

**council**

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

**conseil**

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

**consejo**

ORGANIZACION DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS PARA LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION

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**CL 107/PV**

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**Hundred and Seventh Session**  
**PLENARY**

**Cent septième session**  
**PLÉNIÈRE**

**107° período de sesiones**  
**PLENARIA**

**Rome, 15-24 November 1994**

**VERBATIM RECORDS OF PLENARY MEETINGS OF THE COUNCIL**  
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**ACTAS TAQUIGRAFICAS DE LAS SESIONES PLENARIAS DEL CONSEJO**



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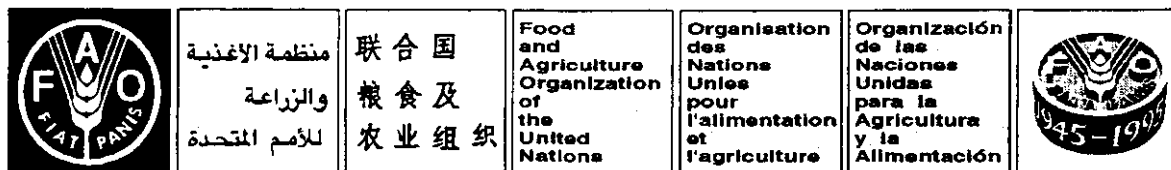
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QUATORZIEME SESSION  
14ª SESION  
(24 November 1994)**

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15 November 1994



COUNCIL

CONSEIL

CONSEJO

Hundred and Seventh Session • Cent septième session • 107<sup>o</sup> período de sesiones

FIRST PLENARY MEETING  
PREMIERE SEANCE PLENIERE  
PRIMERA SESION PLENARIA

15 November 1994

The First Plenary Meeting was opened at 10.15 hours  
Mr José Ramón López Portillo,  
Independent Chairman of the Council, presiding

La première séance plénière est ouverte à 10 h 15  
sous la présidence de M. José Ramón López Portillo,  
Président indépendant du Conseil

Se abre la primera sesión plenaria a las 10.15 horas  
bajo la presidencia del Sr. José Ramón López Portillo,  
Presidente Independiente del Consejo

## **INTRODUCTION - PROCEDURE OF THE SESSION**

### **INTRODUCTION - QUESTIONS DE PROCEDURE**

### **INTRODUCCION - CUESTIONES DE PROCEDIMIENTO**

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Distinguidos miembros del Consejo, distinguidos observadores, señoras y señores, declaro abierto el 107° período de sesiones del Consejo.

Este Consejo se honra con la presencia de varios ministros y otros altos funcionarios de gobierno, así como con nuevos representantes que han presentado sus credenciales recientemente ante la Organización, a quienes damos la bienvenida. Se honra también con la presencia del Dr. Jacques Diouf, Director General de la FAO, al cual saludamos calurosamente.

Antes de iniciar la reunión, quisiera hacer una breve comunicación. Como ustedes saben, la Comunidad Europea participa en esta reunión de acuerdo con los párrafos 8 y 9 del artículo II de la Constitución de la FAO.

Me han comunicado que les informe que la declaración hecha por la Comunidad Europea y sus Estados Miembros se encuentra en el documento informativo CL 107/INF/20, que ya ha sido distribuido a todos. Desearía llamar su atención sobre dicha declaración.

#### **1. Adoption of the Agenda and Timetable**

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

#### **1. Aprobación del programa y del calendario**

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Pasamos ahora, si no hay ningún comentario de parte de ustedes, a considerar el punto primero, que es la adopción de la agenda y del calendario, documentos CL 107/1-Rev.2; el INF/1-Rev.1 y el INF/20.

La agenda fue distribuida a todos los gobiernos con la anticipación requerida, y el documento CL 107/1-Rev.2 incluye el tema 15.3: Cuentas comprobadas del Programa Mundial de Alimentos para el bienio 1992-93.

Cuando se propuso la agenda inicial, se pensaba que el 38° período de sesiones del Comité de políticas y programas de ayuda alimentaria del Programa Mundial de Alimentos, es decir, el CPA, se reuniría en octubre. Sin embargo, el 38° período de sesiones del CPA ha sido postergado hasta diciembre próximo y todavía no ha examinado el tema 15.3 de nuestra agenda. Por consiguiente, se sugiere que se suprima el punto 15.3 de la agenda para esta reunión del Consejo.

Tenemos también otros cambios en la agenda. El tema sobre los asuntos del personal ahora es el número 17. Al hacer esta modificación, por supuesto, ha habido cambios en el orden cronológico de los otros temas. Se han corrido en su numeración.

Quisiera indicarles que tenemos igualmente dos subtemas adicionales. El primero, el número 20.5, concierne a la enmienda propuesta al Reglamento del Personal 301.136, sobre los funcionarios profesionales nacionales. El segundo es el subtema 23.1: "Informe sobre los preparativos para la celebración del 50° aniversario de la FAO", que ha sido incluido a petición expresa del Gobierno de Canadá. Este nuevo subtema ya se reflejaba en el documento CL 107/1-Rev. 1 (indicado como tema 22.2) y que, a su vez, fue enviado a todos los países miembros el 24 de octubre.

Llamo su atención respecto a la inclusión de los documentos suplementarios para los temas 6.1; 6.2; 19 y 20.4.

Quisiera, distinguidos delegados, también informarles que varios delegados me han comunicado su intención de referirse al proceso preparatorio de la Cumbre Mundial de la Alimentación que, en principio, deberá tener lugar en los primeros meses de 1996. Al respecto, tras consultas con los grupos de países en la FAO, hemos convenido que aquellos delegados que deseen hacer alguna declaración en relación al proceso preparatorio de



la Cumbre Mundial de la Alimentación, lo hagan bajo el tema 11 de nuestra agenda, es decir, "Informe del Director General sobre la aplicación de las decisiones adoptadas por el Consejo en su 106º período de sesiones, que se discutirá, en principio, el viernes 18 por la mañana.

Con esas enmiendas y acotaciones, y si no hay ninguna opinión contraria de parte de ustedes, distinguidos delegados, puedo entender que estamos de acuerdo en adoptar la agenda propuesta. ¿Hay algún comentario, a estas alturas, antes de pasar a la revisión del calendario?

**Jürgen OESTREICH (Germany):** On behalf of the European Community, Austria, Finland, Norway and Sweden, I should like to make three small points concerning the Agenda and Agenda-related issues.

First, we have noted with great satisfaction that a whole day of the Council Session will be devoted to sustainable development, including the role of FAO in forest management and the UNCED follow-up process. We welcome the opportunity to discuss these important issues and also in relation to the focus on food security. We also note that the Agenda covers the important area of fisheries.

Second, although we generally agree with the proposed Agenda, I should like to draw attention to Agenda Item 8.3 which refers to the implementation of General Assembly Resolution 48/162 on the Transformation of the CFA into an Executive Board. In the Provisional Annotated Agenda it is proposed that this point should be for discussion. Due to the postponement of the CFA from October to December 1994, to which you have already made reference in the context of Item 15, the CFA has not yet discussed this matter of the transformation of the CFA into an Executive Board. I therefore propose, on behalf of the European Community, Austria, Finland, Norway and Sweden that at this stage we should only take note of Document CL 107/7 prepared by the Secretariat for this Council.

The third point I wish to make is a very important one concerning the timely distribution of documents for the Council. We have noted with serious concern that some of the relevant and important documents for the 107th Session of the Council have been distributed very late. This makes it difficult for us to study these documents carefully and to react substantially on their content in our Council deliberations. With regard to future sessions of the Council and the Conference we might therefore be obliged, in cases of similar delayed distribution of documents, to ask for the postponement until the next session of items for which we have not been given sufficient opportunity to study the relevant Secretariat documents.

**El PRESIDENTE:** Se ha tomado nota respecto de los diversos asuntos que ha planteado usted, su satisfacción por la inclusión de varios temas, la importancia de que este Consejo tome el Tema 8.3 para información y no lo discuta, en vista de que el CPA lo revisará en su sesión de diciembre y hay un grupo de trabajo que está analizando la forma de arreglar la composición y otros aspectos de la nueva Junta, el Programa Mundial de Alimentos, y hemos tomado nota también respecto de su preocupación por la entrega tardía de algunos documentos para este Consejo.

¿Hay algún otro delegado que desee hacer uso de la palabra?

**Mrs Melinda L. KIMBLE (United States of America):** The United States Delegation would particularly like to support the recommendation by the representative of Germany on behalf of the European Union that we take Agenda Item 8.3 for information only. UNGA Resolution 48/162 represents a Member Government initiative and we have full confidence in the same Member Government's implementing this Resolution in Rome. We believe this process should appropriately begin in the CFA and, given the timetable for the CFA this fall, we believe it is appropriate that the Council only note this Agenda Item.

**El PRESIDENTE:** Yo creo que con esta última observación podría consultarles si están de acuerdo en que el Tema 8.3 sea para información y no para discusión, en cuyo caso se hace la anotación correspondiente y se cambia en la agenda de nuestros trabajos.

Si no hay ninguna oposición a que ese Tema sea para información, así se acuerda.

**El PRESIDENTE:** En ese caso, queda aprobado el Programa para este período de sesiones y pasamos al calendario, que como todos sabemos es un marco indicativo y no una estructura rígida que se impone a nuestros trabajos.

En el documento CL 107/INF/1 - Rev. 1, y como acabamos de decidir, hay que eliminar el Subtema 15.3 programado para la tarde del lunes 21 de noviembre. También de acuerdo con el Director General, quisiera sugerir dos modificaciones:

La primera, que el día de hoy se discutan conjuntamente los Temas 4 y 5 que están relacionados entre sí. La razón es que el Tema 5 es para que el Consejo acepte el informe del 19º período de Sesiones del Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria. Y los países que deseen marcar alguna posición respecto de lo allí contenido lo podrán hacer de manera integral dentro del Tema 4. Los Temas 4 y 5 se discutirán conjuntamente.

La segunda propuesta es que en la tarde del viernes examinemos, además del Tema 14 también el Tema 15, es decir "Cuentas comprobadas" para tener juntos los temas financieros.

También deseo hacerles notar que hay un cambio en el orden del día para hoy. El Tema 23.1, que equivocadamente había sido incluido antes del Tema 3, es decir "Declaración del Director General", se llevará a cabo inmediatamente después de la Declaración del Director General. En esa ocasión, el informe sobre los preparativos para la celebración del 50 Aniversario de la FAO propuesta por el distinguido Gobierno de Canadá será ofrecida al Consejo a través de una declaración que va a hacer el señor Ministro Robichaud.

Por lo tanto, les propongo que el calendario, en el documento CL 107/INF/1-Rev. 1 con las modificaciones enumeradas sea adoptado.

Si no hay ningún comentario, podemos entender que el Consejo aprueba el calendario propuesto con las modificaciones que acabo de proponer.

De acuerdo con el horario actual de la casa, les pido que tomen nota de que las próximas sesiones del Consejo se harán con el horario tradicional de 9:30 a 12:30 de la mañana y posteriormente de 2:30 a 5:30 de la tarde. Estoy seguro de que todos ustedes van a ser muy puntuales para poder terminar nuestras sesiones a tiempo y no realizar sesiones nocturnas.

La duración de este Consejo, como ustedes han podido notar, es de 8 días. Se ha reducido respecto de períodos anteriores en 2 días. El propósito, a recomendación de la propia Conferencia y del señor Director General, es que el Consejo sea más ejecutivo, más preciso, que logre enfocar mejor los temas. Estoy seguro de que todos cooperarán para que sus declaraciones sean concisas y al punto, y que se limiten al número de minutos específico para cada uno de los temas, manteniendo claro lo sustancial de sus declaraciones.

En el caso de que alguna delegación desee hacer o entregar una declaración más extensa y detallada, recuerden ustedes que se puede hacer directamente a la Secretaría y quedará incluida en el verbatim tal como la presenten ustedes. Un resumen de la misma la podrán ustedes hacer verbalmente.

**It was so decided**

**It en est ainsi décidé**

**Así se acuerda**

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

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Pasemos al Tema 2 de nuestra agenda que es la elección de tres Vicepresidentes y la designación del Presidente y de los miembros del Comité de Redacción, documento CL 107/INF/9.

Como resultado de consultas entre los grupos regionales me voy a permitir leer la lista de los candidatos propuestos para ocupar los cargos de Vicepresidentes de esta sesión:

En primer lugar, el excelentísimo señor Jürgen Oestreich, Embajador y representante permanente de Alemania ante la FAO.

El señor Ahmed MER'I, Viceministro de Agricultura de Siria.

El Sr. Dixon Nilaweera, Secretario del Ministerio de Agricultura de Sri Lanka.

Todos ellos reúnen altas características profesionales y personales que les hacen no sólo estar a la altura de la Vicepresidencia de este Consejo sino que seguramente ayudarán a este Presidente para que nuestros trabajos culminen con éxito.

Si no hay ningún comentario y en virtud de las cualidades de los tres candidatos presentados, espero que con un aplauso apoyemos la candidatura de estos tres vicepresidentes.

**Applause**

**Applaudissements**

**Aplausos**

**EL PRESIDENTE:** De esta forma hemos concluido la primera parte del Tema 2 y han quedado elegidos los tres Vicepresidentes que he mencionado.

Nos queda pendiente la designación del Presidente y del Comité de Redacción.

De nuevo, a partir de consultas con varios grupos regionales, me voy a permitir leerles la composición del Comité de Redacción.

Como Presidente de dicho Comité el Sr. Adel Mahmoud Aboul-Naga de Egipto.

Y como miembros:

Argentina	India
Australia	Indonesia
Bélgica	Japón
Cabo Verde	Libia
Canadá	Noruega
Chipre	Uganda
Egipto	Venezuela
Francia	

Si ustedes están de acuerdo, podríamos aprobar esta composición del Comité de Redacción.

**It was so decided**

**It en est ainsi décidé**

**Así se acuerda**

**CONSTITUTIONAL AND LEGAL MATTERS**  
**QUESTIONS CONSTITUTIONNELLES ET JURIDIQUE**  
**ASUNTOS CONSTITUCIONALES Y JURIDICOS**

- 20. Other constitutional and legal matters, including**
- 20. Autres questions constitutionnelles et juridiques, notamment**
- 20. Otros asuntos constitucionales y jurídicos, en particular**
- 20.2 Invitations to Non-Member Nations to attend FAO Sessions**
- 20.2 Invitations d'Etats non membres à des réunions de la FAO**
- 20.2 Invitaciones a Estados no miembros para asistir a reuniones de la FAO**
- 20.4 Applications for Membership in the Organization**
- 20.4 Demandes d'admission à la qualité de membre de l'Organisation**
- 20.4 Solicitudes de ingreso en la Organización**

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Si han tomado ustedes nota de la composición del Comité de Redacción, me permito pasar al Tema 20.2 de nuestra agenda: Invitaciones a Estados no miembros para participar en las reuniones de la FAO, documento CL 107/INF/8.

El documento informa a los Miembros del Consejo de las solicitudes de Estados no miembros de la FAO recibidas por el Director General. Para participar en este período de sesiones tenemos los casos de la Federación Rusa, Ucrania y Georgia, como se indica en el párrafo 3 de dicho documento.

En el párrafo 5 de dicho documento se da para información los nombres de los países que han asistido a reuniones de la FAO desde la última reunión del Consejo.

Si ningún miembro del Consejo quiere hacer uso de la palabra respecto de este tema, queda aprobado.

Pasamos al Tema 20.4: Solicitudes de Ingreso a la Organización, documento CL 107/19 y el CL 107/19 Suplemento 1.

Estos temas se refieren a las solicitudes recibidas de los gobiernos de las repúblicas de Azerbaiyán y de Georgia, las cuales serán consideradas a su vez en el 28 período de sesiones de la Conferencia en noviembre de 1995.

Mientras tanto, sin embargo, se le pide al Consejo, de parte del Director General, que autorice la invitación a Azerbaiyán y a Georgia para que participen en calidad de observadores a las sesiones del Consejo y de sus comités, así como a las sesiones regionales que les puedan interesar.

Pienso que no tendremos ningún inconveniente en autorizar estas invitaciones de parte del Director General a la República de Azerbaiyán y a la República de Georgia. Si no hay ninguna observación al respecto, el Tema 20.4 queda concluido.

Agradezco la buena voluntad de todos ustedes en aprobar los temas de procedimiento con tanto afán y ahora tengo el honor de presentarles al Dr. Jacques Diouf, Director General de la FAO, quien pronunciará algunas palabras sobre el estado actual de la alimentación y sobre sus planes para el futuro de la Organización.

**INTRODUCTION - PROCEDURE OF THE SESSION (continued)****INTRODUCTION - QUESTIONS DE PROCEDURE (suite)****INTRODUCCION - CUESTIONES DE PROCEDIMIENTO (continuación)****3. Statement of the Director-General****3. Déclaration du Directeur général****3. Declaración del Director General**

**LE DIRECTEUR GENERAL:** Monsieur le Président, Excellences, distingués Représentants des Etats Membres et des délégations, c'est avec plaisir que je vous souhaite la bienvenue à cette réunion du Conseil, qui se tient à un moment où nous sommes en plein travail pour mettre en oeuvre les décisions que vous avez prises lors de votre 106<sup>e</sup> session, et dont le but est de permettre à la FAO de faire face aux défis de la situation agricole et alimentaire mondiale avec une efficacité accrue et une meilleure mobilisation de toutes ses ressources.

Malgré des signes encourageants, la situation mondiale de l'agriculture et de l'alimentation présente d'énormes contrastes et des inégalités selon les régions et selon les pays. Malgré la reprise économique dans les pays industrialisés qui semble s'affirmer et l'économie d'une grande partie des pays en voie de développement qui fait preuve d'un dynamisme remarquable, on assiste à une dégradation de la situation économique en Afrique subsaharienne et dans plusieurs pays d'Europe centrale et orientale. Cette dégradation entraîne souvent des interruptions de la production agricole et des pénuries alimentaires.

Pour 1994, la croissance de la production agricole mondiale est provisoirement estimée à 2,2 pour cent. Cependant, ce chiffre résulte en bonne partie d'une reprise de la production céréalière aux Etats-Unis, après un fort recul en 1993, et ne saurait minimiser les diminutions annoncées en Europe centrale et orientale, en particulier dans l'ex-URSS, ainsi qu'une faible croissance dans d'autres régions. Malgré une augmentation de 2,2 pour cent pour l'ensemble des pays en développement, face à une croissance démographique de 2 pour cent, l'accroissement de la production agricole en Afrique subsaharienne, estimé à 1 pour cent, sera bien au-dessous de la croissance de la population. De modestes augmentations sont prévues également pour le Proche-Orient et l'Afrique du Nord. En Amérique latine et aux Caraïbes, ainsi qu'en Extrême Orient et dans le Pacifique, l'augmentation sera supérieure à la croissance démographique, mais d'importants secteurs de la population continuent à souffrir de malnutrition. En outre, dans certains pays, l'impact à court terme des réformes macroéconomiques et la persistance du protectionnisme limitent les capacités de production et d'exportation.

De graves crises alimentaires subsistent dans de nombreux pays, notamment en Afrique orientale et en particulier au Rwanda et dans les pays voisins, qui ont reçu un flot massif de réfugiés. Dans d'autres régions également, des pays ont été confrontés à des pénuries alimentaires: en Afrique australe, en Amérique centrale, au Proche-Orient, en Asie centrale.

Il est estimé que la production céréalière mondiale augmentera cette année de 2,4 pour cent, tout en restant en dessous des quantités produites en 1992. Le volume des disponibilités pour la campagne 1994-95, bien que suffisant pour couvrir la demande globale prévue, ne permettra pas la reconstitution des stocks, qui étaient déjà faibles à la fin de la campagne 1993-94. Les stocks de report représenteraient donc seulement 18 pour cent des besoins estimés, ce qui les rapprocherait du niveau minimum de sécurité fixé par la FAO.

C'est dans ce contexte qu'intervient la mise en oeuvre des décisions en matière de restructuration, de programmes et de politiques prises par le Conseil lors de sa dernière session. Ces décisions concernaient notamment la restructuration du Secrétariat, la décentralisation, et la mise en oeuvre de deux Programmes spéciaux: le Programme spécial de production alimentaire à l'appui de la sécurité alimentaire dans les pays à faible revenu et à déficit vivrier, et le Système de prévention et de réponse rapide (EMPRES) contre les ravageurs et les maladies transfrontières des animaux et des plantes.

Le Programme spécial sur la sécurité alimentaire prévoit la sélection de projets pilotes, l'utilisation de technologies appropriées et le renforcement des capacités nationales, avec la participation des communautés agricoles et du personnel de vulgarisation.

Je suis heureux de pouvoir vous informer que des progrès importants ont déjà été accomplis dans la mise en oeuvre de ce Programme spécial. Son cadre conceptuel a été défini, y compris ses objectifs, sa stratégie et ses modalités opérationnelles.

Le Programme met l'accent sur le transfert de technologies au niveau national et commencera par des projets pilotes dans un nombre limité de pays, compte tenu des contraintes financières et opérationnelles qui nous obligent à démarrer prudemment. Je n'oublie pas, cependant, qu'il existe 78 pays à faible revenu et à déficit vivrier, dont 76 sont membres de la FAO, qui devraient en bénéficier. Le Programme devra aider ces pays à améliorer leur sécurité alimentaire en développant la production locale, autant en termes de quantité que de qualité. Un accroissement rapide de la production alimentaire dans les zones relativement mieux dotées contribuera également à réduire la pression sur les zones plus fragiles et à freiner leur dégradation.

Afin de mobiliser le maximum de ressources à cet effet, j'ai exposé les grandes lignes de ce Programme à tous nos partenaires potentiels: organisations internationales, institutions financières et donateurs bilatéraux. Des accords existants ont été renforcés avec la Banque mondiale, et une Déclaration conjointe de coopération pour la promotion de la sécurité alimentaire durable a été signée avec l'Administrateur du PNUD en septembre dernier. Un groupe de travail PNUD/FAO s'est déjà mis au travail afin d'identifier les projets conjoints qui pourront être réalisés dans le cadre de ce Programme. D'autres donateurs, organismes internationaux et banques de développement ont accordé leur soutien et nous espérons que ceci se traduira dans les mois à venir par la mise en oeuvre de projets opérationnels.

Des missions d'exploration sont en cours dans plusieurs pays dans le but de procéder à une identification préliminaire des zones d'emplacement des projets pilotes et de définir les modalités opérationnelles. Ces missions ont bénéficié de la contribution de tous les services concernés de l'Organisation et s'appuieront sur les institutions gouvernementales et les autres organisations qui participent au développement du pays, y compris les ONG.

En ce qui concerne le Système de prévention et de réponse rapide (EMPRES) contre les ravageurs et les maladies transfrontières des animaux et des plantes, l'accent a été mis sur les acridiens et sur la peste bovine, compte tenu de l'importance de ces deux fléaux.

Au début, le volet "acridiens" sera limité géographiquement à la Corne de l'Afrique et la péninsule arabique, pour s'étendre ensuite à d'autres régions où sévit le criquet pèlerin, notamment l'Afrique de l'Ouest et du Nord-Ouest et l'Asie du Sud-Ouest. Les plans de travail détaillés qui ont été préparés pour 1994 et 1995 prévoient des activités d'assistance en matière d'alerte et d'intervention rapides, de surveillance, d'évaluation et de prévisions, particulièrement dans les zones de reproduction des insectes. Une mission a visité les pays affectés du Proche-Orient et d'Afrique orientale en septembre-octobre, et ses résultats seront discutés en décembre par les pays de la région et en janvier par le Comité de lutte contre le criquet pèlerin. Ces réunions devraient aboutir à des propositions concrètes et les activités de terrain devraient démarrer au cours des premiers mois de 1995.

Le volet pour la peste bovine agira notamment dans le cadre du Programme mondial d'éradication de cette maladie. Le Service de la santé animale a été restructuré pour assurer la liaison avec EMPRES et le Secrétariat du Programme mondial d'éradication. Ces efforts devront renforcer, d'une part, la capacité de la FAO en matière de suivi mondial de la maladie, et d'autre part les capacités nationales et régionales pour faire face à des situations d'urgence. La zone cible initiale comprendra l'Asie centrale, l'Asie mineure et l'Europe du Sud-Est. Ensuite, les activités seront étendues aux pays d'Afrique.

Courant 1995, il est également prévu d'organiser une consultation technique mixte avec l'Organisation panaméricaine de la Santé et l'Office international des épizooties, afin d'établir une stratégie à long terme pour l'éradication de la fièvre aphteuse, en particulier en Amérique du Sud.

J'en viens maintenant à la restructuration du Secrétariat. Elle est destinée à mobiliser et mieux utiliser toutes les ressources de l'Organisation, et en particulier les connaissances et l'expérience de son personnel, qui constituent sans aucun doute son atout principal. La restructuration est notamment axée sur la création d'un Département du développement durable et la transformation du Département de développement en Département de la coopération technique, ainsi que sur la décentralisation des activités pour les rapprocher davantage des pays, à travers le renforcement des bureaux régionaux et la création de bureaux sous-régionaux.

Depuis la dernière session du Conseil, l'exercice de restructuration est entré dans une phase complexe et délicate, qui comprend la redistribution des postes au sein de chaque unité fonctionnelle et la redéfinition du mandat de ces unités et des postes qui les composent. Cela a nécessité de nombreuses consultations avec les unités concernées et leur personnel, ainsi qu'une étude soignée des structures d'appui administratif. Cette étape étant bientôt terminée, les nouveaux départements et divisions pourront être mis en place progressivement.

En ce qui concerne la décentralisation, les consultations avec les Etats Membres concernés se sont poursuivies au cours des derniers mois afin d'identifier l'emplacement des bureaux sous-régionaux. Les critères principaux établis à cet égard sont l'acceptabilité de l'emplacement envisagé par tous les Etats Membres de la région et, bien entendu, la disposition du gouvernement concerné à accueillir le bureau et à fournir les services et installations nécessaires. L'existence d'un bureau de la FAO, et d'infrastructures adéquates, notamment en matière de télécommunication et de transport vers les autres pays de la sous-région, sont également des critères de choix importants. Dans les deux sous-régions où un consensus a été atteint sur l'emplacement des bureaux, des missions sont en cours dans les pays qui se sont offerts pour s'assurer des conditions d'établissement de ces bureaux. Les consultations se poursuivent afin de dégager un consensus dans les trois autres sous-régions. Entre-temps, un cadre juridique a été préparé concernant le statut des nouvelles structures.

Par ailleurs, j'ai informé le Secrétaire général des Nations Unies, en juin dernier, des décisions du Conseil concernant les divisions mixtes avec les Commissions économiques et sociales régionales des Nations Unies, visant au redéploiement des fonctionnaires de la FAO en poste dans ces divisions. Par la suite, des consultations ont eu lieu avec les Secrétaires exécutifs des Commissions régionales pour définir des modalités qui permettront d'assurer la continuité des activités conduites jusqu'ici par ces divisions.

Parallèlement, l'Organisation a entrepris en juillet/août un exercice global d'inspection des bureaux de terrain, probablement le plus exhaustif dans le système des Nations Unies. Ceci a permis de vérifier la qualité de la gestion de ces bureaux afin d'introduire par la suite les mesures d'amélioration nécessaires.

Un autre aspect important lié à la restructuration est le projet concernant les infrastructures de communication, visant à relier tous les bureaux de la FAO par un réseau télématique afin d'accroître de façon substantielle la rapidité, la quantité et la qualité des échanges d'information. Ceci permettra, en outre, d'introduire des procédures plus rapides et efficaces dans les domaines administratif et financier et dans la prise de décisions. Les cadres techniques du Siège et du terrain auront ainsi accès aux bases de données de l'Organisation et des institutions académiques et scientifiques du monde entier. D'autre part, ce réseau permettra aux Etats Membres, aux organisations internationales, gouvernementales et non gouvernementales, et aux institutions académiques et de recherche, d'accéder rapidement aux informations et documents publiés par l'Organisation.

Dans le contexte de la politique d'élargissement des activités de partenariat de l'Organisation, et afin de pouvoir disposer de sources supplémentaires d'expertise, de nouveaux accords de coopération ont été proposés aux Etats Membres pour l'utilisation d'experts dans le cadre de la Coopération technique entre pays en développement (CTPD) et de la coopération entre les pays en transition d'Europe centrale et orientale, ainsi qu'avec les institutions académiques et de recherche des pays développés. Les gouvernements concernés ont été invités à participer à ces accords et j'ai profité de ma participation aux Conférences régionales et de mes visites dans certains pays pour insister sur ce point. Les modalités d'utilisation de jeunes professionnels des pays en développement et des retraités sont également à l'étude.

A l'heure actuelle, 26 Etats Membres ont signé l'accord de CTPD, et un fichier d'offres de services et de demandes d'experts est en cours de constitution. Ceci permettra de sélectionner et proposer les experts les mieux qualifiés pour répondre aux demandes correspondantes des Etats Membres.

Dans le même esprit, d'importants efforts ont été déployés pour élargir les accords de partenariat et de coopération avec d'autres organisations internationales et régionales, en particulier avec les banques de développement, afin de renforcer les activités de l'Organisation, notamment celles du Centre d'investissement. Dans le cas de la Banque mondiale, le programme de coopération existant a été revu en avril dernier et actuellement la FAO travaille sur 55 projets d'investissement dans 38 pays. J'ai déjà mentionné le renforcement de notre coopération avec le PNUD. La collaboration s'est renforcée également avec le Fonds

international pour le développement agricole, après des consultations aux plus hauts niveaux, ce qui devrait se traduire par une croissance de 25 pour cent dans le programme de travail conjoint pour 1994.

Des discussions ont également été entamées avec d'autres institutions soit pour établir des accords similaires, soit pour réactiver des accords existants, en particulier avec la Banque interaméricaine de développement, la Banque européenne pour la reconstruction et le développement, la Banque islamique de développement et la Banque ouest-africaine pour le développement. Ces discussions devraient aboutir dans les mois à venir à des modalités concrètes de coopération.

Etant donné l'importance pour l'agriculture et l'alimentation des conclusions de l'Uruguay Round, nous avons cherché une coopération plus étroite avec le GATT et avec l'Organisation mondiale du commerce en cours d'établissement. Nous considérons que la FAO, en tant qu'organisme spécialisé des Nations Unies dans le secteur agricole, peut et doit contribuer par ses avis et son expérience techniques à la discussion des stratégies et des politiques concernant le commerce international des produits agricoles, forestiers et de la pêche. La FAO a été récemment admise comme observateur dans le Comité sur le commerce et l'environnement.

En vue d'associer plus étroitement les gouvernements des Etats Membres au plus haut niveau aux activités de l'Organisation, en particulier dans les domaines spécifiques de la pêche et des forêts, des réunions des Ministres responsables de ces deux secteurs — qui ne sont pas toujours les Ministres de l'agriculture — auront lieu en mars prochain à l'occasion des prochaines sessions du Comité des pêches et du Comité des forêts. Je compte pouvoir ainsi bénéficier des contacts directs entre les hauts responsables de ces secteurs pour mieux définir les politiques et les stratégies de l'Organisation. D'une façon générale, j'ai l'intention d'intensifier les consultations avec les Etats Membres, comme le démontrent les nombreux entretiens que j'ai eus avec les plus hauts responsables nationaux dans chacun de nos secteurs d'activité au cours de mes visites dans divers pays, ainsi qu'à l'occasion des Conférences régionales.

J'ai apporté également un soin particulier à informer de façon détaillée les Conférences régionales des décisions adoptées par le Conseil en matière de restructuration, de politiques et de programmes, et à expliquer les stratégies suivies pour leur mise en oeuvre ainsi que les actions entreprises. Il est en effet souhaitable que les organes régionaux puissent réfléchir sur l'impact des décisions globales sur leurs régions respectives. Dans tous les cas, les décisions du Conseil concernant la restructuration et les Programmes spéciaux, en particulier dans les régions directement concernées par ces derniers, ont reçu un accueil très favorable.

A la demande de la Conférence, une analyse approfondie a été entreprise afin de suggérer des changements visant à réduire la durée des sessions de la Conférence grâce à une utilisation plus judicieuse du temps disponible et à une meilleure préparation des travaux. Aucun changement n'est proposé en ce qui concerne la structure de la Conférence mais une série de propositions ont été élaborées sur les méthodes de travail. Il est suggéré en particulier que l'ordre du jour ne contienne que les sujets qui doivent nécessairement être traités par la Conférence. D'autres changements sont proposés concernant la durée des interventions, la documentation et la programmation des votes. L'accent a été mis sur le renforcement des travaux préparatoires des Représentants permanents et des délégations des Etats Membres, et du Conseil lui-même, afin d'éviter que la Conférence ait à s'occuper de sujets qui pourraient être traités à un autre niveau.

Afin de mieux préparer les travaux de la prochaine session de la Conférence, et tenant compte de la Réunion ministérielle prévue du 14 au 16 octobre 1995 à Québec, une révision du calendrier provisoire des sessions des Organes directeurs a été proposée. Ce calendrier prévoit notamment la tenue de la 109<sup>e</sup> session du Conseil en septembre 1995 et celle de la 28<sup>e</sup> session de la Conférence immédiatement après la Réunion ministérielle, c'est-à-dire du 18 au 31 octobre 1995. L'avancement de la date de la Conférence devrait faciliter la tâche des délégations, en évitant des doubles déplacements.

Lors de la précédente session du Conseil, j'ai mentionné quels étaient, à mon avis, les grands défis auxquels notre Organisation était confrontée dans la poursuite de son mandat. Les contacts que j'ai eus les derniers mois n'ont fait que conforter mes convictions quant aux priorités de l'Organisation et à la nécessité de mettre en oeuvre les mesures et les changements qui nous permettront d'y répondre.

Tout en continuant à assurer ses obligations envers les Etats Membres et envers leurs peuples, l'Organisation est aujourd'hui en pleine transition. Nous avons concentré nos efforts sur le processus de restructuration et de décentralisation, afin d'assurer une transition ordonnée et sérieusement planifiée. Ce processus extrêmement



délicat et dont la complexité est évidente, est aujourd'hui solidement amorcé et nous espérons le mener à bout dans les mois à venir. Il a été accompagné d'une action intense destinée à renforcer et élargir la coopération avec nos partenaires, et à rechercher de nouveaux instruments pour mobiliser les ressources humaines, à notre avis insuffisamment utilisées, disponibles dans les pays en développement, dans les pays en transition et dans le monde académique et de la recherche. Nous avons également multiplié nos contacts et nos consultations à tous les niveaux en vue de mieux connaître les besoins des Etats Membres et de leurs populations. Enfin, nous avons lancé la mise en oeuvre de programmes spéciaux qui n'admettaient pas de délai.

Comme je l'ai dit tout à l'heure, la tâche que la FAO devra entreprendre pour faire face aux défis et aux priorités du présent et de l'avenir proche est à peine commencée. Au cours de vos délibérations, vous aurez certainement des questions à poser et des orientations à donner. Ces questions et ces orientations seront les bienvenues, car elles sont indispensables pour la qualité de l'action future de l'Organisation. Vous aurez également à examiner différentes propositions qui, je l'espère, recevront votre accord.

Permettez-moi de vous souhaiter le plein succès dans vos travaux.

Je vous remercie.

**Applause**

**Applaudissements**

**Aplausos**

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Muchas gracias, distinguido Director General, por estas palabras que nos han permitido conocer cuál es el balance que guarda la agricultura y la alimentación en sus aspectos positivos y negativos, en particular el drama continuado que siguen viviendo algunas regiones, especialmente Africa y ahora también Europa Central y del Este, así como otras subregiones del mundo y grupos sociales específicos dentro de muchos países.

Hemos tomado nota también del estado que guarda la fase de transición de reestructuración de la Organización y sus intenciones para acelerar este proceso, tanto en lo que se refiere a los programas especiales, que urge, como en lo que respecta a la reestructuración y descentralización de la Organización. Estoy seguro que los miembros del Consejo han tomado muy debida nota de las palabras interesantes y sentidas que usted ha pronunciado y seguramente ellos mismos harán sus reflexiones pertinentes en los temas correspondientes de nuestra agenda. Muchas gracias, en nombre del Consejo por sus palabras.

**OTHER MATTERS**

**QUESTIONS DIVERSES**

**OTROS ASUNTOS**

**23.1 Progress Report on FAO Fiftieth Anniversary Celebrations**

**23.1 Rapport intérimaire sur les cérémonies des commémorations du cinquantième anniversaire de la FAO**

**23.1 Informe sobre los preparativos para la celebración del quincuagésimo aniversario de la FAO**

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Me permito ahora pasar al Tema 23.1 de nuestra agenda: "Informe sobre los preparativos para la celebración del 50° aniversario de la FAO". Como les había dicho anteriormente, el Gobierno de Canadá ha pedido que se incluya en nuestra agenda este tema sobre los preparativos y, por tanto, quisiera anunciarles que tenemos el altísimo honor de contar entre nosotros con el Don Fernand Robichaud, Ministro de Estado para la Agricultura, Agro-Alimentación, Pesca y Océanos de Canadá y Jefe de la Delegación de ese digno país, que nos hablará sobre los preparativos de la reunión de Quebec.

**Fernand ROBICHAUD (Canada):** Monsieur le Président, Monsieur le Directeur général, Excellences, distingués délégués et observateurs, je suis heureux d'être parmi vous aujourd'hui pour vous rappeler les principaux événements qui se dérouleront du 11 au 16 octobre 1995 au Canada, dans la ville de Québec, dans le cadre des commémorations du cinquantième anniversaire de la fondation de l'Organisation des Nations Unies pour l'alimentation et l'agriculture: la FAO.

L'ensemble des événements prévus pour souligner le cinquantième anniversaire de la FAO représente une tribune exceptionnelle pour discuter de l'alimentation, de l'agriculture, des forêts et des pêches du prochain millénaire.

Nous sommes confiants que l'approche inédite que nous adoptons en invitant le secteur privé et les organismes non gouvernementaux à s'impliquer activement dans les discussions donnera des résultats concrets qui aideront à relever le défi de taille que représente la sécurité alimentaire pour tous.

J'aimerais maintenant prendre quelques instants pour vous faire part des grandes lignes des événements clés prévus: soit le symposium, l'exposition, la réunion des ministres et la commémoration du cinquantième anniversaire.

L'un des quatre événements principaux entourant le cinquantième anniversaire de la FAO est le symposium. Le thème majeur de cette activité innovatrice est "L'humain au coeur du développement: la sécurité alimentaire par son savoir-faire". Ce symposium international portera sur des questions qui intéressent particulièrement les organismes non gouvernementaux, le secteur privé et tous ceux qui sont préoccupés par le problème de la faim. Il se tiendra du 11 au 13 octobre 1995 et accueillera quelque 1 500 participants.

Dans un cadre dynamique d'échanges, les participants aborderont la question de la sécurité alimentaire sous trois angles particuliers: premièrement, la gestion des ressources naturelles, car elle représente l'un des fondements du développement durable; deuxièmement, la gestion des marchés, car elle constitue l'un des fondements de l'ordre économique; et troisièmement, la gestion du savoir et de la technologie, car elle est la base du développement humain. Chacune de ces thématiques sera abordée à partir de cas concrets choisis à travers le monde.

Les objectifs du symposium sont de sensibiliser davantage la communauté internationale et de mettre au point des démarches qui aideront à relever le défi mondial de vaincre la faim dans le monde le plus rapidement possible.

Notre but est de réunir des représentants du secteur privé et d'organismes non gouvernementaux qui, d'un commun effort avec les décideurs, les spécialistes et les responsables gouvernementaux, travailleront au cours du symposium à l'élaboration de solutions concrètes au problème de la sécurité alimentaire dans le monde. Seule une approche concertée de la part de tous les intervenants préoccupés par ce dossier permettra l'atteinte de résultats réalistes et réalisables.

Une exposition technique sur le savoir-faire des divers intervenants du milieu est prévue du 11 au 14 octobre 1995 sur le thème "Le carrefour du savoir-faire". En complément du symposium, cette exposition se veut un lieu d'échanges dynamiques où les connaissances et les expériences de chacun seront accessibles. Elle a été créée à l'intention des secteurs agro-alimentaire, des forêts et des pêches ainsi que des organismes non gouvernementaux qui pourront y échanger leurs connaissances avec les décideurs. Les exposants pourront y souligner leur savoir-faire et présenter les produits, la technologie et les services qu'ils ont à offrir pour faire face au problème de la sécurité alimentaire.

Notre Directeur général, M. Jacques Diouf, a convoqué une conférence des 170 Ministres de l'agriculture, de la coopération et du développement des pays Membres les 14 et 16 octobre 1995. Lors de cette rencontre, les participants évalueront le document préliminaire qui sera présenté au Sommet mondial de l'alimentation à Rome en mars 1996. Cette rencontre des ministres devrait d'ailleurs être la dernière étape dans les préparatifs de cet événement mondial.

Pendant cette réunion extraordinaire, nous examinerons aussi la Déclaration mondiale sur l'alimentation et l'agriculture, également connue sous le titre "Déclaration de Québec". Les ministres discuteront de cette déclaration qui sera ultérieurement transmise à la Conférence pour son adoption.

J'aimerais profiter de l'occasion pour vous rappeler que notre Directeur général considère que le symposium international sera partie intégrante des préparatifs du sommet mondial de l'alimentation. En effet, le Directeur général encourage les représentants du secteur privé et des organismes non gouvernementaux inscrits au Symposium à examiner les documents clés du sommet pendant la réunion des ministres, les 14 et 16 octobre.

Les ministres de l'agriculture, le secteur privé et les organismes non gouvernementaux sont tous enchantés par cette dimension nouvelle et importante du symposium. L'établissement de liens entre les préoccupations des ministres, du secteur privé et des organismes non gouvernementaux constitue un nouveau champ d'action pour le système des Nations Unies. Le Gouvernement du Canada et les autorités locales chargées de l'organisation du symposium apprécient grandement cette approche innovatrice.

Enfin, je me dois de mentionner un autre événement qui s'inscrira dans les annales de l'histoire et auquel vous voudrez certainement vous associer, c'est-à-dire la commémoration du cinquantième anniversaire de la fondation de la FAO. La commémoration du cinquantième anniversaire se tiendra au château Frontenac, dans la ville de Québec, dans la même salle où fut fondée la FAO, il y a de cela cinquante ans.

Comme vous le savez, un Comité mis en place par le Gouvernement du Canada, la province de Québec et la ville de Québec travaille depuis un certain temps déjà à organiser le symposium international et l'exposition technique, de concert avec la FAO.

C'est avec ardeur que ce Comité a pris le projet en main afin d'obtenir un taux de participation élevé de la part du secteur privé et des organismes non gouvernementaux. Le programme préliminaire et des dépliants promotionnels sont maintenant disponibles; les préparatifs du symposium et de l'exposition vont bon train; et tout a été mis en branle pour promouvoir avec dynamisme ces événements.

Le Gouvernement du Canada est également fier de collaborer avec la FAO aux préparatifs de la réunion des ministres et de la commémoration du cinquantième anniversaire de la FAO.

Comme je l'ai mentionné auparavant, le succès de ce projet est directement lié au taux de participation du secteur privé et des organismes non gouvernementaux. On peut donc dire que la réussite de cette initiative repose grandement sur notre volonté d'en faire la promotion.

Mon collègue l'Honorable Ralph Goodale, Ministre de l'agriculture et de l'agro-alimentaire du Canada, nous a fourni un bon exemple de ce qui peut être fait pour promouvoir le symposium et l'exposition technique. Récemment, dans le cadre de sa visite au Salon international de l'alimentation à Paris et par la suite à Bruxelles, il a prononcé un discours invitant le monde de l'agro-alimentaire à prendre part aux événements entourant la commémoration du 50<sup>e</sup> anniversaire de la FAO.

Le Gouvernement du Canada a également profité de sa participation aux cinq conférences régionales de la FAO pour expliquer et promouvoir les événements entourant le 50<sup>e</sup> anniversaire. On a donc pu souligner l'événement en Europe, au Proche-Orient, en Amérique latine et aux Caraïbes, en Asie, en Afrique, et à Bali, lors de la réunion des pays non alignés.

J'ai eu moi-même le privilège de rappeler aux députés de la Chambre des communes du Canada, le 17 octobre dernier, l'importance des événements qui marqueront le 50<sup>e</sup> anniversaire de la FAO.

J'ose espérer que chacun de vous sera enclin à faire preuve d'autant d'entrain que mes collègues et moi pour promouvoir dans votre pays les événements entourant le 50<sup>e</sup> anniversaire de la FAO. Votre collaboration est vitale au succès de ce projet d'envergure internationale.

La situation mondiale en matière de sécurité alimentaire est inquiétante. Il est donc primordial que nous développions des produits, des technologies et des procédés innovateurs qui répondront aux besoins ressentis sur le terrain.

C'est pour répondre à ces besoins que nous nous efforçons d'organiser un événement à la fois original et dynamique regroupant tous ceux qui sont préoccupés par la situation de la sécurité alimentaire mondiale.

Le Canada a joué un rôle de premier plan dans la fondation de la FAO. Feu l'Honorable Lester Bowles Pearson, prix Nobel de la paix et homme d'Etat canadien, fut l'un des principaux artisans de la FAO. Il en présida d'ailleurs la première conférence le 16 octobre 1945.

Quoi de mieux que de commémorer un événement aussi important que la fondation de la FAO là-même où elle fut fondée en 1945. Capitale de la francophonie en Amérique et fleuron du patrimoine mondial, c'est dans la ville de Québec que les délégués de 44 nations fondèrent la FAO il y a bientôt 50 ans. Leur objectif principal était d'enrayer le problème de la faim et de la malnutrition qui touchent les hommes, les femmes et les enfants du monde entier. Cinquante ans plus tard, la presque totalité des pays du monde contribuent à la poursuite de l'oeuvre de la FAO. Bien que des progrès remarquables aient été accomplis, il nous reste encore beaucoup à faire. Aujourd'hui, c'est à nous de poursuivre le défi amorcé par nos prédécesseurs en travaillant tous ensemble à faire disparaître la faim et la malnutrition de notre planète.

La Ville de Québec a depuis longtemps l'habitude d'accueillir d'importants événements. Des rencontres, en 1943 et 1944 des chefs des principales nations alliées, à la réunion des parlementaires de l'OTAN en 1987, ou à la tenue plus récente de forums mondiaux, dont le Symposium international sur la démocratie ou la Conférence des chefs d'Etats et de gouvernements des pays ayant en commun l'usage du français, pour ne nommer que ceux-là, Québec a confirmé sa réputation de haut lieu de rendez-vous internationaux doté d'une excellente infrastructure d'accueil.

J'espère que mon discours aura su rendre un bon nombre d'entre vous aussi enthousiasmés que moi à l'idée de faire la promotion des activités entourant le 50<sup>e</sup> anniversaire. Au nom du Gouvernement du Canada, je vous remercie des efforts que vous allez déployer pour promouvoir cet événement d'envergure internationale et c'est en grand nombre que je vous attend l'an prochain pour commémorer le 50<sup>e</sup> anniversaire de la fondation de la FAO.

**Applause**

**Applaudissements**

**Aplausos**

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Este Consejo, Sr. Ministro Robichaud, ha tomado nota calurosamente de sus palabras y del Informe que demuestra la forma excelente con que el Gobierno de Canadá está preparando la celebración del 50 Aniversario de la FAO, del Simposio Internacional, de los temas que se tratarán, de los actos que se celebrarán y desea agradecerle al Gobierno de Canadá, a través de usted, por estos esfuerzos.

El Consejo está confiado de que esa será la oportunidad para reforzar el mandato de la Organización y proyectar el liderazgo de la FAO en materia agrícola, alimentaria, de seguridad alimentaria, pesca, bosques y su vinculación con la diversidad biológica.

Yo estoy seguro, de que gracias a los preparativos que el Gobierno de Canadá está llevando a cabo, esa celebración será todo un éxito.

Sé que algunas delegaciones desean también ofrecer algunos comentarios de agradecimiento.

**Mrs Melinda L. KIMBLE (United States of America):** The Delegation of the United States is extremely pleased to see Minister Robichaud at this Session of the Council, and we welcome his comprehensive briefing on the substantial efforts underway in Canada to commemorate FAO's first 50 years. The United States, as a partner with Canada in FAO's North America Region, and given our collaborative role with other governments in the founding of FAO, believes that celebrating the 50th Anniversary of FAO in North America is most appropriate. We also welcome the unique private-public sector component planned for this symposium and applaud the involvement of non-governmental organizations in this event. But our meetings at the Chateau Fontenac in Quebec City will be much more than just a celebration. It will be an opportunity to engage FAO ministers in the discussion of a number of substantive issues pertaining to food security and hunger as well as other challenges confronting the global community. We look forward to supporting and

working with the Government of Canada, the province and city of Quebec and FAO member countries as we prepare for this important event that should set the stage for the World Food Summit and lay a foundation for much of our future work in FAO.

**Juan NUIRY SANCHEZ (Cuba):** Mucho agradecemos que se haya incluido este tema sobre los preparativos para la celebración del 50° Aniversario de la FAO, que tendrá lugar en Quebec, Canadá, en 1995, pues al recibir el primer calendario para este 107° Período de Sesiones del Consejo, observamos que no se había incluido este aspecto, cuestión que preocupó a nuestra Delegación, pues era la oportunidad de conocer todo lo relacionado con estos importantes preparativos y, como hemos escuchado hoy, sus últimas disposiciones que nos interesan tanto a nosotros, representantes permanentes en Roma, como para ser trasladados a nuestras capitales.

De esta manera, saludamos haber incluido este tema y agradecemos al país anfitrión, Canadá, por esta valiosa y amplia información que nos ha brindado en el día de hoy de forma directa el Ministro y Jefe de la Delegación de Canadá, Sr. Robichaud, que tan atentamente hemos escuchado.

**Jacques LAUREAU (France):** Je voudrais tout d'abord remercier notre collègue canadien pour nous avoir fait un second exposé beaucoup plus détaillé que lors du dernier Conseil sur la manière dont seront organisés les travaux, avec bien entendu tout ce qui les accompagne, c'est-à-dire les expositions, les possibilités d'échanges de vues entre les hommes et les entreprises. Je pense que ce que va faire le Gouvernement canadien est parfaitement clair.

Je voudrais également remercier notre collègue de s'être exprimé en français, ce qui est une nouvelle fois la preuve que cette langue n'est pas totalement oubliée. Je voudrais remercier également à ce point de vue le Directeur général. Je vois là un bon signe quant à la réussite de cette conférence dans tous ses objectifs.

**Mario MOYA PALENCIA (México):** El Gobierno de México desea sumarse también al agradecimiento al Sr. Ministro y Jefe de la Delegación de Canadá por el amplio informe que nos ha dado y, sobre todo, por el esfuerzo que el Gobierno de Canadá y el de la Provincia de Quebec están realizando para preparar el Simposio, la Exposición, la Reunión de Ministros y la conmemoración del 50° Aniversario de la Fundación de nuestra Organización.

Creo que la serie de eventos sobre graves problemas sobre el desarrollo, que se inició en 1994 con la Conferencia Internacional sobre Población y Desarrollo, que tuvo lugar en El Cairo, continuará de manera muy amplia y muy específica en el año 1995, en que tenemos las conmemoraciones del 50° Aniversario de nuestra Organización, la FAO, y se celebrarán también importantes cumbres sobre desarrollo social, sobre hábitat segundo y una Conferencia más sobre la mujer. Esto quiere decir que el mundo está preocupado, como no podía ser de otra manera, por encontrar solución a los graves problemas del desequilibrio social y económico en que nos encontramos toda la humanidad. Creo que por ello, el esfuerzo del Gobierno de Canadá y de la Provincia de Quebec es algo que todos debemos agradecer, esperando que, si somos requeridos, colaboremos. Ofrecemos desde ahora nuestra colaboración a ese esfuerzo, con objeto de que los actos relativos a la conmemoración de ese 50° Aniversario resulten con todo el éxito que merecen y que, por otra parte, sean útiles para el fin propuesto: llamar la atención, sensibilizar aún más a la Comunidad Universal sobre las graves prioridades de la alimentación y de la nutrición en nuestros tiempos.

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Concluyo, diciendo que este Consejo le agradece, a través de usted, Sr. Ministro, al Gobierno de Canadá y a la Provincia de Quebec por el enorme esfuerzo que realizan en la preparación de esta celebración, punto de quiebre para nuestra Organización, quizás renacimiento y, seguro, revitalización.

**WORLD FOOD AND AGRICULTURE SITUATION****SITUATION MONDIALE DE L'ALIMENTATION ET DE L'AGRICULTURE****SITUACION DE LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION EN EL MUNDO**

4. **State of Food and Agriculture 1994**
4. **Situation mondiale de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture 1994**
4. **El Estado Mundial de la Agricultura y la Alimentación, 1994**
5. **Report of the Nineteenth Session of the Committee on World Food Security (Rome, 22-25 March 1994)**
5. **Rapport de la dix-neuvième session du Comité de la sécurité alimentaire mondiale (Rome, 22-25 mars 1994)**
5. **Informe del 19° período de sesiones del Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria Mundial (Roma, 22-25 de marzo de 1994)**

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Los dos temas se van a examinar de manera conjunta, pues incluyen asuntos que están muy relacionados entre sí, si bien el Tema 5 es para aceptación por parte del Consejo. El Consejo deberá decidir si acepta el Informe del 19° período de sesiones del Comité de la Seguridad Alimentaria Mundial.

Creo que el Sr. Hjort, que presentará los documentos de la Secretaría de la FAO acerca de estos temas, dará más detalles sobre este asunto de procedimiento.

Antes de conceder la palabra al Sr. Hjort, Subdirector General de la Organización, puede ser útil que recordemos la finalidad del examen de este importante tema de nuestro Programa. Al informar al Consejo sobre la evolución de la situación alimentaria y agrícola y sobre las oportunidades y limitaciones de desarrollo de la alimentación y de la agricultura en todo el mundo, este debate tiene por objeto proporcionarles un marco para el examen de otros temas del Programa del Consejo, y lo que es aún más importante, es de esperar que el debate nos dé una referencia para el análisis y la definición de las políticas que afectan a la alimentación y a la agricultura y se nos da también la oportunidad de examinar la situación de la agricultura y la alimentación en nuestros propios países, colocándola en el amplio contexto de las tendencias y las influencias mundiales y regionales.

Por último, esperamos analizar también el contenido y la presentación de los mismos documentos de trabajo, a fin de orientar a la Secretaría sobre la dirección de la labor futura en esta esfera.

Hemos visto que ha mejorado la calidad y la cobertura de estos documentos a lo largo de los años, pero creo que la Secretaría podrá beneficiarse mucho de nuestra asistencia para seguir mejorando los documentos y su contenido.

Confío en que tendremos un debate rico y fructífero sobre este tema y después de que haya terminado su alocución el Sr. Hjort, le daré la palabra a todas aquellas delegaciones miembros del Consejo que deseen hacer uso de ella y posteriormente a los observadores que hayan levantado sus banderas.

**DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL:** There are three documents to facilitate the discussion of the State of Food and Agriculture: the large one, CL 107/2, the small Supplement, which updates the information to early October, and CL 107/10, the report of the 19th Session of your Committee on World Food Security which, as, the Chairman has noted, is before you for adoption.

Since all three documents speak to factors affecting the state and prospects for the sector, broadly defined, and therefore a separate discussion of the CFS Report should not be necessary, I shall introduce both of these items at this time. I believe this is fully consistent with the views of the Chairman and the consensus of the Council you are encouraged to make a single consolidated statement on these two items to save time of the Council.

Document CL 107/10 contains the views of the Committee on World Food Security at its Nineteenth Session on 22-25 March 1994. More recent information on the world food security situation is found in the other two documents. With respect to paragraphs 35 and 36 of the Report of the CFS, I wish to inform the Council that a special report on the constraints that hinder the full realization of the food security potentials in both high and low potential areas of the developing countries is in fact being prepared along the lines suggested by the Committee and will be submitted to the Committee at its Twentieth Session.

The full agenda for the Twentieth Session, tentatively scheduled for 25-28 April 1995, is under consideration by the Chairman of the Committee and the Director-General. They are taking into account the views of the Committee, as well as the suggestions of Member Nations in response to the Director-General's invitation to suggest topics for the agenda of this and the other main Committees.

The main document and its supplement contain the most recent information on the state of food and agriculture and attempt to identify the key factors that either are affecting or will affect the state in the near future. The most recent developments and emerging constraints are highlighted at the beginning of the supplement. The Director-General himself has given you the highlights of the situation as seen before 1994. Permit me therefore to comment briefly on a few of the issues that, because of their major current and prospective implications for global food security, deserve particular attention from the Council.

First and foremost is the situation in eastern Africa, where the record has once again been largely one of economic and social regression, and in a regional situation where sub-Saharan Africa's per capita calorie intake, which was above the average of developing countries two decades ago, is now 18 percent below.

The tragic events in Rwanda and civil and ethnic conflicts in many other countries follow a record of 35 major armed confrontations over the past four decades in sub-Saharan Africa. The record of structural adjustment remains inconclusive in this continent even though some countries that have benefited from important external funding are growing somewhat faster than the others. Even a problem of global concern like the spread of AIDS has assumed particular gravity in parts of Africa, where it also has turned into an additional threat to food security.

The global food security situation has deteriorated further in 1994, with the number of countries requiring exceptional food assistance increasing to 31 from 27 in 1993. Africa remains the most seriously affected region with 15 countries, chiefly in eastern Africa, facing critical food supply difficulties.

These critical food-shortage situations, in many cases linked to political conflicts and civil strife, have combined to produce a situation where peacemaking, peacekeeping and emergency assistance is crowding out assistance for prevention, rehabilitation and development. A concerted prevention effort is necessary to halt the steady rise in non-development expenditures and get back on the path towards development. In this context, it is particularly disturbing that commitments of external assistance to agriculture have tended to decline in real terms in recent years.

On a more positive note, the global economic outlook has improved since the last Conference, evolving into the best environment for overall and agricultural development in many years. The recent recovery in industrial countries' economies may be expected to enhance their domestic and import demand for agricultural products, while also improving the climate for investment and donor resources for agricultural development. Also, the improved economic situation and prospects for many developing countries implies stronger domestic food demand and import capacity. Many agricultural exporter developing countries will also benefit from the recent strengthening in prices for commodities crucial to their economies. The overall situation in the countries of transition remains, however, a matter of considerable concern.

Finally, the world will be confronted by new opportunities but also new challenges arising from the conclusion of the Uruguay Round of trade negotiations and the implementation of the Final Act. Particularly for the poorer agricultural exporters, major issues include the prospects for a fairer agricultural trading environment as protection is reduced. The difficulties linked to the erosion of the value of preferential margins (enjoyed in particular by African countries under the Lomé Convention) and the likely increase in the price of imported foodstuffs may have severe implications for the food security situation of the low-income food-deficit countries. The implications and likely impacts are being studied and will be monitored. In addition, policy services to requesting member countries will be provided.

I look forward to the views of the Council on this important agenda item.

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Muchas gracias, señor Subdirector General, por sus comentarios introductorios de este tema.

Les pido a los señores delegados que deseen intervenir levanten sus banderas.

Ofrezco la palabra al primer orador de la lista, el distinguido representante de la Comunidad Económica Europea.

**Rolf MOEHLER (CE):** Monsieur le Président, la Communauté européenne et ses Etats Membres ont pris connaissance avec intérêt du Rapport de la FAO sur la situation mondiale de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture 1994. Ils partagent l'inquiétude émise au sujet des évolutions comparées de la production agricole et de la démographie, en particulier en ce qui concerne la baisse de la production vivrière par habitant dans 60 pour cent de ces pays en voie de développement au cours de la période 1988-1993.

Il convient de signaler que, faisant exception à la baisse générale des engagements au titre de l'assistance extérieure à l'agriculture mentionnée dans ce rapport de la FAO, les engagements de la Communauté européenne sont constants et que l'aide communautaire est toujours axée prioritairement sur le développement agricole et rural notamment dans les pays signataires de l'Accord de Lomé.

En ce qui concerne la Communauté européenne, mon intervention vise à vous faire part de l'état d'avancement et des résultats sur des sujets qui vous ont déjà été présentés au cours de précédentes réunions mais qui constituent des éléments essentiels de l'activité et de l'actualité communautaire; je veux parler de l'élargissement de l'Union européenne, des premières conséquences de la réforme de la politique agricole commune (PAC) et de la mise en oeuvre des Accords du GATT.

L'élargissement: l'événement majeur pour l'Union européenne cette année a été l'aboutissement dans des délais très rapides, de négociations visant à son élargissement. Après que l'accord sur l'espace économique européen eut été réalisé avec les pays de l'ALE, des négociations ont été entamées en 1993 avec l'Autriche, la Finlande, la Norvège et la Suède, et conclues en avril 1994.

L'importance de ces pays dans l'histoire de l'Europe tout comme la tradition démocratique vont renforcer l'Union européenne et contribuer au prochain débat sur l'organisation institutionnelle de l'Union lors de la Conférence intergouvernementale prévue en 1996; ce débat sera nécessaire pour trouver des formules institutionnelles fonctionnelles compte tenu du nombre croissant d'Etats Membres dans l'Union.

Pour pouvoir être adoptée par les parlements des pays adhérents, l'adhésion à la Communauté européenne doit faire l'objet d'un scrutin populaire. Les référendums organisés en Autriche, Finlande et Suède ont été favorables à l'entrée de ces pays dans l'Union européenne; ce n'est qu'une question de deux semaines pour connaître le résultat en Norvège, que nous espérons positif.

L'entrée en vigueur de l'acte d'adhésion de ces pays à l'Union européenne est prévue au premier janvier 1995; la population de la Communauté sera ainsi élargie de 330 à 355 millions d'habitants (soit + 7 pour cent) tandis que sa superficie passera de 2 260 000 km<sup>2</sup> à 3 456 000 km<sup>2</sup> (soit + 53 pour cent), dont une partie au-delà du cercle polaire (son PNB passera de 5 752 milliards d'ECU à 6 270 milliards d'ECU). L'impact sur la production agricole est bien décrit dans ce rapport sur la situation mondiale de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture 1994. Toutefois, s'il est exact que les pays candidats sont exportateurs nets de céréales, viande bovine et produits laitiers, il convient de signaler, d'une part, que les mesures adoptées par l'Union pour maîtriser la production de ces produits dans le cadre de la réforme de la politique agricole commune sont immédiatement applicables à ces nouveaux pays candidats - ceci s'est traduit notamment lors des négociations d'adhésion par des discussions serrées pour la détermination des quotas (de production laitière ou du nombre d'animaux pouvant bénéficier des primes communautaires: primes à la vache allaitante, primes pour les bovins mâles, primes à la brebis ...) - et que, d'autre part, du fait que ces nouveaux Etats Membres sont importateurs nets de produits agricoles, cela va équilibrer la situation d'autres secteurs agricoles



communautaires et renforcer les besoins d'échanges commerciaux traditionnels de ces pays, notamment dans le cadre des accords préférentiels avec les pays tiers, qui font l'objet actuellement d'une révision pour tenir compte des effets de l'élargissement de l'Union.

Du fait de l'achèvement du marché unique en 1993, caractérisé par l'absence de contrôles frontaliers au sein de l'Union, ce nouvel élargissement de l'Union a été conclu contrairement aux précédents élargissements sur base d'une adoption immédiate de l'ensemble des mécanismes de la politique agricole commune, et en particulier des prix institutionnels - des primes de soutien. Les pays candidats connaissent cependant des mécanismes de soutien de leur marché et du revenu de leurs agriculteurs plus importants que dans l'Union européenne. Compte tenu de ce différentiel de prix ou de soutien à la production agricole, comme cela est mis en évidence dans le rapport FAO, l'octroi d'une aide nationale est autorisé pour éviter des manques à gagner excessifs à cause de l'adhésion. Il ne s'agit pas d'une subvention ou d'une aide supplémentaire mais uniquement d'une compensation, d'un montant dépressif sur cinq ans, limitée à la différence de soutien entre le régime actuel des pays candidats et celui de l'Union.

Les négociations d'adhésion ont sinon été marquées par le souci de prendre en considération les handicaps structurels ou naturels de ces pays: exploitations agricoles de petite dimension, climat de montagne ou subarctique.

La politique structurelle de l'Union permet déjà d'apporter des réponses à beaucoup de ces situations; des mesures structurelles particulières pour l'agriculture nordique ont de plus été prévues pour répondre à ces nouvelles conditions de l'Union.

A peine cet élargissement conclu, déjà l'Union considère la possibilité de futurs élargissements, puisqu'elle a déclaré que les pays de l'Europe de l'Est constituent la prochaine zone d'extension de l'Union et que déjà deux pays, la Pologne et la Hongrie, se sont portés candidats; c'est pourquoi ces pays doivent se préparer à cette adhésion.

La réforme de la politique agricole commune, décidée en 1992 et déjà présentée dans cette enceinte, vise notamment une plus grande maîtrise de la production par la diminution des prix d'intervention et par le recours à des aides directes découplées de la production. L'année 1994 correspond à la deuxième baisse des prix institutionnels des céréales, compensée par une augmentation des primes à l'hectare, dont l'octroi est conditionné à la mise en jachère de 15 pour cent de la surface en céréales, oléagineux et protéagineux. Les récoltes céréalières de 1993 et de 1994, respectivement de 163 millions de tonnes et de 161 millions de tonnes sont nettement inférieures à celles des campagnes précédentes suite au gel de 4,7 millions d'hectares. Il est trop tôt bien entendu pour tirer des conclusions mais, vu la réduction de la production, la diminution des stocks d'intervention et l'augmentation de la consommation, on peut avancer que la Communauté est sur la voie de l'équilibrage de son marché. Les discussions au sein de l'Union portent déjà sur l'adaptation à prévoir le niveau de gel des terres, de façon à tenir compte de l'évolution sur les marchés mondiaux.

Compte tenu de ces résultats positifs, l'objectif de l'Union est de consolider la politique agricole commune selon les décisions prises pour sa réforme. Egalement, des propositions de réforme sont en cours pour les secteurs qui n'ont pas fait l'objet jusqu'à présent de cette démarche, à savoir ceux des fruits et légumes, du vin, du sucre et de l'huile d'olive.

Les décisions prises en 1992 n'ont pas seulement remodelé les organisations de marché, elles ont introduit un vaste programme de mesures environnementales et un régime d'aides au boisement, qui ont reçu une réponse enthousiaste; leur mise en oeuvre est cependant trop récente pour en exprimer des résultats. La politique structurelle communautaire connaît, d'une façon générale, un renforcement et un élargissement, ceci grâce à une augmentation de la dotation financière et de la gamme des actions susceptibles de bénéficier d'une aide, de façon notamment à prendre en considération l'évolution du monde rural dans son ensemble.

Quelques mots maintenant sur les résultats de l' *Uruguay Round*. L'Union européenne accueille avec satisfaction cet accord qui préfigure de nouvelles possibilités pour le commerce des produits agricoles au niveau mondial. La Communauté européenne mettra pleinement en oeuvre les engagements qui ont été pris et qui vont conduire en particulier à une ouverture encore plus grande du marché européen. La conclusion des accords du GATT ne pouvait aboutir, après des années de négociation ardue, qu'à une prise en compte équitable des intérêts de toutes les parties concernées. La reconnaissance, par la partie agricole de l'Accord,

de la légitimité de la politique agricole commune et de sa réforme a été un élément fondamental pour l'Union Européenne. De son côté, l'Union européenne a fait des concessions importantes pour permettre aux négociations d'aboutir. La prise en compte de l'aide alimentaire et des objectifs de l'aide au développement dans le cadre même de cet accord a été également au cours de ces négociations un élément important pour l'Union Européenne. La Communauté européenne et ses Etats Membres réitèrent ce qu'ils ont déjà eu l'occasion de déclarer à plusieurs reprises dans cette enceinte: la Communauté est prête à considérer en terme de priorité une aide spéciale aux pays en déficit alimentaire à bas revenu dans le cas où les résultats des négociations du GATT produiraient sur l'équilibre du marché des produits agricoles des effets négatifs de nature à compromettre substantiellement leur capacité d'importation de produits alimentaires. Je ne m'étendrai pas davantage car le prochain point des travaux de ce Conseil concerne les conclusions auxquelles le Comité de la sécurité alimentaire du mois de mars est parvenu, notamment en ce qui concerne les conséquences de l'*Uruguay Round* sur les pays en développement.

**Fernand ROBICHAUD (Canada):** Monsieur le Président, je suis fier d'être le premier intervenant à commencer le rapport sur la situation mondiale de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture en 1994. Je considère ce rapport comme un outil efficace qui nous permet de jeter un regard d'ensemble sur l'évolution et les tendances de l'agriculture et de l'alimentation mondiale.

En premier lieu, j'aimerais passer en revue certains des enjeux traités dans ce rapport. Je m'arrêterai plus précisément à la situation de l'agriculture mondiale, puis au réchauffement global de la planète et à la section du rapport consacrée au Canada.

J'aimerais aussi mettre en évidence comment, dans un contexte de profonds changements et dans une période de compression des dépenses gouvernementales, nous avons revu les politiques agricoles du Canada dans le but d'affronter les nouvelles réalités nationales et internationales.

Dans l'ensemble, le rapport dresse un tableau plutôt positif de la situation de l'agriculture mondiale. Dans la plupart des pays en développement, le taux de croissance économique pour l'année 1993 est encourageant. Encore mieux, le rapport prévoit que cette tendance devrait se maintenir jusqu'en 1997.

Les pays industrialisés ne font pas tous aussi bonne figure avec une faible augmentation de leur production alimentaire. Soulignons néanmoins que ce recul passager s'explique en grande partie par des conditions météorologiques défavorables, principalement aux Etats-Unis.

Il est encourageant de noter que plusieurs pays de l'Amérique latine et des Caraïbes ont mis en branle des réformes économiques qui ont résulté en des politiques agricoles davantage axées sur les marchés.

Je crois que l'adoption de telles réformes est très importante. Cette nouvelle orientation devrait stimuler les investissements et augmenter la production d'aliments par habitant, laquelle n'a progressé que légèrement au cours de la dernière décennie.

Si on compare la situation des pays africains à la situation de l'agriculture et au rendement économique des autres pays en 1993, on constate qu'ils ont connu un faible rendement économique. Il est d'autant plus alarmant que selon les prévisions pour 1994, ces pays connaîtront une baisse importante de leur production agricole et alimentaire.

Le rapport confirme que l'Afrique compte le plus grand nombre de pays à faible revenu et à déficit vivrier. L'adoption de politiques économiques et agricoles saines comme celle mise en application au Canada et dans d'autres pays serait peut-être une solution compte tenu des circonstances actuelles. De plus, je me réjouis à l'idée que plusieurs pays de l'Afrique du Nord comptent adopter des politiques plus sensibles aux marchés, ce qui créera vraisemblablement des possibilités de développement.

Les statistiques de la FAO et les analyses relatives à la production et au commerce international dans le domaine forestier sont une bonne source d'information. Cette information sera valable surtout pour l'élaboration des politiques dans le contexte du suivi de la Conférence de Rio.

Le Canada a joué un rôle international de premier plan à l'appui du suivi de Rio. Il a notamment organisé et présidé plusieurs réunions dans le cadre du "processus de Montréal" pour déterminer des critères et des indicateurs scientifiques du développement durable des forêts boréales et de climat tempéré. Il a aussi parrainé, avec la Malaisie, le groupe intergouvernemental de travail sur les forêts; ceci dans le but de faciliter l'examen à venir des questions clés de politique forestière par la Commission du développement durable en 1995. Le Canada accorde son appui à la FAO pour la coordination des diverses initiatives des pays membres, en vue de cet examen. La réunion des ministres des forêts, qui coïncidera avec celle du Comité des forêts, offrira l'occasion de discuter plus en détail de ces questions dans le contexte de cet examen.

En ce qui concerne le secteur halieutique, il convient de souligner la stagnation des prises qui fut observée en 1992 et 1993. Au Canada, les réserves de poisson sont à un niveau très bas, voire critique, particulièrement sur la côte Atlantique. Afin d'aider à conserver les réserves qui subsistent, en plus d'adopter un moratoire sur la pêche aux poissons de fond, le Canada a ratifié l'accord destiné à promouvoir, en haute mer, le respect des mesures de conservation et de gestion des ressources halieutiques. En outre, la semaine dernière, nous avons conclu une entente qui met fin à nos différends avec la France et qui nous permettra, entre autres, de mieux gérer la pêche sur la côte Atlantique du Canada.

On ne saurait bien sûr parler de la situation mondiale de l'agriculture sans parler aussi du réchauffement global de la planète. Dans son rapport, la FAO expose de nombreuses conséquences positives et négatives dues au réchauffement global. Nous savons que l'agriculture est une source d'émission de gaz contribuant à l'effet de serre. Nous ne pouvons cependant nier que l'agriculture peut également réduire la quantité de gaz présents dans l'atmosphère grâce aux terres cultivées, aux sols herbagers et aux cultures fourragères qui, par la photosynthèse, absorbent le gaz carbonique. De plus, la pratique de certaines techniques agricoles (par exemple cultiver le sol sans le labourer, avoir de moins en moins recours à la jachère du sol et augmenter la production agricole) favorise aussi l'absorption du gaz carbonique.

Le Canada est préoccupé par le phénomène de l'effet de serre. Afin d'approfondir notre compréhension du phénomène, les directions générales de la recherche des ministères de l'agriculture et de l'environnement du Canada mènent actuellement une étude sur le sujet. Quand les résultats de cette étude seront connus, nous nous ferons un plaisir de vous en faire part dans le cadre d'une éventuelle réunion du Conseil.

Le rapport reconnaît les graves répercussions du Sida sur la société. Certains persistent à voir le Sida seulement comme un problème de santé, alors qu'il a des répercussions beaucoup plus larges. En effet, dans les pays les plus touchés, le Sida est une crise socio-économique qui affecte également l'agriculture. Le Sida a des répercussions, entre autres, sur la production agricole, la distribution des denrées alimentaires et le développement rural. Je partage le point de vue des délégations qui insistent sur l'importance d'une approche concertée de la part de la communauté mondiale dans la lutte contre le Sida. Je crois sincèrement que l'ampleur de ce fléau justifie en elle-même que la FAO, de même que toutes les instances internationales, accordent une place prioritaire à la lutte contre le Sida.

Je désire maintenant parler de la section que la FAO a consacrée au Canada dans son rapport. Celle-ci représente un survol intéressant de nos politiques agricoles.

Les auteurs du rapport décrivent en outre nos grands secteurs d'activité. Dans cette section, on met en lumière certains principes conformes à l'énoncé de vision de l'Honorable Ralph Goodale, Ministre de l'agriculture et de l'agro-alimentaire du Canada.

Face au contexte mondial actuel, chaque pays doit mettre sur pied des stratégies innovatrices. Comme vous le savez, le contexte actuel tant au Canada qu'à l'étranger en est un de profonds changements. En effet, les temps ont changé et notre mandat doit également évoluer.

Sur le plan mondial, le GATT et notre accord de libre échange avec les Etats-Unis et le Mexique dictent de nouvelles règles de commerce et offrent de nouvelles possibilités de marché.

Le principe de base de notre stratégie sera d'aider le secteur agro-alimentaire canadien à relever les défis posés par les nouvelles réalités nationales et internationales. Le secteur de l'agro-alimentaire doit absolument s'adapter au nouveau contexte mondial s'il veut continuer à prospérer.

Les grandes lignes de notre vision reposent sur cinq éléments clés que l'on peut résumer comme suit: premièrement, nos programmes et nos politiques doivent reposer sur des fondements économiques sûrs. Autrement dit, nous devons produire ce que les consommateurs canadiens ou étrangers demandent. Deuxièmement, on doit reconnaître le rôle essentiel que jouent les régions rurales dans la croissance économique du pays. Troisièmement, nous devons assurer aux agriculteurs une certaine sécurité de leur revenu pour pallier aux intempéries et aux autres risques de nature commerciale. Quatrièmement, pour l'avenir de notre pays et de nos enfants, notre vision doit également tenir compte de la protection des ressources et de l'environnement. Nous devons maintenir un équilibre intelligent entre les facteurs sociaux, économiques et écologiques. Le dernier élément de notre vision représente vraiment l'assise sur laquelle tout les autres points de la vision reposent, soit le maintien de la salubrité et de la qualité supérieure des aliments canadiens.

Au Canada, comme à l'étranger, nous faisons face à une réalité inéluctable: nous devons nous assurer que nos ressources de plus en plus limitées soient utilisées de la façon la plus efficace possible. De plus, nous devons créer des emplois durables en encourageant l'activité et la croissance économique mondiale.

Le rapport sur la situation mondiale de l'agriculture et de l'alimentation en 1994 me permet de tirer les conclusions suivantes: premièrement, le développement du commerce constitue l'un des moteurs de la croissance mondiale. De plus, au fur et à mesure que la mondialisation s'affirme comme étant la tendance dominante des années 1990, la FAO verra s'accroître son rôle dans la collecte, l'analyse et la diffusion de l'information. En outre, une analyse des ajustements nécessaires pour assurer la conformité aux accords commerciaux comme l'accord issu de l' *Uruguay Round* et l'accord de libre échange nord-américain est primordiale pour alimenter le débat politique qui s'ensuivra. Enfin, l'approvisionnement et la distribution des aliments de base se sont peut-être améliorés ces dernières années dans certains pays, mais de nombreux autres font encore face à de graves problèmes. Le grand nombre de pays dont la production alimentaire par habitant a diminué au cours des cinq dernières années en témoigne. Par conséquent, il est de mon avis que la FAO doit continuer à parrainer des programmes qui fournissent de l'information sur l'économie, des conseils sur la planification et de l'assistance technique.

Le rapport fait ressortir le besoin que tous les pays ont à mettre au point des approches novatrices pour accroître la production d'aliments.

En ce moment, les gouvernements nationaux se voient forcés d'effectuer de plus en plus de travail avec des ressources réduites. L'évaluation approfondie de tous les programmes du Gouvernement du Canada entrepris par notre premier ministre, M. Chrétien, se traduira par des décisions difficiles d'ici la fin de 1994.

Nos ressources financières et humaines seront réduites. Par conséquent, nous devons établir nos priorités avec beaucoup de soin. Ce principe s'appliquera également à l'aide aux organismes multilatéraux. Dans cette optique, le Canada favorise les programmes de la FAO qui ont fourni des résultats concrets.

J'aimerais souligner quelques-uns des objectifs de la FAO que le Canada juge importants. Premièrement, nous aimerions mettre l'accent sur les programmes prioritaires, comme le développement du commerce, l'aménagement forestier durable dans le contexte du suivi de Rio et le Code de conduite pour la pêche responsable. Nous désirons également favoriser une plus grande transparence et responsabilité de la FAO afin d'encourager des réformes de cette organisation, comme par exemple une refonte des structures et de son action. De plus, nous voulons promouvoir les événements commémoratifs du cinquantième anniversaire de la FAO dont j'ai parlé il y a quelques instants. Nous croyons également que le suivi de la Conférence des Nations Unies sur l'environnement et le développement, ainsi que le rôle de la FAO dans ce domaine sont d'une importance vitale. En dernier lieu, nous désirons placer la collaboration entre les organisations internationales sous le signe de l'efficacité et de l'efficience.

**Octavio FRIGERIO (Argentina):** El señor Director General ha definido con precisa lucidez el mejoramiento de la seguridad alimentaria como el objetivo prioritario de las actividades de la Organización. Déjeme, señor Presidente, manifestarle que compartimos sin reservas esa prioridad y estamos dispuestos a sostener, en base al principio de solidaridad, las políticas y las acciones que se propongan dirigidas a lograr ese objetivo.

Permítame también referirme ahora a un tema que tiene estrecha vinculación con el mejoramiento de la seguridad alimentaria, que es lo que se ha dado en llamar la "iniciativa cascos blancos", que el Gobierno Argentino, en la persona de su Presidente, don Carlos Menem, ha propuesto hace unos meses atrás a la comunidad mundial, iniciativa ésta de los cascos blancos que, desde entonces, ha tenido un creciente, generoso y reconfortante apoyo de muchos países y muchos líderes internacionales. Una iniciativa, la de los cascos blancos, que es un intento de aportar recursos humanos y económicos a la vasta, enorme, abnegada y siempre insuficiente, no obstante, tarea que las Naciones Unidas, sus agencias, como la FAO y tantas organizaciones no gubernamentales realizan para combatir el hambre, la pobreza y la emergencia humanitaria en el mundo.

Quiero recordar, muy brevemente, los elementos conceptuales de esta iniciativa "cascos blancos", que ha sido puesta oficialmente en conocimiento de la FAO y ha recibido una gratificante respuesta aprobatoria.

Los cascos blancos consisten, en primer lugar, en dar participación y protagonismo a los países - idealmente a todos los países- y no sólo al pequeño grupo de países desarrollados que hasta este momento han tenido la responsabilidad de esta lucha contra la pobreza mundial. Son los gobiernos de los países, en particular los de los países en desarrollo, los que asumirán la responsabilidad de reclutar, entrenar, buscar recursos financieros que respalden económicamente la actividad de voluntarios con capacitación como para hacer frente a situaciones de pobreza o de emergencia humanitaria. Este elemento, el del voluntariado, es un eje conceptual de la iniciativa cascos blancos. Serán voluntarios quienes aporten su esfuerzo y su trabajo y serán voluntarios asimismo los recursos económicos provenientes de personas, de empresas o de países que se orienten hacia cada una de las iniciativas nacionales individuales y también hacia la constitución de un fondo fiduciario que, en el seno de las Naciones Unidas, deberá financiar el despliegue de los cascos blancos nacionales.

Y éste es el tercer elemento. Los cascos blancos están imaginados como una iniciativa de los países, pero coordinada multilateralmente. Deberá ser en el ámbito de las Naciones Unidas, en función del acatamiento universal que merece su actividad, donde deba existir un dispositivo o un mecanismo que coordine la actividad de los cascos blancos de cada uno de los países que se adhieran a esta iniciativa, convoque estos contingentes de paz y los despliegue a aquellas situaciones mundiales que requieran su presencia.

Esto significa que la iniciativa cascos blancos no resta recursos económicos a las políticas domésticas de acción social de cada país, porque está generando nuevos recursos económicos que no existirían de otro modo y que requieren la definición política precisa de la iniciativa.

Nuestra experiencia, incipiente, es cierto, es que este tipo de iniciativas políticas tiene la posibilidad de convocar donaciones en cantidad suficiente como para permitir su implementación.

Tampoco la iniciativa cascos blancos pretende crear nuevas agencias, fondos o programas dentro de la estructura de las Naciones Unidas ni se propone recargar el manifiestamente insuficiente presupuesto de la Organización Mundial, por el contrario, genera, a nuestro criterio, mecanismos que serán eficientes para que su actividad multilateral esté financiada con recursos provenientes de contribuciones económicas voluntarias.

Desde que esta iniciativa fue formulada en primer término, hace unos meses, hasta la fecha ha sido enriquecida por comentarios, críticas, observaciones y sugerencias, de las cuales rescato básicamente dos:

En primer lugar, la mayor parte de las opiniones han aconsejado cambiar el énfasis del objetivo de los cascos blancos, darle prioridad no tanto a las acciones de largo plazo orientadas a corregir la pobreza estructural sino prioritariamente y sobre todo en los primeros pasos a las acciones de emergencia humanitaria, ante una realidad mundial que nos ha planteado reiteradamente, como comunidad organizada de naciones, situaciones de crisis humanitarias frente a las cuales los esfuerzos de los países han sido, si bien eficaces y generosos, indudablemente insuficientes.

En segundo lugar, estos consejos y sugerencias que hemos ido recogiendo coinciden en definir, entre muchas opciones posibles, a una de las organizaciones de las Naciones Unidas como el ámbito más propicio, más adecuado, para que asuma la coordinación multilateral de los cascos blancos y preste la bandera de las

Naciones Unidas a su acción mundial. Este mecanismo funcionaría entonces en los voluntarios de las Naciones Unidas que unen a su prestigio una probada experiencia de casi medio siglo en actividades claramente afines a las de la iniciativa que estoy en este momento exponiendo. De hecho, yo tengo que participar el próximo viernes en la ciudad de Ginebra en la firma de un acuerdo entre el Gobierno Argentino y los voluntarios de las Naciones Unidas, orientado a institucionalizar la voluntad de participación de ambos signatarios en llevar adelante el proyecto cascos blancos.

Este acuerdo, en modo alguno excluye, sino por el contrario da marco propicio a la participación en esta iniciativa de otras agencias como la OIT, que ya ha comprometido su presencia y, si nuestras expectativas y esperanzas son satisfechas, también de la FAO.

Argentina ha pretendido ser coherente con esta propuesta al mundo y sabe que para tener autoridad política para defender estas ideas es necesario comenzar por hacer bien los deberes en casa. Es por esta razón que el Presidente Argentino, doctor Carlos Menem, hace cuatro meses ha creado una comisión, que se ha dado en llamar Comisión de Lucha contra el hambre y la pobreza, que me honra presidir, y cuyo objetivo precisamente es promover interaccionalmente la iniciativa cascos blancos y aportar a la creación de los cascos blancos argentinos. Ha asignado también mi país un presupuesto, si bien muy modesto, adecuado para posibilitar el funcionamiento administrativo de esta Comisión y ha avanzado en una iniciativa diplomática cuyo capítulo principal es quizá el proyecto argentino de resolución presentado a la Asamblea General de las Naciones Unidas, que cuenta ya con el copatrocinio de una cincuentena de naciones y que confiamos en ver aprobado por consenso en el próximo mes de diciembre.

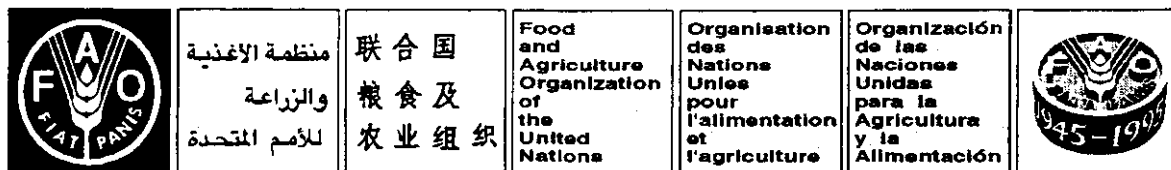
Termino manifestando que el señor Director General ha aceptado una invitación oficial de mi país para visitarnos y que tenemos la esperanza y la convicción de que cuando tengamos el honor de ser los anfitriones del señor Director General en el próximo mes de febrero, habrá ya cascos blancos argentinos operativos y en funcionamiento, aplicados a situaciones de necesidad social domésticas en nuestro propio país y dispuestos a ser eventualmente convocados por las Naciones Unidas cuando una emergencia mundial lo requiriera.

**The meeting rose at 12.30 hours.**

**La séance est levée à 12 h 30.**

**Se levanta la sesión a las 12.30 horas.**

15 November 1994



COUNCIL

CONSEIL

CONSEJO

Hundred and Seventh Session • Cent septième session • 107º período de sesiones

SECOND PLENARY MEETING  
DEUXIEME SEANCE PLENIERE  
SEGUNDA SESION PLENARIA

15 November 1994

The Second Plenary Meeting was opened at 14.30 hours  
Mr José Ramón López Portillo,  
Independent Chairman of the Council, presiding

La deuxième séance plénière est ouverte à 14 h 30  
sous la présidence de M. José Ramón López Portillo,  
Président indépendant du Conseil

Se abre la segunda sesión plenaria a las 14.30 horas  
bajo la presidencia del Sr. José Ramón López Portillo,  
Presidente Independiente del Consejo

**WORLD FOOD AND AGRICULTURE SITUATION** (continued)**SITUATION MONDIALE DE L'ALIMENTATION ET DE L'AGRICULTURE** (suite)**SITUACION MUNDIAL DE LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION** (continuación)

4. **State of Food and Agriculture 1994** (continued)
4. **Situation mondiale de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture 1994** (suite)
4. **El Estado mundial de la agricultura y la alimentación 1994** (continuación)
5. **Report of the Nineteenth Session of the Committee on World Food Security** (Rome, 22-25 March 1994) (continued)
5. **Rapport de la dix-neuvième session du Comité de la sécurité alimentaire mondiale** (Rome, 22-25 mars 1994) (suite)
5. **Informe del 19º período de sesiones del Comité de seguridad alimentaria mundial** (Roma, 22-25 de marzo de 1994) (continuación)

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Distinguidos delegados, tenemos una larga lista de oradores para esta tarde, aproximadamente 30, más algunos observadores. Yo espero que podamos terminar los trabajos de los temas cuatro y cinco esta tarde. Por tanto les pido que en la medida de lo posible, recorten sus intervenciones a no más de 10 minutos. En caso de que deseen hacer intervenciones más detalladas respecto de situaciones específicas en sus respectivos países, recuerden ustedes que las pueden entregar a la Secretaría y que éstas serán registradas en su totalidad en el **Verbatim** de este Consejo.

Nos ha informado el delegado de Alemania que le dará a la Secretaría su intervención a este propósito. Los primeros cuatro oradores de esta tarde son: Cuba, Hungría, Bangladesh y Francia.

**Juan NUIRY SANCHEZ (Cuba):** Señor Presidente: no es posible dejar de reflejar en este 107º Consejo algunas consideraciones a la luz de este importante aspecto del orden del día: "El estado mundial de la agricultura y de la alimentación", piedra angular de la FAO en su función primordial especializada y rectora, precisamente de estos dos aspectos referidos, sobre los cuales no podríamos entrar a considerar sin reconocer la calidad brindada en el documento CL 107/2 que la Secretaría ha puesto a nuestra disposición completa y detallada, así como agradecer la presentación en ambos temas, cuatro y cinco realizada por el señor Hjort.

Se hace necesario comenzar como introducción haciendo referencia por su importancia a la reciente reunión Regional de América Latina y el Caribe, que tuvo lugar en la República Centroamericana de El Salvador a fines del mes de agosto y principios de septiembre.

Aquí, en su mismo escenario, de frente a sus problemas, en su propio suelo poder evaluar una realidad que destaca que la pobreza afecta más a las áreas rurales, aunque como paradoja la misma se sustenta en la producción agrícola. Y constatar como uno de sus grandes problemas, que es el hambre y su pobreza, está relacionada en forma directa con el proteccionismo, la inseguridad de sus mercados, la deuda, su nivel técnico -hipoteca dejada por el colonialismo- en fin, factores que estrangulan sus pobres economías que no creo necesario, por conocido, repetido o enumerar, las cuales como asignaturas pendientes continúan sin resolverse.

Esta vigésima tercera Conferencia de la FAO, como usted conoce, señor Presidente, pues tuvimos el honor de contar con su presencia, constituyó un marco apropiado para analizar temas prioritarios para nuestros países, tanto dentro de su Comité técnico como en sus sesiones plenarias. Pero, además de estas consideraciones es necesario resaltar otro: su organización y hospitalidad en la que prevaleció una atmósfera de franca colaboración.

Un aspecto a destacar fue, sin duda, la presencia del Director General de la FAO, Sr. Jacques Diouf.

Era la primera vez que, en su condición de dirigente máximo de nuestra Organización, participaba en nuestra Reunión Regional y aunque la síntesis en estos casos se hace difícil en aspectos de tanto relieve, podemos



subrayar: 1° Que nuestros países pudieron expresar directamente y en detalles sus problemas. 2° Que el Director General, además de su valiosa participación en los debates, pudo reunirse con cada una de las delegaciones presentes y que, de manera unánime, la Región ratificó su firme respaldo al Director General tanto en su Plan de Propuestas, como en su Dirección, sólidamente articulada.

Finalmente recoger las palabras en la clausura del Director General cuando subrayó: "que la puesta en marcha de las Recomendaciones de la Conferencia requerirá de un esfuerzo conjunto entre la Organización, los estamentos nacionales e instancias gubernamentales, regionales y subregionales, manifestando además su empeño de examinar las recomendaciones y de poner en marcha aquellas que los recursos disponibles lo permitan.

No dudo, para terminar, que algún otro colega latinoamericano y del Caribe podrá referirse y ampliar este importante acontecimiento.

Sr. Presidente, a nadie le puede sorprender traer otra vez a esta reunión y reiterar la denuncia, dentro de este apropiado marco, del tema del bloqueo impuesto a nuestro pequeño país por más de 30 años.

Nuestra delegación no podría hablar "del estado de la agricultura y la alimentación en el mundo" mientras a un país miembro de esta Organización, fundador de la FAO y de este Consejo, se le impide el más sagrado derecho a los alimentos. Un país que no está en guerra con nadie, finalizada la llamada guerra fría y a la puerta de un nuevo siglo!

Cuba, Señor Presidente, acaba de recibir en las Naciones Unidas un significativo respaldo diplomático al votarse de forma abrumadora la Resolución relativa a poner fin al bloqueo impuesto a mi país, que ya dura 32 años.

Esta Resolución, que se ha aprobado por tres años consecutivos en la Asamblea General, es una confirmación de los propósitos consagrados en la Carta de las Naciones Unidas y el Derecho Internacional, en especial los principios de la igualdad soberana de los Estados, la no intervención y no injerencia en sus asuntos internos y la libertad de comercio y navegación internacional.

Una mayoría de 101 países votó a favor de la resolución, 48 abstenciones, y sólo dos países se pronunciaron en contra.

Esto no es sólo una decisión de las Naciones Unidas, sino que representa un clamor solidario de nuestro pueblo que se debate en un presente difícil.

Los países en desarrollo, en particular los no alineados, respaldaron con fuerza el fin de este bloqueo. Esta votación refleja por demás que Cuba no está sola y que una significativa mayoría de los países del Norte y del Sur no apoyan esta anacrónica medida.

Cuántas veces, y ahí están los verbatim y documentos finales de anteriores Consejos y Conferencias, de la más reciente Conferencia Regional de América Latina y el Caribe, se han pronunciado por "la no utilización de los alimentos como arma política". Una situación, Sr. Presidente, no puede estar separada de la otra.

A esta denuncia, sin temor y firme, Cuba ha hecho gala de su voluntad siempre para encontrar soluciones negociadoras, sobre la base de igualdad soberana y respeto mutuo.

Esta Organización, Sr. Presidente, tiene sobradas pruebas - en nuestra participación en todas sus reuniones -de nuestra honestidad de principios que, si bien se manifiesta en una posición vertical contra las desigualdades y las injusticias, ha observado una consecuente flexibilidad cuando así lo ha demandado la voluntad democrática de la mayoría, cuestión que nos da fuerza suficiente para, en esta importante reunión y dentro de ese preciso tema, solicitar la comprensión y el apoyo del cese del bloqueo a nuestro país. Nuestro héroe nacional José Martí, cuya caída, como él cantara en sus versos "De cara al sol", cumplirá una centuria el próximo año, nos educó en que los principios y la dignidad deben ser nuestra primera ley. Por eso Martí, en estos momentos difíciles para nuestro país, es hoy, más que nunca, no sólo ala sino raíz del árbol de nuestros postulados.

Pero Cuba, en otro orden, como pueblo amante de la paz, se yergue ante la crítica situación por la que atraviesa.

A pesar del bloqueo, a pesar de la desaparición y desintegración de nuestros históricos mercados, nuestro pueblo labora entre las dificultades existentes.

Recientemente se constituyó la Asociación de Estados del Caribe, como forma de responder a la globalización de la economía internacional y fortalecer la cooperación entre estados, países y territorios de esa área del mundo. Somos pueblos del Mar Caribe. Esa nueva agrupación, nacida de las urgentes necesidades, constituye, junto a las Cumbres Iberoamericanas, acicate para dar pasos de avance en la imprescindible y necesaria integración económica y en el análisis conjunto de estrategias que nos son comunes en un entorno que nos ata por la historia y por la cultura.

No es casual que en esas Cumbres Iberoamericanas celebradas desde 1991, nuestros pueblos latinos, al sur del Río Bravo, se autoconvocaran, sin exclusión, presión, ni tutelajes, para hablar sobre temas que nos son afines. Búsquense sus acuerdos y encontrarán sus verdaderos pensamientos.

En el orden interno, Cuba trabaja sin descanso. Tan solo, como ejemplo, nos referiremos a algunos aspectos con relación al tema. Recientemente fue creado el Mercado Agropecuario, como una entidad que funciona sobre la base de su autogestión económica y financiera, regida por la oferta y la demanda, con la participación de productores individuales, cooperativas y empresas estatales.

Fue la constitución de las Unidades Básicas de Producción Cooperativa el antecedente estructural imprescindible para la creación de estos mercados agropecuarios a nivel nacional. Y en un corto período de tiempo ya se ven los resultados de hacer realidad la primera premisa de nuestras necesidades, el tratar de elevar los niveles productivos y nutricionales de nuestra población, acercando la producción a la demanda. El reto consiste en proliferar en ese camino, preservando las conquistas sociales que poseemos y estructurando la creación de consensos sobre la participación en la economía, aplicando además un amplio grupo de medidas para sanear la economía y finanzas internas y revalorar la moneda nacional. ¡Reformas y cambios irreversibles!

Estimados colegas, Sr. Presidente, pedimos disculpas por habernos extendido en estos temas que nos atañen tan directamente, y que tanto inciden en la situación alimentaria de mi país. De lo que sí estamos seguros es que cuando se cumpla lo aprobado por la Asamblea General de las Naciones Unidas, por tres veces consecutivas, cada año con votación más abrumadora, y cese el bloqueo de mi país, puedo asegurar sin lugar a dudas que podremos ser más breves.

Finalmente, Sr. Presidente, solamente para precisar una idea, que incide directamente en la FAO, como organismo multilateral, en su papel rector en la esfera de la alimentación en el mundo, aún más, teniendo en cuenta la cercanía de su 50° aniversario.

La FAO tiene entre sus funciones, precisaríamos, como un gran desafío la erradicación del hambre y la pobreza, secuelas indisolublemente vinculadas.

Si entendemos además como objetivo priorizado "La Seguridad Alimentaria en el Mundo" y en este gigantesco empeño desarrolla su papel de liderazgo no sólo basta tener una "voluntad política" sino que se hace imprescindible "una voluntad económica", y poder sacar a la Organización de opciones ínfimas económicas como las actuales.

Esto constituiría, sin lugar a dudas, el mejor homenaje y discurso en el 50° Aniversario de nuestra Organización.

Por último, y en relación con el Tema 5 sobre el Informe del 19° Período de Sesiones del Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria Mundial, que tuvo lugar el pasado mes de mayo, nuestra delegación aprueba el informe.

**EL PRESIDENTE:** El Consejo ha tomado nota de su declaración. Me parece que la delegación de Estados Unidos ha solicitado ejercer su derecho de respuesta a su planteamiento, pero yo deseo advertirle que en la declaración, en el caso de que hubiera algún punto de controversia fuera de los Temas 4 y 5, la delegación de Estados Unidos tiene su turno después de Hungría, Bangladesh, Francia, Nigeria, Chipre. Le suplicaría, esperara a entonces para responder a la declaración del distinguido delegado de Cuba. Si está de acuerdo, podríamos escuchar posteriormente su planteamiento.

**Ms Katalin BAKK (Hungary):** The Hungarian delegation would like to go on record stating its appreciation for both the coverage and the high level of the document on the State of Food and Agriculture 1994.

The facts and figures on the current situation and the review of selected issues have both been well identified and presented. I have read with special interest the chapter on global greenhouse. As a matter of fact, eight years out of the last ten plagued our agriculture with extraordinary climate and droughts ranging from mediocre to severe ones. As science is gradually exploring ever more factors confirming global warming, as para. 79 of the report suggests, such as the warm currents on the Pacific shores of Latin America influencing other countries' weather, we all may justifiably look forward to any set of measures focused on these problems.

My delegation has the impression that the Director-General started a very determined effort to consult FAO Member Nations on important aspects of the life of the Organization that best serve the decisions taken at the last Hundred and Sixth Session of the Council.

Here I would like to mention three new initiatives of the Director-General which are really new and highly appreciated by my Government:

Firstly, the Draft Agreement concerning the use of experts for technical cooperation among countries in transition was very carefully studied by our competent authorities. This initiative on priority programmes in the field of agriculture, forestry and fisheries through exchange of experience, sharing of technical expertise and development of complementary capacities, is a valuable and promising idea promoted and welcomed by my Government with special regard to technical cooperation possibilities among countries in transition and developing countries with FAO assistance. Earlier Hungary had very good and wide-ranging connections with developing countries of Africa, Asia and South America. Hungarian experts could give valuable assistance to these countries in the field of agriculture (mainly crop production), fishery and training. Unfortunately, due to the well-known economic difficulties (for example high travel expenses), during recent years Hungary could not continue scientific technical cooperation programmes with developing countries to such an extent as earlier. Therefore, my Government highly appreciates this new initiative of FAO. We feel it offers new possibilities to continue a very fruitful earlier practice.

Secondly, my delegation is also glad to welcome the initiative involving all Member Nations into the working process of formulating the next Programme of Work and Budget for 1996-97 and the Organization's Medium-and Long-Term plans.

Thirdly, it was also highly appreciated to up-date the issues of the most important inter-governmental committees which play a key role in shaping the strategic orientation of the Organization. My delegation sincerely hopes the Organization got some valuable ideas (partly also from our Ministry) in order to formulate the agenda of the forthcoming meetings.

Now allow me to say some words about the present situation of agriculture in Hungary.

Hungarian agribusiness - which includes agricultural production, food processing, forestry, woodworking and agricultural services - is a traditionally important sector of Hungarian economy. Fourteen percent of GDP and 23 percent of exports are produced by this industry. It employs one-seventh of active wage earners.

The importance of the sector is demonstrated by the fact that beyond smooth provision of the domestic food market, it earned in 1992 US\$2.7 billion in export income and, despite the unfavourable weather conditions, exports in 1993 were also over US\$2 billion. Agricultural production has very low government support in

Hungary. According to an analysis prepared by OECD, the producer subsidy equivalent (PSE) of Hungarian agriculture was only 8 percent in 1992, which is well below the average PSE of OECD countries, especially the European Union.

The arable land is mostly used for the production of cereals (wheat and maize) and of industrial plants (sunflower and sugar beet). With regard to animal husbandry, milk and beef cattle, pigs and poultry are the major products. Therefore, generally favourable climatic conditions favour the production of high quality fruits and vegetable, seeds and planting materials, and also the production of biological products. However, within recent years droughts have hit our agriculture regularly (in 4 of the last 5 years) not allowing the full realization of our productive capacity. The same was the situation also this year. Drought caused serious losses in our agricultural production. In the case of wheat, harvesting outputs were rather favourable, the yield loss was less than anticipated, we had a medium yield of 4.5 tonnes per hectare (t/ha). Envisaged yields of later crops are as follows: maize 4.2 t/ha, potatoes 10.3 t/ha, sugar beet 25.2 t/ha, sunflower 1.6 t/ha. Producers prognosticate losses in autumn harvested fruits also. The estimated apple production for the whole country is about 600 000 tonnes, the estimated yield of grapes is 640 000 tonnes, of which 46 000 tonnes are table grapes and the other 594 000 tonnes are wine grapes.

The new government entering office in the summer of this year focused its agricultural policy conception on market-related, export-oriented agriculture, in line with the equilibrium requirements of the national economy. The safe supply of the domestic market at reasonable prices affordable for Hungarian consumers is a high priority task. The basic concept of agricultural policy correction is to ensure a reasonable, safe income for farmers.

In Hungary, in the years of transition, more than one million families (private farmers, cooperative members and agricultural workers) are depending on a regular safe income based on agricultural activities. In the interest of their members the cooperative farms are developed and stabilized. The cooperatives are indispensable first of all in procurement, sale of agricultural products, industrial activities, management of housing stock and saving-bank services.

The agricultural policy of our government is based on the following:

- reinforcing poverty structure;
- creating a modern market and financial system for agribusiness;
- creating an institutional and intellectual background in line with the needs of European harmonization;
- rapid, operative measures for the correction of agricultural policy; and
- creating better conditions for access to the world market.

I would now like to make some remarks on the relevant parts of document CL 107/2 SOFA. In paragraphs 509-584 the Report is offering a balanced and fair analysis of Central and Eastern Europe. My delegation is satisfied indeed with FAO's efforts to strive at a global nature by devoting ample space and attention to non-member countries as well, being of paramount importance to the region and to world agriculture.

I would like to make some general remarks on the agricultural policies of some countries in transition belonging to the Central and Eastern European region. The Hungarian delegation has found the statements and analyses correct and acceptable. The report has correctly stated that market regulation systems have already been introduced in many countries (Hungary included), though I feel obliged to add that these policies will only work out to our satisfaction when another essential element of CAP is also observed, that is the setting up, operation and authority of integrated product councils which, for the time being, have been started but not yet consolidated in my country.

I would ask you, Mr Chairman, to give the floor to our Permanent Representative and allow her to continue with our Joint Statement.

**Ms Maria GALVÖLGYI (Hungary):** After our National Statement, allow me to read a Joint Statement on behalf of the countries of Central East Europe, namely Albania, Bulgaria, Croatia, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Lithuania, Poland, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia and on behalf of my country.

The Governments of the countries of Central and Eastern Europe welcome the appeal of the Director-General of FAO, as well as the practical measures undertaken by him to improve communication, ensure direct contact and, generally, enhance interaction at all states of the decision-making process.

Accordingly, the Governments I speak on behalf of wish to take the opportunity also of this One Hundred and Seventh Session of the FAO Council to present their common stand on selected crucial issues covered by the Agenda which are directly connected with the present policy planning and reform process.

First and foremost, I should like to assure the Director-General of our renewed commitment to the goals of the Food and Agriculture Organization which, under his stewardship, have already made great strides toward even greater effectiveness in forging a world without hunger.

Echoing the statements by our delegations to the Nineteenth Regional Conference for Europe at Killarney, I should like to emphasize the importance attached by the CEE countries to FAO activities in Europe. FAO, in concert with other international organizations, has a significant role to play in its areas of competence, including helping the integration of the economies of CEE countries into the European structures.

While looking forward to information on the implementation of the decisions taken by the Council at its 107th Session, I should like to express our conviction of the need for institutional arrangements within the framework of the Secretariat which, while self-supportive, would indeed strengthen FAO's European activities at the regional, sub-regional and national levels.

The European countries' priorities, such as trade and commodity policies, in the light of GATT agreements, food quality, sustainable agriculture and forestry, as well as the continuing need for greater involvement by FAO in the CEE countries, in order to promote and facilitate the reform process and their full integration into Europe, call for a well formulated policy response by the Organization.

The Ministers of Agriculture of the CEE countries, during their second consultation held at Warsaw in September 1994, following the first such consultation at Budapest last year, strongly supported the Director-General in his efforts to restructure and decentralize the Organization and to develop programmes responding to the CEE countries' specific conditions and needs of transition. Therefore, as stressed in the final recommendations of the consultation, in preparation for the forthcoming FAO Medium-Term Plan, the urgent and complex needs of the CEE countries should be taken into account and translated into action, in particular assistance construed and implemented in a way which ensures greater cohesion of the adjustments in agricultural policies and institutions within Europe as a whole, and enhances the CEE countries' capacity to make an increasing contribution to the global commitments of FAO.

These principles should be reflected in the structure, staffing, functions and *modi operandi* of the CEE Sub-Regional Office. In particular it is essential to strengthen, by continued support, the priority activities with reference to regional, sub-regional and national levels; to establish and staff the CEE Sub-Regional Office so as fully to correspond to the specific needs of the countries in question as well as to their quest for participation in European integration; to establish through a system of National Professional Officers in the sub-region a network linkage between FAO headquarters, REUR, its sub-regional office and leading academic institutions, research centres, training facilities, etc., so as best to utilize the intellectual potential and expertise of the CEE countries in FAO's programmes and activities in support of these countries.

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Le agradezco a la Delegación de Hungría su declaración, aunque debo advertir que algunos de sus comentarios se refieren al Tema 11 de nuestra Agenda, relativo al examen de la ejecución de las decisiones tomadas por el 106° período de sesiones del Consejo.

De cualquier forma, hemos tomado nota de la posición conjunta de los países del PECO y pensamos que seguramente la podremos trasladar al Tema 11 como un apoyo general a las políticas que está implantando el Director General.

**MAJBD-UL HAQ (Bangladesh):** Mr Chairman, first of all my delegation will deal with Agenda Item 4.

My delegation would first like to thank the Secretariat for preparing such a comprehensive and elaborate document on the global food and agricultural situation. Analytical review of the global economic environment, economic outlook for developing countries' agriculture and a wealth of statistical information are some of the distinctive features of the document. The selected issues are well chosen.

The current global food and agricultural scenario as presented in the document is somewhat disquieting. The depressed state of the world economic environment continues to inhibit global food and agricultural growth as well as trade. The decline in global agricultural production by 1.2 percent in 1993 - mainly due to a sharp fall in production in most developed countries - should be of concern. Increased agricultural output in Eastern Europe and sub-Saharan Africa is a positive sign. However, it is also a matter of concern that growth of developing countries' production is declining progressively. A growth of 1.7 percent in 1993 is the lowest in three years and is still below population growth rate. In spite of the regional variations, including a more positive picture in several densely populated countries, the global *per capita* food production scenario is equally disturbing. The situation in most of sub-Saharan Africa, which is facing a grave food shortage, is of particular concern. The position in regard to cereal production is far from encouraging. Although the total global cereal availabilities in 1994/95 are expected to remain at the minimum safe level as determined by FAO, our concern remains due to the fact that the expected increase in cereal production in most of the developing countries in 1994 will still remain below population growth rate.

Mr Chairman, we cannot but regret the continuing decline in multilateral commitments of assistance to the agricultural sector as well as the sharply decreased level of food aid in 1993/94. We note with concern that the level of the 1993/94 cereal food aid to developing countries has been the lowest since 1975/76. We would like to stress that food aid has a vital role to play in stabilizing food supplies in many low-income food-deficit countries, having low and critical levels of food security, and urge the donor countries to increase their budgetary allocations in food aid. The declining share of food aid for development activities due to increased response to emergencies needs augmentation. The level of total pledges so far to the World Food Programme's regular resources for the 1993-94 biennium is disappointing. We hope that the collaborative efforts of the donors and the recipients will eventually help meet the shortfall.

The document has depicted a depressing picture of the external debt situation in the developing countries. The total external debt of all developing countries has increased by 6.5 percent in 1993 despite debt write-off and voluntary debt reductions. We are quite concerned that despite an improvement in the GDP growth rate in 1993, many developing countries continue to face economic hardships due to excessive debt burdens and unfavourable balance of trade. Further ways and means must, therefore, be found to provide adequate relief to the severely indebted countries because the debt service repayments adversely affect their efforts to improve food security.

In conclusion, Mr Chairman, we commend the excellent presentation of the four selected issues which are not only highly topical and informative but also closely linked to agricultural productivity and trade. The write-up on HIV/AIDS, the chapters on Global Greenhouse, the *Uruguay Round* of Multilateral Trade Negotiations and the North American Free Trade Agreement provide an exhaustive review of some important issues having vital linkage with agriculture. Thus, we hope that we shall be better equipped to meet the challenges of the coming years.

Mr Chairman, although depressing I felt I had to state the facts on behalf of the developing countries.

As far as Agenda Item 5 is concerned, my delegation is pleased to endorse the Report of the 19th Session of the Committee on World Food Security as presented. However, we would like to emphasize that food aid should be integrated with agricultural and rural development programmes of the recipient countries. We feel that negotiations to renew the Food Aid Convention would represent an opportunity to ensure that provision is made for adequate levels of food aid.

**Jacques LAUREAU (France):** La délégation française souhaite féliciter les auteurs du rapport CL 107/2 pour l'information objective et la bonne qualité pédagogique de ce document notamment pour ce qui concerne les suites de l'Uruguay Round et le SIDA.

Certains points méritent cependant d'être relevés au-delà de ceux déjà traités par la délégation de la Commission.

La situation mondiale de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture se caractérise notamment - par une tendance à la baisse de la production agricole dans les pays développés et à une augmentation dans les pays en développement cependant encore inférieure à la progression démographique dans certaines régions, et je pense en particulier à l'Afrique. Ce dernier point est à tendance lourde.

En second lieu une production vivrière par habitant généralement insuffisante y compris dans les pays de l'Est.

En troisième lieu des situations d'extrême urgence dans de nombreux pays africains, ceux en guère civile notamment, aggravées dans certains cas par l'attitude de responsables locaux qui pérennisent ce qui apparaît comme un véritable détournement de l'aide internationale.

Enfin, une production agricole mondiale et des stocks céréaliers globaux ayant tendance à la baisse, mais suffisants cependant pour le moment. Cependant, les projections actuelles indiquent que l'accroissement de la production des grains, blé, riz demeurerait cependant inférieur à l'accroissement des besoins dans les pays en développement à l'horizon 2010.

Dans ce contexte, nous ne pouvons que saluer l'initiative du Secrétariat d'engager des études de fond concernant les échanges de production agricole et le développement de l'agriculture pour l'édition 1995 de la situation mondiale de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture. Mais nous souhaiterions également engager l'OOA à ce préoccuper davantage encore des facteurs à long terme susceptibles d'affecter la production et la consommation agricoles. Parmi les instruments dont nous disposons, il y a le Comité de sécurité alimentaire.

Celui-ci doit plus que jamais être conforté dans sa mission de définir des politiques d'appui à la sécurité alimentaire et des possibilités d'utiliser les différents moyens que constituent la production locale, les importations, l'aide alimentaire.

Le Comité est également concerné par les opérations de réhabilitation auxquelles la France accorde une grande importance qui doivent immédiatement suivre les aides d'urgence dans des pays dévastés par la guerre. Il est également concerné par le soutien à apporter aux réfugiés pour leur permettre de rentrer dans leur pays dans des conditions de sécurité alimentaire décentes.

Quelques constats majeurs devraient déjà permettre à la Communauté internationale d'orienter ses méthodes de travail et ses objectifs dans ce domaine prioritaire de l'agriculture et de l'alimentation.

Nous savons, et le rapport qui nous est fourni le confirme, que ce sont les pays les moins avancés d'Afrique qui sont les plus pénalisés par l'application des accords du GATT, malgré quelques gains sur les produits tropicaux.

Ces pays subissent déjà la hausse des prix des cours mondiaux des céréales.

Pour ces pays, le constat fait dans le document évoqué en Comité de sécurité alimentaire de mars 1994 concernant les zones à fort potentiel des pays en développement et les capacités de production latentes de ces zones, représente cependant un espoir. C'est pour cela que nous avons soutenu l'initiative prise par le Directeur-général. Peut-être suffirait-il de réorienter une partie des programmes et projets de développement assortis ou non de dons alimentaires concernant les pays intéressés pour les aider à compenser les effets négatifs des accords du GATT en augmentant leurs capacités de production vivrière. Cette augmentation des productions locales était d'ailleurs l'un des objectifs poursuivis par la dévaluation du franc CFA.

Les informations dont disposent les gouvernements concernés, dix mois après cette dévaluation, sont encore fragmentaires et, malgré les exemples positifs ne permettent pas encore de tirer un bilan général. C'est pourquoi il convient de demeurer vigilants et actifs sur les niveaux relatifs des prix des produits vivriers, locaux et importés, sur les mesures techniques d'accompagnement de la production ainsi que sur l'environnement du fonctionnement des filières.

Un autre constat, beaucoup plus inquiétant, fait par ailleurs par les économistes internationaux, concerne la Révolution "verte" qui semble être entrée dans une phase de piétinement, liée surtout aux problèmes de l'eau. Si ce piétinement se confirmait, ce pourrait être très grave pour les zones concernées: la Chine du Nord, l'Inde méridionale, etc. On sait par ailleurs que le problème de l'eau se posera rapidement au Moyen-Orient et en Afrique du Nord, source de préoccupations majeures pour les pays de cette région.

Une autre inquiétude pèse sur l'avenir de l'agriculture: les répercussions possibles de l'effet de serre et leurs conséquences sur la production agricole. Ce point est abondamment souligné dans le rapport. Nous estimons que, sans qu'aucune certitude scientifique ne soit établie aujourd'hui, la Convention sur le climat ratifiée par la France apparaît comme un bon principe de précaution. Il est en effet préférable de se donner les moyens d'éviter des évolutions fâcheuses en mettant en oeuvre une stratégie de prévention *ad hoc* à l'échelle internationale.

Pour ce qui concerne les produits de base, nous pouvons nous réjouir du redressement des cours constaté pour leurs effets à court terme sur les économies des pays concernés.

Cependant, une certaine prudence s'impose selon les spécialistes sur les perspectives à moyen terme compte tenu de la diversité des phénomènes qui ont entraîné cette flambée, et surtout le caractère spéculatif de ces événements. Il faut en tout état de cause veiller à ce que les revenus nouveaux fassent l'objet d'un juste retour aux producteurs, condition indispensable à la relance économique des filières.

Je voudrais ensuite parler du SIDA.

Monsieur Diouf a eu le mérite de présenter dans son document une courageuse analyse de la situation créée par le SIDA, notamment en Afrique mais aussi en Amérique latine et en Asie. Nous devons nous aussi, Etats Membres, avoir la volonté de chercher mieux qu'avant quelles voies de formation générale élémentaire et de formation à la prévention nous devrions imaginer ou mieux organiser.

Parce que tout, ou presque, passe par les femmes dans les zones rurales de ces pays, et d'abord, comme partout ailleurs, la santé des enfants qu'elles mettent au monde, ce sont donc elles qui subissent plus que leurs compagnons, les ravages faits par le SIDA.

Ces femmes méritent qu'on les soutienne plus particulièrement et la survie des milieux ruraux dépend de ce que nous ferons pour leur formation spécifique.

Il ne s'agit pas d'une place plus ou moins grande dans les projets mais d'un effort concerté entre l'OMS, la FAO et l'UNICEF. Un état d'urgence semble s'imposer ainsi que le rapport qui nous a été remis le souligne, nécessitant de transgresser les usages et les législations en vigueur en temps normal. Il faut travailler avec les autorités locales pour monter des programmes d'urgence, de formation et de prévention élémentaire.

Les projets multilatéraux à long terme devraient être réexaminés et les crédits réorientés en fonction de cette urgence à court terme qui s'impose et qui prend des dimensions dépassant de très loin les capacités nationales de santé publique.

Un chiffre cité dans le rapport est à cet égard, éloquent; le coût moyen des coûts de santé par mort du SIDA dans certains pays en développement concernés est égal à 150 pour cent du revenu par habitant. C'est donc une donnée qu'il faut avoir à l'esprit quand on discute des problèmes de sécurité alimentaire.

La France, vous le savez, a pris une initiative en organisant la réunion, dans les prochains jours à Paris, d'un sommet sur le SIDA.

Nos premières interventions ont commencé en 1987, phase d'urgence d'abord pour dépister, informer, éduquer, en liaison avec les organismes français internationaux et locaux concernés puis accélération dans la deuxième phase à partir de 1990, élargissant le soutien à 19 pays africains.

La lutte contre le syndrome du SIDA est depuis juillet 1993 une priorité forte pour l'aide de la France aux pays concernés et c'est au total, un triplement de l'effort français que nous assurerons dès la fin de l'année 1994.



Nous voudrions enfin rappeler les préoccupations que cette délégation avait exprimées lors de la dernière session du Conseil concernant le nécessaire rapprochement des grandes organisations multilatérales pour gérer, sur le terrain, avec les autorités nationales, les activités qui concourent à la sécurité alimentaire des pays notamment entre cette organisation et le PAM. La France est très attachée à ce rapprochement qui est indispensable.

Maintenant, Monsieur le Président, permettez-moi de quitter ma casquette de délégué de la France pour faire une rapide déclaration concernant la question du Comité de sécurité alimentaire, puisqu'il s'agit du point 5 de l'ordre du jour.

Je voudrais dire que le rapport qui nous est présenté est tout à fait complet et que je n'ai rien à ajouter. Je souhaiterais simplement en tant que président de ce Comité indiquer que quelques voies avaient été explorées au sujet de l'intégration d'autres facteurs que ceux qui sont actuellement identifiés pour orienter de nouveaux futurs travaux.

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Muchas gracias, señor Embajador. Este Consejo ha tomado nota de su declaración, que tiene todavía más importancia en virtud de que usted presidió con excelencia los trabajos del Comité de seguridad alimentaria, y hemos registrado, desde luego, sus profundos comentarios al respecto.

**F. BATURE (Nigeria):** First of all, my Delegation would like thank the Secretariat most sincerely for making available the comprehensive documents we are now discussing.

We are greatly concerned about the critically low levels of food security in recent years, most especially in Africa. Man-made and natural disasters as well as environmental problems such as desertification and drought have exacerbated the economic and food security problems in developing countries. Many countries are seriously facing economic crisis, and this has been compounded by the burden of external debt, various pests and diseases, inadequate infrastructural facilities for agricultural production, and marketing distribution.

We believe that FAO has the right mix of capacity and policy to assist the developing countries in attaining their goals in reaching food self-sufficiency by introducing measures that would increase agricultural productivity and food production, especially in the low-income food-deficit countries, most especially in Africa. We appreciate the positive step taken by the Director-General to launch programmes leading to solving food insecurity.

We would also request FAO to continue to find ways and means of alleviating the burden of the Structural Adjustment Programme (SAP) in developing countries which in most cases threatens the food security of these regions. Assistance in the strengthening of the Technical and Economic Cooperation among the developing countries (TCDC/ECDC) should continue to be encouraged.

Today, the central policy thrust of the Nigerian Government is to promote the production of all sub-sectors, with a view to achieving national self-sufficiency in most items of local consumption, food security and domestic industries and provide excess for export. In this regard, Government is determined to support all categories of producers (small-scale farmers, women, returnees to rural areas, and medium and large-scale farmers) to improve their level of technical and economic efficiency throughout the sector.

The Government attaches great importance to research and development of technology for agriculture. Seventeen agricultural institutes have been established for this purpose. This approach should be strengthened and encouraged by FAO through the participation of the developing countries in a bio-technology network and to ensure that bio-technology questions are widely discussed by specialist groups.

The Government has also adopted improved and appropriate technologies for optimizing production and post-harvest handling, including processing, storage and marketing leading to a reduction in associated hazards and waste. It is also the policy of the Government to provide adequate access in a timely manner to all necessary inputs including credit and insurance. Most of the agricultural inputs are imports; for example, fertilizers, pesticides, machinery and equipment. The current policy is to encourage local manufacture of as many of

these through private ventures ably backed by Government. Some fertilizers are already being manufactured in Nigeria by national companies.

The ecological diversity of Nigeria offers a unique opportunity for ecological specialization in the production of various food crops, livestock, forest resources and fisheries in zones where they are most suited. The policy is to encourage the production of everything possible in all places, and to also develop and support specific programmes that will enhance the zonal advantage.

The policies have also taken cognizance of the importance of protecting the environment from pollution and degradation. Government also places a premium on policies for the provision of adequate resources to the institutions whose objectives devolve on the development of the physical environment and natural resources for sustainable use or to control and combat ecological disaster and environmental abuse.

The inability of the relatively poor communities to balance their natural and human resources to consistently meet subsistence needs is a fundamental constraint. Access to productivity - increasing technology and the associated inputs is also limited, thereby highlighting the needs for labour intensive mechanism.

Mr Chairman, my delegation has noted with appreciation the emphasis given to environmental protection and sustainable agriculture. My government has expressed the need and importance of protecting the environment against erosion, desert encroachment, deforestation, etc. The Arid Zone Afforestation Project in the northern part of the country has been quite commendable.

Cooperative education, training and public enlightenment at all levels has been encouraged in order to bring about increased participation and involvement of farmers, especially women and other rural people in the cooperative movement to enhance their decision making in order to improve their welfare.

Mr Chairman, we are appreciative of the activities of UN Agencies such as FAO, the World Health Organization, UNDP, IFAD, IBRD and the NGOs who have been of considerable assistance to developing countries in their quest for meaningful development in agriculture and related areas. We would urge them to continued their support for global, regional and country level activities which will strengthen the developing countries' capabilities in their resolve to improve food production.

**Chrysanthos LOIZIDES (Cyprus):** I wish to begin our brief comments on this Item 4 by expressing our appreciation to the Secretariat for preparing a very comprehensive and informative report on the State of Food and Agriculture as in Doc. CL 107/2 and Supplement. I also thank Mr Hjort for his introduction to this Item.

In general, the report under review provides wide information on the various parameters of the World Food Situation, such as agricultural production, *per capita* food production, food shortages, external assistance to agriculture, agricultural terms of trade, etc. It also provides, on the regional level, a review of the economic outlook for developing countries' agriculture and a brief description of the current problems facing the agricultural sector in certain countries of the Central and Eastern European region. This information is very useful indeed for understanding the magnitude of the problem of the current food situation in our planet.

As stated in box No. 2, page 4, during the five-year period 1988-93 the level of *per capita* food production has declined "in approximately 60 per cent of the total number of developing countries". Additionally, Exhibit No. 2 on page 5 indicates that during the last five years the average percentage rate of change in the per capita food production is ranging from zero to minus ten per cent in 92 countries, of which 74 are developing countries, including most of the Sub-Saharan countries, where the problem of food supply is more acute. Dramatic contraction in per capita food production is also recorded in almost all countries in transition in Eastern Europe and the former USSR.

Food shortages are usually more critical in countries affected by civil strife and inevitably famine conditions are emerging for millions of people in many of these countries. The need for emergency food assistance to avert suffering and further loss of life is dramatically increasing as never before, at least in the recent history of humanity. However, as mentioned in box 6, the shipments of food aid in cereals during the year ending June 1994 are estimated to register a reduction of around 3 million tonnes, or 21 percent less compared to the previous corresponding period while "the level of cereal food aid provided in 1993-94 to developing countries

was the lowest observed since 1975/76". A considerable decline is also registered in both the bilateral and multilateral commitments of external assistance to agriculture, as indicated by figures and graphs on pages 10 and 11.

The document under review also informs us that during the period 1980 to 1992 there has been a considerable deterioration in both the terms of trade and the purchasing capacity of agricultural exports, especially for the countries of Sub-Saharan Africa and the Latin American and Caribbean countries, as illustrated on page 17.

The external debt situation likewise continues to be a critical issue for many developing countries. This is surely an alarming reality, closely related with the global food situation. At this point I wish to draw attention to page 26 where it is mentioned *inter alia* that for the 29 severely indebted low-income countries the ratio between total debt service and export earnings has apparently increased from 413 percent in 1992 to 432 percent in 1993.

Following the aforementioned negative features which directly or indirectly affect the global food situation, we wish to underline certain positive features which have been achieved recently and which it is hoped will generate more favourable conditions for improving the world food situation. These are: the conclusion of the Uruguay Round of GATT negotiations; the democratization process in South Africa following the abolition of the apartheid system; the promising peaceful development in the Near East; the economic reforms and stabilization in certain countries; and the enlargement of European Community membership.

In the light of these brief observations, we believe that there is much to be done to improve the food situation in the low-income and food-deficit countries. We share the view that priority should be given to key issues such as peace and social stability, economic and structural reforms, increased external assistance for sustainable agricultural development and improved arrangements in both terms of trade and foreign debt.

As on previous occasions, I wish to conclude by emphasizing the importance of international cooperation and the role of FAO as the leading international agency for promoting cooperation through concrete activity for improving the world food situation. We appreciate and support the continuous efforts and activities of FAO in this field and we strongly believe that FAO, as always, with the close cooperation and assistance of all Member Nations, will be able to implement the Special Programme on Food Production in support of food security in the low-income and food-deficit countries.

With regard to Item 5, we fully endorse the Report of the Nineteenth Session of the Committee on World Food Security as presented in document CL 107/10.

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Deseo anunciar que el distinguido delegado de Alemania ha enviado a la Secretaría General de este Consejo su declaración relativa al tema 4. Sin embargo, hará todavía una declaración en relación con el Tema 5. El Consejo toma nota y se incorporará de lleno la declaración de Alemania sobre dicho tema.

También deseo informar que tenemos aún por delante 30 declaraciones de parte de miembros del Consejo, más otras de observadores. Si cada una de esas declaraciones tomaran cinco minutos, podríamos quizás terminar en dos horas y media, lo que nos llevaría más allá de las cinco treinta, hora en que debería terminar esta segunda sesión. Si toman diez minutos, serán cinco horas, y eso implica toda la mañana de mañana, con lo que yo les auguro que por la noche de mañana tendrán ustedes una quinta sesión plenaria para evitar que nos retrasemos en nuestros trabajos. Por tanto, pido a los distinguidos delegados que, en la medida de lo posible, recorten sus intervenciones y que, si lo estiman pertinente, los detalles de las mismas los pueden entregar a la Secretaría para ser incorporados en el *verbatim*. Ahí aparecerán totalmente.

**James W. SCHROEDER (United States of America):** As suggested earlier, the United States first wishes to take this opportunity at the beginning of our remarks on the State of Food and Agriculture to reply briefly to the comments expressed by the distinguished representative of Cuba.

The United States' embargo is not a blockade. It is not the blockade that the Cuban Government described. The objectives of the United States policy have been, are and remain a peaceful democratic transition and respect for human rights in Cuba.

Let me compliment the FAO Secretariat on its work in producing the document on the State of Food and Agriculture and make a few remarks in regard to that document.

The past year has brought historic developments for world agriculture. With the successful completion of the Uruguay Round we have laid the groundwork for a significant expansion in agricultural trade. We had an election in our country last week but the US Congress will meet at the end of this month to consider that agreement and the Clinton Administration continues to press for the passage for implementing legislation by the end of this year. Further benefits will accrue not only to major food exporters but to many developing countries as well and we hope that our Congress will pass the legislation at the end of this month or early in December.

The benefits from the Uruguay Round will not, of course, be uniform. We shall need to monitor the effect on the least-developed, food-importing countries. Nevertheless, recent analyses of the impact of the Uruguay Round agreement on developing countries as a whole predict dramatic gains. Gross domestic products should grow at a minimum by \$US35 billion annually and perhaps by as much as US\$90 billion annually.

In North America we have already begun to see strong results from trade liberalization under NAFTA. The trade in agricultural products between Mexico and the United States has already grown by 11 percent for the first eight months of this year, in good part because of the lowering of trade barriers which NAFTA has allowed.

The strong rise in long-term resource flows to both middle-income and developing countries compared to the 1980s is also welcome. This growth has been spurred largely by a rapid increase in private funds devoted to direct foreign investment. It is remarkable that this investment has almost doubled since 1990. In future reports on the State of Food and Agriculture FAO may wish to provide more detail on private investment, especially direct foreign investment in agricultural sectors of developing countries.

I am also pleased to note that in the agricultural regional reviews the United States escaped the critical eye of FAO analysts this year and our neighbours to the north took our place in the line of fire. However, we were disappointed that FAO omitted discussion of Canada's marketing boards. The operation of the Canadian Wheat Board and Canada's Western Grain Transportation Rail Subsidy are sources of major concern to the United States, along with Canadian policies on dairy and poultry supply management. The FAO review of Canada's agricultural policies would have been improved by a thorough analysis of the Canadian marketing boards.

With respect to global warming, we agree that it is difficult to develop adequate models to predict how greenhouse gases will affect agriculture. More research is clearly needed. However, we concur with FAO's call for national initiatives, such as adopting technologies to reduce fossil fuel consumption, which are justified on the basis of economics or public health, even if global warming does not prove to be a major threat to world agriculture.

The treatment of the impact which AIDS has on rural communities and agricultural output, particularly in Africa and South East Asia, is quite thought-provoking. AIDS has the potential to cut economic growth in half in Sub-Saharan Africa.

For its part, the United States has long been concerned about the global impact of AIDS, and USAID has approved several hundred million dollars since 1986 both bilaterally and through WHO's global programmes on AIDS to help with education and other preventative measures. While we do not envision any additional role for FAO in coping with the economic consequences of AIDS, we hope it will continue to monitor this issue closely as part of its on-going assessments of food security.

The United States endorses the Report of the Nineteenth Session of the Committee on World Food Security. We concur with FAO's estimates of a 2.4 percent increase in world cereal output in 1994 based on a US recovery in coarse grains and a 1.8 percent expansion in developing-country production. Unfortunately, as the

Director-General has pointed out in his remarks, this rise in output lags slightly behind population growth and varies significantly among regions.

I have some comments on the size of US production this year but I will leave those out and go on in the interests of time. Suffice it to say that in the United States we have enjoyed recovery since last year's floods and drought and our corn and soybean production is approaching record levels.

The United States strongly endorsed the Director-General's plans to give greater emphasis to food security in FAO's programme and, as the Director-General stated in his opening remarks, to pursue policies directed towards the prevention of food crisis situations rather than merely reacting to such crises after they occur. However, we believe that FAO will be fighting an uphill battle as it seeks to put food security at the centre of global development agendas. In nearly all regions farmers are achieving production gains that match or exceed population growth and hunger is more often the result of political conflict than of short supplies. That will not make it easier for FAO to persuade policy-makers to reorder priorities.

There is growing public anxiety, however, that gains in agricultural output have come at the expense of the environment and may soon fail to keep pace with growing demand. Highlighting those concerns may be one key to an effective campaign by FAO to obtain the high-level political backing and media attention needed for a successful World Summit.

Let me close by briefly mentioning that just a few weeks ago, the Clinton Administration began the largest restructuring of the United States Department of Agriculture since its founding over 130 years ago. More than 1 100 field offices are being consolidated or closed, and we hope to save the US taxpayer US\$3.6 billion, reducing our payroll by over 11 000 employees - more than a tenth of our workforce. I mention this for two reasons: First, to demonstrate that the United States is practising what we preach here in the UN system - we are taking the hard steps needed to reduce duplication and provide services more effectively and efficiently. And second, to offer encouragement to the new Director-General as he encounters the many obstacles to his own restructuring of FAO.

**Augustin IYAMUREMYE (Rwanda):** Monsieur le Président, Mesdames et Messieurs les délégués et observateurs, la délégation du Rwanda est fière de pouvoir participer à cette session du Conseil de la FAO; cela est un signe que mon pays commence à se relever de la situation dramatique que le monde entier a pu suivre sur les écrans de la télévision avec horreur et consternation.

Je voudrais profiter de cette occasion pour remercier, au nom de mon Gouvernement et du peuple rwandais, la communauté internationale, les pays amis, les institutions des Nations Unies et les organismes non gouvernementaux pour leur attention bienveillante et l'aide massive et rapide en tous genres apportée à nos populations en détresse.

Le conflit interethnique et les massacres qui en ont résulté ont provoqué la mort de près d'un million de victimes innocentes et le déplacement de près de deux millions et demi de personnes dont près d'un million et demi restent encore réfugiées dans les pays voisins, à savoir le Burundi, le Zaïre et la Tanzanie.

Au-delà de son caractère horrifant sur le plan humanitaire, le drame rwandais pose un problème très grave sur le plan alimentaire dans notre sous-région. En effet, la guerre civile au Rwanda a connu son paroxysme au moment où notre pays hébergeait sur son sol près de 500.000 réfugiés du Burundi, ce qui avait déjà causé un grave déficit alimentaire dans la région sud de notre pays. C'était malheureusement aussi la période des récoltes que la fuite des populations paysannes a anéanti pour près de 60 pour cent. La concentration des populations dans les camps de réfugiés et dans les camps de personnes déplacées, à l'intérieur du pays comme dans les pays voisins, a provoqué la destruction massive des reboisements et la déforestation de milliers d'hectares.

Devant l'ampleur de la catastrophe qu'a connue mon pays, le Gouvernement rwandais ne peut que faire appel à la communauté internationale mais, de son côté, il s'attache à l'action primordiale de la pacification, du rétablissement de la paix et la réconciliation nationale. A l'heure actuelle, la sécurité est rétablie sur tout le territoire et, malgré quelques incidents regrettables de vengeance ou de représailles vite réprimés, la population se réinstalle progressivement. Les autorités rwandaises, en collaboration avec les pays voisins et le

Haut Commissariat des Nations Unies pour les réfugiés, coopèrent étroitement pour le retour et la réinstallation des réfugiés.

Dans le domaine de la production agricole, nous devons souligner que les agriculteurs et éleveurs rwandais, qui constituent 90 pour cent de la population active, ont payé le plus lourd tribut à la guerre. En effet, ayant abandonné leurs récoltes et leurs champs, ils doivent maintenant non seulement trouver de la nourriture, mais aussi des semences et des outils agricoles. Beaucoup de nos cadres techniques sont morts ou réfugiés. Le Ministère de l'agriculture et de l'élevage, en collaboration avec la FAO, a coordonné toutes les aides des ONG en intrants agricoles avec des résultats jusqu'ici satisfaisants. De même, un programme de réhabilitation de l'agriculture et de l'élevage est à l'étude avec les experts de la FAO. De nombreuses ONG interviennent également pour nous aider sur le terrain mais le pays a besoin de la solidarité et de l'aide bilatérale des pays amis et organismes internationaux pour préparer la reconstruction au-delà de programmes ponctuels d'urgence. C'est pourquoi mon gouvernement sollicite de la part des pays et organismes donateurs de nous permettre de remettre en marche les projets et programmes de développement agricole qui étaient en cours avant la guerre avec, bien sûr, les réaménagements et réorientations nécessaires, compte tenu de la situation actuelle. Nous pensons, ici, que la FAO pourrait jouer un rôle moteur.

Je voudrais terminer mon intervention en remerciant particulièrement le Directeur général de la FAO pour l'attention toute particulière qu'il a accordée à la situation de mon pays. Je remercie également tous les experts qui n'ont pas hésité à venir travailler dans notre pays malgré les conditions très difficiles. Je puis leur assurer que mon gouvernement n'épargnera rien pour leur offrir les meilleures conditions de travail.

Je voudrais également présenter mes félicitations au Secrétariat pour le document qu'il a présenté sur la situation de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture. En ce qui concerne le rapport de la dix-neuvième session du Comité de la sécurité alimentaire mondiale, ma délégation y souscrit entièrement.

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Este Consejo ha tomado nota de su testimonio sobre la catástrofe que ha devastado su país y también sobre el llamado de ayuda en múltiples frentes a la comunidad internacional para lograr la reconstrucción de su economía, de su sociedad, en particular en materia de desarrollo agrícola y alimentario, donde la FAO podría jugar el papel de pivote para canalizar la ayuda y los apoyos necesarios.

**Adel N. CORTAS (Lebanon):** First, I would like to commend Mr Hjort's presentation of the three papers which relate to the items we are discussing.

May I say, however, that paragraph 451 in CL 107/2, which relates to my country, Lebanon, should be replaced by another paragraph which would depict the situation in a better way than as written here. I would agree with the statements made in paragraph 452, but paragraph 451 would apply much better to the agricultural situation in 1992 or 1991. This is because of the fact that during last year - that is - 1993, we have improved the situation of food and agriculture in Lebanon. We have to differentiate between the food situation and the agricultural situation, and food security, in the country.

May I therefore re-write this paragraph and submit it to Mr Hjort or to Mr White at a later stage?

Also, there is a contradiction between what is written in this paragraph and what appears on the Table, Exhibit 2, on page 5, where you mention that Lebanon is at the top of the list of the Near East and North African countries, where the average percent rate of exchange is more than 5 percent.

I would like to make another observation. Where are the statistical tables relating to this document? I trust that in the final printing of this document we will have the tables which are usually produced under SOFA. If not, I would like to have an explanation. It would be a pity if we were to discontinue producing the statistical tables in the final printing of SOFA.

I would now like to turn to the Global Information and Early Warning Systems issues. I regret the fact that we were not able to attend the Food Security meeting which was I understand held in March of this year. But I would like to stress a point which I have already made - I think it was at the last meeting of the Council or in the Conference - that we would like to have much more timely information on the food and agricultural

information available to the member countries. Now that we are reducing the number of publications concerning the situation of the food and agriculture outlook - the outlook publications of the Commodities Division - can we replace this by electronic communication through the regional offices and the country representations of FAO, and to make this information available as quickly as possible?

I do not have to repeat that information is valuable when it is needed; if it comes too late, it does not have the value that is needed. Otherwise, we rely on The Financial Times and the Wall Street Journal, whereas it is much better to rely on the FAO information system.

**EL PRESIDENTE:** El Consejo ha tomado nota de sus observaciones respecto de la información proporcionada en el Documento en cuestión. Se harán las correcciones conforme usted lo ha pedido. Igualmente sus otras peticiones, que serán respondidas por el Sr. Hjort al final de nuestros debates.

Sang Woo PARK (Korea, Republic of): Firstly, let me express my compliments to the FAO Secretariat for their preparation of the comprehensive document which gave us an informative overview of the current world food and agricultural situation.

The Korean delegation feels regret that global agricultural production declined by 0.7 percent in 1993 following the 2.8 percent expansion in 1992. We also know that per caput food production levels declined in approximately 60 percent of developing countries. I feel this situation should be improved for world agriculture through the efforts of all member countries.

My delegation notes with pleasure the fact that the ratio of global cereal stocks at the end of the 1993-94 season to the trend utilization in 1994/95 remained within an 18 percent range, which is considered by FAO to be the minimum necessary to safeguard world food security, as Director-General Diouf mentioned this morning, in his statement.

The world food economy is now experiencing very rapid changes and the agricultural sector is no doubt a major area affected by such changes. Recent natural disasters such as droughts and floods, as well as unstable food supplies due to civil strife in many parts of the world, have been threatening our food security.

We are also facing the challenge that natural resources, which have served as the foundation for all food production activities, have become so depleted that it has become imperative for the global community to embrace its common responsibility to care for them.

Furthermore, as Deputy Director-General Hjort mentioned in his introduction to the State of Food and Agriculture 1994, the Agricultural Agreement of the Uruguay Round will especially affect world food prices and the agricultural environment. The WTO will intervene in the world food and agricultural sectors much more strongly than GATT. That is why my delegation wishes FAO and WTO would collaborate much more closely in order to solve world food and agricultural problems.

Looking toward the 21st century, I believe that our efforts should be further concentrated on strengthening our respective food and agricultural sectors by pushing programmes for food security and rural restructuring in a sustainable and environmentally sound manner in order to manage these formidable challenges.

At present, approximately 800 million people in the world are suffering from hunger and malnutrition and 192 million children under the age of 5 are chronically deficient in protein and energy.

There are still many member countries which suffer from food shortage requiring emergency assistance, particularly in Africa and Asia. However, the external assistance to agriculture has continued to decrease since 1986.

The Korean delegation also notes with anxiety that the recent performance of the global food and agricultural sector has been uneven and the future prospects still remain somewhat uncertain.

As we are all aware, agriculture has been, and continues to be an important source of economic growth in developing countries. It is impossible to imagine economic and social development in these countries without improvements in the agricultural sector. Therefore, it is necessary that global cooperation and assistance should be more strengthened to solve world food problems.

Despite the successful developments of its national economy, Korea's agricultural sector still maintains small-scale farming and needs structural improvements, as in many other developing countries in Asia. Given its structural weakness, Korea's agriculture has entered into a transitional period since the conclusion of the Uruguay Round at the end of last year. The Korean Government has set up a long-term programme for agricultural restructuring in order to strengthen agricultural competitiveness, restructure rural communities and improve the well-being of rural people.

The Korean delegation is watching with great interest FAO's activities since the inauguration of FAO's Director-General, Mr Diouf. We would especially like to compliment FAO on making substantial efforts to solve the rural problems facing low-income, food-deficit countries. I hope that FAO cooperates more actively with member countries and other agencies of the UN System by providing the benefits of FAO's expertise in the food and agricultural field.

In conclusion I hope that FAO will continue to move effectively towards the ultimate goal of eradicating hunger and malnutrition from the world.

**Adel Mahmoud ABOUL-NAGA (Egypt) (Original language Arabic):** Thank you Mr Chairman. My delegation would like, first of all, to congratulate the elected Vice-Chairmen and I am sure they will help you reach sound decisions. I would also like to thank the members of the Council for choosing me to be Chairman of the Drafting Committee. I hope to be up to their expectations. This will only be possible thanks to the cooperation of all members of the Drafting Committee. My country's delegation welcomes the documents on Items 4 and 5 we have been given on the General State of Agriculture and Food in 1984, especially document CL 107/2 which contains an enormous amount of information and an excellent analysis of the situation. We should like to thank the Secretariat for this document. We wish to stress the importance of the indications and information contained in this document.

We welcome the positive developments contained in the documents on food production in 1993-94. Thanks to the help of the Secretariat we hope to be able to overcome some negative effects, especially in the sub-Saharan countries and in other neighbouring regions.

My country's delegation welcomes the general ideas mentioned in this document with regard to the repercussions of the Uruguay Round negotiations on agricultural markets. We hope that in the future we shall have studies and analyses which will be more detailed on the repercussions of this agreement on the different regional groups and food products.

While welcoming the studies made on some countries mentioned in the report we would like to see in future reports on more studies on different countries in the different regions. We believe this is an important task for the technical divisions of the Organization and a way of making available their technical expertise to the member countries.

We wish to confirm the positive information which is given in this document on the agricultural progress which has been accomplished by Egypt during the last few years. Economic liberalization policies and the liberalization of agricultural prices and crop structure, the transfer to the private sector, the right to trade in agricultural inputs and food products in addition to the use of modern technologies, the use of high-yielding varieties, all this has led to an important increase in agricultural production specially cereals. Wheat production has increased by more than 150 percent during the last years. The production of maize has increased by more than 60 percent. The production of rice achieved one of the highest levels of production per unit in the world in 1992, in addition to major developments in horticulture.

Therefore, the agricultural sector has played its role as a leading sector in the liberalization of the economy of the country. We have been able to reduce our imports and thereby the burden on the economy in this period of transformation and in spite of the increase in the population of Egypt.



In conclusion, we should like to express our support for the policies of the Director-General which aim to achieve food security in the low-income countries, which are mostly found in sub-Saharan Africa, through the use of modern technologies in order to increase food production, and through the various agreements made with some international financial institutions such as the World Bank, IDA and some regional banks, which, in recent years, have reduced the level of financing in the agricultural sector. This is something of great concern to us. We hope that cooperation between FAO and these institutions will correct this unnatural and unacceptable situation.

**Jürgen OESTREICH (Germany):** With your permission I want to intervene very briefly on behalf of the European Community and its Member States on Agenda Item 5, that is the Report of the Committee on World Food Security. I promise to be very brief. With much interest, we have analysed the report of the 19th Session of the Committee on World Food Security, and would like to commend the Committee and FAO services for the quality, balance and comprehensiveness of the Report.

While underlining that, we welcome the Report's recommendations, perhaps the most important conclusion of the very interesting debate on world food security is indicated in paragraph 26 of the Report, which states the areas on which the Committee wished to place more emphasis in its future work.

We fully endorse these orientations given by the Committee, and look forward to detailed proposals to put these into practice, so as to obtain an even greater impact not only for FAO's programmes, but also for policies and programmes of its member countries.

It may be of interest to inform you that the European Union's policy-making body, the Council of Ministers of Development Cooperation, will in a few days consider a Draft Resolution on the issue of food security. The latter re-emphasizes food security as one of the key issues to be addressed, and defines this area as one in which coordination between policies and programmes of the Union and the EU Member States will be intensified.

Some of the main points of the Draft Resolution are its emphasis on the long-term dimension of food security while recognizing at the same time the need to continue providing food aid to relieve emergency situations, the importance of the effective demand for foodstuffs, the role of poverty alleviation policies in promoting access to and acquisition of food and other goods, and finally the relevance of nutrition-related considerations.

It follows from this policy line, Mr Chairman, that we in the European Union much appreciate the priority the Director-General attaches to food security, and we look forward to discussing further operational proposals for FAO's work in this field.

**EL PRESIDENTE:** El Consejo ha tomado nota de su declaración a nombre de los países de la Unión Europea.

**Ken MATTHEWS (Australia):** Australia would like to thank the Secretariat for once again producing a comprehensive review of the State of Food and Agriculture, both at the global and at the regional level. The agenda paper records a small decline in world agricultural production in 1993. What is of note is that this decline occurred mostly in the developed countries - countries which already enjoy large surpluses in production, some of which had been distorting world agriculture and food markets. We can only hope that the forecast of a modest increase in global production in 1994, as updated in the supplementary document, is realized and surpassed.

I have to inform the Council that parts of Australia are in the grip of the worst drought on record. Queensland, one of our northern states and our second largest, is the worst affected with 43 percent of that state being declared drought stricken. Much of that state has suffered drought for four years now. New South Wales, another large state to the south, has had drought declarations applied to 93 percent of the state.

The longer-term meteorological outlook is for little improvement until the second quarter of 1995 for the southern half of Australia which normally relies on winter rains. The drought could persist into the fourth quarter of 1995 in northern Australia, which normally relies on monsoonal rains in summer.

The strong recovery in the rural sector in Australia, which we had been enjoying, will be turned around during 1994/95. The Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics forecasts that the drought will reduce the gross value of agricultural production in Australia by 10 percent. However, Australia will remain a net exporter of grains in 1994/95 despite the drought conditions. Grain exporters are maintaining close contact with their overseas customers emphasizing that the current circumstances are a temporary problem and they continue to be committed to remaining reliable long-term suppliers of high quality grains to the world.

In relation to food aid, we note that the document estimates that shipments of world food aid will be down 21 percent on the previous year. That is on page 12. Australia will continue to meet its food aid commitments under the International Food Aid Convention to provide a minimum of 300 000 tonnes of wheat, or its equivalent, each year to countries in need.

Let me comment on some of these specific issues considered in the agenda paper. On the question of HIV/AIDS, as the paper recognizes, HIV/AIDS is a global problem which requires international cooperation. Australia has taken an active role in supporting the work of the six main international agencies engaged in HIV/AIDS control. Australia recognizes that it has a role to play in its own region, working in partnership with other governments and community organizations to share our experiences in education, prevention, treatment and care.

Australia is providing financial and technical assistance to HIV/AIDS programmes across Asia, the South Pacific and Africa. Programmes are funded in three ways: on a direct government-to-government basis; through multilateral agencies; and through NGOs. As part of this assistance a 110 million Australian dollar four-year health initiative was announced in our 1994-95 budget to combat four preventable diseases, including HIV/AIDS.

On the question of Global Greenhouse, Australia commends the FAO on the balanced approach it has taken on the issue in the document before us. The effect of global warming on agriculture, forestry and fisheries -as raised in pages 43-48 of the document - is of special relevance to Australia. The Australian economy is heavily reliant on the resource-based industries with large agricultural, energy and minerals sectors. Agriculture accounts for nearly 40 percent of Australia's greenhouse gas emissions.

The national and state governments of Australia adopted a National Greenhouse Response Strategy in 1992 based on a comprehensive 'no regrets' policy approach. We are in the process currently of reviewing the adequacy of our greenhouse response measures taking due account of the importance of agriculture to our economy. This integration of the environmental and economic considerations would be consistent with Australia's long-standing approach to greenhouse issues.

On the question of fisheries, food security and economic development in small island countries, as the representative of the South West Pacific Region on this Council, Australia is pleased to see Fisheries, Food Security and Economic Development in Small Island Countries included as a selected issue. Small island nations like those of the Pacific depend heavily on the sustainable management of their fishery resources for their nutritional well-being and economic prosperity.

Australia acknowledges the role of, and the assistance given by, the FAO in fisheries matters to the Asia and Pacific region and notes the efforts of FAO in assisting small island countries. We too are working to assist the introduction of sustainable fisheries management in the countries of our region, both bilaterally and through multilateral fora such as the Forum Fisheries Agency.

In the broader context, Australia strongly supports international efforts to reduce the incidence of reflagging, to avoid compliance with internationally agreed conservation and management measures for fisheries. Reflagging has the potential to seriously undermine fishery conservation and management. We see the Agreement to Promote Compliance as an important step in securing flag-state responsibility as it creates specific obligations for countries to authorize and control vessels flying their flag and fishing on the high seas.

We also see it as complementary to the other current international initiatives including the United Nations Conference on Straddling Fish Stocks, Highly Migratory Fish Stocks, and the FAO Code of Conduct on Responsible Fishing, both of which seek to improve the standards of management of high sea fisheries.

On the question of the Uruguay Round, Australia welcomes the successful conclusion of the Uruguay Round. We believe it will give a considerable stimulus to world trade and world economic growth. It is of vital importance for all the world that national ratification and implementation processes are completed successfully on time.

We consider that the outcome of the Round will contribute to a real strengthening of the multilateral trading system. The Round outcomes will also mean positive increases and stability, not only in world prices but also in international markets. To this one can add the benefits of reduced internal taxes and market distortions. All these benefits will contribute towards developing countries having a greater opportunity to play a more active role in the international trading arena. For example, the Round outcome will create improved access opportunities for developing countries in industrial markets. The anticipated improvements in world commodity markets and prices should in turn enhance the prospects for economic and social development in developing countries, in whose economies commodities are typically more important. For the least-developed countries Australia endorses the view that the agricultural sector will benefit in the short to medium term, as well as in the longer term. An increase in world prices provides the most direct and most effective incentive for growth in the agricultural sector in these countries. Food production in these countries has for too long been suppressed by artificially low prices caused by artificially large surpluses generated in developed countries.

The FAO has a key role in assisting developing countries to capitalize on the benefits of agricultural trade liberalization. Increased productivity through improvements in infrastructure and through the application of appropriate technologies, as well as through the promotion of sustainable agricultural practices will provide major challenges.

There is still a long way to go, however, as liberalization of trade barriers will be gradual and the genuine commitment of GATT signatories is still to be tested. The threat of indirect trade barriers springing up through the application of quarantine, environmental or other standards is a particular concern. Australia will insist that such standards should only be applied, or should only remain, where a sound scientific or cultural basis exists.

Mr Chairman, there are two other factors which Australia considers will contribute significantly to the state of food and agriculture in the future, although they are not specifically covered in this edition of the document before us. They are agricultural research and the role of women in development.

Australia places considerable priority on FAO's work in the area of agriculture, forestry and fisheries research. Research is becoming internationalized and the innovation which flows from research is a key component of economic development. From our own economic research we know that the returns from investment in agricultural research can be very high indeed. Like other agricultural producers, Australia shares the benefits of international agricultural research. We are therefore pleased that there was an increase in the budget allocation to FAO's research and technology programme, following the Director-General's review of the programmes, structures and policies of the Organization.

The contribution that women make to global food production is enormous and it is appropriate that policy should now be focusing sharply on women. Australia commends FAO for its ongoing efforts to lift the participation of women in all its programmes and activities. We would wish to see those activities continued.

On the Report of the Committee on World Food Security, Australia was pleased to have been able actively to participate in the work of this Committee last March. As the report confirms, debate was informed and constructive.

The report we believe is an accurate record of the meeting and we are happy to support its adoption. As the record of discussion shows, FAO clearly has an important role to play in assisting in the development of food security at all levels - household, national, regional and global.

We are particularly pleased to see the recognition given to the wider definition of food security in paragraphs 7 and 8 where "the Committee welcomed the emphasis on economic access to food". As we have said before, food security is about giving people physical and economic access to nutritionally adequate and reliable supplies of food and is much broader than just self-sufficiency in food production.

It is pleasing to see the consensus that is being reached on this understanding of food security and on the role of the free market in enhancing it, not only in this forum but also in the international press. You may have seen an editorial in the October 13 issue of the Far Eastern Economic Review in which the Malthusians, with their cry of "Starvation is just around the corner" are taken to task. The editorial reminds us that "Agriculture is a market just like any other in its response to incentives, and the more open that market the faster and better it will respond".

Australia is pleased to note that the Committee's expectation of a substantial recovery in coarse grains production has, in fact, occurred, with the September issue of Food Outlook reporting a substantial recovery in coarse grains production in the United States, record production in Asia and a substantial increase in North and West Africa. The forecast of global cereal production in 1994 is up nearly 3 percent on 1993.

Australia believes that the progressive freeing up of food and agriculture markets can make a major contribution to continuing such positive trends.

There is, of course, one factor which continues to thwart the attempts by many countries to attain food security, and that is the human factor!

We note from Mr Hjort's statement that man-made disasters continue to be a persistent characteristic of food insecurity to the extent that a considerable number of the current food emergencies can be traced to some form of social or political unrest. Whilst it is beyond the mandate of the FAO and the wisdom of most of us here to solve such problems we can only hope that our work at this Council meeting will contribute at least in part to alleviating the suffering of the people involved.

**Per Harald GRUE (Norway):** Thank you for giving me the floor. On behalf of the Norwegian delegation I would like to thank the Secretariat for providing us with this most interesting document now under discussion. The document gives a very thorough description of both the global and regional state of food and agriculture.

During the last years the global food situation has shown great variations. In the document it is pointed out that in 1993 the global agricultural production declined by 1.2 percent. The regional imbalances in food security are alarming. Some parts of the world are facing problems related to overproduction. At the same time hunger, malnutrition and low food security are hampering the development process in other parts of the world. As shown in the document before us, the *per caput* food production levels declined in approximately 60 percent of the developing countries over the 5-year period from 1988 to 1993. Nearly 800 million people regularly go hungry. This clearly demonstrates the huge challenges that are ahead of us in the agricultural sector. FAO clearly has a major role to play in international efforts to address these problems.

FAO has an important mandate in promoting development of the food sector, and in this respect the need to promote sustainable development and consider the environmental impacts of agricultural activities are my main concerns. Present methods of agricultural production in several parts of the world are not durable. Hence, existing production patterns will have to be modified to become ecologically sustainable. At the same time, the volume of production must be increased to satisfy the rapidly growing world population. These challenges are among the most serious ones facing humanity today. Therefore, a description of the state of food and agriculture should also include information on sustainability and environmental aspects related to food and agriculture.

From our point of view, cooperation through multilateral organizations is essential to meet the challenges facing us in the coming decades, both in a global and a regional perspective. I want to emphasize the need to give top priority to the role of FAO as a leading global agency in food and agriculture. We therefore warmly welcome the shift in the Organization to concentrate its work on areas and tasks within its mandate where it has clear comparative advantages, and thereby strengthen the mutual reinforcement between operational activities and general professional competence.

My delegation welcomes the fact that the document addresses a set of selected issues of great significance to food security and agriculture in the broad sense, such as the HIV/AIDS epidemic, global warming and the outcome of the Uruguay Round of GATT. All these issues are of great significance and need to be considered carefully by policy-makers.

As stated in the document, the HIV/AIDS epidemic is more than a health problem. It has significant long-term socio-economic implications on food security, agricultural production and national economy. It is important that agricultural planners and policy makers understand the dynamics and impact of the epidemic on agricultural production patterns. There is need for further research to fully understand the long term effects the epidemic will have. This should not, however, prevent us from taking immediate action to reduce to the extent possible the negative effects already shown in many areas of the world.

This also relates to the question of global warming and the effect on the environment and the sustainability of agricultural development. Even if the full picture might be a bit unclear, a united international approach is needed. FAO surely has an important contribution to make to this work.

The document also deals with the outcome of the Uruguay Round of multilateral trade negotiations. I want to underline the need for close cooperation between FAO and the WTO. FAO has a recognized competence in the field of phytosanitary and food safety standards. This competence could greatly benefit the international efforts to liberalize world agricultural trade.

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Quizás al final de nuestro debate habrá una respuesta interesante respecto a lo que ha mencionado usted al último. No obstante, lo dejo para el final. Mientras tanto, otorgo la palabra a la distinguida delegación de Burkina Faso.

**Mme Béatrice DAMIBA (Burkina Faso):** Au moment où, pour la première fois, je prends part aux travaux du Conseil de la FAO, en qualité de Représentant permanent du Burkina Faso, je ressens un honneur et un réel plaisir.

Je voudrais avant tout remercier le Président du Conseil et, à travers lui, tous les Etats Membres de la FAO pour l'accueil chaleureux et l'amitié qu'ils me témoignent. Je voudrais aussi exprimer la reconnaissance de ma délégation au Directeur général de la FAO et à son Secrétariat pour la qualité professionnelle des documents préparés et soumis à l'examen du Conseil. Je partage la conviction que l'engagement et la compétence de l'ensemble du personnel de la FAO seront garants du succès de sa noble mission au côté des pays membres pour vaincre la malnutrition et la pauvreté rurale.

L'examen régulier de la situation mondiale de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture, qui est l'une des tâches essentielles des fonctions normatives de la FAO, doit donner l'occasion aux Etats Membres d'analyser les faits et chiffres caractérisant le niveau mondial de la production et de la disponibilité alimentaire dans le but d'interpeller l'opinion internationale sur les nombreux cas de pénurie et sur les situations d'urgence qui frappent encore beaucoup de pays en développement. La prise de conscience de la gravité de la question telle qu'elle est décrite dans le document CL 107/2 ainsi que des causes désormais connues de tout le monde appelle à plus de solidarité entre les pays développés et ceux en développement. Ma délégation note avec préoccupation que l'offre alimentaire mondiale a enregistré une diminution importante au cours de 1993, malgré une amélioration de la production dans la plupart des pays en développement. En Afrique, chacun sait que la pauvreté rurale s'est aggravée depuis 1988 et que 80 pour cent des pays de la région connaissent des situations de déficit alimentaire chronique. C'est pourquoi ma délégation est d'avis que l'examen de la situation alimentaire dans le monde se concentre en priorité sur le cas spécifique de l'Afrique et se focalise sur les problèmes majeurs que rencontrent les populations rurales des pays concernés, à savoir la baisse de la productivité, la dégradation des terres et la persistance de la sécheresse - et cela beaucoup plus en terme d'appui à l'appropriation des moyens d'en sortir. Tel est le point de vue du Burkina Faso qui a engagé, en juin dernier, six grands paris pour un développement multisectoriel et participatif grâce à la production agricole, à l'élevage, au reboisement, et en comptant essentiellement sur les femmes et les jeunes.

Comme cela a été dit, la disponibilité et l'utilisation des stocks mondiaux en vue d'assurer la sécurité alimentaire ont considérablement baissé au cours des dernières années jusqu'à atteindre le seuil du minimum

indispensable de garantie de cette sécurité. La situation va probablement se détériorer davantage au cours des prochaines années suite aux dispositions finales du GATT. Face à une situation plutôt inquiétante, la communauté internationale et la FAO doivent agir de façon coordonnée pour assurer la sécurité alimentaire au niveau national et régional; elle devront accorder une attention soutenue à la nécessité d'un appui technique et financier aux pays engagés dans la lutte contre la pauvreté rurale. Le Conseil devra par conséquent préconiser des actions concrètes et immédiates à la communauté internationale en fonction de chaque cas spécifique.

Pour le continent africain, les actions prioritaires déjà identifiées par les études de la FAO concernent principalement la maîtrise de l'eau, le transfert des technologies, l'investissement dans le secteur agricole et l'intégration des économies régionales. Ma délégation est convaincue que la FAO pourra aider l'Afrique à relever ces défis grâce au lancement de la nouvelle "Révolution verte" dont la cent sixième session du Conseil a déjà approuvé les principes. Le document que nous examinons indique clairement que l'amélioration de la situation mondiale de l'alimentation passe nécessairement par le redressement économique de l'Afrique. L'urgence de la question appelle des mesures immédiates au niveau national et international pour s'attaquer aux racines de l'insécurité alimentaire persistante. C'est pourquoi ma délégation accueille favorablement l'idée d'organiser prochainement une grande conférence mondiale de l'alimentation, qui débouchera nécessairement sur l'élaboration de stratégies internationales et nationales, ainsi que sur la création d'un mécanisme de financement en vue de concourir à un développement durable pour tous.

Quant au rapport de la dix-neuvième session du Comité de la sécurité alimentaire mondiale, ma délégation apprécie sa bonne qualité et l'approuve entièrement.

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Muchas gracias a la distinguida representante de Burkina Faso. Este Consejo le reitera la bienvenida como nueva representante de su país.

**J. RASOULOF (Iran, Islamic Republic of):** At the outset, I would like to extend my thanks and gratitude to all colleagues in FAO who very skilfully prepared such a comprehensive, and at the same time rather detailed, document: "The State of Food and Agriculture 1994", and I wish them all full success.

I would also thank Mr. Hjort for his brief and excellent introduction.

I would keep my remarks short and concise and would follow the same order of the report.

Agricultural output declined in 1993 in most developed and the majority of developing country regions, including North America, EC, Oceania, Latin America and the Caribbean, Near East and North Africa. This fact brings about major concerns about two of the most important objectives of the FAO: First, when adverse weather conditions could have such a negative effect even on production of developed countries, which enjoy highly mechanized agriculture, we have to be aware that sustainable growth and development for the developing countries heavily dependent on agriculture and at the same time vulnerable to natural disorders, is very fragile, and needs very much more thought, action and awareness.

Second, food security in most parts of the world is facing major threats and should receive ever-increasing attention and endeavours.

Per caput food production in more than 60 percent of the countries listed in exhibit 2 has declined and less than 10 percent has experienced a growth of more than 3 percent. In other words, a great majority of us has produced less, which means we have to eat less. This might even be good for a small number who are overfed but it certainly is a major threat to health and productivity of the majority who are either hungry and mal-nourished or are not receiving proper quality food, especially the 25 countries listed in the food shortage and emergencies section.

What have we done to be sure that these countries will not appear in the same list next year and the years to come? Are we sure that this list will not be longer in the future? FAO, as the largest autonomous agency within the United Nations system, is expected to have a clear answer to this question and we all know that this clear answer depends to a great extent on the resources available to FAO, which in turn depends on contributions of developed economies well beyond the present level.

My delegation strongly believes that the combination of adequate extra resources and the efficiency of the new Director-General could provide a master key to the long-locked doors of sustainable development and food security in the least developed countries in a reasonable time period.

"The ratio of global cereal stocks at the end of the 1993/94 seasons to the trend utilization in 1994-95 is considered by FAO to be the minimum necessary to safeguard world food security": although FAO's first forecast of 1994 global cereal output is slightly above the reduced crop in 1993, most of the rise is expected to occur in the developed countries and should be confined to coarse grains. On the other hand, for the year 1992 commitments for external assistance to agriculture, at constant 1985 prices, reached US\$7 billion, representing a 42 percent decline in real terms from the peak levels of 1986. The level of food aid provided in 1993-94 to developing countries was the lowest observed since 1975/76.

These facts, together with the existence of close to one billion hungry people in the world, bring about one of the most obvious paradoxes of our time. Coexistence of peace and hunger is clearly impossible. We cannot expect the hungry population to live in peace with their rich neighbours in our global village. Transfer of a minimum level of resources from rich to poor countries to be used for food production is a vital prerequisite for peace, and FAO is the most appropriate channel for this transfer. The only missing link is sufficient attention from potential donors. We all have to find an effective way of creating this necessary concern.

On the issue of global warming, as is stated in the report, there is debate about whether or not global warming has already begun, and there is still too much conjecture about certain features of climate change and national level impacts on agriculture to warrant specific investment responses by developing countries, given their heavy financial requirements to meet more immediate food and agricultural needs. I therefore strongly support the short-term responses and no-regrets policies proposed in the report and do not see strong logic in going for specific long-term policies such as reduction or elimination of fuel subsidies for agricultural users in this regard.

The final act of the Uruguay Round of GATT includes agreements and decisions that will be of most economic significance to the world and specifically to the developing countries. A few of its projected effects, according to the report under consideration, are these. First, agricultural trade liberalization would lead to higher world prices for food, for both temperate and tropical products. Second, it would reduce export subsidies, which also leads to higher effective prices paid by importers. Third, it may reduce the volume of food aid due to high correlation between volume of food aid and level of surplus stocks, which is predicted to be reduced. Fourth, it leads to a boost to world income, mainly in the developed countries. Fifth, it might cause the demand for higher value products, exotic fruits, vegetables, cut flowers and horticultural products.

To sum up, the negative effects would be a fall in government stockholding of agricultural commodities and a significant increase in import prices paid by the net food-importing developing countries, whose food security is one of the prime concerns of FAO and one of the approved and emphasized programmes of the Director-General. I believe combating these negative outcomes is the main task facing FAO in the future. On the one hand, assessment and projection of GATT's effects on developing countries and ways and means of **minimizing** negative effects and taking advantage of positive features is a delicate professional responsibility which falls upon FAO's shoulders, the level of success of which heavily depends on its level of competence in economic policy analysis at macro and sectoral level. On staffing of the new Agriculture and Economic Development Analysis Division, this issue should receive enough attention and emphasis. On the other hand, the impact on individual developing countries will depend on their agricultural-product mix, importance of trade in the economy and prevailing socio-economic conditions. In other words, there is not a general prescription suitable to all or a number of developing countries. Each country should be studied separately and in detail. This also requires a high level of expertise, which in most cases is not available. FAO as a centre of excellence should be able and prepared to provide assistance in policy analysis and manpower training necessary for this task.

My delegation found the report of the Nineteenth Session of the Committee on World Food Security very comprehensive and informative. We fully support the views and recommendations, especially issues raised in paragraphs 11, 17, 19, 22 and 25.

Although the Near East region is predominantly a net importing region and most of the countries are likely to remain large net importers, at the same time the region produces a variety of horticultural and cotton exports.

This means that the region needs expertise both on import and export aspects, and the main source of support within the reach of most of the countries of the region is FAO. We are all looking forward to benefit from FAO's potential support.

My country has achieved a great deal in areas of agricultural production and food security. We have experienced a growth rate of 6 percent in the agricultural sector in our first five-year development plan, which was concluded last year. Food production, and especially production of food grains, has witnessed a major success. In spite of a population growth of over 2.3 percent, and in spite of hosting 3 million refugees from neighbouring countries, we succeeded in reducing our annual wheat import from 5 million tonnes to less than 2 million tonnes within a period of 5 years. This achievement is mainly due to a special wheat production scheme called the pivotal wheat production project. We are quite ready to share our experience with all FAO Member States towards a better state of food production and food security.

**Hiroaki KISHI (Japan):** First, I should like to make some comments on Item 4. My country has great concern for world food security based on a proper world food balance and is particularly concerned, as the largest net food importer in the world.

My government considers that the food security of each country can be established only through the endeavours to produce staple food for its nation by the country itself and that trade liberalization should be pursued in a way that will not disturb such endeavours.

This idea of my government is basically unchanged and we intend to continue supporting the self-reliant endeavours of developing countries to produce more food for themselves.

The most important problem we should consider in relation to the future world food balance is the food security situation in developing countries, in particular the chronic food shortage in those low-income food-deficit countries in areas such as Sub-Saharan Africa. As is pointed out in the Secretariat paper, the situation continues to deteriorate as the years go by.

Although this food problem seems to be considered as an imbalance in the distribution of food to the people of the world and mathematically seems to be solved by world food distribution through trade or food aid, my country has recognized that, from the point of view of long-term stability in food security, trade measures or food aid alone are not enough to achieve it. We have repeatedly advocated the importance of agricultural development in food-deficit countries. The promotion of agriculture in these countries would provide rural people with food as well as employment and would make it possible to formulate a social basis for sound economic development as a whole.

Now we can see the evidence of it in the progress of economic development in the eastern Asian countries. We request FAO to carefully monitor the agricultural development of food-deficit countries and to provide them with appropriate advice so that these countries can achieve sound agricultural development without being adversely affected by food aid, structural adjustment and trade factors. My country is committed to continue to support the efforts of developing countries to promote their own agriculture.

In our view, excessive and increasing reliance of many countries, in particular those low-income food-deficit countries, on import of food from limited exporting countries will lead to uncertain food security.

The Uruguay Round Agreement on Agriculture is considered a big progress in the liberalization of agricultural trade, and we hope the results will prove to be beneficial for all member countries, in particular many developing countries. We recognize that currently, in many member countries, domestic procedures for the ratification of the Agreement are followed, as in my country.

In this context, as to the Agreement on Agriculture, it would be very important for FAO to analyze and discuss the consequences of the Agreement, but at this moment it would not be appropriate to assess the value of the Agreement itself or to discuss the necessity of further liberalization. We would like to stress that such attempts might hinder the ratification process of some countries, including my country, and at this moment we should concentrate on the ratification and implementation of this Agreement.



From this point of view, we would like to raise our concern on the Secretariat document CL 107/2 paragraph 103, which states that the Agreement "represents only a partial liberalization agreement" or "a large degree of distortion will still remain even after the complete implementation of commitments based on the Agreements".

It is believed that global warming has been caused by the rise in the density of gases in the atmosphere, typically that of carbon dioxide emitted from combustion of oil and coal. We anticipate that global warming will surely have much influence on agriculture, but it is uncertain whether the agricultural sector has also been adversely affecting the environment in terms of global warming.

In this connection, Japan has been supporting FAO field projects on the application of fertilizer with attention to preventing global warming.

For many island countries, fisheries is a very important industry in an economic as well as social context. Appropriate management and conservation of living marine resources based on the best scientific information available and the rational utilization of those resources are essential.

Recognizing the importance of sustainable fisheries for island countries, Japan has been supporting an FAO field project on South Pacific aquaculture. With regard to high sea fisheries, Japan has been heavily involved in the process to secure compliance with international conservation and management. Therefore, we appreciate the efforts made by FAO for "the Agreement to promote compliance with International Conservation and Management Measures by Fishing Vessels on the High Seas" and the continuous efforts for establishing the International Code of Conduct for responsible fisheries.

Sustainable contribution of fisheries is essential for food security not only for small island countries but for all in the world towards the 21st century. Therefore, it is a great pleasure for Japan to host the International Conference on Sustainable Contribution of Fisheries to Food Security in Kyoto in December 1995. Some information papers on this Conference will be available at the table in front of the Document Section by the end of today's session.

As for Item 4 concerning the Report on Food Security; we are very pleased to see it produced by the Committee.

We are very sure that the area of assessment of future food availability in agriculture and other sectors, such as the assessment of Agriculture 2010, is the most significant area in which FAO has comparative advantage.

We strongly support that FAO will continue to play fully the most important role of the Centre of Excellence in the field of World Food Security.

Observing some of the recent international agreements such as Agenda 21 and Uruguay Round Agreement on Agriculture, both of which include food security provisions, we note that the importance of food security is generally recognized also in other international fora.

On the other hand, trade negotiations to continue the reform process of world agriculture trade will be initiated soon under the framework of WTO agreements.

Our suggestion is that, in order to be prepared for the continued process of trade negotiations, FAO, which is highly professional in food and agricultural issues and is responsible for world food security, should continue and strengthen analysis on various effects of trade liberalization and on food security of various countries.

From this viewpoint, we much appreciate and support that such analysis and discussions will be conducted within the framework of the Committee on World Food Security of FAO.

We believe such process of analysis and discussion on the subject "trade and food security" will much contribute to both agricultural trade and, most importantly, world food security.

Finally, my delegation commends and appreciates FAO's activities in the field of food and agriculture and we will fully support FAO in the future.

**K. BIWI (Tanzania):** First, allow me to thank the Deputy Director-General for his concise introduction of the documents we are now discussing. Let me also commend how it has been prepared.

Now, I would like to turn to the issue of the state of food and agriculture in Tanzania. The food situation in Tanzania is not satisfactory as we are experiencing some food deficit, the reasons being those of frequent droughts in most of the important food producing regions of the country, associated with delayed rainfall and also characterised by short duration.

