinguished Ambassador of Congo. I would also like to draw to the attention of all an important point: the Programme of Work and Budget is the most important item in the view of government members of this Organization. We have sought the adoption of this Programme by consensus, and this adoption should be effected during the next meeting of the Council. This Programme is the blood that circulates the body of this Organization-not the Review. I do not think consideration of the Review will be completed during the next meeting, but the Conference will of course also consider it. It is therefore my personal view-and here I express only my personal view-that the Programme of Work and Budget should have priority during the deliberations of the next Council.

John G. COOK (United States of America): The Council should be held from 6-10 November. I recall that last November, when debating the revised agenda of this Council, we had to add on a day or two, and I would hate to think of the situation we would have been in if we had not done so.

I will not now address the agenda, in the hope that other Members will follow my example. We should at this point concentrate on the question of dates, and address the agenda later.

V.J. SHAH (AssiStant Director-General, Office of Programme, Budget and Evaluation): I hope that the Council will be reassured, not only by the tone of my clarification, but also by its content as to what I have to say on behalf of the Director-General. The Council will of course decide the dates of the Session, and the Secretariat will serve it-we always do. However, may I pursue a point which you, Mr. Chairman, alluded to-that there are three aspects involved here.

First of all, regarding the dates of the Session: this is the matter before you now, and there have been two possibilities mentioned. One is to have the Session from Monday 6 to Friday 10; the other is to have the Session from Monday 6, to Thursday 9. The Secretariat will serve you in whichever of those dates you decide to adopt, whether it be the Monday to the Thursday or the Monday to the Friday. One point which has been mentioned by the distinguished Ambassador of Saudi Arabia is that the Friday before the Conference begins is a day when Member Nations involved in the Nominations Committee have certain important responsibilities in preparation for the Conference. With all respect, I suggest that you may wish to bear this in mind. There is also the possibility of deciding on the Monday to Thursday dates, with the possibility of the Council continuing on Friday if that was necessary.

As regards the provisional agenda, I am very pleased to see that, although interest in the Provisional Agenda is great, I think the distinguished Members do realise that the Provisional Agenda will be circulated to you according to the general rule, 60 days in advance of the Council Session, and this Provisional Agenda will be prepared as normal, in consultation with you, Mr. Chairman. I think that that takes care of the Provisional Agenda.

As regards the timetable, that would be adopted by yourselves at the outset of the Session.

I hope these clarifications have been of assistance.

Eduardo PESQUEIRA OLEA (México): En los términos del Orden del Día lo que tenemos a discusión es el Calendario y la fecha y lugar para el próximo periodo de sesiones. La delegación de México apoya que la fecha sea del 6 al 9 o del 6 al 10, preferimos del 6 al 9 y que el lugar sea Roma. Ese es el punto único que tenemos que discutir, esa es la posición de México. Después trataremos los otros puntos.

Bashir EL MABROUK SAID (Libya) (Original language Arabic): I would like to thank Mr. Shah for his clarifications regarding the calendar. He referred to the fact that Friday will be the meeting of the Nominations Committee. There is another point: Those residing here in Rome representing their

countries need to have one day in which to receive our Ministers coming from our capitals. The delegations are not large, and that day is most helpful to us.

I would therefore support the distinguished delegate of Mexico, that the Council should meet from the sixth to the ninth.

Mohammad Saleem KHAN (Pakistan): In view of the clarifications which have just been given by Mr. Shah and the statements just made by the distinguished representatives of Mexico and Libya, my delegation fully agrees with the proposal that we should have the Session from the sixth to the ninth. As Mr. Shah explained, we could then perhaps extend to the tenth if necessary, but we would prefer that the tenth be kept clear for consideration of the Nominations Committee, and to allow members of smaller delegations to organize themselves and make arrangements for the Conference.

We do not intend to comment on either the agenda or the timetable, as we consider that premature at this stage.

Igor MARINCEK (Suisse): Je voudrais faire un petit rappel concernant la procédure.

Ma délégation avait demandé la parole avant Monsieur Shah. Elle n'était pas d'accord sur le fait que le Secrétariat intervienne à ce stade des débats. Mais peut-être, Monsieur le Président, ne l'avez-vous pas vu ?

LE PRESIDENT: Il est d'usage avant toute question qu'il y ait une introduction du Secrétariat. Il y a un équilibre entre le Secrétariat et les délégués. On donne la parole au Secrétariat.

Je vous remercie de votre remarque mais je me devais de vous répondre.

Igor MARINCEK (Suisse): Je croyais que Monsieur Shah se référait à la proposition de Monsieur Bula Hoyos.

En ce qui concerne la question des dates et de la longueur et de l'organisation des travaux du Conseil ce n'est pas l'affaire du Secrétariat mais du Conseil. Le Secrétariat est là pour nous servir. Les explications de Monsieur Shah à ce sujet allaient dans ce sens. Pour ce qui est des dates dont on a parlé, le Comité des candidatures pourrait commencer dès le 6. Dans ce contexte, le délégué de l'Arabie Saoudite a suggéré que l'on discute du Programme de travail et du budget. Je rappelle qu'on va aussi en discuter lors de la Conférence. Il n'y a pas à notre avis un problème quant à la proposition de tenir une session du 6 au 10.

Sra. Laurie CORDUA CRUZ (Nicaragua): Mi delegación quiere en primer lugar agradecer la aclaración que nos ha ofrecido el señor Shah que ha sido muy oportuna, y reiterar que en el tema que nos ocupa estamos discutiendo, aprobando el Calendario revisado, y estamos hablando de la fecha y lugar del Consejo. Cualquier discusión sobre la Agenda es improcedente, ya que es el Consejo el que decide, pero decidir en el primer día de iniciar el Consejo de noviembre la Agenda.

Respecto a la fecha del Consejo apoyamos que sea del seis al nueve de noviembre, como lo han expresado las delegaciones de México, Pakistán y Libia.

Michael McGILL (United Kingdom): We welcome the proposed dates of 6-10 November for the Ninety-sixth Session of the Council. This gives us time to discuss the Review of our Organization; it is at that point that we will be able to assess the implications of the Review. One cannot know what the implications are before November.

As the Director-General said on Tuesday, the Commissions of the Conference will set their own agendas, and we can expect the Ninety-sixth Session of the Council to offer useful advice in the light of their discussions.

Karl W. WEYBRECHT (Canada): I would also like to express my support of the proposal originally put forward by the distinguished delegate of Colombia, that the dates for the next Council Session be set in the period November 6-10. There may be a possibility that deliberations could be completed earlier, but we believe that sufficient time should be made available to the Council to complete discussion of its agenda.

I would also support the point made earlier about the circulation of the agenda and timetable to Member Nations being as far in advance as possible of the Session.

Paul R. BRYDEN (Australia): In the light of the new information introduced into our debate by the Secretariat-namely, the meeting of the Nominations Committee on the Friday-I would like to say that I am sure that if my delegation were a member of the Nominations Committee we would have no wish to stand in the way of serious deliberations by Council at such an important moment. I have the impression that the deliberations of the Nominations Committee are generally not controversial. and that most of the work has been pre-negotiated or discussed informally. Arrangements perhaps could be made for that Committee to meet between one o'clock and three o'clock, or nine o'clock and eleven o'clock, or something like that, if necessary.

I observe that my delegation would not regard the Nominations Committee as important as the Council.

Another point made was with reference to the Ministers reconvening on a Friday. In fact, many Ministers, mainly the Commonwealth, probably arrive on Thursday because there is a Commonwealth meeting on the Friday, so if we are worrying about some ministers arriving on Tuesday, some on Wednesday and so on, delegations simply have to try to cope with the situation.

Masayuki KOMATSU (Japan): The Japanese delegation also prefers to have the 96th Session of Council from 6-10 November because we made our decision clear on several occasions when discussing other agenda items. My delegation is really keen to know about the report on the review and would like to examine carefully the result of the review.

We made our position clear with regard to the coming 1990/91 budget in that we need information and analysis of the review. Without that, we cannot take up a position relevant to the other important issues, so we need as much time as possible to discuss the review issues. Therefore, my delegation prefers the next Council session to be held from 6-10 November.

Joseph TCHIGAYA (Congo): Je reprends la parole afin d'essayer de donner le point de vue de mon Gouvernement sur un point qui a été soulevé ici. Je souhaite au nom de mon Gouvernement que l'on ne fasse pas de lien possible entre le Programme d'adoption ou la discussion du Programme de travail et du budget, son approbation, et les résultats de l'examen de la FAO. Nous pensons qu'il s'agit là de deux points différents qui seront discutés certainement lors de la Conférence, mais que la priorité ne doit pas conditionner l'un et l'autre. Je pense que cela méritait d'être dit.

Ensuite je voudrais dire également que pour ce qui concerne les dates je crois qu'il y a des points qui ont été soulevés. Certes ces points ne concernent pas tous les Etats Membres, comme l'arrivée des Ministres le 10... Le Comité de candidatures devrait se réunir à ce moment-là. Je crois que ce sont des problèmes qui concernent beaucoup de pays en développement, qui très souvent n'ont pas le nombre des délégués qu'ont les pays développés.

Je crois qu'il faut que le Conseil en tienne compte afin d'arrêter les dates de son prochain Conseil. Mais comme je l'ai dit je ne pense pas que le problème de l'examen de la FAO sera réglé uniquement parce qu'on aura deux, trois ou quatre jours de plus de discussion, au niveau du Conseil, je crois que la Commission II y consacrerait tout son temps. Je suis d'accord avec ceux qui pensent qu'il faut que nous ayons les documents à temps pour nous permettre de bien les examiner afin que les débats de la Commission II puissent être plus nourris.

C'est pour cette raison qu'il conviendrait peut-être d'arrêter les dates du 6 au 9 pour que le 10 le Comité des candidatures se réunisse. Certains ont besoin de le savoir pour donner un point de vue définitif au niveau du Comité de candidature. Il faut que l'ensemble des délégués des pays soit ensemble ici à Rome. Ceci est important, il faut en tenir compte.

Yousef Ali Mahmomd HAMDY (Egypt) (Original language Arabic): It is clear that there is a need to increase the time allotted for the coming Council session, and that it should be more than the period from 7-9 November to cope with an agenda that has so many items. There is a difficulty in

that the Council will convene from 6-10 November, but we support the proposal that the next Council session should be from 6-9 November 1989.

Roberto E. DALTON (Argentina): Notamos que hay un consenso en el Consejo de ampliar la duración del 96º. Período de Sesiones. Las hipótesis que han manejado las distintas delegaciones nos parecen aceptables; sea del seis al nueve, o del seis al diez. No obstante nos inclinamos por la hipótesis más flexible avanzada por la delegación de Mexico y aceptada por otras delegaciones, es decir, del seis al nueve con la previsión de tener abierto el viernes 10 para continuar las tareas.

Finalmente, Señor Presidente, permítame decir que nos hemos limitado a la consideración del tema que tenemos específicamente en la Agenda y entendemos que todas las consideraciones que se han hecho sobre examen, programa y presupuesto, etc. no tienen cabida bajo el Tema 21 de nuestra Agenda.

