

**council**

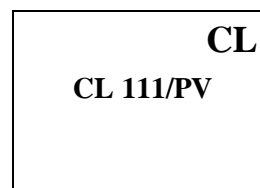
FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

**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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**Hundred and Eleventh Session**  
**PLENARY**

**Cent onzième session**  
**PLÉNIÈRE**

**111° período de sesiones**  
**PLENARIA**

**Rome, 1-10 October 1996**

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

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10 October 1996**

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1 October 1996



منظمة الأغذية  
والزراعة  
للأمم المتحدة

联合国  
粮食及  
农业组织

Food  
and  
Agriculture  
Organization  
of  
the  
United  
Nations

Organisation  
des  
Nations  
Unies  
pour  
l'alimentation  
et  
l'agriculture

Organización  
de las  
Naciones  
Unidas  
para la  
Agricultura  
y la  
Alimentación

COUNCIL

CONSEIL

CONSEJO

Hundred and Eleventh Session • Cent onzième session • 111° período de sesiones

FIRST PLENARY MEETING  
PREMIERE SEANCE PLENIERE  
PRIMERA SESION PLENARIA

1 October 1996

The First Plenary Meeting was opened at 10. 20 hours  
Mr. José Ramón López Portillo,  
Independent Chairman of the Council, presiding

La première séance plénière est ouverte á 10 h 20  
sous la présidence de M. José Ramón López Portillo,  
Président indépendant du Conseil

Se abre la primera sesión plenaria a las 10. 20 horas  
bajo la presidencia del Sr. José Ramón López Portillo,  
Presidente Independiente del Consejo

**TRIBUTE TO MR. ANTOINE SAINTRAINT**  
**HOMMAGE A M. ANTOINE SAINTRAINT**  
**HOMENAJE AL SR. ANTOINE SAINTRAINT**

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Muy buenos días señoras y señores. Se declara abierto el 111° Período de Sesiones del Consejo.

Este Consejo se honra con la presencia de varios altos funcionarios de gobierno a quienes doy la bienvenida. Se honra también con la presencia del señor Howard Hjort, Sub-director General de la Organización, a quien saludamos calurosamente. Lamentablemente el señor Director-General no podrá estar con nosotros esta mañana. Quisiera agradecer también la presencia de la señora Josian Saintraint por haber aceptado la invitación del Consejo a participar en este homenaje a su marido, el señor Antoine Saintraint, quien fuera Presidente Independiente del Consejo de 1989 a 1993.

Como los señores delegados saben, Antoine Saintraint nos ha dejado permanentemente y prematuramente el día 22 de abril de este año. Tenía 69 años. Con profunda emoción les propongo en esta sesión del Consejo, rendir homenaje a su memoria. Doy ante todo la bienvenida a la distinguida esposa del señor Saintraint y le agradezco de nuevo haber aceptado esta invitación del Director-General y de mi parte para unirse a nosotros en esta ocasión.

Doctor en Derecho y licenciado en Ciencias Políticas y Sociales de la Universidad de Lovaina en Bélgica, Antoine Saintraint fue en 1951 administrador territorial en el ex-Congo belga. En 1960 tomó una posición clara en favor de la africanización de los cuadros dirigentes y denunció la falta de preparación de la población para la independencia. De regreso en Bélgica en 1961 fue elegido representante de la Cámara de Diputados y durante dos legislaturas se preocupó de los problemas de los refugiados de África y del desarrollo de una nueva política de cooperación. En agosto de 1967 fue nombrado Administrador General de la cooperación para el desarrollo ante el Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores. De 1984 a 1986 fue designado Embajador Extraordinario y Plenipotenciario encargado de los problemas del hambre en el mundo y durante este período enriqueció su experiencia en materia de desarrollo con numerosas estadías en América Latina, entre otras en mi propio país: México. Designado en 1986 Embajador Representante Permanente de Bélgica ante la Organización, la vigésimoquinta sesión de la Conferencia lo eligió en 1989 Presidente Independiente del Consejo. En 1991 fue reelecto para ese cargo que mantuvo hasta 1993.

Convencido de las insuficiencias de las relaciones bilaterales, comprendió que la experiencia del sistema multilateral era la única vía posible para el establecimiento de estrategias de conjunto y a largo plazo. Durante cuatro años hemos visto Antoine Saintraint presidir nuestras sesiones del Consejo con un dominio excepcional y un conocimiento incontestable de los temas en discusión.

Siempre dispuesto a escuchar las objeciones, a enfrentarse a las críticas con valor y con tenacidad sin olvidar el humorismo que lo caracterizaba. Sus intervenciones tenían como único objetivo el interés global de la humanidad y de la Organización. Por mucho tiempo permanecerá en nuestra memoria el recuerdo de cómo se dirigía a cada uno en su propio idioma así como su insistencia de que el hambre de un solo hombre es el hambre de todos los hombres; que la fuerza de la humanidad no puede ser nada más que el resultado de la solidaridad y que sólo los principios de igualdad y de justicia pueden constituir la base de la convivencia entre los habitantes del planeta. Antoine Saintraint estaba convencido de que los proyectos y los programas de campo eran la vida de esta Organización. Esos programas, insistía, no pueden vivir sin una sede fuerte y competente. Al citar las palabras de Dostoievsky en *Los Hermanos Karamazov*: “Cada uno es responsable de todo delate de todos”, ponía de manifiesto la vía que él deseaba ver compartida por cada uno de nosotros.

Así, por más de 40 años Antoine Saintraint puso su entusiasmo y su capacidad al servicio del desarrollo, del mundo en desarrollo y de la cooperación internacional. Deseo con estas palabras, abrir este homenaje al señor Antoine Saintraint, Presidente Independiente del Consejo de 1989 a 1993 y tengo el honor de ofrecer la palabra al señor Hjort, Sub-director General de la FAO.

**DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL:** Mr. Chairman, Mrs. Saintraint, distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen, the Director-General has asked me to welcome you on his behalf and to convey his regrets at not being able to be with us today due to unforeseen commitments.

We have just heard a moving tribute to a great man. On behalf of the Director-General, I wish to join the Independent Chairman of the Council in expressing deep felt condolences to Mrs. Saintraint and her family. I would also like to thank Mrs. Saintraint for being with us today.

Antoine Saintraint was independent Chairman of the Council from 1989 to 1993. The memory of those in the Secretariat who had the privilege of working closely with him in those years goes to his warm and friendly personality, his exemplary way of conducting the business of this Council and the thorough preparations which preceded all its Sessions. The memory of Mr. Saintraint's unflinching commitment to the new goals and objectives of this Organization, as well as his contributions to its work, will remain with us for a long time to come. Mr. Chairman, the Director-General and the Secretariat wish to associate themselves fully with the tribute you have just paid to the memory of Mr. Saintraint and to thank you for the initiative you have taken. Thank you.

**Fernando GERBASI (Venezuela):** El Grupo de los 77 que me honro en presidir se une a sus palabras de homenaje a la figura en memoria del señor Antoine Saintraint quien fuera nuestro Presidente Independiente en el período 1989–1993. Guardamos de él un grato y bello recuerdo, por haber sido siempre un hombre sensible a los planteamientos del mundo en desarrollo, por haber conocido de cerca y directamente la realidad de nuestros países y de nuestra sociedad, por haber comprendido nuestras dificultades y haber también visualizado nuestro devenir. Tenemos la seguridad, señor Presidente, que su figura permanecerá siempre en la memoria de los que hacemos de nuestra vida diaria en esta institución un elemento esencial de nuestra vida, como lucha por un devenir y por un mejor porvenir de nuestros pueblos. Nuestra palabra de sincera condolencia y al mismo tiempo de profundo afecto a la señora Josian Saintraint.

**John J. GAULE (Ireland):** Mr. Chairman, Mrs. Saintraint, colleagues. The European Union would like to join in the tributes to Antoine Saintraint.

Antoine Saintraint was a man of beliefs, a man of ideas, an engaged man. It was with deep regret that we learned of his death. I happen to be one of those who had the privilege of working closely with him within the European Union. There he showed the same dynamism as he did as Independent Chairman of the Council. My last meeting and memory of him was one day in Ostia Antica, prior to his leaving Rome, where he was feverishly attempting to complete his photographic record of his years in Italy.

Antoine Saintraint was a man that did not go unnoticed, particularly for his energy, his strong convictions, his vision, his courage and his enthusiasm. His priorities were to help the poor, fight iniquity, establish a partnership between affluent countries and those of the developing world. He was a convinced European but with a vision open to the outside world. He was both a diplomat and a politician. He took every opportunity he could to visit the field-holidays included-to share the lives and hopes of the citizens of developing countries. This experience made him a man of great expertise and understanding and, therefore, a Chairman of the Council who was not only proactive and engaged, but also a real expert.