Based on the assessment made by FAO in collaboration with WFP and our Ministry of Agriculture at the end of 1993/94 production year, the food situation in 1994-95 was found to be unsatisfactory. The assessment confirmed unfavourable food production in most parts of the country. This situation was compounded by outbreaks of crop pests, notably red locust, qualla qualla birds and green grasshoppers, and also outbreaks of diseases such as Black Sigatoka in banana plantations and cassava mosaic virus coupled with high input prices.

In brief, the established shortage is 349 000 tonnes of maize which has to be bridged through commercial imports and food aid.

The influx of Rwanda and Burundi refugees into Tanzania has raised the national food requirements in a year in which the country is experiencing poor harvest.

In this respect, Tanzania needs to focus on food production and availability, especially in deficit areas. In order to increase the national and local supply of food, the need to adopt food security as a guiding principle underlying agricultural and rural development is emphasized. We have developed a national food security programme which highlights the specific action which we need to take with respect to policies and programmes focused on agricultural development enhancing food production, rural infrastructure, trade import and price policies, and adequate production support services as provided by our national irrigation master plan and research and extension.

Extension cuts across programmes in food production, marine and coastal conservation as well as public health in terms of creating awareness in AIDS control practices among farmers, livestock keepers, fishermen and women, and tree planters. All these will enhance realization of increased food production and consequently better prospects of food security in the country.

As regards policy reforms, Tanzania has liberalized the marketing of food cash crops and procurement and distribution of inputs. The Government is creating an enabling environment for full participation of the private sector while reducing progressively its involvement in direct production.

In the fish sector, the main concern of the Tanzania Government is sustainable harvesting of fisheries resources. Artesanal fishing, however, is still confined to inland and coastal waters and catches are still far below optimal. A greater potential in fishing lies in dry sea waters, where there is little exploitation so far because of our limited fishing capacity.

At this juncture, let me commend FAO for its significant role in quick responses to Tanzania's problems concerning food security, for example:-

- (a) this year, Tanzania's request for assistance to combat red locust;
- (b) food aid in collaboration with WFP;
- (c) the FAO mission on low-income and food-deficit countries and other FAO programmes, which has helped Tanzania in institutional capacity building, animal disease control, especially the fight against East Coast Fever and an integrated approach in the eradication of tse tse flies and trypanosomiasis on Zanzibar Island of the Republic of Tanzania.

Lastly, as regards item 5, my country fully endorses the report as presented. I would like to express my country's genuine satisfaction to the Director-General of the FAO for the efficiency he has demonstrated in handling crucial issues of food and agriculture for the period he has been in office. His prompt responses to various issues and requests are a reflection of his sensitivity to human problems, particularly the eradication of hunger and malnutrition. We fully support his efforts.

**EL PRESIDENTE:** El Consejo, señor Delegado, ha tomado nota de sus comentarios y, en particular la respuesta efectiva de la FAO a la situación de seguridad alimentaria en su país.

**Aguinaldo LISBOA RAMOS (Cap-Vert):** Tout d'abord je voudrais exprimer la satisfaction de la délégation du Cap-Vert de vous voir à la direction de nos travaux et féliciter les autres membres du Bureau de leur élection.

J'ai lu, avec un grand intérêt, le document CL 107/2 et son supplément qui nous présentent des analyses approfondies et détaillées de la situation mondiale de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture en 1994. Je félicite le Secrétariat pour la qualité de ses documents et à M. le Directeur général vont aussi nos hommages pour les efforts qu'il déploie pour éliminer la faim et la malnutrition de la surface de la terre.

J'ai pu constater que la production a connu un recul en 1993, particulièrement dans les pays développés. Les pays en développement ont enregistré une légère progression qui n'a pas cependant accompagné la croissance démographique. Bien que les signes de reprise de la production agricole mondiale en 1994 soient très encourageants, en Afrique subsaharienne la situation reste préoccupante. En effet, si la production par habitant en 1993 a connu une légère augmentation, la tendance à court et à moyen terme est en baisse dans la plupart des pays africains qui connaissent de graves pénuries alimentaires et même des situations de famine.

Il est douloureux de constater que dans un tel contexte, le flux d'aide alimentaire en 1993-94 et en 1994-95 ait diminué de 21 pour cent et 37 pour cent respectivement, cette réduction ayant atteint en 1993-94 plus de 50 pour cent en Afrique. Cette région où se trouvent 28 des 78 pays les moins avancés et qui est déjà pénalisée par la dégradation des termes d'échange et par le poids de la dette, devra ainsi consacrer à l'importation de denrées alimentaires une partie chaque fois plus importante de ses maigres devises.

Espérons que la fin de la sécheresse et des troubles internes en Afrique ainsi que la reprise économique contribuent au redressement rapide de ce continent.

Je ne pourrais manquer à ce point de l'ordre du jour de porter à la connaissance du Conseil quelques informations sur la campagne agricole 1994-95. Contrairement à ce qui s'est passé dans l'ensemble de la sous-région et comme on peut le constater en consultant les bulletins du SMIAR, la sécheresse, une fois encore, n'a pas épargné mon pays. Si la situation était difficile les années passées, elle est devenue critique en 1994. D'après la mission d'évaluation de l'année agricole et de la situation alimentaire menée par FAO/CILSS/Cap-Vert, la production n'atteindra que 12 pour cent de la moyenne des années 1987-93 et 13 pour cent de celle de 1993, ne satisfaisant pas le minimum des nécessités en céréales.

Etant donné l'insuffisante recharge des nappes phréatiques, il est à prévoir une forte réduction de la production dans les périmètres irrigués et de sérieux problèmes pour l'approvisionnement en eau potable des populations et du bétail, en particulier dans les zones d'altitude et dans les zones arides. Par conséquent, le chômage dans les zones rurales et l'exode vers les centres urbains seront plus importants. Pour réduire les effets de la sécheresse, le Cap-Vert devra trouver des alternatives pouvant contrarier l'exode rural et garantissant un niveau acceptable de sécurité alimentaire des populations.

Le déficit alimentaire est surtout couvert par l'aide alimentaire qui permet le financement d'activités de développement surtout celles de lutte contre la désertification et la création d'emplois dans le monde rural. Comme par le passé, dans ce combat, mon pays compte sur l'appui de la communauté internationale, notamment pour ce qui concerne l'aide alimentaire.

S'agissant du point 5 de l'ordre du jour, ma délégation, d'ailleurs membre du Comité de sécurité alimentaire, approuve le rapport tel qu'il lui est soumis par le Secrétariat sous le code CL 107/10.

Néanmoins, permettez-moi de souligner trois aspects auxquels nous attachons une attention particulière. Il s'agit tout d'abord de placer la sécurité alimentaire dans le contexte du développement durable et faisant appel à des ressources humaines, techniques et financières de tous les partenaires potentiels.

La FAO est appelée à accroître son assistance technique aux pays qui le demandent, surtout les PVD, afin de leur permettre la mise en oeuvre d'une stratégie de développement de l'agriculture incluant à la fois des zones

à fort et à faible potentiels et d'adapter leurs politiques agricoles nationales au nouveau contexte du commerce international.

La dernière remarque a trait au risque pour un certain nombre de pays de ne plus pouvoir poursuivre les activités nationales d'alerte rapide sans une aide financière extérieure.

**Harald HILDEBRAND (Germany):** The Secretariat has presented for this agenda item the highly instructive document CL 107/2 with updated information contained in Sup.1. The European Commission, on behalf of the Community and its Member States, has already made reference to some key aspects of regional and global interest. My delegation would like to add some comments. They will prove rather incomplete in view of the large amount of information the document provides.

The facts and figures regarding the current agricultural situation on a global scale confirm a number of trends we have been seeing for some time now, and with much concern.

Although agricultural production in many developing countries is growing, this upward trend is quite unevenly distributed across regions and subregions.

In many countries of Africa and elsewhere population growth tends to outpace production increase.

Therefore, per caput food production stagnates or even declines in too many countries, above all in sub-Saharan Africa.

Natural resource degradation and population pressure reduce the yielding capacity of agricultural lands and tend to push land use to marginal sites that are ecologically fragile and require a proper handling, otherwise they are definitively lost.

Despite encouraging signs of higher food supplies in some major countries, including Africa, the problem remains for most food-deficit countries which do have a potential for higher output: How to make agricultural and particularly food production sustainable in a double sense - through sustained higher yields and farming practices ensuring the sustainability of the natural resource base.

Food shortages and emergency situations in 1994, five years after the virtual end of the East-West confrontation which was believed to usher in a period of peace the world over, have been caused by civil strife, war situations, and their aftermath in numerous countries.

Latent or chronic hunger and malnutrition affecting about 800 million people and poverty as their main cause contrast with declining aid flows be it in the form of food or of external assistance to agriculture in food-deficit countries.

The recent temporary relief for certain developing countries through better prices for their traditional commodities cannot hide the fact that agricultural terms of trade have been deteriorating over the past 15 years. The prospects for food-deficit countries in Africa to fare better after the conclusion of the Uruguay Round of GATT seem to be uncertain, as para 109 of the document reveals.

The potential of fisheries to contribute more strongly to the protein nutrition of major population sectors in developing countries is limited because marine fish resources tend to be overexploited. However, inland fish production continues to grow steadily and represents a valuable protein source that can and must be further tapped.

The ambiguous reference on page 20 of the document to a "significant expansion of fuelwood and industrial roundwood output in developing countries" points to the deplorable fact that forest lands are overexploited due to the lack of energy sources other than wood.

This altogether rather gloomy picture is brightened up by encouraging signs. National food and agricultural policies in a number of countries, also Africa, do produce some effect. This is the case where governments

have embarked upon economic and social reform, where rural people are made to participate in development schemes, where small farmers are promoted by favourable frame conditions, where private investment and gradual deregulation are allowed to proceed. My delegation is aware that these internal factors cannot operate without the corresponding external conditions, and assistance from outside to stimulate self-help.

Hopefully, the conclusions from regional analyses and country case studies will help convey guidance and positive experiences to those countries where advice is urgently needed.

My delegation appreciates the efforts by the Secretariat to keep member countries well informed about these developments. It is this type of analytical work which enables FAO to devise strategies and comply with its mandate for policy advice.

Finally, my delegation would like to thank the Secretariat for having included in the document two subjects that, at first glance, do not seem to be so directly related to the topic: I refer to the selected issues "A global greenhouse" and "HIV/AIDS - the price of an epidemic". These short, but conclusive analyses remind us: both phenomena will have far-reaching implications of a different type for agriculture and rural development, and need therefore to be carefully monitored in future.<sup>1</sup>

**EI PRESIDENTE:** Hemos llegado al final de la segunda sesión plenaria de nuestros trabajos. Me voy a permitir antes de que se vayan leerles la lista de delegados que se han inscrito para hacer uso de la palabra sobre los temas cuatro y cinco.

Señores delegados les anuncio claro que el día de mañana vamos a empatarnos en nuestro programa de trabajo de tal suerte que vamos a cubrir el Tema 6 completo, así como el 7 si es necesario con una sesión posterior a ésta; es decir a partir de las 17:30. Les pido a los señores delegados que consideren de nuevo el recortar sus intervenciones para que nos limitemos a terminar los Temas 4 y 5 por la mañana y podamos así mismo escuchar a la Secretaría dar sus respuestas y a mí resumir esta parte de nuestros trabajos.

Distinguidos delegados se levanta la sesión hasta mañana a las 9.30.

**The meeting rose at 17.45 hours.**

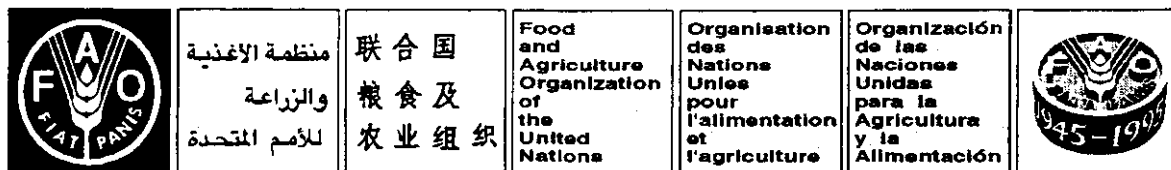
**La session est levée à 17 h 45.**

**Se levanta la sesión a las 17.45 horas.**

<sup>1</sup> Statement inserted into the verbatim records on request.



16 November 1994



COUNCIL

CONSEIL

CONSEJO

Hundred and Seventh Session • Cent septième session • 107° período de sesiones

THIRD PLENARY MEETING  
TROISIEME SEANCE PLENIERE  
TERCERA SESION PLENARIA

16 November 1994

The Third Plenary Meeting was opened at 09.30 hours  
Mr José Ramón López Portillo,  
Independent Chairman of the Council, presiding

La troisième séance plénière est ouverte à 9 h 30  
sous la présidence de M. José Ramón López Portillo,  
Président indépendant du Conseil

Se abre la tercera sesión plenaria a las 9.30 horas  
bajo la presidencia del Sr. José Ramón López Portillo,  
Presidente Independiente del Consejo

**WORLD FOOD AND AGRICULTURE SITUATION (continued)**  
**SITUATION MONDIALE DE L'ALIMENTATION ET DE**  
**L'AGRICULTURE (suite)**  
**SITUACION MUNDIAL DE LA AGRICULTURA Y LA**  
**ALIMENTACION (continuación)**

4. **State of Food and Agriculture 1994 (continued)**
4. **Situation mondiale de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture 1994 (suite)**
4. **El Estado Mundial de la Agricultura y la Alimentación 1994 (continuación)**
5. **Report of the Nineteenth Session of the Committee on World Food Security (Rome, 22-25 March 1994) (continued)**
5. **Rapport de la dix-neuvième session du Comité de la sécurité alimentaire mondiale (Rome, 22-25 mars 1994) (suite)**
5. **Informe del 19º período de sesiones del Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria Mundial (Roma, 22-25 de marzo de 1994) (continuación)**

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Buenos días. Espero que hayan logrado descansar. Me permito abrir la tercera sesión plenaria de nuestros trabajos. Tenemos para el día de hoy la finalización del tratamiento de los temas 4 y 5, y seguidamente estudiaremos el Tema 6, que comprende tres subtemas.

Les anuncio que el observador por Zimbabwe nos ha entregado su declaración por escrito, que será incluida en el verbatim de este Consejo.

**Zhang XIGUI (China) (Original language Chinese):** Allow me, on behalf of the Chinese delegation, to commend the Secretariat for preparing the excellent document CL 107/2. I should also like to thank Mr Hjort for his brief introduction to this Agenda item. This is an excellent document, informative and analytical.

As is pointed out in the document, global food production in 1993 was not as good as expected, there being a decrease of 1.2 percent compared with 1992, although this was mainly due to a reduction in the developed countries. However, the state of food production and agriculture in the developing countries does not allow us to be optimistic. In 1993 output in the developing countries witnessed an increase of about 1.7 percent, which is lower than the growth in population and substantially lower than the 2.7 percent increase in 1992, 2 percent in 1991 and 4.1 percent in 1990, respectively.

The analysis of the economic environment for global agricultural development and the reviews by region are well described in the relevant paragraphs of the document. We would stress here the issue of food security in the low-income food-deficit countries, which is of great concern to us. We are very concerned about the continuous shortage of food in Africa, especially in East Africa. Meanwhile it should be pointed out that the economy in Asia as a whole shows a satisfactory growth momentum in general. Nevertheless, 75 percent of the world's poor are still found in Asia.

We are of the view that food security in developing countries depends, first of all, on the developing countries themselves. Efforts should be made to develop their capacity for self-reliance. At the same time we also need a fair and just international economic and trade environment.

I would also stress the importance of external assistance for the sustained development of agriculture in developing countries. Unfortunately commitments for external assistance continue to decline. Document CL 107/2 shows that in 1992 commitments for external assistance to agriculture were about US\$7 billion, a drop of 6.6 percent from the previous year at constant prices, and a 42 percent decline from the peak levels of 1986.

In this regard we should like to refer in particular to the Special Programme aimed at strengthening food security in low-income food-deficit countries which was adopted at the last Council Session. We are pleased to note that the Special Programme is one of the priorities of FAO. We also endorse the concrete form of implementation through the selection of model regions. It should be stressed that the programme should be complemented by other multilateral and bilateral donations and investment.



We are of the view that the awareness of food security issues in low-income food-deficit countries should be enhanced globally. External assistance to developing countries should also be further increased at the same time.

The Uruguay Round of GATT Multilateral Trading negotiations started in 1986 and finally concluded in April 1994 as the Final Act. We have taken note that the directly related provisions of the Final Act are the Agreement on Agriculture and the Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phyto Sanitary Measures. We welcome implementation of the Agreement on Agriculture starting from 1995, and we believe that it will be conducive to the reduction of agricultural trade distortions so that agricultural resources will be better utilised and international agriculture will be further promoted. It should be especially pointed out that the conditions concerning the developing countries and the relevant special provisions should be met and carried out, bearing in mind the adverse effect of the least developed and the food net importing countries due to trade liberalisation measures and reduction of subsidies. It is our hope that FAO will conduct more studies to ensure the interests of developing countries during the implementation of the Agreement.

We are very pleased to see that with regard to regional review the document before us contains in-depth analyses and studies on the development and prospects of Chinese agriculture in recent years. The Government of China always attaches importance to the policy advice provided by FAO, and also wishes to strengthen our cooperation with FAO in this field. As a matter of fact, the major issues mentioned in this document concerning agricultural development in China, such as population, rural enterprises, and skilled economy in land management, also are major considerations for our agricultural policies. We would like to further cooperate with FAO and work together on these issues. Meanwhile, we are also willing to explore solutions to these problems together with other Member States who also share the experience developing the sustainable agriculture.

**Julio LUCINI CASALES (España):** Sr. Presidente, permítanos, en primer lugar, agradecer a la Secretaría de la FAO la confección de los documentos CL 107/2 y CL 107/2-Sup. 1 que tan amplia y detallada información proporcionan para conocer el estado mundial de la agricultura y la alimentación en los momentos actuales.

Pretendemos en nuestra intervención hacer unos breves comentarios a algunos aspectos concretos del primer documento citado que han llamado nuestra atención, documento que creemos es de gran utilidad para situar la realidad actual de los temas agrarios y alimentarios.

En primer lugar, nos parece acertada la inclusión en el apartado "Cuestiones escogidas" de dos temas de total actualidad como son el "Síndrome de inmunodeficiencia adquirida" conocido como SIDA y la repercusión de la concentración "de gases de invernadero" en el cambio climático.

En relación con el primero de ellos, el SIDA, creemos muy acertada la exposición que se hace en cuanto a la situación mundial en la actualidad así como las referencias tan acertadas a la repercusión de esta terrible enfermedad en la agricultura, en la seguridad alimentaria mundial y en las familias campesinas, especialmente en países en desarrollo.

No obstante, creemos que el documento, que expone y analiza muy bien el problema, aporta pocas soluciones concretas en las que inspirar en cada país las medidas a adoptar dentro de sus políticas agrarias para compartir con el resto de las instancias gubernamentales el esfuerzo conjunto a hacer para detener el avance de la enfermedad.

Estamos seguros que la experiencia contrastada de entendimiento y de planteamientos conjuntos en numerosas acciones entre la FAO y la Organización Mundial de la Salud (OMS) permitiría concretar estas acciones. Todos los países aceptarían con agrado tales propuestas concretas para establecer, desde sus departamentos de agricultura, programas que llevar al medio rural con los que colaborar a eliminar las amenazas a que el SIDA tiene sometida a la población mundial.

En cuanto al segundo de los temas mencionados, la repercusión de la concentración "de gases de invernadero" en el cambio climático, la Delegación Española desea hacer unos breves comentarios.

Coincidimos plenamente en lo que se expone en el punto 59 del documento en cuanto a que los conocimientos actuales no hacen aconsejable emprender acciones concretas y costosas en los países en desarrollo, que, si bien serían eficaces, no se puede estar seguro de que estén justificadas dado el elevado coste requerido y el apremio financiero para atender a necesidades alimentarias y agrícolas manifiestas en tales países.

Ahora bien, existen posibilidades de actuación que en general requieren un esfuerzo económico razonable y que, sin duda, pueden colaborar en el control del agravamiento de la mencionada concentración de gases de invernadero.

Dentro de este abanico de posibilidades cabría destacar la lucha contra los incendios forestales que, como es sabido, tiene como objetivo evitar y corregir las consecuencias desastrosas que aquellos causan en muchas regiones del planeta, siendo claro que el tema está exigiendo un esfuerzo de la comunidad internacional.

La destrucción de los residuos de las cosechas de forma ordenada sin recurrir al fuego, la lucha contra la deforestación, etc. pueden servirnos igualmente de ejemplos.

La mayor parte de estas actuaciones no son sino prácticas culturales más beneficiosas que las que normalmente se vienen utilizando. Incluso algunas de ellas pueden quedar recogidas en legislaciones nacionales o reglamentaciones locales, siendo indudable su aspecto beneficioso en relación con el problema que nos ocupa. La labor de información y la de convencimiento de las instancias oportunas podría formar parte de las actuaciones de las unidades de campo de la FAO en aquellos países y lugares que se consideren apropiados.

Como se indica repetidas veces en el documento CL 107/2 y en concreto en el punto 78 del mismo, es imprescindible la necesidad de investigación en estos aspectos. La insistencia y la colaboración de todos, y muy particularmente de la FAO, se debe convertir en motor y respaldo de tal investigación.

Para terminar nuestra intervención, comentaremos algunos aspectos sobre los apartados que los documentos que amparan los temas 4 y 5 dedican a la Ronda Uruguay de Negociaciones Comerciales Multilaterales del GATT.

Si bien es cierto que quedan determinados aspectos por definir para conocer la forma de actuación concreta de la nueva Organización Mundial de Comercio (OMC), sucesora del GATT, no es menos cierto que el Acta Final firmada en Marrakech el pasado mes de abril permite entender cual puede ser el apoyo de organizaciones multilaterales como la FAO en el éxito que todos deseamos que alcance el nuevo orden comercial mundial que se busca con este esfuerzo.

Las actividades de la FAO, bien en solitario o bien participando junto a otras Agencias o Programas de Naciones Unidas, en temas de seguridad y ayuda alimentaria hacen inexcusable que su voz se oiga en ciertos aspectos recogidos en el Acta Final de la referida Ronda Uruguay. Los puntos 93, 94 y 97 del documento CL 107/2 apuntan algunos de ellos: la ayuda alimentaria en general, los niveles de excedentes, los niveles de seguridad, etc. Es indudable la inestimable colaboración que la experiencia de la FAO puede aportar a los distintos problemas que la nueva Organización Mundial de Comercio va a abordar.

De la misma forma, el Acuerdo sobre Medidas Sanitarias y Fitosanitarias que se incorpora a la nueva Organización Mundial de Comercio va a requerir criterios, orientaciones y recomendaciones internacionales, como se dice en el punto 98 del documento, que en alguna medida coinciden con experiencias anteriores de la FAO en los trabajos que inició hace ya casi 50 años.

Hay que mostrarse moderadamente cautos ante unos resultados que todavía están por demostrarse, y que, en cualquier caso, no serán igualmente beneficiosos para todos y cada uno de los países en desarrollo. En estas condiciones, el estudio pormenorizado de las repercusiones de las medidas que se pondrán en marcha y las repercusiones sobre cada uno de los países, especialmente los países en desarrollo, así como las orientaciones precisas e individualizadas a dar a los mismos es el verdadero reto a que debe responder la FAO para seguir constituyendo un punto básico de referencia donde apoyar las nuevas políticas agrarias de numerosos países.

Para terminar, queremos hacer resaltar el posible conflicto en que se puede entrar si por una parte se da una importancia extrema a los aumentos de productividad para garantizar la seguridad alimentaria mundial y por

otra parte, y sin conexión alguna, se pretende avanzar con rapidez en los conceptos de conservación del medio ambiente y agricultura sostenible.

Esta preocupación queda patente en todo el apartado III del documento CL 107/10, si bien las soluciones quedan sólo tímidamente apuntadas en el mismo.

Instamos a la FAO a que profundice en dichas soluciones estudiando y aportando fórmulas globales que afecten tanto a países en desarrollo como a países desarrollados así como a zonas de alto, medio y bajo potencial de producción, de forma que ambos objetivos, seguridad alimentaria y sostenibilidad queden amparados y equilibrados.

**Salah HAMDI (Tunisie) (Langue originale arabe):** Au début de mon intervention j'aimerais remercier le Secrétariat de l'Organisation pour les documents si riches soumis à l'examen de cette session du Conseil.

J'aimerais remercier tout particulièrement le Sous-Directeur général, M. Hjort, pour sa présentation si claire du document concernant la situation mondiale de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture en 1994.

J'aimerais également remercier le Comité de la sécurité alimentaire mondiale, et particulièrement le Rapporteur de ce Comité pour le rapport de la 19<sup>e</sup> session détaillé et très complet qui nous a été présenté.

Permettez-moi aussi de remercier le Directeur général pour son intervention si riche et si précieuse au début de nos travaux.

Nous devons mentionner la situation très grave que nous constatons après la lecture des documents proposés au Conseil. Cette situation est particulièrement grave dans plusieurs régions du monde, notamment les pays de l'Afrique subsaharienne, de l'Europe centrale et orientale.

Malgré cette situation, nous restons optimistes en raison des signes positifs encourageants, que nous constatons dans les pays industrialisés, que ce soit en Amérique du Nord ou en Europe. Ces signes sont encourageants car nous espérons que la reprise économique aura des répercussions positives sur l'économie mondiale et sur la croissance de l'économie des pays en développement. Nous espérons que les exportations vont augmenter, que les termes de l'échange vont s'améliorer, et que la valeur des exportations des produits agricoles et des produits de base des pays en développement va augmenter dans le cadre d'une transparence des échanges internationaux, en vertu des principes énoncés dans l'Acte final d'Uruguay Round et dans les autres documents signés à Marrakech en avril 1994, y compris l'Accord de création de l'Organisation mondiale du commerce.

Il est donc vrai que nous restons optimistes et nous espérons que la coopération internationale et la solidarité vont se poursuivre, que les pays industrialisés ainsi que les institutions financières internationales vont continuer à aider les pays en développement et notamment les pays les plus pauvres.

Nous aimerions attirer l'attention sur la situation extrêmement grave que nous constatons dans de nombreux pays d'Afrique, d'Europe centrale et d'Europe de l'Est, et dans certains les pays du Proche-Orient, en ce qui concerne l'alimentation.

La Tunisie qui assume la présidence de l'Organisation de l'Unité africaine en la personne du Président Ben Ali, souligne tout particulièrement la gravité du déficit alimentaire dans certains pays de l'Afrique subsaharienne et surtout de l'Afrique de l'Est, tel que cela a été mentionné dans le document soumis au Conseil.

Au moment où nous affirmons la nécessité d'adopter des approches visant l'autosuffisance au niveau régional et national, ainsi que l'ont dit les chefs d'Etats et de gouvernements africains lors du sommet de Tunis en juin dernier, nous voyons que la situation est si grave dans certains pays qu'il est nécessaire de réaffirmer la nécessité d'intensifier la coopération internationale pour résoudre, à un niveau bilatéral et multilatéral ces crises extrêmement graves, pour éviter les dangers qui menacent certaines communautés humaines et pour aider les gouvernements à adopter les politiques nécessaires et les réformes structurelles qui s'imposent pour trouver des solutions radicales aux graves problèmes qui les menacent.

Certains pays d'Afrique et d'autres pays en développement ont enregistré au cours de ces dernières années des résultats tout à fait satisfaisants en ce qui concerne le développement économique et agricole dans le cadre de politiques et de stratégies nationales, de programmes de réformes structurelles, en coopération avec les organisations internationales telles que la FAO et le PAM, le Fonds international de développement agricole, le Programme des Nations Unies pour le développement, ainsi que d'autres organisations internationales.

La Tunisie compte parmi les pays qui ont adopté une politique de développement économique global et intégré et des politiques sectorielles basées sur le développement durable dans tous les secteurs, y compris le secteur agricole. Le secteur agricole en Tunisie joue un rôle extrêmement positif dans le processus de développement grâce aux excellents résultats enregistrés au cours des dernières années, sauf en 1994 où nous avons vu une certaine régression dans quelques secteurs de l'agriculture à cause de la sécheresse dont nous avons souffert. Grâce à cette politique volontariste que nous mettons en oeuvre, le niveau de développement est tout à fait satisfaisant en Tunisie. Au cours des trois premières années du Plan quinquennal en cours, la croissance économique en Tunisie a atteint presque 5 pour cent en monnaie constante. Nous espérons que ce taux de croissance pourra être maintenu et amélioré au cours des prochaines années.

Ce que nous voulons réaliser n'est pas simple, et nous le savons. Nous en sommes conscients, étant donné les difficultés que nous rencontrons tous les jours, mais nous ne devons pas perdre la foi. Nous devons garder confiance dans nos capacités et les moyens qui peuvent être mobilisés dans le cadre de la coopération internationale pour sauvegarder la paix et la sécurité. Dans la coopération internationale basée sur les intérêts communs, et les relations internationales globales basées sur les principes nobles qui doivent être la base du nouveau système économique mondial, le rôle de la FAO est extrêmement important.

Nous remercions l'Organisation pour l'aide fournie aux programmes mis en oeuvre, et pour la bonne gestion de ces programmes.

Nous pensons également que l'Organisation assume une responsabilité à la mesure des défis auxquels elle doit faire face. Cette organisation est responsable du développement agricole dans le monde, et elle peut faire face à ses responsabilités en renforçant les programmes de coopération technique dans les pays en développement, en les diversifiant, en les adaptant aux besoins des pays concernés. L'Organisation peut intensifier les activités qui visent à renforcer la sécurité alimentaire, améliorer la production et la productivité dans les secteurs agricoles, rationaliser l'exploitation des ressources agricoles et la protection contre les maladies.

A cet égard, tout en rendant hommage aux initiatives du Directeur général dans le cadre des programmes de sécurité alimentaire, de lutte contre les maladies, de lutte contre le criquet pèlerin, j'aimerais affirmer au nom des pays du Maghreb tout particulièrement l'importance de ce programme EMPRESS et l'importance des stratégies préventives pour trouver une solution radicale au criquet pèlerin. Nous pensons qu'il est nécessaire d'étendre l'application de ce programme aux pays de l'Afrique du Nord et de l'Ouest, car ces régions souffrent grandement de la présence de criquet pèlerin. Nous pensons que la prévention est le meilleur moyen pour résoudre un problème aussi grave.

Les criquets pèlerins n'ont pas encore été éradiqués jusqu'à maintenant malgré les campagnes successives menées par les pays concernés avec l'aide de la FAO. C'est pourquoi nous affirmons qu'il est nécessaire de renforcer et d'intensifier l'effort de participation de l'organisation et de mettre à la disposition des Etats Membres les moyens matériels et humains ainsi que les moyens techniques au niveau national, au niveau régional et au niveau international afin de mener à bien le programme en vue d'éradiquer les criquets pèlerins. La lutte contre la désertification et la protection des ressources en eau sont des problèmes auxquels doivent faire face un certain nombre de pays africains particulièrement les pays limitrophes du Sahara. Cela exige des efforts soutenus, cela exige l'adoption de projets et de programmes dans le cadre du programme d'action de l'organisation afin que la FAO puisse aider les pays à combattre la désertification, à protéger leurs ressources en eau et à pouvoir assurer leurs besoins alimentaires.

J'aimerais enfin mentionner les répercussions de l'acte final du GATT et de la libéralisation du commerce mondial sur les pays en développement, particulièrement les pays qui souffrent de déficits structurels de leurs balances commerciales alimentaires en raison de l'augmentation prévue ou prévisible des prix de certains produits agricoles importés comme les céréales. Cela ne peut qu'avoir des répercussions négatives sur la sécurité alimentaire dans ces pays.

Au moment où nous exprimons notre appui aux orientations qui visent à libéraliser l'économie mondiale nous affirmons qu'il est nécessaire qu'il y ait plus de transparence dans les échanges commerciaux actuels. Nous affirmons qu'il est nécessaire de prendre en compte la situation de certains pays et qu'il est impératif d'intensifier et de renforcer le rôle de la FAO dans l'étude des répercussions possibles de l'acte final du GATT sur les pays en développement afin de mettre en lumière les éléments d'équilibre entre la libéralisation du commerce mondial et le renforcement de la sécurité alimentaire.

**Mrs Mária KADLECIKOVA (Slovakia):** The Slovak Republic greatly appreciates the opportunity at the 107th Council to evaluate such an important issue as the State of Food and Agriculture 1994 in the world. After studying the precisely-prepared document and listening to the high-level discussion by the member countries, we are convinced that the involvement of such a matter by the FAO Council calls for important action.

The fact that agriculture and food production has failed during recent years in some parts of Africa and countries of the sub-region of Central and Eastern Europe, is visible and alarming. While the African region suffers due to the civil wars and disasters, the Central and Eastern European countries are harmed due to the transition of its economy. Restructuring of the economies of the centrally-managed system to the market-oriented one was so expected and promising from our side. Western countries motivated us with promising challenges before the whole process had been launched. The achieved results of several positive features have a common denominator in the rapidly-failing agricultural production and the decline of food security in the subregion. It is obvious that for Europe it is not a favourable sign that a reasonable number of countries are fighting with previously unknown difficulties which lead to the worsening state of competitiveness in the world.

For this, and for many other reasons, the Slovak Republic has a firm interest in unifying its agricultural policy into the integrated European system with the intention of creating a realistic starting point for gradually approaching high-level, efficient and modern food and agricultural production in the whole region. The natural involvement of the unified agricultural system should start from the common agricultural programmes which represent a joint interest and effort in environmental aspects necessary for development. The progressive point for cooperation on a regional basis represents the following activities which are the focus of FAO's conceptual policy: a trade and commodity policy in the light of the GATT Agreements; food quality; and sustainable agriculture and forestry. It should be remembered that Europe is one region and among its rivers, forests and air it is impossible to create safe frontiers. Political constraints on cooperation are already overcome. Now is the time for the defining of common interests for regional development, environmental protection and understanding.

Allow me to continue with information on the status of the agricultural and food sector in the national economy of the Slovak Republic.

The strategy of Slovak agrarian policy is anchored in the document The Concept and Principles of Agrarian Policy which was approved by the Slovak Parliament in July 1993. This document clearly states Slovakia's orientation towards a market economy and states the necessity to modify the impact of market influences in order to achieve several other objectives. In this regard, our agrarian policy follows the priorities of the agrarian policy of the European Union, especially the system of support measures.

Considering the specific position and importance of agriculture in food security for the population, in the management of natural resources and in the realization of its social, non-productive functions, the National Council of the Slovak Republic declared agriculture a high priority in Slovakia's economic policy.

Some signs of stabilization can be observed in agriculture. Producer prices have increased slightly in comparison with last year. Further cost restriction measures led quickly to the relative improvement of economic results in 1993. Economic losses in primary production enterprises in 1993 were lower than in 1992.

Detailed analysis revealed a group of progressive enterprises which were able to achieve consistently good results despite the complicated economic situation. Political and economic measures implemented during this

period certainly contributed to the positive results. However, at the micro-economic level there is still a tension in intra-enterprise financial situations and financial insolvency continues.

If adequate investment conditions arise, Slovak agriculture has every intention to play a strategically important and active role in national economy. It may create job opportunities, initiate the founding of new entrepreneurial activities and become a catalyst for the development of related sectors. As in many other countries of Central and Eastern Europe, Slovakia must pay attention to the solution of problems in domestic and foreign trade.

The Uruguay Round of GATT stated that as from 1995 only tariffs will be employed. However, serious market disturbances will cause us to implement temporary protection measures. In 1993 the highest volume of imports was in cereals, tropical fruits, alcoholic and non-alcoholic beverages, tobacco and tobacco products and feed mixture components. In exports, commodities such as live animals, milk and milk products and cereals were important.

Preliminary evaluation of the GATT Uruguay Round concerning agricultural trade with Slovakia indicates that Slovakia's domestic production is exposed to higher competition from foreign producers. For the time being, there is the possibility of a more visible presence of Slovak products in foreign markets.

The basic priorities in legislation for the period until the end of 1995 come from the strategic objectives of agricultural policy which attempts to harmonize our legislation gradually with that of the European Union and other developed countries.

From that point of view, legal acts concerning the quality of foods and other agricultural products, and accomplishing the transformation of land ownership relations, have special importance. The highest priority in legislation is to complete the Agricultural Law. That will codify the place of agriculture in the national economy, its relation to the creation of the state budget and legislative frameworks for the agrarian market. A legal provision on the agricultural credits system will be elaborated to address the existing need for a special credit system for agriculture.

In the light of agricultural research, the extension of information systems and education we welcome and highly appreciate the initiative of the Director-General to involve our countries in the network of TCDC on behalf of a revitalization of interrupted links among reasonable institutions from the whole sub-region. Slovakia has already signed the necessary agreement.

Mr Chairman, ladies and gentlemen, let me conclude my country's presentation with the following official standpoint. On behalf of those interests wishing to achieve consensus in the sub-regional office for Europe, the Slovak Republic has announced at the Council Session and to the Director-General that it will withdraw its candidature for hosting the sub-regional office. The Slovak Republic will support the country which is the typical representative of the sub-region in accordance with future goals. During the former economic system the majority of private farms food and agricultural production reached high levels in huge combines. We are in favour of the country which has the highest level of agricultural marketing and is open to effective cooperation and discussion on this matter with each country in the sub-region. We are in favour of Poland and we are calling for the achieving of consensus in our sub-region.

Thank you very much for giving me the floor on this subject.

**Raphael RABE (Madagascar):** Ayant participé intensivement aux travaux de la dix-neuvième session du Comité de la sécurité alimentaire mondiale, la délégation de Madagascar fera une intervention brève.

En effet, elle fait sien le rapport du Comité objet du document CL 107/10 et ne fera donc pas de commentaires à son endroit. Quant aux autres documents à savoir CL 107/2 et CL 107/2 - Sup.1, à l'instar des délégations qui se sont déjà exprimées, nous apprécions leurs qualité et reconnaissons leur utilité. Des sujets et des événements qui ont une influence considérable sur la situation de la sécurité alimentaire, aussi bien au plan mondial que dans les pays, sont analysés correctement ce qui facilite la recherche et la mise en oeuvre de solutions adéquates. Nous aussi sommes convaincus qu'il y a lieu de suivre de très près l'évaluation du SIDA qui est plus qu'un problème de santé, car ses effets sociaux et économiques à long terme sur la

sécurité alimentaire, sur la protection agricole et les économies nationales sont incommensurables. Il faudra être aussi en mesure de dégager les conséquences sur les pays en voie de développement en général et sur les pays les moins avancés en particulier, de l'application des dispositions de l'acte final de l'Uruguay Round et faire ressortir les avantages et les inconvénients qui en découleront.

Bien entendu, il y a toujours les problèmes de la dette extérieure écrasante des pays en voie de développement, et de la détérioration continue et inquiétante des termes de l'échange. Enfin, il faudra s'assurer que les pays en voie de développement bénéficieront eux aussi des nouvelles technologies et tireront un juste profit des dispositions des conventions sur la diversité biologique, sur le climat et sur la désertification.

La délégation malgache, comme de nombreuses délégations d'ailleurs, est impatiente de connaître les solutions que le Secrétariat est en mesure de proposer face à ces problèmes qu'il a ainsi clairement identifiés et décrits. Nous sommes certains que nous aurons satisfaction car, d'ores et déjà, nous apercevons une lumière à l'horizon après avoir écouté le discours inaugural du Directeur général. Des actions concrètes appropriées ont été indiquées qui permettront, sinon de redresser la situation agricole alimentaire dans beaucoup de nos pays, du moins d'y relancer le développement correspondant. Nous avons, au cours de la session spéciale du Conseil, appuyé très chaleureusement le Programme spécial de production alimentaire à l'appui de la sécurité alimentaire dans les pays à faible revenu et à déficit vivrier car ce programme vise à faire sauter le goulot d'étranglement qui entrave l'amélioration de la production et de la productivité.

Cinq mois seulement après la programmation par le conseil du programme spécial, on constate avec plaisir que des actions concrètes ont été engagées. Je cite: le cadre conceptuel du programme est défini ainsi que ses objectifs, sa stratégie et ses modalités opérationnelles. Afin de mobiliser le maximum de ressources tous les partenaires potentiels de l'organisation ont été approchés - organisations, institutions financières internationales et donateurs bilatéraux. La Banque mondiale et le PNUD ont déjà répondu positivement nous indique-t-on. L'Union européenne quant à elle, par la voix de l'honorable délégué de l'Allemagne vient de manifester la disponibilité de l'Union à collaborer avec la FAO dans la réalisation de projets au titre du programme spécial sur la sécurité alimentaire. Nous ne pouvons que nous en féliciter, nous sommes certains que le Secrétariat en fera écho sans délai. Il est indiqué également avec satisfaction que le secteur privé et les organisations non gouvernementales seront partie prenante dans le programme. Soixante dix-huit pays à faible revenu et à déficit vivrier sont concernés par ce programme. C'est dire la dimension importante sinon énorme des efforts et des moyens qui sont requis. C'est la raison pour laquelle d'ailleurs le Directeur général ne néglige aucun partenaire potentiel. Nous sommes convaincus qu'il réussira car la communauté internationale dans son sens le plus large le soutiendra et répondra à ses appels qui en vérité sont les nôtres.

Notre délégation est convaincue que les priorités indiquées par le Directeur général dans son discours et les mesures qu'il a prises et compte prendre dans le futur pour renforcer l'Organisation elle-même et, bien entendu, les capacités nationales, contribueront à améliorer la production agricole alimentaire dans les pays où, malheureusement, l'insécurité alimentaire est encore la règle.

**Alvaro GURGEL DE ALENCAR (Brazil):** Mr Chairman, without taking up too much of the Council's time, let me say once more how happy we are to work once again under your chairmanship. I would like also to make a brief reference to the statement made by the Director-General as it bears on some of the points covered by Items 4 and 5.

I would like to thank the Director-General for his very concise and yet very informative statement. We are happy to see that revitalization of our Organization is proceeding as expected along the lines approved by the Council last June. We would like in particular to praise his practice of continuing consultations with member countries regarding the most important aspects of the work of the Organization as reflected, for instance, in the recent consultations on the short, medium and long-term plans, and also the request for the opinions of member countries regarding the setting up of the agenda with the five main committees of FAO dealing with substantive matters.

Finally, still in that context, I would like to single out the reference that the Director-General has made to technical cooperation among developing countries, to indicate that Brazil also is preparing to sign the agreement on TCDC proposed by FAO, as have other 26 other Member Nations.

So in turning now specifically to Items 4 and 5, I would like first of all to congratulate the Secretariat on this report. We appreciate its multi-disciplinary nature and the attempt to encompass all pertinent and relevant aspects of the problem of food and agriculture. Food security being a top priority for the Brazilian Government, we of course are gravely concerned with the situations under the category of food shortages and emergencies such as appear in the document and are listed on page 6. We are particularly concerned with the situation of some of the countries mentioned, like African countries, for instance, Angola, Mozambique, Rwanda, and we have heard in this general debate the comments of the distinguished representative of Cape Verde on this situation of his country. We on the Brazilian side support the effort being made in the field of TCDC, of technical cooperation among developing countries - we on our side, within the limits of our capability, of course, would be quite prepared to consider the possible TCDC projects with FAO in these and other countries.

One particular remark I would like to make refers to the footnote on page 33 on the ongoing controversy on the so-called low-wage countries. We find the content of that footnote on page 33 to be quite appropriate and quite in line with what is seen by us as sound reasoning in this matter.

Another point we would like to single out is the reference on page 47, paragraph 80, to the question of carbon free energy, as it were. We have special interest in the development of this type of energy, and we are concentrating on byproducts of sugar cane and palm and other plants producing vegetable oils. This type of bio-energy may allow for the development of small-scale projects which would greatly contribute towards energy self-sufficiency in rural areas.

From paragraph 83 on there are very interesting observations on the result of the Uruguay Round. We are in the process of ascertaining, with GATT and FAO cooperation, what modalities and levels of acceptable support are more appropriate, both for the production and export of agricultural commodities and also what measures can be taken for the defence of our domestic market against dumping or unduly subsidized exports and the like.

Still in the context of the results of the Uruguay Round, we would like to make a particular reference to the sanitary and phytosanitary agreement. We note that the agreement defines the standards, norms and recommendations of the Codex Alimentarius as the standards to be followed, applied in international trade in food products from now on. We are in close touch with FAO to develop a project. In fact, we have already gone through the early stages, and we are undergoing now the preparatory phase to adopt our legislation and to reinforce our institutions in order that they may be capable of applying these commitments we have entered into when we signed the sanitary and phytosanitary agreement.

On the question of regional trading blocs, I would like to refer to the tables which appear on page 110 and 111, which I find very useful, particularly for those not familiar with the situation within each of these regional trading areas. Except as regards MERCOSUR, the integrating scheme involving Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay and Uruguay, we feel that some updating is required. In fact, the integration process is on course and on schedule, the four member countries having met their commitments. As of 1 January 1995, a common external tariff will be in place.

Finally, special reference should be made by us to the case study on Brazil which appears in paragraphs 368 to 440. We find it very interesting, and although we would not wish to discuss the study in detail or try to evaluate the accuracy of each statement therein, we consider that by and large it shows good understanding of the problems and a comprehensive and, I may say, a fair assessment of the situation. One other thing I would like to remark on is that the study fails to factor in the recent success of the new economic adjustment plan which has brought inflation under control. But this is understandable because it is a very recent event, and the study was, I am sure, prepared before these events took place. What is more important, we believe, is that it recognizes that certain measures taken by the Brazilian Government to redress the situation are in the right direction and are conducive to improvements in the overall situation. Of course, as far as agriculture is concerned, as we have stated on other occasions, it is not just a matter of the level of production. In Brazil this year, the harvest of grain and equivalents will reach 75 million tonnes which again sets a production record for the country. But there are other things which are equally important as the volume of production, and that is the question of access to food. We had the opportunity at the meeting of the Committee on Food Security last March to go in somewhat greater depth into this problem and to refer to the importance of action to generate employment and income which would allow the poorer strata of the population to have access to



food as active participants in this market on the demand side. By and large, these views, which were of course the views of many other countries, too, taking part at that session of the Committee on Food Security last March, are reflected in that report, and we are quite prepared to lend our support to the adoption of that report by the Council.

**Fernando GERBASI (Venezuela):** Queremos sumarnos al reconocimiento que otras delegaciones han expresado a la Secretaría, por el esfuerzo realizado en la elaboración del documento CL 107/2 intitulado "EL Estado Mundial de la Agricultura y la Alimentación". Hemos leído con especial atención el contenido, particularmente de las partes I y II: "Situación agrícola actual; repercusiones de los resultados de la Ronda Uruguay, acuerdos comerciales y, en especial, aquéllos sobre la situación de América Latina y el Caribe.

Este informe señala que el índice de la producción agrícola de América Latina, considerada en conjunto, mostró en 1993 una reducción de casi un 1 por ciento con respecto al año anterior. La producción agrícola regional solamente subió un promedio del 1,2 por ciento anual en el lapso de 1990-93, lo que significa la mitad de la ya deprimida tasa media de crecimiento del decenio anterior. Igualmente el sector de las exportaciones agrícolas de la región mostró una tendencia similar.

No obstante este panorama negativo se espera, como señala el informe, que en los próximos años mejore algo el marco de las políticas internacionales que rodean el comercio agrícola, en particular como resultado de las conclusiones de la Ronda Uruguay. El reciente fortalecimiento de los precios agrícolas de algunos de los principales productos de exportación de la región, es, sin lugar a dudas, un signo alentador. Sin embargo, señor Presidente, los precios del café, el azúcar, el trigo y la soja, se han mantenido muy por debajo de la media de los años setenta y la mayor parte de los ochenta. Asimismo, a pesar del compromiso de muchos países de reducir los niveles de subsidio a la agricultura y mejorar el acceso a los mercados, la región tendrá que seguir haciendo frente a una fuerte competencia en las exportaciones de sus productos básicos, así como al riesgo de nuevas formas de proteccionismo, como las medidas sanitarias y fitosanitarias, y aquellas que, al amparo del medio ambiente, surgen de manera indiscriminada y, en muchos casos, como una razón de ser dudosa.

Mi país apoya las actividades que adelanta el Director General de la FAO para ejecutar el proceso de reestructuración de la Organización, conforme a lo aprobado durante el 106° período de sesiones de este Consejo.

Apoyamos también la creación de oficinas subregionales y queremos reiterar la necesidad de crear una oficina subregional para Centroamérica.

En la actual coyuntura, la región de América Latina y el Caribe necesita atención especial por parte de la FAO, en lo que a cooperación y asesoramiento técnico se refiere.

Me complace, señor Presidente, anunciar que, al igual que otros países, firmaremos en los próximos días el acuerdo sobre utilización de expertos para la cooperación técnica entre países en desarrollo, tal como fuera propuesto por el Director General de la FAO.

Quiero referirme, aunque sea brevemente señor Presidente, a la política interna de mi país. En los actuales momentos el Gobierno de Venezuela elabora la ley orgánica de desarrollo agropecuario y seguridad alimentaria, que será sometida a la consideración del Congreso para su aprobación. Mediante esta ley se pretende establecer convenientes equilibrios que impliquen altos índices de producción interna, para lo cual el flujo de innovaciones tecnológicas es de vital importancia para modificar los sistemas de producción e introducir reorientaciones en la organización productiva, y potenciar la cultura asociativa de los productores para acometer procesos de integración agroindustrial.

Por otra parte, adelantamos acciones para sanear financieramente a los agricultores y garantizarles el capital de trabajo necesario para la actividad agrícola, e imponer medidas que mejoren la relación de precios de los productos, mediante su racionalización a lo largo de la cadena alimentaria.

Se intensificarán los programas de los ministerios de Fomento (léase Desarrollo Económico) y de Agricultura que promuevan medios alternativos de comercialización tales como: puntos de abastecimientos solidarios,

ferias de consumo, mercados itinerantes y otras modalidades, que mejoran los precios al productor, a la vez que abaratan el costo de la vida del consumidor. Estos ministerios promoverán también la concertación entre productores agropecuarios, industriales y aquellos que se ocupan de la comercialización, a fin de establecer esquemas lógicos de formación de precios a lo largo de las principales cadenas agroalimentarias. Todo ello forma parte fundamental del programa de estabilización y recuperación económica recientemente aprobado y puesto en ejecución por el gobierno venezolano.

Estamos convencidos que la FAO puede y debe desempeñar un papel fundamental al apoyar y colaborar con los proyectos que el gobierno venezolano diseña, destinados a la optimización del sector agropecuario, mediante estrategias productivas que nos permitirán satisfacer la seguridad alimentaria y alcanzar una agricultura sustentable.

Precisamente, es el objetivo del Gobierno del Presidente Caldera centrar en alcanzar una política agrícola integral, que permita una seguridad alimentaria dentro de un marco de seguridad social. Para ello, el Estado se empeñará en proveer al campesinado de recursos crediticios, de tierras, infraestructura, capacitación, extensión y desarrollo social sostenido, y así obtener una mayor productividad agrícola y, en consecuencia, mejores condiciones de vida, distribución equitativa y disminución del éxodo del campo hacia las zonas urbanas que tanto daño nos hace. En otras palabras, se pretende convertir la agricultura en una actividad económica rentable. Por supuesto, señor Presidente, esta política agrícola integral contempla la necesidad de preservar los recursos naturales y el medio ambiente, partiendo del análisis de nuestras fortalezas y debilidades en cuanto al suelo, vegetación y recursos hidráulicos, y desempeñando un papel fundamental: la investigación, en especial la biotecnológica.

Venezuela, en fin, trabaja para rescatar el interés hacia el campo y atraer una inmigración selectiva que coadyuve a la reactivación del sector, el buen funcionamiento, la eficiencia, la competitividad y permita enfrentar con éxito el desafío del autoabastecimiento agroalimentario.

Uno de los obstáculos con que frecuentemente tropiezan los países en desarrollo, como es el caso de Venezuela, es el de las restricciones externas derivadas de una elevada concentración de la comercialización de los productos agrícolas, la tendencia depresiva a lo largo de los decenios de los precios reales, la intensificación de los procesos de regionalización y, particularmente, señor Presidente, el elevado proteccionismo en el sector agrícola. En tal sentido, deseo mencionar algunas cifras alarmantes contenidas en el informe sobre el desarrollo humano, correspondientes al año 1994, publicado por el PNUD, que confirman, sin lugar a dudas, lo anacrónico y costoso de las políticas proteccionistas fundamentadas en los subsidios para los agricultores. Es así que en 1991 el total de los subsidios agropecuarios, otorgados por los países miembros de la OCDE, ascendió a 180 000 millones de dólares y a la sola Unión Europea, la PAC, le cuesta 38 000 millones de dólares anuales, dedicando de ellos 2 600 solamente para almacenar excedentes de producción. A nadie escapa que esta política no sólo distorsiona los precios, sino que afecta tanto al sistema financiero como a las propias estructuras impositivas, pero lo más grave es su incidencia negativa directa e indirecta sobre los agricultores de los países en desarrollo.

Es paradójico constatar, señor Presidente, que mientras se nos exige el ajuste en nuestras economías con un elevado costo social y serios procesos de inestabilidad política, así como una apertura total al comercio internacional, los países industrializados incrementan indiscriminadamente su política proteccionista, particularmente en lo que se refiere al comercio de los productos agrícolas y alimentarios.

**Marcello GORGONI (Italy):** The Italian delegation congratulates the Director-General and the Secretariat on submitting to this Council such rich documentation in general and on these two specific items in particular. With regard to Item 4, we congratulate them on the improved quality of the document on the State of Food and Agriculture, on the richness of information and the depth of analysis it provides. As for Item 5, while recording that Italy approved the Report of the Nineteenth Session of the Committee on World Food Security, we should like to make a few comments on the Special Programme on Food Production in Support of Food Security in Low-Income Food-Deficit Countries.

At the 106th Session of this Council, my delegation was pleased to welcome the new focus on food production in support of food security in low-income food-deficit countries in particular and the new approach

to food security in general. We see now that steps are being taken to move ahead both conceptually and operationally in the direction indicated in May.

We understand that it is not an easy task preparing an appropriate conceptual framework for the special programme in terms of properly defining its objectives and designing an adequate strategy. We also agree that, although in principle all the 78 countries classified as low-income food-deficit countries (LIFDCs) should be eligible to participate, financial and operational constraints make it essential to focus at the beginning on a more limited number of countries. We still share the view adopted by the Council in June that the programme should assist these countries in attaining a higher degree of food self-reliance by developing local food production through pilot projects in a limited number of areas.

Too many countries are faced with food insecurity and a large number of acute, localized food problems, due to both natural and manmade disasters, still exist in several parts of the world, but particularly in sub-Saharan Africa. In many cases, food insecurity as a national problem in terms of an uncoverable trade balance is actually, or should be, at the top of the political agenda. This should not, however, divert our attention from the basic fact that people may be insecure in terms of their ability to have access to food even if their country is a net food exporter. There are clearly two different dimensions in food security, both fully deserving our attention.

One dimension of the food problem deserving attention by the international community is clearly at the national level. At this level the programme convincingly aims at improving the position of individual countries by increasing domestic production and thereby aggregating food availability. We share the concern at the persisting or even increasing difficulties of many low-income food-deficit countries in getting enough food through commercial imports or food-aid programmes. For some countries at least these difficulties might become even more acute as a consequence of the expected increase in international prices to be brought about by the process of liberalization of world agriculture initiated by the conclusion of the Uruguay Round of Multilateral Trade Negotiations. In a world expected to become increasingly open to international competition in all sectors of economic activity, including for the first time agriculture and the food sector, food self-sufficiency is not expected to be a relevant goal *per se* any longer, if ever it was. Given the difficulties faced by many food importing countries in improving their balance of payments, however, efficiently expanding domestic food supply is certainly a most relevant goal.

Another, no less important dimension of the food-security problem is, however, as we all know, at the household level. An improved food availability at the country level does not necessarily imply an improvement in food security for the household as food may be out of reach for the vulnerable people or groups even in the most affluent country. We consider that this is the true core of the food-security problem. We therefore insist on stressing the need to pay all necessary attention to that complex set of factors and conditions that may impede adequate access to food for the needy, even if food is abundant in the aggregate. Most of those factors are of a socio-economic rather than natural character and should be addressed accordingly.

It is good to foster food production in those areas where potentials are highest, but all attention should be paid to avoiding the risk that, by so doing, we neglect the weak and the poor. If our concern is the needy household, we should carefully consider delivering our assistance not only to the high potential areas and producers but also to the low potential, less favoured, more neglected, areas and producers. The crucial point is to do it by efficiently expanding food production in an increasingly competitive market environment rather than by distributing unproductive and financially hardly viable subsidies.

The technical dimension in food production is no doubt important. Yet the complex socio-economic process of decentralized decision-making at the farm level is of the utmost importance when the adoption of new or improved technologies is at stake. This consideration becomes the more relevant in those cases where a transition is under way from central planning towards a decentralized, market-oriented working of the economy based on private entrepreneurship. We all observe how delicate this process of transition tends to be and how difficult it is to expand private, market-oriented entrepreneurship when history has for too long impeded its naturally slow growth. As far as food production is concerned, we all know the importance of small-scale family farming. But we also know how tremendous the set of difficulties is in modernizing small-scale farm production at the village level, where the peasant is to take his autonomous decisions as to what

and how to produce for his own family but increasingly also for the market without adequate familiarity with the market and the new technology.

If more food security is to be achieved for the country and for the household, the development of small-scale family farming must be a central component of the strategy. We understand that this is perfectly in line with the position taken by the Council in approving the special programme in June, but we feel it necessary to stress its importance once more. Within the programme there is room for much work in this direction and we consider that many projects, possibly not food security orientated at their beginning, could soundly be re-oriented in that direction.

We would like to conclude on this point by mentioning a couple of projects within our cooperative programme with FAO which we consider to be good examples of the re-orientation effort to be made towards food security. The first one is a second phase of a project initially strictly focused on fertilizers in centrally planned Ethiopia which deals now with participatory planning, field demonstrations and sustainable food production intensification to enhance food security in that same country as it moves towards the internationally open market economy. The second, as a new regional project for Latin America and the Caribbean, aims at improving services and infrastructures for small farmers and their organizations in countries and areas where they are increasingly exposed to the competitive forces of the markets. In both cases we are aware of the difficulties to be faced, but we believe that this is a promising path.

Last, but not least, we would like to stress the importance which Italy attaches to a strengthened collaboration between FAO and other multilateral agencies and programmes dealing with the subject of food security.

**Noah M. NKAMBULE (Swaziland):** The statement by the Director-General demonstrated in no uncertain terms the importance of the topic under discussion, namely the state of food and agriculture. My delegation wishes to concur with the Director-General's assessment.

I wish also to thank Mr Hjort for the clear introduction he gave to this topic, which also included an introduction to document CL 107/10, the Report of the 19th Session of the Committee on World Food Security.

I want to confine my comments to a few issues cited in the documents that have been placed before us. My delegation welcomes most profoundly the Secretariat's assessment of the HIV/AIDS epidemic as it affects general economic development and agricultural development in particular. We agree with the observation in paragraph 13 that this epidemic can no longer be treated as a health problem only, but one that affects all sectors of the economy. The sexually active population in most of our societies also constitutes the active and productive labour force. This is even more pronounced in developing countries, where agricultural productivity is dependent on a high human labour input. The high incidence of this disease among the agricultural population will therefore adversely affect agricultural productivity, thereby leading to widespread hunger, malnutrition and poverty. My delegation therefore supports the recommended interventions contained in paragraphs 51 to 54 of document CL 107/2. In particular, we support the need for agricultural policy-makers to be involved in devising policies and strategies which will increase dissemination of knowledge and information on the disease.

The recently concluded GATT negotiations which are expected to lead to the establishment of the World Trade Organization are very welcome indeed. These developments are likely to usher in new trading arrangements with less restrictions on movement of agricultural commodities between and amongst our borders. In the short and medium term, however, a significant number of developing countries may face some problems in that their agricultural commodities which previously enjoyed preferential treatment in certain markets may no longer enjoy that privilege. FAO therefore should be requested to continue to assist developing countries in assessing likely impacts of these new trade developments.

My delegation has read with considerable interest Part II of document CL 107/2, particularly the chapters relating to regional review of sub-Saharan Africa. The analysis of the case of Ghana starting in paragraph 215 is very interesting indeed. The conclusion reached in paragraph 261 is, however, disheartening - namely that it would take the average Ghanian 50 years from now to rise above the poverty line even if the past decade's higher economic growth rates would be maintained. This point demonstrates the fact that bold economic

structural adjustment programmes do not necessarily assure prosperity to the bulk of the rural poor. The agricultural policy reforms that Ghana has successfully implemented are, however, an inspiration to some of our countries. In my country, for instance, the Government is presently reviewing a number of agricultural development policies which we believe have been instrumental in stagnating agricultural and livestock production. Grain milling and marketing, which previously was undertaken by a monopoly, is now being decentralized and liberalized. The high guaranteed minimum price of grain is now being actively reviewed. The pursuit of the self-sufficiency goal as an end in itself is being discussed in conjunction with the concept of physical and economic food security. In the livestock sector we are presently trying to introduce a cost-recovery policy on dipping chemicals as opposed to the previous policy where the Government was paying for everything. All in all, the Government now strongly believes that for both crops and livestock a policy of diversification and intensification has to be adopted.

Before I conclude, I want to refer to the intensive use of water in agriculture. The recurring drought in Swaziland has now convinced my Government of the need to develop a comprehensive programme for water resource development. This will involve harnessing both surface and underground water resources as well as rain water. For us to achieve this, we will need both technical and financial resources. FAO will, therefore, be requested to assist us in mobilizing these resources.

Lastly, my delegation wishes to endorse the Report of the 19th Session of the Committee on World Food Security.

**Señora Evangelina BELTRAN PIMIENTA (México):** Agradecemos a la Secretaría, señor Presidente, la elaboración y presentación del documento CL 107/2 que reseña de manera exhaustiva los principales indicadores del desarrollo agropecuario mundial, profundizando su análisis en un país por cada región. Particularmente acertado nos parece la inclusión del rubro denominado "cuestiones escogidas", pues indudablemente es en el marco de esos temas, del nuevo entorno económico y particulares condiciones sociales, que el sector agropecuario ha experimentado los cambios sustanciales que describe ese documento.

El resumen de la situación agrícola en América Latina y el Caribe destaca la identificación de las políticas sectoriales y los acuerdos comerciales en el sector agropecuario, rubros en los que México ha trabajado intensamente para enfrentar los retos de un mundo cambiante y dinámico.

Con relación al Suplemento número 1, del documento en análisis, nos llaman especialmente la atención los párrafos 6 de la página 3, y 3 de la página 9, que a todas luces son contradictorios e incongruentes con la realidad, en este caso de México. Por un lado se señala que este país ha tenido malos resultados en su producción agropecuaria durante 1992, y por el otro se afirma que sus exportaciones alcanzaron un volumen sin precedentes.

El crecimiento agrícola de México, y en general su crecimiento económico, es superior a su crecimiento demográfico, como se desprende de los informes proporcionados a esta Organización, en los cuales se señalan entre otras cosas, la autosuficiencia de nuestro país en los renglones productivos de maíz y frijol.

Por lo que respecta a su comercio internacional es evidente el ascenso significativo que ha tenido. En ese sentido nos gustaría que los documentos evitaran en su contenido concepciones rígidas que ocasionan interpretaciones equívocas.

Este Consejo es una oportunidad que nos permite hacer a ustedes una serie de reflexiones y comentarios sobre los esfuerzos que realizó el gobierno de mi país que concluye su período constitucional el último día del presente mes al sentar las bases para la transformación del México rural y acceder a una agricultura modernizada en proceso de integración al resto de la economía y dentro de un marco internacional normado por reglas claras que nos permitirán preservar recursos para el futuro.

Dentro de ese contexto de cambio de la realidad social en el campo mexicano, nuestro país realizó grandes esfuerzos para aumentar la producción y productividad en el campo a través de la instrumentación de las siguientes medidas: garantizar la certidumbre de la tenencia de la tierra; propiciar la inversión con asignación eficiente de recursos; retirar al Estado de las actividades de procesamiento y comercialización para que el excedente económico que en ellas se genera sea manejado por los productores; reestructurar el financiamiento

para que llegue a los productores según sus posibilidades productivas; articular la generación y aplicación de tecnología; apoyar a la agroindustria; reactivar la construcción y rehabilitación de infraestructura; fomentar y consolidar diferentes formas asociativas y liberalizar el sector externo para permitir equiparar precios internos con precios internacionales, abaratar los costos de producción y competir con eficacia.

Lo anterior tuvo una concreta expresión en el surgimiento de las reformas al artículo 27 constitucional, que consagran para el campo los principios de libertad, seguridad, igualdad, propiedad y legalidad. Se abrió la economía para buscar eficiencia y se puso en marcha un sistema de impulso al agro, que parte desde un modelo de conservación productiva hasta apoyos directos a los productores, denominado PROCAMPO que, por un lado, redistribuyen el ingreso y por el otro premian la productividad y dan soporte a los procesos de cambio de actividades menos rentables a otros de mayor ingreso. Todo ello forma parte de la reforma integral del campo que como Nación nos propusimos para producir mejor y cuidar los recursos naturales.

Para alcanzar los objetivos que nos planteamos, otorgamos especial importancia a la política de comercio exterior agropecuario. Por ello nos estamos insertando al mercado internacional, pretendiendo un acceso más libre de nuestros productos, deseando que la inversión externa también llegue al campo y esperando que los subsidios que otros países otorgan a su agricultura, sean racionalizados y reducidos en el plano multilateral, dadas las distorsiones que provocan en el comercio internacional de productos agrícolas.

En ese contexto, la ampliación de mercados es vital para alcanzar estos objetivos. El Gobierno de México ha iniciado diferentes negociaciones para lograr acuerdos de libre comercio que nos ofrezcan esa posibilidad, y mantiene su compromiso firme con el sistema multilateral de comercio.

De este modo, se negoció y firmó con Canadá y los Estados Unidos, un tratado de Libre Comercio que representa un hito histórico para los tres países pues crea el mercado más grande del mundo, con 380 millones de consumidores.

Los tres países reconocimos las diferencias que existen entre nuestros sectores agropecuarios y dialogamos para que el tratado sea un medio para resolver los problemas que enfrentamos.

Por otra parte, y convencidos del potencial de la integración con América Latina, se firmaron también acuerdos de libre comercio con Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica y Venezuela y se están negociando otros con países centroamericanos con quienes de cualquier forma, mantenemos un amplio proceso de cooperación económica. Ahora bien, ninguno de estos esfuerzos invalida nuestra intención de que el comercio internacional fluya globalmente. No creemos que los bloques deban operar como fortalezas impenetrables, sustituyendo al proteccionismo nacional por otro regional. Más bien, los consideramos como una oportunidad para lograr economías a escala que permitan competir en el mercado mundial. Por esta razón, intensificamos nuestros vínculos con la Comunidad Europea y con la Conferencia de Cooperación Económica de la Cuenca del Pacífico.

Si bien la eliminación de las barreras al comercio ayudará a reactivar las agriculturas nacionales, las posibilidades de prevalecer en un mercado altamente competitivo, estarán determinadas por la productividad, y ésta a su vez, por la capacidad tecnológica. Para crear o ampliar esta capacidad, existen dos tareas fundamentales: la educación superior y el esfuerzo conjunto de gobierno y sociedad en los trabajos de investigación.

Estamos convencidos de que la agricultura sólo podrá trascender en el mundo moderno si logra rebasar el carácter de sector primario para integrarse firmemente al resto de la economía.

Esto es especialmente válido al reconocer que los productos básicos están en desventaja con respecto a los productos agroalimentarios de mayor valor agregado. Una tarea importante en el futuro inmediato será estimular entre los propios productores la creación de alternativas agroindustriales.

La agricultura moderna, sobre todo si la consideramos bajo la óptica del largo plazo, requiere preservar los recursos naturales con que contamos, si queremos asegurar el desarrollo de mañana.

Para ello necesitamos sistemas productivos adecuados, los cuales tienen un costo, que desafortunadamente, no siempre se pueden cubrir con los escasos recursos de que disponemos. El carácter global de los beneficios que

se derivan de la conservación del medio ambiente demanda también un esquema global para asumir los costos que dicha conservación implica.

La globalización, como fenómeno de fin de siglo, supone que las posiciones autárquicas y aislacionistas no prosperarán; pero en un mundo tan interdependiente es necesario definir una nueva actitud de las relaciones entre países. La indiferencia frente a los problemas que aquejen a un estado no valdrá, porque tarde o temprano, el malestar de una parte de la comunidad internacional repercutirá en el resto.

La cooperación internacional deberá definirse en otros términos, en términos de solidaridad e incondicionalidad. En efecto, la persistencia de viejos problemas como la pobreza, la ignorancia o la guerra, y el agravamiento de otros como el deterioro del medio ambiente, el narcotráfico o la migración masiva, requerirán que entendamos que todos ellos forman parte de la agenda pendiente del desarrollo y su solución requerirá la participación de todos.

En un nuevo esquema de cooperación, el rol de los organismos internacionales también debe cambiar. Es claro que los diferentes foros multilaterales se han visto mermados en su credibilidad. Foros donde se concertaban la comercialización de productos básicos están en revisión porque ya no parecen ser tan útiles los acuerdos que regulan estos mercados.

La cooperación técnica internacional también enfrenta una crisis de credibilidad y por eso los organismos internacionales que se dedican a ella deben mejorar la efectividad de su aporte a las soluciones que demandan hoy los países. Esto exige reducir burocracias y estrechar lazos de coordinación entre ellos. Igualmente, deberán vincularse los organismos internacionales de carácter financiero o comercial, porque todos tienen la tarea común de servir a los países que los constituimos.

Esto quiere decir que los países debemos dar nuevas orientaciones a los organismos que hemos creado para ayudarnos. En el caso concreto de la agricultura, se hace necesario una mayor participación de organismos de cooperación en los problemas de generación y transferencia de tecnología en la agroindustrialización, en el financiamiento y en el apoyo a la comercialización de productos agropecuarios, sin olvidar los temas aún no resueltos de la pobreza, la desnutrición y el atraso rural.

**Mme Régine DE CLERCQ (Belgique):** Monsieur le Président, la Belgique a entendu votre appel hier pour que les délégations soient brèves dans leurs interventions, je me limiterai donc à une intervention style télégraphique.

J'ai deux types de remarques à faire:

de forme

de fond.

En ce qui concerne la forme: la Belgique s'associe pleinement aux délégations qui ont loué l'excellence de l'analyse des documents qui nous sont soumis, nous croyons toutefois qu'à l'avenir il serait bon de nous les fournir un peu plus à l'avance pour que l'on puisse leur donner toute la considération qu'ils méritent. Il serait bon d'accompagner ces analyses d'une synthèse, tirant des conclusions relatives à la situation de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture dans le monde.

En ce qui concerne le fond: la Belgique souscrit à un nombre de commentaires qui ont été faits par différentes délégations, en ce qui concerne la situation alimentaire des pays en développement, notamment les remarques faites par le Bangladesh, le Burkina Faso, le Brésil, la France et beaucoup d'autres. Nous avons également relevé dans les documents qui nous sont soumis, non sans préoccupation, que la part des produits non concurrents dans les exportations de l'Afrique reste très importante, cela indique une mono-dépendance quasi stagnante, malgré les efforts de diversification poursuivis depuis plusieurs années et soutenus également par mon pays et l'Union européenne. Cette question est mise en exergue, entre autres, dans l'encadré 2 aux pages 34 et 35 du document. Sans doute, cette évolution - ou faut-il dire ce manque d'évolution, mérite réflexion, d'autant plus que la biotechnologie permet davantage à l'avenir la culture de produits tels que le cacao, le café, etc. dans des zones géographiques où ils n'ont pas été cultivés dans le passé.

Une réorientation de la production interne qui est plus directement liée à la sécurité alimentaire semble à la veille de la mise en oeuvre des accords de Marrakech, plus appropriée que jamais, cette réorientation devrait sans doute se conjuguer avec une intensification du commerce régional et entre pays en développement.

A cet égard, en réponse aussi à une des questions posées en bas de la page 35, mon pays hésiterait beaucoup à recommander une formule de développement qui consisterait à abandonner l'agriculture en faveur de l'industrialisation.

Enfin, nous avons noté comme d'autres les préoccupations exprimées au sujet des effets de l'Uruguay Round sur les pays en voie de développement: je crois qu'il est insuffisant de dire que ces effets dépendront de la structure de leur commerce agricole et de la manière dont ils tireront parti des nouveaux débouchés, ce qui est vrai certes, mais il est davantage vrai que ces effets dépendront de la politique de développement poursuivie par ces pays: ils ne pourront guère bénéficier de la libéralisation des marchés s'ils ne poursuivent pas une politique qui leur permet de l'exploiter, c'est-à-dire par l'amélioration de leurs infrastructures, prospection de marchés etc. Les effets sur les importations pourront être modérés, voire minimisés s'ils poursuivent des politiques de substitution des importations et de promotion des échanges régionaux.

Enfin j'ai le plaisir aussi d'annoncer que mon pays va accroître substantiellement son soutien financier à la FAO dans le proche avenir pour pouvoir permettre l'exécution de projets contribuant à la sécurité alimentaire, notamment des couches de population les plus pauvres dans les pays les plus pauvres du continent le plus pauvre qui est l'Afrique.

En ce qui concerne le point 5 sur lequel des commentaires ont été faits par le Représentant de l'Union européenne, je ne voudrais ajouter qu'une seule phrase c'est que ce thème de la sécurité alimentaire reste au centre des préoccupations de mes autorités politiques responsables qui ont ou qui viennent, à l'occasion de la journée internationale de l'alimentation, de rendre publique une étude circonstancielle à ce sujet. Nous nous ferons un honneur de partager avec les autres Etats Membres, le moment opportun, les conclusions et les constats de cette étude.

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Muchas gracias, distinguida delegada de Bélgica. Quiero expresarle mi agradecimiento por dos razones: la primera, por la brevedad. Aprovecho para reiterarles a todos ustedes que efectivamente todavía hay una lista grande de delegaciones que van a hacer uso de la palabra. Yo habría querido que termináramos estos temas en esta mañana, pero es posible que no tengamos tiempo para ello. Solicito, por tanto, a las delegaciones que van a hacer uso de la palabra que recorten, en la medida de lo posible, sus intervenciones. Y la segunda, por el anuncio de que su Gobierno hará contribuciones adicionales de carácter financiero a la Organización para la realización de proyectos específicos en materia de seguridad alimentaria y de desarrollo agrícola.

La distinguida delegación de Uganda se encuentra de nuevo en la sala y, por tanto, me voy a permitir otorgarle la palabra.

**Mrs Victoria SEKTTOLEKO (Uganda):** Although in the document before you Uganda is classified as being among the food-deficit low-income countries in the region, I am very glad to report that the country is actually self-sufficient in food supplies at national level. It realizes surpluses or export. There are localized pockets of food shortages in some areas. Although the country is food self-sufficient, many Ugandans are actually food insecure. This is largely due to periodic droughts in some parts of the country, poor conservation, lack of purchasing power and an inadequate understanding of nutritional issues, particularly on the part of rural masses.

Mr Chairman, permit me to focus a little more on food surpluses for export. As I mentioned earlier, Uganda achieves food surpluses which it generally exports within regional markets. Quite often, however, those regional markets do not readily absorb all the exportable surpluses at the right time. The key words here are "the right time". The result is that the country not only loses important foreign earnings but the food is also lost to pests and diseases given the generally poor state of storage facilities at farms and other levels. Then, of course, farmers become discouraged.



In this connection, we would like to request FAO and all donor countries to assist Uganda to sustain its food production levels through irrigation and investment in post-harvest infrastructure and markets.

The following policies have endeavoured to increase the responsiveness and flexibility of both production and marketing systems to greater efficiency, namely liberalisation of trade and commerce, regional cooperation, gender perspectives and civil service reform. Liberalisation has freed prices and divested government interest. Unfortunately, this had led to negative effects in some quarters. As a result of these measures, our local currency has gained so much strength that international organisations such as the World Food Programme and the EEC, which used to purchase food locally to feed some of our neighbouring countries, are now buying from cheaper markets elsewhere, leading to some of the surplus foods being left unbought.

What the few African countries with food surpluses need now is affirmative action. Therefore, in pursuance of the conclusion of the Uruguay Round negotiations we urge food donors to buy from Africa, to feed Africa and to develop Africa.

Our delegation strongly supports the Director-General's initiative and policies which he announced as the green revolution for sub-Saharan Africa, to emancipate the region from famine, hunger and malnutrition. We are happy with the donor support so far. However, talking as Africans, we would like to emphasise that the success of the Director-General's plans will definitely hinge, among other things, on the cooperation of the countries affected. Some of these countries do not actually have physical constraints limiting agricultural production; there are some political and social hindrances. Bad governance begets food insecurity.

The fishing industry of Uganda is one of our productive sectors which is growing rapidly and which has the potential for greater production in the future. However, it is being killed by the water hyacinth, but we, the farmers, are at the same time concentrating on aquaculture.

As far as concerns the environment, we are concentrating on developing programmes and regenerative farming systems aimed at enhancing sustainable agriculture. We put a lot of emphasis on proper animal husbandry.

In conclusion, despite the devastating effects of AIDS on our population, Uganda intends to continue with our policy of openness.

Turning to the question of women, as can be seen from my delegation affirmative action in favour of women in Uganda is no longer an issue. We are in charge!

Uganda is ready to move with the rest of the world but for now our surpluses remain to be bought.

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Agradezco mucho las palabras de la distinguida Ministro Sekitoleko, de Uganda. A mí también me complace volver a verla después de la Conferencia Regional de Africa y de los debates tan vitales que sostuvimos allí. Muchas gracias por su declaración. Este Consejo ha tomado nota de todo lo que usted ha dicho. Tiene la palabra la distinguida delegación de la India.

**Atul SINHA (India):** India appreciates the excellent quality of the document on the State of Food and Agriculture 1994 and congratulates the Secretariat on its learned and in-depth analysis.

The drop in crops, livestock and food production in 1993 is a matter of deep concern especially since in many developing countries the level of food production has remained much below the growth of their population levels. A marked deceleration in agriculture has occurred in the Near East, North Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean. A grave food supply situation exists in most of the Sub-Saharan countries. All countries in transition in the USSR, except Poland, have also suffered a dramatic contraction in their per caput food production. The problem of lower food production levels is further compounded by the continuing down-trend of commitments of external assistance for agriculture and food.

India, whilst expressing its concern on this issue, urges greater commitment to external assistance to agriculture and food aid for countries undergoing serious food supply problems. In fact, India also has moved

from a situation of food deficits to self-sufficiency in food grains now, and in spite of a large and rising population it has been able to increase the per caput availability of food grains and has achieved an all-time high of food grain production of 180 million tonnes in 1992/1993. Our buffer stocks stand at about 27 million tonnes.

India believes that the TCDC Programme of FAO offers an excellent opportunity for us to share our experience and expertise for increasing agricultural production in developing countries. We are delighted to note the initiative taken by the Director-General in this regard. In fact, India is the first country to sign the TCDC agreement and we offer our vast expertise and training institutions for developing countries under this agreement for increasing the agricultural productivity. We would welcome proposals on this.

I would now like to make a few remarks in respect of Agenda Item 5 which relates to World Food Security and which is the centrepiece of the Director-General's initiatives. In respect of World Food Security, I would like to say that India has been actively pursuing a food policy, the main constituents of which are production, procurement, storage, movement, distribution, quality control and the maintenance of a buffer stock of food grains. It has been recognized that a positive price policy guaranteeing remunerative prices to the farmers can ensure sustained growth in domestic agriculture and food grain production. This, coupled with developments of high-yielding varieties of wheat and rice, along with a scientific package of agricultural practices, has led to a substantial increase in our food grain production starting from the mid-sixties. The food grain production in the agricultural year 1993-1994 is expected to be an all-time high of 182 million tonnes.

India has a commission on agricultural costs and prices which considers various factors, including cost of production, changes in import prices, trends in market prices, the demand and supply situation and so on, to calculate prices which could be recommended as support prices. The Government then announces support prices based on the recommendations before - and this is important - the commencement of the sowing season so that the farmers are able to adjust their production programmes and cropping patterns after taking into account the minimum price at which they will be able to sell their produce to the Government.

The support price mechanism is, therefore, an integral part of the food security system which aims to ensure a remunerative price for the farmer. We also organize procurement operations in order to purchase food grains from the farmers and to maintain a steady supply of food grains to meet the requirements of our public distribution system.

We fully agree with the views of Italy that food grain self-sufficiency in the aggregate is not enough and that food grains must be available to the vulnerable sections of the population at affordable prices. Our public distribution system makes available a large quantity of food grains to a significant proportion of the entire population, thereby achieving the objective of protecting the consumers and making available to them food grains of acceptable quality at affordable prices.

Whilst there has been a significant increase in food grain production in India, agriculture is still subject to nature's vagaries. In order to impart a measure of stability to food supplies and their prices the policy of buffer stocking of food grains has been followed over the last several years. Presently our food grain position is comfortable and the Government is maintaining buffer stocks which at present are well beyond the minimum limits prescribed.

India also has a national nutritional policy which was formulated in 1993. You will appreciate that the mere supply of food grains is not enough. The nutritional aspect has to be seen. Our nutrition policy states that nutrition is a multi-sectoral issue and needs to be backed through both direct nutrition intervention for especially vulnerable groups but also through development policy instruments which would create conditions for improved nutrition. Our goal should be to achieve household food security which would enable every household to have physical, social and economic access to nutritionally adequate and safe food to meet its needs. The nutrition policy also aims to achieve and attain a *per caput* availability of 215 kilogrammes per person, per year of food grains.

I will now touch upon the issue of the Uruguay Round and its impact on the food security policies of countries. The Uruguay Food Agreement which was authenticated at Marakesh in April 1994 would not interfere with India's ability to follow its own agricultural policies and programmes or its food security system. India's developmental needs are exempted from the purview of the agreement. These include a

subsidy for research, pest and disease control, marketing and promotion services, infrastructure services, and so on. For developing countries like India, there are some other agricultural subsidies which are not subject to any ceiling. These are investment subsidies generally available to agriculture and subsidies to agricultural inputs such as fertilizers, pesticides and seeds which are generally available to low-income and resource-poor farmers.

As regards the question of food security, it is to be noted that the operation of a public distribution system in India is not subsidies to the farmers or producers but is considered as consumer subsidies meant for the rural and urban poor to meet their food requirements. Such consumer subsidies are exempt from GATT discipline and are clearly stated in the agreements as such.

Further, India has stated in its schedule of commitments to GATT that concessional sales of food grains through the Public Distribution System and other schemes with the objective of meeting the basic food requirements, are a social security net and are in conformity with the provisions of the agreement. The schedule has been verified and accepted by our trading partners. Incidentally, this issue has also been discussed at the 22nd FAO Regional Conference for Asia and the Pacific held at Manila on 3-7 October 1994.

India supports the report of the Committee on World Food Security.

**Carlos A. BASCO (Argentina):** La delegación argentina expresa su satisfacción por el documento elaborado por la FAO, en el que se presenta un análisis completo, a nivel mundial y regional, sobre el estado de la agricultura y la alimentación.

En materia de conclusiones de la Ronda Uruguay, quisiéramos hacer algunas observaciones.

El informe señala, como principal consecuencia del acuerdo sobre la agricultura, que las políticas que distorsionan la producción o el comercio serán probablemente cada vez más insostenibles. Consideramos que es una apreciación demasiado optimista teniendo en cuenta los modestos objetivos del acuerdo agrícola.

En otra parte del documento se expresa que la liberalización parcial del comercio aumentará los precios mundiales, y ello tendrá consecuencias negativas en los países en desarrollo importadores netos de alimentos y en los países menos adelantados.

Consideramos que esta premisa no es absoluta porque debe entenderse que la variación de precios se relativiza con el bajo nivel de reducción de los subsidios a las exportaciones. Por otra parte, la reducción de subsidios también tenderá a reducir el nivel de fluctuación de los precios internacionales, lo cual fue siempre particularmente negativo para las economías de estos países, que se beneficiarán con el aumento de la actividad económica mundial resultante de los acuerdos del GATT.

El impacto en los países en desarrollo, las obligaciones menos rígidas, los altos niveles arancelarios y un mayor plazo para producir el ajuste, no deben forzar mayores cambios en los programas internos, tal como lo acaba de expresar el delegado de la India.

Por otra parte, el acuerdo agrícola no impide la operación de entidades comerciales del Estado, por lo que se corre el peligro, desde nuestro punto de vista, de incentivarse la creación de organismos con la intención de distinguir entre operaciones de exportación subsidiadas y no subsidiadas. Además, no existe ninguna expectativa de que se produzca un incremento significativo en el comercio de granos y aceites, como consecuencia directa de la arancelización comprensiva o por las disposiciones de acceso al mercado del acuerdo agrícola. Todo lo contrario. El acuerdo aparece como un marco que limita el potencial de expansión de acceso a mercados, salvo en el caso del arroz.

Por otro lado, la arancelización favorece un proceso de transparentización que se ve disminuido por los altísimos niveles arancelarios de muchos países. Cuando finalice el período de implementación, aún se mantendrán aranceles prohibitivos para la mayoría de los cereales y aceites. Las nuevas reglas del GATT no producen un impacto directo significativo sobre el nivel de la ayuda alimentaria donada. Algunas organizaciones internacionales especulan con que el aumento de precios internacionales podría disminuir el nivel de ayuda alimentaria. Esta proposición merece algunas observaciones.

Por un lado, los países donantes prometieron una cantidad mínima de ayuda alimentaria basada en lo acordado en la Convención de Ayuda Alimentaria.

Por otro lado, los cargamentos de ayuda alimentaria pueden aumentar como resultado de los acuerdos del GATT. Una razón posible para ello es que los gobiernos de los países exportadores, teniendo en cuenta los límites de volúmenes de exportación, pueden disponer de un excedente que destinen a ayuda alimentaria.

Un punto que el informe no toca, es el relativo a la utilización de créditos a la exportación, que perjudica a países exportadores que no tienen los recursos suficientes como para financiar sus exportaciones. En ese sentido, la mayoría de los países de la OCDE poseen líneas de créditos en condiciones muy favorables. Argentina está trabajando en un proyecto para regular la utilización de los créditos a las exportaciones que puedan ser utilizados para disfrazar subsidios.

En la página 117 del documento CL 107/2, tal como lo adelantó el delegado de Brasil, se indica que en el MERCOSUR no todos los miembros han cumplido el calendario de reducción arancelaria. Ello no es exacto porque el programa de desgravación arancelaria del período de transición 1991/94 era automático, aumentando la preferencia arancelaria cada seis meses y alcanzando actualmente el 89 por ciento. El primero de enero de 1995 entra en vigencia el arancel externo común, que cubre más del 85 por ciento del universo arancelario. El 15 por ciento restante tiene fijado un régimen automático y paulatino de convergencia al arancel externo común en los próximos seis años. Pero quiero destacar que el arancel externo común varía entre 0 y 20 por ciento como máximo y que las excepciones al mismo en general son por debajo del arancel externo común.

Con respecto al punto 365 de la página 118, en la versión en español, quiero recordar que las discrepancias macroeconómicas entre los países del MERCOSUR se están reduciendo rápidamente y ello facilitará el desarrollo de las siguientes etapas del proceso de integración.

En lo que se refiere a la agricultura, si bien existen diferencias en los niveles de intervención del Estado todas las medidas están en consonancia con el Acuerdo Agrícola firmado en la Ronda Uruguay del GATT.

Con respecto a la frase de que "La Argentina ha activado considerablemente su intervención normativa a favor de la agricultura en los últimos meses", la delegación de Argentina quiere expresar que la misma es incorrecta y que por el contrario, la Argentina continúa desregulando la economía y no está dispuesta a otorgar subsidios de ningún tipo a la producción agrícola.

**Gonzalo IBAÑEZ (Chile):** En primer lugar quisiera adherirme a las felicitaciones que a usted, señor Presidente, y a la Secretaría del Consejo se han formulado de forma unánime por los distinguidos representantes aquí presentes, por los documentos tan completos como ilustrativos. Asimismo, quiero felicitar al señor Hjort por la presentación clara y precisa que ha hecho sobre el tema.

Señor Presidente, los documentos entre su extensa y valiosa información, constatan que la agricultura de los países en desarrollo está experimentando grandes y veloces cambios, en respuesta a un conjunto de transformaciones que dicen relación con los procesos de globalización económica, los avances tecnológicos y los cambios en los hábitos de consumo, que a su vez se relacionan con los nuevos patrones demográficos y de ingreso de los países.

Durante el último decenio se han producido en el mundo grandes transformaciones geopolíticas y económicas, entre las cuales se cuentan: la nueva situación del Este europeo; la constitución de bloques comerciales de gran poder económico; la creciente importancia del Asia en el comercio mundial; las oscilaciones cíclicas de las economías industriales; un crecimiento del comercio muy por sobre la producción; y una activa búsqueda de la presencia en los mercados internacionales por parte de los países en desarrollo.

No obstante lo anterior, el desarrollo de las agriculturas de los países del hemisferio sur enfrenta un mercado mundial caracterizado por políticas que distorsionan severamente los precios relativos y actúan como mecanismos de transferencia hacia los productores de los países más desarrollados. La OCDE, como lo ha dicho el delegado de Venezuela, ha cuantificado el impacto de estas transferencias, estimando el costo total en

180.000 millones de dólares EE.UU. anuales, lo que equivale a un 45% del valor de la producción agrícola de estos países.

Estas políticas proteccionistas y de subsidio a la actividad agropecuaria han tenido dos efectos negativos en los países en desarrollo. En primer lugar han incidido en la baja de los precios internacionales, afectando gravemente los ingresos de los agricultores, especialmente al campesinado. Y por otra parte, al ser los mercados esencialmente de excedentes productivos, se producen amplias y frecuentes fluctuaciones en los precios internacionales, lo cual introduce una variable adicional de inestabilidad de nuestras agriculturas.

En el contexto señalado, cabe resaltar que la principal característica de las agriculturas de los países en desarrollo es su marcada heterogeneidad, lo cual tiene importantes efectos al momento de identificar líneas de acción orientadas a solucionar los problemas del sector y de la seguridad alimentaria de estos países.

La inseguridad alimentaria, exceptuando las situaciones derivadas de problemas climáticos y conflictos sociales, se debe en gran parte a la falta de estrategias y políticas que vayan en apoyo de la pequeña agricultura de los países en desarrollo, la cual constituye la principal fuente de abastecimiento interno de alimentos.

En este marco, no pocas veces los gobiernos optan por desproteger su agricultura productora de alimentos, optando por abrir sus fronteras a los alimentos subsidiados de bajo costo. De esta forma se cierra el círculo vicioso de pobreza rural, pobreza urbana e inseguridad alimentaria.

Por ello constituye un requisito fundamental, en una estrategia de seguridad alimentaria, el reconocimiento del rol preponderante que juega la agricultura campesina y la necesidad de realizar una real y efectiva transformación productiva de la pequeña agricultura de manera de incrementar la rentabilidad de estas explotaciones mediante un acceso fluido a la transferencia técnica, un adecuado financiamiento, y muy especialmente en el fortalecimiento de formas organizativas que hagan énfasis tanto en la comercialización conjunta como en la gestión.

La modernización de este estrato amplio de productores campesinos tiene especialmente una dimensión productiva, en la medida que disponen de recursos no plenamente aprovechados. Simultáneamente, ello está directamente vinculado a la necesidad de mejorar los niveles de equidad social que está presente en el sector agrícola de estos países.

Lo anterior no se contrapone a la ayuda alimentaria a aquellos países que tienen graves problemas de abastecimiento, pero sí es cierto que todas estas acciones deben estar estrechamente relacionadas con programas de desarrollo agrícola y rural que den sustentabilidad a la producción de alimentos de los países.

Asimismo, queremos respaldar el informe del 19° período de sesiones del Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria Mundial en el sentido de considerar la seguridad alimentaria no sólo como una cuestión de estabilización de suministros para asegurar la disponibilidad sino que se considere en un contexto más amplio, relacionada con el acceso físico y económico a los alimentos, tal cual ha sido reiteradamente señalado en la Carta del Campesino, el Pacto Mundial de Seguridad Alimentaria y la Declaración Mundial sobre Nutrición. Esto se hace particularmente evidente cuando leemos en dicho informe que a pesar de los buenos resultados de las cosechas a nivel agregado, la producción de alimentos básicos por habitante ha disminuido en la mitad de los países de bajos ingresos y con déficit de alimentos.

Además, se debe tener clara conciencia de que las políticas aplicadas por los países tienen efectos directos en la seguridad alimentaria.

Es precisamente en este sentido, que creemos que la FAO debe reforzar los instrumentos de cooperación en investigación y transferencia tecnológica y aquellos relacionados con la información y capacitación.

El objetivo central de la asistencia técnica de la FAO debe ser la incorporación de mayor inteligencia a los procesos productivos, orientado tanto al incremento de la productividad como al mejoramiento de la calidad y diversidad de los productos. Innovar, en este sentido, no necesariamente es crear algo nuevo, sino también, recoger el conocimiento y la experiencia de los agricultores y la diversidad de la naturaleza para que a partir de ellos se entreguen técnicas y tecnologías apropiables por los pequeños productores.

Por otra parte, la información es un recurso de creciente importancia en la competitividad de los sistemas de producción y comercialización; y fundamental en el diseño e implementación de políticas públicas.

En razón a lo señalado, resulta altamente provechoso que los países tengan la posibilidad de satisfacer los requerimientos específicos de información que les puede proporcionar la FAO, así como también se debe realizar una constante evaluación de la oferta de información, incluyendo en ella tanto su contenido, su oportunidad, sus destinatarios y la manera en que se canaliza.

Asimismo, la FAO podría fortalecer su función de asesoramiento sobre políticas y facilitar mayor asistencia técnica a los países que lo requieran en relación a los efectos que la Ronda Uruguay del GATT pueda tener en el sector agrícola, pecuario, pesquero y forestal, de acuerdo con la nueva situación comercial internacional.

En el ámbito de la seguridad alimentaria, coincidimos plenamente con el Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria en el sentido de proseguir en la búsqueda de indicadores que den cuenta de la situación en su carácter más amplio de la seguridad alimentaria, tal como se ha realizado en los trabajos que establecen índices agregados de seguridad alimentaria en los hogares.

Los elementos antes señalados necesariamente tienen efectos directos en la capacidad de gestión y productividad de las pequeñas explotaciones y de esta forma se estará dando debida atención no sólo a la situación desmedrada de este segmento de agricultores sino también a la seguridad alimentaria de muchos países.

Por último, quisiéramos recomendar que el Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria, en el desarrollo de sus trabajos durante su 20° período de sesiones, pueda tener presente los avances del Programa de Seguridad Alimentaria que está llevando a cabo la Secretaría y que al mismo tiempo se ocupe de manera activa en los documentos preparatorios de los próximos eventos que la FAO realizará en vista a la celebración de sus 50 años, tanto en Canadá como en la proyectada Cumbre Mundial de la Alimentación.

**Dato' Ahmad Zabri IBRAHIM (Malaysia):** My delegation would like to commend FAO for the comprehensive report on the State of Food and Agriculture 1994 and for untiringly providing Member Nations with valuable information on a regular basis on the world food situation, as found in the Food Outlook and Foodcrops and Shortages Special Report.

My delegation notes with concern FAO's latest forecast of 1994 global production as 1 934 million tonnes, which is only 2.4 percent up from the reduced crop of last year and definitely below the forecast trend. Global rice production is forecast to increase by only 1 percent. It would not be difficult to conclude that cereal prices would go up, with consequent effect on the food bills of food-importing countries at the expense of their other development efforts. Similarly food aid would also decline in terms of availability to low-income food-deficit countries from the target of 10 million tonnes projected for them.

Against this backdrop of declining food production is the disturbing scenario in the Horn of Africa, Rwanda, Angola, Bosnia-Herzegovina and Iraq and, more recently, the excessive rains that have caused floods in parts of China, India, Pakistan and the Philippines. All these events will have profound effect on food availability in 1995 and 1996 if steps are not taken to increase production of food, especially cereals.

Although we have discussed in many fora the need to increase food production, especially in Africa, parts of Asia and parts of Latin America, we are still unable, in general, to transform such aspirations and resolutions into practice. We are still caught in the web of production, its economics, trade, and food availabilities through food aid. While policy advice and guidance given by FAO has helped to transform the focus in national planning in some countries, in many other countries food production potential will only be fully realized by concerted effort in their national capacity-building and people's participation. This would entail examination of the state of infrastructure, institutions, manpower and training status at both the national and grassroots levels of a particular country. Project demonstration should precede full-scale implementation. The concerted effort would also mean a concentration of available FAO resources in the selected areas, in the first instance, to be followed by international support through the organization of a food-production summit to emphasize the need for such capacity build-up and to demonstrate the capabilities of those countries poor in food production but rich in their desire to meet the challenges of being self-sufficient in food.

With regard to food security, my delegation is gratified to see that FAO is now seeing this subject in the broader context of issues which affect physical and economic access to food as exemplified by various global declarations such as the Farmers' Charter, the World Food Security Compact and the World Declaration on Nutrition. While this subject is proceeding through normal means, it must also be pointed out that there is a special need to look at food security in some affected countries in Africa by special food production measures.

My country notes with satisfaction that the Nineteenth Session of the Committee on Food Security demonstrated a high interest in food security, with a greater understanding on the part of international communities to separate the issues of environment and issues of food security. It was realized that other international fora do not place food security high on their agenda compared to FAO, which places the highest importance on external issues.

An equally important conclusion was that food security and rural development should be repackaged in a form that could attract greater international attention, Member-Government involvement and international financial support. Towards this end my delegation urges FAO to revitalize its rural development programme towards improving rural off-farm and non-farm incomes in order to increase income necessary to buy food.

On the subject of global warming linkages to agriculture, forestry and fisheries, I have this to report. Whilst the linkages between global warming, agriculture and forestry are still subject to much conjecture, there is broad consensus that an effective response by the global community would require an integrated and comprehensive approach. FAO, as the UN agency responsible for the key areas of agriculture and forestry, has the technical expertise to contribute to the necessary integration of policy and strategy inputs vital for an effective action programme.

The Director-General in his statement made mention of the fact that a joint technical consultation would be organized in 1995 with the Pan-American Health Organization and the International Office of Epizootics to address the long-term strategies for global eradication of foot and mouth disease, with special emphasis on South America. Recognizing the fact that foot-and-mouth disease is also prevalent in the Southeast Asian region, my delegation would like to urge the Director-General and FAO to give equal emphasis to the Southeast Asian region to address foot and mouth disease.

Lastly, I should like once again to congratulate FAO on wanting to look at food production and food security more deeply in the interests of having a more stable world economy, from the point of view of both meeting human needs for food and generating income to buy other goods.

**R.D.S. KUMARARATNE (Sri Lanka):** I should like to take this opportunity to convey our appreciation for the excellent documentation prepared by the Secretariat for the use of Council Members.

World total production output has continued to record depressed growth. The trend has directly affected the food security situation, health and unemployment and has given rise to various other economic and social problems.

The decline of world agricultural production by 1.2 percent in 1993 was mainly due to the drop in production in some developed countries. Although some developing countries recorded an increase in their production, it is doubtful whether this increase would be enough to feed the growing population in those countries.

If we consider the changes in per caput production for the period from 1988 to 1993, most of the developing countries have recorded a minus growth. With this situation, food shortages in developing regions are unavoidable. Hence these countries need assistance either on an emergency-relief basis or on a food-for-development basis. The long-term sustainable development plans have to be incorporated with these short-term food requirements.

On the other hand, developing countries are in a critical situation regarding their capital requirements, especially for the agricultural sector. Since most of the developing countries are highly dependent on their agriculture for value addition to GDP, they cannot neglect this sector, in which a large portion of the population is employed. Hence these countries have to maintain their capital inflow to this sector, especially for the provision of inputs, price support and selective subsidies. With fiscal disciplines that have to be adhered to under the structural adjustment policies in developing countries, there is only a narrow margin to

accommodate the requirements of the agricultural sector. Moreover more than 20 percent of the export earnings of the developing countries are used as debt-service payments. While having large portions of import inputs for agriculture, it is difficult for these countries to divert the export revenue to capital requirements of this sector.

Implementation of the Uruguay Round GATT agreements will also have mixed results on agricultural developments in the developing countries. Phasing-out of support prices and subsidies and removal of non-tariff barriers will pave the way for broader market access. However, the decreasing production at global level will certainly have an adverse impact on price levels.

The situation in developing countries, especially net food importing countries, will have serious effects on these price hikes. Moreover the downward trend in production and free market access will reduce surplus food stocks in the future. In this regard, the role played by FAO will become more and more important.

Let me now touch on an alarming trend that is evident in some countries of the Asia Region, particularly in Sri Lanka, in regard to food production. Although respective governments are continuously investing in agriculture by launching special programmes of development through the utilization of available technology, there has been a disturbing trend of yield stagnation in the principal grains such as rice. All efforts to mobilize and harness resources, both technological and human, have been proved to be less effective in view of the fact that the yields are becoming plateaued and depressed, often reflecting a drop in productivity. Avenues of increasing investments are progressively becoming hamstrung due to budgetary constraints.

Perhaps one way of overcoming the yield stagnation would be meaningful and systematic interventions by agencies such as FAO in developing and assisting the innovative approaches to technology transfer, genetic engineering, etc., for increasing productivity. FAO should also vigorously spearhead programmes of adaptive research in food production in order to scale over the destructive tendency of production stagnation. My delegation would like FAO to take a serious look at this aspect, which we believe requires urgent attention.

**Nur SUTRISNO (Indonesia):** I should like to thank the Secretariat for providing us with the excellent documentation for our deliberations.

Allow me to take this opportunity to convey the results of the Conference of the Ministers of Food and Agriculture of the Non-Aligned Movement, which has also been noted by the Nineteenth Session of the Committee on World Food Security, as mentioned in paragraph 20 of document CL 107/10.

As mandated by the 10th Conference of Heads of State or Government of the Non-Aligned Countries, the Conference of the Ministers of Food and Agricultural of the Non-Aligned Movement on Food Security was convened in Bali from 10 to 11 October 1994. The Conference was held in order to formulate policy guidelines on ways and means, *inter alia* to reduce poverty and to enhance food security and self-sufficiency in developing countries, to establish meaningful south-south technical cooperation schemes and to strengthen cooperation in the area of agriculture and food production as well as to take major steps in providing substantial food aid to relieve critical shortage, thus to promote food security.

The Conference has adopted the Bali Declaration on Food Security of the Non-Aligned Movement and other developing countries which call for the improvement of efficiency and effectiveness in international cooperation for promoting food security, particularly in developing countries, and reiterates that the right to food is a fundamental human right, and categorically rejects the use of food as an instrument of political and economic pressures.

The Conference also adopted the Action Programme on Food Security for the Non-Aligned Movement and other developing countries in three high priority activities, namely Project on Seminars/Training/Workshops for Policy-Makers and Planners of the Developing Countries; Project for an Apprenticeship Programme; and Project on Potential Joint Venture Projects.

With the conclusion of the Uruguay Round of Multilateral Trade Negotiations, Indonesia supports the priority accorded by FAO in strengthening its analytical framework to examine the impact of the Uruguay Round and other major trade liberalization agreements especially on food supply and food security.



It is necessary for FAO to help Member Nations in making adjustments to the new disciplines resulting from the Uruguay Round. Compensatory measures are needed to protect adversely-affected developing countries and vulnerable groups and net food import developing countries from negative effects of structure adjustment programmes.

In closing, my delegation would like to endorse the Report of the 19th Session of the Committee on World Food Security.

**D. SANDS SMITH (United Kingdom):** I shall be very brief, but there are one or two points that I should like to make.

I would like to comment first on Agenda Item 5, the Report of the Committee on World Food Security. We consider that the Committee on World Food Security has an important role in support of FAO's food security activities. We believe it should act as a forum for technical consideration of all FAO food security activities, and not only global early warning. This point is well made in paragraph 26 of the Report, which refers to the Committee placing more emphasis in its future work programme on clearer articulation of FAO's food security policy framework.

We also attach great importance to the Committee's recommendations set out in paragraphs 35 and 36 of the Report, namely that there should be analyses of the constraints that hinder the full realization of the potential of both high and low potential areas of production. We look forward to seeing the results of the current case studies that the Secretariat said they would pursue, and we should like to know how these stand.

One final point on Agenda Item 4: We would underline that the role of the Committee on World Food Security is to look at overall food security, but that food aid policy questions should be left to the CFA.

If I may, I should also like to make a very brief, but I think important point, regarding Agenda Item 4 - The State of Food and Agriculture. The United Kingdom attaches great importance to the efficient and effective conduct of the business of the Council. The reports which FAO produce on the state of food and agriculture are a most important element of the Organization's work, but to be of operational value they must be produced quickly, otherwise there is little point in producing them as frequently as they are at present. It seems to us that the Report itself can be put to the Council very much for information. The debate which we have at the Council should be on key issues arising from the Report. We hope that at future meetings we can take the Report as being read, and then discuss one or two critical issues in the Report arising from the Report. It was most helpful on this point that the Secretariat did in fact identify three areas, but I fear that our debate has not taken us very far in looking at how these issues should be tackled - and I stress the word "tackled" - though I pay tribute to the Spanish delegation and other delegations which put forward concrete proposals. This question of tackling issues should in our view be the core of our work at the Council under this agenda item.

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Les pregunto, señores delegados, antes de pasar al turno de los observadores, si desean intervenir. Como ningún delegado desea hacer uso de la palabra pasamos al turno de observadores.

**B.N. NDI MANDE (Observer for Zimbabwe):** Mr Chairman, Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen. Thank you for giving us the honour to address this very important international gathering.

One of the most critical factors affecting agricultural production in Zimbabwe and indeed most of the Southern African Region is the increased incidence of droughts in recent years. Although there has been some recovery in the last two years after the devastating drought of 1991-92, agriculture has not recovered to its pre-1991 levels. The 1993-94 season was characterized by an abrupt secession of the rains in late February and early March. This had a significant effect on crop yields which were reduced drastically in some areas of the country.

Despite the sudden cut-off of the rains, Zimbabwe has managed to produce enough maize to cover local requirements with a surplus that has been made available for export to countries in the region. The ravages of

nature again struck our wheat crop which was in its last stages of drying up. A brief wet spell towards the end of October resulted in the deterioration of the quality of the wheat crop which had been forecast to meet domestic requirements.

The Government has taken a leading role to ensure that agricultural production, the engine of economic growth in Zimbabwe, recovers to its former strength. Small-holder farmers have been assisted through the provision of agricultural inputs such as fertilizers and seeds for planting. Further efforts are being made to assist small-holder farmers to market their products. This assistance is in the form of advancement of credit to private traders to purchase lorries and to build warehouses that will make agricultural inputs readily accessible to the small-holder farmer and provide an outlet to market his produce.

In our region where the incidence of drought is becoming a common feature, the promotion of improved land and water use techniques for sustainable agricultural development assumes even greater importance. It is in this area that we call upon the international community to assist us to build the necessary infrastructure to harness our rivers to provide water for irrigation. Support for this initiative to mitigate the devastating effects of drought will improve the food security situation for most of our peoples.

Another area that could have a positive impact on the food security is the control of animal diseases and plant pests. Because of the demands on our limited resources, these very important controls have sometimes not received adequate funding.

A major feature influencing the development of agricultural pricing and marketing policy in Zimbabwe is the economic structural adjustment programme. Zimbabwe has in the past four years moved from an environment of government intervention in agricultural pricing and marketing to one in which market forces are now the dominant force. These measures have been implemented not without pain, particularly to those people that the programme is intended to assist. What the international community, especially those who provide financing, must take into cognizance is that policy initiatives to improve the economic and social welfare should be taken by the countries implementing structural adjustment programmes. Failure to acknowledge this can lead to social unrest.

Mr. Chairman, Zimbabwe is cooperative with other countries in the Southern African Development Conference in Food Security and Early Warning Programmes. We take our participation in these programmes seriously and welcome assistance in manpower development such as has been provided by FAO to enhance our capacity.

We are participating actively in the developments within the GATT and watching closely developments in other regional economic blocs throughout the world. We hope that the new developments will take into consideration the special needs of developing countries.

We would like to congratulate the Director-General on his comprehensive report. We also welcome and endorse the Director-General's new initiative to make FAO more dynamic through restructuring the Organization and decentralizing its activities. FAO staff are commended for the excellent report on the state of food and agriculture.

**Tiberiu VASIESIU (Observer for Romania):** First of all we want to congratulate the Secretariat for the documents and to appreciate the introduction made by Mr. Hjort, Deputy Director-General.

We also thank Mr. José Ramón López Portillo, the Independent Chairman, for the possibility he offers to us as observers to present some aspects of the agricultural policies of the Romanian Government.

In accordance with the social-political changes that took place in Romania after the fall of the Communist regime in the agriculture and food economy, there were produced fundamental mutations in what regards the ownership over the land, the organization of the activity, the integration of these in the process of setting up of the mechanisms of the market, in the agro-food production, with influences on the food security of the population.

After 1990, the Government of Romania adopted a programme of reforms with the aim of liberalizing the economy. As a result, in agriculture, there appeared important changes: The former land owners were put in their rights. We can say that nowadays the private sector in agriculture is dominant, representing 80 percent of the arable area of the country, while in the animal husbandry sector the animal numbers belonging to the private sector represent 85 percent of cattle, 90 percent of sheep and 53 percent of hogs.

This sector, the private one, requires a scientific policy of support and development as a unique solution of food national security and for revigoration of the whole Romanian economy. The Romanian Government benefitted from FAO's assistance during the last year, and will welcome any assistance and technical future projects of our Organization in the support of our country. The long-term objective of the strategy of developing the agriculture of Romania consists in ensuring a threshold minimum food security.

We should create an institutional framework, adequate to the relations of a market economy with sustainable agriculture as its base.

In conclusion, I would like to say that in what regards the initiative of FAO to create a sub-regional centre for Central and Eastern European countries, Romania, which had officially announced her candidatedship for hosting this centre in Budapest since the FAO Conference in 1993, and had made diplomatically information in this respect to the European states, maintains her candidatedship, and hopes for a solution in favour of Budapest.

**Pandeli PASKO: (Observador de Albania):** Muchas gracias, señor Presidente por darme la palabra y muchas gracias también por la inclusión de unas informaciones y problemas de Albania en el documento CL 107/2.

Refiriéndome a dicho documento lo que se dice en la página 5, versión inglesa, tabla 2, me parece que está en contradicción con lo que se dice en la página 138-139, punto 514. En la página 5, Albania se incluye en los países con una baja de producción de -4 a -10 por ciento, mientras que en el punto 514 se dice que la producción es todavía 16 por ciento menos de la producción de 1989. Por tanto, creo que Albania tiene que ser puesta en el último cuadrado de la tabla 2, página 5.

El 11 por ciento de crecimiento que se menciona en el punto 511, es el crecimiento de la producción general en 1993 comparado con 1992; pero en 1992 sólo la producción de trigo, el cultivo principal de Albania, fue del 50 por ciento de la producción de 1989. Algo característico de Albania es el alto ritmo de privatización en agricultura, lo que ha causado la creación de minifincas familiares. Si hay buenos ritmos en el crecimiento de la producción general y si la inflación ha bajado mucho, esto se debe a las drásticas medidas del Gobierno y a la ayuda internacional multilateral y bilateral y también a la sed que tenía el campesino albanés por ser otra vez propietario.

Proyectos de la FAO, como las políticas agrarias que se deben aplicar sobre el crecimiento de asociaciones agrícolas y también la ayuda indispensable y con alto nivel técnico de los especialistas de la FAO, tienen su parte en este crecimiento de la producción en Albania.

Como se menciona justamente en el punto 511, la desocupación es una de las mayores preocupaciones. A pesar de las muy buenas condiciones geográficas no se aprovechan esas condiciones y la emigración continúa.

Los ritmos de crecimiento de la producción que han justificado la ayuda indispensable internacional nos hacen optimistas para avanzar en las transformaciones económicas y la reorientación de la agricultura de Albania.

**Alois WAGNER (Observer for the Holy See):** Mr Chairman of the Council, Mr Director-General, Distinguished Ministers, Delegates and Observers, Ladies and Gentlemen. Taking the floor in this meeting of the FAO's Executive Body, first of all I wish to congratulate the Director-General for the high level of the documentation and studies submitted to the examination of the Council. The precise data showing the agricultural situation in its particular aspects, i.e. environment, food aid, sustainable development, can and should encourage the future action of the FAO, as well as the food and agriculture policies made up by the governments, first of all in the developing countries.

The delegation of the Holy See thinks that one of the most important objectives in order to eliminate hunger and malnutrition in the world is the training and the education of those who participate in agriculture's activities at a different level and responsibility. In fact, as underlines the analysis on the world situation, the agricultural sector and related food production require the utmost attention both from national policies and from the international cooperation.

With reference to this item, following the very important and interesting positions expressed by the distinguished speakers, may I bring to your attention some special priorities: First, the need for education and encouragement of the young people in recognizing the importance of agriculture in each country and in the world society. Second, a spiritual encouragement of young people is very important in assuring that in the future the agriculture will be seen as:

1. the culture and the cultivation of our Earth;
2. the culture and the cultivation in seeking nutrition;
3. the agricultural work performed as one of the oldest human professions; and
4. the agricultural activity done by men in favour of his seems, the other men and the humanity as a whole, thereby an activity that presents a culture of solidarity.

The delegation of the Holy See considers particularly important the question of the training and education of young people. It considers that any international objective or programme might include these points:

1. Agriculture is not only a material or technical process. Agriculture, in fact, is a realization of human culture as the soil is cultivated and produces nutrition for the people. In our technical, industrial and administrative societies, too often our eyes are closed to the value of agriculture.

Young people should be taught that working in the field of agriculture is a profession. In their school programmes they should be encouraged to consider the greater ramifications of this profession, that to be a farmworker means helping to meet the fundamental need of nutrition for all peoples. Do not forget that agriculture is a profession that remains autonomous, self-sufficient and independent. A farmer remains a free man, at least in certain areas, even today.

The Holy See delegation considers that all technical aspects are very important in agricultural activities. However, in every expert consideration we should also examine the human aspect, the ethical view showing that the earth, meaning the soil, is the gift of God to all peoples. I am convinced that you, as responsible representatives of the world, will agree with me that, as far as the field of agriculture is concerned, it is essential, and to be a farmer is a most worthy profession.

**M.S. HARBI (Observer for Sudan):** I should like to take this opportunity to express our appreciation of the Director-General's introduction which was extremely positive in tone. Ever since he was elected to this post, the Director-General has shown himself to be very active and positive in his endeavours. We are sure that, with your enlightened Chairmanship, Sir, we shall be able to complete the consideration of these items in a most positive manner.

The main points have already been mentioned by the various members of the Council, so I need not address them. However, there is one particular point I wish to pick up from the introduction by the Director-General: it is a point which is of great interest to developing countries, in particular African countries. You will recall that my country is in the African region. It is the problem of rinderpest. This is an extremely important issue for our countries. Of course, there are efforts for the eradication of rinderpest, within the Panafrican Rinderpest Campaign: a common project OAU/concerned member countries. We feel that this programme has to be supported and developed. We agree with the Director-General's position on this matter. We certainly agree that international cooperation is urgently needed to eradicate rinderpest.

However, those of us who see the effect on the spot of the rinderpest realize that eradication is far from easy. It is prevalent in African countries. In some African countries we have a state of civil strife and it is difficult to take eradication measures and to protect wild livestock in the difficult conditions which prevail.

We do our best of course. There are projects in Africa for the control and eradication of rinderpest. We have a particular project under OAU which covers a number of countries in the area. FAO is helping, and can help even further, particularly as regards doing extension work on how to cope with the rinderpest situation.

Of course, the efforts which have been made are still not enough and they need to be further intensified because, as everyone knows, rinderpest has a very negative impact on meat production, on export both of meat and livestock on the hoof as is the case with foot-and-mouth disease which has a similarly negative impact.

We heard what was said at the International Conference which was held in Paris when the International Office of Animal Health, the OIE met. This was very much to the point. Recognition was given to the effort that FAO was making to try and eradicate certain major animal diseases by the year 2010. I attended that meeting of OIE and I raised some questions which were not answered at the time. However, we must go on trying to improve our measures for the eradication of these animal diseases. We must, of course, help to create the necessary basic conditions. This means civil strife and wars must be stopped in order that with the return of peace, animal health campaigns can be developed in the best possible conditions.

The Director-General also identified areas in Central Asia and in Asia Minor and in South East Europe which were selected for the first steps in this world campaign. Later on the campaign will be extended to other parts of the world and to other continents especially Africa. We appreciate that those countries in the parts of the world I have mentioned do need a lot of help, but we would suggest that we need a concerted effort. We need to do something on all continents. In this way we will be working against the disease everywhere at the same time and this will give us a greater chance of success. Of course, this will require very close international cooperation in order to ensure the final eradication of rinderpest.

The Director-General's statement also refers to foot-and-mouth disease in South American countries and here again I would like to stress that this disease is also present in Africa. To conclude, Mr Chairman, we are suffering a lot from the negative impact of rinderpest. We hope that we shall be able to achieve the eradication of it by the year 2010 as has been said. However, as I was saying before it is only possible if we have the necessary preconditions and there we look to FAO and the new Director-General to exercise their utmost efforts and to take the most effective measures possible.

**Ermond HARTMANS (Observer for CARITAS):** I address myself to the Report of the Committee on Food Security. In paragraph 13 this Report mentions that there are nine East African and seven West African countries which have serious food supply problems. My organization, Caritas International, represents a network of some 150 autonomous organizations and has operations in all these sixteen countries. Our approach of meeting the urgent food deficit has been the same as the one which is mentioned in paragraph 13 of the Report; namely, the financing of large-scale cereal imports. In Caritas we know that this is not the best way to handle the situation, but at the moment we have no other alternative.

There is, however, another solution wholly or partially to prevent these food shortages from occurring in future. In almost all these sixteen countries the main staple food is not cereal and certainly not wheat, but roots, tubers and pulses. Through our food assistance we are changing the food habits of the people and bypassing the real opportunities to provide food and food security with the products they produce and consume traditionally, and which are best adapted to the local ecological conditions.

In this context, let me quote the Minister of Agriculture of Ghana from the opening statement which he made at a symposium on tropical root crops held in October 1991 in Accra. He stated, and I quote, "the potential contribution of the major tropical roots and tuber crops, cassava, yam, sweet potatoes and coco yam, to the economies of most tropical and sub-tropical developing countries cannot be over-emphasized. In most of our countries (and practically all countries where major food deficiencies were present) these crops are closely associated with food security" - that is the Minister speaking -- and complement the objectives of protecting the populace against malnutrition. They provide the bulk of the daily calorie intake of the majority of our

people. In fact, roots and tubers have been described by some as the insurance crops which survive very arduous tropical conditions including droughts.

Since the Minister spoke, dramatic developments have been reported by the International Institute of tropical agriculture concerning cassava. New triploid varieties are producing double the yields, reaching 40-50 tons per hectare to the presently-used best variety. They have the same taste, the same nutritional value and are disease resistant against the major disease, Mosaic virus.

I am making this statement in order to ask for much greater attention and emphasis to be given to these important crops in our fight for food security and sustainable development. In the Report of the Committee only three lines are devoted to this matter in paragraph 41.

It is my hope that the pilot projects the Director-General mentioned which are presently being developed will include, firstly, the demonstration, multiplication and promulgation of high-yielding disease-resistant variety of roots, tubers and pulses.

Secondly, the proper utilization of these crops for humans and animals. Thirdly the possibility of keeping roots and tubers in the ground as food reserves to be used in times of need.

I wish to assure you that many of my fellow non-governmental organizations are ready to give FAO and the countries a helping hand in such an undertaking in a true partnership arrangement.

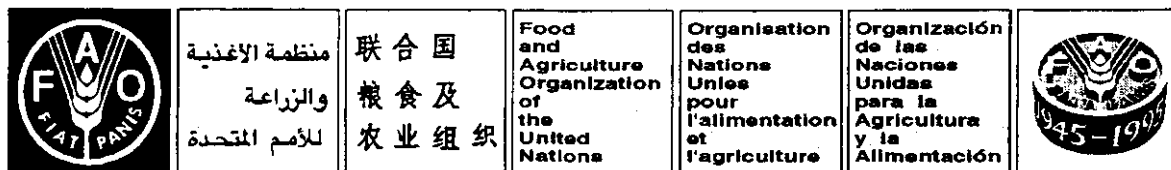
**EL PRESIDENTE:** Muchas gracias al distinguido observador por Cáritas. En primer lugar, por haber reducido su declaración, que sabíamos era mucho más larga y, en segundo lugar, por sus aportaciones tan interesantes y útiles. Con esto damos fin al tratamiento de los Temas 4 y 5 por parte de los distinguidos delegados. Las respuestas a las diversas cuestiones planteadas aquí, así como el resumen de la reunión, las obtendrán hoy a las 14:30 horas. El tiempo de interpretación se ha acabado y me permito concluir esta tercera etapa de nuestras sesiones.

**The meeting rose at 12.45 hours.**

**La séance est levée à 12 h 45.**

**Se levanta la sesión a las 12.45 horas.**

16 November 1994



COUNCIL

CONSEIL

CONSEJO

Hundred and Seventh Session • Cent septième session • 107° período de sesiones

FOURTH PLENARY MEETING  
QUATRIEME SEANCE PLENIERE  
CUARTA SESION PLENARIA

16 November 1994

The Fourth Plenary Meeting was opened at 14.45 hours  
Mr José Ramón López Portillo,  
Independent Chairman of the Council, presiding

La quatrième séance plénière est ouverte à 14 h 45  
sous la présidence de M. José Ramón López Portillo,  
Président indépendant du Conseil

Se abre la cuarta sesión plenaria a las 14.45 horas  
bajo la presidencia del Sr. José Ramón López Portillo,  
Presidente Independiente del Consejo

**WORLD FOOD AND AGRICULTURE SITUATION (continued)****SITUATION MONDIALE DE L'ALIMENTATION ET DE L'AGRICULTURE (suite)****SITUACION MUNDIAL DE LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION (continuación)**

- 4. State of Food and Agriculture 1994**
- 4. Situation mondiale de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture 1994**
- 4. El estado mundial de la agricultura y la alimentación 1994**
- 5. Report of the Nineteenth Session of the Committee on World Food Security**
- 5. Rapport de la dix-neuvième session du Comité de la sécurité alimentaire mondiale**
- 5. Informe del 19° período de sesiones del Comité de seguridad alimentaria mundial**

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Se abre la cuarta sesión plenaria de nuestros trabajos. Vamos a pasar inmediatamente a la respuesta de parte de la Secretaría a través del señor Subdirector General, Señor Hjort, a las cuestiones por ustedes planteadas sobre los Temas 4 y 5.

**DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL:** Please permit me to begin by expressing appreciation on behalf of the SOFA group, the Secretariat of the Committee on Food Security, and all the others who have made contributions to the documents that have been before you. Your appreciative comments are welcome.

There were very few suggestions for modifications to the text of the document. I refer in particular to the interventions by Lebanon, Brazil, Argentina and Albania. I would appreciate having the opportunity for the SOFA group to sit down with a representative from each one of those delegations to review the three paragraphs which are of concern.

I might add parenthetically that had this been, say, two years or so earlier, we would not have had this problem because the Minister from Lebanon would have cleared the document!

The representative from Lebanon also asked about the tables for SOFA. Members will recall that tables are not normally provided in the document under review by Council or Conference, but they are a standard feature of the SOFA document that is published and distributed widely. However, I would remind Council that with effect from last year instead of putting hard copy tables with the SOFA document we have adopted the practice of including a diskette that contains the data - actually more data than before.

There was also a question about the flow of information from the representative of Lebanon, about speeding up the flow of information from the Global Information and Early Warning System. He asked whether the FAO offices could be used for electronic transmission.

We are putting the key Global Information Early Warning System outputs on UNINET, an electronic network, and it is now available through the FAOINF, the textual component of our WAICENT. As the Director-General mentioned, we are in the process of upgrading our communications system to make connections with the FAOR offices and the Regional Offices electronically, and this will facilitate the transmission of information. We are also working through a project funded by the Government of France to use real time transmission of the Global Information Early Warning System outputs on the French language international network. Also, we are testing other methods of electronic communication between the Global Information Early Warning System and your embassies and offices here in Rome. We are trying to improve the flow or the speed of information.

I also want to express special appreciation for the positive reaction to the selected issues that were in the document. With respect to HIV/AIDS, the point has been made that we are not in a control position. Instead we are monitoring and reporting to you an assessment of the potential impact of this problem on food security and agriculture. You have asked that we continue to monitor and assess the impact on food and agriculture. The World Health Organization is the lead organization within the UN system; we will continue to collaborate with them.



With respect to the global greenhouse issue, here we have perhaps a more substantive role in working with the entire community of interest in seeking to better understand this phenomenon and its implications for food and agriculture. We appreciate in this context the offer from the Government of Canada to share with us the results of the study to which they referred. I also note in this context the comments from the representative from Spain with respect to forest measures. We appreciate that advice and counsel.

I will now turn to the topic that I believe attracted more comment than any other single one, and that is the follow-up to the Uruguay Round agreement, the Final Act. As at the regional conferences, this matter and FAO's role have attracted a great deal of interest. As you have been informed, we are studying the implications and the impact. We are doing so on a commodity-by-commodity basis in connection with the work of the Inter-Governmental Groups. I notice that your governments are considering a resolution at the General Assembly that would have UNCTAD also engaging in this same activity. The assessments on a commodity-by-commodity basis will be used as an input into the paper for the Committee on Commodity Problems where the view of implications and impacts will be from a country, sub-region, regional and global basis, at its meeting in April of 1995. In this connection I refer to the concern expressed by the Government of Japan, and I wish to assure them, as they have been assured by some of the other members of the Council, that the final act agreement makes a partial reduction in subsidies, tariffs and so forth. It is by no means a complete reduction that has been agreed, and there will in fact still be substantial protection when the year 2000 comes, when the process is to be completed on the part of the developed countries, and four more years pass before certain developing countries have to complete their agreement.

As to the concern over the link to ratification, my advice on that point is not to be concerned, first, because there are a good number of assessments already in the public arena from varying sources. Second, it would seem to me that facts can do nothing other than provide stronger justification for ratification. Our responsibilities with respect to the follow-up to the final act do not end with studies of the implications and impact. Those studies provide the basis for our being able to offer to you, and to respond to your requests for, assistance in understanding what is in the "green box" and understanding what actions could and should be taken to maximize the benefits or minimize the potential adverse effects. We have started to receive and have responded to some requests from member countries for such assistance, and we shall try to do our best to respond to all such requests.

There was more than one intervention that encouraged that there be close collaboration with the World Trade Organization. Permit me to summarize the efforts of the organization to establish firm collaborative relations with GATT(WTO). On 4 March the Director-General wrote to Mr Sutherland on establishing formal collaborative arrangements between FAO and WTO, including the possibility of a joint division between the two organizations. Mr Sutherland replied on 8 April stating that a Secretariat liaison plus attendance at meetings provided, in his view, a cost-effective basis for cooperation. He said, however, modalities for cooperation between WTO and relevant international organizations, including FAO, would be decided on a case-by-case basis by the WTO members themselves in the framework of the WTO preparatory committee. The Director-General therefore requested of Mr Sutherland on the 1st day of June the granting of observer status to FAO at the committee meetings of the preparatory committee of the WTO, the WTO's committees on agriculture, on sanitary and phytosanitary measures, on trade and environment, and eventually the General Council and other appropriate bodies when established. On the 8th day of June Mr Sutherland informed the Director-General that consideration of FAO's request for Observer status in relevant WTO bodies will be taken up at the appropriate time, and FAO will be informed about any decision on this matter in due course. As for the Preparatory Committee, the rules of attendance by observers were decided by this committee at its first meeting on 29 April 1994, under which it was not possible for FAO to participate in the work of the Committee. We therefore decided to write to the sub-Committee Chairman directly. We wrote first to the Chairman of the sub-Committee for Institutional, Procedural and Legal Matters requesting that FAO be invited as an observer to the sub-Committee's proceedings in view of the fact that FAO has areas of responsibility closely related to those of WTO, and specified in the Final Act. We were informed that FAO's request would be considered at a meeting of the sub-Committee on 4 July. On 19 July at the meeting of the sub-Committee, the European Union objected to FAO's observer status to this Committee as FAO was a "sectoral" body. Although other delegations provided strong support for FAO's request, as there was no consensus, the decision on the matter was postponed. However, on 22 July, Ambassador Kesavapany wrote to Mrs Killingsworth noting that while a decision on FAO's request had been postponed, the sub-Committee had agreed to authorize an informal contact group on agriculture which was established as a sub-Committee, to invite the Codex Alimentarius Commission and, also in our case, the Secretariat of the International Plant

Protection Commission, as well as FAO, to be associated on an *ad hoc* basis with the work of the informal contact group in order to provide expertise on matters relating to sanitary and phytosanitary measures. In a letter to the Chairman of the sub-Committee on Trade and Environment, we were informed that observer status was granted only to those organizations that are present observers of the preparatory committee to the WTO, that being the United Nations, UNCTAD, IMF and the World Bank. We reiterated that in view of the fact that FAO has important responsibilities in a number of areas of direct concern to the sub-Committee on Trade and Environment, it would be mutually beneficial if the sub-Committee were to grant observer status to FAO. In September, this Committee met, and no decision was taken on FAO's request or the requests of others for observer status.

However, at the 26/27 September meeting, which was the fourth meeting of the Sub-Committee on Trade and Development, it decided to admit FAO, OECD, ITC, UNDP, EFTA and UNEP as Observers to the subcommittee in addition to those already accepted, which I have already named.

On 26 September the Sub-Committee on Institutional and Legal Matters considered the terms of reference of the WTO Committee on Agriculture and the arrangements for cooperation with other international organizations, as well as the question of Observer status for inter-governmental organizations in the future WTO. At subsequent meetings in October and November the subcommittee has returned to these questions without yet having adopted final texts for consideration by the preparatory committee.

On 18 and 19 October 1994 the informal Contact Group on Agriculture, to which I previously referred, held a meeting, at which FAO was represented by a representative for the IPPC and Codex.

This long litany demonstrates that it has not been easy to establish collaborative relations with the WTO and its preparatory bodies. However, I should also report that we have received a letter, to which we have responded positively, from GATT itself to participate with them in regional meetings. We in fact offered the facilities of our regional offices for such meetings. These, however, are focusing on the sanitary and phytosanitary measures.

I would also note that there are certain workshops on other matters which are being organized either by us or by GATT and in each case we are seeking to cooperate with them.

I would summarize all of this by saying that at the working level within GATT there appears to be the felt need for cooperation and collaboration. That felt need appears to be stronger at that level than among the subcommittees and committees that are preparing for the WTO. We have reason to believe, however, that once the WTO has been established we shall gain Observer status.

I apologize for taking so long on this point but the matter had been mentioned and it is one that is very much at the forefront of our minds.

I would now note the fact that the Report of the Committee on Food Security was endorsed. In view of the comments made about the Special Programme and the paper that is being prepared on the high and low potential areas and the discussion that was held there, I would simply remind you of my introductory comments, in effect saying that the study that was requested is in process. It is on schedule. It will consider this issue in a broad context, with special emphasis on three country situations, and, in view of the time, I inform the representative from the United Kingdom and any other members who wish to have a more detailed progress report that Mr Perkins or Ms Huddleston would be pleased to provide that. They have a brief statement but it would take too much time to read it out.

Next I wanted to refer to the issue which was highlighted by the statement from the Islamic Republic of Iran, when they pointedly asked the question how to reduce the number of countries on the food emergency list. This general topic was referred to in my introductory remarks and came back from other delegations, where prevention, rehabilitation and getting back on the path to development was highlighted. I want to say again that this is a matter which is consuming considerable attention, a matter of deep concern, where we see a very steeply rising curve in expenditures for peace-making, peace-keeping and emergency-relief type activities, which must be reversed.

In this context, I would refer to the statement made by the representative from Rwanda, where this situation is very germane. We must, working together with the member countries and with the entire community of interest, find a way to reverse the trend and to obtain more resources for helping member countries get back on a path towards reconstruction and development.

I note the comments made by the representative from Argentina about the white helmets and simply note that FAO in fact does use UN volunteers. If this arrangement works out, we certainly have the need for additional volunteers in connection with emergency activities and would welcome that programme.

Finally, I am appreciative of the many comments that were made in connection with the Director-General's initiatives, his actions, his openness to consultation, and so forth. However, I believe these topics are matters more appropriately to be taken up under Agenda Item 11. I therefore simply express appreciation for those complimentary comments and suggest that the follow-up to them be taken up under Agenda Item 11.

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Muchas gracias señor Hjort por sus comentarios y respuestas. Estoy seguro que los miembros de este Consejo y los observadores han encontrado en ellas información de gran interés y utilidad. A estas alturas pregunto a los miembros del Consejo si hay algún comentario adicional respecto de las respuestas proporcionadas por el Subdirector General. No encuentro ninguna petición para hacer uso de la palabra.

Antes de concluir este tema del programa, permítaseme expresar mi satisfacción por la calidad del debate que confío nos ha ayudado a todos a comprender mejor la naturaleza y las dimensiones de los problemas con que se enfrenta actualmente la agricultura y que nos ayudará en la búsqueda de soluciones políticas y técnicas para resolverlos. Permítanme hacer un resumen de nuestros trabajos sin pretender, desde luego, abarcar la totalidad, ni mucho menos el detalle, de sus múltiples observaciones, y sobre todo en virtud de la gran variedad de temas comprendidos.

En primer lugar, los documentos presentados por la Secretaría para el estudio del Tema 4 y la inclusión de temas seleccionados, permitieron a este Consejo dar un alto nivel a su debate. Asimismo, dentro del tema 5, se calificó el informe del 19º período de Sesiones del Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria, como constructivo y fidedigno. Se pidió, sin embargo, que los documentos de trabajo sean distribuidos con la antelación necesaria y que la información sobre el estado mundial de la agricultura y la alimentación debe estar disponible con toda oportunidad y de manera frecuente. Hemos tomado nota con satisfacción de las perspectivas de mejora del clima económico mundial para el desarrollo agrícola, de la probabilidad de un aumento en el bienestar mundial y de un orden más disciplinado en el comercio de productos agrícolas como consecuencia de los acuerdos de la Ronda Uruguay.

También hemos tomado nota de los progresos realizados por muchos países en desarrollo en la reforma, estabilización y recuperación de sus economías, así como en el desarrollo agrícola y de la seguridad alimentaria. Sin embargo, y al mismo tiempo, tenemos que lamentar una vez más el carácter desequilibrado de estas mejoras. El debate que hemos sostenido nos ha ayudado sobre todo a comprender mejor la gravedad del problema de Africa y de la trágica situación de millones de personas afectadas por conflictos armados y situaciones precarias de seguridad alimentaria en todos los países del mundo.

El Consejo escuchó varios testimonios de situaciones catastróficas o de emergencia alimentaria en algunos países, en particular en la región africana. En estas circunstancias, la reducción de la asistencia para el desarrollo y, en especial, la destinada a la agricultura, así como de la ayuda alimentaria, son inaceptables.

Más aún, la proliferación de conflictos y de emergencias alimentarias obliga a desviar hacia estas situaciones recursos escasos y urgentemente necesarios para fines de desarrollo. Adicionalmente muchas delegaciones hicieron referencia a la dimensión y graves implicaciones de la pobreza extrema en muchos países del mundo en sus dos aspectos, rural y urbano, y también de su íntima vinculación con el hambre y la inseguridad alimentaria. Se recordó que estas situaciones no excluyen necesariamente a países exportadores de alimentos.

Se hizo referencia al conjunto de factores y condiciones que impiden el acceso a los alimentos para quienes los necesitan, a pesar de un entorno de abundancia de los mismos. Se concluyó que el hambre y la paz no son compatibles y se advirtió que mucho de los reveses son producidos por el hombre.

Hubo unanimidad en la importancia de combatir la pobreza extrema y se anunciaron diversos programas de ayuda, de atención a emergencias y de proyectos de desarrollo agrícola a nivel regional y nacional.

Se tomó nota de varias conferencias que trataron el tema de la seguridad alimentaria, en especial, la de los países no alineados, y la declaración correspondiente. Se instó a la FAO a que intensifique sus acciones y proyectos de cooperación técnica y de asesoramiento en materia de políticas para ayudar a los países a lograr la seguridad alimentaria, combatir plagas, la desertificación y la degradación ecológica.

Se enfatizó asimismo en la necesidad de mantener la salubridad y la calidad de los alimentos. En otro sentido, se puntualizó el papel que puede jugar la biotecnología y mayores esfuerzos en la investigación y el desarrollo tecnológico para hacer frente sobre todo al estancamiento creciente en la elevación de los rendimientos y de la producción agrícola, así como en la industria alimentaria.

Por otro lado, se mencionó el peso específico que el servicio de la deuda externa sigue ejerciendo sobre el desarrollo del sector agrícola y alimentario en muchos países de escasos recursos, así como el deterioro de sus términos de intercambio. Esto ha llevado a muchos países a una continuada atonía económica y a la insuficiencia de fondos de inversión particularmente destinados al sector rural. Además, los programas de ajuste económico en diversos países tienen potenciales efectos negativos sobre la distribución del ingreso, la economía de las clases más desprotegidas y el equilibrio sectorial y geográfico que ponen todavía una atención mayor sobre el Estado.

Las dificultades con que se enfrentan muchas economías en transición constituyen también motivo de gran preocupación, no sólo por las dificultades que padecen sus propias poblaciones, sino también porque representan una mayor presión sobre la ayuda exterior.

Se hizo referencia al papel fundamental que tienen las regiones rurales en cada país en la estabilidad social y económica. Se mencionó la necesidad de ofrecer seguridades a los agricultores para lograr la transición positiva en la reestructuración de la economía agrícola, particularmente en virtud de la liberalización comercial, y también de los objetivos de la Cumbre de Río y del logro de un desarrollo agrícola sostenible.

Se insistió, en particular, en el papel de la mujer en el desarrollo agrícola y económico y en la importancia creciente de promover la investigación agrícola.

Respecto a las cuestiones seleccionadas, el Consejo tomó nota de los repetidos llamamientos de alerta por los problemas no resueltos del proteccionismo en el comercio agrícola, el acceso insuficiente a los mercados para las exportaciones de los países en desarrollo y los nuevos desafíos que será preciso afrontar en el ámbito del comercio internacional después de la Ronda Uruguay.

Algunas delegaciones subrayaron los potenciales efectos negativos sobre la producción agrícola y la balanza de pagos en varios países como consecuencia de la liberalización comercial y destacaron la importancia de programas de desarrollo agrícola como un elemento para enfrentar de manera estratégica una dependencia inconveniente de importaciones agrícolas y alimentarias.

Otras delegaciones se manifestaron en relación con las ventajas que ofrece un comercio más dinámico y una economía más estable, en particular la disminución de las distorsiones del comercio agrícola. En ese contexto, se instó a la FAO a que continúe llevando a cabo estudios de fondo sobre los efectos que, sobre las distintas regiones, subregiones y países, tendrá la aplicación de los acuerdos de la Ronda Uruguay. Se pidieron, también estudios producto por producto.

Se solicitó, en especial, estudios aplicados a países en desarrollo que serán afectados mayormente por esos acuerdos. Se instó también a la FAO a que consolide una estrecha relación con la futura organización mundial de comercio, pero también, como acabamos de escuchar, en este proceso se han encontrado diversos obstáculos que esperamos puedan ser revasados para confirmar esta solicitud de muchos miembros del Consejo. En todo caso, varios delegados recalcaron que la elevación de los ingresos de los países en desarrollo es un elemento de interés común, tanto para exportadores como importadores de productos agrícolas y de alimentos, que además contribuirá a mejorar las oportunidades de empleo y de mercado para las economías más prósperas.

También se subrayó que políticas que buscan la autosuficiencia alimentaria en vez de la autoconfianza corren el riesgo de errar el objetivo del logro de una seguridad alimentaria sostenible. Se mencionaron los esfuerzos y progresos en la ampliación de la Unión Europea y su objetivo de consolidar la política agraria común dentro del proceso de ampliación y reforma en curso. Se hizo también referencia a los procesos de integración comercial en otros bloques de países, en particular bajo el Tratado de Libre Comercio de América del Norte, y sobre sus efectos para la economía agrícola.

Varias delegaciones se refirieron también al tema del SIDA y de sus efectos dramáticos, particularmente en ciertas regiones del mundo, como Africa, en donde se pierden millones de vidas. El debilitamiento de la producción agrícola y de la seguridad alimentaria, la descomposición de la estructura social, la carga económica adicional en economías débiles y, principalmente, las graves tendencias pandémicas de dicha enfermedad son algunos de sus muchos efectos preocupantes.

Se solicitó a la FAO que, en colaboración con otras organizaciones internacionales concernientes, siga de cerca este fenómeno en cuanto a sus implicaciones para la agricultura y la alimentación.

Se solicitó también cuidar el papel de la mujer dentro de los programas preventivos.

Varios países se refirieron igualmente a los efectos potencialmente negativos, pero también a los posibles efectos positivos, del calentamiento global y del papel que la agricultura juega, tanto en la absorción de gases de invernadero, como en su emisión. En cualquier caso, se instó a la FAO a buscar soluciones que prevengan situaciones negativas frente a la incertidumbre que prevalece respecto a los mecanismos y efectos del calentamiento global.

Se tomó nota, al respecto, de que existen varios estudios que están por terminarse y que probablemente ofrecerán una visión más clara sobre este problema global en lo referente a la agricultura, la silvicultura y la pesca y se indicó satisfacción por la manera equilibrada con que la FAO había tratado este tema en su documento presentado al Consejo.

Varias delegaciones manifestaron, respecto de estos temas seleccionados, que los estudios de FAO deberían contener propuestas más concretas que pudieran materializarse en acciones a nivel regional y nacional.

Se instó también al Consejo a estudiar más a fondo temas específicos sobre los cuales deberán hacerse recomendaciones concretas y constructivas para la FAO y para la formalización de políticas globales, regionales y nacionales.

Finalmente, respecto al tema 5, el Consejo adoptó el informe del 19º período de sesiones del comité de Seguridad Alimentaria. Se observó que el Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria tiene un papel crucial que jugar en el logro de un debate técnico y constructivo y en articular de manera más clara el marco de políticas y acciones de la FAO en materia de seguridad alimentaria.

Hasta aquí, en resumen, reconozco que no he considerado muchos aspectos que fueron mencionados, pero estoy seguro que el informe de este Consejo reflejará fielmente las respectivas posiciones que ustedes han manifestado.

Si no hay ningún comentario, distinguidos delegados, me permitiré cerrar estos dos primeros temas de nuestra agenda de trabajo del día de hoy y pasar al punto 6 y el 6.1.

¿Hay algún comentario?

**ACTIVITIES OF FAO AND WFP**  
**ACTIVITES DE LA FAO ET DU PAM**  
**ACTIVIDADES DE LA FAO Y EL PMA**

**6. Sustainable Development**

**6. Développement durable**

**6. Desarrollo sostenible**

**6.1 FAO Cooperation with the Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD)**

**6.1 Coopération de la FAO avec la Commission du développement durable (CDD)**

**6.1 Cooperación de la FAO con la Comisión de Desarrollo Sostenible (CDS)**

En ese caso, respecto del tema 6.1, recuerdo que la Conferencia de la FAO, habiendo considerado durante su última sesión un informe detallado sobre el seguimiento de la Conferencia Cumbre de Río, solicitó que fuese presentado al Consejo, en este período de sesiones, un informe sobre la cooperación de la Organización con la Comisión para el Desarrollo Sostenible, que es un órgano de ECOSOC que sigue la ejecución de los acuerdos de la CNUMAD.

El informe de la Secretaría, documento CL 107/13, ha sido actualizado con las propuestas de acción que se prevé someter a consideración de la Comisión para el Desarrollo Sostenible, propuestas contenidas en el documento CL 107/13 Sup.1. Estos dos documentos son presentados al Consejo para información y con el fin de que se examinen los procedimientos previstos para rendir informes a la Comisión de ECOSOC y las propuestas de acción que se plantearían para promover esfuerzos específicos en torno a los cuatro capítulos de la Agenda 21. Estos han sido confiados a la coordinación de la FAO y serán objeto de examen por parte de la Comisión en 1995. Es deseable que el Consejo considere en particular la manera cómo se pueda reforzar la presencia del sector agrícola y alimentario en el proceso de revisión de la Agenda 21, y su seguimiento para que los intereses del sector reciban adecuada atención.

Señores delegados, ahora me voy a permitir dar la palabra al señor Mahler, para que presente los documentos que les he anunciado.

**P.J. MAHLER (Conseiller spécial du Directeur général/Sous-Directeur général pour l'environnement et le développement durable, Bureau du Directeur général):** Monsieur le Président, je voudrais signaler, sur ce point, que j'ai à mes côtés le Dr Mohamed Zehni en sa qualité non seulement de Directeur de la Division du développement, de la recherche et de la technologie mais aussi de Président de notre groupe de travail interdépartemental sur l'environnement et le développement durable.

La coopération de la FAO avec la Commission du développement durable consiste d'abord et avant tout, pour l'Organisation, à jouer son rôle dans le concert des institutions du Système des Nations Unies pour la mise en oeuvre des accords de la CNUED. Ce rôle est double. Il s'agit, premièrement de faciliter et d'appuyer dans les secteurs de notre mandat l'action de nos pays membres pour le suivi de la CNUED. Nos programmes et nos projets font désormais une large place à l'application des accords du Sommet de Rio et des recommandations d'Action 21. Nous en avons rendu compte, l'année dernière, à la Conférence. Les deux nouveaux programmes approuvés à la session spéciale de juin du Conseil ont, parmi leurs objectifs - je crois utile de le rappeler ici - respectivement la durabilité de la sécurité alimentaire et la protection de l'environnement par la surveillance et l'intervention rapide dans la lutte contre les ravageurs et les maladies transfrontières. Il est fait rapport sur ces deux programmes dans le document CL 107/14.

De même, sous d'autres points et sous-points de l'ordre du jour, nous rendons compte au Conseil de nos activités concernant les forêts, la procédure de l'information et du consentement préalable à l'importation des pesticides, la conservation des ressources génétiques, la pêche responsable, etc. C'est volontairement, pour éviter des répétitions, que nous ne les présenterons pas ici. Je soulignerai simplement que c'est d'abord dans les activités de chaque secteur, dans la recherche de la durabilité par chaque secteur, que des progrès doivent être accomplis dans le suivi de la CNUED.

Le deuxième volet de notre coopération avec la CDD fait, elle, l'objet du document CL 107/13 et de son Supplément 1 dont vous êtes saisis. Il s'agit des activités de coopération inter-institutionnelle, en particulier de celles que la FAO a la charge de promouvoir dans le système des Nations Unies en sa qualité de maître d'oeuvre pour quatre chapitres d'Action 21. Le document mentionne également les contributions que nous apportons à d'autres maîtres d'oeuvre tels que le PNUE, le PNUD, l'ONUDI, etc.

Je ne pense pas utile de présenter ces activités en détail mais je voudrais signaler un événement récent et trois problèmes à l'attention du Conseil.

L'événement récent est la visite que le Dr Klaus Töpfer, Président de la CDD, a rendu à la FAO à l'invitation du Directeur général. Cette visite a révélé une large identité de vues entre le Dr Diouf et le Dr Töpfer en particulier sur la nécessité d'assurer un meilleur équilibre entre les impératifs du développement et ceux de la protection de l'environnement dans le suivi de la CNUED; d'autre part, il s'est révélé une volonté commune de renforcer encore la coopération étroite qui s'est développée entre la CDD et la FAO. Cette coopération sera facilitée par la création à la FAO d'un Département du développement durable.

Le premier problème est la prolifération des réunions intergouvernementales et des consultations interagences à l'initiative de multiples acteurs, individuellement et collectivement. Ces réunions s'ajoutent à celles des organes directeurs subsidiaires de la FAO (le Conseil, COFO, COAG, les Conférences régionales etc.) et à celles des organes subsidiaires du CAC (Comité administratif de coordination des Nations Unies) pour les consultations interagences. Nous reconnaissons évidemment l'intérêt de certaines de ces réunions pour développer des propositions d'action et préparer un consensus sur des sujets complexes comme celui des forêts. Mais il semble peut-être que les gouvernements et la CDD pourraient utiliser plus systématiquement les mécanismes de la FAO et éviter ainsi les doubles emplois. Le Directeur général en a fait récemment la recommandation au Dr Klaus Töpfer Président de la CDD qui l'a accueilli favorablement. Il serait souhaitable que le Conseil appuie cette recommandation puisque la CDD examinera en 1995 les domaines concernant divers organes de la FAO notamment COAG et COFO et en 1996 COFI.

Le deuxième problème est la multiplication des demandes des rapports d'activités ou autres documents de la FAO pour les réunions préparatoires de la CDD. La CDD a certes un mandat général de surveillance de l'application des accords de Rio et pour ce faire elle doit recevoir des rapports des gouvernements, du système des Nations Unies et des ONG. Mais il faudrait en quelque sorte arriver à un partage des responsabilités, un partage du travail pour l'examen des activités du système des Nations Unies. Je rappelle qu'Action 21 est un énorme document de 500 pages qui traite d'une très grande quantité de sujets. Il me semble qu'il faut donc qu'il y ait cette sorte de répartition des responsabilités pour surveiller tout ce qui se fait dans le suivi de la CNUED. Par exemple la FAO pourrait jouer ce rôle dans les secteurs relevant de son mandat et la CDD pourrait le jouer plus particulièrement pour les aspects intersectoriels et de politique générale.

Le troisième problème résulte des précédents: avec la multiplication des consultations et des rapports, en particulier pour la difficile négociation de nouvelles conventions, les réunions tendent à remplacer l'action sur le terrain. Le suivi de la CNUED par des activités concrètes se trouve singulièrement limité par la prolongation de ces débats et par le manque de ressources pour financer la mise en oeuvre effective des accords de Rio. La réduction de l'aide officielle au développement, les multiples catastrophes naturelles, les impératifs du maintien de la paix, la crise économique qui affectent de nombreux pays tendent à limiter le financement d'activités consacrées au développement durable à long terme, en donnant, et ceci nécessairement, la priorité aux urgences et au court terme.

Le Supplément N°1 présente d'une manière résumée les actions que la FAO en tant que Maître d'oeuvre recommande à la CDD de promouvoir. Il s'agissait pour nous de ne pas répéter la longue liste des recommandations des chapitres d'Action 21 concernés et des programmes qui y répondent mais d'identifier certains aspects importants, notamment en ce qui concerne les lacunes et les domaines où les progrès sont jugés insuffisants. Vous noterez que les propositions sur les forêts sont peu détaillées car elles seront reprises au sous-point suivant de l'ordre du jour. Les autres propositions tiennent compte en particulier des recommandations du cycle des Conférences régionales qui vient de s'achever. Toutes les conférences régionales en effet ont traité de certains aspects du développement durable, des technologies appropriées, de la lutte intégrée contre les ravageurs, la conservation des terres, l'aménagement des zones arides et celui des zones côtières.

Comme il est indiqué dans le dernier paragraphe de ce supplément les avis et orientations du Conseil sur les propositions contenues dans le Supplément N°1 serviront à l'élaboration des rapports des maîtres d'oeuvre. Le calendrier est le suivant:

Nous devrions remettre les rapports aux Nations Unies dans la deuxième semaine de décembre. Ces rapports seront compilés et présentés à un Groupe de travail de la CDD du 27 février au 3 mars 1995. Les recommandations de ce groupe de travail seront soumises à la CDD qui se réunira du 17 au 28 avril de l'année prochaine. Comme le Comité de l'agriculture et le Comité des forêts devraient se réunir dans la deuxième quinzaine de mars, le Conseil voudra peut-être demander à ces comités d'examiner les résultats du groupe de travail de la CDD avant qu'ils ne soient présentés à la CDD.

Il serait aussi souhaitable que les Ministères de l'agriculture et des forêts soient représentés dans les délégations des pays membres à ce groupe de travail et la CDD.

Monsieur le Président, le document CL 107/13 et son Supplément N°1 sont en grande partie des documents d'information mais le Conseil souhaitera sans doute donner des avis et orientations sur la coopération entre la FAO et la CDD et je suis prêt à répondre à des questions s'il y en a.

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Muchas gracias, Dr. Mahler, por sus comentarios introductorios. Creo que el Consejo ha sido bien guiado por usted, y esto permitirá canalizar los debates de manera concisa y al punto. Deseo insistir en que los dos documentos que han sido presentados son principalmente para información, porque son informes de avance y espero que así los consideren.

Abro ahora la lista de oradores para este tema: Alemania, Canadá, Cabo Verde, Burkina Faso, Brasil, Chipre, Reino Unido, Estados Unidos de América, Argentina, Noruega, México, Malasia, Líbano, República de Corea, China, Japón, Swazilandia, Italia, República Islámica del Irán, Indonesia, Australia y Siria.

**Jürgen OESTREICH (EC):** Germany has asked for the floor in order to speak on behalf of the European Community and its Member States. When I have finished my statement, my colleague wishes to make a national statement.

The establishment of the Commission on Sustainable Development has been welcomed by the European Community and its Member States as a concrete step towards putting forward the implementation of the measures agreed at Rio, and to promote international cooperation on sustainable development and environmental protection.

The major task of CSD is to keep Agenda 21 and the spirit of Rio alive. Its work has encouraged international dialogue on environment and, I stress, development, and has stimulated governments and intergovernmental organizations to consider their own sustainable development plans and activities from a broader, more comprehensive perspective.

CSD only started its substantive work in 1993. Since then it has already been subjected to criticism. Such criticisms are partly justified. The CSD certainly needs some improvements in order to demonstrate that it can contribute effectively to pushing forward the UNCED follow-up process by reviewing the implementation of Agenda 21 and promoting increased cooperation among governments, international organizations and all major actors involved.

Against this background, it is essential to ensure that the forthcoming third session of the CSD is successful. The current chairman of CSD, Dr Töpfer, is already undertaking various initiatives to increase the efficiency of the CSD and to make it more operational.

In his very informative and comprehensive introduction to this very item, Mr Mahler has also mentioned the recent visit of Dr Töpfer to the Director-General of FAO.

All initiatives to make the process more operational need the strong commitment and support of all countries and international actors. FAO has a major role to play in this respect. At its third session this year the CSD



will review the entire land cluster of Agenda 21. FAO has been designated as Task Manager for the chapters on Integrated Planning and Management of Land Resources, Deforestation, Sustainable Mountain Management and Sustainable Agricultural and Rural Development.

At the same time, FAO should be actively involved in the follow-up to the recommendations on water resources and chemicals adopted by the CSD at its second session, and provide its input for the discussion on sustainable use and conservation of marine living resources scheduled for 1996. Mr Mahler has already outlined these tasks to us.

I should like to thank the Secretariat for the paper it has prepared to assist us in our deliberations on this Agenda Item 6.1. Document CL 107/13 and its Supplement provide a comprehensive overview of the initiatives undertaken and the new tasks FAO will have to perform to support and coordinate action related to its responsibilities as the Task Manager. This might, as has already been pointed out, put the Organization's limited resources under considerable stress. It would be interesting to learn from the Secretariat how the establishment of the future Department of Sustainable Development within the ongoing process of restructuring will contribute to improving FAO's capacity to manage its new tasks efficiently.

Finally, let me indicate that the European Community and its Member States welcome the fact that concrete suggestions were made on the CSD conditions in paragraphs 24 to 29 of document CL 107/13. In particular, we agree that there is a clear need to streamline the reporting process in order to avoid unnecessary overload and duplication, while ensuring that the CSD receives sufficient input for its work. In this context, it is essential to provide the CSD with concrete, operational recommendations and policy options to have a focused and productive discussion.

We also agree that the CSD should at its 3rd session receive a substantial input from the ministries responsible for agriculture, forestry and land management. One of the main tasks of the CSD is to promote policy integration, and in order to achieve this objective it is necessary to ensure the active involvement of all relevant decision-makers in the work of the CSD, including the deliberations of its High-Level Segment.

**Dieter LINK (Germany):** Document 107/13 and its Supplement give a concrete survey of what the Organization has done so far to contribute to the UNCED follow-up process. It clearly shows the responsibility that FAO and its Members have to help advance this process by action. After two substantive sessions, the Commission on Sustainable Development has been able to keep the UNCED implementation process going, to improve coordination and to provide for the involvement of governments, UN agencies and NGOs. The multi-year work programme of CSD and the clear division of tasks and responsibilities defined in the form of "Task Managers" of the different chapters of Agenda 21 are major pre-conditions for real progress in the UNCED follow-up.

The FAO was right in defining its concrete tasks in document C 93/10 which was discussed and approved by the 27th Session of the Conference. My delegation is fully aware that tangible results in the implementation of the UNCED agreements - i.e. the two conventions - the further concretization of the forest principles and particularly the various chapters of Agenda 21 very much depend on progress in the cross-sectoral issues. Financial instruments, technology transfer and capacity building are the major issues that must be resolved on the basis of burden-sharing and political will if headway is to be made in the various sectoral clusters of Agenda 21. The third session of the CSD in April next year, with the so-called "land cluster" on its agenda, calls for strong engagement by FAO.

My delegation is in full agreement with the suggestion in paragraph 14 of document CL 107/13 that the expertise from national ministries responsible for land resource management, agriculture and forestry is required for the preparatory process. My country has completed the preparation of the national report to be submitted to CSD for its third session. In this connection, my delegation shares the view expressed in paragraph 24 of the document under consideration that burdensome reporting routines should be avoided. National reports as the basis for a condensed report by CSD on UNCED follow-up should concentrate on major results in priority areas. The guidelines for the 1995 national reports to CSD, although useful in principle, proved partly not very suitable for all countries.

With reference to the reports of the Task Managers following their meeting in October 1994, my delegation looks forward to finding in them the appropriate, action-oriented recommendations by FAO for the relevant issues of chapters 10, 11, 13 and 14 of Agenda 21. Under item 6.2 my delegation will submit specific views on how FAO should come up to its Task Manager role in forestry.

For Chapter 14 - Sustainable Agricultural and Rural Development - in our view FAO should concentrate on those key areas for which the Organization has comparative advantages and especially the necessary capacities in terms of staff and funds. Of course, more extrabudgetary funds should be mobilized for specific activities in order to achieve balanced progress in the development and environmental dimension of the UNCED follow-up process. Of course, we have to be realistic that in general the Organization will have to rely on the current budget and trust funds already pledged.

My delegation hopes that with the establishment of the new Department of Sustainable Development the Secretariat will be able to monitor more closely the application of SARD principles in project implementation and evaluation. The concept of sustainability in agriculture includes, besides technical aspects, socioeconomic issues like poverty alleviation, agrarian reform and people's participation as well as international economic relations. These particular aspects need to be taken into account if projects aiming at sustainability of production, the sustainable use of the natural resource base and food security for rural populations shall be attained.

Paragraph 26 of the document correctly points to these priorities and their interaction.

**David SHERWOOD (Canada):** Le document qui nous est présenté donne un aperçu utile du rôle que joue la FAO en matière de coopération avec la CDD en vue d'atteindre les objectifs établis par le programme Action 21. Le Canada apprécie le sérieux avec lequel la FAO intègre à son programme de travail les préoccupations soulevées en matière de développement durable.

Grâce à la création de son Plan vert national, le Canada est en train d'acquérir une expérience et des connaissances en matière de développement durable dans les domaines de l'agriculture, de la foresterie et des pêches. Les différents responsables canadiens ont désormais compris que, dans une période de restriction financière, les partenariats, la coopération et le partage des priorités sont des éléments essentiels à la réalisation des objectifs définis dans le Programme Action 21 ainsi que dans notre politique environnementale. Nous croyons que les organisations internationales sont dans la même situation.

Il faut que les orientations définies lors de la CNUED aboutissent à des mesures concrètes; manifestement, la FAO représente l'un des éléments d'un vaste réseau mondial qui réalisera ces mesures. La FAO, si elle se donne des objectifs précis, si elle identifie des secteurs prioritaires, si elle utilise efficacement ses ressources, y contribuera de façon importante et, en même temps garantira la réalisation de nos objectifs en matière d'agriculture, de pêche, d'aménagement forestier et de développement rural.

Le Canada croit que la présentation de rapports sur les initiatives et activités entreprises constitue une contribution clé à l'avancement vers le développement durable. Cependant, nous pensons qu'il faut éviter tout dédoublement d'effort dans la présentation de rapports et nous espérons voir la FAO mieux coordonner ses efforts avec les autres agences afin de réduire le nombre de ces rapports.

Le Canada continuera de soutenir les efforts de la CDD et fera tout ce qui est en son pouvoir pour garantir une approche plus rationalisée à la présentation de rapports.

**César Augusto André MONTEIRO (Cap-Vert):** Tout d'abord permettez-moi de féliciter le Secrétariat de la FAO pour la qualité des documents fournis dans le cadre du point 6 de l'ordre du jour. Ces documents reflètent de façon évidente l'intérêt porté par la FAO à un domaine d'actualité de si grande envergure.

En nous référant au point concernant la coopération de la FAO avec la Commission du développement durable, nous avons noté avec satisfaction les multiples efforts déployés par la FAO visant à la mise en oeuvre des dispositions découlant des décisions de la CNUED.

C'est en sa qualité de maître d'oeuvre pour le programme Action 21 que la FAO s'occupe du suivi des chapitres concernant la conception intégrée de la planification et de la gestion des terres, la lutte contre le déboisement, la gestion des écosystèmes fragiles et la mise en valeur durable des montagnes et la promotion d'un développement agricole durable.

Nous suivons avec un vif intérêt le processus complexe de restructuration de l'organisation en cours et en particulier la création du Département de développement rural. A notre avis, ceci permettra à la FAO de renforcer son rôle de maître d'oeuvre de façon concertée et efficace.

Parallèlement à la concertation institutionnelle que nous estimons pertinente et du plus grand intérêt, il convient de mobiliser et de renforcer les moyens nécessaires permettant la matérialisation adéquate des importantes recommandations de la Conférence de Rio de Janeiro en matière de développement durable dans un contexte international caractérisé fondamentalement par une pauvreté rurale et une croissance démographique en hausse et par une réduction progressive de l'aide publique au développement.

**Christophe KIEMTORE (Burkina Faso):** Je voudrais d'abord remercier le Secrétariat de la FAO pour ses documents qui en fait nous sont présentés pour information mais en réalité l'importance des questions soulevées appelle un certain nombre de commentaires de la part de ma délégation. Vous vous souviendrez que lors de la vingt septième session de la Conférence de la FAO, les débats sur la mise en oeuvre des recommandations de la CNUED avaient souligné l'importance de la collaboration entre toutes les agences spécialisées du système des Nations Unies. La Conférence avait également confirmé, en cette même occasion, le rôle de chef de file de la FAO dans la préparation des rapports détaillés sur le suivi des décisions de la CNUED y compris son rôle de surveillance. C'est pour répondre à cette recommandation spécifique que le Secrétariat nous a préparé ce document CL 107/13 et l'a présenté au Conseil pour information et éventuellement commentaire. Ma délégation est reconnaissante au Secrétariat pour le travail accompli.

Le rôle de la FAO dans l'application par les gouvernements eux-mêmes des accords de la CNUED n'est plus à démontrer, puisque le concept de développement durable qui sous-tend en fait l'Action 21 se réfère notamment à des activités du secteur agricole, forestier, et même du secteur de la pêche. Cependant, le Comité interorganisations sur le développement (le CISDD) a jugé bon de répartir les responsabilités entre les parties prenantes y compris la FAO - ceci est décrit au paragraphe 4 du document que nous examinons. Le Conseil devra donc prendre note également d'un certain nombre de dispositions claires de la part du CISDD sur le type de rapport à soumettre à la Commission du développement durable (CDD). Ceci est également écrit au paragraphe 3.

Ma délégation note à ce propos que la FAO fait déjà un peu plus que ne lui demande le CISDD, nous nous en félicitons et nous osons espérer que la FAO aura les moyens de poursuivre ces actions sans préjudice des autres programmes prioritaires.

Pour répondre de manière spécifique aux questions posées au paragraphe 30, les positions de ma délégation peuvent se résumer en quatre points.

Tout en reconnaissant l'importance des rapports fournis aux Etats Membres et au CDD, nous pensons qu'il faudrait trouver une utilisation rationnelle des mêmes ressources dont dispose l'organisation. Une priorité devrait donc être accordée aux actions concrètes. L'une des solutions à prospector concerne le financement de ces actions supplémentaires par la recherche de ressources extrabudgétaires de la part d'un certain nombre de pays qui se sont déjà manifestés en faveur d'une telle action.

Ma délégation approuve ce qui est dit à la fin du paragraphe 25 concernant le type de rapport que les maîtres d'oeuvre doivent fournir au CDD;

Nous approuvons l'approche intégrée et pluridisciplinaire préconisée au paragraphe 26 et selon laquelle l'agriculture, les forêts et la pêche constitueraient les points centraux de toute activité du développement durable. Le paragraphe 27 souligne la mauvaise qualité des travaux du suivi de la CNUED, en raison du faible niveau de participation des délégations des Etats Membres. Cette remarque s'adresse surtout, selon nous, aux pays en développement dont le volume des délégations, de façon générale, est toujours limité. Il est proposé à cet effet une plus grande responsabilisation des organismes intergouvernementaux et nous sommes

tout à fait favorable à cette proposition mais même une décentralisation des discussions des questions sectorielles au niveau de ces organes intergouvernementaux ne permettra pas de résoudre le problème de la participation des pays en développement tant au point de vue de la quantité que de la qualité.

A cet effet, le Conseil est invité à émettre un avis et ma délégation pense qu'il faut arrêter dès à présent une série d'actions spécifiques ce qui requiert un consensus international. Parmi ces actions nous pensons à l'organisation et à la participation aux réunions techniques préparatoires pour la mise en oeuvre de la CNUED. Il faudra donc lui trouver un financement dès à présent pour permettre de tenir compte du besoin de participation.

Dans ce but ma délégation souhaite lancer un appel aux donateurs pour qu'ils accordent une attention particulière à la participation, c'est-à-dire aux frais de voyages des pays en développement invités à ces réunions préparatoires.

Pour terminer, au paragraphe 31, le Conseil est également invité à donner des directives au Secrétariat, notamment en ce qui concerne l'alinéa 3 portant sur les programmes spéciaux.

La question qui est posée est de savoir finalement comment mobiliser un surcroît de ressources financières pour financer les programmes spéciaux identifiés par la FAO.

Ma délégation souhaite appeler l'attention du Conseil de la FAO d'une manière générale sur trois activités essentielles qui peuvent participer à la recherche du financement ou assurer la mise en oeuvre de ces programmes. Premièrement, nous pensons qu'il faut mettre en place un mécanisme de suivi de la mise en oeuvre de tous ces programmes. Deuxièmement, il faut développer la fonction des communications et de l'information dans le sens des médias pour informer l'opinion publique des réalisations obtenues par rapport aux programmes décrits. Et enfin, nous pensons - et cela va dans le même sens - qu'il faut entreprendre une large promotion de cette activité en utilisant tous les moyens modernes qui existent actuellement, y compris la télévision, la radio et la presse, surtout à l'intention des états qui sont disposés à financer ces programmes et aussi à l'intention des sources de financement traditionnel.

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Agradezco al distinguido delegado de Burkina Faso sus constructivas recomendaciones. El Consejo ha tomado nota de ellas. Tiene la palabra la distinguida delegación de Brasil.

**Marco Antonio BRANDÃO (Brazil):** My delegation would like first to thank Mr Mahler for his very comprehensive and useful report on this Item and also to praise the Secretariat for the preparation of document CL 103/13 and its supplement. My delegation would like first to make a brief comment on the supplement which was distributed today. In paragraph 2 we are informed of some preparations for a coining conference on plant genetic resources. It is my delegation's view that in FAO documents we should stick to the official title of this conference, which is, if I am not mistaken, International Technical Conference on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture. This observation is not just a formal one; it has some substance in it.

Referring now to document CL 107/13, it is my delegation's view that it gives us a good picture of FAO's cooperation with CSD, the main and focal point in the United Nations system for development of the conclusions on UNCED and its implementation. Addressing specifically paragraphs 24 and 25 of the document which deal with the reporting tasks within the CSD process, it is my Government's view that notwithstanding understandable difficulties in this task and of course keeping in mind the need for effectiveness, we should not run the risk of presenting a weak and sometimes superficial view of FAO's work, which a somewhat diminished reporting process could give. A strong and comprehensive set of reports to the CSD would be an invaluable testimony of FAO's work, and however burdensome it may seem, it will only constitute a testimony of FAO's work and strengthen its role as task manager in the process of implementing UNCED's conclusions.

**EL PRESIDENTE:** El Consejo ha tomado nota del error en el párrafo segundo del documento 13 Sup.1 respecto al nombre oficial de Conferencia Técnica Internacional. Tiene la palabra la distinguida delegación de Chipre.

**Chrysanthos LOIZIDES (Cyprus):** I fully respect your appeal for time saving, and I shall be brief and practical, if you will allow me. My delegation is attaching great importance to the issue of sustainable development. However, in view of the fact that the three sub-items under the main item, sustainable development, are interrelated, and in order to save time, my delegation wishes to express its views and brief comments on the sub-items 6.1, 6.2, and 6.3 simultaneously, of course, providing that you will allow me to do so. Is it O.K?

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Puede hacer una declaración sobre los tres temas, pero recuerde que las respectivas respuestas a sus comentarios serán ofrecidas al concluir cada uno de los temas; es decir, al término del 6.2 y del 6.3 usted recibirá las respuestas a sus comentarios. Puede continuar, gracias.

**Chrysanthos LOIZIDES (Cyprus):** I do not expect any answers. Thank you very much.

Before making my remarks, my delegation wish to thank the Secretariat for preparing the respective documents, which we find very informative and useful and which will help our considerations on the subject of sustainable development.

Referring to Item 6.1, FAO Cooperation with the Commission on Sustainable Development, document CL 107/13, we have no difficulty in registering our approval for the proposed follow-up action as stated in paragraph 31. At the same time, we wish to stress the need for speeding up the process for establishing the Department of Sustainable Development, as decided by the previous session of this body. We believe that the establishment of this department, together with the recruitment of the proper staff, will enhance FAO's capacity to ensure a concerted response to the follow-up to UNCED-derived activities and, more specifically, to support and coordinate action related to FAO's responsibilities as Task Manager in promoting sustainable agriculture and rural development.

On Item 6.2 of the Agenda, the Role of FAO in Forest Sustainable Management and in the UNCED Follow-Up, document CL 107/6, we wish to renew our support for FAO's priorities within the 1994-95 Programme. Additionally, we approve the proposed FAO activities under its areas of trust concerning the promotion of policy reforms, the support for "greening" the world and sustainable forestry and for capacity-building and human resources development, as illustrated in paragraphs 9 to 25 of the same document.

We are of the opinion that certain priority should be given to the issues related to policy advice, the improvement of appropriate systems for data collection and analysis on the state of forest resources, the restructuring of national activities in the conservation of forest genetic resources and forest management and national capacity-building, including human resources development.

At this point we wish to express our appreciation both to the Director-General for promoting technical cooperation among developing countries and to the donors for providing extrabudgetary resources for realizing the aforementioned activities.

Finally, on Item 6.3, Progress Towards the Development of Legally Binding Instruments concerning the Prior Informed Consent Procedure, we are grateful to the Secretariat for the background information on this aspect, as described in document CL 107/11. In the light of this information, and provided the extrabudgetary resources required can be secured, we are in agreement with the proposal in paragraph 17(b) "to proceed with the preparation of a draft legally binding instrument on the operation of the PIC procedure, as part of the joint FAO/UNEP programme on PIC and in cooperation with the other international and non-governmental organizations concerned".

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Muchas gracias, distinguido delegado. Deseo subrayar que quizás fue una mala interpretación de mi parte cuando le autoricé a hablar sobre los otros dos subtemas, porque lo estaba haciendo en la medida en que ello correspondiera al aspecto de la colaboración de la FAO con la Comisión de Desarrollo Sostenible. No me gustaría que en sucesivas declaraciones se tocaran los otros subtemas antes de ser presentados por la Secretaría. Sin embargo, si los delegados desean hacer referencia a esos aspectos específicos en relación con la colaboración de la FAO con la Comisión de Desarrollo Sostenible, pueden hacerlo. Pero, les repito, las respuestas al respecto se darán al final del debate. Por el momento, no deseo confundir el debate mezclando esos otros aspectos en cuanto que no tratan sobre la relación con la Comisión de Desarrollo Sostenible. Tiene la palabra la distinguida delegación del Reino Unido.

**J.C. MACHIN (United Kingdom):** I shall restrict my comments to Item 6.1 and I shall try to be brief. As you said, these are progress reports. Nevertheless, as previous speakers have indicated, they are very important reports, which I think came out clearly from Mr Mahler's introductory comments, which we very much appreciated. Of course we agree with Mr Mahler that overlap and duplication must be reduced to the minimum and we hope that all the actors in this scene will endeavour to do precisely that. We agree that there must be the fullest cooperation in the activities of the CSD, which is an extremely important intergovernmental mechanism for taking forward UNCED, which, as one or two colleagues, including Canada, have said, is not exactly without stain or blemish at the moment. We need to improve and we must all work together to be as effective as possible.

Turning to FAO's role in this important question, let me make a few brief points. In relation to the establishment of the Department of Sustainable Development, which we very much welcome, we do want to see evidence that this organizational change will enhance FAO's institutional capacity to respond to its post-UNCED responsibilities. By that I mean that we want to see evidence of accurate, timely and effective reporting which meets the requirements of the CSD.

Secondly, we understand only too clearly the workload implications which these reporting responsibilities will have for FAO and indeed for all the partners in this operation but we think it is important that the suggestions which FAO makes for amending reporting format are tailored to meet the specific needs of the CSD. I think that is extremely important. It is an obligation that applies not just to the international agency partners but to all the bilateral donors who have to report in national terms. In this respect we support in principle the suggested preparation of a sectoral land cluster report which draws together the key land issues providing this does not obscure the detail which we feel is very important for the individual chapter reports.

Thirdly, we would advise a degree of caution against FAO linking too closely its own special initiatives - by which I mean special programmes on Food Security and Transboundary Disease Control - with its designated responsibilities assigned in response to Agenda 21. We do not regard FAO's cornerstone project activities, if I can describe them that way, each of which has its own free-standing viability as described in paragraph 6 of the document, as synonymous with FAO's assigned role under Agenda 21. I think one has to be careful about the distinction there.