Hannu HALINEN (Finland): On behalf of the Nordic countries, we support the proposal that the dates of the next Council session should be 6-10 November 1989, on the understanding that the Council can always finish earlier when the work is done.

Bernd von SYDOW (Germany, Federal Republic of): With reference to the task before us at the next session of Council, we suggest that we should make arrangements for the five days. 6-10 November. If it is possible to finish earlier, so much the better.

Atif T. BUKHARI (Saudi Arabia, Kingdom of) (Original language Arabic): We would prefer that the meeting should be convened from 6-9 November. I believe that I have heard some voices saying that we might finish earlier than that, but if we need one more day, which is the Friday, we can make use of it. There is a balance between both dates. We much prefer 6-9 November. Why cannot we say that if we need one more day we can make use of the Friday? We should not differ from that.

LE PRESIDENT: Nous n'aimerions pas qu'il y ait deux réunions concomitantes. Est-ce que le Conseil accepte que l'on termine le 9 à midi? Donc le 9 à midi.

22. Any Other Business

22. Autres questions

22. Otros asuntos

- Appointment of a Representative of the FAO Conference to the Staff Pension Committee
- Nomination d'un représentant de la Conférence de la FAO au Comité des pensions du personnel
- Nombramiento de un Representante de la Conferencia de la FAO en el Comité de Pensiones del Personal

D.K. CROWTHER (Assistant Director-General, Administration and Finance Department): The Staff Pension Committee has a vacancy for a position normally appointed by the Conference. The Conference has delegated authority to Council to appoint a delegate when an individual has either resigned or been transferred. In this case, the transfer of Mr. Weygandt, who had been a member of the Staff Pension Committee representing the Conference, creates a vacancy. I am informed that Mrs Astrid Bergquist, the Permanent Representative to FAO of Sweden has agreed to serve in this capacity during the remainder of the term through 31 December 1989.

If that is acceptable to Council, this creates an additional vacancy because Mrs. Bergquist has very kindly been serving as an Alternate. The proposal is that she be named to fill the regular membership post, and then as Alternate we would propose that Mr. Steven Hill, the Alternate Permanent Representative to FAO from the United States be named as the Alternate member through the unexpired term to 31 December. We need the approval of Council on both of these points.

It was so decided

Il en est ainsi décidé

Así se acuerda

Paul R. BRYDEN (Australia): In the documents before the last Conference regarding the review process, my country put forward some ideas about drafting committees. We are currently serving on the Drafting Committee, and have had the privilege of serving on many such committees. All who serve on them feel there should be some way of revitalising the process. Through you, Mr. Chairman, could I ask the Secretariat if they could provide, without going into too much detail or making too much effort, and perhaps by the next Council, a simple piece of paper which might indicate the way other United Nations organizations go about their drafting, so we can reflect on it.

Igor MARINCEK (Suisse): Je voudrais seulement appuyer la proposition du délégué de l'Australie. En tant que membre du Comité de rédaction, nous comprenons très bien ce souhait.

Sra. Monica DEREGIBUS (Argentina): Ya que estamos en otros asuntos, la Delegación Argentina quisiera recordar que en el 948 período de sesiones del Consejo se aprobó una resolución que indicaba que los Comités principales de la FAO debían poner en las agendas de sus próximos períodos de sesiones el tema referido a la mujer en el desarrollo agrícola y rural. Pero como muchas de las reuniones de estos Comités no estaban programadas y había poco tiempo, en su momento ni el Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria ni el Comité de Agricultura ni el Comité de Pesca pusieron la cuestión en sus agendas, cosa que harán para sus próximos períodos de sesiones. No obstante, es nuestra opinión que el Comité de Montes, que se debe reunir el año próximo, sí tendrá tiempo suficiente como para poner el tema en su agenda y preparar la correspondiente documentación, en cumplimiento de la resolución 1/94 del Consejo. Y quisiéramos, pues, que quedara constancia de esta circunstancia, de que el Consejo recordó que había tomado esta decisión en una anterior oportunidad.

V.J. SHAH (Assistant Director-General, Office of Programme, Budget and Evaluation): To take the questions in the order in which they were raised, the Delegate of Australia raised the matter of the practice of other organizations regarding drafting committees. I take it from the nature of the question that he is seeking whatever information we have. This is not a question of undertaking a major study and I believe the Delegate of Australia sees the point because, after all, your membership in other organizations also enables each government to assess what the practices are in those in which they participate.

But I would say on behalf of my colleagues that whatever information we can readily get, we could make available without making it a formal document of the Council.

Secondly, on the question raised by the Distinguished Representative of Argentina, in fact, as you will recall, since your Resolution 1/94 requests the Director-General to present a report on progress in fulfilling this Resolution to the 96th Session of the Council, the Council will receive a document which will inter alia cover the points she has raised about the extent to which the request for inclusion of this subject in the agenda of technical bodies has been or has not been covered yet and what the intentions are with regard to the future meetings of these bodies.

LE PRESIDENT: Je remercie M. Shah. J'espère que ses explications ont été claires.

Il reste une question de notre ordre du jour qui n'a pas été épuisé, le point 20.3 relatif à la CEE. Nous avons convenu que le Secrétariat présenterait le texte, cet après-midi, afin que nous puissions en discuter en séance plénière. C'est en effet une question très importante qui doit être discutée en séance plénière.

Il y a un chevauchement de notre horaire et de celui du Comité de rédaction. Le Président du Comité de rédaction a demandé la parole; je la lui donne.

Hannu HALINEN (Chairman Drafting Committee): In the interest of the proceedings of this session, I would like to submit through you to Council the following. The Drafting Committee Session has been called to order at 2.30 p.m. this afternoon. We are informed through the Secretariat that there is only one set of Conference services available. In this situation, we have considerable work still ahead in the Drafting Committee. I would suggest, without in any way contradicting what I did mention yesterday about the mandate and role of this Drafting Committee as I see it, that realising that the Legal Counsel is attempting to find a text which would correspond to the discussion taken place before in the one item still open, that the Drafting Committee could have a look at the text on the basis of the findings of the Legal Counsel and try to attempt to reflect the discussion

directly in our draft. Then the final approval of the text could take place in the Plenary tomorrow when the report of the Drafting Committee will be discussed.

Ilja HULINSKY (Czechoslovakia): That leaves me with a certain difficulty. As you know, I wanted to make my statement afterwards, if the agreement would be reached. But I am ready to make my statement just now, while understanding that we are going to reach a consensus.

Joseph TCHICAYA (Congo): En fait, ce que je voulais dire a été dit par le Président du Comité de rédaction. Pour ma part, je ne pense pas qu'il soit utile que nous revenions ici à 15 heures pour examiner ce projet de texte. Je crois, en effet, que les grandes lignes de ce qui doit figurer dans ce texte ont été dégagées ici et que M. Moore aura préparé un texte conforme à notre discussion. Ce texte devra être transmis au Comité de rédaction qui en débattrà et nous l'examinerons en séance plénière au moment opportun.

Masayuki KCMATSU (Japan): My delegation also has the same concern as expressed by the Distinguished Delegate of Czechoslovakia. After some consensus is made about the EEC and the Inter-economic Organization, or whatever it is called-EEC and FAO-our delegation would like to make a statement.

The second point is that for the coming Council and Conference, since Japan is located far away from here, and although we are forced to speak in English, our kind of labours and elaborations to prepare for the attendance at those important meetings needs certain time. However, these days we see that the documentation to be sent before us to be reached in Tokyo is always late, and the delegation cannot prepare well in order to participate in these very important debates. So we ask the Secretariat-although I understand this kind of request is frequently made these days-that the Secretariat will, in advance, send the documents to each member of the Council and the coming Conference, please.

Daniel D.C DON NANJIRA (Kenya): Maybe you will tell us how long we are going to be here. We are hungry. We are discussing food problems, and our stomachs are empty. We need access to food, Sir, this afternoon.

LE PRESIDENT: Nous allons bientôt finir. Moins vous parlerez et plus tôt nous finirons. Il faut quand même écouter les délégués et voir quelle est la réaction du Conseil.

Daniel D.C. DON NANJIRA (Kenya): I am not saying I am hungry, but I was saying we need to go to eat very soon, so I suggest that we support the idea that the draft text, as the Ambassador of Congo said, can be looked into perhaps tomorrow, and that when we finish now we close for the day and we go to eat so that we can come back tomorrow morning, whatever the time was going to be, because we should not reconvene just for the sake of having a look at that text alone. This is what I wanted to say, and now the other delegate has the floor.

Igor MARINCKK (Suisse): Très brièvement, à propos du point 20.3, je me demande si une solution pour le délégué de la Tchécoslovaquie ne pourrait pas être la suivante: le texte sera communiqué au Comité de rédaction, qui en débattrà, et demain, juste avant l'adoption du rapport, nous consacrerons une très brève séance plénière à ce point, ce qui donnera la possibilité au délégué de la Tchécoslovaquie de faire sa déclaration. Ensuite, nous passerons immédiatement à l'adoption du rapport.

Ilja HULINSKY (Czechoslovakia): I am ready to go along with the suggestion.

LE PRESIDENT: J'accepte, à une condition: que cela ne retarde par le reste de nos travaux car il faut une journée au Comité de rédaction. Si ce point-là nous demande trop de temps, je préfère le laisser pour la fin. S'il existe un consensus et que l'on peut procéder rapidement, je suis d'accord; autrement, je devrai laisser ce point pour la fin pour ne pas bloquer tout le travail du Comité de rédaction. Si vous n'y voyez pas d'objection, pour ne pas arrêter la machine, le délégué de la Tchécoslovaquie et celui du Japon prendront la parole lorsque nous arriverons à ce point 20.3.

Meeting rose at 13.45 h.

La séance est levée à 13 h 45.

Se levanta la sesión a las 13.45 horas.

council

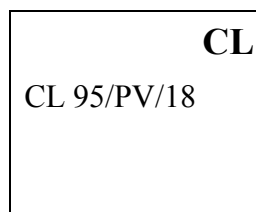
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consejo

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Ninety-fifth Session

Quatre-vingt-quinzième session

95º periodo de sesiones

EIGHTEENTH PLENARY MEETING
DIX-HUITIEME SEANCE PLENIERE
18ª SESION PLENARIA
(30 June 1989)

The Eighteenth Plenary Meeting was opened at 09.45 hours Lassaad Ben Osman, Independent Chairman of the Council, presiding

La dix-huitième séance 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: Honorables délégués, Mesdames, Messieurs. Nous arrivons au dernier jour des travaux du Conseil. Nous allons aujourd'hui analyser et approuver, après modifications éventuelles, le rapport qui sera présenté par le Comité de rédaction.

Les documents qui sont prêts actuellement sont les REP/1, REP/2, REP/3 et REP/4. Il manque le document REP/5 qui sera prêt en fin de matinée. Dans ce document figure le point 20.3 relatif à la Communauté Economique Européenne. C'est un point important qui mérite d'être analysé en plénière.

Je vous demanderais donc d'accepter la procédure suivante: Nous commençons le travail d'adoption des rapports. Lorsqu'en fin de matinée arrivera le rapport REP/5, nous pourrions analyser le point 20.3 du rapport immédiatement, de façon à permettre à ceux qui veulent faire des communications, comme la Tchécoslovaquie et le Japon, de faire part de leur point de vue.