Antoine Saintraint, who had the values of a profound believer, of a Catholic ecumenic, marked the life of this institution. He was for or against, without avoiding confrontation. His opponents also recognize this, together with his loyalty and his achievements for this Institution. He helped a lot of people, many of whom are here. He was a courageous man, even not afraid of putting his life at risk on occasions when it came to assisting others. For those who participated in the Council during his period in office, his style, his actions, his voice, still reverberate in this room. He has left us without having an opportunity to enjoy fully his golden years. To his wife and family we express our deepest sympathies and condolences. I will finish in Gaelic with a traditional Irish farewell to the departed: *Ar Dheis Láimh Dé go raibh a anam.*

**James W. SCHROEDER (United States of America):** On behalf of the North American region, we would like to join others, in acknowledging the outstanding contributions of our departed colleague Antoine Saintraint. As the Ambassador from Belgium, Mr. Saintraint quickly gained a reputation for strongly supporting FAO's role within the UN system.

As Independent Chairman of the Council, he was a staunch advocate of the Director-General's initiatives. While we sometimes differed with Mr. Saintraint's views, we shared his passion for making FAO a stronger more effective and efficient Organization. Our deepest condolences are offered to his widow Mrs. Saintraint.

**Ahmed AH Hummed AL HAWRI (Observer from Yemen) (Original language Arabic):**

In the name of God, the Merciful, the Compassionate, I should like to express our heartfelt condolences to Mrs. Saintraint and her family as well as to all those who have known Mr. Saintraint.

Unfortunately, I was not privileged to know him personally, however, no-one has said anything but homage and tribute to Mr. Saintraint for his personal qualities, as well as his professional ones, whether in his guiding the Council or his personal encounters with delegates and staff, in his dealings with others. We thank Mrs. Saintraint, for her presence with us here to pay tribute to Mr. Saintraint, who everyone here will remember for his dynamism in steering the work of the Council and his courtesy in dealing with all the missions to FAO. I would just like to say that may God show mercy on him and may He inspire his family with serenity and tranquillity. We hope that others, like him, will continue the march in this Organization to continue building, to continue achieving in this world. It is our sincerest wish that others will do likewise, such as Mr. Saintraint has done, throughout his professional career. We thank God for having given us people like Mr. Saintraint, and we thank you, Mr. Chairman, for allowing me this opportunity to pay tribute to Mr. Saintraint.

**Mme Régine DE CLERCQ (Observateur de la Belgique):** Au nom de la Belgique je voudrais remercier les Membres du Conseil pour leur témoignage émouvant. En tant que Représentant de la Belgique je suis très touchée et nonobstant l'actualité pressante, le Conseil a bien voulu s'attarder quelques instants pour commémorer notre compatriote. Au vu des discussions dans lesquelles nous étions immergés ces derniers jours, il est sans doute opportun de rappeler quelques-unes de ses paroles, qui ont toujours une actualité étonnante, et qu'il prononçait lors de la Conférence de 1993 à l'occasion de la fin de son mandat de Président du Conseil. Et je cite:

"Je voudrais rappeler que la population de notre planète va passer de 5 à 8 milliards en moins d'un quart de siècle, rappeler que la population du monde s'accroît de 250 000 personnes par jour, rappeler qu'un milliard d'êtres humains souffrent de sous-alimentation. Le commerce de l'alimentation de quelques espèces de petits animaux domestiques représente un montant immensément plus important que les moyens budgétaires et extra-budgétaires de la FAO, c'est-à-dire de la coopération dans notre monde." Fin de citation.

Ces paroles, Monsieur le Président, montrent combien M. Saintraint souffrait de l'injustice, même à l'hôpital il se révoltait contre l'injustice, et, je cite, il disait

"Il ne faut pas que je sois le seul à être si bien soigné, ce n'est pas à cause de l'argent qu'on peut être si bien soigné. Il faut aussi que le plus petit des Marocains puisse être si bien soigné que moi-même."

Enfin M. le Président nous pouvons témoigner que M. Saintraint est décédé comme il a vécu, et comme beaucoup d'entre vous l'ont rappelé aujourd'hui, c'est-à-dire courageusement, et oeuvrant jusqu'à quelques heures même avant sa mort en faveur de la coopération et de l'amélioration du sort des déshérités de ce monde. Enfin, M. le Président, je souhaite, par vous à Mme Saintraint et à sa famille, qu'avec le temps les souvenirs heureux prennent le dessus sur la douleur actuelle. Je vous remercie.

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Muchas gracias distinguida Representante de Bélgica por este conmovedor mensaje. Ofrezco ahora la palabra a la señora Josiane Saintraint.

**Mme Josiane SAINTRAIN:** Monsieur le Président, Mesdames et Messieurs, je voudrais vous remercier de toutes ces paroles que vous m'avez dites à propos d'Antoine, elles m'ont profondément touchée, et dans mon âme je les garderai. J'aimerais aussi vous dire combien Antoine a été heureux ici, au milieu de vous tous, d'avoir pu avec vous tous essayer, jour après jour, de construire un monde plus beau, plus juste; de ce bonheur aussi je voudrais vous remercier. Enfin puis-je vous répéter le message qu'il ne cessait de redire à ses enfants tout au long de son dernier mois de vie si douloureux:

"S'il faut se battre pour créer un monde plus juste, il faut aussi savoir qu'il ne peut y avoir de justice que si celle-ci est pétrie d'amour. Amour ici cela signifie écouter l'autre, tous les autres, qu'ils soient jeunes ou qu'ils soient vieux, qu'ils soient hommes ou qu'elles soient femmes, qu'ils soient pauvres ou qu'ils soient riches, qu'ils soient chefs ou qu'ils soient sans grade; écouter l'appel de tout un peuple mais aussi de chaque être de ce peuple; entendre la joie de cet autre mais aussi entendre sa souffrance, entrer avec lui dans cette souffrance, avec lui l'assumer cette souffrance, dans chacun de ses détails. Alors, mais alors seulement, prendre les décisions qui s'imposent, s'il le faut, les prendre avec force, peut-être même avec violence, mais toujours avec tendresse, cette tendresse qui retiendra la main sanguinaire, la main qui tue, la main qui au nom de la justice est redevenue profondément injuste." Il répétait qu'il ne peut y avoir de justice que si celle-ci est pétrie d'amour."

Une autre chose pour laquelle je souhaitais vous remercier, c'est d'avoir eu la patience de m'écouter.

**Applause**

**Applaudissements**

**Aplausos**

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Desearé ahora que este Consejo, de pié, observe un minuto de silencio en memoria del señor Antoine Saintraint.

*One minute of silence*

*Un minute de silence*

*Un minuto de silencio*

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Muchas gracias distinguidos delegados. De esta manera la la señora Saintraint, el Consejo y todos hemos rendido un homenaje y le presentamos nuestras condolencias por la pérdida prematura de su marido.

**IN MEMORIAM-MR. JOSUE DE CASTRO****IN MEMORIAM-M. JOSUE DE CASTRO****IN MEMORIAM-SR. JOSUE DE CASTRO**

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Distinguidos delegados, entre las declaraciones hechas por el señor Saintraint al Consejo desearía destacar, en esta ocasión, el tributo que el señor Saintraint hiciera a su ilustre predecesor el señor Josué De Castro, profesor brasileño y primer Presidente elegido por este Consejo después de que la FAO se trasladara a Roma en 1951. El señor De Castro falleció en 1973 y, veinte años más tarde el señor Saintraint destacó, en este Consejo, la lucha de Josué De Castro por sacar de la pobreza a los más desafortunados y a su continuo esfuerzo de lograr el desarrollo, y ésto lo reflejó Josué De Castro, entre muchas otras partes de su obra, en un libro que hoy deseo conmemoremos: *La Geografía del Hambre*. Hoy es el 50º Aniversario de esa publicación y, así como nosotros nos preparamos para un evento histórico en la lucha de la humanidad contra el hambre y la malnutrición es, particularmente adecuado, que recordemos el mensaje que Josué De Castro transmite desde hace cincuenta años en este importante libro, y con ello, la dedicación vitalicia de su autor a erradicar el hambre del mundo. Seguramente este Consejo deseará rendir un homenaje al autor de dicho libro, que tanto marcó la agenda política y el afán permanente de nuestra Organización.

**Fernando GERBASI (Venezuela):** Es para mí un honor y a la vez un privilegio como Presidente del Grupo de los 77, participar en esta ceremonia conmemorativa de los cincuenta años de la publicación de *La Geografía del Hambre* del Profesor Josué De Castro, obra pionera en materia de estudio sobre el hambre y la malnutrición. Y más que oportuna, esta conmemoración, cuando nos encontramos, señor Presidente, a las puertas de la realización de la Cumbre Mundial sobre la Alimentación, primera en su género, pues permitirá que jefes de estado y de gobierno de todas partes del mundo concurren a Roma para reiterar, solemnemente su voluntad política de erradicar este flagelo, expresión biológica de un fenómeno económico, el subdesarrollo, para utilizar las propias palabras del Profesor Josué De Castro.