Fourthly, we noted the reference to FAO programmes now being implemented in cooperation with NGOs. We have heard a number of references, most eloquently articulated yesterday by the Canadian Minister, to the relationship of NGOs with FAO's activities. Clearly these apply across the whole range of international activity. We think the development of these linkages is absolutely crucial. NGOs have so much to offer at every level of the development continuum, not least in the context of community participation, and we strongly support FAO in its desire, which we know the Director-General feels strongly about, to involve NGOs and the private sector, as our Canadian colleague said yesterday, in the whole of this range of activity.

Finally, looking to the future, we note the proposals for the handling of reporting to the CSD on the marine aspects of UNCED follow-up. I have already mentioned the strategic thinking which FAO has shown in relation to the land cluster. We look forward to a similar innovative approach to reporting on the marine cluster, which we believe is equally important.

**Ralph E. BRESLER (United States of America):** The document highlights key actions which the United States believes are essential to a successful implementation of Agenda 21. These include the development

and strengthening of geographic information systems on land resources as tools for improving land use management and enhancing the delivery of policy guidance on sustainable land use.

There is no need to explain that all the information systems mentioned in this report are the foundation of any activities we may undertake to implement Agenda 21. They will augment and complement the SARD network and, given that, should receive top priority for FAO regular budget funding, along with SARD in the next biennium.

We also wish to note the efforts FAO has made under the new Director-General to renew and enhance collaboration with key UN system agencies. Such collaboration is essential for FAO's Task Manager role.

As the CSD focus in 1995 is sustainable forestry, we shall have a more extensive statement on that question under Agenda Item 6.2.

**Sra. María Cristina FERRARI (Argentina):** Gracias, señor Presidente, la delegación argentina aprecia la mayor capacidad normativa que tendrá la FAO, a través del nuevo Departamento de Desarrollo Sostenible, para seguir a la CNUMAD en general, y para actuar como gerente de tareas, a través del apoyo y coordinación de estos temas contemplados en los capítulos 10, 11, 13 y 14.

Con relación al párrafo 11 del documento CL 107/13, versión española, apreciamos la recomendación de la Comisión de Desarrollo Sostenible, con respecto al capítulo 19, para que el PNUMA, juntamente con la FAO, elaborara instrumentos jurídicamente vinculantes en relación con el proceso de información y consentimiento previos relativos al comercio internacional de productos químicos tóxicos y se fortalezca la cooperación entre el Programa Internacional de Protección frente a los Productos Químicos recientemente creado.

Se apoya el fortalecimiento de la función normativa de la FAO en la ordenación sostenible de los bosques, en su función cooperativa en las actividades complementarias de la CNUMAD, y en los demás temas de desarrollo sostenible en los que la FAO contribuye con otras instituciones.

Apoyamos la iniciativa sobre la reunión interinstitucional organizada por la FAO sobre el seguimiento de la CNUMAD en el sector forestal a fin de: primero; aumentar la cooperación interinstitucional para el fortalecimiento de la capacidad nacional, el asesoramiento sobre la elaboración de políticas y la gestión forestal sostenible; y segundo; dar prioridad permanente al PAFT.

En este contexto y con relación al documento CL 107/13 - sup.l párrafo 6, apoyamos las recomendaciones preliminares que han de incluirse en el informe del Gerente de Tareas que se basan en una amplia gama de aportaciones de dependencias de la FAO y otras instituciones, entre las que figuran el Banco Mundial, el PNUD, el Instituto Interamericano de Cooperación para la Agricultura (IICA) y muchas ONG focalizando nuestras prioridades en:

Primero. Fortalecer las medidas nacionales e internacionales para la conservación y la utilización sostenible de los recursos zoogenéticos, haciendo que la cooperación y el apoyo internacionales alcancen un nivel semejante al de otras iniciativas en curso relacionadas con los recursos fitogenéticos; y

Segundo. Promover la cooperación internacional y las medidas nacionales en materia de producción sostenible y compatible con el medio ambiente y de utilización de la energía por las comunidades rurales y la agroindustria, por medio de la colaboración de la FAO con instituciones como la UNESCO, la ONUDI, las Comisiones Económicas Regionales de las Naciones Unidas, Banco de Desarrollo y la Organización Latinoamericana de Energía (OLADE).

Asimismo se estima importante el apoyo de la FAO mediante información adecuada para la planificación, la programación, el examen y evaluación sectoriales de las políticas nacionales. Se apoya también la elaboración y difusión de metodologías que faciliten una mejor comprensión de las vinculaciones intersectoriales y el trabajo multidisciplinario sobre programas orientados a los problemas en el marco general de la utilización de la tierra.

Se solicita, así como se hiciera en la 23 Conferencia Regional de la FAO para América Latina y el Caribe, la contribución de la FAO al aumento de la capacidad nacional, centrada en el perfeccionamiento de los recursos humanos y en el apoyo al fortalecimiento y la adaptación de las disposiciones institucionales, tanto en los países en desarrollo como en los países desarrollados, para una cooperación eficaz entre las administraciones forestales, el sector privado, las ONG y las organizaciones rurales, y para actuar con eficacia en un ámbito multisectorial.

Entre las medidas adoptadas deberían destacarse: la aprobación de una estrategia para atender las necesidades de los preparativos de la Comisión de Desarrollo Sostenible en 1995; disposiciones para el asesoramiento sobre políticas para las actividades futuras de la FAO en el sector forestal; la invitación a autoridades forestales (Ministros) para el 12º período de sesiones; reunir ONG y sector privado; y dar prioridad permanente al PAFT.

Finalmente, desearía enunciar, en relación con la Organización, los sectores prioritarios para la República Argentina, vinculados con la producción agrícola, y que se relacionan con las acciones concretas que se están llevando a cabo en nuestro país, a saber:

Erosión de los suelos, tema prioritario para la producción agropecuaria argentina. Insumos químicos (fertilizantes, plaguicidas) y su impacto en el medio ambiente.

Biodiversidad y desarrollo sostenible, a fin de conservar los recursos autóctonos y proteger su intercambio y difusión, como así también la conservación de los recursos naturales marinos y forestales.

Bioteología para difundir los avances de esta ciencia en los países en desarrollo y facilitarles el acceso a las nuevas tecnologías que se apoyan en la bioteología y no son contaminantes para el medio ambiente.

**Per Harald GRUE (Norway):** I have the pleasure to speak on behalf of the Nordic countries: Denmark, Finland, Sweden and my own country, Norway.

The Nordic countries have for a long time supported FAO's work in the field of sustainable development. In our view, the greatest challenge FAO is facing is to demonstrate how the agreements reached in Rio can be translated into practical action. This will be to the benefit of its member countries in all regions, but particularly to developing countries. We are therefore pleased to see that the issues relating to sustainable development are given a prominent place on the agenda for the Council session.

The Commission on Sustainable Development was established by the UN General Assembly in order to ensure the effective follow-up of the Rio conference. It is entrusted to enhance international cooperation and rationalize the inter-governmental decision-making capacity for the integration of environment and development issues. The document in front of us presents a thorough description of on-going activities in the tasks FAO is carrying out in relation to the work of CSD. FAO is designated as Task Manager for several chapters of Agenda 21. This shows that Agenda 21 is central to the mandate of FAO and that the member countries have a lot of expectations of, and trust in, FAO's abilities to take care of these responsibilities. The important role assigned to FAO should be regarded as a golden opportunity to show the Organization's competence, relevance and creativity in this important field. The activities summarized in the document are therefore, in our view, a central part of FAO's regular activities.

The document raises a serious concern relating to the amount of documentation produced in relation to CSD's sessions. What the member countries have agreed to when establishing CSD is not the production of an increased amount of documents, but an enhanced and effective inter-agency cooperation in order to achieve better practical results. CSD and involved inter-governmental agencies might therefore need to seriously review the possibilities of streamlining their reporting procedures in order to be as effective as possible.

We fully agree with what is said in the document on the need to bring the sectoral ministries and technical competence more strongly into CSD's work. This needs to be given due attention both in the national work and in various CSD meetings.



Therefore, we can not fully support what is said in the last sentence in paragraph 27, if it implies that sectoral issues relating to sustainable development should not be discussed by the CSD. We fully support the objective of avoiding overlap and repeated discussion. The discussion in the various technical agencies and in the CSD will therefore have to be properly planned and well structured. The Task Managers have here an important responsibility. The mandate of CSD has been agreed at UNCED and confirmed by UN General Assembly and is not an issue for discussion by the Council. Issues relating to the mandate and working methods of the Commission should be raised and considered in the CSD itself. CSD's mandate covers all aspects of Agenda 21 follow-up. It is specifically mentioned that it covers integration of both environmental and developmental goals. It would be detrimental to CSD's important role and mandate were the commissions not to consider sectoral issues. Rather than removing sectoral matters from CSD, discussion on sector specific issues will need to be strengthened and held in the integrated manner just mentioned.

Turning to FAO's own work on sustainable development, the Council gave its full support to the establishment of a new department of sustainable development. We think this was an important move to strengthen the cross-sectoral approach and competence within the Organization. We are therefore looking forward to the implementation of this important change. The rapid establishment of the new department will also, hopefully, be important for the efficient execution of the important assignment as Task Manager to the CSD.

**Sra. ANA LILIA PEDROSA (México):** La Delegación de mi país desea expresar su reconocimiento a la labor que ha venido desarrollando la Organización en cooperación con la Comisión de Desarrollo Sostenible, para coadyuvar a la aplicación de los acuerdos de la Cumbre de Rio.

Reconocemos la importancia que la FAO le concede a las actividades de desarrollo sostenible y medio ambiente, al haber establecido un Departamento de Desarrollo Sostenible, que fue aprobado en el pasado 106° Consejo.

La preocupación de mi país por alcanzar un desarrollo sostenible, incorporando variables ambientales, se ha manifestado ya en las líneas programáticas a nivel sectorial en el Plan Nacional de Desarrollo 1989-1994, especialmente en los casos de agricultura, pesca, turismo, energéticos, minería, industria, comercio y por supuesto en los programas de desarrollo social.

Para finalizar, deseamos señalar la participación que ha tenido nuestro país en los diferentes foros de Naciones Unidas buscando dar continuidad y congruencia a los acuerdos emanados en la Conferencia de Rio.

**Dato' Ahmad Zabri IBRAHIM (Malaysia):** The delegation of Malaysia would like to comment on Items 6.1 and 6.2.

My delegation feels that the pace of follow-up action on UNCED decisions pertaining to the "Forest Principles" and Chapter II of Agenda 21 relating to Forestry has generally been far from satisfactory. The forthcoming review by the UNCED in April 1995 presents an opportunity to expedite this follow-up process.

FAO as the relevant "task manager", with the technical expertise, can play a catalytic and facilitating role at the said UNCED session.

In this context, my delegation welcomes the several initiatives of the Director-General, in particular that of convening a Ministerial Session of forestry ministers in March 1995.

In the preparatory work for this ministerial session, my delegation would like to invite the FAO Secretariat to consider the various options for action arising from the work of the Inter-governmental Working Group on Forests (IWGF) sponsored by the Government of Malaysia and Canada.

My delegation believes that FAO could usefully undertake some of the required follow-up technical studies which could serve as inputs and help facilitate the work of the Ministerial Session and eventually that of the UNCED.

My delegation believes that with the slow pace of progress, some countries and NGOs have taken the initiative to expedite decisions on concrete action. No less than ten such initiatives have been cited in the Secretariat document, of which the IWGF is one. These spates of actions underscore the importance of forestry issues and the need to give them due emphasis and not just cursory consideration as an adjunct to other issues.

My delegation hopes that the FAO would contribute to expediting multilateral follow-up action as per the consensus reached in UNCED, to forestall unsavoury development such as unilateral measures to impose ECO-labelling and certification on tropical timbers.

**Khalil CHOUEIRI (Liban) (langue originale arabe):** Malgré les charges supplémentaires qui pèsent sur ses ressources, la FAO continue son action pour mettre en oeuvre les conclusions de la Conférence de Rio et assurer le suivi de ses recommandations. Nous sommes convaincus que la FAO jouera un rôle encore plus important à l'avenir en ce qui concerne le développement de la coopération et de la coordination dans ce domaine avec l'aide des pays membres.

Bien que cette question soit très ample, je ne peux m'empêcher de faire référence à un thème brûlant, à savoir la recherche d'une solution pour remplacer les produits chimiques utilisés dans l'agriculture.

Le chapitre 19 sur les produits chimiques toxiques, fait allusion à la nécessité de préparer des instruments qui soient juridiquement contraignants concernant les dispositions qui doivent réglementer le commerce international de produits chimiques toxiques. De même, les organes de la FAO pourraient, à travers le COAG par exemple, soumettre des documents qui permettent de suivre les recherches faites à l'heure actuelle pour trouver des produits moins nuisibles à la santé. Les produits chimiques devront être limités, et à l'heure actuelle les entreprises ne font pas d'efforts suffisants pour trouver des produits de remplacement.

En outre, nous connaissons bien les problèmes commerciaux qui compliquent la vie des agriculteurs, et ces activités sont très peu réglementées.

Nous lançons un appel à la Communauté internationale pour que les recommandations des conférences internationales puissent jouer un rôle pour que l'Organisation puisse disposer des ressources financières nécessaires pour faire face à ces problèmes.

En ce qui concerne le paragraphe 26 de ce document, nous appuyons la proposition d'augmenter la productivité par un développement vertical, étant donné que la surface agricole se réduit de plus en plus dans les pays en développement et nous devons les aider à optimiser leurs productions. Nous demandons au Comité des forêts d'étudier à l'avenir le problème de la destruction de la couverture forestière et végétale au profit de l'avancée du béton qui envahit de plus en plus les terres agricoles et aussi assurer le développement durable aux zones montagneuses. Mon pays coopère avec le FIDA et la Banque mondiale dans le but de lancer des projets de construction de lacs collinaires, et des routes agricoles. Il est indispensable de recourir au développement durable dans les zones rurales et cela dans les domaines de l'aménagement des forêts et dans l'aménagement des eaux.

Nous lançons donc un appel à la Communauté internationale pour aider les pays en développement et permettre aux organisations internationales, en particulier la FAO, d'affecter davantage de ressources aux fonds fiduciaires et d'assurer le suivi des recommandations de la Conférence de Rio pour arriver à une situation de développement durable au bénéfice de l'homme.

**Hyunki BAIK (Korea, Republic of):** Firstly, I should like to thank FAO for performing an important function as Task Manager in many of the chapters of Agenda 21. Land of Chapter 10, Combatting Deforestation of Chapter 11, Sustainable Mountain Development of Chapter 13 and Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Development of Chapter 14 of Agenda 21 are also important issues for world food and agriculture. I hope the establishment of the Department of Sustainable Development will enhance FAO's capacity to ensure a concerted response in the follow-up to UNCED and to support and coordinate action related to FAO's responsibilities as Task Manager.

I fully agree that food security, poverty alleviation and the intensification and diversification of production systems, together with sustainable management of the resource base, should be the areas of concentration of FAO's efforts.

I believe that the cooperation between the CSD and FAO with regard to the agricultural and rural development field should first give an accurate conceptualization of sustainable development and approach a method toward it.

Secondly, the content should set the guiding principles of the development plan for agriculture, forestry and fisheries under consideration to the conditions in each member country.

Thirdly, it is also necessary to have a common sharing of technology and information necessary for the sustainable development of world agriculture.

Lastly, I hope a substantial report will be provided so that FAO's view can be submitted accurately to the Third Substantive Session of the CSD to be held in April 1995 in New York.

**ZHANG XIGUI (China):** On behalf of the Chinese delegation we wish to thank Mr Mahler for his very in-depth presentation of this topic.

The Chinese delegation is happy to note that after UNCED, FAO has carried out a series of follow-up activities and provided all-round cooperation for the Commission on Sustainable Development so as to ensure full support, full implementation of the relevant articles of UNCED decisions.

The Chinese Government greatly appreciates the leading role and positive contribution of FAO in promoting sustainable development, conserving biodiversity, preventing desertification, as well as implementing Agenda 21 of UNCED.

The Chinese delegation endorses the views contained in CL 107/13, that is, while the implementation of UNCED agreements is, first and foremost, a responsibility of governments, the UN System is called upon to play a major role in facilitating international cooperation and coordination in the UNCED follow-up.

FAO has been designated as Task Manager for chapters 10, 11, 13 and 14 of Agenda 21. It is our hope that FAO will be able to provide management and policy advice to the agriculture, forestry, land and water resources management sectors of Member State governments, and to transfer appropriate technology with a view to enhancing national executive capacity.

It is also our hope that FAO will coordinate its activities with relevant agencies within the UN System and the donors so as to help developing countries to solicit funds and to provide financial support in general.

The Chinese delegation fully supports the various Special Action Programmes proposed by the Director-General, especially the one aimed at improving food security in low-income, food-deficit countries, which is an issue of primary importance for sustainable development and mankind as a whole.

The Chinese Government attaches great importance to the follow-up activities of UNCED. Our Government has adopted a series of measures to promote sustainable development, including the formulation of a China Agenda 21, by organizing in July this year an international symposium on this subject, which was attended by the representatives of FAO, UNDP and many countries.

During the Director-General, Mr Diouf's visit to China this year, Mr Mahler and Mr de Haen, at the invitation of the Scientific Commission of China explored the issues relating to Agenda 21 of UNCED with the relevant Chinese officials. During the Director-General's visit, Chinese Government leaders briefed him on our country's policies to help the poor design means of improving their ecological environment and conditions for production as well as the farmers' standard of living.

At the same time, the Government has adopted measures to raise the self-sufficiency level of food, to conserve forests and to promote afforestation. It has also formulated China Agenda 21 for forestry. Efforts

have been made to protect water resources vigorously, to promote the rational use of land, implement agriculture of high-yield, fine quality and higher efficiency, enhance the development of township enterprises and increase the nation's awareness in conserving ecological environment and the rational utilization of natural resources.

We have noted that low-quality pesticides and chemical products severely affect human health, sometimes even resulting in human and animal death and seriously polluting the environment. Therefore, the Chinese delegation agrees that the Secretariat continue to draft the legally-binding document concerning the implementation of the prior-informed consent procedure.

**Takafumi KOJIMA (Japan):** Japan expects that FAO will fully play the role of the Lead Agency for the follow-up to UNCED as Task Manager for chapters 10, 11, 13 and 14. We are pleased that FAO intends to play the key role regarding chapters 17 and 18. In this context we are sure that FAO's restructuring, namely the establishment of the Department of Sustainable Development, would contribute to enhancing FAO's activities in these areas.

We believe that sustainable development will never be successful without a good balance between the development dimension and the environmental dimension. In order to balance those, we believe that FAO as the major specialized intergovernmental body in the agricultural sector, including forestry and fisheries, has a large scope in which FAO has the comparative advantage.

In discussing chapters 10 to 15 of Agenda 21 in the CSD, it is essential that representatives of Ministries responsible for agriculture and forestry sectors participate in the discussion along with the representatives of Ministries concerned to perform the technical-cum-policy task of FAO.

Finally, Mr Chairman, as indicated in paragraphs 24 and 25, we are sure that the CSD should take cost efficiency into account in the reporting process to avoid unnecessary overload and duplication. We hope that the effective cooperation and coordination between FAO and the CSD will greatly contribute to the steady implementation of the follow-up to UNCED.

**Noah M. NKAMBULE (Swaziland):** I would like to commend the Secretariat for the quality of the documents presented to the Council for discussion on the important subject of sustainable development. FAO's role in the implementation of the UNCED follow-up programme is very well documented. We note with admiration the confidence entrusted to our Organization by other sister organizations in the UN system. We should indeed be proud of FAO's technical input to a number of organizations dealing with the UNCED follow-up programme.

Furthermore, my delegation would like to recognize the substantial progress that has been made towards the implementation of the UNCED follow-up programme. Particularly impressive is the clear allocation of responsibilities by the Commission for Sustainable Development. We welcome the designation of FAO as Task Manager for chapters 10, 11, 13 and 14 of Agenda 21.

The topics dealt with under these chapters are pivotal to FAO and the FAO's mandate. The allocation of specific activities to specific UN Agencies is a commendable move which will minimize duplication and inefficient use of limited financial and other resources. However, we note with concern that a Task Manager for Water Resources has not been clearly defined. It is a known fact that freshwater resources are on the decline due to increasing demands and declining supplies. Africa in particular continues to be haunted by the high incidence of drought in recent years. Concerted efforts must be focused on this problematic area within the framework of sustainable development.

Having said this, I hasten to add my delegation's concern about the complicated nature of the reporting system as outlined in paragraphs 24 and 25 of document CL 107/13.

My delegation agrees fully with the conclusions reached by the Secretariat that a very careful assessment of FAO's role in these activities is made so that the clear and formidable tasks of the FAO are not undermined due to over-involvement in the work of the Commission for Sustainable Development.

The advice to us as Member Governments of FAO to improve the sectoral representation in the delegations dealing with UNCED follow-up is very well taken by my delegation. We strongly believe that future consultations on these matters should involve the relevant disciplines of agriculture, forestry and land management as suggested in paragraph 27 of document CL 107/13.

Lastly, my country applauds the global effort on environmental protection. However, we strongly believe that a global programme that is not complemented by action programmes in member countries cannot be effective. We in Swaziland have moved ahead and established the Swaziland Environmental Authority. This institution will further be supported in its proposed activities by appropriate legislation which will ensure that most, if not all, development programmes and projects take into account environmental considerations during their planning and implementation to ensure sustainable development.

**Liano ANGELI (Italy):** Regarding sustainable development, the Italian delegation wishes to express its appreciation for document 107/13 and its supplement which have been presented to this Council.

Considering that in the framework of the collaboration with the UNCED's Commission on Sustainable Development FAO was designated as Task Manager for the implementation of some of the main chapters of Agenda 21, we want to stress our special interest in this theme and the importance attached to the rapid establishment of the proposed Department of Sustainable Development. We also agree with the necessity to follow a holistic and participatory approach, and, in view of the multiple interactions between agriculture and forested areas, jointly to address the problems of sustainable development of agriculture and forestry and, among other things, their competing for land and water use.

Regarding sustainable agriculture and food security, we also share the opinion that social and human factors must be considered as important as, if not more so than, physical and technological factors in determining whether natural potentials would be successfully exploited.

We strongly believe that the participatory approach is the cornerstone of the success of all activities aimed at reaching a sustainable development. Consequently, it will be necessary to make special efforts to assist all community members to play their own role in local decision-making as it affects their own livelihoods in particular decisions over access, control and management of common resources. This implies the right to set up community gathering and organizations. Women must be able to participate fully in these processes and capitalize on their role as environmental managers for the benefit of themselves, their households and the whole community.

We would like to conclude on this particular point by remembering that within the Italy/FAO Cooperative Programme some of the ongoing projects have sustainable development as a main focus whilst other pipeline projects - expected to be finalized in the near future - will also share this important concern.

**M.A. ARDESHIRI (Iran, Islamic Republic of):** In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful.

At the outset I would wish to thank the Secretariat for preparing such a useful and informative document. I would also like to extend my delegation's appreciation to Mr Mahler, the Special Adviser and ADG for Environment and Sustainable Development, for his clear and concise introduction to the documents before us.

Regarding Item 6.1 of our agenda, FAO's cooperation with the Commission on Sustainable Development, my delegation extended its support to this cooperation at the 27th Session of the FAO Conference. Due to the long experience of FAO in the field of agriculture, forestry and fisheries, it is our firm opinion that FAO has a vital role to play in the overall activities of this Commission, especially as actions and decisions will be taken in relation to these three major components of rural development.

Firstly, it is my delegation's wish to reiterate its support. Secondly, as regards the issues which have been addressed in document CL 107/13, I would also like to make some specific remarks on some subjects of great concern.

As indicated in document CL 107/13, in addition to the lack of new and additional resources for the implementation of Agenda 21 we are witnessing an overall decrease in Official Development Assistance after UNCED. Due to the fact that the main causes of environment resources degradation in developing countries are poverty and lack of social and economic development, the necessity for providing new and additional financial resources for the implementation of UNCED decisions, particularly for the implementation of programmes in Chapters 10 to 14, which are directly related to rural development, is inevitable.

Accordingly, on behalf of the delegation of the Islamic Republic of Iran I would first like to emphasise the need for a global partnership in the implementation of Agenda 21 through an increase of ODA levels in line with the 0.7 percent target as reaffirmed in Agenda 21. Secondly, I wish to stress the need for the continuation of the increased efforts for the provision of new and additional financial resources for the implementation of UNCED decisions.

Concerning the composition of representatives at intergovernmental fora of UNCED follow-up, particularly in follow-up actions related to Chapters 10 to 14, we believe that active participation of the representation from Ministries of Agriculture and Forests in country delegations and active involvement of the competent, specialized organizations like FAO to CSD sessions is very important and crucial in achieving harmonized and scientifically based outputs from the debates. Therefore, on behalf of my delegation I would like to ask all distinguished delegates to pay due attention to this issue and act accordingly.

As has been clearly pointed out in the Declaration on Forest Principles, and emphasized in the outcome of UNCED, conservation and the sustainable management of all types of forests through the effective implementation of the framework for national forestry action plan must be taken into consideration in any forestry-related issue. Accordingly, as regards the lines and principles for collaboration, as was agreed at the inter-agency meeting on UNCED follow-up on forestry, we are of the strong opinion that the issue of "increasing inter-agency cooperation in effective implementation of the framework for national forestry action plans of all types of forests" should be added to the general lines and principles mentioned in paragraph 18 of document CL 107/13.

Finally, my delegation fully and strongly supports the proposals in paragraphs 24 and 25 of document CL 107/13. We believe that unnecessary time allocated to excessive reporting which consumes most of the inter-agency efforts should be reallocated to more effective activities of FAO's programme implementation. We also recommend the streamlining of the reporting process in various intergovernmental bodies so that unnecessary overload and duplications in the reporting process can be avoided.

**Triyono (Indonesia):** With regard to Agenda Item 6.1, FAO cooperation with the Commission on Sustainable Development, documents CL 107/13 and 107/13 Sup.1, allow me to give a brief comment as follows. The Indonesian delegation would like to express our appreciation and full support for FAO's role as Task Manager of Agenda 21, Chapter 10, Integrated Approach to the Planning and Management of Land Resources; Chapter 11, Combatting Deforestation; Chapter 13, Managing Fragile Ecosystems, Sustainable Mountain Development; and Chapter 14, Promoting Sustainable Agricultural and Rural Development. The idea of establishing FAO cooperation with the Commission on Sustainable Development is excellent. In this regard, the Indonesian delegation is of the view that duplication and overlapping of functions should be avoided. Moreover, we should encourage the efficiency of budgeting intercooperation. Recognizing the expanded role of FAO to play in implementing the forest principle and with Agenda 21 of UNCED, my delegation would like to reiterate our appreciation to FAO for establishing the Department of Sustainable Development. It is our wish that this new department will enhance FAO's capacity to ensure a concerted response in the follow-up to UNCED, specifically to support action related to FAO's responsibility as Task Manager.

**Ms Rosanne KAVA (Australia):** We thank Dr Mahler and the FAO Secretariat for the comprehensive explanation and papers on the Organization's cooperation with the CSD. Australia is committed to a balanced, integrated approach to the implementation of Agenda 21 and other UNCED agreements. We have actively participated in the UNCED process, utilizing inputs from all relevant ministries, including, *inter alia* as appropriate, those with responsibilities for agriculture, fisheries, forestry and development as well as for the environment, and we would encourage all governments to take a similar approach.

Australia also supports the FAO position that the CSD, in discussing the land cluster of Agenda 21 at its 1995 session, needs to receive appropriate advice from relevant industry ministries to enable the CSD to perform its role effectively. In addition, Australia supports participation by appropriate ministers in the CSD. Such involvement could demonstrate CSD's members' strong political commitment. More important, it should go further and aim to produce concrete outcomes in support of sustainable development.

Like Norway, we are not comfortable with the suggestion in the main document that the CSD should limit itself to cross-sectoral issues. We would be concerned that this could restrict the CSD's capacity to fulfil its own mandate, particularly in the area of examining the implementation of Agenda 21 at the national, regional and international levels. It would also deny the potential gains in coordination and avoidance of duplication offered by the current system of reviewing clusters of sectoral issues. In this regard Australia further considers that the 1995 land cluster review provides an excellent framework to progress in an integrated manner the multiple interactions between not only forestry and agriculture but also bio-diversity, desertification, integrated land management and rural development. To aid the *ad hoc* working group on sectoral issues, Australia supports the proposal that the FAO, in consultation with other relevant Task Managers, provide the meeting with a comprehensive, consolidated Task Manager's report.

As the only Southwest Pacific country currently on the Council, Australia is pleased to reflect the views of the region, including in particular the Pacific Island countries. On this occasion we have the honour to relay some specific comments on this item by the Government of Western Samoa. It endorses and supports the FAO undertaking of the many roles and responsibilities in the follow-up to UNCED as outlined in the document and referred to by many of the previous speakers. It noted with concern the view that the development dimension in the UNCED follow-up process has not been balanced with the environment dimension. It considers that the development dimension needs to be strengthened in the spirit of the Rio Declaration. The sustainable development of agriculture, forestry and fisheries is seen by the Government of Western Samoa as equally important and it stresses that the importance of the development of these resources for food security and for the economic development of the Pacific Island countries cannot be over-emphasized. FAO's concern regarding lack of sectoral representation in the delegations dealing with UNCED follow-up are acknowledged. The Government of Western Samoa advises that it fully endorses and supports that the Council should bring these concerns to the attention of Member Governments, noting that to fully contribute to these meetings and in order to derive the maximum benefit, it is in the interest of all governments that the delegations are composed of representatives of all relevant sectoral ministries so that the discussions do not lack the technical substance required.

**Ahmed MER'I (Syria) (Original language Arabic):** I would like to begin by thanking the Secretariat of the FAO for the excellent reports that they have submitted to us. I also thank the Chairman for his presentation and Mr Mahler for his introduction. The setting up of the CSD followed upon the Rio Conference in order to protect the environment and sustainable resources. That is why all the efforts of all the international organizations should be combined in order to produce a plan for safeguarding land, forests, seas, rivers and lakes, which are all sources of sustainable development in the world. Forests are extremely important and have been allowed to fall into degradation in the past because of disorderly logging or bush fires and forest fires which have meant a loss of thousands of hectares of trees for the world, trees which are necessary in order to produce oxygen. That is why my country is doing everything in its power to implement the decisions taken in Rio by planting trees in vast areas of land as well as protecting natural forests in order to enlarge the vegetable cover of our country. The increasing use of land for agricultural purposes in order to produce the food for populations is undeniable. Furthermore, plant genetic resources and animal genetic resources should not be overlooked either. We have every interest in setting up a commission for sustainable development, the purpose of which is to provide help to developing countries and developed countries also so that they may take the necessary steps to safeguard our natural resources which are a source of food for the whole of humanity.

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Muchas gracias, distinguido delegado de Siria. Con esto concluye la lista de miembros del Consejo. Pregunto, antes de pasar a los oradores, si hay algún otro miembro del Consejo que desee hacer uso de la palabra. ¿Hay algún otro delegado que desee hacer uso de la palabra? Tiene la palabra el distinguido delegado de la India.

**Atul SINHA (India):** I begin by congratulating the Secretariat for the excellent documentation on the subject which is very complex and yet very, very important, for all of us. I also congratulate Dr Mahler for an excellent clarification and initial remarks. In respect of the subject of Agenda 4.1, I would wish to inform you that India had participated in the second substantive session of the CSD in May 1994. We have provided detailed information and reports on the specific things which were to be reviewed, like subjects on health, human settlements, fresh water, toxic chemicals and hazardous waste. India also expects to nominate representatives to intersessional work groups which are expected to meet in February 1995 to prepare discussions for the third session of the CSD. We will be proposing the name of Dr M.S. Swaminathan, who has been the former Chairman of the FAO Council, as India's representative to the intersessional working group on sectoral issues. With his background, we do hope that he would be able to contribute substantially to their deliberations.

India and the United Kingdom jointly sponsored a workshop towards sustainable forestry, preparing for CSD '95 in New Delhi in July 1994. The aim of the workshop was to design a draft framework for national reporting to the third session of the CSD proposed to be held in 1995. The framework is a guide to assist nations to provide voluntary information on their progress in implementing the objectives, activities and elements of the forest principles and of Agenda 21, Chapter 11, relating to Combatting of Deforestation. It would also enable countries to communicate their intended action and its purposes to guide and facilitate country papers so that the reports centred on matters of major importance are produced with a degree of uniformity. We do hope countries are preparing those papers.

Insofar as the three major conventions are concerned, it may be mentioned that India has already ratified the Convention on biological diversity on 18 February 1994 and the UN framework convention on climate change on 1 November 1993. India was also represented at the negotiations that adopted the final text of the Convention to combat desertification.

With reference to the global environmental facility, there is a major problem in respect of financing. It is noticed that the four key areas covered are climate change, biodiversity, international waters and ozone layer depletion. The agreement on the restructured GEF further states that activities concerning land degradation, primarily desertification and deforestation as they are related to the four key areas, shall be eligible for funding. We have pointed out that this was a grey area, and it was not clear as to what kind of projects would be within this definition. The replenishment of GEF by US\$2 billion was made essentially to keep these four key areas in mind. If the claims of land degradation projects were also to be considered, additional replenishments would be necessary.

This point was made during the negotiations on the Desertification Convention and should be stressed again.

We have said that a large number of projects have been prepared for consideration under UNDP's Capacity 21 programme but there have been no sanctions as to date.

With those remarks we would once again wish all the very best to FAO in its role as Task Manager in addressing the various issues under Agenda 21.

**Salah HAMDY (Langue originale arabe) (Tunisie):** M. le Président, la délégation tunisienne tient tout d'abord à remercier le Secrétariat de la FAO pour les bons documents soumis au Conseil, qui donnent une vue d'ensemble de la dimension stratégique du développement durable et de ses rapports avec l'environnement, à partir des différentes sections de la Déclaration de Rio de Janeiro sur l'environnement et le développement et des accords correspondants et rappellent les mesures importantes de suivi du Programme "Action 21" entreprises par la Commission du développement durable en coordination avec les gouvernements nationaux, les ONG, les OIG et tout particulièrement la FAO, en sa qualité de maître d'oeuvre pour les chapitres 10, 11, 13 et 14 du Programme "Action 21".

La délégation de la Tunisie, tout en appréciant et en appuyant les mesures prises par la FAO dans les domaines essentiels liés au développement rural, tient à souligner ce qui suit:

- Un accord définitif doit être conclu avec la Commission du développement durable concernant l'organisme qui sera responsable des questions relatives à l'eau, c'est-à-dire de l'élaboration, de la mise



en oeuvre et du suivi de programmes d'aménagement et d'utilisation des ressources en eau, vu leur importance vitale pour l'humanité et la sécurité alimentaire.

- Les mesures nécessaires doivent être prises pour appliquer des plans et programmes de conservation des ressources en terre et de la protection de la fertilité des sols, d'aménagement et d'utilisation de l'eau d'irrigation à l'échelle nationale, d'amélioration de la productivité des terres agricoles et de développement durable du secteur agricole, de façon à garantir la durabilité de la production agricole et de la sécurité alimentaire.
- Une attention accrue doit être attribuée à la mobilisation de ressources pour le fonds fiduciaire sur la désertification et à la mise en oeuvre des projets prévus dans le Plan d'action approuvé pour l'Afrique, dans le cadre général de l'Accord international sur la désertification.
- Des programmes et projets de conservation des forêts et de reboisement doivent être réalisés vu les liens directs existant entre les forêts, la protection de l'environnement, le climat et la lutte contre la pollution, sans parler du rôle des forêts dans le développement durable, puisqu'elles protègent les sols contre l'érosion et la désertification.

M. le Président, la question la plus importante qui sous-tend tous ces efforts reste la mobilisation des ressources financières nécessaires à la mise en oeuvre de programmes de développement durable dans le cadre d'Action 21. La Commission du développement durable a fait part de sa préoccupation concernant la pénurie de ressources financières car, faute de ressources, elle ne sera pas en mesure d'appliquer le plan d'action approuvé sur le développement durable. Elle a également souligné qu'il fallait absolument améliorer le niveau des ressources financières consacrées à l'aide au développement, pour que celles-ci atteignent le niveau fixé à Rio de Janeiro, soit 0,7 pour cent du produit national brut.

M. Le Président, je ne fais là que rappeler un objectif envisagé depuis longtemps dans le cadre de la coopération Nord-Sud. Or, il est d'autant plus nécessaire de réaliser cet objectif que l'on accorde actuellement une attention accrue à la protection de l'environnement pour permettre à tous les peuples d'accéder au développement durable, dans le cadre d'un système de solidarité internationale.

Toutefois, en ce qui concerne la mobilisation des ressources, une lueur d'espoir naît de la restructuration du fonds spécial pour la protection de l'environnement et de l'allocation de 2 milliards de dollars E.-U. à ce fonds. On peut espérer que les pays et institutions donatrices, notamment les pays qui n'ont pas encore atteint l'objectif de 0,7 pour cent, ouvriront à cet effet des crédits plus généreux proportionnels à leurs moyens, témoignant ainsi de leur sens de la solidarité. M. le Président, je voudrais à cet égard rappeler la proposition faite par la Tunisie d'utiliser une partie de la dette nationale pour financer les projets de protection de l'environnement et d'infrastructure nécessaires au développement durable. Si cette proposition est acceptée, il sera possible de mobiliser d'importantes ressources financières sans pour autant alourdir le fardeau financier des pays donateurs, et d'exécuter des projets dans le cadre du Programme "Action 21", outre l'effet positif de cette proposition sur la réduction de l'endettement des pays en développement.

Je tiens à préciser que la proposition de la Tunisie a été favorablement accueillie par certains pays amis comme les Pays-Bas et la Suède, qui ont tous deux commencé à prendre des mesures pour l'appliquer dans le cadre de projets relatifs à l'environnement. D'autres pays donateurs ont pris des dispositions analogues notamment en ce qui concerne les pays les moins avancés.

En conclusion, M. le Président, je tiens à souligner que la délégation tunisienne appuie les propositions présentées par le Secrétariat dans ce document.

Je vous remercie.<sup>1</sup>

**Jaap B. PIETERS (Observer for the Netherlands):** Much has already been said about the role of FAO as Task Manager. However, in the view of the Netherlands, being Task Manager means becoming lead agency at the same time. This implies that FAO is expected to demonstrate a substantial vision on the implementation of the relevant chapters of Agenda 21 and to bring this vision into practice and action as soon as possible.

<sup>1</sup> Texte reçu avec demande d'insertion au process-verbal

Moreover the active role of FAO with regard to Agenda 21 will certainly not end after the third session of the CSD. The involvement of FAO in Agenda 21 is an ongoing process which should integrate all activities of FAO, including the Special Action Programme. The new Department of Sustainable Development should be the catalyst and we look forward to receiving more detailed information on the mandate of this department and its future staffing.

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Me voy a permitir darle la palabra al Dr. Mahler para que responda a las preguntas formuladas.

**P.J. MAHLER (Conseiller spécial du Directeur général/Sous-Directeur général pour l'environnement et le développement durable, Bureau du Directeur général):** Je voudrais d'abord remercier les délégations qui ont bien voulu reconnaître l'ampleur de notre engagement et de nos activités dans notre coopération avec la CDD, et confirmer ce que la Conférence avait déjà souligné l'année dernière, à savoir la nécessité de cette coopération, ceci particulièrement pour la session de la CDD de 1995 qui va examiner des sujets sectoriels, qui relèvent du mandat de l'Organisation.

A ce sujet, je crois utile de dissiper un malentendu. Il entre dans le mandat de la Commission du développement durable d'examiner ce que fait l'ensemble de la Communauté internationale: les gouvernements, les institutions gouvernementales, intergouvernementales, les ONG, dans les domaines sectoriels. C'est pour cela que nous coopérons avec elle. Nous pensons que cette commission - et cela a été dit d'ailleurs - a besoin de s'appuyer sur notre expérience dans ces domaines sectoriels.

Ce qu'il faut chercher, c'est une meilleure complémentarité. Cela a été dit par certaines délégations: il faut éviter de répéter les débats. Je crois qu'à la suite des contacts qui ont eu lieu entre le Dr Diouf et le Dr Töpfer, nous nous acheminons effectivement vers un partage des responsabilités. Cela ne veut pas dire qu'il n'y aura pas un certain chevauchement. Le chevauchement est nécessaire. Le rôle de la Commission est d'examiner les secteurs sous un angle intersectoriel et de voir en particulier quels sont les problèmes d'interface, par exemple, entre les différentes utilisations des terres et voir là où il pourrait y avoir des conflits, des lacunes, ou un manque de coordination.

Pour ce faire, effectivement, il faut une certaine rationalisation dans la préparation des rapports que nous vous présentons sur nos activités dans ces domaines sectoriels et les rapports que nous présenterons à la CDD dans ces mêmes domaines. C'est là le rôle des maîtres d'oeuvre.

Mais il y a aussi, je crois, un rôle pour les délégations et les gouvernements qui assistent aux réunions de ces différentes institutions, de façon à essayer de délimiter les demandes d'information sur nos activités et déterminer celles qui doivent être présentées à la FAO et celles qui méritent l'attention de la CDD. Nous cherchons là une répartition des tâches et des responsabilités.

Cela est d'autant plus nécessaire - je n'en ai pas parlé dans mon introduction - que nous avons les mêmes demandes de la part d'autres commissions des Nations Unies qui nous demandent aussi des informations sur nos activités: la commission qui s'occupe des ressources naturelles, celle qui s'occupe de la science et de la technologie, etc. Il nous faut trouver ici un équilibre entre les rapports sur les activités et nos activités mêmes. Il nous faut avoir des activités concrètes pour pouvoir en rendre compte et faire des rapports! C'est cet équilibre qui doit être recherché.

Je pense effectivement que la participation des représentants des Ministères de l'agriculture et des forêts dans les délégations qui vont siéger à la CDD devrait aider à cela. Elle devrait aider aussi à assurer un meilleur équilibre entre les aspects protection de l'environnement et les aspects développement.

J'ai observé une certaine tendance à la CDD se concentrer vers les problèmes globaux de l'environnement. Ils sont importants, ils affectent le développement. Mais je pense que la participation des ministères sectoriels peut en particulier refléter l'importance du développement dans les secteurs et notamment, dans les pays en développement. Cela a été souligné par le délégué du Burkina Faso.

Evidemment, le Département du développement durable est conçu en particulier pour faciliter la coopération avec la CDD et les représentants de Chypre, du Cap-Vert et des pays nordiques ont souligné l'importance de ce département.

En réponse aux questions du délégué de l'Allemagne, sans anticiper sur les débats qui auront lieu sur le suivi de la cent sixième session du Conseil où le Directeur général présente l'ensemble des activités de suivi des décisions du Conseil sur la restructuration, je rappellerai que, jusqu'à présent, nous avons essayé de répondre aux demandes de la Commission du développement durable avec une petite unité de coordination et de multiples groupes interdépartementaux, sous-groupes de travail, sur des questions diverses: la désertification, la biodiversité, etc., faisant chaque fois appel à la participation de certains collègues des départements sectoriels. Mais avec la demande qui augmente, il est apparu évident qu'on ne pouvait pas répondre à ces requêtes de manière équilibrée, intégrée, sans avoir un dispositif où il y aurait du personnel à temps complet qui traiterait de ces questions, certes en coopération avec les départements techniques sectoriels, mais qui assurerait déjà, au niveau de l'Organisation, l'intégration et la coordination nécessaires. Le Département s'adressera aussi à cette tâche beaucoup plus complexe qui nous est confiée, celle de maître d'oeuvre, qui est d'essayer de favoriser la coopération, la coordination de toutes les institutions intergouvernementales qui travaillent dans le domaine de l'agriculture et des forêts, et d'essayer de rendre compte des progrès faits dans la coopération à la CDD.

Je crois qu'il y a là une des justifications majeures - il y en a d'autres - à l'établissement de ce département.

D'autres interventions qui ont souligné l'importance de la participation populaire, le rôle des femmes, l'importance du développement rural intégré, viennent aussi apporter des justifications à ce département, puisque ce département va traiter de ces sujets.

Un certain nombre d'interventions ont fait référence au rôle des ONG. Je crois que le document que nous avons présenté fait mention de la coopération dont nous jouissons de la part des ONG dans la préparation de nos rapports pour la CDD. Nous les associons à nos réunions interagences. Nous participons à leurs réunions: il y en a eu dernièrement une très importante sur le développement agricole durable à Washington. C'est bien notre intention de continuer ainsi. J'en profite pour remercier les ONG de l'appui qu'elles nous donnent dans ces domaines.

Plusieurs délégations ont souligné le rôle clé de l'eau et de l'aménagement intégré des terres. En ce qui concerne l'eau, je voudrais indiquer que ce sujet a déjà été traité par la Commission du développement durable cette année. Nous avons un Groupe de travail interagences qui suit les recommandations de la Commission dans ce domaine. Il en est d'ailleurs fait mention dans le document.

En ce qui concerne les terres, les dernières consultations que nous avons eues entre maîtres d'oeuvre et avec le Secrétariat des Nations Unies, indiquent que le rapport du maître d'oeuvre sur le chapitre 10, qui traite de la planification et de l'aménagement intégré des terres, servira de chapeau à l'ensemble des autres rapports que nous allons présenter, sur les montagnes, sur la désertification (qui est traitée par le PNUE), sur l'agriculture et les forêts.

Plusieurs délégations ont souligné l'importance des ressources financières pour le suivi de la CNUED. Effectivement elles sont limitées. Nous essayons d'utiliser celles que nous avons le mieux possible. Nous devons reconnaître que beaucoup de donateurs multilatéraux et bilatéraux soutiennent nos actions sur le terrain. Je n'ai pas parlé des multiples projets que nous pouvons exécuter grâce à cela. Mais je dois dire que pour le moment la facilité pour l'environnement global (GEF), auquel a fait référence le délégué de l'Inde, se concentre sur des problèmes globaux de l'environnement, tels que le changement de climat ou la biodiversité, et que même dans le domaine de la biodiversité nous avons eu des difficultés à insister sur l'importance de la biodiversité créée par l'homme, celle des variétés des cultures, des races de bétail. Nous voyons maintenant le GEF s'ouvrir à ces problèmes et soutenir certaines actions sur le terrain.

Il est certain que notre action ne s'arrêtera pas là. Il s'agit d'un processus continu. Le Directeur général a d'ailleurs lancé un examen et une analyse des Programmes d'action spéciaux pour voir comment ils pourraient mieux s'associer à ses initiatives. Le résultat de cet examen sera présenté dans le cadre des propositions pour le Programme de travail et budget du prochain biennium.

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Muchas gracias, Dr. Mahler, por sus aclaraciones y respuesta a preguntas específicas.

Si no hay ningún comentario al respecto me voy a permitir resumir brevemente nuestros debates, que por cierto, levantaron un enorme interés, a pesar de que el tema era fundamentalmente para información.

El Consejo expresó su satisfacción por los documentos presentados y por los esfuerzos de la FAO para cumplir con la preparación de informes de seguimiento de la CNUMAD, en su calidad de gerente de tareas para los capítulos 10, 11, 13 y 14 de la Agenda 21.

Se destacó, entre otras cosas, que el nuevo Departamento de Desarrollo Sostenible deberá jugar un papel central, deberá ser un punto focal para canalizar estas tareas de la FAO en el futuro.

El Consejo tomó nota, con satisfacción, de la reunión que tuvo el señor Director General Jacques Diouf con el señor Klaus Töpfer, Presidente de la Comisión de Desarrollo Sostenible y de la cooperación más estrecha y complementariedad mayor entre la FAO y dicha comisión.

El Consejo expresó todo su apoyo a la ejecución de los planteamientos y objetivos de la CNUMAD y de la Agenda 21 y se hicieron referencias a varias acciones a nivel nacional y otras de mayor alcance en cumplimiento de dichos objetivos.

El Consejo examinó algunas de las dificultades que se presentan en el proceso de seguimiento de la CNUMAD y, en particular, tres pruebas estrechamente vinculadas que no permiten que la FAO pueda dar una contribución totalmente efectiva de acuerdo a su mandato y a las ventajas comparativas de su función sectorial en su colaboración con la Comisión de Desarrollo Sostenible.

Se tomó nota, entre otras cosas, de las siguientes tendencias en el proceso de seguimiento de la CNUMAD. La proliferación de reuniones y de iniciativas, muchas de ellas paralelas al proceso que conduce la CDS, que conlleva una duplicación de esfuerzos y que entorpece el logro de un consenso en la definición de propuestas de acción. También la multiplicación de solicitudes provenientes de muchos foros intergubernamentales, comités y agencias que crean una excesiva presión de trabajo a la Organización para el suministro de información y preparación de informes. La transformación del proceso de seguimiento de la CNUMAD, en un proceso en que las reuniones parecen reemplazar la acción concreta que se propuso la Cumbre de Río para promover el desarrollo sostenible. Esto es debido a la escasez de recursos financieros catalíticos y a la disminución preocupante de la ayuda al desarrollo.

En vista de lo anterior, hubo exhortos a la Comisión de Desarrollo Sostenible para que, en su labor de revisión de la Agenda 21 y de promoción de los acuerdos de Río, se sirva más eficientemente de los foros sectoriales y proponga modalidades de trabajo que permitan orientar la capacidad técnica y operativa de los organismos especializados hacia la puesta en marcha de programas a nivel nacional y regional que realmente contribuyan al desarrollo sostenible y, en particular, con el apoyo financiero de la comunidad internacional que se consideró fundamental.

Sin embargo, se recordó que todo cambio en los métodos de trabajo de la Comisión es materia de debate en Nueva York. En todo caso, se instó a la FAO a que continúe fortaleciendo su colaboración y complementariedad con la CDS y a que se atenga al formato y requerimiento de información de la Comisión.

Se expresó confianza en que, a pesar de la carga de trabajo adicional para la FAO, se continuará ofreciendo todo el apoyo a la CDS. Algunas delegaciones manifestaron no concordar con la propuesta de limitar las funciones de la CDS, pues esto podría llevar a duplicaciones.

El Consejo tomó nota y dio su apoyo a las propuestas de acción que serán sometidas a la Comisión de Desarrollo Sostenible respecto a los cuatro capítulos de la Agenda 21, para los cuales se designó a la FAO como gerente de tareas.

El Consejo invita a la Comisión de Desarrollo Sostenible a examinar con detenimiento dichas propuestas y a servirse de la orientación de los comités técnicos del Consejo, de la COAG y del COFO, sobre todo en virtud de la fase ministerial del COFO, así como del trabajo de la Secretaría para su mayor elaboración y para la formulación de programas de acción que den respuesta a las expectativas de los países en el sentido de buscar

el desarrollo sostenible que venza el flagelo del hambre, la pobreza y la inseguridad, reforzando así la dimensión del desarrollo en un proceso de seguimiento de la CNUMAD.

El Consejo instó a los países miembros para que en el proceso de revisión del conjunto de los capítulos sobre tierras en 1995, así como la revisión de los capítulos sobre océanos y recursos vivos del mar en 1996, la presencia del sector sea más significativa en las delegaciones ante la CDS, dando así un aporte más sustantivo de orientación técnica y política en las deliberaciones.

Se recalcó, en particular, la importancia de la participación activa del sector privado y la participación fundamental de las ONG. El espíritu participativo debe ser la clave del éxito del desarrollo sostenible.

Se solicitó a los comités técnicos del Consejo que estudien los resultados de las discusiones del grupo de trabajo en especial, con la finalidad de presentar a la CDS, en su tercera reunión, una opinión especializada que contribuya a enriquecer el debate y la formulación de acciones concretas.

Distinguidos delegados, en este resumen he debido tomar nota también de lo que ha aclarado la Secretaría de la FAO pero, desde luego, en el informe de nuestro Consejo ustedes podrán balancear adecuadamente las distintas posturas y expresar otros comentarios que yo no he incluido en mi resumen.

Si no hay ninguna observación respecto a este tema, lo doy por concluido y pasamos ahora al Tema 6.2 de nuestra agenda relativo a las actividades forestales, la función de la FAO en la ordenación forestal y sostenible y en las actividades complementarias de la CNUMAD.

Doy de nuevo la bienvenida al Señor Subdirector General, quien actúa como jefe del Departamento de Montes de la FAO y quien presentará este tema. Sin embargo, y antes de concederle la palabra deseo señalar a la atención del Consejo los documentos CL 107/6 y CL 107/6-Sup.1 que contienen la información básica que servirá para el debate del Consejo. Al mismo tiempo, como ya se indicó durante el examen del Tema 6.1 del programa, se propone que en los debates del Consejo sobre este tema, se incluyan también los aspectos forestales de la cooperación de la FAO con la CDS.

En el 27° período de sesiones de la Conferencia se pidió al Director General que preparase un informe con propuestas concretas para el fortalecimiento de la función normativa de la FAO en relación con las actividades forestales. El Consejo recordará que la Conferencia recomendó a la FAO que adoptase una función directiva en el proceso preparatorio para la aplicación de las decisiones de la CNUMAD sobre los bosques, especialmente los principios forestales y naturalmente los aspectos relacionados con la Agenda 21, de manera que se pudiera informar de los progresos efectivos en el examen de temas de los bosques en la reunión de la CDS en 1995. Sin embargo el concepto más amplio de este informe del Director General sobre las actividades formativas de la FAO en relación con los bosques radica en la constante insistencia de los anteriores períodos de sesiones de la Conferencia y del Consejo así como del Comité del Programa y del COFO en la importancia de los programas de la Organización relativos a la silvicultura.

La eficacia de la Organización en su apoyo a la acción nacional e internacional en el sector forestal, depende fundamentalmente de la relevancia y la calidad de la función normativa. Deseo recordarles que en el 106° período de sesiones del Consejo, celebrado en el pasado mes de junio, se señaló que la propuesta al Director General de una consignación adicional para la silvicultura permitiría a la FAO mantener el impulso de importantes iniciativas de carácter normativo vinculadas a la conservación de los bosques mundiales. Ahora bien, esto sólo se puede considerar como el comienzo de una tendencia que podría continuar en los bienios futuros. En consecuencia, las propuestas básicas presentadas en el documento CL 107/6, tienen particular interés para el Consejo.

En este momento no deseo señalar temas específicos que el Consejo tal vez no deseará abordar, ya que deberán surgir durante el propio debate. Sin embargo, propongo que el Consejo se ocupe por una parte de las actividades de la FAO propuestas para hacer frente a las necesidades inmediatas de los exámenes de la CDS para 1995-1997 sobre las actividades forestales y, por otra parte, las perspectivas a largo plazo para una acción más firme y enérgica de la FAO en el sector forestal; es decir, una renovación de su liderazgo.

Espero que haya un debate a fondo sobre este tema y deseo recordarles que, en virtud de lo atrasado que estamos en nuestros debates y lo avanzado de la hora, espero que las declaraciones que ustedes formulen,

distinguidos miembros del Consejo, y los señores observadores, sean breves. Les comunico mis intenciones para esta noche ya que algunas delegaciones han llamado mi atención respecto a compromisos contraídos anteriormente. A su insistencia de que no prolonguemos nuestros debates hasta muy tarde, vamos a continuar hasta las 7 de la noche, es decir, una hora más. Veremos entonces cuanto hemos avanzado y continuaremos con este tema y con el 6.3 mañana por la mañana. Sí les advierto desde ahora que mañana tendremos que empatarnos con el calendario por ustedes aprobado, de manera que si es necesario mantener sesiones, inclusive nocturnas, así lo haremos hasta concluir con los temas especificados para el día de mañana.

Le otorgo la palabra al Señor Hjort.

## **6.2 The role of FAO in Forest Sustainable Management and in the UNCED follow-up**

### **6.2 Le rôle de la FAO dans l'aménagement durable des forêts et dans le suivi de la CNUED**

### **6.2 La función de la FAO en la ordenación forestal sostenible y en las actividades complementarias de la CNUMAD**

**DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL:** Before I begin with my introductory statement, I wish to apologize for my statement being longer than I would have desired, primarily because some of the essential documents have only recently been provided to you.

Under this agenda item the normative role of the Organization in sustainable forest management and the cooperative role in UNCED follow-up are for discussion. A brief document, CL 107/6, was prepared to facilitate the debate. However, the paper "Overall Strategy for FAO Involvement in Post-UNCED Activities in Forestry," which was sent to all member countries in June and was before the Programme Committee at its Seventieth Session in September and is referenced in paragraphs 2.56 and 2.57 of CL 107/4, which is before you, is also relevant, as is the report of the High-Level Panel of External Experts in Forestry, which met only from 19 to 21 October 1994, and has recently been made available as CL 107/6-Sup.1.

To my knowledge there is only one Member of the Council who is fully familiar with the Report.

In addition, the documents on FAO cooperation with the Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD), which you already have considered, contain information of relevance to this item.

First allow me to address the preparations for the April 1995 meeting of the Commission on Sustainable Development, and then turn to the normative role of the Organization.

As you know, FAO serves as the Task Manager for the Forest Principles and Chapter 11, Combating Deforestation, and, as the *ad hoc defacto* principal adviser to the CSD on all forestry matters, is in the process of preparing for the UN Department for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development (UN-DPCSD), the draft report of the Secretary-General on forests to the CSD 1995. The Task Manager's report will be the basis for preparing the Secretary-General's report to the CSD. The latter will pull together the major issues on all forests as seen by the entire community of interest - governments, UN agencies, IGOs, NGOs and the private sector.

The report to the CSD will be presented in draft form to the Intersessional Working Group at its 27 February - 3 March 1995 session, and to the forest industry, the NGOs, COFO and ministers in March 1995. The revised version will be submitted to the CSD for its April 1995 session.

Inputs to the Task Manager and Secretary-General reports are being obtained from a wide range of sources, including the many initiatives referenced in paragraph 10 of CL 107/6, concerned UN system agencies, the financing institutions, other inter-governmental and non-governmental organizations as well as the private industry. The reports of governments which are required and are to be taken into account are only now beginning to arrive.

At this early stage it appears that the proposals for action to be covered in the report to the CSD will include the following:

First, ensure retention of the momentum of UNCED by organizing a post-CSD forum and associated mechanism to prepare prioritized proposals for concrete action and to secure early convergence of the proliferation of international initiatives, both governmental and non-governmental.

Second, ensure continued commitment to action programmes and to improve their funding from all sources and, in this connection, provide guidelines on means for improving mobilization of additional resources in developing countries, including domestic and private sector investment.

Third, given the particular importance of forests for, or close linkage with, other UNCED agreements, especially in areas of biodiversity, desertification and agriculture and land use, develop practical guidelines regarding policies, planning and programmes needed in the external sectors which facilitate attainment of sustainable forest management.

Fourth, explore common ground regarding further progress, if warranted, in evolution of the Forest Principles towards a legally-binding instrument.

Fifth, have a forum for dialogue leading to a more balanced perception of the environmental and developmental roles of forests and promote consensus among currently rather polarized positions.

Sixth, promote agreement on a working definition of sustainable forest management and a harmonized system of criteria and indicators for assessment of progress towards achieving it, taking account of the different capabilities of member countries and their sovereign rights over their forest resources.

Seventh, improve information on forests, including through strengthening forest resources assessment and development of methodologies for valuation of forest goods and services to provide more sound justification for public and political support for sustainable management of forests.

Eighth, secure support for priority attention to capacity-building, both for governments and other stakeholders, including improved capabilities for intersectoral work, assist in defining appropriate sharing of responsibilities among interest groups, and more widely disseminate guidelines for stakeholder participation in forestry. An important aspect here is to search for ways for strengthening the public institutions charged with responsibility for forests and raising their hierarchical stature with a view to improving their ability to influence policy or attract the degree of resources and political support essential for success.

Finally, support technology transfer and development, including efforts to marry modern science with indigenous knowledge and practice.

As recommended by the 27th Session of the Conference, the involvement of regional forestry commissions in the post-UNCED process has been enlisted. A special meeting of the bureaux of all commissions took place in September of this year. The regional concerns, as voiced by the commissions, will be further elaborated through joint FAO/UNEP workshops in Asia, Africa and Latin America for presentation to the CSD. In addition, the High-Level Panel of External Experts in Forestry addressed the UNCED follow-up process, making specific recommendations in paragraph 53.

From the foregoing, the Council will note that FAO is playing a crucial role in facilitating policy and technical inter-agency and inter-governmental/non-governmental dialogue on forests in general and with the particular purpose of enhancing the preparations for the 1995 CSD review on forests. These activities are, however, further expanded by initiatives and proposals for a strengthening of the normative role of FAO in sustainable forest management and its cooperative role in the follow-up to UNCED.

The response by the Director-General to the request by the 27th Session of the FAO Conference to prepare a report containing concrete proposals for a strengthening of the normative role of FAO in forestry is embodied in the previously referenced "Overall Strategy for FAO Involvement in Post-UNCED Activities in Forestry". This strategy document addresses primarily the immediate requirements for the preparations for the 1995 CSD session. What remains to be done is to expand this strategy with a longer-term perspective well beyond 1995. This is envisaged within the framework of the preparation of the Medium-term Plan and the Programme of Work and Budget 1996-97, which will be considered by the ministers with responsibility for forestry in March

1995 as well as the Programme and Finance Committees and the Council later in 1995. In addition, the advice of the High-Level Panel of External Experts in Forestry has been obtained.

In their report the experts aim at a revitalization of FAO's normative activities in forestry in accordance with the Organization's mandate. Their report has implications for the forestry activities of the Organization far beyond the current biennium. I highlight the following among the recommendations of the experts regarding areas of focus:

First, increased focus to forestry-related priorities and programmes in general. Second, collection, analysis and interpretation and provision of reliable data.

Third, provision of policy and technical advice to countries to prepare national forestry action plans and promotion of sustainable forestry, including seeking international cooperation, partnership and dialogue.

Fourth, reviewing current initiatives on criteria and indicators for sustainable forestry management and facilitation of harmonized core criteria for all types of forests.

Fifth, preparation of the ministerial meeting and thereafter formulation of a priority agenda for action for consideration by CSD in 1995.

Finally, convene a broadened Consultative Group involving all key constituents for dialogue on all FAO forest activities.

The panel also made a number of recommendations for the Director-General to consider which would serve to give prominence to forestry and FAO's role in it.

I wish to inform the Council that the Director-General has in general accepted the recommendations of the panel and intends to implement them in a manner commensurate with the availability of resources. Immediate action is being taken to implement three of the recommendations so that the related outputs are available in time for consideration by the 12th Session of COFO and the meeting of ministers responsible for forestry in March 1995. These are: a comprehensive statement on the "State of the World's Forests"; a seminar or workshop on criteria and indicators for sustainable forest management in February 1995; and a paper on the advantages and disadvantages associated with moving towards a legally-binding agreement on forests.

Through its technical committee COFO, the Council will have the opportunity to make final inputs into CSD 1995. The first meeting ever to be convened of ministers responsible for forestry will provide an opportunity for the sector's highest policy forum to send its "message" to the CSD where normally forestry ministers are not present. This will provide a unique opportunity to converge all initiatives and concerns of Member Nations, IGOs, non-governmental organizations and the private sector as regards the need for effective conservation and sustainable development of forests into a singular opportunity for action.

Mr Chairman, of the many issues on which action is required, I encourage the Council to focus on the content of the report to the CSD, as indicated previously, which is to cover the concerns of the entire community of interest, and the recommendations of the High-Level Panel of External Experts in Forestry, in providing guidance to the Director-General especially on the future normative role of the Organization on forestry matters.

Thank you, Mr Chairman. I apologize for taking so long.

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Gracias, señor Hjort. Creo que sus observaciones van a permitir guiar el debate de una manera más constructiva. Abro ahora la lista de oradores. Entre los observadores, Portugal y Países Bajos han pedido también hacer uso de la palabra. Tiene la palabra la distinguida delegación de Hungría.

**Mrs Maria GALVÖLGYI (Hungary):** Mr Chairman, being the first speaker on this item will you allow me to congratulate and at the same time thank Mr Hjort for the introduction which he has given on this subject.



My delegation wishes to express its satisfaction at document CL 107/6 because it fully takes into consideration the outcome of the last session of COFO as well as that of the Timber Committee and the European Forestry Commission held in October 1993. In that forum it was decided that the FAO would undertake a leading role in formulating the requirements and conditions of resource management, especially the sustainable forest management, in collecting information on forest resources and processing, as well as coordinating all international activities aimed at achieving this important objective.

Due to her geo-political position, Hungary is not directly affected by all global programmes like sharp falls in forestry areas or desertification. At the same time, however, my country is an active participant in both the Helsinki and Montreal processes, and for this reason the formulation of general basic principles of sustainable management is very welcome.

Special appreciation goes to paragraph 25 of the document, which I mentioned before, where a proposal is found to apply the accumulated knowledge of countries undergoing economic transition in a wider form. My country is ready to take an active part in its implementation.

Our intention is to take a similarly active part in the high priority programme of Forest Resource Assessment - FRA - as well as in NFAP, National Forestry Action Plan. We feel that Hungary has some results from the assessment of resources and the long-term management that could readily be made available.

We fully agree with the statement made in paragraph 24 of the document where priorities are listed for countries in transition from centrally planned to market economies, like enhancing the technical expertise and developing human resources and so on.

Beyond the support required by these countries, it will be necessary to review how they could contribute to the global forestry objectives of each of the areas, that a donor role could also be played by them on the basis of their technical knowledge.

Mr Chairman, a lot is expected from the 12th Session of COFO which through the political actors will link FAO activities with the Helsinki process. After the Unit of Experts, it is hoped that the matter of forests will also be handled by the politicians according to its significance and on the basis of its basic UNIFOR principles. In the field of cooperation with other international organizations, it is important to emphasize that FAO should take a leading role to avoid unnecessary overlapping and thus to promote the most efficient utilization of scarce resources.

Finally, we feel that FAO should meet the challenges both as coordinator and as a source of information and technical expertise. Therefore, it is inevitable that the forestry sector be represented also in the budget of FAO as it was earlier emphasized by COFO and EFC.

**Jürgen OESTREICH (EC):** I make this statement on behalf of the European Community and its Member States.

The European Community and its Member States are strongly committed to the conservation and sustainable management of their forest heritage. Forest cover and production are constantly increasing. The conservation of forests is a basic element of all national forest policies and legislation, through which a high level of sustainability in forest management has been achieved.

In the light of the Rio Conference, the Member States of the European Union are currently updating their forestry strategies and policies and preparing national action plans for the implementation of the Rio Statement on Forest Principles. Furthermore, they are preparing specific national or regional guidelines to be incorporated into their forestry plans and programmes for the implementation of the general guidelines for the sustainable management of forests in Europe, as adopted by the European Community and its Member States at the Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests in Europe, in Helsinki in June 1993.

As illustrated by the Helsinki resolutions, the current efforts of the European countries aim to achieve, without delay, the highest standards of sustainability in forest management, notably by promoting international

cooperation and developing criteria and indicators for the evaluation of sustainable management of forests in Europe.

The European Community and its Member States reconfirm their commitment to the decisions taken at UNCED for the conservation, sustainable management and development of all types of forests. They are ready to cooperate and support those initiatives that are consistent with the above objectives and help reach a global consensus.

Therefore, they welcome the FAO's designation by the UN Inter-agency Committee on Sustainable Development as Task Manager charged with promoting coordinated UN Agency action to follow up UNCED decisions in the land segment, including forests. It is essential that FAO shows it is worthy of this task.

In this context, FAO should consider and propose appropriate arrangements and means to foster greater dialogue of the various UN organizations and coordination of the various forest-related initiatives, as well as to make available its expertise on specific forestry issues to these initiatives.

FAO needs to reinforce the work undertaken by its regional structures including its regional forestry commissions and its regional offices in order to respond to the above tasks.

FAO should also facilitate the harmonization, adoption, dissemination and application of relevant norms, codes of conduct or practice, criteria, indicators and associated certification systems by making its expertise available to ongoing initiatives.

In this context, the use of one of its programmes by FAO (Forest Resources Assessment) for strengthening continuous monitoring of the status and development of the world's forest cover is essential.

The European Community and its Member States recommend that the TFAP instrument should be strengthened in a way that it could serve as a real instrument for the implementation of sustainable management and conservation of forests.

Even more emphasis should be given now to the development and support of participatory country-driven national forestry programmes with emphasis on policy reform and intersectoral coordination; decentralized planning and implementation; institutional reform and capacity-building; and country-based aid coordination.

In addition, FAO should be encouraged to adapt its coordination function within the TFAP and to make operational the consultative group as already approved by the FAO Council and to ensure an effective exchange of experience with other parties not members of the FAO.

Finally, the European Community and its Member States estimate that the FAO Ministerial Meeting on Forestry next March is a most welcome and necessary opportunity to consider ways of strengthening FAO's global role in the forest sector to give guidance for future activities in this field and to make concrete proposals at a high political level for the preparation of the third session of CSD in April 1995.

The European Community and its Member States will certainly participate actively in this meeting.

**Christian BERGER (France):** Le Secrétariat a préparé une documentation très complète sur la situation internationale et les activités des principaux partenaires institutionnels qui collaborent au suivi de la CNUED dans le secteur forestier. En complément des commentaires à peine formulés devant ce Conseil par la présidence de l'Union européenne, ce sujet appelle quelques observations supplémentaires de la part de la délégation française.

Tout d'abord, la France n'est pas favorable à la multiplication des enceintes internationales pour discuter des questions générales de politique forestière; cette situation nuit à la clarté et à la continuité des débats. La CDD et la FAO semblent des enceintes suffisantes à cet égard, notamment dans la mesure où les deux institutions travaillent de façon coordonnée.

La question forestière touche à de multiples domaines, notamment pour ce qui concerne l'articulation entre la forêt et l'agriculture, la forêt et l'aménagement rural, la forêt et la satisfaction des besoins énergétiques, la forêt et la question de la désertification, etc. C'est pourquoi il est important que la FAO s'engage pleinement dans le suivi de la CNUED en valorisant peut-être mieux qu'actuellement la synergie potentielle entre ses départements techniques.

La France se réjouit de voir la FAO souligner l'importance de son rôle normatif en matière d'aménagement durable des forêts. Plus que les interventions de terrain, il s'agit en effet de la vocation première d'une agence spécialisée des Nations Unies qui se doit de faire autorité en la matière par la qualité de son expertise et par son indépendance.

Nous regrettons qu'un travail conjoint et solidaire de la FAO, du PNUE, du PNUD et de la Banque mondiale sur les questions forestières ne soit pas plus facile à organiser. Le suivi de la CNUED offre l'occasion d'un changement de culture permettant de mettre en place une véritable coordination au sein du système des Nations Unies et avec les institutions de Bretton Woods. Si cette évolution ne se manifeste pas concrètement dans le secteur forestier, il est à craindre que la forêt ne devienne rapidement un enjeu institutionnel de nature à remettre en cause les attributions actuelles de la FAO.

La France apporte un soutien actif au travail d'élaboration de critères et d'indicateurs de gestion durable des forêts déjà entrepris dans plusieurs régions du monde. Il est souhaitable que les commissions régionales des forêts de la FAO servent d'enceintes de négociation pour ces critères et indicateurs lorsqu'il n'existe pas déjà un processus intergouvernemental actif dans ce domaine. Aussi, le département des forêts de la FAO devrait être en mesure d'apporter son expertise technique aux pays ou groupes de pays qui le souhaitent.

Enfin, notre délégation prend acte avec satisfaction des progrès méthodologiques récemment enregistrés par le Programme d'action forestier tropical. Il est nécessaire que le processus de synthèse nationale soit conduit et maîtrisé par le pays concerné, qu'il soit intersectoriel et ouvert à toutes les parties prenantes. Evitant le statut de catalogue de projets, les plans nationaux doivent engendrer un mécanisme de réflexion continue; ils offrent un cadre idoine pour mettre en oeuvre le chapitre 11 d'Action 21 et la Déclaration des principes forestiers de la CNUED. Ce type de processus n'est d'ailleurs pas adapté qu'aux seuls pays tropicaux: le Programme d'action forestier méditerranéen qui se met actuellement en place pourrait, en effet, tirer profit de cette réflexion.

**Won Gil BAE (Korea, Republic of):** First of all, I would like to thank you for providing an opportunity to discuss the FAO's role in Sustainable Forestry Management and in the UNCED follow-up. I hope that this meeting will lead to more tangible results for sustainable forestry management in the world.

As shown in paragraph 6, document CL 107/6, I am glad that the importance of Sustainable Forestry Management in carrying out FAO programmes was recognized so that additional resources were allocated to Major Programme 2.3 and various other actions were taken.

FAO's task is to work toward improving the situation with sustainable forestry management through afforestation, reforestation, and the international technical cooperation.

The Government of the Republic of Korea has been actively participating in quite a number of international discussions and has been making various efforts in order to implement the "Statement of the Forestry Principle of UNCED". In addition, in order to achieve sustainable forestry management, the framework principle was set as the "harmonization of development and conservation", and many changes are being effected; for instance, the forestry law and related regulations are being revised, while the scheme of utilizing mountainous land was restructured for a more efficient management of forestry.

A sustainable management of forestry resources enables us to get diverse benefits from forests for the future generations and is an important task for each and every country to perform. I believe that to this end, the process of setting up standards and targets of sustainable forestry management, now under discussion in the international community, must be accelerated, and global cooperation in this process must be strengthened.

In this context, Korea has a plan to participate actively in the meeting of ministers responsible for forestry in March 1995, and the Head of the Forestry Administration is going to attend the meeting.

I also urge FAO to continue to fulfil the vital normative role in sustainable forestry management and to strengthen its cooperative role in the UNCED follow-up activities.

**Per Harald GRUE (Norway):** I have the pleasure to speak on behalf of the Nordic countries, Denmark, Finland, Sweden, and my own country, Norway.

Let me first thank Deputy Director-General Hjort for his introduction today.

The Nordic countries welcome the actions taken by the Director-General and the FAO Secretariat, in response to the request of the 1993 Conference, to strengthen the normative role of FAO in sustainable forest management and its role as Task Manager in the UNCED follow-up on forest issues in close collaboration with the Commission on Sustainable Development.

The many initiatives taken in the preparations for the 1995 CSD review on the implementation of the UNCED forest decisions have highlighted the importance of FAO's leading role in the preparatory process as requested by the 1993 Conference, especially for a harmonization of the various initiatives. The first FAO meeting of ministers responsible for forestry to be held neck-to-neck with the 1995 session of COFO, will be the forum providing the authoritative intergovernmental forest sector input to the CSD review. In our view, this represents an excellent possibility for FAO to demonstrate its role as leading agency in this area.

The Nordic countries are looking forward to the ministerial sessions of COFO, which we hope will prove to be an important event. The session will, however, require proper technical preparation. It is therefore important that the Forest Department be provided as soon as possible with the necessary leadership and manpower to carry out that task. A positive result of the ministerial session will constitute a solid basis for the strengthening of FAO's global role in the forest sector, and might prove such sessions to be desirable also in the future.

The Nordic countries would like to stress the strengthened role of FAO Regional Forestry Commissions on the follow-up of the UNCED forest decisions. The special joint meeting of the bureau of all the Commissions this autumn was the best way to obtain their input in preparing for the 1995 CSD review.

The regional dialogues on the implementation of the UNCED forest principles are, in the view of the Nordic countries, of the greatest significance in the follow-up process. Stronger regional offices could contribute to these regional dialogues as well as to regional action in support of implementation of the forest principles *inter alia*, through the promotion of policy reform and a capacity building in the field of sustainable management of forests. In this connection, we would like to encourage a closer cooperation with the private forest sector as well as with NGOs.

The expansion of the Forest Resources Assessment Programme is welcomed by the Nordic countries. The convening of an Intergovernmental Panel for a comprehensive assessment of all types of forests has our full support. In questions related to biodiversity, advice should be sought from other relevant bodies.

The Nordic countries share the concern regarding efforts to establish new bodies or structures working in areas within FAO's mandate. Duplication of efforts should be avoided. The moves taken and prepared to strengthen the normative role of FAO in sustainable forest management and in the follow-up of the UNCED forest decisions should ensure that no new formal intergovernmental structures will be needed in this important area.

Finally, while noting with appreciation the measures taken so far in response to the challenging and far-reaching 1993 Conference decision on UNCED follow-up on forestry matters, we look forward to further intensified action in this central area of FAO's work. And we take it that such activities will be clearly and visibly demonstrated in the proposal or the Organization's PWB 1996-97.

**J.C. MACHIN (United Kingdom):** Let me say at the outset that this is one of the most important Council agenda items for my delegation. It relates very obviously to FAO's future role in global forestry issues. Like many countries, the United Kingdom has a strong commitment to the conservation, wise management and sustainable development of all types of forests.

We have published our action plan for sustainable forestry. This sets out our domestic programme for the management of the forest estate and to increase our forest cover, and our increasing support to helping other countries towards sustainable forest management. We will shortly be forwarding our national report to the CSD.

We believe that the focus of activity must be at the national level. A clear understanding of the causes, and agreement on the solutions, must be the basis of action. This, in our view, points to the importance of sovereign nations sharing information on the current situation, challenges and objectives, since solutions will be based on partnerships and collaborative action across all sectors. We therefore believe that national forestry plans are the basis of progress.

Let me say a brief word now about national reports and progress with the forest principles. FAO, as other speakers have said, has been given a vital role by UNCED as the Task Manager for forestry issues. It has several essential tasks. The most important of these is to prepare for next year's meeting of the CSD an analysis of progress in implementing the forest principles and Agenda 21 agreed on at Rio. This analysis is to be based on national reports.

The governments of India and the UK, with FAO, and through a workshop in Delhi last July, developed and agreed a format to assist countries to develop their national reports on forests to the CSD.

The Malaysian/Canadian International Working Group on Forests has also worked very productively with FAO to identify and develop ideas for addressing the key issues associated with achieving sustainable forestry.

The European Forestry Commission attaches high priority to the follow-up to UNCED and to Helsinki. The January 1995 session of the Commission will discuss the criteria and most suitable indicators for sustainable management and development of European forests.

I should like to spend a few brief moments on the meeting of Forestry Ministers planned for next March. This is the first time that such a meeting has taken place. It takes place at a critical time before the CSD review in April. It is essential that the meeting is a success and that Ministers are given adequate opportunity to consider what they would like to see emerge on forests from the CSD meeting. I would echo here the point made by my Norwegian colleague that it is absolutely important that the papers for this meeting issue in good time for them to be considered in capitals, a point we heard reiterated earlier in our proceedings. It is vital also that FAO consults as widely as possible on the contents of these papers. These two elements will, in our view, be very critical to the success of this meeting.

The Ministers' meeting should focus on constructive action on developing national action plans, on the criteria for sustainable forest management and on how international cooperation and multilateral organizations can help. It should consider whether, and in what form, we may need additional international instruments to take forward the Rio principles.

Finally, I thought Mr Hjort's statement was very helpful in bringing us up to date on preparations for the Ministerial meeting. I hope his statement is available generally. If it is not, we would very much appreciate a copy of it. In addition, when we come to the end of our discussion, we would find it helpful if he could augment that statement with some comments on how FAO sees the likely outputs of this Ministerial meeting.

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Muchas gracias por su declaración en relación con la distribución de los comentarios introductorios del Sr. Hjort. Me informa que la traducción podría estar disponible aunque no de inmediato. Quizás le podamos informar al respecto más adelante.

**Giovanni ARRU (Italy):** First, the Italian Government wishes to compliment the Secretariat for the report on the Normative Role of FAO in Sustainable Forest Management and Cooperative Role in UNCED Follow-up.

As regards the document CL 107/6, the Italian Government agrees with the decisions already taken by FAO in response to the Conference remit and to implement the decisions of the 106th Council, especially for refocusing FAO's priorities, strengthening of the forest policy advice, continuing the support to the Tropical Forest Action Plan and giving priority to sustainability and integration of forest with agriculture and aquaculture.

We consider of outstanding relevance the actions to arrest and/or alleviate deforestation and forest degradation through conservation and sustainable use of the existing forest resources and reducing the pressure on forests; to increase the forest resources and the income generated by wood and non-wood forest products and by related industries; and to increase the diffusion of a participatory approach and of programmes aimed at women.

In this connection Italy has already given new priorities to the Italian participation in the FAO Government Cooperative Programme to meet the recommendations of the Council. The ongoing projects, especially when a second phase is foreseen, have already been reoriented.

As regards the new project proposals taken into consideration, first priority is being given to fields of sectoral connection such as Environment and Sustainable Development and Institutional Support, Policy Advice and Structural Adjustment.

Great importance is attached to capacity-building, policy formulation and implementation of national forest action plans, which must be based on sector review and evaluation, and, in general, to all the ongoing programmes on sustainable forestry. A contribution has already been secured to the Mediterranean Forest Action Plan recently presented by FAO.

Finally, the Italian Government supports the proposal for the promotion of international cooperation and coordination and for the "greening" of the world.

**Takafumi KOJIMA (Japan):** Japan welcomes, in general, the fact that FAO, as a specialized agency responsible for forest and forestry, intends to strengthen the normative role in sustainable forest management and its cooperative role in the UNCED follow-up under circumstances where many initiatives aimed at UNCED follow-up in forestry are being prepared for CSD in 1995 and beyond.

With respect to the March 1995 meeting of Ministers responsible for forestry, we think this opportunity provided by FAO is important from the viewpoint of both reviewing past activities and their results and clarifying FAO's future strategy for sustainable forest management.

In order to have a fruitful outcome from the meeting through active participation of member countries, it will be very important to ensure enough time for member countries to make preparation for the meeting. From this point of view, we would appreciate the FAO Secretariat's providing substantive information concerning the meeting as soon as possible.

We have been actively participating in the Montreal process from the viewpoint that it is essential for sustainable forest management to formulate scientifically based and internationally agreed criteria and indications. Therefore, if FAO is to provide a forum to discuss and coordinate various initiatives in this area, we would be very happy to continue to participate actively in such a process.

Moreover, Japan, as the host country of ITTO, has been making efforts towards the formulation of "Target Year 2000" and other guidelines for sustainable forest management in the tropics. In this sense also we are ready to play a more active role in coordinating activities and strengthening cooperation between FAO and ITTO for this most important objective of sustainable forest management.

**Dieter LINK (Germany):** The German delegation would like to thank the Deputy Director-General for his informative introduction which went beyond the information given in document CL 107/6. My delegation would like to make the following comments on FAO's role in addition to those made on behalf of the European Union.

In future FAO strategy and proposed UNCED forestry activities we expect the Organization to be more active in the policy strategy sector. FAO should not leave it to other agencies but should raise its own voice more and put forward its own proposals for objectives, strategies and concepts for the forestry sector.

We see a necessity for a further assessment of the forest decisions of the Rio Summit with regard to priority areas for potential international arrangements, advantages and disadvantages of such arrangements, proposals for a future programme of UNCED follow-up on forestry and assessment of global criteria and indicators of sustainable forest management, proposals for timber labelling, and so on.

In addition, we expect from FAO a higher flexibility and efficiency through better preparation of FAO bodies, lean agendas, more *ad hoc* consultative mechanisms, avoiding duplication of deliberations in the various committees, etc. In concrete terms, that means that the two forest-related committees of FAO could be united to form one central forest body dealing with all forest matters. This would be in line with the approach of Rio and strengthen FAO's ability to exercise its leadership.

With regard to TFAP, this instrument should in future respond to the special needs of developing countries. This also applies to the Consultative Group. It should be convened soon and deal specifically with issues of implementation within the framework of TFAP.

Cooperation with other international organizations in forestry must be improved to avoid duplication and dispersal of efforts. As Task Manager, FAO should draw up a concrete plan of action with the aim of making activities transparent and putting forward proposals for effective division of labour.

Against the background of the forthcoming Forestry Ministers' conference in March and the third CSD session in April, it is high time to accelerate preparations for these meetings.

**David A. HARCHARIK (United States of America):** I shall try to be as brief as possible but I recognize that this is a very important item on the Agenda. I shall only highlight the main points that I had intended to make.

I agree with the delegate of the UK and others who have recognized how extremely important this item is. It is a reflection of the recognition that forests and good forest practices have enormous contributions to make towards economic development, environmental health and indeed to world stability. Forests contribute tremendously to meeting basic human needs of food, water, shelter, fibre and energy. Helping people meet these needs is the fundamental core mission of FAO and thus it is important that this Organization maintain a strong, effective and efficiently managed Forestry Department. We are therefore very pleased with the efforts made by FAO over the past year to review the role, structure and function of its Forestry Department. We encourage the Organization to continue with this open, consultative process.

I should now like to highlight some of the main comments that we have to make on the normative roles of FAO. I apologize for the fact that we are unable to comment in great detail about the report of the Technical Panel. However, I think you will see from my comments that we agree with many of the items in it.

First, we feel that it is essential that FAO maintains its very strong technical capabilities on a wide range of forestry matters. FAO has been the leading organization that develops technical forestry skills. It develops guidelines and makes a number of recommendations on a number of issues. We think it is important that the Organization maintain its strong role in this. In particular, we feel that FAO needs to build its regular programme capacity in the area of continuous forest resource assessment, as has been mentioned by other delegations here. This resource assessment, however, should not be limited to the traditional aspects of forests and woodlands. It should relate to a broader analytical mandate to address indicators of sustainable forest management. It is important that FAO disseminate the results of these assessments in annual, or at least biennial, reports which describe the state of the world's forests, much as it does in food and agriculture.

We also feel that these reports on forest assessment need to take into account other statistical data and be used for long-term strategic planning on global forest issues. There is a need to better integrate the analytical projections of deforestation rates with supply and demand, economic changes, and population growth, in order to prepare now for future conditions which would affect the ability of the forests to meet human needs.

My second point deals with the role of FAO in promoting international policy dialogue. This international forest policy dialogue has evolved over the past decade. Nevertheless, FAO can continue to convene decisionmakers and provide a forum where policy dialogue can be conducted. We recognize that efforts to participate in discussions of a global nature, as mentioned in the Secretariat document, can become politicized and detract from the progress made from UNCED. We therefore encourage FAO to identify ways in which it can advance the dialogue in a broad, apolitical nature.

Third, we feel that it is important for FAO to encourage collaboration with other international organizations. I know that other delegations have spoken on this, but I would like to reiterate that we think it is an extremely important role for FAO. It is time to stop worrying about who is the world leader on policy, and it is time for the various leaders to implement programmes and to build true partnerships. We would like to see in this paper, for example, more mention of the role of UNEP and UNDP. If FAO is to perform its role as a task manager within the UN system, it must recognize responsibilities of other organizations such as UNEP and UNDP, and seek to coordinate work with them.

Fourthly, we think it is important that FAO intensifies efforts to more effectively use its organizational structures. We appreciate the many changes that the Director-General has proposed and has already made in improving the efficiency of the Organization. We suggest that the role, structure and function of all the technical bodies of FAO continue to be examined, and that we identify additional steps that can be made to stimulate a technical dialogue on forestry.

We also support the suggestions for strengthening the role of the Regional Forestry Commissions, and we support the concept of an independent *ad hoc* advisory mechanism.

Finally, this vision that we have of a strong, effective and efficient FAO Forestry Department simply cannot be realized without the necessary financial resources. We would like FAO to demonstrate its commitment to forestry and to demonstrate its understanding of the role forests and natural resources play in economic development and environmental health by making greater regular programme budgetary allocations to the Forestry Department. We believe this is consistent with the very clarion call from the Earth Summit. We are pleased that the Director-General took an important step in the current Programme of Work and Budget to increase the amount of money made available to the Forestry Department, and we would encourage him to continue in this direction for future biennial budgets.

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Con esto concluimos la cuarta sesión plenaria de nuestro Consejo. Para el día de mañana les propongo que continuemos con este Tema 6.2 hasta concluirlo; luego trataremos el Tema 6.3 y el Tema 7 y por la tarde el 8 y el 10. El Tema 11, que en principio se proponía comenzar a revisar mañana por la tarde, lo vamos a empezar el viernes por la mañana. Les advierto, señores delegados, que mañana estoy decidido a terminar con la discusión de estos temas que les he señalado. Por favor, les ruego que cualquier compromiso que tengan lo pospongan para otro día ya que es necesario empatarnos.

Muchas gracias, distinguidos delegados, se levanta la Sesión.

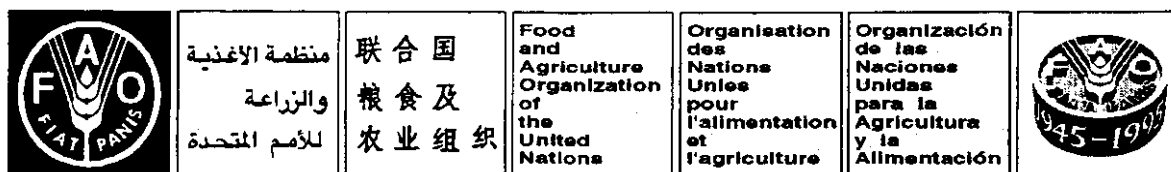
**The meeting rose at 19.15 hours.**

**La session est levée à 19 h 15.**

**Se levanta la sesión a las 19.15 horas.**



17 November 1994



COUNCIL

CONSEIL

CONSEJO

Hundred and Seventh Session • Cent septième session • 107<sup>o</sup> período de sesiones

FIFTH PLENARY MEETING  
CINQUIEME SEANCE PLENIERE  
QUINTA SESION PLENARIA

17 November 1994

The Fifth Plenary Meeting was opened at 09.45 hours  
Mr José Ramón López Portillo,  
Independent Chairman of the Council, presiding

La cinquième séance plénière est ouverte à 9 h 45  
sous la présidence de M. José Ramón López Portillo,  
Président indépendant du Conseil

Se abre la quinta sesión plenaria a las 9.45 horas  
bajo la presidencia del Sr. José Ramón López Portillo,  
Presidente Independiente del Consejo

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Buenos días. Distinguidos miembros del Consejo, oradores, señoras y señores. Queda abierta la 5ª Sesión Plenaria de los trabajos del Consejo. Me permito llamar su atención respecto del orden del día. Como ven ustedes, están incluidos los Temas 6.2, 6.3, 7, 8.1, 8.3 y 10 de nuestra agenda. Hay un aviso importante en dicho orden del día en relación al cierre para la presentación de nominaciones o candidaturas para los siete miembros del CPA, que se producirá mañana a las 12.00 horas. También se explica en dicho aviso que la elección correspondiente se celebrará el día lunes 21. Espero hayan tomado nota de ese punto específico de nuestros trabajos.

También me permito anunciarles que se ha distribuido, el día de ayer, en todos los idiomas, a petición expresa de alguno de ustedes, la declaración introductoria del Director General Adjunto sobre el Tema 6.2, documento CL 107/INF/25. Igualmente, distinguidos delegados, me permito llamar su atención respecto de mi intención de empatar el día de hoy nuestros trabajos con el calendario originalmente previsto, salvo que el punto 11 de nuestra agenda lo comenzamos a tratar el día de mañana. Hoy estoy dispuesto a llegar hasta el tema 10 inclusive. Podemos contar con interpretación en esta sala hasta las 20.30 horas. Espero que todos tomen nota de ello, porque podría ser que los trabajos continúen hasta esa hora. Inmediatamente después de nuestra 6ª sesión se reunirá el Comité de Redacción en la Sala México.

### **ACTIVITIES OF FAO AND WFP (continued)**

### **ACTIVITES DE LA FAO ET DU PAM (suite)**

### **ACTIVIDADES DE LA FAO Y DEL PMA (continuación)**

#### **6. Sustainable Development (continued)**

#### **6. Développement durable (suite)**

#### **6. Desarrollo sostenible (continuación)**

#### **6.2 The Role of FAO in Forest Sustainable Management and in the UNCED Follow-up (continued)**

#### **6.2 Le rôle de la FAO dans l'aménagement durable des forêts et dans le suivi de la CNUED (suite)**

#### **6.2 La función de la FAO en la ordenación forestal sostenible y en las actividades complementarias de la CNUMAD (continuación)**

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Les indico que la distinguida delegación de Nigeria presentará por escrito a la Secretaría su intervención, que quedará registrada enteramente en el verbatim de este Consejo.

Distinguidos delegados, les recuerdo cuán atrasados estamos y la importancia de que puedan recortar sus intervenciones lo máximo posible. Otorgo la palabra a la distinguida delegación de Cabo Verde.

**César Augusto André MONTEIRO (Cap-Vert):** Ma délégation félicite le Secrétariat de la FAO pour la qualité du document relatif au rôle normatif vital de l'Organisation en matière du développement durable des forêts. Le Cap-Vert a beaucoup apprécié les diverses et intéressantes mesures adoptées par le Directeur général de la FAO en ce qui concerne la promotion de l'aménagement et du développement durable des forêts et le suivi de la CNUED.

Les conclusions et recommandations contenues dans le rapport d'experts extérieurs de haut niveau et adressé aussi bien au Directeur général qu'à l'Organisation méritent notre soutien. Nous sommes satisfaits que ces recommandations aient été acceptées par le Directeur général qui a d'ailleurs commencé à en mettre en oeuvre quelques-unes.

Le Cap-Vert, pays sahélien qui traverse une fois de plus une année agricole critique due à une nouvelle année de sécheresse, préconise dans son programme gouvernemental les principes de préservation de l'environnement et de la protection de l'écosystème. Il appuie donc une politique forestière au niveau mondial qui réponde aux besoins humains fondamentaux et favorise le développement socio-économique, la sécurité alimentaire et la protection de l'environnement par la prémisses d'un programme d'action qui consacre les

ressources aux problèmes prioritaires - la coopération, la participation et le dialogue international - tel que proposé par le groupe d'experts.

Dans le cadre de la politique d'aménagement durable des forêts et tenant compte de sa matérialisation, il nous semble qu'avant tout il faudrait définir des critères objectifs et des indicateurs pratiques.

**Mme Norma BURLINGTON (Canada):** Je vous remercie Monsieur le Président et je remercie également M. Hjort pour son aperçu de la question.

Le document de la FAO nous donne des éléments de stratégie et un bon inventaire des mesures prises et à prendre. Il faudra toutefois bien coordonner ces mesures avec les autres organismes, pour éviter leur dédoublement et assurer un bon rapport coût-efficacité. Par exemple, le programme des Nations Unies pour le développement est près de se doter d'une bonne capacité qui pourrait en faire l'organisme onusien tout désigné pour ces activités dans le secteur forestier. Pour l'établissement des priorités, on propose tout d'abord le renforcement du Programme d'évaluation des ressources forestières mondiales, qui est une activité clé et déjà très valable de la FAO. On propose aussi de veiller particulièrement aux 7 questions définies par le Groupe intergouvernemental de travail sur les forêts (GITF). Nous avons parrainé ce groupe avec la Malaisie pour faciliter l'examen des questions clés de politique forestière avec la CDD en 1995.

Le compte rendu de la deuxième réunion du GITF en octobre, maintenant publié, présente toute une gamme d'options, d'occasions et d'approches à l'égard de certaines des questions saillantes sur les forêts. Nous y voyons une base solide pour la réunion ministérielle ainsi que pour l'examen que fera la CDD en mars 1995.

La FAO s'est réservée un rôle ambitieux dans la promotion de son rôle normatif dans le contexte de l'aménagement durable des forêts ainsi que pour l'après-Rio. Nous croyons qu'il est crucial pour la FAO d'augmenter les ressources allouées au secteur forestier de façon à ce que ses activités normatives reçoivent toute l'attention qu'elles méritent. Selon plusieurs pays membres, cette approche devrait permettre à l'Organisation de bien remplir son mandat et affirmer sa compétence dans ce secteur.

Nous appuyons entièrement les moyens qu'a pris la FAO pour convoquer la première réunion des ministres chargés des forêts. Le succès de la réunion ministérielle dépendra beaucoup de ses préparatifs. Nous encourageons la FAO à accorder la plus haute priorité aux préparatifs de cette réunion.

Nous voyons dans cette réunion une occasion pour la FAO d'examiner de nombreuses initiatives des pays membres dans le dessein de jeter les bases d'une harmonisation et d'une organisation éventuelle des efforts en vue de l'examen de la CDD. Nous encourageons le Directeur général à convoquer régulièrement des réunions des ministres des forêts, pour obtenir des conseils sur l'après-Rio.

Nous voyons dans la réunion de la CDD en 1995 une occasion unique pour le Directeur général de la FAO d'asseoir son rôle de chef de file et celui de son organisation en rendant compte des résultats des délibérations de la réunion ministérielle et, par là, en proposant un programme d'action prioritaire.

**Marco Antonio BRANDAO (Brazil):** My delegation wishes to thank Mr Hjort for his comprehensive report yesterday on this matter. We should also like to have a copy of that document as it is certainly very useful.

I should also like to congratulate the Secretariat on its preparation of the documentation for this item. The documentation gives us a very good picture of FAO's work in the field of forestry and in the context of the implementation of the conclusions of the Rio Summit. In this connection we wish to confirm the views expressed by the Brazilian delegation to the Eleventh Session on Forestry held in 1993 when we stressed the role of FAO in the coordination of international cooperation within the United Nations System, as well as for the implementation of actions, programmes and forestry arising from the decisions of UNCED.

Recently there has been a proliferation of initiatives on the theme of forestry. Some of them are very useful and my country has participated in them. Others seem to aim at setting up bodies or committees to deal with forestry outside the framework established by UNCED and General Assembly Resolution 47/191. Most of

them lack a clear mandate or institutional underpinning, and often seem to be at cross purposes with decisions taken by the Rio Summit and General Assembly on the issue.

Such a state of affairs is a cause for great concern as it contains the danger of hampering, or even derailing, the process to be followed in the post-UNCED phase pursuant to the aforementioned decisions. In view of its mandate, its well-known capacity and the representative nature of its membership, and having been assigned the functions of Task Manager for inter-agency action under the pertinent Chapter of Agenda 21, FAO is uniquely placed to ensure that intergovernmental activities regarding forestry proceed according to UNCED commitments and are channelled to the United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development and its appropriate organs.

In the considered opinion of the Brazilian Government its important role would be to strengthen it by preparing intensively for the coming session of the Committee on Forestry, as well as for the ministerial encounter which will be held in conjunction with it. To that end, it is appropriate that the conclusions of the high-level panel of external experts on forestry which was held in the autumn of this year be fully examined and evaluated by governments.

There does seem to be a need to clear up the somewhat blurred picture emerging from recent proposals of an institutional nature referred to above.

The Brazilian Government therefore appreciates FAO's efforts to enhance - and here I quote the Director-General - the work of the Organization's forestry, to project a higher profile and adopt a more pro-active posture.

**M. MAJID-UL HAQUE (Bangladesh):** I would like to thank the Secretariat for presenting a comprehensive report containing concrete proposals for strengthening the normative role of FAO in sustainable forest management and the cooperative role in UNCED follow-up. The proposals cover a wide range of actions that will greatly contribute to better management, conservation and development of the world's forests.

We are pleased to note the initiatives and actions of the Director-General on forestry matters mentioned in the report. Arrangements of policy advice for future FAO activities in forestry, involvement of Member Governments and NGOs in guiding FAO strategy for forestry, continued priority to Tropical Forestry Action Plan and adoption of cross-sectoral approach with greater interaction between agriculture and forestry are some of the proposed activities that are very important for FAO for evolving a sound forestry strategy with adequate budgetary provision in the Programme of Work and Budget. A strengthened normative function is a prerequisite for an effective operational role that FAO will be expected to play in fostering sustainable forest management. As one of the Task Managers, FAO is well placed to play a key role in promoting international cooperation and coordination in matters relating to follow-up of UNCED decisions on forestry. Collaboration and interaction with other designated agencies, intergovernmental bodies and private sector organizations will facilitate greater harmonization of initiatives.

Policy advice to governments in need of such assistance to formulate and implement appropriate plans for conservation and sustainable use of forest resources should continue to be a priority activity of FAO. Special emphasis should be given to strengthening national capacities, both human resources and institutional arrangements, in order that the countries are better equipped to plan, manage and increase their forest resources. Support to national activities in the conservation of forest genetic resources and the formulation of strategies for wood and non-wood forest development would be particularly helpful.

We welcome FAO's plan to expand further the coverage of its forest resources assessment programme in 1994/95 biennium. This programme will substantially improve the capacity of many member countries in monitoring and assessing their forest resources. We also support the proposal to convene an intergovernmental Panel of Experts to address issues relating to a comprehensive assessment of all types of forests. We are of the view that increased budgetary provisions are necessary in the future Programme of Work and Budget to continue this important activity. As such, we urge the donor community to provide extra-budgetary resources and bilateral assistance to the extent possible for building country capacity and for promoting TCDC.

Finally, we would like to make a comment on paragraph 43 of the report. We are inclined to share the view that there are perhaps more international agencies dealing with forestry issues than are actually necessary. Apart from the risk of dispersal of scarce resources, the question of overlapping of functions and duplication of efforts is a matter of concern. Recent restructuring and a revitalization exercise in the UN system took into consideration, among other things, the need to avoid duplication of activities among various agencies. FAO may, therefore, consider raising this issue with its intergovernmental partners at the ACC or other relevant fora in the United Nations system.

**S. TRIYONO (Indonesia):** Mr Chairman, it is a pleasure for me to address the Director-General and the Secretariat for preparing such an excellent document as CL 107/6 and CL 107/6 Sup.1.

With regard to Item 6.2, allow me to inform you that Indonesia is committed to carrying out sustainable forest management by any means. Among others there are (a) current forestry policy reforms towards integrating economic, socio and ecological aspects of our resources; (b) strictly monitoring the implementation in the field; and (c) issuing a national Forestry Action Programme.

On this occasion I would like to explore the issue of restrictions on trade in tropical forest products as one of the forestry issues to be considered by FAO. Actions and campaigns on imports of forest products, especially tropical forest timber, have become a common trend. These actions are supported by a number of local governments, NGOs and, increasingly, by commercial interests seeking an advantage in the market place.

Restrictions on trade in tropical forest products are likely to contribute to a decline in the economic value of forests. A less valuable resource will in turn reduce the interest, willingness and ability of governments and the private sector to conserve the forests or to improve forest management. In turn this will result in pressure to convert forest areas to other more immediately valuable land uses. Investment in reforestation and improved tropical forest management will only occur if the value of tropical forest products remains high.

Actions that weaken national economies will only reinforce the cycle of poverty which is the root cause of deforestation. The causes of deforestation and degradation are complex. The expansion of agriculture in all its forms, and the over-exploitation of forests for fuel woods, are by far the major contributors.

Such actions are contrary to the "forest principle" approved unanimously at the 1992 UNCED which specifically called for the removal or avoidance of unilateral measures to restrict or ban international trade in timber and other forest products. We are all concerned in sustainable development. The sustainable management of forests is not, therefore, a goal in itself but part of the broader issue of sustainable forestry development which is, in turn, part of the process of sustainable development.

We realize that FAO is one of the international organizations which has a strong interest in and a mandate relating to all forest issues. We also understand that, following the UNCED decision, FAO was designated by the UN Inter-Agency Committee on Sustainable Development as Task Manager charged with promoting coordination of the UNCED decision in the land segment (including forestry). FAO's interest and role in issues concerning all types of the world's forests lie in the sound management of utilization of forests. Some of the procedures should contribute to the well-being of the developing countries.

In conclusion, principles and criteria for sustainable forest management must not discriminate between tropical timber and non-tropical timber since such a practice could disadvantage many countries, especially developing countries, in the market place. If we are all agreed on this principle, certification and labelling must therefore be adopted for all types of forest products. We would be happy if this issue were to be discussed in detail at the next COFO meeting and reported directly to the following forestry ministerial meeting.

In order for FAO to establish its leadership in the rapidly evolving dialogue on forests at different levels, the Indonesian delegation would like to support the recommendations of the High-Level Panel of External Experts in Forestry which stated among other things that, firstly, FAO become more visibly active and pro-active in shaping the forest agenda, especially related to the issue of restrictions on trade in all types of forest products; and, secondly, that FAO should review the current initiatives on criteria and indicators of sustainable forest management of all types of forests and give the highest immediate priority to the preparation of COFO and the ministerial meeting in March 1995.

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Gracias, delegado de Indonesia, por sus comentarios que quizá meriten a estas alturas algunas puntualizaciones de parte de la Secretaría.

Otorgo la palabra al Señor Hjort para que haga algún comentario en ese sentido.

**DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL:** With respect to the matter that has just been brought before you, restrictions on trade in tropical products related to timber certification and eco-labelling, I wish to inform the Council that this matter is of concern to the Forestry Department and to the Director-General. The Director-General has decided that this issue, along with other important issues, should be addressed at the forthcoming meeting of COFO and by the Ministers in March 1995.

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Creo que habrán tomado nota de estos comentarios que espero consideren en sus declaraciones.

**Lucas Guillermo CASTILLO (Venezuela):** La delegación de Venezuela, señor Presidente, agradece a la Secretaría la elaboración de los documentos pertinentes a este tema, así como la presentación que hizo ayer del mismo.

No hay duda de que para toda la comunidad internacional el tema de los bosques y árboles reviste una importancia fundamental. Es de lamentar que los productos sustitutivos de la madera, por ejemplo, no se hayan descubierto miles de años antes. Si ello hubiera sucedido tal vez los pulmones de la tierra fueran más amplios y existiera para todos un oxígeno menos contaminado del que hoy respiramos, aunque, por supuesto, sería injusto imputar toda la culpa a la deforestación y no mencionar los insecticidas, los productos químicos, los desechos tóxicos, los aerosoles y todo un género de productos, consecuencias del adelanto tecnológico.

Venezuela, señor Presidente, si bien no se opone a que la FAO se encargue de la ordenación sostenible de los bosques y sobre todo de su función cooperativa en las actividades complementarias que le fueron propuestas, tiene dudas sobre algunas de las funciones y estrategia global de sus actividades sugeridas por el Cuadro de Expertos en los párrafos 12 y siguientes del documento CL 107/6-Sup.1.

Por otra parte, nos parece sumamente precipitado la solicitud del Cuadro de Expertos de pretender desde ya examinar la posibilidad de convertir los "principios forestales" de la Cumbre de Río en un acuerdo internacional vinculante sobre los bosques.

Tampoco compartimos los criterios expresados por el Cuadro de Expertos de ampliar la composición del grupo. Estamos conscientes de que muchos entes no gubernamentales realizan en este campo una labor encomiable; sin embargo, el tema debe quedar bajo el control de la Organización.

Venezuela se encuentra entre los países de mayor potencialidad forestal de América Latina. Se dispone de una considerable e importante extensión de bosques cuyas características cualitativas y cuantitativas son apropiadas para emprender un desarrollo forestal sustentable. Contribuyen notablemente con este potencial las extensas plantaciones con fines industriales que se han establecido en el país, así como la gran disponibilidad de tierras ociosas o subutilizadas aptas para el desarrollo forestal de este tipo de proyectos. La política de ordenamiento territorial determinó la definición de una política forestal orientada a la consolidación de este sector como verdadero factor de desarrollo en el contexto nacional en atención al significativo potencial de este recurso y la necesidad de garantizar un desarrollo sustentable.

Los principales rectores que gobiernan la política forestal nacional se fundamentan en los siguientes postulados:

- El manejo sustentable de nuestros bosques productores, con el propósito de garantizar la producción forestal para satisfacer las necesidades de generar bienes y servicios sin comprometer las posibilidades de generar bienestar para las futuras generaciones.

- La consolidación de los diversos esquemas de "uso de bosques" con sus funciones ecológica, económica y social.
- La expansión progresiva de cubierta forestal con la finalidad de incrementar los múltiples beneficios que los bosques generen.
- La posibilidad que representa el sector forestal e incorporar extensas regiones del país al proceso de desarrollo ambientalmente concebido sobre la base de estos principios.

Para la puesta en práctica y fortalecimiento de actividades derivadas de la ejecución, capítulo 11, del Programa 21, Venezuela ha adelantado acciones, tales como las siguientes:

- La consolidación de programas de manejo del bosque natural, en reservas forestales para lograr una producción forestal sustentable.
- La promoción a nivel nacional de un vasto programa de plantaciones con participación de las comunidades locales.
- El desarrollo de programas dirigidos a disminuir las tasas de deforestación.
- Programas de conservación de cuencas, orientados a enfrentar las causas y efectos del deterioro de los recursos en estas unidades territoriales.
- La consolidación del sistema de áreas bajo régimen de administración especial, dirigido a conservar y proteger espacios con características ambientales particulares.

Estamos conscientes, señor Presidente, de la importancia que tienen todos los tipos de bosque en el sostenimiento de la vida en el planeta y de la necesidad de disminuir y detener el proceso de destrucción a que han sido sometidos.

En este sentido, reconocemos los esfuerzos que se vienen gestando con el propósito de propiciar la reflexión sobre los términos de una posible alianza que refleje un consenso mundial que propenda a nuevos niveles de cooperación. Esta alianza debe ser equitativa, y respetar los intereses de todos, así como el derecho soberano de los estados de aprovechar sus propios recursos, de manera consistente con las prioridades y objetivos.

Además, debe reconocerse que el manejo sustentable de bosques requiere de inversiones técnicas y financieras para potenciar las posibilidades del uso forestal de los países en desarrollo y, que a su vez, debe fomentar un sector que puede ofrecer alternativas para el bienestar económico y social, por cuanto en los países en desarrollo el aprovechamiento de los bosques plantea situaciones de orden socioeconómico.

En muchos casos, las comunidades que habitan en torno de los bosques naturales viven en condiciones de pobreza, lo que les obliga a recurrir a ellos como fuente de recurso para su subsistencia.

Cualquier debate o reflexión mundial sobre los bosques debe estar vinculado a la Convención sobre Cambios Climáticos y especialmente en lo concerniente al papel de éstos como sumideros y reservorios de CO<sub>2</sub>.

Igualmente, deben considerarse otros aspectos tales como:

- El derecho de las poblaciones autóctonas, cuya subsistencia depende de los bosques, a continuar haciendo uso tradicional de los mismos respetando sus valores culturales.
- Destacar la necesidad de restauración forestal de las cuencas hidrográficas mediante reforestación, armonización con otros usos sustentables.
- Dentro del marco de la agricultura sustentable debe procurarse incrementar la productividad de las tierras agrícolas actualmente en uso, especialmente de los países en desarrollo.

- Resaltar la importancia del fortalecimiento de investigación para el desarrollo y aprovechamiento sustentable de los bosques naturales y plantados.

Asimismo, debe asignarse un papel preponderante al desarrollo armonioso del comercio internacional de productos forestales prohibiendo toda restricción unilateral. Es necesario enfatizar el respeto a los principios garantes de la discriminación, el apoyo y auxilio al comercio de los países en vías de desarrollo y la censura a cualquier tipo de adopción en medidas de mercado que, amparadas en preceptos ambientales, favorezcan rechazos unilaterales.

**Ms Rosanne KAVA (Australia):** We thank Mr Hjort for his very informative introductory statement and the Secretariat for providing copies of it to us so promptly.

The main document before us provides a comprehensive picture of FAO's considerable involvement in the UNCED follow-up on forest issues. Australia endorses strongly FAO's goals on promoting effective, consistent and concerted action at the national and international levels for the implementation of UNCED decisions regarding the sustainable management of forests. The document also provides a useful review on the initiatives that are underway to develop criteria and indicators for sustainable forest management. We believe this work is a central means of carrying forward the UNCED decisions on forests and deserves our fullest support in the lead-up to the 1995 session of the CSD and beyond.

Like many previous speakers, Australia has taken an active role in these initiatives, and we have been very pleased to note the priority that FAO has given to its own involvement in this work. This has been reflected in the FAO input which has been of high quality and, as acknowledged by many others, of material assistance in moving forward the consideration of these complex issues. The pivotal importance of the ministerial session of COFO to be held in March next year in preparing for the CSD's consideration of forest issues has also been emphasized previously. We, too, stress its significance. Adequate and early preparation for this meeting by the FAO Secretariat and the members will be essential if we are to seize the opportunity it provides in terms of guidance for FAO's forestry programmes, the examination, and as far as possible, the convergence of the various forestry initiatives currently underway, and the development of clear messages to be transmitted to the CSD. Early availability of papers will be essential to allow members to do their part effectively.

With regard to the current forestry initiatives, we recognize that there would be benefits in achieving convergence of some or all of these initiatives on criteria and indicators prior to the 1995 CSD session. Australia strongly supports efforts to this end. However, we also consider it is important that these initiatives be permitted to run their course, to examine and reach conclusions on the issues that they have set for themselves and to converge as they do so. Australia believes that a convergence reached in this way will be more durable and productive and will lead to a stronger and more lasting consensus than one which is achieved sooner but without allowing for full consideration of the issues.

**Narayanan KANAN (Malaysia):** On Agenda 6.2, my Delegation would like to make certain comments on FAO's role in the UNCED follow-up on forestry issues with specific reference to (a) areas for immediate implementation in the report of the panel of experts as outlined by **Mr Hjort** in his intervention, which we find very useful and for which we thank him, and (b) certain recommendations of the said panel which we feel merit our more detailed consideration. These comments are to facilitate concrete decisions on the forthcoming ministerial session on forests and initiatives for which we congratulate the Director-General of FAO. Firstly, on the proposals for a report annually on the state of the world's forests as outlined in paragraph 32 of the report, our comment is that before this is done the Secretariat should base any such report on objective criteria based on detailed knowledge and research. Otherwise, it will just provide an excuse for another round of tropical timber bashing, something we would rather avoid at this stage of reconciliation of views and action.

On criteria indicators for sustainable management, we urge the Secretariat to integrate and build on the vast body of knowledge already done by agencies like the ITO and IWGS. There is no need to re-invent the wheel because much of the work has already been done, and we should just integrate some of these concerns. On the preparatory work for possible discussion on legally binding instruments for forestry, we again request FAO to consult intensively for the policy and strategy proposals of a wide body of political support before it



comes before the ministers. In this regard, we urge FAO to consult in particular those countries with the biggest stake in these matters.

On the report on the panel of experts, my Delegation would first like to refer to paragraph 27 on the TFAP. We support the budgeting of the TFAP framework to cover all types of forest. We stress the word "all". In fact, my delegation believes that such a holistic approach covering all forests should be a basic keystone of all FAO initiatives on forests. In paragraph 44 of the report, it seems apparent that the panel speaks for many countries when it indicates that forestry is a poor stepchild to FAO's other sectors. We have seen in this Council and the run-up to this Council a preoccupation of the FAO with buzz words like "lead agency" and words like that. Our contention is that the bottom line is the action programmes on the ground and the realization of these programmes. We believe that the donor community and Member Governments will make food the necessary financial and political support if ever FAO demonstrates in real terms its priorities and capacities. In this regard, it has a chance to prove itself and its leadership in the case of forestry in the run-up to UNCED early next year. In particular, the meeting of the ministers will be crucial. This is not to say that we would be asking FAO to detract from its other important goals. We are merely requesting that a lead agency should demonstrate its capacity in this area.

Before I conclude, my delegation would also like to touch on the very real trade problems being faced by tropical timber-exporting countries. The delegate of Indonesia has already eloquently explained the situation. My delegation would merely add a request to FAO to ensure that its work on sustainable management should be geared towards all types of forests and to solving real world problems. If negotiations are to be considered at a multilateral level, decisions should cover all countries equally and equitably. It would be pointless for national governments to undertake prolonged negotiations only to have local governments taking over the action. The Secretariat may wish to address such real problems in realistic options at the coming meeting of Ministers.

**M. A. ARDESHIRI (Iran, Islamic Republic of):** My delegation wishes to extend its thanks to the Secretariat for the informative and comprehensive documentation and special thanks to Mr Hjort, Deputy Director-General, for the excellent introduction to the subject and for preparing document CL 107/INF/25 promptly.

With regard to Item 6.2 of our Agenda, as we have frequently stated before, we are of the strong opinion that conservation and sustainable management of forest resources in developing countries is mainly dependent on socio-economic conditions of forest-dependent populations of these countries. In line with this belief, and with regard to the issues pointed out in document CL 107/6, I wish briefly to make some comments about our great concern.

First, in view of the fact that modalities of forestry programme implementation and quality of work at field level in developing countries are extremely important in relation to FAO efforts in fulfilment of its mandate and also in achieving its objectives, we believe that, in addition to the normative role of FAO in UNCED follow-up, its operational role is also highly necessary. FAO should be involved in operational activities of the related programmes and chapters of UNCED follow-up actions, including chapters 10 to 14 of Agenda 21.

Second, regarding worldwide activities such as initiatives mentioned in paragraph 10, we believe that these activities need to be concerted and harmonized towards their common objectives. In this context, we support the FAO role in harmonizing these activities at both international and national levels, in particular the activities related to chapters 10 to 14 of Agenda 21.

Third, with regard to the sustainability approach in the forest sector, it is crucial that the specific condition of each country in relation to sustainable forestry be taken into account. Accordingly, a sustainable forest management programme must be planned and formulated in conformity with the specific conditions and national forestry action plan of each country concerned. In this regard, we fully support the idea that FAO should allocate more resources in support of national policy action plans under the Regular Programme, as mentioned in paragraphs 21 and 22 of the document before us.

Fourth, with regard to capacity-building and human-resources development in respect of the forestry sector in developing countries, we fully support this idea, as we have done in our interventions on several occasions.

However, it should be noted that in many developing countries there is potential capacity for sound forest management but in nearly all of them there is no organized and legal mechanism for undertaking the respective coordination and harmonization tasks and accepting the responsibility of the cross-sectoral activities for effective cooperation among forestry administration, private sectors and particularly rural community organizations.

Therefore, we believe that FAO, as necessary, in respect of the administrative structure of each country, could introduce the appropriate mechanisms through the assistance process to Member States in preparing their national forestry action plan.

Finally, with regard to the formulating criteria and indicators for sustainable forest management as indicated in paragraph 17 of document CL 107/6-Sup.1, many geographic areas and countries have not been involved in the mentioned initiatives. Therefore, we fully support the idea that efforts should be continued in order to examine and identify criteria and indicators for all geographic regions and countries.

**Raphaël RABE (Madagascar):** L'intervention de la délégation de Madagascar sur ce point si important de notre ordre du jour vise surtout à partager avec cette auguste assemblée l'optimisme qui caractérise son sentiment à l'endroit du rôle que la FAO jouera dans le futur dans le secteur forestier, mondial, régional et national.

En effet, après la déclaration du Directeur général lui-même et celle de M. Hjort, déclarations au demeurant très claires et pragmatiques, il apparaît sans ambiguïté aucune que le Secrétariat a choisi la politique d'ouverture et développé l'esprit de partenariat dans ses activités et actions futures. C'est de cette façon - et de cette façon seulement - que le rôle de maître d'oeuvre attribué à la FAO par le Comité inter-institutions de développement durable pourra être correctement rempli. D'ores et déjà, il est précisé que les rapports du maître d'oeuvre et du Secrétaire général seront élaborés en étroite collaboration avec les autres organisations et institutions intéressées du système des Nations Unies, avec les organisations inter-gouvernementales et non gouvernementales concernées, et, bien entendu, avec le secteur privé et les industries privées.

Les rapports des gouvernements constitueront aussi, bien entendu, la matière principale des rapports et les commissions régionales des forêts apporteront une contribution précieuse. Des séances importantes et décisives se présentent en 1995 et, compte tenu des délais très restreints qui nous séparent de ces séances, seule une conjugaison des efforts et des moyens des différents protagonistes permettra de répondre aux exigences. Cela devient donc une condition *sine qua non* que, fort heureusement, le Secrétariat a parfaitement compris, ce dont nous nous félicitons.

Ma délégation ne peut que faire siennes toutes les déclarations des délégations qui ont assisté sur la nécessité de bien préparer la Conférence ministérielle sur les forêts et de soumettre aux ministres des questions et des sujets de haute politique qui conditionneront le développement futur du secteur en harmonie, bien entendu, avec les dispositions pertinentes des différents instruments mondiaux sur l'environnement et le développement durable. Elle reconnaît aussi qu'il faudra traiter des programmes d'action forestier nationaux et du renforcement des capacités nationales.

Les autres points de l'ordre du jour indiqués au paragraphe 13 du document CL 107/1/INF/25 méritent une attention toute particulière. Nous pensons qu'il y a également lieu de prendre de toute urgence toutes les mesures qui permettront de renforcer la capacité du département des forêts pour lui permettre de faire face aux tâches énormes et difficiles qui l'attendent, notamment et surtout en matière de statistiques, collecte, vérification, synthèse, interprétation et diffusion des données et en matière de recherche forestière et d'application des nouvelles technologies.

La nomination du titulaire de ce département est un besoin impératif. Nous sommes heureux que le Directeur général l'ait mentionné dans son discours et nous sommes sûrs qu'il prendra les dispositions nécessaires. Il va sans dire que les moyens financiers requis pour ces nouvelles actions et activités devront être mobilisés; et nous nous joignons à l'appel lancé par de nombreuses délégations pour que le département puisse disposer au plus vite de ces moyens.

Enfin, les documents CL 1078/6, CL 107/6-Sup.1 et, bien entendu, le dernier, CL 107/INF 25 se complètent. Aussi les appuyons-nous sans réserve.

**Supote DECHATES (Thailand):** First, may I join the previous speakers in expressing our appreciation to the Secretariat for producing the useful documents for this discussion. My delegation has reviewed document CL 107/6 very carefully. We should therefore like to offer some comments with regard to the role of FAO in promoting sustainable forest management.

My delegation welcomes the original allocation of resources made to the forestry programme during the present biennium. It certainly gives FAO, through the Forestry Department, a very important role in promoting more sustainable forest management. We also share the view expressed in paragraph 7 of the document that the promotion of sustainable forest management is an urgent action to be taken. We hope that FAO will speed up its activities to promote sustainable forest management.

May I now refer to FAO's strategy for post-UNCED forest activities. Very briefly, my delegation strongly endorses the FAO proposed actions in follow-up to UNCED as indicated in paragraphs 9 to 25 of the document. I should like to highlight one proposed action, namely support for "greening" of the world. My country is very pleased to note that FAO will strengthen its technical cooperation activities in afforestation, reforestation and sustainable management of forests and trees as a priority contribution to UNCED follow-up. It is widely known that UNCED has stressed the need for a global strategy in the implementation of Agenda 21. In this connection Thailand has launched a three-year reforestation campaign throughout the country in support of "greening" of the world starting from the year 1994.

Allow me to brief you on what Thailand has planned for reforestation. The Royal Thai Government, the private sector, the Thai people and also the international communities will jointly organize a reforestation campaign in commemoration of the Royal Golden Jubilee of our King Rama 9th.

The Forestation Campaign embraces forest planting of forest trees in the following areas: firstly, 50 000 kilometres along the road sides; secondly, around school premises, government offices and religious places; thirdly, area such as parks, recreation areas, dams, reservoirs and riversides; and, fourthly, existing deteriorated forests.

We therefore would urge FAO and the world community to speed up its assistance in order to respond to the need of those countries where they have started their "greening of the world".

Finally, my delegation welcomes the Director-General's organization of the high level panel of external experts in forestry. We hope their recommendations will be implemented without delay.

**K. BIWI (Tanzania):** First, allow me to thank Mr Hjort for the lengthy introduction he gave, which was very useful.

Tanzania is committed to sustainable forest management. This is manifested by the fact that already we have in place the Forest Action Plan which has laid strategies for forest resource rehabilitation, utilization and conservation. The ongoing FAO Consultancy on Forestry Policy and Legislation in Zanzibar in the Republic of Tanzania is a further manifestation of the seriousness of Tanzania towards sustainable forest management. The exercise is streamlining the old policies and legislations which did not take consideration of environmental issues. The legislation will also tackle the participatory approach on village afforestation with women groups who toil most in search of fuel wood.

Secondly, Tanzania is pleased with the FAO role in forestry activities and urges FAO to take a leading role and in so doing strive to increase the budgetary allocation in the coming biennial conference.

Lastly, Tanzania is looking forward to the forthcoming meeting of the Forestry Ministers. Tanzania supports FAO Member Nations who have asked FAO's Director-General to have a wide consultation with Member Nations on the agenda to be tabled at that meeting.

**F. BATURE (Nigeria):** My delegation would like to thank the Secretariat for preparing these informative documents which are now put before us for discussion.

Mr Chairman, the adoption of the "Forest Principles" and most especially Chapter 11 which was devoted exclusively to forestry during the UNCED Conference held at Rio in 1992, requires that greater priority attention be given to forestry by governments, international organizations, NGOs and the private sector.

The need to bring about world-wide conservation, management and sustainable development of forests has been stressed. In this respect, governments, international organizations, NGOs and the private sector, have important roles to play.

Mr Chairman, the Nigerian Government, having realized that the country is a wood-deficit nation and in order to ameliorate the situation, the Government has put in place a policy on forest resources management and sustainable use aimed at achieving self-sufficiency in all aspects of forest production through the use of sound forest management techniques as well as the mobilization of human and material resources.

The situation of drought and desertification in the northern states and that of erosion and deforestation in the southern states of Nigeria have acted in concert to compound the environmental problems faced by the forestry sub-sector.

The increasing urban and rural populations and a corresponding high demand for fuel wood, industrial wood products, and agricultural crop land has not aided the situation either; they have helped to increase the stress under which the forest estate of Nigeria is operating. The projects under the forestry sub-sector are designed to sustain timber and wildlife resources and to improve the living conditions of the people. The environmental programmes are executed to reclaim marginal lands for productive agricultural production and to conserve the soils against soil erosion.

The major problems which impede the implementation of forestry programmes in Nigeria include the following:

(1) DEFORESTATION AND WOOD ENERGY PROBLEMS:

Even though the agricultural policy has provided for an increase in the size of the forest estate from the present 10 percent to 20 percent of the total area of the country, land has not generally been available for conversion to forest reserves in most parts of the country.

Forest wood cutting is growing into a booming business, while illegal tree felling in forest reserves remains a bane of forest resource development. Similarly, although several states have now legislated against bush burning, this phenomenon is ravaging Nigeria's forest lands annually. At the same time, the problem of overgrazing and browsing of young, planted forest trees by livestock and also de-reservation for agricultural crop lands persists.

(2) DROUGHT AND DESERTIFICATION:

This twin evil persists in the country. Although experience in Borno and Sokoto states has shown that irrigated shelterbelts can assist nature and lengthen the growing season, the approach remains very expensive.

PROSPECTS OF FORESTRY

Emphasis will be given to reversing the trend of deforestation in the south as well as to arid zone afforestation in the north. This will improve the production of industrial wood as well as fuel wood supplies. Arid zone afforestation will also offer soil protection benefits.

Generally, therefore, future plans envisage improved forest soil and water conservation education and a dynamic afforestation programme of not less than 60 000 hectares per annum of both production and protection forest.

The private sector is expected and will be encouraged to participate actively in afforestation and, in particular, rural farmers and schools will be expected to play key roles.

Mr Chairman, the Federal Government of Nigeria, through the assistance of the UN Agencies such as FAO and UNDP, also EEC, World Bank and African Development Bank, has embarked upon projects and programmes aimed at reduction of deforestation and forest degradation through conservation and sustainable use of existing forest resources and reduction of pressures on forests by addressing the root causes of forest loss. Such measures include amongst other:

- (a) Afforestation Project -
  - (i) raising of 6 million seedlings for distribution to farmers;
  - (ii) establishment and maintenance of 1 057 units of woodlots;
  - (iii) establishment of 1 573 units of wind breaks; and
  - (iv) establishment of 34 units of shelterbelts.
- (b) Afforestation Programme -  
Projects under this programme include:
  - (i) Industrial plantation in Guinea Savannah.
  - (ii) Development and Management of Swamp Mangrove Forest.
  - (iii) Indigenous Forest Fruit Trees Development.
- (c) Timber and Poles Production -
  - (i) 12 million seedlings were raised and distributed.
  - (ii) 790 hectares of plantation established.
  - (iii) 1 043.5 hectares of plantation maintained.
  - (iv) Local communities trained in charcoal production.
- (d) Wildlife Development Programme -  
Many projects are executed under this programme. These include:
  - (i) Wildlife Management.
  - (ii) Promotion of wildlife multiplication.
  - (iii) Endangered species rehabilitation.
  - (iv) Development of National Parks.
  - (v) Conservation of the environment, the floral fauna of ecosystems.
  - (vi) Development and maintenance of tourist facilities etc.

The Federal Government has established an Environmental Protection Agency within the Presidency. This Agency is charged with the responsibility of environmental matters. It liaises with other related Ministries and Departments to ensure proper coordination.

We appreciate the efforts being made by the Director-General to invite Ministers responsible for forestry to a meeting scheduled in conjunction with the next Session of COFO in Rome. This will facilitate debate on Forest Principles.<sup>1</sup>

**Atul SINHA (India):** India wishes to stress the role of FAO as a facilitator for the implementation of the Non-legally Binding Forest Principles adopted at the Rio Summit in June, 1992. Several of the concerns of the Principles are being pursued elsewhere. However, FAO may wish to look beyond its role as Task Manager for four Chapters for CSD 1995 and instead pursue a larger role as monitoring the implementation of the Forest Principles worldwide, including availability of finances for forest-related activities.

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<sup>1</sup> Statement inserted in the verbatim records on request

The Government of India has always supported the lead role played by FAO in the field of forestry and in promoting sustainable Forest Management across the globe, particularly in view of forestry expertise available to them, and is against the principle of creating new forestry organizations for forestry in UN system, particularly in view of limited international funding available for the forestry sector.

The proposed strategy and thrust areas by FAO, namely Support to CSD, Promotion of Policy Reforms, Support to "Greening" of the World, Support to Sustainable Forestry, capacity building and human resources, development are in line with our forest policy.

While the Government of India supports policy reforms in forestry sector internationally in accordance with "Forest Principles and "Agenda 21", our National Policy has been revised as recently as 1988 and practically covers all the issues addressed during UNCED. However, we have taken steps to update our legislation in accordance with National Forest Policy, 1988.

The Government of India is making all-out efforts for greening of the country's forests. However, lack of funds and high biotic pressure on our forests has resulted in limited success in this direction.

In order to support Sustainable Forestry, the Government of India entered into an agreement with UNDP and FAO and signed a two-year project for preparation of National Forestry Action Plan. Considerable progress has been made and the final document (NFAP) is expected to be ready by the end of 1995.

While India has taken certain important steps for capacity building and human resources development like revision of syllabii for Indira Gandhi National Forest Academy, acquisition of digital cartographic system by Forest Survey of India and efforts are also being made for development of GIS and MIS systems, considerable scope exists for development of this sector. As India has an oldest tradition of scientific forestry and has a sizeable manpower trained in forestry, we can make significant contributions in strengthening and developing regional and sub-regional offices proposed by FAO.

The Government of India is fully in agreement with FAO's proposal for increased international cooperation. In order to promote this, we organized a "Forestry Forum for Developing Countries" in 1992 which ended in the adoption of the "Delhi Declaration".

A strong and well-established network of forestry institutions in India, comprising primarily of the Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education, Forest Survey of India, Indira Gandhi National Forest Academy, Wildlife Institute of India, Indian Institute of Forest Management, Indian Plywood Industry Research and Training Institutes, can play a vital role in carrying out the joint studies suggested by FAO.

The Forest Survey of India has been entrusted with the responsibility of monitoring and assessing India's forests. With the acquisition of digital cartographic system and the development of GIS, its capabilities will increase substantially.

India recognized the strong linkages between forestry and agriculture and fisheries a long time back. However, forestry agriculture interface could not be attended adequately resulting in problems being faced in both the sectors. While soil erosion and loss of fertility are major problems in the agriculture sector, in forestry sector, problems are unsustainable shifting cultivation, inadequate development of farm and agroforestry, decline in mangrove forests and excess biotic pressure on country's forests.<sup>2</sup>

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Si no hay ningún otro miembro del Consejo que desee hacer uso de la palabra sobre este tema, me voy a permitir ofrecérsela a los distinguidos observadores.

**Manuel SOARES COSTA (Observer for Portugal):** My purpose today is that of making some additional comments, and to provide the Council with some additional information on Agenda Item 6.2 on forestry. These comments and information are intended to be complementary to the statement made yesterday by the German presidency on behalf of the European Community and its Member States.

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<sup>2</sup> Statement inserted in the verbatim records on request

The European countries are strongly committed to aiming to achieve the highest standards of sustainability in forest management. New strategies and policies are being incorporated in national and regional forestry plans and programmes in order to implement the general guidelines of the Rio UNCED Statement on Forest Principles. Forest conservation is obviously a basic element of our country's national forest policies to achieve that high level of sustainability in forest management.

My country has for many years attached great importance to the forestry sector. In the light of this policy approach, Portugal has accepted, and shall continue to offer, its readiness and commitment to undertake and accept important responsibilities and international missions in this area of multilateral cooperation.

Portugal has been very much involved in the series of Ministerial Conferences on the Protection of Forests in Europe. Reference is made in paragraph 10 of document CL 107/6 to "the Helsinki Process", the follow-up to the Ministerial Conference held in Helsinki in June 1993. This has been one of the ten ministerial or high-level meetings regarding cooperation with governments, organized by member countries and named at UNCED follow-up in forestry. In fact, European cooperation in this area began with the first Ministerial Conference for the Protection of Forests in Europe, held in Strasbourg back in 1990. This Conference adopted six resolutions, of which Portugal has accepted the coordination and follow-up of two: Resolution number three, on the European Database on Forest Fires, and Resolution number four, Adaptation of Mountain Forests Management to the New Environmental Conditions.

The second Conference, the one held in Helsinki in 1993, was organized by Finland with the co-chairmanship of Portugal. The main objective of that Conference was the development of a framework to respond at the regional level to the statement on Forest Principles adopted at UNCED: Sustainable Forestry Management, Chapter 11 of Agenda 21 on Deforestation, the Convention on Biodiversity and the Convention on Global Climatic Changes. At this Helsinki Ministerial Conference, in which my country was particularly involved, one declaration and four resolutions were adopted: Resolution number one, on general principles for the sustainable development of European forests; number two, on general principles for the conservation of biodiversity of European forests; number three, forestry cooperation with the countries of Central and Eastern Europe undergoing economic transition; number four, on strategies for the long-term adaptation process of European forests to global climatic changes. Portugal and Finland are together responsible for the implementation of these four resolutions adopted in Helsinki. This means a considerable effort and mobilization of a large number of scientific and high-level technical experts.

The next Ministerial Conference, to be held in Lisbon in 1998, will be organized jointly by Portugal with the co-chairmanship of Austria. The preparation of this next Conference in 1998 is already underway. In the meantime, the Helsinki process is progressing. The Helsinki Resolutions Nos 1 and 2 are the hard core of the implementation work undertaken by the General Coordination Committee with the support of a group of high-level scientific advisors. One basic element of this work is the establishment of criteria and indicators for the evaluation of sustainable management of forests in Europe. These are also part of the great effort required to achieve a world-wide consensus that might lead possibly in the future to achieving a global convention on forestry.

On the other hand, Helsinki Resolutions Nos 3 and 4 are matters which are subjected to the coordination of, and require action by, other international agencies including the FAO Forestry Department and, in particular, the European Regional Forestry Commission of FAO, whose work needs to be enforced in order to respond to these urgent tasks.

The first expert follow-up technical meeting, held in Geneva on 23 and 24 June 1994, agreed on a pan-European list of 6 core criteria and 27 indicators for the evaluation of sustainable forest management in Europe. A second follow-up technical meeting is scheduled for January 23 and 24 1995 in Antalia. It is expected that after that a pan-European report on the follow-up of the Helsinki process and implementation of the Helsinki resolutions will be produced, for presentation at the meeting of the UN-CSD scheduled for April 1995.

Following UNCED, FAO has been designated by the UN Inter-Agency Committee on Sustainable Development as Task Manager, charged with promoting coordinated UN Agency follow-up action in the land

segment, including forestry. However, as the European Community stressed yesterday, it is essential that FAO shows that it is worthy of the task. There is no doubt that FAO must clearly exercise its leadership at the international coordination level for the forestry sector, making its expertise available to the ongoing initiatives. There is no doubt that FAO can provide the ideal international forum for a harmonization and evolution of the various initiatives to respond to the challenging new forestry strategies after UNCED.

Our delegation fully supports the FAO strategy for post-UNCED forestry activities, as stated in document CL 107/6 and contained in the five mentioned actions - the promotion of international cooperation and coordination, the promotion of policy reforms, support to "greening" of the world, support to sustainable forestry, and support to capacity building and human resources development.

We also share the opinion expressed by other delegations that besides FAO and CSD there is no need for any other international agency duplicating efforts in forestry matters.

Our delegation wishes to congratulate the Director-General for his initiative in inviting Ministers in charge of forestry to a Ministerial Meeting to be held in March 1995 in connection with the 12th Session of COFO to seek political guidance on FAO's strategy for forestry in preparation for the 1995 CSD meeting. However, these new FAO tasks on forestry, this new focus on forestry development activities of FAO, would mean greater effort by the Organization in this area. It is obvious that there is an urgent need to reinforce the FAO Forestry Department and its forestry programme in order to support its greater involvement in nominative and operational activities.

We share the views of the distinguished delegate of the United States, that FAO needs a much stronger, more effective and efficiently managed forestry department. Therefore, I think the Conference and COFO have already called for a greater involvement of FAO regional forestry commissions which means that at both levels it would be necessary for the allocation of the new budget resources be considered either by the Council or, of course, by the Conference during the preparation of the budget for the next biennium.

**Jaap B. PIETERS (Observer for the Netherlands):** Only 10 percent of the Netherlands is covered by forests and, being scarce, this may be the reason why forests are a major issue in my country and why the Netherlands is cooperating with a large number of developing countries in forestry projects.

Being the major Trust Fund donor of the FAO Forestry Programme, FAO feels a strong commitment to the future role of FAO in this field. We are in full agreement with the statement of the EEC and its member states and with those countries who have urged FAO, being Task Manager, to take the lead in the conservation and sustainable management of all types of forests.

We would also like to thank the Deputy Director-General for his clear, and may I say, action-orientated introductory statement. He has shown that FAO is moving forward in this field.

Moreover, we are happy to learn that the Director-General has, in general, accepted the findings and recommendations of the high-level panel.

I have a few remarks on document CL 107/6. My delegation is of the opinion that decentralized support of the countries concerned within the framework of the TFAP, as mentioned in paragraph 6, is a major priority. Re-orientation of FAO's activities towards a cross-sectoral approach to forestry development is of major importance as well.

The Netherlands welcome the support of FAO to the TFAP. We urge FAO, however, to be more active in promoting and implementing this TFAP. To conclude, my Government has welcomed the initiative of FAO to organize a ministerial meeting of Ministers responsible for forestry. We also would like to be informed about the issues to be discussed and expected outputs during that meeting as soon as possible.

**Bennis ABDELHADI (Observateur du Maroc):** Je vous remercie, Monsieur le Président, de bien vouloir me donner la parole pour intervenir sur ce sujet extrêmement important en raison de l'impact de la forêt sur l'état de la planète. Il y va de l'avenir de notre planète. Il s'agit également d'un sujet extrêmement complexe.



La preuve en est que depuis plusieurs décennies nous cherchons les solutions les plus viables pour surmonter les difficultés existantes.

Néanmoins, je pense que la FAO, notre Institution, travaille sur ce sujet depuis très longtemps, et elle a capitalisé un certain nombre d'informations et d'expériences qu'il faut maintenant valoriser sur le terrain le plus rapidement possible. J'insiste beaucoup sur "le plus rapidement possible" étant donné les dégradations continues que nous constatons dans nos forêts et leur impact sur le climat et sur la situation de la planète.

Le document qui nous est présenté fait le bilan de ce qui a été fait et trace également les perspectives. Nous sommes tout à fait d'accord sur ce qui est dit dans ce document, mais je voudrais insister sur deux éléments.

Il faudrait d'abord avoir une stratégie pour mettre en oeuvre un certain nombre d'actions immédiatement sur le terrain, et je pense que les mesures prises par le Directeur général en matière de décentralisation vont permettre d'aller plus concrètement vers le terrain. La plupart des pays ont des plans d'action qu'il s'agit maintenant de mettre en oeuvre le plus rapidement possible. En second lieu, je pense également qu'il faut prendre un certain nombre de mesures à long terme sur lesquelles il faut réfléchir, et la proposition faite par les experts concernant un instrument international juridiquement contraignant est une proposition qu'il faut prendre en considération, compte tenu de la responsabilité des Etats dans l'avenir de notre planète.

Il s'agit maintenant de donner des priorités au niveau régional et au niveau thématique pour voir quelles sont les zones et les domaines qui ont le plus besoin d'une intervention rapide.

Je voudrais à ce titre mentionner l'état de la forêt du Bassin méditerranéen qui mérite une attention particulière. J'exprime l'espoir que soit concrétisé le plus rapidement possible ce qui a été dit.

**George APOSTOIU (Observateur de la Roumanie):** Plus de six millions d'hectares, représentant environ 25 pour cent de la Roumanie, sont couverts par des forêts. Dans le processus des réformes actuelles, le Gouvernement de la Roumanie a adopté des programmes visant l'augmentation des terres affectées à la foresterie et la gestion durable des forêts.

La délégation de la Roumanie salue avec espoir la déclaration liminaire du Directeur général-adjoint sur le rôle de notre Organisation dans l'aménagement durable des forêts et dans le suivi de la CNUED, et déclare tout son intérêt pour le rôle normatif de la FAO et pour la stratégie globale visant la participation de notre Organisation aux activités de suivi de la CNUED pour l'avenir.

La réunion des ministres responsables des forêts qui se tiendra en mars 1995 pourrait s'avérer un cadre favorable et stimulant pour l'examen des mesures de coopération et, en même temps, en partant de la déclaration de Paris adoptée au Congrès forestier mondial de 1991, pourrait également sensibiliser la Communauté internationale afin qu'elle fournisse une assistance financière et technique aux pays dont l'économie est en phase de transition pour soutenir la gestion, la conservation et le développement durable de leurs forêts.

La délégation de la Roumanie estime que la FAO a l'énergie et la capacité de s'impliquer toujours davantage face aux nouveaux défis résultant de la CNUED et autres événements connexes.

**GEBREHIWOT REDAI (Observer for Ethiopia):** We would like to express our appreciation for the excellent document prepared in relation to the conservation and sustainable forest management.

Mr Chairman, it is true that 40 percent of the land area of Ethiopia was covered by forest some 30 years back. Currently only less than 3 percent of the land area is under forest. It is apparent that the degradation of the land mainly forestry accelerates drought and then famine and hunger. Therefore, the conservation and sustainable management of forestry means the preservation of the land and adequate food production.

The initiative and lead role of FAO as Task Manager is commendable and we support all the efforts of FAO in forestry policy formulation, capacity building, provision of the technical and financial assistance. But it is

our opinion that special regional attention should be paid to areas whose forestry potentials have been significantly devastated as is the case in East Africa where a large majority of the population is vulnerable to drought, hunger and malnutrition<sup>3</sup>

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Distinguidos delegados, con esto hemos concluido la lista de oradores. Pregunto a los miembros del Consejo si desean hacer alguna intervención antes de pasar la palabra al señor Director General Adjunto.

Si ningún delegado desea intervenir paso la palabra al señor Hjort para responder a las preguntas formuladas. Concedo la palabra al señor Hjort.

**DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL:** Firstly, with respect to the comments which were received under the general umbrella of preparing for CSD 1995, let me state that FAO was asked to assume the lead role and has been asked to prepare the draft Secretary-General's report to CSD. We have accepted that responsibility. You will have the chance to observe if we will be able to demonstrate our capacity to do so.

Secondly, in this connection, we are seeking to obtain the input from everyone inside the Organization and outside the Organization. We do find that the contributions from some are superior to those from others. Mention has been made here, for example of the UNDP, and I must report to you that their ability to assist us in this matter is hampered by the fact that they have two professional foresters at their headquarters, which contrasts to the seventy professional officers we have here in Rome.

I worry about the contribution from the forest industry. I would note and bring to your attention that the contributions from the other inter-governmental groups, and the international NGOs in particular, have been more forthcoming than have those from the forest industry or the governments. I mentioned in my introductory statement that we are starting to receive the contributions from the governments. This has a bearing on your advice to us, encouragement, to have documents despatched early. We will do so, even if it means not being able to take into account the views of our Member Governments. But I do encourage you to make your submissions and let us have the advantage of using that material.

Comments have been made about the many initiatives that were mentioned in paragraph 10 of the document. We have tried to be, and I believe we have been, involved in every one of those initiatives. We consider them to be building blocks towards the CSD process. We take the obligation to see to it that the work of the various initiatives are brought to bear in the process.

Comments have been made about the principles and the possibility of turning them into a legally binding instrument. I wish to amplify slightly on the comment in the introductory statement that is before you, to say that the paper that we are committed to prepare for consideration at COFO and the Ministers is to be a straightforward pros and cons, advantages and disadvantages. We learned our lesson some biennia ago. We shall not be making any firm recommendation on this matter.

There has been the suggestion that the ministers should meet every two years. I can assure you it is the intention of the Director-General, that at each subsequent COFO the Ministers would be invited.

With respect to the comments and questions about the agenda for COFO and the Meeting of Ministers in March, it is being prepared. There is a certain delay in this regard as well as with respect to the agenda of all the other main committees because we are awaiting your response to the Director-General's request for suggestions for the agenda. Again, a good number have come in and more are coming in these days. Nevertheless, I would say that to a certain degree there is limited flexibility on the agenda.

It has been made abundantly clear that the CSD Report will be a matter before the Ministers and before COFO. A main purpose of the Ministerial Meeting is to give them, the senior policy officials, the opportunity to make their statement to the CSD in the context of comments on the report.

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<sup>3</sup> Statement inserted in the verbatim records on request

Second, it is at this meeting of COFO and at this Meeting of Ministers that the plans for the future will be reviewed, the proposals for 1996-97, and those will be taken in the context not only in the medium term but also in the longer term, building a bridge towards 2010.

The third section of the agenda, therefore, will be other special issues such as restrictions on trade in tropical products, as I previously mentioned, and other important matters that need to be brought before the COFO and/or the Ministers.

I also would react to the comment made about the first issue of the state of the world's forests. Time is very short. We are fortunate, however, in that the special chapter of the SOFA 1994 is on forests. We will draw very heavily upon that document and also on the work that has been completed on resources assessment so that we have the global picture, not only the picture with respect to tropical forests but the results of the resources assessment for all forests. These two major pieces of work will form the main content of the first state of the world's forests.

It is the intention of the Director-General to have such a document each time the Ministers meet so that every two years there would be a statement - at least every two years - on the state of the world's forests.

I note the comments that have been made about the essential importance of reliable statistics, resources assessment, and adequate and appropriate criteria and indicators. I could not agree more that these are matters basic to the mission of the Organization. The workshop that is planned for February, prior to the inter-sessional meeting, is to facilitate the process that is under way in some regions on the development of criteria and indicators. We have heard that the European Commission and groups - the Helsinki process, the Montreal process, and so on - have made some progress but the fact is that there are other whole regions which have yet to consider the matter. We take it as our responsibility to try to bring together all the parties of interest to work towards a common set of criteria and indicators. I say this in the context that there is no possibility of being able to track sustainability in forestry unless we have criteria and indicators that can be used to monitor and follow progress.

I also make a brief note in reference to the importance of policy services and admit that this is an area where we are trying in the restructuring process to strengthen our ability to provide policy services to requesting member countries.

On the comments about the Tropical Forestry Action Programme and, in one way or another, the removal of the "T", we appreciate them. We believe the Organization's mission certainly is with respect to all forests and that the operating principles that have been developed through the TFAP process are applicable not only to the Mediterranean but also to other forests.

With respect to a comment that expressed some concern, as I understood it, about expanding the consultative group, a recommendation of the experts. That is a matter, of course, for the Governing Bodies to consider. I would point out, in connection with the overall issue of the large number and actually recently rising number of fora, one could conclude somewhat facetiously that the forests are in danger in that all of these fora require considerable paper to keep them going. It is a succinct way of saying I think it is timely for the Council to consider the need for the number of advisory or governing bodies on forestry matters. The latest count that we have is that we have thirty-nine bodies ourselves that provide advice, guidance, and so on, on forestry matters. Is it really necessary to have thirty-nine or could we save some money and use it to upgrade our normative services? I leave it to you to consider the need for the number of other fora around the world. Do you really need to have so many opportunities to talk about the same issues or is there an opportunity for streamlining?

Finally, I welcome the expressions of the need for more money. I implicitly assume that that means that those who made those statements no longer embrace the concept of zero real growth.

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Muchas gracias, señor Director General Adjunto, por sus aclaraciones y comentarios. Pregunto a los miembros del Consejo si tienen alguna observación que hacer al respecto. En ese caso me voy a permitir ofrecer un resumen de nuestros dinámicos y entusiastas debates.

En primer lugar, decir que el Consejo expresó su satisfacción por las informaciones adicionales proporcionadas por la Secretaría que actualizaban el estado de la función cooperativa de las actividades complementarias de la CNUMAD e, inclusive, se solicitó que dicha presentación se incluyera como uno de los documentos para información del Consejo, que fue distribuido.

Asimismo, se tomó nota con satisfacción de los documentos proporcionados, aunque se solicitó que los mismos se distribuyeran con antelación suficiente.

Se acogió con satisfacción el informe del Cuadro de Expertos de alto nivel en temas forestales y de su contenido.

Yo creo, distinguidos delegados, que los debates sobre este tema han reflejado la alta prioridad que merece a todos los miembros del Consejo y a los observadores los programas forestales de la FAO y, en particular, el tema de la ordenación forestal sostenible.

El Consejo reconoció la importancia de lograr una ordenación y desarrollo forestal sostenible y el papel rector que la FAO debe jugar en este cometido.

Se hicieron referencias muy firmes al compromiso de países, y de grupos de países, entre ellos la Unión Europea, en cumplimiento de sus respectivas responsabilidades para asegurar en sus ámbitos una ordenación forestal sostenible.

Se reconoció en particular, también, las responsabilidades de la FAO como gerente de tareas en el Programa 21. Se expresaron grandes esperanzas en que la función de la FAO en el proceso posterior a la CNUMAD se lleve a cabo con eficacia. También se indicó en relación a la aplicación de los principios forestales y del capítulo 11 del Programa 21, que la responsabilidad que tiene la FAO en cumplir con los compromisos de información al respecto.

Se expresó satisfacción por el hecho de que la FAO esté actuando de hecho como asesor principal de la CDS en materia de silvicultura. Se ratificó, en términos generales, las propuestas iniciales que habrán de incluirse en el informe del Secretario General, pero se subrayó que será necesario que los gobiernos apresuren la presentación de sus informes nacionales para que se incorporen entre los temas importantes notificados por los gobiernos a la CDS.

Se reconoció que se estaba dando una multiplicación inconveniente de foros internacionales y regionales para la discusión de temas forestales y de desarrollo sostenible en seguimiento de la CNUMAD. Al respecto se indicó la conveniencia de fundir estos foros en el logro de una voluntad política común. Algunas delegaciones indicaron que la FAO y la CDS eran los foros suficientes para el tratamiento de estos temas, en tanto que trabajen de manera coordinada. Varias delegaciones hicieron referencia a distintas iniciativas y conferencias internacionales, algunas de nivel ministerial y muchas de ellas fueron calificadas como de gran utilidad y trascendencia. Sin embargo, el Consejo insistió en la importancia de lograr una mayor coordinación a nivel mundial y regional con la finalidad de no dispersar esfuerzos, confundir conceptos y políticas y duplicar acciones.

Se instó a la FAO a fortalecer y asegurar el trabajo coordinado y complementario con otras organizaciones internacionales que trabajan sobre estos temas, tales como la CNUMAD, el PNUD y otros organismos del sistema del BRETTON WOODS, en especial el Banco Mundial.

Algunas delegaciones indicaron que debía reconocerse la competencia de esas otras organizaciones y, sin pretender luchar por falsos liderazgos, trabajar coordinadamente. Sin embargo, el Consejo tomó nota de que las contribuciones de otras organizaciones, así como del sector privado muchas veces estaban obstruidas, sea por la falta de expertos en la materia o por deficiencias en la comunicación y en el acceso a la información.

Sin embargo, este es el caso en particular del PNUD donde, como nos ha informado el señor Director General Adjunto, carece de personal cualificado para asegurar una asistencia suficiente. La colaboración con las organizaciones no gubernamentales ha sido estrecha y activa, y la FAO ha dado todas las seguridades de mantener y fortalecer su colaboración y la participación complementaria con otras organizaciones internacionales y también regionales.

Se enfatizó, como lo he mencionado, en la importancia de una acción recíproca y directa con las ONG y el sector privado. Hubo en este sentido varios llamamientos para que se apoyen las acciones emprendidas por organizaciones no gubernamentales, así como instituciones bilaterales y organismos internacionales en el sector forestal.

Con la finalidad de que la FAO fortalezca su posición como centro de excelencia en el sector forestal, se indicó que debe reorientar sus recursos y estrategias hacia cuestiones prioritarias más concretas. Tal es el caso de información oportuna y frecuente sobre el estado mundial de los bosques y de la ordenación forestal sostenible. Se ha dado la seguridad respecto de los tiempos en que se proporcionaría tal información sobre el estado mundial. Asimismo la FAO debería apoyar a los países en la preparación de información forestal y en la formulación de los programas forestales nacionales basados en el PAFT. El Consejo subrayó en particular que el PAFT debía universalizarse, de modo que comprenda la gran variedad de tipos de bosques y de circunstancias concretas para su ordenación y desarrollo sostenible, tomando muy en cuenta los efectos y las condiciones económicas y sociales en cada país. Esta recomendación también se encuentra en el informe del Cuadro de Expertos de alto nivel.

La FAO debe, pues, prestar una asistencia amplia, flexible y adecuada a la variedad de circunstancias geográficas, sociales y económicas para que los países formen y pongan en práctica sus programas de acción forestal y logren una ordenación forestal sostenible y compatible.

Algunas delegaciones expresaron preocupación por los efectos que las restricciones al comercio de productos forestales tienen sobre la economía de varios países y sus poblaciones. Enfatizaron que la ordenación forestal no es el único objetivo que está en juego en materia forestal y que es compatible, a fin de cuentas, con la ordenación forestal y la no discriminación de productos forestales tropicales bis a bis los no tropicales.

Se coincidió, sin embargo, en que estas cuestiones podrían ser un tema a tratar en el próximo COFO, en su fase ministerial, y se tomó nota de la iniciativa del Director General y de los trabajos dentro del Departamento de Montes para atacar estos temas. Se dio gran importancia, y se han generado grandes expectativas respecto a la reunión ministerial del COFO, que será esencial en la preparación del examen de bosques que realizará la CDS en 1995. También se expresó satisfacción porque dicha reunión estará precedida por otras reuniones con organizaciones no gubernamentales y con el sector privado. Todo esto, se espera, fortalecerá al Departamento Forestal y a las actividades forestales dentro de la FAO y producirá propuestas, inclusive programas de acción y de coordinación concretos y productivos.

El Consejo destacó la necesidad de ampliar la estrategia en relación con las perspectivas a medio y largo plazo de la FAO. Se llamó la atención a fin de que el Director General convoque reuniones ministeriales adicionales que permitan formular y promover tales programas e iniciativas en el futuro.

Se dieron, por parte de la Secretaría, las garantías en el sentido de que ésa era la intención del Director General.

Respecto al Cuadro de Expertos, hubo declaraciones diversas. Algunas delegaciones consideraron un tanto precipitada la tendencia hacia una convención forestal y no coincidieron con la interpretación que hacía del papel de la FAO. En lo referente al fortalecimiento de las actividades normativas de la FAO, sin embargo, la mayoría acogió con agrado las propuestas del Cuadro de Expertos. La FAO deberá iniciar los preparativos para un informe amplio sobre el estado mundial de los bosques, un seminario sobre criterios indicadores relacionados con la ordenación sostenible de los mismos y un documento sobre las ventajas e inconvenientes de avanzar hacia un acuerdo jurídicamente obligatorio sobre los bosques.

El Consejo también subrayó que, si bien el fortalecimiento de las actividades normativas de la FAO en materia forestal debía continuar, también era fundamental el apoyo a sus actividades operacionales y que, en virtud de los limitados recursos, el fortalecimiento de los aspectos normativos no debía ir en detrimento de lo operacional.

En fin, escucharon ustedes cuál fue la conclusión al respecto del Director General Adjunto. Espero efectivamente que los recursos para apoyar esta importante actividad no sean limitados para el bienio 1996-97. Con esto concluyo el resumen que he hecho de sus trabajos. Les repito que no necesariamente he podido

incorporar todos sus diversos puntos de vista y tampoco los diversos énfasis que hicieron al respecto. Estoy seguro de que el informe del Consejo lo recogerá de manera adecuada y satisfactoria.

### **6.3 Progress Towards the Development of Legally Binding Instruments Concerning the Prior Informed Consent Procedure**

### **6.3 Procédure de Pinformation et du consentement préalables: progrès accomplis dans la réalisation d'instruments juridiquement contraignants**

### **6.3 Progresos hacia el desarrollo de instrumentos jurídicamente vinculantes en relación con el procedimiento de información y consentimiento previos**

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Distinguidos delegados, como les estaba comentando, vamos a comenzar los trabajos sobre el tema 6.3. Les recuerdo que la finalidad principal de este tema aparece en el párrafo 17 del documento CL 107/11. Como saben todos ustedes, el instrumento de procedimiento de información y consentimiento previos para la distribución y el comercio de plaguicidas va a transformarse en un instrumento jurídicamente vinculante, a petición de la CDS. Por ello, no deberíamos dedicar mucho tiempo a la cuestión de si la FAO debe estar o no de acuerdo en desarrollar un procedimiento jurídicamente vinculante del ICP. Las cuestiones que el Consejo sí debería examinar y decidir se relacionan con las modalidades, el calendario y la financiación de la negociación. El desarrollo de un instrumento jurídicamente vinculante del ICP, deberá negociarse en colaboración con la CNUMAD, como ustedes saben. El documento contiene un calendario propuesto que el Consejo podría aprobar. En el párrafo 18 se propone una financiación extrapresupuestaria de 2.500 millones de dólares, de los que el 50 por ciento se necesitaría para la parte de la FAO, es decir, plaguicidas, en la labor encaminada al nuevo instrumento jurídicamente vinculante. El Consejo podría, al respecto, aprobar la propuesta incluida en el informe de que se realice el trabajo solamente a condición de que se disponga de dicha financiación extrapresupuestaria.

Por último, distinguidos miembros del Consejo, este Consejo podría examinar la función de los órganos rectores de la FAO en la aprobación de ese nuevo instrumento. La cuestión es si la conferencia de la FAO debe aprobarlo o no antes de presentarlo a la aprobación de la Conferencia de las Partes en el procedimiento del ICP.

Por el momento, es probable que la Conferencia Internacional sobre Inocuidad de las Sustancias Químicas, que se proyecta celebrar en Estocolmo en 1997, funcione como conferencia de las partes. Las delegaciones en esta Conferencia incluirán representación no sólo de los ministerios del Medio Ambiente, sino también de los de Agricultura. Como el asunto no podría ser examinado por la Conferencia de la FAO en 1997, la Conferencia de la FAO de 1995 tendría que dar un mandato al Consejo de la FAO en este sentido. Quiero que lo recuerden ustedes para tener su opinión al respecto.

Señores delegados, me permito ahora ceder la palabra al Dr. de Haen, Director General Adjunto del Departamento de Agricultura.

**H. DE HAEN (Assistant Director-General, Agriculture Department):** I think the Independent President of the Council has just so excellently introduced the item that I can shorten my introduction substantially. I will do so and just begin by reminding you that the Prior Informed Consent concerns pesticides and chemicals in general that are banned or severely restricted for reasons of health and the environment in any country, provided that such decisions are supported by scientific evidence.

Parties that would adhere to a legally binding instrument would therefore have to control the export of such pesticides following the decisions of importing countries. A convention would probably also contain provisions for monitoring, for compliance and even for dispute settlement.

I give these explanations in order to underline what such a legally binding instrument might imply. You may have further questions because the document does not give all the details, especially because this is subject to negotiation and therefore not yet specified in all the details.

As described in document CL 107/11, actions taken by intergovernmental organizations, especially by the International Conference on Chemical Safety and the Committee on Sustainable Development, indicate an increasing interest in strengthening the legal basis of Prior Informed Consent procedures.

UNEP, jointly with FAO, will convene a consultative meeting of government-designated experts in December this year. I would underline that FAO has worked closely with UNEP in preparing the elements that might be included in a legally binding instrument for the mandatory application of the PIC procedure.

FAO's main concern is that issues relating to pesticides are effectively taken into account in drafting such a legally binding instrument and that such issues are compatible with, and complementary to, many other provisions of the FAO Code of Conduct on the Distribution and Use of Pesticides, of which the PIC procedures are a part.

The Chairman has already referred to the purposes of the document CL 107/11. May I repeat three purposes. One is to inform you of the current status of the development of a legally binding instrument for the mandatory application of the PIC procedures. The second is to solicit the Council's agreement for the Secretariat to proceed with this work. The third is to seek the Council's comments on the timescale required to develop such a legally binding instrument and to identify potential sources of funding - presumably extra-budgetary - for the conclusion of the instrument.

Please note that the estimated costs of US\$2.5 million - not US\$25 million as indicated in the Spanish version of the document - would cover three negotiation meetings, and the negotiation would be for pesticides and all other chemicals - it is one negotiation for all chemicals, including pesticides - followed by a diplomatic conference. The estimate also includes the costs of smaller experts meetings which may be required. I should like to underline that the estimate of US\$2.5 million includes also the funding of participation of developing countries, as far as this is requested.

The Secretariat believes that the work is necessary, and we are prepared to implement it, but delegates should be aware that the drafting of a legally binding instrument represents only the first step. We should be aware of the fact that there will be costs in addition to those stated in this document. These include support for the operation of an interim Secretariat, as well as ongoing financial commitments for the operational costs for the Secretariat once the code is in effect. These costs will, of course, have to be borne by the parties to the convention.

I hope these additional explanations may have underlined what the debate will be about and what kind of instrument will come out of the negotiation if the Council endorses our proposals.

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Muchas gracias, Dr. de Haen, por sus pronunciamientos introductorios. Pido disculpas a los miembros del Consejo por haber tomado de la versión en español del documento el falso número de 2.500 millones de dólares. Precisamente, yo le había hecho notar al Dr. de Haen este error en español.

**Gian Paolo PAPA (CE):** La Communauté européenne et ses Etats Membres soutiennent fermement la proposition visant à poursuivre la préparation d'un instrument juridique sur l'application de la procédure du consentement préalable donné en connaissance de cause (PIC), dans le commerce international, à certaines substances chimiques et pesticides qui sont interdits ou dont l'utilisation est sévèrement limitée dans les pays exportateurs.

Comme il est indiqué dans le document CL 107/11, paragraphe 8, la Communauté a adopté des règles spécifiques assurant un caractère obligatoire à la procédure PIC. Le Règlement du Conseil de la Communauté européenne N° 2455/92 du 23 juillet 1992, relatif à l'exportation et à l'importation de certaines substances chimiques dangereuses, offre un cadre commun efficace pour la mise en oeuvre des procédures PIC dans l'Union européenne.

L'initiative de rendre la procédure PIC juridiquement obligatoire est dès lors pleinement cohérente avec la politique de l'Union européenne, et nous espérons que l'expérience acquise à travers la mise en oeuvre de notre Règlement, et des instruments volontaires, sera prise en considération lors de la rédaction d'actes juridiques.

Dans ce contexte, la Communauté et ses Etats Membres sont en faveur des propositions faites au paragraphe 17 du document CL 107/11. Nous considérons, au vu du travail préparatoire qui a déjà été accompli, que le projet d'actes juridiques devrait être prêt pour adoption en 1997 au plus tard.

Je souhaiterais profiter de cette occasion pour exprimer quelques commentaires supplémentaires à ce sujet.

En particulier, nous pensons que:

- l'instrument juridique devrait prendre en compte la procédure PIC prévue par les Lignes directrices de Londres, telles qu'elles ont été amendées, et par le Code de conduite de la FAO comme point de départ;
- tout chevauchement avec d'autres instruments existants tels que ceux qui concernent les déchets, les substances appauvrissant la couche d'ozone ou les stupéfiants, doit être évité;
- en vue d'assurer l'efficacité de la procédure PIC obligatoire, le principe PIC devrait s'appliquer à toutes les sources d'approvisionnement;
- des efforts doivent être engagés pour encourager le plus grand nombre de pays possible à participer à la procédure PIC obligatoire et, afin d'y arriver, les instruments financiers existants devraient être utilisés.

**Sra. ANA LILIA PEDROSA (México):** México, como país importador de plaguicidas, contribuye a promover prácticas que garanticen el uso seguro y eficaz de estos productos. Por tal motivo, el Gobierno de mi país ha participado durante todo el proceso de aceptación del principio de Información y Consentimiento Previos.

En México, la competencia en la regulación de plaguicidas recae en una Comisión Intersecretarial para el Control del Proceso y Uso de Plaguicidas, fertilizantes y sustancias tóxicas.

Por resolución federal existe una lista de 21 plaguicidas cuya importación, fabricación, formulación, comercialización y uso en mi país están prohibidos.

Por lo que se refiere a la cuestión de regulación jurídica, México aplica ampliamente las disposiciones del ICP, y pensamos que puede considerarse que éste se establezca como un procedimiento jurídicamente vinculante, sustituyendo al actual Código Internacional de Conducta para la Distribución y Utilización de Plaguicidas.

Los días 1 y 2 de diciembre próximo se realizará una reunión de consulta, auspiciada por el Programa de las Naciones Unidas para el Medio Ambiente (UNEP) y la FAO, a fin de tratar asuntos relativos al desarrollo de un instrumento legalmente vinculante para la aplicación del ICP. México apoya esta iniciativa.

Asimismo, estamos de acuerdo con la propuesta de la Secretaría, que se contiene en el documento, en lo referente a la calendarización y financiamiento.

**EL PRESIDENTE:** La Secretaría, seguramente ha tomado nota y recibirá usted las respuestas una vez finalizados los debates.



**John Bruce SHARPE (Australia):** Mr Chairman, I should first like to thank you and Mr de Haen for your very useful introduction.

My delegation supports the development of a legally binding instrument for the mandatory application of the Prior Informed Consent procedure. Australia believes that a draft instrument could be developed for consideration by an intergovernmental meeting in 1996-97. If, however, in working with UNEP, difficulties are encountered in resolving the scope and other elements which are being considered for inclusion in the draft instrument, Australia believes that these should be set aside to allow the current prior informed consent procedure to be incorporated into a legally binding instrument. The other elements could be considered for inclusion at a later date.

**Christophe KIEMTORE:** Je voudrais tout d'abord remercier le Secrétariat pour la concision du rapport qui nous permettra de faire une intervention assez brève.

Vous me permettez, avant de répondre aux questions posées au paragraphe 17, de faire deux petits commentaires.

Le premier commentaire porte sur le rôle de pionnier qu'a joué la FAO dans le processus d'élaboration des principes de l'ICP. Nous savons tous que depuis 1985 la Conférence, en adoptant le Code de conduite, avait déjà posé en fait le problème de l'information et du consentement préalable. Le principe de l'ICP a été formellement intégré au Code de conduite depuis 1987. La question de la transformation du Code en instrument juridiquement contraignant n'avait pas été occultée par la Conférence, et puisque nous avons entendu un certain nombre d'avis de la part des délégations qui participaient à la Conférence de 1989, ces avis avaient permis à la Conférence de juger qu'il n'était pas opportun de transformer pour le moment le Code en instrument juridiquement contraignant. Mais cela veut dire également qu'il y avait une possibilité de poursuivre l'analyse pour en arriver à l'objet qui nous est soumis aujourd'hui.

Les autres agences spécialisées du Système des Nations Unies qui ont rejoint la marche beaucoup plus tard, je veux parler du PNUE ou de l'ICCS, sont aujourd'hui plus préoccupées que la FAO en matière de transformation de l'ICP en document juridiquement contraignant. Je ne veux pas jeter la pierre à ces institutions, au contraire nous les encourageons, mais ce commentaire a seulement pour but de rappeler le rôle important de la FAO, qui a également un rôle de pionnier. Il convient que la FAO conserve cette place dans les débats en cours afin de faire valoir ses vues, notamment en ce qui concerne le secteur agricole, l'élevage, les pêches et les forêts.

Le deuxième commentaire porte sur les besoins d'une définition plus claire des objets d'une part, et d'autre part des champs d'application de l'ICP.

On peut se demander en fait si la FAO et le PNUE parlent de la même chose lorsqu'ils évoquent le principe de l'ICP. Cette clarification aura l'avantage d'éclaircir un certain nombre de choses pour éviter l'amalgame de sujets à traiter dans la transformation de ce document en un instrument juridique contraignant.

La deuxième question est aussi de savoir si les pays développés, les firmes qui produisent ces produits, et les pays en développement ont la même préoccupation lorsqu'on demande de transformer ce document en un document contraignant.

Toutes ces questions avaient été identifiées par la Conférence de 1989 et on avait demandé au Secrétariat d'apporter des réponses à cette question importante dans les cheminements en cours.

Là, je voudrais m'attarder un peu plus sur le cas des pays en développement. Je pense qu'une des préoccupations essentielles, c'est le problème que pose l'importation des pesticides qui sont interdits ou assujettis à des restrictions sévères dans les pays exportateurs. Un exemple précis a été évoqué lors de la Conférence régionale de la FAO pour l'Afrique, c'est le cas du Detryl. Son interdiction sur le marché, et l'absence de produits de substitutions aussi efficaces, semble poser des problèmes dans la maîtrise des fléaux qui affligent ce continent.

Voilà des questions importantes qui doivent être à la base de cette réflexion, compte tenu de l'intérêt de toutes les parties prenantes.

Pour revenir aux questions spécifiques posées au paragraphe 17, je voudrais m'intéresser tout particulièrement à l'alinéa b. Ma délégation pense que la FAO peut entreprendre un certain nombre de tâches. La première tâche pour nous consiste, à l'instar de ce qui existe au sein du PNUE, à créer un Groupe d'experts. Le Groupe d'experts du PNUE a fait des recommandations au paragraphe 12. L'importance de la question justifie qu'au sein de la FAO un Groupe d'experts soit créé. Ce groupe d'experts devra faire l'examen des années d'expérience et des années d'application de l'ICP. Il faut dresser une typologie des problèmes et des difficultés rencontrées par les pays depuis la mise en oeuvre du Code de conduite. C'est une question importante qui nous permettra de savoir comment nous pouvons évoluer vers un document juridiquement contraignant. Ce groupe d'experts devra faire des recommandations qui s'inspireront de ce qui est contenu au paragraphe 12. Voilà quelle est notre perception du problème.

En ce qui concerne les dates, nous pensons que cette question sera fonction de la démarche qui sera entreprise, en tenant compte des questions que nous avons évoquées.

**M. MAJID-UL HAQUE (Bangladesh):** We are interested, like many others, in the development of a legally binding instrument for the mandatory application of the principle of prior informed consent. However, my delegation is concerned about the voluntary, non-binding nature of the code and the absence of an adequate framework for the realization of all its objectives.

We therefore agree with the proposal to proceed with the preparation of a draft for a legally binding instrument for the operation of the PIC procedures, and assert that it should be done as early as possible.

**Mrs Maria GALVÖLGYI (Hungary):** As to the document CL 106/11, the PIC application in Hungary goes back to the beginning of the 80s when an institution was nominated to act as an information centre.

As, among the chemicals, the pesticides are mostly registered and controlled, their way from production to users can be followed. Different organizations are dealing with this activity in most of the countries, and therefore any regulation can be applied in a relatively easy way. Especially after application of the PIC procedures, it seemed to be advisable to involve the mentioned institutions into this process of exchanging information.

In Hungary, the plant protection department of the Ministry of Agriculture is dealing with the important task of designated national authority. In 1991, this department initiated the establishment of a national PIC committee in order to include all competent government institutions to formulate a uniform national standpoint. According to the decision of this national PIC committee, FAO and IRPTC are regularly informed about the prohibited or limitedly used materials in the country. In Hungary no pesticide is permitted which is found on the prohibited list of PIC. It is felt that we have already made significant and exemplary steps ahead in the practical introduction of PIC in our sub-region.

Concerning our experiences, we support the joint FAO/UNEP endeavour to formulate legal guarantees for PIC application. Introduction of such a legally binding instrument will not be disadvantageous for my country, although its formal application is not clear enough. There is an idea which could implement this instrument in the framework of the national council responsible for the safetiness of chemicals.

In Hungary, the document sent by UNEP is under examination, and hopefully a national delegation will participate at the meeting in December to be held in Geneva.

My final remark would go to the final requirement mentioned in the last paragraph of the document. It is difficult for us to comment on costs of this task since the work done so far and the tasks still to be fulfilled have not been fully clarified yet.

**Yoshihisa KAWAGUCHI (Japan):** In my country, in order to implement the PIC procedure the relevant government ordinance was amended in July 1992. As a result of this amendment, in order to export chemicals including pesticides which are being banned or severely restricted it became necessary to get governmental approval.

With regard to the development of a legally binding instrument for the PIC procedure, we think that it is necessary to consider carefully the scope and the contents of the obligation. More in detail, we think that it is realistic to consider a mechanism restricted to information exchange between exporting and importing countries. On the contrary, if the scope of consideration is to expand to the creation of new complex information exchange mechanism through international organization, or to obligations to strengthen internal infrastructure, there might be a risk of resulting in a system of questionable feasibility.

Basically, we have no objection to the way FAO has and will be investigating the development of a legally binding instrument for the PIC procedure. We would like to add, finally, that careful consideration is essential in order to make a feasible and efficient mechanism.

**Per Harald GRUE (Norway):** The Nordic countries are in favour of the proposal made in paragraph 17 of the document in front of us, to prepare a legally binding instrument for the mandatory application of the prior informed consent procedure in international trade in pesticides, and we support the suggestions in the declaration made on behalf of the European Community and its member states that such an instrument should take the PIC procedure as set out in the amended London Guidelines and in FAO's Code of Conduct as a starting point.

We see this as an important first step towards an international agreement to restrict the exportation of hazardous substances from countries in which their use is banned or severely restricted, as was called for at the second CSD session in May of this year.

**Alan AMEY (Canada):** Nous accueillons avec plaisir le rapport du Secrétariat concernant l'évolution de l'application de la procédure de l'information et du consentement préalables dans les directives de Londres. Il s'agit là d'un dossier important pour la protection des consommateurs du monde entier.

Le Canada appuie également les mesures de suivi d'Action 21 et reconnaît le rôle prépondérant qu'ont joué la FAO et le PNUE dans cette entreprise.

Il semble que le projet de procédure de l'information et du consentement préalables (PICP) reçoive un vaste appui. Le Canada ne tient donc pas à freiner les progrès réalisés sur ce plan. Cependant, nous tenons à apporter quelques mises en garde concernant l'élaboration d'un instrument juridiquement contraignant. Tout d'abord, le Canada n'exporte qu'une infime quantité des produits chimiques énumérés sur la liste de la PICP. Grâce à la conclusion de protocoles d'entente avec chaque société concernée, nous espérons inciter les sociétés canadiennes à observer la PICP. Une fois la convention signée, il serait peut-être sage de reconnaître que les pays qui sont dans la même situation se conforment à la PICP même s'ils n'amorcent pas un processus coûteux de modifications de leur législation intérieure et de mise en place d'un mécanisme réglementaire formel.