Hannu HALINEN (Chairman, Drafting committee): On behalf of the members of the Drafting Committee I have the honour to submit the Draft Report for your consideration.

I would like to make a few remarks in that context. It is my understanding that we had a very representative group discussing the Items on a very broad basis. We worked very hard and we worked in a very good atmosphere. I can sincerely say that each one of us showed an admirably professional approach to the work. I think an exercise like this is a unique one; the group had to find its own methods of work and way of doing things.

I would like to give one short example about the questions we came to discuss and take our conceptual decision on, and that was the question of how do we address ourselves to the numbers of speakers and members who addressed some issues. Therefore we had the possibility of starting from one, a few, several, many, most, the great majority, the Council in general, the Council and then we would say in a more neutral way that the point was made. All those expressions we dwelt upon for quite some time in different paragraphs, and you see them in the Draft Reports in front of you. In the end we found a formulation which reached a consensus among us. I think very few paragraphs went by without any comments or discussion. On some paragraphs we spent a couple of minutes and on some a couple of hours. This was done, as we sincerely hope, in order to expedite and facilitate your work here.

I do realize this is not a perfect work; each one of us individually would say things perhaps differently, but it is I believe a draft we can all defend to recollect the thoughts and accurately report on the discussions and decisions of this Council.

Whilst submitting the Draft Report to you for your consideration, I would fall in my duties if I did not once again thank the members of the Drafting Committee for their exceptional contributions in this common effort. My thanks go also to the Secretariat and Conference services for their patience and contributions.

João Augusto DE MEDICIS (Brazil): I just want to support what has been said by the Chairman of the Drafting Committee. Brazil having been a member of the Drafting Committee will participate but will try not to interfere in the discussion. We know the trouble the compilation of this Draft Report represented and also the amount of compromise it represents; so, as one of the members of the Drafting Committee, Brazil is very happy with the draft, although we might have some remarks to make here and there. In spite of those remarks, we will refrain from voicing them in order to expedite our work. So Mr. Chairman, please do not interpret my silence as a lack of interest but as our support for the work done by the Drafting Committee.

LE PRESIDENT: Effectivement les Membres du Comité de rédaction sont les présentateurs de ce document et la déontologie veut qu'ils n'interviennent pas sauf si le document est amendé, auquel cas il peut y avoir des interventions à la proposition de ce rapport. Donc, pour hâter l'approbation de ce rapport, je propose de tenir compte de cette remarque. Nous pouvons commencer par l'approbation du rapport.

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 10 approved

Les paragraphes 5 à 10 sont approuvés

Los párrafos 5 a 10 son aprobados

PARAGRAPHS.11 to.31

PARAGRAPHES 11 à 31

PARRAFOS 11 a 31

Gonzalo BULA HOTOS (Colombia): Para interrumpir ligeramente la agradable monotonía de nuestros trabajos de esta mañana, al final del párrafo 16, en el texto castellano, sería necesario corregir la referencia a la Resolución. Esta referencia es 1/94. Esto se refiere al texto castellano, ya que en francés e inglés aparece el número correcto.

LE PRESIDENT: Merci la Colombie, nous en tiendrons compte et le Secrétariat en tiendra compte. Paragraphe 17: approuvé. Paragraphe 18: le Comité de Rédaction veut nous faire une communication à ce sujet.

Hannu HALINEN (Chairman, Drafting Committee): Here I would like to point out a typing error. The Drafting Committee had agreed to delete a word on the 3rd line-"also". "... members also urged". So the word "also" on the 3rd line stands deleted.

LE PRESIDENT: Paragraphe 18: approuvé. Paragraphe 19:

Earl V. WEYBRECHT (Canada): I have no problem with most of paragraph 19 except if it would be possible to seek clarification from the Chairman of the Drafting Committee on the last sentence in paragraph 19, where reference is made to the "formulation of recommendations concerning compensatory measures for possible increases in the food import bills of developing countries following trade liberalization". I would like an explanation from the Chairman of the Committee on that particular sentence.

LE PRESIDENT: Y a-t-il d'autres observations avant de passer la parole au Comité de Rédaction?

HANNU HALINEN (Chairman, Drafting Committee): Yes, we did discuss this point rather extensively. We were trying to cover the whole issue as comprehensively as possible and this formulation was regarded as helping to get an overall view in a very short condensed way. So we did not see any problems as to substance in the Drafting Committee, but it was added there in endorsing the discussion.

LE PRESIDENT: Considérons-nous qu'il y a accord sur le point 19? Approuvé.

Roberto E. DALTON (Argentina): Simplemente, una cuestión de traducción, a mi juicio. Tanto en el párrafo 25 como en el 26 se habla de: "programas de reajuste estructural". Nosotros siempre nos hemos referido a este tema como "programas de ajuste estructural".

LE PRESIDENT: Merci, Argentine. Je pense que le Secrétariat aura tenu compte de ces remarques et nous tenons compte que le paragraphe 25 est approuvé. Paragraphe 26: avec les mêmes remarques approuvé.

Paragraphs 11 to 31, as amended, approved

Les paragraphes 11 à 31, ainsi amendés, sont approuvés

Los párrafos 11 a 31, así enmendados, son aprobados

Paragraphs 32 to 68 approved

Les paragraphes 32 à 68 sont approuvés

Los párrafos 32 a 68 son aprobados

Paragraphs 69 to 82 approved

Les paragraphes 69 à 82 sont approuvés

Los párrafos 69 a 82 son aprobados

Paragraph 83, including draft resolution, approved

Le paragraphe 83, y compris le projet de résolution, est approuvé

El párrafo 83, incluido el proyecto de resolución, es aprobado

Paragraph 84 approved

Le paragraphe 84 est approuvé

El párrafo 84 es aprobado

PARAGRAPHS 85 to 102

PARAGRAPHERS 85 à 102

PARRAFOS 85 a 102

Masayuki KOMATSU (Japan): I would like to propose just one small change. I would like to delete the word "negative".

Hannu HALINEN (Chairman, Drafting Committee): The Drafting Committee discussed this paragraph; we had no strong feelings about it. We debated whether we should have this reflected in the report or not. We realized that the substance of the matter concerns one delegation that took it up in the deliberations, so on the background I just mentioned at the beginning, whether to mention what one delegation said or not, we decided to leave it in. However, as I said, the Committee itself did not have any strong feelings about the whole paragraph.

Earl W. WEYBRECHT (Canada): Our preference would be to see the paragraph retained as presented by the Drafting Committee. Alternatively, we could say, "With regard to the economic and environmental impact of certain types of fishing gear such as drift nets", so that instead of using the word "negative" we would use "economic and environmental impact".

LE PRESIDENT: Nous allons donc adopter cette formulation : "A propos des effets économiques sur le milieu de certains types d'engins".

Roberto E. DALTON (Argentina): Yo creo que hay una integridad en este párrafo. Efectivamente, aquí el Consejo toma nota de algunos efectos que crean un problema, porque hace necesario buscar una solución. Ahora bien, no estoy muy seguro de que esto sea un efecto económico, señor Presidente, sino más bien la conservación de recursos lo que está involucrado.

LE PRESIDENT: On peut mettre "A propos des effets sur le milieu", en enlevant "économiques"? Le Conseil retient-il cette formulation du paragraphe 91?

Masayuki KOMATSU (Japan): With regard to paragraph 91, if it is just "environmental impact" I am wondering about the domain of the FAO organization as the document may be going into the hands of other organizations. If it stands, definitely "economic" should remain. So I prefer "economic and environmental aspects", if you do not accommodate just the deletion of the word "negative".

LE PRESIDENT: J'ai posé la question au Conseil. On propose la formule suivante: "A propos des effets sur le milieu de certains types d'engins". J'ai cru comprendre que le Conseil était d'accord sur cette formulation.

Joseph TCHICAYA (Congo): Je ne prends pas la parole exactement sur cette question mais sur le même paragraphe. Je voudrais tout simplement signaler qu'il y a une phrase en trop dans la version française. En effet, la première phrase n'existe ni dans la version anglaise ni dans la version espagnole, que je viens de vérifier.

LE PRESIDENT: Dans le texte français, le paragraphe 91 comprend une phrase en plus, à savoir: "Le Conseil a attaché la plus haute importance à la conservation à long terme des ressources halieutiques marines". Cette phrase est répétée au paragraphe 92. Il faudrait harmoniser le texte français et ceux des autres langues. On pourrait enlever cette phrase du paragraphe 91 du texte français puisqu'elle se trouve au paragraphe 92.

Hannu HALINEN (Chairman, Drafting Committee): I think this is an error only in the French version of the document. The same sentence has been repeated; it should be in paragraph 92 only. The first sentence in paragraph 91 in French should be deleted.

Earl W. WEYBRECHT (Canada): With regard to the point made by the delegate of Japan in response to my earlier proposal, we would prefer the reference to "economic and environmental impact" in this sentence. That would be consistent with the point made within the Council Session itself.

Roberto E. DALTON (Argentina): Tal vez como en busca de un compromiso en este inusitado complicado debate, nosotros pensamos que se podría decir "con respecto a los efectos en cuanto a la conservación de los recursos de ciertos tipos de artes", con lo cual involucramos ambos conceptos.

LE PRESIDENT: La remarque proposée par le délégué de l'Argentine convient-elle au délégué du Japon? Voulez-vous répéter votre phrase, Monsieur le délégué de l'Argentine?

Roberto E. DALTON (Argentina): Leería la primera parte del párrafo: "Con respecto a los efectos en cuanto a la conservación de los recursos de cierto tipo de artes", y continua como era.

LE PRESIDENT: Peut-on considérer que, moyennant cette modification, le paragraphe 91 est approuvé? Le paragraphe 91 est approuvé.

Nous prenons le paragraphe 92.

Roberto E. DALTON (Argentina): En la segunda oración, nosotros entendemos que el "gran prioridad" tal vez no refleje exactamente el debate que tuvimos aquí, en el Consejo. Mi Delegación y varias otras formularon algunas reservas en cuanto a la priorización de este tema, por lo cual preferiríamos que se dijera "El Consejo acordó que la FAO diera prioridad en sus programas", -no "gran prioridad".

LE PRESIDENT: Y a-t-il des remarques sur cette observation du délégué de l'Argentine? Pouvons-nous considérer que le paragraphe 92 est approuvé tel qu'amendé par le délégué de l'Argentine, c'est-à-dire que l'on supprimerait le mot "haute"? Le paragraphe 92, ainsi amendé, est approuvé.

Paragraphs 85 to 102, as amended, approved

Les paragraphes 85 à 102, ainsi amendés, sont approuvés

Los párrafos 85 a 102, así enmendados, son aprobados

Draft Report of Plenary, Part I, as amended was adopted

Projet de rapport de la plénière, 1ère partie, ainsi amendé, est adopté

El proyecto de informe de la Plenaria, Parte I, así enmendado, es aprobado

DRAFT REPORT-PART II

PROJET DE RAPPORT-PARTIE II

PROYECTO DE INFORME-PARTE II

PARAGRAPHS 1 to 32

PARAGRAPHES 1 a 32

PARRAFOS 1 A 32

Roberto E. DALTON (Argentina): Pienso que puede ser un problema de traducción. La versión española, en la última oración del párrafo 21, dice que "las actividades del PCT deberían ajustarse a las prioridades del programa ordinario o podían reducirse." En la versión inglesa dice "narrowed down", que me parece indica una sensación de concentración en un área, no reducción general. Pido simplemente que la Secretaría tenga en cuenta esta posible discrepancia de traducción.