Médico, nutricionista, profesor, geógrafo, antropólogo y sociólogo, el Profesor Josué De Castro nace en el año 1908 en Recife, Brasil, y fallece en París, Francia, el 24 de septiembre de 1974. La circunstancia de haber nacido y vivido en el nordeste del Brasil lo llevó, desde muy joven, a dedicarse al estudio de los problemas de la alimentación y de la nutrición. Ya a los 24 años era profesor de fisiología en la Universidad de Recife, cargo que obtuvo presentando la tesis *El Problema Fisiológico de la Alimentación*. Como usted recordara, el Profesor Josué De Castro fue el primer Presidente electo del Consejo de la FAO, en el año 1951. Mientras ejerció la presidencia del Consejo, se empeñó en crear lo que denominó la Reserva Internacional contra el Hambre, fundamental en el uso de los excedentes alimenticios como medio para financiar proyectos para el desarrollo. Igualmente, lanzó la Campaña Mundial contra el Hambre que liberó a partir de 1960.

Fue, además de un gran intelectual e investigador, un hombre de una profunda sensibilidad social, razón por la cual, participó en la vida política de su país siendo electo diputado por primera vez en 1954 y, fue el que más votos obtuvo en el nordeste de Brasil en 1958. Fue también diplomático, y representó a su país en la Conferencia de la FAO de 1962. Fue profesor en distintas y distinguidas universidades europeas y, los diez últimos años de su vida, por circunstancias propias a su país, los trascurrió en Francia, donde fue profesor de las universidades de Vaucennes y de París y presidió los destinos del Centro Internacional para el Desarrollo, instituto dirigido a asesorar a los países en desarrollo.

Señor Presidente, el Profesor Josué De Castro, con su obra *La Geografía del Hambre* publicada en 1946 es, sin lugar a duda, un punto de referencia permanente de la Organización Mundial para la Agricultura y la Alimentación.



**M. João Diogo NUNES BARATA (Portugal):** Monsieur le Président, je voudrais au nom des pays de l'OCDE mais aussi au nom de la délégation du Portugal, dire quelques mots d'appui à l'hommage rendu à cette grande personnalité qu'a été le Professeur Josué de Castro. Je parlerai seulement de l'homme de vision et du démocrate. Je n'ajouterais plus rien à ce qui a été dit par l'Ambassadeur du Venezuela, lorsqu'il a parlé de la biographie du professeur Josué de Castro. Je veux seulement souligner deux points: qu'il a été un homme de vision-il a été le premier à nous dire que la faim n'était pas quelque chose d'inéluctable, que la faim n'était pas quelque chose d'inévitable, qu'on pouvait vaincre la faim, qu'on pouvait trouver des moyens pour faire face à cette situation de désespoir dans laquelle vivait une si grande portion de l'humanité.

La faim, a-t'il dit un jour, c'est un problème sociologique, ce n'est pas une situation qu'on doit vivre à jamais. Il a affirmé que la faim était une plaie fabriquée par l'homme, que la faim était l'expression physiologique du phénomène économique qu'était le sous-développement. Il nous a dit que le problème de la faim pourrait être résolu par notre propre force, il a exprimé une grande confiance dans la possibilité de l'homme pour résoudre ce problème.

En tant que Président du Conseil Exécutif de la FAO en 1951, il a promu un certain nombre d'initiatives de la part de cette Organisation pour faire face à ce grand problème. Et je dois dire que si ce n'était pas grâce à Josué de Castro et à tout ce qu'il a fait, on n'aurait pas le mois prochain le Sommet mondial de l'alimentation, car c'est lui qui le premier a attiré notre attention sur ce grave problème de l'humanité.

A part un homme de vision, Josué de Castro a été aussi un démocrate, cela veut dire un homme qui nous a dit que la démocratie est une condition essentielle du développement, je parle de la démocratie non seulement comme exigence éthique, mais aussi comme un moyen technique pour que l'on puisse attaquer le sous-développement dans le libre débat des problèmes, et dans le libre débat des solutions. Josué de Castro a été un homme de vision, je l'ai dit, il a été un démocrate, il a été aussi un homme de grand espoir, et c'est avec un mot d'espoir qu'il a fini son livre "la géographie de la faim", et je cite: "la vraie voie pour la survie est encore à la portée de l'homme, elle est marquée par la confiance qu'il doit avoir dans sa propre force, un mot de confiance dans le potentiel d'humanisme de notre espèce, et dans la solidarité entre tous les hommes."

Donc, c'est avec grand plaisir, et cela a été un grand honneur pour moi en tant que Représentant du Portugal, de parler au nom des pays de l'OCDE, de rendre hommage à cette grande personnalité du Brésil et du monde qu'a été Josué de Castro.

**Alvaro Gurgel DE ALENCAR (Brazil):** Sir, it is a rare day when we can honour the memory of two men who have done so much to further the cause of this Organization. I am very much indebted to you Mr Chairman, to the distinguished Ambassador of Venezuela, Chairman of the Group of 77 and to the distinguished Ambassador of Portugal, speaking for the OECD, for this moving tribute to Professor Josué De Castro on the fiftieth anniversary of the publication of his memorable book *Geography of Hunger*. It is a source of great pride for us, Mr Chairman, that a Brazilian made such an outstanding contribution to the understanding of the problem of hunger.

As a doctor, Josué De Castro, soon directed his attention to the physiology of nutrition. He was an innovator in the scientific approach to hunger and malnutrition. At a very early age he directed pioneering statistical research into the living conditions, including eating habits, of the working classes in north eastern Brazil. One of the clear conclusions of this early effort was the confirmation of the close correlation between poverty and malnutrition. After that he engaged in intense activity in Brazil and, from 1939 on, also abroad. By 1945, the year FAO was founded, his work on the geography of hunger was well advanced. The following year, 1946, fifty years ago, it was published in Brazil.

In this book Jose De Castro made abundant use of his pioneering work methods. The book featured what is believed to be the first hunger map, a map of Brazil showing the occurrence of hunger in terms of the deficiency of the various nutrients essential to a healthy life. As he explained in the introduction to the *Geography of Hunger*, in order to understand the problem it was necessary to establish the precise boundaries of the phenomenon and to define its relationship with natural and social economic causes in an ecological context. And then to deal with it collectively in its endemic expression which embraces large masses of the world's population. *Geography of Hunger* was followed after a few years by *Geopolitics of Hunger*.

Through his many books and teachings Jose De Castro revealed the ugly face of hunger and its related diseases. A man-made scourge, the biological expression of an economic condition, namely the poverty characteristic of underdevelopment. It is difficult, Mr Chairman, to sum up his achievements. Nutritionist, geographer, historian, philosopher, sociologist, anthropologist, Professor Josué De Castro applied his vast knowledge and his talent for research to the enormous task--to him more important than any other--of fighting hunger and malnutrition.

As we approach the World Food Summit, Mr Chairman, it is our hope that we may draw inspiration from the work of this remarkable man and take the opportunity to advance the cause of food for all. Let us hope there are Heads of State and Governments who will make explicit their determination to rid the world of this scourge of hunger.

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

### **I. INTRODUCTION-QUESTIONS DE PROCEDURE**

### **I. INTRODUCCIÓN-CUESTIONES DE PROCEDIMIENTO**

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

#### **1. Adoption de Tordre du jour et du calendrier**

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

**EL PRESIDENTE:** De esta manera el Consejo ha rendido tributo al señor Josué de Castro y con ello, como se dice en esta ocasión extraordinaria a dos hombres grandes que han aportado tanto a la lucha contra el hambre. Ojalá que el espíritu que a los dos permea, prevalezca en este Consejo y en las futuras tareas de la Organización y que nos inspire, como se ha dicho, para aprovechar esta oportunidad irreplicable de una Cumbre Mundial para en verdad, ahora sí, acabar con esa vergüenza de la humanidad que es el hambre.

Bien señores delegados pasamos ahora, si ustedes lo tienen a bien, al Tema 1 de nuestra Agenda que es la Aprobación del programa y del calendario de este Período de Sesiones del Consejo. Pero antes de hacerlo, 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 y desearía también llamar su atención sobre la declaración hecha por la Comunidad Europea y sus estados miembros que se encuentra en el documento *CL 111/INF/11* ya distribuido a todos ustedes.