En évaluant les répercussions sur les ressources, il est important d'évaluer les besoins financiers en tenant compte des autres demandes de financement des mesures de suivi d'Action 21. Il serait bon d'analyser la question dans le contexte de l'examen des projets prévus pour le prochain exercice biennal, qui est mené par le Comité de l'agriculture, le Comité des pêches et le Comité des forêts. En ce qui concerne les options de financement, il faudra faire preuve d'innovation dans un monde où s'accroît l'interdépendance. Les Gouvernements sont forcés de réduire leurs dépenses dans tous les domaines et l'heure est mal choisie pour leur demander des fonds supplémentaires. A moins qu'on envisage la PICP dans le contexte plus large du suivi d'Action 21 nous ne serons pas en mesure d'engager des ressources extrabudgétaires dans cette entreprise, aussi valable soit-elle. Nous attendons avec impatience le dépôt du rapport du Secrétariat de la FAO à la Commission du développement durable à cet égard au printemps de 1995.

**E. Wayne DENNEY (United States of America):** We would start by associating ourselves with the comments made earlier by both Australia and by Canada.

The United States joint consensus at the last CSD to move towards the establishment of a legally binding instrument on PIC that is based on the voluntary system agreed to in 1989. Any such instrument should utilize the FAO/UNEP Joint Experts Committee and recognize the progress achieved in implementing the FAO Code of Conduct on Distribution and Use of Pesticides.

We have a number of views regarding what a strengthened PIC regime should entail. Whilst that is not the major purpose of our discussion today, it may help explain why we want to proceed carefully and be sure consensus is obtained.

We would like to have both a comprehensive information exchange mechanism based on individual national regulatory action triggers, and an import/export restriction based on an agreed list of chemicals.

The information exchange mechanism should include information on environmentally safer alternatives to chemicals subject to export control under the PIC system, where such information is available and appropriate -- as set forth in Annex III of the UNEP London Guidelines.

The regime should exclude non-product materials, in particular solid and hazardous wastes covered under the Basel Convention.

It should set forth an appropriate balance of responsibility between exporting and importing countries.

Finally, it should be non-discriminatory and not limit trade based on arbitrary country grouping.

We would note that, during the period of possible negotiation of a legally binding PIC, it is important that efforts continue to strengthen the voluntary process including seeking the active cooperation of countries not now fully participating.

Regarding this specific issue of whether FAO should commit itself to participating with UNEP as a Secretariat for intergovernmental negotiations, we believe FAO should secure sufficient funds before making a specific commitment. We do not believe that FAO should expend an undue amount of Regular Programme resources for this purpose.

At the same time, we also believe that FAO does need to cooperate fully with the CSD.

**Martha de VALLADARES (Honduras):** La delegación de Honduras, señor Presidente, agradece a la Comisión sobre el Desarrollo Sostenible la información incluida en el documento CL 107/11, del estado actual del desarrollo de un instrumento jurídicamente vinculante para la aplicación obligatoria del procedimiento de información y consentimiento previo. En tal sentido, estamos de acuerdo en que la Secretaría proceda a preparar un proyecto de instrumento jurídicamente vinculante, en la medida en que la FAO obtenga los recursos extrapresupuestarios para cubrir dichos gastos.

Asimismo, consideramos que en la reunión consultiva de expertos de los gobiernos que proyecta convocar el CNUMAD en diciembre de 1994, conjuntamente con la FAO, podría analizarse la necesidad de crear y formular la aplicación de sanciones por la utilización y distribución de plaguicidas y de otras sustancias químicas nocivas a la salud.

**Suharyo HUSEN (Indonesia):** Firstly, the Indonesian delegation would like to share the views of other distinguished delegates in congratulating the Secretariat for providing the introduction to the document under Item 6.3, CL 107/11.

Secondly, since Indonesia is at present actively implementing Integrated Pest Management, the IPM project, for agricultural commodities, including crops, and is also very concerned for health and environmental

problems caused by pesticides, my delegation would like to join other delegations in supporting and endorsing the legally binding instrument for the mandatory application of prior informed consent, PIC, in court.

Finally, the Indonesian delegation would like to present IPM in Indonesia, namely ecological matters and sustainable agriculture for information.

**Ahmed MERI (Syria) (Original language Arabic):** My delegation welcomes the development of a legally binding instrument for the mandatory application of the PIC procedure and the use of pesticides, since the protection of the environment and plants which are a major source of food for mankind, require such a binding instrument which informs countries of hazardous and poisonous chemicals, hazardous to the life of mankind and to its health. The chemical analysis of such pesticides and scientific tests should be applied to the biological effect of such pesticides on food-producing plants.

My country has established a department to examine and analyze imported chemicals with biological analysis of such pesticides, to decide which are hazardous and poisonous. We adopted an approach of integrated combat and control, with a view to achieving an ecological balance, using pesticides to a minimum. We use pesticides only when the pests inflict harm on agricultural production.

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Pregunto a los miembros del Consejo si desean intervenir respecto de este tema antes de dar la palabra a los señores observadores. No veo a ningún delegado que lo desee. En ese caso doy la palabra al observador de la PNUMA.

**Bukhard WAGNER (UNEP):** On behalf of the Executive Director, Mrs Elizabeth Dowdswell, I should like to thank you for this opportunity to provide a brief presentation of support for the FAO/UNEP Joint Programme on the Implementation of Prior Informed Consent.

When the principle of PIC was introduced into the FAO conduct in 1989, UNEP amended the London Guidelines on the exchange of information on Chemicals in International Trade, and also included the PIC principle. Upon the recommendation of the UNEP Governing Council and the FAO Conference, both FAO and UNEP have since worked together under a Memorandum of Understanding and have successfully initiated and implemented this procedure.

We are confident that the implementation of the PIC procedure has been strengthened by this cooperation bringing together FAO's knowledge on pesticides and UNEP's experience in industrial chemicals and information management. Both the amended London Guidelines and the FAO Conduct are instruments implemented on a voluntary basis.

With 125 participating countries, you can see the wide acceptance of this principle and the interest of countries to control pesticides and industrial chemicals. In 1989, the UNEP Governing Council recommended reconvening the Ad Hoc Working Group of Experts on the implementation of the London Guidelines, with the mandate to review progress and experience in the implementation of the Guidelines, and to consider modalities for strengthening the legal basis of these guidelines at national and international levels.

This Working Group has developed a set of elements that might be included in a legally binding instrument. The Group's recommendations have also been presented to the International Conference on Chemical Safety in Stockholm in April of this year, and to the second session of the Commission of Sustainable Development which met in New York in May this year. Both bodies have recommended that work should continue to evaluate and address problems in the implementation of the PIC procedure and to develop effective international legally binding instruments concerning the PIC procedure.

UNEP, jointly with FAO, is planning to convene a consultative meeting of government experts in December 1994 in Geneva to develop further a legally binding instrument. Then the Executive Director of UNEP will inform the UNEP Governing Council in May next year of the results of UNEP's and FAO's work on this issue.

It is hoped that the Governing Council will reinforce the mandate to continue working towards a legally binding instrument. We look forward to the decision of this FAO Council that will be reported to the UNEP Governing Council.

Mr Chairman, it will be essential for the successful implementation of this legally binding instrument that FAO and UNEP continue to work together to promote a clear notion of shared responsibility between importing and exporting countries, in protecting both people and the environment from the negative health and environmental effects of certain hazardous chemicals. This cooperation between FAO and UNEP is a very good example of inter-agency cooperation which countries always request.

I wish you well in your deliberations. UNEP looks forward to a strong and continuous association with FAO in this increasingly important activity of real relevance, particularly to developing countries.

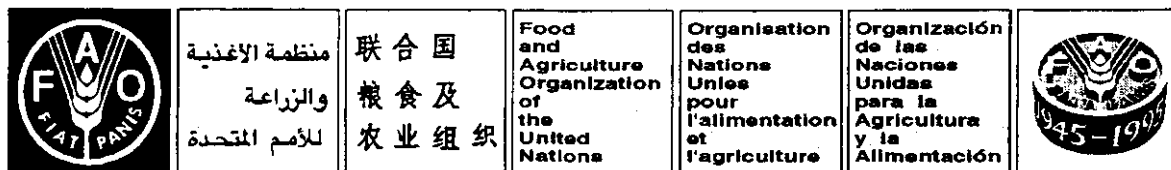
**EL PRESIDENTE:** Deseo comunicar a este Consejo que el distinguido observador de Etiopía ha enviado una declaración para ser incluida en el verbatim sobre el tema 6.2 de la agenda. Espero tomen nota de que va a aparecer allí. ¿Hay alguna otra delegación u observador que desee hacer uso de la palabra? En ese caso, distinguidos delegados y, siendo poco más de las 12.30, les voy a pedir disculpas por no continuar hasta la finalización de este tema. Debo terminar en este momento. Nos reuniremos a las 14.30 horas en punto para conocer la respuesta que nos dará el Dr. de Haen y para efectuar el resumen de este punto.

**The meeting rose at 12.30 hours.**

**La séance est levée à 12 h 30.**

**Se levanta la sesión a las 12.30 horas.**

17 November 1994



COUNCIL

CONSEIL

CONSEJO

Hundred and Seventh Session • Cent septième session • 107° período de sesiones

SIXTH PLENARY MEETING  
SIXIEME SEANCE PLENIERE  
SEXTA SESION PLENARIA

17 November 1994

The Sixth Plenary Meeting was opened at 14.45 hours  
Mr José Ramón López Portillo,  
Independent Chairman of the Council, presiding

La sixième séance plénière est ouverte à 14 h 45  
sous la présidence de M. José Ramón López Portillo,  
Président indépendant du Conseil

Se abre la sexta sesión plenaria a las 14.45 horas  
bajo la presidencia del Sr. José Ramón López Portillo,  
Presidente Independiente del Consejo

**ACTIVITIES OF FAO AND WFP (continued)****ACTIVITES DE LA FAO ET DU PAM (suite)****ACTIVIDADES DE LA FAO Y DEL PMA (continuación)****6. Sustainable Development (continued)****6. Développement durable (suite)****6. Desarrollo sostenible (continuación)****6.3 Progress Towards the Development of Legally Binding Instruments concerning the Prior Informed Consent Procedure (continued)****6.3 Procédure de l'information et du consentement préalables: progrès accomplis dans la réalisation d'instruments juridiquement contraignants (suite)****6.3 Progresos hacia el desarrollo de instrumentos jurídicamente vinculantes en relación con el procedimiento de información y consentimiento previos (continuación)**

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Distinguidos delegados, tengo el agrado de abrir la sexta sesión plenaria de los trabajos del Consejo.

Hay dos anuncios que deseo hacerles: El primero es en relación a dos documentos que han circulado y sobre los cuales aparecerán próximamente nuevas versiones revisadas. Me refiero, y espero que tomen nota detallada, a los documentos CL 107/3-Sup.1, que se refiere a la fecha y al lugar del 28° período de sesiones de la Conferencia, que se estudiará bajo el Tema 19. Asimismo me refiero al documento CL 107/INF/16, relativo al Calendario Revisado de los Organos de la FAO 1994-95, que se estudiará bajo el Tema 16 de la Agenda. Próximamente se les distribuirán las nuevas versiones revisadas de estos documentos. Espero que hayan tomado nota. Gracias.

El segundo punto que deseo anunciarles es que la delegación de Túnez había mandado una declaración que debía insertarse bajo el Tema 6.1 de nuestra Agenda. Dicha versión será incorporada en el verbatim de este Consejo.

Me permito ahora, si no hay ningún comentario de parte de ustedes, ofrecerle la palabra al Sr. de Haen para que responda a los comentarios y preguntas formulados por ustedes en torno al Tema 6.3.

**H. DE HAEN (Assistant Director-General, Agriculture Department):** First, I should like to express our thanks for the support, suggestions, and questions which were expressed by delegates.

I should like to begin by making clear that what is to be transformed into a legally binding instrument is, of course, the Prior Informed Consent (PIC) procedure and not the Code of Conduct for the Distribution and Use of Pesticides in general.

Some delegates requested a clearer definition of the objectives of this transformation of the PIC and an assurance that FAO and UNEP have the same interpretation of these objectives. The FAO and UNEP PIC procedures are at present fully compatible and FAO and UNEP act as a joint Secretariat to implement the procedures. There cannot be any doubt on this.

Maybe it is good to underline again what a legally binding instrument would have to achieve. I will try to give you four items on this. One is that exporting countries would have to ensure that measures are taken to implement the PIC: for instance, no exports could be authorized to countries which have decided not to import; secondly, importing countries would at least have to get the mechanism into place to make informed decisions on pesticides and other chemicals; thirdly, monitoring and compliance measures could be implemented. These are examples. Of course it will be subject to the negotiations to arrive at concrete conclusions. Fourthly, this has financial implications for the trading partners. A legally binding instrument may probably be more easily acceptable by participating countries, because there will be less trade distortions, if all comply with the rules rather than only a few trading partners. This is just to give some indication of the substance of such a legally binding instrument.



The delegate of Burkina Faso asked whether FAO and UNEP are in fact discussing the same issue with the same interpretation. I repeat my answer: it is yes. At present, this is a joint programme where FAO has taken the responsibility for pesticides and UNEP has taken the responsibility for other chemicals. UNEP, together with FAO, will organize the meeting in December, which we mentioned in the report, to discuss the major issues related to the development of a legally binding instrument. I wish to inform you that experts from the fields of both environment and agriculture will be invited to this meeting.

Moreover, the present procedure is regularly reviewed by an FAO/UNEP expert panel. The comments of this panel have always been, and will continue to be, taken into account. Again in reply to the question of the delegate of Burkina Faso, to establish a specific FAO expert panel at this moment would, in our view, probably not be necessary. The joint panel can handle all questions specific to the field of pesticides and agriculture.

The question of whether FAO could have moved faster on the conclusion of a legally binding instrument may be a relevant question. The answer is, in fact, that UNEP has made some more progress through the UNEP *ad hoc* Working Group on the Implementation of the London Guidelines where the transformation of the code has already been advanced in the past. On the other hand, this UNEP Working Group on the London Guidelines fully recognized in its report the role that FAO would have to play in the conclusion of the legally binding instrument. You will find more detail on that in paragraph 12 of the document. This was also recognized by the Commission on Sustainable Development, mentioned in our report in paragraph 14.

Should FAO have worked more expeditiously towards a legally binding instrument? We did not see a possibility other than working very actively in the Working Group mentioned earlier. So far we have not had a clear mandate to advance the work further than we have. Our staff limitations also play a role here, of course. We have so far not had extra-budgetary funding to make further progress.

This brings me finally to the question of funding. We note Canada's position that the whole transformation exercise of the PIC should be seen in the overall context of the UNCED follow-up and the implementation of Agenda 21. This is, in fact, the case. Let me remind you that the decision to request a transformation of the PIC into a legally binding instrument came from the CSD at its session on toxic chemicals held earlier in 1994. This is why we have the recommendation now to engage in this work. But, of course, the Commission on Sustainable Development does not automatically provide the funding for this exercise and therefore we are still stuck with the question of how to provide this funding. One idea you may wish to advise us to follow up further is a joint UNEP/FAO donors meeting where we could explain to potential donors in more detail what the costs are which would be related to the development of this legally binding instrument. We look forward to the guidance of the Council on this important question of funding because, as we have understood the request and instruction so far, it would have to be funded out of extra-budgetary sources, and these sources are not yet available.

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Distinguidos delegados, los comentarios y las respuestas del doctor de Haen me facilitan mucho la tarea del resumen, pero también dejan, desde luego, una cuestión abierta que este Consejo no ha podido definir en plenitud. Debo decir, en primer lugar, que el Consejo acogió con satisfacción la propuesta de la Secretaría en la formulación de un instrumento jurídicamente vinculante a petición de la CDS respecto al instrumento de procedimiento de información y consentimiento previos para la distribución y comercio de plaguicidas.

Se acogieron, en términos generales, las propuestas dentro del examen de las modalidades, calendario y financiación de la negociación. El desarrollo de un instrumento jurídicamente vinculante de ICP se negociará, como lo ha solicitado el Consejo, en colaboración cercana con el PNUMA.

Sin embargo, el Consejo tomó nota de posiciones de diverso tipo en cuanto a las modalidades, al calendario, la forma, el contenido de este instrumento jurídicamente vinculante. Estoy seguro de que el informe del Consejo recogerá todas esas posiciones.

No obstante, quedó abierta la cuestión relativa al financiamiento. El Consejo ha tomado nota de que sin este financiamiento será particularmente difícil llevar a cabo los trabajos para la realización de ese instrumento.

El Consejo también tomó nota de la propuesta de la Secretaría en respuesta a los planteamientos formulados durante el debate en relación a una reunión de donantes conjunta con el PNUMA y la FAO.

Distinguidos delegados, hasta aquí el resumen de sus deliberaciones al respecto. No quisiera sin embargo, cerrar este punto antes de preguntarles si tienen alguna observación adicional que hacer respecto del mismo. Como no veo a ningún delegado que desee hacer uso de la palabra doy por concluido el Tema 6.3 de nuestra Agenda, con la seguridad de que el informe recogerá de manera equilibrada sus respectivas declaraciones y comentarios.

Señores delegados, me permito despedir al doctor de Haen y a su equipo, y pasar con su venia, al Tema 7 de nuestra Agenda: Colaboración dentro del Sistema de las Naciones Unidas y con otras Organizaciones.

Le doy la bienvenida a la Señora Killingsworth y les recuerdo que los documentos que deben estar en frente de ustedes, son el CL 107/12 y el CL 107/INF/23. Como ustedes saben éste es un tema permanente del programa tanto del Consejo como de la Conferencia, y su propósito principal es mantenernos al corriente de aquéllas novedades ocurridas dentro y fuera del sistema de las Naciones Unidas y que tienen un efecto para el trabajo de la Organización.

La colaboración de la FAO con otras organizaciones cubre una amplia gama de actividades y temas, algunos de los cuales están tratados bajo distintos asuntos de nuestro programa. Por ejemplo, ayer por la tarde y esta mañana hemos terminado de discutir el Tema 6 relativo a la Comisión de Desarrollo Sostenible. Anteriormente en la revisión de los Temas 4 y 5, tocamos también el aspecto de la relación de la Organización con la nueva Organización Mundial del Comercio. Bajo el Tema 8.3 tendremos también que considerar el informe sobre la aplicación de la resolución de la Asamblea General de las Naciones Unidas sobre la transformación del Comité de políticas y programas de ayuda alimentaria en una Junta Ejecutiva para el Programa Mundial de la Alimentación.

En el tratamiento de este asunto podríamos por tanto, si a ustedes les parece bien, concentrarnos en aquellos temas seleccionados que han sido incluidos en el documento CL 107/12. Estos cubren las iniciativas del sistema de Naciones Unidas tales como un programa de desarrollo, recuperación económica y desarrollo en Africa, varias conferencias internacionales importantes, derechos humanos, fiscalización del uso indebido de drogas, las relaciones de sistemas de las Naciones Unidas con las organizaciones no gubernamentales y otros asuntos. Este tema incluye también una sección sobre la situación de urgencia y asistencia alimentaria.

En lo que se refiere, sin embargo, al documento CL 107/INF/23, tenemos un informe sobre las iniciativas tomadas en respuesta a la recomendación del 27º período de sesiones de la Conferencia de 1993, que se refieren al fortalecimiento de la cooperación entre la FAO y el Instituto Interamericano de Cooperación para la Agricultura (IICA).

Distinguidos delegados, antes de iniciar los debates bajo este tema, me voy a permitir ofrecer la palabra a la señora Killingsworth para que nos ponga al tanto de los acontecimientos principales ocurridos entre la preparación de estos temas y este Consejo.

7. **Collaboration within the UN System and with other Organizations**
7. **Collaboration au sein du Système des Nations Unies et avec les autres organisations**
7. **Colaboración dentro del sistema de las Naciones Unidas y con otras organizaciones**

**Ms Kay KILLINGSWORTH (Director, Office for External Relations):** The document you have before you was finalized at the end of August -I am referring to No. 12, concerning collaboration within the UN system and with other organizations. Since then, as the Council is aware, the International Conference on Population and Development was held in Cairo in early September. The Cairo Conference adopted a Programme of Action which focuses to a large extent on linkages between population and sustainable development, environment, poverty alleviation, and demographic imbalances between urban and rural areas.

Obviously, these are areas which intersect with many of FAO's priorities and in the future we are going to be in close contact with UNFPA to try to ensure that resources are mobilized and activities are launched in the areas of inter-relationship between population and rural development.

The next major conference on the agenda of the International Community is the World Summit for Social Development. Again, since the document was prepared, intercessional consultations have been held between 24 and 28 October in New York to accelerate the work of preparation of the draft Declaration and Programme of Action for the World Summit. FAO was represented at the consultations and assisted the Secretariat and delegations concerning references in the drafts to food and agriculture. There will be further drafts of both of these documents to be tabled for consideration by the third, and what will be the final, Preparatory Committee in January, the Summit itself to take place in March.

Going on to drug abuse control: FAO has continued participation in the ACC Sub-Committee on Drug Abuse Control, the most recent meeting of which took place in September. Information sharing on scheduling of programming missions undertaken in the context of drug-related activities and financial support for such activities were major topics. UNDP has indicated possible funding under the TSS-1 mechanism, and UNDCP - the United Nations Drug Control Programme - for programming activities and sectoral reviews.

The Sub-Committee, which groups all the major agencies and programmes with activities related to drug abuse control, has also agreed to support the concept of formulating umbrella projects which will be aimed at utilizing the individual strength of the various UN organizations in a collective approach to addressing various target audiences, or target populations. FAO will be taking the lead in exploring possibilities of such an umbrella project for the reduction of drug abuse among rural youth in developing countries.

There is a section in the document on an Agenda for development, which is before the 49th Session of the General Assembly, now underway in New York. The document for consideration by the GA only came out two days ago. That report of the Secretary-General will be discussed in Plenary by the General Assembly starting next Monday, so this is all we have at the moment to report to you on an Agenda for development.

Going on instead to the United Nations' initiatives concerning Africa: At the September 1994 session of the Administrative Committee on Coordination, which groups the Executive Heads of the system, the major focus of the discussion was on the current situation and prospects for development in Africa. The discussion was very full and substantive and led to a number of suggestions for concrete follow-up by the organizations in the Committee, which the Committee will return to at its first session in 1995.

With regard to the proposal for a diversification facility for African commodities, as you may also be aware the Technical Committee of the FAO Regional Conference for Africa overwhelmingly supported this proposal and praised FAO for facilitating the initiative, which is now before the General Assembly. Informal consultations on the facility are planned, but have not yet taken place.

With regard to UN system initiatives with the non-governmental sector, I have just a few points to report with regard to the specific FAO initiatives. NGOs made a very substantial input into our Technical Consultation on the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fishing, which was held here in Rome at the end of September. Special efforts had been made to ensure that delegations included representatives of artisanal fish workers' organizations from the developing regions. There was also active participation of NGO observers in the work of the Commission on Plant Genetic Resources just last week.

In a second meeting between the Director-General and representatives of international NGOs here in Rome, the accent was laid on promoting concrete collaboration at country level in priority areas, in particular food security, and on ensuring effective NGO input into major planned FAO initiatives.

Going on to financing for development: Consultations were convened by the General Assembly on 26 October in New York on prospective new modalities for funding of operational activities for development. As a result of the consultations, a further report was requested of the Secretary-General, covering in particular resource targets for operational activities, and including options for a new funding modality aimed at generating increased resources on a predictable, continued and assured basis. On receipt of this report, the General Assembly will resume its consultations in December.

In the meantime, the 1994 UN Pledging Conference on Development Activities was held at the beginning of November, and resulted in total pledges for 1995 as follows:

UNDP and UNDP-associated funds and programmes: US\$980 million and US\$46 million, respectively, including estimates. This represented a 6 percent increase over 1994 in nominal terms but was lower than 1992 pledges by about US\$100 million.

US\$303.5 million, were pledged for UNICEF.

US\$300 million, including estimates for UNFPA.

US\$508 million, in cash and kind for the biennium 1995-96 to the World Food Programme, with several countries announcing their intention to pledge at a later date. As you will recall, the target for the World Food Programme as established by the Conference and the General Assembly for 1995-96 -in other words, for the biennium - is US\$1.5 billion.

As the Director-General has already informed the Council, he and the Administrator of UNDP have pledged to promote a global and concerted effort and cooperative activities to support national action to achieve sustainable food security. The Joint Declaration was signed by the Director-General and Mr Speth on 21 September 1994.

At the third regular session in October 1994 of the Executive Board of UNDP and UNFPA, the report was considered of a team of independent evaluators on the arrangements for agency support costs. The report gave particular emphasis to the continued relevance and importance of the tripartite relationship and the need to ensure close collaboration between UNDP and the specialized agencies.

The evaluators made a number of recommendations. The Executive Board took note of the report and decided that UNDP could redirect some of the unused funds earmarked for technical support to projects for more activities of an upstream nature under the new facility for Technical Support at the Programme Level - that is, TSS-1.

The Executive Board also addressed the future of the Office for Project Execution, which is expected to become a separate and identifiable entity within the UN development system in partnership with UNDP.

Finally, in connection with the information provided to you on international financing institutions: Generally it can be said that investment support is an area where FAO's comparative advantage can forge substantive working partnerships to mobilize resources for food and agricultural development, and contribute concretely to priority areas such as Food Security, EMPRES, natural resources management and other fields. However, I will not go into any more detail about this, because you do have an update of much of the information contained here in document CL 107/14-Sup.1, which is for Item 11 on your Agenda, which you will be taking up tomorrow morning.

Document CL 107/INF/23, "FAO/IICA Cooperation", was prepared at the end of October in order to be as fully updated as possible. This document is presented to you in response to the Conference's request for a report on the strengthening of cooperation between FAO and IICA.

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Muchas gracias a la Sra. Killingsworth por esta información adicional que completa los documentos que ha presentado la Secretaría. Espero que los distinguidos delegados hayan tomado debida nota de ellos.

Distinguidos delegados, como saben ustedes, mi intención es terminar hoy el Tema 10, de manera que les solicito sean breves.

**Pedro A. MEDRANO ROJAS (Chile):** En primer lugar, quisiéramos agradecer a la Secretaría por la información y los antecedentes que nos ha proporcionado en relación con este punto de la agenda, y que se encuentran en los documentos ya señalados. Al respecto, quisiéramos referirnos a un aspecto de carácter

general y a tres de carácter específico. En términos generales, señor Presidente, quisiéramos destacar el importante rol que puede tener la FAO, tal como lo destacara el Director General en su declaración hecha al ECOSOC, en la prevención a largo plazo de las situaciones de emergencia y la resolución de los problemas estructurales que afectan la paz, la seguridad y el desarrollo.

Compartimos plenamente la afirmación del Director General de que no puede existir desarrollo sin la seguridad que resulta de garantizar el derecho fundamental a la alimentación, y que la inestabilidad política y social encuentre, en la mayoría de los casos, el hambre y la pobreza como causa principal. En este sentido, señor Presidente, causa preocupación la tendencia que se registra últimamente, en la que las actividades de mantenimiento de la paz y las situaciones de urgencia de corto plazo están desplazando, como prioridad, a los programas de cooperación al desarrollo de mediano y largo plazo. La disminución de la asistencia multi y bilateral al sector agrícola constituye un reflejo de esta tendencia a pesar de los recursos adicionales que podrían haberse liberado como consecuencia del fin de la guerra fría y de la carrera armamentista. En cambio se pueden constatar, como se señala en el documento de la Secretaría, que las Naciones Unidas estiman que los 4 000 millones de dólares, que se gastaron en 1993 en operaciones de mantenimiento de la paz, corresponden a la misma suma que Naciones Unidas gastó por igual concepto en sus 48 años de existencia. Sin perjuicio de reiterar nuevamente la importancia que reviste el que la ayuda de emergencia debe ser parte de una estructura coordinada de socorro, rehabilitación y desarrollo a largo plazo, y el desarrollo sostenible, queremos enfatizar la prioridad que deben tener las actividades de tipo preventivo. En este sentido, la eliminación de la pobreza y el hambre y el apoyo al desarrollo agrícola, deben tener carácter prioritario. Es en este sector, señor Presidente, donde se concentra más de la mitad de la población mundial y dos tercios del mundo en desarrollo. Ello requiere, ciertamente, una estrecha coordinación de los organismos y programas del sistema de Naciones Unidas, tanto bilaterales, internacionales, no gubernamentales como del sector privado, pero los esfuerzos deben dirigirse principalmente a una mejor coordinación y complementación a nivel de cada país, a nivel local, además de los ejercicios de coordinación a nivel de sedes. Uno de los mayores desafíos que enfrenta el sistema de Naciones Unidas y de la cooperación internacional es demostrarse a sí misma que es capaz de utilizar mejor sus recursos como complemento de los esfuerzos que realizan nuestros países en los programas de desarrollo y utilizarlos coordinadamente, mejorando, a nivel local, los mecanismos de consulta, información y comunicación.

En el orden específico, deseo referirme en primer lugar a la participación de la FAO en la próxima Cumbre Mundial sobre Desarrollo Social que tendrá lugar en Dinamarca en marzo del próximo año. Sobre este asunto, quiero felicitar muy sinceramente a la Secretaría de la FAO por los valiosos esfuerzos realizados a fin de que la visión de la FAO, en aspectos vitales como seguridad alimentaria, la agricultura y el desarrollo rural sostenibles, tengan la debida consideración en esta Cumbre, particularmente en la declaración y programa de acción que ésta adopte. La activa participación de la FAO en las actividades preparatorias, tanto a nivel regional como en el Comité preparatorio, han permitido que estos temas de importancia fundamental sean inicialmente examinados. Sin embargo, señor Presidente, mi delegación desea enfatizar la importancia que reviste el adecuado tratamiento de la seguridad alimentaria, la pobreza rural, la agricultura y el empleo rural y agrícola en la Cumbre Mundial de Desarrollo Social y el rol de la FAO en este sentido.

Como se señala en diversos documentos, una de las preocupaciones fundamentales de la FAO se relaciona con el hecho de que más del 50 por ciento de los pobres en el mundo viven en el sector rural, que dependen para su subsistencia de la agricultura, de la actividad forestal o pesquera, sea en forma directa o indirecta.

En los países de más bajos ingresos - digamos menos de 50 dólares *per cápita* -, la agricultura proporciona cerca del 76 por ciento del empleo y contribuye al 49 por ciento del producto nacional bruto y al 65 por ciento de los ingresos por concepto de exportación. Si bien el sector agrícola disminuye su aporte a la economía cuando ésta experimenta mayor crecimiento, la contribución que hace al empleo es siempre importante y de forma constante. Así, por ejemplo, países que tienen un ingreso medio *per cápita* entre 501 y 1 000 dólares, el sector agrícola contribuye con el 52,7 por ciento del empleo total, de acuerdo con estimaciones del Banco Mundial. Es por estas consideraciones, señor Presidente, que mi delegación desea que este Consejo respalde plenamente a la Secretaría a fin de que haga todos los esfuerzos necesarios para que en el Proyecto de Declaración y en el Programa de Acción que se someterán a la consideración de los jefes de Estado y jefes de Gobierno, se haga expresamente referencia a la pobreza rural y la seguridad alimentaria, el empleo agrícola y el desarrollo agrícola sostenible conforme a los conceptos, programas y acuerdos de la FAO y de otros organismos de Naciones Unidas relacionados con esta temática.

En segundo lugar, señor Presidente, quiero referirme al documento CL 107/INF/23, que se refiere a la cooperación FAO/IICA. Al respecto, señor Presidente, mi delegación quiere destacar lo acordado por la reciente Conferencia Regional de América Latina y el Caribe de la FAO, celebrada en El Salvador y que se encuentra contenido en los párrafos 11, 12, 13, 14 y 15 del citado documento CL 107/INF/23.

En atención a la brevedad del tiempo, quisiera simplemente que este Consejo pudiera solicitar a la Secretaría que otorgue la debida atención a lo señalado en estos numerales, así como a las instancias competentes que se ocupan del Programa de Labores y Presupuestos futuros de la Organización.

Finalmente, señor Presidente, deseo referirme a la Organización Mundial de Comercio que se establece como resultado de las negociaciones de la Ronda Uruguay. Al respecto, señor Presidente, y aun cuando no está expresamente mencionado en este informe, respecto del cual se hace referencia tangencial en otros informes, quisiéramos señalar la importancia que reviste para el trabajo de la FAO el que se establezcan mecanismos adecuados de cooperación, coordinación e información con esta nueva organización mundial de comercio, en atención a la importancia que tiene para nuestros países el comercio agrícola mundial.

En tal sentido, quisiéramos solicitar a la Secretaría que informe regularmente a los Estados Miembros, así como a los comités técnicos, conferencias regionales y órganos de gobierno de la FAO de los progresos que se vayan produciendo en estos aspectos. Gracias, señor Presidente.

**Mme Susan Mills (Canada):** Durant des années, lors des réunions de la FAO, les représentants du Canada ont souvent abordé le sujet d'une meilleure collaboration entre les organisations multilatérales. Aujourd'hui, nous sommes ravis de constater qu'un nouvel esprit de coopération semble se développer au sein de cette organisation et que la FAO reconnaît la nécessité de jouer un rôle de spécialiste en tant que membre à part entière du réseau multilatéral. Nous nous attendons néanmoins à ce que cette volonté de coopérer dont on nous fait part récemment donne lieu à des actions concrètes.

A cet égard, les membres de la délégation canadienne souhaitent attirer l'attention du Conseil sur les mesures prises au début de l'année afin de créer une base solide en vue de la coopération avec l'institut interaméricain de coopération (IICA). Nous croyons que cet arrangement, qui engage les deux organisations à entretenir des relations pour déterminer leurs compétences respectives et à entreprendre des programmes conjoints, correspond tout à fait au type d'entente qui devrait se multiplier.

Nous sommes donc impatients de pouvoir regrouper nos ressources dans le cadre de relations actives et fructueuses et de travailler en équipe, ce qui profitera à l'ensemble de la région. Nous aimerions observer les mêmes progrès entre les relations avec la FAO et les autres organisations oeuvrant dans le secteur agricole, en particulier celles qui travaillent à Rome dans le domaine de l'alimentation, à savoir le FIDA et le PAM.

La création récente d'une équipe conjointe composée de représentants de la FAO et du PNUD, chargée d'étudier les problèmes liés aux politiques et aux programmes sur les réserves alimentaires durables constitue une excellente initiative qui révèle néanmoins à quel point la Communauté internationale est encore loin d'une coordination étroite et efficace des activités axées sur l'environnement, le développement durable et le suivi du sommet de Rio. Nous espérons que la FAO favorisera l'établissement de dialogues semblables avec d'autres organisations oeuvrant dans ce domaine vital.

Le document que nous examinons souligne l'importance des ONGs qui se sont engagées à fond dans le développement durable et le suivi du Sommet de la terre, de même que dans d'autres domaines vitaux comme la nutrition et le développement social. Nous espérons que les responsables redoubleront d'efforts pour répondre aux attentes légitimes des ONGs qui souhaitent jouer un rôle plus actif et plus constructif au sein des organisations internationales, en nous aidant à atteindre nos objectifs communs.

Il incombe à toutes les organisations concernées de faire en sorte que le système multilatéral fonctionne bien. Il faut que les responsables de la FAO déterminent les domaines dans lesquels ils ont un avantage comparatif, puis accordent la priorité à ces domaines. De plus, ils devraient du reste agir rapidement pour parvenir à une entente avec les autres organisations sur leurs responsabilités respectives, le renforcement mutuel des activités partagées, la coordination des activités à l'intérieur des pays. Il faut que les Etats Membres soient plus

attentifs à la possibilité de partenariats multilatéraux et qu'ils insistent au sein de toutes les organisations où ils sont représentés, pour qu'on évite les doubles emplois.

**Juan NUIRY SANCHEZ (Cuba):** Para colaborar con su acertada dirección en la conducción de estos debates, seremos breves, no sin antes agradecer tanto la documentación como la detallada y clara presentación realizadas por la distinguida Sra. Killingsworth.

Mi delegación desea, en el Tema "Colaboración dentro del Sistema de las Naciones Unidas y con otras organizaciones", hacer algunos comentarios.

Agradecemos la presentación de este documento y reiteramos la utilidad de la información que el mismo nos da sobre aspectos globales de mucho interés para nuestros países.

Como bien expresa el documento, nos enfrentamos a una serie de acontecimientos importantes dentro del sistema de las Naciones Unidas, que cada vez más tienen incidencia directa en las organizaciones como la FAO, el PMA y el FIDA, que son organizaciones en las que la mayoría de nosotros estamos acreditados. Es por ello que este tema se convierte en elemento necesario para nuestras acciones en el seno de estas tres organizaciones.

Me referiré brevemente, con un comentario sobre el punto 1, que ya la distinguida Representación de Chile planteó, y que trata de los antecedentes para un Programa de Desarrollo. Deseo subrayar la preocupación de nuestro país ante el desplazamiento de prioridad de este importante tema en el seno de las Naciones Unidas. El punto 1.6 señala que el Director General de la FAO, en su intervención en la ECOSOC, "insistió en la urgencia y la pertinencia de las medidas necesarias para hacer frente al desafío mundial del desarrollo. Destacó que la prevención a largo plazo de las situaciones de urgencia y la resolución de los problemas estructurales eran mucho menos costosas y más sostenibles que cualquier respuesta que pudiera darse en forma aislada a las crisis y que alentaba una continua dependencia".

Compartimos esa posición si tenemos en cuenta lo que anteriormente ya mencioné, y es que este tema ha sido dejado fuera desde hace algún tiempo. El Director General de la FAO añadió "que las inversiones en favor del desarrollo equivalían a invertir en la prevención".

Nos parece oportuno, que en el marco de este 107º período del Consejo, llamemos la atención sobre estas acciones que merecen sin duda de una reflexión permanente de nuestra parte.

En el punto 2, deseo saludar la acción conjunta realizada por la FAO, el FIDA y el PMA en el marco del Comité Técnico de la Conferencia Mundial sobre Desastres Naturales. Me refiero a la presentación de tres horas de conferencia sobre las formas de cómo hacer frente a la sequía. Esto demuestra que se fortalecen las acciones conjuntas, que tanto nosotros hemos estado solicitando entre las tres organizaciones del sistema con sede en Roma, y que por demás, entre ellas, por su contenido, se necesitan unas de otras y a su vez se complementan.

En el punto 5, Conferencias internacionales, mi delegación quisiera de nuevo agradecer toda la valiosa información que se nos ofrece en este documento. Me detengo en la Cuarta Conferencia Mundial sobre la Mujer, a celebrarse el próximo año en Beijing, concretamente en el mes de septiembre. Pienso que la FAO, con respecto a este asunto, debe continuar trabajando en la consolidación de los acuerdos de Nairobi. Esta sala hace mucho tiempo que no oye hablar de este tema en particular, por lo que nos gustaría que la acción interna de la FAO, así como la externa, para asegurar también las estrategias de Nairobi, orientadas hacia el futuro adelanto de la mujer hasta el año 2000, se conocieran con amplitud de parte de los miembros del Consejo. A mi país, y seguro que a los países aquí presentes, nos complacería si en el próximo encuentro se rindiera un buen informe sobre este tema.

Por último, hemos tomado nota de todos los aspectos del informe, sobre todo en lo que tiene que ver con las relaciones de cooperación entre la FAO y el IICA. Opinamos que se debe continuar en la búsqueda de una mejor colaboración entre estas dos instituciones, siempre y cuando una no suplante los objetivos de la otra. Otra opinión sobre este tema sería que en los planes futuros se debe tener en cuenta la participación de todos los países miembros de una y otra organización.

En relación con este asunto, nos unimos al planteamiento de la Representación de Chile, en atención a lo aprobado en la vigésimotercera Conferencia Regional de América Latina y el Caribe, que tuvo lugar en El Salvador.

**Jürgen OESTREICH (Germany):** Mr Chairman, today I speak only for my own country and I will try very hard to be around 12 to 14 times shorter than when I speak in my other capacity.

The German delegation wishes to make only one very short comment on document CL 107/12, that is on paragraph 3 which states that the document is selective in its coverage, avoids reporting on matters which are the subject of separate items on the Council's agenda, notably the Council's 107th Session, the outcome of the Uruguay Round, arrangements of the World Trade Organization, environment, sustainable development, developments in the national fishery area and as concerns CFA.

My delegation agrees with this approach in general but we state that CFA and cooperation between FAO and WFP is not the same issue. Therefore, we regret that the report does not refer to the cooperation between these two Rome-based organizations. My delegation strongly recommends that in future reports the document on this item which we are discussing today will have a chapter on the cooperation between the Rome-based organizations and especially the advantages which arise from the fact that these three organizations are all located in Rome, that they deal in the same field and they need each other. As the Ambassador from Cuba has just said, how will these advantages be used and especially will also be reinforced in the future.

**Mrs Melinda KIMBLE (United States of America):** Mr Chairman, distinguished delegates, the document CL 107/12 illustrates some of the many challenges confronting the UN system. These challenges will call forth the best that multilateral organizations and their non-governmental counterparts can bring to bear on the related problems of overpopulation, migration, empowerment of women, and human resource development, as was shown at the recently concluded International Conference on Population and Development. FAO's technical role in collecting, analysing information and developing policy options to promote sustainable agricultural productivity is a vital one to ensure that the concerns and needs of rural populations are not overlooked.

As we speak, the UN system is under enormous stress. It faces rising expectations and accelerating demands for resources to deal with emergency assistance, peace-keeping, and sustainable development. The United Nations is being asked to resolve devastating socio-political conflicts. Starvation and malnutrition are increasing. Global food security looks increasingly tenuous. Rice and grain production is declining in some areas. We are paying for the lack of broadly supported international programmes for sustainable agriculture. The cost can be counted in terms of disaster after disaster requiring immediate, expensive, short-term fixes to cope with mass refugee movements, immigrations flows, and environmental degradation.

Given the serious nature of these challenges, the US was encouraged by key sections of CL 107/12 on the latest developments in FAO cooperation with other organizations, both within and without the UN system. In today's world of shrinking resources and tremendous need, a coordinated approach is critical to turning the tide of poverty and environmental degradation. The US is strongly committed to cooperative efforts between UN agencies, multilateral financial institutions, and NGOs directed at sustainable development initiatives. We cannot stress enough the need to create clear divisions of labour based on comparative advantages rather than wasteful duplication of effort among development entities. The Director-General's leadership in renewing and strengthening cooperation with UNDP, IFAD and other UN agencies is an important step in strengthening UN operations. We believe, however, that greater efforts are needed with WFP.

We strongly support joint FAO-UNDP initiatives on world food security. FAO's new policy of outreach to the UN system has demonstrated FAO's potential to contribute to UN programmes. Moreover, we believe that FAO's understanding of the economic problems facing farmers worldwide is critical input for the analyses and action plans now being drafted for discussion at the two major UN conferences in 1995 - the World Summit for Social Development in Copenhagen and the Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing. The problem of hunger, poverty and social disintegration impact disproportionately on women - and rural women in particular. FAO's technical expertise has appropriately supported the preparatory processes to date and the agency should continue this effort.



Now that the Uruguay Round is successfully completed, it is crucial that the Codex Alimentarius establish an effective relationship with the World Trade Organization. Adequate resources must be made available to the Codex Alimentarius so that it can carry out its mandate to develop appropriate food standards. We understand that a Food Quality Liaison Group has been established to facilitate communication between the Codex Alimentarius Commission and the WTO. We look forward to hearing more about this group and its activities. We are also interested in ongoing efforts by FAO and its NGO partners on follow-up to the International Conference on Nutrition, as well as mutually supportive activities with IFAD and the World Food Programme. We would strongly encourage even closer coordination among the Rome food agencies, FAO, WFP and IFAD.

We continue to encourage FAO's response to the drug problem. We would like to see FAO intensify its efforts to promote rural development initiatives in key drug producing and trafficking countries. It is imperative that all recipient and donor countries cooperate with FAO in working toward the elimination of this destructive trade. The US strongly supports the System-Wide Action Plan on Drug Abuse Control, or SWAP, as a means to increase UN system attention to, and cooperation on, drug control. We are pleased to hear that cooperation between FAO and UNDCP has resulted in two project proposals aimed at reducing the demand for illegal drugs.

Mr Chairman, the Clinton Administration is committed to a renewal and reinvigoration of the UN system. We firmly believe that the challenges facing the United Nations and its partners require us to work together as never before to find creative, practical means of sharing the skills and knowledge needed for development. We are committed to lasting peace, sustainable development, and the eradication of world hunger. We need the FAO, with its unique expertise and its dedication to ensuring every human being the fundamental right to food, in order to reach our goals.

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Hemos tomado nota de que enviará a la Secretaría un complemento de la declaración que ha hecho usted, que se incorporará al verbatim.

**Ms M. McCOWAN (United Kingdom):** The UK welcomed, at the last Council, evidence that FAO is now seeking a more pluralist approach in its work programme. We welcome now the continued evidence of this as reflected in CL 107/12 on collaboration with other organizations, particularly ways in which FAO is now seeking to actively encourage NGOs.

We would caution, however, that it is important for FAO to concentrate its collaborative efforts on those activities in which it has a comparative advantage; we question, for example, FAO's involvement in Habitat II. Collaboration should not lead to dissipation of FAO resources away from its proper areas of interest. But within this constraint, we suggest, however, that FAO extend the range of organizations with which it properly collaborates. For example, in the management of emergencies we urge FAO to put forward proposals to implement the lessons which it has learned from its recent experience in developing emergency response mechanisms and to share these with NGOs working in the field and to work to achieve a much closer relationship with WFP in this area of its activities.

We note that there is almost no mention of private sector links and the potential these offer for achieving development aims, particularly with the continuing constraints to public sector resources, which need to be clearly recognized by FAO.

We note that FAO links to international financial institutions are being rapidly developed. We stress the need to avoid duplication of functions and suggest that the role of the Investment Centre is now examined - as part of the coordination initiative and to ensure it is deployed in the best possible way to meet FAO and Member State objectives: for example, in relation to more extensive use of private sector project design and appraisal capacity.

Finally, to return to relations with NGOs, we welcome the ongoing review of the consultative status of NGOs and the redefinition of the criteria for NGO participation and the level of access they should have. NGOs have much to offer the UN by way of the ability to mobilize considerable public interest and establish effective networks in support of development policy. We welcome, for example, the opportunity offered to NGOs to

fully participate in the 1993 Precon for the FAO/WHO International Conference on Nutrition, and we would urge FAO to consider similar initiatives in the future.

**Ricardo VELAZQUEZ HUERTA (México):** Agradecemos a la Secretaría por los documentos sobre el Tema 7. Los estimamos completos y bien hilvanados.

La Delegación mexicana desea únicamente insistir en la importancia de abordar, con una visión integral, los distintos eventos internacionales de los sectores económico y social principalmente. En particular habrá que destacar la forma en que se dará seguimiento al Programa de Acción de la Conferencia de El Cairo sobre Población y Desarrollo y la manera en que se vinculará en el futuro la FAO con la Agenda para el Desarrollo que está en proceso de definición en el marco de las Naciones Unidas.

Tomamos nota de la información acerca de la labor desplegada en la preparación de las siguientes reuniones principalmente: Conferencia Mundial de Desarrollo Social (Dinamarca, marzo de 1995); Cuarta Conferencia Mundial sobre la Mujer (China, septiembre de 1995) y la Conferencia de las Naciones Unidas sobre los Asentamientos Humanos -Hábitat II- (Turquía, junio de 1996). Asimismo, se apreciará enormemente la colaboración de la FAO con el Departamento de Asuntos Humanitarios de las Naciones Unidas en la organización de misiones, informes y llamados conjuntos entre organismos del sistema, incluida su participación en las numerosas reuniones entre organismos relacionados con la situaciones de urgencia, la gestión de las catástrofes, los nuevos estados independientes y las personas desplazadas.

Destacamos la relación indispensable que debe existir entre la Conferencia Internacional de Nutrición con los eventos internacionales que acabamos de señalar. También con el 50° Aniversario de nuestra Organización y con la Cumbre Mundial de la Alimentación que se realizará en marzo de 1996.

Finalmente, hacemos nuestra la declaración expresada por el Presidente del Grupo Latinoamericano y del Caribe en lo que se refiere a la necesidad de que esta Asamblea esté permanentemente informada de las acciones de coordinación entre la FAO y la nueva Organización Mundial de Comercio. Damos a esta relación una importancia troncal.

**Per Harald GRUE (Norway):** I have the honour of making this statement on behalf of the Nordic countries, Denmark, Finland, Sweden and Norway.

The Nordic countries welcome the Director-General's comprehensive report on FAO's collaboration within the UN system and with other organizations. Let me underline how pleased we are with the unequivocal commitment of the Director-General to enhance FAO's cooperation with other international organizations. In a world of growing demand and limited resources, improved collaboration between agencies is more imperative than ever.

Also, the areas retained as priority for FAO's work in the years to come, in particular food security, require cross-sectoral cooperation in attacking the issue from a variety of angles. In this regard, we would like to complement the Director-General on his successful endeavours to enter into cooperative agreements on food security with the World Bank and UNDP. We strongly encourage him to continue this policy of openness and cooperation with other international organizations in the areas of FAO's mandate. Obviously, the Rome-based organizations, IFAD and World Food Programme, with a mandate adjacent to that of FAO, must be key cooperation partners for FAO as mentioned by many speakers.

Coming back to the document in front of us, it gives an overview of major upcoming international conferences. The Nordic countries encourage FAO to participate actively in such conferences in connection with all aspects relating to the mandate of FAO.

More specifically, we would like to underline the importance of the upcoming 4th World Conference of Women in Beijing and the World Summit for Social Development, the last one of which a Nordic country -Denmark - has the honour of hosting in Copenhagen in the period 6-12 March 1995. The World Summit aims at achieving commitments from the World's political leaders to create basic economic, social, political and legal conditions for the promotion of social development where each individual human being and his

individual needs is the focus. Clearly, the issues to be discussed at the World Summit for Social Development are of direct relevance for the work FAO and its cooperation partners must do to build a comprehensive strategy for food security.

As rightly pointed out in the document, the majority of the poor in the developing countries live in rural areas and depend largely on agriculture for their livelihoods. Therefore, agricultural and rural development is vital for obtaining effective strategies to reduce and eliminate poverty and for the increase of productive employment. FAO must participate in the formulation of principles that will secure a more just distribution of income and access to resources through policies that are geared towards equity and equality of opportunities at all levels, including the large rural communities.

The World Summit for Social Development will form an important platform for all of us for focusing our efforts and policies on addressing the root causes of poverty. Focus must be on providing the basic needs of all human beings including the elimination of hunger and malnutrition.

Along with governments, NGOs and other UN agencies, FAO has an important role to play in this respect.

**Takafumi KOJIMA (Japan):** Recently, the UN system has been acting in various sectors in order to meet the diversified demands to which Member Nations want the UN system to respond. The demands on the UN system would grow and be diversified more and more in the future.

In order to respond to the diversified demands by generating the maximum effect from the limited resources available for action, it is essential that each international organization not only respond to the diversified demands individually as a specialized agency, but also promote collaboration within the UN system.

We hope that FAO will respond to the diversified demands in promoting such collaboration within the UN system.

With respect to the cooperation with NGOs, we welcome that NGO and UN agency cooperation in many areas has increasingly assumed an operational character. We believe that strengthened cooperation with NGOs not only in the operational field, but also in norm-setting areas will contribute to making the best of FAO expertise in order to solve food problems.

We appreciate the long history of collaboration of FAO with the multilateral financing institution and the Director-General's efforts to expand and broaden cooperation with the financing agencies.

We hope that these efforts will continue to be made and bring together substantial fruits in the near future.

**Mirza Tasadduq Hussain BEG (Bangladesh):** The Council documents prepared for this item of the agenda present some important developments within the UN system, particularly those relevant to the work of FAO. Information provided on the discussions on an agenda for development at the World Hearings on Development convened by the President of the General Assembly and the debate at the 1994 Substantive Session of the ECOSOC are very important. The subject has significant implications for the United Nations system as a whole, including FAO, which is a major global development agency. We are pleased to note that the process of setting an agenda for development has been initiated in pursuance of the UN General Assembly Resolution 48/166 and that the Director-General of FAO, in his statement to ECOSOC, has highlighted the key imperatives in international cooperation and development, with people being major beneficiaries. We hope that concrete proposals for an agenda for development will emerge at the 49th session of the General Assembly.

Creation of the UN Department of Humanitarian Affairs (DHA) two years ago was a significant step in strengthening the coordination of the humanitarian emergency assistance of the United Nations.

This has resulted in enhanced inter-agency collaboration. FAO's interaction and cooperation with the UN Department of Humanitarian Affairs (DHA) has been extensive and has considerably helped the concerned UN agencies in effectively responding to the increasing demands for humanitarian relief assistance.

We are pleased to note the contributions made by FAO to the process of developing a diversification fund for Africa's commodities as part of a new agenda for the development of Africa in the 1990s, as well as its active role in preparing a revised Plan of Action for African economic recovery and development. We also note with particular interest FAO's close collaboration with WFP and IFAD in making a presentation on drought management at one of the "Technical Committee" sessions of the World Conference on Natural Disaster Reduction held in Yokohama in May 1994.

FAO has taken a number of important initiatives in the preparatory phase of the World Summit for Social Development which we believe will significantly contribute to the success of the Summit. We hope it will continue to assist national preparatory activities of member countries for the summit. We also see merit in involving ministries responsible for agriculture, rural development, forestry and fisheries in the preparations by governments for the Social Summit.

FAO collaboration with international financial institutions has always been an important part of its activities. However, we note with some concern that the volume of financing commitments to the agriculture sector by major multilateral financing institutions has been declining recently. We appreciate the efforts of the Director-General in resolving this problem and encourage him to initiate further moves to expand and broaden cooperation with such institutions resulting in increased multilateral financing in the agricultural sector.

**Deddy SUDARMAN (Indonesia):** As we are all aware, the complex global problems of population - poverty, hunger and environment - are the most intractable and challenging set of issues now facing the human race. The conditions necessary for improving and ultimately stabilizing our global situation are increasingly being understood. Population growth has to be controlled, poverty and hunger need to be eradicated and natural resources have to be managed rationally. These problems are formidable and I believe that, by working together, we can overcome them.

My delegation welcomes and supports the FAO endeavours to enhance its cooperation with other organizations, both within and outside the United Nations system, to find ways and means of promoting food security, sustained economic growth and sustainable development in developing countries for the next decade and beyond. Furthermore, my delegation is of the view that FAO cooperation with international financing institutions is particularly important in promoting food security since many developing countries still depend heavily on capital for agricultural development from these sources.

In this connection, my delegation would like to call for the improvement of efficiency and effectiveness in international cooperation for promoting food security, particularly in developing countries. It is now time that an even greater international effort be mounted to ensure that future populations and food supplies reach a stable balance with each other and with the natural environment.

**Srta. Virginia PEREZ PEREZ (Venezuela):** Deseo de manera particular, señor Presidente, agradecer a la Secretaría de la FAO por la preparación del documento CL 107/12.

Para nuestra Organización es fundamental mantener una adecuada relación de colaboración con otras organizaciones internacionales y participar activamente en la preparación de conferencias internacionales que tengan que ver con la agricultura y la alimentación; el desarrollo sostenible; seguridad alimenticia, mitigación de la pobreza, nutrición, migración rural, recursos fitogenéticos, entre otros. De forma tal que estos asuntos sean debidamente atendidos en todas las conferencias y logremos coherencia en la acción internacional de cooperación y solidaridad activa. En tal sentido apoyamos lo dicho por el representante de Chile con relación a la importancia de la participación de la FAO en la preparación de la Cumbre Mundial sobre Desarrollo Social.

Durante la 23<sup>o</sup> Conferencia Regional de la FAO para América Latina y el Caribe, cuando se trató lo relativo a la cooperación y relación entre la FAO y las instituciones financieras internacionales, la Conferencia convino en que era urgente que la FAO lograra que estas instituciones movilicen recursos que permitan dinamizar el proceso de inversión agrícola en nuestros países.

Igualmente se les pidió que generaran financiamiento para la determinación y ejecución de proyectos para la región.

Mi delegación le da la mayor importancia al fortalecimiento de la cooperación de las Oficinas Regionales de la FAO con los organismos especializados de América Latina y el Caribe de forma tal que se impulsen adecuadamente los esfuerzos destinados a mejorar las condiciones de producción y consumos de la región. Por ello, nos felicitamos por los vínculos establecidos, según se nos informa, entre la FAO y el IICA, pues es preciso aunar esfuerzos de instituciones tan altamente especializadas y que tanto pueden contribuir al desarrollo de sociedades, en particular las rurales.

Coincidimos, señor Presidente, con aquéllos que han subrayado la necesidad de establecer adecuados vínculos de relación entre la FAO y la nueva Organización Mundial de Comercio, pues mucho de lo que ella tratará tendrá que ver con el comercio mundial de productos agrícolas y alimentarios, lo que requiere, sin lugar a dudas, de la participación y opinión de nuestra Organización.

En relación con el tema de los derechos humanos, el Director General destacó la importancia que debe asegurársele al derecho a la alimentación. Sobre este punto, deseo recalcar lo dicho por nuestro país con motivo del 49° período de sesiones de la Asamblea General. Cito: "La lucha de los derechos humanos se ha extendido de manera notable y se han celebrado tratados internacionales que colocan su defensa por encima de las fronteras, pero el derecho a comer lo indispensable para una existencia sana está muy lejos de haberse asegurado". Por ello mi país desea reiterar, una vez más, que dentro de todas las tareas que se le vienen asignando a la FAO, ésta es la que debe cumplir de manera prioritaria para garantizar la seguridad alimentaria. Gracias, señor Presidente.

**Sra. Ileana DI GIOVAN BATTISTA (Argentina):** El documento CL 107/12 presenta una buena información acerca de la colaboración de la FAO con otras organizaciones, colaboración que sin duda tendrá que hacerse cada vez más intensa y más amplia dada la dimensión de los problemas y la necesaria globalidad de las soluciones.

Vamos a referirnos nada más que a algunos puntos específicos que consideramos más íntimamente vinculados con los objetivos propios de la FAO. En primer lugar, quiero recalcar que la delegación argentina comparte con la FAO la preocupación por la reducción del nivel de préstamos destinados a la agricultura y las necesidades crecientes e inatendidas de inversión en el sector. Esta reducción del nivel de préstamos al sector agrícola se relaciona quizás con la política que practica la mayor parte de las instituciones internacionales de financiación, en el sentido de otorgar préstamos globales y no sectoriales a los fines de no discriminar entre actividades económicas.

Esta política creemos que ha sido la causa principal de la disminución de la presencia del sector agrícola como destinatario de los préstamos de estas instituciones internacionales.

La delegación argentina estima que los préstamos destinados al sector agrícola deben incentivarse, teniendo en cuenta las condiciones específicas que los diferencian, de aquéllos orientados a otras actividades económicas. Los créditos destinados al sector agrícola necesitan cierta preparación que facilite el acceso a los mismos. A veces necesitan ser acompañados de cierto componente de asistencia técnica y requieren un análisis particular del riesgo y de los plazos de reintegro. En este contexto, Argentina aprecia los acuerdos alcanzados, o en negociación, de la Organización con el Banco Mundial y los bancos regionales de desarrollo, y espera resultados concretos de esta colaboración, en cuanto a una mayor cantidad de fondos para proyectos agrícolas, especialmente para aquellos pequeños y medianos agricultores, entendiendo que el desarrollo es el principal instrumento para conseguir la seguridad alimentaria y erradicar la pobreza.

Señor Presidente, creemos que, profundizando en sus capacidades específicas, la FAO cumplirá mejor sus objetivos particulares. Evitando la dispersión de esfuerzos, la superposición de tareas y fortaleciendo los mecanismos de cooperación con las agencias existentes en Roma, la FAO podrá cumplir más y mejor con los objetivos de su creación. Por eso nos asociamos a lo pedido por la delegación de Alemania, en el sentido de que en el futuro este documento tenga un capítulo especial destinado a la cooperación con los organismos asentados en Roma.

La delegación argentina apoya lo expresado por la delegación de Chile y otras delegaciones, respecto a la relación y coordinación de la FAO con la nueva Organización Mundial de Comercio. Gracias, señor Presidente.

**Sr. Milton RONDO FILHO (Brasil):** Muchas gracias, señor Presidente, quisiera agradecer a usted y al secretariado la presentación del documento. Voy a tocar tres puntos. El primer punto ustedes ya lo habían tratado en el documento CL 103/13 Sup.1, que es la colaboración de la FAO con la OLADE. De hecho, nosotros creemos que es fundamental que se pueda garantizar la autonomía energética para las comunidades agrícolas. Ese es un punto que para nosotros es esencial en el desarrollo sostenible. Brasil hoy tiene un proyecto que está desarrollando, y para el cual está buscando el monitoreo de la FAO, para la producción de energía a partir de oleaginosas, que pueden traer una gran novedad en el campo de la autonomía energética. En ese sentido, nos complace mucho ver que ese tema ya fue incluido en el documento CL 103/13-Sup.1.

El segundo punto igualmente estaba incluido en ese documento, pero nos gustaría lógicamente que en el futuro los dos pudieran estar también aquí, y que se hiciera mención en la cooperación con las demás organizaciones, entre ellas con la OMS.

De hecho, nosotros creemos que es fundamental, no solamente por el tema de la pandemia, del SIDA, sino también porque cada vez más coinciden las técnicas de diagnósticos humanos y animales e, incluso, con algunas posibilidades de cura similar, como es justamente el caso de la oncoserculosis, que se mencionó en el documento, CL 103/13 Sup.1

El tercer tema que quería tocar, es el del trabajo. Nos complace ver que la FAO está sensibilizada por ese tema, como se aprecia en el documento CL 107/2, cuando se habla de la búsqueda de fórmulas nuevas para crear trabajo, incluso a través de la flexibilización del mercado de trabajo. Esa es una preocupación que fue retomada por la OIT en su 81<sup>a</sup> Conferencia. Creemos que ése es un tema que debería ser ampliado con la OIT. En ese sentido, creemos que sería muy importante buscar formas complementarias de renta para comunidades de agricultores y pescadores. A este respecto, Brasil presentó a la Organización Mundial de Turismo, y se va a discutir en la próxima semana, un proyecto por el cual nos gustaría que la FAO se interese, porque ésa es la industria que hoy presenta el índice mayor de crecimiento. Quisiera aclarar que nosotros no queremos, de ninguna manera, duplicar los esfuerzos, sino al contrario, queremos energía. Cuando indicamos esas áreas amplias de trabajo, queremos evidentemente que se potencialice toda la capacidad de la FAO de complementar las tareas de las demás organizaciones. Creo que éste es el espíritu. A ninguno de nosotros nos interesa evidentemente la duplicación, pero sí potenciar al máximo todas nuestras capacidades para conseguir la mayor energía. Creemos que el tema del desarrollo es *per se* multidisciplinar, como ustedes incluso muy bien señalan en otros documentos.

**Raphael RABE (Madagascar):** Je voudrais dire juste un mot. Tout d'abord, je remercie Madame le Directeur de la Division des relations extérieures pour son exposé et je la félicite pour la production d'un document de valeur.

Je voudrais seulement demander que l'on ajoute le secteur forestier à ceux pour lesquels la contribution des ONG sera recherchée par la FAO, au paragraphe 10.7 du document, et ce, compte tenu de ce que nous avons convenu lors de l'examen du point 6.2 relatif à cette question. Il s'agit peut-être là d'une lacune ou d'un oubli, mais c'est un secteur très important qu'il faudrait mentionner.

**E. HARTMANS (Observer for CARITAS):** Mrs Killingsworth referred to the meeting with the Director-General last week which was the second meeting that he had with representatives of the international non-governmental organizations here in Rome - a unique experience indeed in the history of the relationship between FAO and the NGOs. He briefed the participants on the various initiatives he had taken since his election and the progress that has been made so far.

In his address he emphasized the role NGOs can have in the various priority areas of FAO's work, at both country and international level.

Prior to this meeting, the NGO's Group, representing some 25 INGOs, presented a paper to the Director-General on the relationships of INGOs and FAO. In this paper, the potential inputs of INGOs in policy and programme development and in operational activities were discussed, with a view to making FAO a spearhead in the evolving partnership relations between the United Nations and NGOs. We are pleased that document CL 107/12 gives greater prominence to the relationship with NGOs than ever before.

I am also very grateful to the comments that were made by the representatives of Canada, the United Kingdom and Japan, with regard to closer collaboration with NGOs in order to help FAO achieve the goals that they have set for themselves, particularly those areas where NGOs have a comparative advantage, and in a sharing of experience with NGOs working in the field, and a redefinition of NGO participation; also, to examine to what extent operation and norm setting areas of FAO can be shared with the NGOs.

In the light of the statement that the governing bodies of FAO see fit to give the NGOs a greater opportunity to fully participate in policy and programme development and in the operational activities of the Organization, we realise that this would require some changes in the presently-established procedures of the Organization.

As we are experiencing a very dynamic period in the life of FAO, the 50th anniversary could well present a wonderful opportunity to have the changes implemented and make the NGOs real partners in all of the aspects of the work of FAO.

This statement has been made on behalf of the *Ad Hoc* Group of some 20 non-governmental organizations represented here in Rome.

**Giuseppe VASTA (Observateur de l'OCDE):** Monsieur le Président, je vous remercie d'avoir bien voulu m'accorder la parole. Je vous félicite et vous remercie également de votre façon de diriger les travaux. J'adresse de même mes remerciements au Secrétariat pour la préparation de la documentation, comme toujours, précise et complète. En particulier, je félicite et remercie Mme Killingsworth de son introduction très intéressante. Je me permets de me référer en particulier au contenu des paragraphes 4.1 à 4.8 du document CL 107/12 relatifs aux droits de l'homme.

La Résolution 48/141 adoptée par l'Assemblée générale des Nations Unies, qui porte création du poste du Haut Commissaire aux droits de l'homme chargé, sous la direction et l'autorité du Secrétaire général, de promouvoir et protéger la jouissance effective par tous de tous les droits civils, culturels, économiques, politiques et sociaux, est très intéressante.

Comme suite donnée à la Conférence mondiale sur les droits de l'homme, la première session du CAC en 1994 a traité, à son ordre du jour, de ce problème, et l'on a insisté, au cours des débats, sur la protection des droits de l'homme sous tous ses aspects.

Le Directeur général de la FAO a attiré tout particulièrement l'attention sur l'importance prioritaire du droit au développement et du droit à l'alimentation. On a mis en évidence la nécessité d'une coopération interinstitutions dans ce domaine. Chacun d'entre nous a pu constater que, malgré l'existence de la Charte des droits de l'homme et bien que, dans la constitution de presque tous les pays, l'importance de ces droits soit mise en évidence, l'homme, dans ce monde martyrisé, peut rarement jouir de tous ses droits. D'où la nécessité pour tout pays et tout organisme, aussi bien national qu'international, de collaborer et de coopérer avec les autres instances afin que chaque homme puisse enfin jouir de tous ses droits, sans oublier que l'alimentation et le travail méritent une place toute prioritaire. Naturellement, l'information et la communication revêtent dans ce domaine un intérêt particulier.

La FAO a aussi participé à la deuxième session du groupe de travail de la Commission des droits de l'homme sur le droit au développement, à Genève, en mai 1994, où elle a réaffirmé, entre autres, l'importance de garantir la sécurité alimentaire mondiale tant au niveau national qu'au niveau mondial.

Si vous me le permettez, Monsieur le Président, je voudrais ajouter quelques mots au sujet de la réunion des ministres des 25 pays membres de l'OCDE, qui ont appelé l'Organisation à s'ouvrir aux pays à la fois désireux et capables d'assumer toutes les responsabilités inhérentes à la qualité de membre, lorsqu'il existe en outre des raisons d'intérêt mutuel.

J'ai aussi l'honneur et le plaisir de communiquer que, le 18 mars 1994, le Mexique est devenu le vingt-cinquième pays membre de l'OCDE.

La Corée entretient d'étroites relations avec l'OCDE et participe à plusieurs de ses activités sur un pied d'égalité avec les pays membres. Dans leur communiqué du 8 juin 1994, les ministres ont noté avec satisfaction l'intention manifestée par la Corée de présenter une demande officielle d'adhésion à l'OCDE, cette année.

Les quatre pays - la Hongrie, la Pologne, la République slovaque et la République tchèque - qui participent au programme "Partenaires pour la transition" ont demandé à devenir membres de l'OCDE. Je leur souhaite bonne chance.

Je félicite également le Secrétariat pour le contenu du document CL 107/INF/23.

**D. W. JOSLYN (Observer for Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture):** As the document which refers to FAO and the IICA Cooperation points out, a very similar document was reviewed by our Executive Committee recently in San Jose, Costa Rica. Given that all our members are also members of FAO, it is my intent simply to acknowledge the support that we have received from member countries in our efforts to build our programme of collaboration between FAO and IICA, and to acknowledge the efforts made by the FAO Technical Team and our Technical Team towards that end.

But it occurs to me that there may be one point that I should mention and underline today, for the benefit of members through you, Mr Chairman. That is to point out that the process that we have begun and the process that is described in this document is very much an open-ended process, with additional areas of collaboration continually being added to the Agenda which you see in Appendix A of your document.

For example, since this Agenda was prepared, we have begun to collaborate with FAO in the preparation of reports to the Commission on Sustainable Development and we are discussing joint activities in the area of animal genetic resources in the Americas, and forest policy studies in Central America.

The topic of animal genetic resources was a topic suggested by several of our members at our Executive Committee meeting held recently in San José.

Our belief at IICA is that true collaboration is proven through specific actions on the ground in our member countries. As such we feel that the Agenda of specific activities which FAO and IICA have identified for joint action is extremely significant and reveals a real desire and ability by both organizations to make the best use of scarce resources in the inner American region.

**Kay KILLINGSWORTH (Director, Office for External Relations):** My task will be quite easy, as there have not been very many specific questions. In terms of general comment, I should like to say, first of all, how much we appreciate the many expressions of satisfaction with both the documents before the Council concerning FAO's cooperation with other organizations within and outside the UN system.

Without going into more detail, we have taken note of all of these comments; the tenor of all of them has been "that's good, do more" and that is exactly you can be sure what we shall be doing, and on which we shall report to you in the future.

Starting first of all with IICA, we certainly also agree with the comment just made by the Observer from IICA that the true test of cooperation agreements is to translate them into specific action. You will be receiving reports on that in the future, as the cooperation develops.

Since a number of delegates said they would like to see similar agreements made with other regional organizations, I would also like to inform you that during the Regional Conference for Latin America, the Director-General signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the International Regional Organization for Plant Protection and Animal Health, also based in that region.



Going on now to some of the specific comments made about document 12, I should like to reassure the delegate from Madagascar that forestry is definitely an area in which cooperation with NGOs is foreseen and already being promoted.

Again, cooperation with NGOs is both at the level of policy dialogue and in terms of concrete cooperation at field level, and both have been the focus of discussions with NGOs in the recent past.

With regard to global policy dialogue in the UN system, much of the discussion this afternoon was focused on the major international conferences, both Cairo and the ones which are coming up.

The delegate from Mexico requested some information on follow-up to the Cairo conference. There are mechanisms in existence already. We would mention the UN Population Committee, the UNFPA Inter-Agency Task Force and some specific task forces which have been set up following Cairo, in which FAO intends to continue to participate actively.

On the Social Summit I believe there has been absolute agreement on the importance of the role which FAO has played in bringing particular concerns of food security, nutrition, sustainable agricultural and rural development into the Social Summit process. Of course this will be continued.

We also noted with appreciation the comment made by the delegate of the United States that our participation in the preparatory process was at about the right level.

The work for the conference in Beijing is also proceeding very actively. There I believe the distinguished delegate from Cuba asked a few questions concerning the implementation of the Nairobi Strategies. I should like to point out that we are now preparing a progress report on the Plan of Action which is the FAO instrument to implement the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies. This report will be given to the Council and the Conference next year.

We have also supported report preparation at national level upon request from the member nations involved for the agricultural sector and special guidelines for reporting on women's role in agricultural production and rural development. This will be continuing systematically to Beijing and beyond.

Perhaps we also ought to note that the Beijing Conference is going to have a special "emphasis day" devoted to rural women and that FAO has been designated the lead agency to ensure that the concerns of women will be included in the Plan of Action to be endorsed by post-Beijing strategies for the advancement of women at global, regional and national levels.

There were also several comments concerning the information and analysis provided in the document on emergencies and humanitarian assistance, on the lessons that we have learned over three years now through participation with other organizations, in inter-agency efforts to ensure a coherent response by the United Nations system to emergencies.

A question was asked as to how we were applying the lessons learned, some of which are outlined very briefly in the document. I believe it was the delegate from the United Kingdom.

First of all, of course, we continue to participate actively in inter-agency initiatives. Mr Hjort may wish to say something more about this as he represents FAO on the Inter-Agency Standing Committee, which deals with humanitarian assistance and which comprises not only UN system representatives, but also representatives of NGOs.

However, I would like to point out that, since even the document was prepared, we have seen increased attention on the part of the international community to initiatives aimed at dealing with the root causes of emergencies, with the need for prevention rather than only addressing emergencies once they arrive.

In that sense we have also found that there is a welcome trend toward financing relief and rehabilitation work earlier in the cycle. These were elements which were consistently under-funded, but they are now beginning to pick up steam. This is extremely important for FAO which has a major role to play in agricultural relief and rehabilitation.

Finally, with regard to one or two points which were not covered in this document, first of all the delegate from Brazil mentioned cooperation with WHO and ILO. He went on to cite some examples of the kind of cooperation which exists. I would just like to say that the document is selective but we shall, of course, be covering such cooperation in future editions of such documents, as we have in the past.

The same goes for cooperation with the Rome-based agencies. There are a number of mentions, under the different sections in the document before you, of the cooperative efforts between FAO, IFAD and WFP, in particular the International Conference for Natural Disaster Reduction in Japan and in the preparations for Beijing.

I believe that covers all the questions. Perhaps Mr Hjort may like to add some comments.

**DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL:** I want to express appreciation to the Ambassador of Chile for his comments about our work in connection with the Social Summit, and also recognize before the Council that our ability to do what we have been able to do, of which we are proud, rests to a considerable degree on the support given to us by his former President and by the Chairman of the Preparatory Committee of the Social Summit, who also happens to be Chilean.

I also wanted to note the reference to paragraph 1.6, and again stress the importance of prevention; we spoke to some degree about that matter under the previous Agenda Items 4 and 5. However, as I said at that time, this is a matter of major concern for the entire community of interest, and we appreciate the supportive comments which have been made at this session.

There was also reference to the WTO. I am sure that members do not want me to go through the litany I went through yesterday on that. It will be covered under the previous agenda item in the report.

There were comments about WFP cooperation, NGO cooperation and collaboration. Let me give you a brief example of how it works in the real world. I use Rwanda as the example where the Government is, as it always should be, the coordinator; but we are working with them very closely, with the community of interest, in providing essential seeds and other inputs needed for the current season, that is the planting season just completed, and in preparation for the planting season which begins in January.

For the total effort for Season A, we have managed collectively to bring to bear about US\$15 million for seeds and essential inputs. About half of that is coming to and through FAO. The governments are providing the rest directly to NGOs or to other UN agencies. We have the responsibility within the country to try to coordinate this overall programme. In doing so, at latest count, there were 13 non-governmental organizations which were working in the coordinated programme.

In our case we were given the opportunity to utilize WFP's logistics capability, which is the best in the UN system, to bring the seeds from Uganda where they were purchased into Rwanda; and also to distribute from a central point to the satellite points where they were distributed. We have a technical person at these distribution points, where the NGOs or ICRC take them for distribution to the producers.

This is clear cooperation, coordination, in a very effective and practical way. Comments have also been made about cooperation with the World Bank. Of the US\$7 million-odd that has come to us and through us, US\$4 million has come from the World Bank, an unprecedented action to make a grant instead of a loan. I thought that might be of some interest.

Mr Chairman, I am sorry to have taken up so much time!

**EL PRESEDENTE:** Creo que ha sido muy interesante e ilustrativo para todos los miembros de este Consejo el ejemplo específico que nos ha dado de cooperación entre la FAO y organizaciones no gubernamentales en el ataque de un problema muy concreto.

Distinguidos delegados, si no tienen ningún otro comentario o pregunta que hacer, permítanme ustedes resumir en términos generales nuestro debate de la siguiente manera:

El Consejo manifestó su apreciación por los documentos presentados y la información contenida en ellos y que fue luego actualizada por la Secretaría. Si bien selectiva, se reconoció que dicha información es también indicativa de una amplia gama de actividades de colaboración de la FAO con otras organizaciones dentro y fuera del sistema de Naciones Unidas.

Hubo varias delegaciones que lamentaron que no se hubiera incluido un capítulo específico respecto de la relación de la FAO con las otras organizaciones de Naciones Unidas ubicadas en Roma, en particular por la importancia de la potenciación de actividades conjuntas que eviten la dispersión de acciones. Se solicitó, por tanto, que se incluya en el futuro el capítulo correspondiente.

Se solicitó también que la FAO mantenga permanente y oportunamente informados a los Estados Miembros sobre las decisiones y la relación de cooperación entre la FAO y la Organización Mundial del Comercio, aunque se tomó nota, desde luego, de que este tema ya había sido tratado con bastante profundidad en las discusiones relativas a los Temas 4 y 5.

Entre los asuntos específicos, también se mencionó que la FAO desempeña un papel de especialista y de apoyo técnico en un nuevo contexto de cooperación internacional, que se espera llevará a acciones concretas, constructivas, no duplicativas, particularmente con otras organizaciones concernientes dentro del sector agrícola y alimentario y no sólo las basadas en Roma sino otras. Algunos delegados particularizaron el caso del PNUD.

Se observó el papel creciente que pueden y deben jugar el sector privado y las organizaciones no gubernamentales, sobre todo en la programación y la preparación de acciones y proyectos específicos y de su financiación y ejecución.

Se pidió de manera particular que se agregara el caso del sector forestal y la relación que tiene la FAO con las organizaciones no gubernamentales en este contexto.

Se destacó también la necesidad de una acción concertada entre organismos y programas del sistema de Naciones Unidas con el sector privado y las organizaciones no gubernamentales de una manera más completa y global con una complementación a nivel de cada país, todo esto específicamente orientado a abatir la pobreza extrema, el hambre y la desnutrición, así como la inequidad, a todos los niveles.

El Consejo tomó nota también del papel que tiene la FAO en apoyo de iniciativas, tanto del sistema de Naciones Unidas como otras específicas, para atender casos de emergencia como ha sucedido en el continente africano. Se apreciaron, por tanto, los esfuerzos hechos para hacer un análisis más profundo de la contribución de la FAO en el área de situaciones de urgencia y asistencia humanitaria.

También subrayó el interés de llevar los problemas del sector agrícola y rural a la atención de aquellos gobiernos ocupados en la preparación de conferencias importantes tales como la Cumbre Mundial sobre el Desarrollo Social y la Cuarta Conferencia Mundial sobre la Mujer.

Se expresó satisfacción por las aportaciones que hace la FAO al respecto y se hizo también referencia a la importancia de darle seguimiento a otras conferencias y sus implicaciones sobre el sector de la agricultura y la alimentación y, desde luego la Agenda de la FAO.

El trabajo conjunto con otras organizaciones de las Naciones Unidas para la fiscalización y el uso indebido de drogas, no fue tocado. Sin embargo, el Consejo tomó nota de este caso y de la importancia y el efecto que tiene en materia de desarrollo rural.

En relación al caso de la IICA y la FAO, se destacaron los avances alcanzados en su proceso de colaboración. Se mencionaron varios casos específicos de colaboración, entre otros el de la cooperación en el ámbito de recursos zoogenéticos, el sector forestal y el Acuerdo que firmó el Director General durante la Conferencia Regional de América Latina y el Caribe en El Salvador en materia de sanidad y protección vegetal y animal y se hizo también referencia a las conclusiones del debate sostenido en la Conferencia Regional de América Latina y el Caribe.

Se destacó, ya de manera más particular, la importancia de cuidar y promover la relación de la FAO con la OLADE respecto del tema específico de la generación de energía y sus fuentes biológicas y también de la relación de la Organización con la OMS y la OIT para lograr una mayor sinergia en campos especializados que cruzan a estas organizaciones.

Distinguidos delegados, sé que hubo otros comentarios, yo estoy seguro que el informe los va a rescatar de manera equilibrada. Advierto que algunos de ustedes me han hecho algunas acotaciones al margen respecto de puntos específicos que he olvidado en mis resúmenes anteriores. No han sido intencionados y esto no prejuzga la forma en que se va a redactar el informe del Consejo. Simplemente indica la forma general en que yo tomé notas del debate.

Con estas libertades, permítanme preguntarles si hay alguna observación por parte de ustedes sobre este tema. Si no la hay pasamos al Tema 8.1 de nuestra Agenda, referente al informe anual del 19° período de sesiones del Comité de Políticas y Programas de Ayuda Alimentaria del Programa Mundial de la Alimentación.

## **8. World Food Programme**

### **8. Programme alimentaire mondial**

### **8. Programa Mundial de Alimentos**

#### **8.1 Nineteenth Annual Report of the WPF Committee on Food Aid Policies and Programmes**

#### **8.1 Dix-neuvième rapport du Comité des politiques et programmes d'aide alimentaire du PAM**

#### **8.1 19° informe anual del Comité de Políticas y Programas de Ayuda Alimentaria del PMA**

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Como les decía, distinguidos delegados, pasamos ahora al Tema 8.1 de nuestra Agenda. Deseo subrayar que el informe sobre el 19° período de sesiones del CPA se presenta para información. Yo sé que en el orden del día aparece como discusión e información; sin embargo, debo destacar a su alta consideración que este informe tiene ya prácticamente un año y se refiere a actividades pasadas de dicha Organización. Yo les suplico a todos ustedes que tomen esto en consideración y que traten de evitar involucrar cuestiones de actualidad al respecto en el tratamiento de este tema. En verdad se trata de decidir si este Consejo acepta el informe del 19° período de sesiones del CPA.

Para introducir el tema me voy a permitir dar la palabra al señor Ngongi, que es el Director Ejecutivo Adjunto del Programa Mundial de Alimentos.

Sr. Ngongi tiene usted la palabra.

**DIRECTOR EJECUTIVO ADJUNTO (Programa Mundial de Alimentos):** Es un gran placer, señor Presidente, encontrarle en la Presidencia del Consejo. Esto me recuerda las numerosas ocasiones en las cuales nos hemos encontrado en las reuniones de la FAO, del FIDA y del PMA cuando ambos representábamos a nuestros respectivos países. Aprovecho esta ocasión para en nombre del PMA, y del mío propio, felicitarle por su elección y desearle una exitosa conducción de los debates.

Con su permiso, señor Presidente, voy a presentar el tema del PMA en inglés.

Mr Chairman, in accordance with Regulation 12 of the General Regulations of the World Food Programme, the Committee on Food Aid Policies and Programmes (CFA) approved at its 37th Session in May this year its 19th Annual Report for transmission to the Economic and Social Council, ECOSOC, and FAO Council, document CFA/37/13 and corrigendum 1, published as Council document CL 107/9.

The report of the Committee before you is a break with tradition. Rather than being a synopsis of the Executive Director's Annual Report to the CFA, the report is a reflection of the Committee's work in 1993 at the 35th and 36th Sessions of the CFA. The report commences with a summary of the major decisions taken by the CFA last year and then presents the key issues covered in the reports of the Committee's sessions.

The Committee believes that this will more accurately reflect the CFA's work, and that of the Sub-Committee on Projects. It should therefore be of greater interest to the bodies to which the CFA reports. The document before the Council is more business-like and action-oriented than in the past. Moreover, it is shorter, in keeping with the trend in the United Nations system towards cost-savings and increased efficiency.

The report includes the following items of particular interest: the Committee's work on major relief operations; on global food aid resources and the review of food aid policies and programmes; financial matters such as the strategic financial plan, and the appointment of the External Auditor for the period 1994-97; and the programme support and administrative budget for the biennium 1994-96. For the first time, the CFA appointed an External Auditor for the Programme. The WFP Pledging Target for 1995-96 was endorsed by the Committee, and was subsequently submitted for your consideration at the 103rd Session of this Council.

At the Pledging Conference for the sixteenth biennium, 1995-96, held in New York on 1 November this year, donor pledges amounted to approximately US\$508 million.

The Committee of the CFA was engaged in dynamic and demanding work in 1993, as the Programme responded to rapidly changing circumstances. The Programme provided life-saving, life-sustaining food to some 17 million victims of natural and man-made disasters, most of whom were women and their children. Sadly, WFP faced an increase in relief food needs, as large numbers of people fell victims to disasters. In 1993 the Programme provided some 2.4 million tonnes of food valued at US\$1.3 billion in support of humanitarian relief operations. Unfortunately, the trend towards greater human suffering has not abated.

Two major events overshadowed all the others during the first half of 1994: civil strife in Rwanda and severe drought conditions, mainly in eastern Africa. These dramatic events occurred against a background of continuing large-scale conflict-related relief operations in Angola, Liberia and southern Sudan carried over from 1993. Over 20 million disaster victims benefited from WFP relief food approved during the first semester of 1994, with commitments of 1.5 million tonnes, valued at US\$712 million.

Commitments to WFP-assisted development projects were brought into close alignment with the likely availability of resources in 1993. As a result, new development commitments were the lowest in almost 20 years. The Sub-Committee on Projects recommended to the CFA the approval of 14 development projects and eight protracted refugee and displaced person projects (PROs). The value of these development projects amounted to about US\$198.1 million for 575.3 thousand tonnes of food. In addition, projects approved by the Executive Director and budget increases for operational projects amounted to some US\$5 million, thus bringing the total value of new commitments to development projects to US\$253 million. Protracted refugee and displaced persons operations valued at US\$424 million for 1.1 million tonnes of food were reviewed by the SCP. Budget increases for ongoing PROs amounted to US\$57 million for an additional 127,000 metric tonnes of food. This brought the total commitments for PROs to US\$482 million. The SCP also reviewed and endorsed 17 evaluation reports on operational projects, a sectoral evaluation report on WFP assistance to the development and protection of rainfed agriculture in China, and an ex-post evaluation report on an erosion control project in the same region; and reports on progress in implementing food-assisted development projects which were already ongoing in the year. The Sub-Committee also received, for the first time, four Country Strategy Notes for its information.

In 1993, the CFA decided to conduct a major review of WFP's policies, strategies and objectives. The Secretariat was requested to prepare a paper on this subject for the CFA's discussion at its Thirty-seventh Session, in May 1994. The CFA had an extensive and wide-ranging debate and expressed general support for the broad policy orientation. It also agreed on the schedule for the preparation and presentation of consequent policy issues. The Thirty-eighth Session of the CFA will consider WFP's mission statement, the Secretariat's proposals for the adoption by WFP of a country-based programme approach, guidelines for defining country programme resource levels, and proposals for the long-term financing and resources of the programme.

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Muchas gracias, Sr. Ngongi, especialmente por las palabras que ha pronunciado usted en español. Yo recuerdo también con un gran afecto los tiempos en que usted y yo eramos representantes de nuestros respectivos países y, desde luego, la amistad que desde entonces establecimos. Usted ha hecho grandes progresos en aprender otros idiomas mientras que yo me he quedado un tanto estancado.

Le agradezco mucho su presentación y paso ahora a preguntar a los miembros del Consejo si desean hacer uso de la palabra. Tomo nota de los delegados que desean intervenir en este tema.

Les anuncio que el observador por Zimbabwe nos ha entregado su declaración por escrito, que será incluida en el Verbatim de este Consejo.

Distinguidos delegados deseo recordarles simplemente respecto de este punto que es fundamentalmente para decisión. Espero que eviten ustedes involucrar cuestiones de actualidad que se tratarán en otros temas de nuestra Agenda o que tocará el próximo CPA y las sesiones sucesivas del Consejo. Se lo comunico para evitar confundir estas cuestiones.

**David J. GARMS (United States of America):** The US delegation endorses the 19th Annual Report, having participated in decisions held and decisions taken at the 35th and 36th Sessions of the CFA. The US delegation would like to express its appreciation for the accomplishments of the World Food Programme despite severe financial constraints. Further, we would like to encourage WFP to continue broadening its resource base to institute much needed financial management controls and to continue to explore measures to contain costs. The US and other CFA members have repeatedly urged WFP to curb costs in its PSA budget wherever possible. We hope that FAO and other UN agencies can provide technical services to WFP which will assist WFP management in achieving this goal.

**TANG ZHENGPING (China) (Original language Chinese):** I would also like to express my gratitude to Mr Ngongi for his presentation. On the report, I would like to make a few brief commentaries. Firstly, in its annual report the WFP has undertaken comprehensive activities in 1993. We should like to express our appreciation to the WFP for its efforts in 1993 in eliminating malnutrition and hunger. We should like to lend our support to the WFP in its work in this area. Secondly, the Chinese delegation has taken note that because of the increasing frequency of natural disasters and civil strife in certain countries, WFP is facing a major challenge in terms of speedy delivery of emergency assistance. Among the resources appropriated to the programme, the proportion allocated to relief operations has increased by a huge margin in such a way as to transform the proportion between development assistance and emergency assistance. We hold the view that in adapting itself to the changing conditions, the programme should keep its objectives unchanged. As to how we should strike a balance between development assistance and emergency assistance, we think that poverty is the root cause of hunger. To eliminate malnutrition and hunger, we have first to eliminate poverty. Emergency assistance could only alleviate the symptoms. Development assistance, on the other hand, could tackle the root causes of poverty. In its presentation, we agree fully with the analysis made by numerous countries. Because we believe in its assistance, WFP should increase the development element in its emergency assistance and give due consideration to development assistance so as to increase the capability of self-reliance of the beneficiary countries.

**Sr Milton RONDO FTLHO (Brasil):** Muchas gracias, señor Presidente. El documento CL 107/9 es también de gran interés. Creo que vale la pena resaltar el párrafo 9, donde se menciona la cooperación entre el ACNUR en el ámbito del Departamento de Asuntos Humanitarios de las Naciones Unidas y la aceptación por el CPA de la propuesta de colaboración para la elaboración de un mapa de riesgos alimentarios para las poblaciones, como parte del trabajo de mitigación de desastres y rehabilitación. Para nosotros es importante recordar que ése es justamente el objetivo del proyecto que la FAO está desarrollando juntamente con la OLADE. La primera fase ya se concluyó y, para la segunda, existe un gran interés por parte de órganos brasileños, como el Consejo Nacional de Seguridad Alimentaria. Esperemos que eso se pueda llevar adelante con los demás países latinoamericanos, para preparar además la región para la reunión de 1996. Creo que es muy importante, teniendo en cuenta que en esa reunión vamos a trabajar con otras regiones con nivel de integración mucho mayor. Es primordial que hagamos un trabajo preparatorio de la Región. Desde el punto de vista interno, también es oportuno lo que menciona ese documento porque la colaboración, desde el punto de vista de mitigación de desastres, va a permitir que dos consejos recién creados en Brasil puedan trabajar con el objeto de crear una sinergia interna: el de seguridad alimentaria y el de defensa civil. Además, la Organización Mundial de la Salud se mostró interesada en Brasil en trabajar dentro de ese proyecto para la elaboración de un mapa de poblaciones en situación de riesgo alimentario, lo que nos permitiría crear una sinergia todavía mayor.

Para finalizar, quiero mencionar que Brasil presta una gran importancia al trabajo del PMA y esperamos poder efectuar una donación de 300 000 dólares para Angola, Mozambique y Cabo Verde, hasta el final del año. La situación de los países está bien descrita en otros documentos, incluso en el CL 107/2. Nosotros queremos participar en el proceso de rehabilitación de esos países. Muchas gracias.

**EL PRESIDENTE:** El Consejo ha tomado nota de la oferta generosa de su Gobierno para rehabilitar las economías de algunos países africanos.

**Adel Mahmoud ABOUL-NAGA (Egypt) (Original language Arabic):** I should like to congratulate Mr Ngongi, first of all, on his beautiful Spanish. I hope he will speak in beautiful Arabic next time!

Through you, Sir, I should like to congratulate WFP as a whole on their work and the Executive Director for the admirable implementation of their Programme both in the period covered by his report and the rest of this year. In particular, we note how quickly and effectively they respond to emergency requirements and emergency requests put forward by different parts of the world. We are very happy to note that the administrative reform which has been undertaken in WFP has increased the Programme's efficiency.

We should like to stress the importance of having a proper balance between emergency operations and development operations. Development projects should not suffer because of the increase in emergency operations. We would stress again what my country's delegation has stated on several occasions, namely the importance of maintaining the development budget even though one has to cope with emergencies. We realize the importance of emergencies, obviously - everybody does - but development is the real investment, the sustainable investment, which the Programme can undertake in the future of the countries. Unfortunately, this is going down at the present time and we would therefore flag this as an important matter.

Another matter I should like to stress is the importance of consolidating coordination between WFP and FAO, achieving ever closer cooperation, as the German delegation has already mentioned under the previous item. Other delegations have also stressed the importance of very close cooperation.

There is also a need for very close coordination with regard to the dates of CFA meetings and the sessions of our Council so that we may discuss their reports of the same year and not of the previous year.

**F. BATURE (Nigeria):** First, I should like to thank the Executive Director of WFP for the comprehensive introduction to the 19th Annual Report of the WFP Committee on Food Aid Policies and Programmes.

The Nigerian delegation would like to congratulate the Executive Director of WFP and its able staff on the magnificent work WFP has performed during the period under review. We are indeed proud and appreciative of the major relief operations which WFP has creditably performed, in some cases under very difficult situations, in the affected parts of the world. Humanity is going through a very difficult period. It has been threatened by severe crisis and difficult economic and social transitions, resulting in the outbreak of a series of serious tribal strifes, leading to loss of lives and social, economic and political instability.

Both man-made and natural catastrophes have had devastating effect in the agricultural, social, economic and political development of humanity, resulting in hundreds of thousands of refugees and displaced persons of all ages.

We are appreciative of the noble work of WFP in the international community for its work in elimination of poverty and malnutrition, resulting in the attainment of economic growth, food security, development of institutions and human resources. All these achievements are as a result of the dedicated service and exemplary planning, execution and monitoring of the activities of the Programme by the entire membership of WFP. The 19th Annual Report of the WFP Committee on Food Aid Policies and Programmes (CFA) is short and concise but contains the major decisions taken by the CFA. My delegation fully endorses the contents of this report.

**Juan NUIRY SANCHEZ (Cuba):** En primer lugar, señor Presidente, no podríamos sólo agradecer la presentación de este tema realizada por el Sr. Ngonghi, sino además resaltar la enorme satisfacción de oír la primera parte en ese bello y lírico idioma español. Los que conocemos al Sr. Ngonghi estaremos de acuerdo en que ha mejorado extraordinariamente su español, como usted señalara señor Presidente. En nombre de mi delegación damos las gracias al amigo Ngonghi por esta deferencia.

El documento CL 107/9 refiere que 1993 fue un año de mucha intensidad dentro del Programa Mundial de Alimentos. Además de los dos períodos regulares de sesiones del CPA, lo acompañó la acción de grupos oficiosos, así como de reuniones y consultas informales de la Secretaría con los países miembros del CPA. De todo este proceso se desprende que el PMA, dentro de sus facultades, deberá quedar fortalecido y que su cometido se mantiene; es decir, es un organismo de ayuda alimentaria del sistema de las Naciones Unidas, siendo la ayuda alimentaria uno de los muchos instrumentos que pueden contribuir a promover la seguridad alimentaria, la cual se ha definido como el acceso de todas las personas y en todo momento a los alimentos necesarios para una vida activa y sana.

Pero lo que es más importante para el conjunto de países que, como Cuba, se debaten en una tenaz lucha por su desarrollo económico, es que el PMA deberá seguir jugando su sabio papel de ser un instrumento para apoyar el desarrollo económico y social de nuestros países.

En el pasado 37° período de sesiones del CPA nuestra delegación planteó que el PMA no debía ser un simple instrumento de colocación de excedentes y de beneficencia para los pobres. Reducirlo a ello sería restringir sus actividades, sería como borrar su propia memoria histórica.

En términos generales, hemos apoyado los pasos que se han venido dando para delinear las acciones presentes y futuras del Programa y creo oportuno reiterar que, como país y región de América Latina y el Caribe, tenemos la necesidad de mantener un espacio importante dentro de los programas del PMA.

El concepto de universalidad, hoy más que nunca se hace más oportuno. Hoy más que nunca el PMA no puede perder de vista las distintas situaciones que se presentan en el mundo, con características diversas, que requieren a veces la atención a zonas determinadas y, al propio tiempo, la atención del propio país.

Hemos abogado para que exista una flexibilidad dentro del PMA, ante las miles de situaciones diversas que, como protagonistas, tienen los distintos pueblos del mundo. Nos sigue preocupando el término de pobres y hambrientos que el Programa ha concebido como interlocutores principales, no porque pensemos que no sean ellos los que verdaderamente requieran de la ayuda alimentaria del PMA, sino porque el concepto actual limita el radio de acción de miles de pobres y necesitados que, a su vez, tienen déficit de alimentos en el mundo, pero que no cumplen los estrictos parámetros que se han dado como definitivos por el PMA.

Señor Presidente, aprovecho para expresar la preocupación de mi país ante el descenso de los niveles de ayuda oficial al desarrollo y su comportamiento en la arena internacional en estos momentos. Como se conoce, esta ayuda ha descendido en un 10 por ciento de 1992 a 1993. Hay otras cifras que, a su vez, nos deben llamar la atención, y son las referidas al creciente aumento de las actividades que comparte las Naciones Unidas con otras organizaciones en lo relativo a la asistencia a refugiados y ayudas humanitarias de emergencia. Queremos que se entienda la reflexión que acabamos de realizar en estos momentos. Mi país, como otros de la comunidad internacional, aprecia altamente el socorro humanitario, la asistencia de emergencia, pero se preocupa cuando los niveles de estas acciones borran las acciones y los recursos que la comunidad internacional pudiera destinar a que nuestros países terminen definitivamente con el subdesarrollo que por milenios cargan a sus espaldas sin esperanza alguna de superarlo.

Lo anteriormente dicho me lleva a plantear y reiterar la importancia del Programa Mundial de Alimentos después de 30 años de su creación. Su mantenimiento y el arribo de los recursos necesarios para la ejecución de su programa, sin duda aliviará la carga pesada de nuestros países, en su camino hacia el desarrollo.

También en el marco del Consejo de la FAO, nuestros países han otorgado un voto de confianza al Programa para llevar adelante la administración de los recursos, así como armonizar los debates actuales sobre su cometido, composición y otros que nuestros países miembros del CPA se ven abocados después de la aprobación de resoluciones en el seno de las Naciones Unidas.



Finalmente, señor Presidente, tal como recoge el documento CL 107/9, el Comité reconoció los logros alcanzados por el PMA en sus 30 años transcurridos. Oportunidad que da a la delegación de Cuba de destacar en esta última etapa por su estilo y métodos directos de trabajo, el desarrollado por su Directora Ejecutiva, Sra. Catherine Bertini, que ha dado como resultado una mayor coordinación y eficacia en su importante gestión, unido a su equipo de Dirección.

En nombre de nuestra delegación, y con relación a nuestra región, queremos destacar el trabajo realizado por la Oficina Regional de América Latina y el Caribe.

**Deddy SUDARMAN (Indonesia):** My delegation would like to join other delegations in congratulating the Secretariat on the preparation and the presentation of the excellent documentation under Agenda Item 8.1.

Since Indonesia is one of the members of the Committee on Food Aid Policies and Programmes, my delegation would like to endorse the 19th Annual Report of the WFP CFA to the Economic and Social Council, the FAO Council and the World Food Council. Furthermore, my delegation would like to put special emphasis on paragraphs 6 and 16 of document CL 107/9.

First, the Indonesian delegation fully supports the Secretariat's effort to link relief and development activities in disaster mitigation and rehabilitation programmes. Thus, at the same time, relief assistance could be used to achieve developmental effects, for example through food-for-work programmes.

Secondly, the Indonesian delegation welcomes the initiative taken by the Executive Director of the World Food Programme in submitting to the Committee on Food Aid Policies and Programmes at its 35th session a Strategic Financial Plan highlighting the main features of the proposed programme of work for the next biennium.

Thus the programme will achieve its goals and targets in a more precise way. This means that the message from donors to the needy food aid countries, especially those countries with low income and food deficiency, would be made in the right direction.

My delegation would also like to ask all members of the Council to give full support to and endorsement of the Report.

**Julio LUCINI CASALES (España):** Permítanos una brevísima intervención en relación con este interesante tema del programa del presente período de sesiones del Consejo de la FAO, que parte de la aceptación del informe que se nos presenta y que va en línea con intervenciones realizadas por otras delegaciones esta misma tarde.

Como se hace constar en el Informe Anual de la Directora Ejecutiva correspondiente a 1992, y queda reflejado en el del Comité de Políticas y Programas de Ayuda Alimentaria, es cierto que los últimos años están siendo especialmente negativos para algunos países que ven como sus expectativas de desarrollo quedan bruscamente interrumpidas por catástrofes naturales, bélicas o de cualquier otro tipo, lo que ha llevado al Programa Mundial de Alimentos y a otros donantes de ayuda a reconducir los envíos hacia estas situaciones de urgencia.

Pero si bien es indiscutible una atención especial hacia los países que sufren estas dramáticas situaciones, y nuestra delegación alaba sin reservas la labor desarrollada en este terreno por el PMA y por otros órganos especializados en este tipo de ayudas, ello no debe ir en detrimento de la otorgada a otros países en desarrollo que necesitan de la atención del Programa para superar los difíciles retos que han asumido ante determinadas instituciones económicas internacionales como por ejemplo el Fondo Monetario Internacional (FMI) o el Banco Mundial (BM).

La reciente cumbre de estas instituciones celebrada en la capital de mi país, Madrid, con motivo del cincuenta aniversario de la fundación de las mismas, se ha congratulado de que en un buen número de países, muchos de ellos pertenecientes al área centro y sudamericana, se están mejorando los índices económicos de forma global tras los oportunos ajustes aconsejados por las instituciones monetarias mundiales.

Pero a nadie se le oculta que estos avances económicos a escala general están creando, al menos a corto plazo, desajustes y carencias en parte de la población, que se ha visto desprovista de los soportes sociales de que anteriormente disfrutaba.

EL PMA, con sus programas de ayuda al desarrollo en estos países, viene manifestando reiteradamente su sensibilidad hacia este tipo de problemas. En consecuencia, y sin detrimento de la atención necesaria a las situaciones de emergencia, mi delegación consideraría muy encomiable el reforzamiento de la seguridad alimentaria en estos países, en tanto se consiguen los objetivos de desarrollo que apuntan las instituciones a que nos hemos referido.

**Mirza Tasadduq Hussain BEG (Bangladesh):** I would like to express the appreciation of my delegation to the Executive Director of the World Food Programme for bringing a number of qualitative improvements both in the format and content of WFP's 1993 Annual Report. A great deal of effort has been made to make it more informative and analytical. The report comprehensively presents a wide range of WFP activities undertaken last year, notably in the areas of emergency response, disaster mitigation, qualitative improvements of development projects, improved transport and logistic arrangements as well as staff and other organizational changes.

1993 marked the thirtieth anniversary of the World Food Programme's operations. It also marked the launching of a major review of policies, objectives and strategies. As was mentioned by Mr Ngongi a short while ago, this review is still in process, and the outcome of this review will set the future direction of the Programme.

It is somewhat disconcerting to note that although total WFP resources almost doubled over the last five years, some 60 percent had to be spent in 1993 on account of relief and emergency assistance. We understand the exigencies of the circumstances that warranted allocation of the extraordinary proportion of its resources to the victims of disaster caused mainly by man, but we do hope that a realistic and appropriate balance between relief and development expenditure will be restored in the coming years. We assert that improvement for the food security of the most vulnerable people and helping them to become self-reliant should remain a core function of the World Food Programme.

We appreciate the measures undertaken by WFP during the year to improve the management of its development projects and relief operations. The Tripartite Evaluation commissioned by the Governments of Canada, Netherlands and Norway identified strengths and weaknesses of WFP's operations. Its recommendations will help the Programme better focus its future activities. The Special Evaluation by a WFP Project Review Committee will also enable the World Food Programme to further improve project formulation and design of development projects.

We are happy to note that WFP has taken new initiatives to further strengthen its collaboration and cooperation with FAO, the United Nations, IFAD, DHA, UNHCR and other UN organizations. A coordinated effort is very important in achieving WFP's objectives. We are also pleased to note the progress made by WFP in implementing various UN General Assembly Resolutions including Resolution 47/199.

The Executive Director's Annual Report mentions continuing decline of WFP's regular resources for development. This is a matter of considerable concern. We hope the international community, including recipient countries, shall come forward to increase their pledges in cash and commodities so that the biennial target for regular resources is met. Strengthening WFP's resource base will strengthen its capacity to carry out its mandate effectively.

These were some of the issues in WFP's exhaustive Annual Report that we wanted to highlight. We compliment the Executive Director and members of her staff for their sincere effort and, endorse the report.

**Aguinaldo LISBOA RAMOS (Cap-Vert):** J'aimerais rendre un sincère et très vif hommage au personnel du PAM et féliciter l'Organisation pour le travail inlassable et de grande solidarité qui a été réalisé au cours de ses trente années d'existence, travail accompli assez souvent dans des conditions extrêmement difficiles au bénéfice des populations dans un grand nombre de pays.

L'intervention du PAM tant en ce qui concerne les opérations de secours que les activités de développement est hautement appréciée par l'ensemble des donateurs et des bénéficiaires. D'un petit programme de quelques millions de dollars en 1964, cette organisation fournit aujourd'hui des ressources d'environ 3 milliards de dollars, étant devenu un partenaire indispensable des pays pauvres qui sont victimes des effets dévastateurs des calamités naturelles et des conflits armés.

La collaboration du PAM avec les autres commissions des Nations Unies et la participation active des pays et populations intéressés facilitent encore davantage cette intervention et contribuent de manière décisive à l'excellent niveau des résultats atteints.

Les activités du PAM au Cap-Vert sont un exemple de réussite de la coopération multilatérale dont nous sommes fiers.

Ma délégation remercie le Secrétariat pour la version abrégée mais très complète du rapport soumis au Conseil, ce qui facilite les interventions dans une session où l'ordre du jour est très chargé.

Nous n'avons donc aucune difficulté à approuver le rapport annuel du CPA présenté sous le code CL 107/9 tout en félicitant le CPA et le Directeur exécutif pour les décisions prises et pour le travail accompli pendant l'année 1993.

Avant de terminer, j'aimerais très chaleureusement remercier la délégation du Brésil pour le geste de solidarité envers l'Angola, le Mozambique et mon pays le Cap-Vert, qu'elle vient d'annoncer comme contribution au redressement de certains pays africains.

**Franco GINOCCHIO (Italy):** With reference to document CL 107/9 containing the 12th Annual Report of the Committee on Food Aid to FAO Council, the Italian delegation, recalling that it approved this report, wishes to make some brief comments on this document.

Referring to paragraph 9 of the Report, the Italian delegation would like to share the satisfaction expressed by the CFA for the work undertaken jointly in recent years by FAO and WFP for the evaluation of the food needs in countries affected by drought, civil strife and other man-made disasters.

We think that this collaboration will become more intensive in the next years in the framework of the important debate in course on the future of WFP.

Referring to paragraph 5 in which it is underlined that in recent years the WFP emergency operations have increased in an extraordinary manner while the developmental operations have consequently decreased, we would like to point out that the next session of the CFA will have to pay particular attention to the balance between emergency and relief operations and the development and rehabilitation operations in the framework of Resolution 47/199 of the United Nations General Assembly introducing the programme approach. Furthermore, we would like to support the statement which the European Communities will make later.

**Augustin IYAMUREMYE (Rwanda):** La délégation du Rwanda appuie le rapport du PAM. Elle félicite aussi le PAM pour les opérations menées avec beaucoup de succès dans notre pays.

Nous tenons particulièrement à remercier Mme Bertini, Directrice exécutive du PAM, d'être venue dans notre pays pour suivre personnellement les opérations de secours d'urgence. Nous espérons pouvoir continuer notre bonne collaboration, notamment en mettant à contribution toutes les organisations non gouvernementales oeuvrant dans le pays.

Je voudrais rappeler ici la remarque du représentant de la CARITAS sur l'importance accordée aux habitudes alimentaires lors des opérations de secours alimentaires.

Mon gouvernement voudrait continuer la collaboration avec le PAM. C'est pour cela que nous l'invitons également à participer aux opérations de développement, notamment en explorant plus avant les possibilités d'échanger la nourriture contre le travail afin de permettre aux populations d'attendre le terme des récoltes.

**Gian Paolo PAPA (EC):** We welcome this Report, which provides a very clear, factual account of the discussions which took place at the two meetings of CFA held in 1993. The Community took part in these meetings as an active observer, and also participated in the two meetings of the Sub-Committee on Projects held in 1993.

For the 1993-94 biennium, figures made available at CFA 37 show that the Commission, acting on behalf of the Community, was the second largest donor to WFP, providing nearly 17 percent of the total pledges received. The Commission made substantial allocations to the Regular resources of WFP to PRO and to IEF. Total Community pledges amounted to nearly US\$325 million. Overall Community and Member States allocations amounted to nearly US\$650 million, or over 34 percent of the total pledges to WFP in the 1993-94 biennium.

1993 was a year in which CFA addressed important issues, issues which will form the basis of its future discussion and issues which will ultimately shape the way in which the WFP responds to the new challenges it will face in the future. I will refer briefly to two major subjects discussed in 1993, which are important for the future.

The discussions on the Strategic Financial Plan and the Programme Support and Administrative Budget (PSA) for 1994-95 were the starting point for a very full discussion on the way WFP will operate in the future.

Particular attention was given to the balance between WFP relief and development operations and the way WFP operations are programmed. This discussion has continued and has resulted in the proposals for revising the focus of WFP activities which will be presented to CFA 38 in December.

These discussions have been greatly assisted by the results of the recent tripartite evaluation of WFP. The Community has taken an active part in these discussions and expects that CFA 38 will take decisions which will ensure that WFP develops to meet the challenges it will face in the next thirty years.

The financing (in the short and long term) of WFP is a vital issue. Debate on the PSA budget and the Pledging Target for 1995-96 clearly brought out the difficulties which WFP faces in balancing its budget. Although a system of detailed financial reporting to CFA members was agreed at CFA 36, the precise financial situation and its likely evolution are far from clear.

WFP must set in place a resourcing and long-term financing policy which will guarantee sufficient resources to enable the World Food Programme to function efficiently and to successfully carry out its mandate.

We shall be participating fully in discussion on this issue at CFA 38 and hope that with the recently-completed studies on cost recovery and financial management systems, WFP will make concrete proposals to secure its long-term financial future.

**Wilberforce A. SAKIRA (Uganda):** Our delegation would like to thank the FAO Secretariat for the document provided, and Mr Ngongi for his excellent and concise introduction of the Agenda Item being discussed.

Our delegation has always appealed to the WFP to come up with measures which will emphasize and ensure that the permanent activities are carried out alongside emergency operations. We strongly feel that developmental activities will go a long way in ensuring that the rural poor are emancipated from famine, hunger and malnutrition. We realize it is not an easy task, but we insist that the present trends should be reversed.

We should like to thank WFP for assisting the Uganda Government in executing protected refugee and displaced persons projects to the tune of US Dollars 9.8 million, and a total for the commitment of 31.3 thousand tonnes as is shown in paragraph 34.

We are grateful to WFP and with that we endorse the report.

**M.S. HARBI (Observer for Sudan) (Official language Arabic):** I should like to thank Mr Ngongi for his presentation of this Agenda Item. Through him, I should like to pay tribute to Ms Bertini, the Executive-Director of WFP. Ms Bertini showed a strong desire, a sincere desire, indeed to visit Sudan. We are preparing for Ms Bertini's visit because we believe that such a visit will be significant in helping her get an insight into the situation in Sudan.

I would like to corroborate what has been stated by my colleague from Egypt concerning the strategy of WFP, namely the importance of supporting development projects, especially in the affected countries, as opposed to the approach adopted hitherto.

There is a Chinese proverb which is quite famous which goes as follows: teaching someone how to catch a fish, is much better than giving him a fish. I believe that what we need from the WFP is not a consignment of canned fish, but we are adamant on learning how to fish.

I believe that development projects are very important, in as much as they would ensure the possibility of meeting the needs of farmers and poor people in general.

Basically, we should like to express our appreciation to the WFP, for its efforts to deliver food aid to the various affected countries. However, we believe that it would be more beneficial for the recipient countries to receive assistance in the field of agricultural development.

Once again I should like to reiterate my thanks to the representative of WFP and to you Mr Chairman.

**Gebrehiwot REDAI (Observer for Ethiopia):** My delegation congratulates Mr Ngongi for his brief but precise synopsis of the WFP Annual Report. Furthermore, my delegation is happy to note the commendable job WFP has done in meeting the relief operations and disaster litigation in operation in many parts of the world, particularly in Rwanda.

We admit that emergency relief operations are vital; nonetheless, we share the view that finance for development activities should not be sacrificed in favour of relief operations, as our Chinese and Ugandan colleagues have rightly pointed out.

**B.N. NDIMANDE (Observer for Zimbabwe):** Mr Chairman, thank you for giving my delegation the opportunity to make a few comments on document CL 107/9.

My delegation welcomes and strongly supports the efforts by the WFP to link relief and development activities in disaster mitigation and rehabilitation projects.

Our experience in Zimbabwe is that food for work programmes, if properly coordinated, can alleviate hunger and malnutrition as well as contribute to the development of rural infrastructure such as roads, dams, bridges, schools and clinics. Additionally, in order to lessen the dependency syndrome, direct assistance in the form of access to credit and agricultural inputs, access to the market, provision of services such as research and extension, is critical for sustainable rural development.

Some delegations have pointed out that some countries often achieve national food security whilst, at the household level, the spectre of hunger and malnutrition persists. Zimbabwe finds itself in this category and, therefore, food for work programmes play an important role in our efforts to alleviate hunger and malnutrition.

NGOs have played and continue to play a major role in our rural development programmes. We endorse FAO's strategy of close cooperation and close working relations with NGOs. This cooperation is not only essential in complementing our efforts, but is also necessary in order to avoid duplication.

The incidence of drought in southern Africa has increased in recent years, necessitating international food aid. It is, therefore, critical to link relief and development efforts in order to achieve sustainable rural development

and national as well as household food security. This will, however, call for additional funding which is beyond the reach of developing countries in our region.

My delegation wishes to conclude by taking this opportunity to extend our gratitude to the WFP for the excellent work they did in coordinating international relief efforts during the disastrous drought of 1992 in southern Africa.<sup>1</sup>

**ASSISTANT EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR (World Food Programme):** I will touch on a few of the points which have been raised.

First of all, I would express the gratitude of the WFP and all the staff of the Programme for the words of encouragement that we have received. It will be a pleasure on my part to transmit the various messages of congratulations to Ms Bertini of the Programme who, at the kind and generous invitation of the Government of India is in India today and could not be here to present this report personally. Clearly, she will be greatly reassured at the great support which you have shown in this Council.

Secondly, words of encouragement have been given but, as the distinguished delegate of the United States said, maybe the Programme needs to broaden its resources and try to attract a few new donors. I was very pleased the distinguished delegate of Brazil offered to come forward with some elements of support for some programmes in countries, especially Angola, Mozambique and Cape Verde. It is a very good gesture coming in conjunction with this appeal for a broader base of support.

I would, of course, appeal to all developing countries and also developed countries if they are in a position to do so to increase their level of support to the World Food Programme.

Clearly, the World Food Programme is not able to carry out most of its work if it does not work in coordination and collaboration with other organizations. Clearly, in the narrow area of emergency relief we have to work very closely with NGOs and with UNHCR, UNICEF, FAO and UNDP,

If we do not work with them even in this narrow area, it is not possible for us to achieve much. All the praise which has been given to WFP for what we have been able to achieve is also proof of the great level of collaboration existing between us and our various partners in the system.

Several distinguished delegates have raised questions on the move from development to emergencies. First of all, let me say that clearly there has been some decrease in the development resources available to the Programme. However, it is not because of a shift from the replaced resources from development to emergencies. It is because the donor community has been generous in responding to the tremendous emergency situations around the world, that we have found a very great increase in resources given to emergency operations, not necessarily a transfer of resources from development to emergencies. It is probably more a problem at the donor-level after having such generous contributions for emergencies, they do not have enough resources left to make a generous contribution to the development network.

That will appeal, of course, to the donor community to be able to give equal support to the development efforts of the Programme in terms of resources.

Clearly, as the Executive Director has said on many occasions, we strive to find clear linkages between relief and development, wherever possible. The main problem is that in the last few years most of the emergency problems have arisen in countries which are undergoing civil strife. Those are conditions where it is really difficult to have linkages between development and emergency.

Where we have not been able to deal directly in terms of supporting development projects, we have done it in terms of local purchases and triangular transactions. Those are elements of support.

<sup>1</sup> Statement inserted in the verbatim records on request.

I would just say that last year WFP undertook purchases of US\$ 250 million around the world, about 60 percent of which were from developing countries and a large part from one country in Africa, which was a great saviour for the Programme, Uganda, from which we managed to purchase 120 000 tonnes to the value of US\$ 23 million.

I think that is quite a significant contribution to the economy of a country.

Clearly as many delegates and you yourself, Mr Chairman, have pointed out, the reform process or the policy reviews which are going on will have a great impact on the life of the programme in the future, for hopefully the next thirty years and maybe beyond. The long-term financing of underresourced strategies is important. That is my task which will be taken up at the next session of the CFA. We will look forward to an active debate in that period and hope that there will be a long-term solution to it.

Finally, I appreciate very much the invitation extended by the distinguished delegate of Sudan to the Executive Director to visit Sudan and see the work for herself which they are doing in that country. I am sure that Ms Bertini would like to take this into consideration when she is planning her schedule for the years to come.

I am truly appreciative of the words of kindness and encouragement which have come from this Council. The staff and everybody in the World Food Programme will try to live up to the high expectations you have of us.

Continues in Arabic: Thank you very much, Mr Chairman.

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Veo, Sr. Ngongi, que aprende usted idiomas con una rapidez extraordinaria. El Consejo le agradece al Sr. Ngongi sus aclaraciones y respuestas a los comentarios formulados.

Pregunto a los miembros del Consejo antes de concluir este tema si desean hacer alguna observación adicional. Si no hay ninguna observación, me permito resumir brevemente los debates.

El Consejo agradeció de manera calurosa al Sr. Ngongi, Director Ejecutivo Adjunto del Programa Mundial de Alimentación, su clara introducción del 19° informe anual del CPA.

El Consejo manifestó su pleno apoyo a la función singular que desempeña el Programa Mundial de la Alimentación, ratificando también la plena validez de su mandato.

Se agradeció de manera específica el papel ejecutivo de la Sra. Bertini, Directora Ejecutiva del Programa Mundial de la Alimentación. Hubo múltiples manifestaciones de aprecio al Programa Mundial de la Alimentación y a la ejecución de diversas acciones de ayuda alimentaria y atención a emergencias. Debo subrayar que esto fue posible gracias a la contribución, a la acción generosa de los países donantes de alimentos y de recursos financieros, de sus continuados esfuerzos, del incremento de la ayuda y de los recursos financieros en apoyo del Programa Mundial de la Alimentación. De esto dependerá que se puedan atender demandas crecientes de países y grupos poblacionales que sufren de manera continua hambre y deficiencias crónicas en materia de alimentos, así como circunstancias de emergencia.

De igual manera de ello dependerá el que la ayuda pueda ligarse a programas de desarrollo agrícola y alimentario que permitan rescatar de la ignominia y la pobreza extrema a cientos de millones de seres humanos.

Tras referirse a distintos aspectos, algunos de los cuales se tratarán en el próximo período de sesiones del CPA, y al anunciarse una oferta generosa de parte de un Estado Miembro, el Consejo endosó el 19° informe anual del Comité del Programa Alimentario.

Si no hay ninguna otra observación doy por concluido este tema del orden del día. Vamos a continuar, distinguidos delegados, con el Tema 8.3 y el Tema 10 después de un descanso de cinco minutos.

Antes de que se levanten deseo informarles que se incluirá en el Tema 6.2 de nuestra Agenda, una declaración que nos solicitó la distinguida delegación de la India proporcionada por escrito. De aceptar el Consejo dicha declaración aparecerá en el verbatim bajo el punto 6.2 de nuestra Agenda.

Distinguidos delegados suspendemos la sesión durante cinco minutos.

### **8.3 Implementation of General Assembly resolution 48/162 on the transformation of the CFA into an executive board**

### **8.3 Exécution de la Résolution 48/162 de l'Assemblée générale sur la transformation du CPA en Conseil d'administration**

### **8.3 Aplicación de la resolución 48/162 de la Asamblea General sobre la transformación del CPA en una Junta Ejecutiva**

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Distinguidos delegados, pasamos ahora al Tema 8.3: "Aplicación de la Resolución 48/162 de la Asamblea General sobre la transformación del Comité de Políticas y Programas de

Ayuda Alimentaria del PMA en una Junta Ejecutiva, documento CL 107/7.

Como el Consejo recuerda, al aprobar el programa provisional de sus trabajos, acordó que este tema sería para información y no para discusión. Me voy a permitir hoy presentar este tema. Los distinguidos delegados que quieran hacer alguna pregunta, pueden realizarla para completar la información. Sin embargo, les reitero que cuando adoptamos nuestra agenda se acordó que este punto sería para información.

El tema en cuestión, repito, para información del Consejo, se refiere a que en el período de sesiones del Consejo, en espera de los resultados del debate en el seno del CPA, se consideró prematuro que se debatiera este tema. No es por eso, y lo repito, mi intención que al introducirlo se abra el debate o se suscite un debate al respecto. No obstante, como al Consejo se le pedirá que apruebe la resolución paralela en su próximo período de sesiones, debe ser informado plenamente acerca del proceso en curso. El tema se refiere, como ustedes saben, a la aplicación de la Resolución 48/162 de la Asamblea General de Naciones Unidas, en virtud de la cual se decidió que los órganos rectores de los programas y fondos de las Naciones Unidas encargados de actividades operativas en el sector del desarrollo - léase PNUD -, el Fondo de Población de Naciones Unidas y el UNICEF, entre otros, se transformarían en juntas ejecutivas y que se reforzaría la función de formulación de políticas del ECOSOC respecto a la dirección de sus programas y fondos. La decisión de la Asamblea General de las Naciones Unidas se aplica también al PMA, pero teniendo en cuenta el patrocinio conjunto de las Naciones Unidas y la FAO con respecto al PMA. En el párrafo 30 de la Resolución se pide que se celebren, a la brevedad posible, consultas entre las Naciones Unidas y la FAO con miras a la preparación de resoluciones análogas que habrán de ser adoptadas por la Asamblea General de la Conferencia de la FAO.

En el documento se informa sobre el resultado de las consultas mantenidas hasta la fecha entre las secretarías de las Naciones Unidas y de la FAO, así como sobre el proceso puesto en marcha por el Comité de Políticas y Programas de Ayuda Alimentaria, el CPA, para revisar sus normas generales y preparar un primer proyecto de resoluciones paralelas con objeto de aplicar la Resolución 48/162 de la Asamblea General.

En primer lugar, deseo señalar a la atención del Consejo el resultado de las consultas directas entre las Naciones Unidas y la FAO y, en particular, su conclusión de que la Resolución 48/162 de la Asamblea General no debería interpretarse en el sentido de que afecte en forma alguna al patrocinio conjunto de las Naciones Unidas y la FAO con respecto al PMA y que, en principio, ello exigirá que se reflejen, de forma paralela e igual, las funciones de los órganos rectores de la FAO y de las Naciones Unidas con respecto a los asuntos normativos al redactar la revisión de las normas generales necesarias para aplicar la Resolución 48/162.

En caso de que el Consejo tuviera alguna posición discrepante a este respecto, debería manifestarla al llegar a ese punto.

En segundo lugar, deseo señalar a la atención del Consejo el proceso de aplicación de la Resolución 48/162 de la Asamblea General.



Por último, desearía subrayar que incumbirá al Consejo de la FAO y al ECOSOC, y en último término a la Conferencia de la FAO y a la Asamblea General de las Naciones Unidas, la responsabilidad de aprobar y de adoptar las resoluciones paralelas de aplicación de la Resolución de la Asamblea General de las Naciones Unidas respecto del PMA y el CPA.

En la Resolución de la Asamblea General se pide también que se celebren consultas directas entre la FAO y las Naciones Unidas a este respecto. Es por tanto, muy oportuno que se informe a este Consejo acerca de los progresos realizados hasta la fecha en la aplicación de la Resolución de la Asamblea General, y debería brindársele al Consejo la oportunidad de hacer cualesquiera observaciones o preguntas y de ofrecer sus orientaciones que estime oportuno formular sobre esta cuestión.

Permítame preguntar al representante de las Naciones Unidas y al del PMA si desean formular observaciones y, en segundo lugar, si los Miembros del Consejo desean hacer también algún comentario al respecto.

Me informa la distinguida representante de las Naciones Unidas que no desea hacer ningún comentario en ese sentido.

Pregunto al representante del PMA. Tampoco desea hacer ningún comentario.

Pregunto entonces a los distinguidos Miembros del Consejo si desean hacer algún comentario o pregunta en torno a esta cuestión.

No hay ningún Estado Miembro del Consejo que desea hacer uso de la palabra, por tanto el Consejo ha sido informado y ha tomado nota de este Tema 8.3. Lo damos por concluido.

## **10. Progress Report on the Preparation of the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fishing**

## **10. Rapport intérimaire sur la préparation du Code de conduite pour la pêche responsable**

## **10. Informe sobre la preparación del Código de Conducta para la Pesca Responsable**

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Pasamos al Tema 10 de nuestra Agenda: Informe sobre la Preparación del Código de Conducta para la Pesca Responsable.

Tenemos, para nuestra consideración, el Informe de Avance en la Preparación del Código de Conducta para la Pesca Responsable, una de las iniciativas de política quizás más importantes en el contexto del desarrollo sostenible y a la que nuestra Organización y sus Estados Miembros le ha dado una gran prioridad, principalmente en función de que la pesca es una parte esencial del mandato dentro del sistema de Naciones Unidas y la FAO representa el punto focal por excelencia en este sector.

La importancia que los países miembros de la FAO han dado a la preparación del Código deriva de la necesidad de asegurar que la pesca continúe contribuyendo a la alimentación de las generaciones actuales y futuras, a evitar la sobrepesca, a cuidar los ecosistemas, a buscar un mejor uso de los recursos pesqueros y también a mejorar la distribución de los beneficios que se derivan de la pesca.

Asimismo, por la experiencia de la FAO en este sector, y en la preparación de este valioso instrumento que combina, como ustedes saben, valores técnicos, legales, éticos, que son importantes debido a que aportan un marco que facilita el entendimiento y la aplicación de instrumentos legales y técnicos de diversa naturaleza por parte de los gobiernos y los que integran el sector, se permitirá a raíz de esto un desarrollo sostenible armónico y responsable en la actividad pesquera.

Permítanme, distinguidos miembros del Consejo, solicitar al Dr. Krone que nos haga la presentación de este tema y, si bien el mismo está indicado como un tema para información, quizá el Consejo podría hacer alguna pregunta o solicitar alguna aclaración en torno al proceso de preparación del Código, en virtud del mandato otorgado al respecto por los órganos rectores de nuestra Organización.

**W. KRONE (Assistant Director-General, Fisheries Department):** Yesterday, the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea officially entered into force, twelve years after being adopted at Montego Bay, Jamaica, in November 1982. It is with a high degree of satisfaction that I introduce to you the Progress Report on the Preparation of the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fishing because these two matters are closely linked. The importance of this event is most relevant since the Code of Conduct is an instrument largely devoted to providing comprehensive guidance to states and promoting responsible behaviour at sectoral level to all those involved in fisheries in the implementation of the UN Convention.

Document CL 107/INF/21, which is before you, reports on the progress achieved in the elaboration and submission of the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fishing in order to comply with the time frame decided upon by your Council and endorsed at the 27th Session of the Conference. The Conference had decided that the general principles of the Code should be prepared on a "fast track" approach, including as a first step a review by an informal working group of government-nominated experts of a first draft prepared by the Secretariat. This informal working group met in Rome in February this year and provided formulations for a new Secretariat draft of these general principles, which was widely circulated for comments to all FAO members and associate members, as well as intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations. Comments received on the second version of the general principles were incorporated, together with proposals for an alternative text. This document was also circulated widely and was the subject of first informal consultations with non-governmental organizations on the occasion of the fourth session of the UN Conference on Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks in New York last August.

Our Conference last November had also suggested that this current session of Council might wish to set up a technical committee to consider these general principles of the Code. However, given the complexity of the Code and the high level of interest for an early involvement in the process of its formulation, the Secretariat felt that a first review of the Code by our Governing Bodies should not be restricted to the general principles but should cover all chapters of the Code because they are so closely interrelated.

In order to facilitate this process, the Director-General proposed to the 106th Session last June to hold a technical consultation open to all members, interested associate members and international organizations, including relevant non-governmental organizations, for a first screening of the draft of the complete Code and in order to provide guidance to the Secretariat for its further elaboration and submission to the forthcoming session of the Committee on Fisheries in March 1995.

This technical consultation took place in Rome about a month ago and a brief administrative report on this technical consultation is annexed to document CL 107/INF/21.1 should like at this stage to express our gratitude for the support given by a number of OECD countries to facilitate the attendance of developing countries at this technical consultation.

The consultation had the opportunity to review thoroughly all articles of the complete draft Code and gave specific formulations and suggestions. On the basis of these discussions the Secretariat has now prepared a new version for submission to COFI. I can tell you at this moment that we expect to distribute this document early next month.

A number of paragraphs of the draft text are likely to be affected by the outcome of the UN Conference on Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks. It has always been our intention to synchronize the preparation of the Code with the parallel but interrelated process at the conference in New York. I wish to reiterate here the proposal made by the Secretariat to the technical consultation that the final wording of these paragraphs, which indeed form only a small part - about ten percent - of the total Code, be left pending for the time being since the UN conference has planned two more sessions in 1995. The draft text of the Code could then be reconciled with the language agreed upon in New York. At present, these paragraphs which might be affected follow the language used in the draft negotiating text, which originated from the third session of the Conference in March this year, but this latter text has since been revised by the Chairman and issued by him as a draft agreement. We believe it will then be up to COFI, and eventually to your Council at its session next year, to decide upon any mechanism for finalizing the complete Code in order to allow its adoption at the 28th Session of the Conference next year, as agreed upon in the current time frame.

Your Council might wish to take note of this progress report and endorse the proposed procedure for its further preparation and submission in accordance with the time frame established.

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Muchas gracias, Dr. Krone, por sus comentarios introductorios de este tema para información.

El Consejo ha tomado debida nota de los considerables progresos alcanzados en el proceso de preparación del Código. Se somete al Consejo la solicitud de que endose el mecanismo ya expuesto a la Consulta Técnica, a fin de que el Código pueda seguir el proceso de formulación y asegurar que sea presentado a la Conferencia de la Organización el próximo año, a fin de que sea aprobado.

Espero que ustedes hayan tomado también debida nota de la complementariedad del proceso con la Conferencia que se celebra en Naciones Unidas respecto a poblaciones transzonales y altamente migratorias. La redacción final de aquellos principios del Código que tratan estos aspectos podrá ser armonizada una vez que concluyan los procesos de Nueva York y que permita esto conducir a que, conforme a lo programado, sea aprobado en 1995.

Se consideran también las instancias que habrá el próximo año, principalmente a través del COFI, en su fase ministerial, y también en las sesiones del Consejo, en donde seguramente habrá oportunidad de revisar los avances y el estado que guarda la preparación.

Distinguidos delegados, pongo a su consideración este tema, en el entendido de que no se trata de discutir la sustancia sino estrictamente el mecanismo preparatorio del tema, en cuanto que tengan ustedes alguna pregunta, alguna aclaración respecto del mismo.

Abro la lista de oradores para hacer uso de la palabra en este tema.

**Sra. Ana María NAVARRO ARRUE (Cuba):** Agradecemos la presentación brindada por el Dr. Krone y subrayamos la utilidad de la misma en un momento en que nuestros países esperan cuanto antes poder contar con este importante instrumento que será el Código de Conducta para la Pesca Responsable.

Sin lugar a dudas, la labor de la FAO en llevar adelante esta acción es encomiable, y es por ello que la Delegación de Cuba aprecia la Consulta Técnica sobre el Código de Conducta para la Pesca Responsable que se celebró en Roma del 26 de septiembre al 5 de octubre de 1994. En esta ocasión nos agrada tomar nota del informe de progresos que se nos presenta en el día de hoy sobre este importante documento.

Nuestra delegación apoya el mecanismo que se ha creado recientemente para llevar a cabo el calendario acordado, es decir, revisión del proyecto de Código de Conducta para presentarlo al COFI, después al Consejo y a la Conferencia.

**John Bruce SHARPE (Australia):** My delegation supports the development and adoption of the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fishing, noting that the Code will complement the document being considered by the UN Conference of Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks.

Australia supports the action taken by FAO in waiting for the text of the UN Conference to be completed before finalising the text of the Code on the overlapping areas.

My delegation commends the FAO Secretariat for the progress made in developing the Code to date. We note progress to date, and will welcome the opportunity to participate in further consultations to finalise an agreed Code of Conduct for Responsible Fishing.

**José Elias LEAL (México):** Esta delegación ha tomado nota también con satisfacción del avance en la preparación del Código y la alta consulta con que se está formulando, lo cual será muy importante para construir el consenso en torno a un instrumento tan eficaz para la conservación, ordenación y desarrollo de las pesquerías.

México pide también que el Consejo endose el mecanismo propuesto por la Secretaría para que el Código continúe su proceso de elaboración y consulta y se presente al COFI para consideración de los Ministros de Pesca y al Consejo y la Conferencia para su aprobación final.

Gracias también al Dr. Krone.

**Gian Paolo PAPA (EC):** The European Community and its actual member states fully endorse the request set out in the Declaration of Cancún for FAO to draft a Code of Conduct for Responsible Fishing. In fact, the Declaration of Cancún has to be seen as a milestone on the road towards enhanced conservation of fisheries resources at a global level.

Two elements are of particular importance: In relation to the scope of the Declaration of Cancún it was clear from the outset that the intended Code should be as comprehensive as possible and that it was meant to cover all aspects of fisheries. Moreover, it was acknowledged that the elaboration of the Code should follow the "fast-track" approach.

In the interest of bringing about responsible fishing practices in a very near future, the "fast-track" approach remains of paramount importance. In this context, attempts that were made very recently with a view to setting aside certain sections of the existing first draft of the Code until the conclusion of the work of the UN Conference on Straddling Stocks and Highly Migratory Species are a cause of deep concern for the Union. As the UN process has been initiated to address specific problems in respect of specific fish stocks only, it would appear to be inconceivable to consider sections of the intended Code which is global in scope as being subordinate to the outcome of the negotiations that take place in New York. Consequently, the ongoing process of elaboration of the Code should be continued without delay and the draft should be finalized as quickly as possible.

**Narayanan KANAN (Malaysia):** The Malaysian delegation wishes to commend the Secretariat for this valuable document and, more importantly, for the effort it has made in the preparation of the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fishing. Responsible fishing in our opinion is imperative for sustainable yield.

We are heartened to note the expanded scope of the Code to cover not only captured fisheries but also to encompass aquaculture, coastal area management, post-harvest practice, trade and research.

With this comprehensive coverage, the Code could be invaluable for all fishing nations in planning their national programmes whilst safeguarding common stocks in international waters.

Despite some initial difficulties we feel that most countries would abide by the Code in its final form, despite its voluntary and non-binding nature. This compliance would reflect the desire of fishing nations to be responsible in the sustainable development of this valuable renewable resource.

Since many of the fish stocks are migratory in nature, nations will have to be more willing to cooperate, share information and, where possible, go on joint management on a regional basis. The role of FAO in effecting such regional cooperation should be enhanced to optimize resource utilization and avoid over-exploitation of common stocks.

We are confident that the final Code will be acceptable and could be finalized before the Conference in 1995. Again, we congratulate FAO for this very significant initiative.

**Per Harald GRUE (Norway):** As this item is just for information and we are quite late in our agenda I shall be very brief.

I would first like to underline the importance which Norway attaches to FAO's work on the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fishing. Let me also compliment the FAO Secretariat for the excellent work done in this field.

Concerning the relationship between the Code of Conduct and the UN Conference on Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks, it is our considered opinion that the Code should await the results of the UN Conference in matters falling within the mandate of the Conference. We see this as important in order to ensure consistency and coherence between the work on the Code and the UN Conference.

The Code, as decided at the FAO Conference last year, should be supportive and complementary to the UN Conference. In that way, we avoid preempting the results of the UN Conference, and in fact undermining the authority of the UN General Assembly, under whose auspices the Conference is held.

**Sra. Ileana DI GIOVAN BATTISTA (Argentina):** Queremos agradecer al Dr. Krone la presentación del informe CL 107/INF/21, y queremos agradecerle particularmente sus esfuerzos de sincronización, complementariedad y compatibilización de las labores que estamos desarrollando en el marco de la Consulta Técnica con las negociaciones que están teniendo lugar en Nueva York con relación a las poblaciones tranzonales y altamente migratorias.

La delegación argentina comparte los argumentos mencionados por la delegación de Noruega tendientes a no socabar la autoridad de la convención que se está negociando en las Naciones Unidas. Por lo tanto, la delegación argentina se permite proponer que el Consejo haga suya, adopte el informe INF/21, particularmente la propuesta de la Secretaría mencionada en el párrafo 9, en el sentido de que el texto final de los principios que tratan de las cuestiones de la pesca en alta mar y que, ciertamente, constituyen sólo una pequeña parte del Código y están naturalmente vinculadas con esta convención en Nueva York, se mantengan pendientes hasta la conclusión de esa misma Conferencia.

Asimismo la delegación de Argentina se permite instar a las delegaciones miembros para que tengan presente que en las primeras instancias de la próxima reunión del COFI se deberá definir un mecanismo que nos permita avanzar a mejor paso posible en la elaboración de este Código de Conducta de Pesca Responsable.

**Ebrahim MAYGOLINEJAD (Islamic Republic of Iran):** In the name of God, the Compassionate, the Merciful, with regard to the result of the International Code of Conduct for Responsible Fishing, I would like to express the Republic of Iran's satisfaction and thanks to the Fisheries Department of FAO for its great efforts in this regard.

As has been expressed by the Islamic Republic of Iran's delegation during the Technical Consultation on the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fishing in Rome from 26 September to 5 October, 1994, the revised version of the Code will be presented to the Twenty-first Session of the Committee in March 1995 for decision. Although some paragraphs of the Code will be affected by the outcome of the UN Conference on Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks, my delegation recommends that, without any delay, the Code should remain on a fast track up to the finalization.

**Robert ANDRIGO (Canada):** I would particularly thank Dr Krone for his objective presentation of the useful progress we have achieved thus far on this Item and on the facts of the origins of this particular negotiation.

Canada fully supports FAO in the task it is undertaking, aimed at the establishment of a Code of Conduct for Responsible Fishing. This Code is to be formulated on the basis of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, it is to take into account the Declaration of Can Cun, the 1992 Rio Declaration and the Provisions of Agenda 21, among other instruments, and, according to the instructions of the Twenty-seventh Conference of FAO, it must be complementary to, and supportive of, the work of the Conference on Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks.

My delegation accordingly generally can subscribe to the proposal elaborated in paragraph 9 of the document CL 107/Inf.21, and as reiterated by Dr Krone in his introduction, as the most sensible and logical procedure for giving effect to this objective of complementarity and support.

We look forward to contributing actively and constructively to the successful outcome of this process.

**Hiomoto WATANABE (Japan):** Firstly, I should like to express my appreciation for the enormous effort made by FAO in order to establish this Code of Conduct for Responsible Fishing because we appreciate FAO as a centre of excellence in the field of fisheries. This is a continuous position.

I should also like to touch upon the relationship between this process and the United Nations Conference. Also we do not wish to pre-judge the outcome of the United Nations Conference but, at the same time, it does not mean that we do nothing with regard to the high seas fisheries in the process of the Code of Conduct.

Maybe we can find a way to facilitate the discussion at the United Nations Conference. We still use our best efforts to keep this Code of Conduct on a fast track.

Finally, I should like to ask a brief question with regard to the relationship between this Code of Conduct and the ministerial meeting, which it is expected will be held during the COFI meeting.

I am not quite clear whether this particular issue will be on the agenda for the ministerial-level meeting. It was expected during the COFI meeting. So if there is any indication from the Secretariat, it will be greatly appreciated.

**R. FOX (United Kingdom):** My delegation would like to reinforce the point made earlier that the preparation of the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fishing was given the fast-track approach. This degree of urgency should be maintained in the interest of sustainable development.

Secondly, we would like to stress that the future status of the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fishing as a voluntary FAO Code should be maintained. It should defer to, but remain separated from, the provision of international binding treaties, which exist or may be negotiated in future.

Thirdly, we believe that FAO should actively promote and support the voluntary adoption by Member States of relevant sections of the Code. Many of the key activities in promoting and supporting the Code lie within the normative functions of FAO's Fisheries Department.

Given the significance of the Code of Conduct, we consider that FAO should respond by redesigning its Fisheries Programme activities to incorporate costs of relevant support functions within its Regular Budget.

**EL PRESIDENTE:** ¿Hay algún observador que desee hacer uso de la palabra? Si no desean intervenir le voy a pedir al Dr. Krone que responda a las preguntas formuladas.

**W. KRONE (Assistant Director-General Fisheries Department):** There is only one question to answer, and then I have only one comment to add.

The question is from the distinguished delegate from Japan as to whether the Code will be on the Agenda at the ministerial meeting at the time of COFI.

There will be an information report at that time, because you must bear in mind that COFI itself may not get to grips with all sections of the Code. So we have not been adventurous enough to say that ministers should have a final look at it.

We still have two stages; your Council itself in June or September, and then the Conference itself.

To be realistic, I think we will give the ministers a progress report from the COFI meeting which will precede it, including some other aspects which have to do with our involvement and follow-up with UNCED and Agenda 21.

Secondly, I have a comment with regard to the term "fast track" which is a nice phrase. I just want to reiterate our conviction that if we keep to the present time, which means COFI, Council Conference in 1995, we regard this as a fast track. We could not do it more quickly, that is for sure.

Some paragraphs may be on a somewhat slower track, at least initially. We can perhaps accept this. Then later on there will be the chance post-COFI, and for your Council to say "well, we want those also to go on the same track".

That certainly depends on the progress being made in New York at the next session which is at the end of March, early April. If there is progress, I do not see any problem, any great difficulty, in also putting these famous asterisk paragraphs on the rest of the Code. Otherwise we will wait until the next stage which is the session in New York in August. After that we all hope that this will be the concluding session.

If it is not yet the concluding session, then there might indeed be the situation where the need to finalize the Code which deal with IC matters becomes urgent.

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Gracias, Dr. Krone, por su respuesta y aclaración. ¿Hay algún comentario por parte de los miembros del Consejo? Si no hay ninguna observación, me permitiré resumir los debates sobre este tema informativo de la siguiente manera.

El Consejo ratificó la importancia que los Estados Miembros conceden al Código de Conducta para la Pesca Responsable. El Consejo tomó nota con aprecio de los avances logrados en el proceso de preparación de dicho Código y felicitó a la Secretaría por la amplia consulta que está dando a este proceso a fin de facilitar su adopción y aplicación. El Consejo endosó, en general, el mecanismo propuesto para continuar la preparación del Código, conforme a las disposiciones de los órganos rectores, respecto a la formulación y presentación a las instancias del Comité de Pesca y luego del Consejo, siguiendo conforme a lo propuesto el avance de los trabajos de la Conferencia de Naciones Unidas. El objeto es que la redacción final de aquellos principios que se ven afectados por dicho proceso pueda armonizarse antes de la presentación del Código al 28º período de sesiones de la Conferencia de la Organización para su aprobación. Si no hay ningún comentario adicional, distinguidos delegados, concluimos este Tema 10 de nuestra agenda. Les convoco para que nos reunamos el día de mañana a las 09:30 horas para discutir el Tema 11. Les anuncio que el Dr. Bommer, en su calidad de Presidente del Comité del Programa y Presidente durante la sesión conjunta de los Comités de Programas y de Finanzas, informará a ustedes sobre los trabajos relativos de ambos Comités en relación al tema del progreso de la aplicación de las decisiones del Consejo en su 106º período de sesiones. Repito, en virtud de que el Dr. Bommer se ausenta de Roma, le pediremos que el día de mañana, conjuntamente a la presentación del Tema 11, nos presente también la parte correspondiente del Tema 12. Les señalo que discutiremos el Tema 11, pero en las primeras horas de la tarde deberemos tratar el tema relativo a asuntos de personal.

Distinguidos delegados, con esto levanto la sesión. ¿Hay algún comentario? En primer lugar, voy a otorgar la palabra a la distinguida delegación de Australia y, posteriormente, al observador de Rumania, que desea hacer un comentario en relación con un error en el verbatim.

**John Bruce SHARPE (Australia):** Just to clarify the situation, is Dr Bommer speaking before Item 11 or after?

**EL PRESIDENTE:** El Dr. Bommer va a hablar sobre los aspectos del Tema 12 que corresponden al Tema 11; es decir, sobre aquellos aspectos de la reunión conjunta del Comité de Finanzas y del Programa que conciernen al Tema 11, o sea, al examen de los avances de las decisiones tomadas en el 106º período de sesiones del Consejo.

**Tiberiu VASBESIU (Observateur de la Roumanie):** Je crois que l'honorable assistance comprendra mon embarras et acceptera, avec mes excuses, la raison de mon intervention.

Alors que la Roumanie et la Hongrie sont encore candidates pour le centre sous-régional de la FAO pour l'Europe de l'Est, une regrettable erreur s'est glissée dans le PV 3 qui vient de paraître: on a confondu les capitales des deux pays et attribué à la délégation de la Roumanie une déclaration qu'elle n'a pas faite. Les deux capitales, Bucarest et Budapest, étant encore candidates, je tiens officiellement à préciser le regret de la délégation de la Roumanie pour cette erreur et j'espère qu'un corrigendum sera fait.

Qu'il me soit permis, dans ces circonstances, d'assurer la délégation de la Hongrie ainsi, d'ailleurs, que celle de la troisième candidate, la Pologne, de toute notre amitié et estime.

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Distinguido observador, se ha tomado nota de su justa aclaración y se corregirá el verbatim en su página 28.

Distinguidos delegados, con esto termina nuestra sexta Sesión Plenaria. Les anuncio que el Comité de Redacción se reunirá en la Sala México, de tal suerte que convoco a los miembros de dicho Comité para que se dirijan seguidamente a dicha sala con el objeto de revisar el informe de nuestros trabajos.

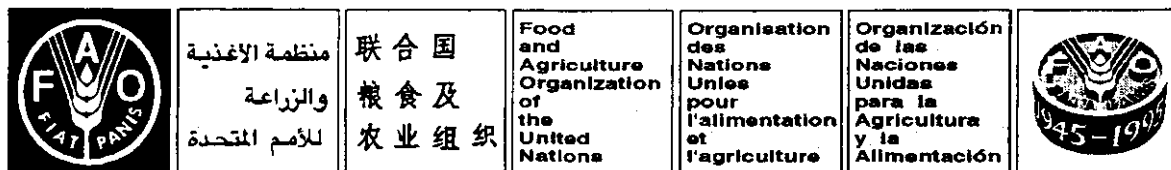
**The meeting rose at 19:15 hours.**

**La séance est levée à 19 h 15.**

**Se levanta la sesión a las 19:15 horas.**



18 November 1994



COUNCIL

CONSEIL

CONSEJO

Hundred and Seventh Session • Cent septième session • 107º período de sesiones

SEVENTH PLENARY MEETING  
SEPTIEME SEANCE PLENIERE  
SEPTIMA SESION PLENARIA

18 November 1994

The Seventh Plenary Meeting was opened at 09.30 hours  
Mr José Ramón López Portillo,  
Independent Chairman of the Council, presiding

La septième séance plénière est ouverte à 9 h 30  
sous la présidence de M. José Ramón López Portillo,  
Président indépendant du Conseil

Se abre la séptima sesión plenaria a las 9.30 horas  
bajo la presidencia del Sr. José Ramón López Portillo,  
Presidente Independiente del Consejo

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Muy buenos días distinguidos delegados, observadores, señoras y señores.

En primer lugar, deseo expresar que este Consejo se complace en contar con la presencia del señor Director General, Jacques Diouf, esta mañana.

Asimismo, espero que todos ustedes hayan podido descansar, en particular los miembros y el presidente del Comité de Redacción, quienes trabajaron intensamente ayer hasta las 11 de la noche y fueron particularmente efectivos, porque concluyeron con la revisión de todos los aspectos puestos para su consideración el día de ayer. Creo que este Consejo puede felicitar al Comité de Redacción por los progresos realizados.

Distinguidos delegados. Esta mañana, y conforme al orden del día, discutiremos el Tema 11 y luego el Tema 12. Por la tarde tienen ustedes los Temas 17, 13, en particular el 13.1, sobre el coeficiente de vacantes y luego los Temas 14: Situación financiera de la Organización, el 15: Cuentas comprobadas, y luego Otros asuntos constitucionales y jurídicos.

En relación al Tema 11, Informe del Director General sobre la aplicación de las decisiones adoptadas por el Consejo en su 106° período de sesiones, les subrayo que es un tema para información. Cuando el Consejo en su 106° período de sesiones adoptó por unanimidad las propuestas del señor Director General, también decidió que a través de los Comités del Programa y de Finanzas se informaría regularmente respecto de los avances alcanzados en la aplicación de dichas decisiones adoptadas por el Consejo, y en efecto, tanto el Comité del Programa como el Comité de Finanzas, estudiaron el documento de avance contenido en el CL 107/14 respecto de las decisiones adoptadas por el Consejo y las opiniones de estos Comités, según se expresaron en su reunión conjunta, aparecen en sus informes, es decir en los informes del Comité, en el documento CL 107/4.

Se pedirá posteriormente al Dr. Bommer, Presidente del Comité del Programa, y que presidió la reunión conjunta, que señale las opiniones respectivas a este Consejo.

Deseo también poner a su consideración y llamar su atención respecto de un nuevo documento, el CL 107/14-Sup.1 que actualiza la información relativa al avance alcanzado en la ejecución de las decisiones

del Consejo en su 106° período de sesiones.

Deseo llamar su atención sobre que este es un informe de avance respecto de dichas decisiones del Consejo y no es un informe de avance de la ejecución del Programa de Labores y Presupuesto de la Organización durante este bienio. Esos temas serán, como ustedes saben, examinados por el Consejo y la Conferencia el próximo año cuando recibamos el informe de ejecución correspondiente.

El Consejo podrá tomar nota de la información presentada por el Director General, que aparece, como ustedes lo han visto, desglosada en los distintos temas de políticas, programas y estructuras de la Organización, así como de la referencias correspondientes a los contactos establecidos con organizaciones de diverso carácter.

Al examinar el informe sobre los progresos es importante tener en cuenta que han transcurrido tan sólo cinco meses desde que el Consejo adoptó dichas propuestas y que el Consejo también convino en otorgarle al Sr. Director General la flexibilidad necesaria en la aplicación de esas decisiones, desde luego dentro de los límites de los recursos presupuestarios disponibles, y que el carácter de las decisiones justifica desde luego que se apliquen con gran minuciosidad y atención.

Asimismo, deseo llamar su atención al hecho de que cuando se decidió adoptar la agenda provisional para nuestros trabajos, al principio de nuestra sesión de trabajo, a petición de varios estados miembros del Consejo y tras amplias consultas con grupos regionales, se convino que aquellas delegaciones que deseen hacer referencia a los procesos preparatorios de la Cumbre Mundial de la Alimentación, que en principio tendrá lugar en 1996, podrán hacerlo bajo ese Tema 11. No pienso dividir los debates para el tratamiento de estos temas, de manera que aquellas delegaciones que deseen hacer referencia a esto lo pueden hacer en el momento de su declaración sobre el examen del avance de las decisiones del 106° período de sesiones.

Este Consejo se complace en contar con la presencia del Director General y en poderle escuchar esta mañana.

**PROGRAMME, BUDGETARY, FINANCIAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE  
MATTERS QUESTIONS CONCERNANT LE PROGRAMME, LE  
BUDGET, LES FINANCES ET L'ADMINISTRATION**

**ASUNTOS DEL PROGRAMA Y ASUNTOS PRESUPUESTARIOS,  
FINANCIEROS Y ADMINISTRATIVOS**

- 11. Director-General's Progress Report on Implementation of Decisions taken by the Council at its 106th Session**
- 11. Rapport intérimaire du Directeur général sur l'application des décisions prises par le Conseil à sa cent sixième session**
- 11. Informe del Director General sobre la aplicación de las decisiones adoptadas por el Consejo en su 106º período de sesiones**

**DIRECTOR-GENERAL:** It is my great honour and pleasure to take up the issue of the Implementation of Decisions adopted by the Council at its 106th Session, on Programmes, Structures and Policies of this Organization.

Firstly, I should like to express again my gratitude and my thanks to you for the confidence you have placed in me and for your unanimous approval of the proposals that I have put to you. This gave me the necessary psychological strength for implementing decisions that are not always easy in an Organization which is almost fifty years old and where you have the weight not only of age, but also of tradition and of practices.

In undertaking the implementation of these decisions, we had to face a number of conflicting considerations. On the one hand, we wanted to implement what was decided as quickly as possible. We wanted to do so in a planned and professional way that would lead to proper discussions and proper implementation. We therefore had to proceed carefully.

The second important consideration is that we wanted, as much as possible, to build a consensus. This Organization is an organization of 170 countries. It is of no use to run with a few and leave the majority behind. We spared no effort to explain our actions, and the reasons and the rationale behind these actions.

The documents that have been distributed to you show what we have achieved so far. Therefore, I will concentrate on the salient points.

First, the programmes.

Let me start by saying that focusing on the priorities of food security and EMPRES did not prevent this Organization from conducting its normal activities as indicated in the Programme of Work and Budget approved by the Conference. We focused, and gave more resources, to specific issues which we considered, in this day and age, and in relation to what would happen over the next decade, as issues of utmost importance. Let me repeat again that this did not stop us from continuing our normal work.

On the priority of food security, I would recall for you the rationale. Today there are 800 million people without adequate access to food. There are 192 million children below the age of five with deficiencies in their daily calorie and protein requirements. In addition, the current growth in world population will add 4 billion people to the present population by the year 2030.

Therefore, with your agreement, we have decided to focus on how to increase food production in low-income food-deficit countries. We identified those countries using mainly the World Bank's information on income, and naturally we used the statistics of FAO on which the concept of food-deficit countries is based. The combination of the two led us to 78 countries in the world of which two are not member countries of FAO. We, therefore, have 76 low-income food-deficit member countries where we will undertake programmes to boost food production.

How shall we do that? First, this programme is a composite programme involving pilot projects in the member countries aimed at ensuring that the optimum use of the technology available today is put into use under appropriate conditions, particularly water availability, and that the activities under these pilot projects

would be undertaken by the people themselves. It would not follow the classical model of projects executed by experts, scientists and research institutions from abroad. These will be projects by the farmers themselves. We will also ensure that particularly in Africa, with the lowest growth rate in agricultural and food production, we will increase the food security. We will identify the most limiting factors among which water is the most important. Let me again remind you that, today, on the African continent 70 percent of the population is in the agricultural sector, yet 94 percent of the arable land is under rain-fed conditions and, therefore, subject to drought. We, therefore, have 70 percent of the population facing the risk of food insecurity over 94 percent of the arable land. This picture is even worse when one realizes that 75 percent of the irrigated land is in five countries: Egypt, Sudan, Morocco, Madagascar and South Africa.

We must, therefore, make an effort to increase the present 10 million hectares of irrigated land to 20 million hectares in the first phase, using small-scale irrigation, and I hope to 30 million hectares thereafter.

Precisely what do we do? Inside FAO we had to first agree on these principles and ensure a corporate approach to this programme involving all the departments. This involved many discussions, consultations, and so on, to arrive at a common policy and strategy. Secondly, we had to ensure that each part of the Organization played its role. As you know, we have approved the creation of a new division that would advise member countries on policy issues. It is this Division that would provide the programme with the necessary conceptual and programming framework, which is essential for increased productivity and production. Such advice should also bear on the budget of the countries concerned and their investment in agriculture.

Another important consideration was for us to ensure participation not only of our partners in the UN system and Bretton Wood institutions but also the bilaterals. The FAO budget for the programme is around US\$3 million. Naturally, it is not with US\$3 million that FAO can deal with an issue as important and complex as agricultural production when we take into account that the total external assistance to the agriculture sector is around US\$10 billion a year.

Consequently, we therefore started negotiations with UNDP and reached an agreement for a joint approach to food security which was signed in the presence of the Secretary-General of the United Nations in New York. The document will be distributed.

We also held discussions with the World Bank and agreed to jointly undertake this programme in countries, low-income food-deficit countries, where the Bank has a focus on food security within the group of the 76. Several meetings have been held with the UNDP and with the World Bank as a result of which we now have a joint mission in the field to discuss with governments the conditions under which we will (i) agree on the objectives and the philosophies of the projects; (ii) agree on where those projects would be undertaken and the partners for their implementation.

I must say that this programme is moving very well. We have had other contacts with donors, particularly Italy, USAID, Japan; there are ongoing discussions also with IFAD naturally and other institutions that are interested in food security, including the Islamic Development Bank and other regional banks in Latin America and Asia.

The second priority programme is the project of EMPRES, on preventive action against international pests and disease. Presently the affected countries and the international community wait until a serious outbreak occurs before putting up the necessary mechanisms to deal with the problem. We believe there is need to adapt this strategy and focus on two main areas.

One is locusts. As the area of the Red Sea and the Arabian peninsular would be our first focus, we have sent missions to eastern Africa and to the Arabian peninsular. In these areas, we have had discussions with the institutions involved in the control of locusts and reached agreements on the conditions and operational modalities necessary to pre-position the required essential personnel and equipment to ensure rapid reaction capability on the outbreak of locusts emergencies. Later on we will move to the other regions in North and West Africa and to Asia, particularly India and Pakistan.

In the long term, the locust programme would aim at using less pesticides and more use of biological control instead. We are setting up a network of research institutions, specializing in the biological control of locusts, to participate in the programme.

Regarding rinderpest we are undertaking activities in the field. The first mission went to Rwanda and Uganda where there is an outbreak. We have had discussions with reference laboratories in the UK and we are also setting up a network for the use of modern methods of control. As you can see we have started action and we are continuing negotiations on the long-term aspects of those two programmes. I should mention here the importance of our joint division in Vienna with IAEA in the conduct of these programmes.

I will now turn to the important question of restructuring. You have agreed to set up a new Department of Sustainable Development to respond to the decisions of the Earth Summit and the role of the FAO in the implementation of Agenda 21. You have also agreed to transform the Development Department into a Department of Technical Cooperation for the delivery of technical assistance to our member countries.

You decided to give more importance to women in agriculture, through the creation of a new division and the establishment of a unit to ensure coordination between normative and field programme operational functions.

We have set the implementation in motion, in four phases. The first phase was the definition of the overall structure of departments, divisions, and units. The second phase dealt with determining the optimum mix of expertise. The third phase addressed the dynamics of the structure, i.e. the interrelationships between divisions, services and units of the Organization. That phase led to intensive internal consultations, in particular, in order to obtain the views of the staff.

We are at phase four, the last phase, in which we will be dealing with budget and human resources, considering the posts that will change and the posts that will remain but would move. We are ensuring a clear indication of the mechanisms and the modalities we will use to modify the budget as approved by the Conference to a budget, consistent with the new structure as we move from the old to the new.

We had also to look at new job descriptions for the new posts and amend those for posts where the job content has changed. We had to rewrite the mission statements of all the divisions and units affected by the changes. All these documents have been given to all the departments and divisions as well as to all the staff associations of the Organization: field staff, general service and professionals as the basis for the necessary consultations. This process is almost completed, and I hope that I will start most of the decisions by the end of December.

There is one aspect of the restructuring which concerns decentralization and involves the reinforcement of the regional offices, the creation of sub-regional offices and the setting up of the core of national professional offices in the FAORs. That process of negotiation with the different sub-regions on the location of the sub-regional offices has started. We have achieved a result on two sub-regions, arriving at a consensus, and we are still working towards a consensus in three other regions. We are planning for implementation to begin in January, and the setting up of all the sub-regional offices by June. We have initiated negotiations with the host countries identified for the sub-regional offices, and have also approached our regional offices to ensure that the governments hosting regional offices provide the additional facilities which will be necessary for the reinforcement of those offices. We organized meetings with all the heads of the regional economic commissions of the UN to discuss the redeployment of the staff of the joint division in order to arrive at an agreement which will allow us to continue our collaboration, even though the staff would be elsewhere within the restructuring. I wish to say that in the case of Europe, following these discussions we would continue to maintain a team in Geneva to deal with the Commission on Timber.

We have also initiated several activities aiming at reinforcing our cooperation with bilateral and multilateral institutions. As you have the documentation on all the activities undertaken in the different regions, I will not go into the details. I can, however, say that in general not only did we reinforce our cooperation, we increased, in most cases, our cooperation on project preparation of feasibility studies for investment, by 15 percent, 25 percent, and 50 percent, and opened new areas of cooperation with financing institutions. We realize that if we make all these studies and there is little investment in agriculture as a result of the implementation of these studies, our work would be a futile exercise.

We are also advancing very well in the cooperation among developing countries. Twenty-six countries have so far signed the agreement. We are progressing on cooperation among countries in transition, although this is taking a little more time. We are initiating the signature of the first agreement on cooperation with universities and research institutions of member countries.

Although the legal aspects of the programme on cooperation with retired experts took some time, there again I am happy to observe that a number of associations of retired experts have shown interest in cooperating with us.

At their meeting in April in Paris we will be there to work with the retired FAO experts and of the UN system as a whole.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen, I might have been long, but I have an obligation to give you a full picture of the things that we are working on. We want to do them effectively and efficiently, as we must be very careful in changing an old but internationally well respected organization which is our beloved Food and Agriculture Organization FAO.

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Sr. Director General estoy seguro de recoger el sentir de este Consejo al expresar la satisfacción por las palabras tan sentidas y el informe tan detallado con el cual ha actualizado usted la información relativa al estado de avance de las propuestas acogidas por el pasado Consejo en materia de políticas de programas de la Organización. Estoy igualmente seguro de que este informe que nos ha proporcionado usted, Sr. Director General, guiará nuestros trabajos, iluminará a las delegaciones respecto de la situación presente y las expectativas futuras en la decisión de todos estos aspectos.

Me permito ahora, Sr. Director General, pasar la palabra al Dr. Shah y posteriormente al Sr. Mehboob para que hagan la presentación de los documentos respectivos.

**V.J. SHAH (Deputy Director-General) (Office of Programme, Budget and Evaluation):** The Director-General having introduced this item and yourself having referred to the documents before the Council, there is not very much I need to add with regard to the documentation. You had also indicated that you will be inviting the Chairman of the Programme Committee to present the views of the joint meeting of the Programme and Finance Committees on this matter, and therefore I will not refer to that aspect either. However, at this stage I am very grateful to have the occasion to provide you and the Council with some additional information with particular regard to the consultation with organizational units and the staff of these units that the Director-General has referred to. This is not a new matter. This is a consistent policy that the Director-General has pursued ever since he initiated this exercise of restructuring, in his review of the programmes, policies and structures of the organization. In the document that he submitted to the Council at your 106th Session, document CL 106/2, we had indicated precisely the manner in which consultations were held with the staff of the organization before he took his decisions on the proposals he submitted to you. This included the phases 1 to 3 that the Director-General referred to a little while ago.

Let me now provide more information on the consultations that have taken place in regard to phase 4 of the exercise. Phase 4 of the exercise has involved - and this is just to give you an idea of the volume of documentation involved - circulating to the organizational units a memorandum from the Director-General inviting each department, division, regional office, to do four things. Firstly, to examine the functional statements of each unit. Secondly, to examine the distribution of professional posts in each unit, both at Headquarters as well as in the regional and sub-regional offices. Thirdly, to formulate the job descriptions of posts with new functions. And fourthly, to formulate job descriptions for posts with amended functions. This exercise also involved at each stage, at each of these four stages, a very clear invitation to all the programme managers to have systematic consultations with the staff of their units at the departmental level, with division directors, at the divisional level, with service chiefs, and at the service level with the professional staff of that service. While I am sure the Director-General has every confidence and faith in the willingness of his colleagues to support him in the manner he expects and requested them to do, particular care was taken also to ensure that these consultations held at the various levels were systematically recorded in summary notes of those meetings so that all views expressed were carefully noted, all suggestions were recorded, and then those suggestions were then passed on at each successive level, finally ending with the office of the Director-General and my own office. These suggestions, then, involved essentially two exercises. In the case of functional statements and in the case of job descriptions, they involved a settling of whatever inconsistencies that were flagged or drawn to our attention.

At the level of the structures themselves and the distribution of posts, this has involved us - and me personally - in looking at every suggestion that was made so that I could report to the Director-General a recommended

position, whether that suggestion was worth accepting or whether it may have merit but would have other difficulties or, where it was not worth accepting, with the reasons for not accepting.

This, I believe, will help to give evidence to the Council of the care which the Director-General takes in the consultative process. It is not lip service to consultation, it is a very meaningful and substantive consultation with those involved because, as he has repeatedly said, change - and particularly qualitative change - can only be effectively brought about with the full involvement of the persons involved, whether their wishes can be agreed with or, where their suggestions cannot be agreed with, at least with deliberation in their consideration and a reasoned response.

I have not gone into more detail about the similar exercise which has been carried out at the decentralized level because the nature of the exercise has been the same.

I thank you very much, Mr Chairman, for giving me this opportunity. As you have suggested, perhaps Mr Mehboob may now wish to indicate to the Council the manner in which these consultations have been pursued with the staff representative bodies.

**K. MEHBOOB (Assistant Director-General, Administration and Finance Department):** I should like to supplement the information which my colleague Mr Shah has provided on staff consultations. We in the Organization have an established channel for staff consultations. There is a Senior Staff Relations Officer based in the office of the ADG Administration and Finance who is dealing full-time with staff relations matters. In addition, on certain policy issues the Director-General himself has devoted time to meeting with staff representatives to hold discussions and consultations with them.

We have had frequent contacts with the staff bodies through both meetings and correspondence. We do give consideration to the representations they make. These may result in the provision of clarifications, explanations, agreements in certain cases, divergence of views in other cases, but the dialogue continues.

There are, however, certain management responsibilities which the Director-General, by the Basic Texts and the Rules and Regulations of the Organization, is mandated to discharge himself, and this he does.

To give you some examples of the number and level of contacts we have had with the staff bodies, I will provide the following information. The first thing to note is that there have been many more contacts in the ten months of 1994 than in prior years. To give you some examples, in this period of ten months between January and October, the Director-General himself met with staff representatives six times. To compare this with the previous period, in the prior three years the previous Director-General met the staff representatives five times, so there is a marked difference in the contact with staff representatives at the highest level. In addition, the Director-General also invited the staff representatives to two meetings of the PPAB, the Policy, Programme and Advisory Board, whenever these meetings dealt with staff matters and staffing questions.

In addition to the contacts at the level of the Director-General, I myself met the staff representatives 13 times in these ten months as opposed to last year when the contacts were 11 times. In addition, there is a vast amount of correspondence between the staff bodies and Administration. We receive a number of letters and memoranda and issues raised are either replied to or dealt with frequently at meetings with them.

There is one matter I should like to add to Mr Shah's presentation on the staff consultations which were held in Divisions and Departments. Mr Shah has referred to the thoroughness of those consultations. However, there was a complaint by staff representatives about the type of consultations which were taking place. The Director-General looked into that complaint and agreed with their views and instructed that a special review be carried out to see whether the complaints which were registered by the staff representatives had any validity. As a result of that review, fresh consultations were ordered by the Director-General and in every Division and Department every unit held consultations with their staff and recorded the results of those consultations in minutes which were distributed to the Director-General for review.

That is a brief summary of the type of contacts we have with staff bodies and the type of consultations we have had. If there are any questions we shall be happy to answer them.

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Señores delegados, he cometido un error al no concederle la palabra, como había anunciado al principio de esta sesión, al Dr. Bommer, quien hará la presentación del informe de la reunión conjunta de los comités del Programa y de Finanzas y también la parte correspondiente del Comité del Programa sobre este tema de nuestro orden del día. Pido disculpas al Dr. Bommer por esta omisión completamente involuntaria. Espero me disculpen ustedes también. Tiene la palabra el Dr. Bommer.

**D.F.R. BOMMER (Chairman, Programme Committee):** Thank you very much, Mr Chairman, I know that I am easily overlooked. I know that you want to get on, to listen to what the members of Council have to say to you.

I am happy to give you a brief report first. You referred to the meeting we had in September with the Finance Committee and the Programme Committee to discuss the progress report which you have in document CL 107/14, and the report of our meeting is reflected in document CL 107/4. We also had the pleasure of having a full day with the Director-General discussing his first report on progress made in the implementation of the decisions of the 106th Session of the Council.

The Committees appreciated the opportunity for direct and frank discussions with the Director-General and for the progress which had been made in implementing decisions despite the short time which had passed since the last Council Session. They fully understood the preliminary character of the information provided, which will be updated by the Director-General reporting to this Council Session, as he has just done, together with the reports of Mr Shah and Mr Mehboob, and in the information you have received in Document CL 107/14-Sup.1.

The Committees welcomed the additional information which he provided on the Special Programme on food production in support of food security in low-income food-deficit countries, including the objectives, strategies and *modus operandi*. They took note of the explorations which were to be undertaken and stressed the need to seek additional funding from the donor community and financing institutions. In this regard the Committees commended the consultations to which the Director-General referred this morning which had been held with the World Bank and UNDP.

The Committees noted with satisfaction the activities noted under EMPRES for the remainder of the biennium and particularly the programming missions in relation to desert locust control and the establishment of the Secretariat of the Global Rinderpest Eradication Programme.

With regard to Headquarters' restructuring, the Committees were informed of the preparatory work which had been carried out for the reallocation of posts and for the development of staff management policies and staff consultations during this preliminary stage. They expressed concern at the difficulties encountered in attracting qualified people, particularly for senior positions in the Organization, and were informed of the steps being taken to ensure recruitment of staff from non-represented and under-represented states.

In relation to decentralization and field offices, the Committees were informed of the progress that had been made for the redeployment of FAO staff in the Joint Divisions and for the establishment of five sub-regional offices, for which they stressed the need to continue consultations with the countries concerned in order to reach satisfactory solutions on the selection of sites.

The Committees applauded the initiative of the Director-General in having organized a special audit to evaluate the field offices and encouraged follow-up actions in order to obtain maximum benefit from this exercise.

The Committees were pleased to note the new initiatives of the Director-General and the use of experts for TCDC for cooperation among countries in transition in Central and Eastern Europe and cooperation with academic research institutions in Member Nations. They noted the positive responses which had so far been received from governments and looked forward to receiving updated reports at their future sessions. They also looked forward to the finalization of proposals on the use of retired experts and the participation of young professionals from developing countries. Recalling the long-term dimension of the processes approved by the Council in its 106th Session and the sensitivity of many aspects involved, the Committees nevertheless



stressed the need to keep the transition costs to a minimum in order not to lose momentum in priority activities of the Organization's programmes.

That is, in essence, the result of our discussions.

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Le pido de nuevo disculpas por mi omisión. Le digo también que su personalidad es muy visible y por todos conocida. No fue esa la razón por la cual yo le había olvidado. Le agradezco en nombre del Consejo el informe que ha proporcionado como Presidente del Comité del Programa, porque presidió usted la reunión conjunta. Los distinguidos delegados han mantenido múltiples informes muy completos, muy abundantes, muy detallados, que seguramente enriquecerán en conjunto nuestros debates.

Me voy a permitir leer la lista de oradores. Estoy seguro de que todos tendrán tiempo suficiente para hacer su declaración de manera completa.

**Raphael RABE (Madagascar):** Ma délégation est reconnaissante au Directeur général de nous avoir présenté de vive voix ce point très important de notre ordre du jour qui fait l'objet des documents CL 107/14 et CL 107/14-Sup. 1. Les éléments d'information qui nous ont été fournis par M. Bommer, Président du Comité du Programme, M. Shah et M. Mehboob, sont également très utiles et nous leur en sommes reconnaissants.

En vérité, notre délégation, comme vous vous en souviendrez, lors de l'examen des points précédents de l'ordre du jour a déjà fait part de sa grande satisfaction sur la suite, très concrète et pragmatique, donnée par le Directeur général aux décisions prises par le Conseil à sa 106ème session. Nous avons apprécié surtout les décisions prises à l'endroit du Programme spécial de sécurité alimentaire cinq mois seulement après la décision du Conseil, et nous avons mis en exergue les démarches très importantes qui ont été faites auprès des institutions du Système des Nations Unies, mais aussi et surtout auprès de diverses organisations, de banques, dont l'apport pour la réalisation de ce programme est primordial. Nous avons encouragé le Directeur général dans cette voie très positive, et bien entendu nous avons indiqué notre soutien sans réserve et permanent.

Dans la déclaration qui a été faite tout récemment par le Directeur général et par ses collaborateurs, nous apprécions grandement la procédure, la méthodologie et la façon de faire, notamment les consultations faites avec tous les responsables des départements, des divisions. Nous pensons que c'est vraiment la meilleure façon de procéder, et d'ailleurs nous nous étonnons un peu de voir autour de ces débats les mouvements qui ont eu lieu. Nous sommes reconnaissants d'avoir obtenu les explications concernant cet aspect de la question, parce que nous sommes sûrs que des consultations ont eu lieu, des rencontres. Des éléments précis nous ont été communiqués.