LE PRESIDENT: Moyennant cet amendement, le paragraphe 21 est-il approuvé? Le paragraphe 21, ainsi amendé, est approuvé.

Paragraphs 1 to 32, as amended, approved

Les paragraphes 1 à 32 ainsi amendés, sont approuvés

Los párrafos 1 a 32 así enmendados, son aprobados

PARAGRAPHS 33 to 41

PARAGRAPHES 33 à 41

PARRAFOS 33 a 41

Joseph TCHICAYA (Congo): Je présume que le paragraphe 39 a dû prendre beaucoup de temps aux membres du Comité de rédaction. C'est pour cette raison que je ne propose pas un bouleversement de ce paragraphe mais simplement que l'on ajoute un mot à la dernière phrase: "A la lumière des débats, le Conseil est convenu qu'il incomberait aux deux comités d'étudier la question d'une éventuelle"-on ajouterait le mot "éventuelle"- "diffusion des rapports d'experts".

Je pense que cela est logique parce que, en fait, dans cette phrase, on confie la responsabilité de la diffusion ou non du rapport aux deux comités. C'est pour cette raison que je propose d'ajouter le mot "éventuelle": "une éventuelle diffusion des rapports d'experts".

LE PRESIDENT: Le Conseil retient-il la proposition du délégué du Congo? Le paragraphe 39, ainsi amendé, est approuvé.

Paragraphs 33 to 41, as amended, approved

Les paragraphes 33 à 41, ainsi amendés, sont approuvés

Los párrafos 33 a 41, así enmendados, son aprobados

Paragraphs 42 and 43 approved

Les paragraphes 42 et 43 sont approuvés

Los párrafos 42 y 43 son aprobados

Paragraph 44 approved

Le paragraphe 44 est approuvé

El párrafo 44 es aprobado

Paragraphs 45 to 48 approved

Les paragraphes 45 à 48 sont approuvés

Los párrafos 45 a 48 son aprobados

Paragraphs 49 to 50 approved

Les paragraphes 49 à 50 sont approuvés

Los párrafos 49 a 50 son aprobados

Paragraph 51, including draft resolution, approved

Le paragraphe 51, y compris le projet de résolution, est approuvé

El párrafo 51, incluido el proyecto de resolución, es aprobado

Paragraphs 52 to 59 approved

Les paragraphes 52 à 59 sont approuvés

Los párrafos 52 a 59 son aprobados

Paragraphs 60 and 61 approved

Les paragraphes 60 et 61 sont approuvés

Los párrafos 60 y 61 son aprobados

Draft Report of Plenary, Part II as amended, was adopted

Projet de rapport de la plénière, II^{ème} partie, ainsi amendé, est adopté

El proyecto de informe de la Plenaria, Parte II, así enmendado, es aprobado

DRAFT REPORT-PART III

PROJET DE RAPPORT-PARTIE III

PROYECTO DE INFORME-PARTE III

Paragraphs 1 to 6 approved

Les paragraphes 1 à 6 sont approuvés

Los párrafos 1 a 6 son aprobados

Paragraphs 7 to 9 approved

Les paragraphes 7 à 9 sont approuvés

Los párrafos 7 a 9 son aprobados

Paragraph 10 approved

Le paragraphe 10 est approuvé

El párrafo 10 es aprobado

Paragraphs 11 and 12 approved

Les paragraphes 11 et 12 sont approuvés

Los párrafos 11 y 12 son aprobados

PARAGRAPH 13

PARAGRAPH 13

PARRAFO 13

Gonzalo BULA HOYOS (Colombia): Reconocemos, naturalmente, las condiciones difíciles en que se trabaja, con tiempo limitado, para preparar un proyecto de informe como éste. Pero ¿sería posible que, si no ahora, antes de terminar esta reunión, pudiéramos tener el texto completo de la revisión del documento, que se anuncia que se va a anexar a este informe? Sólo si es posible.

LE PRESIDENT: Nous allons laisser le point 18 en suspens jusqu'à ce que nous ayons reçu l'annexe puisque le délégué de la Colombie demande cette annexe.

LE SECEETAIRE GENERAL ADJOINT: Je crois que le document auquel le délégué de la Colombie se réfère est celui qui est la deuxième page du document CL 95/16 c'est-à-dire le calendrier des sessions du Conseil et des organes qui lui font rapport. Le seul changement qu'il y a dans ce calendrier c'est la date du Conseil: la date prévue dans le calendrier était du 7 au 9 novembre mais le Conseil a décidé de se réunir du 6 au 10 novembre à midi. C'est le seul changement. Mais évidemment, nous pouvons essayer de faire reproduire le tout.

Gonzalo BULA BOTOS (Colombia): Naturalmente, habíamos leído con atención el documento CL 95/16 y en nuestra declaración de ayer nos referimos a la segunda página. Como fue modificado ese documento queríamos saber cuáles fueron las modificaciones que se introdujeron. El Sr. Tedesco nos ha explicado satisfactoriamente y ahora no hay ningún problema para nosotros.

LE PRESIDENT: Le paragraphe 13 est approuvé avec la précision de M. le Secrétaire général: la durée du Conseil est du 6 novembre au 10 novembre, jusqu'à la fin de la matinée.

Paragraph 13 approved

Le paragraphe 13 est approuvé

El párrafo 13 es aprobado

Paragraphs 14 to 17 approved

Les paragraphes 14 à 17 sont approuvés

Los párrafos 14 a 17 son aprobados

Paragraphs 18 to 20 approved

Les paragraphes 18 à 20 sont approuvés

Los párrafos 18 a 20 son aprobados

Paragraph 21 approved

Le paragraphe 21 est approuvé

El párrafo 21 es aprobado

Paragraphs 22 and 23 approved

Les paragraphes 22 et 23 sont approuvés

Los párrafos 22 y 23 son aprobados

Draft Report of Plenary, Part III, was adopted

Projet de rapport de la plénière, IIIème partie, est adopté

El proyecto de informe de la Plenaria, Parte III, es aprobado

DRAFT REPORT-PART IV

PROJET DE RAPPORT-PARTIE IV

PROYECTO DE INFORME-PARTE IV

PARAGRAPHS 1 to 8

PARAGRAPHES 1 à 8

PARRAFOS 1 A 8

Stanley Makindia GUANTAI (Kenya): I just wanted to add a sentence in paragraph 6 for the sake of clarity, because this was raised by a number of delegations, particularly my own. The sentence should not cause a problem because this was a fact stressed in a number of documents presented to this Council. The sentence should be added after the sentence which finishes "... Economic Recovery and Development 1986-1990..." and should read: "Nevertheless, it"-meaning the Council-"stressed the need for continuing priority attention to that region full stop".

LE PRESIDENT: J'enregistre la précision du Kenya à propos du paragraphe 6: "...Il a souligné qu'il continuait à accorder une attention prioritaire à cette région".

Hannu HALINEN (Chairman, Drafting Committee): While we are on this paragraph there is another mistake in the first line. The Drafting Committee decided to delete the words " more closely" in the first line of paragraph 6 of the English text, so these words should be deleted.

LE PRESIDENT: Nous considérons que nous pouvons ajouter cette proposition du Kenya dans le texte de l'article 6 si le Conseil en est d'accord.

Hannu HALINEN (Chairman, Drafting Committee): In the English text in the first line of paragraph 6 the words "more closely" still appear. In the French text these two words have been deleted. The Drafting Committee decided to delete them so I ask that they be deleted in the English text.

LE PRESIDENT: Le paragraphe 6 ainsi amendé est approuvé.

Paragraphs 1 to 8, as amended, approved

Les paragraphes 1 à 8 ainsi amendés, sont approuvés

Los párrafos 1 a 8 así enmendados, son aprobados

PARAGRAPHS 9 to 25

PARAGRAPHES 925

PARRAFOS 9 a 25

Mme Anna Teresa FRITELLI ANNIBALDI: Je voudrais demander une explication au sujet d'un mot de la version française du paragraphe 21.

Dans la deuxième phrase on dit: "A ce propos, le Représentant de l'Italie, soutenant sans réserve cette initiative, a annoncé que son Gouvernement serait disposé à accueillir cette Conférence internationale à Rome". Que veut dire exactement le mot "accueillir" ? Est-ce que cela veut dire "accueillir et financer" ou tout simplement "accueillir" dans un sens général ?

Etant donné que nous avons des exercices annuels, le Gouvernement italien ne peut pas décider quatre ans à l'avance d'un engagement financier. Je préférerais que l'on dise que nous serions heureux que cette Conférence ait lieu à Rome. Cela, je pourrais l'accepter, mais si le mot "accueillir" veut dire quelque chose de plus, nous ne pouvons pas nous engager maintenant. Je demanderais donc que l'on veuille bien modifier cette phrase dans le sens que j'ai demandé.

LE PRESIDENT: Je vais donner la parole à M. Shah, qui vous donnera toutes les explications.

V.J. SHAH (Assistant Director-General, Office of Programme, Budget and Evaluation): If the delegation of Italy is satisfied, and if Council will accept it, I think a statement in the verbatim record will be sufficient to clarify any misunderstanding that might possibly arise. In the text as it is, there is no financial commitment implied or intended.

LE PRESIDENT: Si vous voulez intervenir financièrement, ce n'est pas interdit.·

Paragraphs 9 to 25 approved

Les paragraphes 925 sont approuvés

Los párrafos 9 a 25 son aprobados

Paragraphs 26 to 34 approved

Les paragraphes 26 à 34 sont approuvés

Los párrafos 26 a 34 son aprobados

Draft Report of Plenary, Part IV, as amended, was adopted

Projet de rapport de la plénière, IVème partie, ainsi amendé, est adopté

El proyecto de informe de la Plenaria, Parte IV, así enmendado, es aprobado

LE PRESIDENT: Je voudrais, en votre nom, présenter mes félicitations chaleureuses à tous les membres du Comité de rédaction qui ont fait un travail remarquable puisqu'en l'espace d'une heure nous avons pu approuver quatre rapports sur cinq du Comité de rédaction, ce qui prouve encore une fois que plus le Comité travaille bien, moins nous avons de problèmes en séance plénière. Je me fais donc un devoir de féliciter le Comité de rédaction.

Il reste le REP/5, nous attendons que ce document soit prêt. Je vais donner la parole à M. Tedesco qui va nous dire quand il va nous distribuer ce rapport, pour que nous puissions organiser la suite de notre travail.

LE SECRETAIRE GENERAL ADJOINT: On vient de m'informer que le document sera prêt vers midi, mais le Service de la publication fait tous ses efforts pour qu'il soit prêt le plus tôt possible.

LE PRESIDENT: Je pose la question au Conseil : Voulez-vous que nous examinions dès maintenant le point 20.3 celui de la CEE, qui est resté en suspens. Ou voulez-vous attendre que le document soit prêt?