Bien, pasemos a considerar entonces la Aprobación del programa y del calendario, documento *CL 111/1* referente a la agenda para este Período de Sesiones. Tenemos que avisarles que hay que cancelar de la Agenda el subtema 18,2: Solicitudes de ingreso en la Organización porque el Director General no ha recibido ninguna solicitud de ingreso. Tenemos que agregar al Tema 17 los subtemas examinados por el Comité de Asuntos Constitucionales y Jurídicos en su último período de sesiones, a saber: 17,1: Ampliación del mandato del Comité Asesor sobre Pasta y Papel y Abolición del Comité sobre Paneles a Base de Madera, y el 17,2: Cambio de título en inglés para la Comisión Forestal para América del Norte. Por consiguiente, tenemos que eliminar el subtema 14,2 que actualmente está cubierto por el subtema 17,1. Como ustedes saben, el Comité del Programa y de Finanzas no pudo concluir o no pudo estudiar, debatir este tema y para evitar la duplicación del mismo y una pérdida de tiempo; les propongo que se incluya, entonces, el subtema

14, 2 bajo el subtema 17, 1. Tendremos que añadir el Tema 20: Otros asuntos, dos subtemas: el 20,1 Nombramiento de los representantes de la Conferencia de la FAO en el Comité de Pensiones del Personal, porque como aparece en el documento *CL 111/3* hay que reemplazar unos puestos vacantes en dicho Comité, y el subtema 20.2: Nombramiento del segundo Presidente Alternativo del Comité de Apelación. Finalmente, tenemos también que cancelar el Tema 3 porque el Director General esta vez no hará una declaración. Estamos ahora aprobando, repito, la agenda. Al calendario pasaré en unos momentos y si no hay ninguna opinión contraria de parte de ustedes miembros del Consejo, les propongo que adoptemos la agenda propuesta.

**John J. GAULE (Ireland):** I would just like to draw your attention to item 5 of our Agenda. Following the advice of Legal Counsel at the CFS I just wonder if it is correct to say that this item is for decision, maybe I think it should "read for information at this point". Could I have clarification on this, please.

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Ahora le voy a pasar la palabra al Asesor Legal, pero como usted sabe, el Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria es un órgano subsidiario del Consejo. El Comité reporta al Consejo y el Consejo debe adoptar el informe del Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria. Hay dos informes en este caso, uno de ellos aparentemente incompleto pero el Consejo debe tomar nota y adoptar lo que el Comité le está reportando, de manera que este punto sí es para decisión. No se si el señor Moore quiera agregar algo.

**LEGAL COUNSEL:** You are of course correct--the CFS is a subsidiary body of the Council. The reports including the progress report on the negotiations, have to come to this Council. There will be matters that the Council will need to take decisions on, including, in particular, the follow-up action that is taken in the preparation of the Summit. That is very much a decision that will need to be taken. I believe that the matter that the distinguished Delegate of Ireland was referring to before was the fact that the Conference has given a certain mandate to the CFS to prepare the documentation for the Summit and to act as the focal point for preparation for the Summit and, in this case, there will be a progress report to inform the Council on those preparations. However, this does not mean to say that there are not a number of decisions arising out of the reports of the CFS which will need to be taken by the Council, particularly as I have said, with respect to follow-up action in the preparation of the Summit documents.

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Si no hubiera ningún otro comentario, el Consejo aprueba la Agenda para este 111º Período de Sesiones.

**It was so decided**

**Il en est ainsi décidé**

**Así se acuerda**

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Antes de pasar a la adopción del calendario deseo reiterar, como lo hice el día de ayer a muchos de ustedes, la preocupación del Presidente Independiente del Consejo por el retraso en las deliberaciones y conclusión de actividades del Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria y la auscultación que el Presidente Independiente del Consejo hizo junto con la Secretaría para que, eventualmente y si así lo decidieran los miembros del Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria y su Presidente tras una consulta, este Consejo ofreciera tiempo a disposición del Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria para que pudiera, si no concluir, por lo menos avanzar de manera importante en sus trabajos, en particular porque como el propio Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria lo reconociera el día de ayer, había muchos corchetes blandos sobre los cuales se podría quizá trabajar.

Recuerdan ustedes, el Tema 5 ocupa ya un día de las deliberaciones del Consejo y la agenda del consejo es suficientemente holgada para que podamos acomodar y absorber algún tiempo para las deliberaciones del Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria, si así lo determinaran ustedes.

Independientemente de un arreglo de este tipo, yo creo que el Consejo debería expresar su

profunda preocupación por el retraso en los trabajos del Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria y la presentación de los textos definitivos de la Declaración y Plan de Acción. Creo también que el Consejo debería ser un llamado enérgico al Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria para que concluya a la brevedad posible sus trabajos conforme al mandato que le impuso la Conferencia. Yo, personalmente, creo que sería negativo que se aplazaran esas discusiones hasta el último momento. El día de ayer por ejemplo, algún delegado comentaba que si no se incluía cierto tema, su Jefe de Estado seguramente no asistiría a la Cumbre. Otro comentaba que si cierto tema quedaba en pie, su Jefe de Estado no asistiría a la Cumbre. ¿Cómo entonces, responsablemente, se puede proponer que se concluyan las deliberaciones sobre temas importantes hasta el 11 de noviembre, cuando entonces, obviamente, será demasiado tarde para ambos Jefes de Estado determinar su venida a la Cumbre?.

Yo creo que este Consejo deberá ser un llamado enérgico porque, no solamente está de por medio una Cumbre exitosa que podría considerarse un evento político, sino además una oportunidad irreplicable para la humanidad de tratar quizá el tema más angustiante de estos tiempos y del futuro, que es el derecho a la vida, que es el derecho a la alimentación. Yo creo y llamo, como Presidente Independiente del Consejo, a la responsabilidad de todos ustedes para que aceleren sus trabajos y encuentren una oportunidad, a la brevedad posible, a fin de que esta Cumbre sea un éxito máximo.

Espero que este Consejo pueda aceptar este llamado y que en los próximos días se celebren negociaciones de parte del Presidente del Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria con los respectivos grupos regionales a fin de encontrar el momento más apropiado para continuar con los trabajos. De parte mía les ofrezco poner toda mi voluntad para encontrar espacio en el período de tiempo del Consejo.

Bien, señores delegados, con estas palabras les propongo que adoptemos el calendario de este Período de Sesiones a reserva de que, si así lo determinara el Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria y lo transmitiera a su Presidente, pudiéramos acomodar alguna reunión de dicho comité con el propósito de que éste avance en sus trabajos.

Con ese entendido, les propongo que adoptemos el documento *CL 111/INF/1* con también el entendido de que debemos tachar los temas que de la agenda han desaparecido.

**DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL:** As you have noted, Mr. Chairman, the Committee on World Food Security has made major progress in making preparations for the World Food Summit but considerable work remains to finalize the text that will be adopted at the World Food Summit next month. As the Council, I believe, is aware, early this morning the Committee agreed to suspend its work temporarily and to recommend a resumed Session as soon as feasible so as to finish its work on the document in good time. You have outlined the situation and have made note of the fact that the Agenda Item for consideration of this matter is in your tentative timetable for Friday.

If I may, I now would wish to highlight very briefly some of the other Agenda Items. In considering the world food and agriculture situation, the Council will also review the report of the International Conference on Plant Genetic Resources which was held in Leipzig last June; a Progress Report on the negotiations concerning the Prior Informed Consent procedure for certain hazardous chemicals and pesticides in international trade will also be before the Council at this Session. Reports from the last two Sessions of the Programme Committee, the Finance Committee and their joint meeting are also submitted for your consideration and have been mentioned. The Chairman of the most recent Joint Meeting, Dr Bommer, will present to you the reports at the appropriate time. In accordance with the decisions made by the Council at its Session last November, the Director-General proposed revisions to the Programme of Work for examination by the Programme and Finance Committees. That process has been concluded and the adjustments to the Programme of Work and Budget are presented in the documents before you. I would also like

to note, in connection with the Agenda Item on achieving savings and efficiencies in governance, that Council Members have at their disposal in the documents desk a copy of the *Directory of Statutory Bodies and Panels of Experts* updated to August 1996, which provides relative information on all the Statutory Bodies and Expert Panels under the responsibility of the Organization. In addition, the Secretariat has prepared a Progress Report on the ongoing review of Statutory Bodies and Panels, which had been requested by the Council at its June 1995 Session. The Council is asked to provide guidance on the completion of the review, a matter to be considered by the Council next June, after consideration by the Programme and Finance Committees in April and before being submitted to the Conference in November of 1997. We invite the Council to consider and hopefully approve the proposed criteria and procedures that are described in the last part of document *CL 111/12* which are being applied to the review as a whole. With that, Mr Chairman, I will turn it back to you except to say on behalf of the Director-General I wish the Council all success in all its work.

**2. Election of three Vice-Chairmen, and Designation of the Chairman and Members of the Drafting Committee**

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

**2. Elección de tres Vicepresidentes y nombramiento del Presidente y los miembros del Comité de Redacción**

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Bien, distinguidos delegados, con esto hemos aprobado la Agenda y el calendario. Yo sé que han ustedes tenido unos días muy pesados de trabajo, hasta tarde y en la noche, y que piden seguramente todos a gritos que tengamos un Consejo tranquilo y más feliz. Yo les ofrezco hacer todo lo posible para que no les sean tan pesados estos próximos días. Pasemos ahora, si me lo permiten, al Tema 2: Elección de tres Vicepresidentes y nombramiento del Presidente y los miembros del Comité de Redacción. Después de consultas efectuadas entre los grupos regionales, voy a leer los nombres de los candidatos propuestos para ocupar los cargos de Vicepresidente de esta Sesión. Si me he equivocado espero que ustedes me corrijan. Los nombres que tengo son los siguientes: en primer lugar a Su Excelencia el Señor A.M.M. Shawkat Ali, Secretario del Ministerio de Agricultura de Bangladesh; Su Excelencia el señor Representante Permanente Alterno de Egipto Adel M. Aboul-Naga; Su Excelencia el Señor Representante Permanente de los Estados Unidos, Thomas Austin Forbord; si no hubiera ninguna consideración en contrario espero que podamos elegir a los tres Vicepresidentes para este Período de Sesiones del Consejo. Entonces por aclamación por favor.