Nous attirons l'attention de cette auguste assemblée sur la partie du Rapport du Conseil CL 102 concernant la rémunération et les conditions d'emploi du personnel. Voici le texte:

"Le Conseil,

"demande instamment aux gouvernements de tous les Etats Membres de porter une attention particulière à ces préoccupations de l'Organisation";

"demande à la CFPI de poursuivre son examen de la compétitivité du régime commun, en particulier pour ce qui est des traitements des administrateurs et des fonctionnaires de rang supérieur, et de présenter d'urgence des recommandations aux fins d'examen par l'Assemblée générale en 1993, en tenant compte de toutes les caractéristiques pertinentes de la fonction publique la mieux payée, ainsi que des rémunérations offertes par d'autres employeurs internationaux";

"demande que la CFPI soit informée du souci général que toute modification apportée aux méthodes utilisées pour déterminer les traitements et pensions des agents des services généraux soit techniquement fondée et n'entraîne pas de dégradation des conditions actuelles, et de l'appui exprimé à la recommandation du CAC, visant à repousser le choix des méthodes à utiliser pour déterminer le montant soumis à retenue pour pension jusqu'à ce que soient connus les résultats de la nouvelle méthodologie recommandée pour les enquêtes sur les salaires";

"demande au Directeur général de faire part de ses vues au Secrétaire général de l'ONU, ainsi qu'au Président de la CFPI, en les priant de les porter à l'attention de la cinquième Commission de l'Assemblée générale;

"espère que des mesures concrètes seront prises de manière à éviter d'avoir à envisager d'autres mesures dans le cadre du régime commun, en vue de résoudre le problème du recrutement, de la stabilité des services et de la motivation de personnel de haute qualité".

Il est regrettable qu'il y ait encore des problèmes, mais je pense que ce Conseil doit prendre des mesures pour voir quelles sont les propositions, les décisions qu'il doit prendre pour que ce problème délicat soit résolu. Bien entendu, nous apprécions ce que le Directeur général et ses collaborateurs ont fait pour aider le personnel à résoudre ses problèmes, mais une telle situation ne peut pas être favorable à l'Organisation. Nous souhaitons qu'il soit possible d'étudier ensemble les solutions appropriées.

Si nous avons insisté sur ce point, c'est que nous apprécions grandement la méthodologie, les consultations ouvertes, permanentes, qui sont faites pour que les conditions de travail soient satisfaisantes et soient améliorées dans la mesure du possible. Des consultations ouvertes, transparentes devront toujours être la règle entre tous les protagonistes. Je ne m'attarderai pas parce qu'il suffit de consulter le verbatim pour voir les interventions de Madagascar sur ce point. Bien entendu, nous les réitérons, et nous nous réservons le droit de revenir sur cette question.

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Quizá el asunto que ha tratado usted correspondería al Tema número 12. Le recuerdo que hay una propuesta del Comité del Programa, en donde partiendo de su examen de los informes de la DCI se solicita que la DCI lleve a cabo un estudio sobre las dificultades experimentadas por la FAO en la contratación de personal calificado por no ser las condiciones de servicio competitivas. Esto, a la luz de las experiencias análogas, también registradas en el sistema de Naciones Unidas. Pero en todo caso hemos tomado nota de su preocupación.

**Ab. Ghaffar A. TAMBI (Malaysia):** The delegation of Malaysia is most grateful for this document before us on the Progress Report on decisions made, and more so for the very lucid presentation made by the Director-General himself.

My delegation notes in particular the progress of work undertaken pursuant to the Council's decision on the Director-General's proposal for Headquarters' restructuring, and given the importance of FAO's role in environment and development particularly in the case of forestry, the establishment of the new Department of Sustainable Development is indicative of the new vision of FAO as personified by our dynamic Director-General himself.

Although not much has been reported in the document on this item pertaining to FAO's implementation of several new initiatives in the area of forestry, my delegation is aware that FAO has made significant progress in fulfilling its mandate in this important area without diverting from its other major responsibilities relating to food and agriculture. We are confident that under the Director-General's open and visionary leadership FAO will undertake relevant and effective programmes, policies and strategies which recognize the need for a multi-sectoral approach which recognize the inter-linkages in the sustainable development of the several areas within FAO's mandate.

In conclusion, my delegation appreciates and welcomes the progress of FAO's measures taken recently and encourages the Director-General to continue with his commendable efforts to translate vision to concrete measures. We truly understand that the restructuring and decentralization process is not an easy exercise to undertake since it involves reallocation and reformulation of posts' description and the redeployment of FAO staff. Nevertheless, our delegation trusts and is confident that with the Director-General's professional competence and full dedication, and with the full support of his able staff, this massive task will be successfully accomplished as envisaged.

**Ricardo VELAZQUEZ HUERTA (México):** Recibimos con agrado el informe que ha rendido el Director General sobre la aplicación de las resoluciones adoptadas en el 106° Consejo de la FAO, también las expresiones del Dr. Shah y el Sr. Mehboob.

La delegación de México desea solamente reiterar su apoyo a la Dirección General. Hemos respaldado con firmeza desde el inicio sus propuestas y acompañado el proceso de su aprobación dentro de nuestro grupo regional primero, en el Consejo 106° después, y también dentro del Comité del programa del que somos parte.

Acompañamos las decisiones de la Dirección General respecto del plan, estrategia y su diseño de ejecución.

Contribuiremos con nuestro mejor esfuerzo a su realización pronta y efectiva, con la seguridad de que tendrán una aplicación universal.

Por lo que se refiere a la Cumbre sobre la Alimentación, estamos listos para participar, como lo ha ofrecido la Dirección General, en todas y cada una de las reuniones que habrá a partir de enero en Roma, que se programarán para que los estados miembros enriquezcan y construyan la agenda de la reunión, fortaleciendo además la preparación de la misma.

En cuanto al informe del 69° y 70° períodos de sesiones del Comité del Programa, no tenemos ninguna objeción para que estos se aprueben. Y aun más, invitamos a esta Asamblea para que los apruebe sin correcciones.

**M.S. NOURI-NAEENI (Iran, Islamic Republic of):** Firstly, I should like to thank the Director-General and his colleagues for their skilful presentation of the Progress Report, document CL 107/14 and its supplement, and the extra comments.

The decline of agricultural output in 1993 in most developing country regions, decelerated production growth rates in developing countries, forecast of price increase and stock and food-aid decline as a result of GATT agreements and decisions, show that the Director-General has been very farsighted in proposing the special programmes.

These facts not only provide strong evidence for reconfirmation of the proposed programmes, but show that increasing food production in support of food security at country level is the least-risky, high potential and most appropriate form of combating food insecurity.

This policy decreases the dependency of food security on others and, through the process of learning by action, creates the necessary know-how and self-reliance needed in low-income, food-deficit countries.

Keeping in mind the limitations of FAO resources, it is not possible to solve all agricultural problems of all developing countries in a short period of time. As a matter of economic fact, it is not logical to allocate the limited available resources, regardless of the law of diminishing returns, to almost unlimited existing needs. The optimum use of scarce resources dictates some kind of selectivity. This complies exactly with the Director-General's plans of action and proposals. Therefore, the economic logic paves my way to supporting him in terms of his objectives, strategies and modus operandi.

Considering the complementarity nature of both input endowments and responsibilities of FAO and other organizations reveals that initiation of a dialogue with multilateral and bilateral donors is another logical step toward increasing the efficiency of FAO's programmes and is highly welcomed and praised by my delegation.

We have been following with interest the follow-up actions of the TCDC programme. We believe that a concrete foundation for a fruitful cooperation among developing countries has been built. We hope that this opportunity, in addition to satisfying some of the professional manpower needs of these countries, would create the necessary self-reliance among them to be used for the achievement of an independent sustainable development.

An important success element in this programme is qualification criteria for admission of applicants. I hope this will receive the necessary attention.

In the previous Council we fully supported the Headquarters' restructuring and we renew our support again. Restructuring on the one hand would have a profound effect on level of costs and services of the Organization, and, on the other hand, is related to the welfare of a large number of FAO staff. The optimum solution demands managerial, financial, and of course diplomatic experts and skills.

In this respect, we would appreciate the vast and deep consultations which have taken place within FAO. We believe that any pressure which might cause a fast but sub-optimal solution definitely would not serve the interest of FAO and its Member States. If a decision has to be made between a fast sub-optimal and a delayed optimal solution, my delegation strongly supports the latter.

As far as the new sub-regional offices are concerned, selection of optimal location is of prime importance. Provision of facilities and services by the host countries is important but not critical. One should weigh this provision against other variable costs such as travel and cost of living. From a financial point of view, the location which minimizes the total present value cost to FAO in a planning period would be the most appropriate. We recommend the application of some similar simple financial criteria for the future.

The special audit exercise undertaken is an excellent initiative and it would be desirable to expand it to cover the whole Organization and be complemented by regular follow-up evaluation at proper intervals. In other words, a system of evaluation and incentive would definitely lead to increased efficiency and excellence.

Last, but not least, I greatly appreciate and praise the Director-General's new initiatives in cooperation with FAO's Member Nations. Although the cooperation among developing countries through TCDC procedures is of high importance and priority, the strengthened relationship with universities and research institutes of developed countries is also extremely valuable and beneficial to FAO's Member States.

This could have great positive effect on quality of research and education in areas related to FAO's mandate in developing countries and, at the same time, contribute to the Director-General's programme of improvement of the normative aspects of FAO's responsibilities.

My Government very strongly supports these initiatives and we are looking for a future in which these cooperations contribute greatly and constitute a considerable share of FAO's activities.

Finally, on the World Food Summit, the Director-General's briefings in the meeting of the Near East Group was quite satisfactory. My delegation fully supports this idea.

I wish full success to the Director-General and all who are assisting him towards the achievement of an improved, sustainable state of food and agriculture throughout the world.

**H.S. DILLON (Indonesia):** My delegation notes with satisfaction the care being exercised to ensure that the implementation of our decisions during the previous Council proceeds as envisaged.

We are cognizant of the intricacies involved but rest confident that, under the visionary leadership of the Director-General, the process will begin to bear fruit in the very near future.

We are happy to see that the Director-General has entered into meaningful dialogues with regional economic organizations.

Furthermore, my delegation accords great importance to the early implementation of the TCDC agreements that the Director-General has initiated.

Finally, allow me to reiterate my delegation's unwavering support of the changes being undertaken by the Director-General.

**Adel Mahmoud ABOUL-NAGA (Egypt) (Original language Arabic):** First of all, I should like to thank the Director-General for having introduced this item to us and for having brought in a new spirit, and a new life, into all this process, which gave a true life to the figures mentioned in the silent documents we have been given.

As President of the Near East Group, I would like to thank the Director-General for the measures taken so far with a view to implementing the decisions taken by the Council at its 106th Session, and especially regarding food production in order to support food security in low-income food-deficit countries. Many of these countries are found in Africa.

Regarding the agreements that have been signed with the World Bank, with the WFP and with several regional banks and donors that are willing to support this programme, apart from the signing of these agreements to consolidate food security, these agreements are an excellent channel for these financial institutions which will, therefore, be able to increase their support to agriculture and consequently apply certain remedies to all these concerns we have regarding the constant reduction of investment in the agricultural sector and in food aid for food security.

We give special thanks for the high priority given by the Director-General of FAO to an extremely difficult issue, namely the availability of water resources.

We also wish to express our appreciation for these special efforts which have been made regarding the EMPRES project, especially regarding the fight against locusts which are a tremendous problem in our region as well as in many other regions of Africa.

We fully understand the nature of the consultations and negotiations which are necessary in order to implement the different procedures for the reorganization and restructuring of FAO. We await with interest the final measures which will be taken in the following months.

Likewise, we support the measures which have been taken for the decentralization and reinforcement of regional and sub-regional offices, in order to be able to discuss and to identify the different problems in the different regions.

We also wish to offer our thanks to the Director-General for improving cooperation. Egypt has faith in this cooperation between developing countries and in this context has signed the relevant agreement. We believe that through this agreement and through FAO, Egypt will be able to put its expertise at the service of those countries who may need it.

**Jacques LAUREAU (France):** Nous étions très nombreux au mois de mai dernier, à nous féliciter de la célérité avec laquelle le Directeur général avait fait un diagnostic de la situation de l'OAA pour proposer des réformes dans les six premiers mois de son mandat.

Relativement peu de temps s'est écoulé depuis. Nous apprécions que le Directeur général nous ait présenté, à travers deux documents complétés par sa déclaration d'ouverture du Conseil, un bilan synthétique des premiers résultats des actions engagées. Nous savons que cette présentation succincte ne peut refléter toute la quantité souterraine de travail nécessaire pour aboutir à ces premiers résultats. Nous savons également que tout le processus de réforme est complexe, et qu'il soulève inévitablement des difficultés. La documentation aurait d'ailleurs pu aborder ces difficultés afin de recueillir une contribution des Etats Membres à leur analyse.

Monsieur le Président, je crois important, à ce stade, de rappeler les principes fondamentaux qui sous-tendaient les propositions de réforme auxquelles le dernier Conseil avait donné son aval et de se pencher sur la bonne adéquation des actions engagées par rapport à ces principes.

1. Le renforcement de l'OAA en tant que centre d'excellence dans ses différents domaines de compétence et la rationalisation des activités opérationnelles par le canal de mesures structurelles: grâce à ces nouvelles structures, l'organisation devrait être à même de reprendre les recrutements pour disposer effectivement des capacités d'expertise qui lui sont nécessaires et que nous lui demandons.

En particulier, nous sommes attachés à ce que l'organisation retrouve des capacités qui lui seraient reconnues en matière de conseil aux politiques agricoles et alimentaires des gouvernements. Cela est un enjeu de taille pour l'OAA dans un contexte économique mondial très évolutif.

2. La poursuite de la décentralisation: il s'agit là d'un processus plus continu qui s'inscrit nécessairement dans la durée mais qui doit aussi, pour l'ouverture de nouvelles structures décentralisées notamment, bénéficier de la coopération des Etats Membres. En même temps que nous considérons comme pertinents les critères de sélection avancés pour les bureaux sous-régionaux, nous espérons que des solutions consensuelles entre les Etats Membres concernés pourront rapidement se dégager pour leur implantation. Peut-être à la prochaine réunion du Conseil, serons-nous d'ailleurs en mesure de disposer de premières projections budgétaires relatives aux coûts engendrés par la décentralisation accrue du Secrétariat.

S'agissant des divisions mixtes entre l'OAA et les commissions régionales des Nations Unies, nous félicitons le Directeur général d'avoir abouti à un accord spécial pour la région Europe, qui permette de maintenir certaines fonctions essentielles dans le domaine forestier conformément aux souhaits exprimés par nombre d'entre nous au mois de mai dernier.

3. En ce qui concerne la recherche d'une plus grande efficacité et de modalités d'action moins coûteuses, c'est un sujet très vaste et les actions entreprises ne constituent bien évidemment qu'un point de départ, car cet objectif fondamental nécessite une évolution des moyens et des méthodes de travail.

Je voudrais attirer l'attention du Conseil sur quelques points seulement:

Le principe d'élargissement des partenariats de l'OAA avec les institutions financières internationales est essentiel et nous devons remercier le Directeur général pour ce qu'il a fait à cet égard. Les Etats Membres doivent en avoir d'ailleurs un compte rendu afin de s'assurer de l'opérationnalité des accords et envisager éventuellement de les compléter sur un plan bilatéral comme nous venons de le faire pour ce qui concerne l'accord avec la Banque mondiale. L'établissement d'accords de coopération avec la communauté scientifique dans différents pays est également important; les institutions françaises de recherche et de développement y sont favorables sous réserve qu'une approche sélective puisse être adoptée par le Secrétariat pour faire pièce à la diversité de ces institutions.

- Le recours aux services d'experts retraités ne pourrait être justifié que par un souci de capitalisation de leur expérience. Nous y serions d'autant plus favorables que les économies qu'autoriseraient l'emploi de retraités pourraient simultanément permettre de financer le recrutement temporaire de jeunes experts des pays en développement qui les accompagneraient sur le terrain.

- S'agissant de la mise en place des cadres nationaux pour occuper des fonctions précédemment dévolues à du personnel international, nous demandons à ce que l'Organisation veille à la progressivité de la mise en oeuvre de cette politique pour permettre aux personnels visés de transmettre leur expérience et de préparer l'évolution de leur carrière.

- Enfin, nous sommes heureux de voir que l'Organisation attache du prix à la modernisation de ses capacités d'information et de communication, car c'est aussi son image qui en dépend. La France serait disposée à étudier avec le Secrétariat les modalités d'une collaboration tournée vers l'accès aux réseaux télématiques francophones.

4. Dernier principe fondamental: le recentrage des priorités autour de l'évolution de la notion de sécurité alimentaire mondiale

Les moyens du Programme d'intensification de la productivité dans les zones à haut potentiel ne peuvent pas permettre à l'Organisation de répondre aux problèmes de développement spécifiques qui seront identifiés par les missions exploratoires, d'autant plus que celles-ci vont se multiplier dans 76 ou 78 pays. Si d'ailleurs vous avez des réponses précises à ce sujet, je serais content de les entendre. Par ailleurs, nous jugerions opportun d'examiner l'évolution de ce programme lors du prochain Comité de la Sécurité Alimentaire.

D'autre part, nous serons heureux d'être à Rome, le 9 décembre prochain, pour contribuer à approfondir le contenu du programme EMPRES.

Monsieur le Président, il y a six mois, la délégation française avait conclu son intervention devant le Conseil en appelant à la fois à la "prudence" et à la "célérité" dans la mise en oeuvre des réformes. Je crois que ces mots clés ont été appliqués, mais ils demeurent toujours d'actualité.

Le personnel de l'Organisation est sa première dépense budgétaire, mais aussi sa première richesse. Il importe à nos yeux que ce personnel - toutes les catégories de personnel qu'emploie l'Organisation - s'approprie pleinement le projet de réforme et soit motivé par son succès. Cela passe, bien entendu, par la transparence du processus de transformation. Cela passe aussi par moins de bureaucratie. Il faudra notamment s'attacher à simplifier les procédures administratives. Une responsabilisation mesurable de chacun est également indispensable à travers plus de délégation d'autorité. Ce serait là une étape supplémentaire dans l'évolution du Secrétariat.

**Mrs Maria GALVÖLGYI (Hungary):** The Hungarian Delegation is happy with the Director-General's Progress Report and shares the views of the Joint Session of the Programme and Finance Committees in September 1994 welcoming the progress reported despite the short time which has elapsed since the last Council session. The Hungarian Delegation had previously expressed its approval of and support for the changes the Director-General wished to make in the organizational structure of the Organization. We hope that the "human factor" was kept well in mind and that job uncertainties, inevitably being a part of such a process, will be dealt with as smoothly and efficiently as possible.

In paragraphs 31 to 34 of document CL 107/14, the special audit exercise has been mentioned. We were happy to note that the field structures of the Organization are performing well. We wonder whether the audit could be released to governments interested, either for learning purposes or to serve the transparency so often sought within the Organization.

Mr Chairman, I will turn now to the subject of the sub-regional offices. The Government of Hungary considers the establishment of a new sub-regional office for central and eastern Europe is of particular importance. In the sub-region of Central and Eastern Europe fundamental changes are under way creating special situations and problems that require special solutions to be developed within the sub-region. The Hungarian Government is ready to participate in this effort and has expressed interest in hosting the office for the sub-region. We are pleased to acknowledge the strong and continued support of many countries in our sub-region. I have been authorized to confirm once again our readiness to host the sub-regional office and to provide all technical support services for its most efficient operation.

As most of you are well aware, Budapest - the capital city of Hungary - has an excellent geographical location for the sub-region and has all the facilities to offer immediate access to adequate infrastructure, including the most advanced telecom and INTERNET connection to FAO headquarters and countries being served. There are convenient and frequent - mainly daily - flight connections with capitals and major cities in the neighbouring states, and good connections to the UN city in Vienna which hosts the FAO - IAEA Joint Division and the headquarters of many UN agencies.

Therefore, as has also been pointed out in the Letter of Interest of my Government, Hungary can meet all the "critical" as well as the "important" criteria stipulated by the Council as listed in paragraph 29 of the Director-General's Progress Report. However, we understand that more time is needed to obtain a uniform view on the right location. Hence, we are open for further consultations on this matter.

**Dixon NILAWEERA (Sri Lanka):** The Sri Lanka Delegation joins other distinguished delegates in thanking the Director-General for the efforts made to implement the proposals relating to the review of the programmes, structures and policies which was endorsed by the Council at its June Session. We note that the period is insufficient to report on any substantial progress. In the correct way, the Director-General has set about implementing some decisions which are indeed very sensitive.

My delegation would like to touch on a few areas of importance, firstly on special programmes, on food production in support of food security and LIFDCs. We fully agree that action shall be at country level. In fact, the focus seems to be on country-level pilot projects in a limited number of areas. We also note with

appreciation the efforts taken by the Director-General to solicit the support of other international donors to have collaboration programmes.

Mr Chairman, my delegation would like to point out that there are several ongoing programmes which were initiated several years ago for the achievement of identical objectives covering practically all aspects of food production. Since the Director-General proposes some exploratory missions to work out the *modus operandi* of these projects, my delegation would wish to state that such missions should examine the programmes already implemented and also those that are under way and critically examine their success or failure and evaluate the impact of these programmes so that there will be no duplication of efforts or repetitions of activities which could conveniently be avoided. There are lessons to be learned and situations to be understood from country experiences.

Secondly, as regards headquarters restructuring, we are happy to note that the Director-General is surging forward through consultative process in accordance with the mandate given by the Council. The establishment of the new departments and units seem to be proceeding as planned and we would like to hear more about the performance of these units, particularly the Department of Sustainable Development in the course of time.

My delegation wishes to draw the attention of the Director-General to the urgency of completing the restructuring process as early as possible. Special reference should be made to the strengthening of the capacities of the regional offices. In developing the capacities of these regional offices, efforts should be taken to identify the most important and critical areas of development of the particular region. My delegation would like to emphasize that agrarian reform, rural development, people participation, women in development, a participatory approach to sustainable development and WCARRD follow-up are extremely important to my country. Therefore, we would suggest that special efforts be taken to strengthen the regional office in Bangkok so that the good work done by the regional office could be continued.

In conclusion, I wish to emphasize one important factor. The strength of the FAO depends principally on the quality of staff. This aspect should be kept constantly in focus and should not be sacrificed under any circumstances. My delegation fully supports the Director-General in his efforts.

**Salah HAMDY (Tunisie) (Langue originale arabe):** J'ai suivi avec une grande attention la déclaration faite par le Directeur général et celles des membres du Secrétariat. J'ai également suivi avec une grande attention ce qui a été dit par le Président du Comité du Programme au sujet des progrès réalisés et des mesures qui sont prises, à l'heure actuelle, en application des décisions du Conseil dans le cadre du programme du Directeur général en vue d'introduire des réformes visant à renforcer l'Organisation afin que ces programmes soient plus efficaces et afin de rationaliser les interventions de la FAO pour servir au mieux les Etats Membres.

J'aimerais dire que l'approche adoptée par le Directeur général a été très efficace. C'est là une question importante et délicate; il faudra en traiter prudemment parce qu'elle a des répercussions sur la structure de l'Organisation ainsi que sur le personnel dans les différents départements et divisions. Je pense que les efforts réalisés par le Directeur général et son personnel jusqu'à présent pour ce qui est des consultations entreprises, en de nombreuses occasions, avec les différents départements et unités ainsi que les représentants du personnel sont la meilleure garantie de succès de ce programme. Je pense aussi que cela facilitera la décentralisation et l'accroissement des activités de terrain de la FAO.

Par ailleurs, je voudrais indiquer que la délégation de la Tunisie appuie le programme spécial tendant à améliorer la production alimentaire à l'appui de la sécurité alimentaire dans les pays à déficit vivrier. Nous appuyons également l'EMPRES avec ses différents éléments et tout particulièrement la lutte contre les acridiens, contre les maladies et contre les ravageurs. Nous appuyons tous ces programmes et projets parce que nous sommes convaincus que la FAO peut faire davantage. Mais en même temps, il faudra mobiliser des ressources supplémentaires pour profiter de la coopération que nous pouvons obtenir d'autres institutions, surtout dans le secteur de l'aménagement des ressources hydriques parce que l'eau peut accroître la productivité et, en fin de compte, peut même nous permettre d'arriver à la sécurité alimentaire.

Je pense que les consultations qui se tiennent à l'heure actuelle entraîneront une coopération accrue avec les autres institutions du système des Nations Unies, comme le PNUD, avec la Banque mondiale et avec les pays



donateurs ainsi que les institutions financières internationales. C'est là une indication claire et positive qui garantira une meilleure application de ces programmes dans le cadre d'un partenariat entre les différentes organisations, les pays donateurs et les pays concernés, etc.

**Jürgen OESTREICH (Germany):** On behalf of the European Community, Austria, Finland, Norway and Sweden, I wish to make under this item a few remarks concerning the Director-General's proposal of a World Food Summit (although this proposal was not explicitly mentioned in his progress report we have just heard with great interest). But I will come back to your introduction this morning when we touch on this Item under point 11.

From our point of view the Director-General's proposal of holding a World Food Summit is an important one. Therefore, it is our considered opinion that such a World Food Summit should be a success; i.e., serving visibly and effectively our common cause to increase world food security.

In order to guarantee this success three major aspects seem to be most important:

First, a good and timely preparation in substance with due and also joint participation of all Member States of our Organization;

second, the right timing for such a summit;

and third - so to speak as a consequence of the first two aspects I just mentioned - participation of political leaders who are expected to pronounce themselves on an assessment of the state of global food security, the prospectives for the future and on a plan of action for the international and national level.

We agree with the Director-General that the preparation should not be subject to bureaucratic delay and that costs should be kept to a minimum. We also agree that such preparation should be a participatory process involving broad-based consultations with all actors involved, individually but also jointly.

However, we have noted with some concern the information contained in document G/X/CC-709 on the preparation of a World Food Summit which was distributed to us at the end of October 1994 that, I quote, "plans for the consultative process are still evolving". In these circumstances careful consideration needs to be given to the optimal timing for a Summit. In any case, we consider it most important that Member States should be able to start considering the draft documents for the Summit in the near future, especially the Secretariat draft policy document for Summit consideration and the Secretariat draft of a plan of action. In our view, that should be done well ahead of the June Council in 1995, bearing in mind that ministers at the Quebec meeting, shortly after the July and August summer break, will have to give their views on these documents.

**Thomas A. FORBORD (United States of America):** The United States welcomes the further information we have received this morning on both the restructuring and the reorienting of FAO staff and activities. We supported the Director-General's initiative in the extraordinary session of the Council and continue to do so, but some concerns remain. These include the slow recruitment of key staff, the separation of normative and operational programmes and the need for developing a results-based approach for the next biennium budget. We appreciate the problems facing the Director-General and the very real resource constraints that have impeded more rapid progress, but we hope to see an acceleration of the restructuring process in the next few months. The split between normative and operational programmes has some rationale, and we are prepared to wait for results. To overcome the probable tendency of too static units to develop, with little or no interaction, FAO management will need to emphasize multidisciplinary approaches to programme and project design to maximize the potential of this new structure. In this connection we were pleased to learn this morning that the Director-General has set up a new unit to ensure coordination.

We applaud the Director-General's initiative on strengthening the FAO global communication network and

agree that this is an urgently needed investment. The further information provided in document

CL 107/14-Sup.1 is also encouraging, particularly the information on the new financing partnerships

established by the Investment Centre. We also believe the efforts to strengthen collaboration with other UN system agencies will strengthen FAO's performance in the future.

Turning to the Director-General's special programme on increased food production for food security and his initiative on the World Food Summit, the United States would like to note that production is only one of many factors in developing sustainable food security strategies. The rise of food production in Asia and Latin America has been a direct consequence of better overall government economic policies and an effort to put production decisions in the hands of farmers. Establishing free markets that promote real incentives has been a critical factor in this dynamic change.

The report on the state of food and agriculture illustrates that public investment in agriculture, including official development assistance, continues to decline, but given the rate of global capital formation we need to better understand how private investment, both foreign and domestic, can improve the productivity of the agricultural sector. We believe FAO might usefully collaborate with UNCTAD in determining how private investment is already impacting on the agricultural sector.

Beyond macropolicies, governments can help with reducing post-harvest losses, developing in-country distribution systems and assisting communities in sustainable land and water management. At the recent FAO Regional Conference for Africa, we were told that 50% of African food production is lost after it is harvested. Several African Agricultural Ministers identified this post-harvest loss as their countries' major agricultural problem. FAO's policy advice role in these instances demands attention to a multidisciplinary approach which I have highlighted earlier. We hope the special programme on food security and the Secretariat's preparations for the meetings in Quebec and Rome will bring new insights to bear on these critical areas and note our belief that participatory, small-scale approaches have the most promise. We do not want to see the failures of the past decades with large capital intensive projects repeated.

One important new approach which FAO needs to pursue is agricultural diversification. Increased production is not the only means to greater food security. The real key is higher incomes. Many non-food crops can provide higher income to farmers and thereby assure food security. Earlier this morning the Director-General mentioned the weight of age, traditions and practices of an organization which is almost 50 years old. To some extent this tradition is reflected in the FAO motto *Fiat Panis*, Let there be Food. We may want to consider for the next 50 years of our Organization an updated motto which reflects the need for agricultural income, *Fiat Panis et Fiat Argentum*.

We hope the Secretariat will keep these observations in mind when formulating its series of analytical background papers in preparation for the next Session of the Council. We hope that the draft documents can be provided to members in the very near future so that they can be properly prepared by members in preparation for the World Food Summit. We understand that Member Nations will have the opportunity to comment on plans and objectives for the World Food Summit at the June Council. We are, however, concerned that the schedule of 1995 meetings which was circulated this morning shows that only the June Council is scheduled between now and the Ministers' meetings in Quebec as an opportunity for members to consider Council preparation. The United States is concerned as to whether that will be enough involvement of member countries.

In closing, I should note that the United States has always supported the idea of a World Summit on Food Security. Our concern has been, and remains, that in order to be successful the Summit must reflect careful, detailed and timely preparation, extensive Secretariat consultation with membership and extensive consultation among Members organized together here at FAO. It will critically depend on fully developed proposals for a Plan of Action designed to actually make a difference in food security, this most critical of problems.

**Pedro MEDRANO (Chile):** Quisiéramos, en primer lugar, a nombre del Grupo Latinoamericano y del Caribe, expresar nuestro reconocimiento y satisfacción al Sr. Director General por los resultados y progresos logrados en la aplicación de las decisiones adoptadas por el Consejo en su 106° período de sesiones. En tal sentido, quisiéramos agradecer al Sr. Director General por la valiosa información que nos ha proporcionado y queremos, al mismo tiempo, felicitarle por haberse colocado al frente de esta iniciativa, que tiende a lograr una FAO más moderna y en condiciones de responder a las necesidades de los tiempos actuales. Especialmente, quisiéramos expresar nuestro reconocimiento por los progresos que se han alcanzado en la

ejecución de los programas especiales, prioritarios para la Organización, tales como el Programa especial para la producción de alimentos en apoyo de la seguridad alimentaria en los países de bajos ingresos y con déficit de alimentos, así como el Programa EMPRES.

Del mismo modo, quisiéramos señalar nuestra satisfacción por los resultados que se han logrado, a pesar del poco tiempo transcurrido, para desarrollar nuevos acuerdos de cooperación con los Estados Miembros, con el propósito de ampliar los servicios de expertos a disposición de la FAO y la forma como se están explorando nuevas modalidades menos costosas de ejecución, utilizando expertos para CTPD, para las actividades de cooperación entre países en transición de Europa central y oriental y la cooperación con instituciones de investigación de ámbito universitario de los Estados Miembros.

Esta línea de trabajo, estamos seguros de que producirá no sólo una mejor cooperación y ahorro de recursos, sino que servirá para fortalecer las relaciones políticas entre nuestros Estados Miembros.

Nuestro reconocimiento al Sr. Director General adquiere mayor relevancia si se tiene en cuenta, como señalábamos recientemente, el poco tiempo que ha transcurrido desde la adopción de estos acuerdos. Sin embargo, quisiéramos hacer presente a este Consejo que la Conferencia Regional de la FAO para América Latina y el Caribe tuvo la oportunidad de conocer los progresos alcanzados en estas materias y expresar al Director General su reconocimiento por los avances logrados, particularmente por la decisión de llevar a efecto y traducir en la práctica el establecimiento de una Oficina Subregional para la Región del Caribe.

En relación al proceso mismo de reestructuración que se lleva a cabo, quisiera simplemente recordar a este Consejo que el GRULAC presentó en su oportunidad una serie de consideraciones como contribución a las propuestas del Director General y nos complace que éstas estén siendo tomadas en cuenta en la medida que esto sea posible.

Queremos, en todo caso, reiterar la importancia que asignamos al proceso de descentralización y al fortalecimiento de las oficinas regionales, subregionales y las representaciones locales. Al respecto, quisiéramos hacer presente la importancia que asignamos al hecho de que se fortalezcan técnicamente las oficinas regionales y que esto se haga en lo posible trasladando o reasignando personal desde la sede hacia las oficinas regionales y subregionales y que, en todo caso, el proceso de establecimiento de oficinas subregionales no limite o debilite la capacidad técnica de las oficinas regionales.

En relación a la Cumbre Mundial de la alimentación que se está proyectando para 1996, queremos expresar claramente nuestro respaldo a la idea de celebrar esta cumbre. Creemos que es oportuno y necesario que la comunidad internacional, al más alto nivel representada, pueda reflexionar y plantearse políticas y programas de acción en relación a uno de los flagelos más graves que afectan a la humanidad. Por esto, queremos señalar y reiterar nuestra disposición para participar activamente en los Comités Técnicos y de Gobierno de la FAO, así como en las modalidades prácticas y efectivas que permitan asegurar el éxito de esta Cumbre.

Hemos tenido la oportunidad de intercambiar opiniones como grupo regional con el Sr. Director General, y quisiéramos reiterar en esta oportunidad nuestra mejor disposición para participar activamente en los preparativos de esta cumbre. Al mismo tiempo quisiéramos señalar nuestra mejor disponibilidad para contribuir con documentos técnicos y especialistas en las experiencias que tenemos en cada uno de nuestros países para que éstas puedan, en definitiva, ayudar al mejor éxito de este propósito.

Quisiéramos sugerir que las reuniones de los Comités Técnicos en las reuniones de los órganos de gobierno que tengan lugar el año próximo, tanto en la sede como a nivel regional, esta idea pueda ser trabajada, pueda ser enriquecida con el aporte de los Estados Miembros. Creemos, asimismo, que se deben aprovechar las instancias que permitan, tanto a nivel nacional, como regional e internacional, promover adecuadamente el desarrollo y ejecución de esta idea.

Por último quisiéramos hacer un reconocimiento a la disponibilidad que ha demostrado el Sr. Director General con el personal y funcionarios de la Organización para sostener entrevistas y reuniones y mantenerlos informados respecto de los propósitos de la reestructuración. Como grupo regional nos complace expresar nuestro reconocimiento por la disponibilidad demostrada por el Director General para reunirse con nuestro grupo, así como en nuestros países con nuestros respectivos Jefes de Estado y de Gobierno las veces que esto ha sido posible.

**LI ZHENG DONG (China) (Original language Chinese):** The Chinese delegation has taken note that the time since the previous session has been rather short and the work carried out by FAO during this period is appreciated. We want specially to mention the progress that has so far been achieved in implementing the Special Programmes. China actively supports these Special Programmes. We are pleased to see that there has been consultation with the World Bank and other international organizations and certain Special Programmes and plans have been formulated for cooperation with other organizations. As indicated in the Progress Report, without multilateral cooperation it would not be possible to implement such programmes. We hope that FAO will strengthen its cooperation with other bilateral and multilateral finance institutions. We also note that the Transboundary Animal and Plant Pests and Diseases Control programme has been implemented smoothly and we should like to express our appreciation for such a speedy implementation. We appreciate the series of measures taken by the Director-General geared towards the promotion of agricultural development in developing countries. We are willing to cooperate with other developing countries and share the experience we have, for instance in hybrid rice and sustainable agriculture.

**Aguinaldo LISBOA RAMOS (Cap-Vert):** Je voudrais féliciter le Directeur général pour son introduction exhaustive et détaillée à ce point de l'ordre du jour. Je voudrais remercier M. Shah, M. Mehboob et M. Bommer pour les informations supplémentaires qu'ils nous ont données.

La délégation du Cap-Vert a donné un appui total aux propositions du Directeur général soumises à la 106ème session du Conseil. Nous constatons avec satisfaction les efforts déployés et les démarches entreprises pour la mise en oeuvre des décisions adoptées à la réunion de mai du Conseil.

Notre attention est particulièrement attirée par ce qui concerne le Programme spécial de production alimentaire dans les pays à faibles revenus et à déficit vivrier, le système de prévention et de réponse rapide contre les ravageurs et maladies transfrontières des animaux et des plantes, la restructuration de l'Organisation et la décentralisation.

Les contacts établis avec les donateurs multilatéraux et bilatéraux, notamment la Banque mondiale, le PNUD et autres organisations financières internationales, les accords CTPD déjà signés, les consultations avec les gouvernements, sont des pas importants pour le succès du Programme spécial. Aussi, l'approche déjà évoquée par l'EMPRES nous semble la plus appropriée.

La restructuration est un exercice de rationalisation très complexe et délicat qui doit tenir compte des facteurs organisationnels et humains, et qui doit être conduite avec un souci de prudence et de solidarité. Notre délégation donne son accord total à la méthodologie, au processus consultatif et de dialogue adoptés par le Directeur général dans la mise en oeuvre de cette décision du Conseil.

Nous espérons que les bureaux sous-régionaux seront établis et deviendront fonctionnels dans les prochains mois.

Nous sommes convaincus que la décentralisation des activités administratives et techniques vers les structures de terrain et une plus importante utilisation des ressources nationales et régionales donneront à la FAO un nouvel élan dans l'accomplissement de son mandat.

Notre délégation donne son appui et son approbation au rapport du Comité du Programme et du Comité financier présenté par M. Bommer.

Un processus de réforme étant toujours très difficile, ma délégation encourage le Directeur général à poursuivre dans la voie tracée que lui et ses collaborateurs suivent avec tant de soin et d'attention. Ma délégation le félicite également pour les résultats atteints durant ces six mois écoulés.

**Akihiko UDOGUCHI (Japan):** First of all, my delegation welcomes the Progress Report presented by the Secretariat. We also welcome the Director-General's efforts to submit periodic progress reports on the implementation of the Council's decisions on FAO revised programmes and structures, and we hope that FAO

will further evolve to an efficient and effective international organization which can greatly serve the member countries and meet the needs of the international community.

At this opportunity, I would like to raise some points in relation to the Director-General's new initiative.

Firstly, we expect that FAO's Secretariat will strengthen its efforts to actively cooperate with international Funding organizations in the implementation of both food security programmes for low-income food-deficit countries and EMPRES.

Concerning the Desert Locust Programme, we appreciate the efforts of the Secretariat towards production of the paper which was presented to member countries just recently. In this connection, I would like to point out the importance of safe and effective use of pesticides in order to ensure the minimum adverse effects on both human health and the environment. We hope that human and budgetary resources will be allocated favourably to these identified priority areas in the next biennium.

Secondly, concerning the restructuring of the Headquarters: An adequate process of change will secure a smooth transition into a new structure.

Thirdly, on the decentralization process: We hope that current cooperations with Regional Commissions will be continued and strengthened through the process of redeployment of FAO staff in regional, economic and social conditions.

On the establishment of sub-regional offices, we endorse in general the selection criteria in the Secretariat document CL 107/14.

In order to achieve significant success in the decentralization process, it is essential to strengthen the capacities of regional as well as country offices. From this viewpoint, we welcome the Director-General's exercise through special audit on field structures.

We also welcome the Director-General's initiative itself on new cooperation agreements with Member Nations. However, in so doing, existing cooperation framework should be taken into account.

I would like to comment briefly on our position concerning the proposed World Food Summit. My country, Japan, has a very strong interest in world food security, from the viewpoint that development in agriculture, forestry and fisheries in many developing countries contributes to poverty eradication and economic development, and leads to food security for those developing countries. We have been making our best efforts in bilateral as well as multilateral cooperations with developing countries in the area of agriculture, forestry and fisheries development. Based on the foregoing, as well as the recognition that the importance of world food security will ever increase in the future, we consider that it is necessary for all member countries to have serious discussions on the issue of attaining world food security with the initiative of FAO.

In the last session of FAO Council the Director-General proposed the idea of a World Food Summit to be held early in 1996. In the subsequent Regional FAO Conference the FAO Secretariat developed some scope on the Summit. The Summit is to aim at raising awareness and political will at the highest level, as well as the realm of public opinion on the unacceptability of continued food insecurity and the need for global commitment and action to address the problem. It was also clarified that it was not expected to propose new organizations, structures or additional financial mechanisms, nor is it meant to be a pledging conference. Japan highly appreciates, and supports in principle, the Director-General's initiative to convene this highest political level meeting on food security, in light of the importance of food for the present international community and for its future.

I associate myself with the statements made by the distinguished delegates of Germany, representing the European Community, and the United States. Japan stresses the following points, which my country considers important for the success and fruitful outcome of the Summit meeting.

Firstly, it is critically important to ensure participation at the highest political levels responsible for food security.

Secondly, with regard to the procedure of preparation for the Summit, it would be necessary to fully discuss among Member States issues such as the Agenda, the modalities, and the timing of the meeting, in order to ensure a satisfactory outcome through adequate preparation and participation of Member States. In this context, we must initiate the preparatory process as soon as possible.

We hope that the proposed World Food Summit will lead to a truly meaningful world conference on world food security, through full preparation and the participation of all Member States from the early stages, and will become a major drive towards the establishment of world food security.

**Ms Michelle COMEAU (Canada):** Comme je vous l'avais dit lors de ma présentation au 106<sup>e</sup> Conseil de la FAO, nous sommes tous confrontés à des contrôles et à des restrictions budgétaires particulièrement sévères.

Le Gouvernement du Canada revoit présentement tous ses programmes, y compris sa participation aux institutions internationales.

Notre Conseil des ministres décidera sous peu de réductions budgétaires variant entre 25 et 40%, qui s'ajoutent aux réductions antérieures de 15%.

Il est donc très clair que nous ne pourrons continuer à appuyer que les activités qui sont essentielles à l'atteinte d'objectifs très précis et que nous serons de plus en plus exigeants face à l'utilisation efficace de nos contributions.

Nous sommes donc très encouragés par les progrès accomplis à cette date par le Directeur général, notamment le programme spécial de production alimentaire et la restructuration de la FAO. Les détails présentés ce matin par le Directeur général et ses collègues sont très utiles.

Le Canada encourage fortement les efforts de coopération avec les autres organisations puisque nous y voyons là une occasion de réduire les coûts et d'accroître l'efficacité.

Lors d'une récente réunion de l'UCA au Costa Rica, nous avons eu l'occasion de voir de remarquables progrès en matière de coopération.

Nous encourageons donc le Directeur général à poursuivre ses efforts en ce sens. Le Canada est prêt à l'appuyer dans cette voie. Nous sommes très heureux d'être un des premiers pays à parapher une entente de coopération avec les institutions de recherche.

Monsieur le Président, nous sommes conscients que la gestion du changement, notamment au sein d'un organisme aussi vaste que celui comme la FAO, ne se fait pas du jour au lendemain et qu'il nécessite un des effort constant. Nous réitérons donc notre appui au Directeur général. Nous sommes prêts à l'aider dans ses efforts, et ce de la manière qu'il jugera la plus appropriée.

Finalement nous croyons à l'importance du sommet mondial sur l'alimentation et nous aiderons le Directeur général à en faire un succès. Dans cette optique, le Canada serait heureux de pouvoir contribuer à l'élaboration d'une proposition précise et d'un plan d'action ainsi qu'à la constitution d'une équipe de travail efficace.

**Mme Béatrice DAMIBA (Burkina Faso):** Ma délégation voudrait saisir l'occasion pour réitérer au Directeur général le soutien du Burkina Faso au processus de restructuration et de redynamisation de la FAO en vigueur depuis juin 1994.

Ma délégation se félicite de l'opportunité reconnue au Conseil de prendre connaissance des progrès accomplis en si peu de temps et se déclare satisfaite de l'esprit de transparence qui sous-tend le rapport intérimaire du Directeur général. Nous approuvons pleinement la démarche basée sur les principes de consultations

permanentes entre le Secrétariat et les Etats Membres. Ce dialogue, cette communication responsabilisent tout le monde et participent de la nécessaire synergie pour notre cause commune vitale.

S'agissant du contenu du document CL 104/14-Sup. 1, ma délégation désire exprimer son appréciation générale pour les résultats globalement positifs obtenus en trois mois d'activités intenses.

Pour en venir aux domaines spécifiques du programme, je souhaiterais formuler les quelques commentaires ci-après:

- s'agissant des programmes spéciaux: le succès de ces programmes dépend largement des conditions politiques et sociales propres à chaque pays récipiendaire et surtout du degré de mobilisation des populations rurales, notamment des femmes, qui auront à charge de conduire les activités de production. La FAO devra par conséquent accorder une attention à leur formation tant en ce qui concerne l'alphabétisation de base que l'acquisition de savoir faire.

Il faudra également favoriser le développement du tissu agro-alimentaire qui devrait toujours se situer en aval de toutes les filières de production y compris les productions vivrières. Le secteur privé et surtout les ONG seront, à cet effet directement impliquées au processus, compte tenu de leur expérience dans ce domaine.

Il conviendrait également de développer le crédit et l'épargne rurale dans les espaces des projets et y accorder une attention particulière aux capacités naturelles de gestionnaires avisés que l'on reconnaît généralement aux associations féminines. Excusez-moi de revenir et d'insister sur la place des femmes, mais des expériences initiées sur ce plan par le Gouvernement du Burkina Faso, avec l'appui de partenaires bilatéraux et multilatéraux, se révèlent aujourd'hui un succès et suscitent un intérêt grandissant pour d'autres pays et de nouveaux partenaires.

Pour ce qui concerne la restructuration du siège, ma délégation se félicite de la participation du personnel au processus de définition et de réallocation des postes; à cet effet, il est important de noter que l'exercice en cours donne une place prépondérante à l'examen des modalités de consultation des associations de personnel. Ma délégation espère vivement que, tout au long du processus de restructuration, l'ensemble du personnel sera étroitement associé à la prise de décision grâce au mécanisme de consultation que le Directeur général aura mis en place.

En ce qui concerne la décentralisation, ma délégation voudrait souligner la priorité accordée au renforcement des structures régionales et nationales des représentations de la FAO. Les mesures consistant à introduire progressivement les fonctionnaires recrutés sur le plan national dans les bureaux de pays sont salutaires. La modification des articles appropriés du règlement général, qui doit permettre au Directeur général de démarrer le processus, a du reste été déjà approuvée par le Comité financier de la FAO et nous osons espérer que le Conseil n'aura pas de difficulté à entériner cette mesure.

Concernant l'exercice spécial de vérification des comptes, ma délégation voudrait saluer cette initiative dont l'utilité a été reconnue par le Directeur général lui-même. L'évaluation globale des structures de terrain est une opération indispensable pour une gestion avisée, d'autant plus attendue à cette phase importante de mise en place de nouvelles structures.

Pour terminer nous voudrions saisir l'occasion pour féliciter le personnel des structures de terrain de la FAO qui s'acquitte bien de ses multiples missions et dont le rapport de vérification interne reconnaît les mérites.

**Mme Régine DE CLERCQ (Belgique):** La Belgique souhaite remercier le Directeur général de son exposé détaillé de ce matin, en complément au document CL 107/14 et supp. concernant l'état d'avancement des programmes spéciaux de sécurité alimentaire et de lutte contre les ravageurs ainsi que de la restructuration de la FAO. Nous apprécions les efforts du Secrétariat et du Directeur général pour donner aux délégués des informations sur ce processus en cours; comme d'autres délégations qui nous ont précédées nous avons néanmoins quelques questions supplémentaires à poser.

En ce qui concerne les programmes spéciaux et précisément à propos du programme Sécurité alimentaire, cette délégation se demande si la conception du programme qui met surtout l'accent sur l'augmentation de la

production, moyennant le transfert de technologie, dans les zones à haut potentiel tient suffisamment compte des aspects socio-économiques et culturels des problèmes; en effet, il ne suffit pas d'apprendre aux fermiers comment sélectionner les meilleures semences, si on ne leur fournit pas les moyens de se procurer ces semences et, comme le disait si bien le délégué du Saint Siège avant hier, la culture, c'est-à-dire l'éducation, la prise de conscience, l'amélioration du niveau de vie, la participation des femmes, en un mot, une politique de développement global doit accompagner le développement agricole, pour que celui-ci puisse réussir.

Il serait également souhaitable que les délégués puissent prendre connaissance du cadre conceptuel dont il est question au paragraphe 6 du document CL 107/14, afin d'apprécier comment ce cadre intègre les contraintes de durabilité, plus particulièrement celles liées à l'environnement.

Pourrait-on aussi apprendre quels sont les pays qui ont accueilli des missions exploratoires? Quels seront les pays où de semblables missions auront lieu dans le proche avenir? Quels sont les critères qui ont été retenus pour les sélectionner? et quels sont les paramètres de sélection des pays qui accueilleront finalement des projets pilotes?

Enfin, cette délégation voudrait insister sur la nécessaire cohérence de ce programme spécial avec les activités menées par la division de la nutrition qui dans le sillage de la CIN doit contribuer à certains volets de la sécurité alimentaire.

En ce qui concerne EMPRES, nous nous réjouissons des progrès réalisés pour la mise en oeuvre de ce programme.

S'agissant d'un programme qui sera tributaire en partie des contributions volontaires, cette délégation souhaiterait que l'on conduise une réflexion attentive sur la gestion et le contrôle des programmes multidonateurs. La réunion prochaine du 9 décembre nous donnera certainement l'occasion de développer quelques idées à ce sujet...

En ce qui concerne la restructuration du siège, nous reconnaissons très volontiers que la question de la restructuration de la FAO relève de la responsabilité du Directeur général et nous nous garderons donc de toute ingérence à cet égard. Nous avons apprécié que le Directeur général ait complété les informations au sujet du calendrier de la mise en oeuvre de la restructuration. En effet, la période transitoire ne pourrait se prolonger trop longtemps sans affecter la bonne marche de l'Organisation.

En tant qu'Etat Membre, nous attendons de la restructuration qu'elle contribue à l'efficacité de l'Organisation, ce qui lui permettra de s'acquitter de ses responsabilités croissantes. Une structure qui contribue aux synergies et qui évite des blocages est donc nécessaire.

Enfin, et je me permets de le signaler, malgré les efforts de consultation tels que rapportés, et qui sont très poussés, le sort des agents dont le poste a été dupprimé nous inspire des préoccupations. Les procédures qui ont été mises en place pour les réaffecter dans l'Organisation pourraient être améliorées.

A propos de la décentralisation, nous nous réjouissons de la poursuite des activités de la division forestière. Quant à la localisation des bureaux sous-régionaux, nous espérons que les endroits retenus présenteront la plus grande pertinence par rapport aux besoins prioritaires des sous-régions concernées. L'idée maîtresse de la décentralisation est de rendre l'organisation plus proche de ses membres afin qu'elle apporte une assistance concrète dans la solution de leurs problèmes agricoles et alimentaires.

La Belgique qui attache une grande importance aux activités de terrain se réjouit des résultats de l'évaluation de ses structures. Il serait intéressant que nous puissions disposer des analyses conduites sur les données récoltées concernant la gestion des programmes ordinaires et de terrain. Ces analyses devraient mettre en évidence les facteurs de performance et faciliter à l'avenir la mise au point des mesures visant à optimaliser le fonctionnement des bureaux, y compris ceux que l'on se propose d'installer.

Brièvement, Monsieur le Président, cette délégation suit de près les évolutions relatives aux nouveaux accords de coopération interuniversitaire et espère pouvoir y souscrire bientôt.



Pour conclure, cette délégation voudrait réitérer son appui constructif aux réformes courageuses qui sont entreprises et aux principes directeurs qui les sous-tendent.

**Paolo Vincenzo MASSA (Italy):** Firstly, our delegation would like to express its appreciation for the presentation made by the Director-General, by Mr Shah, by Mr Mehboob, which has enriched the information contained in document CL 107/14 and its supplement.

We also want to congratulate the Director-General for his intention to submit to us periodic information on the various implementation decisions taken by the last Council.

We note from studying the document that some action has been taken in quite critical sectors such as the allocation of posts and reformulation of post descriptions.

From what we know of the alterations in the structure of Headquarters - for example with regard to the new Technical Cooperation Department which will somehow come from the Development Department which is at present the Unit -we welcome of course the separation of the normative activities from the operational and technical work related to field projects. We think this Unit would work very well, provided some attention is given to the need for an appropriate relocation of people from technical divisions, and there is no risk that the new department becomes an organization within the organization itself.

We are also very interested in the establishment of a new policy formulation division, as we hope that this new division will facilitate dialogue between FAO and donor countries which need to know which are the main agricultural issues and priorities in a given region and a specific country, in order to be able to programme activities in advance.

At the moment, we sometimes have difficulty in getting information from the various Divisions of FAO. We hope that FAO will be able to produce some country studies on the agricultural sector on a more regular basis.

With reference to the big issues of decentralization, whilst we welcome the efforts to be at field level close to the needs of member countries and, therefore, we support the general principle, we should like to point out some potential risks.

One of the potential risks is that the regional and sub-regional offices will become miniature-sized versions of the Organization and coordination with Headquarters would become difficult. We would like to know what care has been given so that this risk would not become a reality.

As far as FAO representation abroad is concerned, we do not object to the progressive use of national officers provided that, first of all, they receive adequate training, that independence from local pressure is secured and that there is still an appropriate balance between national and international officers.

Finally, I would like to come to the issue of the World Food Summit. Of course, we are very much in favour - and who could not be? - of the convocation of the World Food Summit. We are deeply honoured as we will be the host country for such an important event. We hope that the preparations for the Summit will start early, will be done in strict cooperation with all Member States, and we hope that from that Summit there will be real success which is the condition for a real step forward in food security.

**Wilberforce A. SAKIRA (Uganda):** Our delegation would like to thank the FAO Secretariat for the exposure of what has so far been done and achieved since the 106th Session of the FAO Council. We would like to thank the Director-General for the informative briefing he has given to the Council. Our delegation commends FAO for what it has so far achieved.

Mr Chairman, our delegation strongly supported the proposals related to the review of the Organization's programmes, structures and policies during the 106th Session of the Council. We strongly supported the special programmes relating to food production in support of food security in low-income food-deficit countries. I wish to single out one point. Locusts constitute one of the main problems facing Africa, the Near

East and some parts of Asia. We were pleased to hear from the Director-General this morning that a lot has already been done in soliciting financial and material support from the international community. We would like to commend him on the plans he has in mind to lay emphasis on biological control - let me repeat, biological control - because we believe that chemicals are a potential hazard to humans.

Regarding animal diseases, we would like to thank FAO for the assistance so far given to the Government of Uganda and Rwanda - as you have heard this morning - in controlling or containing rinderpest. We wish to propose, as we have done before, that foot-and-mouth disease and bovine pleuropneumonia be addressed under the EMPRES Programme in addition to rinderpest. We are doing this mainly because bovine pleuropneumonia, which is a notifiable disease, is a major hindrance in livestock production in various parts of the world.

It is our considered opinion that in addition to temperate cereals there is a need for FAO to place emphasis on traditional foodstuffs which have maintained generations in developing countries for many centuries. We have in mind the different types of millets, the sorghums, root and tuber crops and plantains. We feel that when addressing food security in developing countries this question has to be looked into because these crops have a lot of merit including being resistant to, or tolerant of, pests and diseases in their own environment and can tolerate certain environmental stress.

We would like to appeal to the international donor community to support the efforts of the Director-General since some of the programmes will depend on voluntary contributions. The Ugandan delegation strongly supports the Director-General's efforts and strategies in this regard and we wish him the best of luck.

**Ms M. McCOWAN (United Kingdom):** The United Kingdom Delegation welcomes the efforts being made by FAO at senior level to coordinate its activities with those of other Member Nations and international organizations. We stress the importance we attach to continuing this process, for example, in relation to the special programme on food. We supported this programme in principle at the 106th Council but stressed the importance of FAO providing full information as programme planning was developed, particularly in relation to selection criteria and the development of the conceptual framework. Although we understand that country missions are well under way, and we do, of course, acknowledge that there have been lots of consultations at the national level, we have yet to receive the conceptual framework documents on which the programme as a whole is based. Nor is it clear to us what the criteria are for deciding the order of priority for country selection.

The Director-General outlined this morning the sorts of things that were involved in forming discussions at national level. He referred to the identification of location, identifying partners for implementation and setting objectives. He himself put this within a philosophic framework. It is that philosophy that at the moment we feel unsighted on. We are particularly interested to see, for example, what the advantages are of the establishment of a special programme over the continuation of FAO's existing national initiatives.

The kinds of questions we would expect to see considered when deciding the criteria for selection are such as the sustainability of credit access where this is a component, the balance of advantage in selection of high or low potential agricultural areas, the focus on subsistence or cash crop production, and the extent to which urban food supply is a special focus for the programme. It is these kinds of issues that we had hoped would have been included in the Progress Report and simply not a description of process.

We opened our remarks by welcoming FAO's efforts to coordinate with Member Nations. In the desert locust component of EMPRES, we stress the importance of FAO ensuring that the capacities of specialist groups in a number of countries, including affected countries, are fully consulted and their skills utilized. By contrast we commend the closer discussion evident in the rinderpest component, for example with the EC Pan African Rinderpest Campaign.

Turning to the World Food Summit, like others we would like to comment on this Agenda Item. We fully understand the imperative under which the Director-General's commitment to focusing attention on the issue of food security is based and we recognize the value too of opportunities for substantive discussions in international fora at the highest levels. Food security, of course, involves far more than food production and this point was well made by the US Delegation. It includes such issues as trade, investment, entitlements, land

tenure, environment, and on all of these issues FAO will need actively to involve those other bilateral and multilateral organizations, governmental and non-governmental, which have considerable and dedicated responsibilities in these fields. Such consultations take time and we will need to focus on not just the substantive issues but also on the very nature of the event, including arrangements and agenda. The objective of all this is, after all, success.

We are all aware of the number of international meetings now scheduled which will place heavy demands on the times of Heads of State and Ministers, as well as the administrative support structures. A degree of scepticism about further additions to this schedule is beginning to appear and organizations proposing any additions must be very clear and realistic in setting aims and objectives if such events are to be credible. That is why we urge FAO to take prompt action in involving all the relevant partners at the planning stage.

Finally, I would like to turn to those aspects of the Progress Report dealing with decentralization. We would like to reinforce the comments we made at the 106th Council on this subject. Decentralization of staff and functions: my delegation fully supported such plans but made the point then that for decentralization to be meaningful it must involve greater delegation of budgetary control and decision-making appropriate to the level of staff being relocated. There is in our view more to decentralization than simple staff relocation. It must mean adoption of new working practices and structures. We would therefore request more information as soon as that is possible on the exact form of FAO's future operating structure.

We also look forward to evidence that FAO's essential normative functions can be maintained under the decentralization structure proposed. The welcome changes proposed for the communications infrastructure must provide for the maintenance of quality control and the supervision on technical matters.

**Ken MATTHEWS (Australia):** The main document that we have before us - CL 107/14 - is dated September. It is the same document that the joint meeting of the Programme and Finance Committees considered at that time. There was a favourable reaction in those Committees to the Director-General's efforts. Australia as a member of the Programme Committee joins in that reaction.

Two specific areas were given the highest priority following the Director-General's review. One was the special programme on food production in support of food security in low-income food-deficit countries. The other was the emergency prevention system for trans-boundary animal pests and diseases or EMPRES. Australia supports both of them. However, we repeat here, as we have done in this year's earlier Council sessions in the Programme Committee, as well as at the recent session of the Regional Conference for Asia and the Pacific, that food security should not be equated with self-sufficiency in food production. There are other important factors involved in food security and this view has been acknowledged by those bodies. It was noted that other factors contributing to food security would continue to be addressed in FAO's work programme.

As an agency of the United Nations, FAO clearly has an important role to play in assisting low-income food-deficit countries and in aiding the improvement of food security at all levels - households, national, regional and global. Food security is about giving people physical and economic access to a nutritionally adequate and reliable supply of food. It is not about the source or origin of the food. The key lies in assisting countries to make full use of their comparative economic advantage. Our ultimate goal must be household food security. It is not enough for a nation as a whole to be regarded as food secure while certain groups within it are chronically food insecure.

In the case of EMPRES, we are pleased to see that the desert locust is being targeted and we understand that detailed work plans have already been formulated for 1994 and 1995. In Australia we are fully conversant with the destructive impact of the plague locust.

In the case of animal diseases, we were pleased to learn that the second disease to be addressed involves long-term strategies for the eradication of foot-and-mouth disease. This is a problem in some parts of Southeast Asia as well as in Latin America. As a major animal producing country in the Southeast Asian Region, we have been involved in work to counter it. The report of last month's Regional Conference for Asia and the Pacific calls for FAO to give equal emphasis to Southeast Asia and Latin America in its work to eradicate

foot-and-mouth disease. Australia was one of the countries which strongly supported that call and we do so again in this Council. Australia would wish to be involved in any consultations or workshops undertaken in this area.

We congratulate the Director-General in his initiatives in implementing an overall assessment of the performance of the present field office structures of the Organization and to the reference of paragraph 32 to its perhaps being the most comprehensive internal audit undertaking ever performed in the UN system. We were particularly pleased with the advice given by the Director-General to the Programme and Finance Committees last September that this was not just a one time exercise but one which will be ongoing and carried out every two years. While on the question of offices, Australia's strong support for the location of a sub-regional office in the Pacific is well known. Our view that the choice of location is one for the developing island countries of the region has been conveyed to FAO. We would be happy to support their choice subject to some consideration having been given to the costs and logistics involved and to the requirements of FAO.

As regards the proposed World Food Summit, we note from the information paper made available recently that a series of analytical background papers, a draft policy document and a plan of action are to be prepared. We are advised that these will be made available to Members for comment in the first half of 1995. Australia would want this summit to be a success. Given the preparations involved both for FAO and for individual member countries, the earlier these documents can be provided, the better. Access to reasonable detail of the proposal is a requirement of our Government's decision-making process on this matter. I am sure that the same applies to other member countries. Of course, proposals to the Summit will ultimately require the prior consideration of all Member Governments. It is therefore desirable that governments have an early opportunity to jointly consider the documents proposed in order to develop a durable and satisfactory consensus before the Summit event.

The Australian Delegation believes that it is vital that the proposed Summit have good prospects for a positive outcome, an outcome which will justify the efforts and the costs involved, an outcome which builds constructively on the work already done and institutions already built, and an outcome which is achievable and makes real progress towards FAO's mission.

We have appreciated having received the documents today and thank you for the opportunity to comment.

**Sra. Ileana DI GIOVAN BATTISTA (Argentina):** El 106° período de sesiones del Consejo otorgó un fuerte respaldo a las prioridades definidas por el Director General y a sus propuestas sobre reestructuración de esta Organización. Al considerar la implementación de tales prioridades y reformas, la delegación argentina ratifica lo expresado por la delegación de Chile en nombre de todo el Grupo Latinoamericano y el Caribe. Sin perjuicio de ello nos parece oportuno señalar, en primer lugar, que nos complace que las medidas de reestructuración, tendientes a actualizar el perfil de la Organización a las necesidades actuales, no han interrumpido ni alterado la marcha de los programas regulares.

En segundo lugar, reconocemos el difícil imperativo de reestructurar una Organización sin modificar el nivel de presupuesto, es decir, la reasignación de recursos, sin la creación de nuevos, exige procedimientos prudentes y delicados, que el Sr. Director General está conduciendo con el debido respeto a la sensibilidad de las personas afectadas.

También reconocemos las dificultades de mantener un alto nivel profesional, el alto nivel profesional que caracteriza a la Organización, con salarios que no son competitivos con los de otros órganos del sistema de Naciones Unidas.

Felicitamos al Director General, por su objetivo de incorporar funcionarios de países no representados aún, en el staff de la Organización, y sobre todo su objetivo de dar un mayor lugar a mujeres provenientes de países en desarrollo.

Finalmente, nos complacen los pasos dados para mejorar el sistema de información de la FAO y el acceso a los bancos de datos y nos hacemos cargo de las implicaciones financieras de este proceso.

Aunque no está en el orden del día, algunas delegaciones se han referido a la iniciativa del Director General relacionada con la celebración de una Cumbre Mundial sobre la Alimentación en 1996.

La delegación argentina entiende que la celebración de esta Cumbre es parte del programa de trabajo del bienio 1996-97 y por lo tanto sería el próximo Consejo de 1995 el adecuado para tratar las cuestiones de fondo de esta Conferencia, por lo cual no se va a referir a ellas. Sin embargo quiero destacar el total apoyo que damos a esta iniciativa. Consideramos que esta iniciativa, así como la adecuada celebración del cincuentenario de la FAO en 1995, constituirán oportunidades significativas para inducir, para provocar una toma de conciencia profundizada en los altos responsables políticos mundiales, pero también en las ONG y en la opinión pública internacional sobre los desafíos económicos, sociales y políticos que suscita la persistencia de carencias inaceptables en todavía excesivamente numerosos grupos humanos.

La delegación argentina agradece al Gobierno de Canadá y a las autoridades locales de Quebec la información sobre el importante cúmulo de actividades conmemorativas que nos ha enunciado para 1995. Esto contribuirá a que este próximo año permita que los temas de la agricultura y la alimentación estén en primer plano. Por eso es natural que varias delegaciones estén ya interesadas en la preparación de la Cumbre de 1996. En ese sentido, supongo que el Director General habrá recogido este interés y esta ansiedad por participar en sus consultas recientes.

Habida cuenta de las limitaciones presupuestarias y de ese interés ya expresado, la delegación argentina se permite solicitar al Director General, en primer lugar, que la documentación que la Secretaría prepare para esta Cumbre Mundial sea elaborada y distribuida con una especial antelación, antelación suficiente para el adecuado análisis en las capitales, pero también para permitir el intercambio de opiniones entre los representantes de países.

En segundo lugar, que el Sr. Director General mantenga sus prácticas de reunir a los grupos regionales en Roma para mantener una continuidad en la preparación de esta Cumbre entre la Secretaría y los gobiernos a través de sus representantes y que se estimulen y faciliten esas reuniones a través de la distribución oportuna de la documentación.

**Per Harald GRUE (Norway):** I have the honour of making this statement on behalf of the Nordic countries, Denmark, Finland, Sweden and Norway.

A relatively short period of time has passed since the 106th session of the Council. Therefore, rather than commenting on the details of the presented progress report, we would like to make a few more general comments on some issues of the Director-General's progress report, namely on the special programme for food production in support of food security in low-income food-deficit countries, on EMPRES and on the organizational changes in FAO.

We are very pleased with the decision to give special attention to food security in the poorest developing countries, and have taken due note of the action taken to follow up on the decisions from June this year.

We feel that FAO, as a lead agency within the agricultural field, has a special responsibility to secure that the principles laid down in Agenda 21 are observed in the new programme for food security in low-income food-deficit countries. To this end the new Department of Sustainable Development, when established and operative, will have an important role to play.

With regard to the Emergency Prevention System, we welcome this priority. We would like to underline the importance of a long-term approach in the combatting of animal diseases and plant pests. Giving priority to prevention rather than to cure is a sound principle. In this context we support the initiative to review the desert locust programme in order to form policies and guidelines for the future control and combat of desert locusts.

At the 106th Council meeting earlier this year, the Nordic countries expressed our support to the Director-General's proposals related to his review of the organization's programmes, structures and policies. We specifically appreciated the Director-General's recognition of the need to sharpen the priorities. The

organization needs to have clear and consistent priorities and to concentrate its resources in a limited number of fields.

Restructuring the organization, with the aim of achieving greater efficiency, is a top priority for the Nordic countries, as stated on many previous occasions. We know very well that the approved restructuring is a major operation and that the challenges confronting the Director-General are complex. We are, nevertheless, starting to get somewhat concerned regarding the actual pace of the implementation of the changes. Expectations for FAO are high. Therefore, reshaping of the organization and embarking on the execution of important assignments are crucial to rebuilding the confidence in the organization. This was clearly expressed during the discussion on item 6.2 on forestry.

The management decisions involved in the restructuring process are, of course, the prerogative of the Director-General. But the process itself involves Member Nations as well as staff. Transparency in the process, and a high level of information on the progress is therefore of utmost importance for its success.

It is the sincere hope of the Nordic countries that the Director-General will succeed with his endeavour, and we shall indeed do our utmost to cooperate constructively to this end.

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Creo que hemos llegado al final de esta séptima sesión plenaria de nuestros trabajos. Continuaremos hoy por la tarde con los siguientes oradores.

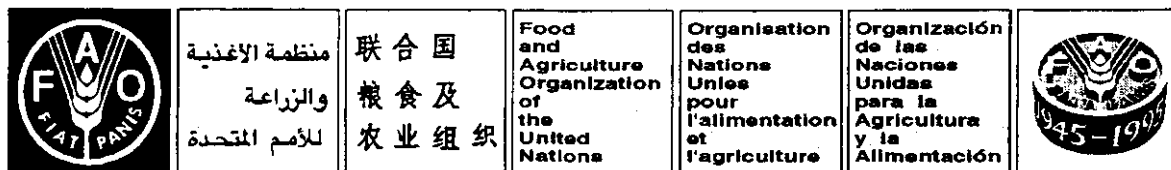
Distinguidos Miembros del Consejo levantamos esta séptima sesión plenaria. Nos vemos aquí a las 14.30 horas.

**The meeting rose at 12.45 hours.**

**La séance est levée à 12 h 45.**

**Se levanta la sesión a las 12.45 horas.**

18 November 1994



COUNCIL

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Hundred and Seventh Session • Cent septième session • 107º período de sesiones

EIGHTH PLENARY MEETING  
HUITIEME SEANCE PLENIERE  
OCTAVA SESION PLENARIA

18 November 1994

The Eighth Plenary Meeting was opened at 14.30 hours  
Mr José Ramón López Portillo,  
Independent Chairman of the Council, presiding

La huitième séance plénière est ouverte à 14 h 30  
sous la présidence de M. José Ramón López Portillo,  
Président indépendant du Conseil

Se abre la octava sesión plenaria a las 14.30 horas  
bajo la presidencia del Sr. José Ramón López Portillo,  
Presidente Independiente del Consejo

**PROGRAMME, BUDGETARY, FINANCIAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS (continued)**

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

**ASUNTOS DEL PROGRAMA Y ASUNTOS PRESUPUESTARIOS, FINANCIEROS Y ADMINISTRATIVOS (continuación)**

- 11. Director-General's Progress Report on Implementation of Decisions taken by the Council at its 106th Session (continued)**
- 11. Rapport intérimaire du Directeur général sur l'application des décisions prises par le Conseil à sa cent sixième session (suite)**
- 11. Informe del Director General sobre la aplicación de las decisiones adoptadas por el Consejo en su 106º período de sesiones (continuación)**

**Jun Youl TAE (Korea, Republic of):** The delegation of the Republic of Korea is glad to see that the Director-General's proposals which were unanimously approved at the 106th Session of the Council are being implemented smoothly, particularly with regard to the Special Programme for Food Production in Support of Food Security in Low-Income Food-Deficit Countries. My delegation appreciates the fact that the Director-General has actively pursued negotiations with the World Bank to overcome the financial and operational limitations. In order to eradicate hunger and malnutrition from those countries, the Programme must be successfully carried out. In this connection my delegation welcomes the 1996 World Food Summit.

As regards the issue of FAO organizational restructuring, my delegation expresses its pleasure that the establishment of a new Department of Sustainable Development will enable FAO to cope actively with global environmental issues such as UNCED follow-up and Agenda 21.

My delegation is also glad to see FAO's efforts to enhance the strength of field projects through the policy of gradual decentralization including the establishment of sub-regional offices.

My delegation hopes that the post reallocation and reformulation can transform FAO into a more efficient international organization and that such changes will not impose any new financial burden on the member countries. FAO will need to pay continuous and close attention to the problem of redundancy and review the method and distribution of jobs and duties within the new structure.

Once again, my delegation expresses its appreciation for the Director-General's efforts. My delegation sincerely hopes that FAO's endeavours will come to successful fruition.

**K. BIWI (Tanzania):** Let me thank the Director-General for the clear introduction to the document we are discussing and allow me to make some comments on some of the main issues of the Progress Report.

On Special Programmes, Tanzania commends steps which are already being taken. We have already received the FAO Mission on Low-Income Food-Deficit Countries. We discussed with the Mission at length and they have visited many parts of our country with various ecological and climatic conditions. We are sure that the site of the pilot project and mode of operation will be finalized soon. Of special importance to Tanzania in this programme are the ways and means which will be effected in rainwater harvesting for smallholder irrigation to improve food production and food security.

On EMPRES, Tanzania this year had outbreaks of migratory pests, including red locusts. We appealed for international assistance, which was received in a timely and positive manner in financial, technical and material support. I should like to take this opportunity to commend FAO and the European Commission for extending their assistance. Furthermore, since we expect further outbreaks early next year, additional support will be required for the control of emerging locusts.

On decentralization, Tanzania looks forward to the placement of the FAO sub-regional office, which we believe will be a catalyst in enhancing FAO programmes in our countries.



Lastly, Mr Chairman, my country expresses genuine satisfaction to the Director-General of FAO for the efficiency he has demonstrated in handling crucial issues for the period he has been in office so far. We fully support his efforts.

**Alvaro GURGEL DE ALENCAR (Brazil):** At the first session of the Council, we had an opportunity to refer to some of the aspects of the Report of the Director-General which we are now going to analyse under Item 11. We are in this regard particularly happy to see that in the context of food security, the generation of employment and income is confirmed as one of the three pillars sustaining this concept of food security as now implemented by FAO. We agree fully with the Director-General on the importance of inputs for food security, in particular water.

It is important to us in this context that the cooperation between FAO and OLADE in Latin America will be stepped up for the utilization of energy in rural communities, which would allow for small-scale irrigation projects.

On the question of animal diseases, we note with satisfaction the coming Joint Technical Meeting on Foot-and-Mouth Disease involving the Pan American Health Organization. May I say that in Brazil firm measures are being taken, from mass vaccination to the outright elimination of stock affected by the disease, aiming to significantly keep the producing areas free from foot-and-mouth. We would be very willing to participate in any effort in which FAO will think our cooperation may be useful, and will contribute in any way we can to the elimination of this particular disease.

I have already referred in my earlier statement to the question of TCDC, when I dealt with it under Item 4. At this point I would only like to add that Brazil would be pleased to offer names for the roster of experts for TCDC.

I have also already referred to the very healthy attitude taken by the Director-General in promoting consultations with the member countries, as he has done recently, particularly regarding the priorities for the short, medium and long-term plans, and regarding the setting-up of the agenda for the meetings of the five main committees of FAO in the first semester of next year.

We also welcome the action being taken to modernize the infrastructure for communications with the field offices as we feel that, given the need for speedy action in many cases, this is essential for the free-flow of technological information in both directions between Headquarters and the offices.

Regarding the World Food Summit: The Distinguished Ambassador of Chile, speaking on behalf of the Latin American and Caribbean Group, has already indicated the position of our group, which is one of clear support for that initiative. We for our part stand ready to contribute to the success of the World Food Summit to the best of our ability.

We also fully associate ourselves with the Chilean representative's praise of the way in which the Director-General is carrying out the process of restructuring of the Organization.

Regarding the pace of change, we believe that the Director-General is right in proceeding cautiously. These are decisions which will influence the work of FAO in the years to come, perhaps for many years. Therefore, these decisions must be made, not hurriedly, but surely.

As regards the parallel need for a look at the inter-governmental side of FAO's structures: I recently had an opportunity to raise the issue at a luncheon which the Director-General was kind enough to give the chairmen and coordinators of regional groups, and under Item 23 of our Agenda, "Any Other Business", I expect to suggest on behalf of the Latin American and Caribbean countries the inclusion of an item on the agenda of the next Council session that would give us an opportunity to look into this matter.

**Supote DECHATES (Thailand):** My delegation sincerely appreciates the progress reports on the action taken by the Director-General since the mandate was given to him at the 106th Session of the FAO Council. The reports contained in documents CL 107/4 and Supplement 1 clearly outline what has been carried out by the Director-General. However, my delegation would like to make some comments.

With regard to special programmes, my delegation fully supports the efforts of the Director-General to broaden the FAO partnerships, especially with financing institutions. We also much welcome the initiative of the Director-General to make use of experts locally and regionally for Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries.

May I now draw your attention to the Emergency Prevention System for Transboundary Animal and Plant Pests and Diseases. I would like now to point out paragraph 18 of the document, together with the opening statements presented by the Director-General on the first day of this meeting. My delegation notes with great interest the global eradication of foot-and-mouth disease. You may recall that during the meeting of the FAO Regional Conference for Asia and the Pacific, which was held in Manila last month, the countries, including Thailand, have requested the Director-General to pay more attention to the eradication of foot-and-mouth disease in Southeast Asia. We, therefore, would like to place on record our support of the delegation of Australia in this regard. More specifically, Southeast Asian countries should be given equal attention to that given to the South American Region.

**Lucas Guillermo CASTILLO (Venezuela):** Mi delegación agradece al Director General la presentación de este informe sobre los progresos logrados en la aplicación de las medidas que permiten el cumplimiento de las decisiones adoptadas durante el 106° período de sesiones. Estamos conscientes de la dificultad y el gran trabajo que representa la preparación de informes de seguimiento en tan breve tiempo, sobre todo teniendo en cuenta que en este lapso se han llevado a cabo las diversas conferencias regionales. Por ello es mayor nuestro agradecimiento, y deseamos instar a la Secretaría para que nos continúe preparando dichos compendios que permiten llevar el seguimiento de las actividades que adelanta el Director General.

Considerando ahora específicamente el Programa Especial de Producción de Alimentos en apoyo de la seguridad alimentaria en los países de bajos ingresos y con déficit de alimentos, mi delegación se complace de las estrategias, del *modus operandi* y de los criterios adoptados para la selección de los países que deberán participar en este programa. Confiamos en que podrán ser beneficiados los 78 países clasificados aunque, en la actualidad, el programa se inicie con un número más limitado.

Apoyamos los contactos que se están entablando con donantes bilaterales y multilaterales para iniciar proyectos de campo antes de las campañas agrícolas previstas para 1995. Los acuerdos de cooperación técnica entre países en desarrollo resultarán una importante fuente de conocimientos técnicos a la hora de ejecutar el programa. Por lo que se refiere a la aplicación del sistema de prevención de emergencia de plagas y enfermedades transfronterizas de animales y plantas, nos complace la formulación de los planes detallados de trabajo para 1995, pero hacemos un llamado para que, en el futuro, el programa incluya también otras plagas y enfermedades, adecuándose a las características y necesidades específicas de los distintos países.

En cuanto a la reestructuración de la sede, agradecemos al Director General la delicadeza con la cual ha sabido dar inicio a la compleja fase de reasignación de los puestos y a la reformulación de funciones. Al respecto y aun conociendo la dificultad de esta específica labor, deseamos recordar que sería conveniente proceder con la mayor celeridad posible a la reasignación efectiva del personal para que se normalice el trabajo de la Organización.

Refiriéndome ahora a la contratación de nuevo personal, deseo recordar la importancia de tener en cuenta la distribución geográfica equitativa, particularmente en los cargos de alta dirección, donde lamentablemente la Región de América Latina y el Caribe no se encuentra adecuadamente representada.

Para concluir, acogemos favorablemente las acciones que se han emprendido para el emplazamiento de nuevas oficinas subregionales. Sin embargo, queremos recordar que ha sido posición de esta delegación auspiciar el establecimiento de una Oficina Regional para Centroamérica, pues las particularidades de sus condiciones económicas y sociales, y la necesidad de coordinar políticas que favorezcan el desarrollo del sector agrícola, así lo requieren.

**Haris ZANNETIS (Cyprus):** Like other speakers, we wish to register our appreciation for the Progress Report of the implementation of the decisions taken by the Council at its 106th Session. We understand that this Report cannot fully reflect the efforts made and action taken by the Director-General in implementing the relevant decisions of the Council, but it provides information on the major efforts.

In particular we wish to welcome the programme priorities and the emphasis on food security, which is fully justified. In this respect we note with satisfaction the recently concluded agreement with UNDP and the negotiations with the World Bank which are expected to accelerate the flow of financial assistance for agricultural development.

With regard to the new cooperative agreements, we welcome the signature of the TCDC agreement by 26 countries. We are sure that more countries will soon come forward to sign the agreement in order to facilitate the selection of experts from a much broader basis.

With reference to decentralization, we are in agreement with the efforts to strengthen the regional offices as well as the FAO country offices.

In this respect, we believe that proper arrangements for improved coordination will be taken to improve their efficiency. Furthermore, we also believe that due consideration should also be given to the possibility of allocation of the necessary executive power to regional offices.

With those remarks I wish to reiterate my delegation's support for the proposed changes and I would encourage the Director-General to proceed with their implementation as speedily as possible.

**Noah M. NKAMBULE (Swaziland):** I wish to thank the Director-General for the clear manner in which he presented the Progress Report on the Implementation of Decisions taken by Council in June this year. The speed with which he has undertaken the implementation is to be commended indeed.

The realization by the Director-General that reliance on rain-fed agriculture in sub-Saharan Africa constitutes a high level of food insecurity in that region is very much acknowledged by my delegation.

Therefore, we agree wholeheartedly with him that more emphasis has to be placed on development of irrigated agriculture in Africa.

We further welcome his initiative on the issue of pilot schemes which will be implemented by local personnel using appropriate technological innovations. We believe that this network of field demonstrations will go a long way in influencing change for the better in crop husbandry practices. This move will further demonstrate FAO's direct involvement in the pursuit of food security, particularly in low-income food-deficit countries.

In Swaziland, we believe strongly in water resource development in our overall food security strategies. We dream of a network of small-scale irrigation schemes which will engender meaningful involvement of farming communities in the farming business.

The lessons we have learned from the recent drafts have compelled us to review our agricultural development strategies in favour of irrigated agriculture.

Therefore, Swaziland wishes to register her desire to be fully involved in the pilot scheme programme as presented by the Director-General this morning.

The high level of consultation which has been demonstrated by the Director-General in the short period that he has been in office is very much appreciated by my delegation. We would like to encourage him and his staff in the Secretariat to continue with this consultation. In particular we would like the Director-General to consult at all times with member governments and his staff on matters requiring such consultation.

My delegation strongly supports FAO's envisaged plans to use young professionals and retired experts from member nations, particularly those from developing countries in the implementation of FAO's programmes, as stipulated in paragraph 1.15 of document CL 107/4.

As we have said in the past, the Swaziland delegation supports the proposed decentralization exercise, which will involve the strengthening of regional offices and the establishment of sub-regional offices in certain regions.

However, strengthening of existing offices and the establishment of new offices may not necessarily ensure delivery of services to member countries. It may be necessary for the Director-General and his Secretariat to re-educate and inform member governments about the services that we should expect from both regional and sub-regional offices.

We say this because the special audit exercise, as reported in document CL 107/14, paragraph 34, does acknowledge that some offices operate at a less than satisfactory level.

My delegation sincerely hopes that the Director-General will obtain the necessary consensus to enable him to establish all the sub-regional offices by June 1995.

**Atul SINHA (India):** India has noted with appreciation the report of the Director-General on the actions taken on the decisions of the Council. We also appreciate the clear and concise manner in which Mr Shah the Deputy Director-General has stated the position.

In fact, we fully support the efforts of the Director-General not only in restructuring and redesigning the problems of FAO, but also to prepare FAO to shoulder its responsibilities in the next century.

Therefore, it is obvious that a certain degree of restructuring in the context of budgetary restraints is necessary. In this regard, since the FAO we recognize is an old organization, a restructuring process is always somewhat painful. Nevertheless, as long as it is designed to give more efficiency to the Organization, it is welcome.

We are confident that, in view of the very long administrative experience of the Director-General, he would be in a position to strengthen FAO and make our contributions go further and further in order to further the aims of FAO in the remaining parts of this century and the next century.

We do feel that the initiatives taken by him immediately after taking office have been very welcome. In fact, we wish that they are taken up at greater speed. Five sub-regional offices may be set up as quickly as possible.

The new Technical Cooperation Department, the Department of Sustainable Development, the Office for Coordination of Normative Operational and Decentralized Activities need to be established sooner than later. We are confident that the Director-General will be able to do so at the earliest opportunity.

I would also like to bring to the notice of the Council that India is the first signatory to the agreement regarding the use of experts for TCDC. We recognize TCDC as one of the most important weapons for development of agriculture in developing countries. In fact, it could be the role model for other countries in Europe. Therefore, we feel that this programme needs to be given a great push.

While we recognize that the Director-General has taken a lot of initiative, we feel that he must now encourage countries which have not yet signed the agreement to do so, so that the programme becomes operational at the earliest opportunity, and the results are there for everybody to see.

India has already circulated Bio-data of 28 experts to FAO, and we do hope FAO will be able to channel the requests for experts by different countries so that these experts can be in position.

I should also like to draw your attention to the fact that India has turned from a country of deficits to a country which is not only self-sufficient in food, but which has also started exporting horticultural commodities and is well on its way to becoming a substantial power in the agricultural field.

As you know, we have a very vast variety of ecological zones, agro-climatic zones. We have a whole variety of soils. Therefore, our experience can be shared and can be very useful to several of our developing countries.

It is in this context that I feel that India's offer of help in TCDC can be utilized very substantially by a large number of developing countries.

You are also aware that we have long experience of cost-effective and sustainable agriculture. We have a programme of watershed development, particularly where the areas are rainfed. We have also carried out a lot of programmes on soil and water conservation, also forestry and fisheries. Therefore, we think that our experts can be utilized very substantially.

You are also aware that we have a large variety of research institutions and universities where the experts and agricultural administrators from developing countries can come and be trained. I mention this because the TCDC programme, which has been refashioned substantially under the leadership of the Director-General, needs to be given a further push. These are some of the directions in which this can be done.

I would also like to point out that we are still not very clear about the financing, the source and the quantity of the budgetary allocations which would be available for TCDC. Perhaps we may be informed about the kind of budgetary allocations which are available, so that we could plan our own resources accordingly.

With these remarks, I would once again reiterate India's wholehearted support for the steps being taken by the Director-General to refashion the Organization to make it into a fit instrument for meeting the requirements of food security.

We wish him all success in his efforts.

**Juraj SOLCANY (Slovakia):** On behalf of the delegation of the Slovak Republic, I should like to express my appreciation of the follow-up activities of FAO in order to implement the decisions taken by the 106th Session of FAO Council.

We particularly appreciate the style of cooperation and consultation used in the implementation of the above-mentioned decisions, particularly by the Office of the Director-General.

In order to strengthen the links between FAO Headquarters and the Member States, it is very important for us to know that FAO Headquarters is interested in being familiar with our opinions and needs.

We welcome the partial steps taken in order to secure employment and incomes in the agricultural sector. We see it in the character of projects, workshops, seminars and programmes, and other initiatives approved and implemented in order to enhance the presence of financial and donor institutions in our region.

Decentralization, as defined in the basic documents and implemented in the preparatory process of change, is in accordance with the sub-regional as well as national interests of countries of our sub-region. This was clearly stated in the joint statement of the Central and East European countries presented here on Tuesday.

However, we have to take into account the different level of the process of transition achieved in different countries of our sub-region. Therefore, we are calling for the establishment of a network among the responsible research and university institutions in Central and Eastern European countries. Through such an independent body, it would be possible to create an effective cooperation in our sub-region.

The TCDC proposed by the Director-General is a good basis for this kind of cooperation. Only one thing is required, and that is to be launched as soon as possible.

The former strong links between the aforementioned institutions such as universities and research institutes should be revitalized urgently in order to utilize them so that they may remain of value to mankind in the food, agriculture and forestry sectors.

We are convinced that a strong collaboration among such institutions would lead to the much-needed close cooperation within the countries of our sub-region.

**Jaime GARCIA Y BADIAS (España):** Apoyamos con beneplácito los esfuerzos de la FAO en los Programas especiales de producción de alimentos en apoyo de la seguridad alimentaria en los países de bajos ingresos y con déficit de alimentos. Igualmente el nuevo enfoque hacia las actividades relacionadas con la prevención de plagas y enfermedades y especialmente con relación a la peste bovina.

Con respecto a la lucha contra la langosta, creemos que la colaboración y consulta previa con los países afectados deben ser pasos ineludibles de la FAO para lograr la mayor eficacia en su erradicación. Estimamos acertada la creación del nuevo Departamento de desarrollo sostenible tal y como fue aprobado en el pasado Consejo, el cual esperamos que atienda con eficacia las muchas demandas que habrá de recibir de países e instituciones de todo el mundo.

En cuanto a la descentralización, apoyamos los planes en marcha, si bien nuestra delegación cree que es necesaria una información adicional de los cambios que afectan al personal y sus funciones, información que creemos puede ser beneficiosa y enriquecedora para el éxito futuro.

España ha respondido con prontitud y afirmativamente a la propuesta del Director General relativa al Acuerdo de Cooperación entre la FAO y las instituciones académicas y de investigación de nuestro país, en escrito firmado el pasado 27 de octubre por nuestro Ministro de Asuntos Exteriores. Esperamos que esta forma de colaboración lleve al logro de los altos fines que persigue.

Finalmente, en relación a la Cumbre sobre Seguridad Alimentaria, la apoyamos sin reservas, al igual que todos los países que nos han precedido, si bien estimamos que su interés exige una preparación minuciosa que hace necesario un planteamiento muy cuidado antes del comienzo de la misma.

Creemos que la seguridad alimentaria no debe reducirse al autoabastecimiento sino que debe comprender otros elementos que lo acompañen y permitan alcanzar plenamente el objetivo pretendido.

**Dieter LINK (Germany):** We appreciate the updated information on the latest developments in FAO given by the Director-General and all the efforts he has made so far for a successful take-off. It allows now a clearer picture than the documents distributed before. However, between the rough lines drawn, questions remain on how the ends finally meet.

To avoid repetition, I will not go into further details. As the Director-General indicated, this transitional process will end in the coming months. Then certainly more comprehensive information can be expected. However, at present my delegation shares the views of those who feel concerned about the delay in certain respects of the restructuring process of the Secretariat and programme implementation. This critical remark refers also to still pending decisions on senior staff positions and resulting effects on the proper functioning of the Secretariat at this crucial stage of the review process.

My delegation has always attached great importance to steps aiming at decentralization and delegation of responsibility both at Headquarters and in the field. These measures under the current review must proceed, in our view, in such a way that all FAO staff members feel reassured and motivated by this admittedly not easy process.

Regarding the increased cooperation with other agencies, organizations and governments in the various fields, we strongly endorse the new initiatives of the Director-General to mobilize in this way additional technical and financial support which is essential for the execution of the ambitious programmes and visits. It also seems important to make wider use of the available experience of respective projects carried out in the past to avoid repetition of errors and to find the most promising approach.

**F. BATURE (Nigeria):** My delegation would like to express its sincere appreciation to the Director-General for the institutional changes he has initiated since he assumed office. These reforms are in the right direction.

We have no doubt that these reforms are intended to invigorate the activities of the Organization, thus leading to effective and efficient fulfilment of the Organization's mandate.

We endorse the restructuring exercise and the priority given to programmes on food production in support of food security in low-income food-deficit countries. We also support the Director-General's initiative in establishing a programme of transboundary plant and animal pests and diseases control. Pests know no boundaries and where the menace of these pests occur considerable damage is usually done to crops and livestock, thus causing food insecurity.

We are also appreciative of the decentralization of the Organization. This will bring the activities of the Organization closer to the grass-roots where the presence of FAO is most needed.

Recruitment of national experts is in the right direction. It does not only provide the opportunity for these experts to work in areas they are more familiar with, but will also reduce the cost of executing projects in member countries.

I would like to support the statement made by the delegate of the United States of America in which he emphasized that attention be given to post-harvest food losses in Africa. We would also urge that greater attention be given to good storage infrastructures where grains are safely stored for use in the future. Harnessing of and proper water management should also be accorded priority, especially in the Africa Region.

Once more, my delegation wholeheartedly supports the changes being implemented and hopes that these changes will enable FAO to fulfil its noble mandate more efficiently and effectively.

**Ahmed MER'I (Syria) (Original language Arabic):** Mr Chairman, the Director-General's report presented during this morning's session was comprehensive and contained the measures he intends to undertake in order to modernize and restructure the FAO with particular emphasis on the following fields:

1. Decentralization and Headquarters restructuring: These measures would support the regional offices and promote their activities to the great benefit of the regions or countries concerned. The regional offices would thus have a greater and more positive impact as they would be operating with genuine and full account of the agricultural realities. The exploratory missions to be carried out in the low-income food-deficit countries would help identify the geographical sites where pilot projects could be implemented with the best agricultural output.

2. The desert locust scourge: This is one of the most serious scourges threatening food in a number of countries in the world particularly in the breeding areas from where they invade other countries thus jeopardizing their food security especially in the Red Sea area, Ethiopia, the Horn of Africa and others...

Desert locust control measures should start by nipping this scourge in the bud namely in the breeding areas thus reducing the spread of the danger to other areas. This would require the following steps:

a) The promotion of an information, communication and early warning network on the locust swarms, their number and the areas prone to invasions which would allow the full adequate preparedness of the countries concerned and therefore the containment of the scourge.

b) Creation of mobile centres with up-to-date technologies to combat this serious threat which destroys valuable foodstuffs. Such modern techniques should be used in assisting the countries invaded by locusts through the training of specialized technical cadres.

3. The Director-General made reference to the need for sanitary, preventative and remedial measures to control the infectious animal diseases, which affect livestock - the main source of human protein intake.

Reference was also made to FAO assistance in creating specialized centres for the production of veterinary vaccines for the control of animal diseases such as: rinderpest, foot-and-mouth disease, infectious abortion disease, small rodent tuberculosis.

Moreover, information campaigns should be launched in the countries concerned along with the upgrading of the working mechanisms of regional networks responsible for the control of transboundary infectious animal disease.

We do support and welcome the measures proposed by the Director-General as they would have beneficial and positive impact on the Member Nations and would also improve the efficiency of FAO's future work.

Thank you Mr Chairman.

**Juan NUIRY SANCHEZ (Cuba):** Sr. Presidente, a diferencia de la distinguida delegación de Madagascar, cuando se sorprendió de ser el primero de hacer uso de la palabra, nosotros conocíamos, y se observará, que seremos de los últimos de esta larga lista de oradores. Pero con la esperanza de que se cumpla la expresión bíblica de que los últimos serán los primeros.

Seremos breves, Sr. Presidente, pues nuestra intervención estará dirigida a reiterar la posición de Cuba expresada en el 106° período de sesiones del Consejo, de nuestro apoyo a las medidas y propuestas de reformas bajo una óptica renovadora y oportuna, de acuerdo con los nuevos tiempos, que en el Tema 11 del orden del día se define para información.

Teniendo en cuenta, además, que en otras intervenciones nuestra delegación ha sido suficientemente amplia en expresar criterios y definiciones en cuanto al papel y rol que le corresponde a la FAO, de liderazgo como principal órgano especializado dentro del sistema de las Naciones Unidas, cuestión que nos evita repetir posiciones, y que si fuera posible hacer mención a un solo aspecto, destacaríamos el de la seguridad alimentaria, aspecto que siempre contará con el más decidido apoyo de la delegación de Cuba. Además, Sr. Presidente, nuestro criterio en el desarrollo de todo este proceso, ha tenido la oportunidad de hablarlo y plantearse al Director General en constructivos intercambios.

Finalmente, Sr. Presidente, tal como expresamos en nuestra intervención en la sesión inaugural, al hacer referencia a la 23° Conferencia Regional de América Latina y el Caribe que tuvo lugar en El Salvador, subrayé, cito: "que de manera unánime, la Región ratificó su firme respaldo al Director General tanto en su plan de propuestas como en su dirección, sólidamente articulada", posición que hiciera mención también anteriormente el Presidente del GRULAC, y representante de Chile.

**MAJID-UL HAQ (Bangladesh):** My delegation would like to add its voice to the chorus of support to the commendable amount of good work accomplished as enumerated in the Director-General's progress report on the implementation of decisions taken by the Council at its 106th Session in spite of the short time that has elapsed since the Council session. We take note of the concrete steps forward that have been taken on the special programme on food production in support of food security in low-income, food-deficit countries as well as the activities planned on EMPRES with its two components of desert locusts and rinderpests. We welcome the preparatory work so far done on the difficult task of Headquarters restructuring. Some criticism has been voiced on the base of restructuring, and some nimbleness has been advocated. My delegation would incline towards the carefulness that the Director-General has shown on this very delicate and complex task of restructuring involving reallocation of posts and reformulation of post descriptions of such a large organization as FAO Headquarters. We would advise erring towards cautiousness and well thought out planning in order for the reforms to have long-term stability and permanence. We would, however, recommend that post descriptions be finalized as early as possible in order to remove uncertainties and lack of morale among the members of the staff affected. We also welcome the Director-General's initiative in bringing FAO to the doorsteps of its constituents, the farmers of the world, through decentralization, the opening of revamped field offices and the proposed establishment of five sub-regional offices. We welcome the expanded use of TCDC modalities in ensuring the transfer of technologies and experiences beyond one's borders. Bangladesh is willing to draw from its large pool of agricultural scientists to participate in the TCDC programme. Finally, my delegation once again reiterates its full support to the Director-General in his herculean endeavour to restructure, redesign and reinvent FAO to make it a noble and decent organization to face the rigors of the final years of this century and into the next century.



**Iván MARULANDA GOMEZ (Colombia):** Colombia quiere, Sr. Presidente, reiterar su beneplácito en relación con los esfuerzos que hace la FAO para apoyar los programas de producción agropecuaria de los países con déficit alimentario.

Al mismo tiempo, Sr. Presidente, queremos reiterar nuestra mejor voluntad en todo lo que concierne a la reorganización y a la reestructuración de la FAO. Somos conscientes de que la Organización necesita un reajuste estructural y funcional, puesto que la realidades mundiales han cambiado vertiginosamente, y siguen cambiando vertiginosamente, lo cual exige un reacomodamiento de la Organización a esas nuevas expectativas y a esas nuevas realidades y, al mismo tiempo, la reorganización en cuanto la exige la limitación de recursos que enfrenta la FAO. Somos conscientes, Sr. Presidente, de que ese proceso de reajuste y de reestructuración necesita tiempo.

Hemos seguido con interés y con entusiasmo las propuestas presentadas por el Director General al 106° período de sesiones del Consejo y al curso de las decisiones adoptadas por el Consejo en ese período de sesiones. Esperamos que se cristalicen cuanto antes los cambios decididos en esa oportunidad. Nos parece urgente que se clarifique el alcance de la reorganización y la reasignación de funciones, así como el encargo de responsabilidades a las distintas dependencias, lo mismo que las decisiones en materia de personal. A este punto se han referido varias delegaciones, con las cuales compartimos la preocupación que existe en esta materia.

Nos parece también urgente e importante acelerar el proceso de descentralización de la Organización. Somos conscientes de la dificultades que plantea este punto, tal como lo ha señalado el Director General; sin embargo, queremos que no se pierda de vista la importancia que tiene el que podamos acercar a los agricultores, a los empresarios, a las entidades gubernamentales y a los técnicos. Repito, que podamos hacer a todos ellos, las actividades, el trabajo y la información de la Organización y permitirles a ellos, en la medida que acerquemos la Organización al campo, permitirles participar y aportar sus conocimientos, sus ideas y, al mismo tiempo, que puedan recoger todo el bagaje de ilustración que pueda aportarles la Organización para los trabajos que ellos realizan en su vida cotidiana. Los agricultores son los que sostienen con su trabajo las necesidades alimentarias de la humanidad, y tenemos que estar muy cerca de ellos.

Quisiéramos en este punto, Sr. Presidente, anotar de manera muy breve nuestra preocupación por la forma como se ha venido desarrollando a lo largo de los últimos tiempos las reuniones regionales. Ya habíamos hablado de este tema en otras oportunidades. Nos parece que se deben revisar las agendas de esas reuniones y los sistemas de trabajo de esas reuniones o de esas conferencias regionales. Nos parece que podría hacerse un mejor aprovechamiento de esas oportunidades de encuentro, bajo la cobertura y la convocatoria de la FAO.

Finalmente, Sr. Presidente, queremos referirnos al punto de la Cumbre. Nosotros, esta delegación de Colombia, que me honro en presidir, no tiene la menor duda de las buenas intenciones que están detrás de este propósito de la Cumbre. Queremos examinar este tema con la mayor responsabilidad y la mayor atención. Nos parece que en este momento, no contamos con la suficiente información desde el punto de vista del detalle de los costos, del detalle de los alcances organizativos de la Cumbre, que nos permitan saber con absoluta certeza las posibilidades de su éxito y su verdadero alcance.

Esperamos poder formarnos una idea concreta sobre el alcance práctico de la Cumbre en el momento en que se nos presente más información a este respecto en el Consejo.

En el momento en que el proyecto de la Cumbre sea una decisión de la Organización, porque se considere que es la mejor alternativa de esfuerzos a este nivel, podrá contar la FAO con todo nuestro apoyo, todo nuestro respaldo y todo nuestro entusiasmo.

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Pregunto a los miembros del Consejo si desean hacer alguna otra intervención antes de dar la palabra a los observadores. Si no lo desean, daré la palabra a los observadores con la petición de que limiten sus intervenciones a tres minutos.

**Gebrehiwot REDAI (Observer for Ethiopia):** We are happy to thank the Director-General for the comprehensive report on the activities of the Organization. We congratulate the Secretariat for preparing excellent documents. Ethiopia supports the initiative and the measures of the Director-General. We note with satisfaction all the FAO programmes with particular emphasis on the special programme for food security in low-income, food-deficit countries. The special programme in general aims at increasing food production in high potential areas within low-income, food-deficit countries. The programme is genuine and is welcome. It will definitely contribute to food production and food availability. Nonetheless, we feel that the pilot projects must have more flexibility to be launched both in high and low potential areas for the following reasons:

First, the idea of fixing the project in the high potential area assumes that the people in deficit areas have easy access to the food. Second, it would be presumptuous to assume that people in the low potential areas have the income to purchase the food in the high potential zone. Therefore my delegation attaches special importance to the flexibility of the programme and earnestly requests FAO to explore the possibility of locating the pilot projects in comparatively better areas within the low potential zone as well.

Moreover my delegation is convinced that, unless feasible income-generating projects are to be supported in the low potential areas within a nation, food security in low-income food-deficit countries through increase in production alone will be a bit far from reality. Thus, assuming Ethiopia will be one of the simulation sites for the pilot project, we strongly underline the importance of having the programme in both areas at least simultaneously.

Last but not least, my delegation would like to point out that Ethiopia, with its more than 30 years of hosting international organizations, would like to host the Eastern and Southern African Sub-Regional Office. Thus my delegation is confident that, after appropriate and careful assessment, the Director-General will give due consideration to the issues we have underlined.

**Mrs Elena SUETT-ASKERSTAM (Observer for Estonia):** I shall be very brief. I simply wish to assure the Director-General of our continued appreciation of his initiatives and wish him every success in speedily carrying out his plans.

As regards the establishment of the Sub-Regional Office for Central and Eastern Europe, I should like to add Estonia's voice in support of what was said by the delegate of Hungary and place on record our continued support for our original candidate for the seat of this Sub-Regional Office, namely Budapest, which was the first to come forward with an offer for hosting this office. I would add that for my country, for obvious logistic reasons, if this is in the interests of a consensus, we would find Warsaw a good alternative.

**J.B. METERS (Observer for the Netherlands):** As we have indicated during the previous Council meeting, Agenda 21 of UNCED offers in our opinion a clear and comprehensive framework in which sustainable agriculture, rural development and food security can be pursued in an integrated and coherent way. The chapter of Agenda 21 dealing with sustainable agriculture states that its technical, social, economic and ecological aspects are interrelated. This should therefore guide the work of FAO. Consequently food security should also be approached in a multi-disciplinary way, integrating economic, social, cultural and ecological factors.

It is within this context that we have studied carefully the document under consideration. As a result we would be especially interested in answers to the following few questions concerning the Special Programme on food security. First, could FAO provide the Council with the conceptual framework mentioned in paragraph 6? Second, in what manner has experience of the present Food Security Division been integrated in the organizational structure and activities of this Special Programme? May I refer, for example, to the Food Security Assistance Scheme and the Aggregate Household Food Security Index. Third, to what extent will attention be paid within the framework of this programme to nutrition, which forms an essential component of food security? Proper attention to nutrition not only fits within the mandate of FAO but is also in line with the resolution adopted by the last FAO Conference concerning the ICN Plan of Action.

Finally, with regard to the Special Programme EMPRES, we would like to make the following brief observations. The previous Council meeting endorsed in principle this Special Programme. However, with regard to locust control, we invite your attention to some issues we consider essential for a successful implementation of the programme and related activities in the future, such as lessons to be learned from previous experiences, integration of the subject matter into a broader framework, the environmental impact and the role of FAO in locust control.

To conclude, I have some brief questions. Will this programme be integrated into the broader framework of rural development? Would FAO consider an evaluation of the major activities concerning locust control in the recent past like the 1986-89 and 1993-94 campaigns, related research and monitoring and forecasting beneficial to this programme? Would FAO consider a cost-benefit analysis regarding locust control useful? What would be FAO's role vis-à-vis affected countries and donors concerning coordination, policy advice and development and implementation?

Having used the term "vis-à-vis", we believe that the French Ambassador will be pleased to learn that our delegation is experienced in French, as well.

**Igor N. MARINCEK (Switzerland):** My delegation will limit its intervention to three points. First, Switzerland welcomes the renewed emphasis of FAO on food security. The Director-General has launched two important initiatives related to this. The first is the Food Summit and the other the Special Programme on food production in support to food security in low-income food-deficit countries.

Regarding the Summit, my country joins the other delegations who underlined the need for early preparation for this summit and for a participatory process allowing early membership involvement.

As regards the Special Programme, my country supports the request of the French delegation that a progress report on this Special Programme be presented to the next session of the CFS. We also think it would be most desirable that the Director-General himself should assist the CFS debate on this point.

The Director-General has reminded us that the external assistance to agriculture in developing countries has decreased from a level of US\$12 billion per year at the beginning of the 1980s to US\$10 billion a year today. We share his concern over this decrease. Do we know what is the total volume of government expenditure for agriculture globally and separately in the developing countries? Do we know how much is being invested in agriculture in developing countries each year by the private sector, both domestic and foreign? Do we know what amounts are mobilized annually by the NGOs for agriculture? I have tried to obtain answers to these questions but I have not found them, neither here at FAO nor in other sources such as the World Bank, and so on. I believe that such information should be collected and analysed in the summit preparatory process since it will allow us to have a better picture of the possibilities of all the partners involved which have direct control over the resources for agriculture. These partners are the multilateral system, the bilateral assistance, the governments, the private sector and the NGOs.

As the Director-General himself and other speakers have stressed, the success of the Special Programme for Food Security, which has some US\$3 million at its disposal, will critically depend on the participation of the other partners mentioned above. In order to allow them to join this food security initiative with their resources and to give it an ever-growing momentum, it is important that they can also bring in their experience - both the successes and the failures - to a concept of a balanced strategy. I think the delegate from Ethiopia most ably underlined the need for a balanced strategy. Belgium, Burkina Faso, the United States and others have already argued that the feasibility of such a programme is not only a technical and economic question but to a large extent depends on the institutional framework of each country. We look forward to future debates on the evaluation of this Special Programme.

Allow me a last question, Mr Chairman. To what extent does the Special Programme draw on the experiences of the FSAS, Food Security Assistance Scheme of FAO, which we have had so far? This last question was also raised by the Dutch delegation.

**Abdelhadi BENNIS (Observateur du Maroc):** Monsieur le Président, j'essaierai d'être bref mais, par anticipation, je sollicite votre tolérance. Je prends la parole pour présenter mes félicitations au Directeur général, et ces félicitations reposent sur trois raisons. La première - j'y suis particulièrement sensible et je crois que personne n'en a parlé - c'est que M. le Directeur général est resté avec nous toute la journée pour nous écouter; je crois que c'est là un très bon signe et que cela facilite la compréhension mutuelle. La deuxième raison, c'est que l'exposé qui nous a été fait ce matin nous amène à dire que le Directeur général a réussi en peu de temps à faire faire, en quelque sorte, un *sprint* à cette vieille dame respectueuse qu'est notre Organisation parce qu'en très peu de temps, beaucoup de réalisations ont été faites. La troisième raison de mes félicitations, c'est la cohérence du programme qui est proposé. Une lecture superficielle pourrait laisser penser qu'il y a une certaine distorsion entre ses éléments mais une lecture approfondie montre qu'il existe une cohérence très nette et un respect des principes de base d'une bonne administration.

On retrouve d'abord le principe du ciblage des actions; et le programme de la sécurité alimentaire qui nous a été proposé en témoigne parce qu'il représente la meilleure façon d'avoir une action efficace. J'espère donc que le Directeur général trouvera rapidement suffisamment de ressources pour réaliser ce programme.

Le deuxième principe de cohérence, c'est la prévision. Le programme EMPRES qui nous a été exposé en est un témoignage. C'est, en effet, en faisant des prévisions, en attaquant les problèmes à la base que l'on peut obtenir les résultats les plus performants. J'ouvre une parenthèse, à cet égard, pour souhaiter que le programme de lutte contre le criquet pèlerin concerne à la fois la zone Est et la zone Ouest afin de lutter contre ce fléau. Je signale - M. le Directeur général le sait certainement - que ce problème existe, à l'heure actuelle, en Afrique de l'Ouest.

Le troisième principe, c'est la valorisation des ressources humaines. A ce sujet, je crois que ce qui a été exposé ce matin est très net et je mets également là dedans le programme CTPD, qui est un excellent programme. Je vous signale que le Maroc est prêt pour la signature de ces accords.

Le quatrième principe, c'est la dynamisation des institutions. Là, je crois que les adaptations qui ont été faites au niveau du siège pour dynamiser les institutions sur le terrain et les aider à fonctionner correctement grâce, notamment, aux programmes de vérification, sont un très bon signe.

Le dernier principe que je voudrais énoncer est celui de la prévision pour s'attaquer aux problèmes. J'insisterai sur ce point au Sommet mondial de l'alimentation auquel nous accordons un très grand intérêt. Ce sommet sera l'occasion pour nous de recentrer l'attention mondiale sur les problèmes du développement rural. Nous parlons beaucoup, dans nos discours, de la priorité à donner au développement durable de l'agriculture, mais je crois qu'il existe une mobilisation des hautes autorités politiques dans tous les pays pour donner réellement une priorité au milieu rural. Je pense donc que ce sommet va contribuer amplement à la réussite de cette idée.

Bon courage, Monsieur le Directeur général.

**Pandeli PASKO (Observer for Albania):** As in the Conference of Ireland, Albania supports the Sub-Regional Centre for the Central and Eastern European countries. Based on the common interests of Eastern European countries and not on national ones (otherwise, Rome is the nearest point from Albania), we would like to stress the need that Eastern European countries have for strong links with the European Community. This point we think must be stressed for the future selection of the place for that Centre in a Europe disproportionate geographically and economically; so, the bridge necessity between Eastern and Western Europe, between the ex-centralized and market economy countries - from the Urals to Portugal. This bridge we think more important than the note of the point 29 (CL 107/14, page 5) that the place must not be too close to FAO Headquarters.

The inclusion of South Eastern Europe in the area of initial target of action on rinderpest monitoring is greeted by our delegation, due to threats of this type in the Balkan area.

**Moussa Bocar LY (Observateur du Sénégal):** Après le feu vert donné par la cent sixième session du Conseil aux diverses propositions du Directeur général, il me paraît juste de reconnaître l'approche prudente,

méthodique, consultative et à la fois opportune du Directeur général qui transparaît du reste dans ses divers rapports.

Je voudrais, à la suite de plusieurs délégations, souligner l'importance des accords CTPD, surtout pour nos pays, et notamment le mien qui appartient au Groupe de consultation et de coopération Sud-Sud, plus connu sous le nom de G 15, dont le dernier Sommet s'est tenu à New Delhi, en Inde.

Nous voulions également réitérer, si besoin était, notre soutien aux programmes spéciaux. Nous sommes satisfaits de constater dans le rapport que l'EMPRES - le Programme de lutte contre le criquet pèlerin -touchera, à partir de 1995, la partie occidentale de l'Afrique, ce qui était également une préoccupation du Maroc.

Nous voyons un lien entre la restructuration et les différents programmes. Je cite simplement un exemple: le Programme de production alimentaire à l'appui de la sécurité alimentaire. En introduisant ce point, le Directeur général a montré l'importance du problème de l'eau pour l'Afrique. C'est pourquoi, nous fondons un réel espoir en la mise sur pied rapide de ce département de la coopération technique. Voilà donc déjà un lien étroit pour donner des avis et des conseils de politique aux pays africains.

Nous voyons un autre lien entre le contexte dans lequel ces diverses propositions ont été faites et les difficultés apparentes soulignées çà et là. En effet, la Conférence de l'année dernière, 1993, avait donné la possibilité au Directeur général de faire des propositions dans le cadre et les limites du programme et budget adopté. C'est ainsi que la marge de manoeuvre paraît très étroite; d'où l'importance des efforts qui ont été faits jusqu'à ce jour pour satisfaire les différents Etats Membres dans leur diversité.

Il convient également de souligner, me semble-t-il, le mérite qu'il y a pour le Directeur général à chercher à élargir la base des ressources en développant le partenariat avec les autres organismes et institutions financiers internationaux et régionaux, comme cela apparaît également dans le rapport qui nous est soumis.

Enfin, je ne voulais pas aborder la question du Sommet mondial sur l'alimentation, car je pensais qu'il n'était mentionné qu'en tant qu'information mais, puisqu'il a été évoqué par certaines délégations, je voudrais dire que le principe de ce Sommet a l'aval du Sommet de l'OUA, qui s'est tenu à Tunis, ainsi que de la Conférence des pays non alignés, qui s'est tenue à Bali.

De même, nous voyons une logique dans la démarche consistant à tenir le Sommet mondial sur l'alimentation chargé de se concentrer sur la sécurité alimentaire. En effet, ce n'est pas la première fois que la scène internationale offre ces exemples. Il y a eu, récemment, le Sommet sur l'enfance, qui s'est tenu à New York, et le Sommet de la Planète Terre, qui s'est tenu à Rio. Ces deux sommets ont ce parallélisme de la mobilisation politique et de l'aspect technique. Le Directeur général ne propose pas autre chose: la mobilisation politique, il la réalise en entreprenant des consultations au plus haut niveau avec nos dirigeants; l'aspect technique, il le réalise en proposant que le Conseil, au cours de sa session de 1995, se penche sur la préparation technique de ce sommet. Ces deux aspects que je viens de souligner, qui étaient le propre du Sommet de l'enfance et du Sommet de la Planète Terre, se retrouvent donc dans le Sommet que propose avec pertinence le Directeur général pour 1996.

**M.S. HARM (Observer for Sudan) (Original language Arabic):** In the name of God the merciful and compassionate. Once again, I would like to greet you, Mr Chairman, and through you the Director-General at this important session which, I think, has had as its hallmark great patience and cordiality. I would, of course, like to reiterate our full support for the Director-General's proposals on programmes, because we feel that through them we will be able to reach out to our neighbours and friends.

Sudan is an important country in this sub-continent and, as I said before, it enjoys a number of agricultural resources: forestry, inland fisheries as well as marine fisheries, and much livestock - almost 100 million head of cattle.

The Director-General and distinguished members know that Sudan has benefitted from the Al Gezira Project. It is one of the largest irrigation projects in the whole world. We are hoping for greater cooperation. We

would like more technical assistance, support and advice for our veterinary and livestock research, and we would also like to step up our research into vaccines for example.

Before, I referred briefly to the Director-General's statement. Special reference was made in it to rinderpest.

I do not want to repeat all that has been said on the matter because the Director-General has been closely monitoring what is happening from his office. Nevertheless, I would like to remind the Director-General that Africa must be given priority when it comes to eradicating rinderpest, and also for the eradication of other diseases which have a direct effect on our exports, our main source of hard currency earnings.

We know perfectly well that the Director-General, through these efforts of his, will be helping humanity as a whole. We would also like to express our support for his decentralization efforts and the setting-up of country offices with National Professional Officers. We feel that he is fully aware of our priorities. Africa, and all the developing countries in general - not to say the whole world - look with high expectations at the Director-General and at the programmes and policies that he is preparing. We wish him every success and we will be fighting alongside him.

**Giuseppe VASTA (Observateur de l'OCDE):** Monsieur le Président, je vous remercie pour avoir bien voulu m'accorder la parole.

Je suis heureux de pouvoir adresser mes félicitations les plus vives au Directeur général pour l'intéressant rapport intérimaire qu'il a adressé au Conseil sur l'application des décisions prises par ce même Conseil à sa cent sixième session.

L'excellent discours fait à l'ouverture des travaux de ce Conseil a donné un aperçu général sur la situation mondiale de l'agriculture et de l'alimentation. Comme toujours, le Directeur général a parlé avec son coeur et la sincérité qui reste à la base des accords sur une vaste échelle.

Le rapport intérimaire avec son supplément est complet quant à son contenu et met en évidence les efforts déjà accomplis pour intensifier les rencontres et les consultations avec le personnel de l'Organisation et les pays membres ainsi qu'avec les représentants d'autres organisations internationales, intergouvernementales et avec les ONGs.

Tout cela confirme l'intérêt que son Excellence Diouf porte à l'information et à la communication, ce qui est à la base de tout accord, de la compréhension, de l'amitié, de la collaboration et de la paix.

Parmi les nombreuses mesures et initiatives déjà prises et à prendre, j'ai noté avec satisfaction l'accord sur la coopération avec les institutions universitaires, envoyé aux gouvernements des pays de l'OCDE, ce qui fait beaucoup espérer. Je pense que les organisations universitaires pourront sans doute donner un apport intéressant et fournir le point de vue culturel nécessaire pour les activités et les travaux de la FAO et des pays intéressés, en particulier pour les pays en développement.

Hier on a parlé des droits de l'homme.

Il y a beaucoup à faire dans le secteur de la santé qui est étroitement lié à celui de l'alimentation et de la nutrition.

Nous connaissons très bien les conséquences de l'hyponutrition et de la faim. Pour cette raison, les travaux quant à la suite à donner à la Conférence sur la nutrition doivent continuer à l'infini. Cette conférence a suscité beaucoup d'intérêt, comme la précédente Conférence mondiale de l'alimentation, mais malgré les bonnes intentions, la situation mondiale a plutôt empiré et le nombre des mal nourris et des affamés a augmenté au lieu de diminuer.

Un autre point très intéressant est celui qui concerne l'équilibre à obtenir dans les différents secteurs de la production, du commerce et du revenu des agriculteurs. Le sens de l'équité devrait dominer toutes les couches de l'humanité qui est pauvre, déshéritée et abandonnée à un destin plus qu'amer.

Il faut surtout viser à traiter nos problèmes avec notre conscience et notre coeur et nous efforcer d'appliquer les principes de la déontologie souvent retenue dépassée. D'autre part, il faut avoir le sens de la justice.

Ces deux derniers points méritent toute notre considération.

La déontologie, surtout dans le secteur professionnel, devrait à nouveau être observée, sans oublier qu'Hypocrate, au IV<sup>ème</sup> siècle av. J.-C. avait dicté des principes sages et très sains.

J'ai beaucoup de confiance dans l'avenir et j'espère que le Sommet mondial de l'alimentation réussira à résoudre la plus grande partie des problèmes qui restent encore en suspens. C'est dans cet espoir que je souhaite beaucoup de bonheur, de chance, de richesse au sens le plus vaste à tous les pays ici représentés.

Je renouvelle mes félicitations et mes remerciements au Directeur général et je lui dis de tout mon coeur: bonne chance.

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Si no hay ninguna observación adicional de parte de ustedes, tengo el privilegio de pedirle al Director General que dé respuesta a sus múltiples cuestiones y comentarios.

**LE DIRECTEUR GENERAL:** Monsieur le Président, Honorables délégués, Mesdames, Messieurs,

Ce point de l'ordre du jour a suscité une cinquantaine d'interventions. Pour ne pas prendre trop de temps, je veillerai à être concis et à répondre dans les grandes lignes, d'abord sur les principes et ensuite à un certain nombre de questions spécifiques.

Sur le plan des principes, il convient d'abord de rappeler qu'il nous faut exécuter notre programme dans le cadre d'un budget à croissance zéro que j'ai trouvé lorsque j'ai pris mes fonctions.

C'est donc à l'intérieur de ce budget que j'ai essayé de dégager quelques ressources pour pouvoir orienter notre action dans un certain nombre de secteurs considérés comme prioritaires et lancer les deux nouveaux programmes spéciaux qui se sont vu attribuer environ trois millions de dollars chacun. Vous comprendrez qu'avec ce montant, il ne soit pas possible de couvrir l'ensemble des activités liées à la sécurité alimentaire et de mener de front des activités de production, de réduction des pertes de récoltes, de génération de revenus, etc. Je suis cependant le premier à admettre que ces problèmes sont importants pour la sécurité alimentaire.

Une des premières responsabilités en matière de gestion est de savoir établir des priorités. Nous avons pensé que l'action prioritaire devait se concentrer sur la production dans les zones présentant le moins de risques. Cela ne veut pas dire qu'il ne faille pas trouver les voies et moyens pour tenir compte des zones marginales. Mais lorsqu'on investit - et c'est peut-être mon passage dans une Banque centrale qui me fait parler ainsi - on investit là où on a des chances d'avoir des revenus avec le moins de risques.

Toujours sur le plan des principes, je voudrais rappeler que nos programmes et activités doivent être examinés dans leur contexte en y ajoutant une dimension temporelle. La stratégie à mettre en oeuvre pour une course de vitesse n'est pas la même que pour une course de fond. L'Organisation a un caractère universel. Pour mener une action dans une institution qui a 170 pays membres, il faut prendre le temps de consulter tout le monde et le temps nécessaire pour arriver au consensus. Et lorsque des programmes doivent avoir un impact, non seulement maintenant, mais aussi comme nous l'espérons pour les générations à venir, il faut aussi prendre le temps de veiller à ce qu'il n'y ait pas d'erreurs dans leur conception. Un grand homme disait: il faut savoir donner du temps au temps. C'est ce qui explique que nous ne nous soyons pas précipités dans les actions que nous sommes en train de mener.

J'en viens maintenant aux réponses aux questions spécifiques qui ont été posées. Encore une fois je voudrais vous remercier de l'intérêt que vous portez aux Programmes spéciaux et à cette Organisation. Vos commentaires sont pour nous une source d'enrichissement et un moyen d'améliorer ce que nous faisons. C'est donc dans un esprit positif que nous prenons toutes les critiques et toutes les questions qui ont été posées.

Il va de soi que la discussion au cours de cette session du Conseil doit porter sur ce qui est essentiel, sur ce que j'ai défini comme les grandes orientations. Les détails techniques, les coûts et les méthodes de travail seront examinés, le moment venu lorsque nous serons amenés à faire rapport sur l'état d'exécution du Programme et du budget à la prochaine session du Conseil et aux réunions du Comité du Programme et du Comité financier qui la précéderont.

A propos du Programme de sécurité alimentaire, je voudrais rappeler que le terme de sécurité alimentaire a été choisi pour bien montrer que ce n'était pas l'autosuffisance alimentaire qui était recherchée. Chaque pays, en fonction de ses réalités propres, de ses objectifs politiques, économiques et sociaux, choisit le degré d'autosuffisance alimentaire qu'il désire atteindre et utilise les moyens à sa disposition pour combler ses besoins de sécurité alimentaire. Pour moi, le débat sur cette question trouve sa réponse à ce niveau.

Certains ont aussi évoqué l'importance des autres programmes de la FAO par rapport au Programme de sécurité alimentaire. Je crois que dans mon intervention liminaire, j'ai pris la précaution de dire que, si l'accent est mis sur des programmes prioritaires, les autres programmes de la FAO continuent.

En outre, je voudrais rappeler l'importance qu'il convient d'attacher à l'assistance aux Etats Membres en matière de politique agricole. C'est pour cela qu'avec votre accord nous avons créé une division spéciale qui va, dans ses discussions avec les pays, aborder les questions d'investissements agricoles du point de vue tant national qu'international, les questions de priorités géographiques et de stratégies de développement régional, les questions de développement rural, les questions de choix des productions et de diversification. Tous ces éléments de politique agricole vont être pris en compte dans la discussion au niveau de chaque pays, en fonction des demandes d'assistance reçues. Mais là encore, le Programme spécial de la FAO ne peut pas traiter de toutes ces questions au niveau de l'ensemble des pays membres.

En ce qui concerne le Système de prévention et de réponse rapide contre les ravageurs et maladies transfrontières, je crois que dans l'ensemble, il y a un soutien à ce programme et un souhait d'élargissement à d'autres ravageurs ou maladies dans différentes régions. Nous partageons ce souhait. Mais là encore, quelles sont les ressources à notre disposition? Pouvait-on commencer à attaquer toutes les maladies, tous les ravageurs qui revêtent un caractère important dans telle ou telle région du monde? Ce n'était pas possible. Nous nous sommes donc concentrés sur deux fléaux que nous allons nous efforcer de bien traiter. Naturellement dans le cadre de l'institution, nous avons toute une série d'activités qui permettent de répondre ponctuellement aux problèmes spécifiques qui se posent dans des zones particulières du monde.

Il a également été demandé pourquoi nous n'avons pas abordé la question des forêts. Encore une fois, c'est tout simplement pour une question de temps. Nous accordons une priorité particulière aux forêts. Non seulement nous avons augmenté les ressources en matière forestière dans le budget réaménagé mais nous avons proposé, et vous l'avez accepté, la tenue d'une réunion ministérielle sur les forêts au mois de mars 1995. La première réunion d'experts sur les forêts pour préparer cette rencontre a déjà eu lieu. J'ai aussi eu le privilège de recevoir récemment le Président de la Commission du développement durable pour discuter de la relation entre cette réunion ministérielle et le rapport qui doit être examiné en avril 1995 par la Commission.

La restructuration est l'exercice le plus difficile. Quand vous héritez de structures datant de plusieurs dizaines d'années et devez les changer à l'intérieur d'un budget à croissance zéro, vous devez tenir compte que vous avez affaire à des êtres humains qui ont charge de famille, des personnes qui ont décidé de confier leur carrière à l'institution et qui ont foi dans cette institution. Naturellement, on ne peut pas vouloir une chose et son contraire. Quand on décide de supprimer certains postes de fonctionnaires internationaux dans les Représentations de la FAO et de les remplacer par des postes de cadres nationaux, cela implique un choix. Il faut définir les modalités selon lesquelles ces changements doivent s'opérer et cela doit faire l'objet de consultations. Bien entendu tout cela nécessite du temps.

En ce qui concerne le problème des nominations, pour recruter des personnes de haut niveau, il faut prendre le temps de mener des consultations, d'essayer de convaincre. Or, à ce niveau de compétences, les candidats sont des personnes expérimentées, d'un certain âge, qui ont un emploi bien en vue et sont connues au plan international. Il est donc difficile de les déplacer du jour au lendemain. Vouloir est une chose, pouvoir en est une autre, même si on en a la volonté. C'est un exercice difficile de convaincre ces gens de venir occuper des postes, au niveau où nous le souhaitons, au sein de cette Organisation. Vous aborderez tout à l'heure les



questions de rémunération et, à cet égard, le Secrétaire général de l'ONU lui-même se plaint du fait que les études, qui avaient été demandées il y a trois ans déjà, pour que les ajustements de salaires soient effectués au niveau du système des Nations Unies, n'aient pas été faites et que nous ne soyons pas en mesure d'offrir des conditions compétitives pour attirer les meilleurs cadres au niveau international. Néanmoins, dans la limite des possibilités, je prendrai très rapidement les décisions qui s'imposent car il y a le temps de la réflexion mais il y a aussi le temps de l'action.

Pour ce qui est des activités des bureaux régionaux et sous-régionaux, dans le cadre de la décentralisation, je partage naturellement le point de vue selon lequel le fait de déplacer physiquement des fonctionnaires ne suffit pas à assurer cette décentralisation, cela n'en est qu'un des aspects. Il faut aussi envisager les aspects de délégation d'autorité, de méthodes de fonctionnement, les relations fonctionnelles avec le siège et les pays, etc. Tout cela est également lié à d'autres réformes qui sont en cours au sein de l'Organisation, notamment la rationalisation des procédures administratives et financières et le remplacement de FINSYS et, peut-être, de PERSYS. Lorsqu'un système central d'informations financières est l'objet des difficultés que nous connaissons, il est normal d'hésiter à se lancer dans une décentralisation tous azimuts dans plus de 70 pays. Il nous faut contrôler les ressources qui sont mises à notre disposition et dont nous sommes redevables devant les Etats Membres et devant les populations des Etats Membres qui payent des impôts pour que ces activités puissent être conduites. Donc, là aussi, nous nous hâterons lentement et procéderons de manière systématique et réfléchie.

Pour ce qui est du système de communication et d'information, nous considérons que c'est une condition indispensable à la décentralisation. Si nous devons placer des personnes aux différents coins du monde, ces personnes doivent être reliées au siège et aux bureaux régionaux et doivent avoir la capacité d'accéder aux banques et aux bases de données nécessaires à leurs activités scientifiques et techniques. C'est pour cette raison que nous avons avancé dans cette voie et que nous vous avons fait des propositions que vous avez acceptées. Ce sera un processus de longue haleine mais nous pensons, dès le début de l'année prochaine, commencer la mise en oeuvre de ce programme qui nous permettra d'accéder à des réseaux tels INTERNET, etc. autant pour nos propres experts que pour nos Etats Membres et les institutions scientifiques et techniques avec lesquelles nous coopérons.

En ce qui concerne les programmes de coopération entre les pays en développement et entre les pays qui sont en transition, les programmes de coopération avec les universités et institutions de recherche et ceux relatifs à l'utilisation de retraités et de jeunes professionnels des pays en développement, nous pensons que ce sont là des programmes fondamentaux qui vont vraiment changer l'approche de la FAO dans ses activités en tant que centre d'excellence et dans ses activités sur le terrain. Là aussi nous devons commencer par la phase juridique, obtenir les accords et les engagements avec les pays, ce qui suppose qu'on leur donne des explications. Ensuite, il faut identifier les experts, établir des bases de données, introduire ces experts dans les banques de données, identifier les projets, comparer les demandes et les offres de services et c'est seulement à ce stade que nous pourrons passer à la phase concrète de réalisation. Il y a là aussi une préparation méthodique avant d'obtenir des résultats.

Je m'abstiens pour le moment de préciser le montant des fonds que nous mettrons en oeuvre dans ce but étant entendu que ce ne seront pas seulement des fonds du Programme ordinaire de la FAO mais aussi des fonds générés dans le cadre de la coopération bilatérale et multilatérale avec nos différents partenaires.

Concernant le Sommet mondial de l'alimentation, nous vous remercions encore pour le soutien quant au principe. Nous reconnaissons que les observations que vous avez faites visent essentiellement à assurer que ce Sommet soit un succès. Nous apprécions à leur juste valeur les différentes recommandations qui ont été faites ici, nous en tiendrons compte et, mieux, nous solliciterons votre concours pour nous aider à trouver la meilleure manière de le faire dans le cadre du planning global envisagé. Nous sommes tout à fait ouverts pour discuter et examiner toutes ces propositions.

Comme vous, nous souhaitons que ce Sommet soit un succès et nous comptons sur votre collaboration non seulement sous forme d'idées mais aussi d'experts qui pourraient participer au Secrétariat et aux ressources pour la mise en oeuvre du plan d'action qui sera adopté par le Sommet.

Certaines questions ont également été posées relativement à l'audit que nous avons ordonné. Là aussi il y a des documents internes et externes comme il y a un auditeur interne et un auditeur externe. Certains

documents relèvent de la gestion courante et traitent par exemple de ce que tel expert a fait ou n'a pas fait. Vous comprendrez que ce sont là des questions qui ne relèvent pas des instances chargées d'orienter l'action de la FAO mais de la gestion quotidienne de l'Organisation. Si nous sommes prêts à partager avec vous les grandes orientations, les grandes découvertes, les grandes options qui découlent de ces rapports et sont de nature à guider notre action, vous comprendrez que nous ne soyons pas à même de vous donner les rapports individuels de chacune des différentes missions d'audit.

Encore une fois je vous remercie de votre collaboration et de votre soutien. C'est seulement avec ce soutien, cette collaboration et cette franchise dans les échanges de vues que nous parviendrons à mener cette institution là où vous-mêmes avez souhaité que nous allions. Vous avez d'ailleurs, à cet effet, consacré beaucoup de ressources, de temps et de volonté et je vous en remercie vivement.

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Distinguidos delegados, han escuchado ustedes las palabras que, en respuesta a sus pronunciamientos y cuestiones les ha ofrecido el Director General. Antes de hacer el resumen de nuestro tema les pregunto si hay alguna cuestión adicional que deseen plantear. Entonces, me voy a permitir resumir nuestros debates de la siguiente manera:

El Consejo tomó nota de que este tema era principalmente para información; sin embargo, debido a la enorme importancia que suscitaba el examen del avance de las propuestas decididas, aprobadas por el Consejo en su 106° Período de Sesiones, hubo un rico y amplio debate que comprendió, como lo refirió el Director General, a más de 50 delegaciones. Prácticamente la totalidad de los miembros del Consejo hablaron al respecto.

El Consejo acogió con aprecio el informe que de manera oral proporcionó al Director General, quien dió una visión de conjunto, así como detalles importantes que actualizaban la información sobre el estado que guarda los avances de las decisiones del Consejo.

El Consejo reiteró, a la luz de los documentos presentados y las informaciones del Director General, su pleno y unánime apoyo a la ejecución de dichas propuestas.

El Consejo reconoció que en el breve tiempo transcurrido desde el Consejo de junio, era muy difícil mostrar resultados definitivos; sin embargo, expresó satisfacción por los avances y por la amplia consulta llevada a cabo por el Director General sobre sus decisiones y pasos tanto con gobiernos como también con el propio personal de la Organización. Reconoció que ésta era una tarea que debía ejecutarse con prudencia.

El Consejo, por tanto, elogió la forma cuidadosa, minuciosa y efectiva con que se ha procedido en la implantación de las propuestas sobre políticas, programas y estructuras de la FAO.

Se felicitó por la información periódica que el Director General ha proporcionado al Consejo a través de los Comités del Programa y de Finanzas. Se le instó a que continuara otorgando información plena adicionalmente sobre el marco conceptual de los cambios y los criterios para seleccionar movimientos en estructura y descentralización de la Organización.

El Consejo indicó su firme deseo de que esta transformación refuerce a la FAO como centro de excelencia en las áreas de su mandato. Para lograrlo, varias delegaciones puntualizaron que la FAO debía ser capaz de mantener y reclutar a personal de alta calidad técnica y de excelencia, que representa el corazón de las ventajas competitivas de la FAO y la condición de su continuado liderazgo en el sector.

Algunas delegaciones hicieron referencia en particular a las decisiones del Consejo en su 102° Período de Sesiones relativas a remuneraciones y condiciones de trabajo del personal.

Se expresó también la esperanza de que el personal hará suyo el proceso de reforma y contribuirá al mismo con una mayor productividad.

Hubo también llamamientos para potenciar y dar más oportunidades a las mujeres dentro de la Organización.

Se hizo referencia a la importancia de la descentralización administrativa para que lleve tanto a una mayor transparencia, simplificación de procesos administrativos y métodos de trabajo, así como mejores controles presupuestarios y criterios en la asignación o reasignación del personal.

Se sugirió que las nuevas actividades enfoquen mejor las actividades destacadas con la finalidad de centrar los escasos recursos de la Organización y sus acciones tanto normativas como de campo. Esto era importante en virtud específicamente de las limitaciones financieras de la Organización.

Se indicó también que ese logro de una mayor efectividad debe ser el objetivo a alcanzar en la reestructuración y la descentralización de la FAO.

Algunas delegaciones expresaron su preocupación por el ritmo de la ejecución de los cambios y solicitaron que ese esfuerzo involucre una participación activa de los Estados Miembros, lo que requeriría un alto nivel de información del avance y de criterios aplicados.

Otras delegaciones esperaban que los cambios estructurales de la FAO no afectaran el curso del Programa Regular.

Muchos países indicaron la importancia de que la FAO fortalezca sus relaciones de cooperación y de complementariedad con otras organizaciones internacionales e instituciones financieras. Asimismo, el Consejo congratuló al Director General por su iniciativa de establecer una red de amplio alcance que abarque a todos los países y que permita la integración de un sistema informativo global que mantenga al día y en comunicación a los Estados Miembros y, a través de ellos, a las Oficinas de la FAO, organizaciones internacionales incluidas, ONGs, instituciones académicas. Este esfuerzo, como lo ha indicado el Director General, es parte inseparable del proceso de descentralización.

En particular, ello facilitará la reducción de costos sanitarios, de las comunicaciones y de una mayor integración financiera administrativa de la Organización.

Respecto a los programas especiales, el Consejo endosó, la prioridad que le ha otorgado el Director General al impulso de programas y condiciones que lleven a la seguridad alimentaria, principalmente en países de bajos ingresos y con déficit de alimentos. La FAO ofrecerá a esos países prioritariamente una asesoría y un apoyo en la formulación de políticas.

Se destacó la importancia de darle prioridad a la utilización máxima y eficiente del agua.

Se elogiaron, asimismo, las acciones concretas que está desplegando la FAO, tanto a través de misiones especiales a países en situaciones precarias, así como en la búsqueda de una amplia cooperación multilateral de apoyo financiero y de acciones concretas con gobiernos e instituciones financieras internacionales. Se mencionó, en particular, al Banco Mundial, y regionales, así como con el sector privado y las organizaciones no gubernamentales.

Se precisó que el objetivo de este esfuerzo a los PBIBA era, en efecto, el de lograr la autosuficiencia alimentaria. Sin embargo, varios Estados Miembros sugirieron que el logro de una mayor producción agrícola debe ser considerado como uno de los elementos para alcanzar la seguridad alimentaria sostenible. Otros elementos están ligados al comercio y a la inversión, tanto externa como nacional, pública y privada.

Se solicitó cautela a fin de no repetir los errores de la Revolución Verde o de impulso a una monoproducción.

Algunos delegados insistieron en que debe buscarse la elevación de los ingresos de los agricultores para asegurar el acceso a los alimentos e inducir también a una diversificación de productos adecuada a las condiciones regionales y locales.

Se recordó la importancia de ligar todo el proceso que va desde la producción, la distribución, el acceso, el consumo de alimentos y una nutrición adecuada y aprovechar experiencias pasadas para no repetir errores.

Algunos delegados recordaron que la seguridad alimentaria no debe confundirse con la autosuficiencia sino con el acceso físico y económico a los alimentos y que los grupos susceptibles a emergencias crónicas, al

hambre y a otros aspectos relativos a la salubridad y calidad de los alimentos, se encuentran tanto en el sector rural como en el urbano, y deben ser igualmente comprendidos.

Se indicó que deben aplicarse técnicas probadas que tomen en consideración las características culturales, geográficas, sociales y medioambientales en la promoción de una mayor producción agrícola y la capacitación de los agricultores.

Se subrayó en especial la necesidad de usar medios para utilizar al máximo las zonas y cosechas de secano y se instó a promover el papel de la mujer en el desarrollo agrícola sostenible en el orden de una alimentación y nutrición suficientes.

Se enfatizó también la importancia de cultivos autóctonos y del papel del mantenimiento de la diversidad biológica.

Se expresó la esperanza de que el Consejo en junio y la celebración del 50° aniversario de la FAO en Quebec, así como posteriormente la Cumbre Mundial de Alimentación, estudiarán estos temas más a fondo.

Se hizo un llamado a fin de que se logre la máxima participación posible de todos los interlocutores en estos temas para garantizar el éxito de las actividades propuestas por el Director General.

Sin embargo, el Consejo tomó nota de que el esfuerzo específico de este programa especial tiene una limitación presupuestaria fundamental y que tiene que enfocarse y centrarse en un aspecto concreto de la seguridad alimentaria, y ése era el caso de la promoción de la producción y de la productividad agrícola, particularmente en los PBIBA.

Respecto a EMPRES, el Consejo coincidió con el Director General en la gran prioridad de sus iniciativas orientadas a prevenir los efectos desastrosos de múltiples tipos de plagas.

El Consejo aplaudió los avances y acciones desplegados por el Director General y reconoció la importancia de movilizar recursos adicionales dentro de una cooperación mayor con otras instituciones y gobiernos donantes, a quienes se deberá mantener adecuadamente informados y sensibilizados. Muchos países hicieron referencia específica al problema de la langosta del desierto que azota particularmente a países africanos. Señalaron también que además del ataque contra la peste bovina -el caso de África o del Pacífico sudoriental-, la aftosa, la neumonía bovina y otras enfermedades y plagas, son algunas de las calamidades que deben incluirse en las actividades preventivas en varios continentes.

En relación a estos dos programas especiales, se apoyaron los esfuerzos hacia una máxima cooperación a todos los niveles y a la asociación especialmente con instituciones financieras. Se hizo también referencia general al papel que los bosques tienen en estos programas y el vínculo con el desarrollo sostenible y los objetivos de la CNUMAD.

Respecto a la reestructuración de la Organización, el Consejo confirmó el pleno apoyo a las propuestas del Director General y a las amplias consultas al respecto realizadas también con el Personal. Hubo algunas referencias en particular al papel del nuevo Departamento de Desarrollo Sostenible, y a la importancia que este tema va a tener en las diversas actividades de la FAO.

En cuanto a la descentralización, se dio un gran interés al proceso de selección y criterios para identificar a los países que podrían albergar las oficinas subregionales. El Consejo reiteró todo su apoyo al Director General para la implantación de estos aspectos de sus propuestas y reconoció que se requería tiempo para concluir las consultas necesarias entre los países que han ofrecido hospedar dichas oficinas.

Algunas delegaciones se pronunciaron en el sentido de que los criterios anunciados no deberían ser los únicos a tomarse en cuenta. Unas pocas delegaciones expresaron su interés y las razones por las cuales sus países podrían acoger la oficina subregional correspondiente.

Se llamó también la atención del Consejo, respecto de los informes de las conferencias regionales en ese sentido y al hecho de que en algunos de ellos se proponía el establecimiento de nuevas oficinas subregionales.

Se indicó también el imperativo de fortalecer técnicamente las oficinas regionales enriqueciéndolas con personal multidisciplinario para que atienda las diversas facetas de la agenda de la FAO en las regiones. Se sugirió que se trasladase al personal de la sede a esas oficinas, a fin de no debilitar sus capacidades en vista de la creación de las oficinas subregionales.

También se invitó al Director General a fortalecer las oficinas nacionales y se apreció en todo lo que vale su iniciativa de aplicar exhaustivas auditorías especiales a las oficinas de campo.

El Consejo congratuló al Director General por su iniciativa de convocar a personas jubiladas en apoyo de sus programas especiales, de manera especial de la inclusión de personal profesional nacional en activa promoción de la CTPB. El Consejo dio todo el apoyo a este aspecto que, muy probablemente, llevará a nuevas modalidades de cooperación entre agencias y países.

El Consejo también se congratuló por los nuevos acuerdos de cooperación entre países en desarrollo, CTPB, y por el involucramiento de instituciones académicas y de investigación en el trabajo de la FAO. Se esperan nuevos acuerdos similares en el futuro.

Finalmente, a pesar de que el tema sobre la preparación de la Cumbre Mundial de la Alimentación no formaba parte de los temas del Consejo, su amplio interés dio lugar a que un número de delegaciones se pronunciaran al respecto aprovechando mi invitación. Hubo amplias expresiones al respecto del apoyo a la realización y a la pertinencia y oportunidad de la Cumbre. Las delegaciones que intervinieron expresaron su pleno acuerdo con esta iniciativa. No obstante, algunos manifestaron preocupaciones respecto de la necesidad de fortalecer el proceso preparatorio, que se debería comenzar cuanto antes en 1995, a partir de la obtención de los documentos preliminares. Se indicó la importancia de que la fase preparatoria debía desarrollarse al más alto nivel y de manera oportuna para asegurar el total éxito de la Cumbre.

Varias delegaciones se refirieron a que el Consejo pueda revisar este tema y los documentos en junio de 1995. Al respecto, algunas expresaron preocupación porque ello podría ser un tanto tarde y que solamente ese Consejo tendría la oportunidad de estudiar estos temas dentro de los órganos de la FAO antes de enviarlos a la Reunión ministerial en Quebec. Además, insistieron en que se requería una preparación efectiva, con una amplia participación de todos los Estados Miembros. Ello debería implicar una aportación directa de temas, el estudio de modalidades y de documentos técnicos y de políticas en los trabajos preparatorios por parte de los Estados Miembros.

Algunas delegaciones expresaron su esperanza de que las discusiones se realizarían a profundidad, tanto sobre la agenda como sobre el contenido de la Cumbre. Algunas delegaciones propusieron inclusive la creación de un grupo de trabajo. Se hizo referencia a que se celebrarán reuniones regionales de trabajo con la Secretaría de la FAO y se expresó la esperanza de que la Cumbre llevará a nuevas ideas creativas y a que desatará acciones a todos los niveles que se transformarán en actividades permanentes y efectivas para el logro de la seguridad alimentaria mundial. Sin embargo, se recordó que ello no debería llevar a la creación de nuevas estructuras o de acciones financieras adicionales y que los recursos para llevar a cabo este proceso, se deberían reducir al mínimo viable. En suma, puedo decir que sobre este tema se apreció en todo lo que vale la iniciativa del Director General para celebrar esa Cumbre que, repito, se consideró pertinente.

Finalmente, el Consejo acogió el informe conjunto de los Comités de Programa y de Finanzas en lo relativo al Tema 11 del Programa y ofreció todo su reconocimiento y agradecimiento al Dr. Bommer por la presentación de dicho informe.

Con esto concluye mi resumen. Reconozco que no pude tomar en cuenta todos sus puntos de vista. Desde luego esto lo hará el Informe de la Organización. Mi resumen no lo prejuzga y les consulto si tienen alguna observación adicional que hacer. Si no la hay, damos por cerrado este tema y pasamos al Tema 17: "Asuntos de Personal". Antes de continuar, me voy a permitir despedir al Director General y agradecerle por su intervención. Gracias, señor.

Distinguidos delegados, sé que en el orden del día aparecía el Tema 12 inmediatamente después del Tema 11. Sin embargo, después de consultas, me estoy permitiendo proponerles que discutamos el Tema 17: Asuntos de Personal, primero. Esto además obedece a que el Tema 12 y el Tema 13 están ligados y los podríamos tratar una vez concluido el Tema 17, en esta tarde. Si ustedes no tienen inconveniente, vamos a pasar al Tema 17.

El objetivo del documento es llamar la atención del Consejo sobre la preocupación expresada por el Director General acerca de la incapacidad de la Comisión de Administración Pública Internacional (CAPI) de abordar los problemas específicos de la FAO en lo concerniente a las condiciones de servicio de todas las categorías de personal.

Distinguidos delegados, las cuestiones que se ponen a su consideración principal son las siguientes. Primero, la insuficiencia de los salarios profesionales, incluido el nivel de ajuste por lugar de destino y los efectos negativos que de ello se derivan sobre la capacidad de la Organización de competir en la contratación de profesionales altamente calificados y con gran experiencia que necesitan para llevar a cabo sus programas en nombre de los Estados Miembros. Y, segundo, la incapacidad de la CAPI de responder adecuadamente a las preocupaciones específicas de la FAO en lo relativo a la planificación de la encuesta sobre los sueldos de los Servicios Generales durante el período de reestructuración de la FAO. Estas cuestiones se ilustran en el documento con la actuación de la Comisión con respecto a la medida especial sobre el ajuste por lugar de destino en Roma y la encuesta sobre los salarios de los Servicios Generales. Se señala que la CAPI no ha tenido en cuenta las posibles consecuencias de sus decisiones en las relaciones entre el Personal y la Dirección en la FAO. Se ha informado de estas cuestiones al Comité de Finanzas, que las ha seguido muy de cerca y ha señalado con satisfacción que el Director General ha planteado con toda firmeza esos temas ante la CAPI. El Comité le ha instado a que recurra a todos los medios jurídicos a su alcance para corregir esta situación, apelando a la CAPI y a otras instituciones del sistema de Naciones Unidas, según proceda. El Director General me ha rogado autorizar a que la Sra. Margareth Eldon, Secretaria General del Sindicato del Personal local y no local de los Servicios Generales haga, en nombre de las tres asociaciones del Personal reconocidas por la Organización, una declaración en relación al Tema 17 de nuestro Orden del Día. El Sr. Moore, Asesor Jurídico, expondrá las condiciones relativas al acceso al Consejo por parte de los representantes de las asociaciones del Personal.

#### **17. Personnel Matters**

#### **17. Questions de personnel**

#### **17. Asuntos de personal**

**LEGAL COUNSEL:** Mr Chairman, you have asked me to remind the Council of the legal provisions relevant to the question of staff representatives addressing Council sessions. Staff regulation 301.0813 provides that "recognized staff representative bodies shall not have the right to engage in 'negotiations' with any of the Governing Bodies but the Council may, in exceptional circumstances, grant them access to the Council meetings to present their views, provided their application for such access is endorsed by the Director-General. "

The whole question of access by staff representative bodies by the Council was discussed by the Council in 1974 and it is on the results of those discussions that the present staff regulation is based. At that time the Council considered whether the recognized staff representative bodies should have the right of direct access to Council. The Council decided they should not. It indicated that in future access to the Council would be sought only in exceptional and grave circumstances and decided that the Council would be prepared to continue to consider on a case-by-case basis any application for the privilege of access, provided this application enjoyed the full backing of the Director-General.

The reasons the Council gave for this decision were as follows, and here I can use the direct words of the Council. "The Council was aware that the granting of a right [that is, of direct access] would impose an obligation on it to hear the staff whatever the particular circumstances of the case". The Council "considered that the outcome could result in attempts to oblige the Council and its Committees to adopt the role of arbitrator between the Director-General and his staff, thus diluting the responsibility and authority of the Director-General for the detailed management of the Organization", as set out clearly in Article VIII of the Constitution.

In practice, and to ensure that the valuable time of the Council is conserved, access by staff representatives to the Council has been granted only to a single staff representative at any one session, who will speak on behalf of all staff representative bodies.

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Me voy a permitir dar la palabra al Sr. Slater, Director de la División de Personal, para completar la presentación de este tema.

**A.T. SLATER (Director, Personnel Division):** Normally issues related to the human resources of the Organization are brought to your attention within the context of the Report of the Finance Committee. This Session, however, a separate item has been placed on your agenda to highlight the concerns of the Director-General in this important area. Under this item, as you have just heard from Mr Moore, a representative of the staff will also be given an opportunity to address you and to present the views of the staff.

You will recall that the basic principles and guidelines which determine the personnel policies of the UN Common System and the conditions of service of UN staff, including those of FAO and the other specialized agencies, are determined by the International Civil Service Commission, the ICSC. For this reason the Director-General has also invited representatives of the ICSC to be present for your discussion of this item.

In the document presented for your consideration, CL 107/INF/22, recent developments regarding two areas of staff remuneration are given as examples of the types of problems encountered by the Director-General in the field of human resources management. I will not now repeat the content of the paper as these issues are not new to you and have in fact been reported to you on several occasions in the past. Suffice it to say that the issues may be summarized as follows: firstly, the inadequacy of professional salaries, including the level of the post adjustment, and the resulting negative impact on the Organization's ability to compete for and retain the highly qualified and skilled professional staff required to carry out its programmes on behalf of Member States; secondly, the insufficient efforts made by the ICSC to accommodate the needs of FAO, for example as regards the scheduling of the General Service Salary Survey during the period of the restructuring of the Organization.

Regarding the latter point, the Director-General was forced to accept the decision of the ICSC to undertake the survey not later than November 1994 since he had no legal means to challenge such a decision. This situation led to the submission by a large number of General Service staff of appeals to the Director-General against the decision not to adjust the Rome General Service Salary scale by 4.7 percent as from June 1994 pending the results of the survey. This decision was necessary to be in accordance with the current ICSC methodology for the conduct of General Service salary surveys.

In order to speed the consideration of these appeals, and in accordance with the appellants' request, the Director-General has agreed to take a final decision on the matter without recourse to the Appeals Committee. While this decision is under preparation, it is possible that ultimately the issue may have to be considered by the International Labour Office Administrative Tribunal.

It is essentially the same issue and the general lack of staff confidence in the ICSC which led to the industrial action which you witnessed earlier this week. In this connection the Director-General very much regrets the breakdown of relations between the ICSC and the staff representative bodies which are so essential for the normal functioning of the UN Common System. Further, due to the nature of the decision-making process in the UN Common System, the Commission is insulated from the eventual consequences of its actions for FAO.

Rather, it is the Director-General who must implement the decisions of the ICSC, and deal with the impact on both the morale of the staff and the delivery of the Organization's programmes. Within the present framework, however, there is no recourse open to the Director-General to appeal against a decision of the ICSC. Such a situation needs to be addressed at the highest level of the United Nations, and it is the intention of the Director-General to raise the issue at an appropriate time in the framework of the Administrative Committee on Coordination.

It is to be recalled that in Resolution 46/191 the General Assembly - and I quote - "encourages the Commission to pursue further improvements to its functioning, with a view to enhancing its responsiveness within the Common System and the concerns and needs of different organizations".

As indicated in the document submitted for your consideration, the ICSC has not been adequately responsive to the needs of FAO. I should inform you that other organizations of the Common System are faced with the same frustrations. The Secretary-General himself, in the address given on his behalf last Monday to the

5th Committee of the General Assembly, expressed regret for the delay on the part of the ICSC in responding to the repeated requests of the General Assembly to study all aspects of the application of the Noblemaire principle, which governs the remuneration of the professional category. In his view, which the Director-General fully shares, such a delay undermines the credibility of the current system and its conditions of employment.

He concluded by saying that the Executive Heads of the UN organizations had the impression that their concerns were not being heard, nor responded to with the urgency and the understanding which would enable the organizations to do the job that was required of them.

Incidentally, it is difficult to understand why the ICSC insisted so much to undertake quickly the General Service Salary Survey for Rome, despite the request made by FAO to postpone it for three months only, while it had not been able to finalize the cluster of studies called for by the General Assembly since its 46th Session in 1991, and reiterated at its 47th Session and 48th Session in 1992/93.

Finally, it is to be recalled that the Council adopted a Resolution - Council Resolution 1/102 - in November 1992, which *inter alia* requested the ICSC to pursue its examination of the competitiveness of the Common System, in particular that of the staff in the professional and higher categories, and submit recommendations as a matter of urgency for consideration by the General Assembly in 1993 by taking into account all relevant features of the highest paid Civil Service as well as remuneration levels offered by other international employers.

The Resolution also requested that the ICSC be informed of the general concern that any modification to the General Service Salary Methodology should be technically sound, and should not result in an erosion of current conditions.

It is in this overall context that the matter has been placed before the Council for discussion, and any guidance that can be provided in respect of these problems.

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Quiero ahora otorgarle la palabra al Sr. Carlos S. Vegeea, Vicepresidente de la Comisión Internacional del Servicio Civil.

**Carlos S. VEGEEA (Comisión Internacional del Servicio Civil):** Ante todo deseo, Sr. Presidente, felicitar a usted y a los demás miembros de la Mesa por su elección al Consejo de la FAO. Quiero también agradecer, por su intermedio, al Director General por su invitación, dándonos una oportunidad para aclarar alguna de las dudas que puedan tener los representantes de los Estados Miembros.

El Presidente de la CAPI, el Sr. Bel Hadj Amor me ha pedido que lo represente y que les haga llegar sus disculpas por no poder asistir, como hubiera sido su deseo a esta sesión, ya que en este mismo momento, la Quinta Comisión de la Asamblea General de las Naciones Unidas está considerando nuestro Informe anual.

En realidad, tanto yo como el Sr. Warren Sheriff, de la División de Salarios y Prestaciones de la Secretaría de la CAPI, que me acompaña, deberíamos estar ahora en Nueva York, pero nuestra presencia aquí es una prueba de la importancia que otorgamos a la consideración de estos temas por este Consejo.

Por ahora, voy simplemente a explicar brevemente qué es la Comisión de Administración Pública Internacional, cuál es su función como organismo regulador de las condiciones de servicio de los funcionarios internacionales del régimen común, incluidos los de la FAO.

La CAPI fue creada por la Asamblea General de las Naciones Unidas dentro del marco de los Artículos LVII y LXIII.1 de la Carta de las Naciones Unidas y del Artículo IX del Acuerdo de Vinculación entre las Naciones Unidas y la FAO que dice: "Las Naciones Unidas y la Organización para la Alimentación y la Agricultura reconocen que el futuro desarrollo de una administración pública internacional unificada es conveniente desde el punto de vista de una eficaz coordinación administrativa, y a este fin convienen en colaborar en el establecimiento de reglas comunes relativas a los métodos y a las disposiciones destinadas a



evitar graves desigualdades en las condiciones de empleo, a evitar rivalidades en la contratación del personal y a facilitar el intercambio de funcionarios a fin de obtener el mayor beneficio a sus servicios".

Desde 1946 la Asamblea General de las Naciones Unidas ha sido el órgano rector que ha fijado las normas de servicio de todos los funcionarios que forman parte del régimen común, la Comisión de Administración Pública Internacional es el órgano subsidiario de la Asamblea General que asesora sobre estos temas.

La Comisión tiene tres responsabilidades principales: primero, hacer recomendaciones a la Asamblea General sobre los principios generales para la determinación de las condiciones de servicio del personal, en particular las escalas de sueldos y demás prestaciones del personal profesional; segundo, formular recomendaciones a los jefes ejecutivos sobre las escalas de sueldos del personal del cuadro de servicios generales y de otras categorías de contratación local; y tercero, decidir la clasificación de los lugares de destino a los efectos de la aplicación de los ajustes por lugar de destino.

Es importante notar que la Comisión ha establecido, con la aprobación de la Asamblea General, un órgano auxiliar, que tengo el honor de presidir, el Comité Asesor en Asuntos de Ajuste por Lugar de Destino, constituido por cinco renombrados especialistas en comparaciones estadísticas del coste de vida. Este Comité asesora a la Comisión sobre los aspectos técnicos de los ajustes por lugar de destino.

La Comisión tiene además otras funciones a las cuales me referiré si fuera necesario.

Como cuerpo subsidiario de la Asamblea General de las Naciones Unidas, la Comisión es responsable exclusivamente ante dicha Asamblea, si bien en el ejercicio de sus funciones, consulta a los jefes ejecutivos y a los representantes del personal.

La Comisión, que es un organismo técnico independiente y completamente imparcial, está compuesta por 15 miembros que son nombrados por la Asamblea General. Una característica especial de la Comisión es que, a diferencia de los demás organismos subsidiarios dentro de las Naciones Unidas, la Comisión es el único órgano que no elige su mesa, ya que el Presidente y el Vicepresidente somos elegidos directamente por la propia Asamblea General. Esta designación directa es una prueba de la importancia que la Asamblea da a la independencia de la Comisión, a sus labores y a sus recomendaciones.

Distinguidos Miembros del Consejo, el temario que deben atender está muy cargado, por lo cual no me voy a extender más, pero estoy a su disposición para contestar cualquier pregunta que los Miembros de este Consejo deseen formular.

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Como les había anunciado, el Director General me rogó que autorizara a la Sra. Margaret Eldon, Secretaria General del Sindicato del Personal local y no local de los Servicios Generales, para que, en nombre de las tres asociaciones del Personal reconocidas por la Organización, haga una declaración en relación a este tema.

**Ms M. ELDON (Staff Representative):** I would like to thank the Director-General for his kind permission to address you today and for his understanding of the staff's dissatisfaction with the process of consultation at the level of the Common System, and for his efforts to avoid erosion in the conditions of service of the staff. It is an honour for me to make this address on behalf of the three staff bodies: The Association of Professional Staff, the Field Staff Association and the Union of General Service Staff. In their name, Mr Chairman, I thank you for having accepted this intervention.

Exactly two years ago, the three staff bodies made a similar address to the Council. At that time we conveyed our concern with the deterioration in the conditions of service of the staff and its impact on the Organization's ability to recruit and retain the highly qualified and motivated staff essential to carry out its programmes. We also expressed dissatisfaction with the way the International Civil Service Commission was handling these issues. We felt that within the Common System, sufficient serious consideration was not being given to the needs and concerns of the specialized agencies and their staff. Believing that their participation in the process of consultation with the Commission was ineffective, the two federations of staff associations, FICSA and CCISUA, withdrew. That breakdown in staff management relations at the level of the Common System continued through the whole of 1993.

A breakdown in any relationship is negative. It is particularly so when it occurs within the United Nations' own system - a system based on a belief in dialogue rather than confrontation as a means of resolving difficulties and promoting change. Concerned at the breakdown in relations, the UN General Assembly, in December 1993, passed a resolution urging both parties to resume dialogue which the resolution states "is of fundamental importance for the achievement of the goals of the Common System". In January of this year, at its Annual Council Meeting, FICSA decided to respond positively to the resolution of the General Assembly and to resume participation in the work of the Commission.

Perhaps the best way of conveying the outcome of renewed attempts at dialogue is to read excerpts from the opening and closing statements of the FICSA President.

In her opening statement to the Commission in June this year, the President stated "we hope that there will be a real opportunity for dialogue, and that the Commission will listen to our arguments with a new receptiveness and open-mindedness. It is never easy for partners in dialogue to admit past mistakes; the simple path, and one which many have a tendency to follow, including, on occasions, staff representatives, is to remain stubbornly entrenched in one's earlier positions in order to justify, *post facto*, actions taken or decisions reached at that time. The Commission has an advantage over other bodies, whether Member States, administrations or staff, in that it should not have any particular stake in the issues, no particular axe to grind, no clamouring constituency to appease.

We trust that we shall be treated to a demonstration of the objectivity, impartiality, flexibility and independence which are the hallmarks of the International Civil Service Commission, and for which its members were appointed to their important office.

The President's closing statement reads as follows. FICSA resumed participation in the work of the Commission because it was led to believe such participation would be meaningful. We were encouraged by representatives of Member States, by heads of organizations and administrative representatives, by the Secretary-General of the United Nations, by the Chairmen of the Commission and by anyone else who believes in dialogue to give the Commission another chance.

Together with my colleagues on the Executive Committee, I am obliged to return to all our helpful advisers, to our constituents, to tell them that we and they were wrong. There is no place for staff representatives in the Commission. There is no dialogue.

We are unable to crack, let alone break through, the seemingly impenetrable wall of resistance to improvements in the conditions of service of our staff at Headquarters or in the field, professional or general service. We cannot wrench open either your eyes or your minds and we cannot shout loud enough to reach your closed ears.

You had decided in advance not to give us a chance and you have never swayed from that path. As an independent impartial body, you do not have our confidence or our trust. Whether or not FICSA ever attends another session of the Commission is a decision which lies with our membership. What we will report is quite simple: We kept our side of the agreement, you did not keep yours.

Distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen, these are harsh words that reflect the disillusionment and the bitterness of failure, and can only be fully appreciated by tracing their roots to the specific events which took place during the Commission's 40th session in June and July of this year.

At that session, the issue of the general service salary survey methodology for Headquarters' duty stations had been put back on the agenda of the Commission, at the request of FICSA, for discussion. Everyone knew that the resumption of dialogue depended largely on how this test-case was handled.

FICSA submitted its position paper to the Commission five weeks in advance. During the Session, however, the Secretariat of the Commission stated that it had not had time to study the FICSA document and consequently could not advise the Members of the Commission on the points it contained.

This statement was factually incorrect since the Secretariat had five weeks to study the document. What it meant was that the document had not been given any priority, notwithstanding its significance in contributing to the resumption of dialogue between both parties urged by the UN General Assembly.

The Members of the Commission refused to discuss the revised methodology before 1996, the end of the present round of salary surveys. Both the staff representatives and the administrations formulated alternative proposals to try to reach an agreement that would go some way towards respecting the position of each party and permit continued dialogue.

Not only did the Commission refuse alternative proposals, it was either incapable or unwilling to produce any of its own. It was, as the FICSA President stated, intransigent, and its intransigence clearly revealed the futility of staff representative participation in a process of token consultation.

The reason why the general service salary survey methodology was a test-case for resumption of dialogue was because it was on exactly this issue that dialogue had broken down before. As mentioned earlier, in order to retain and recruit the qualified staff required, the salaries of the general service are established in accordance with the best prevailing conditions in the locality.

This is what is known as the Flemming Principle, and its application is achieved through a body of rules known as the salary survey methodology. A fine-tuning of this methodology is normal after every round of salary surveys, usually every four to five years. The last revision, however, went far beyond a fine tuning, it was an attack on general service salaries, which were arbitrarily considered to be too high and this was at the root of the overlap between general service and professional salaries.

This is why, in the tripartite working group set up to review the methodology, the views of one party, the ICSC, outweighed the views of the other two parties, CCAQ and the staff representatives. Although the Joint Inspection Unit report on the overlap question identified the true cause of the overlap to be in the non-competitiveness of professional salaries, the damage to the methodology for general service salaries had been done.

Distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen, many of you live in Rome and are fully aware that life here is not cheap. Apartment rents are between 1 and 2 million lire. School fees begin at around half a million lire per month. The per diem rate has more than tripled over the last ten years up to approximately Lit. 356 000 in order to keep pace with the cost of living.

Over the last fourteen years, general service salaries show an average increase of 10.9 percent per annum compared with an 11.0 percent increase in those of the Italian Public Service; they have simply kept pace with the dynamics of the Rome labour market as they are supposed to. There is no objective reason for reducing them.

With regard to our professional colleagues, the lack of neutrality and competence on the part of the Commission has resulted in the following: failure to consider, for the setting of UN professional salary levels, the pay increases granted to the comparator, within the context of the US Federal Employees Pay Comparability Act; refusal to undertake any genuine study as to whether or not the current comparator, in fact, fulfils the requirements enunciated in the Noblemaire Principle, namely, that it is the best paid civil service; refusal to correct its admitted error in freezing the evolution of the Pension Element in the Post Adjustment (PEPA), which has already caused very substantial underpayments to professional staff everywhere; failure to address the inability of many UN organizations, including the Rome-based organizations, to offer conditions of employment that will attract and retain sufficient, well-qualified staff, despite the evidence presented by FICSA in July 1992 in its study entitled "The United Nations: an Uncompetitive Employer", which the Chairman of the Commission himself admitted, before the United Nations Fifth Committee, is technically correct; the arbitrary decision to deprive staff in the Italian duty stations of the relief it had earlier granted in December 1992 to offset the abrupt and major devaluation of the local currency; and, in relation to the recent Rome place-to-place survey, its inability to reach a satisfactory procedure for the independent establishment of housing costs, and to derive a methodology to measure vehicle and vehicle insurance costs, not to mention what the professional staff representatives call "the statistical nonsense" of the Commission's recent out-of-expenditure survey.

Decisions at international level have a direct impact on the conditions of service at local level. When those decisions do not adequately reflect the views of the staff representatives, the possibility of resistance to their application at local level is increased.

In the case of professional staff, the recent place-to-place survey elicited responses from barely 10 percent of the professional staff of FAO.

The Field Staff Association has, after a lot of deliberation, taken the decision not to collaborate with the Commission on any issue, including the classification of field posts, although this may cause direct and immediate short-term disadvantages to their members and may further erode the competitiveness of UN salaries and conditions of service in the field.

The Unesco staff refused to participate with the Commission in the Paris salary survey last year and are now legally contesting the results. The staff representatives of the seven UN agencies based in Geneva, as well as those of the lead UN agencies in Vienna, have also declared their intention not to participate in the salary surveys for those headquarters duty stations.

Recently, the United Nations Under Secretary General of Administration and Finance wrote to the Chairman of the Commission to understand how the Commission intends to proceed with the salary survey for Geneva considering that the methodology itself states that the views of the staff representatives in this tripartite exercise are crucial. In Rome, the staff representatives of FAO, WFP and IFAD have also refused to participate in the salary survey presently under way and, as in Unesco, intend to legally contest the results, if necessary.

The Rome salary survey is rather a special case which deserves to be examined in some depth, since it brings out clearly the difficulties staff representatives experience in cooperating with the Commission.

In the controversy over the survey reference date, what is sometimes overlooked, and needs to be underscored, is that the Commission's decision does not respect the notification and preparation procedures for a salary survey stipulated by the methodology itself, and consequently is legally questionable.

The normal timetable of events for local salary surveys stipulated in the methodology is very clear: it speaks of notifying the reference date about ten months in advance and allowing from six to nine months for the preparatory phase.

Past practice shows that, while the Commission establishes a general schedule for the salary surveys of all the Headquarters duty stations concerned, the precise dates are later communicated to the Executive Head by letter which is copied to the staff representatives ten months in advance. The reference date of November for the Rome survey was set only in July and definitely does not allow the necessary time for survey preparation. Both the United Nations and the ILO Administrative Tribunals have established that the Commission's methodology is legally binding, and the ILO Administrative Tribunal has consistently ruled that established procedures must be followed.

The Commission's failure to adhere strictly to its own procedures is the basis for a number of appeals lodged against the Director-General of FAO in September.

An equally important point is that the decision to set the reference date was taken with a view to preventing payment of a 4.7 percent salary increment that had fallen due in June.

This was clearly evident during the discussions when one Member of the Commission stated he could not understand what the problem was; and, if both FAO Administration and staff representatives were agreeable to have the salary survey undertaken in January 1995 and the results would be ready for the next ICSC Session, why the Commission could not agree to this.

The Chairman replied that the reference date of the survey was significant, in so far as it would allow or prevent payment of the salary increment, a point to which several members of the Commission gave some significance. We have been advised that this is an abuse of power.

The Commission's authority to establish the reference date of a salary survey should be taken with the view to ensure an effective application of the Flemming Principle and not to prevent salary increments which have fallen due.

Initially, the New York survey was scheduled for November 1994 and Rome was asking for January 1995. Subsequently, the Commission decided to attribute November 1994 to Rome and January 1995 to New York.

The above switching of reference dates between Rome and New York constitutes indisputable evidence of the absence of any practical difficulty for the Commission to undertake a salary survey in January 1995. It was simply that it did not want to give to Rome the date it was requesting.

In this connection it was very disheartening for us to hear the Organization's request for more time in view of the restructuring exercise reduced by the Commission to "Rome just dragging its feet".

The staff representatives also raised in the Commission the delicate question of harmonious staff/management relations. This is what we said: "Now the Commission may say that staff/management relations are not its concern. But we believe that good working relations in the Common System are everyone's concern. We believe it is very important, at this point in time, that staff representatives are in a position to convey to their members that the Commission carries out its regulatory function in a manner which takes into consideration the local situation. For the Common System to survive, flexibility is required. If the Common System becomes a straitjacket into which disparate local conditions are constrained, frustration at the local level will run high and difficult staff/management relations will ensue. We believe that the Commission, which has enormous responsibility for the good functioning of the Common System, should not ignore these questions."

The Commission chose to ignore these questions with the result that cracks in the Common System are now visible. The ACC, at its last session in September, expressed serious reservations with regard to the work of the Commission. The staff of ILO Geneva have requested their organization to withdraw from the Common System. The Plenipotentiary Conference of the Independent Telecommunications Union adopted a resolution in September regarding compensation matters which provides the ITU Executive Council with a mandate to verify whether the compensation policies of the ICSC are not contrary to the interests of ITU.

In Rome, feeling that there is no other way of having their views given serious consideration, the staff held a one and a half day protest against the behaviour of the Commission but conducted the demonstration in a manner which would not hinder the important work of this Council.

The FICSA response to the problem of the ICSC is now to work towards the formation of an alternative body in which representatives of the Member States, the organizations and the staff may work together jointly to produce recommendations for submission to the UN General Assembly for decision, much in the way the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Board functions. Some Member States have already indicated that they could support such a body. There are some compelling arguments. A tripartite body would obviate the need for subsequent legal appeals - that, incidentally, have often proved costly to the organization concerned - since staff would be aware that their elected representatives had been party to the consensus.

By broadening the base on which it can take its decisions, the General Assembly can be assured that all aspects of, and points of view on, each issue are taken fully into account. A tripartite body will permit the necessary checks and balances which will ensure the independence and impartiality of the process. Although individuals will be representing the interests of their constituents, because of the equal balance of each party, the outcome will reflect a negotiated compromise on which the General Assembly will base its final decisions.

Finally, the transition to a more participatory process would help re-establish confidence on the part of both staff and administrations in the System.

Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen, in the past the Union of General Service Staff has always upheld the objective and technical work of the Commission but the events of recent years have forced us to adopt a different position. We cannot cooperate with an intransigent body intent on imposing unilateral decisions to the detriment of the conditions of employment of the staff and the good functioning of the specialized agencies. In this we stand together with the two other staff bodies and we place our trust in the Council's support, as expressed in its Resolution of November 1992 which stipulates that there should be no

erosion in the conditions of service of the staff. At the same time, we convey to you our hope that the question of reform or replacement of the International Civil Service Commission be given due consideration in all appropriate fora, in order to ensure a truly participatory and effective mechanism for establishing the conditions of employment of staff in the Common System.

Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen, I thank you most sincerely for the time you have given us today, to listen to what we have to say, and, in particular, for your very kind consideration of the points we have raised.

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Sra. Margareth Eldon, Secretaria General del Sindicato del Personal Local y no Local de los Servicios Generales, el Consejo ha tomado debida nota de sus amplios comentarios. Ahora me permito ofrecer la palabra a los miembros del Consejo. La lista de oradores está abierta. Tiene la palabra la distinguida delegación de Uganda.

**Wilbeforce H. SAKIRA (Uganda):** Mr Chairman, we would like to request that you allow the Chairman of the Group of 77, who currently holds an observer status, to intervene on Agenda Item 17.

**T. YANGA (Observer for Cameroon):** Thank you very much, Mr Chairman, for giving me the floor on this very important subject on the Council's Agenda.

This morning we listened with great interest to the information provided by the Director-General and his assistants, Mr Shah and Mr Mehboob, on the efforts deployed by the administration with regard to associating fully and effectively the staff at all levels with the implementation of the restructuring of the organization. We have noted with satisfaction that during the last ten months there has been consultation with the personnel more than ever before. Up until this stage, the G77 commends the Director-General for his efforts and requests him to continue.

This afternoon we have listened to the staff representative. We are surprised, and happy at the same time, to hear that their action on 15 and 16 November was not directed against the Director-General - as a matter of fact they thanked him - nor against the Organization. However, it should be stressed that some delegates arriving at the FAO in front of the Headquarters building on Tuesday morning had the impression that the General Service Staff were in conflict with the management or had something against the Council and its Members. It now transpires that that apparently is not the case. It would appear that there is some erosion in the procedure. This calls to mind the words of an eminent judge at the International Court of Justice in The Hague who, in summing up a similar case, said, *inter alia*, that an error in procedure can lead to a miscarriage of justice. It is clear that the objectives of the staff movement could have been achieved in some other way at a more appropriate time.