D'après ce que je comprends, vous préférez que nous nous revoyions à midi.

Roberto E. DALTON (Argentina): Como nos vamos a ir a descansar unos minutos, quisiera sumar mi felicitación al Comité de Redacción que ha llevado adelante una tarea muy sacrificada. Quisiera también formular algunas pequeñas consideraciones en cuanto a los trabajos normales en un Comité de Redacción que tienen, Sr. Presidente, como usted sabe una tarea que es un ejercicio de compromiso, de equilibrio y de pesos balanceados. Esto hace muy necesario, si no indispensable, que en cada una de las delegaciones participantes haya un hilo de continuidad, haya una continuidad con personas que saben que lo que se ha acordado en un tema puede tener reflejo en otro. La interrupción de la presencia de las delegaciones participantes, muchas veces puede crear problemas al no permitir este juego de pesos balanceados. Quiero de nuevo agradecer, porque ha sido un sacrificio hasta físico, trabajar en noches continuadas, y destacar una vez más nuestro aprecio y nuestra satisfacción.

LE PRESIDENT: Je crois que nous pouvons inclure dans le Procès verbal les félicitations du Conseil pour le Comité de rédaction.

The meeting was suspended from 10.45 to 12.00 hours

La séance est suspendue de 10 h 45 à 12 heures

Se suspende la sesión de las 10.45 a las 12.00 horas

DRAFT REPORT-PART V

PROJET DE RAPPORT-PARTIE V

PROYECTO DE INFORME-PARTE V

LE PRESIDENT: Nous reprenons la suite de nos travaux avec le document CL 95/REP/5 Point 10 de l'ordre du jour "Quatorzième Rapport annuel du Comité des politiques et programmes d'aide alimentaire du PAM".

PARAGRAPHS 1 to 19

PARAGRAPHES 1 à 19

PARRAFOS 1 a 19

Roberto E. DALTON (Argentina): Para pedir a la Secretaria que ajuste la traducción de la última oración de este párrafo que presenta discrepancias con respecto a la versión inglesa que es la correcta. Asimismo, y ya que estoy en el uso de la palabra, quiero señalar que se plantea a lo largo de varios puntos, entre ellos el 16, por ejemplo, la mención: "programas de reajuste estructural", cuando en realidad debe decir "programas de ajuste estructural".

LE PRESIDENT: Si j'ai bien compris, vous avez demandé à ce que l'on harmonise le texte espagnol avec le texte anglais de base. Nous prenons note de ce que vous venez de dire.

Paragraphs 1 to 19, as amended, approved

Les paragraphes 1 à 19, ainsi amendés, sont approuvés

Los párrafos 1 a 19, así enmendados, son aprobados

Paragraphs 20 to 23 approved

Les paragraphes 20 à 23 sont approuvés

Los párrafos 20 a 23 son aprobados

Paragraph 24, including draft resolution, approved

Le paragraphe 24, y compris le projet de résolution, est approuvé

El párrafo 24, incluido el proyecto de resolución, es aprobado

Paragraph 24, including resolution, adopted

Le paragraphe 24, y compris la résolution, est adopté

El párrafo 24, incluida la resolución, es aprobado

Paragraphs 25 to 33 approved

Les paragraphes 25 à 33 sont approuvés

Los párrafos 25 a 33 son aprobados

Paragraphs 34 to 36 approved

Les paragraphes 34 à 36 sont approuvés

Los párrafos 24 a 36 son aprobados

Paragraphs 37 to 40 approved

Les paragraphes 37 à 40 sont approuvés

Los párrafos 37 a 40 son aprobados

Paragraphs 41 to 44 approved

Les paragraphes 41 à 44 sont approuvés

Los párrafos 41 a 44 son aprobados

PARAGRAPHS 45 to 49

PARAGRAPHES 45 à 49

PARRAFOS 45 a 49

Mme Anna Teresa FRITELLI ANNIBALDI (Italie): Je dois demander un éclaircissement à propos du paragraphe 48, car j'ai remarqué qu'il y a une différence entre le texte français que j'ai devant moi et le texte anglais. Au paragraphe 48 du texte français, on lit: "Le Conseil a souligné qu'il est indispensable que l'immunité de juridiction de l'Organisation en Italie soit pleinement respectée". Jusque-là, c'est la même chose. Ensuite, on lit: "Ils ont estimé que l'accord du Siège est très clair...". J'avais interprété ce "ils ont estimé" par "on a estimé". Or, je vois que, dans la version anglaise, on dit "it considered". Je voudrais donc avoir un éclaircissement puisque cela fait une différence.

Hannu HALINEN (Chairman, Drafting Committee): Yes, we can also say "It was considered".

LE PRESIDENT: D'accord. Le paragraphe 48 est donc approuvé.

Paragraphs 45 to 49 as amended, approved

Les paragraphes 45 à 49 ainsi amendés, sont approuvés

Los párrafos 45 a 49 así enmendados, son aprobados

PARAGRAPHS 50 to 58

PARAGRAPHES 50 à 58

PARRAFOS 50 a 58

Atif Y. BUKHARI (Saudi Arabia, Kingdom of): I do not have any specific difficulty with paragraph 51. However, maybe the Chairman of the Drafting Committee could tell us what is meant by the second or third line saying that neither the EEC nor the Member States could participate satisfactorily in the work of FAO in the field of activity where Member States had transferred authority to the Community. We do not really understand what is meant by this sentence.

Hannu HALINEN (Chairman, Drafting Committee): We had a rather extensive debate on this item in the Drafting Committee, as we were expected to do. For the Distinguished Delegate from Saudi Arabia, I would like to reply, through you, Mr. Chairman, that this particular paragraph did not create any discussion in the Drafting Committee. The fact referred by you-I think It is a quotation from the Spanish letter and as such factual-but as I said, the Drafting Committee did not discuss the substance of it or the value of that.

Gonzalo BULA HOTOS (Colombia): Los representantes de Colombia, Señor Presidente, compartimos la misma inquietud del Embajador Bukhari, de Arabia Saudita, y así lo dijimos en nuestra declaración sobre este tema. Sin embargo, convendrá observar que el párrafo 51 empieza por las palabras: "el Consejo tomó nota". Como explicó el Presidente del Comité de Redacción se ha transcrito prácticamente lo que dice el Gobierno de España en su nota. De manera que, aun con esa preocupación, creemos que no hay dificultad en adoptar este párrafo tal como está.

Atif Y. BUKHARI (Saudi Arabia, Kingdom of): I should like to thank our colleague and friend, Ambassador Bula Hoyos, the Chief of the Colombian Delegation. However, this might give an impression that EEC members cannot participate in the activities of FAO. Of course, this is not true. I have not, in fact, gone through the letter addressed by Spain, but even if such a remark has been made in the letter submitted by the Government of Spain, I do not think that it would be reasonable to accept such a statement that Member States of the Community could not participate satisfactorily in the work of the FAO. We cannot understand what is said here. Is this a fact, that neither Member States nor the Community can participate satisfactorily in the work of FAO? If this does not reflect the actual facts, then we should delete this sentence.

Jaime GARCIA Y BADLAS (España): Con relación al punto 51, donde nuestro colega el Embajador de Arabia Saudita expone algunos criterios al respecto, y tal como nuestro colega el Embajador Bula-Hoyos, de Colombia, ha indicado, al principio de este pequeño debate sobre este punto, el punto 51 refleja lo que el escrito de nuestro Gobierno remitido a la FAO expresaba con relación a la solicitud de discusión de adhesión a la Comunidad. Ahora bien, creo que lo que expone nuestro colega de Arabia Saudita se podrá solucionar porque nos da la sensación de que existe un error de transcripción en la palabra que dice: "satisfactoriamente". Voy a leer el segundo punto que dice textualmente: "en la comunicación se indicaba que desde entonces se había registrado una evolución en la situación de la CEE, y que en la actual situación ni los Estados Miembros ni la Comunidad podrían participar satisfactoriamente". Aquí creo recordar que existe un error de la transcripción de la carta de mi Gobierno y que debería decir: "plenamente", en lugar de "satisfactoriamente".

Esto creo que podría solucionar las objeciones de mi colega porque en el escrito de mi Gobierno pone "plenamente".

Gonzalo BULA HOYOS (Colombia): Después de la declaración de España yo creo que la situación se aclara y convendrá saber si Arabia Saudita y el Consejo aceptan así este párrafo.

LE PRESIDENT: Le délégué de l'Arable Saoudite accepte-t-il cette modification, à savoir remplacer les mots "de façon satisfaisante" par le mot "pleinement"? Moyennant cette modification, le paragraphe 51 est approuvé.

Les paragraphes 52 à 54 sont approuvés. Nous passons au paragraphe 55.

Masayuki KOMATSU (Japan): Our delegation is quite satisfied with this paragraph being incorporated to reflect our delegation's concerns. However, I would like to propose small changes. In the first sentence the word "Some" should be changed to "Many", and in the same sentence "stated" should be changed to "noted". So that sentence reads: "Many members of the Council noted that since ...".

LE PRESIDENT: Le Conseil accepte-t-il cette modification proposée par le délégué du Japon?

Jaime GARCIA Y RADIAS (España): No desearíamos entrar en una discusión semántica con el ilustre Delegado de Japón; pero al menos en nuestro idioma, "muchos" es una palabra que viene a significar, diríamos, "casi la totalidad", y quisiéramos ser justos en cuanto a que el redactado reflejara la realidad. Y la realidad es que fue "algunos", como el Comité de Redacción lo expresó en el documento y que creemos que refleja realmente lo que se debatió en cuanto a las objeciones que plantearon algunas delegaciones.

Esta misma situación se da en el siguiente punto y seguido, donde dice "algunos", que refleja también lo que sucedió; quizás en exceso, pero nosotros, en lugar de corregir este redactado, creemos que, en aras del consenso, podríamos permitir que en el primer punto se diga "algunos" y en el siguiente, en lugar de corregir y decir "una o dos delegaciones", permitimos también que diga "algunas". Creemos que, en beneficio del consenso, la expresión "algunos" en español refleja lo que aquí sucedió, sin pretender corregir estas pequeñas cuestiones semánticas, que nos podrían llevar a reflejar situaciones difíciles, por lo que significan en un idioma o en otro.

En consecuencia, solicitaríamos que se reflejara el "algunos" y mantenemos el "algunas" en el segundo punto y seguido.

Earl W. WEYBRECHT (Canada): We actually would prefer the changes noted by the delegate of Japan, but perhaps in the light of the explanation given at the beginning of the session this morning by the Chairman of the Drafting Group, he could provide some reflection of the debate on this sentence, particularly as it relates to the word "some", or "many" or "several members".

Hannu HALINEN (Chairman, Drafting Committee): I would be glad to do that. Yes, we discussed this point and I would like to refer in this context to paragraph 58 which starts: "Taking account of the range of opinions expressed". We thought in the Drafting Committee that our duty is to reflect on the opinions expressed, and to try to find out the exact word which would correctly reflect that amount. We did have a long and a very interesting principle discussion about the silent majority and what that means, but here I would not like to go into that. I would just mention that here we stayed with the facts as we saw them, and in the opinion of the Drafting Committee there were some members who clearly stated that, and that was the conclusion in our consideration of this matter.