**Applause**

**Applaudissements**

**Aplausos**

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Muchas gracias. Les deseo a los tres Vicepresidentes que me ayudarán en esta tarea, que participen activamente y les agradezco de antemano el apoyo que recibiré de ellos y les reconozco sus altas cualidades para dirigir los trabajos del Consejo en su momento. Pasemos ahora a la elección del Presidente y los miembros del Comité de Redacción de la misma manera, tras ciertas auscultaciones, se me han entregado los siguientes nombres: para Presidente de Comité de Redacción el señor Christophe Kiemtoré de Burkina Faso y como miembros Australia, Burkina Faso obviamente, Canadá, Chile, China, Francia, India, República Islámica de Irán, Japón, Noruega, México, Siria, y Uganda. Si ustedes están de acuerdo, entonces, este Consejo nombra a el Presidente y los miembros del Comité de Redacción. ¿Alguna aclaración? En ese caso quedan electos conforme lo he leído.

**V. CONSTITUTIONAL AND LEGAL MATTERS**

**V. QUESTIONS CONSTITUTIONNELLES ET JURIDIQUES**

**V. ASUNTOS CONSTITUCIONALES Y JURIDICOS**

**18. Other Constitutional and Legal Matters, including:**

**18. Autres questions constitutionnelles et juridiques, dont:**

**18. Otros asuntos constitucionales y jurídicos, en particular:**

**18.1 Invitations to Non-Member Nations to Attend FAO Sessions**

**18.1 Invitation d'Etats non-membres à assister à des réunions de la FAO**

**18.1 Invitaciones a Estados no Miembros para asistir a reuniones de la FAO**

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Pasemos al subtema 18.1: Invitaciones a Estados no Miembros para asistir a reuniones de la FAO: el documento *CL III/INF/8* informa a los miembros del Consejo de las solicitudes recibidas por el Director General de los estados no miembros para asistir a las reuniones de la FAO, para participar en este Período de Sesiones del Consejo: el caso de Rusia, y para asistir a otras reuniones de la FAO como indicado en el párrafo 5 del documento. Si no hay ningún miembro del Consejo que quiera hacer uso de la palabra respecto a este tema, lo daría por aprobado.

**It was so decided**

**Il en est ainsi décidé**

**Así se acuerda**

**EL PRESIDENTE:** En el párrafo 7 se dan para información los nombres de los países que han asistido a reuniones de la FAO desde la última reunión del Consejo. Espero tomen nota de ello.

Bien, señores representantes, pasemos entonces al tema 4: La Situación Mundial de la Agricultura y la Alimentación, 1996. El señor de Haen les presentará algunos datos de novedad que complementan el documento *CL III/2*.

**II. WORLD FOOD AND AGRICULTURE SITUATION**

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

**II. SITUACIÓN MUNDIAL DE LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACIÓN**

**4. State of Food and Agriculture 1996**

**4. Situation mondiale de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture 1996**

**4. Estado Mundial de la Agricultura y la Alimentación en 1996**

**H. de HAEN (Assistant Director-General, Economie and Social Department):** Mr. Chairman, as at the Conference of last year to guide the discussions of this item, the Secretariat has prepared a fairly short document. I am referring to document *CL III/2* which only highlights some of the salient aspects of the current food and agriculture situation of the world which the Secretariat believes is of particular interest and of importance. A fuller and more comprehensive review of the world food situation and of a number of agricultural issues can be found in the full annual report as usually called: *The State of Food and Agriculture 1996*. This report will be available to you towards the end of the Summit. It is in print and until we have all languages we will not make it available, but by the end of the Summit you will have it in your hand.

I would like to take this opportunity therefore only to very briefly bring you up to date on the most recent developments of the world food situation. Very briefly, taking cereals first, the most important group of food commodities. The global supply demand balance shows some recovery, output in 1996 is forecast to be 5 per cent up over output in 1995 and is forecast to slightly exceed total utilization. As a result stocks for crop years closing in 1997, so there is still some

uncertainty of course because we are still in 1996, stocks for crop years closing in 1997 are expected to reach 277 million tons, 4 per cent up from opening levels.

As a consequence of this situation and development, prices of cereals have recently been on the decline compared to the price spikes that we have had earlier this year with the peak in April-May. In particular, they are on the decline for wheat but also, though somewhat less dramatically, for maize and rice.

Mr. Chairman, having noted these improvements we also recognize considerable remaining risks.

Firstly, the ratio of stocks to trend utilization in 1997-98 which is at about 15 per cent of total utilization, would still remain well below the 17 to 18 per cent which the FAO Secretariat considers the minimum necessary to safeguard world food security.

Secondly, due to the earlier price increases which I referred to just a moment ago, the cereal import bill for all developing countries in 1995-96 is estimated to be some 25 percent higher than the year before and, if I just limit it to the Low Income Food Deficit Countries, the cereal import bill in this year 1995-96 would be 30 per cent above the previous year. While producers in the countries affected by these price increases and to whom, as we know from a survey, some of the price increases on the world markets have been transmitted, while producers have benefitted from these price increases, consumers and in particular poor households, have suffered considerable loss in their purchasing power.

Mr. Chairman, distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen, turning very briefly to some of the other agricultural commodities also covered in the main report, there are also some positive developments. For instance in roots and tubers, with cassava production up by 3 per cent, oil seeds still above trend although, at a very slow rate of growth, and meat and milk production growing at a rate of 3 and 1 per cent, respectively. In the current year, international prices for bovine meat have been generally on the downward trend, a tendency which has been aggravated by the health scare arising from the BSE crisis.

The total global production of fish and shellfish in 1994 reached the record level of 110 million tons, 7 per cent higher than in 1993, but this seemingly positive outcome has also a negative aspect: FAO has voiced the concern repeatedly on over-fishing and must do that again on this occasion.

Overall the current world economic situation, characterized by steady growth and somewhat lower inflation should be supportive of agricultural reforms and development worldwide. The transition economies, in particular, are benefiting from these trends and have now entered a path of positive growth. However, in spite of these encouraging trends there are and continue to be reasons for major concern and caution and the reasons are spelt out in more detail in the report. However, taking just the example of the surge in prices of tropical products, which had provided much relief to the economies of many developing countries allowing them *inter alia* to pay for the more costly food imports, this surge in prices of tropical products has already subsided. Also, the medium-term projection for Africa are less favourable than for the developing countries as a whole and agricultural value added, an overall GDP growth is expected to remain short of population growth rates in this region.

Mr. Chairman, I will not go into further detail in presenting document *CL 111/2* and the issues presented for your discussion in it. You will find other topics in the document including, for instance, the relationship between trade liberalization and the risk of increased price instability. Let me also mention, that in addition to these aspects and those related to the overall market situation, the document presents you with a short summary of the full report on the State of Food and

Agriculture and with a brief overview, because we consider this timely, of the United States 1996 FAIR Act which can have potentially significant effects on the international agricultural markets.

I hope you will find the report prepared by the Secretariat useful and interesting, as always, I hope, and as a starting point for your discussions and I am looking forward to this debate and of course we will be ready to answer any questions or give clarifications, if you so wish. Thank you for your attention.

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Muchas gracias, señor de Haen por su información adicional que complementa aquella del documento ante este Consejo. Entendemos que la situación sigue preocupante y, por tanto, este Consejo seguramente le dará toda la atención al tema en consideración. Deseo destacar que este tema que vamos a discutir de la situación actual de la agricultura y la alimentación es un punto fundamental de referencia para nuestros trabajos ya que nos proporciona el material básico para todas las discusiones que tendremos en este Consejo, y alimenta aquellas de la Cumbre Mundial de la Alimentación.

El entorno internacional y regional para la consideración de los problemas específicos del sector en cada uno de nuestros países sigue siendo, como decía hace un momento, preocupante. La situación actual y las perspectivas de la alimentación y la agricultura mundial, tal como vienen resumidas en el documento de la secretaría y como las ha complementado usted señor de Haen, aparecen complejas e inciertas. El documento, como pueden ver ustedes delegados, nos recuerda que el vértice mundial de la alimentación se celebra en un clima de inquietud en lo que respecta a la situación de los mercados mundiales de alimentos, particularmente, los cereales. En las condiciones actuales de estrechez de esos mercados y los niveles muy altos de los precios, es un tema de preocupación que muchos países de bajos ingresos deberán enfrentar costos crecientes para satisfacer sus necesidades de importación alimentaria. Especialmente para esos países, las cuestiones que plantea el documento sobre los cambios en las condiciones de los mercados agrícolas y la inestabilidad de los precios, revisten una importancia crucial. Estoy seguro de que éste y otros temas igualmente importantes, tratados en el documento, serán discutidos, debatidos por este Consejo, quién considerará útil este marco de referencia para la continuación de sus trabajos.