That said, we will request the Director-General to continue to devote the attention that is required to the personnel problems. At the same time, we would like to remind the General Service Staff that they should not abuse the freedom of expression and the more democratic environment that they are now enjoying. I am saying without fear of favour that from my five years experience here at FAO, frankly there is a very comforting wind of change that has been blowing for ten months with the coining of the new Director-General, Jacques Diouf, the human resources being amongst the first and most important assets of the Organization.

The G77 would like to reaffirm its support for the disposition of Resolution 1/102 adopted by this Council at the 102nd Session on this very same matter. The concerns of the staff are legitimate, or may seem legitimate if the Legal Counsel would allow me to use that expression in these circumstances. Hence, the G-77 requests the Council to take all necessary measures to enhance this matter in a very pacific manner. The details given by the staff representative are very cogent but they need a long study which cannot be handled adequately at this very moment and by the Council. We would say right away that we sympathise with the staff but we will tell them again that an error in procedure could lead to a gross miscarriage of justice.

**Jacques LAUREAU (France):** Monsieur le Président, nous sommes parfaitement conscients du fait que les conditions d'emploi du personnel jouent un rôle très important dans la réalisation de ses tâches par l'Organisation. Nous estimons que le Directeur général y a d'ailleurs fait éloquemment référence tout à l'heure.

J'en viens maintenant à un commentaire sur le point plus spécifique de notre ordre du jour tel qu'il a été présenté par toutes les personnes qui sont autour de cette table de réunion. La question préoccupante des modalités du calcul de l'ajustement de poste pour Rome nous semble clairement décrite dans les documents qui nous ont été distribués: CL 107/INF/22 et CL 107/4.

S'agissant de la mesure spéciale, on sait que la CFPI avait autorisé son application à compter du mois de mars 1993. Cette mesure consistait en une augmentation de quatre points du facteur d'ajustement de poste censée permettre de préserver le pouvoir d'achat du personnel du cadre organique des institutions situées à Rome face à la situation créée par la dévaluation de la lire. La CFPI avait également délégué à son Président, M. Bel Hadj Amor - par ailleurs lui-même ancien directeur du personnel de l'OAA - l'autorité de lever cette mesure dès lors que les conditions de la vie à Rome ne la justifiait plus en raison du redressement de la lire italienne, d'une variation de l'indice d'inflation, etc... La levée de cette mesure spéciale avait été demandée par le Président de la CFPI au mois de février 1994, à sa quarante et unième session. En juin-juillet dernier, la CFPI a décidé de lever cette mesure, non pas à compter de février 1994 mais seulement de juillet 1994, soit quelques mois plus tard.

S'agissant de la situation du personnel des services généraux, on sait que, conformément à la procédure d'ajustement provisoire en vigueur, celui-ci aurait dû bénéficier d'une augmentation de 4,69 pour cent sur le traitement brut à compter du 1<sup>er</sup> juin 1994. Mais, la CFPI ayant décidé que l'enquête sur les conditions d'emploi des agents des services généraux serait réalisée au plus tard en novembre 1994, cet ajustement a été différé. Dans ces conditions, quelle peut être la marge de manoeuvre du Directeur général? Nous approuvons l'observation du Comité financier qui a reconnu que la décision qu'il avait prise de continuer d'appliquer la mesure spéciale de février à juin 1994 était bien de son ressort. De fait, la CFPI elle-même n'a pas contesté cette décision. Nous ne pouvons qu'approuver la Commission de la fonction publique internationale lorsqu'elle reconnaît que cette situation a mis en lumière de graves lacunes dans le système d'ajustement de poste mais nous devons lui enjoindre aussi de mener sans tarder les études qui lui sont demandées par le Secrétaire général des Nations Unies pour analyser les difficultés qui en découlent et permettre de trouver une solution pour sortir de l'impasse.

Nous souhaiterions donc savoir, au-delà des décisions à court terme susceptibles d'être prises par le Directeur général, si le groupe de travail mentionné au paragraphe 9 du document CL 107/INF/22 a été effectivement constitué et, dans l'affirmative, où en est l'état de ses travaux.

**Adel Mahmoud ABOUL-NAGA (Egypt) (original language Arabic):** I will be very brief. First of all, I would like to support what was said by the Chairman of the Group of 77. That is the viewpoint of all the nations which are members of the Group of 77. I would also like to support the decision of the 106th Session of the Council relative to this subject matter. I would also like to refer the point raised by the delegate from France in the sense that the study should be carried out as rapidly as possible. It is quite evident, however, that the administration of FAO has in no way whatsoever delayed or hampered the carrying out of that survey.

**Raphael RABE (Madagascar):** D'emblée, je voudrais déclarer que ma délégation fait également sienne la déclaration du Groupe des 77. Vous vous souviendrez, Monsieur le Président, que ma délégation est déjà intervenue ce matin sur ce sujet, suite aux informations que M. Mehboob nous avait communiquées. Nous voulions, en effet, manifester notre appréciation de la voie de la consultation et du dialogue choisie par le Directeur général dans la conduite de l'Organisation. Nous avons noté que cette consultation et ce dialogue avec le personnel avaient également eu lieu à plusieurs occasions; Mais, malheureusement, des problèmes persistent. Nous sommes heureux de savoir que la grève qui a eu lieu n'était pas dirigée contre le Directeur général mais avait un autre motif. En tout cas, nous souhaitons, nous aussi, que de tels mouvements ne soient plus justifiés, le personnel ayant eu gain de cause dans sa lutte.

Aussi, nous nous félicitons de ce que le Conseil se penche actuellement sur cette question d'une gravité qu'il ne faut pas minimiser. Nous regrettons le bras de fer qui existe entre la CFPI et le représentant du personnel et nous souhaitons que le dialogue puisse reprendre car, comme l'a dit le représentant du personnel, les institutions de ce système et tous leurs organes devraient être complémentaires et s'entraider. De toutes façons, nous apprécions l'attitude du Directeur général et l'appuyons dans sa décision de ne pas supprimer la mesure spéciale. Le Comité financier lui a d'ailleurs également donné raison en ce sens car on ne peut pas concevoir que, du jour au lendemain, des salaires soient modifiés à la baisse. A notre sens, le Conseil devrait donner son appui au Directeur général dans l'action qu'il mène en vue d'assurer une rémunération juste et équitable aux membres du personnel de l'Organisation.

Je voudrais également dire qu'il me semble opportun que le Conseil examine avec beaucoup d'attention la possibilité pour le Directeur général de déroger à certaines décisions lorsque la viabilité de l'Organisation est en danger. J'attire d'ailleurs l'attention de cette auguste assemblée sur le paragraphe 375 du document CL 107/INF/22-Supp.1 dans lequel il est indiqué que, conformément à une jurisprudence du Tribunal administratif de l'Organisation internationale du travail, le Directeur général est légalement tenu d'examiner les décisions de la CFPI et, s'il les jugeait mal fondées sur le plan juridique et technique, de ne pas les appliquer à son personnel afin de ne pas porter atteinte à ses droits. C'est un tribunal digne de confiance qui a pris cette décision qui devient donc jurisprudence.

En outre, nous partageons nous aussi les préoccupations du Directeur général sur la façon dont l'enquête sur les conditions de rémunération du personnel des services généraux est menée. Nous pensons que les problèmes qui ont conduit le Conseil à adopter la Résolution 1/102 persistent. Il faudrait donc appliquer cette Résolution et la renforcer par des dispositions permettant au Directeur général d'assurer une gestion saine et efficace, et bien entendu équitable, du personnel, et faire en sorte que le problème de recrutement et de maintien de personnel hautement qualifié ne se pose plus à l'avenir.

**Christophe KIEMTORE (Burkina Faso):** Ma délégation voudrait avant tout apporter son soutien à la déclaration qui vient d'être faite par le représentant du Groupe des 77. Nous partageons son analyse sur la question qui nous est soumise.

Nous avons suivi, autant que nous pouvions bien sûr les exposés très complexes qui viennent de nous être faits sur la question et en tant que membre du Comité financier, je voudrais, pour me limiter dans le temps, reprendre ce que le délégué de la France vient de décrire. Ainsi, en ce qui concerne l'examen de la question par ce Comité technique du Conseil, le Comité financier qui est censé traiter de ces questions complexes, avait effectivement été informé. Il a examiné la question et ses conclusions se retrouvent dans les documents qui ont été présentés. Nous avons effectivement reconnu que le CFPI était l'organe, au niveau du Système des Nations Unies, qui était habilité à régler toutes questions d'ajustement de poste. Il n'est pas question de contester cette attribution. Ce que l'on a reconnu également c'est que de façon unanime le Comité financier a donné raison au Directeur général qui n'avait pas jugé opportun de suspendre les mesures en cours. Nous l'avons plutôt encouragé à poursuivre ces mesures visées à défendre le personnel contre la détérioration du pouvoir d'achat. Ma délégation voudrait à ce niveau poser une question au représentant du Comité de consultation pour les ajustements de poste, qui se trouve parmi nous, pour essayer de comprendre davantage à quel niveau se situe le problème.

Pour nous qui vivons à Rome et pour les organes directeurs tels que le Conseil, nous sommes convaincus, parce que chaque jour on le dit, que la FAO n'est pas compétitive au niveau des traitements et des salaires, que la vie à Rome est chère, que le niveau des salaires donnés aux Services généraux n'est pas satisfaisant.

La question est de savoir, du point de vue de cet organe qui est supposé maîtriser la question plus que nous, quelle est la compréhension que cet organe a de la question. Nous qui sommes à Rome nous pensons que c'est vrai, que la FAO n'est pas compétitive, mais qu'est ce que le CFPI pense de la question? Nous serions heureux d'entendre le représentant du CFPI sur ce sujet.

Ma délégation voudrait également se référer à la déclaration du représentant de Madagascar. Ma délégation apporte son soutien aux aspects spécifiques de sa déclaration en ce qui concerne le soutien que le Conseil devrait formuler à l'intention du Directeur général pour l'encourager à poursuivre ses démarches, et le soutien



que le Conseil devrait également apporter à tout le personnel pour qu'il poursuive la lutte engagée, en respectant bien sûr l'ordre établi.

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Con esto se cierra la lista de oradores. Pregunto si hay algún otro Miembro del Consejo que desee hacer uso de la palabra. En caso negativo le doy la palabra al Sr. Slater para que responda a las preguntas formuladas.

**A. T. SLATER (Director, Personnel Division):** I believe there was only one question directed at the Secretariat - the question raised by the delegate of France - and I will try to answer that. I believe the last speaker, the delegate of Burkina Faso, has directed a question to the ICSC and perhaps, with your permission, the ICSC could respond to that one.

The question raised by the delegate of France was with regard to the decision by the ICSC to establish a working party to review the question of whether the methodology for the conduct of the post adjustment surveys should be modified in order to take into account abrupt and substantial devaluations in the local currency. The answer is that a working party was constituted by the ICSC and it met in September this year. However, it also considered a number of other technical matters relating to the operation of the post adjustment system and there were no conclusions reached at that stage. It is foreseen that the Commission will reconvene this working party in January of next year to examine this matter. The FAO Administration was represented at the working party in September and we intend to be present when it reconvenes in January of next year.

The working party is not supposed to make any recommendation on this matter at least until the next session of the ICSC, which will be some time in the spring of next year.

**Raphael RABE (Madagascar):** Vous me pardonnerez de reprendre la parole mais je voudrais donner une suite à ma déclaration. J'avais proposé d'une part que le Conseil confirme la Résolution 1.102 et que d'autre part certaines dispositions soient prises.

Avec un certain nombre de délégués nous préparons un projet de résolution dans ce sens, si vous m'autorisez à le faire. Suite à la déclaration que nous avons faite, il y aurait un projet de résolution qui serait soumis au Conseil. Est-ce que c'est possible?

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Distinguido delegado, usted mismo reconocía que ya había una resolución al respecto. Antes de concluir ese punto me voy a permitir dar la palabra a la distinguida delegación de los Estados Unidos.

**Thomas A. FORBORD (United States of America):** As a member of the Finance Committee that looked at this issue some months ago, I am surprised that it is on the agenda today. As the delegate from the G77 correctly stated, this Council cannot deal with this matter. It is under the jurisdiction of a provision established in the UN System which we all respect. That process is going forward. If we wish to preserve the policy of no erosion in conditions of service, we have to find out if there has been erosion in conditions of service which requires the Survey. We hope the staff will cooperate in that Survey. Until the Survey is completed we shall not know whether there is or is not an erosion of service conditions, but it is certainly not an issue which this Council can deal with.

I have my instructions from my Government to provide executive advice to the Secretariat in the Council. This is a micro-management issue which should not be of concern to the Council. The problems are certainly of concern to us. The detailed procedures by which these problems are solved is established in the UN System and I, for one, regret the great deal of valuable time we have lost on this matter and hope we can bring it to a conclusion.

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Muchas gracias, distinguido delegado, por sus comentarios. Ustedes mismos aprobaron en la agencia provisional la inclusión de este tema y estuvieron avisados de que se trataría el viernes por la tarde. Como figura en el orden del día, este tema era para información y/o discusión. Ustedes decidieron tomar la palabra respecto a ello y no simplemente tomar nota de los documentos presentados y de las posiciones ofrecidas por los interesados, de manera que lo que ha sucedido ahora, siento discrepar con usted, pero no ha sido necesariamente una pérdida de tiempo y además fue parte de nuestros trabajos obligados.

En todo caso, me permito solicitar al distinguido delegado de Madagascar que retire su propuesta de una resolución, en virtud de que este tema no era para decisión.

Creo que no es necesario que le dé la palabra a nadie más. Las posiciones están claras y digo lo siguiente:

El Consejo tomó nota de que los documentos que se presentaron fueron para información, no obstante en virtud de la importancia del tema, se escuchó y se tomó nota de las respectivas declaraciones de los representantes de la Comisión Internacional del Servicio Civil y del Sindicato del Personal local y no local de los Servicios Generales.

El Consejo tomó nota de que estas cuestiones se habían señalado con anterioridad a la atención de los Organos Rectores de la FAO en repetidas ocasiones. En 1992 el Consejo produjo una Resolución, la 1/102, que apoyaba los esfuerzos del Director General para mejorar la situación. También tomó nota de que no estaba en manos del Consejo resolver estos asuntos. Sin embargo, se instó al Director General a continuar otorgando pleno apoyo al Personal de la FAO, como lo pedía la resolución del Consejo en 1992.

Se pidió a la CISC que terminase el estudio relativo para saber cuál era la situación prevaleciente.

El Consejo también reconoció que las acciones tomadas por el personal de la FAO al celebrar una huelga no estaban dirigidas en contra de la administración de la FAO ni del Director General sino para enfatizar sus posiciones.

En suma, el Consejo pidió al Director General que continuara otorgando su apoyo al personal de la FAO.

Con esto concluye mi resumen. Si no hay ninguna otra cuestión, se cierra este tema.

Me indican que el Sr. Vegeea tiene alguna cuestión adicional que ofrecer en respuesta de alguna de las preguntas.

**Carlos S. VEGEEA (CAPI):** Lamento no haber podido contestar antes a alguna de las observaciones que se hicieron, que debo decir, son inexactas. Lo que yo pensaba era escucharles a ustedes y después comentar, pero no lo voy a hacer.

Quiero simplemente aclarar tres puntos: primero, sobre el problema general de las remuneraciones del personal profesional es posible que haya problemas y lo escuchamos, pero hay algo que debe quedar bien claro, el proceso de ajuste por lugar de destino no es un proceso para mejorar remuneraciones sino simplemente para equiparar costos de vida, es decir, el personal de la FAO debe vivir tan bien o tan mal como vive el personal en Nueva York y esa es la única finalidad del proceso de ajuste por lugar de destino. Como podía haber un problema, la CAPI propuso que se hiciera una encuesta. Se hicieron todos los trabajos preliminares necesarios para esta encuesta, se mandó a la gente de la CAPI a Roma para hacer los trabajos y, una vez que estaba todo preparado, se retiró el apoyo, un apoyo que ha ido exclusivamente en perjuicio del personal de la FAO, y es indispensable que eso se comprenda. Los representantes del personal de la FAO no han cubierto los intereses de sus propios representados.

Segundo, con respecto al personal de Servicios Generales sí se está haciendo una encuesta ahora y esa encuesta tiene que salir adelante. Debemos agradecer al Director General, que ha dado y está dando toda la cooperación necesaria para ello. Tenemos la mente abierta. Vamos a tratar de ayudar en todo lo posible al personal, pero tiene que ser de acuerdo con las condiciones del mercado de trabajo de Roma. Si las condiciones del mercado de trabajo de Roma lo justifican, habrá un aumento. Si las condiciones no lo justifican, no podrá haberlo. Pero nunca va a haber una reducción.

El tercer punto es sobre la pregunta del distinguido representante de Francia. Sí se creó un grupo de trabajo. Ese grupo de trabajo fue convocado, como bien lo dijo el Sr. Slater, se reunió en Nueva York y no se pudo discutir este tema porque la Secretaría de la FAO no hizo ninguna propuesta; teman la responsabilidad de hacerlo y no lo hicieron, quedaron en hacer la propuesta para la reunión resumida de enero del año que viene. Eso es todo. Quería que quedara claro.

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Si no hay ninguna otra cuestión damos por terminado este tema.

Pienso que trabajemos hasta las siete de la noche. Vamos a presentar ahora lo que resta del Tema 12 y el Tema 13 conjuntamente, en virtud de que se trata de cuestiones complementarias. Inmediatamente después de las respectivas presentaciones y de la lista de oradores, el Comité de redacción se reunirá de nuevo en la Sala de México para continuar discutiendo el informe preliminar de nuestros trabajos.

## **12. Reports of the Sixty-ninth and Seventieth Sessions of the Programme Committee**

## **12. Rapports des soixante-neuvième et soixante-dixième sessions du Comité du Programme**

## **12. Informes de los 69° y 70° períodos de sesiones del Comité del Programa**

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Distinguidos delegados, respecto del Tema 12, ustedes tienen los documentos CL 106/4 y CL 107/4. El informe del Comité del Programa plantea en específico una cuestión que solicita al Consejo que otorgue su orientación y esto se refiere al examen de los programas que llevará a cabo en el futuro el Comité del Programa, en particular en su sesión de mayo de 1995. En este se propone al Consejo que se le permita al Comité del Programa estudiar a fondo temas específicos señalados o propuestos por el Consejo o por el Director General.

Se solicita una segunda recomendación relativa a la DCI en cuanto que realice un estudio sobre las dificultades experimentadas por la FAO en la contratación de personal calificado por no ser competitivas sus condiciones de servicio a la luz de experiencias análogas registradas en el sistema de Naciones Unidas.

Quisiera en primer lugar, invitar al Dr. Bommer, Presidente del Comité del Programa, para que presente este Tema 12.

**D. BOMMER (Chairman, Programme Committee):** I think you have already introduced this item, Mr Chairman, so far as the main points of decision by the Council are concerned, but I would like to put the record straight and refer briefly to what we have done.

You have certainly seen in this paper that the Committee has reviewed, as instructed by you, a number of programmes in the course of the sequence of reviews which the Programme Committee normally undertakes. This is more or less what is left after a four-year cycle of reviews of all programmes of the Organization -programmes on nutrition, food and agricultural information and analyses, food and agriculture policy, and the major programmes on fisheries and forestry.

The Committee based its discussions of these programmes on the main programme and planning documents of the Organization as approved by the 1993 Conference - the Medium-term Plan 1994-99, the Programme of Work and Budget 1994-95, the Programme Evaluation Report, and the Programme Implementation Report for 1992-93. Oral presentations by Senior Programme Managers from the Departments and Divisions concerned updated this information, concentrating on recent developments and the on-going restructuring process, which, as you can imagine, was one of the major questions we had - if this on-going process has an effect on the implementation of the programme.

Our discussions for each programme and sub-programme were both detailed and thorough. The results are presented in paragraphs 2.8-2.73 of the document to which the Chairman has referred. This not only reflects the state of programme implementation but also the effects of the on-going restructuring process, and provides recommendations and suggestions for the development of a new programme of Work and Budget which should now be in preparation.

I do not wish to elaborate here on details of our report, but I wanted to say that overall the Committee was satisfied with the implementation of the programmes reviewed. Difficulties encountered by a high degree of vacancies of professional posts in some of the programmes were reported to be resolved soon. In this context the Committee stressed that the sensitivity of fall programme implementation is of particular concern in respect of the consequences on the Departments of Fisheries and Forestry. Their capacities to fulfil their normative roles need particular observation in developing the next Programme of Work and Budget Programme. As the Chairman mentioned, the Committee also explored ideas to enhance its advisory role to you regarding our future review activities of programmes. The attention of the Council is drawn to the Committee's recommendation that a more flexible and selective approach be adopted in formulating the agenda of future meetings during non-Conference years with a view to enhancing its advisory role. The Committee felt that it should not confine its review in these non-Conference years of Programmes to those under budgetary Chapter 2, namely technical and economic programmes, but that it should seek Council approval to draw up at its April 1995 meeting, and propose to the Council, a list of other subjects including those subjects which the Council or the Director-General might propose. Clearly, in Conference years, our main task is, and remains, the review of the preparation of the Programme of Work and Budget until adoption through the Conference.

Finally, as also was said before, we considered the reports of the Joint Inspection Unit, and the related comments of the ACC or the Director-General. We suggested that a study be undertaken by the Joint Inspection Unit, which is really related to what you have just discussed under Item 17, of the difficulties experienced by FAO in the recruitment of qualified staff for lack of competitive conditions of service, in the light of similar experiences in the UN system, to ensure competitive employment conditions of this Organization - a fact to which our earlier discussion referred.

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Muchas gracias, Dr. Bommer, Presidente del Comité del Programa.

Distinguidos delegados, como les había informado nos íbamos a mover al Tema 12 para que se estudiara inmediatamente antes del Tema 13. Una de las razones por las cuales se requería hacer esto, era porque el Sr. Embajador Valenza, Vicepresidente del Comité de Finanzas, no podía estar con nosotros el lunes, y requería presentar el Tema 13 el día de hoy. Sin embargo, para no confundir los dos puntos, el 12 y el 13, voy a abrir la lista de oradores respecto a los aspectos señalados por el Dr. Bommer sobre el Tema 12 ahora. Si la lista de oradores es muy grande y no nos permite terminar con la discusión de este tema, me voy a permitir, antes de que concluyamos, solicitarle al Embajador Valenza que presente también el Tema 13.

**E. Wayne DENNEY (United States of America):** The United States endorses the report of the 17th Session of the Programme Committee. We continue to believe that this Committee performs a useful function and should be open to observer countries which wish to attend. The programmes reviewed during this session are very important to the United States and we would like to offer a few brief comments. FAO's nutrition activities, including ICN follow-up and Codex Alimentarius work, particularly in the light of the GATT accord, are especially important. We support the recommendation to strengthen FAO's assistance to Member Nations in developing and improving national agricultural statistical systems. The availability of WAICENT to Member Nations via INTERNET is a long-awaited development.

The United States has regularly supported FAO's Global Information and Early Warning Systems and we agree that national and regional systems should be strengthened. GIEWS must avoid relying too much on extra-budgetary funding. We share the Committee's concerns regarding the importance of FAO's collaboration with the UN Regional Economic Commissions following the redeployment of FAO in joint divisions. It is also encouraging to hear of FAO's increased collaboration with IFPRI regarding long-term trend analysis.

We look forward to the April 1995 CCP meeting, which will make recommendations to make its IGG meetings more efficient, and will take a close look at FAO's analysis of the Uruguay Round.

Paragraph 2.36 suggests that sustainability is a relatively new concept for FAO. This is an extremely important area for FAO's future work, as noted by the Director-General last June. We support this thrust and believe that FAO needs to develop appropriate sustainability performance indicators.

On fisheries, we concur with the observation of the Committee that decentralization of fisheries activities should be carefully considered and not be done to the detriment of FAO's valuable globally-based work.

Our views on forestry were addressed during an earlier agenda item, but we want to support the Committee's recommendation for a well-targeted strategy on forestry matters, and we believe that having an ADG for Forestry is an essential step in this process.

Finally, we support the idea expressed in paragraph 2.69 of enhancing the Programme Committee's advisory role to the Council and look forward to discussing when that can best be achieved.

**Jaime GARCIA Y BADIAS (España):** Muchas gracias, Sr. Presidente. Con relación a la reunión conjunta de los Comités del Programa y de Finanzas, nuestra delegación ha analizado con especial atención los diferentes aspectos de dicho informe relacionados con programas especiales en los cuales se analizan el apoyo al ajuste del programa especial sobre la producción de alimentos en apoyo de la seguridad alimentaria en los países de bajos ingresos, y con déficit alimentario, sobre la reestructuración de la sede; descentralización y oficinas de campo; infraestructura de comunicaciones y nuevos acuerdos de cooperación.

Todo ello, ya sabemos que se ha analizado en el Tema 11 de la presente sesión de este Consejo y, según se ha demostrado, las esperanzas de un final con éxito son altas. Deseamos que tal éxito se alcance en muy breve espacio de tiempo.

Con relación al Comité del Programa de la FAO, nuestra delegación cree que el mismo debe reflejar la situación de la agricultura y la alimentación con fiabilidad y actualidad.

En la línea de analizar la situación de los diferentes aspectos que se van produciendo deseamos hacer unos breves comentarios sobre los programas siguientes:

Programa 2.18: Políticas Alimentarias y Agrarias. En particular el Comité de Problemas de Productos Básicos. Apoyamos la iniciativa de examinar en el próximo período de sesiones el estudio especial sobre productos básicos, estudio que permitirá fortalecerlos y racionalizarlos.

Igualmente apoyamos el concepto de sostenibilidad incorporado recientemente a los criterios existentes sobre la agricultura y el desarrollo.

Programa 2.2: Pesca. La validez de la Conferencia Mundial de Pesca de 1984, y sus recomendaciones, deben guiarnos en las actuaciones que se adopten en esta área, de vital importancia para todos los países.

No obstante la reducción de los recursos financieros del Departamento de Pesca y el compromiso de ejecutar nuevos empeños, tales como el Código de conducta para la pesca responsable, la reordenación integrada de zonas costeras y el apoyo técnico y científico a la Conferencia de las Naciones Unidas sobre las poblaciones de peces cuyos territorios se encuentran dentro y fuera de las zonas económicas exclusivas, y las poblaciones de peces altamente migratorias, es motivo de satisfacción el haberse mantenido por parte de la Organización su capacidad de análisis y su capacidad de ejecución de programas, no obstante también la tendencia descendente de las aportaciones extrapresupuestarias.

Apoyamos la alternativa de la acuicultura, como alternativa alimentaria de amplias capas de población. Esperamos que el próximo COFI dé un impulso definitivo al Código de conducta para la pesca responsable.

Programa 2.3: Montes. La ejecución de los planes nacionales de acción forestal utilizando el marco del PAFT constituye una buena base para la conservación sostenible de los bosques con la intervención y participación de todos los interesados. En esta línea creemos muy positiva la puesta en marcha del Plan de Acción Forestal para el Mediterráneo y la continua actualización de la evaluación de los recursos forestales mundiales.

Con relación al apartado 2.6.3, nuestra delegación cree que el futuro del sector forestal, pasa por el fomento y la utilización sostenida de los productos forestales madereros y no madereros y por la importancia de primar la calidad y el valor añadido de los productos forestales, con medidas extractivas y de elaboración inocuas

para el medio ambiente y la elaboración de un modelo de código de explotación de productos forestales. Finalmente, Sr. Presidente, en esta línea de actuación creemos altamente positivas todas las iniciativas relacionadas con la promoción de las industrias forestales, especialmente las pequeñas y medianas, que puedan promover el desarrollo rural y ser fuente de empleo, que emprenda la Organización y que persigan estos objetivos.

**Ms M. McCOWAN (United Kingdom):** Firstly, we strongly believe in the need for the Programme Committee to use its time as productively as possible through concentrating on the detail of fewer projects and doing so in more depth.

We welcome in particular the Report of the Seventieth Session of the Programme Committee, with much of which the United Kingdom agrees, especially the helpful suggestions on future focus for Committee examination of programmes encompassing not only the content of individual programmes but also more strategic issues such as the relationship of the Special Action Programmes to ongoing Regular Programmes, and secondly the importance attached by the Committee to clear strategic planning to link the many activities within the FAO portfolio and to provide for long-term development of these programmes.

Turning to a few of the items highlighted on the Committee on Food and Information Systems, we note that proper emphasis is given to the importance of the Global Early Warning System, to the important work of FAO in strengthening national statistical systems and to the need for FAO to improve access to its information data bases. In noting the emphasis given to national statistical systems, we caution, however, against FAO becoming involved in the development of further methodologies rather than remaining focused on operations.

Lastly, we note the stress placed by the Committee on new responsibilities the Fisheries Group have taken on, despite cuts in funding, especially in relation to international negotiations. We emphasize that this is a crucial role for FAO and resources must be re-allocated as necessary to allow this to be carried out.

**Kenji SHIMIZU (Japan):** First of all, my delegation commends the efforts of the two Committees, namely Programme and Finance. Their work is very hard if they are to cover all the activities of this Organization. The exercise has a bearing on each of the members.

My delegation has several specific comments on the document before us, CL 107/4.

Firstly, 2.15, "Programme: Food and Agricultural Information Analyses": of course my delegation also agreed that food and agricultural information must be reliable, current and available on a timely basis. But my delegation is concerned that we are now processing the decentralization of this Organization.

My delegation is convinced that information which is currently reliably available on a timely basis should be strengthened, under the process of reform of decentralization.

Secondly, 2.17: this Organization is developing and improving statistical indicators of land use, environment, poverty and malnutrition. My delegation also supports collaboration with other organizations. For example, UNDP has developed very useful indicators in the field of HLD.

Further, the importance of ECDC is stressed here in paragraph 2.27, but my delegation prefers that more emphasis should be placed on TCDC rather than ECDC.

With regard to paragraph 2.35 on Structural Adjustment Programmes in Developing Countries and this Organization helping Member Nations in examining the social cost of adjustment, this exercise should be strictly conducted under the purview of this Organization.

My delegation fully supports the recommendation that such changes should not affect the close relationship and mutual feedback between the normative and operational activities of the Organization in paragraph 2.54.

Lastly, my delegation associates itself with the statement made by the USA with regard to focusing on the important issue or themes in paragraph 2.69.

**Harald HILDEBRAND (Germany):** My delegation would like to endorse the Report of the Seventieth Session of the Programme Committee.

We would especially like to commend the positive changes in the work of the Committee as reflected in the Report. As many of the aspects related to the Programme Committee have already been touched upon under Item 11, my comments will be short.

The Programme Committee reviewed major programmes of the Organization which go partly beyond the current Work Programme and FAO itself.

The British delegation has already made reference to the convenience of going strategic. To focus the Secretariat's attention on these aspects, which require long-term planning, inter-agency coordination and priority setting is, in the view of my delegation, the right approach. This is correct because many demanding problems must be tackled which are of great complexity and diversity.

This remark refers to ICN follow-up action, food and agricultural information and analysis, including the Global Information and Early Warning System, agricultural policy advice contributions to the Uruguay Round follow-up including - and this has already been highlighted during our previous debate - the establishment of close working relations with the future World Trade Organization.

My delegation fully subscribes to the Committee's recommendation to provide for close integration of the Sub-Programme 2184, World Trade Security and other Programmes, with the new Special Programme of the Director-General for Low-Income Food-Deficit Countries.

**Franco GINOCCHIO (Italy):** The Italian delegation would like to thank FAO's Secretariat for document CL 107/4, containing the Reports of the Programme and Finance Committees.

Whilst the Italian delegation approves the Report of the Programme Committee, we would like to make some comments.

With reference to paragraph 1.5 of the Report of the Joint Session of the Programme and Finance Committees, we note with satisfaction that mention is made of the consultation undertaken by FAO's Director-General with important Organizations such as the World Bank and UNDP in order to obtain the support of these institutions for the intensification of the activities in the sector of the Technical Cooperation Programme.

We attach much importance to the strengthening of the relationship between FAO and these institutions and we hope that it will be possible to mobilize additional funds.

With regard to the Programme Committee Report, we share the opinion expressed in paragraph 2.12 of the Report, in accordance with which the nutritional information and quality of food should be considered fundamental elements in the process of the formulation and implementation of food security policies.

With reference to paragraph 2.14, we underline the importance of promoting new technical cooperation arrangements between the developing countries and also between the Central and Eastern European countries in transition towards a market economy.

Furthermore, we would underline the importance of reinforcing FAO's role as adviser to Governments in the formulation and implementation of concrete technical assistance and investment projects.

We would also draw attention to the need to ensure effective coordination and complementarity between FAO field projects and the multilateral and bilateral activities of assistance for development carried out by other relevant United Nations Agencies and by donor countries.

Finally, the Italian delegation wishes to express its support for the programmes and sub-programmes of FAO in Agriculture, Fishing, Nutrition and Forestry.

**Ricardo VELAZQUEZ HUERTA (México):** Brevemente, primero, para reiterar lo que ya comentamos al tratar el punto 11, y es recomendar que el informe del Comité del Programa se apruebe sin correcciones y, segundo, significar el trabajo realizado por el Presidente del Comité del Programa. El ha introducido en el trabajo del Comité ideas muy innovadoras que permiten a los miembros del mismo trabajar de una manera muy ágil y ordenada. Quiero especialmente felicitarle y agradecerle por el espíritu de colaboración que suscitó entre los miembros de este Comité.

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Creo que el Consejo, en su totalidad, aprecia, reconoce y apoya sus palabras de agradecimiento y admiración a la labor realizada por el Presidente del Comité del Programa. ¿Si no hay otro miembro del Consejo que desea hacer uso de la palabra, me voy a permitir pedir al Dr. Bommer que haga los comentarios finales?

**D. BOMMER (Chairman, Programme Committee):** Firstly, allow me to thank all those who have spoken and the endorsements of the findings of our Committee.

The thanks which have been expressed to me have to go to members of the Committee. I am very grateful for the kind words. We try hard to improve working conditions and our effectiveness.

I would refer to one comment from the US delegation that we should allow observers to participate. In principle, the answer is yes. I think the legal position allows for this, if the Committee agreed to let the observers come.

We have discussed this several times. I ask, do you all wish to come? In which room do we meet? How many will come? If we open this to the total membership, it would be 470. That is a question which one has to raise.

Certainly, on your side, you have to advise us as to how you wish to handle it. Twelve each time, or ten each time? You determine the criteria on which the ten are selected. These are matters you have to consider if you use this phrase of leaving this open to observers, much as we would like to.

You also should know, your sitting here prevents you really talking to each other. We talk to each other because we sit in front of each other. It is a different setting, it is a different climate, a different working style.

We should cautiously observe this, as much as we would like to be even more open and even more flexible in any way.

I have this to say at the end. Most of the comments made are more really to the Secretariat in consideration of the future formalization of the Programme of Work and Budget.

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Gracias, Dr. Bommer. Antes de hacer el resumen final, debo reconocer también, como miembro del Comité del Programa que fui, la forma eficaz con que dirigió siempre nuestros debates, la manera innovadora, el modo en que nos apresuraba usted a pensar, a formular planteamientos creativos. Creo que, gracias a ello, el trabajo del Comité del Programa, en verdad, ha tenido un empuje muy poderoso en los últimos años y ha logrado arribar a propuestas muy positivas que, como usted ve, el Consejo ha apreciado y endosado.

Para concluir, podría decir que después de apreciar la introducción de este tema por parte del Dr. Bommer y elogiarle por su labor al frente del Comité del Programa, el Consejo endosó el informe del 69° y 70° período de sesiones del Comité del Programa, y tras hacer diversos comentarios respecto de su contenido y las recomendaciones, apoyó dichas recomendaciones de esos informes. Con esto concluyo el Tema 12. Si no hay otra observación, pasaría al Tema 13. Nos limitaremos en este caso a la presentación del mismo. Voy a solicitar al Embajador Valenza, Vicepresidente del Comité de Finanzas, y en virtud de que el Dr. Khan, Presidente de dicho Comité, no pudo estar presente entre nosotros, nos haga la presentación del Tema 13.



- 13. Reports of the Seventy-eighth and Seventy-ninth Sessions of the Finance Committee**
- 13. Rapport des soixante/dix/huitième et soixante-dix-neuvième sessions du Comité financier**
- 13. Informes de los 78° y 79° periodos de sesiones del Comité de Finanzas**
- 13.1 Study by the External Auditor on the Application of the Lapse Factor**
- 13.1 Etude du Commissaire aux comptes sur l'application de l'abattement pour mouvements de personnel**
- 13.1 Estudio del Auditor Externo sobre la aplicación del coeficiente de descuento por vacantes**

**Gian Luigi VALENZA (Vice-Président, Comité financier):** Monsieur le Président, comme vous l'avez demandé, je présente donc brièvement les rapports du Comité financier au nom de son Président, qui n'est pas en mesure d'assister à cette session. Par souci de brièveté, je limiterai mes remarques aux points qui peuvent intéresser directement le Conseil.

Je parlerai d'abord du Rapport annuel aux Etats Membres sur l'exécution du budget. Ce Rapport est joint en annexe A au document CL 106/4. Le Comité a noté que, globalement, le budget pour 1992-93 a été exécuté à hauteur de 672,3 millions de dollars E.-U., soit 99,3 pour cent du budget approuvé. Le Comité a approuvé le Rapport, notant que les résultats correspondaient en grande partie à ce qui avait été prévu à sa session précédente.

A la session de printemps de cette année, le Comité a aussi examiné les progrès réalisés pour résoudre les questions relatives au paiement par la Communauté économique européenne des dépenses administratives et autres découlant de son statut de Membre de l'Organisation. Des consultations ont eu lieu avec la Communauté économique européenne selon les directives données par la Conférence au sujet des "autres dépenses" concernant le coût des services qui ne sont pas normalement fournis aux Membres de la FAO sans une contribution extraordinaire. Ces dépenses supplémentaires ne représentaient que le coût d'expédition des documents par courrier spécial. Le Comité a examiné la méthode à suivre pour calculer les dépenses administratives au cours des prochains exercices. En conclusion, le Comité a recommandé que la Conférence continue à calculer les paiements dus pour les dépenses administratives et autres sur la base du montant forfaitaire fixé pour l'exercice précédent, en l'ajustant pour tenir compte des augmentations de coût et du taux de change "budgétaire" du dollar des Etats-Unis par rapport à la lire italienne. Les dépenses engagées pour des services qui ne sont pas normalement fournis aux Membres de la FAO continueront d'être remboursées séparément.

Monsieur le Président, je passe maintenant à la soixante-dix-neuvième session du Comité. A cette session, le Comité a examiné "l'Etude du Commissaire aux comptes sur l'application de l'abattement pour mouvements de personnel". Cette Etude a été préparée conformément au mandat approuvé par le Comité financier à sa soixante-dix-huitième session. Tout d'abord, sachez que le Comité a apprécié la complexité de la tâche entreprise par le Commissaire aux comptes et la coopération dont il a bénéficié de la part du Secrétariat.

Le Comité a approuvé la définition opérationnelle proposée du taux d'abattement pour mouvements de personnel, telle qu'elle figure au paragraphe 22 de l'Etude. Il a noté que ce taux vise à tenir compte des économies découlant des vacances de poste imputables aux mouvements normaux de personnel dans l'hypothèse d'une exécution intégrale du programme, mais pas des économies découlant de postes maintenus délibérément vacants.

Pour résumer, le Commissaire aux comptes a fait deux propositions. Tout d'abord, il a suggéré de chiffrer précisément les nouveaux postes, actuellement présentés individuellement dans le Programme de travail et budget, pour le nombre de mois durant lesquels il est prévu qu'ils seront pourvus, et d'indiquer aussi le statut de chaque poste (transféré, occupé, inoccupé, etc.). Ensuite, le Commissaire aux comptes a recommandé d'utiliser deux taux d'abattement distincts: un pour les personnels du cadre organique et l'autre pour les services généraux. Cela permettrait de mieux prendre en compte les différences existantes entre ces deux catégories en ce qui concerne les taux de rotation et les délais de recrutement. Par exemple, le taux d'abattement pourrait être actuellement de 4,1 pour cent pour les personnels du cadre organique et de 1,1 pour cent pour ceux des services généraux. Le Comité est convenu que le taux d'abattement pour mouvements de personnel devait non seulement refléter les conditions du passé mais encore les changements de politique de l'Organisation qui peuvent affecter les pratiques de recrutement en vigueur.

Le Comité a aussi noté que les propositions étaient assez voisines des recommandations du CCI. Il recommande donc au Conseil la méthodologie définie dans le rapport du Commissaire aux comptes pour déterminer l'abattement pour mouvements de personnel qui devra être appliqué au prochain budget. L'application de la nouvelle méthodologie devra en outre être étroitement contrôlée par le Comité financier pendant la période à venir. Le Comité est aussi convenu que les taux à appliquer seront déterminés en fonction de la valeur accordée à chacune des variables de ce calcul. Le Comité recommande donc d'inviter le Directeur général à formuler des propositions spécifiques pour chaque facteur et les taux correspondants, pour l'établissement du budget 1996-97.

Le Comité a aussi examiné le plan d'incitation au paiement rapide des contributions qui a été introduit en 1993 pour encourager les membres à verser rapidement leurs contributions. Il a approuvé que le taux de remise soit fixé sur la base des dépôts en eurodollars et donc à 0,88 pour cent pour 1994. Le Comité a noté que le système de remise n'avait pas eu, jusqu'ici tout au moins, d'impact très sensible, mais qu'il existait, néanmoins, certains signes encourageants justifiant une nouvelle tentative.

Conformément à l'Article XXVII.7-1 du Règlement général, le Comité a examiné les comptes vérifiés du Programme ordinaire et du PNUD pour l'exercice biennal 1992-93. Il a noté que le Commissaire aux comptes avait formulé une opinion sans réserve à propos des états financiers. Comme vous le constaterez, le rapport du Commissaire aux comptes a mis l'accent sur les contrôles financiers des opérations de terrain. Le Comité a fait siennes les recommandations du Commissaire aux comptes. Il s'est félicité de l'information donnée par le Secrétariat, selon laquelle un Manuel des règles et procédures financières était en préparation, et où seraient clairement définies les responsabilités et l'obligation de rendre compte. Le Comité a aussi pris note du point de vue du Commissaire aux comptes sur la nécessité de donner une formation suffisante au personnel de terrain dans les domaines de l'utilisation des comptes d'avances temporaires, de l'établissement de rapports financiers et des procédures administratives.

Vous noterez que le Comité a demandé au Secrétariat que lui soient régulièrement présentés des rapports de suivi, le premier de ces rapports devant lui être soumis à sa session du printemps de 1995.

Le Comité a donc recommandé que le Conseil présente à la Conférence, pour adoption, le projet de résolution figurant au paragraphe 3.46 du document CL 107/4.

Enfin, sur ce point, Monsieur le Président, le Comité a rendu hommage au Commissaire aux comptes sortant pour l'excellente qualité des services qu'il a rendus à l'Organisation au fil de longues années.

Conformément à la demande de la Conférence à sa vingt-septième session en novembre 1993, le Comité a examiné les modalités et procédures régissant le droit de vote. Les conclusions du Comité à cet égard figurent aux paragraphes 3.56 à 3.64 du document CL 107/4. Le Comité a noté avec préoccupation que le nombre des Etats Membres ayant des arriérés de contributions a malheureusement sensiblement augmenté par rapport au dernier exercice biennal. Il a également noté que la Conférence avait été quelque peu indulgente ces dernières années en rendant leur droit de vote à des Etats Membres qui ne s'étaient pas acquittés de leurs obligations financières. Le Comité a estimé que des mesures devaient être prises pour restaurer la discipline dans l'acquittement des obligations financières envers l'Organisation, mais qu'il fallait étudier les causes fondamentales du défaut de paiement.

Le Comité a noté que les sanctions envisagées dans l'Acte constitutif de la FAO étaient fondamentalement les mêmes que celles en vigueur dans la plupart des autres institutions du système des Nations Unies. Il y a toutefois des différences importantes dans les autres organisations quant au caractère automatique de la perte des droits de vote. Comme vous le constaterez, il n'a pas été aisé de définir des critères stricts pour reconnaître des "circonstances indépendantes de la volonté des Etats Membres", par exemple les critères d'une catastrophe économique.

Le Comité a toutefois reconnu qu'il fallait prévoir de rendre le droit de vote lorsque le défaut de paiement des arriérés était dû à des circonstances indépendantes de la volonté de l'Etat Membre concerné. Toutefois, le Comité a recommandé que la Conférence ait recours à ces dérogations de manière extrêmement mesurée. Il a aussi recommandé qu'à l'avenir, les dérogations concernant la perte du droit de vote ne soient accordées que sur la base d'une demande officielle de l'Etat Membre en défaut de paiement qui doivent spécifier les conditions qui selon lui constituent des circonstances indépendantes de sa volonté.

En ce qui concerne les plans de versement échelonnés, le Comité recommande de poursuivre cette pratique. Toutefois, une demande de dérogation concernant la perte du droit de vote devrait être accompagnée également d'un plan de règlement des arriérés par versements échelonnés. Une fois convenu, le plan de versements échelonnés devrait être respecté, et le défaut de paiement de deux versements devrait suffire à invoquer de nouveau les sanctions envisagées à l'Article III.4.

Comme je viens de le mentionner, le Comité a aussi estimé que des mesures devaient être prises pour étudier les problèmes fondamentaux qui ont rendu si difficile, pour certains pays en développement, le versement de leur contribution. Il a invité le Directeur général à continuer de rechercher des plans viables pour répondre aux problèmes particuliers de ces pays en développement, sans toutefois mettre en péril la santé financière de l'Organisation.

Les débats du Comité sur les questions de personnel sont résumés aux paragraphes 3.71 à 3.100 du document CL 107/4, et j'appellerai votre attention sur deux aspects en particulier. Le Président de la Commission de la fonction publique internationale avait demandé que soient levées les mesures spéciales *ad hoc* prises pour atténuer les effets de la dévaluation importante de la lire italienne sur l'ajustement de poste. Le Directeur général n'avait pas accepté cela et il avait demandé que la question soit examinée en session plénière de la CFPI. A sa quarantième session en juin-juillet 1994, la CFPI a examiné la question et décidé que la mesure spéciale serait levée à partir de juillet 1994. Elle a aussi conclu qu'une étude intervilles pour déterminer le coût de la vie à Rome devait être réalisée dès que possible. En outre, un Groupe de travail devait être créé pour examiner les questions spécifiques liées au fonctionnement du système d'ajustement de poste, y compris un mécanisme permettant de faire face à des dévaluations soudaines et substantielles de la monnaie locale dans les villes sièges. L'autre question concerne les amendements au Statut du personnel relatifs aux fonctionnaires recrutés sur le plan national. Le Comité à cet égard a pris note du cadre politique proposé pour l'introduction de cette nouvelle catégorie de fonctionnaires à la FAO et des conditions d'emploi applicables. Le Comité n'a exprimé aucune objection quant à l'amendement du Statut du personnel, mais il a estimé que la question relevait davantage de la compétence du CQCJ.

Enfin, Monsieur le Président, je souhaite annoncer au Conseil que, conformément à sa demande, le Règlement intérieur du Comité financier a été examiné et amendé pour tenir compte de la décision du Conseil selon laquelle l'ordre du jour provisoire et la liste des documents qui l'accompagne devraient être distribués à tous les Etats Membres et les documents mis, sur demande, à la disposition des Etats Membres qui seraient intéressés à les avoir. L'Article V.2 du Règlement intérieur du Comité financier a donc été amendé pour permettre la distribution de documents tout en protégeant le caractère confidentiel de certains d'entre eux.

Au nom des Membres du Comité financier, je tiens à exprimer notre gratitude pour l'honneur que vous nous avez accordé en nous confiant les tâches que je viens de décrire brièvement. Je suis à votre disposition pour vous donner tous les éclaircissements dont vous pourriez avoir besoin concernant ces deux rapports.

Je vous remercie, Monsieur le Président.

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Muchas gracias, señor Embajador Valenza, por esta detallada exposición de los informes del Comité de Finanzas, del 78° y 79° período de sesiones. Estoy seguro de que ello va a orientar los debates del Consejo en relación no solamente al Tema 13.1 relativo al coeficiente de vacantes sino también a los temas sucesivos que tocaremos, relativos a la situación financiera de la Organización, Tema 14; Cuentas comprobadas, Programa Ordinario 1992-93 y PNUD 1992-93, Temas 15.1 y 15.2 respectivamente; así como el Tema 20, Otros Asuntos Constitucionales y Jurídicos, en particular: Enmienda propuesta del Artículo 301.136 del Estatuto del Personal (Profesionales de contratación nacional).

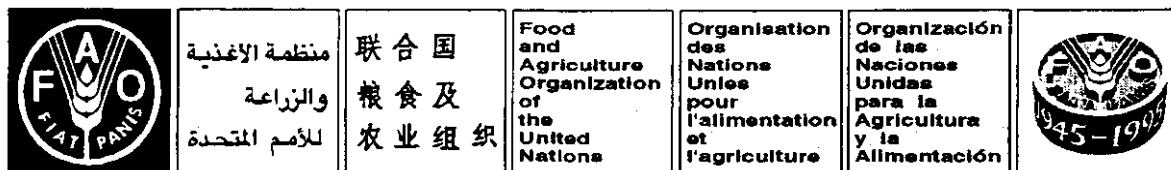
**The meeting rose at 19.30 hours.**

**La séance est levée à 19 h 30.**

**Se levanta la sesión a las 19.30 horas.**



21 November 1994



COUNCIL

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Hundred and Seventh Session • Cent septième session • 107° período de sesiones

NINTH PLENARY MEETING  
NEUVIEME SEANCE PLENIERE  
NOVENA SESION PLENARIA

21 November 1994

The Ninth Plenary Meeting was opened at 09.30 hours  
Mr José Ramón López Portillo,  
Independent Chairman of the Council, presiding

La neuvième séance plénière est ouverte à 9 h 30  
sous la présidence de M. José Ramón López Portillo,  
Président indépendant du Conseil

Se abre la novena sesión plenaria a las 9.30 horas  
bajo la presidencia del Sr. José Ramón López Portillo,  
Presidente Independiente del Consejo

**PROGRAMME, BUDGETARY, FINANCIAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS (continued)**

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

**ASUNTOS DEL PROGRAMA Y ASUNTOS PRESUPUESTARIOS, FINANCIEROS Y ADMINISTRATIVOS (continuación)**

- 13. Reports of the Seventy-eighth and Seventy-ninth Sessions of the Finance Committee (continued)**
- 13. Rapport des soixante-dix-huitième et soixante-dix-neuvième sessions du Comité financier (suite)**
- 13. Informes de los 78° y 79° período de sesiones del Comité de Finanzas (continuación)**
- 13.1 Study by the External Auditor on the Application of the Lapse Factor**
- 13.1 Etude du Commissaire aux comptes sur l'application de l'abattement pour mouvements de personnel**
- 13.1 Estudio del Auditor Externo sobre la aplicación del coeficiente de descuento por vacantes**

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Distinguidos delegados, declaro abierta esta novena sesión plenaria de nuestros trabajos.

Como ustedes recordarán, el día viernes por la tarde el Embajador Valenza, Vicepresidente del Comité de Finanzas, presentó al Consejo el informe correspondiente relativo al 78° y 79° Período de Sesiones de dicho Comité. Recordarán decidimos que tomaríamos el punto 13.1, relativo al informe del Auditor Externo en cuanto a la nueva metodología para el coeficiente de descuento por vacantes. Recordarán, igualmente, que el Sr. Auditor Externo, el nuevo Auditor Externo, presentó una metodología que dividía al personal profesional, o la aplicación del coeficiente para el personal profesional, del personal de servicios generales.

El Comité de Finanzas estudió dicha metodología, y está recomendando al Consejo adoptarla.

Como ustedes recordarán también, distinguidos delegados, en el informe del Embajador Valenza sobre la metodología del Auditor Externo, se proponía separar la identificación del coeficiente para estas dos categorías, así como estudiar las prácticas de reclutamiento, los movimientos y los plazos necesarios para el reclutamiento, así como aplicar un coeficiente de vacantes para cada elaboración o preparación del presupuesto.

Recordarán, igualmente, que la conclusión del Auditor Externo era que de haberse aplicado su metodología al presente presupuesto la tasa de coeficiente de descuento por vacantes habría resultado en 3.6.

La recomendación pues, es que se acoja dicha metodología y se le permita al Director General aplicarla en la preparación del presupuesto para el próximo bienio que revisará los comités de Finanzas y del Programa próximamente.

Distinguidos delegados, conforme a la lista de delegados que ya estaban inscritos, paso a dar la palabra al delegado de Australia.

**John Bruce SHARPE (Australia):** I am sure the Secretariat will be well aware of and appreciate the interest the Australian delegation has taken in this report. Australia was seriously concerned when the lapse factor level was lowered, without what we considered to be a satisfactory explanation, in 1989. Since that time, we have sought in FAO fora, including the Finance Committee, to have a lapse factor level which truly reflected normal vacancy rate levels, one directly linked to past and estimated future vacancy levels. We were opposed to a distinction being made between planned and unplanned vacancies, the use of savings to offset unbudgeted costs and the build-up of a stock of vacant posts as a deliberate policy to try and offset a shortfall in resources. We did not consider that the lapse factor should be used in the accounting process as a reserve to offset unforeseen cost increases. That is not its purpose.

We are pleased to see that these issues have also been addressed in the External Auditor's report which also does not look favourably on past practices. In the main, we concur with the findings, recommendations, suggestions and conclusions contained in the External Auditor's report.

The Finance Committee has considered the report and has recommended that the proposed methodology be used in the budget preparation process for 1996-97. We would support this. We feel that the conclusions regarding the history of the lapse factor in our Organization on page 6 accurately reflects the situation. We agree in general with most of the conclusions in paragraph 43 concerning the relationship between the vacancy rate and the lapse factor. We are strongly of the view that this Organization needs an agreed definition of the lapse factor. We see merit in the one proposed by the External Auditor and note that its acceptance has also been recommended by the Finance Committee. We think the External Auditor has done a good job within the confines of its terms of reference. We also note with satisfaction that the JRU study of the lapse factor UN system-wide has come up with recommendations along the same lines as the conclusions reached by the External Auditor. I think we would have had real problems if that had not been the case.

We have noted that while the decision was taken at the November 1993 Conference to have this issue studied and a report made, the drawing up of its terms of reference and its implementation were initiated early in the term of Director-General Diouf. We regard this as another positive action under this new administration joining those other ones we have already discussed under Agenda Item 11. There are indeed winds of change blowing through this Organization, and we are pleased to see that they are not confined to talk but are reflected in action.

**Thomas A. FORBORD (United States of America):** I warmly welcome the comments of my colleague from Australia and fully support the sentiments he has expressed. As a member of the Finance Committee, in September I was part of the group that carefully reviewed the recommendations made by the External Auditor and looked at the implications of this proposal for the Organization. Although this is my first Council meeting, I understand that both at Council and Conference the lapse factor has been a subject of long and often heated debate. I think it need not be if we adopt this new methodology. It is straightforward; it is transparent; it has been endorsed by all the people who have examined it, both inside and outside the Organization. I therefore would like to propose a motion that this Council endorse the recommendations made by the Finance Committee and that we direct the Director-General to use the methodology outlined by the External Auditor in the preparation of the budget for the next biennium.

**Jacques LAUREAU (France):** La délégation française a prévu une double intervention. Tout d'abord, sur le point 13.1 de l'ordre du jour: Etude du Commissaire aux comptes sur l'application de l'abattement pour mouvements de personnel. A cet égard, je voudrais dire qu'évidemment nous aussi sommes tout à fait d'accord avec l'étude du Commissaire aux comptes, qui propose d'utiliser deux taux d'abattement, l'un pour les personnels du cadre organique (4,1 pour cent) et l'autre pour ceux des services généraux (1,1 pour cent). Nous proposons aussi de prendre en compte les nouveaux postes pour la durée réellement prévue de leur occupation.

La délégation française appuie donc ces conclusions et souhaite que la méthodologie présentée soit mise en oeuvre pour l'établissement du budget 1996-97.

Je voudrais revenir sur deux autres petits points. Nous attendons, en effet, du Secrétariat la mise en pratique de la décision prise par le Conseil, à sa cent sixième session, en matière d'accès effectif des Etats intéressés à des documents du Comité financier et de la désignation des personnes auprès desquelles on peut se procurer ces documents. Par ailleurs, nous regrettons - mais je pense qu'il s'agit d'une question de statistique - que le pourcentage du personnel en poste au siège soit 52,78 pour cent au 30 juin 1993, alors que, d'après les tableaux que vous nous avez présentés, il y a aujourd'hui au siège 54,1 pour cent des membres du personnel.

La délégation française s'était inquiétée de l'évolution de ce rapport siège/terrain qui traduisait une baisse d'activité due en partie à la diminution des fonds alloués par le PNUD aux projets de terrain. Mais nous espérons que cette situation soit appelée à changer avec la politique de décentralisation annoncée par le Directeur général.

Ces deux questions n'étaient pas couvertes par le point relatif à l'approbation du système de méthodologie proposé par la Cour des comptes française.

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Muchas gracias por su declaración. Hay una duda que quisiera aclarar con usted. ¿Está usted refiriéndose a algunos párrafos del Informe del Comité de Finanzas relativos al coeficiente ...?

**Jacques LAUREAU (France):** Non, je me réfère au point 13, au début du paragraphe où deux questions, celle de l'accès aux documents et celle du rapport siège-terrain des fonctionnaires, sont évoquées, parce que personne ne fera de remarque là-dessus. C'est un autre problème que celui que vous avez soulevé, avec l'approbation de la méthodologie relative à l'évaluation de l'abattement pour mouvements de personnel.

**Harald HILDEBRAND (Germany):** After much controversial debate in the past on the level of the lapse factor in which Germany had often insisted that it should better reflect the actual vacancy rate - Mr Shah would be smiling now and remembering - my delegation welcomes the presentation of the corresponding study prepared by the External Auditor. In the view of my delegation, it gives a helpful survey of the problem and provides appropriate proposals on how to handle the lapse factor in the future. We support the External Auditor's efforts in paragraph 14 of the study that the lapse factor should not be used to create additional budgetary flexibility by fixing it too low. When too low, it could be used to make up for shortfalls in the payment of contributions. Too low a lapse factor would cause unwarranted high budget appropriations resulting in increased assessment for contributions. Likewise, my delegation shares the view of the External Auditor that the lapse factor should not be based on the concept of normal and planned vacancies. The method suggested for the calculation of the lapse factor related to established and new posts seems reasonable to us. According to paragraph 48 of the study, vacancies in the past were kept by the Secretariat to produce savings which in turn were used to create a large number of temporary posts. Therefore, Recommendation 2 of Appendix A of document CL 107/4 that "it should not be forced as a mandatory adjustment to compel delay in filling of budgeted posts to the detriment of the programme" is approved by my delegation.

In summary, my delegation endorses the view of the Finance Committee which recommends the application of the new methodology for the preparation of the 1996-97 budget.

**Chrisanthos LOIZIDES (Cyprus):** We have examined with great interest and due care the contents of document CL 107/4, and before expressing our brief comments on some of these issues described in the document, we wish to thank the members of the Programme and Finance Committee for the constructive work they have accomplished during their recent meetings last September.

I wish to refer to the report of the joint meeting of the Programme and Finance Committees first. We fully share the views of these Committees regarding the importance of additional funding from the donor community and financial institutions in order to proceed with the implementation of the pilot projects within the framework of the special programme on food production in support of food security in the low-income and food-deficit countries. We are also in agreement with the approach of these Committees for the expanding use of TCDC modalities in ensuring transfer of technologies across country boundaries as well as with the conclusions of these Committees as mentioned in paragraph 1.17 of the document.

However, on the other hand, we wish to express concern and uneasiness about the present vacancies of professional posts in view of the possible difficulties in implementing the programme activities of FAO. We suggest that more efforts should be made to fill the vacant Professional posts as soon as possible.

Referring to the report of the 79th session of the Finance Committee, we express our appreciation for the work of this Committee and the useful information provided in its report. On the specific issue of lapse factor, having in mind that both the external auditor and the Finance Committee have examined in depth the various technical and other aspects involved, we have no difficulty in endorsing the recommendations of the Finance Committee as stated in paragraph 3.16 of page 18.

I limit myself to this point because I have some other views on the financial position of the Organization later on.



**EL PRESIDENTE:** Quiero hacer notar simplemente que, al tratar ese tema en el punto 6.1, habíamos comentado previamente que el estudio comprende específicamente las recomendaciones del Sr. Auditor Externo y, en lo que se refiere a las vacantes del presente programa, éstas serán revisadas en su resumen el próximo junio, cuando el Consejo tenga la oportunidad de examinar el grado de avance del presente programa bianual. En esa ocasión ustedes tendrán también la oportunidad de ver específicamente el caso del coeficiente de descuento por vacantes.

Si ustedes lo tienen a bien, podríamos referirnos aquí, en esta ocasión, exclusivamente a la metodología y las recomendaciones del Auditor Externo, que siendo un problema técnico, le permitirá al Director General tomar esta recomendación que hace el Consejo y aplicarla en el proceso de preparación del presupuesto para el próximo bienio. Si les parece oportuno, vamos a enfocar nuestras discusiones exclusivamente sobre los párrafos correspondientes del Informe del Comité de Finanzas y, por tanto, sobre las recomendaciones que el Comité de Finanzas hace en cuanto a la metodología propuesta por el Auditor Externo.

**Tri WIBOWO (Indonesia):** The Indonesian delegation would like to thank the FAO Secretariat for the document provided and Mr Valenza, the Vice Chairman of the Finance Committee, for his excellent and concise introduction of the item now being discussed. We also welcome the reports of the 78th and 79th sessions of the Finance Committee, which provided a very clear, factual account of the discussions which took place at those two meetings.

Furthermore, regarding the lapse factor, in principle we also endorse the recommendation of the Finance Committee described in paragraph 3.16, Part III, of document CL 107/4.

**Kenji SHIMIZU (Japan):** On the lapse factor, my delegation feels that we are now moving in the right direction to correct this situation after long-term discussions. My delegation supports the methodology explored by the External Auditor as a try-out or a first step which we hope will contribute to the situation. However, we watch with extreme care the follow-up by the Secretariat, as well as the Committee, and future developments.

**Ms. M. McCOWAN (United Kingdom):** My delegation is pleased to note the report of the Finance Committee as presented in document CL 107/4 and to acknowledge the contribution which the continuing work of this Committee makes to enhancing the efficiency and accountability of FAO. We should like to comment briefly on a number of items referred to in the report.

Firstly, the report deals in separate sections with aspects of the general issues of accountability and transparency. We should like to make the point that we trust that documents will in future be made available to Member States promptly unless the Committee itself decides, in quite exceptional circumstances, that genuine sensitivity precludes circulation.

We note the response of the Committee on the issues surrounding delegation of authority to field officers, including those for ensuring adequate controls and standardization of procedures. We look forward to the comments of the Committee on the planned further training in finance for field personnel and on the manual on financial systems which FAO is to produce. These will be important elements in a process to which the UK attaches particular importance of delegating authority and decision-making as far as possible to the operational units of FAO. We also note in this connection the proposed policy framework covering the appointment of NPOs, a matter of which we shall comment later.

On the issue of accountability generally, we welcome the request of the Committee for regular progress reports on the follow-up action which the Secretariat makes on the recommendations of the External Auditor.

On the application of the lapse factor, we note the recommendation of the Committee on the basis of the lapse factor to be applied in the next budget. We welcome the agreement of the Committee that application of the method be closely monitored and its agreement that the Director General be invited to make specific proposals for each component factor.

Finally, on FAO's work with NGOs, we agree with the Committee that it would be useful for FAO's Governing Bodies, on approaches and initiatives under way, to involve NGOs in FAO activities at national and international levels.

**EL PRESIDENTE:** La delegación de Rwanda no está presente. Por tanto, no puedo ofrecerle la palabra. ¿Hay alguna delegación que desee hacer uso de la palabra respecto de este tema? ¿Hay algún observador que desee hacer algún comentario? En ese caso, me voy a permitir solicitar al Dr. Shah que responda a las preguntas formuladas.

**V.J. SHAH (Deputy Director-General, Office of Programme, Budget and Evaluation):** There was, first of all, a very specific question and a reference to arrangements for making available to Member Nations the documentation of the Finance Committee except in those cases where the Committee itself decides that, for reasons of confidentiality, those documents should not be made available. Let me report to the Council that arrangements have been made for the agenda of the Programme and Finance Committees and the list of their documents to be circulated to all Member Nations by the Director-General. This you are already aware of because we have done so earlier this year. In response to the specific concerns expressed by some Member Nations, we have now also arranged that in future there will be a note from the Director-General indicating that specific requests for specific documents should be addressed to the Secretary-General of the Council, so it will be well known to whom one can address oneself to obtain these documents. I would only point out that a lot of the documents which go to the Programme Committee, in particular, but also to the Finance Committee are documents of the Council and these, of course, are available to all Member Nations.

On the subject of the lapse factor, I should like to express, on behalf of the Director-General, his satisfaction at the manner in which this issue has been handled and resolved with your agreement. I think it is very clear -and I am grateful to the representative of Australia for having noticed this - that the Director-General recognized the nature of this issue and the controversy which had surrounded it over some years. This led him not to delay at all in submitting to the Finance Committee at its session in May this year, suggested terms of reference which the Finance Committee could set for this study and submit to the External Auditor. We are also indebted to the External Auditor for having acted so expeditiously on the study. The representatives of the External Auditor took this matter up as the very first matter after taking over their functions and worked with my colleagues and Mr Mehboob's colleagues during the hot summer in order to get this report to the Finance Committee on time. We are grateful to the Finance Committee for the manner in which it received this report and the recommendation it has made to the Council.

In this regard, I think it may interest the Council to note that the Director-General has also been very sensitive in recognizing that this is a matter on which the decision has to be indicated by the Member Nations.

In submitting the report of the External Auditor to the Finance Committee, it may interest the Council to note that the Director-General said: "The Director-General has no observations to make on the facts contained in the report, their presentation and analysis. The suggestions and recommendations made in the report are a matter for the consideration of the Finance Committee. The Director-General will be pleased to offer any information that the Finance Committee may wish to have in its consideration of this report and in submitting its recommendation to the Council. The Director-General would propose to follow the eventual directives of the Council and Conference." Here I think I can again express our thanks and our appreciation for the directives given by the Council.

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Muchas gracias, Dr. Shah, por sus comentarios y declaraciones. Si no hay ninguna otra delegación que desee hacer alguna observación al respecto, me permito resumir el debate al respecto diciendo que:

El Consejo examinó el Informe del Comité de Finanzas en lo relativo al Estudio del Informe y recomendaciones del Auditor Externo sobre la identificación y preparación de la tasa de descuento por vacantes.

El Consejo manifestó su satisfacción por el Informe del Auditor Externo que responde a dudas y cuestiones planteadas desde hace tiempo por los Miembros de la Organización.

El Consejo también expresó su agradecimiento al Comité de Finanzas por la revisión que hizo de este tema.

El Consejo acogió la metodología y recomendaciones del Auditor Externo tal como lo proponía el Comité de Finanzas y consideró que la metodología y la tasa que resultaría de ella era útil y realista.

Por tanto, el Consejo recomendó que en el proceso de preparación del Presupuesto para el próximo bienio, el Director General aplique dicha metodología en el cálculo de la tasa efectiva del coeficiente por vacantes.

**Jacques LAUREAU (France):** M. le Président, votre voisin de droite a répondu à l'une des questions que j'avais posées, et il a fort justement indiqué que le Directeur général s'en préoccupait. Je souhaiterais que cela se retrouve dans votre résumé.

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Mi resumen se refería exclusivamente al punto principal del tema. Lo importante era saber si el Consejo aceptaba la recomendación del Comité de Finanzas en relación al informe del Auditor Externo. Creo que ese ha sido el caso. Tenga usted la seguridad de que el informe del Consejo comprenderá su preocupación así como la de los otros distinguidos delegados, en especial a aquélla a la que ha respondido el Dr. Shah.

- 14. Financial Position of the Organization**
- 14. Situation financière de l'Organisation**
- 14. Situación financiera de la Organización**
- 14.1 Status of Contributions**
- 14.1 Etat des contributions**
- 14.1 Estado de las cuotas**
- 15. Audited Accounts**
- 15. Comptes vérifiés**
- 15. Cuentas comprobadas**
- 15.1 Regular Programme 1992-93**
- 15.1 Programme ordinaire 1992-93**
- 15.1 Programa Ordinario 1992-93**
- 15.2 UNDP 1992-93**
- 15.2 PNUD 1992-93**
- 15.2 PNUD 1992-93**

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Pasemos ahora al Tema 14 y también al Tema 15 del Programa.

Creo que como habíamos sugerido originalmente al adoptar el calendario, podemos tomar estos dos temas conjuntamente. Me refiero a la situación financiera de la Organización: Estado de las Cuotas, documento CL 107/4 y los párrafos correspondientes del Informe del Comité de Finanzas, del 3.17 al 3.38, así como al documento CL 107/LIM/1.

Le hago notar que el documento del informe del Comité de Finanzas comprende información hasta septiembre, mientras que el último, el documento CL 107/LIM/1 comprende la información actualizada hasta el 2 de noviembre.

Como ustedes podrán observar esa información describe la situación actual del pago a la Organización. En lo que se refiere al pago de cuotas corrientes, creo que la situación ha mejorado sustancialmente. Sin embargo, en lo que se refiere al pago de las cuotas atrasadas, el panorama que ofrece actualmente la Organización es mucho más negativo. Por otra parte, sigue siendo alarmante que el número de países con retrasos haya aumentado, inclusive se registran 88 países con atrasos, lo que representa más del 50 por ciento de los Estados Miembros de nuestra Organización.

Si bien este tema de nuestro orden del día es para examen, yo considero que el Consejo bien puede hacer un llamado para que todos los países, independientemente de su tamaño y de sus condiciones, hagan los esfuerzos necesarios para cubrir y cumplir con sus obligaciones financieras hacia la Organización. Ese es uno de los puntos que trataríamos inmediatamente. El otro se refiere al Tema 15: Cuentas Comprobadas, en sus dos subtemas. El primero Programa Ordinario 1992-93, documento C 95/5, así como el documento CL 107/4 del Informe del Comité de Finanzas, en sus párrafos 3.39 a 3.46. Y el segundo subtema el 15.2 se refiere a las Cuentas Comprobadas del PNUD 1992-93 documento C 95/6 y documento CL 107/4, párrafos 3.39 a 3.46.

**Jacques LAUREAU (France):** M. le Président, je me demandais s'il n'était pas utile d'ajouter aux points 14 et 15 le point 20.1 qui concerne d'éventuelles sanctions pour les pays qui n'acquitteraient pas leur dette. C'est une question qui peut paraître absurde, mais on ne peut pas d'un côté encourager les gens à payer et en même temps ....

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Tiene usted razón. Los dos temas están, en principio, conectados. Sin embargo, como usted puede también darse cuenta, un tema está ligado a los derechos de voto que serán examinados en el tema específico y éste se refiere exclusivamente al examen del Estado de las Cuentas. Entiendo su preocupación y reconozco que una cosa lleva a la otra. Si le parece bien, para cumplir con el orden del día y en virtud también de que no se encuentra entre nosotros el Sr. Asesor Legal, permítame usted que tomemos estos dos Temas, el 14 y el 15 conjuntamente y que, a raíz de los debates al respecto, una vez que entremos en el subtema de derechos de voto, usted haga sus reflexiones en torno a ello.

Podríamos pedirle al Sr. Mehboob que actualice la información relativa al Estado de las Cuotas.

**K. MEHBOOB (Assistant Director-General, Administration and Finance Department):** I would just like to give some additional information on the financial position of the Organization, covered by document CL 107/LIM/1.

Since preparation of that document, we have received contributions from three Member Nations: the Slovak Republic paid US\$576 058.25; Trinidad and Tobago, US\$183 342.83; and Pakistan US\$129 721.92. With receipt of these amounts the percentage of current assessments received now stands at 89.33 percent. The total contributions received amount to US\$303 277 918.24. Of this, US\$278 207 058.79 refer to current assessments and US\$25 070 859.45 refer to arrears.

The total contributions outstanding at 21 November - that is the date of this information, that is today - is now US\$141 769 937.23, of which US\$33 225 441.21 refer to current assessments, and US\$108 544 496.02 to arrears.

That takes care of the information which was needed to supplement the document on the financial position of the Organization.

Under this item, we are also taking up the audited accounts of the Organization relating to both the Regular Programme and the United Nations Development Programme. The Council has before it documents C 95/5 and C 95/6, containing the audited and financial reports of the Regular Programme and project activities financed by UNDP for the biennium 1992-93. In accordance with General Rule 27.71 the Finance Committee

has examined the audited accounts in detail on behalf of the Council. The Vice-Chairman of the Finance Committee has summarized for you the recommendations of the Finance Committee in his introduction to the report on Friday. These comments and recommendations are to be found in paragraphs 3.39 to 3.46 of CL 107/4.

You will recall that in his introduction the Vice-Chairman informed you that the opinions of the External Auditor on the financial statements were unqualified. The Finance Committee had endorsed the recommendations of the Auditor to improve financial controls and reporting, in particular the production of a manual of financial rules and procedures, training of field personnel in IMPREST procedures and reporting requirement. Regular reports should be submitted to the Finance Committee on actions taken to implement the recommendations of the External Auditors.

The Committee has therefore recommended that the Council endorse the draft Resolution set out in paragraph 3.46 and submitted to the Conference for adoption.

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Muchas gracias, Sr. Mehboob por sus comentarios introductorios. Ofrezco ahora la palabra sobre estos dos Temas, el 14 y el 15.

**Tri WIBOWO (Indonesia):** My delegation noted with concern that as stated in document CL 107/LIM/1, only 63 Member Nations have paid their current assessment in full, while a further 18 have made a partial payment, leaving 88 Member Nations who had made no cash payment at all during 1994.

This situation will certainly have a negative impact on the implementation of the FAO's programmes and activities. Without sufficient financial support from member countries it will be difficult for FAO to fulfil its role and mandate, especially in assisting developing countries to enhance their capacity in agricultural development.

Furthermore, after studying and analysing the facts and figures of the data and statistics mentioned in document CL 107/4 paragraphs 3.17 to 3.22, and considering that the amount of unpaid current assessed contributions and arrears up to the present is still high, the Indonesian delegation would like to join the Director-General in appealing to all Member Nations with contributions outstanding to pay their assessed contributions and arrears in full as soon as possible.

**Jacques LAUREAU (France):** La délégation française ne doit pas cacher, en ce qui concerne la situation financière de l'Organisation, qu'elle était particulièrement préoccupée par la persistance d'une situation dégradée, telle qu'elle apparaissait au 12 septembre dernier. Le document CL 107/LIM/1 nous montre-t-il des signes de redressement au 7 novembre 1994?

Certes, l'on peut noter avec satisfaction que 62 Etats Membres ont réglé intégralement leur contribution alors qu'ils n'étaient que 54 dans cette situation au 12 septembre.

Le total des arriérés qui était de 42,9 pour cent des contributions courantes au 1<sup>er</sup> janvier 1994 n'est donc plus aujourd'hui que de 34,94 pour cent.

Mais on devra noter en même temps que ces arriérés restent supérieurs au tiers des contributions courantes. Dans ces conditions, les signes positifs sont très relatifs, surtout si l'on regarde la situation des arriérés.

Nous pourrions à cet égard utiliser un critère intéressant qui est celui mentionné au paragraphe 7 du document CL 107/LIM/1. A la date du 7 novembre 1994, huit Etats Membres seraient redevables de montants supérieurs à 1 million de dollars, représentant au total 97 912 337,12 dollars, soit 89,96 pour cent des arriérés. Mais si l'on considère le tableau joint en annexe, le total exact des Etats Membres qui restaient à devoir une somme supérieure à 1 million de dollars serait de 15.

On notera également que le principal contributeur a payé plus de la moitié de sa contribution bisannuelle.

Ces données ne recouvrent d'ailleurs pas non plus la situation de certains petits et nombreux contributeurs.

La situation globale des arriérés reste donc préoccupante. Nous y reviendrons à l'occasion du point 20.1: "Droit, procédures, et pratiques de vote."

Le rapport de la 79<sup>ème</sup> session du Comité financier observait, en son paragraphe 3.22, qu'au 12 septembre 34 Etats Membres étaient redevables de montants représentant 300 pour cent ou plus de leur contribution ordinaire. Le Comité financier insistait très justement sur ce point en précisant que cette situation "ne s'était encore jamais produite".

A cet égard, l'on peut se demander si un taux de remise supérieur au taux prévu de 0,88 pour cent permettrait de rendre plus efficace le plan d'incitation au paiement rapide des contributions. Cette question de revoir à la hausse le taux de remise accordée aux pays membres qui acquittent leur contribution dans les délais voulus a-t-elle réellement été envisagée par le Comité financier? Par exemple, ne pourrait-on pas concevoir d'appliquer à l'OAA un mécanisme d'incitations sur le modèle dit de la "courbe en S", retenu à l'origine par l'OACI et adopté également à l'OIT, à l'OMI, à l'OMM, à l'OMS et à l'Unesco?

Ce modèle de "courbe en S" (à la formulation mathématique relativement complexe) part du principe qu'un Etat Membre qui acquitte ses contributions tôt dans l'année contribue davantage à la génération de revenus d'intérêts qu'un pays qui le fait plus tardivement. Ainsi, le système consiste-t-il à accorder des points incitatifs pondérés en fonction du montant de la contribution et de la date de son règlement?

La délégation française ne peut que faire sien l'appel aux Etats Membres figurant au paragraphe 10 du document CL 107/LIM/1. En effet, les retards de paiement pénalisent les activités de l'Organisation en termes d'exécution du programme et de nomination des personnels nécessaires.

Je tiens à préciser qu'en ce qui concerne les sanctions, c'est-à-dire le point de l'ordre du jour 20.1, nous l'aborderons plus tard.

**Ahmed MER'I (Syria) (Original language Arabic):** Having studied this document concerning the financial matters and the collection of contributions, we have found that my country, Syria, did not pay its contribution for 1994.

We would like to point out that we have already submitted to the Secretariat the evidence of our contribution being paid fully.

**Chrysanthos LOIZIDES (Cyprus):** We wish to refer to the collection of assessed contributions. We notice with concern the constantly increasing number of Member Nations which have not made any contributory payments up to the same date within the last four years. This is clearly shown on the table on page 3 of CL 107/LIM/1 where the number of countries with no payment has risen from 74 in 1990 to 88 in the current year.

During the same period the number of countries in arrears has also raised from 47 to 76.

It is worth mentioning that out of the total number of contributions in arrears amounting to US\$109 million, the amount of about US\$90 is due from only eight Member Nations.

This very fact leads to the conclusion that 90 percent of the total arrears is owed by eight Member Nations, whilst the remaining 10 percent is due from 80 countries, most of which are considered low-income countries.

It is also interesting to note on pages 5-10 of CL 107/LIM/1 that a great number of low-income countries are without any outstanding contributions at all.

We wish to conclude on this issue by joining with the Committee's appeal to those Member Nations with outstanding contributions and arrears to meet their financial obligations to FAO as soon as possible.

**Harald HILDEBRAND** (Germany): My delegation has taken note of the current financial position of the Organization, as reflected in the document before us, with interest. As a whole it is somewhat better than a year ago regarding receipt of contributions.

We have just heard an updated figure regarding the receipt of contributions as of 21 November, which clearly shows that the level is higher than in November last year.

However, the year has not ended, and we can only hope that the outstanding contributions - I mean the current assessments - will be paid during the last two months of the year.

This is also important because the expected payments of arrears had, to some extent been included in the budget calculation of the current biennium. I speak of the amount of US\$38 million, by which assessed contributions were reduced to make the budget for 1994-95 more acceptable with regard to the level of assessments for Member States.

In the view of the German delegation, this cannot be regarded as a good solution. Funding problems are thus only postponed to the future. For my delegation, the question arises as to how to ensure the financing of the current biennium if budget appropriations are not fully covered by assessed contributions, or the gap cannot be filled by payments of arrears. I would be grateful to the Secretariat if it could enlighten us on this aspect.

My country is very reluctant to accept solutions at the expense of those members paying their contributions.

In connection with the discount schemes for prompt payment of contributions before 31 March, my delegation would like to know how it actually works. Is a member country which has fulfilled this condition in any case entitled to discount on the subsequent assessment ?

We agree with the Finance Committee's view that there is no reason for self-satisfaction as the number of FAO Member Nations failing to pay their contributions has grown. My country favours any feasible action by the Organization to promote prompt payment. The discount scheme introduced experimentally in 1993 could be one option.

In this connection, the question of suspending or restoring voting rights for member countries in arrears indeed requires, as indicated in paragraph 3.58 and following, a differentiated approach. It should be based on the study of the concrete reasons for the inability to pay.

Without any doubt, among the respective countries many are in a situation beyond their control, but a closer look at the list in document CL 107/LIM/1 reveals that there are countries paying their contributions regularly although they are confronted with serious economic difficulties or are still in the wake of natural disaster or civil strife; whilst others may be economically better off fail to comply.

Our Organization, whose primary concern is the betterment of food and agriculture, in the view of my delegation deserves attention being paid to this problem by all Member Nations.

The Committee's call on the Director-General to continue to search for sustainable schemes in this regard, without endangering the financial viability of the Organization, is therefore very appropriate.

As we have merged Agenda Items 14 and 15, I should like to add a short comment on Item 15, Audited Accounts.

The audited accounts for discussion under this Agenda Item cover a period when the present Director-General was not yet in office. My Government would appreciate it if the Director-General paid special attention to the implementation of the recommendation of the external auditor.

As an example, allow me to mention paragraph 88 of document C 95/5. We gather from the paragraph that the Organization had subsidized salary payments to the civil service of recipient countries. In other words, FAO was financing the budget of the Member Nations concerned, of course to a limited extent. This is indeed

not FAO's mandate. Therefore, my delegation supports the recommendations of the external auditor as outlined in paragraph 89.

My delegation would like to thank the external auditor for his comprehensive and careful auditing, which is endorsed.

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Debo simplemente marcar un punto para explicarles por qué hemos separado el 20.1, Derecho de Voto, de este tema. Uno es un tema estrictamente financiero; el otro es un tema de carácter legal. Para no mezclar estos dos temas los hemos separado. Desde luego que ustedes están invitados a hacer todo tipo de comentarios en cuanto a la forma en que los países podrían estar incentivados o castigados respecto del pago de sus cuotas presentes y atrasadas.

**Thomas FORBORD (United States of America):** I have just one very short question. Paragraph 7 of Rule XXII of the General Rules of the Organization states:

"A Member of the Council shall be considered to have resigned if it is in arrears in a payment of its financial contributions to the Organization in an amount equal to or exceeding the contributions due from it for the two preceding calendar years"

I wonder if the Secretariat could tell us if this Rule has been invoked for this Council meeting. Are there any members of the Council who are considered to have resigned because of arrears ?

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Me informan de que efectivamente hay un caso y éste es el de Zaire.

**Kenji SHIMIZU (Japan):** I have two observations on the issues before us: first, on a general matter of the payment of assessed contributions; and, second, about the computer system.

First of all, my delegation is seriously concerned about the significant amount of arrears by many members of this Organization. The situation should be improved so that we regain a stable financial basis within the Organization with a view to undertaking the important tasks which are now going on as a result of the reforms which otherwise would face difficulties in being implemented. The programme is long overdue. My delegation considers that the time has come to take action based on the discipline of the Member States of this Organization.

On the computer systems, namely FINSYS and PERSYS, the problems relating to these systems are very serious and have involved a tremendous amount of our limited resources. Our cooperation is based on our trust in the good management of the resources by the Secretariat, otherwise the credibility of the Organization will deteriorate. The situation should be corrected along the lines of the findings of the Committee and the External Auditor. In particular, the Director-General's follow-up and leadership are keys to the solution of the problem.

**Ms M. MCCOWAN (United Kingdom):** Mr Chairman, I am somewhat confused. I think that the comments I have to make are about voting rights. Am I to understand that you would prefer these to come later?

**EL PRESIDENTE:** ¿No desea usted referirse al tema 15? ¿Hay alguna otra delegación que desea hacer uso de la palabra? Tiene la palabra Canadá.

**Robert VANIER (Canada)** Ma délégation voudrait s'associer à la déclaration de la délégation française. Il me semble, en effet, important d'explorer les mécanismes incitatifs possibles, comme celui de la "courbe en S", afin d'accélérer l'obtention des paiements des Etats Membres.



**Juan NUIRY SANCHEZ (Cuba):** Hemos oído con la debida atención las distintas intervenciones realizadas sobre este tema. Ahora bien, nosotros quisiéramos hacer una reflexión que, tal vez, es una pregunta. Aquí se está pidiendo que a un país, lógicamente del llamado Tercer Mundo, pobre, se le aplique rigurosamente el que pueda o no pueda tener derecho al voto. Ahora bien, ¿en qué escala se van a situar aquellos países que solamente pagan para tener derecho al voto y mantienen a esta Organización en la opción cero? ¿Cuál sería más responsable, señor Presidente? ¿Cuál sería más responsable, pregunto yo?

Aquí estamos pidiendo sangre para los países que no tienen un centavo, precisamente para lo que es esta Organización. A esos países sí se va a poner toda la cosa rigurosa. No estoy en contra de ello, señor Presidente. Creo que la Organización tiene derecho a que se respete su Reglamento. Pero existen también los problemas morales, que son tan importantes unos como los otros. Para ese país indefenso vamos a pedir todo el peso de la ley. Los países que tienen dinero, son grandes potencias, aguantan sus pagos y tienen a su Organización en la opción cero, son los que hablan. Señor Presidente, en nombre de mi delegación me permito indicar que estoy muy confundido. Tal vez los talentos que tenemos aquí me puedan convencer de que estas reflexiones no son justas.

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Les vuelvo a hacer notar que, en lo que se refiere a las aplicaciones de los atrasos y el derecho de voto, ese tema lo trataremos bajo el punto 20.1, que se discutirá el día de mañana. Tiene la palabra la India.

**Atul SINHA (India):** India also views with concern the fact that there are very substantial arrears due from various countries. This is all the more alarming because we are now starting with the Director-General's programmes on food security and a lot of other initiatives which he is planning for the developing countries. In the absence of adequate resources, he might find it very difficult to implement them correctly.

Simultaneously, we addressed the issue of funding under TCDC where a lot of new initiatives have been taken. If the resources are not forthcoming we are very much concerned about the future of TCDC in particular which holds a lot of scope for developing countries.

In that context, I would like to point out that in spite of its financial difficulties India has been very, very regular in its payments and even the 1994 payment has been made. At the same time, I feel that it is time that FAO thought in terms of a system not only of penalties but one of incentives, particularly for some of the developing countries which have resource constraints. If there were a system of incentives, I am sure that the situation would improve.

With those remarks, I would like to support whatever initiatives FAO takes to ensure that all countries, both the richer ones and the comparatively poorer ones, are given incentives to make their payments in time.

**EL PRESIDENTE:** ¿Hay alguna delegación que desea hacer uso de la palabra? ¿Hay algún observador que desea hacer uso de la palabra? En ese caso, voy a pedir al Dr. Shah que responda a las preguntas formuladas.

**V.J. SHAH (Deputy Director-General, Office of Programme, Budget and Evaluation):** There is one subject on which I have been asked to respond in your debate, that is the concern over the shortfalls in contribution. The concern which is shared so widely by Members of the Council is naturally shared by the Director-General. I have nothing more to add on that aspect. However, the distinguished representative of Germany asked a question of the Secretariat about how shortfalls in contributions will be handled during this biennium. He referred to the budgetary formula which Conference adopted in approving the Programme of Work and Budget for 1994/95.

I would respond that there are at least two major aspects which we in the Secretariat bear in mind and on which we report to you. One is the aspect of the income and expenditure statement for the biennium; the other aspect is that of cash flow. It is not only the total amount of contributions received and the amounts expended during the biennium which are involved in the cash flow, but an examination on a month-by-month basis. Thus, it is the volume of contributions received in any one month and the timing of these contributions

during the year in relation to the timing of disbursements which requires us to look at the cash flow problem in order to see when the problems may arise and when they can be dealt with.

Having indicated to you the concern of the Director-General, I would like to indicate on his behalf also his appeal, and his fervent wish, that all Member Nations who still have contributions outstanding make their greatest efforts in settling these contributions as promptly and as fully as possible. We are roughly half-way through the biennium. He is watching these aspects very closely, with both Mr Mehboob and myself reporting to him. This is a matter on which he will report to the Finance Committee and indicate what management measures he will consider necessary during the next year.

There are some other aspects on which Mr Mehboob has been asked to respond if you will be kind enough to give him the floor.

**K. MEHBOOB (Assistant Director-General, Administration and Finance Department):** The distinguished delegate of Syria said that his government had advised us that their contribution had been paid. That is true. We have been advised that the contribution of the Government of Syria has been paid. It probably is in transit because it has not yet reached the Organization's bank account and that is why it is not reflected in the documents. The documents are prepared on the basis of actual receipts into the Organization's bank account.

There was a question from the distinguished delegate of Germany about the discount scheme and how it works. The criteria for the discount scheme have been approved in the past by the Finance Committee and also submitted to the Council, but for the information of the distinguished delegate of Germany I will recapitulate the criteria. They are that a Member Nation can earn a discount if the full amount of its assessment is paid prior to 31 March of the year of the assessment. The discount earned would be credited to the Member Nation in the year after the payment. The discount credited to the Member Nation would not exceed the interest earned on Regular Programme funds during that year. Therefore, the scheme would not create a deficit in earnings from investments.

Member Nations who have arrears outstanding would not qualify for the discount treatment on their remittance until the arrears are settled in full.

The amount of the discount is approved by the Finance Committee on a proposal from the Director-General and it is usually based on the average of the Euro Dollar interest rates for the first three months of the year. That is how the 0.8 was calculated.

There was also a question from the distinguished delegate of Japan about FINSYS and PERSYS, his concern that the External Auditor's recommendation and the Finance Committee's recommendation should be implemented. In this connection, I could give some information on how we are proceeding with regard to solving the problems of FINSYS and PERSYS. One of the recommendations of the External Auditor has been that before attempting to resolve the problems of FINSYS and PERSYS the Organization must review and streamline its administrative and financial procedures.

That is what the Organization has undertaken, and that report is due to be completed at the end of this month. Once these procedures have been streamlined, then we shall start looking at the options available to the Organization, and in this connection we will be looking at our sister UN Agencies and other international organizations as well as commercial packages available in the market. So we are very carefully implementing the external auditor's recommendations in that regard.

I think these were the only points I have to react to. If there are any others I would be happy to do so.

**EL PRESIDENTE:** ¿Hay alguna otra delegación que desea hacer uso de la palabra? En ese caso, podríamos decir que el Consejo tomó nota de la situación actualizada de las contribuciones y expresó su preocupación por el hecho de que el número de países con retrasos en el pago de sus contribuciones corrientes y atrasadas había aumentado, e hizo un llamado para que todos los Países Miembros, independientemente de su tamaño, paguen sus cuotas corrientes y atrasadas a la brevedad. Algunos miembros del Consejo observaron que el

90 por ciento de todos los pagos atrasados corresponden a ocho países, mientras que el otro 10 por ciento corresponde a 80 países, principalmente de bajos ingresos.

Se manifestó la esperanza de que antes de que concluya el presente año las cuotas pendientes serán abonadas, y se reflexionó sobre el problema de la financiación del presupuesto actual en tanto no se colme la brecha entre los desembolsos y las cuotas. Se preguntó igualmente sobre la función del plan de descuento. Se expresó, por tanto, preocupación por el impacto que el retraso en los pagos y los desembolsos que tiene la Organización podría afectar ahora y en el futuro la ejecución del programa y se hizo un llamado para que el Director General siga encontrando soluciones sostenibles para evitar que se ponga en peligro la situación financiera de la Organización. Asimismo se indicó la necesidad de encontrar fórmulas efectivas para incentivar a los países a que paguen sus cuotas a tiempo.

En relación con el tema 15, el Consejo recomendó que se pasara a la Conferencia el Proyecto de Resolución contenido en el párrafo 346 del documento CL 107/4, y que la Conferencia apruebe dicha Resolución.

Igualmente, se tomó nota de las opiniones expresadas por el Auditor Externo, y que éstas serán sin reserva, ratificando el Consejo, en lo que valen, las recomendaciones del Auditor Externo.

## **CONSTITUTIONAL AND LEGAL MATTERS (continued)**

### **QUESTIONS CONSTITUTIONNELLES ET JURIDIQUES (suite)**

### **ASUNTOS CONSTITUCIONALES Y JURIDICOS (continuación)**

#### **18. Reports of the Sixty-second and Sixty-third Sessions of the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters**

#### **18. Rapports des soixante-deuxième et soixante-troisième sessions du Comité des questions constitutionnelles et juridiques 18. Informes de los 62° y 63° períodos de sesiones del Comité de Asuntos Constitucionales y Jurídicos**

##### **18.1 Review of Provisions for Acceptance Procedures under Article XIV of the FAO Constitution**

##### **18.1 Examen des dispositions de l'Article XIV de l'Acte constitutif concernant l'acceptation des accords par les Etats**

##### **18.1 Examen de las disposiciones para la aceptación de procedimientos con arreglo al Artículo XIV de la Constitución de la FAO**

Distinguidos delegados, si no hay ninguna otra observación, me permitiré pasar al Tema 18, incluido el Tema 20.5. La razón es que el Tema 20.5, como ustedes saben, es también un asunto de carácter jurídico. Si me lo permiten, voy a invitar al Presidente del Comité de Asuntos Constitucionales y Jurídicos a presentar los informes de los 62° y 63° Períodos de Sesiones de dicho Comité. Los documentos que tienen ustedes en sus manos son el CL 107/5 y el CL 107/15, y en relación al Tema 20.5, y dentro del CL 107/15, los párrafos 2 al 9 y los párrafos 14 al 26.

Distinguidos delegados, si a ustedes les parece bien, vamos a tomar estos puntos uno por uno. Pero antes de conceder la palabra al Presidente del Comité de Asuntos Jurídicos y Constitucionales, el distinguido Embajador Poulides, quisiera aclarar que en el Subtema 18.5: "Otros Asuntos", se incluirán también las enmiendas al Convenio Constitutivo de la Comisión de Pesca del Indo-Pacífico. Ese tema fue agregado al orden del día del Comité posteriormente a la aprobación por el Consejo de su Agenda. Tengo el gran honor de presentarles a ustedes al Sr. Embajador Poulides, quien presentará los informes del Comité de Asuntos Jurídicos y Constitucionales. Señor Embajador, tiene usted la palabra.

**Fotis G. POULIDES (Chairman Committee on Institutional and Legal Matters):** The Council has before it today the report of the 62nd Session of the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters, CL 107/5, and the 63rd Session of the Committee, CL 107/15. A number of important matters were discussed by the CCLM at these two sessions, and I suggest that, as is the usual practice, the Council consider each one individually.

Item 18.1. Review of Provisions for Acceptance and Procedures under Article XIV of the FAO Constitution. At its 104th Session held from 2 to 5 November, 1993, the Council requested that in due course the CCLM review the provisions of Article XIV of the Constitution concerning the acceptance of agreements concluded thereafter in order to determine whether these provisions should not be enlarged to include other forms of adherence to such agreements. The Committee reviewed the relevant provisions of the FAO Constitution, the general rules of the Organization and part R of the basic text as well as the practice of the Organization. The Committee concluded that a wide range of possibilities was provided for in the Constitution and the general rules of the Organization as well as in the Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties 1969, although this had not always been fully exploited in practice. Consequently, the need did not exist to enlarge the provisions of the basic text to include other forms of adherence to such agreements and conventions. For example, signature and ratification rather than the single act of acceptance. The choice of the most appropriate method of expressing consent to be bound should continue to be left to future parties to agreements and conventions concluded under Article XIV in each individual case. Are there any questions on this point?

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Distinguido Presidente del Comité de Asuntos Constitucionales y Jurídicos, le agradezco mucho la presentación de este subtema. Lo someto a la consideración del Consejo. Antes de hacerlo debo marcarles que el Consejo también se honra con la presencia del Dr. Moore, Asesor Legal de esta Organización, que seguramente nos ayudará a responder y aclarar cualquier cuestión de ese carácter.

**Robert VANIER (Canada):** Ma délégation souhaite s'associer aux conclusions du Comité des questions constitutionnelles et juridiques.

Il nous semble en effet que la Convention de Vienne sur les droits des traités, qui énonce différents modes de consentement des Etats, permet une assez grande souplesse dans le choix d'un mode précis dans la mesure où les Etats concernés souhaitent créer une obligation juridique.

Nous pensons donc, comme le Comité, que le terme "adhésion" revêt un sens générique et n'a aucunement pour effet de restreindre les méthodes d'expression du consentement.

Il n'y aurait donc pas lieu d'amender les textes fondamentaux afin d'y inclure d'autres formes de manifestations du consentement à être liés aux termes du droit international.

**John Bruce SHARPE (Australia):** I was diverted there for a moment. Could you clarify - are we talking on Item 18.2? That is to come up, is it?

**Sra. ILEANA DI GIOVAN BATTISTA (Argentina):** Con respecto a este informe del Comité de Asuntos Constitucionales y Jurídicos sobre este tema, que no solo interesa al Consejo en estas sesiones sino que también debe ser tenido en cuenta en otras sesiones de los comités y grupos de trabajo de la Organización, la Delegación Argentina desearía proponer que este párrafo 9 del documento CL 107/5 fuera incluido como nota aclaratoria en los proyectos de convenios, códigos de conducta o cualquier tipo de acuerdo internacional que sea negociado o elaborado en el marco de la Organización.

**LEGAL COUNSEL:** Up until now, we have been advising Member Nations that they should follow the single procedure of acceptance rather than also envisaging other procedures like signature and ratification. In the future, as suggested by the distinguished delegate of Argentina, we will bring to the attention of all the meetings that are considering agreements under Article XIV that they have a choice in the procedures to be incorporated in each agreement including, for example, signature and ratification instead of the single procedure of acceptance. The choice, of course, will be for the members concerned to decide upon.

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Muchas gracias Dr. Moore por sus aclaraciones.

El Consejo ha examinado las propuestas y planteamientos del Informe del Comité de Asuntos Constitucionales y Jurídicos respecto al Tema 18.1

- 18.2 Participation of EC and EC Member States representing their Overseas Territories outside the Geographical Scope of the Treaty of Rome, in FAO Meetings and Intergovernmental Agreements under FAO Auspices**
- 18.2 Participation de la CE et des Etats Membres de la CE agissant au nom de leurs territoires d'outremer situés en dehors de la zone géographique définie par le Traité de Rome dans les réunions de la FAO et dans le cadre d'accords intergouvernementaux conclus sous légide de la FAO**
- 18.2 Participación de la CE y los Estados Miembros de la CE, en representación de sus territorios de ultramar situados fuera del ámbito geográfico del Tratado de Roma, en reuniones de la FAO y en acuerdos intergubernamentales celebrados bajo los auspicios de la FAO**

**PRESIDENTE:** Le otorgo la palabra al Sr. Embajador Poulides para que presente el Subtema 18.2.

**Fotis G. POULIDES (Chairman, Committee on Constitution and Legal Matters):** On participation of EC and EU Member States representing their overseas territories outside the geographical scope of the Treaty of Rome in FAO meetings and intergovernmental agreements under FAO auspices, the CCLM held a preliminary discussion on this matter at its 62nd Session but deferred consideration of the substantive aspects until its 63rd session.

The matter first arose when the Council considered the draft agreement for the establishment of the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission in November 1993. At that time a number of countries expressed concern over what they perceived to be a double voice for the EC and its member states in the wording of Article IV of the agreement. The Council referred the matter to the CCLM for study in its wider perspective in similar situations in the Organization as a whole.

After very careful consideration, the CCLM concluded that the basic issue was already well covered in the relevant provisions of the Basic Texts as supplemented by the Declaration of Competence lodged by the EC and its Member States at the time of admission to FAO. Thus there could be no question of a double voice or a double vote. Consequently the Committee recommended that the Council adopt the guidelines set forth in paragraph 12, sections A and B, of the report of its 63rd Session. Thus for general meetings of the Organization, member states of a Member Organization possessing dependent territories outside the geographical scope of the transfer of competence would be entitled to participate in the discussions on behalf of those territories and to represent their interests even if the agenda item under discussion fell within the exclusive competence of the Member Organization. However, such participation must respect the provisions of Article II.10 of the Constitution and Rule XLI.2 of the General Rules of the Organization, which preclude the possibility of a double vote.

With regard to agreements under Article XIV, each agreement should set its own criteria and terms and conditions for participation by Member States. Where agreements fall within the exclusive competence of a Member Organization, participation by Member States should be only on behalf of territories outside the geographical scope of the transfer of competence. The question of voting rights should be decided on a case by case basis.

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Les subrayo que en el párrafo 13 se hace referencia específica a las recomendaciones del Comité. El CACJ recomienda al Consejo que apruebe las directrices contenidas en los subpárrafos A y B del párrafo 12 del Informe del 63° período de sesiones.

**Atul SINHA (India):** We have gone through the recommendations of the CCLM in this regard. I draw your attention to Part B of the recommendations which relate to agreements under Article XIV of the Constitution. While the early part of the formulation seems to present no problems, the last sentence seems to need some clarification from the Chairman or the Legal Counsel. This sentence reads: "The question of voting rights should be decided on a case-by-case basis." That seems to be a very wide power which is being given. There is a risk of this being interpreted to mean that a country which has overseas territories could vote both on

behalf of its territory and then for the EU. We therefore think this last sentence could be made a little clearer so as to totally preclude any possibility of their voting rights being decided in a manner which is not consistent with Article XIV of the Constitution. That means it should specifically state here that there should be no double voting rights. Probably a reference to Article XIV once again at this stage may be useful. A legal formulation could be suggested by the Legal Counsel. I would request a clarification on this issue so as to preclude any doubts whatsoever.

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Quizás para orientar mejor nuestros debates es importante, a estas alturas, la respuesta del Asesor Legal respecto a la cuestión planteada por el Delegado de la India.

**LEGAL COUNSEL:** First of all, I should like to clarify one point. When we say "on a case-by-case basis" it really means "in each agreement". I would also like to refer you to Article XIV of the Constitution which states "Where any convention ... provides that a Member Organization ... may become a party thereto, the voting rights to be exercised by such organizations and the other terms of participation shall be defined therein." This means that our Basic Texts require, under Article XIV, that each agreement should determine the terms of participation where a Member Organization is a prospective party to that agreement, including the voting rights and how they should be exercised.

In response to the delegate of India, I would suggest that this should perhaps be clarified in the report and we could use wording for the last sentence as follows: "The question of voting rights should be decided in each agreement in accordance with Article XIV of the Constitution." Does this settle your difficulty, sir? Thank you.

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Ha quedado satisfecha la cuestión planteada por el delegado de la India. Espero que ustedes hayan tomado nota.

**John Bruce SHARPE (Australia):** I had similar questions to those raised by India. I think perhaps Mr Moore has answered them but, not being a lawyer, and since this involves international agreements, I should like to take this back to my capital to see that they concur with it and that we are agreeing on the same thing.

Before doing so I should like to take the opportunity here at this Council to state the view that I have been given from Canberra to pass on to this Council, and I will read from it.

From Australia's point of view the issue of the potential double voice in the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission for EC Member States with territories in the Indian Ocean has yet to be resolved satisfactorily. We raise this issue in the context of the report from the CCLM. On pages 5 and 6 the report outlines the CCLM's recommended position in relation to voting and speaking where EC Member States speak on behalf of territories lying outside the geographical area of the Treaty of Rome. We do not consider that the CCLM report resolves this issue satisfactorily.

The CCLM report states that for general meetings of the Organization EC Member States should identify clearly that they are speaking on behalf of their territories outside the geographical area of the Treaty of Rome and should address only aspects of the question raised for which there is special interest of the territories concerned which differs from the position taken by the EC. For bodies established under Article XIV a more ambiguous and, in our view, imprecise prescription is given, i.e., that voting rights should be decided on a case-by-case basis. This has just been referred to by Mr Moore and the delegate from India. Is this intended to mean decision on a commission-by-commission basis or an issue-by-issue basis within a particular commission? Some clarification has been provided by Mr Moore, but there is still ambiguity there. We wish to place clearly on record our strong view that it would be fair and reasonable for the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission to apply restrictions similar to those prescribed for the general meetings of the Organization. For example, EC Member States should identify clearly that they are speaking on behalf of their territories outside the geographical area of the Treaty of Rome and should address, and have a right to vote on, only aspects of the question raised for which there is specific interest of the territories concerned which differs from the position taken by the EC.

Article XIV agreements are concluded within the framework of the Organization and it is our view that in the absence of specific arrangements within an Article XIV agreement the fundamental principles recognized in the CCLM report in regard to the Organization should be reflected in the operation of Article XIV Bodies. If the input and voting rights are defined in this way, it would give states a clear voice on issues of special interest to their respective territories where that interest differs from the position taken by the EC while at the same time averting the possibility of a double voice on other issues, i.e., the EC would have a single vote on those other issues.

We recognize the autonomy of bodies established under Article XIV but we consider that the matter of voting rights in respect of territories has not been explicitly dealt with in the final text of the IOTC agreement. However, it must be resolved before the Commission commences operation.

That is the view from Canberra.

**Jürgen OESTREICH (Allemagne):** La Communauté et ses Etats Membres ont examiné le rapport de la soixante-treizième session du Comité des questions constitutionnelles et juridiques, et notamment la partie concernant la présentation, au sein de la FAO, des intérêts des territoires d'outre-mer situés en dehors du champ d'application du traité de Rome.

La Communauté et ses Etats Membres considèrent que le rapport du Comité donne une explication claire et conforme à la déclaration générale des compétences soumise par la Communauté au moment de son adhésion en novembre 1991, (note en bas de page 1) et des modalités selon lesquelles s'effectue la participation de la Communauté et de certains de ses Etats Membres pour le compte de leurs territoires d'outre-mer aux réunions de la FAO et aux accords conclus dans le cadre de cette organisation.

La Communauté et ses Etats Membres espèrent qu'à l'avenir cette question ne soulève plus de craintes ou de malentendus parmi d'autres membres de l'Organisation, et sont de leur part disposés à souscrire aux décisions du Comité.

**Sra. Ileana DI GIOVAN BATTISTA (Argentina):** Con relación a este tema, Sr. Presidente, la delegación argentina agradece las explicaciones del Doctor Moore y, especialmente, la intervención del señor representante de Alemania en el sentido de proveer todas las aclaraciones necesarias para que, cito al Sr. representante de Alemania: no existan ni temores ni malentendidos por parte de los otros miembros de la Organización con relación a un eventual doble voto por parte de la Comunidad Europea y sus Países Miembros.

Además, señor Presidente, me permito mencionar a usted la solicitud de nuestro Gobierno de que figure una reserva formulada por Argentina con relación particularmente al párrafo 12 del documento CL 107/15 en sus párrafos A y B. La delegación argentina solicita que se incluya a pie de página su reserva reiterando los conceptos de la nota del Gobierno argentino al Secretario General del Consejo de las Comunidades Europeas del 25 de julio 1972, en la que expresa su objeción y reserva ante la inclusión de las islas Malvinas, Georgias del Sur y Sandwich del Sur y del llamado "Territorio Antártico Británico" en la lista anexa al Capítulo IV del Tratado de Roma.

Me permito entregar el texto de la reserva a la Secretaría: La República Argentina rechaza la inclusión y las referencias a las Islas Malvinas, Georgias del sur y Sandwich del sur por parte de la CEE y los Estados Miembros de la CEE como territorios de ultramar, y reafirma su soberanía sobre dichas Islas, que son parte integrante de su territorio nacional, así como sobre los espacios marítimos circundantes.

La República Argentina recuerda que la Asamblea General de las Naciones Unidas ha adoptado las Resoluciones 2065 (XX), 3160 (XXVIII), 31/49, 37/6, 40/21, 41/40, 42/19, y 43/25 por las que se reconoce la existencia de una disputa de soberanía y se pide a los Gobiernos de la República Argentina y del Reino Unido de Gran Bretaña e Irlanda del Norte que entablen negociaciones con miras a encontrar los medios de resolver pacífica y definitivamente los problemas pendientes entre los dos países incluidos todos los aspectos sobre el futuro de las Islas Malvinas de acuerdo con la Carta de las Naciones Unidas.

Asimismo, reitera los conceptos de la nota del Gobierno argentino, del 25 de julio de 1972, en la que se notificó al Secretario General del Consejo de las Comunidades Europeas su objeción y reserva ante la inclusión de las Islas Malvinas, Georgias del Sur y Sandwich del Sur y del llamado "Territorio Antártico Británico" en la lista anexa al Capítulo IV del Tratado de Roma.

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Se ha tomado nota de su reserva, distinguida delegada, y será incluida a pie de página en el párrafo 12 del 63º Informe del Comité de Asuntos Constitucionales y Jurídicos.

**Ms M. McCOWAN (United Kingdom):** Mr Chairman, the Falkland Islands, South Georgia and South Sandwich Islands are Overseas Territories to which special arrangements apply under the Treaty of Rome Part IV, Article 277, para. 3 and Annex 4.

As regards sovereignty Her Majesty's Government has no doubt about United Kingdom sovereignty over the Falkland Islands, South Georgia and South Sandwich Islands, and her position is well known.

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Se ha tomado nota, distinguida delegada, para aclarar la situación en el Informe. Se va a reproducir el párrafo 12, y las dos directrices del párrafo 13, y al respecto, se incluirán las reservas señaladas, u otras que puedan manifestarse en cuanto a las directrices propuestas por el Comité. Igualmente se ha tomado nota de su reserva y será incluida.

**Ms Lisa Bobbie SCHREIBER HUGHES (United States of America):** Although we also appreciate the clarifying words of the FAO Legal Counsel, the United States delegation would also like to make a brief statement.

We recognize that, due to certain limitations of the Treaty of Rome, the EC cannot exercise competence over issues relating to the overseas territories of its Member States, even in matters where the EC would otherwise enjoy exclusive competence.

While we also recognize that EC Member States with overseas territories should be able to represent the interests of those territories at meetings of the FAO and of organizations created by conventions and agreements adopted under Article XIV of the FAO constitution, we must ensure that this does not result in a double vote for the EEC and its Member States.

Accordingly, we are pleased to support the recommendation of the CCLM that the alternative voting formula as set forth in the relevant provisions of the FAO constitution and the General Rules of the Organization be fully respected when such matters arise within FAO. However, we believe that this alternative voting approach must be adopted across the board to apply to any voting that takes place in such circumstances in Article XIV organizations.

**Raphael RABE (Madagascar):** Ma délégation remercie aussi le Président du CQCJ et M. Moore pour les informations et les explications données. Nous félicitons également le Secrétariat pour la production du document soumis à examen.

Je voudrais seulement, pour la transparence et la clarté de la question, qui, je le reconnais, n'est pas simple, vous soumettre un cas de figure: dans le cas où la CE et un de ses pays membres siègent ensemble dans une commission donnée, cela pourrait se passer de la manière suivante: la CE voterait au nom des pays dont les pouvoirs lui ont été délégués et le pays voterait au nom du territoire dont il est le propriétaire. Ou alors peut-on dire que la CE ne siège jamais là où un de ses pays membres possède un territoire? Si l'on peut donc dire de manière définitive que la CE ne siège jamais en même temps que l'un de ses pays membres qui possède un territoire d'outre-mer, la question est très simple.



**Ricardo VELAZQUEZ HUERTA (México):** Este tema a nuestro juicio, señor Presidente, es muy importante. En primer lugar es obvio que la comunidad de Países Miembros de la FAO no puede de ninguna manera analizar cómo la Comunidad Europea y sus Estados Miembros, o sus territorios, deciden la competencia para sus votos. En lo interno, hacia la FAO, la costumbre nuestra ha sido evitar a toda costa una duplicidad de voto. Esto es un hecho y una práctica que hemos observado durante largo tiempo a raíz del ingreso de la Comunidad en el seno de nuestra Organización.

La representación de la India, tocó un punto por demás importante, que habiéndolo aclarado el señor Asesor Legar, cambiando la palabra "caso" por "acuerdo", a nosotros nos parece que debía figurar de todas maneras en el texto. En términos jurídicos cuando falta claridad o hay dudas de interpretación, es mejor referirse a la norma como la tenemos escrita. Y si nosotros completáramos, como lo indicaba la representación de la India, el texto propuesto por la Secretaría indicando con claridad que, en todo caso se evitará la duplicidad de votos, con eso, señor Presidente, pensamos nosotros que se salvaguarda la intención de esta soberanía en cuanto a la participación de la Comunidad, de los miembros de la Comunidad, o de los territorios de la Comunidad en el seno de la FAO.

**Kenji SHIMIZU (Japan):** My delegation is not in a position to support voting on the basis proposed in paragraph (b) because my delegation has just received this document and has not had an opportunity to fully study the implications of the recommendations. Despite the clarification given by the Legal Counsel these are still not clear, as was illustrated by the remarks of the Austrian delegate.

It also seems to me that the issue is basically related to the EC status in this Organization, and the matter should therefore be taken up again at the appropriate future meeting.

My delegation wishes to put on record its reservations on this issue.

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Se ha tomado nota, distinguido delegado del Japón, de su reserva respecto al párrafo 12, y cuando se reproduzca así en el informe junto con la de la delegación de Argentina, se incluirá a pie de página.

**Jürgen OESTREICH (Germany):** The European Community also reserves the right to put a footnote in the report.

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Se ha tomado nota, distinguido delegado, de la reserva de la Comunidad Europea, respecto de la posibilidad de incluir una nota a pie de página, en relación a este punto.

**Robert VANIER (Canada):** La proposition du Conseil juridique, ce n'est pas un reproche, ne règle pas la question de fond - et elle ne pouvait pas vraiment la régler. Il nous semble donc que tout accord conclu aux termes de l'Article 14 devrait respecter les règles de l'Acte concernant la prohibition d'une double voix.

**Suharyo HUSEN (Indonesia):** My delegation would like to associate itself with the comments of other speakers on this agenda item. If we are going to have so many footnotes to this report, my delegation would like to recommend to the CCLM that this report be reconsidered at the next meeting of this Committee.

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Creo que usted ha hecho la propuesta más sensata y a todos nos parece que a estas alturas, y en virtud de los problemas de interpretación y del contenido de las directrices, así como a la luz de las aclaraciones ya planteadas por el Dr. Moore, y otras que seguramente nos hará en algún momento, creo sería conveniente que este Consejo tome nota con satisfacción de los esfuerzos hechos por el Comité para aclarar esta cuestión y refiere los puntos todavía de interpretación y de contenido sobre los cuales hay discrepancia para que los siga estudiando dicho Comité.

El Presidente del Comité está aquí presente, y estoy seguro que él ha tomado nota. El Dr. Moore está aquí también presente y ha tomado también debida nota de ello y este Consejo podría pedir al Comité que se refiera a estos aspectos de nuevo.

**LEGAL COUNSEL:** I have taken note of the wishes of the Council on this particular point. However, I would like to respond to a couple of the points raised.

First of all, to clarify even further the question of the meaning of "on a case by case basis" in the last sentence of sub-paragraph (b): It is in fact intended that this should refer, not to individual issues or items on the agenda of a body established under Article XIV, but that the matter should be included in each agreement and settled in each particular agreement.

I want to make that quite clear. It is not a question of individual agenda items before a Commission. The matter of voting rights should be settled in each agreement when it is drawn up and before it is adopted by the Conference. This is what we are required to do in the Basic Texts of the Organization. As I mentioned before, Article XIV of our Constitution indicates that where a Member Organization is a member, or a potential member of an agreement, the whole question of voting rights must be decided upon in the agreement. Therefore, I think it is a little difficult to change this basic provision of the Constitution, although it certainly can be clarified as to exactly what the meaning is.

I note that all the interventions have indicated that there is no problem with Members of Council in so far as paragraph (a) is concerned - how the question will be settled for general meetings of the Organization.

I should point out that in paragraph (b), when we are dealing with agreements under Article XIV of the Constitution, and when we are dealing with questions of mixed competence - in other words, where both the EC and its Member States are party to the agreement - we would then follow the normal rules of the Organization.

In other words, we would treat this as a question of a general meeting, in the same way as with general meetings of the Organization. There would be declarations of competence, presumably before each meeting. Of course, this would have to be settled in the individual agreement, but normally one would follow the same course of action as we do for the Organization as a whole.

I think the Council may then find that the question of double voice does not arise at all in these circumstances, because it is exactly the same as for the general meetings of the Organization.

Therefore, I think the question can be narrowed down to this particular situation, where the competence lies exclusively with the Member Organization. This caused a considerable amount of difficulty where we were negotiating the amendments to the Constitution and the accession of the EC to membership of FAO.

However, I would draw your attention to Article XIV of the Constitution which says that in these cases where there is exclusive competence with a Member Organization, the Member Organization would join on a slightly different basis to that on which it has joined FAO. It would not join with a multiple vote, but it would join with a single vote.

If we have an agreement dealing with fisheries management, for example - and here I defer to the EC, but I understand that fisheries management is within the exclusive competence of the EC - then the EC would join such a fisheries body normally with a single vote and on its own, without its Member States.

This still leaves the question of those territories in the region, or those parts of the country which are not represented. This is the problem we have before us.

In that particular case, either somebody represents the interests of those territories in the area, or nobody does because the EC is not allowed to represent the interest of those territories in the region. We then have a very big difficulty, as to how to deal with that situation.

One thing I should point out is that the EC is a separate and distinct legal entity from its Member States. Therefore, I do not think that the question of a double voice or vote arises, because when we are dealing with the question of the EC being a single member, where it has exclusive competence in respect of the subject matter of the agreement, the EC has its own interests and legal identity.

The member states, when they join on behalf of their overseas territories outside the scope of the transfer of competence would have their interests and their own distinct legal personality from the EC.

The CCLM has tried in its Report, under paragraph (b), also to heighten this distinction by using the words, when talking about the member states having territories lying outside the geographical scope of the transfer of competence, that their participation should be limited to participation on behalf of those territories and representing the interests of those territories.

In other words we are trying to separate not only the legal entity of the EC, which is separate from the legal entity of its member states, but also the interests that the EC is representing and the interests that the Member States may be representing.

Therefore, in our view, there is no question of a double voice, for these two reasons. However, we take the general feeling of the Council that this matter needs further clarification. I think this is a matter that will be haunting us in the CCLM for a few sessions to come.

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Veo que un fantasma recorre los trabajos del Comité de Asuntos Constitucionales y Jurídicos. Si no hay ninguna observación o aclaración por su parte, podríamos decir que el Consejo tomó nota con aprecio de los esfuerzos del Comité de Asuntos Constitucionales y Jurídicos. Los miembros del Consejo estuvieron divididos en relación a la adopción de las directrices propuestas en el párrafo 12 del 63° Período de Sesiones de dicho Comité. Algunos propusieron la adopción de tales directrices; otros indicaron que la cuestión no estaba todavía suficientemente clara ni deslindada. Alguna delegación indicó que su gobierno no había podido tener tiempo para estudiar todas las repercusiones de estas dos propuestas y, por tanto, solicitó disponer de más tiempo. Otras indicaron, sin embargo, que había un problema de interpretación de contenido, principalmente en el subpárrafo b) del párrafo 12, relativo a la cuestión de los derechos de voto y las decisiones en caso de cada acuerdo.

Distinguidos delegados, para evitar que en el Informe se introduzcan reservas, como fue señalado, propongo que concluyamos de la siguiente manera: "El Consejo pidió al Comité de Asuntos Constitucionales y Jurídicos que se refiera específicamente a las cuestiones de interpretación y de aclaración solicitadas por los Estados Miembros durante su debate que, en particular, se concentraron en el subpárrafo b) del párrafo 12 del Informe del 63° Período de Sesiones del Comité, para que lo siga estudiando". Si ustedes están de acuerdo, así lo haríamos y se evitaría en principio las notas de pie de página y las reservas al respecto. No creo que ello contribuya a que el Comité de Asuntos Constitucionales y Jurídicos pueda seguir trabajando. Sin embargo, estoy abierto a reconocer el deseo de algunas delegaciones para incluir una reserva en relación a dicho párrafo. Tiene la palabra la distinguida delegada de Argentina.

**Sra. Ileana DI GIOVAN BATTISTA (Argentina):** Gracias, Sr. Presidente. Mi delegación acompaña su síntesis sobre los debates y no insistirá en que la enmienda figure al pie de página del informe final, pero sí desea pedirle que la reserva figure en el verbatim y que se solicite al Comité de Asuntos Constitucionales y Jurídicos que tenga en cuenta las reservas formuladas durante esta sesión del Consejo. Gracias, Sr. Presidente.

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Desde luego, el verbatim reflejará el hecho de que su delegación, así como otras, han presentado reservas respecto del texto del párrafo 12, y el Comité de Asuntos Constitucionales y Jurídicos ha tomado nota a través de su Presidente.

Si están de acuerdo, entonces podríamos proceder de esta manera. Indicarle al Comité de Redacción que la presentación del Proyecto de Informe lo redacte de tal manera que dé una instrucción muy concreta al Comité de Asuntos Constitucionales y Jurídicos para seguir estudiando estas cuestiones.

**Ms M. McCOWAN (United Kingdom):** On a point of clarification, when I responded to the distinguished delegate from Argentina and her request to enter a footnote which is now going into the verbatim, I said that we would, of course, also need to add an additional footnote.

Would this mean that whatever we wish to say would also be included in the verbatim ?

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Eso se incluirá en el verbatim. Lo que sugiero es que no quede incluido en el informe del Consejo. Están registradas en el verbatim tanto la reserva de Argentina como la de su país.

Si están de acuerdo, podríamos pasar al Tema 18.3 de nuestra Agenda. Le voy a pedir al Presidente del Comité de Asuntos Constitucionales y Jurídicos que nos presente el tema.

**18.3 The Compatibility with Article XVIII.6 of the Constitution of the Methodology Proposed by the Finance Committee for the Calculation of the Sum to be paid by Member Organizations of FAO to cover Administrative Expenses arising out of their Membership.**

**18.3 La compatibilité avec l'Article XVIII.6 de l'Acte constitutif de la méthodologie proposée par le Comité financier pour le calcul de la contribution des Organisations Membres de la FAO destinées à compenser les frais administratifs afférents à leur status de membres.**

**18.3 Compatibilidad con el Artículo XVIII.6 de la Constitución de la metodología propuesta por el Comité de Finanzas para calcular la suma que deben pagar las organizaciones miembro de la FAO para sufragar gastos administrativos derivados de su condición de miembros.**

**Fotis G. POULIDES (Chairman, Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters):** We have taken due note of all the remarks of the Members of the Council. We will study them at our next meeting and we shall try to answer the various questions as far as possible.

Item 18.3 The Compatibility with Article XVIII.6 of the Constitution of the Methodology Proposed by the Finance Committee for the Calculation of the Sum to be paid by Member Organizations of FAO to cover Administrative Expenses arising out of their Membership: the CCLM, bearing in mind the provisions of Article XVIII.6 of the FAO Constitution, reviewed the methodology recommended by the Finance Committee at its Seventy-seventh Session in September 1993. In so doing, it recalled that several Members of the Council had expressed the view that this methodology would be incompatible with Article XVIII.6.

Thus, the matter had been referred to the CCLM for consideration. The detailed opinion of the CCLM is set forth in paragraph XVIII of the Report of its Sixty-second Session.

The CCLM reached the conclusion that the methodology proposed by the Finance Committee was not incompatible with Article XVIII.6 of the FAO Constitution.

I should like to draw the attention of the Council to the fact that the question of compatibility is now moot. Since the Finance Committee recommended that in future the sum to be paid by Member Organizations to cover administrative and other expenses arising out of their membership should be set as a lump sum.

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Muchas gracias, Sr. Embajador. Han escuchado ustedes al Presidente del Comité. ¿Hay alguna delegación que desea hacer uso de la palabra? Tiene la palabra el distinguido representante de la Comunidad Europea.

**Luis DELGADO SANCHO (Comunidad Europea):** En lo que se refiere al método propuesto por el Comité de Finanzas para el pago de la contribución de los Estados Miembros de la FAO, la Comunidad y sus Estados Miembros están totalmente de acuerdo con las conclusiones a las que llegó dicho Comité durante su 78° sesión, que tuvo lugar en abril del presente año.

**EL PRESIDENTE:** ¿Hay alguna otra delegación que desea hacer uso de la palabra? (DENEGACIONES). En ese caso, podríamos concluir que el Consejo apoyó las recomendaciones del Comité de Finanzas para calcular la suma que deben pagar los Estados Miembros de la FAO para sufragar los gastos administrativos derivados de su condición de miembros.

Pasamos al Subtema 18.4

**18.4 Italian Tax (6 per mille) on the Contents of Bank Accounts belonging to FAO Staff Members.**

**18.4 Taxe "6 per mille" du Gouvernement italien sur les comptes bancaires des fonctionnaires de la FAO.**

**18.4 Impuesto italiano (6 por mil) sobre los fondos de las cuentas bancarias pertenecientes a los miembros del personal de la FAO.**

**Fotis G. POULIDES (Chairman, Committee on Institutional and Legal Matters):** On Item 18.4, Italian Tax (6 per mille) on the Contents of Bank Accounts belonging to FAO staff members, the Committee recalls that following the imposition of this 6 per mille tax on bank accounts of FAO staff members, the Finance Committee considered the matter in September 1993 and the CCLM noted the proposed scheme for recovery at its 63rd Session in October 1993. The matter was also reviewed by the Council at its 104th Session in November 1993. Subsequently, the Italian Government was seized of the question and was now seeking a pragmatic solution to the problem. It is hoped that the matter will be resolved soon to the satisfaction of all parties concerned.

Since that time, the matter has been considered by the Finance Committee at its 79th Session in September 1994. The Report of that Committee is in document CL 107/4 which is before the Council under Agenda Item 13.

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Muchas gracias, Sr. Poulides, por sus comentarios introductorios. ¿Hay alguna delegación que desea hacer uso de la palabra? Tiene la palabra el distinguido delegado de Italia.

**Paolo Vincenzo MASSA (Italy):** As is pointed out in the document in front of us, when the problem was referred there was a solution proposed by FAO which by itself is pragmatic, let us put it that way. We all know that we keep on examining the matter in the Legal Committee and it has now become meta-legal. It has gone beyond the legal point. Certainly from the legal point of view there is not an automatic assimilation to an imposition of tax on bank accounts and the imposition of tax on emoluments. That, of course, has been the position of our Ministry of Finance and for them the matter is closed.

However, we are trying to see if we can - without going back to the Ministry of Finance to ask them for the restitution of the moneys, which they will not do - solve the problem in a more pragmatic way. We are still looking into that. It is not easy from an administrative point of view.

You well know that the financial views of a country or a state are very complicated. They involve certain forms of control, and so on. With the Treasury we are looking to see if we can find an allowance to cover that amount of money. We take note of the fact that it is, after all, a quite small amount but it can still create problems from an administrative point of view. One has problems of control. We hope that we shall be able to find a solution.

That is all I can say to the Council at the moment.

**EL PRESIDENTE:** ¿Hay alguna otra delegación que desea hacer uso de la palabra? ¿Hay algún observador? Tiene la palabra el Dr. Moore.

**LEGAL COUNSEL:** I would like to bring to your attention a matter that we raised with the Finance Committee at the last session, and that is that there are two aspects to this particular issue: one is the relationship between the Organization and its staff; the other is the relationship between the Organization and Italy.

We feel very strongly that this is a tax, in practice, on the salaries of FAO staff members as soon as that salary is paid into the bank account. We have some difficulty in that, with the passage of time, it becomes more and more difficult to reimburse staff, as staff members leave or as staff members lose their records of what tax they have paid. Therefore, we informed the Finance Committee at its last Session that, in view of these difficulties, the Director-General may need at an appropriate time to proceed with the reimbursement of staff members along the lines set out in the scheme. This is our relationship with our own staff and we are required to do this under our rules. We will then continue to take up the matter of finding a pragmatic solution, with the Italian Government, to get reimbursement from the Italian Government.

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Muchas gracias por su aclaración. Si no hay ningún otro comentario, podríamos decir que el Consejo tomó nota con aprecio del Informe del 63° Período de Sesiones del Comité de Asuntos Constitucionales y Jurídicos al respecto. Igualmente manifestó su agradecimiento a las autoridades italianas por los esfuerzos que realizan para resolver este asunto de manera equitativa y pragmática. El Consejo tomó nota de las dificultades específicas que tendría la FAO para el reembolso de este impuesto italiano e instó al Comité de Asuntos Constitucionales y Jurídicos para que continúe revisando este tema en el futuro. Me parece que el distinguido delegado italiano no considera que esto es justo. Tiene la palabra el delegado de Italia.

**Paolo Vincenzo MASSA (Italy):** I would not like to disturb your beautiful summing up of the whole matter, Mr Chairman, but as a matter of fact we do not think that the matter should keep on being revised in the CCLM; we think that the Finance Committee is quite appropriate because it deals with small financial problems within the Organization.

From a legal point of view, whilst the Committee has taken note that there is not a strictly legal basis - and Mr Moore has said that this could be conceded - from a legal point of view, he is a lawyer, he is much more able than me to explain this to you, there is no such thing that it could be considered that it is or it is not. From a juridical point of view, the problem does not exist any more. I am sorry to say that. It is a practical problem and it is a matter which has to be taken up by another committee, namely the Finance Committee.

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Muchas gracias por su aclaración. Corrijo entonces mi resumen diciendo que el Consejo recomienda al Comité de Finanzas que estudie los aspectos prácticos del reembolso del impuesto italiano.

### **18.5 Other matters**

### **18.5 Autres questions**

### **18.5 Otros asuntos**

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Pasamos al Tema 18.5: Otros asuntos. Como yo les había manifestado, en la Agenda del Comité de Asuntos Constitucionales y Jurídicos se incluyó, una vez que nosotros habíamos ya aprobado la nuestra, el aspecto específico a las enmiendas al Acuerdo para el establecimiento de una Comisión Pesquera del Indo-Pacífico. Le pido al Embajador Poulides que presente este subtema.

**Fotis G. POULIDES (Chairman, Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters):** Item 18.5, Other Matters, Amendments to the Agreement establishing the Indo-Pacific Fisheries Commission, IPFC, document CL 107/15, section 2. The Committee recalled that the Indo-Pacific Fisheries Commission had first been established in 1948, that the agreement establishing the Commission had been amended on several occasions to broaden the scope of its activities in order to take account of changing institutional requirements. The CCLM noted that the Committee on Fisheries, COFI, had recommended in 1989 that the IPFC undertake an in-depth review of its functions and structure with a view to strengthening its activities in the technical and

policy teams. This review was carried out and new objectives and orientation were proposed which would require amending the agreement to allow for greater flexibility and evaluation of the activities of the Commission in future. In particular, activities will now be concentrated in the Asia Pacific area.

A number of amendments were approved by the Commission at its 24th Session one year ago. These amendments are set out in Appendix B to the Report of the CCLM. The CCLM reviewed the matter and concluded that the proposed amendments were acceptable from a legal point of view. They recommended that the Council expresses its concurrence with these amendments. Consequently, the amendments will not require approval by the Conference and will take effect immediately.

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Muchas gracias, Sr. Embajador Poulides.

Han escuchado ustedes los comentarios introductorios del Sr. Embajador. ¿Hay alguna observación o comentario?

El Consejo ha tomado nota del informe del Comité y está de acuerdo con las recomendaciones y enmiendas al respecto.

**20 Other Constitutional and Legal Matters, including: (continued)**

**20 Autres questions constitutionnelles et juridiques, notamment: (suite)**

**20 Otros asuntos constitucionales y jurídicos, en particular: (continuación)**

**20.5 Proposed Amendment to Staff Regulation 301.136 (National Professional Officers)**

**20.5 Projet d'amendement à l'article 301.136 du Statut du personnel (Fonctionnaires recrutés sur le plan national)**

**20.5 Enmienda propuesta del artículo 301.136 del Estatuto del Personal (Profesionales de contratación nacional)**

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Pasamos al Tema 20.5 relativo a la Enmienda propuesta del artículo 301.136 del Estatuto del Personal (Profesionales de contratación nacional). Les recuerdo que en el informe del Comité de Finanzas, documento CL 107/4, este tema se ubica en los párrafos 3.85 a 3.94 y en el documento CL 107/15, en los párrafos del 2 al 9 y del 14 al 26. Le ofrezco la palabra al Sr. Slater para que presente este tema.

**A.T. SLATER (Director, Personnel Division):** It is recalled that at its 106th Session in May and June of 1994, the Council approved the progressive establishment of a cadre of national professional officers or NPOs in country representation offices and saw it as a cost-effective and potentially important contribution to national capacity building. The Council now has before it Council document 107/4, report of the 79th Session of the Finance Committee, and Council document CL 107/15, report of the 63rd Session of the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters, CCLM. These documents contain the Director-General's proposal and the conclusions of the above referenced Committees concerning the policy framework for the introduction of national professional officers, the applicable terms and conditions of employment and the amendment to the staff regulation 301.136 of the Organization which would empower the Director-General to establish this new category. Under this Item, the Council's approval is sought of the policy framework government NPOs, the terms and conditions of employment of the new category and the amendment to staff regulation 301.136.

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Muchas gracias, Sr. Slater, por sus comentarios introductorios. Me voy a permitir pasarle la palabra al Embajador Poulides, Presidente del Comité de Asuntos Constitucionales y Jurídicos, para que recuerde cuáles son las recomendaciones del CACJ al respecto.

**Fotis G. POULIDES (Chairman, Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters):** National Professional Officers, proposed amendment to staff regulation 301.136, document CL 107/15, section 4. Bearing in mind that at its last session the Council approved the progressive establishment of a cadre of National Professional

Officers, NPOs, in country representation offices, and having considered it to be a cost effective and potentially important contribution to national capacity building, the Committee reviewed the proposed system-wide criteria established by the International Civil Service Commission and the policy framework and applicable terms and conditions of service. As stated in paragraph 20 of the Report of the 63rd Session of the CCLM, Members of the Committee expressed various concerns on the aspect of the category of national professional officers and its implications for the Organization. Assurances were given in response to these concerns and are set out in the above mentioned paragraph. I should also point out that the Committee underlined that the independence of NPOs from the influence of any authority external to the Organization, both in their recruitment and their performance of duties, was a fundamental condition for the new system. The CCLM examined the proposal that staff regulation 301.136 be amended to include a reference to national professional officers. In so doing, it noted that this regulation had been amended both in 1961 and 1976 in order to extend its field of application. The Committee also noted the provisions of Rule 24.3(j) and Rule 39.3 of the general rules of the Organization. In view of the aforementioned provisions and earlier precedents of similar nature, the CCLM agreed that the most direct and flexible method for empowering the Director-General to establish the new category of NPO would be to amend staff regulation 301.136 by adding the category of NPOs. The CCLM underlined that the staff rules and provisions of the staff manual which will be promulgated on this subject should take full account of the concern expressed by the Committee members on a number of aspects of the establishment of this new category.

**Christophe KIEMTORE (Burkina Faso):** Les comités techniques du Conseil - je veux parler du Comité des questions constitutionnelles et juridiques ainsi que du Comité financier - ont déjà fait un examen approfondi de cette question importante, et les conclusions, les préoccupations et les commentaires de ces comités sont relatés dans leurs rapports.

Ma délégation voudrait apporter son soutien aux recommandations de ces deux comités et attirer l'attention du Conseil sur leurs commentaires qui nous paraissent tout à fait pertinents. Donc le Conseil pourra entériner les recommandations du Comité spécifique en prenant en compte les commentaires justifiés qui se rapportent à cette question importante.

**Jacques LAUREAU (France):** Compte tenu des précisions apportées par la Direction du Personnel au Comité des questions constitutionnelles et juridiques, dont j'ai la chance d'être membre, je viens vous dire que la délégation française approuve pleinement les dispositions applicables aux fonctionnaires recrutés sur le plan national et l'amendement proposé en conséquence à l'Article 301.136 du statut du personnel.

Nous avons noté, en particulier, que les fonctionnaires recrutés sur le plan national seront des fonctionnaires du cadre organique recrutés localement dont les conditions d'emploi seront conformes aux critères établis par la Commission de la fonction publique internationale; que la représentation de l'Organisation pour le pays concerné évaluera les candidatures et transmettra une liste restreinte de candidats qualifiés au Siège lequel procédera à leur sélection; que ces recrutements au niveau local, pour des contrats à moyen terme, n'ouvraient pas droit à une nomination sur le plan international; et qu'enfin l'indépendance de ces fonctionnaires recrutés sur le plan national par rapport à des interventions externes est une condition fondamentale du système envisagé.

En appuyant la proposition présentée, la délégation française tient aussi à souligner la nécessité que les activités des fonctionnaires recrutés sur le plan national soient très clairement centrées sur quatre aspects: la conception des projets, leur cohérence avec les autres actions menées localement par d'autres institutions internationales ou le système de Bretton Woods, la nécessaire coordination avec l'ensemble des acteurs du développement sur place et la non-contradiction avec les lignes d'orientation générales de l'Organisation.

**Ms M. McCOWAN (United Kingdom):** My delegation fully supports the appointment of national professional officers. However, it has one or two questions about the report of the CCLM in relation to recruitment. I have listened to what my colleague from France has said which confirms what is in the report about the selection being made at Headquarters through normal selection procedures. I am assuming that this means paper selection and that people are not going to be coming for an interview to Rome. Given that, I wonder quite why Headquarters has to have such a role in appointing or deciding who should be appointed as



locally appointed staff. It says very clearly in the staff regulations "locally recruited". I wonder why local recruitment does not include the idea of local selection since the man on the spot with whom the NPO has to work surely should have quite a large say in who joins the staff.

**TANG ZHENGPING (China):** We are very grateful to the Director of Personnel and the Chairman of CCLM for their presentations. My intervention will be very brief. As the report of the Committee has pointed out, recruitment of national professional officers will compliment FAO's expertise and enrich FAO's projects and programmes because these experts know very well the social conditions and the culture and traditions of these countries. In this way they can fully complement the social components of FAO's projects and programmes. At the same time, this method can make savings and contribute significantly to national capacity building. That is why the Chinese delegation endorses this method and supports the plan to recruit national professional officers. On the other hand, as has been pointed out by the Director-General, reform and innovation are a gradual process and need time for preparation. As far as recruitment of national country officers is concerned, we hold that this can be done in a step-by-step way. It can be carried out on a trial basis first in countries where conditions are ripe and then expanded to other countries. However, either in the experimental or full-fledged execution stage, Member Government support is essential. The Chinese Government will, in close collaboration with FAO, fully support its efforts in recruiting national professional officers.

**Kenji SHEVQZU (Japan):** My delegation supports the policy framework as developed in paragraph 3.87 as a useful guideline for the new scheme, with the following comments. The NPO scheme is a very important step to contribute to the charity capacity of the country concerned. However, this is not a training scheme of national concern but a scheme to provide professional services equivalent to international high level standards.

The selection of NPOs is very important and should be transparent. The concern expressed by the United Kingdom on the normal selection at Headquarters may be looked into, but it is a matter of balance to secure recruitment procedures to avoid unnecessary confusion.

**Raphael RABE (Madagascar):** Je voudrais seulement appuyer l'intervention du délégué du Burkina Faso et dire que je trouve pertinente la question posée par le délégué du Royaume-Uni. Je crois qu'il est utile d'examiner cette intéressante question, d'autant plus que l'on parle d'abord d'efficacité et d'économie. Si je comprends la proposition du CQCJ, je comprends aussi l'explication donnée par le Directeur du Personnel. A mon avis l'intervention du délégué du Royaume-Uni mérite d'être étudiée afin de voir dans quelle mesure on pourrait y répondre de manière satisfaisante dans le souci de l'efficacité dont nous parlions.

**Tri WIBOWO (Indonesia):** "The intention being to hand these functions over to the host Government or appropriate national institution, the duration of particular National Professional functions should be limited", as mentioned in Appendix C, is very important. Dealing with this very important Agenda item on NPO procedures has for long been expected by members of national governments. When we see here that candidates should be recruited under Headquarters selection procedures, for your information at the national level we have the National Committee of FAO. How far does the role of this Committee go? We know that national professional officers must be listed in the National Committee. If the National Committee can work together with the Regional or Country Representative of FAO, this must be a very big help in the recruitment of national professional officers and the short list will be sent to Headquarters of FAO.

Another point I should like to raise here is about the career prospects of NPOs. In Appendix C of this document "The career prospects of NPOs are necessarily limited" -I think this is very little encouragement for the national professional officer - for example, "given the continued employment of international staff in senior management positions", but they should be limited as the national professional, and, second, "the number of grades in the category and ... the fact that the functions they perform may be finite. Organizations should make NPOs aware of these limitations." This is a little difficult because it is not only for the Organization to make NPOs aware of this but also our government officials at the National Committees or authorities concerned should make NPOs aware of this. I think work between the Country Representative of FAO and the national institution should be as tight as possible.

**Ms Lisa Bobbie SCHREIBER HUGHES (United States of America):** To begin, the United States delegation would like to note that we support the proposal for national professional officers and we merely pose a few questions for clarification.

Could the Secretariat please address the expected impact of the national professional officer plan on the budget. Is there a plan for the number of NPOs to be recruited over the next biennium? Finally, we would be interested in any projections as to what the financial savings may be through implementation of the NPO plan.

**George APOSTOIU (Observateur de la Roumanie):** Je saisis l'occasion de notre discussion concernant les amendements au statut du personnel pour une approche légèrement plus large mais toujours dans le même esprit.

Durant des années, lors des conférences ou des réunions de la FAO, les représentants de la Roumanie ont souvent abordé le sujet du recrutement des fonctionnaires et des experts nationaux. Les disparités actuelles en la matière sont évidentes et probablement encore plus inexplicables si l'on procède à un examen sur une période de longue durée.

La délégation de la Roumanie exprime le souhait que les amendements au statut du personnel proposés dans le document CL 107/4 assurent une dynamisation des recrutements des fonctionnaires nationaux. Nous comprenons très bien les raisons pour lesquelles ces recrutements ne seront pas soumis au système de la répartition géographique, mais en même temps nous désirons que toute opportunité soit saisie pour que les Etats Membres se voient assurés de leur participation à la vie de l'Organisation. C'est pourquoi la délégation de la Roumanie apprécie la création d'un groupe restreint de fonctionnaires recrutés sur le plan national en tant que fonctionnaires de l'Organisation appelés à travailler localement sur contrats de brève durée ou à durée déterminée.

**A.T. SLATER (Director, Personnel Division):** There are a number of questions raised by delegates concerning the recruitment procedure and perhaps I could try to explain how that might work. Firstly, at the national level it would be up to the FAO Representative in the country concerned to obtain candidatures at the local level for these posts. He or she may do that through contacts with the authorities of the government concerned, contacts with any research institutions in the country or other institutions that are familiar with and interested in the work of FAO. He or she may also put advertisements in the local newspaper to try to obtain interested candidates for the post. It would then be up to the FAO Representative to review these candidatures and discard any of those that do not meet the minimum qualification requirements. It would also be up to the FAO Representative to make a proposal to FAO Headquarters concerning the shortlisting of these candidates. We would expect that the local Representative would for each post make a proposal on the order of some six or seven candidates who would meet the appropriate qualifications. That package would then be sent by the FAO Representative to Headquarters but included in the package would also be all of the candidatures, including those that the FAO Representative may not have deemed to be the most qualified. This will be subject to a further review by the Personnel Department at Headquarters as a kind of checking or controlling mechanism on the recommendation made by the FAO Representative. It would also be reviewed at Headquarters by DDF and it would then be submitted to the Professional Staff Selection Committee, on which we have representatives who have been appointed by the Director-General on the basis of names submitted on behalf of both management and the staff representatives.

As regards the interview process, I would not rule out the possibility of having candidates flown to Headquarters for interview. I would expect that in many cases, however, the selection process could be done on paper and on the basis of recommendations of the local FAO Representative. However, I would not wish to rule that out entirely.

As regards the financial consequences of this measure, it was pointed out to the Finance Committee that there would be a lower cost involved for the Organization for the recruitment of national professional officers as compared to international programme officers, which is the post that would be replaced by national professional officers. It is very difficult to estimate the impact on the budget because the salaries which are established for national professional officers are based on those paid by the best employers to nationals in the

country. It is affected by exchange rate fluctuations of the local currency to the US dollar, and they can vary considerably in many of these countries throughout the year, but generally speaking the costs are less because there are no expatriate emoluments paid to the staff members, such as education grant, home leave and the like, which are paid to international staff members.

An estimate was provided to the Finance Committee. It was indicated that the average cost of the international programme officer at the P3 level would be US\$84 300 per year whereas the average cost of a national professional officer, who would replace the international programme officer, would vary between US\$20 000 and US\$60 000 per year depending on the country and again subject to exchange rate fluctuations which may occur throughout the year.

The only remaining question was as to whether there was a plan for the recruitment of these staff. The Council indicated that there would be a progressive replacement of this category and it is the plan of the FAO Administration to introduce these staff beginning in January next year. Eventually we would replace all of the international programme officer posts which now exist in the Organization, of which there are some 54 or 55. It is our goal that by the end of the year we should have moved very well along the process of introducing the NPOs. We may not be finished by then but we should be quite significantly advanced by that time.

**LEGAL COUNSEL:** I should like to add one point on the question of selection. Under our Constitution the ultimate responsibility for the selection or appointment of staff lies with the Director-General. In these particular cases, of course, there are general interests of the Organization and maintenance of general policy with respect to national professional officers which would need to be taken into account and that is why it is suggested that this will go through the Professional Staff Selection Committee, or selection procedures of that ilk, in order to ensure that there is a point at which the general policy and interests of the Organization are coordinated.

**Ms M. McCOWAN (United Kingdom):** New information - new to me, at least - has been introduced, and I am grateful to Mr Slater for outlining the selection procedures. However, it seems to me that we are making heavy weather of following this initiative through. I am sure FAO is fully aware that many of its members employ extensively locally-recruited staff overseas. I would have thought the Director-General would discharge his responsibility for ultimate selection by endorsing the choice of the country representative, who, of course, would have to go through all the steps to justify his selection. My delegation feels this is something we ought to keep under review.

**V.J. SHAH (Deputy Director-General, Office of Programme, Budget and Evaluation):** I have taken very careful note of the remarks made by the Distinguished Representative of the United Kingdom. Of course, as she has suggested, the matter will be kept under review, but I would like to offer a thought if I may.

There is a balance to be kept in all personnel decisions between, on the one hand, assignment of responsibility, acceptance of judgement, and economy; and, on the other hand, the maintenance of prudence, checks and balances.

To give you an example: It may, even in the case of Headquarters selection, be much more economical to say to every programme manager, whether it be at the departmental, divisional, or service level, "You are responsible for the selection of your staff - you can make the judgement". And yet, for very good reasons, as you know, we do have a process of review of candidatures of selection, through a Committee which makes recommendations on the final appointment to be made.

So I leave this thought with you: This is a matter which is in the interests of good management, as considered by the Director-General, and that is why the procedure is as described to you.

**Ms Lisa Bobbie SCHREIBER HUGHES (United States of America):** The United States would like to note that we had favoured decentralization of the Organization in the interests of improving cost-effectiveness. We would note that we support the Distinguished Delegate of the United Kingdom in her proposal, and we note

with concern that the transportation of prospective candidates to Rome may add unnecessarily to the expense of the selection procedure.

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Quizá, sí vale la acotación de decir que no en todos los casos esa sería la norma; pero, desde luego, su punto ha sido tomado en cuenta por la Secretaría de la FAO, como usted ha escuchado.

**Raphael RABE (Madagascar):** Je tiens seulement à dire qu'il serait certainement opportun de tenir compte des 34 ans d'expérience de l'UNICEF et des 19 ans du PNUD en cette matière. La FAO a ses particularités mais il me semble que l'expérience des autres compte également.

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Si no hay ninguna otra delegación que desee hacer uso de la palabra, podríamos decir que el Consejo tomó notas de las varias observaciones relativas al tema 20.5: Enmienda propuesta del artículo 301.136 del Estatuto de Personal (Profesionales de contratación nacional). En particular se manifestó la importancia relativa que debe jugar la sede en Roma en la selección y contratación de personal nacional, frente al objetivo del logro de una mayor descentralización administrativa así como de ahorro y mayor eficiencia en la Organización.

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Otras opciones fueron formuladas. Sin embargo, en general, el Consejo ratificó el marco normativo para la introducción de la nueva categoría de profesionales de contratación nacional. Asimismo, las disposiciones y condiciones de servicio que se deberán aplicar a esta nueva categoría y, finalmente, la modificación propuesta del artículo 301.136 del Estatuto del Personal, en virtud de la cual se faculta al Director General para establecer esta nueva categoría de profesionales de contratación nacional.

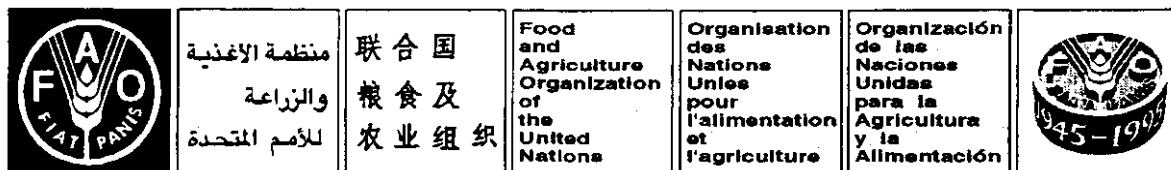
El informe, estoy seguro, recogerá sus diversos puntos de vista. Distinguidos delegados, me temo que no vamos a contar con interpretación para poder tratar el Tema 8.2 de nuestra Agenda, que estaba de todas maneras previsto para esta tarde. Pensaba que si se desarrollaba en la mañana no tendríamos que venir esta tarde, pero debemos suspender nuestra sesión. Les convoco para que estén aquí puntualmente a las 14.45 horas. Vamos a estudiar el Punto 8.2 de nuestra Agenda e incluiremos también el Tema 20.1 relativo a los derechos de voto. Espero que hayan tomado nota de todo. El Punto 20.1 estaba previsto para el día de mañana y lo vamos a tratar hoy por la tarde. Con ello levanto esta novena sesión plenaria del Consejo.

**The meeting rose at 12.50 hours.**

**La session est levée à 12 h 50.**

**Se levanta la sesión a las 12.50 horas.**

21 November 1994



COUNCIL

CONSEIL

CONSEJO

Hundred and Seventh Session • Cent septième session • 107° período de sesiones

TENTH PLENARY MEETING  
DIXIEME SEANCE PLENIERE  
DECIMA SESION PLENARIA

21 November 1994

The Tenth Plenary Meeting was opened at 15.00 hours  
Mr José Ramón López Portillo,  
Independent Chairman of the Council, presiding

La dixième séance plénière est ouverte à 15 heures  
sous la présidence de M. José Ramón López Portillo,  
Président indépendant du Conseil

Se abre la décima sesión plenaria a las 15.00 horas  
bajo la presidencia del Sr. José Ramón López Portillo,  
Presidente Independiente del Consejo

**ACTIVITIES OF FAO AND WFP (continued)****ACTIVITES DE LA FAO ET DU PAM (suite)****ACTIVIDADES DE LA FAO Y EL PMA (continuación)****8. World Food Programme (continued)****8. Programme alimentaire mondial (suite)****8. Programa Mundial de Alimentos (continuación)****8.2 Election of Seven Members of the WFP Committee on Food Aid Policies and Programmes****8.2 Election de sept membres du Comité des politiques et programmes d'aide alimentaire du PAM****8.2 Elección de siete miembros del Comité de Políticas y Programas de Ayuda Alimentaria del PMA**

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Muy buenas tardes distinguidos delegados. Señoras y Señores, declaro abierta la décima sesión plenaria del Consejo de la FAO.

Me informan que tenemos el quórum requerido de dos tercios para proceder al tratamiento del Tema 8.2: Elección de siete miembros del Comité de Políticas y Programas de Ayuda Alimentaria del PMA, documento CL 107/17.

Me voy a permitir recordarles que dicha elección está basada en la agrupación de diferentes listas. Hoy procederemos a sustituir las siguientes vacantes: para la Lista A, dos vacantes; para la Lista B-I, una vacante; para la Lista C, una vacante; para la Lista D, dos vacantes; para la Lista E, una vacante.

Los candidatos que al día viernes, a las doce de la mañana se presentaron conforme a los reglamentos, cubren precisamente estas vacantes anunciadas y me voy a permitir leer los nombres de dichos candidatos: para la Lista A, Angola y Zaire; para la Lista B-I, República Islámica de Irán; para la Lista C, Cuba; para la Lista D, Alemania y Francia; para la Lista E, Lituania.

Distinguidos delegados, según el Artículo XII.9A del Reglamento General de la Organización, las elecciones se decidirán por votación secreta, con la salvedad de que "cuando no haya más candidatos que vacantes, el Presidente podrá proponer a la Conferencia o al Consejo que el nombramiento se lleve a cabo por evidente consenso general".

Como ustedes han podido observar, para todas las listas tenemos tantos candidatos como vacantes. Me permito, por tanto, sugerirles a ustedes que por aclamación, elijamos a los siete miembros del Comité de Políticas y Programas de Ayuda Alimentaria del PMA.

**Approved by acclamation Adopté par acclamation Aprobado por aclamación**

Me permito felicitar a Angola, Zaire, República Islámica de Irán, Cuba, Alemania, Francia y Lituania por su elección al CPA.

Si no hay ningún otro asunto sobre el Tema 8.2, me permitiré pasar, como les había anunciado hoy en la mañana, al Tema 20.1: Derechos, procedimientos y prácticas de voto, documento CL 107/4.

**PROGRAMME, BUDGETARY, FINANCIAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS (continued)**

**QUESTIONS CONCERNANT LE PROGRAMME, LE BUDGET, LES FINANCES ET**

**L'ADMINISTRATION (suite)**

**ASUNTOS DEL PROGRAMA Y ASUNTOS PRESUPUESTARIOS, FINANCIEROS Y ADMINISTRATIVOS (continuación)**

**20. Other Constitutional and Legal Matters, including: (continued)**

**20. Autres questions constitutionnelles et juridiques, notamment: (suite)**

**20. Otros asuntos constitucionales y jurídicos, en particular: (continuación)**

**20.1 Voting Rights, Procedures and Practices 20.1 Droits, procédures et pratiques de vote**

**20.1 Derechos de voto**

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Como ustedes saben este tema estaba programado originalmente para el día de mañana, pero en virtud del tiempo disponible y del interés manifestado por muchos de ustedes durante el tratamiento de los Temas 14 y 15 hoy en la mañana, hemos considerado oportuno pasarlo a nuestros trabajos de esta décima sesión plenaria.

Les recuerdo que, según la presentación del Sr. Vicepresidente del Comité de Finanzas, en los Informes de los Comités del Programa y de Finanzas, los párrafos 3.56 a 3.64, se refieren a este tema.

En el 27° Período de Sesiones de la Conferencia, en noviembre del año pasado, se solicitaba al Comité de Finanzas y al Consejo que examinasen esta cuestión de procedimientos y prácticas seguidos en la actualidad por la Organización para el restablecimiento de los derechos de voto de los Estados Miembros que tienen cuotas atrasadas y que comunicasen sus resultados a la Conferencia en su siguiente período de sesiones del próximo año.

Como ustedes pueden observar, el Comité de Finanzas examinó este tema en su 79° Período de Sesiones. Me voy a permitir pedirle al Sr. Asesor Legal, el Dr. Moore, que nos presente las conclusiones principales a las que llegó el Comité de Finanzas.

**LEGAL COUNSEL:** As you have mentioned, Mr Chairman, the issue of the voting rights, procedures and practices, at Conference Sessions arose out of a request by the 27th Session of the Conference last November, that the Finance Committee and the Council address the issue of the procedures and practices currently followed by the Organization for restoring the voting rights of Member Nations in arrears of assessed contributions. The Conference expressed particular concern over the practice of restoring voting rights on the basis of agreed plans for the payment of arrears by instalments and the need to review the application of Article III.4 of the Constitution, both in general and with a view to defining the criteria to be applied in assessing and determining the conditions deemed to be "beyond the control" of Member Nations.

The Finance Committee considered the matter at its 79th Session and came to a number of conclusions. I will enumerate each of those conclusions one by one. First of all, the Finance Committee concluded that voting rights should continue to be restored where default in the payment of arrears was due to "conditions beyond the control of the Member Nation concerned". As a matter of principle, they felt that this practice as set out in the Basic Texts and the Constitution of FAO should be maintained.

Secondly, they went into the whole question of how to define "conditions beyond the control of the Member Nation concerned". They came to the conclusion that it was extremely difficult to define formally what is meant by "conditions beyond the control" of the Member Nation concerned; it was difficult and perhaps dangerous to do it and the Committee concluded that it should not be so defined in the Basic Texts. That was their second conclusion.

Their third conclusion was that, in the future, restoration of voting rights should be resorted to only very sparingly and on the basis of a formal request by the nation concerned specifying the circumstances that, in its view, constituted conditions beyond its control.

The fourth point of the conclusions of the Finance Committee was that the practice of requiring agreed instalment plans for the payment of arrears should be continued. Agreed instalment plans should be required as part of the application for restoration of voting rights and, most importantly, voting rights should be taken away again if the Member Nation defaulted on two instalments under the instalment plan.

The fifth point was that the Finance Committee did not recommend expansion of the scope of the methodology for the calculation of arrears to include payments to the Working Capital Fund, Special Reserve Account or Tax Equalization Fund or the period over which the arrears should be calculated. In other words, the Finance Committee wished to restrict the conditions in which voting rights would be lost to non-payment of the regular contribution to the budget.

Sixth, the Committee urged the Director-General to continue to search for sustainable schemes that would respond to the particular problems of developing countries, such as the scheme to allow payments in local currency, so long as these did not endanger the financial viability of the Organization.

Mr Chairman, those are the six findings of the Finance Committee which I have attempted to summarize and an which you may wish to ask for the views of the Council.

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Han sido ustedes informados de los distintos aspectos que componen este punto. Abro la lista de oradores dando la palabra al representante de Francia.

**Jacques LAURE AU (France):** La délégation française tient à réaffirmer son attachement au respect des Textes Fondamentaux de l'Organisation et de l'obligation juridique pour chaque membre de verser sa contribution dans les conditions définies par ces textes. Or, le nombre des Etats Membres passibles des sanctions prévues à l'article 111-4° de l'Acte constitutif et aux paragraphes 5 et 7 de l'Article 22 du Règlement général de l'Organisation est en augmentation régulière comme le précise le paragraphe 3.58 du document CL 107/4. Ces Etats Membres étaient au nombre de 36 à la mi-94, contre 14 à la mi-90. C'est souligner assez la dégradation des conditions financières de cette organisation.

Dans ces conditions, la délégation française approuve les observations et recommandations formulées par le Comité financier, en particulier aux paragraphes 3.61 et 3.62.

Les dérogations devraient n'être admises que de manière extrêmement mesurée par la Conférence et sur la base d'une demande spécifique de l'Etat Membre concerné expliquant les raisons de ces retards de paiement et accompagnée d'un plan de rattrapage des arriérés.

Remarquons que ces dérogations ne sont envisagées par les Textes Fondamentaux que pour le droit de vote à la conférence tandis que les dispositions des paragraphes 5 et 7 de l'Article 12 du règlement général - c'est-à-dire tout ce qui concerne l'éligibilité ou la participation au Conseil - sont quant à elles, assorties de clauses dérogatoires.

En ce qui concerne l'idée du paiement des contributions en monnaie locale évoquée au paragraphe 3.64, la délégation française invite à une approche très prudente de cette éventualité. Une étude détaillée présentant, notamment, la situation des autres organisations des Nations Unies et les expériences menées dans ce domaine, nous semblerait, en tout état de cause, nécessaire pour examiner valablement la possibilité d'une telle évolution.

**Harald HILDEBRAND (Germany):** The Agenda item under consideration is of special interest also to my country. In the view of my delegation, in order to strengthen discipline in this regard, with regard to the payment of financial obligations, effective and well considered measures need to be taken. It is in this sense that my delegation endorses and welcomes the report by the Finance Committee. Among other measures, like the incentive scheme or the one just mentioned regarding the possibility for certain countries to pay their contributions in national currency, others would include the loss of voting rights or other sanctions which could restrict the full involvement of the Member Nation concerned in the Organization's work.



Article III of the Constitution is, as we know, quite unequivocal in this respect. Unfortunately, this Article has often not been applied consistently in the past. The sanction had often to be suspended because the circumstances that caused the arrears were seen to be beyond the control of the Member Nation concerned. So far the Finance Committee has not been able to recommend a consistent procedure for the future although in document CL 107/4 in paragraph 3.56 and following helpful considerations of this issue can be found.

My delegation would like to propose that the following option be examined. In the future, the suspension of sanctions, as I said, should be less frequently applied than in the past and in any case the Member Nation, which is in danger of losing its voting right, should state in a formal note the circumstances which would justify the suspension of sanctions. Simultaneously, the Member Nation, concerned should accept an agreed instalment plan. As soon as the Member Nation falls into default on the agreed instalment payments, it should automatically lose its voting rights. The voting rights could be restored if the respective country abides again by the terms of the instalment plan.

**Christophe KIEMTORE (Burkina Faso):** Ma délégation voudrait féliciter M. Moore pour le résumé du rapport et des conclusions du Comité financier. Elle voudrait aussi saisir cette occasion pour féliciter le Comité financier de la qualité du travail réalisé concernant ce point important de l'ordre du jour.

Notre délégation a donc examiné les recommandations du Comité financier qui vont du paragraphe 3.56 au paragraphe 3.64 et elle se déclare satisfaite de toutes les mesures proposées. Elle se félicite également de cet examen approfondi qui couvre tous les aspects de la question. Elle approuve les recommandations notamment ce qui est indiqué au paragraphe 3.64.

A ce propos, nous voudrions attirer l'attention du Conseil sur le contenu de ce paragraphe qui montre l'examen formel de la question. Le Comité financier reconnaît entre autres qu'au-delà des sanctions, il fallait envisager des mesures palliatives pour permettre aux Etats Membres de dépasser les problèmes posés en les aidant à mieux s'acquitter de leurs devoirs.

Ma délégation pense que le Conseil pourrait éventuellement confier au Comité financier d'une part, le soin de poursuivre l'examen de cette question notamment en ce qui concerne les sanctions ou les mesures incitatives pour aider les Etats Membres à payer leur contribution et, d'autre part, le soin d'analyser et d'approfondir la question pour lui trouver une solution acceptable et satisfaisant tous les Etats.

**Chrysanthos LOIZBDES (Cyprus):** I wish to associate my delegation's position with the conclusions of the Finance Committee regarding the voting rights and the procedures and practices. Therefore, we are in agreement with the recommendations of this Committee, urging the Director-General to continue to search for suitable skills that would respond to the particular problems of developing countries without endangering the viability of this Organization.

**Inge NORDANG (Norway):** I have the honour of making this statement on behalf of the Nordic countries, Denmark, Finland, Sweden and Norway. The Nordic countries welcome the actions taken by the Director-General in response to the request of the 27th Session of the FAO Conference to address the issue of procedures and practices currently following with regard to restoring Member Nations' voting rights at Council and Conference sessions. The increasing number of Member Nations with delayed payments or with arrears in assessed contributions over the prescribed limit is worrying, both for the general trust in and the financial situation of the Organization. We understand that Member Nations under special circumstances might face difficulties in fulfilling their obligations for a period of time. It should, however, in most cases be possible to restore the payment record within the two year period envisaged in the rules. The existing rules are made to assist and protect Member Nations facing serious financial constraints and should not be misused by others as an excuse to delay payments. We have on previous occasions expressed our doubt regarding the discount scheme for early payment and note that it has not had the expected effect on the payment record. We fully endorse the recommendation of the Finance Committee in document CL 107/4 to adhere to the sanctions envisaged in the FAO constitution with respect to loss of voting rights. This is a means to restore discipline with regard to fulfilment of financial obligations. We note that these sanctions are basically the same as in other UN organizations. We realise the difficulty of defining exact formal criteria for the

definition of force majeure. Therefore, we fully support the Finance Committee in recommending that countries facing loss of voting rights shall apply in writing explaining the reason for the delay and agreeing to a payments scheme.

In concluding, I would like to mention that a number of developing countries, despite financial problems at home, have paid their contributions in full. We would like to express our appreciation for their efforts to do so. Finally, we appeal to all Member Nations of FAO to pay their assessed contributions in full and on time in order not to hamper the work of the Organization.

**Thomas A. FORBORD (United States of America):** The United States would also like to express its support for the recommendations of the Finance Committee and in particular to call attention to the point that Mr Moore described as the third point made by the Committee, contained in paragraph 3.61. The point says, "it is therefore recommended that the Conference, while keeping with the broad parameters for the above criteria" - meaning criteria for a waiver - "should resort to such waivers only sparingly". The criterion for a waiver in the constitution of FAO provides that it can be given only when the failure to pay is due to conditions beyond the control of the member. When we examined this issue during the Finance Committee, we were unable to agree on any economic conditions which were beyond the control of a Member. Economic adjustment policies, crop diversification, were offered as the type of economic changes within the control of a Member that could be taken to counteract sudden changes in commodities prices or other economic difficulties. Whether or not the ability to pay is beyond the control of the member becomes a political or subjective decision that the Conference will have to make in many cases. I think it is particularly constructive, however, to contrast the difference between the Council and the Conference. We were told this morning that only one member of the Council has lost membership and voting rights because they have fallen more than 300 percent behind in their dues to this Organization. If we look at the Financial Situation of FAO report that was distributed this morning, we see that there are a total of 26 countries which are 300 percent or more behind in their obligations. Yet only one Member of the Council, where loss of voting rights is automatic, was unable to meet the dues. I believe it is the sanction that the Council has to apply automatically that has encouraged countries to come below the limit in order to maintain the voting rights. If something more like that automatic sanction implied in the Constitution were also applied by the Conference, I strongly suspect that many more countries would make sure that their voting rights were guaranteed. In forwarding this recommendation from the Finance Committee through the Council to the Conference, I want to emphasize that the Finance Committee is proposing that we move much more toward an automatic system so that the waiver would be granted only in very unusual circumstances.

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Pregunto a los miembros del Consejo y a los observadores si desean hacer algún otro comentario respecto de este tema antes de dar la palabra al Dr. Moore. Doy la palabra al Dr. Moore para que haga las aclaraciones finales.

**LEGAL COUNSEL:** I have no particular comments to offer. I think the will of the Council on this point is fairly clear with respect to accepting the recommendations of the Finance Committee. I note the concern of a number of countries to look further at the special problems of developing countries, while still maintaining the financial viability of the Organization.

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Si no hay ningún otro comentario, podríamos resumir brevemente los debates diciendo que el Consejo expresó su satisfacción por la revisión exhaustiva y las recomendaciones útiles formuladas por el Comité de Finanzas en su 79° Período de Sesiones. Se tomó nota con preocupación de que el número de países en condiciones de perder su derecho al voto había aumentado significativamente en los últimos tiempos. A la luz de las recomendaciones formuladas por el Comité de Finanzas, el Consejo ratificó su recomendación en el sentido de que los derechos de voto deben continuar siendo reestablecidos cuando la falta de pago de las contribuciones atrasadas se deba a condiciones más allá del control de los Estados Miembros concernidos, pero los criterios para determinar tales condiciones no deben ser definidos formalmente en los textos básicos. Y en el futuro, la restauración de los derechos de voto debe adjudicarse a casos esporádicos, sobre la base de una petición formal a los Estados Miembros concernidos, donde se especifiquen las circunstancias por las cuales parecen estar dentro de la categoría de condiciones más allá de su control. La práctica de requerir

acuerdos sobre los planes de pago a plazos, debería continuar como parte de la aplicación para la restauración de los derechos de voto. Tales derechos se perderán, sin embargo, si los Estados Miembros no pagan los últimos dos plazos de esos planes. El propósito de la metodología para el cálculo de atrasos no se debería expandir para abarcar el pago al fondo general o al especial de reservas, etcétera, ni tampoco deberían aceptarse cambios respecto del período sobre el cual se han hecho esos cálculos de atrasos.

Se exhortó al Director General para que siga buscando fórmulas, así como al Comité de Finanzas, para que continúe estudiando esquemas sostenibles que permitan responder a los problemas específicos de países en desarrollo que tengan atrasos. Me refiero a uno en particular que se ha estudiado, como es el del pago en moneda local, sobre lo cual no hay ninguna definición, pero posiblemente es una de las fórmulas que estarían involucradas. No obstante, estas fórmulas no deben poner en riesgo la viabilidad financiera de la Organización.

Hubo, finalmente, un llamado general a todos los Estados Miembros para que, independientemente de su tamaño, hagan el mayor esfuerzo posible a fin de pagar sus contribuciones a tiempo, evitando así poner a la Organización en una situación financiera difícil. Si no hay ningún comentario adicional -yo sé que hay otras observaciones que fueron formuladas que estoy seguro de que el Informe del Consejo las va a rescatar-, me permito dar por concluidos los trabajos de esta décima sesión plenaria del Consejo. Recuerdo a los miembros del Comité de Redacción, y a su Presidente, que el mismo va a comenzar por fin sus trabajos a una hora temprana. Auguro a dicho Comité que terminará con toda la agenda importante que tiene enfrente, y nos reuniremos mañana día 22 a las 9.30 horas. Distinguidos delegados, levantamos la décima sesión plenaria.

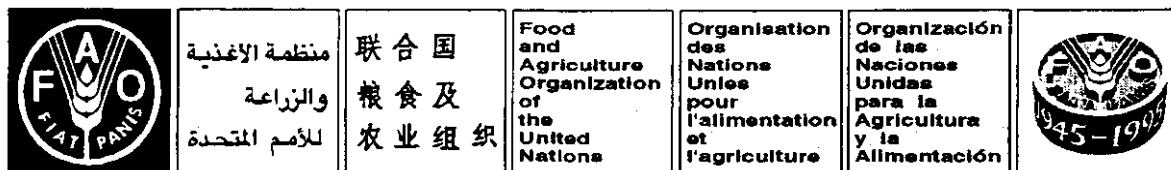
**The meeting rose at 15.30 hours.**

**La session est levée à 15 h 30.**

**Se levanta la sesión a las 15.30 horas.**



22 November 1994



COUNCIL

CONSEIL

CONSEJO

Hundred and Seventh Session • Cent septième session • 107º período de sesiones

ELEVENTH PLENARY MEETING  
ONZIEME SEANCE PLENIERE  
11ª SESION PLENARIA

22 November 1994

The Eleventh Plenary Meeting was opened at 09.40 hours  
Mr José Ramón López Portillo,  
Independent Chairman of the Council, presiding

La onzième séance plénière est ouverte à 9 h 40  
sous la présidence de M. José Ramón López Portillo,  
Président indépendant du Conseil

Se abre la 11ª sesión plenaria a las 9.40 horas  
bajo la presidencia del Sr. José Ramón López Portillo,  
Presidente Independiente del Consejo

**CONSTITUTIONAL AND LEGAL MATTERS (continued)**  
**QUESTIONS CONSTITUTIONNELLES ET JURIDIQUES (suite)**  
**ASUNTOS CONSTITUCIONALES Y JURIDICOS (continuación)**

**19. Review of the Working Methods of the Conference**

**19. Examen des méthodes de travail de la Conférence**

**19. Examen de los métodos de trabajo de la Conferencia**

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Como ustedes saben, para este Tema hay dos cuestiones que deben destacarse. La primera es que está a consideración del Consejo aprobar o no los métodos de trabajo propuestos por el Director General y posteriormente decidir sobre las fechas de la Conferencia y las reuniones del Consejo y sus Comités relacionados.

Esta segunda parte la vamos a revisar bajo el Tema 16. Sé que es un poco confuso el tratamiento del examen de los métodos de trabajo de la Conferencia con el calendario, pero deseo que tomen en cuenta que uno se refiere exclusivamente a las propuestas del Director General para la Conferencia y el otro aspecto se refiere al calendario de los Organos Rectores y los Comités del Consejo.

Para tratar de explicar la forma en que vamos a proceder y los puntos que estarán sometidos a debate para el Tema 19, le voy a pedir al Dr. Mahler que nos haga la presentación sobre el examen de los métodos de trabajo de la Conferencia.

**LE SECRETAIRE GENERAL:** Monsieur le Président, ma présentation sera très brève parce que le Secrétariat n'a pas d'éléments supplémentaires à ajouter, après l'introduction que vous venez de faire.

Le document CL 107/3 expose les méthodes actuelles de la Conférence. Il indique les changements qu'il serait bon d'apporter à ces méthodes. Il élabore des propositions qui ont été émises par le Directeur général; celles-ci sont contenues dans les paragraphes 16 à 24. Le Conseil est invité à examiner ces propositions et à formuler une décision. Comme vous l'avez dit, Monsieur le Président, cette décision concerne des principes directeurs pour l'organisation des prochaines Conférences de la FAO et non pas seulement celle de l'année prochaine: il s'agit de directives générales.

Les conclusions du Conseil seront prises en considération pour la préparation du document intitulé "Organisation de la 28ème session de la Conférence" qui sera examiné par la prochaine session du Conseil en mai-juin 1995. Autrement dit, nous verrons en mai-juin 1995 quelles pourraient être les modalités d'application des principes directeurs qui sont soumis à votre approbation aujourd'hui. Ces modalités devront tenir compte des circonstances assez particulières de l'année prochaine où nous aurons la célébration du 50ème anniversaire de l'Organisation à Québec.

Après la conclusion de l'examen des méthodes de travail de la Conférence, le Conseil devra alors décider des dates et du lieu de la 28ème session de la Conférence. Ces propositions sont contenues dans le document CL 107/3-Sup.1-Rev.1.

**Ricardo VELAZQUEZ HUERTA (México):** Nos referimos brevemente al documento CL 107/3. Por supuesto la delegación de México no tiene ninguna objeción para adoptar las propuestas de la Dirección General que se contiene en los párrafos 16 siguientes. No tenemos dificultad con ello, Sr. Presidente; pero quisiéramos expresar nuestra opinión y dejar señalado los asuntos que representan alguna preocupación para nuestra delegación.

Estamos de acuerdo en que los períodos de sesiones de la Conferencia se acorten, que no sea tan amplia como en otras ocasiones, pero ello nos lleva a la consideración de la agenda, obviamente, porque la agenda es la que debe, a nuestro juicio, marcar el ritmo de los días que la Conferencia debe abarcar. Al analizar la cuestión de la agenda nos lleva a una selección de los temas que deben incluirse en la agenda. De manera que los asuntos que la Conferencia trate sean solamente aquellos indispensables para que se puedan tratar en los términos propuestos por la Dirección General. Esto nos lleva a la situación o al análisis de la decisión de los

temas que, a nuestro juicio, se deben tratar en el Consejo de la FAO previo a la Conferencia. De manera que los Estados Miembros tengan la oportunidad de contribuir a la construcción de la agenda. Este es un punto que queremos dejar claro.