Masayuki KOMATSU (Japan): Since I have already proposed and an explanation was given, then it is in the hands of the entire Council, so that if the Council wishes for a certain language, I have no objection.

LE PRESIDENT: Le Conseil considère-t-il, compte tenu des explications du Président du Comité de rédaction, que le paragraphe 55 sous sa forme actuelle peut être retenu?

Bashir EL MABROUK SAID (Libya) (Original language Arabic): In the second sentence of paragraph 55: "Some of these members, whilst recognizing that serious problems did arise with respect to the legal status of the EEC vis-à-vis FAO," in fact we do not understand what is meant by this sentence. It

seems that we are speaking about past events. In fact, it is not understandable to our delegation. Mr. Chairman in Arabic it says the same thing, but also in the past tense-"serious problems did arise". We should like to seek a clarification Mr. Chairman.

Hannu HALINEN (Chairman, Drafting Committee): At this point we did not have a discussion on the merits of the sentence itself. I wonder if it is a question of the tense or perhaps it is a legal question of the language. We did not have any problems with that in the Drafting Committee, but I wonder whether perhaps the Legal Counsel could give the answer to the Libyan delegate.

LEGAL COUNSEL: I think it was originally intended to refer to some problems that had risen in the past, particularly with respect to bodies such as the proposed Indian Ocean Tuna Commission. However, it could equally well be in the present tense, indicating that serious problems arise or can arise.

Baehir EL MABROUK SAID (Libya) (Original Language Arabic): Having heard the clarification made by the Legal Counsel I think it would be better to say "whilst recognizing that some problems did arise" instead of "serious problems". I think the word "serious" is too heavy for this kind of sentence. We can say that "problems" or "some problems" did arise, deleting the word "serious".

LE PRESIDENT: Si le Conseil n'y voit pas d'objection, nous pourrions remplacer "graves" par "certains": "certains problèmes". Le paragraphe 55 est donc approuvé, compte tenu de la modification proposée par la Libye.

Nous prenons le paragraphe 56.

Iija HULINSKY (Czechoslovakia): The paragraphs we have just been through are covering in detail and extensively the position especially of the distinguished member states of the EEC. The first two sentences in paragraph 56 are referring to my position, that my delegation wishes to discuss. I would not mind the brevity; I am a modest man. For me I will even go with one sentence only if it covers correctly what I have said, and actually these two sentences are not in line with what I have stated.

There are two requests under consideration actually. One was the request of the delegate of Spain to put on our agenda the item. The second question is a potential request for membership of the EEC in FAO.

Therefore, my delegation, and myself as a long serving United Nations man, would never oppose, would never contest, the right of anybody, the right of any Member State to put an item on the agenda for discussion. That I stated clearly in my statement. What I said was that I would be opposing the potential request for membership of any international organization in FAO on the grounds that only states could be members of UN specialized agencies.

Therefore, I would ask the Council to agree-I said I am a modest man-that the first two sentences of paragraph 56 would read as follows: "One Member stated that he would oppose any potential request by an International organization to become a member of FAO because only states could be members of organizations in the United Nations System".

LE PRESIDENT: Au paragraphe 56, on propose de supprimer "s'est déclaré formellement opposé à l'examen de la demande" pour dire ce qui suit: "Un membre a déclaré qu'il s'opposerait à toute demande potentielle présentée par une organisation internationale".

Je crois donc que le Conseil ne peut que retenir la proposition du délégué de la Tchécoslovaquie, à savoir supprimer le texte du paragraphe 56 pour le remplacer par le suivant: "Un membre a déclaré qu'il s'opposerait à toute demande potentielle présentée par une organisation Internationale de devenir membre des organisations du système des Nations Unies". Voilà donc la modification présentée par l'Ambassadeur de Tchécoslovaquie afin que ce paragraphe reproduise fidèlement ce qu'il a dit. Je crois qu'il a parfaitement le droit de modifier cette phrase dans le sens de ce qu'il a effectivement dit.

Le paragraphe 56 est adopté moyennant cette modification.

Hannu HALINEN (Chairman, Drafting Committee) Of course, the paragraph will correctly reflect what the delegate from the Member State said. However, in the Drafting Committee we discussed this point and my understanding was that we decided to split this paragraph into two, as they are dealing with two different questions. We have what one Member State stated at the beginning and then we have the part after detailed discussion. So the latter part of the paragraph will be a new paragraph.

LE PRESIDENT: Récapitulons: le paragraphe 56 s'arrêterait après la phrase: "car seuls des Etats peuvent devenir membres des organisations du système des Nations Unies." et le paragraphe 57 commencerait ensuite: "après un débat approfondi, une formule s'inspirant de la version b)...".

Voilà ce que propose donc le Président du Comité de rédaction. Le paragraphe 56 se présenterait dans la forme présentée par le Délégué de la Tchécoslovaquie. Le paragraphe 57 serait ainsi conçu: "après un débat approfondi, une formule s'inspirant de la version b) a été préconisée par la majorité des membres s'étant exprimés à ce sujet, bien que certains autres aient manifesté leur préférence pour la formule a)".

Le paragraphe 56 et le paragraphe 57 sont approuvés. Reste le paragraphe 58.

Je vais demander au Président du Comité de rédaction de donner au Conseil un aperçu de la démarche intellectuelle qui a conduit le Président du Comité de rédaction à proposer la rédaction de cet article qui est le plus important.

Hannu HALINEN (Chairman, Drafting Committee): As was stated before, we had a long discussion on this point. We did realize that our discussion was a bit exceptional in that we were discussing it but realized that the question would be debated and a final decision would be taken on a broader basis than perhaps here in the Plenary. Of course, during the discussion we could not help but go into the substance somewhat. In the light of the discussion in the Council it was our task to reflect the point. There were different views in the Drafting Committee as to what was the outcome of the discussion. So in that sense, the consensus or majority is not perhaps well reflected. We understood that it was left up to the Council to make a decision. It takes into consideration the refined text by the Legal Counsel, as we believe he was asked to do by the Council, and then it is the view of the majority of the Drafting Committee as to how the discussion ended in the Council.

As I said, it is exceptional that it is not the final view, so we are leaving it up to the Council to make a decision.

LE PRESIDENT: Si le Conseiller juridique n'a pas de commentaires à faire, je vais donner la parole au Représentant de la Libye.

Bashir EL MABROUK SAID (Libya) (Original language Arabic): I would like to thank the Chairman of the Drafting Committee who presented this paragraph.

Having listened to the Chairman of the Drafting Committee and having read paragraph 56, which mentions at the end, "was favoured by a majority of the Members who addressed the subject", after it has been modified in order to express the points of view of those who took a view on this subject. The draft we had yesterday and the paragraph we have here are similar I think. I do not see any difference. This paragraph does not reflect the opinions expressed in the Council, so we left the paragraph as it is. What we see now in paragraph (1) is not in conformity with paragraph 56 and is not in conformity with what has been said by the Chairman of the Drafting Committee, so I do not understand.

Masayuki KOMATSU (Japan): I am wondering whether we could make certain modifications for the umbrella sentence to reflect what was going on yesterday and today, particularly with respect to paragraph 55.

I definitely stated that it would be premature to adopt either alternative at this Session. So if Council wishes, although I do not wish to stick to this strongly, I would like to suggest the following modification: after "opinions expressed", I would like to insert, "many Members of the

Council felt that the Director-General should. The sentence would then read "Taking account of the range of opinions expressed, many Members of the Council felt that the Director-General should", and it should be continued by the following two paragraphs.

If the entire Council wishes to take account of the point I raised, I would like it considered.

Joseph TCHICAYA (Congo): En vérité, je ne pensais pas qu'on allait réouvrir le débat sur ce sujet. Je croyais pour ma part que le problème avait été réglé hier et que l'on venait ici simplement pour constater que ce que nous avons exprimé hier était bien reflété dans le texte. Hors, quand je regarde le texte, je m'aperçois que c'est exactement ce que nous avons décidé hier. Je ne comprends pas que l'on puisse encore allonger les débats en donnant la parole à telle ou telle personne. Je pense pour ma part que ce qui avait été arrêté hier est suffisamment bien reflété dans le texte que nous avons sous les yeux. Il y avait une ou deux délégations qui ne pensaient pas comme les autres, mais qui étalent, semble-t-il, prêtes à se rallier à la majorité du Conseil. Par conséquent, je crois qu'il convient de ne pas prolonger le débat comme je l'ai déjà dit hier. J'avais invité tous les membres du Conseil ici à ne pas allonger inutilement le débat et à laisser le paragraphe tel qu'il est proposé dans le texte du paragraphe 58, ou tout au moins l'ancien article 58.

POINT OF ORDER

POINT D'ORDRE

PUNTO DE ORDEN

Bashir EL MABROUK SAID (Libya) (Original language Arabic): I think those who translated this paragraph into Arabic have copied the paragraph of yesterday. They have not translated the paragraph that has been formulated yesterday by the Drafting Committee. There is a difference between the Arabic and English text, and I hope that it will be corrected by the Secretariat.

LE PRESIDENT: Il y a un point d'ordre de la part de la délégation de la Libye. Le délégué de la Libye considère que le texte qu'il a en main ne correspond pas au texte nouveau de l'article 58. Cela est essentiel. Je parle de la version arabe.

Nous allons vous lire le nouveau texte en anglais, et peut-être la traduction arabe faite par les interprètes pourra-t-elle vous convenir.

Je vais demander au Président du Comité de rédaction de lire lentement le paragraphe 58 dans la version anglaise pour que les interprètes puissent le traduire en arabe et que le délégué de la Libye, qui a soulevé un point d'ordre, ait le nouveau texte arabe.

Hannu HALINEN (Chairman, Drafting Committee): Perhaps it is a question of translation because the English text is different from yesterday and this is the text that the Legal Counsel drafted.

I think the best solution is that I read the text of paragraph 58 slowly, and the interpreters can translate it for the benefit of the delegate of Libya, so that he knows exactly what it contains:

"Taking account of the range of opinions expressed, the Council invited the Director-General :

- (i) to explore the options for a form of membership of FAO of regional economic integration organizations to which their member states have transferred competence in fields of activity of FAO, along with the full financial, constitutional, legal and other implications for the Organization of such options, keeping the Finance Committee and the CCLM fully informed of the progress thereof; and
- (ii) to report thereon to the 98th Session of the Council in November 1990".

LE PRESIDENT: Nous allons continuer le débat mais je crois que nous serions bien inspirés de tenir compte de ce que nous avons dit hier au Conseil et qui a été pris en considération par le Comité de rédaction, qui doit laisser au Conseil le soin de décider.

João Augusto DE MEDICIS (Brazil): In the opinion of my delegation, the doubts and reservations expressed by some delegates stem from a fear that we are actually now deciding on the admission of the EEC. Document CL 95/19 states that the EEC is "currently considering the possibility of... obtaining a status of member". For that consideration, questions need to be answered before any formal request is made to FAO.