**Raffaele DE SANTIS (Communauté européenne):** Monsieur le Président, cette déclaration est faite au nom de la Communauté européenne et de ses Etats Membres. Nous tenons, à remercier les services de la F AO pour la présentation du document en question (*CL 111/2*) qui résume l'essentiel des marchés agricoles mondiaux et en particulier les perspectives céréalières pour la campagne 1996–97. Dans ce cadre, permettez-moi d'illustrer brièvement la situation du marché communautaire en ce qui concerne certains produits agricoles qui assument une importance particulière à la veille du Sommet mondial de l'alimentation. En ce qui concerne les céréales, la campagne de commercialisation passée (1995–96) a démarré avec 28,1 millions de tonnes de stocks, y compris ceux provenant des organismes d'interventions publiques. La récolte a été d'environ 175 millions de tonnes, soit une hausse de 2,7 millions de tonnes par rapport à la campagne précédente. La production a été en hausse pour le blé tendre et pour le seigle, alors que celle du blé dur était en baisse. Pour l'orge et le maïs, la production est restée plus ou moins stable.

Pour la présente campagne, la campagne 1996–97, on observe une augmentation des surfaces emblavées par rapport à l'année précédente qui se situent autour de 35,5 millions d'hectares, et donc une augmentation d'environ 1,5 million d'hectares. Les dernières estimations indiquent une production totale d'environ 195 millions de tonnes, soit une augmentation d'environ 11,5 pourcent par rapport à la campagne précédente, ce qui devrait permettre à l'Union européenne de reconstituer ses stocks. On s'attend à des récoltes-record en blé +12 pourcent et en orge + 16 pourcent.



En ce qui concerne les échanges, la Communauté qui a exporté un peu moins de 20 millions de tonnes dans la campagne précédente semble en mesure de réaliser de meilleures performances à l'exportation au cours de cette campagne. On pourrait atteindre un volume d'environ 30 millions de tonnes. En ce qui concerne la réforme de l'organisation commune du marché du riz, la Communauté européenne a réformé cette organisation commune et, en particulier, a mis l'accent sur la qualité du produit. En effet, les mesures qui ont été prises par le Conseil des Ministres de l'Union européenne, visent principalement à accroître la qualité en réduisant aussi le prix de marché. En ce qui concerne les échanges, il faut signaler les importations dans la Communauté en provenance des pays ACP.

En ce qui concerne les oléagineux, la production totale pour la campagne en cours est estimée à environ 12,2 millions de tonnes, soit 0,2 million de tonnes de moins que la campagne précédente. La superficie maximale garantie est montée à 4 933 800 millions d'hectares, suite à la réduction du taux de gel des terres. Pour le colza, la production devrait diminuer de 0,8 million de tonnes par rapport à la campagne 1995-96 tandis que la production de tournesol serait plus élevée. L'Union européenne est un importateur net de graines oléagineuses, d'huiles végétales et de tourteaux, avec une importation de 8,6 millions de tonnes pour les huiles et 22,1 millions de tonnes pour les tourteaux en ce qui concerne la période 1992-94. Pour le secteur de la viande, il faut dire que la crise de l'encéphalopathie spongiforme bovine a entraîné une dégradation rapide et continue du marché depuis le mois d'avril de cette année. Cela devrait se traduire, selon nos estimations, par une production à la baisse d'environ 7,7 millions de tonnes et une baisse encore plus accentuée de la consommation.

Pour ce qui est du porc et de la volaille, on devrait s'attendre à ce que la tendance à la hausse de la consommation observée ces dernières années, se poursuivra aussi cette année. En ce qui concerne la production laitière dans la Communauté, on peut dire que les livraisons en 1995 ont été d'environ 103 millions de tonnes. Pour l'année en cours, on prévoit une baisse d'environ 640 000 tonnes de lait. Le lait utilisé pour la fabrication des produits frais est à la hausse pour le lait entier et à la baisse pour le lait écrémé. Permettez-moi quelques chiffres pour les fromages: en 1995, on a produit environ 6,22 millions de tonnes de fromage dans la Communauté européenne, quelque chose comme 90 000 tonnes de plus que l'année précédente. La consommation de fromage est toujours à la hausse et elle est prévue d'environ 1 pour cent pour cette année et aussi pour l'année suivante. Pour le sucre, la production de l'Union européenne consiste en une baisse d'environ 1,5 pour cent et s'élèverait donc à environ 16 760 000 de tonnes. En conclusion, Monsieur le Président, permettez-moi de faire quelques brefs commentaires sur deux points: le premier, en ce qui concerne la Communauté européenne, sur la fixation des prix pour la campagne 1996-97 et pour laquelle le Conseil des Ministres de l'Union européenne a pu s'accorder sur un taux DHR en forte baisse, prenant ainsi la pleine mesure de la situation du marché international des céréales. Le deuxième point concerne la stabilité des prix que le document du Secrétariat de la FAO a bien illustré. En effet, la reconstitution prévisible des stocks au niveau communautaire pourra permettre de répondre aux besoins des pays avec un déficit céréalier et en même temps assurer aussi une certaine stabilité de prix au niveau plus bas, élément important, non seulement au niveau des ménages, mais aussi au niveau national et international en ce qui concerne la sécurité alimentaire. Tout cela prend un relief particulier à la veille du Sommet mondial de l'alimentation. Merci de votre attention.

**Soetatwo HADIWIGENO (Indonesia):** My Delegation also appreciates very much FAO's work and report that has been presented in document *CL 111/2*.

We agree that the United States 1996 FAIR Act, as well as food reduction in the aggregate measure of support by the United States, as well as other countries, will have a strong impact on the prices and the supply of agricultural products, especially cereals, in the future. Therefore, my delegation, would urge and look forward to the continuing work of the FAO Secretariat in monitoring this development.

**Sra. Ileana DI GIOVAN BATTISTA (Argentina):** Señor Presidente, en este Consejo el tema Estado Mundial de la Agricultura y de la Alimentación tiene particular importancia, no sólo por los datos muy concretos ofrecidos por el documento que ha preparado la Secretaría, y que agradecemos, sino que además, por la evaluación que hagamos del estado mundial de la agricultura y la alimentación en este año 1996, y las proyecciones que hagamos de esos datos para el futuro, sin duda están condicionando el mensaje que la Cumbre Mundial de Alimentación deberá lanzar en noviembre próximo.

Como bien lo ha señalado el representante de Indonesia, las conclusiones principales de este informe inducen a la preocupación por los efectos de incremento de los precios de algunos cereales, y su repercusión, como se nos ha dicho, en la seguridad alimentaria o el estado de desnutrición de los lugares más pobres. Señor Presidente, entendemos, sin embargo, que no podemos hacer una relación de causalidad simple entre el aumento de los precios internacionales de los cereales y la situación de seguridad alimentaria de los lugares más pobres o, de las poblaciones más vulnerables. Todos sabemos que la situación es mucho más compleja, que las causas son varias, que hay causas de contexto macroeconómico que van mucho más allá del estado de los precios internacionales.

Me permito señalar que, además del peligro de un futuro incremento continuado o sostenido de precios de cereales, también estamos enfrentando otro peligro, y es el de volver atrás o de detenernos abruptamente en un proceso de liberalización de los mercados que nos conduzcan hacia mercados más abiertos, cuyo correcto y transparente funcionamiento constituya una contribución efectiva a la seguridad alimentaria. Señor Presidente, los argentinos tenemos la convicción que un escenario del comercio mundial abierto constituye un aporte significativo para el crecimiento económico y para asegurar mejores niveles de vida en todos los países. Nuestra convicción se basa en la experiencia del crecimiento de importantes potencias económicas de hoy que son, básicamente, potencias comerciales. Pero también se basa en nuestra experiencia interna que nos ha demostrado que un comercio abierto permite precios remuneradores a los productores. Y los precios remuneradores a los productores estimulan la producción, producen efectos positivos en todo el medio rural, detienen o aceleran el éxodo rural y la emigración hacia las ciudades, y son la base ineludible de un desarrollo social sostenido en el medio rural. De esta manera, estamos plenamente convencidos que los acuerdos alcanzados al cabo de la Ronda de Uruguay van a tener, a mediano y a largo plazo, efectos positivos.