Otra preocupación es, obviamente, la necesidad de que los Estados Miembros construyamos esta agenda de la Conferencia, naturalmente en colaboración y en coordinación con la Secretaría; pero los temas de la Conferencia, a nuestro juicio, deben ser decididos por los Estados Miembros de la FAO.

En relación con la estructura de la Conferencia, también estamos de acuerdo con las propuestas del Sr. Director General de continuar con el esquema normal de que pueda haber una Plenaria y, además, las comisiones adecuadas; pero deseo simplemente señalar las dificultades de algunos países, principalmente de aquéllos en desarrollo, que tienen delegaciones muy pequeñas o que no tienen recursos para venir con delegaciones amplias a Roma y, a veces, enfrentan la dificultad de atender plenarios y comisiones al mismo tiempo.

Nosotros quisiéramos, Sr. Presidente, dejar esta preocupación en la Mesa para que nos hagan el favor de tomarla en cuenta, cuando se decida el tiempo de actuación tanto de la Plenaria como de las Comisiones.

**Jürgen OESTREICH (Germany):** I want to intervene on two points: first, on the working methods and then, as I have understood you, also on the calendar.

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Quizá no hubo una aclaración suficiente por mi parte. Respecto del calendario les voy a solicitar que esperen hasta tratar el Tema 16, seguramente esta tarde. Ya sé que este tema está muy ligado al otro, pero deseo que haya una definición muy específica sobre el calendario, una vez que hayamos tratado el tema del Examen de los Métodos de Trabajo de la Conferencia.

Le suplico al Sr. delegado de Alemania que no trate del tema del calendario.

**Jürgen OESTREICH (Germany):** As always, I will follow your advice, Mr Chairman. It would have been much more convenient for me personally to do it now.

The European Community and its member states have taken note with great interest of the Director-General's report regarding examination of the Conference working methods. We consider the report a response to the intervention of my neighbour, the Ambassador of the French Republic, at the last FAO Conference when he, supported by several delegations, voiced his concerns regarding the Conference working methods and subsequently made specific proposals within the European Community framework.

The European Community and its member states can endorse the Director-General's proposals to shorten the Conference and to improve the efficiency of its decisions and discussions. However, we wish to put forward to the Council a few additional thoughts for further consideration which, to a large degree, follow the lines just raised by the delegate of Mexico. Let me now touch on several points.

Reduction of costs. The principal measures consist of limiting the Conference to 12 working days, not necessarily starting with a Saturday. At the same time a move should be made towards more concise reports, with special attention to summaries, conclusions and recommendations. The presentation of the agenda items should be limited to new elements only. These reports could perhaps, depending on the subject, be prepared by rapporteurs, with assistance from the Secretariat, thus limiting the use of drafting committees.

Revitalizing the Plenary. The aim of the Plenary must be to give the discussions a political added value on the world food and agriculture situation and on subjects chosen in the light of the Organization's current activities. This means that statements on the national agricultural situation could be replaced by important topical subjects relating to world food security and agriculture and particularly topics relating to the functioning of the Organization. Heads of delegations should be able to set out their views in statements not exceeding ten minutes in length so that the opening Plenary as a whole should not exceed four days. I know this is a difficult proposal but we should make efforts to achieve this aim.

(c) Avoiding duplication of efforts between the Commissions and the Plenary. Commissions' discussions must not be sacrificed but they should be concentrated into five days, starting immediately after the end of the first substantive session of the Plenary. The number of agenda items should be reduced. Commission I should discuss subjects mentioned in paragraph 19 of the Director-General's document and other subjects referred back from the Plenary by heads of delegations by making recommendations and prepared decisions in the form of resolutions or under simplified procedures. Similarly Commission II should continue to target its discussions on financial and programme questions. It is that Commission which could, for example, be given the task of preparing decisions on the matter of the collection of contributions with reference both to incentives and sanctions. Commission III, which deals with constitutional and administrative matters, from auditing of the accounts to checking the legal conformity of texts referred to by the other Commissions, including staff matters, should last less than five days, other than in exceptional circumstances.

(D) The final series of sessions of the Plenary - that is, two days - should be in a position to take decisions on the matters prepared by the Commissions and endorsed by the Administration.

(E) Clearly, and as the Director-General recommends, votes for the election of Member Nations should be grouped together during the opening Plenary when a new Director-General has to be elected (Article VII.1). The opening Plenary would last two days longer at most. According to circumstances, the election of the Chairman of the Council (Article XXIII) could, in the event of difficulties, be completed during an extra day.

**Kenji SEIMIZU (Japan):** My delegation will address the issue from a slightly different angle. We have taken an important step to reform this Organization. As a result we have identified special programmes for LIFDCs and EMPRES as a priority area.

We are agreed on structural changes, as well as decentralization, including the establishment of sub-regional offices and the national professional officers as such. The reform as a whole is very significant in terms of its political dimension, of "bringing FAO closer to its members". Therefore, the reform would strengthen the participation of the Member Nations in their activities, based on a greater reflection of their interests.

However, the momentum for the reforms is still only beginning in terms of the participation process and should be promoted further, not only at the level of programme policies and structures, but also at the level of the decision-making process. In this context the limited members' committees, such as Drafting, Resolution, etc. should be looked into in terms of their reflectiveness, efficiency and effectiveness - in short, serving the growing interests of all Member Nations in all levels of activity of this Organization. The decision-making process has a legitimate importance and impact on individual members, which are now becoming less interested in the Organization, and as an example of this we see the growing number of overdue contributions to this Organization.

Such an angle of reform is also considered to revitalize this Organization under substantive challenges - in other words, the reform pressures facing this Organization.

In short, it seems to me that the time has come to consider more liberalized working methods for some decision-making functions of the limited members' fora of the Conference and the Council, and perhaps also the regional conferences. My delegation seeks some advice from the House on the foregoing concerns.

The reform is still incomplete in the area of financial and administrative departments. The departments are also the next target to be looked into. One solution may be to incorporate them into one department under severe financial constraints. My delegation finds difficulty in accepting the increased numbers of departments.

**Srta. Virginia PEREZ PEREZ (Venezuela):** Mi delegación quisiera agradecer a la Secretaría la elaboración clara y concisa del documento CL 107/3 sobre el Examen de los Métodos de Trabajo de la Conferencia. Todos sabemos que fue durante la Conferencia en 1993 cuando se comienza a considerar la reducción de los períodos de sesiones de la misma en consonancia, entre otras cosas, con el proceso de ordenación y racionalización de gastos que se adelanta en el sistema de Naciones Unidas. En este sentido creo, Sr. Presidente, que vamos por buen camino.



Mi gobierno ha puesto en práctica medidas de restricción del gasto público. Al mismo tiempo que está reorganizando y optimizando el funcionamiento del Estado para hacer más eficiente su actuación.

La disminución de gastos en las organizaciones internacionales es concomitante con los esfuerzos que realizamos en muchos países para reducir el gasto público; por lo que la aplaudimos y la encomiamos, siempre y cuando lo que se persiga sea una racionalización que en definitiva beneficie el trabajo y los objetivos de la Organización.

Acogemos con agrado, Sr. Presidente, la propuesta presentada por el Director General para reducir la duración de los próximos períodos de sesiones de la Conferencia. Nos parece acertado que la duración de dichas sesiones no exceda los once días y que el programa se concentre en aquellos asuntos que necesiten una acción de la Conferencia, para lo cual es condición *sine qua non* que se optimice la labor preparatoria, que se realice en el Consejo y que realiza la Secretaría.

Estamos convencidos de que el debate sobre el tema del Estado Mundial de la Agricultura y la Alimentación, debe ser considerado en la Plenaria, por ser éste el escenario adecuado para que nuestros ministros se pronuncien sobre asuntos de tanta importancia para nuestros países. La idea, como lo expresó la delegación de Alemania, es revitalizar la Plenaria.

Apoyamos la idea de que las votaciones se realicen a finales de la primera semana, ya que de esta forma se garantizaría la presencia de las delegaciones de todos los países en desarrollo y se permitiría el proceso de consultas necesarias que este tipo de actividades requieren.

Estamos de acuerdo, Sr. Presidente, con que las presentaciones de los temas se limiten a indicar la nueva información no contenida en los documentos, pero tememos que la documentación sea demasiado breve. Recuerdo que la brevedad es enemiga de la sustancia.

Por último, creo conveniente que todos los países puedan pronunciarse acerca del contenido de la agenda reducida que tendrá la Conferencia antes de que la misma sea adoptada.

**Ms M. McCOWAN (United Kingdom):** The UK delegation fully associates itself with the statement made on behalf of the European Community and its member states and in doing so welcomes the Director-General's report on an examination of the working methods of the Conference as set out in CL 107/3.

FAO is an elder statesman of the United Nations and its structures and procedures have served it well. But there is a reform movement in train within the United Nations which is resulting elsewhere in an approach to governance which allows for greater flexibility, less formality, a more business-like approach, and in all a greater recognition that governing bodies need to exercise their role of oversight in a more demonstrable way. When we return to our capitals from such events as this Council, we are asked to report on what we think we achieved.

It is with this in mind that we would hope to see Conference organized in a way that allows for maximum participation by the membership, aimed at doing business that results in clear decision-making and not simply the delivery of statements which are taken note of.

This means that we need to work to shorter agendas which should only contain items on which the Conference has competence. It means prompt delivery of all papers and an absence of items being issued too late for Conference Members to properly consider them.

Additionally, perhaps FAO should consider the use of informals each morning before conference. These have proved so useful to other organizations, like UNICEF, and give an opportunity for members to question the Secretariat in an informal way. I suggest that such a device would have been ideal for example, in relation to the Director-General's Progress Report. Specific questions on the Special Programmes could have been usefully dealt with in this way whereas, following the Plenary discussion, many of us will return home to explain that we do not have the answers to the questions we were asked to raise.

Finally, the changes we are referring to also mean that the platform needs to review its role. We welcome very much paragraph 22 of the Director-General's proposals which seeks to do this, but we would ask him to go even further. Too much time is taken up with the repetition of information already contained in documents and too much time in introductions and summings up. Other agencies do not follow these practices. As the EC statement said, we should also reconsider the need for the laborious work of the Drafting Committee -which relates to the existing need for a summing up. Again, in other fora the practice has been adopted of simply noting the decisions made and the points for action.

The Director-General's proposals which we are considering here have begun the process, but we suggest there is still a way to go before we have streamlined our machinery of governance within FAO.

**Mrs Maria GALVÖLGYI (Hungary):** The Hungarian delegation gives its enthusiastic support to the efforts to make the biennial Conference of FAO more efficient, dealing only with matters in its sole competence. Two weeks seems to be the right time period for future Conferences, provided that the measures referred to in paragraphs 15 to 24 on our Agenda, such as structure and Agenda items, would properly be observed.

May I mention at this juncture that the pilot agenda in the annex of the document could well serve the purpose of streamlining future proceedings. It is actually our belief that a number of items which have previously been on the Conference Agenda could either be issued for information only, or satisfactorily dealt with and decided upon by the Council, or ministerial meetings or permanent representatives meetings. In this respect, traditions can sometimes be of no help and therefore should not be fully observed.

It is felt that two additional remarks would not be out of place. The Secretariat may also have a role in this exercise by shortening the length of documents published for discussion, by both a more compact wording and a more extensive use of annexes complementing the text, and a strict observance and adequate advice as to the limits of delegates' interventions in terms of time. The Director-General may wish to issue a letter to all delegations to this effect prior to the 1995 Conference.

**Vernon DOUGLAS (Trinidad and Tobago):** As usual, my delegation speaks on behalf of the Member States of the CARICOM sub-region of Latin America and the Caribbean.

We have read document CL 107/3, and appreciate the proposals of the Director-General. My delegation endorses all of his proposals, but wishes to place special emphasis on two of them.

Firstly, that the duration of Conference should not exceed two weeks; secondly, that in view of the shorter duration of Conference, it is essential that the proposals for preparatory work outlined in paragraph 24 of CL 107/3 be implemented.

Finally, with respect to paragraph 24(c), it could be difficult for members who do not have Permanent Representatives based in Rome to participate fully in the proposed informal meetings. In the circumstances, we suggest that such members be informed of the outcome of these meetings as soon as possible after they have been held.

**Tri WBBOWO (Indonesia):** First of all, my delegation would like to congratulate the Director-General for his very comprehensive report under the Agenda item before us and also the Secretary-General of this Council for his brief and clear introduction to the Agenda item.

My delegation would like to share views with other Members of the Council in adopting the Director-General's proposals especially in paragraph 16 of the document CL 107/3. In my delegation's view the proposed working methods of the Conference will improve the efficiency of the Conference sessions and reduce both time and costs involved to both the Organization and the Member Governments.

These new working methods of the Conference can be only implemented if there are some changes in the preparation of the documents with more concentration on the programme and budget of the Organization as well as in introducing them to the Conference by the Secretariat focusing on the very important points and the new information, if any, only.

Finally, it would also be helpful if the Secretariat could send all documentation as early as possible to the Member Nations prior to the Conference.

**Inge NORDANG (Norway):** I have the honour of speaking on behalf of the Nordic countries, Denmark, Finland, Sweden and Norway.

The Nordic countries appreciate the Secretariat's response to the concerns expressed at the 1993 Conference about the working methods of the Conference. Without precluding a continued discussion in the future, including the desirability of the existing Conference structure, we would on this occasion just like to support the proposals made on behalf of the European Community and its Member States.

We also find the wise suggestions made by the United Kingdom under Item 4, to concentrate deliberations on the State of Food and Agriculture to selected issues, highly relevant in this connection.

Needless to say, we take it that a shortening of the Conference Session will not give rise to longer Council Sessions.

**Thomas A. FORBORD (United States of America):** The United States welcomes the changes in the timetable and working methods of the FAO Conference. We thank the FAO Secretariat for their efforts in preparing the document, and we concur with the revisions the Director-General has outlined here.

Whilst concurring with these proposals, like virtually all other delegations who have shared their views this morning, we feel the proposals do not yet go far enough. There are some other possibilities the Conference and Council could consider.

We agree with the European Community statement that, as a cost-saving measure for member countries, the Conference should not start on a Saturday. That would cost our delegations two extra days of time in Rome for one meeting day. If the meeting started on a Monday we could save a little money.

We believe serious consideration should be given to eliminating totally the country statements at the beginning of the Conference. This has been done by the UNDP and other UN bodies to very good effect in improving the efficiency and effectiveness of their meetings. The substitution of specific topics of interest is a possibility we would support.

Instead of country statements, even if limited to ten minutes, which would take four days for us to get through, those delegations that wish to make public statements could make those statements at press conferences scheduled here at FAO. We would also like to have consideration given to the total elimination from the agenda of information items.

These documents should be circulated to members. They can be listed in an annex and, if countries have questions on information items, those questions can be taken up in the informals that my colleague from the United Kingdom recommended, or directly with the Secretariat.

We do not need to take time during the Conference to read off the item and then not to discuss it. Take it off the Agenda totally.

We strongly support the remarks made by the United Kingdom that another important time-saver is to cut the repetition from the front table. The information that we will need should be very brief and very specific. The long introductions that we sometimes have, the summaries that we have, can in many cases be done away with totally.

We hope that this is not a one-time effort, that there will be a continuous review of all FAO meetings, to find further economies so that more of the Organization's funds can be allocated to delivering the important services it provides to its members, instead of spending time here in Rome.

**Christophe KIEMTORE (Burkina Faso):** Ma délégation voudrait tout d'abord féliciter le Secrétariat pour son document introductif. Nous concordons également avec la plupart des déclarations qui ont été faites sur ce point. Bien sûr, les propositions du Directeur général vont dans la bonne voie pour effectuer les réformes qui sont nécessaires afin de rendre efficace la FAO.

Plusieurs délégations ont insisté sur la nécessité de limiter le temps consacré à la Conférence et nous approuvons cet objectif tout en espérant pouvoir conserver tout de même le caractère unique de la Conférence, qui permet à un certain nombre de chefs de gouvernement ou de ministres de partager les préoccupations de leur pays en ce qui concerne les problèmes sociaux et de développement.

C'est pourquoi ma délégation est plutôt sceptique quant à la proposition de supprimer les déclarations générales. Ces déclarations générales devraient être effectivement le plus brèves possible mais nous pensons que la Conférence est un forum qui doit être offert à ces éminentes personnalités pour qu'elles puissent faire des commentaires sur la situation régionale et nationale.

Ma délégation voudrait également attirer l'attention du Conseil sur la nécessité de renforcer les travaux des comités restreints du Conseil, qui sont le Comité financier, le Comité du Programme et le Comité des questions constitutionnelles et juridiques. Toutes les questions ayant un caractère technique peuvent, la plupart du temps, trouver leur solution au sein de ces comités restreints. Il faut donc leur accorder plus d'importance et leur donner plus de pouvoir dans l'examen des questions qui leur sont soumises en vue de faire des recommandations claires au Conseil qui pourra les entériner sans passer trop de temps à examiner ces questions déjà traitées.

**Atul SINHA (India):** I also join the other countries in congratulating the Director-General on a very well-considered proposal for reviewing the working methods of the FAO Conference to make it more effective.

We also welcome the proposals contained in it and generally support all of them. In particular, I would like to support the proposal of Burkina Faso that we retain the system of country statements, because that gives an opportunity to countries to highlight their own views and also such matters of a general nature which might interest other Members of the Conference.

However, in order to make these country statements more specific, it might be a good idea to circulate in advance certain items which are coming up in the Conference, so that the country statements could be specifically geared to answering those questions and stating that country's position on those subjects.

It will not be a general statement, more a specific statement and, to that extent, quite useful.

With those remarks, the proposals contained in the paper CL 107/3 as amended have our support.

Quiero recordar que el Consejo está integrado únicamente por una cuarta parte de los miembros de la Conferencia. Estos son hoy día muchos, casi 200, y tienen sólo una oportunidad de unirse, cada dos años, para examinar la totalidad de los problemas de la Conferencia; o sea, para llegar a una visión completa de lo que tiene que ser la política de la FAO. Por ello, cualquier forma de disminuir estas facultades, a nosotros nos preocupa muchísimo.

Los sistemas mediante los cuales se reducirían las facultades son las recomendaciones de procedimiento que se están haciendo. Uno refleja el concepto de que el Consejo, en ciertas materias, debería tomar decisiones finales. Nosotros no estamos de acuerdo con ello por dos razones: una es porque estas materias son muy pocas ya que, según la Constitución, el Consejo puede tomar decisiones finales sólo en campos que le son delegados por la Conferencia. La Conferencia, por el Artículo 5.3, puede delegar muy pocas de sus facultades, porque la marcha de la Organización, y todo lo relativo al Presupuesto, están exclusivamente reservados a la Conferencia.

Además si hubiese dudas en la opinión de la totalidad de los miembros del Consejo en materias técnicas, que sean competencia del Consejo por delegación de la Conferencia, al final esto sea visto por la Conferencia y no sea decidido apuradamente por el Consejo. Además se recomiendan decisiones apuradísimas y muy rápidas en problemas que hayan sido examinados o por el Consejo mismo o por reuniones de Ministros. Las reuniones de Ministros pueden desenvolverse únicamente a un nivel político y está expresamente prohibido por la Constitución que la Conferencia delegue decisiones a nivel político a otros que no sean la Conferencia misma. Es suficiente leer atentamente el Artículo 5.3 para ver que todo lo que concierne a la política es únicamente una prerrogativa de la Conferencia.

Recomiendo que todo eso sea tenido claramente a la vista en la redacción del documento final que va a ser presentado durante el mes de junio. Lo recomiendo a la Secretaría y lo recomiendo a los Miembros del Consejo, para que durante estos meses consideren un poco este asunto.

**Igor N. MARINCEK (Observer for Switzerland):** The aim of this exercise is obviously to improve governance. We have had the experience in the past that long conferences as such in themselves do not ensure better governance. We agree with shortening the duration of the Conference. We know also that squeezing the duration alone does not bring about improvements. It will only bring improvements if it is accompanied by restructuring, rationalization, and so forth. We also have to be sure that full participation of the members is always secured.

The lightening of the Conference Agenda is, therefore, one of the central points we have to consider. The Agenda items of the different FAO bodies are enumerated in the FAO Constitution. I therefore arrive at the following question: what could be the shortlist for a Conference Agenda? The second question is: what would be the consequences for the other bodies? If some Agenda items were removed from the Conference, we would need to place them with other bodies. What are the consequences of that?

In paragraph 24 some suggestions are made in this respect but no information is provided. In any future consideration of this question we need to have a little more specific information on what we ought to do under the different Agenda items and what the possibilities are of having them dealt with in Conference and in other FAO bodies.

Finally, I believe that we need to improve our information on this matter and we need to have further consideration of the issue at future Council meetings and possibly also in the Finance and Programme Committees.

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Si no hay ningún otro miembro del Consejo u observador que desee hacer uso de la palabra, le voy a pedir al Dr. Mahler que responda a las preguntas o cuestiones.

**LE SECRETAIRE GENERAL:** Je ne pense pas qu'il y ait vraiment des questions. Il y a eu des commentaires, des recommandations, et une de ces recommandations est d'éviter que le Secrétariat fasse de longs commentaires sur les commentaires des délégations. Donc, mon intervention sera aussi brève que l'a été mon introduction.

Je voudrais d'abord remercier de l'intérêt que le Conseil a porté aux propositions du Directeur général, de l'appui et du soutien qu'il a bien voulu donner à ces propositions. Les suggestions, les recommandations qui ont été faites ont été dûment notées par le Secrétariat, notamment celles qui nous demandent d'aller plus loin. J'y vois une sorte d'approbation et de confirmation qu'effectivement le Directeur général est dans la direction qui était souhaitée par la Conférence, et maintenant par le Conseil. Je peux vous assurer que toutes ces recommandations, toutes ces suggestions seront étudiées très attentivement par le Directeur général.

Nous allons présenter au mois de mai-juin, pour la prochaine session du Conseil, des propositions concrètes pour l'ordre du jour et le calendrier de la Conférence de 1995. Je pense que ce sera le moment pour le Conseil de voir si nous avons dûment tenu compte de ses recommandations. Comme l'a dit le délégué de la Norvège, il s'agit d'un processus par lequel les organes directeurs vont améliorer progressivement les conditions de travail de la Conférence. D'ailleurs il y a des recommandations qui s'adressent au Secrétariat, mais il y a aussi des recommandations qui s'adressent aux pays membres. Donc à la prochaine session du Conseil vous aurez l'occasion de reprendre ce sujet.

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Muchas gracias Dr. Mahler. Si no hay ningún punto adicional, me voy a permitir resumir nuestros debates de la siguiente manera:

El Consejo felicitó al Director General por el estudio realizado y sus propuestas para el Examen de los métodos de trabajo de la Conferencia.

El Consejo estuvo de acuerdo, en general, con dichas propuestas presentadas por el Director General respecto de los métodos de trabajo de la Conferencia y su programación por un período no superior a dos semanas -once días laborales-.

Se tomó nota de que estos nuevos métodos no deberían aplicarse por una sola ocasión y que éste era un trabajo de carácter progresivo y adaptativo.

También se observó que la Conferencia es la única ocasión donde, de manera bianual, se reúnen todos los Estados Miembros de la FAO y ello en sí mismo debía considerarse como importante y prioritario, pues es sólo allí donde se define la política de la Organización.

El Consejo decidió lo siguiente:

Primero. Mantener la estructura actual de una Plenaria con tres Comisiones y los actuales Comités. En relación a este punto se hicieron los siguientes comentarios: no duplicar temas entre Plenaria y Comisiones; reducir los puntos a discusión; se identificaron los objetivos y enfoques de los trabajos de cada Comisión y también la importancia de limitar el número de días de las sesiones de dichas comisiones. Todo esto con el propósito de que la aportación a los debates generales fuera más efectiva y concisa. Se manifestó la importancia de una amplia y más efectiva participación de todos los Miembros de la Organización, no sólo en los programas, estructura y política de la FAO sino en particular a nivel de decisiones. Todos los órganos vinculados a la toma de decisiones deberían, en consecuencia, fortalecerse.

Un tema específico a estudiar sería la forma para reducir atrasos en los pagos de las cuotas, así como métodos de trabajo más liberales y participativos. Otro, también, la importancia de estudiar las reformas financieras y programáticas de la FAO y sus implicaciones administrativas.

Se advirtió que la disminución de los trabajos de la Conferencia no debería llevar, sin embargo, a una expansión de los trabajos del Consejo y por tanto a compensar unos con los otros.

Se indicó también que la Conferencia no debería empezar el sábado y se destacó la importancia de fortalecer los comités técnicos del Consejo, en particular el del Programa, el de Finanzas y el CCLM.

El segundo punto que se decidió fue el de continuar la redacción de actas taquigráficas de las sesiones de la Plenaria y de las comisiones. Al respecto, varias delegaciones propusieron el uso de redactores para aligerar y reducir el trabajo, o inclusive sustituir el trabajo, de los Comités de Redacción. También se indicó al respecto

que los informes deberían concentrarse principalmente en las decisiones y conclusiones específicas. Otros consideraron, sin embargo, que era importante el rescatar en los informes la sustancia de los debates.

El tercer punto que se decidió fue el de abreviar lo más posible el programa y la documentación, limitándose las introducciones de la Secretaría a facilitar nueva información. Se observó que era la Agenda la que debería indicar el número de días a utilizar. Al revisar la Agenda deberían identificarse temas prioritarios a tratar y por tanto, el Consejo anterior a la Conferencia debería construir la Agenda de la misma con una alta participación de los Miembros de la FAO.

Se observó, por otra parte, que la información concisa no debería afectar la sustancia en el tratamiento de los temas. Se propuso que se discutieran, en principio, sólo temas cuya documentación se hubiera distribuido con la antelación suficiente. Es necesario que los temas que se plantean tengan la preparación suficiente, tanto por parte de la Secretaría como por parte de los gobiernos, a fin de que su discusión y las respuestas sean plausibles y útiles.

Algunas delegaciones indicaron que muchos temas que actualmente revisa la Conferencia deberían inscribirse sólo para información, en particular cuando ya haya habido discusiones relativas en el Consejo y en sus Comités Técnicos.

El cuarto punto que el Consejo decidió fue el de hacer examinar el Estado Mundial de la Agricultura y la Alimentación por la Plenaria y no por la Comisión I. Se reconoció que al hacerlo, esto le daría un valor político a dicho tratamiento, pues podrían reemplazarse temas de la situación nacional con otros ligados a los intereses específicos que hubiera marcado la Conferencia y que fueran de interés para la FAO.

Se enfatizó, por parte de muchos delegados, el que las declaraciones se redujeran a diez minutos. Sin embargo, otros más advirtieron que estas declaraciones tenían un valor político general para la Organización y también para los propios Estados Miembros. Algunos sugirieron, sin embargo, que las declaraciones que tuvieran una orientación principalmente de carácter nacional se refirieran de otra manera, por ejemplo, a través de Conferencia de prensa. Otros consideraron, sin embargo, que las declaraciones generales eran suficientemente importantes en sí mismas y deberían continuar revisándose completamente en la Plenaria.

El quinto punto que se decidió es el de programar todas las votaciones previstas durante la primera semana de la Conferencia, es decir, el segundo sábado si la Conferencia comienza el sábado. Sin embargo, al respecto, muchas delegaciones indicaron que las votaciones deberían agruparse, de preferencia al principio de las sesiones inaugurales de la Conferencia. Se señaló la dificultad de varias delegaciones, sobre todo de delegaciones pequeñas, para atender las múltiples reuniones de los trabajos, en particular reuniones oficiosas. Sería, por tanto, conveniente mantener ampliamente informadas a todas las delegaciones respecto de la forma en que se llevarían a cabo estos trabajos, las decisiones y los tiempos de su realización.

Finalmente, el Consejo decidió simplificar los procedimientos y debates en las sesiones e insistir más en la preparación de temas para decisiones y en la presentación de todos los proyectos de decisiones de forma que resulte fácil su aprobación.

Yo creo que, en principio, esto resume, quizá con excesivo detalle, los debates. Sé que he dejado algunos temas fuera. No significa esto que no vayan a ser incluidos o retomados en el Comité de Redacción.

Les pregunto si hay alguna observación.

**Jacques LAUREAU (France):** Monsieur le Président, je vous remercie de votre exposé qui est censé résumer nos travaux, mais je pense que vous avez ajouté quelques connotations personnelles à ce résumé. Je suis désolé de souligner ce point, mais je pense que la plupart des mes confrères autour de ces tables sont d'accord.

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Bien, si puede usted identificarlos podrá ser más útil. Lo que yo he colegido de los debates es que, en general, el Consejo ha apoyado las propuestas del Director General y por tanto los detalles específicos destacados en el Documento.

Si hay algún aspecto en particular que le preocupa, le suplico que me lo destaque.

**Jacques LAURE AU (France):** Vous avez parlé de l'importance des réformes administratives et financières qui doivent accompagner le raccourcissement de la Conférence. Nous sommes tout à fait d'accord, il n'empêche que cela n'a pas été véritablement détaillé.

Vous avez également considéré qu'il était important de définir très précisément l'ordre du jour, mais vous avez ajouté que certains souhaitaient au contraire revenir à une discussion très générale. Je pense qu'il n'y a pas de cohérence entre ces deux formes d'intervention.

Troisième point: informer les petites délégations. Je suis d'accord, mais cela n'a pas été le coeur de certaines interventions.

Ce n'est pas une critique générale du travail du Président. Mais ce n'est pas la première fois que j'observe, depuis que je suis ici, certaines interprétations faites par le Président. Cela est normal et cela n'a rien de scandaleux. Mais je voulais, sur cette question du raccourcissement de la durée de la Conférence, vous le signaler.

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Creo que es muy útil aclarar las cosas. Cada cual interpreta lo que escucha de diversas maneras.

Yo quiero hacer referencia a lo siguiente: cuando hablé de la importancia de revisar en particular los trabajos financieros y programáticos de la Organización me referí, entre otros, a los planteamientos formulados por Japón; en lo que se refiere a la importancia de las declaraciones y su valor a nivel nacional y la necesidad de que continúen realizándose en Plenaria, me referí, por ejemplo, a lo que planteó el distinguido delegado de Burkina Faso; en lo que se refiere a las declaraciones relativas a mantener informados a los gobiernos, en particular a los que no pueden formar delegaciones amplias, me referí a las declaraciones de México, Trinidad y Tabago y de Costa Rica, como observador. Quizás aquellas delegaciones pensarán que no recogí suficientemente sus puntos de vista, pero creo que mi función aquí era la de asegurar que todos sintieran que sus puntos de vista habían sido recogidos.

Yo no deseo entablar un debate respecto de mis interpretaciones o las suyas, es simplemente una declaración de la forma en que, desde la Presidencia, he recogido sus debates. En nada afecta al Informe, que al final de cuentas, el Consejo decidirá y, desde luego, si le sirve de indicación al Comité de Redacción, lo podrá utilizar. De otra forma simplemente queda para el consumo interno en los verbatim.

**Ms M. McCOWAN (United Kingdom):** I do not want to take up too much time on this, but I have to agree with my colleague from France. I feel that somehow in the summing up you missed the spirit that was expressed by a number of delegates for greater flexibility, greater change, more, if you like, demonstrable democratic participation of the Council Members. That, for my delegation, was what we found missing from the summing up.

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Yo estoy seguro, y aquí tengo mis notas, de haber mencionado la importancia de una participación preparatoria y una mayor participación no solamente en la realización de la agenda, sino también en los trabajos de la Conferencia.

Si no recibió usted la traducción le pido disculpas pero, desde luego es un punto que destaqué en dos ocasiones por lo menos. Quizá valdría la pena al respecto indicar que si el resumen del Presidente va a causar un debate, es mejor que no lo haga. Sería mejor que en el futuro me refiriera exclusivamente a las cuestiones generales, pero también creo, distinguida delegada, que es importante que haya un reflejo, que ustedes se vean en el espejo de la Presidencia, y que todas las delegaciones tengan la oportunidad de escuchar al final algunos puntos de vista de, por lo menos, cómo sucedió el debate. Quizá podría ser esto también parte de los métodos de trabajo de la Conferencia si el Presidente debe hacer resúmenes o no.



**Ricardo VELAZQUEZ HUERTA (México):** Sin entrar en debate, yo quiero decir que la delegación de México está conforme con el resumen que usted, Sr. Presidente, ha hecho. Entendemos de manera muy clara que los resúmenes de la Presidencia tratan de recoger lo que se dice en esta Asamblea por cada una de las delegaciones. Mi delegación le hubiera pedido la palabra y señalado si usted, Sr. Presidente, hubiera omitido lo que la delegación de México dijo. Como mi delegación hizo un planteamiento y usted lo recogió y escuchamos de sus labios que los planteamientos formulados por otras delegaciones están recogidos, nosotros estamos conformes con sus planteamientos.

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Además de los Métodos de Trabajo de la Conferencia estamos revisando los métodos de trabajo de la Presidencia independiente que, por otra parte, por ser independiente, puedo atreverme a hacer mis comentarios y mi propia interpretación de los debates sin necesidad de que esto prejuzgue la forma en que se recoge.

**Christophe KIEMTORE (Burkina Faso):** Monsieur le Président, en effet, c'est ainsi que nous comprenons votre rôle mais nous comprenons aussi les observations formulées par les délégués de la France et du Royaume-Uni. Depuis longtemps nous apprécions vos résumés. Certes, les résumés peuvent être très brefs ou très longs, ou encore rester à mi-chemin et c'est là que réside le risque d'être complet ou moins complet. De toute façon le Président doit avoir la possibilité d'exprimer la couleur de la manière dont il entend gérer le Conseil et quant à nous, nous approuvons la façon dont vous procédez.

**Kenji SHIMIZU (Japan):** My delegation also agrees on the summary made by you in general, and I think the concerns expressed by the two delegates may be reflected in the Drafting Committee, actually. I do not know about the proceeding of this Council, but the summaries are made by the independent Chairman at his own discretion, so we cannot challenge it.

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Creo que usted lo ha dicho muy bien, ese es el caso, y vuelvo a subrayar que mis resúmenes no prejuzgan el informe del Consejo. Pueden guiarlo o no, pero no lo prejuzgan.

Si no hay ninguna cuestión al respecto pasamos al siguiente punto del orden del día que son los Temas 9.1 y 9.2; es decir: Informe de la Reunión Extraordinaria de la Comisión de Recursos Fitogenéticos y Ampliación del Mandato de la Comisión de Recursos Fitogenéticos.

Respecto del Tema 9.1, hago notar que en el Informe de la Reunión Extraordinaria de la Comisión de Recursos Fitogenéticos, se plantean o recogen principalmente cuatro cuestiones. La primera es la relativa a los progresos logrados hasta la fecha y otros planes para negociar la revisión del Compromiso Internacional de Recursos Fitogenéticos. Al hacerlo se indica la conveniencia de que se realicen ulteriores reuniones, quizá más largas, de la Comisión de Recursos Fitogenéticos durante los próximos dos años, incrementando la participación de expertos de países en desarrollo.

Otro aspecto que destaco del informe, es el relativo a que en esta ocasión no se examinó a fondo la posibilidad de que el Compromiso Internacional se convierta en un protocolo del Convenio sobre Biodiversidad. El Consejo, por tanto, quizá podría expresar su opinión al respecto y también aprobar el ofrecimiento de la FAO de participar en la Secretaría del Convenio.

El tercer aspecto que destaco del Informe, es el relativo al estado que guardan los preparativos de la Conferencia Técnica Internacional sobre Recursos Fitogenéticos y la coordinación con la Comisión de Recursos Fitogenéticos, en tanto su función de guiar, examinar e incluso aprobar proyectos de informes antes de someterlos a la Conferencia Técnica. Hay una sugerencia de la posibilidad de una reunión de alto nivel inmediatamente después de la Conferencia Técnica.

Finalmente, el cuarto punto que deseo destacar es el relativo a la firma de acuerdo con los centros de investigación agrícola internacional bajo el GICAI y que ahora se hayan, como ustedes pueden tomar nota, bajo los auspicios de la FAO. Estos acuerdos reconocen la autoridad de la FAO en el establecimiento de dichas políticas para dicha red.

El Consejo, teniendo presente este hecho quizá podría pedir a la FAO que desempeñe una función activa en la llamada reunión de Belaggio II que se celebrará en Lausana y que constituirá una reunión de alto nivel del GCIAl para determinar sus futuras direcciones.

Es todo sobre el Tema 9.1. Como les había dicho mi propuesta es que se traten conjuntamente ese Tema con el 9.2 para simplificar nuestros debates.

Perdón, hay un punto de orden de Brasil.

## **POINT OF ORDER**

## **POINT D'ORDRE**

## **PUNTO DE ORDEN**

**Marco António DINIZ BRANDO (Brazil):** My delegation wishes to thank you for calling our attention to some points contained in the report. However, those points were discussed in the Commission and we have the report of the Commission before us. It might be more useful not to have some points picked up but to have the whole report discussed. It is also our feeling that we should discuss the two items separately. We have two documents and the items are not necessarily related. Some arguments may be made on one item which are not related to the other. Our delegation would prefer to have the two items dealt with separately.

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Muchas gracias por su opinión, señor delegado del Brasil. Pregunto si hay otros puntos de vista respecto de la discusión.

**Jürgen OESTREICH (Germany):** I share the view that we should discuss 9.1 and 9.2 separately. However, I am of the opinion that it is the right of the Council, since it is on the Agenda, also to discuss the report.

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Yo no pienso imponer mi decisión y si a ustedes les parece bien, procederíamos a discutirlos por separado. Yo he destacado algunos puntos del informe considerando que podrían servirles de guía sobre algunas cuestiones que se podrían discutir, pero ustedes, desde luego, están en plena libertad para destacar, puntualizar o no decir nada, respecto del contenido del informe.

Para presentar el Tema le paso la palabra al Dr. De Haen.

## **ACTIVITIES OF FAO AND WFP (continued)**

## **ACTIVITES DE LA FAO ET DU PAM (suite)**

## **ACTIVIDADES DE LA FAO Y EL PMA (continuación)**

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**H. DE HAEN (Assistant Director-General, Agriculture Department):** I will begin by referring to Conference Resolution 7/93 which dealt with the revision of the International Undertaking on Plant Genetic Resources. This resolution requested the Director-General to provide the forum for negotiations among governments for the revision of this International Undertaking and in doing so to include the follow-up to Resolution 3 of the Nairobi Final Act of the Convention on Biological Diversity. The Conference urged that this process be carried out through regular and extraordinary sessions of the Commission on Plant Genetic Resources, in close collaboration with the Convention on Biological Diversity.

To implement this resolution FAO has planned a number of regular and extraordinary sessions of the Commission and its Working Group and has made available from Regular Programme sources the necessary funds for the preparation and running of these extraordinary sessions for the current biennium. For this last session, the first extraordinary session of the Commission, one generous donor, Canada, also made it possible to finance the participation of some additional representatives from developing countries.

I should say that the first negotiating extraordinary session of the Commission, which took place last week, did so in a very constructive negotiating atmosphere. The session discussed the following subjects. The main subject was, of course, the revision of the Undertaking. Following the recommendation of the FAO Conference, this negotiating process is being carried out as a step-by-step process. I think it may be necessary to remind delegates of this step-by-step process. Stage one deals with the consolidation of the Undertaking by incorporating the annexes and by harmonizing the language with the language of the Convention on Biological Diversity. Stage two would deal with the further development of the Undertaking to include two important issues: (1) the access to plant genetic resources for food and agriculture by those who wish to make use of them; (2) the realization of farmers' rights. Stage three would then be the consideration of possible legal and institutional status of this International Undertaking, once revised, in particular with relation to the Convention on Biological Diversity and possible protocols.

On the basis of the discussions and comments from its Working Group, this last session of the Commission initiated negotiations for a revised text under stage one. The text of the Undertaking was discussed paragraph by paragraph and bracketed as appropriate. Countries also suggested alternative wordings, identified subjects for further negotiation and made proposals for modifications. At the end of the session the Secretariat was requested to incorporate all these changes into a new consolidated draft text which is to be discussed by the next negotiating session.

Unfortunately, the Commission did not have enough time to discuss the documents which the Secretariat had prepared for stage two of the revision, although some statements were made, and there was no comprehensive debate about stage two. It was agreed that these would also be considered during the next session. You will find these stages described in more detail in the documents which were submitted to the Commission.

The Commission proposed that, in order to have enough time to carry out its negotiating task and finalize it, hopefully before mid-1996, its next regular session, which is planned for June 1995, should last for two weeks instead of one and should be preceded two months before by a three-day meeting of the Working Group. This will, of course, have financial implications which the Council may wish to consider. The Council's guidance is needed with regard to the proposed two weeks' duration. If the Council is in favour, then the Director-General will look into making the necessary Regular Programme funds available for that extended duration.

The importance of ensuring the presence of representatives from developing countries in the negotiating process was again stressed at this meeting and potential donors were invited to contribute to this purpose by the provision of extra-budgetary funds. The Secretariat has agreed to make all efforts to solicit such contributions.

The other item on the agenda of the Commission, which the Chairman has already mentioned, was the progress report on the preparatory process for the Fourth International Technical Conference on Plant Genetic Resources. The Commission supported the participatory country-driven approach taken by this programme and by the Secretariat which is in place to run the process and prepare the conference. It welcomed the direct contacts which the Secretariat had made with technical experts and policy-makers in countries of all regions through intensive traveling as the provision of guidelines and practical arrangements made to support developing countries in the preparation of their country reports. Some developing countries announced their

offers to host sub-regional meetings, which are foreseen for the next stage of the process, and this was warmly welcomed by the Commission.

The Commission identified the utilization of plant genetic resources as the major objective of the Global Plan of Action which the whole process is to prepare and which the Technical Conference will hopefully then consider and adopt.

The need for the International Technical Conference to have a high-level participation was stressed, as was the clear link between the preparations for this 1996 Technical Conference to be held in Germany, on the one hand, and the negotiations within the Commission of the revision of the International Undertaking, on the other hand, and also the collaboration with the Convention on Biological Diversity.

The Commission expressed gratitude to all donors to the process, from both developed and developing countries. I might add that, while the funding of this process has been gradually improving, a considerable gap in funding still remains and we are in contact with potential donors to bridge this gap.

I will briefly make a few closing remarks on other matters discussed and considered by the Commission. One was the progress report on Resolution 3 of the Nairobi Final Act which was submitted to the First Conference of the Parties of the Convention on Biological Diversity, a meeting in the first two weeks of December in the Bahamas. The fact that the Commission considered this progress report is in line with the recommendations of the FAO Conference, which called for close collaboration with the Convention.

The Commission agreed that, in order to update the information in the document, already sent to the Conference of the Parties, the report of the Commission session, which is before you now as document CL 107/8, should also be transmitted through the normal channels to the Conference of the Parties, together with one of the documents prepared by the Secretariat dealing with the economic, technical and legal aspects to be considered in stage two of the revision. The Commission also expressed the wish that its deliberations be submitted to the Commission on Sustainable Development for its next session in April next year.

Still under this sub-item, the Commission was informed of FAO's offer to take part in a Joint Secretariat for the Convention on Biodiversity in line with the decision taken by the second session of the Intergovernmental Committee of the Convention on Biological Diversity to include the option of a Joint Secretariat to the Convention, to be provided not only by one but by several UN agencies. The FAO offer aims to ensure cooperation and complementarity with UNEP and other relevant organizations, such as Unesco, and to better serve the interests of the agricultural sector. The text of the offer made by the Secretariat has also been distributed for this session.

It should be noted that during the last two years FAO has participated fully and actively in the Interim Secretariat and the Commission has expressed firm support to FAO's proposal for the Permanent Secretariat and suggested that the document CPGR-Ex/1/94/INF/8 entitled "Participation of FAO in the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity" be brought to the attention of the FAO Council. The Council may wish to endorse the offer made by the Secretariat to participate in a Joint Secretariat to the Convention.

The Commission finally also discussed the international network of ex situ germplasm collections and discussed a progress report on agreements with the International Agricultural Research Centres. You will remember that in 1992 the centres accepted the invitation expressed by the Director-General and a draft agreement has since then been developed and negotiated by the parties involved.

The Commission was informed, and, through this report, I also inform the Council now that FAO and the Chairman of CGIAR, the latter on behalf of 12 international agricultural research centres, have signed the agreement on 26 October 1994 and therefore now place their germplasm collections in the international network under the auspices of FAO.

I should add that the Commission warmly congratulated FAO and IPGRI, whose Director-General is present in the room to give further explanations if required, as well as the other CGIAR centres for taking this important step which would strengthen the global system in line with the recommendations of Agenda 21. It was also considered to be an important contribution to the process of revising the International Undertaking.

As a final remark, I would say that the Commission should actively monitor the functioning of the agreements between FAO and the CGIAR centres. In this context it was noted that Article VI of the Agreement provided the signatories recognize the intergovernmental authority of FAO and the Commission on Plant Genetic Resources in setting policies for this international network. I thought this remark was also of interest in the context of the ongoing rethinking about the CGIAR, to which you, Mr Chairman, made reference in your introductory statement.

My introduction to this item has been somewhat lengthy, because the Commission had its session only last week and delegates may not have had time to study the documents in sufficient detail.

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Gracias Dr. de Haen. Creo que el Consejo aprecia mucho la guía, la utilidad de sus comentarios introductorios, en particular, por lo que acaba usted de señalar a la Comisión que se acaba de reunir.

**Jürgen OESTREICH (Germany):** The European Community and its Member States would like to congratulate the Secretariat on the excellent quality of documents submitted to the recent Extraordinary Session of the Commission on Plant Genetic Resources, and also on the organization of that Session. We also want to thank Mr De Haen for his very comprehensive introduction which, as you, Mr Chairman, have correctly mentioned, must have been a great help to those who have not yet read the report.

The European Community and its member states recognize that Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture constitute a most important part of biological diversity and agree on the "two stages" revision process of the current Undertaking. They note that the terms of access to *ex situ* collections should be agreed, ideally, on a multilateral basis and the concept of Farmers' Rights should be defined legally and technically. In addition, procedures for implementation of the International Fund and conditions for its utilization should be further specified and agreed before the sources of, and the condition for, funding can be explored.

The European Community and its member states recognize the complexity of the issues to be negotiated and appreciate the substantial progress made on stage 1 of the revision preparations for the 4th International Technical Conference. We welcome the Memorandum established between FAO and the International Plant Genetic Resources Institute for the preparation for this Conference as well as the agreement between FAO and the International Agricultural Research Centres of the Consultative Group according to which these place their collections under the International Network under the auspices of FAO and of an intergovernmental body, the Commission on Plant Genetic Resources, giving policy advice. This is an important step in giving effect to FAO's Global System on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture.

The European Community and its member states, however, note that a considerable work load remains, and in our opinion a general exchange of views is urgently needed in order to make further progress in drafting the final text of the Undertaking. Therefore, we approve the schedule recommended by the Commission for further meetings. Important issues such as the scope of the Undertaking, terms of access to *ex situ* collections, the concept of Farmers' Rights and the funding mechanisms, being identified as stage 2 issues, have been only partially discussed, if at all. We have presented our initial position on these important issues and we reaffirm that it will be desirable that the process of revising the International Undertaking can be completed in time for the 1996 International Technical Conference and that the revised Undertaking will be available together with the report of the State of the World's Plant Genetic Resources and the Global Plan of Action.

Another major issue on the agenda of the Commission on Plant Genetic Resources, the arrangements for the Fourth International Technical Conference on Plant Genetic Resources to be held in Leipzig in 1996, requires a balanced and thorough consideration. The time available to ensure a smooth and successful preparation, including the participatory, country-driven approach which the Assistant Director-General just mentioned, is short. Therefore, increased efforts should be made to speed up this process. Likewise additional funds must be mobilized to bridge the still existing financial gap. Much could be achieved in this respect through cooperation between existing institutions active in this field.

For these reasons efforts should be intensified and sufficient funds be sought to cover the costs of additional and/or prolonged subsequent sessions of the Commission from extraordinary funds as well as from the core budget of FAO.

**Fernando GERBASI (Venezuela):** Mi país asigna prioridad a la conservación y utilización de los recursos fitogenéticos, y a tal fin ha desarrollado un vasto programa de investigación que conduce actualmente el Fondo Nacional de Investigaciones Agrícolas y Pecuarias. El FONAIAP posee un Centro Nacional de Investigaciones para llevar adelante estas actividades en todo el país y para el desarrollo de acciones tendentes a implantar programas nacionales relacionados con la colecta, caracterización, evaluación, regeneración, conservación, documentación y utilización de los recursos fitogenéticos. En este Centro, se mantiene el mayor número de especies anuales y perennes, las cuales se han venido enriqueciendo mediante el intercambio nacional e internacional y, más aún, por las recientes expediciones realizadas para salvaguardar las especies autóctonas en peligro de extinción.

El acervo genético de este Centro alcanza un total de 14 597 variedades que aumentan paulatinamente.

Mi delegación concede importancia primordial a los trabajos que la Comisión de Recursos Fitogenéticos está llevando a cabo para la revisión del compromiso internacional y, al respecto, deseamos hacer presente la necesidad de considerar, para el futuro, algunas observaciones de carácter general que deberían guiar las negociaciones de la Comisión para lograr la conclusión favorable de la revisión del compromiso internacional sobre los recursos fitogenéticos para la agricultura y la alimentación.

Ante todo, pensamos que es necesario no perder de vista los avances y logros alcanzados por el Convenio sobre la Diversidad Biológica, sin olvidar la incorporación de conceptos presentes en él, que no han sido reflejados apropiadamente en el compromiso, en particular, el uso sostenible de los recursos fitogenéticos.

La justa y equitativa distribución de los beneficios, la soberanía de los Estados sobre sus propios recursos fitogenéticos, el acceso a los mismos sometido a la legislación nacional y al consentimiento fundamentado previo, la prioridad que debe darse a la conservación *in situ* y, complementariamente, *ex situ* en el país de origen de los recursos, la canalización de la ayuda técnica y financiera para lograr esos objetivos, la transferencia de tecnologías punta, la participación de los países proveedores de los recursos fitogenéticos en la investigación biotecnológica, garantizando el acceso a los resultados de las mismas, y la asignación de nuevos y adicionales recursos financieros para atender a las necesidades de los países en desarrollo.

En lo que se refiere al carácter jurídico del compromiso internacional, consideramos que ésta es una cuestión de máxima importancia, que requiere, tal como fue indicado en la propia Comisión, de mayores estudios y análisis por parte de la Secretaría, que permitan a los distintos gobiernos pronunciarse oportunamente sobre esta cuestión.

Concedemos especial importancia a la cuestión del acceso a las colecciones *ex situ* no adquiridas de conformidad con el Convenio y también de forma muy especial a la ejecución o puesta en práctica de los derechos del agricultor y su conveniente reflejo en la revisión del compromiso.

Quiero resaltar el contenido del informe respecto a la conveniencia de ampliar la duración de las sesiones de la Comisión, en especial en las que se negocie la revisión del compromiso internacional y se prepare a la Conferencia Técnica Internacional para la utilización sostenible de los recursos fitogenéticos para la agricultura y la alimentación, puesto que la importancia y la complejidad de estas dos tareas así lo merita.

Me parece muy importante también que se procure conseguir fondos extrapresupuestarios suficientes para asegurar la participación de los delegados de los países en desarrollo en las sesiones de la Comisión.

Sr. Presidente, para finalizar, quiero expresar la conformidad de mi delegación con el informe de la Comisión, tal como ha sido sometido a la consideración de este Consejo. Muchas gracias.

**Francis J. VACCA (United States of America):** I wish to thank Dr De Haen for his very informative introduction. The United States participated fully in the Extraordinary Session of the Commission, and endorses its report. A significant amount of the Commission's time was devoted to renegotiating the international undertaking, but not enough time to achieving appreciable progress.

The initial negotiating session was an opportunity for members to list their views on the draft text, but nothing more. Much remains to be done before there is genuine hope of having a text which we can agree on by June 1996. It is essential that ample time be provided in FAO's 1995 calendar for the Working Group to meet for at least three days and for the Commission to meet for a two-week session.

We agree that developing country participation is essential to achieving a successful renegotiation. Extra-budgetary resources should be sought to assist in this effort. However, we expect FAO to find Regular Programme funds to prepare for, and to conduct, these important sessions.

The United States is pleased to see the good cooperation between FAO and the Interim Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, as requested by Resolution 2 of the Nairobi Final Act.

In line with decisions taken by the Second Session of the Intergovernmental Committee of the CBD, we support the offer made by FAO to form a Joint Secretariat between FAO and ICCBD to ensure that agricultural interests are sufficiently represented.

We agree with the Commission's positive statements concerning preparations under way for the 1996 International Conference and Programme for Plant Genetic Resources. Unfortunately, more funding is required to complete the Secretariat, to assist in preparing country reports, to develop the report of the State of the World's Plant Genetic Resources and, finally, to prepare a costed global Plan of Action. We encourage all countries to consider ways of contributing to this important project.

The issue of widening the mandate of the Commission will be a separate item on our Agenda and we will offer comments at that time. Finally, we support the recent agreement between FAO and the CGIAR centres on the Trustee arrangements for *ex situ* connections.

**Ms. Rosanne ELAVA (Australia):** We thank Dr De Haen for his excellent introduction. We are also grateful to Mr Esquinas and his staff for their efforts in preparing documents for the Commission's discussion, as well as for consideration by the Council.

At the Extraordinary Session of the Commission on Plant Genetic Resources a solid start was made on the revision on the Undertaking on Plant Genetic Resources. The first reading of the Undertaking gave all members the opportunity to put issues on the table and the range of views expressed reflected the complex and sensitive nature of the issues under consideration. It will be important that future sessions of the Commission, be they regular or extraordinary, supported by meetings of its working group as required, continue to build, and build rapidly, on the foundation that has been laid.

With regard to the preparations for the next meeting of the Commission, we have three comments:

First, on the administrative side, efforts should be made to settle Bureau positions and working methods for the meeting as early as possible. Delays and confusion which occurred at the First Extraordinary Session should be avoided as far as possible.

Secondly, the revision of the Undertaking should form the main focus of the Commission's work, particularly those areas in stage 2 which the Commission has not yet had the opportunity to discuss. In this context, we note the preparatory work to be undertaken by the Working Group on the scope, on access and on Farmer's Rights, prior to the next regular session of the Commission.

We stress the importance of resolving early the scope of the Undertaking in the context of the revision process, as this will be critical to renegotiating the text.

Previous speakers have highlighted the importance of early and urgent preparations for the forthcoming Fourth International Technical Conference on Plant Genetic Resources.

Our third comment is, therefore, that a report on progress on the arrangements for the Conference will be another important item to be considered by the Commission.

We note that the legal status of the Undertaking to be considered under Stage III of the revision has not yet been discussed by the Commission. Of course, this aspect relates to your request for members' views on whether or not the revised undertaking should form a protocol for a Convention on Biodiversity. Delegations may be better placed to comment on this aspect after the next Commission meeting.

In conclusion, Australia is pleased to endorse the Report of the First Extraordinary Session of the CPGR, including the proposed schedule of meetings.

**Dato' Ahmad Zabri IBRAHIM (Malaysia):** My delegation would like to record our decision and to welcome warmly the progress made by FAO on its revision of the International Undertaking on Plant Genetic Resources in harmony with the Convention on Biological Diversity, as reported in document CL 107/8.

This is in line with Resolution 7/93 of the Twenty-seventh FAO Conference which requested the Director-General of FAO to provide a forum for negotiations among governments for: (a) the adaptation of the International Undertaking on Plant Genetic Resources in harmony with the Convention on Biological Diversity; (b) consideration of the issue of access on mutually agreed terms to plant genetic resources including *ex situ* collections not addressed by the Convention on Biodiversity; and (c) the issue of realization of Farmers' Rights.

Malaysia is a signatory to the Convention on Biological Diversity, a broad and legally-binding Convention which came into force on 29 December 1993. Under the Convention, it is provided in Article 1 that there should be fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising out of the utilization of genetic resources, including appropriate access to genetic resources and appropriate transfer of relevant technologies. The Convention supports national sovereignty and the right of countries to benefit from their bio-resources.

My delegation would like to elaborate on two issues which are of great concern to Malaysia: firstly, Farmers' Rights; and secondly the problem of *ex situ* collections before the Convention of Biodiversity came into force.

Farmers' Rights was firstly espoused at the founding meeting of the FAO Commission on Plant Genetic Resources in 1985. It was then incorporated into an annex to FAO's International Undertaking on Plant Genetic Resources. Resolution 3 of the Nairobi Final Act, confirming the text of the Convention on Biological Diversity, notes the importance of Farmers' Rights and calls upon governments to consider its incorporation into the Convention itself.

There are various definitions of Farmers' Rights: that by FAO, that by the Third World Network and that defined by the Government of India. As the definition is an important and integral part of the revised International Undertaking on Plant Genetic Resources, my delegation attaches great importance to the fact that it should be properly examined in the coming meetings of the Working Group and Sessions of the Commission on Plant Genetic Resources.

My delegation is of the view that the definition of the Farmers' Rights should include among others: (a) rights of farmers' and farming communities; (b) vested in national governments; (c) to benefit fully, that is to receive equitable and appropriate compensation; (d) conserving and improving; (e) knowledge, innovations and practices; and finally, (f) centres of origin and diversity, which is the country of origin.

The means of implementation of Farmers' Rights should not centre solely on the question of having an international fund as a compensation for farmers, for the use of their genetic resources, but also on protecting the knowledge, innovations and practices which the farmers have painstakingly developed over the years of their farming life.



If we are to consider the inclusion of Plant Breeders' Rights or Plant Variety Protection offered by the Union for the Protection of New Varieties of Plants, especially with the amendment of their Convention in 1991 to accommodate Intellectual Property Rights, then Farmers' Rights should be defined along similar lines to include their rights to benefit fully from the knowledge, innovations and practices they have contributed and will continue to contribute in the field of agriculture.

Intellectual Property Rights, when combined with patent law, would be a stumbling block in terms of getting the suitable breeding and planting material for farmers to improve their food and agricultural production, especially if they have to pay royalties over a long period of time. This would be extremely unfair if those materials which they have to buy in order to improve their production were, in fact, taken from their farms or countries.

My delegation would like to propose several choices in dealing with this inequity: first, to develop a *sui generis* system of protection or, second, to propose mechanisms which will protect the intellectual achievements of indigenous people and rural communities within the Intellectual Property Protection System, or third, to propose an alternative *sui generis* system of intellectual recognition which may be outside intellectual property protection or, fourth, to elaborate on Farmers' Rights as a means of intellectual property protection.

My delegation has great hopes that the negotiation meetings of the Working Group and Commission on Plant Genetic Resources would be responsive enough to take care of the need to protect farmers' knowledge, innovations and practices in line with the aspirations of the FAO Conference and the Convention on Biodiversity of which we are all parties. Thus, the funding mechanism, which no doubt is important, is not the only subject in contention towards realizing the question of Farmers' Rights.

With regard to the issue of *ex situ* collections, especially those materials which were stored in the gene banks and botanic gardens before the coming into force of the Convention on Biodiversity, my delegation would like the International Undertaking to include a specific article on this subject. This is in view of the fact that these bio-materials would be most likely to be commercialized in the coming decades by those who have the technology, whilst those developing countries which are the donors of the collections are left out of the actual benefits and, at the same time, are not protected by the Convention on Biodiversity.

My country, especially the Ministry of Agriculture which is responsible for the conservation and sustainable development of genetic resources for food and agriculture, places high importance on the progress of the Commission on Plant Genetic Resources, including its working group in restructuring and revision of the International Undertaking.

**Hans ZANNETIS (Cyprus):** I wish first of all to thank the Secretariat for the quality of the documents presented to the Extraordinary Session of the Commission on Plant Genetic Resources, and also to thank Mr de Haen for his detailed introduction to this subject.

My delegation has participated in the works of the Extraordinary Session of the Commission on Plant Genetic Resources and has no difficulty in endorsing its report. In doing so, we wish to refer to the International Ten-Year Conference and Programme for Plant Genetic Resources to be organized in Germany in 1996. As is stated in the report of the Commission, much progress has been achieved in the preparation of the Conference and its Secretariat should be congratulated. Whilst expressing our appreciation for the achievements made in a relatively short period regarding the preparation of the International Conference and Programme, we recognize that much work needs to be done and perhaps the Secretariat of the ICPPGR should be strengthened. We would expect this International Conference to achieve concrete results as it is expected to adopt the revised International Undertaking on Plant Genetic Resources and the Global Plan of Action which will hopefully be prepared following the required negotiating process.

Therefore, every effort should be made to enable the Secretariat to prepare the full range of agreements and proposals from the revised Undertaking to the Global Plan by the time of the Conference to enable it to act upon them.

One important element for the success of the Conference is the availability of financial resources. In this respect, we wish to thank those countries which have already made or stated their contribution. We wish also to support paragraph 29 of the Commission's report suggesting that multilateral funding institutions be approached to seek assistance in the funding of the ICPPGR as well as for the funding of projects which will be identified during the elaboration of the Global Plan.

Regarding the participation of FAO in the Joint Secretariat on the Convention on Biological Diversity, we believe that it is very important for FAO to remain involved in matters relating to plant genetic resources and we support such participation.

**D. SANDS SMITH (United Kingdom):** We feel the meeting of the Extraordinary Session of the Commission on Plant Genetic Resources held the week before last made a useful start on the work of the revision of the International Undertaking. However, let us be clear, it was no more than a start with proposals being noted but not discussed. Clearly, there is a great deal of work still to be done on stage 1 and we still have to start work on stage 2 before we can begin to reflect on stage 3.

The next meeting of the Commission will be most important. It will be essential to adopt a well-structured and, I stress, a well-disciplined approach. Here I would refer to the comments made by my Australian colleague regarding the need to avoid the sort of delay we had at the meeting the week before last in appointing a bureau which took the whole of the first morning.

The United Kingdom will continue to play a positive part in the whole of this process. As far as our discussion today is concerned, it is indeed useful and proper to review the progress that has been made so far but we must be careful in this debate not to try to take over the very complex work of the Commission.

**Inge NORDANG (Norway):** I have the pleasure to speak on behalf of the Nordic countries - Denmark, Finland, Sweden and my own country of Norway.

The Commission on Plant Genetic Resources has the important task of promoting national, regional and global action for the conservation and sustainable use of plant genetic resources. It is the governing body of the Undertaking on Plant Genetic Resources and provides policy guidance to the emerging Global System on Plant Genetic Resources. Its activities are focused on action to stop the alarming erosion of the world's plant genetic resources that are of crucial importance for plant breeding necessary to sustain world food security.

Starting with its Extraordinary Session last week, the Commission now has two major tasks. It is the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee for the negotiation of a major new international legal instrument based on the Undertaking on Plant Genetic Resources and on the Convention on Biological Diversity. The new instrument will contain the mutually agreed terms of access to plant genetic resources. In the view of the Nordic countries, this instrument should become a protocol for the Convention on Biological Diversity.

The Commission is also the Preparatory Committee for a major Intergovernmental Conference on Plant Genetic Resources which will take place in Germany in 1996. At the Conference - which we agree should be renamed the 1996 Conference on Plant Genetic Resources - the first ever Global Plan of Action on Plant Genetic Resources and the first State of the World Report on Plant Genetic Resources will be adopted. The new legal instrument on plant genetic resources should, in the view of the Nordic countries, be signed at the conference.

The preparations for the Conference are country-driven. It is essential that governments be actively involved at a high level in these preparations and that country studies be prepared, preferably through national committees.

The three important documents that would be submitted to the Conference have, however, to be prepared and negotiated in the Commission.

In order to carry out these huge tasks, the Commission will - in the view of the Nordic countries - have to hold three more sessions, as a minimum, each of a duration of two weeks. Negotiation should be prepared in two working groups, one on substantive matters regarding Plant Genetic Resources and one on the matters

concerning the financial mechanism and technology matters. The full participation of developing countries must be secured.

In the same way as in the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee on Biodiversity, Climate and Desertification Convention, a bureau with one chairman, three vice-chairmen and a rapporteur should be elected by the Commission for the whole period that it constitutes an Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee on Plant Genetic Resources and a Preparatory Committee for the 1996 International Conference on Plant Genetic Resources.

Provided that solid national preparations are carried out and the negotiations and preparations in the Commission are successful, the FAO Council should, in the view of the Nordic countries, seriously consider a brief, high-level meeting to be convened at the end of the conference for the adoption and signatures of the three important documents. The costs needed to finance the suggested expansion of the preparatory process should primarily be covered from the regular budget of the FAO.

The Commission on Plant Genetic Resources has, through the agreement signed between FAO and twelve of the international agricultural research centres of the CGIAR system, been given the authority to decide on policies as concerns the important collections of plant genetic resources held at these centres. The Consultative Group has decided to convene a meeting at ministerial level in Lucerne in February next year to consider the funding of the system and important policy changes. The Nordic countries welcome this meeting and suggest that it be invited to report on its results to the Commission on Plant Genetic Resources for its consideration.

It is the hope and the conviction of the Nordic countries that the international agricultural research centres and IPGRI will participate actively in the country-driven process of preparations for the 1996 International Conference.

**EL PRESIDENTE:** ¿Se refiere usted a la reunión de alto nivel de la Comisión?

**Inge NORDANG (Norway):** I am referring to a high-level meeting to sign and wrap-up at the end of the conference if, hopefully, the documents are ready for the conference, to convene a high-level meeting with necessary authority to sign the agreements.

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Esa parte la he entendido bien, distinguido delegado, lo que no entiendo es quién convoca la reunión de alto nivel y en qué contexto se da la reunión de alto nivel; es decir si se va a tratar de una reunión a alto nivel dentro de la Comisión, dentro de la FAO o de una reunión que convoca Naciones Unidas. No entiendo en que concepto se debería dar.

Me gustaría, por favor, que fuera usted más explícito para poder tomar su punto.

**Inge NORDANG (Norway):** I appreciate your efforts, Mr Chairman, but I think the details of that high-level meeting will have to be decided on the evaluation of negotiation. We have made suggestions here that we want this to be a convention and in that case it is a different thing.

**Julio LUCINI CASALES (España):** La delegación española, Sr. Presidente, quiere hacer patente su felicitación a la Secretaría de la FAO por la presentación del informe de la Reunión Extraordinaria de la Comisión de Recursos Fitogenéticos que tuvo lugar en Roma los pasados días 7 al 11 de noviembre.

Con relación a la misma, nuestro país considera que la primera reunión negociadora para la revisión del Compromiso Internacional de Recursos Fitogenéticos está en línea con el Convenio de Diversidad Biológica.

Con respecto a la revisión del Compromiso, la delegación española quiere hacer algunas observaciones que consideramos de interés en dicha revisión.

Primera. En primer lugar, éste es un proceso importante y necesario para fortalecer el sector agrícola bis-à-bis con sectores más conservacionistas.

Segunda. Qué duda cabe que este proceso incluye aspectos esenciales no cubiertos por el Convenio de Diversidad Biológica, tales como:

- a) el acceso a las colecciones existentes *ex-situ*;
- b) y la puesta en práctica de los derechos del agricultor.

Tercera. Para nuestra delegación el Compromiso revisado debería ser vinculante y posiblemente cabría considerarlo un protocolo del convenio de Diversidad Biológica.

Cuarta. Para llevar a cabo este proceso en línea con las recomendaciones de la Conferencia de la FAO y de la Comisión de Recursos Fitogenéticos, la delegación española, cree que se necesitan reuniones negociadoras Extraordinarias y Regulares ampliadas, lo que conllevará aportaciones financieras para su ejecución, tanto para la realización de las reuniones, como para el fortalecimiento del Secretariado.

A fin de no gravar económicamente a los países donantes, consideramos que estas aportaciones financieras deberían cubrirse mediante una redistribución del Programa Regular. Complementariamente es preciso asegurar con la aportación de fondos extra-presupuestarios la participación de los países en vías de desarrollo en todas las negociaciones que tengan lugar.

Por otra parte, y refiriéndonos a otro tema, la Cuarta Conferencia Técnica Internacional sobre Recursos Fitogenéticos es para España un elemento básico en sus prioridades, y en consecuencia, apoya la preparación del Primer Informe sobre el Estado Mundial de los Recursos Fitogenéticos y del Primer Plan de Acción Global sobre los mismos, para su presentación en la Conferencia Técnica Internacional que tendrá lugar en Leipzig para su aprobación. Consideramos que se trata de instrumentos esenciales para la realización del Programa 21 del PNUMA y para hacer más eficiente el sistema global de la FAO sobre Recursos Fitogenéticos.

Nuestro país, consciente de la importancia que tienen los recursos fitogenéticos para el futuro de la humanidad, y siendo a la vez uno de los países con mayor variedad en los mismos, dado que alberga tres diferentes regiones bio-geográficas florísticas, con un total de especies de flora micologica en torno a las 15 000, unas 8 500 especies de flora y entre 50 y 60 000 especies de fauna, ha comprometido 100 000 dólares USA para sufragar parte de los gastos de la futura Conferencia Técnica Internacional sobre Recursos Fitogenéticos que tendrá lugar en Alemania en 1996.

**Marco Antonio DINIZ BRANDÃO (Brazil):** My delegation would like first to thank Mr de Haen for his very comprehensive report. My delegation would also like first to make some very brief comments on the text of the report of the Commission on Plant Genetic Resources as presented to us in document CL 107/8. Our first comment refers to the title inserted between paragraphs 15 and 16, which relates to the preparatory process for the Technical Conference on Plant Genetic Resources. It is my delegation's clear recollection that it was decided in the Commission that in this report and other official documents that the conference should be mentioned by its proper and official title, which is the Fourth International Conference for Conservation and Sustainable Use of Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture. This is not just a formal observation since the title of the conference gives political guidance to its results and to its proceedings.

The other observation we have refers to paragraph 26. My delegation cannot recall having seen the word "clear" in the first line discussed or decided upon in the report of the Conference. As a matter of fact, our record shows that paragraph 26 should read "the link between the preparations for the 1996 International Technical Conference" without the word "clear". We really are very confused about that.

Our third observation will refer to paragraph 28. There it seems to be a very clear error in the last phrase where we refer to a regular contact with the Conference of the parties to the Conference. We think it should be "regular contact with the Conference of the parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity".

Brazil attaches enormous importance to the matter of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture and has always fully participated in the work of the Commission on Plant Genetic Resources. In this field FAO has already accomplished an important task, and its role for the future in this area must be strengthened. Care must be taken, however, not to duplicate efforts or to interfere with the Mandate of other fora. The Rio Conference opened new fields for multilateral activities on plant genetic resources and has already disciplined and dealt with many of the aspects in this field. In this new framework, the Convention on Biological Diversity, which deals with all genetic resources including plant genetic resources, is the result of a lengthy negotiation process and is a balanced text with many important concepts that must be respected as previously indicated by the distinguished delegations of Venezuela and Malaysia.

The work of the Commission on Plant Genetic Resources must follow strictly the terms of the results already achieved under the umbrella of UNCED and the Convention on Biological Diversity, which is a legally-binding agreement. We must not modify what has already been agreed, and we have to abide by the agreed texts in order to implement the decisions taken and preserve a spirit of collaboration that has already proven very fruitful.

The revision of the International Undertaking on Plant Genetic Resources should be carried out strictly in line with the provisions, concepts and objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity. It must be a cautious and precise exercise, and it should not be hastened by considerations of a purely temporal dimension. The process of revision of the undertaking should not have a time limit and therefore should not be linked with the preparations for the International Technical Conference. The legal and constitutional status of the revised undertaking should be examined only in stage 3 after we can see the results of the revision process and verify the appropriate harmonization with the Convention. The objectives of the undertaking should not be expanded in the process and should continue to target plant genetic resources for food and sustainable agriculture. The process of harmonizing the undertaking with the convention has no relation with the discussion on broadening the mandate of the Commission.

Attention must be given to the terms of Resolution 7/93 of FAO, which is supposed to be a mere follow-up of Resolution 3 of Nairobi. Resolution 3 of Nairobi refers only to the question of access to ex situ actions not acquired in concordance with the Convention, while Resolution 7/93 mentions the consideration of the issue of access through plant genetic resources. In general, the application of Resolution 7/93 should be done consistently with the Convention on Biological Diversity and must not in any way go against the spirit and the provisions of that Convention. In fact, the Commission cannot go beyond the mandate given by Resolution 3 of Nairobi and should not try to interpret or redefine the concepts and provisions of the Convention on Biological Diversity.

In order to facilitate our future discussions in the CPRG, we suggest that together with the report given by FAO, the Conference of parties on the implementation of Resolution 3 of Nairobi, this Council requests clarification of the mandate given by Resolution 3 of Nairobi and by the Conference of parties for the negotiations currently being conducted in FAO in the context of the revision of the international undertaking on plant genetic resources.

Brazil supports the decision taken by the Commission in regard to the date and length of its next session and of the working group as set out in paragraphs 52 and 54 of the report. The Council should endorse these decisions which were taken by consensus and were the results of extensive negotiations between all interested parties. Brazil fully supports the Fourth Technical Conference and the work of FAO in preparation for that important conference. We strongly recommend that FAO continue to encourage the full participation of developing countries in the preparation of this conference, which is a unique opportunity for developing countries to influence the nature and direction of the global plan of action. My delegation does not consider it appropriate at this stage to consider any change in the format of this conference and cannot support any suggestion that a high level conference be attached to it.

The documents to be examined by the conference, the State of the World Plant Genetic Resources and the Global Plan of Action on Plant Genetic Resources, should not include forestry genetic resources since forestry genetic resources must be examined in conjunction with the situation of forests: conservation, management, deforestation, trade, sustainable use, and not separately. Besides, the CPGR should not deal with forestry genetic resources, which are presently under the mandate of the Committee of Forestry.

Finally, I would like to make reference to the Latin American Conference on Biological Diversity held in Lima, Peru on 7 and 8 November, 1994. I would like to read in the original language some of the relevant parts of the conclusions and recommendations of that conference, which was attended by representatives from Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Costa Rica, Cuba, Chile, El Salvador, Ecuador, Honduras, Mexico, Peru, Dominican Republic, Uruguay and Venezuela. I will switch to Spanish to read some of the paragraphs of this conference.

(continúa en español) Los países de América Latina y el Caribe participantes en la Conferencia Latinoamericana sobre Diversidad Biológica, subsiguientemente llamados los países, consideran que el Convenio sobre Diversidad Biológica constituye el marco apropiado para promover la cooperación regional e internacional en materia de diversidad biológica. El Convenio incorpora un conjunto de derechos y obligaciones que no deben ser objeto de interpretaciones, tendentes a la modificación del contenido y alcance de las mismas. Al respecto, los países manifiestan preocupación ante la existencia de entendimientos bilaterales y multilaterales, particularmente en materia de acceso a los recursos genéticos, en contra de lo dispuesto en el Convenio.

Adicionalmente, los países consideran que es necesario desarrollar en cada país normas que regulen el acceso a sus recursos genéticos.

Los países enfatizan la importancia de los temas abordados en la segunda reunión del Comité Intergubernamental, celebrada en Nairobi, en particular aquellos aspectos de la conservación de la diversidad biológica y su uso sostenible relacionados con la bioseguridad, acceso a los recursos genéticos y al desarrollo y/o transferencias de tecnología, incluyendo la biotecnología.

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Tengo una duda, porque no pude anotar, correspondiente al nombre que usted quisiera que se registrara para la Conferencia. ¿Podría usted repetirlo, por favor?

**Marco Antonio DINIZ BRANDÃO (Brazil):** Yes, it is the official one, and I think it is the name that was previously presented to the Conference, and it is the Fourth International Conference for Conservation and Sustainable Use of Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture.

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Creo que omitió cuarta conferencia técnica o cuarta conferencia internacional.

**Marco António DINIZ BRANDÃO (Brazil):** You are quite right. There is "technical" in there.

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Muy bien, distinguido delegado del Brasil. No sé si el Dr. de Haen quiere hacer algún comentario al respecto.

**H. DE HAEN (Assistant Director-General, Agriculture Department):** The name used consistently in the report of the session of the Commission on Plant Genetic Resources is the name which is contained in the FAO Resolution 7/93, which was Fourth International Technical Conference on Plant Genetic Resources. The name to which the distinguished delegate to Brazil is referring was the one used in an earlier FAO report, and that is in the report of the 26th Session of FAO in 1991.

Now we have two. We preferred to take the younger version of the name. The older name, that used in the 1991 Report of the FAO Conference, which contains the words "conservation and utilization", is not fully consistent with the wording of the Convention on Biological Diversity, where the word "utilization" does not exist and where repeated reference is instead made to "sustainable use". In order to avoid such confusion we have consistently used the text and wording contained in later decisions of the FAO Conference, i.e., the text contained in Resolution 7/93, which is "Fourth International Technical Conference on Plant Genetic Resources".

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Pregunto al delegado del Brasil si está satisfecho.

**Marco Antonio DINIZ BRANDÃO (Brazil):** The name we have here, with "Technical" included, was provided by the Secretariat during the meetings of the Commission. It was pointed out that this was the official title, as I read it, of the Conference. Maybe in order to avoid confusion we should use the earlier version. It would be preferable to use an earlier version in order to avoid confusion with other plant genetic resources not connected with food and agriculture.

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Una vez más, para hacer un comentario aclaratorio, tiene la palabra el Dr. de Haen.

**H. DE HAEN (Assistant Director-General, Agriculture Department):** If it is the case that we provided the name which includes the words "conservation and utilization" in the last session of the Commission, I regret that. Maybe Legal Counsel can provide further explanation. As a matter of fact, the draft report which the Commission adopted contained a different and inconsistent use of the name. Subsequent to the Commission meeting we have reviewed the wording and have reviewed the archives. The conclusion was, first of all, that one name must be used throughout the documents and that it made more sense to use the name contained in FAO Resolution 7/93 because that gives the mandate to hold this conference and was also formulated at a time when the text of the Convention on Biological Diversity was available, which was not the case in 1991. However, if the Council now wishes to use the name as proposed by Brazil, we are in your hands.

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Espero hayan tomado nota. Podríamos referirnos a esto más adelante en nuestros trabajos. Si la distinguida delegación de Brasil no tiene ningún comentario que hacer, le voy a otorgar la palabra a la distinguida delegación de Japón.

**Akihiko UDOGUCHI (Japan):** I should like to comment briefly on Item 9.1. My delegation appreciates the efforts made by the Secretariat of FAO and the FAO Commission on Plant Genetic Resources and by participating member countries of that Commission in the intense discussions of the last extraordinary session of the Commission immediately preceding this Council meeting. We welcome the Commission's continued discussion by ensuring a two-week period in the forthcoming June session in order to have full consideration of this important issue.

**Alan AMEY (Canada):** Like Germany and Cyprus, the Canadian delegation would like to thank Dr de Haen for presenting the report of the extraordinary session of the Commission on Plant Genetic Resources. We are pleased to endorse the report and, as the United States and other delegations have mentioned, we recognize that, although significant time was allocated to the renegotiation of the International Undertaking, much remains to be done.

As the delegations from the Nordic Group and Spain have stated, we agree that this instrument, once negotiated, should become a protocol to the Convention on Biodiversity. We concur with the conclusions expressed by the Commission in paragraph 21 of its report concerning its role in respect to the Fourth Technical Conference. We firmly believe that the CPGR must be an authoritative voice in the preparation leading up to the Fourth International Technical Conference.

We appreciate the plans of the Government of Germany to host the Fourth International Technical Conference in Leipzig, Germany, in June of 1996. As far as funding arrangements are concerned, we would hope that all countries here present and even FAO from its Regular Programme resources will contribute to filling the financial gap identified.

In order for the International Undertaking on Plant Genetic Resources to be revised in a timely fashion, there will have to be sufficient attention devoted to the next meeting of the CPGR on the FAO calendar of events to complete those vital negotiations. We support the report's recommendation that at least three days will be

devoted to another meeting of the Working Group and two full weeks to the next CPGR session itself in 1995.

We would like to join with the CPGR in welcoming the signature of the agreement between the CGIAR centres and FAO on the trusteeship of plant genetic resources in *ex situ* collections. We would underline the policy role of the CPGR as indicated in paragraph 44 of the report.

As far as working arrangements are concerned, we welcome the close collaboration between FAO and the Interim Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity. We believe it important that FAO participate in the Secretariat of the CBD. We would urge the FAO Secretariat to be flexible in its negotiations of the applicable arrangements aimed at effecting such cooperation.

Canada has been pleased to provide funding for Third World delegates, thereby tangibly demonstrating our support. We were also pleased to provide the Chairman of the meeting, Dr. Brad Fraleigh. We hope future meetings would conclude the negotiations according to the schedule established.

**Mme Maria de Lourdes MARTIN DUARTE (Cap-Vert):** Monsieur le Président, nos remerciements, félicitations et encouragements s'adressent tout d'abord au Secrétariat des ressources phytogénétiques. Ensuite, nous aimerions féliciter M. de Haen pour la présentation de point ainsi que le Bureau de la session extraordinaire et le Rapporteur pour avoir su guider avec talent nos travaux.

La session extraordinaire de la Commission des ressources phytogénétiques dont nous fait part le document CL 107/8 a permis aux gouvernements d'initier la série de négociations, tel que prévu par la Résolution 7/93 de la Conférence, pour réviser l'Engagement international. A cet égard, nous remercions la FAO pour la réallocation de crédits du budget ordinaire ainsi que le Canada pour sa contribution à la participation des pays en développement.

Notre délégation appuie le rapport de la Commission et notre intervention ne comprendra donc que quelques observations d'ordre général. Malgré la priorité accordée au point de l'ordre du jour relatif à la révision de l'Engagement, le temps s'est avéré trop court et l'examen de ce point par la Commission s'est pratiquement limité au stade I, le Secrétariat ayant été chargé de présenter un nouveau texte pour faciliter les négociations lors des sessions ultérieures.

La révision de l'Engagement et la préparation du plan d'action mondial - qui met l'accent sur l'utilisation durable des ressources phytogénétiques et dont les directives ont déjà été envoyées aux pays pour les aider à préparer les rapports nationaux et pour guider les discussions au niveau régional - s'encadrent dans les préparatifs de la Conférence technique internationale sur les ressources phytogénétiques qui aura lieu en Allemagne en 1996; et le paragraphe 23 nous montre que, dans le cadre du processus préparatoire, il existe un déficit financier de l'ordre d'un million de dollars des Etats-Unis. Par ailleurs, le temps presse, même si la Commission estime que la révision doit être conduite avec soin.

Nous appuyons les paragraphes 55 et 56 visant à poursuivre les négociations et à assurer la participation des scientifiques et décideurs des pays en développement tout au long du processus de négociation ainsi qu'une participation au plus haut niveau à la Conférence technique internationale.

Nous aimerions aussi vous faire part de notre accord pour que la Conférence des parties à la Convention sur la diversité biologique soit informée du rapport à l'examen et du document sur la phase II de la révision de l'Engagement, tel que proposé par la Commission.

**Ricardo VELAZQUEZ HUERTA (México):** Aunamos nuestra voz a otras delegaciones para felicitar calurosamente a la Secretaría. Gracias al Dr. de Haen y a Don José Esquinas Alcázar por un trabajo extraordinariamente hecho.

En este mismo foro hemos expresado con anterioridad la necesidad de que la Secretaría se fortalezca, tanto en términos de recursos humanos como de recursos financieros, y queremos reiterarlo de nuevo.



El documento de informe, a nuestro juicio, no tiene desperdicio y aprobamos sin reserva sus 58 párrafos.

Sin embargo, haremos algunas observaciones generales. Entendemos con claridad que estamos inmersos en un proceso delicado que requiere de todo el conocimiento de nuestros expertos y de la voluntad política de nuestros gobiernos. El camino andado hasta ahora en la primera fase, a juicio de nuestra delegación, es correcto. No abundaremos en detalles porque ya los hemos expresado en los foros correspondientes en que hemos participado.

La segunda fase debe prepararse con mucho cuidado, puesto que su temática involucra conceptos nacionales fundamentales de orden social y de orden político que deben protegerse, salvaguardarse. En este sentido, México ya ha iniciado un proceso para recoger y proteger los derechos del agricultor. Del documento en cuestión, sólo destacaremos dos asuntos: el primero, es el relativo a los párrafos 45 al 51, que se refieren a la posible ampliación de las facultades de la Comisión. En este sentido, hacemos nuestro exactamente lo que dicen los párrafos 48 y 51. Creemos que, aunque haya asuntos de carácter general que pueden aplicarse a todo el ámbito de las cuestiones genéticas, en primer lugar debemos dedicarnos a los recursos fitogenéticos, que es la competencia de nuestra Comisión. En segundo lugar, analizar con muchísimo detalle cualquier otro asunto que debamos acometer porque cada uno tiene su especificidad, su especialidad, los cuales tenemos que considerar antes de tomar decisiones a la ligera.

En segundo lugar, el segundo punto es el que se refiere al financiamiento. Esta es también una cuestión que siempre ha sido delicada en el seno de la FAO: cómo obtener los recursos suficientes para atender los asuntos de competencia de nuestra Organización. Siempre hemos sido de la opinión de que en este sentido, independientemente de los recursos que la FAO pone, debemos hacer un esfuerzo mayor para conseguir recursos adicionales que no afecten de manera grave el Programa Ordinario de nuestra Institución.

Finalmente, deseamos reiterar nuestra decisión de continuar el esfuerzo en este tema, que es de enorme interés para nuestro país.

**Tri WBBOWO (Indonesia):** Since Indonesia is one of the Commission's members and actively participated in all the work of the Commission, including the First Extraordinary Session held here in Rome between 7th and 11th November 1994, the Indonesian delegation to this Council Session welcomes and endorses the report of the Commission contained in document CL 107/8.

In responding to para. 48 of the document before us, my delegation would like to request the Secretariat to study in depth all questions presented in para. 48 and to submit its report to the next Council Session for consideration and decision.

My delegation is in support of para. 52 of CL 107/8, especially on the point that the regular session of the Working Group should be held two months beforehand, especially to discuss farmers' rights.

My delegation would also like to join previous speakers on this agenda item, especially in supporting and endorsing the participation of FAO in the Secretariat of the Conventions on biological diversity.

My delegation would also like to join other members of this Council in congratulating the Secretariat for an excellent preparation of the documentation and for its excellent introduction.

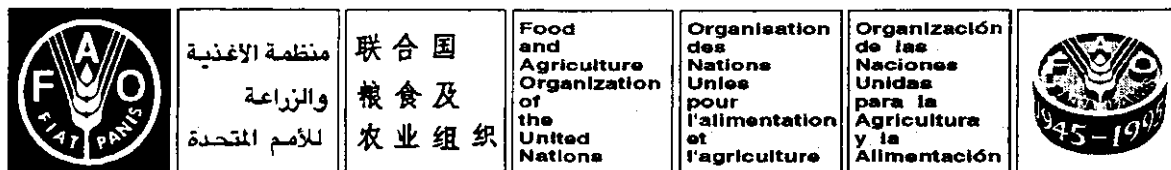
**The meeting rose at 12:30 hours.**

**La séance est levée à 12 h 30.**

**Se levanta la sesión a las 12.30 horas.**



22 November 1994



COUNCIL

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Hundred and Seventh Session • Cent septième session • 107º período de sesiones

TWELFTH PLENARY MEETING  
DOUZIEME SEANCE PLENIERE  
12ª SESION PLENARIA

22 November 1994

The Twelfth Plenary Meeting was opened at 14.45 hours  
Mr José Ramón López Portillo,  
Independent Chairman of the Council, presiding

La douzième séance plénière est ouverte à 14 h 45  
sous la présidence de M. José Ramón López Portillo,  
Président indépendant du Conseil

Se abre la 12ª sesión plenaria a las 14.45 horas  
bajo la presidencia del Sr. José Ramón López Portillo,  
Presidente Independiente del Consejo

**ACTIVITES OF FAO AND WFP (continued)****ACTIVITES DE LA FAO ET DU PAM (suite)****ACTIVIDADES DE LA FAO Y EL PMA (continuación)****9. Commission on Plant Genetic Resources (continued)****9 Commission des ressources phytogénétiques (suite)****9. Comisión de Recursos Fitogenéticos (continuación)****9.1 Report of the Extraordinary Session of the Commission on Plant Genetic Resources (Rome, 7-11 November 1994) (continued)****9.1 Rapport de la session extraordinaire de la Commission des ressources phytogénétiques (Rome, 7-11 novembre 1994) (suite)****9.1 Informe de la reunion extraordinaria de la Comisión de Recursos Fitogenéticos (7-11 de noviembre de 1994) (continuación)**

**Mme Régine DE CLERCQ (Belgique):** La Belgique se retrouve entièrement dans la déclaration faite par le Président de l'Union européenne et se félicite du rapport de la session extraordinaire de la Commission des ressources phytogénétiques.

Nous remercions la FAO et son Secrétariat de la bonne préparation des délibérations de cette Commission, et plus particulièrement M. de Haen pour la présentation de son rapport. Celui-ci est bien sûr le reflet des discussions de la Commission qui a examiné, sur plusieurs questions, les différentes alternatives, sans arriver nécessairement à des recommandations fermes. Il nous semble qu'il appartient à la Commission d'approfondir rapidement ces différents sujets.

Nous ne croyons pas pour autant qu'il est du ressort du Conseil de reprendre tous les arguments qui ont déjà été avancés devant la Commission.

Au cours des travaux de la Commission, nous avons pu observer que le processus de "distillation" des positions est extrêmement lent, et ce n'est sans doute pas étonnant parce que la matière est complexe et que les intérêts économiques des différents Etats Membres ne sont pas toujours nécessairement convergents, ce qui rend, bien sûr, les compromis difficiles à trouver.

Néanmoins, je voudrais faire une brève remarque sur le déroulement des travaux futurs de la Commission. Il semble à la Belgique qu'il sera impossible de commencer la rédaction d'un texte de l'Engagement révisé aussi longtemps que les questions clés n'ont pas été débattues et résolues. Or, ces questions clés, que nous avons identifiées, sont l'accès aux ressources et le droit des agriculteurs. Sur ces deux questions toutes les dispositions restent encore à établir, et nous savons que les positions ne sont pas nécessairement les mêmes et, par conséquent, les compromis ne seront pas faciles à trouver. De ce fait, il est très important que la Commission continue son travail de façon expéditive et efficace, et, ainsi que d'autres l'ont dit, sans perdre trop de temps à des questions procédurales.

Sans doute faut-il aussi dans cette ligne de pensée, examiner comment les délibérations du Groupe de travail peuvent être mises à profit de façon plus optimale par la Commission. Il nous semble qu'il y a un peu trop de duplication des efforts.

Enfin, en ce qui concerne le soutien financier à cette activité, la Belgique qui attache la plus grande importance à ce dossier, examine activement la possibilité d'un soutien financier aux activités futures de la Commission du Groupe de travail de la Conférence. Je peux vous dire, Monsieur le Président, qu'il n'est pas toujours aisé, dans une période de restrictions budgétaires - restrictions qui obligent nos propres instituts en matière phytogénétique, à utiliser toute leur imagination pour pouvoir maintenir leurs propres activités - de trouver des fonds, mais nous essaierons de faire un effort.

**TANG ZHENGPING (China) (Original language Chinese):** First of all, I would like to thank Dr de Haen for his comprehensive introduction to this Agenda item. The Chinese delegation would like to make the following remarks on the revision of the Undertaking and the International Technical Conference on Plant

Genetic Resources which is to be held in 1996. As Dr de Haen rightly pointed out, the revision of the Undertaking is a process of several stages. In this process, we shall first try to harmonize the Undertaking with the Convention on Biological Diversity; then discuss how to realize the farmers' rights and have access to execute genetic resources; stage 3 is to decide on the legal status of the Undertaking. The Chinese delegation supports the efforts made by the Secretariat to find actual budgetary resources in order to support the developing countries.

As for the duration of the Commission's session, considering the importance and complexity of revising the Undertaking the Chinese delegation is in favour of extending the session to two weeks next year.

With regard to farmers' rights, the Chinese delegation supports the intervention made by the Malaysian delegation that consideration be given to realizing farmers' rights as soon as possible.

Concerning the International Technical Conference on Plant Genetic Resources, which is to be held in 1996, the Chinese delegation appreciates the FAO Secretariat's efforts in preparing for the Conference and would like to thank the German Government for having offered to host this Conference.

As our contribution to and support of the Conference, the Chinese Government will host the Sub-Regional Preparatory Meeting in Beijing next year.

Finally, the Chinese delegation endorses the report of the Extraordinary Session of the Commission on Plant Genetic Resources.

**Srta. María Cristina FERRARI (Argentina):** Con relación al punto 9.1 de la Agenda, la delegación argentina desea manifestar, en aras a la brevedad, unas pocas consideraciones. Aprobamos el calendario de la FAO para la realización de reuniones ordinarias y extraordinarias de la Comisión de Recursos Fitogenéticos y apoyamos la decisión de realizar reuniones de dos semanas de duración para el debate de estos temas en el seno de la Comisión. La delegación argentina insta a la Secretaría de la FAO y a los países donantes a tratar de conseguir el máximo de recursos posibles a fin de que la mayoría de los países en desarrollo puedan participar de los debates y negociaciones en la Comisión de Recursos Fitogenéticos, ya que estimamos que su participación es decisiva para adoptar posiciones de consenso. En este sentido entendemos que aún no se ha avanzado mucho en las negociaciones y que se debe seguir trabajando a fin de que, en la incorporación del texto del compromiso al convenio, se puedan conseguir posiciones que concilien los intereses de los países en desarrollo y de los países desarrollados en los dos temas no contemplados por el convenio sobre biodiversidad, cuales son el acceso a los recursos fitogenéticos y los derechos del agricultor.

Finalmente, apoyamos la iniciativa de la Secretaría sobre el ofrecimiento de la FAO de participar en la Secretaría conjunta de convenios sobre biodiversidad, y, como dijo la distinguida representación de Estados Unidos, a fin de que los intereses de los países agrícolas -y nos permitimos agregar "de los países desarrollados y en desarrollo"- puedan estar allí representados.

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Pregunto si hay algún otro miembro del Consejo que desea hacer uso de la palabra sobre este tema, antes de otorgar la palabra a los observadores.

**Srta. Gabriella VASSALLO CONSOLI (Perú):** Muchas gracias, señor Presidente. La delegación del Perú hace suyas las declaraciones formuladas por las delegaciones de Brasil, Venezuela y Malasia. Fue mi país el que hospedó la Conferencia Latinoamericana sobre Diversidad Biológica, cuyas conclusiones y recomendaciones ya han sido destacadas en esta sala. Una copia del documento, en sus versiones en inglés y español, ha sido puesta a disposición del *Document Desk* para los países interesados.

**Moussa Bocar LY (Sénegal):** Je voudrais tout d'abord féliciter M. de Haen pour son introduction claire et détaillée de ce point. Nous nous permettrons d'insister sur une question: plusieurs délégations ont eu à proposer que l'Engagement international révisé puisse être un protocole à annexer à la Convention sur la diversité biologique. Or, vous le savez, la Convention sur la diversité biologique a été une entreprise de

longue haleine et un processus universel qui a été légitimé à partir de Rio. Si l'on veut que le protocole puisse avoir le même statut, et la même légitimation et universalité, force est de reconnaître que les pays en voie de développement doivent pouvoir participer concrètement aux négociations dès le départ de ce processus très complexe, comme l'ont dit plusieurs délégations. Or, en prenant simplement la liste des délégations présentes à cette dernière session de la Commission, on se rend compte que la plupart des pays en voie de développement ont été représentés par leurs ambassade et mission permanente ici à Rome.

Nous voudrions donc souligner l'importance qu'il y a à faire en sorte que les pays en voie de développement puissent participer concrètement à ces négociations car sinon, ce processus ne sera pas légitimé et il me semble donc difficile d'en faire un protocole à la Convention sur la diversité biologique, si tant est qu'il n'y aura pas de consensus au plan international. Cela nous permet de reprendre ce qu'avait dit le représentant du Cap-Vert pour remercier la délégation du Canada de son offre généreuse et nous voudrions inviter les autres pays, pour autant qu'ils y tiennent, à la réalisation de ce noble objectif et à également emboîter le pas à ce pays.

Nous voyons une certaine contradiction dans le souci pour plusieurs délégations de mettre l'accent sur le fait de l'urgence de la négociation de cet Engagement révisé et sur le fait de dire d'autre part que les coûts financiers doivent être pris au niveau du Programme du budget ordinaire. Or, quand il s'agit de financer la participation des pays en voie de développement à ce processus, on nous dit qu'il faut s'en remettre aux sources extrabudgétaires. Nous croyons que le Conseil en tant qu'organe politique se doit de se pencher concrètement sur cette question. Nous voudrions également inviter le Secrétariat de la FAO à nous dire comment il entend faire du paragraphe 56 du rapport de la Commission, un cadre opérationnel. A ma connaissance, en tout état de cause, je crois qu'il n'y a eu qu'une seule délégation qui ait vu la participation financée d'un expert d'un pays en voie de développement. Je crois que le Secrétariat pourrait être plus agressif sur ce plan.

Voilà donc l'aspect sur lequel ma délégation voudrait insister pour que le processus, jusqu'à la fin - nous ne savons pas si ce sera la Conférence technique internationale de Leipzig ou si ce ne sera qu'une étape intermédiaire - soit un processus de légitimation et d'universalisation comme l'a été celui de la Convention sur la diversité biologique à laquelle les pays en voie de développement ont participé.

**EL PRESEDENTE:** ¿Hay alguna otra delegación u observador que desee hacer uso de la palabra? (DENEGACIONES). Doy la palabra al Dr. de Haen para que responda a las preguntas y comentarios.

**H. DE HAEN (Assistant Director-General, Agriculture Department):** I would like to begin with the expression of thanks and appreciation for the very broad support which all those who made interventions expressed for the progress made so far and for the work of the Commission in its session last week. I do not think that there were many specific questions to which I have to reply, but I would like to make some comments which I hope will accommodate those who have expressed some concerns or comments. We noted the request by many to hold sufficiently long sessions of the Commission, and that means a two-week session of the Commission in June 1995 and a three day session of the Working Group. As I said in my introduction, we will convey this request to the Director-General in order to consider the necessary reallocation of regular programme budget to make this possible. The representative of the Nordic countries, the delegate of Norway, even mentioned the possible need for three additional sessions, whereas so far only two are foreseen. One is this two-week session in June 1995, and another is an extraordinary session foreseen for the first part of 1996. If a need arises for a third session, then of course the Commission will have to consider this, depending on its progress in June. We will of course be reacting to such requests.

I also noted the request to the Secretariat to approach donors in order to ensure sufficient funding for the participation of delegates from developing countries who request assistance for their participation. I think it was made very clear that such broad participation would be a precondition for the legitimization of the whole negotiation process. May I clarify on this occasion that the participants whose travel was financially supported with the help of Canada were more than one. There were six or seven. That is, all those who requested assistance for the last session of the Commission were able to be assisted through the donations from Canada. It was not only one delegate who was supported.

As to the point raised by the distinguished delegate of Brazil and others with regard to the mandate given to FAO, on the one hand, in Resolution 3 of the Nairobi Final Act to the Convention on Biological Diversity, and on the other hand, through the FAO Resolution 7/93, and the remark that there needs to be a clear interpretation of these mandates, I have agreed with the Legal Counsel, Mr. Moore, that he would give some additional explanations on that issue. We have noted the interest by several if not many delegations towards ensuring that particular efforts are made to interpret well the central issues which the negotiations will have to tackle - that is farmers' rights and access to plant genetic resources for food and agriculture, and that all this should be in line and in full harmony with the convention on biological diversity. May I on this occasion just refer to some of the documents which were submitted to the Commission on Plant Genetic Resources but which the Commission did not yet have time to study and consider and debate in detail. I am referring to the report CPGR 94/5 which gives the institutional arrangements and the progress so far in interpreting these terms both by the interpretation in the Convention on Biological Diversity as well as by governing bodies of FAO, as well as CPGR 94/5-Sup. which is a document which contains the state of the debate in scientific circles, in academic circles, on central issues dealing with the evaluation of genetic resources, the evaluation of bio-diversity and questions of access and farmers' rights and property rights in general. So I am mentioning these documents in order to underline that the Secretariat has made an effort to provide the Commission with sufficient scientific background to facilitate the negotiations in the next round.

We have also noted that several delegates had expressed the wish to strengthen both the Secretariats of the Commission as well as of the international programme for the preparation of the Technical Conference. I would like to say that we are gradually working towards strengthening, and in both cases there is at least a visible, maybe not satisfactory, but a visible strengthening of the capacity of these two groups. But on the other hand, I would like to underline that both Secretariats are supported, I might say, by the whole House, by the Division for Plant Production and Plant Protection, by the Legal Office and others, by the Forestry Department, and we will see to it that this collaboration is continuing to be fully operational.

Finally, may I say that we regret if there were any errors in the transformation of the draft report as endorsed by the Commission into the document which contains the report of the Commission. We will study both the draft which went to the Commission as well as the rapporteurs, interventions and the outcome of the debate in the Plenary of the last session of the Commission. This is in particular in reply to the queries raised by the distinguished delegate of Brazil to ensure that any remaining errors are detected.

There is one last remark still concerning the name of the International Technical Conference, and on that also Mr. Moore has agreed to make a further declaration in this regard. So for my comments I wish to thank you again. I also thank those countries and delegations which have today expressed their readiness to support financially the processes in which we are involved. The only wish I would like to express is that those who pledge support would indicate clearly for which of the various processes they are pledging - that is, on the one hand, the negotiation of the International Undertaking where the pledging then is for the participating of participants from developing countries on the one hand and/or for the preparation of the International Technical Conference, where again two different requests are still made. One is the support of the Secretariat and the programme *per se*, and the other is the support of the participants to participate in the final event, that is the Technical Conference itself. So for my replies, I hope I have covered most if not all of your questions and comments.

**LEGAL COUNSEL:** I have been asked to comment on two points. One, the name of the Technical Conference, and secondly, the difference between the wording of Resolution 7/93 of FAO Conference and Resolution 3 of the Nairobi Conference for the adoption of the Convention on Biological Diversity. Turning first to the name of the Technical Conference, I think the difficulty arises, as has been mentioned by Dr. De Haen previously, out of the different names which have been given to this Conference by the FAO Conference. First of all, at its session in November 1991, the FAO Conference used the wording "Fourth International Technical Conference for the Conservation and Utilization of Plant Genetic Resources". This is in paragraph 113 of the Conference report. Subsequently, there was the Convention on Biological Diversity, and it was felt that the wording "Utilization of Plant Genetic Resources" was perhaps inappropriate in that the Convention on Biological Diversity had used the words "Sustainable Use of Plant Genetic Resources".

Consequently, at the 1993 session of the FAO Conference, the name was changed to "Fourth International Technical Conference on Plant Genetic Resources" and the words "conservation and utilization" were dropped

out. It is not possible at this time to change the name which has been given to the conference by the FAO Conference because the Council is a subsidiary body to the FAO Conference. The most that can be done is for the Council, should it feel it appropriate, to suggest another change in name to the next session of the Conference. However, I would point out that this delay in fixing the name would cause a few practical difficulties since we are now in the process of arranging the conference. The other possibility is for the Council to say that when we use the words "Fourth International Technical Conference on Plant Genetic Resources" this should cover both the conservation and sustainable use of those plant genetic resources for food and agriculture. However, the title itself, as adopted by the Conference, is binding on the subsidiary bodies of the Conference.

Turning now to the question of the wording of Resolution 7/93 of the FAO Conference and Resolution 3 of the Nairobi Conference for the adoption of the Convention on Biological Diversity in so far as they affect the mandate given to FAO. In general, Resolution 7/93 of the FAO Conference is somewhat broader. That resolution in its operative paragraph 1 states as follows: "Conference requests the Director-General to provide a forum for negotiations among governments for the adaptation of the International Undertaking on Plant Genetic Resources in harmony with the Convention on Biological Diversity for consideration of the issue of access on mutually agreed terms to plant genetic resources, including *ex situ* collections not addressed by the Convention, as well as the issue of realization of farmers' rights."

In this connection I would like to stress that the mandate given to FAO includes, in general, the consideration of the issue of access on mutually agreed terms to plant genetic resources and is not restricted to the issue of the status of *ex situ* collections not addressed by the Convention. This wording is clear. It uses the word "including" and the wording was negotiated carefully during the last session of the Conference.

Resolution 3 of the Nairobi Conference, on the other hand, in its fourth operative paragraph, uses the following words: "Further recognizes the need to seek solutions to outstanding matters concerning plant genetic resources within the global system for the conservation and sustainable use of plant genetic resources for food and sustainable agriculture, in particular (a) access to *ex situ* collections not acquired in accordance with this Convention, and (b) the question of farmers' rights."

While these words are undoubtedly narrower than those used by the FAO Conference resolution, I should point out that paragraph 4 of the Nairobi Resolution also used the words "in particular" when referring to the issues of access to *ex situ* collections not acquired in accordance with the Convention and farmers' rights, as being only examples of outstanding matters. And it has been pointed out in the Commission at its extraordinary session that paragraph 4 is only one of four operative paragraphs and that paragraph 2 of Nairobi Resolution 3 is couched in broader terms and gives a wider mandate. That paragraph reads as follows: "Urges that ways and means should be explored to develop complementarity and cooperation between the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Global System for the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Sustainable Agriculture."

While there is undoubtedly a difference in the scope of the FAO Conference resolution and that of the Nairobi Conference, I should point out that we, the Commission on Plant Genetic Resources and indeed the Council are working within the framework of FAO and for the purposes of defining the scope of the work of the Organization the mandate conferred by the Conference, as the supreme governing body of FAO, is binding.

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Muchas gracias Dr. Moore, muchas gracias también al Dr. de Haen. Han escuchado ustedes sus aclaraciones y respuestas.

**Marco Antonio DINIZ BRANDÃO (Brazil):** My delegation would like to thank Mr. de Haen for his very good explanation on this issue and also Dr. Moore for his comments.

My delegation has one point to make which refers to both questions, the name of the Conference and the mandate that we have here in FAO. FAO has its mandate from the UNCED Conference and from Agenda 21. We have arrived at a situation which is no longer a legal situation but is a political situation. The best way to clarify things would be to go to the source of our mandate. This Council has the power to send the report of the Commission to the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity. We see no reason



why we should not try to clarify the question of the mandate with the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity which is to be held very soon. I think that will be an invaluable opportunity for us to have a clarification and to have some kind of input that will facilitate matters and will give us a very good contribution for the continuation of our work.

As far as the name of the conference is concerned, I should like to quote Agenda 21 which gives FAO its mandate on the matter in chapter 14, paragraph 14.60, letter (e), which says: "Promote for 1994 the Fourth International Technical Conference on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, which is to adopt the first State of the World Report and the first Global Plan of Action on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture". That is the main source of our mandate and I think we have to stick to it, both with regard to the name of the conference and the question of the mandate.

If it is a question for the Conference to solve, so be it. Let us consult the Conference. If the Council cannot address itself directly to the Conference of Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, let us consult the Conference on both issues. My delegation still feels, however, that there is considerable confusion on those two issues and that they must be clarified. It will be most useful for the consideration of our work to have full clarification on those matters.

**LEGAL COUNSEL:** I am not sure there is much more I can say on this beyond saying that, as a lawyer, I feel that the mandate given for the work of FAO comes from the FAO Conference. Obviously the other events in the international fora are of great relevance to the work of FAO and are taken into account but I feel that, where it comes to a question, for example, of giving a mandate to the Director-General to facilitate negotiations, one has to give first ranking to the decisions of the FAO Conference.

It is interesting to note that there are so many titles for this International Conference and I hope that bodes well for its acceptance everywhere and participation in it. However, I think one must look to the FAO Conference for the recognized name of the conference.

**Marco Antonio DINIZ BRANDAO (Brazil):** My delegation is still confused. Sometimes - on forestry, for instance - we have our mandate directly from UNCED. Here it is said that we have our mandate from the Conference. I do not want to argue with the distinguished Legal Adviser of FAO, but I should like my delegation's position to be stated in full in the report of this Council.

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Sí, distinguido delegado, para empezar por el último punto, la posición de su delegación va a constar en actas.

En segundo lugar, yo creo que la interpretación del Asesor Legal es clara. Es la Conferencia de la FAO la que determina cual es el mandato que tiene la FAO en ese sentido y la Conferencia de la FAO, desde luego, tendrá que actuar conforme a su interpretación de la existencia de un mandato superior, pero es la Conferencia de la FAO la que debe determinarlo. Esa es quizás una interpretación de la Presidencia, pero creo que no podemos ir más allá de cuanto hemos esclarecido al respecto.

Quizás este punto deberá quedar abierto. Deberá darse alguna indicación en el Informe y podríamos esclarecerlo en una ocasión ulterior en el Consejo para que se lleve a la Conferencia.

Distinguidos delegados, si me permiten, voy a tratar de resumir nuestros trabajos. El Consejo felicitó a la Secretaría de la FAO por la excelente preparación y la calidad de los documentos que presentó a la Sesión Extraordinaria de la Comisión de Recursos Fitogenéticos y agradeció al Dr. de Haen por la amplia introducción que hizo en la presentación del Informe de dicha Sesión Extraordinaria de la Comisión.

El Consejo acogió con beneplácito el Informe de la Comisión y destacó, entre otros, los siguientes puntos en relación a la revisión del Compromiso Internacional de Recursos Fitogenéticos:

El Consejo destacó la importancia del proceso de revisión del compromiso en sus tres fases. En este sentido se expresó la necesidad de mantener reuniones negociadoras extraordinarias y también ordinarias, como habían sido propuestas por el Secretariado.

El Consejo acordó, además, que la próxima reunión de la Comisión sea de dos semanas precedidas por una reunión del grupo de trabajo dos meses antes. Esa reunión debería tener una duración de tres días.

Varias delegaciones consideraron que todas las próximas reuniones negociadoras de la Comisión deberían ser de dos semanas. Algunos propusieron inclusive una reunión extraordinaria adicional a las previstas.

Algunos delegados plantearon la conveniencia de que este proceso permita concluir, con el proyecto negociado del Compromiso Internacional de Recursos Fitogenéticos, con la finalidad de que esté terminado durante la celebración de la 4<sup>o</sup> Conferencia Internacional de Recursos Fitogenéticos.

Se destacó la importancia de que este proceso negociador del Compromiso Internacional permitirá darle mayor relevancia al sector agrícola en relación a otras actividades, vamos a llamarlas, conservacionistas.

Algunas delegaciones consideraron que el Compromiso revisado debería pasarse a la Conferencia para su consideración como un posible protocolo de la Convención de Biodiversidad.

Igualmente sugirieron que se establezca una oficina constituida por un Presidente y tres Vicepresidentes designados para todo el proceso negociador.

Algunas delegaciones manifestaron la importancia de hacer coincidir la Resolución 3 del Acta Final de Nairobi con la Resolución 7/93 de la Conferencia de la FAO que tiene un alcance mayor. Al pedirse esta clarificación se tomó nota de la interpretación del Asesor Legal en el sentido de que sería la Conferencia de la FAO la que debería esclarecer el problema del mandato de la FAO en este sentido.

Se destacó que será difícil redactar el texto final del Compromiso Internacional si antes no se han resuelto cuestiones claves en el debate y sus resultados. Principalmente se destacaron las cuestiones del acceso a los recursos fitogenéticos y el derecho de los agricultores.

En lo que se refiere al derecho de los agricultores, varias delegaciones se pronunciaron en el sentido de profundizar, basados en los acuerdos existentes, el contenido técnico y jurídico de dichos derechos.

Otras delegaciones consideraron que esto debería ser derecho de los agricultores y de las comunidades agrícolas, y estarían conferidos a los gobiernos nacionales, y que deberían implantarse a través de un sistema de compensación para los países de origen de la biodiversidad. Se dijo también que debería incluirse la protección a los conocimientos, información y tecnologías locales desarrolladas por los agricultores, así como mantener el llamado privilegio del agricultor, que les permite volver a sembrar las semillas obtenidas en sus campos.

Algunas delegaciones recordaron que el Consejo no debería sustituir a la Comisión de Recursos Fitogenéticos en sus actividades negociadoras. Adicionalmente en la revisión del Compromiso Internacional se insistió en reforzar los aspectos relacionados con el uso sostenible de los recursos fitogenéticos, la distribución justa y equitativa de los beneficios, la soberanía nacional, regulación de acceso de acuerdo con las legislaciones nacionales y con el consentimiento informado previo; conservación *in situ* y *ex situ*, asignación de nuevos y adicionales recursos financieros y transferencia y acceso a las nuevas tecnologías.

El Consejo, sin embargo, tomó nota de que el mandato de la FAO había emanado del máximo órgano rector que había aprobado unánimemente la Resolución 7/93 y manifestó su preocupación por el financiamiento de las reuniones ordinarias y extraordinarias de la Comisión.

El Consejo pidió que la Secretaría proporcionara, en la medida de sus posibilidades, los recursos necesarios del Programa Regular para realizar tales reuniones. Asimismo, el que se fortaleciera a la Secretaría de la Comisión para preparar tales reuniones.

El Consejo también instó al Director General a conseguir recursos extrapresupuestarios para asegurar la participación de los países en vías de desarrollo en dichas reuniones.

En lo relativo al proceso preparatorio de la 4ª Conferencia Técnica Internacional de Recursos Fitogenéticos, se hizo un llamado a todos los países y entidades involucradas, a fin de que en la medida de sus posibilidades, movilicen recursos extrapresupuestarios adicionales en apoyo de dicho esfuerzo preparatorio.

El Consejo expresó su agradecimiento al Gobierno de Alemania por acoger dicha Conferencia que, en principio, se celebrará en Leipzig en 1996 y por contribuir generosamente a su financiamiento. Asimismo agradeció a otros donantes por aportar generosos recursos.

La finalidad del proceso preparatorio de esta Conferencia Técnica es la de la preparación del Primer Estado Mundial de los Recursos Fitogenéticos y la de un plan de acción global con presupuesto.

En ese sentido, es la interpretación de la Presidencia de que el proceso preparatorio de la Conferencia Técnica Internacional y la revisión del Compromiso Internacional de Recursos Fitogenéticos son procesos paralelos que son válidos en sí mismo y complementarios.

En cuanto al nombre de la 4ª Conferencia Técnica Internacional, algunos delegados propusieron un cambio de nombre; sin embargo se indicó que ese asunto sólo lo podría revisar la Conferencia. Otros consideraron que el nombre de dicha Conferencia debería omitir el término "Técnica".

Algunas delegaciones sugirieron que la Comisión de Recursos Fitogenéticos debería actuar como Comité de preparación de dicha Conferencia Técnica Internacional revisando los borradores que se hubieran preparado.

Algunas delegaciones sugirieron que al final de la 4ª Conferencia Técnica Internacional, podría realizarse una reunión de alto nivel que aprobase tanto el estado mundial de los recursos fitogenéticos como el plan de acción, como el compromiso internacional revisado.

Se resaltó la importancia de que se vincule al IIRF, así como los centros internacionales de investigaciones agrícolas del GCIAl, en este proceso preparatorio.

El Consejo tomó nota con satisfacción de los 12 centros internacionales de investigación agrícola que habían firmado un acuerdo en meses pasados, poniendo las colecciones en sus bancos de germoplasma bajo los auspicios de la FAO, y de acuerdo a las recomendaciones hechas por la última Conferencia de la FAO, donde se reconocía la autoridad intergubernamental de la Comisión en la definición de las políticas relativas a estas colecciones.

Al adoptar el informe, el Consejo implícitamente creó que estuvo de acuerdo con la Comisión de la FAO en el sentido de que la Organización redoble sus esfuerzos a fin de que los centros con colecciones nacionales *ex situ* existentes se coloquen también dentro de la red internacional de la FAO sobre recursos fitogenéticos y bajo los auspicios de la Organización.

El Consejo fue informado, finalmente, de la oferta de la FAO relativa a formar parte del Secretariado conjunto de la Convención sobre Diversidad Biológica y de que esta oferta se basaba en la experiencia obtenida durante la implantación de la Resolución dos del Acta Final de Nairobi. Al respecto se coincidió con la Comisión en el firme apoyo a esa oferta y se manifestó la esperanza de que la Conferencia considerara esto positivamente.

Con esto se concluye mi resumen. Sé que quizá no he entrado en algunos detalles. Quizá la ponderación en los énfasis no los he identificado claramente; pero me parece que esa es una función del Consejo. Muchas cuestiones las menciona un delegado, pero quizá podrían recibir en principio el apoyo del Consejo. Esto lo deberán definir ustedes. De nueva cuenta, repito y subrayo que mi resumen no prejuzga el Informe que el Consejo adoptará.

El distinguido delegado del Brasil pide la palabra.

**Marco Antonio DINIZ BRANDÃO (Brazil):** Just a very small clarification: My delegation did not for one moment ask for a change in the name of the Conference. What we did ask for was the keeping of the original name of the Conference as well as the original mandate that we have.

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Tomo nota de ello y si en el Informe lo desean también destacar así se hará.

**Harald HILDEBRAND (Germany):** "Fourth International Technical Conference on Plant Genetic Resources". (Continues in Spanish.) Siendo mi país el anfitrión de la Conferencia Internacional sobre Recursos Fitogenéticos, me siento ahora, después de los diversos comentarios sobre el título de la Conferencia, algo confundido. El delegado del Brasil acaba de decir que su delegación no desea cambiar el nombre; quiere que se mantenga el nombre original. Yo pensaba que después de lo que ha dicho el Sr. de Haen, el nombre sería "Fourth International Technical Conference on Plant Genetic Resources".

Es también la aspiración del Consejo que pronto lleguemos a definir el nombre y también la envergadura de la Conferencia. Esto tiene también razones prácticas de organización tanto para la Secretaría de aquí, como para la Secretaría nacional que prepara el evento en Alemania.

Me parece que un nombre apropiado y relativamente corto es importante porque tenemos que tener en cuenta la necesidad de publicidad; si bien tenemos reservada ya una sala bien grande donde podrán caber más de 800 delegados y donde también podrá caber un título bien largo de cuatro líneas diciendo todo lo que se entiende sobre esta Conferencia. Considero que un nombre corto y preciso sería la solución, siempre en el entendido de que la tarea de la Conferencia es discutir y decidir medidas pendientes a conservar y utilizar de forma sostenible los recursos fitogenéticos.

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Me permito felicitarle por haber hablado un español tan correcto. Yo deseo simplemente subrayar que el nombre a que se refería la delegación del Brasil es el que originalmente se había utilizado en la Comisión de Recursos Fitogenéticos en 1991 que era Conferencia Técnica, Cuarta Conferencia Técnica Internacional para la Conservación y el Uso Sostenible de los Recursos Fitogenéticos.

**Alvaro GURGEL DE ALENCAR (Brazil):** I do not believe we should continue this discussion for much longer. I do not think it is going to serve any purpose at this stage. The reasons have been explained on the various sides. I sympathize with the distinguished delegate of Germany who has logistic problems in preparing the setting up of the Conference which his government has been so kind as to host.

I feel the thing to do, if he says that he has a sign which is big enough, is to hold the painting of the sign until such time as a decision has been taken on the title of the Conference.

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Como usted ha dicho, distinguido delegado del Brasil, no creo que esta discusión nos lleve a ninguna parte. Podemos dejar este asunto en principio abierto, en el entendido de que la Comisión de Recursos Fitogenéticos había adoptado ya un nombre para la Cuarta Conferencia Internacional de Recursos Fitogenéticos. Yo entiendo que el nombre final lo podrá identificar la Conferencia. Lo dejo abierto y el informe de ustedes recogerá las posiciones de unos y de otros al respecto. Espero que no continuemos este debate. Si no hay ningún otro comentario, me permitiré pasar al Tema 9.2 de nuestros trabajos.

## **9.2 Widening of the Mandate of the Commission on Plant Genetic Resources (continued)**

## **9.2 Elargissement du mandat de la Commission des ressources phytogénétiques (suite)**

## **9.2 Ampliación del mandato de la Comisión de Recursos Fitogenéticos (continuación)**

**EL PRESIDENTE:** El documento principal, el CL 107/18, contiene los párrafos 14 al 17, en donde se encuentran los motivos de la ampliación. La cuestión fundamental para el debate del Consejo debería ser si deben ampliarse o no el mandato y las modalidades de procedimiento por etapas (véase el párrafo 25).

También están el informe de la reunión extraordinaria de la Comisión de Recursos Fitogenéticos y los comentarios de la misma sobre esta cuestión.

Deseo destacar, como supongo ustedes recordarán por haberse tratado por lo menos en algunas conferencias regionales e igualmente en el Comité del Programa y en otros órganos, que se ha instado a que la FAO dé el mismo tratamiento a los recursos genéticos en general que a los recursos fitogenéticos en particular. Deberían ustedes considerar quizás el impacto que tendría sobre los recursos genéticos, en especial animales, el que no se empieza a dar en la FAO un tratamiento similar. Ello podría llevar a que, si bien existe ahora un retraso en su tratamiento, en la información y su evaluación, esta situación podría empeorar ulteriormente. Es un comentario que hago sin esperar ninguna reacción por su parte, pero que considero está en parte detrás del problema que aquí se plantea. Antes de otorgar la palabra al Dr. de Haen para la presentación de este tema, me permito llamar la atención sobre un error en el párrafo 24 del mismo. Allí se hace referencia a la Conferencia Internacional y se ha omitido de manera indebida el término "Técnica" en dos ocasiones. Espero que ustedes tomen nota de ello. Debe aparecer como "Conferencia Técnica Internacional" en los dos casos. Tiene la palabra el Dr. de Haen.

**H. DE HAEN (Assistant Director-General, Agriculture Department):** After your very comprehensive and detailed introduction, Mr Chairman, I think I can be quite brief.

I will begin by reiterating the four major reasons which one can use in arguing in favour of a broadening of a mandate of the Commission, and in favour of a change in its name, of course. That would go along with it. It could be the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture.

The four reasons which you find in the report are the following: the first is that, whilst we have to recognize and acknowledge that there are technical approaches to the conservation and use of crops, forestry, livestock and fishery genetic resources, they are quite different and specific to the respective species. There are also holistic approaches, approaches which deal with the total land area and ecosystem management, where a number of these genetic resources have to be looked at in the context of the overall system.

These holistic views draw the different disciplines together and are one of the reasons for the consideration of a broadening of the mandate.

The second reason refers to policy and legal issues including the whole issue of intellectual property rights and other rights of agro-biodiversity, access to resources, sharing of benefits and so on.

I might add - and this is not explicitly stated in the Report - that the whole issue of farmers' rights which we are used to applying exclusively to plant genetic resources, has of course the same reasoning for animal genetic resources and others, but especially for animal genetic resources.

I think it is more or less an historical coincidence that it was applied to plant genetic resources but as a concept it is equally applicable to animal genetic resources, at least.

The third reason is that the advantages in biotechnology and the related issues of technology development, as well as biosafety and others, have broken down many of the barriers that separate species, orders and kingdoms. A single forum for the consideration of biosafety, for instance, would certainly facilitate a holistic approach to genetic resources in general.

A fourth reason for a wider mandate would be that a Commission with a wider mandate would cooperate more efficiently with other bodies, other legal and institutional entities such as the conference of the parties of the Convention on Biodiversity or the Commission on Sustainable Development where FAO would speak with one voice and on behalf of one responsible governing body.

In its session two weeks ago, the Commission also discussed the possible disadvantages.

They also listed, although not in much detail in the Report, the imbalance between dealing with the positive and the negative aspects which you may interpret as the broadening by the Secretariat.

It was certainly not meant to impose anything; it was just that we found that there were a number of arguments in favour of the widening which have recently come to bear, especially after UNCED and after the Convention on Biodiversity.

The Commission recalled that in 1991 they and the Council discussed this issue of the broadening, and at that time considered it premature. However, as I have just said, development since then - in particular entry into the Convention of Biological Diversity - was felt to have strengthened with broadening the scope of the Commission.

However, some countries considered that it was also possible to proceed in a prudent manner mainly because they feared that the work programme of the Commission was already so over-charged that a wider mandate might even exceed the capacity of what the work programme could be of a commission.

This argument has to be seen in parallel with the arguments which a large number of delegations have made in favour of widening as a principle. It was suggested, however, that the FAO Council and its technical committees, as well as COFI, COFO and the FAO Secretariat, should be invited to address a number of questions, questions dealing with technical, administrative and financial implications of a broadening of the scope of the Commission: where would the Secretariat be located, would there be extra costs for the Secretariat, and so on.

In conclusion, I do not think the Commission took a final position on the broadening, but agreed that if its mandate be broadened, this should be done in a cautious step-by-step manner, possibly beginning with domesticated animal genetic resources.

In the discussions it was made clear that the question of widening the mandate should be separated from the issue of the work programme of the Commission. It was stated that it is even conceivable that the mandate of the Commission be widened but the agenda would be restricted for the next sessions of the work programme already under way, and that is concentrated on plant genetic resources.

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Abro ahora la lista de observadores. Vamos a comenzar con la distinguida delegación de Egipto.

**Adel M. ABOUL-NAGA (Egypt) (Original language Arabic):** I do not think we have much time left to discuss all the items that remain on our Agenda.

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Disculpe usted, distinguido delegado. No hemos podido tomar nota, pero habían solicitado la palabra Chile y Brasil. Ruego me disculpe, y si usted me lo permite, dará la palabra a la distinguida delegación de Chile.

**Pedro MEDRANO (Chile):** Gracias, señor Presidente. Con mucho gusto habría cedido la palabra a la distinguida representación de Egipto. Mi delegación desea apoyar la propuesta que se nos ha formulado en el sentido de ampliar el mandato de la Comisión de Recursos Fitogenéticos en forma escalonada, de manera que se incluyan los recursos genéticos de interés para la alimentación y la agricultura, pasando, tal como se señala en el documento que se nos proporciona, de las plantas exclusivamente, a las plantas y el ganado y, a su debido tiempo también a la pesca, en el marco de lo que sería un nuevo sistema mundial para la conservación y la utilización sostenible de los recursos genéticos para la alimentación y la agricultura.

En tal sentido, señor Presidente, resulta lógico que se proponga asimismo a la próxima Conferencia de la FAO el cambio de nombre de la Comisión de Recursos Fitogenéticos a, tal como se propone, Comisión de Recursos Genéticos para la Alimentación y la Agricultura.

Consideramos, señor Presidente, que los argumentos contenidos en el documento de la Secretaría son evidentes, lógicos y consecuentes con el mandato de la FAO. Más allá de las prioridades de trabajo de la Comisión, que actualmente se centran en la revisión del compromiso internacional y de otras materias, según

tuvimos oportunidad de ver al tratar el informe de la Comisión, resulta evidente que, tal como se señala en el documento de la Secretaría, las novedades registradas desde la entrada en vigor del Convenio sobre la Diversidad Biológica, la celebración del CNUMAD, así como la importancia de la agrobiodiversidad y las diferentes iniciativas internacionales con respecto a los recursos fitogenéticos y zoogenéticos conjuntamente, además de lo señalado en lo que respecta a los *trips* de los acuerdos del GATT, etcétera, hacen necesario que la FAO aproveche de manera más eficiente este organismo intergubernamental y que se ocupe de todos los componentes de la biodiversidad de interés para la alimentación y la agricultura.

Creemos, señor Presidente, que el documento proporciona fundamentos claros y convincentes para aceptar la propuesta que se nos plantea. En aras de un mejor uso del tiempo, no lo repetiré. Sin embargo, quisiera hacer énfasis en el significado político que tendría la aprobación en los términos que se han planteado. Políticamente consideramos que la ampliación del mandato de la Comisión sería una señal clara de la FAO, a través de sus máximos órganos de gobierno, que reafirmaría el mandato de la FAO justamente en lo que se refiere a los recursos genéticos para la agricultura y la alimentación. En todo caso, señor Presidente, creemos que la ampliación del mandato de la Comisión no debería cambiar las prioridades de trabajo y la Agenda que actualmente concentra la Comisión, especialmente en lo que se refiere al proceso de renovación del compromiso internacional en las diferentes fases previstas y, muy particularmente, en lo relativo a las cuestiones del acceso a los recursos fitogenéticos para la alimentación y la agricultura y la aplicación de los derechos del agricultor en armonía con las disposiciones del Convenio sobre la Diversidad Biológica.

**Alvaro GURGEL DE ALENCAR (Brazil):** As my delegation had the opportunity of stating during the discussion of the previous point on our agenda, Brazil attaches great importance to this matter of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture and has always participated actively in the work of the Commission on Plant Genetic Resources.

We believe that the broadening of the mandate of the CPGR is a very serious decision that must not be taken lightly or in haste. Its implications must be known and carefully weighed. In this sense, further examination of this proposal and clarification of some of the points seem to be required before the Council can take a decision.

In addition to the many disadvantages pointed out in the document itself, and document CL 107/18, particularly in paragraph 19, we heard this morning, during the examination of the previous point, that it was obvious to all delegations that although the Commission has moved somewhat along the path that it set itself it still has a very long way to go. We have not been making much progress at all, and I think this was recognized by one and all this morning during the debate.

Is it really sensible, I ask, is it a sensible thing to do, when we are not even able to handle the task at hand, to proceed to increase that task many fold? We do not think it is. We just do not happen to think that is a sensible thing to do.

We are also concerned with the financial implications of any possible broadening and with the implications for the workload of the Commission, including the time available for discussion of plant genetic resources at its sessions. It was hard enough to find time to extend the time available with the mandate as it now is. Can you imagine what it would be if this mandate were to be increased?

Brazil strongly recommends that no decision be taken on the broadening of the mandate before consulting the Committee on Agriculture, the Committee on Fisheries and the Committee on Forests, the comments of which, together with the comments of the next regular session of the CPGR, should be available to this Council before we can take any meaningful decision on the matter.

**Adel Mahmoud ABOUL-NAGA (Egypt) (Original language Arabic):** Mr Chairman, I would like to refer to a recommendation made by the Working Group, within this same context, asking that this be done in a step-by-step manner, stressing the importance of animal genetic resources, taking into account the tremendous technical progress made in this respect. This would provide a suitable area in which to begin the broadening of the mandate of the Commission. You are fully acquainted with the activities carried out by the

Organization in this respect. However, in order to have such a proper follow-up we need coordination and guidelines from the intergovernmental groups on this subject.

Having heard what was said by my colleagues regarding the importance of moving to a broadening through the animal genetic resources, I would like to make a formal proposal that we set up a Working Group to cover animal genetic resources which would begin its work next year. I would like to know from Dr de Haen how this would be done, whether this can be done taking into account available financial resources without this having any repercussion or impact which would increase the burden or call for extrabudgetary resources. We do not want this to undermine in any way the activities of the Commission on Plant Genetic Resources and the activities of the International Technical Conference which is foreseen for 1996 in Leipzig.

Mr Chairman, I believe that if we wait until the Conference is able to corroborate this proposal, in the meantime we should engage in small-scale activity without this really calling for extraordinary financial resources and without this having any repercussions on the timetable foreseen for the Commission on Plant Genetic Resources and the International Technical Conference which is to be held. This would have the advantage that if we did this it would provide us with a sufficient boost because those who are participating in the intergovernmental groups are not the same ones who would participate in the meetings of the Commission on Plant Genetic Resources.

**Patrick PRUVOT (France):** La délégation française tient tout d'abord à remercier M. de Haen pour sa présentation claire et synthétique du document préparé par le Secrétariat.

Dès lors que la Convention sur la diversité biologique est entrée en vigueur, il nous semble à la fois important et cohérent de mettre très rapidement en place une organisation intergouvernementale capable de prendre en compte les préoccupations relatives à une gestion mondiale des ressources génétiques utiles pour l'alimentation et l'agriculture de demain ainsi qu'à en favoriser une approche intégrée, que ces ressources relèvent du règne animal ou du règne végétal.

Une structure institutionnelle unique comprenant les ressources des végétaux, des animaux d'élevage et de la pêche serait la plus justifiée puisque les démarches à engager seront nécessairement parallèles, même si elles débouchent sur des programmes techniques plus spécifiques.

Permettez-moi de rappeler, en outre, que l'Union européenne a déjà adapté le cadre de ses actions dans ce sens puisque le règlement communautaire sur la conservation, la caractérisation et l'utilisation des ressources génétiques est relative aux espèces animales mais aussi végétales.

Plusieurs motifs nous laissent penser que l'OAA est l'institution adéquate pour assurer le secrétariat de cette commission unique. Tout d'abord, elle a une expérience pionnière dans la gestion de la Commission des ressources phytogénétiques qui résulte de plus de dix années de concertation intergouvernementale. Cette expérience pourrait être efficacement mise à profit pour couvrir de nouveaux domaines. Ensuite, l'Organisation gère déjà des programmes techniques sur les ressources génétiques d'espèces végétales et animales dont les travaux sont connectés par l'intermédiaire d'un Groupe de travail sur la diversité biologique. Enfin, si nous raisonnons par l'absurde, pouvons-nous accepter le risque que le champ qui serait laissé libre aujourd'hui soit couvert demain par des institutions à l'évidence moins qualifiées que l'OAA? C'est pour ne pas prendre ce risque qu'il convient, selon nous, que le Conseil donne dès maintenant un signal clair sur le principe d'un élargissement à terme du mandat de la Commission des ressources phytogénétiques.

Je voudrais conclure par quelques observations touchant à la mise en oeuvre pratique de cet élargissement. Première observation: le changement de titre proposé "Commission des ressources génétiques pour l'alimentation et l'agriculture", nous paraît très judicieux. Seconde observation: l'élargissement du mandat de la Commission ne doit pas conduire à modifier le processus de la révision de l'Engagement international sur les ressources phytogénétiques. En effet, les négociations doivent aboutir rapidement et il semble exclu de pouvoir en élargir la portée. Troisième et dernière observation: cet élargissement, à notre sens, ne doit pas non plus perturber la préparation de la Conférence technique internationale sur les ressources phytogénétiques qui doit aboutir, mi-96, à un plan mondial d'action dans ce domaine.



En somme, peut-être convient-il, après avoir adopté le principe de l'élargissement du mandat actuel de la Commission, de renvoyer à l'examen des grands comités de l'Organisation, comme il était suggéré au début, la discussion des modalités pratiques de cet élargissement.

**Raphael RABE (Madagascar):** Lors des sessions extraordinaires du Groupe de travail de la Commission et de la Commission elle-même, la délégation de Madagascar a déjà émis un avis favorable à l'élargissement du mandat de la Commission des ressources phytogénétiques.

Au moment où le Conseil examine cet important sujet, nous voudrions réitérer nos propositions car nous sommes convaincus que c'est une nécessité et que cela va dans le sens de l'harmonisation des activités de l'Organisation avec l'environnement politique, économique et technique mondial en pleine évolution - et dans un souci de cohérence, comme l'a précisé si justement la délégation française.

Tout en remerciant le Secrétariat d'avoir produit un document de valeur, nous le félicitons pour sa clarté et la pertinence des propositions qui y sont formulées. Nous remercions également M. de Haen pour la présentation du sujet. Nous convenons avec le Secrétariat que l'entrée en vigueur de la Convention sur la diversité biologique rend indispensable la création par la FAO d'un organe intergouvernemental unique. Etant donné, cependant, que beaucoup de points communs existent entre les disciplines végétales et animales, la Commission phytogénétique, qui a déjà une longue expérience, pourrait convenir en élargissant seulement son mandat tel qu'il est suggéré au paragraphe 19 du document CL 107/18. La Commission unique, dénommée "Commission des ressources phytogénétiques pour l'alimentation et l'agriculture" - appellation qui nous convient, soit dit en passant - comprendrait donc deux ou trois groupes de travail appropriés, étant entendu que, pour des questions d'intérêt commun, les groupes pourraient tenir des réunions conjointes.

Enfin, ma délégation est en faveur des mesures proposées au Conseil contenues dans le paragraphe 25 du document, notamment le calendrier suggéré jusqu'à l'adoption par la Conférence de 1995 des projets de textes correspondants, étant entendu que la mise en oeuvre du mandat élargi se ferait par étapes. Nous souhaiterions inviter le Conseil à se prononcer également en ce sens.

**Ms Rosanne KAVA (Australia):** Australia notes the proposal to broaden the scope of the Commission to include other forms of biological diversity for food and agriculture. In this context, we recall the report of discussions at the extraordinary session of the Commission on Plant Genetic Resources on this issue. At that meeting Australia outlined its position in some detail. In brief, we acknowledge the importance of all forms of genetic resources for food and agriculture and note in particular that in FAO fora matters pertaining to domestic animal genetic resources for food and agriculture have perhaps not enjoyed the prominence that they well deserve. We therefore welcome moves by the FAO to improve the coordination of its various activities on genetic resources.

Regarding the proposal before us, we note the many persuasive arguments presented in the paper and by Dr de Haen in his introduction. Before coming to a final position, we would welcome advice from the Secretariat on the cost and practical consequences on consolidating genetic resources of other organisms of interest to food and agriculture under a Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture. We also seek answers to the many other important questions raised in paragraph 48 of the CPGR report. We endorse the working group recommendations referred to in paragraph 50 of the CPRG report that, if approved, any expansion of the role of the Commission should be performed on a step-by-step basis.

An observation: the extremely heavy work load of the Commission with regard to the revision to the undertaking on plant genetic resources has been discussed at some length under the previous item, and a number of additional sessions foreshadowed. We note that this may make an immediate expansion of the Commission very difficult or at least extremely challenging on a practical level.

Australia notes that the Convention on Biological Diversity already has a mandate to address issues of access to a ownership of genetic resources, including plant, animal, microbial and other resources. It is important that any work undertaken by the FAO complements and does not duplicate work which is being undertaken through the Conference of parties for the Convention for Biological Diversity or other UN agencies. In this regard, Australia considers it important that any proposal also takes into account mechanisms for interaction between FAO and the Conference of parties to the Biodiversity Convention and other relevant UN agencies.

**D. SANDS SMITH (United Kingdom):** We feel we need to be sure that a broadening of the mandate of the Commission would lead to clear benefits. Considerable care would be necessary to ensure that the Commission was not overloaded. Indeed, it could be said that the Commission is already overloaded. I think we have to reflect carefully on this point. At the same time we recognize the importance, for instance, of animal genetic resources. We conclude that a cautious approach is required with careful examination of the implications and of the mechanics of this proposal. We feel we need a full proposal on how a broadened Commission would function and the cost implications.

**Fernando GERBASI (Venezuela):** Agradecemos a la Secretaría por la presentación del Documento CL 107/18, que contiene una propuesta de ampliación del mandato de la Comisión de Recursos a otros subsectores de la diversidad biológica para la agricultura y la alimentación.

Es cierto que se están produciendo cambios que han dado lugar a un incremento de las actividades nacionales e internacionales para la conservación y utilización sostenible de los recursos genéticos en general, pero también es cierto que la ampliación de los asuntos que trata actualmente la Comisión, requiere un estudio más profundo sobre la forma de incluirlos, en vista de que se trata de temas específicamente técnicos referidos a diversos aspectos de la biodiversidad.

Además se debe tener en cuenta, y esto está directamente vinculado con lo dicho anteriormente, al aspecto financiero, pues una medida de esta naturaleza tendría un fuerte impacto sobre la partida presupuestaria asignada. Considerando la limitación de dichos recursos, que ya resultan escasos de por sí para las actividades en curso, sería conveniente que no se introdujeran nuevos mandatos hasta tanto no se tenga la seguridad de entradas adicionales de fondos para atender las actividades de la Comisión.

En alguna oportunidad se ha indicado que la inclusión de nuevos temas en el mandato de la Comisión podría dar lugar a la formación de grupos de trabajo durante los períodos de sesiones de la Comisión; esto sería altamente perjudicial pues muchas, por no decir la mayoría de las delegaciones de los países en desarrollo, no podrían participar, simultáneamente, en dos o tres salas de reuniones. Cualquier tratamiento de nuevos temas debe hacerse sobre la base que es deseable, aconsejable y necesario que todos los países miembros de la Comisión participen en igualdad de condiciones.

De todas formas, una eventual ampliación del mandato de la Comisión debería llevarse a cabo de manera separada y con posterioridad a la revisión del Compromiso Internacional sobre Recursos Fitogenéticos para la Agricultura y la Alimentación, con el fin de evitar que dicha ampliación interfiera desfavorablemente con el calendario de trabajo para los próximos dos años, tal como ha sido establecido.

En definitiva, consideramos que se debe remitir a los Comités de la Organización, que tratan de asuntos específicos, para que se pronuncien sobre las implicaciones de una posible ampliación del mandato de la Comisión.

**Dato' Ahmad Zabri IBRAHIM (Malaysia):** Touching on the subject of broadening the mandate of the FAO Commission on Plant Genetic Resources, my delegation has pleasure in fully supporting such a move.

The broadening of the mandate allows greater efficiency in the use of manpower and financial resources when compared to having separate commissions for crop plants, livestock, forestry and fisheries. At the same time, it is envisaged that the services that shall be imparted by the FAO to member countries would be integrated and easily taken up.

The integration of the genetic information, policies and negotiations at the world level would have great impact on the policies undertaken at the national level. This is especially so in those countries where the process of integration of services within the agricultural sector is vital, in order to give greater efficiency for the sector and at the same time to allow for sophistication in the field of genetic resources technology.

Looking specifically at the research in food and agriculture, there is integration of plant and animal genetic research through having common fundamental or basic research units at the research institutions in my country. This allows for sharing of equipment and manpower in order to strive for greater efficiency in the respective fields.

At the field level, it is my Government's policy to look at the farming operation as being integrated in the sense that the farmers have to capitalize from all resources available to them, including crops, animals and fisheries. This is especially so when their land areas are small when compared to others. Thus breeding services may have to be integrated, as well, when the farming activities reach a sophisticated level.

In the field of education, especially at the university level, plant breeding and animal breeding studies have been integrated into genetic studies to allow for greater mobility in employment and usefulness of the graduates.

My delegation is happy to note that paragraph 50 of document CL 107/8 clearly shows that most countries in the Working Group had been in favour of broadening the scope of the Commission, although in a step-by-step manner. In order that the work of the Commission can move on a fast track, my delegation would like to lend support towards realization of the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture as mentioned in paragraph 46 of the document.

**Francis J. VACCA (United States of America):** The proposal to broaden the mandate of the Commission to include more than plant genetic resources is an issue we have dealt with previously, as noted in the document. In the past, the United States has regularly opposed this proposition, believing that progress on the work of other types of genetic resources could be enhanced if done in an environment apart from the Commission. While we are not fully convinced of the workability of a Commission that will deal with various types of genetic resources, it is evident that animal, fisheries, and even forest genetic resources have not received sufficient attention in FAO. Thus the Director-General's initiative to broaden the mandate of this Commission merits further discussion.

Paragraphs 14 to 17 provide some rationale for having a Commission with a wider mandate. We agree that a broadened Commission could more effectively interact with the CSD and other entities which deal with various aspects of agricultural biodiversity. We further agree that FAO's visibility would be raised with a broadened Commission. However, we are not so sure that working on a variety of genetic resources would necessarily lead to a more integrated, holistic approach. It would certainly be designed to operate in that fashion, but FAO's technical departments may not be managed in such a way as to ensure a holistic approach unless considerable effort is expended.

The document suggests that there are a number of ways that a broadened Commission might gradually expand to encompass other areas. If such an expansion is eventually agreed upon, we certainly would support a gradual change. Doing it more on forest genetic resources or bringing animal genetic resources into the Commission's portfolio would appear to be possible first steps.

Before we render any firm views on the desirability of expanding this Commission, we have a number of questions and concerns that the Secretariat may help us answer. First, it occurs to us that this Commission has a full workload just dealing with plants. Would the attention devoted to plants diminish with the proposed inclusion of other genetic resources? Does the Secretariat envision that work on plant genetic resources will be somewhat reduced after the 1996 Fourth International Technical Conference? Has thought been given to the length and frequency of meetings of the proposed new Commission?

Would the Secretariat for the expanded Commission come from each of the technical areas? Would the Fisheries and Forestry Departments provide genetic resources specialists? The reference in paragraph 19 to a possible role by the Panel of Experts on Forest Gene Resources is encouraging, but is that satisfactory?

We would hope that the working group concept could remain the same. Having more than one working group would be expensive and not contribute to a holistic approach.

Finally, we are concerned about how member countries would effectively be represented if the Commission were expanded. Most countries would not want to send additional experts simply to cover diverse interests. While we are not seeking the Secretariat's advice regarding composition of delegations, this is a matter we must consider as this idea matures.

The Commission and Council have had useful discussions on the Director-General's initiative to broaden the mandate of the Commission on Plant Genetic Resources. A number of issues have surfaced that require further clarification. We believe that this session of Council should direct COAG, COFO and COFI to further discuss the matter and report back to the June Council.

**Harald HILDEBRAND (Germany):** Document CL 107/18 expounds convincingly the reasons for widening the mandate of the Commission on Plant Genetic Resources, which were summarized by Dr de Haen, for whose introduction I should like to thank him. A broadening of the scope of the Commission to the whole range of biodiversity had already been discussed by the fourth ordinary session of the Commission in 1991. In addition to the arguments put forward then, there are new ones speaking for such a decision. They primarily derive from developments following the Rio Conference. They result from UNCED follow-up, especially with regard to the Convention on Biological Diversity and Agenda 21 implementation. The preservation and sustainable use of animal genetic resources, a priority concern of FAO reflected in the respective Special Action Programme, must be taken due account of. In our view, this is necessary for a more balanced handling by the Organization of the vital issues related to genetic resources for food and agriculture.

My delegation agrees with the Secretariat's view that different technical approaches and specific expertise would be needed if other kinds of genetic resources were to be incorporated, namely farm animals with which, if we should broaden the mandate of the Commission, we should start first, maybe followed by fish species and micro-organisms. A viable solution must be sought to tackle this issue properly. We therefore support well considered step-by-step measures as suggested in the document under consideration and as also endorsed by several delegations which have spoken before me.

Germany would favour an organizational structure which would allow in-depth discussion of the specific technical issues, i.e. the establishment of supporting expert panels or groups. As regards the stronger inclusion of forest genetic resources in the work of the Organization and possibly in the Commission on Plant Genetic Resources, in our view this question should be reconsidered in the light of the outcome of the different initiatives for the implementation of the forest principles adopted by the Rio Conference.

My delegation looks forward to conclusions by this Council meeting, further discussion and possibly further action by the Secretariat and by the other bodies under the Council which could advance an appropriate and realistic solution. Such a solution must consider, on the one hand, the requirements of a holistic approach to biodiversity for food and agriculture and, on the other hand, the technical, personnel and financial capabilities which can be mobilized by the Organization for such a broadening of the mandate of the Commission.

**Ricardo VELAZQUEZ HUERTA (México):** De manera muy breve, señor Presidente, nosotros queremos referirnos al Informe rendido por la Comisión, principalmente en sus párrafos 48 y 49. De la forma en que nosotros entendemos el asunto, es que la Comisión le recomienda a este Consejo, tal como lo indica el párrafo 49, que una serie de cuestiones deben ser analizadas previamente por el COAG, el COFI y el COFO, así como por el Consejo antes de tomar una decisión sobre la conveniencia o no de ampliar el mandato de la Comisión.

Todos los razonamiento que se contienen en el documento 107/18, a nosotros nos parecen excelentes; pero no quisiéramos que se tomara una decisión ahora sobre si se amplía o no se amplía el mandato de la Comisión. Preferimos que en el COAG, el COFI y el COFO y en próximo Consejo, se analicen lo que a nuestro juicio son unas condicionantes muy claras y que la Comisión se permite recomendar en el párrafo 48. Hay cuestiones importantísimas de cómo va a operar una Comisión ampliada; de con qué recursos va a operar una Comisión ampliada. En principio nos es difícil imaginar que si ahora no se han podido aumentar los recursos de la actual Comisión, o de la actual Secretaría para atender recursos de solamente una parte de las cuestiones genéticas, podamos de alguna otra manera ampliar nuestras funciones sin mayores recursos.

Nos parece, señor Presidente, que primero hay que resolver las cuestiones que se contienen en el párrafo 48; después remitirlas a los órganos técnicos de nuestra Organización, luego que los revise el próximo Consejo y entonces poder tomar una decisión que podría ser, y lo apoyamos desde ahora, una cuestión cauta y escalonada, tal como se propone en los párrafos 50 y 51 del propio Informe.

**Alan AMEY (Canada):** As far as broadening the mandate of the CPGR is concerned, we feel, like Brazil, Venezuela, the USA and others, that this item should be discussed in future meetings of the COAG, COFI and COFO and ultimately in the CPGR. Canada is willing to envisage a broadening of the scope of the CPGR provided that this takes place subsequent to the successful revision of IUPGR and that consideration of the mandate and terms of reference for the CPGR does not preclude eventual changes in its institutional status, i.e. as a governing body for a revised IUPGR.

Information concerning increased costs and human resources implications should be provided by FAO for consideration of CPGR before a final decision is reached. Although a more definitive answer may not be available until COAG, the animal genetic area might be the first to be included in a broadened commission.

**Carlos ARANDA MARTIN (España).** En primar lugar, Sr. Presidente, la delegación española quiere dejar constancia de su apoyo a la ampliación del mandato de la Comisión de Recursos Fitogenéticos a otros recursos genéticos relacionados con la agricultura y la alimentación.

Nuestra delegación, al igual que lo han expresado otros delegados en este Consejo, considera que dicha ampliación debe hacerse de forma escalonada iniciándose por los recursos zoogenéticos y sin que ello interfiera en la importante labor que está llevando a cabo la Comisión de Recursos Fitogenéticos, en cumplimiento de la Resolución 7/93 de la Conferencia de la FAO en relación con el proceso preparatorio de la Conferencia Técnica Internacional que tendrá lugar en Alemania en 1996.

Si bien consideramos oportuna y necesaria esta ampliación respecto a los otros tipos de recursos genéticos para la agricultura y la alimentación, creemos además necesario, que se proceda a la ampliación del mandato, en cuanto a sus funciones y, en particular, respecto a la utilización sostenible de dichos recursos genéticos, para lo cual sería preciso que se fortaleciese la Secretaría de la Comisión.

**P.D. MEENA (India):** My delegation congratulates the FAO Secretariat for its excellent paper on this subject, and the very clear introduction given by Dr de Haen.

My delegation supports the proposal for widening the mandate of the Commission on Plant Genetic Resources. My delegation further feels that the widening of the mandate will lead to better coordination and uniformity in the field of genetic resources in general. The genetic resources subject will come under one umbrella, and that will improve efficiency. However, my delegation feels that the administrative and financial implications should be examined in detail.

My delegation supports the proposal for widening the mandate as it will be an improvement over the existing system.

**Inge NORDANG (Norway):** I speak on behalf of the Nordic countries.

On the issue of an expansion of the scope of the Commission to include animal genetic resources as well as forestry genetic resources and micro-organisms, the Nordic countries are of the view that even if a decision in principle could be taken, the implementation should await the 1996 Conference. However, before a decision to initiate a step-by-step process of expansion, starting with animal genetic resources, can be fully considered the Secretariat needs to carry out a thorough analysis of the concrete questions on the implications raised in paragraph 48 of the Report from the Commission on Plant Genetic Resources.

**Mrs Maria GALVÖLGYI (Hungary):** The Hungarian delegation shares the view that the broadening of the mandate of the FAO Commission on Plant Genetic Resources is justified. Taking into account the special technical aspects, the broadening can only take place in a gradual manner. The proposed starting date and timing after 1996 seem to be acceptable.

The cost implications of this exercise need further careful examination. At the same time, we are of the opinion that the micro-organisms utilized in agriculture could also be taken into consideration when the mandate will be extended.

The problem of overlapping with other United Nations organizations is known. Therefore, the harmonization or determination of different activities and competencies should be considered as a precondition for efficient cooperation between the FAO Commission to be widened and other institutions dealing with the environment and nature conservation.

Finally, I wish to underline that we consider our participation important in the activities of this Commission. The preparation of legal regulation of plant genetic resource conservation is on the way in my country, and for this very reason the international harmonization is extremely important.

**Mme Régine DE CLERCQ (Belgique):** Je remercie, comme d'autres, M. de Haen de son introduction très pertinente et très convaincante de ce point - bien qu'il ne m'ait pas tout à fait convaincue.

Je voudrais exposer brièvement les vues de notre délégation à cet égard. Les autorités souhaitent de manière générale l'extension des activités de la FAO pour la préservation de la biodiversité. S'agissant en particulier de l'extension du mandat de la Commission des ressources phylogénétiques aux ressources génétiques animales, nous sommes bien conscients du dilemme auquel l'Organisation est confrontée.

La disparition progressive, parfois irréversible, d'un certain nombre d'espèces végétales et animales, justifie pleinement que l'on reconnaisse à ce secteur du mandat de la FAO une valeur prioritaire. L'Organisation se doit de prouver qu'elle a la capacité d'exécuter son mandat, en d'autres termes, il y va de sa crédibilité. D'autre part l'extension du mandat de la Commission risque de retarder ses travaux et donc de compromettre cette crédibilité recherchée.

Avant que la Belgique puisse s'engager dans la voie d'une extension du mandat de la Commission phylogénétique, un certain nombre de questions préalables doivent être résolues. Certaines de ces questions sont d'ailleurs évoquées dans le document.

La Commission "nouvelle formule" sera-t-elle en mesure de remplir le double mandat dont on voudrait l'investir? Si oui, de quelle manière?

Les travaux de la Commission phylogénétique progressent lentement. Est-ce qu'une extension de son mandat requerra une augmentation des ressources financières et en personnel? Si c'est le cas, nous craignons que cela devienne très difficile à réaliser étant donné que déjà maintenant les ressources financières requises ne sont pas assurées. Si ce n'est pas le cas, est-ce que la charge de travail ne risque pas de devenir insurmontable ou prévoit-on que les deux secteurs pourront être traités par les mêmes responsables au sein de la FAO? Est-ce que les avantages, liés à une structure unique, pourront être concrétisés sans que chaque sub-secteur dispose de moyens logistiques et d'expertise appropriés?

Ces problèmes, que je viens d'évoquer, se posent aussi pour les délégués et experts qui participent aux travaux phylogénétiques et qui, pour certains, seront également en charge des travaux zoogénétiques. La Belgique craint que le calendrier de la Commission "nouvelle formule" ne soit excessivement chargé. Ne prend-on pas le risque que l'expertise venant des capitales, ne soit pas toujours au rendez-vous ou trop diluée, pour que des progrès significatifs soient enregistrés rapidement?

Voilà en bref les questions qui devraient trouver une réponse satisfaisante avant de procéder à l'élargissement de ce mandat.

Ces remarques doivent être comprises comme autant d'encouragements à affiner la proposition que nous avons sous les yeux et à garantir la bonne marche des travaux de la future commission des ressources génétiques animales.

**Akihiko UDOGUCHI (Japan):** My delegation fully recognizes the importance of plant genetic resources as well as genetic resources in other areas relating to food and agriculture. Taking into account the various international activities undertaken in various fora described in CL 107/8, we also recognize the significance of FAO activities in the area of genetic resources in general relating to food and agriculture.

We welcome the efforts made on this issue of the mandate at the last Extraordinary Session of the Commission. We hope the Commission continues the discussion on this issue of widening the mandate of the Commission on Plant Genetic Resources in the sixth Regular Session of the Commission in June 1995. We would like to stress the need for in-depth and step-by-step consideration on this issue, fully taking into account the different backdrops for different areas of genetic resources, as well as financial and other relevant considerations, as pointed out by many delegations.

**Franco GINOCCHIO (Italy):** The Italian delegation wishes to thank the FAO Secretariat for document CL 107/18 which illustrates the proposal of broadening the mandate of the Commission on Plant Genetic Resources.

We are aware that the conservation of natural resources is becoming one of the main concerns in the evolving world, and that biodiversity, which is the base of agriculture, fisheries and forests, is menaced everywhere. The list of endangered species, both plants and animals, is really becoming much longer.

In such a situation, it appears urgent to undertake action in order to avoid, or at least, to reduce the loss of genetic resources throughout the world.

The International Community considers FAO the leading agency in the field of plant genetic resources, thanks to its experience and expertise, and supports FAO's activities in order to implement the provisions of UNCED Agenda 21, namely the chapters from 11 to 18 dealing with conservation of biodiversity, promoting sustainable agriculture and rural development, utilization of forestry and fisheries.

In this context, well-illustrated in document CL 107/8 concerning the Report of the Extraordinary Session of the Commission on Plant Genetic Resources, negotiations are in course for the harmonization of the International Undertaking on Plant Genetic Resources with the Convention on Biodiversity. Furthermore, the Fourth International Technical Conference on Plant Genetic Resources will be held in 1998 in Leipzig (Germany) in order to elaborate a Global Plan of Action and to assess the world's state of genetic resources.

The Italian delegation is following these events with great interest and would like to make some comments about the present activity of the Commission on Plant Genetic Resources before passing to examine the issue of the broadening of the mandate of the Commission.

The Italian delegation would like to stress that the Commission and its Secretariat should be endowed with the necessary instruments for carrying out the relevant work concerning the utilization of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture.

More precisely, the Commission should become more active in the formulation of policies for the improvement of plant genetic resources used in agriculture.

With regard to the proposal for broadening the mandate of FAO' Commission on Plant Genetic Resources, we would like to recall that this proposal was discussed, but never endorsed, on several occasions in the years 1990-1991.

In our opinion the accelerated dilapidation of genetic resources requires the gradual revision of this position. Therefore, the Italian delegation agrees with the opportunity of taking into consideration extension of the competence of FAO's Commission on Genetic Resources of Livestock and Fisheries and, more generally, all food and agricultural resources.

Of course, broadening the mandate of the Commission is not an easy task, as it requires a different type of expertise and operational branches dealing with the different specialized fields and, consequently, an enlargement and rearrangement of the present sectoral facilities existing in FAO.

As this process will imply a consistent financial effort, the Italian delegation recommends a careful assessment of the estimated cost and agrees to proceed step-by-step towards broadening the mandate of the Commission, which will be named Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, as suggested in paragraph 25 of document CL 107/18.

Furthermore, despite the current financial constraint, the Italian Government is available in case a consensus is reached on this important issue to examine the possibility of allocating in future a financial contribution to support this initiative.

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Se ha tomado nota de su potencial oferta.

**Srta. María Cristina FERRARI (Argentina):** Con relación al Tema 9.2, relativo a la propuesta de ampliación del mandato de la Comisión, la delegación argentina comparte las preocupaciones expresadas por otras delegaciones como Brasil y Venezuela y las dificultades para materializar la ampliación del mandato de la Comisión, también señaladas por Australia y Estados Unidos. En este sentido, estimamos conveniente realizar, previamente a cualquier cambio, una serie de pasos. Primero, un estudio pormenorizado sobre las implicaciones financieras de la ampliación. Segundo, consideración del tema por los Comités de Agricultura, de Pesca y de Montes. Tercero, aconsejamos la conveniencia de observar un tratamiento cauto y prudente del tema antes de apoyar la ampliación del mandato de la Comisión.

**ZHANG XIGUI (China) (Original language Chinese):** The Chinese delegation is very grateful to Mr de Haen for his complete introduction of this subject.

With regard to the broadening of the Commission's mandate, the Chinese delegation, which has closely followed the preliminary discussion held at the Extraordinary Session of the Commission, is highly appreciative of the efforts of the Secretariat in preparing document CL 107/18.

We believe that the Commission on Plant Genetic Resources, which was set up in accordance with a resolution of the General Conference of FAO in 1983, has provided a forum for various countries to discuss the legal and political aspects of this question within FAO's mandate.

The Commission has made its contribution to the promotion of a consensus with other agencies within the UN System and the NGOs. It has played its role in fulfilling the task with which it has been entrusted.

However, bearing in mind that the various disciplines are more and more closely linked and, since progress in biotechnology has brought down the barriers between the various disciplines, and remembering that the Convention on Biodiversity which was ratified by many countries has already come into force, the roles which the Commission was called upon to play correspond less and less to the needs of development.

We believe that the broadening of the mandate of the Commission and the need to give it a new title, only reflect the way things are moving. Before we proceed we would like the Secretariat to carry out a detailed study of the scope of its work, the financial implications, the mechanisms and so on. These results should be brought to the attention of the governing bodies for their decision.

The Chinese delegation hopes that the Commission will pay attention to the policy of technology transfers of plant genetic resources in order to encourage international cooperation in this area.

**M.S. HARBI (Observer for Sudan) (Original language Arabic):** On behalf of my delegation I am pleased to pay tribute to the proposal concerning the broadening of the mandate of the Commission on Plant Genetic Resources so that it includes livestock and fisheries in its field of competence.

The development of agriculture in the Sudan during the last five years, more particularly the progress we have achieved in the field of producing wheat, does bear witness to the type of progress one can make.



However, we believe that we are still dependent on the vagaries of nature. The type of crops we are planting now relies on the winter weather: namely the existence of cold weather and rain. This type of crop cannot be controlled in my country's climate.

Therefore, we see the need to promote heat-resistant crops. In the Sudan in April 1993 we convened a meeting in which a number of scientists took part. This was in order to find the correct recommendations for the best heat-resistant crops to be planted in the Sudan.

We have witnessed a number of initiatives, regional and international initiatives, for reaching the solutions.

We support this proposal, namely that the Commission would always be adamant and anxious to promote the agricultural sector in the developing countries.

**D.P.D. VAN RAPPARD (Observer for Netherlands):** The Netherlands delegation supports the widening of the mandate of the Commission on Plant Genetic Resources. FAO as a centre of excellence for agriculture, forestry and fisheries, is a task manager for these sectors in the UNCED follow-up in which biodiversity is an important activity.

My country is, therefore, of the opinion that these sectors should be included in the work of the Commission, which should include both *in situ* and *ex situ* activities and adapt its name accordingly to Commission on Plant Genetic Resources.

**Abdelhadi BENNIS (Observateur du Maroc):** En ce qui concerne le problème de l'élargissement du mandat de la Commission des ressources phylogénétiques au domaine zoogénétique, je crois qu'il faut distinguer entre l'aspect fondamental et l'aspect accessoire. Dans toutes les interventions que nous avons entendues, personne n'a remis en cause l'intérêt et l'importance de travailler également dans le domaine zoogénétique ou n'a émis de doute à ce sujet et, personnellement, j'estime que, compte tenu des déficits nutritionnels en protéines animales dans un certain nombre de pays, le travail dans le domaine zoogénétique est extrêmement important.

Le problème qui se pose est donc de trouver un cadre dans lequel ce travail zoogénétique pourra être effectué. Or je pense que nous ne sommes pas maintenant en possession de tous les éléments permettant de dire si la Commission des ressources phylogénétiques pourrait absorber ce surplus de travail sur le plan zoogénétique.

Trois possibilités existent: soit trouver un autre cadre dans lequel on pourrait faire le travail sur le plan des ressources zoogénétiques en dehors de cette Commission; soit, deuxième possibilité, différer le problème jusqu'à ce qu'on puisse réfléchir aux problèmes organisationnels et à ceux des moyens humains et financiers; soit, troisième possibilité - et c'est celle que je privilégie - que nous décidions l'élargissement de la Commission pour qu'elle couvre les aspects zoogénétiques, à condition de recommander de trouver les moyens de faire et, au cas où ces moyens ne seraient pas trouvés, de revenir à la charge pour discuter du problème dans un autre cadre. Mais je pense qu'il ne faut pas continuer à subordonner le problème fondamental des ressources zoogénétiques à des considérations organisationnelles et de moyens.

**Nicolas FRYDLENDER (Observateur de la Fédération européenne de zootechnie) (EAAP):** Monsieur le Président, je vous remercie de me permettre de témoigner, au nom de la Fédération européenne de zootechnie, sur la question de l'élargissement du mandat de la Commission.

La Fédération européenne de zootechnie est une organisation internationale non gouvernementale créée à Paris en 1949 sous les auspices conjoints de la FAO et de l'Unesco, et bénéficiant entre autres du statut consultatif spécial avec la FAO depuis 1954.

Dès le début des années 80, dans le même temps que la FAO créait une commission intergouvernementale des ressources phylogénétiques, la Fédération européenne de zootechnie instaurait avec la FAO (AGA) un groupe de travail conjoint sur les ressources génétiques animales dans le but d'en étudier les caractéristiques propres d'utilisation et de conservation ainsi que de collaborer à la constitution d'inventaires et de banques de données en ce qui concerne les espèces domestiques.

Cette activité particulière de la Fédération n'engage que l'un de ses groupes de travail spécialisé relevant de sa commission d'études pour la génétique animale. Il existe six autres commissions d'études et de nombreux groupes de travail, tous investis des mêmes préoccupations scientifiques et techniques en vue du développement des productions animales. C'est dire combien la FEZ suit toutes ces questions avec un vif intérêt et entretient des relations étroites avec la plupart des organismes internationaux concernés.

Ainsi, elle participera comme observateur à la première Conférence des parties à la Convention sur la biodiversité à la fin du mois, afin de suivre et d'encourager les indispensables progrès qui doivent encore être réalisés au niveau national et international en faveur de la sauvegarde, de la conservation et de l'utilisation des espèces animales domestiques.

Il est bien connu que plus du tiers des races animales domestiques recensées sont en voie de disparition, dont la plupart sont localisées dans des pays en développement à économie à situation parfois critique. Même les pays développés ne disposent pas toujours des structures et des moyens réglementaires ou financiers qui seraient nécessaires à la sauvegarde de leurs races menacées.

Il apparaît, par ailleurs, de plus en plus clairement que l'animal intervient de manière indispensable dans les systèmes de production durables et qu'il est toujours présent au côté de l'homme dans les écosystèmes les plus critiques et les plus extrêmes, dernier rempart avant l'apparition de processus souvent irréversibles de désertification. Il est également souvent présent, pour le meilleur et pour le pire, au coeur des questions de protection de l'environnement et des milieux naturels.

Cependant, tant au plan national qu'au plan international, de nombreux sujets de négociation restent ouverts et nécessitent un minimum de standardisation et d'harmonisation. La grande diversité des organismes et services administratifs concernés impose de plus en plus d'instances locales, régionales, nationales et internationales à travers lesquelles l'information puisse circuler dans les deux sens avec effet de *feed back*.

C'est pourquoi la Fédération ne peut être que très favorable - et elle l'appelle de ses voeux - à la bonne fin de l'initiative actuellement proposée et discutée d'un élargissement du mandat de la Commission des ressources phylogénétiques aux ressources animales domestiques et des pêches, afin de lui permettre de traiter de l'agrobiodiversité dans la vision globale qui s'impose désormais. Ce nouveau mandat ne pourra que donner du poids aux actions en cours à la division FAO (AGA) et les renforcer, notamment les processus de désignation par les gouvernements des points de contact nationaux capables de focaliser et de relayer les informations ainsi que de coordonner les actions et initiatives à entreprendre.

**Ms Monica MOORE (Observer for International Organization of Consumers Unions) (IOCU):**

The International Organization of Consumers Unions, together with the Pesticide Action Network and the Consumer Policy Institute, for which I am also speaking today, attach the highest importance to genetic resources. Biodiversity is the biological basis of sustainable agriculture, forestry and fishing and a crucial resource for increasing both food production and food security.

We support the proposal before the Council to widen the mandate of the Commission on Plant Genetic Resources to include all agricultural biodiversity. This forward-looking proposal would allow FAO to integrate its many responsibilities with respect to agricultural biodiversity, including work on crop plants, forests, fish, genetic resources, and the Special Action Programmes on plant and genetic resources in a coherent and practical framework. It would also allow for a step-by-step broadening of this work so that the Commission is not overwhelmed on the way.

FAO has had a long pioneering role in developing crucial issues surrounding plant genetic resources and genetic resources generally, including access to genetic resources, plant breeders' rights, farmers' rights, intellectual property rights related to biotechnologies, and relevant codes of conduct. It is logical that FAO should recognize the importance of genetic resources to its mission by changing the Commission's name to the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture. A mandate that more accurately reflects the breadth of the activities going on would facilitate continued innovation in an area in which FAO enjoys recognized comparative advantage. It would also allow for more efficient, effective cooperation with other bodies such as the CSD and the Convention on Biodiversity. Because agricultural biodiversity is such an important element of biodiversity, we think it is crucial that FAO's offer to participate in a joint permanent

Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity is an important step forward to ensure that agricultural biodiversity issues are adequately dealt with by the Convention.

Finally, I would like to say that we strongly support the work of FAO in its preparation for the upcoming International Conference on Genetic Resources. As is clear from this discussion today, this Conference process is also linked with the broadening of the mandate, as are the associated State of the World Report and the Plan of Actions being developed concurrently. Together, these activities are essential to placing the future work of the International Community on Genetic Resources on a firmer technical, scientific and also a political footing. Therefore, they are an indispensable element of FAO's commitment to sustainable agriculture in rural development.

As actors in the efforts to increase the involvement of global civil society in these and related matters, we look forward to continued future debate and initiatives in this area.

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Si no hay ningún otro Miembro del Consejo u observador que desee hacer uso de la palabra, le voy a pedir al Dr. de Haen que dé respuesta a los diversos planteamientos presentados.

**H. DE HAEN (Assistant Director-General, Agriculture Department):** I would like to thank all those who intervened and commented on the proposals made by the Secretariat. As suggested by the distinguished delegate from Belgium, apparently we were not fully convincing but this judgement is only correct if you think that we were trying to reach a full endorsement at this time. My view is that the debate has achieved its objective of raising the issue and of receiving comments and guidance from the Council on how to proceed with the next step of discussing and presenting this overall issue of broadening. We were more modest in the expectations when we presented this item for your consideration.

I would say that almost all the interventions made underline the overall problem of overloading the work programme of the Commission and of conflict between the widened mandate on the one hand and the current charges on the Commission in its work on plant genetic resources. Therefore, there were many suggestions to proceed in steps. That is well noted by the Secretariat.

If resources are considered limited for the widening of the workload of the Commission, I would submit that this would be the case, irrespective of whether you decide to widen the mandate of the Commission on Plant Genetic Resources or if you decide on another way of providing governance for the other areas of biodiversity in food and agriculture. Hence, the central issue really is: does the Council wish to have more governance on other areas of biodiversity for food and agriculture? This is my interpretation. If this is so, then of course resources must be found, and the questions raised in paragraph 48 of the Report of the Commission - and these are the same as the ones stated again especially by the United States - then these issues need to be tackled in a more in-depth report to be presented to the Technical Committees and then to Council again in June. That is what I understood from several of your interventions.

I would submit that concerning the issue of cost and additional cost a great share of these additional costs are costs of the delegations, for the delegations, not only costs for the Secretariat, because one thing is clear. If the Council wishes more governance of the other areas of FAO's work in genetic resources, then there is a need for more frequent sessions, be it of the Commission in a widened mandate, be it for working groups or other arrangements, but these costs are undeniable and they are both for the Secretariat as well as for the delegations themselves.

The distinguished delegate of Egypt showed one way out in proposing, I understand as an interim measure, a working group, may be an *ad hoc* working group, of government experts to advise the Secretariat of FAO in the one area, animal genetic resources, which most of the delegates mentioned as the priority area in the event that the mandate should be widened.

The question was whether the Secretariat would consider this feasible. Technically, of course, it is feasible because work is in progress in the field of animal genetic resources and guidance by governing bodies would be desirable. Financially, the holding of a working group of the Council, or whatever arrangement you might

decide, financially the preparation of this working group would be only partly feasible with the funds at hand. With the offer made by one of the distinguished delegates, the delegate of Italy, probably one could arrange something.

My proposal, and my reaction, would be to refer to the next session of the Committee on Agriculture which has a special development item, Animal Genetic Resources. I understand many of your interventions as a request to the Secretariat to report in COAG on the various options. For animal genetic resources this could be discussed in depth on that occasion and then if you still considered the need to have a further session of a governing body in the form of a working group, maybe it could be concluded on that occasion in April.

So here on animal genetic resources, we do have, in a short time, provisions for an in-depth discussion of the programme and the medium-term plans for animal genetic resources.

May I finally refer to the distinguished delegate of Germany who, as some others, suggested that another area to be deepened and strengthened in the Commission on Plant Genetic Resources would be Forest Genetic Resources. I take this opportunity to remind the distinguished delegates that the terms of reference of the Commission of Plant Genetic Resources do include the provision that the Commission is advising COFO, the Committee on Forestry, on forestry genetic resources. So this would not be a new arrangement, but it is all ready part of the mandate of the Commission in the same way as the Commission advises COAG in the field plant genetic resources. I would add that since 1985, the Forestry Department has always presented reports to the Commission in the area of forest genetic resources, and the Commission has in turn made recommendations to COFO. The delegate of Germany referred to the panel of experts. I am not authorized to speak on behalf of the Forestry Department, but I understood your intervention as meaning that the Forestry Department could present the report of these experts also to one of the sessions of the Commission on Plant Genetic Resources. I am sure they will include it anyway when the next regular session of the Commission considers forest genetic resources.

In conclusion, may I leave it to you to weigh the pros and cons and count the interventions in favour and those cautioning and advising for more a prudent, step-by-step approach, but one thing is certainly clear. It would finally have to be the Conference of FAO which would have to decide about a wider mandate, and that Conference will have its next session after the next sessions of the Technical Committees as well as after the next two sessions of Council.

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Gracias, Dr. de Haen, por sus aclaraciones. Espero que hayan quedado satisfechas las delegaciones y observadores del Consejo. ¿Hay alguna otra cuestión que deseen plantear? Si no desean intervenir me voy a permitir resumir los trabajos de la siguiente manera:

El Consejo tomó nota con satisfacción y acogió el documento presentado en relación a la ampliación del mandato de la Comisión de Recursos Fitogenéticos y agradeció al Dr. de Haen por la presentación de este tema.

En virtud de que la ampliación del mandato de la Comisión es distinta del programa específico para llevar a cabo tal ampliación, y que es una cuestión por separado, y en virtud de que, al menos yo, no escuché que, en principio, ninguna delegación estuviera en contra de la ampliación del mandato, me permito resumir los debates diciendo:

El Consejo endosó en principio la ampliación del mandato de la Comisión de Recursos Fitogenéticos. Sin embargo, hubo tres posiciones respecto a la viabilidad de dicha ampliación; una que yo calificaría como optimista, otra que yo calificaría como pesimista y, otra neutral dependiendo de las respuestas a cuestiones específicas.

El primer grupo, y de hecho todos, de alguna manera plantearon que de ampliarse, o en el proceso de ampliación del mandato de la Comisión, ésta debería ser gradual y por etapas. Se identificaron, entre otros, como una primera etapa, los recursos genéticos animales y para una etapa posterior los recursos genéticos marinos y otros.

El primer grupo, repito, ofreció y coincidió con la filosofía para la ampliación del mandato de la Comisión en tanto que es conveniente tener de una manera olística un tratamiento igual, equitativo y justo de los diversos recursos genéticos.

Asimismo algunas delegaciones propusieron crear un grupo de trabajo que, dentro de los recursos financieros de la Organización, pudieran comenzar a estudiar la incorporación de los recursos zoogenéticos, dentro de una posible ampliación del mandato de la Comisión.