I think that paragraph 58 (1) as drafted somehow prejudices that we are discussing the option of EEC membership. I would therefore propose that it be drafted in a more simple way, to reflect exactly what the EEC is asking us to do: to answer some questions that need to be addressed before any formal request concerning the possibility of their admission. I would suggest that it read very simply :

"58...(i) to explore the full financial, constitutional, legal and other implications of a possible form of membership in FAO of the EEC and its regional economic integration organizations, keeping the Finance Committee and the CCLM fully informed of the progress thereof;"

This goes precisely to the point made by the EEC, and we are not prejudging any form of membership. It is asking exactly what is needed to consider the possibility and answer the question.

Atif Y. BUKHARI (Saudi Arabia, Kingdom of): I would like to support the observation of the distinguished delegate for Libya, that the Arabic translation did not conform with the English text of paragraph 58.

I would also like to support Ambassador Tchicaya of Congo, who said that we should not reopen discussion on this matter. We have already discussed it this morning, and yesterday as well. I think the Council should now take a decision on this paragraph, because the majority of members of the Council are agreed on it.

LE PRESIDENT: Pouvons-nous accepter le paragraphe 58 et arrêter le débat? C'est dans l'intérêt de tous. Nous avons discuté hier, un consensus était déjà apparu; pouvons-nous éviter de prolonger le débat, accepter le paragraphe 58 et l'approuver? Nous n'allons pas nous prononcer, comme l'a dit le délégué du Brésil, sur l'intégration de la CEE à la FAO, mais on confiera un mandat au Directeur général et on l'invitera à étudier la question.

Earl W. WEYBRECHT (Canada): I would like to take up the point raised earlier by the delegate of Japan regarding the introduction of a section to paragraph 58. He referred to the need to make the paragraph more consistent with the points raised in paragraph 55, and I felt that this proposal was an attractive one.

There would be two changes to the introduction of sub-paragraphs (i) and (ii): the word "to" would need to be deleted at the beginning of each of those paragraphs. Apart from that deletion, I think the wording of paragraph 58 (i) and (ii) should remain the same.

LE PRESIDENT: Je n'ai pas compris l'intervention de l'honorable délégué du Canada. Vous demandez de supprimer quoi?

Earl W. WEYBRECHT (Canada): The delegate of Japan proposed some amendments to the introductory sentence of paragraph 58. We agree with those proposed amendments. In addition, to ensure that the paragraphs read correctly, it would be necessary to delete the word "to" at the beginning of each of the two sub-paragraphs.

LE PRESIDENT: L'amendement proposé par le délégué du Japon de mettre "plusieurs membres du Conseil ont été invités", cela est-il suffisant pour que le Directeur général entame une étude? Si l'on inscrit plusieurs noms quelle est la décision, est-ce le Conseil qui demande ou non? On ne peut pas laisser une pareille question ouverte. Si l'on inscrit "plusieurs membres" la question reste

ouverte. Il s'agit de prendre position. Si vous voulez, le Conseil est invité à prendre des positions dans sa majorité; alors on ne peut pas conclure par "plusieurs membres". Il faut avoir une décision par la grande majorité ou une majorité. On ne peut pas laisser une affaire ouverte. Nous passons à l'Argentine.

Roberto E. DALTON (Argentina): Coincido plenamente con el resumen que usted nos acaba de hacer. Entiendo que el Comité de Redacción ha reflejado adecuadamente la larga discusión que tuvimos ayer sobre este tema y coincido con usted en que el Consejo debe tomar una decisión. No es una cuestión de que un grupo de países más o menos grande haya opinado, sino que el Consejo debe dar una instrucción a la Secretaría. Eso como primer punto.

Segundo punto. Aun cuando encuentro grandes méritos en la propuesta que nos acaba de hacer el distinguido representante del Brasil, que mi delegatoin está preparada para aceptar en su totalidad, pienso que significaría reabrir el debate, por lo cual, coincidiendo con usted, Sr. Presidente, preferiría que volviéramos al párrafo que nos ha redactado el Comité de Redacción. Tengo una observación que hacer. Cuando el párrafo dice en "i)... así como todas las repercusiones financieras, constitucionales, jurídicas y de otra índole". Creo que la preocupación que tenemos por la crisis financiera que atraviesa la Organización nos ha nublado la vista y debemos reconocer que los asuntos constitucionales y jurídicos deben tener preferencia sobre las derivaciones financieras, por lo que propongo que el párrafo quede: "... así como todas las repercusiones constitucionales, jurídicas, financieras y de otra índole, etc.", hasta el final.

Finalmente, mi delegación cuenta ahora afortunadamente con instrucciones que le permiten apoyar plenamente esta redacción, en el entendido de que los Estados Miembros que tengamos interés podremos tener acceso a los informes que se entreguen a los Comités de Finanzas y Asuntos Constitucionales y Jurídicos.

LE PRESIDENT: Nous avons atteint hier une discussion longue et importante. Nous étions presque arrivés à un consensus. Nous sommes dans un comité de rédaction. Je propose que les délégués qui vont parler interviennent dans cette direction. Peut-on considérer que l'article 58 est acceptable moyennant les modifications, et la dernière en date est celle de l'Argentine, cela paraît-il acceptable? Peut-on orienter les trois délégations qui vont parler dans cette direction en vue de l'approbation du paragraphe 58?

C. Srinivasa SASTRY (India): In paragraph 58 (1) line 1, after the words "to explore the options for a form of membership of FAO", we suggest the insertion of: "or with suitable participatory options". Also, in line 3 we would suggest the addition of the word "some", in the English version, so that it reads "...have transferred competence in some fields of activity of FAO".

LE PRESIDENT: Voulez-vous répéter pour que tout le monde comprenne votre proposition de rédaction. Pour la seconde remarque, il y a une proposition. Le délégué de l'Inde propose de... remplacer les mots "domaines couverts par les activités de la FAO" par "certains domaines"; c'est une remarque ponctuelle. D'autres remarques et une modification globale du texte nous amèneraient à ouvrir un débat général. Peut-être pourrait-on dans cette optique en rester au paragraphe 58. Pourrait-on remplacer "les domaines" par "certains domaines" comme nous avons remplacé pour le délégué de l'Argentine "financières" après "conseiller juridique"?

Ibrahima KABA (Guinée): Simplement pour abonder dans d'autres sens. Effectivement pour notre part le paragraphe nouveau 59 devient 59 et reflète parfaitement le consensus obtenu lors des débats approfondis d'hier. Nous pensons que c'est le Conseil qui donne les deux instructions au Directeur général et c'est pourquoi nous pensons que la formule employée dans le paragraphe 59 est effectivement juste.

POINT OF ORDER

POINT D'ORDRE

PUNTO DE ORDEN

Joseph TCHICAYA (Congo): Je m'excuse beaucoup auprès de ceux qui voulaient intervenir sur ce sujet. C'est toujours intéressant d'avoir un débat aussi large que possible mais sincèrement je pense que nous avons eu hier un débat large et démocratique et c'est la raison pour laquelle je propose une motion: je propose que cela soit mis aux voix pour que l'on sache ceux qui sont d'accord, ou pas d'accord, afin que nous puissions trancher sur ce problème. Je crois que l'on risque de mettre longtemps. Nous avons tous des propositions d'amendements à faire et je propose formellement de mettre tout cela aux voix.

LE PRESIDENT: Peut-on prendre ce paragraphe 59 tel qu'il est écrit par le Comité de rédaction et remplacer les termes "dans les domaines" par "dans certains domaines", comme l'a dit le représentant de l'Inde, et mettre les "conséquences constitutionnelles, juridiques et financières", comme l'a demandé le délégué de l'Argentine? Est-ce que le Conseil approuve, sans prolonger les débats, le paragraphe 59 dans sa majorité? Je crois que c'est ce qu'il y a de mieux à faire. On pourra toujours le modifier. Je pense qu'on pourrait accepter cette solution si vous êtes d'accord.

Jacques WARIN (France): Je me rallie à votre proposition que je trouve excellente. Je voulais simplement intervenir à la fin du débat pour relever, en tant que membre du comité de rédaction et en tant que défenseur de la version française, qu'il existait à mon sens une différence importante dans la formulation du paragraphe (i) du nouveau paragraphe 59, entre la version française et les versions anglaise et espagnole. Je prierai le traducteur du service juridique, qui sans doute a opéré sa traduction hier après la fin du débat au Comité de rédaction, d'en revenir purement et simplement à la formule française qui existait en page 4 du doc. CL 95/DC/17. C'est la formule qui a été discutée par les membres du Comité de rédaction dans la version française notamment par les membres de ma délégation qui participaient au Comité de rédaction et c'est cette formule que nous allons approuver. Je n'ai pas besoin de vous la lire, mais vous constaterez qu'elle est extrêmement fidèle aux deux versions anglaise et espagnole. Je ne souhaite pas qu'on prenne la nouvelle formule.

LE PRESIDENT: Est-ce qu'on peut savoir ce que vous tenez à modifier dans le texte en langue française?

Jacques WARIN (France): J'aimerais simplement qu'on reprenne la formulation française qui était la suivante: "Compte tenu de toute la gamme des opinions exprimées, le Conseil a invité le Directeur général

- (1) à étudier les options possibles pour l'accession d'organisations d'intégration économique régionale auxquelles leurs Etats Membres ont transféré Vous avez ajouté "certaines" compétences dans les domaines couverts ou plutôt dans "certains domaines couverts" par les activités de la FAO à un statut de membres de la FAO.

LE PRESIDENT: Vous voulez retirer le terme analogue....

Jacques WARIN (France): Oui, notamment ainsi que "toutes les conséquences"; je voudrais revenir à l'ancienne formule, celles d'hier.

LE PRESIDENT: Excusez-moi, je ne pensais pas rouvrir le débat. Maintenant il est ouvert à nouveau et nous avons l'obligation de passer la parole à ceux qui l'ont demandée au préalable, à savoir l'Espagne, le Mexique, la Libye, les USA et le Bangladesh.

Jaime GARCIA Y RADIAS (España): Nosotros, Señor Presidente, no queríamos abrir el debate, solamente decir que aceptamos su propuesta y la de otras delegaciones.

Eduardo PESQDEHA OLEA (México): Sin dejar de reconocer, Señor Presidente, que algunas observaciones hechas por Argentina y Brasil son de interés, usted nos ha dicho que estábamos a una pulgada de la aprobación formal del párrafo, y quisiéramos ponernos a un centímetro de esa aprobación y proponer que se apruebe al menos la versión en castellano del párrafo, exactamente como está y que como se nos ha presentado.

John G. COOK (United States of America): My initial request for the floor was simply to enquire what we were voting on. I am not at all certain what we are now voting. I have lost track of the proceedings.

LE PRESIDENT: Je vous propose le texte sur lequel je demande au Conseil de se prononcer dans sa majorité sans faire un pointage de vote, ce qui est la dernière solution. · Le texte est le suivant:

POINT OF ORDER

POINT D'ORDRE

PUNTO DE ORDEN

Mohammad Saleem KHAN (Pakistan): On a point of order. Mr. Chairman, we thought there was a formal motion from the delegation of Congo which you have not ruled out. You have either to rule that out or accept it, and then we can proceed further with the discussion.