De la misma manera, estamos plenamente convencidos que el acuerdo fito-sanitario de la Ronda de Uruguay, así como una cooperación internacional que posibilite la adaptación de todos los países en desarrollo a las nuevas normas del comercio, serán fundamentales para un comercio más organizado y transparente. El hecho de que creamos en mercados más abiertos y dinámicos no implica desconocer las responsabilidades que tenemos de buscar opciones, que efectivamente contribuyan a un genuino aumento de la producción en los países en desarrollo, particularmente, los que son importadores netos de alimentos y, especialmente, los importadores netos de alimentos con déficit y con bajos ingresos. Creemos que, es un compromiso fundamental encontrar esas opciones que permitan una contribución clara del comercio, pero también, de la producción doméstica a la seguridad alimentaria.

Es preciso tener también en cuenta que los avances científicos y tecnológicos en la biotecnología se están traduciendo en productos comerciales que proveerán ventajas significativas y beneficios a productores, procesadores y, también, a los consumidores en los próximos años. Esta vía, la de la incorporación de los conocimientos científicos y tecnológicos, y el desarrollo de la biotecnología, de una manera difundida a todos los países en desarrollo, entendemos que es la mejor vía para satisfacer el crecimiento de la población mundial y la demanda creciente de alimentos. No creemos, señor Presidente, en ninguna de las fórmulas multiucianas, ni restrictivas al crecimiento de la población mundial. Creemos en un desarrollo sostenido para abastecer a la población mundial creciente. Así lo reconoce la FAO cuando dice que el comercio de alimentos tiene una

importancia vital para la seguridad alimentaria mundial. De no existir, tendría que depender exclusivamente de su propia producción; grandes partes de la población mundial y los ingresos globales serían mucho menores, pues, la opción de bienes sería bastante inferior y el hambre aumentaría.

Me permito destacar acá, que la proporción mundial comercializada alcanza solamente el 16 por ciento del consumo de trigo, el 9 por ciento del consumo de granos forrajeros y sólo el 5 por ciento del consumo mundial de arroz y que, por lo tanto, un crecimiento del comercio facilitaría el ajuste de los precios de mercado en épocas de caída de la producción global. Somos concientes que, el contexto actual de los mercados agropecuarios mundiales están generando problemas en ciertos países en desarrollo importadores netos de alimentos, pero también recordamos que, el deterioro de los términos de intercambio es una regla que se ha demostrado inveteradamente este siglo y no creemos que esa regla, de que se necesitan cada vez más unidades de materias primas para comprar unidades de productos industriales, deje de estar en vigor.

Partiendo de la base de que, no deberíamos volver atrás, que el mundo tiene que sacar las mejores ventajas y las mejores oportunidades comerciales de la liberalización del comercio ya iniciada y que debe proseguir, nos comprometemos y esperamos que la comunidad internacional también se comprometa a extender su mayor cooperación para encontrar esas opciones que permitirán una mejor seguridad alimentaria para todos.

**James W. SCHROEDER (United States of America):** The FAO's *State of Food and Agriculture* represents a generally accurate characterization of global markets. FAO has produced the *State of Food and Agriculture* for many years and it has been, and continues to be, a useful resource. US commodity market assessments are in general agreement with FAO's, both with respect to the tight markets last year and the increased production levels expected this year.

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) is forecasting record large global production of grain, that is, wheat and coarse grains, for 1996-97, assuming normal weather for the remainder of the growing season. Farmers in a number of countries are increasing grain acreage in response to recent strength in grain prices. For the first time in four years, world production is projected to surpass consumption, permitting a slight rebuilding of stocks. However, due to tight global stocks entering 1996-1997, and steady import demand from major Asian markets, grain prices are expected to remain especially sensitive to crop developments.

USDA projects world grain trade at 180 million tons for 1996-97, the lowest in ten years, as several key importing countries increased domestic supplies and pulled back on purchases from higher priced international markets. US agrees that stocks are currently low and the private stock replenishment is both desirable and likely, over the next few years. United States does not agree, however, that setting rigid quantitative standards for minimum safe levels, such as the 17 or 18 per cent which the FAO Secretariat considers the minimum necessary for global food security, is necessary or even useful.

We expect that "safe levels" may well be lower than they were historically, given the increased flexibility in stockholding and the responsiveness of the world market, including a growing number of exporters. Neither should countries, importers or exporters, expect a return to the very high stock levels of the mid-1980s. High levels of government-held stocks, primarily in North America and Western Europe, exceeded what these nations believe was desirable and led to governments deliberately changing their stockholding behaviour to bring them down. Political and economic realities in the United States will not support the re-emergence of high levels of government stocks. In view of this, food importing countries may well need to be more active stockholders and when food supplies become more abundant, as they probably will this year, importers should certainly consider replenishing their reserves.

Now with respect to trade liberalization and price instability, the United States agrees with many of the conclusions of the expert group convened by FAO to examine price instability in the Uruguay Round, including the minimal impact on production variability and the importance of the link between market liberalization and international price transmission. However, the discussion's focus on the Uruguay Round may be interpreted as suggesting that the recent Agreement is the major factor effecting price stability. The United States believes it is important to recognize that the Uruguay Round is neither the only factor affecting price stability nor even the most significant. The immediate cause of recent tight markets has been the budget-driven decline in government stocks, coupled with weather.

Other important developments not identified in the FAO discussion include the new import situation in the former Soviet Union and the significant reduction in instability the changes there have meant, the growing unpredictability of China's import and export patterns and, finally, the European Union's decision to resort to export taxes to protect domestic consumers from the impact of high prices.

We do agree with FAO that market liberalization should improve transmission of world prices to domestic markets. However, the United States wishes to emphasize that this depends heavily on the commitment of major trading countries to forego the use of policy instruments, such as, the European Union's tax on grain exports, which artificially insulate their markets from the effect of higher prices. We note that those taxes have now been stopped but we are concerned that the European Union is once again reintroducing subsidies on barley and wheat exports. As you know, the United States is not currently using export subsidies, we have no plans to reintroduce them at this time. We encourage our friends at the European Union to re-examine that policy, to carefully consider its implications, otherwise, we will perhaps be forced to take appropriate action ourselves.

We believe it is important to highlight the expected benefits of the Uruguay Round. We expect the Uruguay Round to have positive effects, not only because of the disciplines it imposes on government intervention, but because of the tremendous boost to the world economy expected under the Agreement. Record grain purchases are being made in a number of countries in Asia, Latin America and North Africa, which reflect stronger economies, increased purchasing power and expanded livestock and poultry industries. Even in Sub-Saharan Africa, countries that have made tough decisions to reform their economies are beginning to see returns on their investments, while those which have adjusted little or not at all have seen little or no progress.

Finally, Mr Chairman, a few comments on the impact of the United States' FAIR Act (the Federal Agriculture Improvement and Reform Act). The United States' assessment is that this act *per se* will not have much impact on global production patterns. USDA's analysis indicates that the FAIR Act is not likely to have a major impact on the world market although, as noted, it is a milestone for our agriculture sector. We do not anticipate large aggregate production adjustments for most commodities since, at the margin, producers in the United States were already operating in response to market signals.

In terms of impact on world cereal markets, the most important U.S. policy development, may I suggest, is likely to be decisions taken with respect to our conservation reserve programme which continues to hold a sizeable amount of our land out of production for environmental reasons. Reduced stock levels were achieved prior to the FAIR Act, which left U.S. stock policy unchanged from policies continued in our previous 1990 Act.

And finally, while we appreciate the spotlight, we may question the FAO's discussion focusing solely on US policy changes to the exclusion of discussing other countries' changes or other forces at work in the global marketplace. Certainly we would suggest speculation about America's "political will" is probably inappropriate for this discussion. I may assure my colleagues that there

is little serious talk or support at this time for reinstating production control-type programmes in the United States. Our future government support for agriculture will most likely take the form of insurance and other types of risk management or decoupled payments.

**A.M.M. SHAWKAT ALI (Bangladesh):** I appreciate the short overview provided by FAO on the State of Food and Agriculture. I am particularly struck by the observations in para. 10 of the overview that, even though there is a recovery of output to the extent of 6.5 per cent over the level of the previous year, the supply situation will remain tight and "global food security precarious for at least another year".

The key words affecting or influencing output used here are "normal weather conditions". It is a universal fact that weather conditions have a bearing on production, but I wonder whether a falling trend in investment in agriculture globally could also contribute to a fall in production. I am referring to this because, Mr. Chairman, yesterday and even before all the proceedings of the CFS, reversing the falling trend in investment in agriculture was very sharply focused on by G-77 and at the end of the day this part was left in brackets. When this was discussed and first raised, the FAO Secretariat provided a number of figures because some delegates rightly questioned concluding on this aspect in the absence of hard data. The figures that the FAO Secretariat then provided showed that, from the level of 1985–86, the investment of US \$ 19 billion, was reduced to US \$ 10 billion which very correctly justified the conclusion that there is a falling trend in investment. This is one aspect that bothers me, although I am happy to inform my fellow colleagues here and the Council that beginning in 1995–96 in Bangladesh we have started providing more investment funds for agriculture.