Se hizo referencia, en general, al párrafo 50 del informe de la sesión extraordinaria de la Comisión de Recursos Fitogenéticos, en donde se indica que una mayoría de delegaciones habían acordado la expansión de su mandato. Este grupo apoyó que se propusiera a la Conferencia de 1995 el cambio de nombre de la actual Comisión de Recursos Fitogenéticos por una Comisión de Recursos Genéticos para la Alimentación y la Agricultura.

Se puntualizó el significado político que tendría ampliar el mandato de la Comisión en tanto que daría la señal clara a través de la cual la FAO reafirmaría su mandato en relación no sólo a la conservación, sino a la utilización de los recursos genéticos para provecho de las generaciones presentes y futuras. Esto, sin embargo, no debería cambiar las prioridades y los trabajos de la Agenda de la actual Comisión de Recursos Fitogenéticos.

Otro grupo de delegaciones mostró una opinión pesimista en relación a la viabilidad de instrumentar la ampliación del mandato de la Comisión. Indicaron que no estaban sentadas las bases para aplicar dicha expansión del mandato. En particular se refirieron a que los trabajos de la actual Comisión de Recursos Fitogenéticos estaban apenas en proceso y que sería particularmente difícil empatar las actividades que se están realizando ahora con aquellas que se requerirían para incorporar los otros recursos en el marco de una Comisión con un mandato superior.

Se refirieron también, junto con otros grupos, al problema específico de financiamiento y de coste. Se consideró que el retraso en particular a los otros recursos genéticos que la Organización había dejado atrás en cierta medida, no ameritaba el confundir las acciones que al respecto se deberían emprender y, en particular, las ventajas comparativas que quizá otras instancias tienen en ese sentido.

Finalmente, otro grupo se mantuvo neutral respecto de la viabilidad de la expansión del mandato, e hizo referencia específica a la importancia de responder a varias cuestiones antes de plantear la posibilidad de la aplicación de tal expansión del mandato.

En concreto se refirieron a los costos financieros y a los efectos prácticos de tal ampliación del mandato. Se indicó que la actual Comisión tiene una agenda muy cargada y se expresó preocupación por que un proceso de ampliación de su mandato castigue el tratamiento que actualmente se le da a los temas y programas de la Comisión.

Advertieron que no se debía duplicar la labor que se está llevando a cabo en la Conferencia de partes y asegurar la compatibilidad con la Convención de diversidad y otros acuerdos e instancias similares.

Se hizo un conjunto de preguntas en relación a otros temas que no vale la pena detallar, pero, a final de cuentas, puedo quizá concluir, si me lo permiten, que el Consejo propuso, en principio, lanzar el proceso de elaborar una propuesta costada, lo subrayo, costada, con un estudio técnico de la expansión del mandato de la Comisión de Recursos Fitogenéticos que, en su caso, podría ser enviada al COAG, al COFI y al COFO para que éstos, en su estudio del Programa de Labores y Presupuesto 1996/97, presenten sus conclusiones al Consejo de la FAO en 1995, y el Consejo de la FAO en 1995, a la luz del Programa de Labores y Presupuesto que revisará, y a la luz de sus propias observaciones respecto de la viabilidad en la instrumentación de tal mandato, dé las indicaciones necesarias a la Conferencia.

Quizá, distinguidos delegados, he sido un poco atrevido en mi resumen. Espero, repito, no consideren ustedes que esto prejuzga el Informe del Consejo. Yo reconozco que se han dicho otras cosas, pero yo he tratado de destacar lo más importante; no obstante en el Informe aparecerán los otros puntos de vista.

Como veo que algunas delegaciones no están conformes, entrego la palabra al delegado de Brasil.

**Alvaro GURGEL DE ALENCAR (Brazil):** Thank you for your summing up. I would like to make a very brief comment on what you have just said, bearing in mind, of course, that as you have yourself pointed out many times, your summing up does not prejudge the nature of the report of the Drafting Committee. Nevertheless, I would like to ask for a clarification, if I may, on something which I have here in my notes. It may have been a product of a misunderstanding on my part.

I noted your attempt at establishing the categories of countries according to their general preferences on this matter of broadening or not broadening the mandate. It appears to me that you have tried to put countries into all the various categories with the various shades of positions, from a rather more favourable position to a less favourable position, including a neutral position, and that in the end you have suggested that a technical feasibility study be carried out and be submitted to the three committees of FAO for their consideration and then brought back to the Council. This was fairly clear to me and it seems to me, to the extent that your summing up tries to reflect what was said in the debate, quite close to reality. However, there seems to be some sort of contradiction - and here is where I may have misunderstood you, Sir - with what you said at the beginning. If I understood correctly, you said at the beginning that the Council had endorsed in principle the idea of broadening the mandate of the Commission. If the Council, in accordance with your summing up, and in accordance with what I heard, expressed itself in various manners so that countries are put in various categories ranging from some degree of support to doubts or lack of support, including neutral positions, and a technical feasibility study will be commissioned and submitted to the committees for decision, I do not see that this very well reflects an endorsement in principle on the part of the Council. I think your rendition of what took place in the debate - to me a correct one - in fact reveals a lack of endorsement, even in principle.

I should like clarification on this first assertion that you made at the very beginning and on whether I understood correctly that you said that the Council endorsed in principle the idea of broadening. I respectfully submit - and have tried to show - that what came next in your summing up, which seemed correct to me, was not in keeping with the idea of endorsement; rather, it reveals lack of agreement, lack of unanimity in views and a strong hesitation to endorse anything at this point in time.

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Muchas gracias, señor delegado del Brasil. Voy a hacer varias aclaraciones. No encuadré en categorías a ningún grupo de países. Simplemente indiqué que había tres posiciones que representan una continuidad, donde hay muchas tonalidades que, de alguna manera, se agrupan en tres posiciones principales. Yo partí de la premisa de que había que dividir o separar la ampliación del mandato de la Comisión respecto de su viabilidad. Si quiere usted, aunque parezca teórico el asunto, yo no escuché que nadie estuviera en principio en contra de que se ampliara el mandato de la Comisión. Es decir, una cosa es la viabilidad de ampliar el mandato y otra cosa es que no se esté de acuerdo con que se pueda ampliar el mismo. Yo partí de ese principio para luego referirme a la posibilidad de resolver los problemas relativos a la ampliación del mandato y, al respecto, encontré que había tres distintas categorías o clasificaciones y a fin de cuentas propuse, a raíz de sus debates, que se podrían aclarar las distintas cuestiones durante las discusiones del COAG, del COFI y del COFO y llevarlas al próximo Consejo. Si para entonces, incluso su delegación, no considera que es viable y usted no está convencido de que el mandato no afectará las cuestiones de importancia que usted ha mencionado, entonces el Consejo decidirá si propone a la Conferencia ampliar el mandato de la Comisión. No voy a entrar en un debate ahora. Este ha sido mi resumen. Con esto cierro porque el informe lo va a poder recoger, y si usted no está satisfecho en el informe aparecerá simplemente que una mayoría estuvo de acuerdo con tal y cual cosa.

**Alvaro GURGEL DE ALENCAR (Brazil):** Thank you for your explanations. I think I correctly understood what you said. You established these categories for the purpose of leading to a request for a technical feasibility study. You said you did this because in the course of the debate no-one was in principle against the broadening of the mandate. I can agree with that. However, it is one thing to say that no-one was against the broadening in principle; I submit that it is another thing to say that the Council endorsed the broadening in principle. The fact that no-one was against does not mean that there was an endorsement. I am sorry. There is a big difference between the two phrases. I could fully agree with your second assessment of what took place during the debate, that no-one was against in principle, but I find it difficult to accept that the Council endorsed it in principle because the two things are not one and the same thing. One is in keeping with what you said, the other is not.

Thank you very much. I also do not wish to get into a debate.

**EL PRESIDENTE:** No voy a abrir el debate. A lo que me referí -quizás usted había escuchado mal- es a que podríamos concluir todo este proceso diciendo, para desatar una acción, que el Consejo propuso en principio elaborar una propuesta costeadada con un estudio de viabilidad técnica que, en su caso, podría someterse al COAG, etc. Es una propuesta que estoy haciendo, que se puede considerar en su informe o no. Es una propuesta creativa para integrar los distintos puntos de vista en una acción que dé sentido a los debates que han tenido ustedes y no dejarlos en suspenso. No deseo que continúe el debate al respecto.

**Raphael RABE (Madagascar):** Si vous pouvez conclure sur ce point, je me démet. Si on continue, je veux seulement signaler qu'il y a une session pour discuter du rapport. Donc, si vous pouvez arrêter le débat

**EL PRESIDENTE:** El debate sigue abierto. Simplemente es que el debate sobre mi resumen no tiene sentido a estas alturas. Si hay algún planteamiento que ustedes deseen formular a la Secretaría, están invitados a hacerlo. En caso contrario, podríamos concluir y esperar que el Comité de Redacción haya tomado nota. Está aquí el Sr. ABDUL-NAGA, quien ha tomado nota de todo lo dicho aquí. Está pidiendo que les pasemos el proyecto para que lo estudien. ¿Hay alguna otra delegación que desea hacer uso de la palabra? (DENEGACIONES). Creo que es tarde. Quizás estamos todos un poco cansados. A pesar de que teníamos la mejor de las intenciones para concluir el día de hoy con todos los temas de nuestra Agenda, creo que sería bueno que vayamos a descansar y que el día de mañana continuemos con los temas restantes, que son el Tema 21, relativo al nombramiento del Representante de la Conferencia de la FAO en el Comité de Pensiones del Personal. Hay un punto de orden del distinguido delegado de Alemania.

## POINT OF ORDER

## POINT D'ORDRE

## PUNTO DE ORDEN

**Jürgen OESTREICH (Germany):** I think you are underestimating the strength and willingness of the delegates to finish our Agenda today. I suggest that you sense the feeling of Member States as to whether we could finish this evening instead of coming back tomorrow. Of course it is in your hands to sense this, I cannot speak for all, but I think you should try.

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Con mucho gusto. Desde luego, quiero ser democrático. Advierto ya que el Sr. Presidente del Comité de Redacción levanta su bandera. Ya me habían mandado una nota en el sentido de que tendrían que trabajar hasta muy tarde. No obstante, le otorgo la palabra al distinguido delegado de Egipto.

**Adel Mahmoud ABOUL-NAGA (Egypt):** There will be a lot of documents tonight for the Drafting Committee. These items have had a very long discussion. If you are going to continue in the same way, we shall not be able to do the report in the appropriate time. If you go for another half an hour it will be all right. We plan to continue up to 11.30 tonight. We cannot do more. If you continue with this sort of discussion for a long time we shall not be able to finish our work as you want us to.

**OTHER MATTERS (continued)****QUESTIONS DIVERSES (suite)****OTROSASUNTOS continuación)**

- 21. Appointment of Representatives of the FAO Conference to the Staff Pension Committee**
- 21. Nomination du Représentant de la Conférence de la FAO au Comité des pensions du personnel**
- 21. Nombramiento del Representante de la Conferencia de la FAO en el Comité de Pensiones del Personal**

**K. MEHBOOB (Assistant Director-General, Administration and Finance Department):** You have before you document CL 107/16, which deals with the Appointment of Representatives of the FAO Conference to the Staff Pension Committee.

The United Nations Joint Staff Pension Fund provides retirement, death, disability and related benefits for the staff of the United Nations and other related organizations, such as FAO. It is administered by the UN Joint Staff Pension Board and staff pension committees in each of the member organizations. The Board's membership is drawn from these Committees, whose Members and Alternate Members are chosen by the governing bodies, the Executive Heads of the organizations and the participating staff of each organization.

In the case of FAO, normally the Conference appoints three of the nine Members and three of the nine Alternate Members of the FAO Staff Pension Committee. However, in 1955 at the Eighth Session of the Conference, the Council was given authority to appoint replacements for Committee Members and Alternates who were unable to complete their term of office. Paragraph 6 of document CL 107/16 states that a replacement is needed for one Member to serve until 31 December 1995 and for one Alternate Member to serve from 1 January 1995 to 31 December 1997.

We have been informed that a candidate has been proposed to complete the unexpired term of the Member of the Committee, Mr F. Buchholz from the United States, who has departed from Rome on reassignment. His name is Mr John Egan McAteer, Alternate Permanent Representative of the United States of America to FAO. The Secretariat has also been informed that a candidate has been proposed to serve the term of office of the Alternate Member of the Committee, Mr A. Yilala from Ethiopia, appointed by the 27th Session of the FAO Conference in November 1993 but also transferred from Rome on reassignment. His name is Mr Gebre-Hiwet Redai, Counsellor, Embassy of Ethiopia (Office of the Permanent Representative).

The Council may wish to consider these candidatures and, if it finds it acceptable, proceed with the appointment of Mr McAteer as Member and Mr Redai as Alternate Member of the FAO Staff Pension Committee.

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Gracias, Sr. Mehboob. Han escuchado ustedes la presentación de la Secretaría sobre este punto. ¿Hay alguna delegación que desea hacer uso de la palabra? (DENEGACIONES). En ese caso, podemos concluir que, de acuerdo con las candidaturas propuestas, aprobamos los nombramientos del Sr. John Egan McAteer y del Sr. Gebrehiwot Redai como miembro suplente del Comité de Pensiones del Personal de la FAO. Con esto concluye el Tema 21 y pasamos al Tema 20: Otros Asuntos Constitucionales y Jurídicos, en particular, el punto 20.3: Cambios en la Representación de los Estados Miembros en los Comités del Programa y Finanzas. Dr. Mahler, tiene usted la palabra.



**CONSTITUTIONAL AND LEGAL MATTERS (continued)****QUESTIONS CONSTITUTIONNELLES ET JURIDIQUES (suite)****ASUNTOS CONSTITUCIONALES Y JURIDICOS (continuación)**

**20. Other Constitutional and Legal Matters, including:**

**20. Autres questions constitutionnelles et juridiques, notamment:**

**20. Otros asuntos constitucionales y jurídicos, en particular:**

**20.3 Changes in Representations of Member Nations on the Programme and Finance Committees**

**20.3 Changements dans la représentation d'Etats Membres au Comité du Programme et au Comité financier**

**20.3 Cambios en la representación de los Estados Miembros en los Comités del Programa y de Finanzas**

**P.J. MAHLER (Secrétaire Général):** Le document CL 107/INF/10 est présenté au Conseil pour information. Il rend compte des changements intervenus dans la représentation des Etats Membres au sein des Comités du Programme et des Finances. Ce document contient également en annexe les curriculum vitae des remplaçants au sein du Comité du Programme - annexes A, B et C - et au sein du Comité financier -annexe D.

Je pense que ce sous-point de l'ordre du jour n'appelle pas de débat. S'il n'y a pas de questions, le Conseil pourrait prendre note de ces modifications.

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Muchas gracias, Dr. Mahler. Efectivamente, ustedes han tomado nota de la propuesta de que este Consejo se limite simplemente a tomar nota de este punto. Si no hay ningún comentario, lo damos por concluido. Pasamos al Tema 16.

Los documentos que se presentan para su consideración son el CL 107/3-Sup.1-Rev.1 y el CL 107/INF/16-Rev.1. Daré la palabra al Sr. Secretario General, Dr. Mahler, para que haga las eventuales aclaraciones sobre el tema. Punto de orden del distinguido delegado de Alemania.

**POINT OF ORDER****POINT D'ORDRE****PUNTO DE ORDEN**

**Jürgen OESTREICH (Germany):** I am sorry to interrupt a second time, but, in the interests of saving time, would it be possible to discuss Agenda items 16 and 22 together, as they are closely inter-related?

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Con mucho gusto, distinguido delegado de Alemania. Quizás tenga usted razón. Así podemos matar dos pájaros de un tiro, como se dice en español. Si ustedes no tienen ningún inconveniente, distinguidos delegados, trataremos los Temas 16 y 22, ya que están vinculados. El 22 es el relativo a la fecha y lugar del 108° período de sesiones del Consejo.

**PROGRAMME, BUDGETARY, FINANCIAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS (continued)**

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

**ASUNTOS DEL PROGRAMA Y ASUNTOS PRESUPUESTARIOS, FINANCIEROS Y ADMINISTRATIVOS (continuación)**

16. **Revised Calendar of FAO Governing Bodies and other Main Sessions 1994-95**
16. **Calendrier révisé des sessions des organes directeurs de la FAO et des autres principales réunions 1994-95**
- 16 **Calendario revisado para 1994-95 de los períodos de sesiones de los Órganos Rectores y otras reuniones importantes de la FAO**

**OTHER MATTERS (continued)**

**QUESTIONS DIVERSES (suite)**

**OTROS ASUNTOS (continuación)**

22. **Date and Place of the Hundred and Eighth Session of the Council**
22. **Date et lieu de la cent huitième session du Conseil**
- 22 **Fecha y lugar del 108<sup>o</sup> período de sesiones del Consejo**

**LE SECRETAIRE GENERAL:** Effectivement ces deux points sont étroitement liés. En vous proposant le calendrier révisé pour 1995, le Directeur général a tenu compte de la requête faite par le Conseil d'avancer les dates du Comité des forêts et de limiter la durée de la Conférence.

Dans le document CL 107/3-Sup.1-Rev.1, les dates proposées pour la Conférence en 1995 sont du jeudi 19 octobre après-midi au mercredi 1<sup>er</sup> novembre.

Le calendrier des sessions du Conseil et du Comité du Programme et du Comité financier a été ajusté en conséquence. Il a aussi été tenu compte de la nécessité imposée par nos règles d'assurer qu'au moins 120 jours s'écoulent entre la fin de la cent huitième session du Conseil et le début de la Conférence. Nous avons également tenu compte du souhait de nombreuses délégations de choisir, pour la cent huitième session du Conseil, des dates qui permettent d'avoir suffisamment de temps avant cette session pour recevoir et étudier la documentation, et en particulier celle concernant les sujets qui seront abordés, notamment, à l'occasion du cinquantième anniversaire de la FAO.

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Muchas gracias, Dr. Mahler por la presentación conjunta del Tema 16 y el 22. Abro la lista de oradores sobre estos dos temas.

**Hiromoto WATANABE (Japan):** My question concerns item 16. As we do not have much information concerning the ministerial level meetings which will be held during COFO and COFI, and in particular only limited information on the ministerial level meeting on fisheries, I have three questions regarding the past, present and *status quo* of the preparation of the ministerial level meeting.

My first is: Is there any provisional agenda, or any idea of the possible outcome of this meeting?

Secondly: What is the relationship between the high-level panel of experts and ministerial level meetings, especially in the field of fisheries?

My third question concerns the schedule up to March next year. I would like to know what is going to be done by the Secretariat and what will be required of the Member States to prepare for that.

If any information on these points can be made available by the Secretariat it would be much appreciated.

**Jürgen OESTREICH (Germany):** On behalf of the European Community and its member states, and also on behalf of Austria, Finland, Norway and Sweden, I would like to express general agreement with the Committee's proposal in paragraph 11 of document CL 107/3/Sup.1-Rev.1.

We have also taken note of the new dates on the revised calendar of FAO Governing Bodies and other main sessions in 1994 and 1995 contained in document CL 107/INF/16-Rev.1.

I wonder however whether those of us who wish to participate in Quebec at the ministerial meeting until

October 1995, and who also have a duty to participate in the 109th Session of the Council in Rome on October, will be able to arrive in Rome on time - or in what kind of shape they will arrive in Rome.

Finally, I would mention the preparations for the World Summit.

We would like to suggest that before the Conference takes its decision, the preparations for the Summit are not only on the Agenda for the 108th Session in June, but also on the Agenda of the Twentieth Session of the Committee on Food Security, which meets at the very convenient time of the end of April.

**Thomas A. FORBORD (United States of America):** As the United States said during the discussion on the preparations for the food security Summit, we want to see a successful Summit meeting.

We believe that in order for that to happen, there has to be adequate preparation, adequate consultation between members and the Secretariat, and, most importantly, adequate consultation among members.

Depending on the content of the meetings on the schedule we have before 1995, it would appear that between now and the Quebec meeting, where ministers are expected to finalize not only the Quebec Declaration, but also the Summit Policy statement and a plan of action, we have no meetings on the Summit preparation.

I have a question for the Secretariat. Is it the intention of the Secretariat that the June Council meeting will examine only the budgetary aspects of the Summit, or will we be examining the plan of action and the Summit policy papers?

When does the Secretariat propose that the Quebec Declaration — which is in very rough shape at this point, and I think there will be much debate on it - be debated?

We strongly support the proposal by the European Community, including the candidate members, that discussion on Summit documents, Summit programmes, begins at the Conference on Food Security, a very appropriate venue for a summit on food security.

That would, of course, require that Summit documents, both background papers and draft papers of the programme and the policy, be ready in time for that meeting. Is that possible? Is that the plan of the Secretariat?

I think we need these questions answered before we can proceed to approving a Council schedule and a Conference schedule which will depend on those answers.

**Pedro MEDRANO (Chile):** En principio querríamos aceptar el Calendario revisado de reuniones de los Órganos Rectores y otras reuniones importantes de la FAO en el año próximo.

Sin embargo, quisiéramos también preguntar si es posible buscar algún arreglo de fechas, especialmente en lo que se refiere a la fecha prevista para el 109° Consejo en el mes de octubre, ya que efectivamente aparece colocada al día siguiente de la celebración de los cincuenta años de la Organización. Mi pregunta sería, sin perjuicio de lo que hemos acordado en relación a las fechas en que debe tener lugar la Conferencia, si se pudieran ajustar las fechas, en todo caso postergándolas, y moviendo la Conferencia si es necesario uno o dos días en su iniciación, a fin de que efectivamente puedan participar en las sesiones del Consejo aquellos que tienen la intención de participar en la ceremonia prevista en Canadá.

Desde otro punto de vista, quisiéramos, en principio, concordar con la idea, tal como lo señaláramos cuando discutimos el asunto de la Cumbre Mundial sobre la Alimentación, que está prevista para el año 1996, de que los Órganos Técnicos de la FAO puedan tomar conocimiento con la debida anticipación de los documentos que se estarían preparando o que estarían ya preparados para esa oportunidad. Nosotros pensamos que, efectivamente, podría ser una buena posibilidad que el Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria conociera estos antecedentes, ya que de otra forma, este importante Comité de la FAO no tendría ninguna posibilidad de pronunciarse respecto de los preparativos de los contenidos que informarían la Cumbre Mundial de la Alimentación, ya que según se ve aquí, esta Conferencia se desarrollaría en marzo del año 1996 y razonablemente no habría otra reunión prevista de este Comité, en el cual participan los Miembros de la FAO.

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Si no hay ninguna otra delegación miembro del Consejo ni ningún observador que deseen hacer uso de la palabra, le voy a pedir al Sr. Hjort que dé respuesta a las preguntas planteadas.

**DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL:** Firstly, with respect to the concern about the 109th Session of the Council meeting on the 17th, the day after the conclusion of the matters in Quebec, I guess the main point to make is that the Director-General is accustomed to flying back from the United States and going right to work. Maybe some of the members of the Council are not. I will take that into account.

This schedule has been adjusted and, as you have been informed, we have been trying to accommodate the wish expressed by certain ministers to be able to come straight from the celebrations and the discussions in Canada, to Rome, without returning home.

As you noticed in the document, we propose that the Conference open on the afternoon of Thursday, the 19th. We certainly will take your views into account. I understand the problem that some of you would have, but I would note that the meeting in Quebec is of ministers, and usually ministers do not attend the Council Session.

It is a tight schedule; there is no denying it. It may be feasible to slip the Conference one day, have it meet one day later, and let there be a day between to arrive here and rest.

As far as the questions about the June Council session are concerned, you will notice that that June Council session is for more days than would normally be the situation for a Council which is preparing for Conference.

The reason for those extra four days, or maybe a little more, is to provide the opportunity for the Council to have a full discussion on the documents for the Summit. It is the intention of the Director-General that for those days of this Council session it would be an open Council. In other words members other than those of the Council could participate in that session so that they would also have an opportunity to fully review and participate in the discussion on the documents.

A point was raised about the Declaration which has been before each one of the Regional Conferences and on which we have requested comments. We have received a good number of comments. They are being summarized. I am not at all certain that this would require a lot of further discussion and debate. But I would suspect that, if there were a need to come back to the members to look at this prior to its consideration on the afternoon of 16 October, that also could be accommodated at the June session of the Council.

With regard to the questions that were posed by the delegation from Japan, as I mentioned with respect to Forestry — and I think at that time made note of the fact that the Director-General had requested from member countries their suggestion for the Agenda for all of the main committees identified here, COFI, COFO, COAG, CCP and CFS - responses have been received from some member countries but not all.

With respect to the agenda for the committees on Forestry and Fisheries, and the other main committees, the communication that is required to the chairpersons of those committees has gone to them. It contains a paragraph saying that there may be modifications in the agenda due to responses received from member countries.

This process is right at the edge. We need to get the agenda out. So it is a very active matter right at this moment.

In the case of forestry, the two main agenda items will be the Report for the CSD and the review of the proposals for 1996-97, in the context of the medium-term and longer-term plans, and also of the evaluation report which is traditional.

These two agenda items are the main ones. Other matters of importance that need to be brought to the attention of the ministers will be covered in a third agenda item which cannot at this point be firmed up precisely because comments are still being received from Member Countries. However, you will recall that I have already noted that the item with respect to restraints of trade, concerning tropical products, is a matter that we intend to bring to the ministers.

You will recall that the Report on the CSD covers the principles as well as Chapter 11, and in connection with the principles you were informed that the Director-General has agreed to accept the recommendation from the Expert Group to prepare a document. This will very likely be in the context of the CSD Report where we also are required to address the matter, the pros and cons or advantages and disadvantages of moving from principles towards a legally binding instrument. As I reported to you, there is no intention to make any firm recommendation but to provide an objective, basic document that gives pros and cons.

With respect to what is the relationship between the High-Level Panel of External Experts and the ministerial meeting, the High-Level Panel of External Experts was selected to provide advice to the Director-General. The Report to the Director-General was made available to you for information. This is one source of advice on forestry issues. This Council is another source of advice. The Regional Conferences are another source of advice, and anything else that is under way including the CSD process through which we are also receiving advice. It is one of many sources of advice on the future work of the Organization with respect to forestry matters.

Specific schedule until March: the deadline for the CSD Report is 9 December. The second draft is being reviewed at the present time. The deadline for the other documents for consideration in this context, for the draft stage at least, is 15 December. As I noted in my statement to you, the CSD Report will be presented to the Intrasessional Working Group at its 27 February - 3 March 1995 Session and to the meetings of the Forest Industry, the Non-Governmental Community, COFO and the Ministers in accordance with the schedule for March 1995. All of those are in March. The Industry Meeting will probably be on the second or third day of March, whatever that Friday is. The NGO meeting will be a week later and then continuing on with forestry and fishery.

Comparable arrangements apply to the COFI. Everything I have said about the agenda applies. The COFI also has to consider, as it always does, the proposals for 1996-1997. Again, they will do so in the context of the medium-term, longer-term, and the evaluation report. The High-Level Panel of External Experts for fishery matters is expected to prepare a report to the Director-General on the sustainable contribution of fisheries and aquaculture to food supplies which is expected then to be presented for consideration at the Ministerial Meeting.

I believe that answers the questions I heard. If there are others, please come back to me.

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Gracias, Sr. Hjort, por sus respuestas. Pregunto a los miembros del Consejo si desean aclarar alguna cuestión.

**Thomas A. FORBORD (United States of America):** There was one question to which I did not hear a response, namely whether the Technical Summit documents and the programme and policy documents can be ready for the April meetings. I refer to the Policy document and the Plan of Action documents for the Committee on Food Security and the technical documents for the Technical Committees.

I have an observation. The last pre-Conference June Council meeting was from 14 June to 25 June 1993. That is ten days. The schedule I have for June 1995 is also ten days. I do not see the extra four days.

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Antes de dar la palabra al Sr. Hjort, voy a pedir al delegado de China que haga sus planteamientos.

**CHEN ZHIXIN (China) (Original language Chinese):** I too would like to ask a question on the Report of the Plant Genetic Resources Commission and refer to paragraph 52 of that Report. The Commission is to meet from 12 to 23 June 1995, but in the timetable before the Governing Bodies this date is not listed. The Chinese delegation would like to have clarification on that matter. We would like to know whether the Commission on Plant Genetic Resources will meet at the same time as the Council.

**D. SANDS SMITH (United Kingdom):** I would like to pick up on two points. The first is the question of travel between Quebec and Rome. On this, I do not think it is a question of the resilience of Ministers, or indeed officials, but it is a question of a considerable number of Ministers and a large number of officials having to travel between one location and another. The distance is not inconsiderable. It does take time. We need to allow for that. I suspect that if we try to work on a very tight time basis we may find it is not feasible for everybody.

I think what Mr. Hjort said towards the end of his intervention on this point was that, if necessary, we could actually have a day in between. I am not sure whether I understood that correctly, but it seems to me that we need some time to make sure that everyone can transfer in good order from Quebec to Rome so that we can then carry out our important business in Rome effectively.

On a second point, as far as the Quebec Declaration is concerned, I am delighted to hear that the Secretariat has the comments, that it is working on the comments and that it is incorporating the comments. However, it is most important that we see the document that is then produced showing the incorporation of these comments. We will need to look at that substantively at our June Council meeting. That will be necessary.

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Pregunto si algún otro miembro del Consejo, u observador, desea hacer uso de la palabra. Si no desean intervenir le pido al Sr. Hjort que responda a las preguntas planteadas.

**DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL:** On the question of April availability of documents the intention is yes, that we would seek to have the documents available by the time of the CFS, in that time-frame. All of this is a reasonably tight schedule but we are hopeful that in this period we may have the background documents for COFI, COFO and COAG ready. The Director-General had looked at this from the other way round and we have given guidance to the authors of every paper for every one of these main committee meetings as well as those who have already started work on the documentation for the Conference, to be keeping in mind the Summit and, in each one of those papers, prepare the analytical foundation for relevant components. I am not saying that we will have the Summit on the agenda of these meetings. Instead, in preparing the technical documents for consideration, matters that will be important and need to be addressed at the Summit will be covered in some of the technical documentation. Therefore, there is an interaction between these documents and the Summit background documents. It is a chicken and egg question in a way: either one tries to have the background documents produced in final form before these meetings or one takes into account the discussion of these meetings on those relevant aspects and see if there is a need for any fine tuning of the background documents. Yet, it is in the time-frame mentioned that we are trying have the documents ready for distribution.

As far as the number of days for the June Session is concerned, you will be aware that you are operating much more efficiently these days than hitherto. Therefore, we can assure you that the intention is to reserve four days or so for an in-depth discussion of the documents for the Summit.

As far as the Commission on Plant Genetic Resources is concerned, I guess we are at fault. There have been so many revisions in this schedule. We will have to find the time for it. It somehow got lost in the translation but certainly it will be honoured. We will have to find the time.

I take the point, and I took it earlier, about the 17th, and said that it was a tight schedule and that we would look at it to see if the concerns could be accommodated. Technically, from the standpoint of the calendar, it does not move us into a weekend if there were a slippage of one day. Instead of starting on the afternoon of Thursday, one could start Friday morning.

So we are really slipping half a day, probably. But we will have to look at that, and I can assure you that your comments will be taken into account. And yes, on the Quebec Declaration, I think that is what I said, that if and as necessary, review could take place also at that June Council session.

It seems to me that I forgot one question that was raised, but I cannot think of it right now. If there is a question that I did not respond to, please come back.

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Pregunto a los miembros del Consejo si están satisfechos con las respuestas ofrecidas.

**Pedro MEDRANO (Chile):** Simplemente, quisiéramos decir que no nos queda claro. No sé si va a haber una sobreposición entre la reunión prevista para la Comisión de Recursos Fitogenéticos y el Consejo, o se van a tomar las medidas para que no coincidan las dos reuniones. En todo caso, yo quisiera señalar la importancia que asignamos a los dos eventos. En tal sentido, quisiéramos que la Secretaría pudiera ver la forma de que las dos reuniones no coincidan en el tiempo.

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Señor Hjort, ¿desea usted responder?

**DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL:** No, we would try not or we would not intend to have these two important matters being considered at the same time. It would be a matter of trying to find a time. The timing was close on this occasion, this year, very little time between them. It may even have to be closer next year because you notice that the CFA is scheduled from 22 to 26 May, and then the Council will start on 5 June. But that week in between is the most likely one, I would guess. But we would try very much to avoid having them at the same time. I should point out that not only will we see to it that there is an opportunity to discuss the declaration, but I am reminded that the Conference Resolution that you passed requires that the Quebec Declaration come back before the Council in June. So I can just doubly affirm that we are going to do so.

**EL PRESIDENTE:** El Consejo hizo varias observaciones y sugerencias en relación al Calendario Revisado para 1994/95 de los períodos de sesiones de los órganos rectores y de otras reuniones importantes de la FAO y en particular, se consideraron los tiempos y la necesidad de estudiar los documentos y los temas que formarían parte de la Cumbre Mundial de la Alimentación.

Hubo sugerencias en el sentido de que el Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria, en la medida de que la FAO sea capaz de proporcionar para entonces los documentos, estudie éstos y los temas que serán en principio tratados en la Cumbre Mundial de la Alimentación y por el proceso preparatorio. Tras el Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria, el Consejo de la FAO estudiaría los resultados de tal examen y asimismo, como estaba planeado, el proceso preparatorio de la Cumbre Mundial de la Alimentación.

Se manifestó preocupación en torno al limitado número de días para que el Consejo de junio revise tanto el Programa de Labores y Presupuestos para 1996-97, como la preparación de la Cumbre Mundial de la Alimentación. Nos ofrecieron todas las garantías, por parte de la Secretaría, en el sentido de que se contaría en principio con el tiempo suficiente.

El Consejo también expresó su preocupación en relación a la fecha del 109° Período de Sesiones del Consejo que se celebraría, de acuerdo con lo propuesto, inmediatamente después de la reunión ministerial de Quebec.

Hubo algunas sugerencias en el sentido de que se corriera la fecha por lo menos un día, y que de la misma manera se podría correr el inicio de la Conferencia hasta el día 20 de octubre por la mañana.

Hubo igualmente sugerencias respecto del tratamiento de la documentación que se enviará a la reunión ministerial para el 50° Aniversario de la FAO y se dieron garantías en el sentido de que los documentos estarán disponibles y listos para su consideración por el Consejo.

Teniendo en cuenta las observaciones y sugerencias formuladas por el Consejo, éste en principio aprobó el calendario revisado para 1994/95, en el entendido de que se harán los ajustes necesarios para tomar en consideración los puntos de vista del Consejo respecto de los tiempos y la secuencia en el tratamiento de temas que consideraron importante señalar a la atención del Sr. Director General.

No sé, distinguidos delegados, si quieren agregar algo. Seguramente el informe lo tendrá en cuenta. Habrá todavía necesidad de algunas consultas, seguramente respecto de sus sugerencias. Quizás el Comité de Redacción, al formular el informe respecto a este tema, podría tomarlas en consideración y luego el Consejo también puede confirmar la aprobación de este calendario revisado.

Si no hay ninguna otra cuestión, queda incluido en este resumen y propuestas el Tema 22 relativo al 108° período de sesiones del Consejo, y me permito entonces cerrar estos dos puntos del orden del día y pasar al Tema 23: Otros Asuntos.

23. Any Other Business 23. Toutes autres questions 23. Otros asuntos

Ofrezco la palabra a la distinguida delegación de Cuba y posteriormente a Brasil. ¿Hay alguna otra delegación que desea hacer uso de la palabra? Solicitan la palabra Venezuela y Chile.

**Juan NUIRY SANCHEZ (Cuba):** Permítame señor Presidente ocupar estos minutos muy brevemente, pues aún no son las siete, para tratar este último Tema 23: Otros Asuntos. Llegamos al final de la Agenda aprobada de este 107° período de sesiones de la FAO, aunque aún falta la discusión y aprobación del documento final, con la intención, si así se entiende, de que pudieran ser introducidos en el informe algunos señalamientos sobre el desarrollo de esta importante reunión que nuestra delegación desea hacer. La expectativa de este Consejo tuvo una muy acertada preparación previa. En lo que respecta a nuestra Región de América Latina y el Caribe, pudo tener oportunidad de celebrar encuentros tanto con el Director General de la FAO y su más alto equipo de dirección, como con usted, señor Presidente, circunstancia que además de positiva sirvió de adecuada aclaración sobre muchos puntos de vista. Una vez comenzadas, el pasado martes 15 de noviembre, las sesiones del Consejo y su desarrollo, no seríamos justos si no hiciéramos mención a su acertada conducción, equilibrada, transparente, objetiva, en su condición de Presidente Independiente del Consejo. Su dirección, señor Presidente, hizo posible una vez más, bajo el principio de los organismos multilaterales, que todos los Estados Miembros tuvieran la oportunidad de intervenir en igualdad de condiciones para expresar sus puntos de vista. Algunos planteamientos, no exentos de verdades irrefutables, pues no se puede tapar el sol con un dedo, ante una reflexión colectiva, deben ser debatidos de forma constructiva y buscar soluciones en aras de lo que es, en fin, el resultado de nuestro trabajo: lograr una mejor vida que dé al traste con ese flagelo de la humanidad que es el hambre y la desnutrición, en la búsqueda de la seguridad alimentaria de todos los pueblos del mundo, compromiso contraído con la humanidad.

En nombre de mi delegación, no sólo destaco estas consideraciones en su conducción, señor Presidente, sino también en lo que respecta a sus valiosos resúmenes al final de cada tema, en los que se pudo apreciar su estilo inconfundible, la síntesis de lo más importante ocurrido en el debate, que demostró la debida atención prestada en cada una de las intervenciones aquí realizadas. Pero en toda esa unidad de esfuerzo no se podría dejar de mencionar y destacar la labor realizada por la Secretaría, con su acostumbrada y reconocida capacidad, la conocida experiencia, claridad y paciencia de los intérpretes, las amabilidades y gentilezas de las jóvenes mensajeras y de las trabajadoras de la mesa de distribución de documentos. También aprovechamos esta oportunidad, y lo destacamos pues a veces no lo hemos oído, el trabajo que realiza el equipo de las redactoras de las actas taquigráficas, en las que observamos siempre, bajo su alta calificación y profesionalidad, complementos importantes y decisivos en la óptima calidad de nuestros verbatim, que reflejan con marcada seguridad cada una de las palabras que expresamos, cada acento, cada calificativo. A todos y



cada uno un reconocimiento justo. Todo este trabajo colectivo, cada uno dentro de la esfera de su acción, ha hecho posible el resultado de este Consejo, que surge como reto de un esperado despegue de reformas y cuyo desarrollo equilibrado y constructivo concluye ahora con este tema final.

Bajo estos aspectos también constructivos proponemos que estos reconocimientos sean recogidos en su informe final, en cuyo debate espero prevalezca el mismo espíritu, pues conocemos el trabajo que está realizando el Comité de Redacción, así como su reconocida capacidad, a pesar de lo que ha planteado nuestro estimado colega de Egipto respecto al tiempo.

### **Applause**

### **Applaudissements**

### **Aplausos**

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Muchas gracias por sus muy amables palabras. Quizás esto nos evitará que, una vez que aprobemos el informe, tengamos que identificar todo el conjunto de agradecimientos que usted de manera tan excelente ha ofrecido al Consejo. Al suscribirlo, al final de nuestro trabajo el jueves, no tendré que explayarme en formular todos los agradecimientos a quienes han permitido que este Consejo se lleve a cabo correctamente.

**Alvaro GURGEL DE ALENCAR (Brazil):** I will make a very brief intervention in two parts. The first one is still an item of business. Neither of the two parts will require any decision by the Council.

The first point I wish to make is made on behalf of a fairly large number of delegations, members of the Latin American and Caribbean Group, those delegations which were present at a meeting of that Group which was held on 14 November, on the eve of this Council. They have asked me to present this proposal on their behalf.

I submit this proposal - and that is why I say it does not require action by the Council at this stage - under item 7(a) of Rule XXV of the General Rules, which states that the Director-General, in consultation with the Chairman of the Council, and having regard to suggestions made by Member Nations, shall prepare a provisional agenda for the Council. That is the purpose of the proposal I am about to make. It is a suggestion for the inclusion of one item on the provisional agenda for the next session of the Council, i.e. the 108th session of the Council.

Since it is the Director-General who takes action under this rule, in consultation with the Chairman of the Council, of course I made sure that he was consulted on the item itself. It is my understanding that he has no difficulty of substance with this particular item. I will come to some qualification of this a little later on.

The item is the following. It could be drafted in a very simple manner to read simply, "Review of the Structure of FAO's Governing Bodies". The motivation behind it is the same that I had the opportunity of explaining some time ago at a luncheon given by the Director-General to the Presidents and Coordinators of all Regional Groups, i.e. the question of the very low level of representation of Member Nations in some of the intergovernmental bodies of this Organization. For some of them, in fact, the proportion of members represented in relation to the totality of the membership, which is 170 members, is no higher than around three percent, four percent or five percent, which is a very low level of representation, for this day and age in particular.

All we are proposing is that this be included on the agenda to allow for a first discussion by the Council on this matter. We do not expect that any decision will be taken immediately at the next session of the Council. Having in mind an observation I heard indirectly from the Director-General, we would not wish to burden the Secretariat with any extra work in the preparation for the discussion of this item. In fact, no documentation is required. Everyone knows how many members each committee has. We do not wish to overload further the Secretariat with other tasks in the preparation of the discussion of this item.

What the Council will wish to do with this item is up to the Council to decide. We do not wish to prejudge anything. We just want to start a process of looking into this matter in parallel with the restructuring which the Director-General is carrying out at the administrative level. We think governments should have an opportunity to look at this matter also from the intergovernmental level. That is the whole idea behind this proposal which those Latin American and Caribbean countries proposed. I have a list of these countries, of course, if it is necessary. You will recall, Mr Chairman, that I left a text in your hands, just as I had left a text to be sent to the Director-General, and I hope there will be no difficulty with this.

If you will allow me two more minutes, I should like to move on to the second part of my intervention. This is a very brief statement which I am instructed to make because of a couple of events or situations which have occurred during this session of the Council.

My government welcomes the winds of change now blowing through FAO's offices, corridors and meeting halls. As I have suggested before, for changes to be lasting and meaningful, they should not be too swift. These winds of change should ideally blow with steady, even force through both the administrative and intergovernmental quarters of our building. Moreover, the will to bring about greater efficiency and purpose to this Organization should extend fully to the relationship between the Administration and Member Governments, the latter acting essentially through their Permanent Representatives.

We have been encouraged by the Director-General's offer to maintain a frank, open and cordial dialogue and we have appreciated the candid and objective manner in which he replied to the points raised on item 11 of our agenda. As FAO tries to assert its role as a forum for negotiations in the normative area, timely information and broad-based consultations in a climate of total transparency become essential in order to build the indispensable confidence amongst all parties engaged in such negotiating exercises.

My government, for one, remains ready to contribute to the search for a revitalized FAO and we would like to feel secure that at each step of this process we shall all be given the opportunity to prepare ourselves so that we can express our interests in a fully informed manner.

**EL PRESIDENTE:** El Consejo ha tomado nota de los dos planteamientos que ha hecho. El primero relativo al párrafo 7<sup>a</sup> del artículo 27 del Reglamento General, en cuanto a su propuesta de someter al próximo Consejo de junio de 1995 un tema adicional en su Agenda que, conforme a lo que yo tomé dice: Examen de la estructura de los órganos rectores de la FAO. Ahora bien, le pregunto, distinguido delegado, si se refiere a los órganos rectores o a los intergubernamentales, como aparecía en su propuesta escrita. Su propuesta escrita hablaba de la estructura de los órganos intergubernamentales de la FAO. No sé si he tomado nota de ello bien o mal en español. ¿Me lo puede usted aclarar, por favor?

**Alvaro GURGEL DE ALENCAR (Brazil):** Gladly, Mr Chairman. Indeed the text that I gave you and the text that I read out in English, which were both the same, referred to intergovernmental bodies. I do not know how it came out in other languages. I am sorry.

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Vuelvo a repetir. La propuesta es: Examen de la Estructura de los Órganos Intergubernamentales de la FAO. Debo advertir antes de que se abra un debate al respecto que el Consejo no debe tomar una decisión en este sentido. No es necesario que tome una decisión ahora respecto de esta propuesta. Les suplico que lo consideren para que no se abra el debate al respecto.

El segundo punto, desde luego, es que el Consejo ha tomado nota de su declaración, distinguido delegado.

**Pedro MEDRANO (Chile):** Quisiera simplemente, Sr. Presidente, apoyar lo expresado por el Representante de Brasil en relación a incluir en la próxima reunión del Consejo un tema de la Agenda que se ocupe básicamente de un análisis de los Órganos de Gobierno e Intergubernamentales de la FAO.

Lo hacemos porque quisiéramos también, como Miembros de la FAO, participar en el proceso de modernización de la FAO. Observamos que el Director General lleva a efecto, con todo nuestro respaldo, un

proceso de reestructuración, de descentralización y de establecimiento o fortalecimiento de prioridades esenciales para la Organización.

Nosotros quisiéramos contribuir a ese proceso de modernización y de revitalización, concretamente a la estructura de Gobierno de la FAO, en términos de hacerla también más eficiente y que pueda cumplir en mejor forma con los principios de la Organización y ciertamente con el requerimiento, las necesidades de los países, en términos de una adecuada y oportuna participación.

Lo que estamos proponiendo es que se inicie un debate, que todo aquello que tradicionalmente comentamos en pasillos, en corredores o en otras sedes, como ha sido la experiencia en el pasado, pueda tener un desarrollo ordenado, racional, con posibilidad de participación amplia de los Miembros de la FAO, y ciertamente de sus órganos directivos.

Yo creo que podríamos estar todos de acuerdo en que, ciertamente, el principio de la representatividad de los Estados Miembros de la FAO tiene que ser respetado, y en tal sentido, una representación proporcional en los Organos de Gobierno de la FAO, en sus Comités Técnicos y en sus Organos Intergubernamentales debe ser asegurada. Estamos por terminar con la práctica de decir las cosas fuera de los mecanismos formales de la Organización y pensamos que ha llegado el tiempo de reflexionar respecto de estos temas y la propuesta consiste simplemente en que en el próximo Consejo, especialmente teniendo en cuenta que esta Organización fue creada hace ya casi cincuenta años, se puede examinar la forma en que estos Comités, estos Órganos de Gobierno, están cumpliendo o no adecuadamente su mandato.

Hay muchas cosas que nos gustaría plantear en este proceso, pero ciertamente creo que esta reflexión tiene que ser ordenada y de ahí que iniciemos concretamente esta propuesta solicitando amablemente a la Secretaría que, conjuntamente con el Presidente Independiente del Consejo, acoja esta petición.

Quisiéramos significar que advertimos no solamente un problema de composición de los órganos sino que también respecto de la metodología de trabajo quisiéramos hacer aportes. De la misma forma en que tuvimos oportunidad en el día de hoy de examinar el trabajo y los métodos de trabajo de la Conferencia, nos parece lógico el que podamos también examinar la forma en que los Órganos que refieren a la Conferencia realizan su trabajo. No resulta lógico el que modifiquemos o tomemos previsiones respecto de la forma de trabajo de su órgano máximo, en este caso la Conferencia, si no tenemos en cuenta la forma en que trabajan las estructuras de Gobierno de la FAO antes de someter sus propuestas para aprobación a la Conferencia.

Nos gustaría, por ejemplo, en tal sentido, ver la relación que hay entre las Conferencias Regionales y el Plan de Trabajo y el Plan de Presupuesto, la forma en como inciden los debates de los diferentes Comités Técnicos en el plan de trabajo de la Organización.

Pensamos que estos son temas que deberíamos empezar a discutir. Es la forma apropiada, creemos, de fortalecer esta Organización en términos de que cada País Miembro sienta que es en sus órganos respectivos de gobierno donde encuentra satisfacción a sus requerimientos y a sus necesidades y no al margen de la Organización.

**EL PRESIDENTE:** El Consejo ha tomado nota de sus planteamientos que complementan la exposición de motivos presentada por la Delegación de Brasil.

**Raphael RABE (Madagascar):** Ma délégation a écouté très attentivement les interventions des délégués du Brésil et du Chili sur une proposition extrêmement importante et, en tout cas, nécessaire, qui intéresse d'ailleurs non seulement le Conseil mais tous les Etats Membres. J'avais moi-même recensé plus de trente organes lorsque j'avais abordé cette question: il y a tous les comités restreints, les organes intergouvernementaux, etc. On a d'ailleurs déjà abordé en partie cette question à propos des organes intergouvernementaux de produits et on a déjà pris conscience des difficultés de cette question. Il s'agit d'une question extrêmement importante, nécessaire, indispensable. Ce sont plusieurs pays de la région de l'Amérique latine qui proposent ce point et je me garderai bien de mettre cette proposition en cause ou de la critiquer car elle est fondée.

Si j'interviens, c'est seulement pour attirer l'attention sur l'ordre du jour déjà très chargé du Conseil. Je citerai seulement, entre autres, qu'au cours de la session de juin 1995 du Conseil, nous devons examiner en profondeur, avec tout le sérieux requis, le Programme de travail et budget 1996-97; nous exigeons, si je puis m'exprimer ainsi, que l'on nous donne déjà des informations concrètes sur le Sommet mondial de la sécurité alimentaire; il faut aussi examiner de très près la préparation de la quatrième Conférence technique sur les ressources phytogénétiques. Je ne cite que les plus importantes parce qu'il y en a tellement. En dernier lieu -et ce n'est pas le moindre - nous demandons au Directeur général qu'il mette en oeuvre la restructuration qu'il a mentionnée dans son discours. Nous savons à quel niveau se trouve la mise en oeuvre de cette restructuration. Il y a aussi le lancement des programmes spéciaux; nous voudrions que ces programmes soient efficaces et obtiennent des résultats. Vous voyez un peu le tableau!

Donc, tout en étant convaincu de l'importance de ce point, je suis quand même inquiet à l'idée que l'on inscrive encore des points très difficiles à l'ordre du jour. C'est seulement mon avis. Et c'est peut-être d'ailleurs une réaction dangereuse dans la mesure où j'ai réagi à chaud. C'est peut-être en discutant tranquillement avec les délégués qui ont proposé ce point que l'on pourrait trouver une formule. Mais lorsque nous inscrivons un point à l'ordre du jour, nous ne nous contentons pas de simples documents, nous exigeons toujours une préparation sérieuse.

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Gracias, distinguido Delegado por sus comentarios y sus preocupaciones.

Como yo les había dicho, esta propuesta, bajo el Artículo XXV, párrafo 7(a), requiere consultas entre el Director General y el Presidente Independiente del Consejo. No es necesario que este Consejo examine y decida sobre este punto. Esto se realizará una vez que se revise la Agenda para el próximo Consejo de la Organización y desde luego, se tomarán en cuenta las distintas situaciones, la viabilidad de hacer un estudio, la viabilidad de incorporarlo en la Agenda de la Organización en función del tiempo, etc., pero ha sido propuesto un tema y bajo el Artículo XXV el Consejo ha tomado nota y el Director General, lo estudiará, en consulta con el Presidente Independiente.

Le suplico que evitemos un debate respecto de si es conveniente o no este tema. No es materia de decisión del Consejo.

**Christophe KIEMTORE (Burkina Faso):** L'article VII(a) prévoit également qu'un Etat Membre peut demander l'inscription d'un point à l'ordre du jour. Mais cela se passe entre le Directeur général et le Président indépendant du Conseil. Le problème, c'est que la question a été portée à la connaissance du Conseil et que nous avons aussi eu à définir l'ordre du jour de notre prochaine réunion. C'est un point dont on vient de discuter. Si l'on a fixé la date de la prochaine réunion, que l'on a défini un certain nombre de points qui devront y être discutés, nous sommes tentés, en tant qu'organe ayant une certaine continuité, non pas de prendre une décision mais de faire des commentaires sur la proposition. Je dis cela, Monsieur le Président, pour vous aider peut-être à prendre la décision finale.

## **POINT OF ORDER**

### **POINT D'ORDRE**

### **PUNTO DE ORDEN**

**Adel Mahmoud ABOUL-NAGA (Egypt):** Sir, you promised we would finish by 7.00 and it is now 7.30. I fully endorse the view of Burkina Faso. I think that this issue is our problem. It has been brought to the Council, and it can be consulted upon directly with you. It is the bringing of it into the Council now which has caused this problem. I think it would have been better to take it directly to you, without discussion and without taking any note from the Council. This is my proposal for this item, because if it is coming to the Council's concern we would all debate it. I think that if it is a note for you to discuss with the Director-General without any noting in the draft, or anything like that, I shall accept that, and we can go ahead.

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Hay una propuesta específica de un delegado. Si ninguno se opone, así se decidirá. No se discutirá más este punto en este tema de otros asuntos, de lo contrario tendremos que votar sobre esto y no creo que sea necesario.

Ya les he repetido, distinguidos delegados, en varias ocasiones, que este asunto no lo tiene que decidir ni examinar el Consejo de la FAO, por tanto no es necesario que lo debatan. Este asunto lo verá el Director General en consulta con el Presidente Independiente del Consejo.

Los otros temas que se van a incorporar en el Consejo de junio sí fueron materia de discusión en este Consejo y sobre ellos el Informe recogerá los puntos de vista del Consejo. Sobre este tema, lo vuelvo a repetir, está el Artículo XXV, párrafo 7(a).

Voy a conceder la palabra exclusivamente sobre otros aspectos, dentro de otros asuntos. Si alguna otra delegación desea hacer uso de la palabra respecto de otros asuntos, se la voy a conceder.

**D. SANDS SMITH (United Kingdom):** I asked for the floor a little while ago. I do not want to extend the debate, but just to place a suggestion on the table -I think it may be helpful and it will not take more than 30 seconds.

I suggest that the question of the intergovernmental groups might possibly be discussed in the first place in the Committee on Commodity Problems.

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Sí, distinguido delegado, es ya parte de la Agenda.

Si no hay ninguna otra cuestión que deseen plantear bajo este tema de otros asuntos, con esto terminamos el Tema 23 y con ello también toda la Agenda del Consejo.

El Consejo se reunirá de nuevo el jueves, en principio a las 9.30 horas de la mañana para aprobar su Informe. El día de mañana queda libre y esperamos que el Comité de Redacción haga su trabajo y tenga a tiempo el Informe para que lo podamos revisar.

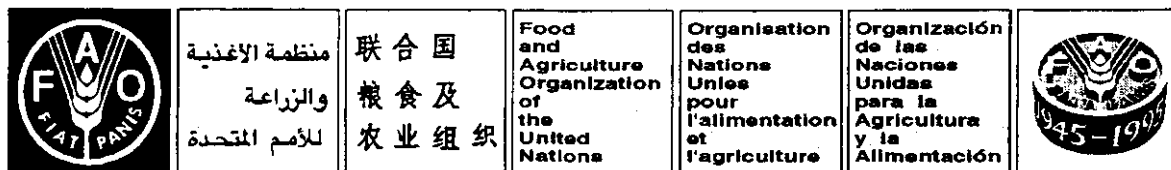
**The meeting rose at 19.30 hours.**

**La séance est levée à 19 h 30.**

**Se levanta la sesión a las 19.30 horas.**



22 November 1994



COUNCIL

CONSEIL

CONSEJO

Hundred and Seventh Session • Cent septième session • 107º período de sesiones

THIRTEENTH PLENARY MEETING  
TREIZIEME SEANCE PLENIERE  
13ª SESION PLENARIA

24 November 1994

The Thirteenth Plenary Meeting was opened at 10.00 hours  
Mr José Ramón López Portillo,  
Independent Chairman of the Council, presiding

La trezième séance plénière est ouverte à 10 00h  
sous la présidence de M. José Ramón López Portillo,  
Président indépendant du Conseil

Se abre la 13ª sesión plenaria a las 10.00 horas  
bajo la presidencia del Sr. José Ramón López Portillo,  
Presidente Independiente del Consejo

**ADOPTION OF REPORT****ADOPTION DU RAPPORT****APROBACION DEL INFORME**

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Buenos días, distinguidos delegados, distinguidos observadores, señoras y señores. Han tenido ustedes libre el día de ayer. Espero que hayan descansado y recobrado los ánimos para aprobar nuestro informe de la manera más positiva posible. Tienen delante de ustedes del CL 107/REP/1 al CL 107/REP/10. Falta el CL 107/REP/11, relativo a recursos fitogenéticos, que se distribuirá en unos momentos. Al respecto, les quiero informar que les daré tiempo suficiente para que lean dicho documento, o sea el CL 107/REP.11, hagan sus consultas y preparen sus comentarios.

Antes de proponer la forma en que trabajaremos, voy a solicitar al Presidente del Comité de Redacción que presente el Proyecto de Informe de este Consejo. Como ustedes saben, el Comité de Redacción trabajó durante largas horas y revisó de manera minuciosa el Proyecto de Informe que se somete ahora a su consideración. Estoy seguro, lo subrayo, estoy seguro, que los miembros del Comité de Redacción defenderán el Proyecto de Informe que se les ha presentado. Pero para ello voy a solicitar al Presidente del Comité de Redacción, Sr. Aboul-Naga, que nos presente el Proyecto de Informe.

**Adel Mahmoud ABOUL-NAGA (Chairman, Drafting Committee):** I should like to start by expressing my grateful thanks to all members of the Drafting Committee, who worked very hard, for very long hours, until late in the evening with the help of the Secretariat and the General Service, in order to produce this Report on time.

I assure you that it was not an easy task; it was hard, tough and everyone who represented you tried to defend as much as possible, not only his views, but the views of the group he represented.

With all that effort, I believe - and I hope you will agree - we have ended with a good compromise.

There were many points and arguments raised in the discussion to ensure that the Report reflects exactly what was discussed here in Plenary. I hope you find that the Report reflects the debate in Plenary.

I would just say that, due to the rush and to the late working hours, there are some mistakes in the draft. Therefore, if you will allow me, I will announce the changes so that everybody can take note of them before we continue proposing the draft for adoption.

There are no corrections in REP/1.

In REP/2 there are two corrections: the first one is in paragraph 15. This is a linguistic correction. In the fifth line in the English version, "bovine pulmonia" is spelt wrongly. It is "contagious bovine pleuropneumonia". I hope you will take note of that.

The other correction is in the last phrase of paragraph 18, which reads, "... and did not facilitate reaching a consensus on concerted action. " This phrase is to be deleted.

Those are the two corrections in REP/2.

In REP/3 there is one correction in paragraph 18. It means replacing a phrase in the last sentence. The phrase "... and countries should be encouraged to comply voluntarily with the PIC procedure pending conclusion of a legally binding instrument" should be moved to end of the sentence before. So that phrase should be removed from the last sentence and become the last phrase of the sentence before, after "as possible. "

REPS/4, 5 and 6 have nothing.

In REP/7 there is a small correction in paragraph 6: in the third line of the English version delete the word "numeric" and insert after "turnover" the word "rate."



Again, in paragraph 6, the third line, in the English version, to be deleted the word "numeric" and to insert the word "rate" after "turnover" so that it will read "the turnover rate times the recruitment".

On REP/8 I have nothing. We have two corrections in REP 9, paragraph 26. I would ask for your indulgence because we have two corrections to this paragraph. In the fourth line we wish to add at the end of the line in the English version the term "draft policy documents and". The sentence will read "In any case, preparatory documents in general and draft policy documents and the Draft Plan of Action in particular should be made available ....". We are inserting the words "draft policy documents and" after the words "in general and".

In paragraph 26, the third sentence will read as follows: "In any case, preparatory documents in general and draft policy documents and the Draft Plan of Action in particular should be made available to FAO Member Nations as early as possible. "

Then the last two lines of the paragraph will be deleted and the sentence will end after the words "in April 1995".

With those corrections, the reports are in the hands of the Plenary for their consideration.

## **DRAFT REPORT - PART I**

### **PROJET DE RAPPORT - PREMIERE PARTIE**

### **PROYECTO DE INFORME - PARTE I**

#### **PARAGRAPHS 1 to 16**

#### **PARAGRAPHERS 1 à 16**

#### **PARRAFOS 1 a 16**

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Muchas gracias Sr. Aboul-Naga, Presidente del Comité de Redacción, espero que todos los delegados hayan tomado nota de las correcciones.

Entendemos la dificultad para tener un Informe sin ninguna corrección. Han trabajado ustedes muchas horas y lo más rápidamente que han podido. Creo que el Informe es un Informe bueno, que recoge bien nuestros debates. Sin embargo, entiendo también que quizás algunos de ustedes tendrán observaciones al respecto. Me permito sugerir, como método de trabajo, que vayamos lo más rápidamente posible, en el sentido de identificar si existen observaciones respecto de informes o partes del informe completos. Si las hay sobre un REP., voy a consultar si existen observaciones respecto de cada sección. Si hay varias observaciones respecto de alguna sección, entonces, sobre esa sección iré párrafo por párrafo.

Si ustedes están de acuerdo con esta metodología de trabajo para acelerar la aprobación del Informe, les pregunto respecto del Documento CL 107/REP-1 ¿Hay alguna observación? No la hay. Queda aprobado el REP/1.

**Draft Report of Plenary, Part I, was adopted**

**Projet de rapport de la plénière, Première partie, est adopté**

**El proyecto de informe de la plenaria, Parte I, es aprobado**

**DRAFT REPORT - PART II**  
**PROJET DE RAPPORT - DEUXIEME PARTIE**  
**PROYECTO DE INFORME - PARTE II**  
**PARAGRAPHS 1 to 16**  
**PARAGRAPHERS 1 à 16**  
**PARRAFOS 1 a 16**

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Respecto de la sección 4: El Estado Mundial de la Agricultura y la Alimentación. Párrafos 1 a 16. ¿Hay alguna observación?

**Ms Maria GALVÖLGYI (Hungary):** During the debate on Agenda Item 4 a joint statement was read on behalf of the Central Eastern European countries, and for the sake of correctness I would like to propose just a sentence to reflect what was said in the debate. Will you allow me to read this sentence.

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Disculpe ¿Puede usted identificar el párrafo y la oración en donde desea usted hacer alguna adición?

**Ms Maria GALVÖLGYI (Hungary):** It refers to a special subject. It could create an independent paragraph so it is up to the Secretariat where we insert it. With your permission, I would like to read this sentence.

**EL PRESIDENTE:** En ese caso me voy a permitir ir párrafo por párrafo, y una vez que concluyamos esta sección, le ofreceré la palabra para adicionar lo que usted propone.

Los párrafos 1, 2, 3, 4 aprobados.

**D. SANDS SMITH (United Kingdom):** I have a point on paragraph 5 which is of concern to my delegation and relates to the second line and the word "diverting". I am concerned that this was not fully the sense of our discussions, either in looking at this item or when we looked at the World Food Programme Report. Indeed, we heard a statement from Mr Ngongi indicating that it was not the case that diversion took place. I would prefer the wording in the second line to read "emergency situations and the resources devoted to these situations which might otherwise be used for rehabilitation and development purposes".

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Bien, distinguidos delegados ¿Han tomado nota ustedes de la propuesta?. Se refiere a la primera oración del párrafo 5 del REP/2.

Veo que algunos delegados no han podido tomar nota correctamente. Sr. Delegado del Reino Unido ¿Puede usted leer la totalidad de la oración, y sobre todo la parte que propone usted, a velocidad de dictado?

**D. SANDS SMITH (United Kingdom):** Of course I will do that and I well know from my own experience that "dictation speed" means very slowly, so I will go very slowly. If I am going too slowly, please tell me. The second line in the English text of paragraph 5. It starts with the words "emergency situations". Retain those two words and then change the rest of that sentence to the following wording which I will now dictate extremely slowly: "and the resources devoted to these situations which might otherwise be used for" and then retain the words "rehabilitation and development purposes".

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Antes de pasar a otra cuestión vamos a resolver ésta. Le pregunto al Presidente del Comité de Redacción si tiene alguna observación que hacer respecto de la propuesta.

**Adel Mahmoud ABOUL-NAGA (Chairman, Drafting Committee):** If the distinguished delegate of the United Kingdom feels that his wording better reflects the debate, I will agree.

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Les pregunto, señores delegados, si tienen alguna objeción a la propuesta formulada por el Reino Unido.

**Robert VANIER (Canada):** Ce n'est pas pour une objection. Serait-il possible de répéter la phrase en français? La version française actuelle présente une erreur car les mots "de l'action" y sont répétés mais je pense que la nouvelle version proposée par le délégué du Royaume-Uni règle cette question.

**D. SANDS SMITH (United Kingdom):** The whole sentence from the beginning: "In these circumstances the Council regretted the proliferation of conflicts and food emergency situations" - then the text changes - "and the resources devoted, to these situations which might otherwise be used for rehabilitation and development purposes."

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Espero que todas las delegaciones en los diversos idiomas hayan tomado nota. Les pregunto si es aceptable la propuesta o hay algún delegado que se oponga.

**Mario MOYA PALENCIA (México):** La delegación de México, señor Presidente, está manejando obviamente, la versión en español, pero entiende la opinión o la sugerencia del Sr. delegado del Reino Unido. Sin embargo creo que esta sugerencia cambia el sentido del debate; es decir el debate se centró en lamentar que dados los conflictos que ha habido y las urgencias alimentarias se hayan desviado, por así decir recursos que debieran emplearse en rehabilitación y desarrollo a los fines bélicos o a los fines de las urgencias alimentarias. Entonces, como yo escucho, en inglés y quizá es un defecto mío, la redacción no expresa este criterio. Pienso que si la palabra "acaparar" está en la versión española, pero no satisface al delegado del Reino Unido, se podría emplear otra: "desviar", por ejemplo. Pero sí hay que establecer el sentido que es el comparativo de que en la medida de que crecen estas urgencias y estos conflictos, se desvían o se canalizan menos recursos y por eso está la palabra "escasos" recursos a los fines más importantes al desarrollo alimentario.

**EL PRESIDENTE:** He escuchado la interpretación y, efectivamente, en inglés se utiliza el verbo *divert*, que sería en español algo como desviar. En español, sin embargo, se utiliza acaparar.

Como usted ha indicado la propuesta del Reino Unido es distinta de la que había anteriormente.

Yo pregunto si podríamos llegar a un compromiso diciendo: que en estas circunstancias el Consejo lamentó la proliferación de conflictos y situaciones de urgencia alimentaria que "usaban" los recursos escasos que se necesitaban imperiosamente para fines de rehabilitación y desarrollo en estas situaciones de urgencia.

Vuelvo a proponerlo:

En estas circunstancias el Consejo lamentó la proliferación de conflictos y situaciones de urgencia alimentaria que usaban los escasos recursos que se necesitaban imperiosamente para fines de rehabilitación y desarrollo en estas situaciones de urgencia.

¿Podría ser aceptable esta solución de compromiso? ¿Hay alguna delegación que se oponga?

**Pedro A. MEDRANO ROJAS (Chile):** Como sugerencia, señor Presidente, creo que el verbo mejor sería: concentrar, no "usar". En español por lo menos.

**EL PRESIDENTE:** En inglés se tradujo como use. No sé si se debiera decir concentrar, ya que en español y en inglés usar y concentrar tienen significados distintos. ¿Podría usted aceptar la palabra usar que es más fácil de aceptar para el Reino Unido?

Se aprueba el párrafo 5 con estas enmiendas.

El párrafo 6 es aprobado

¿Párrafo 7?

**Alvaro GURGEL DE ALENCAR (Brazil):** I am not really going to propose any change here, but I hope that we realize the full import of the first sentence in this paragraph, which says, "the Council urged the quick ratification of the Uruguay Final Round." Now my country is all in favour of quick ratification; in fact, the final act is before Congress, and we hope it will be ratified very soon. But I do not know if it is very appropriate for the FAO Council to be urging quick ratification of legal instruments adopted under the auspices of another international organization where, of course, many of us also participate, but not all. The memberships are different. There are a whole set of different circumstances which I think should make us think a little bit before utilizing a phrase like this, that "the Council urged quick ratification of the Uruguay Final Round".

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Antes de hacer algún comentario le paso la palabra al Presidente del Comité de Redacción.

**Adel Mahmoud ABOUL-NAGA (Chairman, Drafting Committee):** I think maybe "encouraged"; would that be acceptable?

**Alvaro GURGEL DE ALENCAR (Brazil):** No, I did not wish to propose any amendment, but I do wish to say that I find the suggestion just proposed by the distinguished Chairman of the Drafting Committee much more appropriate.

**EL PRESIDENTE:** ¿Pueden ustedes apoyar la propuesta del Presidente del Comité de Redacción? Como todos están de acuerdo con esa enmienda, el párrafo 7 queda aprobado.

**Adel Mahmoud ABOUL-NAGA (Chairman, Drafting Committee):** Just one word, to replace "urged" with "encouraged".

**EL PRESIDENTE:** El párrafo 8 es aprobado ¿Párrafo 9?

**Adel Mahmoud ABOUL-NAGA (Chairman, Drafting Committee):** I think we have already addressed most of the revisions. We have only the one from Hungary. So if I can help with that, I am proposing that if you have something related to the situation in Central or East Europe, it can be inserted or it can be added to paragraph 5, if she would like that. And then we can go ahead and adopt the rest of the report.

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Creo que podríamos terminar con todos los párrafos y luego escuchar las propuestas nuevas e identificar donde las vamos a ubicar.

Si les parece bien, continuamos con la aprobación de los párrafos. El párrafo 9 había sido aprobado. Los párrafos 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16 son aprobados.

**Paragraphs 1 to 16 as amended, approved**

**Les paragraphes 1 à 16 ainsi amendés, sont approuvés**

**Los párrafos 1 a 16 así enmendados, son aprobados**

**PARAGRAPHS 17 to 23**

**PARAGRAPHERS 17 à 23**

**PARRAFOS 17 a 23**

**Mrs Maria GALVÖLGYI (Hungary):** For my delegation it would be convenient also to form it as an independent paragraph and to have it be the last part of this report. So my proposal would be the following: "The representative of Central East European countries drew the attention of the Council in their joint statement to the specific needs of the sub-region which calls for intensified FAO involvement, particularly in the period of transition." This would be the proposal.

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Le paso la palabra al Presidente del Comité de Redacción, pero antes les propongo que veamos primero el contenido y luego la ubicación.

**Adel Mahmoud ABOUL-NAGA (Chairman, Drafting Committee):** I think this had been mentioned in the debate, although we were trying to keep the report as concise as possible and tried to reflect the spirit and the substantial things. But I think all agreed involving that. But I think it may be that it does not need a paragraph. But if she wants that, I do not object to that. But I think the sentence needs to be reformed a little bit if she will allow us to do that.

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Les pregunto a los miembros del Consejo si están de acuerdo con el contenido del párrafo.

**Mario MOYA PALENCIA (México):** No tenemos ninguna objeción sobre el contenido, señor Presidente, pero sugerimos, ya que así está en la redacción de todo el Informe, que el párrafo se inicie con: el Consejo tomó nota que: el representante. Porque es el Informe del Consejo no es el Verbatim.

**EL PRESIDENTE:** ¿Están de acuerdo con la enmienda propuesta por el representante de México? Dice: El Consejo tomó nota de que el representante; y continuaría el párrafo como ha propuesto la distinguida delegada de Hungría. ¿Está usted de acuerdo, señora delegada?

**Mrs Maria GALVÖLGYI (Hungary):** I have no objection, sir, that will be mentioning the Council twice. "Council took note of" and then "the representative drew the attention of the Council". So they have to be careful about the wording.

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Se podría leer que: el Consejo tomó nota de que el representante señaló, mediante una declaración conjunta, las necesidades específicas, y se le quitaría "a la atención del Consejo".

Con ello, señores delegados, se aprueba el contenido respecto de la ubicación.

**Adel Mahmoud ABOUL-NAGA (Chairman, Drafting Committee):** I accept the amendment by Mexico but this is reflected in the whole paragraph.

If the Council can agree in principle to such a paragraph as suggested by Hungary, we will revise it with the representative of Hungary later on. There may be substantial need for endorsement of the Council. I think it

should be "call" instead of "calls" and "further FAO activity" instead of "intensified".

If this is agreeable to the Council, I think we can refine the paragraph with the representative of Hungary

later on.

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Usted, Sr. Presidente del Comité de Redacción, está proponiendo una enmienda al contenido del párrafo. ¿Puede usted volver a leer su propuesta?

**Adel Mahmoud ABOUL-NAGA (Egypt):** Something like that. It is not final. "The Council take note of the joint statement given by the representative of Eastern and Central Europe on the specific needs of this sub-region which calls for further FAO activities, particularly to the specified needs of this region in the period of transition which call for further FAO activities in the region."

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Perdón, distinguido Presidente del Comité de Redacción, no sé si hay necesidad de una enmienda adicional a la que usted originalmente propuso, q[ue ha sido ya aceptada por todos los miembros del Consejo. Se podría simplemente decir, en la segunda parte de la oración: que requieren una participación ulterior de la FAO.

Si con esa enmienda todos están de acuerdo, este párrafo tiene una validez en sí mismo y no creo que la podamos ubicar en ninguna otra parte, sino al final. Si ustedes están de acuerdo este se convertirá, entonces, en el párrafo 17 de esta primera sección del REP/2.

**Juan NUIRY SANCHEZ (Cuba):** Como ha podido observar con nuestro silencio, nuestra delegación está totalmente de acuerdo con los párrafos aprobados. En el entendido de completar el buen trabajo del Comité de Redacción reflejando el debate en lo esencial, nuestra delegación quiere, al igual que la distinguida representación de Hungría, agregar un párrafo. Hemos esperado al final porque queremos también contar con la ayuda eficiente del Presidente del Comité de Redacción para ver dónde puede ser situado el párrafo, pero, de acuerdo con lo que usted ha dicho muy bien, señor Presidente, primero vamos a ver si se acepta el párrafo y después vamos a ver dónde se puede ubicar, al igual que hizo nuestro colega del Reino Unido. Vamos a tratar de hacerlo, a velocidad de dictado. Teniendo en cuenta con esto, señor Presidente, que queremos vincular una cuestión debatida, diría yo, por todos los representantes del Consejo de América Latina y el Caribe, tratando de enlazarlo con la Conferencia Regional, porque creo que es muy importante esta relación de Conferencia Regional y Consejo. Si usted me lo permite, señor Presidente, doy lectura al párrafo, que diría así: "Los países de la Región de América Latina y el Caribe manifestaron que, a pesar de los esfuerzos desplegados por mejorar la situación de la producción agrícola, continúa siendo difícil, por lo que solicitan a la FAO reforzar la asistencia a la región, tal como fue aprobada en la Conferencia Regional de América Latina y el Caribe efectuada en El Salvador".

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Espero que hayan tomado nota de la propuesta de párrafo adicional. Quizás valdría la pena añadir en español, después de "mejorar la situación de la producción agrícola", "ésta continúa siendo difícil". ¿Hay algún inconveniente respecto del contenido? Respecto de la ubicación, doy la palabra al Presidente del Comité de Redacción.

**Adel Mahmoud ABOUL-NAGA (Chairman, Drafting Committee):** It can be put as a separate paragraph but, to simplify it, I think we can say, "The countries of the Latin American and the Caribbean" - because the document of the Regional Conference is one document of FAO - "recalled the recommendation of ....". There is no need for this introduction because it has already been recorded in one of the FAO documents. If we can recall it, or reiterate it, I think that will keep the substance but will simplify the wording.

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Parece que los distinguidos delegados del grupo latinoamericano y del Caribe no estarían de acuerdo con esa enmienda. Por tanto, apoyan la del delegado de Cuba. No he visto que haya ninguna oposición al contenido. Habría simplemente un punto a considerar de procedimiento, o sea, que las

conferencias regionales no aprueban, sino recomiendan. En la propuesta de texto se dice: "reforzar la asistencia a la región", tal como fue aprobada. Se puede decir "tal como se acordó o se recomendó". ¿Está de acuerdo el distinguido delegado de Cuba?

**Juan NUIRY SANCHEZ (Cuba):** Estoy de acuerdo con lo que usted ha dicho. El párrafo recoge que la Conferencia aprobó. La Conferencia lo aprobó como Conferencia y recomendó. Creo que lo que usted ha dicho es correcto. No hay ningún tipo de dificultad en sumarme a lo planteado por usted.

**Jacques LAUREAU (France):** Je ne suis pas choqué par la proposition cubaine que j'inscrirais immédiatement après la proposition hongroise.

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Veo que no hay ninguna objeción a la inclusión de este párrafo adicional en la forma que fue propuesto, con la salvedad de que se incluirá la palabra "ésta" antes de "continúa siendo difícil", y que en lugar de "como fue aprobado", se diría "como se recomendó" en la Conferencia Regional. Con esto se adiciona este párrafo al final de esta sección. Así queda aprobado como párrafo 18. Queda aprobado el párrafo 18.

Párrafos 19, 20, 21, 22, 23 aprobados.

**Paragraphs 17 to 23 as amended, approved**

**Les paragraphes 17 à 23 ainsi amendés, sont approuvés**

**Los párrafos 17 a 23 así enmendados, son aprobados**

**Draft Report of Plenary, Part II, as amended, was adopted**

**Le projet de rapport de la Plénière, Deuxième 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 - TROISIEME PARTIE**

**PROYECTO DE INFORME - PARTE III**

**PARAGRAPHS 1 to 19**

**PARAGRAPHES 1 à 19**

**PARRAFOS 1 a 19**

**D. SANDS SMITH (United Kingdom):** I have a small but important point on paragraph 3 which I think reflects a point which was made in the debate. The final line at the bottom of the page in English reads: "some delegations underlined the urgency of providing the Forestry Department with the necessary manpower to carry-out its extensive tasks. " I think it would be true to say : "... some delegations underlined the urgency of providing the Forestry Department with the necessary leadership and manpower to carry-out its extensive tasks."

**Adel Mahmoud ABOUL-NAGA (Chairman, Drafting Committee):** This was proposed and discussed in the Drafting Committee and we decided that "manpower" included "leadership" and there is therefore no need to specify it. We would not urge something on one department and not on another. "Manpower" can also cover "leadership" and that is why the Drafting Committee agreed to go with it like that.

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Ha escuchado usted que el Comité de Redacción tuvo deliberaciones al respecto. Desde luego, ustedes pueden igualmente hacer comentarios sobre esto. ¿Queda usted satisfecho con las aclaraciones del Presidente del Comité de Redacción?

**D. SANDS SMITH (United Kingdom):** Although it is not an absolute sticking point with me, I still prefer the word "leadership". It is suggested by my colleague on my right that rather than "manpower" we use "staff", which has a rather more neutral connotation than "manpower".

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Quiero advertir que en español se puso la palabra "personal" directamente.

**Wilberforce A. SAKIRA (Uganda):** As the Chairman of the Drafting Committee indicated, we discussed this particular aspect in detail. Our delegation took the floor on the grounds that if we put the word "leadership" there, there is a connotation that there is not good leadership at the moment, which is not the case. That is why we thought we should not have that word there.

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Entiendo los sentimientos y las razones de los que trabajaron en el Comité de Redacción. Hago notar al distinguido delegado del Reino Unido que esta oración se refiere a algunas delegaciones. Creo que esas delegaciones indicaron lo que efectivamente aquí está dicho. Si usted no tiene ningún inconveniente y, en virtud de que se refiere a algunas delegaciones y que el Comité de Redacción debatió este asunto, pregunto si acepta usted que el texto quede como está.

**Robert ANDRIGO (Canada):** To return to the question of "manpower": I wonder if "human resources" might not be better, given the fact that "manpower" is rather gender-specific.

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Hay una propuesta del delegado de Canadá en el sentido de que en lugar de "manpower" en inglés se diga "recursos humanos". Yo advierto, sin embargo, que en español se dice "personal". Pregunto a los delegados si están de acuerdo con la versión española. Me parece que es más aceptable para todos. En ese caso se aprueba como está, con la traducción correspondiente del español a los otros idiomas.

**Paragraphs 1 to 12 approved**

**Les paragraphes 1 à 12 sont approuvés**

**Los párrafos 1 a 12 aprobados**

**Paragraphs 13 to 19 approved**

**Les paragraphes 13 à 19 sont approuvés**

**Los párrafos 13 a 19 aprobados**

**Draft Report of Plenary - Part III was adopted**

**Le projet de rapport de la Plénière - Troisième partie, est adopté**

**El proyecto de informe - Parte III es aprobado**

**DRAFT REPORT - PART IV**

**PROJET DE RAPPORT - QUATRIÈME PARTIE**

**EL PROYECTO DE INFORME - PARTE IV**

**PARAGRAPHS 1 to 10**

**PARAGRAPHES 1 à 10**

**PARRAFOS 1 a 10**

**D. SANDS SMITH (United Kingdom):** On para. 9 of Rep/4 the same point occurs with regard to resources for development that I made earlier on. If you look at the second line it reads "which had resulted in a reduction in resources to development." I had pencilled in there an alternative wording: "And the resources that might otherwise be available for development". I do not think that the compromise which you so helpfully suggested on my last change will quite work in the circumstances - but it is exactly the same point that I made before.



**EL PRESIDENTE:** Hay una propuesta del delegado del Reino Unido. Voy a leer la oración como la anoté: "El Consejo tomó nota con preocupación del pronunciado aumento de los costos de la asistencia humanitaria y las actividades de mantenimiento de la paz como consecuencia de la reducción de los recursos" - y aquí viene la adición - "que podrían de otra manera estar comprometidos para el desarrollo". Así lo he tomado yo en español. Ofrezco la palabra al Comité de Redacción.

**Adel Mahmoud ABOUL-NAGA (Chairman, Drafting Committee):** I appreciate the view that the delegate of the United Kingdom has taken, that many members in the debate were having that. So, capturing the two views, and with agreement on the first part as proposed by the UK, I hope that we capture the other view also by keeping the sentence as it is now, because it has been mentioned by so many members who were worried about a reduction in resources for development.

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Han escuchado ustedes la propuesta del Presidente del Comité de Redacción que, en virtud de los debates, sugiere que la oración empiece con "Muchos delegados,... etcétera".

**D. SANDS SMITH (United Kingdom):** I think what the Chairman of the Drafting Committee has said is absolutely correct. Many delegations did say this. There was then a response from Mr Ngongi, who indicated that that was not the view of the WFP Secretariat. So, if it starts off with "Many delegations", this form of wording, I think that would be excellent - retain the wording, but start with "Many delegations" or similar wording.

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Quizás esto amerita una aclaración por parte de la Secretaría. Ofrezco la palabra al Sr. Hjort.

**H.W. HJORT (Deputy Director-General):** On the basic point that is being made, Mr Ngongi was speaking in the context of the World Food Programme. This reference, and the previous one, are in the broader context of ODA. The fact of the matter is that development resources have declined. I do not think that you need to say that if you do not want to.

The amendment that has just been put forward here would be all right as far as I am concerned if it were to say "Which had drawn resources that might otherwise be available for development." It is then comparable to the previous amendment, I think, and you do not have to deal directly with this factual question: Were the resources for development in fact going down, or not?

In the WFP case, as you say, they say that the development resources have not declined, while the rest has surged. In the worldwide picture, I think you will find from the DAC reports that there has in fact been a decline in resources for development - a matter of deep concern to the development community.

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Han escuchado ustedes las explicaciones de la Secretaría. La propuesta para esta oración sería "El Consejo tomó nota con preocupación del pronunciado aumento de los costos de la asistencia humanitaria y las actividades de mantenimiento de la paz que han utilizado recursos que, de otra manera, se hubieran dedicado al desarrollo". Así es como yo interpreté las aclaraciones y la propuesta consecuente de la Secretaría.

Pregunto a los distinguidos miembros del Consejo si están de acuerdo con la aclaración de la Secretaría y con la propuesta resultante. ¿Hay alguna objeción? No veo ninguna. Queda aprobado con esas enmiendas el Párrafo 9.

Párrafo 10, aprobado

**Paragraphs 1 to 10, as amended, approved**

**Les paragraphes 1 à 10, ainsi amendés, sont approuvés**

**Los párrafos 1 a 10, así enmendados, son aprobados**

**PARAGRAPH 11 to 19**

**PARAGRAPHERS 11 à 19**

**PARRAFOS 11 a 19**

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Hay, como ustedes han notado, un corrigendum al REP/4, Párrafo 15. Si no hay ningún inconveniente con esa corrección, ha sido aprobado el Párrafo 15.

**Paragraphs 11 to 19 approved**

**Les paragraphes 11 à 19 sont approuvés**

**Los párrafos 11 a 19 aprobados**

**Draft Report of Plenary - Part IV as amended, was adopted**

**Le projet de rapport de la Plénière - Quatrième partie, ainsi amendé, est adopté**

**El proyecto de informe de la Plenaria - Parte IV, así enmendado, es aprobado**

**Draft Report of Plenary - Part V, was adopted**

**Le projet de rapport de la Plénière - Cinquième partie, est adopté**

**El proyecto de informe de la Plenaria - Parte V, así es aprobado**

**Draft Report of Plenary - Part VI, was adopted**

**Le projet de rapport de la Plénière - Sixième partie, est adopté**

**El proyecto de informe de la Plenaria - Parte VI es aprobado**

**Draft Report of Plenary - Part VII, was adopted**

**Le projet de rapport de la Plénière - Septième partie, est adopté**

**El proyecto de informe de la Plenaria - Parte VII, es aprobado**

**DRAFT REPORT - PART VIII**

**PROJET DE RAPPORT - HUITIEME PARTIE**

**PROYECTO DE INFORME - PARTE VIII**

**PARAGRAPHS 1 to 9**

**PARAGRAPHERS 1 à 9**

**PARRAFOS 1 a 9**

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Párrafos 1 - 8 aprobados. ¿Párrafo 9?

**Raphael RABE (Madagascar):** C'est une déduction pertinente, en fait, je voudrais justement intervenir sur le paragraphe 9. Mais auparavant, je voudrais me joindre à vous pour féliciter le Comité de rédaction et, bien entendu, son Président, pour la qualité des rapports qui nous sont soumis. On constate que leur qualité facilite grandement l'examen de ces rapports.

Si j'interviens sur ce paragraphe, c'est pour refléter nos débats et être conforme aux recommandations qui ont été faites par le Conseil. Les délégations sont intervenues sur ce point, dont la mienne. Aussi je propose l'amendement ci-après. Je vais lire le paragraphe:

"Le Conseil a félicité le Directeur général de ses efforts pour consulter le personnel et tenir compte de ses préoccupations, en particulier dans le contexte de la restructuration en cours. Le Conseil a aussi réitéré" - au lieu de "rappelé" - "les dispositions de sa Résolution...". Le reste est inchangé.

**Adel Mahmoud ABOUL-NAGA (Chairman, Drafting Committee):** I see there are many members who wish to intervene on this. A proposed amendment on this has been put forward by a staff member. If you will allow me to read it to the Council I think we can agree.

**Raphael RABE (Madagascar):** Je vais donc lire à la vitesse de dictée:

"Le Conseil a félicité le Directeur général de ses efforts pour consulter le personnel et tenir compte de ses préoccupations. "Voilà donc le rajout sur cette première phrase. Ensuite: "Le Conseil a aussi réitéré les dispositions de sa Résolution...", le reste sans changement.

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Muchas gracias, distinguido Delegado de Madagascar. Pregunto si han tomado nota de ello.

**Salah HAMDI (Tunisie):** Je voudrais simplement appuyer la proposition d'amendement du délégué de Madagascar.

**Adel Mahmoud ABOUL-NAGA (Chairman, Drafting Committee):** An amendment proposed by the staff members was passed to me this morning. I think the general attitude is that this needs to be an amendment. If you allow me to read it you can see whether it is acceptable on your side.

## **POINT OF ORDER**

### **POINT D'ORDRE**

### **PUNTO DE ORDEN**

**Thomas A. FORBORD (United States of America):** I have a point of order on this last proposal. Does the Secretariat staff have the ability to propose amendments to Council Reports?

On the first one, the substitution of "reiterated" for "recalled", this was an information item on which the Council was making no decision. Is the reiteration of a Resolution a decision?

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Muchas gracias por su punto de orden. Le repito con toda certidumbre, no tiene tal derecho. El Informe lo aprueba el Consejo de la FAO exclusivamente. Le ofrezco la palabra de nuevo al Presidente del Comité de Redacción para que se refiera a la propuesta hecha por Madagascar.

**Adel Mahmoud ABOUL-NAGA (Chairman, Drafting Committee):** I must be honest with Council, this is not my amendment. I did not mention it until I heard the last intervention and that of Tunisia. I think it goes in the same direction. That is why I read it out, because I am responding to many members of the Council who are asking for that; it goes in the same direction. That was why I read it out, but to be honest with the Council, I must say what the source is.

This was put forward to me as Chairman of the Council, but of course, I did not propose it at all until I heard that Council members were going in the same direction. If you will allow me to do it, I will do it. If you wish to listen first of all to the intervention of 10 or 15 members, it is up to you.

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Hay una propuesta de Madagascar, que es la que estamos discutiendo. Yo le consulto al Consejo si está de acuerdo con dicha propuesta.

**F. BATURE (Nigeria):** I should like paragraph 9 to be rephrased as follows: "The Council complimented the Director-General for his efforts in consulting with the staff and reaffirmed its Resolution 1/102 of November 1992 relating to conditions of service of the Professional and General Service staff and encouraged the Director-General to continue giving his full support to the staff in line with the Resolution. "

**EL PRESIDENTE:** ¿Han tomado ustedes nota de la adición formulada por la delegación de Nigeria?. Antes de proseguir, le pregunto a la delegación de Madagascar si está de acuerdo.

**Raphael RABE (Madagascar):** En fait, je n'ai pas suivi dans le détail la proposition du délégué du Nigéria. Pourrait-il la répéter?

**F. BATURE (Nigeria):** "The Council complimented the Director-General for his efforts in consulting with the staff and reaffirmed its Resolution 1/102 of November 1992 relating to conditions of service of the Professional and General Service staff and encouraged the Director-General to continue giving his full support to the staff in line with the Resolution. "

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Yo creo que las dos propuestas se pueden combinar, de tal suerte que la propuesta de Madagascar puede quedar como la planteó y luego, al final de dicho párrafo, se agregaría "y alentó al Director General a que siga proporcionando su pleno apoyo al personal, a la luz de dicha Resolución".

Si me permiten, voy a volver a leer la propuesta, tal como la he recogido, combinando la de Madagascar y la de Nigeria y veremos si el contenido es aceptable. Voy a volver a leer, como lo he tomado: "El Consejo felicitó al Director General por sus esfuerzos para consultar con el personal". Hasta aquí no cambia nada. "y tener en cuenta sus preocupaciones, en particular en el contexto del proceso de reestructuración en curso". Punto y seguido. "Asimismo el Consejo reafirmó las disposiciones de su Resolución 1/102 de noviembre de 1992" y continúa la oración "referente a las condiciones de empleo del personal de Categoría Profesional y de Servicios Generales", y aquí viene la adición de Nigeria, "y alentó al Director General a que siga proporcionando su pleno apoyo al personal, a la luz de dicha Resolución".

Han escuchado ustedes la enmienda.

**Pedro A. MEDRANO ROJAS (Chile):** Simplemente quisiera apoyar la Resolución, tal como ha sido formulada por la Presidencia, que recoge las dos propuestas, porque creo que refleja perfectamente el debate, de acuerdo con el verbatim que tenemos a la vista.

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Pregunto entonces si hay alguna objeción.

**Jacques LAUREAU (France):** Monsieur le Président, ayant été Ambassadeur au Nigéria, je suis peut-être mal venu de critiquer la proposition faite par mon collègue nigérian, mais je trouve que la fin de la phrase telle qu'amendée ne reflète absolument pas les débats que nous avons eus, il y trois ou quatre jours.

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Antes de otorgar la palabra al distinguido delegado de los Estados Unidos, le pregunto a la distinguida delegación de Francia si tiene alguna enmienda concreta que hacer al texto propuesto por Nigeria.

**Jacques LAUREAU (France):** Personnellement, je garderais l'amendement présenté par le délégué de Madagascar mais je n'ajouterais pas la phrase concernant les efforts du Directeur général pour appliquer la Résolution. D'ailleurs, il ne peut pas l'appliquer puisqu'il est soumis à l'autorité des Nations Unies.

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Muchas gracias por su propuesta. Pregunto si, como solución de compromiso, se puede decir "y se alentó" en términos impersonales. Porque la primera parte de la segunda oración se refiere al Consejo. La segunda parte se podría poner en términos impersonales sin referirse al Consejo e indicando lo que por lo menos, según yo recuerdo, algunos delegados sugirieron.

Pregunto si esa enmienda es aceptable, es decir, al final de "referente a las condiciones de empleo del personal de Categoría Profesional y de Servicios Generales" decir "y se alentó al Director General a que siga proporcionando su pleno apoyo".

**Thomas A. FORBORD (United States of America):** I agree with my colleague from France that the addition of this extra phrase does not reflect the debate. I do not think that changing it from the active voice to the passive voice makes any difference, where your proposal is to have "The Director-General was encouraged". I still have an outstanding question. What is the implication of the word "reaffirmed"? This Resolution was not distributed to the Council. Nobody had a chance to look at it. It was referred to. It was possibly recalled. It was certainly, in my recollection of that debate, not reaffirmed, not examined. I do not think very many people here, unless they were present in November 1992, have any idea what that Resolution says.

Also, the Agenda Item was simply for information and I again question whether we can make decisions.

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Les recuerdo, señores delegados, y consta en acta la Agenda aprobada incluido este tema para información y/o discusión. En consecuencia, se celebró un debate al respecto. El Consejo reafirmó, como lo han planteado los delegados la Resolución 1/102, que el Consejo debe, necesariamente, tener en mente, ya que es una resolución del Consejo, aunque específicamente algunos delegados no la hayan tenido en la mano, pero es una resolución válida y vigente y a ella se hizo referencia; inclusive les recuerdo también que hubo una propuesta de algunos delegados en el sentido de preparar una nueva resolución para que reafirmara lo que la resolución decía.

Igualmente, les recuerdo que al final de los debates en mi resumen hice una indicación en ese sentido. Por tanto, y de nueva cuenta, me permito poner a su consideración el párrafo con las enmiendas de Madagascar.

Son aceptables las enmiendas de Madagascar. No veo que nadie haga objeciones a esas enmiendas.

Respecto de la segunda parte, las propuestas por el delegado de Nigeria, he formulado una propuesta de compromiso que incluía el término impersonal "se" alentó al Director General. Quizá tienen ustedes razón en el sentido de que el Director General no podrá hacer nada más de lo que está haciendo, pero esto refleja lo que por lo menos en mi memoria, varios delegados indicaron.

¿Podrían estar ustedes de acuerdo con esta segunda enmienda?

**Jacques LAUREAU (France):** Je crois que pour être honnête, dans le compte rendu de ce débat, il serait important de dire que certains délégués ou certains Etats Membres ont insisté sur ce que proposait le Nigéria, et ont encouragé le Directeur général. Il n'y avait pas un consensus sur ce point.

**Mme Béatrice DAMEBA (Burkina Faso):** La délégation du Burkina Faso était intervenue à deux reprises sur cette question. En ce qui nous concerne, la synthèse des deux amendements proposés, qui a été reprise par le Président, nous satisfait, mais il semble ne pas y avoir d'entente sur le verbe employé ici. Certaines délégations trouvent que le mot "rappelé" est trop faible. D'autres trouvent que le mot "réitéré" ou "réaffirmé" est trop fort. Je voudrais proposer: Le Conseil a "reconduit" les dispositions de sa résolution.

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Antes de continuar con apoyos y objeciones creo que hay que proponer nuevas fórmulas. Podríamos decir, como solución de compromiso: y se alentó al Director General a que siga proporcionando su pleno apoyo al personal. Y así no se hace referencia a la Resolución.

Antes de dar la palabra a otros delegados, pregunto si es aceptable esa fórmula.

**Vernon DOUGLAS (Trinidad and Tobago):** I am not too sure what is "a new amendment as proposed". So many new ones have been proposed.

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Voy a leer todo; en el entendido de que ustedes habían aprobado originalmente la fórmula planteada por Madagascar. Esa está acordada. Estarnos discutiendo ahora la adición de Nigeria.

Vuelvo a leer: El Consejo felicitó al Director General por sus esfuerzos para consultar con el personal y tener en cuenta sus preocupaciones. En particular en el contexto del proceso de reestructuración en curso. Asimismo el Consejo reafirmó las disposiciones de su Resolución 1/102 de noviembre de 1992, referente a las condiciones de empleo del personal de categoría profesional y de servicios generales.

Hasta aquí la propuesta de Madagascar que ustedes han aprobado; y luego, me refiero a la de Nigeria enmendada: y se alentó al Director General a que siga proporcionando su pleno apoyo al personal.

Les hago notar al respecto dos cosas: una, que está en términos impersonales, y, dos, que se ha omitido la referencia a la resolución.

**Juan NUIRY SANCHEZ (CUBA):** Nuestra preocupación, Sr. Presidente, estaba en dirección de lo que acaba de plantear la representación de Trinidad y Tobago pero, en definitiva, habíamos pedido nosotros la palabra hace ya un rato. Nunca pensé que este párrafo 9 iba a tener tanto problema. Era un párrafo tan pequeño y, sin embargo, parece que es bastante complicado.

Por eso permítame, Sr. Presidente, hacer una breve historia. La representación de Madagascar planteó una enmienda que a nosotros nos pareció muy aceptable. La representación de Nigeria completó la idea que, en definitiva, creo que era la misma; solamente un problema de estilo. Yo no vi nunca ninguna diferencia entre lo que planteaba Madagascar y lo que planteaba Nigeria. Nosotros solamente habíamos contemplado al leer el párrafo que no se pusiera la palabra: "recordó", sino "reafirmó". No veo por qué tanta preocupación con este párrafo. Sinceramente no lo veo porque se trata de una palabra más allá o más acá. Me parece que lo que usted acaba a leer corresponde a lo que todos los delegados han planteado y es una posición correcta.

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Pregunto entonces si aceptan que quede solamente la enmienda propuesta por Madagascar y que la adición, que de hecho fue una composición de lo que había propuesto Nigeria y de lo que había yo arreglado, si esa la omitimos. ¿Hay alguna objeción a que el párrafo quede como lo había propuesto Madagascar? Ninguna.

**D. SANDS SMITH (United Kingdom):** Mr Chairman, you are clearly working very hard to get an agreed text here. I find it unfortunate that the original text which must have been worked out with great care by the Drafting Committee could not be accepted with its word "recalled".

Quite frankly, I find myself in difficulties because I do not know what Resolution 1/102 actually says. I am therefore in difficulties for my delegation in reaffirming something when I do not know what it says. Certainly in the debate it was "recalled" -I well remember that it was "recalled" - but I am in difficulties here, I tell you frankly.

**EL PRESIDENTE:** El Consejo no puede no apoyar sus propias resoluciones. Es un contrasentido; es decir si el Consejo ha formulado resoluciones el Consejo las apoya. No puede ser que el Consejo no apruebe sus propias resoluciones.

Me indica también la Secretaría que tiene aquí a la vista la resolución que, con mucho gusto se la puede proporcionar.

Para tocar este punto le doy la palabra a la distinguida delegación de Chile.

## **POINT OF ORDER**

## **POINT D'ORDRE**

## **PUNTO DE ORDEN**

**Pedro MEDRANO (Chile):** La verdad, Sr. Presidente, que esto es casi como un punto de orden. Yo quisiera simplemente señalar, al igual de como sucede en nuestros países que la ley se reputa conocida por todos; que asumamos que los acuerdos de los Organos Rectores de la FAO se reputan conocidos y respetados por todos, ya que si vamos a empezar a tratar los temas sobre la base de las resoluciones que nos acordamos, tendríamos que hacer un gran esfuerzo de memoria y conduciría a este Consejo a un caos. La segunda cosa Sr. Presidente, cuando yo me referí, y quiero hacerlo con mucha firmeza, a un tema que constaba en el Verbatim, lo hice teniendo a la vista el Verbatim. De manera que no resulta aceptable para mi delegación que se señale a propósito de una intervención que hemos hecho en este sentido que esto no se ha discutido en el Consejo.

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Yo debo advertir que yo avalo enteramente lo que ha pronunciado usted. Efectivamente el Consejo, o los Organos Rectores de la Organización, no pueden no respetar y olvidar sus propias resoluciones.

Sobre una cuestión de carácter legal le paso la palabra al Dr. Hjort.

**DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL:** The terminology associated with the term "reaffirmed", which as I understand you have fully agreed to, is of some importance. It could be interpreted that the phrase "reaffirmed the provisions of" could mean that you are readopting the Resolution. The Resolution itself *inter alia* called for the reviews of the Council to be transmitted to the Secretary General.

To take care of this point, and, I believe, to capture the full essence of the debate, would it be acceptable to say that "The Council also reaffirmed the sentiments expressed in its Resolution 1/102 ..."?

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Sr. Hjort, yo recuerdo que la propuesta de Madagascar no reafirmaba la Resolución, sino las disposiciones de la Resolución. En ese sentido no sé si desde un punto de vista estrictamente legal siga existiendo este inconveniente de que podría interpretarse como una readopción de la Resolución al decir el Consejo reafirmó las disposiciones.

**Raphael RABE (Madagascar):** Je suis désolé de créer tous ces problèmes mais j'avais seulement le souci de refléter les débats. D'ailleurs, j'ai lu entièrement cette résolution à vitesse de dictée. Je signale que pendant le Conseil il existe un document qui fournit toutes les décisions prises par le Conseil depuis l'origine.

Je remercie le Directeur général adjoint de sa proposition, mais je ferai observer qu'en français il est difficile de parler de "sentiments". En terme légal, il faudrait parler de "dispositions".

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Debemos dar un paso hacia adelante respecto de este párrafo. No podemos quedarnos toda la mañana con él. Hay una propuesta concreta de parte de Madagascar; se ha propuesto también desde la Presidencia eliminar la adición de Nigeria. Espero que la formula de Madagascar sea aceptable para todos como una solución de compromiso.

Si ustedes, cuando se lo planteo hace unos 10 minutos estuvieron de acuerdo con dicha formula, y estábamos discutiendo exclusivamente la adición de Madagascar, les pregunto y les suplico que me ayuden a adoptar este párrafo.

¿Están de acuerdo con la propuesta de Madagascar tal como había sido leída sin la adición formulada respecto de Nigeria?

¿Alguna objeción?

**Ms Turid KONGSVIK (Norway):** I think at this stage I would agree on almost anything to get over this point, but I would appeal to Madagascar to withdraw his suggestion to insert the dispositions and that we stay with the text as it is. As we have learned, as long as we do not distance ourselves from our resolution, it stands. So if we recall it, it is still valid. By implication, the text as it is makes the resolution still valid, and we do not have to add anything on this position on encouragement of these particular points in the resolution. The fact that we recall it is sufficient, I submit, and I encourage Madagascar to agree with me on that, as well as the rest of the Council.

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Le recuerdo al respecto, distinguida delegada, que estamos tratando aquí de reflejar un debate; no de tener un nuevo debate. En el debate sostenido los delegados que hicieron uso de la palabra respecto de la Resolución la reafirmaron, y no creo que el Consejo pueda no recordar y no reafirmar sus resoluciones. Tiene sentido el incluir aquí esta reafirmación, en primer lugar porque repite lo que se dijo en el debate y, en segundo lugar porque es el sentimiento del Consejo el que estas disposiciones o estos sentimientos de la Resolución sigan siendo válidos.

Pero si en sustancia no tienen ustedes ningún inconveniente, no veo por qué la fórmula propuesta por Madagascar no es aceptable. Vuelvo a repetir, si reconociendo, de acuerdo al Verbatim que no hubo ninguna objeción respecto de la reiteración de las disposiciones de la Resolución 1/102, si podemos adoptar la fórmula de Madagascar.

¿Hay alguna objeción al respecto?

Se aprueba el párrafo 9 como lo ha adicionado el delegado de Madagascar.

**Filibus BATURE (Nigeria):** If I understood you well, you suggested that the last part which I brought should be dropped. Is that correct? But if you remember that Plenary Session, during which time the Chairman of the Group of 77 spoke, in his statement he strongly - he mentioned that we will request the Director-General to continue to devote the attention that is required to personnel problems, and he said again that we would reaffirm its support - that the Group of 77 would reaffirm its support of this Resolution 1/102, adopted by this Council at the 102nd Session of this very same matter. So I do not know - .

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Reconozco que el Presidente del Grupo de los 77, en nombre de los miembros del Consejo de dicho grupo, hizo referencia a esta cuestión. Debo advertirle que en las disposiciones de la Resolución, el contenido de dicha declaración está tomado. Es decir, justamente las palabras que usted agregaba al final están contenidas en la Resolución 1/102. La fórmula que hemos propuesto es de compromiso y, si usted nos permite, podríamos adoptar el párrafo como lo formuló Madagascar y pasar adelante en el entendimiento de que en el verbatim aparece totalmente la declaración del Presidente del Grupo de los 77. Si Nigeria no tiene ningún inconveniente, podemos continuar. Queda adoptado.

**Paragraphs 1 to 9 as amended, approved**

**Les paragraphes 1 à 9 ainsi amendés, sont approuvés**

**Los párrafos 1 a 9 así enmendados, son aprobados**

**Paragraphs 10-15 including Appendix, as amended, approved**

**Les paragraphes 10-15 y compris les Annexes, ainsi amendés, sont approuvés**

**Los párrafos 10-15 incluidos los Apéndices así enmendados, son aprobados**



**Draft Report of Plenary - Part VIII amended, was adopted**

**Le projet de rapport de la Plénière-Huitième partie, ainsi amendé, est adopté**

**El proyecto de informe de la Plenaria Parte VIII así enmendado, es aprobado**

**DRAFT REPORT - PART IX**

**PROJET DE RAPPORT - NEUVIEME PARTIE**

**PROYECTO DE INFORME - PARTE IX**

**PARAGRAPHS 1 to 4**

**PARAGRAPHERS 1 à 4**

**PARRAFOS 1 a 4**

**Robert ANDRIGO (Canada):** We have had several long nights, and obviously our memories occasionally do suffer. But I have since consulted with several colleagues who have reassured me that my memory is not entirely failing. There was one phrase immediately following the penultimate sentence in paragraph 4 that we did agree to in the Drafting Committee and which I would ask be reinserted. The phrase reads as follows, and in fact, the Chairman of the Drafting Committee had started to read that phrase, and it reads as follows: "Some Members expressed the hope that progress in other key areas would be accelerated."

**Adel Mahmoud ABOUL-NAGA (Chairman, Drafting Committee):** I reconfirmed that Canadian proposal and the proposal of some others had meant for this phrase to be added. But I think maybe because we were working close to midnight or something like that, I think there was an objection to that because I think with reconsideration, we only mentioned a number of key areas, not every Member, that this could be dropped. This is the final conclusion of the Drafting Committee. I reconfirm that Canada was raising it with some Members, but I think as a compromise we agreed not to involve it. So it is in the hands now of the Council.

**Jurgen OESTREICH (Germany):** I just want to endorse and support what the Canadian delegate has just supported.

**Thomas A. FORBORD (United States of America):** I would also like to support the addition of the sentence. It certainly reflects the debate.

**Mrs Turid KONGSVIK (Norway):** Yes, I can confirm that this was agreed. I must disagree with the Chairman because I had a more muscled phrase that I wanted to suggest. I remember that very well. I contented myself with the Canadian version on the firm conviction that this was accepted. In any case, as you will see, it is not even the Council as I thought we had agreed. It says "several Members" or "some Members". So there should be no problem in any case to accept it.

**John Bruce SHARPE (Australia):** I must admit my understanding was that that phrase was to be retained in the Drafting Committee.

**Jacques LAUREAU (France):** Nous sommes membres du Comité de rédaction et il nous semble nous souvenir qu'il avait été accepté de reprendre la phrase proposée par le Canada.

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Les hago notar dos cosas. Una, que esta oración se refiere a lo que algunos miembros expresaron. No se refiere al Consejo, y esos miembros seguramente sabrán de qué manera lo expresaron. Si a ustedes les parece bien, podemos adoptar esta oración como ha sido propuesta, pero se me recuerda que -aunque no estuve en el Comité de Redacción- parece que esta oración se agregó antes de la última, es decir, quedaría como penúltima oración. Si eso es correcto, el Consejo aprueba la adición formulada por Canadá, y con ello el párrafo 4.

**Paragraphs 1 to 4, as amended, approved**

**Les paragraphes 1 à 4, ainsi amendés, sont approuvés**

**Los párrafos 1 a 4, así enmendados, son aprobados**

**PARAGRAPHS 5 to 10**

**PARAGRAPHERS 5 à 10**

**PARRAFOS 5 a 10**

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Párrafo 5, 6, 7, 8, aprobados ¿párrafo 9? Párrafo 9. Tiene la palabra la distinguida delegación de Túnez.

**Salah HAMDÍ (Tunisie):** Ce paragraphe traite d'une question très importante, à savoir les actions prévues dans le cadre du Programme EMPRES. Au cours du débat, certaines interventions ont mis l'action sur la nécessité d'étendre peut-être les actions de ce Programme dans sa première phase, si possible aux autres régions touchées par le criquet pèlerin.

Dans ce cadre, j'ai une modification à proposer concernant le paragraphe 9 à la septième ligne, après la phrase se terminant par les mots: "dans la péninsule arabe". Ma proposition tend à amender ainsi les deux phrases qui suivent: "Le Conseil a reçu l'assurance que les actions préventives et curatives contre le criquet pèlerin dans les autres régions situées dans l'aire d'invasion seront poursuivies. Il a noté que les donateurs seront à même, lors des réunions qui seront convoquées sous peu, d'exprimer leurs intentions d'appuyer les mesures préventives et curatives dans les zones infestées de toutes les régions concernées. Le Conseil a recommandé que l'on prête l'attention voulue ....", la suite sans changement.

**Jacques LAUREAU (France):** Une petite modification à la proposition faite par notre ami tunisien et qui serait de dire que "les pays qui vont se réunir, etc. se prononceront sur leurs intentions". C'est une simple question de français.

**EL PRESIDENTE:** ¿Es aceptable con esta corrección en francés? Se aprueba el párrafo 9 con la enmienda de Túnez.

**Paragraphs 5 to 10, as amended, approved**

**Les paragraphes 5 à 10, ainsi amendés, sont approuvés**

**Los párrafos 5 a 10 así emendados, son aprobados**

**PARAGRAPHS 13 to 19**

**PARAGRAPHERS 13 à 19**

**PARRAFOS 13 a 19**

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Párrafos 13-18 aprobados. ¿Párrafo 19?

**Mme Régine DE CLERCQ (Belgique):** Une petite question de présentation. La toute dernière phrase qui commence par: "Le Conseil a estimé qu'il faudra poursuivre les efforts" jusqu'à la fin, devrait faire l'objet d'un paragraphe séparé, à mon avis, parce qu'il se réfère aussi bien à la décentralisation qu'à la restructuration. Je pense qu'il serait donc préférable de faire deux paragraphes.

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Muchas gracias, distinguida delegada. Creo que la sugerencia es muy clara y me parece que es aceptable. No obstante, ofrezco la palabra al Presidente del Comité de Redacción.

**Adel Mahmoud ABOUL-NAGA (Chairman, Drafting Committee):** It is a matter of principle. This member was a member of the Drafting Committee and accepted that, or at least agreed to go along with the general agreement and consensus of the Drafting Committee. That is a point of clarification.

**Mme Régine DE CLERCQ (Belgique):** Je voulais juste souligner qu'il y avait consensus du Comité de rédaction.

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Se acepta entonces que se constituirá un nuevo párrafo 20 con la última oración del párrafo 19. queda aprobado el párrafo 19 y queda aprobado el nuevo párrafo 20.

**Paragraphs 13 to 19, as amended, approved**

**Les paragraphes 13 à 19, ainsi amendés, sont approuvés**

**Los párrafos 13 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**

**PARAGRAPHS 24 to 26**

**PARAGRAPHES 24 à 26**

**PARRAFOS 24 a 26**

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Párrafos 24, 25 aprobados

**D. SANDS SMITH (United Kingdom):** Mr Chairman, may I seek your indulgence? During this Council, the United Kingdom delegation has tried to be very brief. I should like to say one or two words, before I come to the four words that I want to change in paragraph 26, to emphasize that in reading this report the United Kingdom delegation considers overall that it is an extremely good report. I should like to make that point because I have had occasion this morning to intervene on three previous points. This will be my final intervention. Overall, we thought it was an extremely good piece of work, very much reflecting the Council. I wanted to preface my remarks with that point.

As far as paragraph 26 is concerned, with regard to the end of the first sentence, on the second line of the English text, we have, "in close association with Member Nations". The United Kingdom delegation would like to add the words "and relevant international institutions".

I have a second concern regarding paragraph 26 but you might like to take those four words first.

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Le agradezco mucho, en primer lugar, sus amables comentarios al Comité de Redacción, a su Presidente y Miembros. Creo que se lo merecen.

En segundo lugar, someter a la consideración del Consejo la adición propuesta por el distinguido delegado del Reino Unido en la primera oración del Párrafo 26 ¿Hay alguna objeción?. Queda aprobado.

Por favor, distinguido delegado, haga su segunda propuesta.

**D. SANDS SMITH (United Kingdom):** My second point is that I was somewhat concerned at the beginning of the meeting at the suggestion that the final two lines of paragraph 26 should be deleted. I thought that had been accepted and was an agreed point. I am not clear why they are now being deleted and I would be interested to know the reason.

**Adel Mahmoud ABoul-NAGA (Chairman, Drafting Committee):** This was achieved after a long discussion, following an explanation given by Mr Hjort. I think there was a misunderstanding late at night by the Secretary. I think we agreed on the paragraph without these two lines. I think Mr. Hjort can give an explanation, which he has already given to the Committee, on that point.

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Bien, distinguido delegado del Reino Unido, ha recibido usted la respuesta del Presidente del Comité de Redacción. ¿Está usted satisfecho?.

**DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL:** It is my understanding that the phrase which reads "In this context, the Council urge the Director-General, in consultation with the Chairman of the Committee of World Food Security, to consider having the topic of the World Food Summit on the agenda of the Twentieth Session of the Committee on World Food Security in April 1995" was formulated after a long discussion and was accepted. The delegate from Belgium then asked for the floor and proposed the last two lines.

I was then asked to give an explanation as to why this reference to documentation was not included. At that point, I read out the previous sentence, which was then the last sentence of paragraph 26, and had previously been adopted, which reads, "In any case, preparatory documents in general and the Draft Plan of Action in particular should be made available to FAO Member Nations as early as possible ..." I said that that was why I had proposed starting the last sentence with "In this context".

It was my understanding that at that point the representative from Belgium said that she had not had the opportunity to see the formulation which had been approved in the previous sentence and in view of what I had read out she no longer proposed the inclusion of the last two lines. That is why, as I understand it, the proposal is before us. It may be a misunderstanding but that was the scenario, as I recall: after hearing the sentence, the delegate from Belgium said that, having not seen that formulation, she had not realised the reference was there and she withdrew the last phrase. At that point, the Committee agreed. That is my recollection.

On the previous amendment proposed by the United Kingdom, where it says "well-focused Summit relative to which appropriate and timely preparations in close association with Member Nations", the amendment has been proposed: "and with relevant international institutions". This would appear to give the same status in this matter to international institutions as to Member Nations.

I would suggest to you that the Director-General has been very appreciative of the many offers of assistance from the member countries to help make this Summit a success. I wonder therefore if the United Kingdom could accept an amendment reading: "and in cooperation with relevant international institutions", or words to that effect so that there is a distinction here, i.e., that its main partners in this activity are the member countries.

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Muchas gracias, Sr. Hjort, por sus aclaraciones y también por manifestar las preocupaciones de la Secretaría de la FAO respecto a estas dos enmiendas.

Vamos por partes. Vamos a tratar primero la primera propuesta del delegado del Reino Unido, de incluir "...e instituciones internacionales pertinentes" y a considerar su formulación que tome en cuenta la preocupación de la Secretaría para no darle el mismo *status* o nivel a los países miembros y a las institucionales internacionales pertinentes.

**D. SANDS SMITH (United Kingdom):** The point which has been made by Mr Hjort is an entirely valid one. I am very content to accept it, and the wording that he has suggested is fully acceptable to me.

**Jacques LAUREAU (France):** C'est pour signaler que la mention de la coopération avec les autres institutions ne figure pas du tout dans le texte français que j'ai devant moi.

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Se ha tomado nota de las distintas interpretaciones en los diversos idiomas.

Si no hay ninguna otra observación, esta primera propuesta del Delegado del Reino Unido ha quedado adoptada con la enmienda formulada por el Sr. Hjort.

Ahora pasamos a la segunda, y le voy a pedir a la Delegada de Bélgica que haga sus observaciones.

**Mme Régine DE CLERCQ (Belgique):** Le commentaire que j'étais sur le point de faire est celui que vient de faire le délégué de la France au sujet de la non-conformité des deux textes.

En ce qui concerne le commentaire que M. Hjort a fait sur l'historique de cet amendement, je peux confirmer que son interprétation est correcte. Ce qui m'avait amenée à retirer cette proposition, c'est que certaines délégations avaient également exprimé une certaine hésitation du fait que cela faisait peut-être double emploi avec le texte existant. Mais si la délégation britannique tient à son amendement, je pense qu'avec une toute petite modification, on pourrait peut-être arriver à améliorer le texte.

Je lis le texte anglais du paragraphe 26, à la cinquième ligne: "FAO Member Nations as early as possible". Là, on pourrait ajouter: "preferably in due time for the session of the CFS in April 1995". (continue en anglais) "FAO Member Nations as early as possible" "preferably in due time for the session of the CFS in April 1995."

**EL PRESIDENTE:** He tomado nota de su propuesta. Para aclarar las cosas, en primer lugar, su propuesta no se refiere a la del Reino Unido. En segundo lugar, en lo que se refiere a los dos últimos renglones, estos en principio desaparecerían, como ha sido propuesto y, en tercer lugar, respecto de la tercera oración del Párrafo 26, usted sugiere que se adicione lo siguiente "En cualquier caso, los documentos preparatorios en general y el Proyecto de Documento de Política y el Proyecto de Plan de Acción en particular deberían estar a disposición de los Estados Miembros de la FAO preferentemente a tiempo antes de la reunión del CSA de 1995".

Antes de dar la palabra a los delegados, le voy a pedir al Presidente del Comité de Redacción que presente sus observaciones.

**Adel Mahmoud ABOUL-NAGA (Chairman, Drafting Committee):** We spent many hours discussing this item, as Mr Hjort knows, and I think we exhausted the discussion. However, I think we ended up with a paragraph which is a well-balanced compromise. I hope we do not have to reopen the discussion, especially with members of the Drafting Committee.

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Yo no sé si la Distinguida Delegada de Bélgica mantiene su propuesta. ¿Mantiene usted su propuesta?

**Mrs Regine DE CLERCQ (Belgium):** If it would have the support of the House, I would.

**Alvaro GURGEL DE ALENCAR (Brazil):** It was not my intention to take part in this discussion, but this touches on a point that I have insisted upon many times in my interventions in this Council - the need for full and timely information.

I see the aim of the amendment proposed by the Distinguished Delegate of Belgium, but I think that there is perhaps a tiny flaw there, when she suggests that it should read "preferably in due time". "In due time" means within the time stipulated under the rules, and there can be no question of being "preferably" or "not preferably".

I would therefore very much support the sense of what she is saying, except that I would leave out the word "preferably", which is not acceptable.

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Hay una propuesta, la de Bélgica que está sometida al Consejo. Vamos a tratarla primero.

¿Están ustedes de acuerdo con la propuesta de Bélgica, enmendada por Brasil, que diría "Estados Miembros de la FAO a tiempo antes de la reunión del CSA de 1995"?

**Thomas A. FORBORD (United States of America):** I was going to offer an alternative to the Belgian proposal, but with the dropping of the word "preferably" I can accept it as it is. If it is still open for debate I have a cleaner alternative.

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Para zanjar el punto. ¿Podemos estar de acuerdo con la propuesta de Bélgica enmendada por Brasil? ¿Hay alguna objeción?

**Jurgen OESTREICH (Germany):** Of course, I have no problem with the proposal for presentation of documents in due time, but if this proposal is combined with the deletion of the last two lines, I do have a problem, because in the first one it is a wish of the members of this Council; in the last two lines we have a promise of a Secretariat. We all heard it: I took note of it, I think everybody took note of it. So the only thing we should change in the last two lines would perhaps be that the "Council took note with appreciation", but not to eliminate it.

**Jacques LAUREAU (France):** Mon intervention allait porter sur le même sujet. Je voudrais faire deux remarques. D'abord, une remarque de forme: dans la dernière phrase, il faut écrire - parce que la traduction est mauvaise par rapport à l'anglais: "Dans ce contexte, le Conseil a demandé au Directeur général, en consultation", etc...

Mais je suis d'accord avec mon collègue allemand pour dire que la proposition d'amendement belge n'a de sens que si nous rétablissons les derniers éléments de rédaction du paragraphe.

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Han escuchado ustedes estas dos propuestas, que están ligadas, es decir, dejar la propuesta de Bélgica, omitiendo la palabra "preferentemente" y dejar también los últimos dos renglones del Párrafo 26, adicionando después de "tomó nota con aprecio de los esfuerzos que realizaría la Secretaría con el fin de ...".

Pregunto a los Miembros del Consejo si tienen alguna objeción en estas dos propuestas. Vuelvo a repetirlo. La adición de Francia a la oración tercera y el mantener los últimos dos renglones.

**D. SANDS SMITH (United Kingdom):** I think it would be helpful, Mr Chairman, if you could just read out the text as it would stand. We would all then be absolutely clear.

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Les voy a leer el texto como lo tengo anotado, partiendo de la tercera oración que empieza: "en cualquier caso los documentos preparatorios en general y el proyecto de documento de política y el proyecto de Plan de Acción en particular deberían estar a disposición de los Estados Miembros de la FAO a tiempo, antes de la reunión del CSA de 1995, con el fin de permitir un diálogo abierto y constructivo sobre la cuestiones de fondo hasta el Consejo de junio de 1995 y en el curso de esa reunión". Luego: En este contexto, el Consejo "pidió", esa fue la enmienda que hizo el delegado de Francia, por lo menos traducida al español. Y continúa toda esta oración hasta el penúltimo renglón que dice: que se celebraría en abril de 1995,

continuando con: tomó nota con aprecio, enmienda formulada por Alemania, de los esfuerzos que realizaría la Secretaría con el fin de suministrar la documentación oportuna a su debido tiempo para este período de sesiones del CSA. En español está equivocado, dice CFS.

¿Hay alguna objeción a estas enmiendas?

**DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL:** Before the Council takes final action on the paragraph, I just want to make sure that the Council realizes what kind of pressure it is putting upon the Secretariat.

If you mean "by due time", that the documents must be despatched six weeks beforehand, and nothing that internal procedures require that the documents to be translated, printed and so forth are to be made available two months before despatch, this means by 15 January, according to what you are laying out here, the documents to be considered by the Food Security Committee would have to be ready. There is Christmas in between. This would imply no consultation with the member countries in advance of the distribution of this document.

Some of you have asked for consultation through your regional groups and so forth in the early part of 1995. The same paragraph says, "preparations in close association with Member Nations". We will do our best -that is what I said the other day - to prepare documents that are adequate. However, you are making it rather difficult, I might say.

**EL PRESIDENTE:** El Consejo, Sr. Hjort, ha tomado nota de sus preocupaciones. Antes de preguntar al Consejo su reacción, paso la palabra al Presidente del Comité de Redacción.

**Adel Mahmoud ABOUL-NAGA (Chairman, Drafting Committee):** Before I agree with Mr Hjort, there has been a lot of discussion in the Drafting Committee, but I think if we involve both those things it will be too much. We must be practical.

Therefore, my proposal is not to amend the third sentence and then to keep the two lines as amended by Germany and agreed by France; I mean not to include "in due time", or something like that. We should at least appreciate the effort, but if we add "must be available and appreciating the effort" - I mean, we have got to show some appreciation and understanding. I think the last two sentences can be kept with the German/French amendment, but not to include the first proposal.

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Pregunto a los miembros del Consejo si tomando en cuenta las preocupaciones de la Secretaría en relación a su posibilidad o capacidad para entregar esos documentos a tiempo; es decir con dos meses antes de la celebración del Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria, el Consejo sigue estando de acuerdo con esta formulación, en el entendido de la presión que va a poner sobre la Secretaría.

¿Hay alguna propuesta que pueda considerar la preocupación de la Secretaría, o prefieren ustedes dejar este párrafo como lo han modificado?

**Thomas A. FORBORD (United States of America):** I would like to see if we could get a conforming text between the French and the English in this last sentence.

The French ask the Director-General to *envisager* the subject in the Agenda. The English ask him to consider having it in there. Perhaps that could read in the English text, "request the Director-General to have the topic on the Agenda".

We want them certainly to do more than consider having it on the Agenda.

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Pregunto al Presidente del Comité de Redacción de qué manera se adoptó y cómo se consideró.

**Adel Mahmoud ABOUL-NAGA (Chairman, Drafting Committee):** We adopted the word "consider" knowing the legal aspect on that. The Agenda is generally agreed between the Chairman and the Director-General. This is the Chairman of the World Food Security Committee and the Director-General. So we said that consideration could go with the General Rules because finally there has to be consultation between the Director-General and the Chairman of the World Food Security Committee.

**Raphael RABE (Madagascar):** Après avoir écouté toutes les interventions, et notamment celle de M. Hjort, je pense que le Conseil veut toujours avoir à sa disposition des documents valables et donner la possibilité au Secrétariat de produire ces documents. Je me hasarderai donc à remplacer le mot "envisager" par "étudier la possibilité".

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Aquí tenemos dos palabras, una en francés y otra en español y en inglés, que significan cosas distintas. Quizá una fórmula mejor la puede sugerir el Dr. Hjort.

**DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL:** On this latter point which has come up, "to consider", certainly that was the phraseology which was adopted by the Committee last night, "urged to consider". As I said, after a long discussion, back and forth, finally in recognition of the Rules and Procedures and Practices of the Organization, in recognition in particular of the fact that the Agenda is established by the Director-General in consultation with the Chairman of the Committee, this would be the appropriate terminology to use in this particular case.

To come back to the earlier point, we would remind you that the last two sentences were not approved by the Drafting Committee. Therefore, if the representative of Germany is proposing those, he is proposing those two lines as an amendment to the Drafting Committee's approved draft.

I still do not think they add anything, and particularly not if the amendment from the delegate from Belgium is accepted.

To take care of my particular problem which I was laying before you, or the Organization's problem, could her amendment be adopted slightly to say "hopefully in time for" ? In other words, you could strike "due", and you can even strike "hopefully", as far as I am concerned and say, "in time for".

This gives a little more flexibility and it would give some opportunity for discussions with regional groups before the document has to be sent to the printer.

**EL PRESIDENTE:** En este caso creo que es importante que el Consejo tome en cuenta las capacidades de la Organización para proporcionarles esa documentación. Por eso he insistido en que el Sr. Hjort intervenga con una fórmula que sea factible para la Secretaría y no una que no sea realista. De cualquier forma la palabra final la tienen ustedes distinguidos delegados.

**Jacques LAUREAU (France):** Monsieur Hjort m'excusera de le corriger, mais il a jusqu'au 25 février pour nous présenter les documents, c'est-à-dire un mois de plus. Si on tient vraiment à une conférence qui aurait lieu en mars 1996, cela ne me paraît pas absurde de commencer déjà à discuter les textes dès le début de l'année. Si nous tenons à accélérer les choses, c'est parce que nous tenons à ce que ce sommet soit un succès. Pour cela, il nous faut discuter à 140 du contenu des documents. On fera un premier tour de table au Comité de la sécurité alimentaire, c'est comme cela que nous concevons les choses, de manière à avoir la possibilité de nous prononcer ultérieurement en juin sur le contenu des textes. Sinon je ne vois pas comment les choses pourraient avancer.



**Alvaro GURGEL DE ALENCAR (Brazil):** I seem to have understood Mr Hjort to say that he would not insist on an amendment containing the word "hopefully". I think, "hopefully" is just as inappropriate as "preferably".

What I would not be prepared to accept - and I want to make this very clear - particularly after the problems we have had at this very session of the Council, is any indication that the Council condones the bending of the Rules in this particular regard.

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Perdón, distinguido delegado, si entendí bien se refiere usted al hecho de que se haga una propuesta de parte de la Secretaría.

**Alvaro GURGEL DE ALENCAR (Brazil):** No sir. That is not what I am referring to. I am referring to the words such as "preferably" or "hopefully" with regard to sticking to the Rules on the circulation of documents.

**Sra. Ileana DI GIOVAN BATTISTA (Argentina):** La delegación argentina comprende las dificultades que podría tener la Secretaría para presentar a su debido tiempo para el Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria, la documentación relativa a la Cumbre Mundial sobre Alimentación. Debemos recordar, Sr. Presidente, que en el mes de marzo tenemos una reunión, a nivel ministerial sobre los temas de bosques y montes. La delegación argentina, y ésta es una opinión nuestra, no quisiera que en esta reunión de ministros, los ministros, eventualmente, pudieran referirse a la Cumbre Mundial de la Alimentación, cosa que a lo mejor harían si los documentos circularan.

Por esa razón, Sr. Presidente, la delegación argentina puede apoyar la propuesta del Dr. Hjort en el sentido de que la documentación estuviera a tiempo en task force en período de sesiones del Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria. De tal manera que los delegados que vengan al Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria puedan tener conocimiento de la documentación que, de todas formas, entiende la delegación argentina, será analizada en el Consejo de junio y no debería ser discutida en el Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria. Solamente el Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria debería tomar conocimiento de la documentación.

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Tenemos varias propuestas interrelacionadas; una que le facilitaría su trabajo a la Secretaría y, quizá, podría lograr el compromiso de parte de ustedes. Sería la siguiente, en la tercera oración decir después de "estar a disposición de los Estados Miembros de la FAO, a tiempo para la reunión del CSA de 1995". ¿Es esto aceptable? ¿Hay alguna objeción? En ese caso esta propuesta está aprobada.

En lo que se refiere a la de Alemania de mantener los últimos dos renglones del párrafo 26 adicionando las palabras: con aprecio. Me parece que estos dos renglones han sido omitidos. Ya no quedan esos dos renglones; su propuesta es que se mantengan estos dos renglones.

**Jurgen OESTREICH (Germany):** I made it very clear that I wanted to keep the two lines and if they have been deleted I now make a formal proposal to include them again.

**EL PRESIDENTE:** En ese caso, para hacer compatibles esos dos renglones con lo que hemos aprobado anteriormente, podríamos estar de acuerdo en que se modifique la última frase de esta oración relativa a los esfuerzos que realizaría la Secretaría con el fin de suministrar la documentación a tiempo para este período de sesiones del CSA ¿podríamos decir eso? En ese caso, distinguidos delegados, el párrafo 26 queda aprobado con esas modificaciones. Así se aprueba. Ahora pasamos al párrafo 27. Aprobado. Párrafo 28, aprobado. El documento CL 107/REP.9 con esto queda aprobado.

**Paragraphs 24 to 26, as amended, approved**

**Les paragraphes 24 à 26, ainsi amendés, sont approuvés**

**Los párrafos 24 a 26, así enmendados, son aprobados**

**Paragraphs 27 to 28 approved**

**Les paragraphes 27 à 28 sont approuvés**

**Los párrafos 27 a 28 son aprobados**

**Draft Report of Plenary - Part IX, as amended, was adopted**

**Le projet de rapport de la Plénière - Neuvième partie, ainsi amendé, est adopté**

**El proyecto de informe de la Plenaria - Parte IX, así enmendado, es aprobado**

**DRAFT REPORT - PART X**

**PROJET DE RAPPORT - DIXIEME PARTIE**

**PROYECTO DE INFORME - PARTE X**

**Paragraphs 1 to 20 approved**

**Les paragraphes 1 à 20 sont approuvés**

**Los párrafos 1 a 20 son aprobados**

**PARAGRAPH 21**

**PARAGRAPHE 21**

**PARRAFO 21**

**Christophe KIEMTORE (Burkina Faso):** Sans rappeler les conditions dans lesquelles les débats se sont déroulés sur ce point, ma délégation voudrait faire deux propositions d'amendement, dont une très courte et une très longue, mais pour gagner du temps je vous proposerai la plus courte.

Au paragraphe 21, ma délégation, après la première phrase se terminant par "la FAO" propose la modification suivante: "Le Conseil a pris note de cette proposition. Il a toutefois fait observer que, conformément au paragraphe ... ordre du jour provisoire" et l'on supprime le membre de phrase commençant par "En tenant compte des recommandations ..." jusqu'à la fin.

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Ustedes han escuchado la propuesta, que está en dos partes. La primera es una adición a la segunda oración y eliminar la última frase de la última oración. Tiene la palabra Chile y luego Madagascar.

**Pedro Alfonso MEDRANO ROJAS (Chile):** Hay una primera observación en relación a la proposición misma que se hizo. No sé si ha sido aclarada. Se refiere al título: Examen de la estructura de los órganos intergubernamentales de la FAO. La propuesta se refería a los Organos Rectores de la FAO. Y la segunda consideración es simplemente una aclaración. Quisiera entenderla en estos términos: si la propuesta de la distinguida delegación de Burkina Faso implica que la Agenda o el Programa Provisional no se haría en consulta con el Presidente Independiente.

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Sí, distinguido delegado. Hubo efectivamente, cuando se propuso la inclusión de este tema para el próximo período de sesiones, una confusión que yo mismo tenía, porque cuando se había mandado el texto de la inclusión de este tema, aparecía efectivamente intergubernamentales, cuando en verdad el señor delegado del Brasil, y usted después, habían hablado del examen de la estructura de los Organos Rectores de la FAO. Al preguntar yo respecto de esta aclaración, hubo otra confusión pero quedó claro que se trataba de los Organos Rectores de la Organización, como me lo hicieron ustedes notar. Creo que esto está en el verbatim.

En lo que se refiere a la propuesta de Burkina Faso, de lo que he tomado nota es de que efectivamente tiene que ser en consulta con el Presidente Independiente, porque es así como lo indica el Artículo XXV,

párrafo 7a). Es decir, hay una referencia específica a ese párrafo y tiene que ser en consulta con el Presidente Independiente. Tiene la palabra la distinguida delegación del Brasil, antes de Madagascar, para una aclaración.

**Álvaro GURGEL DE ALENCAR (Brazil):** Just to clarify three points, the first regarding the title. The distinguished representative of Chile of course is absolutely right; it should be "Governing Bodies".

Secondly, regarding the suggested amendment by Burkina Faso, I would only like to observe that according to what I have here it should say, "the Council took note of this proposal but pointed out that in line with ...". I suggest that instead of "but" we should say "and" because there should be no adversarial sense in this phrase here. After all, I was the one who invoked, when I made the proposal, this particular Rule. When I introduced that proposal, I did it under Rule XXV-7(a). It should not look as if it were something that was proposed and the Council said "Wait a minute, you have to do it under the Rule". I said that myself. I would suggest we say "and" and not "but".

Finally, regarding the last part of what is proposed here by the Drafting Committee that is the deletion of the words from "having regard" to "Member Nations", to me at least - I would not wish to speak on behalf of all the others, the many proponents of this idea here - it is neither here nor there because the Rule continues to exist and has to be followed whether you make a reference to it or not.

**Raphael RABE (Madagascar):** Je suis reconnaissant à la délégation du Burkina Faso d'avoir fait cette proposition qui, je l'espère ne soulèvera pas de polémiques. Je dis cela parce que ma délégation aussi avait un amendement qui correspondait au débat ou, plus exactement, aux discussions, puisque vous-même, Monsieur le Président, avez dit qu'il n'y avait pas eu de débat. Je n'insiste donc pas sur l'amendement que je voulais présenter étant entendu que dans le verbatim, toutes nos interventions figurent. C'est la raison pour laquelle je pense que je peux appuyer la proposition de la délégation du Burkina Faso dans la mesure où nous ne portons aucune modification.

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Antes de continuar dando la palabra, deseo decir lo siguiente. Cuando se presentó la propuesta por parte de Brasil y yo manifesté mi duda respecto de si se trataba de órganos intergubernamentales, en la exposición de motivos suya, distinguido delegado del Brasil, así como en la del distinguido delegado de Chile, se hizo notar que en verdad se querían comprender no solamente los Organos Rectores que se refieren exclusivamente a la Conferencia y al Consejo, sino también a los Organos Estatutarios de la Organización, tales como el Comité de Agricultura, etcétera. Si ese es el caso, en el título de su propuesta debería aparecer "Organos Rectores y Estatutarios de la FAO". Porque hubo una confusión al principio, y yo se la hice notar y usted luego dijo sí, que se trata de órganos intergubernamentales. Por tanto, recogiendo la exposición de motivos suya y la de Chile, y en el entendido de que esa confusión llevó a explicar que comprendía los órganos rectores y los estatutarios, sugiero que en el título se diga "Examen de la Estructura de los Organos Rectores y Estatutarios de la FAO".

En lo que se refiere a la enmienda del distinguido delegado de Burkina Faso, yo le pregunto si insiste en ella, sobre todo en la segunda parte, que es la de eliminar la última frase. Señor delegado de Burkina Faso.

**Christophe KIEMTORE (Burkina Faso):** Monsieur le Président, je vous ai suivi sur la tradition. Je pense qu'il n'y a pas de confusion quant à notre amendement sur les attributions qui sont les vôtres relativement à l'article 7A et autres. L'amendement ne concerne pas cet article. Je me permets de reprendre cette proposition pour éviter toute confusion et ensuite j'essaierai de vous dire pourquoi nous insistons pour que l'on supprime cette dernière partie.

L'amendement qui porte sur la dernière partie se lirait ainsi: "le Conseil a pris note de cette proposition et il a cependant fait observer que, conformément au paragraphe 7 a) de l'Article 25 du Règlement général de l'Organisation, le Directeur général, en accord avec le Président du Conseil, préparera l'ordre du jour provisoire" et on supprime ce qui suit.

En ce qui concerne la remarque du délégué du Brésil, nous insistons pour qu'il y ait effectivement "cependant", parce que c'est à cause de ce fait qu'il n'y a pas eu débat; c'est parce que vous avez rappelé l'Article 7 a) que nous n'avons pas débattu. Il n'est pas absolument neutre et nous insistons pour qu'il y ait cet appel qui souligne que "le Conseil a toutefois fait remarquer, en ce qui concerne cette proposition, que l'Article 7 a) prévoit que ..." et on continue la phrase. Pourquoi supprimer la dernière phrase? parce qu'il n'y a pas eu de débat et s'il n'y a pas eu de débat, le Conseil ne peut pas prendre en compte les recommandations et suggestions émanant des Etats Membres qui ne se sont pas exprimés sur un point. Ce sont les justifications que je tenais à apporter car ma délégation voulait insister sur ces deux points-là.

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Creo que la situación es muy clara. Parece que el delegado del Brasil no tiene inconveniente en que la propuesta de Burkina Faso se apruebe como él mismo la propuso. Si están ustedes de acuerdo, me voy a permitir leer de nuevo el párrafo: "Varios miembros propusieron que en el Programa Provisional del próximo período de sesiones del Consejo, se incluyera un tema titulado "Examen de la Estructura de los Organos Rectores y otros Estatutarios de la FAO. El Consejo tomó nota de esta propuesta. Sin embargo, observó que en el Artículo XXV 7a) del Reglamento General de la Organización el Director General debía preparar el Programa Provisional en consulta con el Presidente Independiente". Y terminaría ahí este párrafo. Tiene la palabra la distinguida delegación de Madagascar.

**Raphael RABE (Madagascar):** Monsieur le Président, je suis d'accord avec ce que vous avez dit sur un point. Le rapport, en effet, reflète toujours les débats et tient compte des documents. Donc c'est ce titre qui me chiffonne un peu. Parle-t-on d'organes recteurs, d'organes directeurs, d'organes directeurs et statutaires? Je ne sais pas exactement.

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Cuando se hizo la propuesta, el distinguido delegado del Brasil, el de Chile y otros, indicaron no sólo en su exposición de motivos, sino también en la propuesta que por escrito presentaron, que se trataba del examen de los Organos Rectores y Estatutarios, aunque no se utilizó el término, porque el término dependía de que la Secretaría aclarara cuál debía ser el término apropiado. Ellos indicaron, tras una pregunta mía, que se trataba de los órganos intergubernamentales, pero intergubernamentales es inapropiado para describir a los Organos Rectores y Estatutarios. Estas palabras describen con precisión a lo que se referían los delegados del Brasil y otros al presentar su propuesta de inclusión del tema. Si no tiene inconveniente, distinguido delegado, simplemente para que quede claro qué es esto de intergubernamentales se va a utilizar la expresión legal adecuada, de acuerdo con los textos básicos, que es "Organos Rectores y otros Estatutarios". No creo que pueda haber ninguna objeción a esto, puesto que fue una propuesta que se va a examinar con base al Artículo XXV 7a). No se está cambiando la propuesta de la delegación del Brasil y de otras delegaciones. No creo que haya mucho más que decir al respecto, señor delegado, francamente porque no es un problema de cambiar aquí el debate de la reunión, sino simplemente hacer explícito y correcto el término al que se refería. Si no hay ninguna objeción, distinguidos delegados, se aprueba el párrafo 21. Tiene la palabra la distinguida delegación de Cuba. Le indico que es muy tarde, por lo que le suplico sea muy breve.

**Juan NUIRY SANCHEZ (Cuba): En el tema:** Otros Asuntos, expresamente indicados para ser recogidos en el informe final, señor Presidente, como usted recordará y también todos los distinguidos delegados aquí presentes, se realizó un reconocimiento a todos y cada uno de los que hicieron posible el resultado de este trabajo que hoy concluye. Trabajo constructivo, propuesta que fue sellada con un aplauso como voluntad de consenso, y que no veo reflejado en el Informe. Tal vez este olvido involuntario se lo atribuyo a las horas tardías de este excelente trabajo realizado por el Comité de Redacción. Propuesta que tiene además la intención de reflejar una alta voluntad colectiva, que también fue recogida en el desarrollo de todo el decurso del Consejo. Pido a nuestro amigo Presidente del Comité de Redacción que me explique por qué esto no fue recogido y es interés de nuestra delegación que esto sea reflejado en el Informe.

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Gracias, distinguido delegado de Cuba. Si le parece bien, yo le propongo a usted, quizás previa consulta con el propio Presidente del Comité de Redacción, que formule un párrafo muy breve al respecto y que lo discutiremos a las tres de la tarde, cuando nos volvamos a reunir para adoptar el

CL 107/REP/11, sobre la Comisión de Recursos Fitogenéticos. Si le parece bien, a las tres de la tarde escucharemos su propuesta, pero en principio ha quedado ya adoptado el párrafo 21.

**Paragraph 21 not concluded**

**Le paragraphe 21 est en suspens**

**El párrafo 21 queda pendiente**

**Draft Report of Plenary - Part X, not concluded**

**Le projet de rapport de la Plénière - Dixième partie, est en suspens**

**El proyecto de informe de la Plenaria, Parte X, queda pendiente**

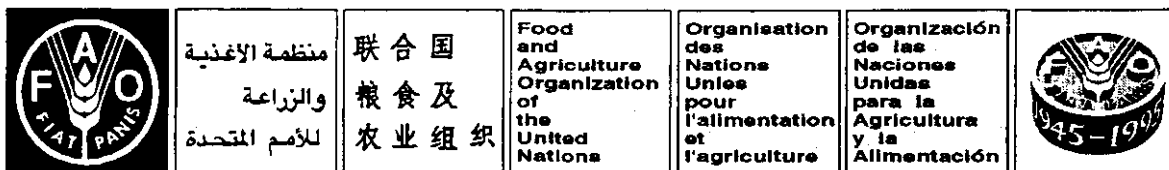
**The meeting rose at 13.15 hours.**

**La séance est levée à 13 h 15.**

**La reunión se levantó a las 13.15 horas.**



22 November 1994



COUNCIL

CONSEIL

CONSEJO

Hundred and Seventh Session • Cent septième session • 107° período de sesiones

FOURTEENTH PLENARY MEETING  
QUATORZIEME SEANCE PLENIERE  
14ª SESION PLENARIA

24 November 1994

The Fourteenth Plenary Meeting was opened at 15.10 hours  
Mr José Ramón López Portillo,  
Independent Chairman of the Council, presiding

La quatorzième séance plénière est ouverte à 15 h 15  
sous la présidence de M. José Ramón López Portillo,  
Président indépendant du Conseil

Se abre la 14ª sesión plenaria a las 15.15 horas  
bajo la presidencia del Sr. José Ramón López Portillo,  
Presidente Independiente del Consejo

**ADOPTION OF REPORT (continued)****ADOPTION DU RAPPORT (suite)****APROBACION DEL INFORME (continuación)****DRAFT REPORT - PART XI****PROJET DE RAPPORT - ONZIEME PARTIE****PROYECTO DE INFORME - PARTE XI****PARAGRAPHS 1 to 4****PARAGRAPHE 1 à 4****PARRAFO 1 a 4**

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Buenas tardes distinguidos delegados, señores observadores. Señoras y señores, declaro abierta la decimocuarta Sesión Plenaria del Consejo, para aprobar la última parte del Informe, el Documento CL 107/REP/11.

Pregunto a los Miembros del Consejo, en primer lugar, si hay alguna observación que hacer sobre esta última parte. Me parece que sí. Entonces vamos por tramos.

Respecto de la Sección 9.1, párrafos 1 al 13 ¿Habría alguna observación?

En ese caso vamos a ir párrafo por párrafo.

Párrafos 1-4 aprobados

**PARAGRAPH 5****PARAGRAPHE 5****PARRAFOS 5**

**Marco Antônio DINIZ BRANDÃO (Brazil):** My delegation suggests that, in the interests of clarity and accurate recording, the second sentence in paragraph 5, commencing "One member believed..." should be replaced by the following sentence: "Some members suggested that the Conference of the Parties of the Convention on Biological Diversity should be consulted on the real scope of Resolution 3 of the Nairobi Conference."

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Como lo he tomado, la segunda oración del Párrafo 5 se leería así: "Algunos miembros sugirieron que en la Conferencia de las Partes en el Convenio sobre la Diversidad Biológica fueran consultados sobre el verdadero ámbito de la Resolución 3 de la Conferencia de Nairobi".

Pregunto al Presidente del Comité de Redacción si tiene algo que agregar.

**Abel Mahmoud ABOUL-NAGA (Chairman, Drafting Committee):** This question was discussed in the Drafting Committee, but on this point the delegate of Brazil has the right to say whatever he wants.

**Lucas Guillermo CASTILLO (Venezuela):** Venezuela, como miembro del Comité de Redacción, insistió en que no era un miembro sino varios miembros; o al menos más de uno porque nos incluimos allí. Nos gustaría que se aprobara esa enmienda.

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Han escuchado ustedes, miembros del Consejo, la enmienda a la segunda oración del párrafo. ¿Hay alguna objeción?. Se adopta.



**Marco Antonio DINIZ BRANDAO (Brazil):** Again in the interests of clarity we propose that the opening phrase of the last sentence should read: "The Legal Counsel expressed his opinion that Resolution 7/93...", the rest of the sentence remaining as it is. We would therefore delete "The Council noted" and replace it with "The Legal Counsel expressed his opinion".

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Al respecto no podríamos plantearlo así. Quizá, podríamos decir: el Consejo tomó nota, ya que el Consejo escuchó la declaración del Asesor Legal, pero antes de ofrecerle la palabra de nuevo se la doy al Presidente del Comité de Redacción.

**Abel Mahmoud ABOUL-NAGA (Chairman, Drafting Committee):** Although I fully endorses Brazil's first amendment, in this case "The Council noted" is the term normally used, as we are referring here to an FAO Conference - our Conference. Therefore, I am not prepared to accept this amendment.

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Espero que pueda estar de acuerdo con el Presidente del Comité de Redacción y conmigo en que debe haber una acción de parte del Consejo, aunque sea la de tomar nota.

**Marco Antonio DINIZ BRANDAO (Brazil):** I am grateful for the remarks of the Chairman of the Drafting Committee, but in fact this matter was not discussed by the Council - it was an opinion expressed by the Legal Counsel. The Council of course registered it - it heard the opinion of the Legal Counsel; but it did not discuss it. I cannot recall any discussion on the matter.

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Le recuerdo, que como habíamos discutido anteriormente, las resoluciones adoptadas por los Organos Rectores tienen validez en el Consejo, igualmente se conozcan o no se conozcan. Al respecto la interpretación del Asesor Legal fue escuchada por el Consejo y aquí necesitamos referir lo que el Consejo dijo. En este caso no debatirlo, sino tomar nota. ¿No está usted de acuerdo?

**Robert ANDRIGO (Canada):** You have just said, Mr. Chairman, what I was about to say. It is really a statement of fact. The fact that we were advised of the state of affairs by the Legal Counsel is in a sense immaterial. It is contained in the basic text of the Organization, but what is said here is fact and there seems no reason not to say it, because it is pertinent.

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Creo que no debemos dispensar mucho tiempo en esto. Con el permiso del delegado del Brasil podríamos decir que el Consejo tomó nota de la interpretación ofrecida por el Asesor Legal pero, antes de proponerles esto le voy a pedir al Asesor Legal que haga una aclaración.

**LEGAL COUNSEL:** If you wish to, draw attention to the statement I made, perhaps more appropriate words would be: "The Legal Counsel drew the attention of the Council to the fact that...", because it is a legal fact that it was unanimously adopted by the FAO Conference, and it is a legal fact that the Conference is the supreme governing body of FAO, etc.

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Sr. Delegado del Brasil ya habíamos tratado, digamos, la filosofía de este tipo de problemas, en referencia a una resolución del Consejo. Si se trata de la Conferencia y si resulta un hecho que fue negociada cuidadosamente y aprobada por unanimidad, no podemos hacer otra cosa, sino tomar nota de este hecho. Le suplico que nos permita seguir adelante.

**Marco Antonio DINIZ BRANDÃO (Brazil):** The drafting offered by the Legal Counsel is acceptable to my delegation.

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Pregunto a los miembros del Consejo si aceptan la propuesta formulada por el Asesor Jurídico. En ese caso así se adopta el párrafo 5, primero con la enmienda aceptada de parte de Brasil.

## **PARAGRAPH 6**

## **PARAGRAPHE 6**

## **PARRAFO 6**

**Marco Antonio DINIZ BRANDÃO (Brazil):** Again for the sake of clarity, we would suggest that in the second line the word "matters" should be replaced by the word "concepts" so that, rather than "coverage of the following matters", the phrase should read "coverage of the following concepts".

**EL PRESIDENTE:** ¿Hay alguna objeción? En ese caso queda adoptado el párrafo 6 con la enmienda de Brasil. Párrafo 7 adoptado, Párrafo 8, adoptado.

## **PARAGRAPH 9**

## **PARAGRAPHE 9**

## **PARRAFO 9**

**Marco Antonio DINIZ BRANDÃO (Brazil):** We would suggest inserting, before the last sentence in paragraph 9, the words, "Others considered the matter premature." The rest would then follow as it is now - "The Council agreed...".

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Han tomado nota de la adición propuesta de parte del delegado del Brasil, que iría inmediatamente antes de la última oración, que dice: otros consideraron que el asunto era prematuro. ¿Hay alguna objeción a esta adición?

**Sra. Ileana DI GIOVAN BATTISTA (Argentina):** Para una aclaración, Sr. Presidente, ¿cuál es el asunto que es prematuro?

**Marco Antonio DINIZ BRANDÃO (Brazil):** I was referring to the change in the format of the Fourth International Technical Conference which could be followed by a high level meeting. My delegation made it very clear that we considered it very premature to tackle the subject before we reached other conclusions on this matter.

**EL PRESIDENTE:** En ese caso podríamos sugerir que en lugar de su redacción se diga: otros consideraron que esta propuesta era prematura. ¿Es aceptable?

**Jacques LAUREAU (France):** Je n'ai pas d'objection de principe. La question que je voudrais poser est une question rédactionnelle.

On ne peut pas mettre: "d'autres ont estimé ..." parce qu'il y a déjà: "d'autres ont estimé". En français, ce n'est pas convenable. Je crois qu'il faut dire: "quelques-uns" ou "certains ont estimé que cette proposition était prématurée."

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Podríamos agregar a la de Brasil las palabras, por lo menos en español otros más, *still others*. Queda así adoptado el párrafo 9. Párrafo 10, aprobado. Párrafo 11, aprobado. Párrafo 12, adoptado. Párrafo 13, adoptado.

**Paragraphs 1 to 13 as amended, approved**

**Les paragraphes 1 à 13, ainsi amendés, sont approuvés**

**Los párrafos 1 a 13, así enmendados, son aprobados**

**PARAGRAPHS 14 to 20**

**PARAGRAPHE 14 à 20**

**PARRAFOS 14 a 20**

**Marco Antonio DINIZ BRANDÃO (Brazil):** We would like to propose a new paragraph 14 which would reflect the intervention made by my delegation and supported by another country.

The new paragraph would read as follows: "Reference was made on the Latin American Conference on Biodiversity held in Lima, Peru, on 7 and 8 November 1994 that gave a regional position regarding the question of biological diversity and the Convention on Biological Diversity."

In clarification, that would be a new paragraph 14 immediately following paragraph 13 but not replacing the existing paragraph 14.

**EL PRESIDENTE:** La propuesta del distinguido delegado del Brasil, que se adiciona inmediatamente después del párrafo 13, antes de la sección sobre la ampliación del mandato. ¿Hay alguna objeción respecto del contenido? ¿Hay alguna objeción respecto de la ubicación? En ese caso se adopta.

Pasamos ahora al párrafo 14, aprobado. Párrafo 15, aprobado.

**PARAGRAPH 16**

**PARAGRAPHE 16**

**PARRAFO 16**

**Marco Antonio DINIZ BRANDÃO (Brazil):** I have a very short comment in the interest of clarity. My proposal would be that we delete in the second sentence "and it was" and replace that with the following wording, "by those countries and they".

The phrase would then read, "the inclusion of animal genetic resources first was generally supported by those countries, and they suggested to start immediately ..." etc.

**Abel Mahmoud ABOUL-NAGA (Chairman, Drafting Committee):** I think the second sentence also refers to "in the view of these countries".

We have "a number of countries" and then we have a second sentence, and then we have the third sentence, "In the view of these countries." So it is all applied to one group of countries. However, if he wants to have it, I do not have any objection.

**Che Ani SAAD (Malaysia):** My delegation has respect for the views of the distinguished delegate from Brazil.

The views expressed by the distinguished are very pertinent to the subject matter. However, from the point of view of clarification and of taking into account what transpired in the working group of the Commission, as well as the discussion in the Council, it is our opinion that it is not "a number of countries".

It is generally felt that it was the view of my delegation which brought back the message to inform our respective national committee on biodiversity, so it is very important that we have this view.

We really appreciate the views of the distinguished delegate of Brazil, which I think can be compromised in due time, but in the interest of honouring the discussion which transpired in the Council, I submit that we should maintain the feeling which is generally felt.

Then the sentence will follow.

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Como recordarán ustedes, al resumir este debate yo hablé de grupos que representaban diversas sombras de grises y se indicaron tres. Por lo menos destacué la posición de tres. Yo tengo la impresión de que efectivamente hubo un apoyo general, no total a esta cuestión. Yo no sé si se puede aprobar por parte del Consejo el que se quede el inicio de esta oración en términos impersonales, como lo ha propuesto la delegación de Malasia. ¿Hay alguna objeción a que se diga en la segunda oración: Se estimó en general la inclusión de los recursos zoogenéticos en primer lugar y se sugirió comenzar inmediatamente estableciendo un grupo? Tiene la palabra la distinguida delegación de Francia.

**Jacques LAUREAU (France):** J'ai du mal à m'y retrouver dans ces propositions de texte. Il me semble que lorsque l'on dit: "L'inclusion dans un premier temps des ressources zoogénétiques a suscité un large soutien", on est conforme à l'esprit des délibérations que nous avons eues. Maintenant si l'on supprime "dans un premier temps des ressources zoogénétiques a suscité un large soutien", la phrase n'a plus beaucoup de sens. J'ai du mal à suivre, je ne sais pas si c'est la traduction ou si c'est l'espagnol qui est mal traduit, mais j'ai un problème pour comprendre le sens de "l'inclusion dans un premier temps". Rayer "dans un premier temps des ressources zoogénétiques a suscité un large soutien". Quand on dit "a suscité un large soutien", cela veut dire ce que cela veut dire.

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Podríamos decir entonces, respecto a la primera parte de la segunda oración que "se estimó en general la inclusión de los recursos zoogenéticos en primer lugar y algunos miembros sugirieron..." ¿Es aceptable? ¿Alguna objeción a este planteamiento?

**Marco Antonio DINIZ BRANDÃO (Brazil):** We do not really dispute the fact that a large number of countries favoured the initiation without delay as it is here in this Report, the process of broadening the scope of the Commission.

It was in the interest of the logical side of the discussion that we suggested we could say that those countries who support the broadening of the scope of the Commission suggested that they start immediately.

It is not really a question of substance; it is only a question of clarity. Of course, those countries who did not favour the broadening of the mandate could not suggest that FAO started immediately the setting up of an *ad hoc* working group, only those who fully supported the idea.

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Si empieza así la segunda oración, entonces la primera oración, que empieza con "varios" por lo menos en español, en inglés "several" y en francés "plusieurs". Si empieza así, se está refiriendo a algunos y no a muchos, como usted mencionó. Quizás entonces valdría la pena citar en la primera oración "muchos países se mostraron partidarios" y luego decir, como usted lo sugiere, "dichos países apoyaron en general la inclusión de los recursos zoogenéticos en primer lugar. Luego "Algunos países sugirieron comenzar inmediatamente ..." etcétera. Les vuelvo a repetir. Primera oración: "Muchos países se mostraron partidarios". Segunda oración: "Dichos países apoyaron en general, y luego tercera oración: se divide la segunda después de "en primer lugar." Y empezaría "Algunos sugirieron". ¿Hay alguna objeción? Tiene la palabra el Presidente del Comité de Redacción.

**Abel Mahmoud ABOUL-NAGA (Chairman, Drafting Committee):** I have been trying to describe to the Plenary what was the general spirit in which we agreed these three paragraphs. It took us three or four hours. We tried to capture the view of each group in one paragraph. There was a long introduction to that,

describing how there are three views and then describing how we agreed to cancel all that and to capture the view of each group in one paragraph. We have three paragraphs.

In this context I would like to draw the attention of the Plenary to a change of numbering between paragraphs 18 and 19. Paragraph 18 will become paragraph 19 and paragraph 19 will become paragraph 18. Accordingly, paragraphs 16, 17 and 18 capture the view of the three groups.

I hope that the Plenary will accept it in that way, that the first paragraph captures the view of a certain group, that the second paragraph captures the view of a certain group, and that the third one captures the view of a third group. So what is reflected in each paragraph is the view of one group. We will come later to differentiate but that will get confused. It took a lot of effort and I hope you will accept our suggestions.

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Muchas gracias, distinguido Presidente del Comité de Redacción. Yo no quiero que el Consejo se convierta en un Comité de Redacción. Creo que las posiciones de cada uno de ustedes están reflejadas, como ha dicho el Presidente del Comité de Redacción, en los tres párrafos subsiguientes. Espero que acepten ustedes el párrafo 16 como estaba planteado, que concuerden conmigo en que sus puntos de vista están reflejados en los demás y que podamos adoptar el Informe. No quiero abrir un debate al respecto. Tenía anotado a Australia, pero me parece que no quiere hacer uso de la palabra. ¿Quiere hacer uso de la palabra, señora delegada? ¿Quiere hacer uso de la palabra, distinguida delegada de Argentina? Venezuela quiere hacer uso de la palabra. Tiene la palabra la distinguida delegación de Venezuela.

**Fernando GERBASI (Venezuela):** Muchas gracias, señor Presidente. Por lo menos déme la alegría de hablar una vez en esta Plenaria. Señor Presidente, yo respeto mucho la opinión del Presidente del Comité de Redacción. En primer lugar quiero apoyar el cambio que él propone del párrafo 18 por el párrafo 19 a fin de dar una organización al debate. Pero en el párrafo 16, al menos en español, la segunda oración que comienza: "Se expresó un apoyo general a la inclusión de los recursos zoológicos en primer lugar...", da la impresión que es el Consejo en pleno quien expresa este apoyo. Por lo tanto, considero que ese párrafo debería comenzar: "Expresaron un apoyo general". Si comenzamos con "Varios países se mostraron partidarios...", la segunda oración debe decir "Expresaron", y ahí sí son esos países, al menos en español, señor Presidente. Porque, de lo contrario, estamos hablando de una forma genérica que no refiere la realidad del debate.

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Hay una propuesta concreta que resuelve los problemas que es, en lugar de empezar la segunda oración con "Se expresó" decir "Expresaron". Se adopta así el párrafo 16. Pasamos al párrafo 17. Queda adoptado. Respecto al párrafo 18, hay una propuesta para cambiarlo por el párrafo 19. Pregunto, antes de dar la palabra respecto al contenido de estos párrafos, si están ustedes de acuerdo con ese cambio. En ese caso, vamos a ver primero el actual párrafo 19, que se convertirá en el párrafo 18. ¿Se adopta el párrafo 19 como está en el CL 107/REP/11? Queda adoptado como párrafo 18. Pasamos al actual párrafo 18, que se convertirá en el 19. Tiene la palabra la distinguida delegación de México.

## PARAGRAPH 18

## PARAGRAPHE 18

## PARRAFO 18

**Ricardo VELAZQUEZ HUERTA (México):** Mi delegación tiene una pequeña dificultad en aceptar, como está redactada, la primera oración de este párrafo. Estimamos que éste es el párrafo fundamental de todo el capítulo. Este es el párrafo que contiene la recomendación que el Consejo hace para continuar con el ejercicio. Nos parece que la primera frase podría quedar redactada de la siguiente manera: "El Consejo recomendó que se presentara al Comité de Agricultura (COAG), Comité de Montes (COFO) y Comité de Pesca (COFI), para su examen, un documento con propuestas detalladas -y aquí viene la observación de México- "sobre la ampliación, incluidos los aspectos administrativos y financieros." Todo lo demás continuaría como está. Fundamentamos nuestra propuesta en que el actual párrafo solamente hace referencia a

que se referirá a los comités técnicos los gastos administrativos. A nuestro juicio, en los debates todo el mundo tenía muy claro de que todo el asunto referido a la ampliación debería ser discutido en los comités técnicos.

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Muchas gracias, yo recuerdo bien que se identificaron en el debate esas dos propuestas. La repito, en la primera oración del párrafo 18, futuro párrafo 19, se leería después de COAG, COFO y COFI "para su examen un documento con propuestas detalladas sobre la ampliación, incluidos los aspectos administrativos y financieros". ¿Alguna objeción? Queda adoptado el párrafo 18, futuro párrafo 19. Pasamos al párrafo 20. Queda aprobado.

**Paragraphs 14 to 20 as amended, approved**

**Les paragraphes 14 à 20, ainsi amendés, sont approuvés**

**Los párrafos 14 a 20, así enmendados, son aprobados**

**Draft Report of Plenary, Part XI, as amended, was adopted**

**Le projet de rapport de la Plénière, Onzième partie, ainsi amendé, est adopté**

**El proyecto de informe de la Plenaria, Parte XI, así enmendado, es aprobado**

**DRAFT REPORT - PART X (continued)**

**PROJET DE RAPPORT - DIXIEME PARTIE (suite)**

**PROYECTO DE INFORME - PARTE X (continuación)**

**PARAGRAPH 21 (continued)**

**PARAGRAPHE 21 (suite)**

**PARRAFO 21 (continuación)**

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Vamos a tratar el documento REP/10 de nuevo, que esta mañana dejamos pendiente. Había un párrafo que iba a proponer el distinguido delegado de Cuba, que está bien que lo tratemos al final porque seguramente siendo un párrafo de agradecimiento a los diversos apoyos que permitieron que este Consejo se realizara, podríamos, al discutirlo, endosarlo y quizás concluir nuestra sesión plenaria. Pregunto al señor Presidente del Comité de Redacción si tiene el párrafo propuesto por la delegación de Cuba. Pido al distinguido Presidente que haga uso de la palabra.

**Abel Mahmoud ABOUL-NAGA (Chairman, Drafting Committee):** I would like to give the floor to the Secretary of the Drafting Committee because she has been drafting that with the Ambassador of Cuba so I have not had time to read it yet. If she will read it out we will then get the wording.

**Ms Miriam M. SAIF (Secretary, Drafting Committee):** I have before me a draft proposed by the Cuban Ambassador and I will read it in Spanish.

"El Consejo expresó su reconocimiento tanto por su preparación previa como por el equilibrado desarrollo de sus sesiones, señalando en ese trabajo colectivo a la Secretaría, intérpretes, redactoras de actas taquigráficas, mesa de distribución de documentos y mensajeras. Expresó de forma unánime su satisfacción por el trabajo realizado por el Comité de Redacción y la acertada conducción del Presidente Independiente del Consejo. Gracias, señor Presidente."

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Muchas gracias, distinguida Secretaria del Comité de Redacción. Han escuchado ustedes la propuesta de este párrafo, que se incluiría inmediatamente después de la sección 23, párrafo 21, del CL 107/REP/10. Pregunto a los miembros del Consejo si tienen alguna objeción respecto del contenido y de su ubicación. En ese caso, queda aprobado, y con ello también la totalidad de nuestro informe.

Decía que la adopción de este último párrafo venía muy a cuento porque nos permite suscribirlo y con ello reiterar el agradecimiento del Consejo a todas las instancias que le permitieron trabajar, prepararse y llegar a conclusiones tan positivas y a un debate tan rico.

No me gustaría repetir lo que de manera tan excelente dijo hace dos días el distinguido delegado de Cuba. Creo que sus palabras recogen bien el sentir de este Consejo. Creo que todos las podemos suscribir y les pregunto a ustedes, distinguidos delegados, si tienen algo que agregar.

**Paragraph 21 approved**

**Le paragraphe 21 est approuvé**

**El párrafo 21 es aprobado**

**Draft Report - Part X, as amended, was adopted**

**Le projet de rapport - Dixième partie, ainsi amendé, est adopté**

**El proyecto de informe - Parte X, así enmendado, es aprobado**

**DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL:** I simply wanted to take the floor to express appreciation on behalf of the Director-General for the work of this Council, for its leadership and for all the support the Council has given. Thank you.

**A. MEDRANO ROJAS (Chile):** Le agradezco, Sr. Presidente, muy sinceramente, el que me permita intervenir en esta oportunidad como Presidente del Grupo de América Latina y el Caribe, cuando el 107° Consejo de la FAO está por concluir sus labores, y poder así referirme a un hecho que de alguna manera nos afecta a todos. Me refiero al término de funciones como Representante Permanente de la República de México del Excelentísimo Sr. Ministro Ricardo Velázquez, quien, a fines del mes próximo, regresa a su querido país, concluyendo así una brillante y exitosa misión como Representante ante la FAO, el PMA y el FIDA.

Señor Presidente y estimados Miembros del Consejo de la FAO. Siendo está la última reunión del Consejo en la que el Excelentísimo Sr. Ricardo Velázquez participa como Representante de México ante la FAO, queremos dejar constancia de nuestro profundo agradecimiento y más sincero reconocimiento por la fructífera, humana y exitosa labor desarrollada en los cuatro años que tuvo el alto honor de representar a su país.

Las formalidades de las despedidas y nuestro quehacer profesional no pueden ocultar la base humana, las relaciones de amistad, de solidaridad y de afecto que subyacen en nuestro diario vivir. Es justamente nuestra pertenencia a una comunidad humana la que permite un sentido a nuestro trabajo y, en definitiva, a nuestras vidas. Y es por eso que cuando parte un miembro de nuestra familia, como lo es el Distinguido Ministro Velázquez y su queridísima esposa Frida, que nos honra con su presencia en esta reunión, no podemos quedar indiferentes porque es, a fin de cuentas, parte de nosotros mismos.

Es por ello que queremos, en primer lugar, en forma sencilla, destacar las cualidades humanas del Excelentísimo Sr. Ministro Velázquez y podríamos, en tal sentido, referirnos a su trato respetuoso, cortés, siempre atento, generoso y bien dispuesto para asistir a quien lo necesita. Orgulloso representante del pueblo y Gobierno de su México querido y del sol azteca. Como dijera Gabriela Mistral, nuestra poeta chilena, al referirse a las principales características de los más destacados diplomáticos de México, "es sobrio y cordial, es decir, mexicano". Y nosotros podríamos agregar: ante todo, un gran amigo. De sólida formación profesional, supo aportar su amplia experiencia a nuestro trabajo. Tejedor infatigable de acuerdos difíciles y a veces imposibles. Expositor privilegiado y de juicio agudo, destacó en todas las responsabilidades que asumió, sea en el Consejo de la FAO, sus Comités Técnicos, en las Conferencias generales y en los Organos Rectores del FIDA y el PMA. Su aporte, Sr. Ministro Velázquez, perdurará entre nosotros y puedo asegurarle que nos hará falta. Como dijera un gran poeta de su patria, México, usted ha sabido ser un "sembrador silencioso" y nos corresponderá a nosotros beneficiarnos de su esfuerzo.

Para terminar, quisiera expresarle al Sr. Ministro Ricardo Velázquez y a su distinguida esposa -y creo con ello interpretar a todos los Miembros del Consejo- el deseo de mayor éxito en sus nuevos destinos profesionales y de vida. Para usted y su ilustre Gobierno le reiteramos nuestro afecto y gratitud.

**Applause****Applaudissements****Aplausos**

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Muchas gracias, Distinguido Delegado de Chile, por esas sentidas palabras que a todos nos unen. En particular, deseo agradecerle a usted ese texto tan sentido al cual me uno con todo el corazón. Para mí, Ricardo ha sido un Representante ejemplar que ha permitido tejer las relaciones de México en este ámbito y que ha sabido portar muy en alto el nombre y la imagen de nuestro país. Como mexicano, desde luego le estoy agradecido y profundamente admirado.

Al suscribirlo, desde luego, le voy a pasar la palabra a mi querido amigo Ricardo Velázquez.

**Ricardo VELAZQUEZ HUERTA (México):** Muchas gracias, Sr. Presidente. Para mí es un altísimo honor hablar en esta ocasión. Deseo, antes que nada, agradecer muy profundamente las palabras de expresión, que me llegan muy hondo, del Sr. Representante, Embajador de Chile, en representación del grupo al que mi país orgullosamente pertenece y pertenecerá siempre.

Cada uno de nosotros contribuye en su tiempo a tratar de hacer realidad los objetivos de esta Organización y cristalizar la idea de la Seguridad Alimentaria, que a veces se antoja como un sueño imposible. Espero haber contribuido a este esfuerzo durante estos cuatro años que he estado aquí en Roma. Permítanme agradecer al Gobierno de mi país por la oportunidad de servicio que me ha brindado el estar en estos Organos Internacionales de la Alimentación, en Roma. He tratado de apegarme a la mayor y mejor tradición del servicio exterior de mi país en el extranjero. Ello quiere decir el respeto irrestricto a la soberanía de los Estados, a la libre autodeterminación de los pueblos. Quiere decir también la actividad en torno a solucionar de manera pacífica los conflictos internacionales y todo ello dentro del marco de la presencia mexicana múltiple y no confrontada en los Organismos Internacionales. Como ustedes saben, pertenece México a muchas organizaciones internacionales de orden económico, social y político y a todas pertenecemos sin confrontaciones, buscando la verdad y la justicia antes que nada.

Deseo que se me permita agradecer y pedir al Sr. Hjort que sea tan gentil de agradecer al Sr. Director General de la FAO y a todos los funcionarios de esta Institución por las atenciones que a mi humilde persona le dispensaron en este tiempo. Agradecer también a los intérpretes que hacen posible que nos comuniquemos los unos con los otros; a todas las personas que nos han auxiliado durante este tiempo. Primordialmente, agradecer a todos los Miembros de este Consejo. Me han enriquecido mucho y me llevo muchos amigos, y ello a un mexicano le llena de absoluta alegría.

Con estas palabras me despido de ustedes y les deseo a ustedes y a sus familias lo mejor de lo mejor. Gracias.

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Muchas gracias, Ricardo Velázquez, por tus sentidas palabras. Este Consejo ha honrado a quien honor merece. Tú te lo has ganado después de tantos años de un trabajo digno, difícil, pero exitoso.

**Carlos ARANDA MARTIN (España):** Muy brevemente, Sr. Presidente, mi delegación quiere adherirse a la propuesta de Chile, en el sentido de la justicia que supone el dejar constancia en esta sesión del Consejo de la personalidad y especial entrega, mostradas en todo momento por nuestro querido colega Ricardo Velázquez y únicamente, si se me permite, a la completa enumeración de sus virtudes, realizada magníficamente por nuestro colega de Chile, añadiría la de su talante negociador, que yo calificaría de envidiable y que, gracias al mismo, le ha sido posible participar en los más importantes debates en el seno de esta Organización, así como del PMA y del FIDA, sin perder nunca su habitual brillantez y buenas maneras.

Por último, y esto ya desde un punto de vista absolutamente egoísta, al dejar Roma nos privas a muchos del deleite que supone asistir a tus magníficas sesiones de canto, por lo que te animamos a que no pierdas este hobby, en beneficio de tus futuros colegas.



**Ms Rosanne KAVA (Australia):** On behalf of the OECD Group, may I also take the opportunity to endorse the eloquent and complimentary remarks of the Ambassador of Chile, yourself and, of course, our colleague from Spain, regarding the sad departure of our newest OECD colleague, Mr Velazquez from Mexico. Mr Velazquez is a colleague with whom we have worked very closely throughout the full period of his time here in Rome and not just in the last year over the period of Mexico's membership in the OECD Group. Our very best wishes go to Mr Velazquez and his wife for the future.

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Bien, distinguidos miembros del Consejo, con esto el Consejo ha dejado constancia de su admiración y agradecimiento a la labor de gran altura desempeñada por Ricardo y a su compañera Frida.

Si no hay ninguna otra observación que deseen hacer, me voy a permitir clausurar esta decimocuarta sesión plenaria agradeciendo a todos ustedes por la forma tan creativa, tan optimista, tan positiva, con la que realizaron este rico debate y para pedirles que mantengamos este alto espíritu, este gran espíritu en nuestro Consejo, para bien de la Organización. Al hacerlo, también agradezco a la Secretaría y a todos aquellos que hicieron posible el que esta sesión en nuestros trabajos se llevara a cabo de manera tan excelente.

Muchas gracias, distinguidos delegados. Que tengan un muy buen fin de año y espero verlos el próximo.

**Applause**

**Applaudissements**

**Aplausos**

**The meeting rose at 16.15 hours.**

**La séance est levée à 16 h 15.**

**Se levanta la sesión a las 16.15 horas.**