Il ja HULIHSKY (Czechoslovakia): I would like your assurance on one point, Mr. Chairman. As you will remember, you ruled yesterday that the Czechoslovakian delegation, because of lack of time yesterday, would have the possibility of putting on record their position after or before-I am at your disposal-the Council takes a decision on this particular matter. That ruling still stands. I will take the floor after we have voted.

Gonzalo BULA HOYOS (Colombia): Yo creo, Señor Presidente, que el colega de Checoslovaquia ha hecho una intervención que debe permitir a usted proceder con la moción del código y la voluntad de los Miembros del Consejo; adoptar el párrafo 58 tal como está y dar la palabra a Checoslovaquia y a otros países, entre ellos Colombia, que quieran hacer declaraciones.

LE PRESIDENT: Nous faisons donc droit à la demande du délégué du Congo de mettre le mot "certains". Par ailleurs, je crois légitime la proposition du délégué de l'Argentine, à savoir décaler le mot "financières" en le plaçant après "juridiques".

Le paragraphe 58 est donc approuvé tel qu'amendé.

Paragraphs 50 to 58, as amended, approved

Les paragraphes 50 à 58, ainsi amendés, sont approuvés

Los párrafos 50 a 58, así enmendados, son aprobados

Draft Report of Plenary, Part V, as amended, was adopted

Projet de rapport de la plénière, Vème partie, ainsi amendé, est adopté

El proyecto de informe de la Plenaria, Parte V, así enmendado, es aprobado

LE PRESIDENT. Je vais donner la parole au délégué de la Tchécoslovaquie afin qu'il fasse sa communication tel que promis hier.

Ilja HULINSKY (Czechoslovakia): Mr Chairman, it was your ruling yesterday that the Czechoslovakian delegation ought to put on the record their position on the revised version of paragraph 5(b) of Document CL 95/19 at this stage of the deliberations of Council. I thank you for giving me this opportunity.

I have three short comments to make. First, my delegation will not obstruct the reaching of consensus on the revised version of paragraph 5(b) of Document CL 95/19 as we feel that such an atmosphere prevails in the Council at the present moment. We have tried to explain the Czechoslovakian position of principle in our statement of 28 June 1989, CL 95/PV/16. My delegation also would like to express our gratitude to the delegate of India for his act of wisdom. We sincerely hope that all the members of this august body—as a matter of fact all the FAO Member countries—will give more thought to the deep concern expressed in our debates by several delegations, including my own, before further deliberations take place on the problems of potential membership in FAO of other juridical institutions, of other juridical persons than States. Actually, the discussion on Document CL 95/19 has made it clear to everyone present that the EEC's request is opening Pandora's box.

Secondly, I wish to repeat that we do not question either the motives or the intentions of the Representative of the EEC. What we are questioning are the potential legal implications and consequences of their move for all the United Nations system. We are of the opinion that the EEC member states could find another way to cope with their problems without jeopardising the very fabric of the contemporary law of the International organizations, and without jeopardising the very fabric of the whole family of the United Nations.

Thirdly, as I have just pointed out, the Czechoslovakian delegation will not obstruct the acceptance of the text prepared by the FAO Legal Counsel as amended by the delegation of India and other Council members. However, in the vote on it we will abstain so as to register our difficulty with a decision that could engage FAO all along in a process leading to revision of the FAO Constitution.

The Czechoslovak Delegation does believe in the United Nations. How would you possibly expect that we would subscribe to a process that, according to our opinion, could open the way to undermining one of the basic principles on which the United Nations has been founded?

Gonzalo BOLA HOTOS (Colombia): Hoy, Señor Presidente, es 30 de junio, fecha que tiene cierta significación institucional para la CEE. A las 24 horas de hoy se producirá el cambio de guardia entre dos países amigos, España y Francia como Presidentes de la Comisión de la CEE. Pero no sólo ese hecho, sino la convicción que tenemos sobre este asunto impone nuestra intervención porque no queremos que ninguno de los Representantes Miembros de la Comunidad a quienes nos unen lazos de amistad y simpatía, ni la Comunidad misma puedan al final de este debate tener la impresión de que existe una reacción negativa en el seno de este Consejo.

Los representantes de Colombia pensamos que la intensidad del debate y la propia controversia surgida alrededor de este asunto, demuestran la importancia del tema y el carácter trascendental que tiene, así como la serie de implicaciones que tendrá en el futuro, pero, además, confirma la significación y la importancia de la Comunidad Económica Europea, como una de las fuerzas políticas y económicas más importantes del mundo.

Pensamos sinceramente que quienes representamos a gobiernos, cuyos países pertenecen a otras organizaciones regionales de integración económica, no debemos preocuparnos por el paso que acabamos de dar hoy ni por el resultado de esas negociaciones que acabamos de autorizar.

Como lo ha dicho el Embajador del Brasil, estamos apenas en una fase exploratoria: ni siquiera la propia Comisión de la CEE todavía está decidida ni convencida de que va a hacer una solicitud formal de ingreso de esa organización como miembro de la FAO. Si, como lo esperamos, la CEE llega a ser miembro de esta Organización, esto se logrará dentro de un marco específico, con características y condiciones muy bien definidas, de manera que, en vez de preocupar a otras organizaciones, debería estimularlas dentro de ese marco para que, si fuera posible, siguieran ese mismo camino en el futuro.

Finalmente, los Representantes de Colombia queremos reiterar nuestra opinión en el sentido de que la CEE ha planteado ante este Consejo un hecho importante y positivo. Nosotros tenemos autoridad moral para hacer estas afirmaciones porque, tal vez como ningún otro Delegado de países en desarrollo, en el pasado, los Representantes de Colombia hemos criticado de manera muy definida y muy convencida la funesta política agrícola común de la CEE. Hemos señalado los perjuicios que los subsidios causaron a las economías de muchos países en desarrollo. Pero con esa misma franqueza y con gran realismo, hay que reconocer que se está produciendo una evolución favorable; una evolución que es lenta y que podríamos acelerar si tuviéramos la ocasión de discutir en el seno de esta Organización con un propio representante directo y autorizado de la CEE, para que esa Comunidad continúe e intensifique su valiosa asistencia a los países del Tercer Mundo.

LE PRESIDENT: Je voudrais remercier tous les délégués de leur contribution efficace et de l'enthousiasme qu'ils ont montré dans leur travail ainsi que de la notion très précise de leurs responsabilités. Je leur souhaite un bon retour.

Le niveau du débat et la densité des discussions sont de bon augure pour l'avenir de l'Organisation.

Avant de lever la séance, je voudrais donner la parole au représentant de la CEE, puis à M. Bonte-Friedheim.

Gian Paolo PAPA (CEE): Je vous remercie, Monsieur le Président, de me donner la parole, et je remercie très vivement le Conseil pour l'attention qu'il a voulu apporter à notre demande d'explorer avec les instances compétentes de la FAO la possibilité d'obtenir un statut de membre correspondant à nos compétences et d'en étudier les conséquences.

Le débat a montré la complexité du problème, qui demande des études approfondies. Je reste à la disposition des Etats Membres de la FAO pour toutes explications et informations au sujet de la Communauté économique européenne, une réalité qui, en seulement trente ans, a réuni douze Etats dans une entreprise historique d'intégration et de coopération au développement.

CH. BONTE-FRIEDHEIM (Assistant Director-General, Agriculture Department): The Director-General has requested me to make a statement at the closing of this Council, to the Council. First of all, on his behalf I would like to thank you, Mr. Chairman, for having guided Council through what we consider a very important session with a very rich debate and with a large number of very important implications for your Organization's future work. Council at this Session has considered a number of new activities and new far-reaching initiatives submitted to Council by the Commission on Plant Genetic Resources and by COAG. In addition, the proposal for a world conference on nutrition will be an important proposal to be discussed at the forthcoming Conference. Important for the Secretariat is that Council has authorized the Secretariat to prepare the full Programme of Work and Budget for 1990/91. The Secretariat will have a very busy summer period in front of it. We have to prepare, on the instruction of Council, as it says here, a detailed document analysing all aspects of a proposal for a world conference on nutrition. By far most important, the full Programme of Work and Budget, the Director-General has to prepare a separate report to Conference to deal with the aspects being dealt with by the Joint Programme and Finance Committee. But there is also the ongoing work which will keep us busy for the next months. The locusts are still there. The screwworms have appeared and demand emergency measures in North Africa. There are other emergencies where FAO has received requests from the Secretary-General of the United Nations to participate. There is the programme to be developed on women in development, and there are all the other aspects that the Secretariat has to do. In the view of the Secretariat, and especially in the view of the Director-General, the next meetings of our Governing Council will be very important and crucial for the success of the Conference. First, coming up there will be the meetings of the Programme and Finance Committee and the joint meetings of the two Committees. Then there will be the extended session of Council to which you have agreed, all preceding the Conference. At the beginning of this Council session the Director-General has stressed the need for consensus. This was supported by the Chairman of the Group of 77 as well as by members from all the regions. We in the Secretariat hope that Member Nations will be able to carry that consensus to the Conference.

As a final word, in addition to the consensus FAO unfortunately needs the financial resources to do its work, some of the highlights of which I have tried to point out. For that, we need the timely payment of the contributions and the arrears, especially from some of the large contributors. Without these payments, FAO will have an even harder time for the next seven months of 1989 and the beginning of 1990.

On behalf of the Director-General, I would like to thank you all for the constructive discussions, for the many helpful comments that have been made-many of them will be taken into account when we prepare the full Programme of Work and Budget-and for the general excellent spirit which has ruled during these sessions during the last ten days of this Council.

LE PRESIDENT: Je remercie M. Bonte-Friedheim pour sa communication et je tiens à renouveler mes remerciements au Président du Comité de rédaction pour le travail excellent qu'il a effectué.

Je présente mes respects à tous les Honorables délégués qui ont permis à cette session du Conseil d'être un Conseil efficace et constructif à la veille d'une Conférence très importante.

Joseph TCHICAYA (Congo): Je sais qu'il se fait tard et soyez certains que je ne vous retiendrai pas très longtemps.

C'est pour moi un plaisir de prendre la parole au terme de nos travaux et je souhaite sincèrement vous remercier, au nom du Groupe des 77, pour la manière impartiale et compétente avec laquelle vous avez conduit nos travaux. Aussi nous estimons-nous satisfaits des résultats de ce Conseil qui tous ont été obtenus après des débats démocratiques intenses et qui ont, aujourd'hui, abouti au consensus.

Je saisis cette occasion pour remercier tous nos partenaires au sein de ce Conseil qui ont permis au Groupe des 77 de célébrer avec succès son 25^{ème} anniversaire. Nous étions effectivement heureux de constater la nombreuse assistance dans la salle des cérémonies, le 23 juin dernier. Le Groupe des 77, groupe de dialogue et de concertation, restera guidé par ses vertus dans les débats de demain comme ceux d'hier.

Je profite de cette occasion pour remercier tous ceux qui, de près ou de loin, ont permis le succès de ce Conseil.

LE PRESIDENT: Avant de lever la séance, je voudrais remercier les interprètes et les membres du Secrétariat.

The meeting rose at 13.30 hours

La séance est levée à 13 h 30

Se levanta la sesión a las 13.30 horas