The second issue that I would like to speak briefly on is the reference to the FAIR Act of the United States. Although our distinguished delegate from the United States has stated that it is no cause for concern because the implications of the Act on the global food trade and other issues will be minimal, the FAO overview takes a completely different position. And in any case I find that the FAO document is correct when it says in paragraph 30 that the long-term impact of FAIR on world agriculture market and prices is difficult to access. I think the time has not yet come, until the year 2002, when it will reach full implementation. At the same time, I would like to draw the attention of the FAO to the fact that, at least for the developing countries, we would need on a timely basis, correct information about the implications that would be there in the timeframe of 2002 and beyond.

**Mme Diane VINCENT (Canada):** Le rapport sur la situation de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture représente pour le Canada un outil essentiel de suivi et d'analyse des tendances de la production du commerce, des prix et des stocks mondiaux des principales denrées agricoles. Nous apprécions également l'analyse qu'il donne des questions pertinentes et d'actualité dans les secteurs de l'agriculture, de la foresterie et des pêcheries.

Le résumé du rapport qui nous est soumis nous permet donc de prendre acte de l'évolution de la situation actuelle de l'agriculture et de l'alimentation, de l'évolution des cours mondiaux de l'effet de la réforme qui s'engage suite aux négociations de l'Uruguay ainsi que de la récente réforme de la loi des Etats-Unis concernant l'agriculture. Vous me permettez donc d'aborder dans cet ordre les remarques que le Canada aimerait faire au sujet du résumé de ce rapport.

D'abord la situation actuelle de la production, des cours et des stocks mondiaux. La plupart des experts sont d'accord pour lier l'augmentation abrupte des prix des céréales à des conditions temporaires telles que la température. Les prix ont diminué de façon importante au cours des dernières semaines. Au Canada nous voyons une diminution de 10 pour cent des prix des céréales à l'exportation par rapport à la même période l'an dernier et une réduction de 100 dollars canadiens la tonne, par rapport au sommet des prix que nous avons connus au cours des derniers mois.

Concernant les prévisions de production céréalière, le Canada aimerait vous faire part de ce que nous pouvons qualifier de bonne nouvelle; en effet, la production canadienne de céréales et d'oléagineux en 1996 pourrait atteindre un nouveau record, et croître de 9 pour cent par rapport à l'année 1995; la production de blé pourrait s'accroître de 13 pour cent et la production des autres céréales de 14 pour cent. Les exportations canadiennes de céréales et oléagineux pourraient s'accroître de plus de 18 pour cent en 1996. De plus, la qualité de la récolte sera excellente selon nos prévisions. Nous espérons que ceci pourra contribuer à améliorer l'état des stocks mondiaux à des prix qui pourront alléger le fardeau des pays à faibles revenus qui importent des produits agricoles de base. Le rapport confirme d'ailleurs la tendance de renforcement de l'équilibre offre et demande et une baisse des cours mondiaux, (continues in English)

In Canada's view, an open and well functioning multilateral trade system has a key role to play in achieving world food security. In order to address some of the concerns expressed by importing countries, especially the low-income, food-deficit countries, Canada believes that all countries must refrain from using export restrictions that limit the access to agricultural products and prevent food products from reaching those in need. Canada will continue to push for strong multilateral rules to discipline the use of these export restrictions. Also, Canada will continue to press for the elimination of export subsidies.

The Summary Report also reviews the recent important policy changes in the United States under the 1996 Fair Act, which is very useful. However, there should be an acknowledgement that there are a series of changes occurring in many countries that will almost certainly have a positive impact on international commodity markets. A number of countries, including Canada, have also introduced policies which have reduced support and protection. For example, Canada eliminated the transport subsidy programme for grains.

Canada is encouraged by the strong economic growth in the developing countries in 1995. Despite the relatively slow growth experienced by more developed countries, in addition the forecast of accelerated growth for developing countries in 1996 and the predictions of continued strong growth through 1999 suggest a much improved decade for these countries, including improvement in their food security situations. Unfortunately the rapid growth remains uneven and regions such as Africa are expected to experience only a modest economic upturn. Canada is concerned with the continued weakness of African economies and has taken action to provide debt relief for many of the poorer African countries.

In summary, this report provides us with a number of significant reminders. First, agricultural production has responded positively to the higher international commodity market prices seen earlier. Second, more information and analysis are needed before drawing any conclusion about short-term agricultural prices, stocks and trade reform. A full and early publication of the essential documents will allow us to address the questions with the seriousness they deserve. Finally, while global progress will likely be made in 1996-97 in the availability and distribution of basic food supplies, there will be serious problems remaining in many countries, communities and households. This is evident from the significant number of countries with declining *percapita* production, including agriculture. Thus, there is an urgent requirement for the continuation of the types of programmes sponsored by FAO to provide economic information, planning advice and assistance in capacity-building.

**Constantin Mihail GRIGORIE (Roumanie):** La délégation de la Roumanie apprécie l'important travail de préparation des documents soumis à l'examen du Conseil et félicite le Directeur général pour la qualité et la clarté de ceux-ci ainsi que pour la précision des informations contenues dans ces documents qui manifestent une volonté de transparence à l'égard du Conseil. A ce stade du débat, et pour éviter les répétitions, je vais concentrer mon intervention en reprenant des différents points soumis au Conseil tels qu'ils figurent dans le document sur la situation d'alimentation et d'agriculture en 1996 (CL 111/2). Nous sommes favorables à la vision du Secrétariat projetée sur

les coordonnées dont elle plaçait à l'échelle mondiale la situation de l'année 1995, les perspectives pour 1996 et 1997, surtout avec la conclusion, et je cite: "...même si les conditions atmosphériques restent normales, la situation mondiale de l'offre et de la demande demeurera précaire tout comme la sécurité alimentaire mondiale pendant au moins encore un an" (fin de citation, point 10, chapitre II, Marchés agricoles mondiaux, page 3). Nous partageons également la conclusion de la FAO qui considère que le modeste rétablissement des stocks céréaliers mondiaux de 14–15 pour cent, est bien au-dessous du niveau considéré comme le minimum nécessaire pour la sécurité alimentaire mondiale (point 14, chapitre II, Marchés agricoles mondiaux, du document cité). Nous souscrivons aussi à l'avis qui a été émis par de nombreux orateurs précédents selon le développement mondial du secteur agricole marqué en 1995, par une croissance faible de la production végétale et animale. Nous sommes plus optimistes pour 1996 et 1997 vu la reprise prévue de la production céréalière mondiale. Nous partageons également l'opinion que de nombreux résultats sur le développement agricole et rural durable sont déjà palpables. En même temps on constate une situation préoccupante pour la sécurité alimentaire mondiale pour les effets négatifs de la pénurie sur le marché mondial des céréales sur l'état nutritionnel des populations pauvres. La répartition de la nourriture terrestre, si abondante tout de même, reste encore déficitaire et une des causes de la pauvreté.

Je viens d'une région de l'Europe où les résultats et les perspectives sont appréciés et restent généralement bons. Les pays de notre région sont engagés depuis 7 ans dans un processus de transformation politique, économique et sociale vers l'économie de marché et à l'interaction dans les structures européennes. La période que nous traversons est celle de la transition où nos économies ont un double déficit à relever: remettre en marche la machine, rattraper le temps perdu en établissant les conditions d'une agriculture efficace, en utilisant les ressources naturelles au mieux de leur avantage comparatif. Le deuxième déficit est d'assurer la durabilité des progrès agricoles tant du point de vue économique et budgétaire qu'en terme de conservation ou de réhabilitation des ressources naturelles et de l'environnement.

Je profite de l'occasion pour rappeler l'importance de la Conférence régionale de la FAO pour l'Europe sur la sécurité alimentaire sur notre continent et de la persistance de l'insécurité alimentaire pour certains individus et ménages en Europe.

Je me suis permis, Monsieur le Président, d'attaquer le sujet de l'importance des débats de notre vingt-deuxième Session du Comité de la sécurité alimentaire mondiale chargé de la négociation des documents du Sommet mondial de l'alimentation, où la question de la sécurité alimentaire a été examinée dans le contexte de la situation mondiale y compris celle de la sous-région de l'Europe centrale et de l'est.

Qu'il me soit permis en deux mots de vous dire que le Gouvernement de Roumanie est constamment préoccupé de créer les conditions pour que l'agriculture de mon pays qui reste un domaine stratégique du développement de l'économie nationale devienne un secteur compétitif, capable de s'intégrer d'une façon adéquate dans le marché européen et mondial. Cela implique en outre l'encouragement des formes d'exploitations agricoles performantes, le développement de la modernisation des réseaux de distribution du *marketing* et du *management* agricole. La réorganisation de la production agricole, conformément aux conditions spécifiques de la population et de l'évolution du marché intérieur et extérieur.

Monsieur le Président, me voilà au terme de mon intervention dont je vous demande de bien vouloir excuser la longueur de l'accent mis sur la situation de l'Europe centrale et de l'est. Dans le contexte d'un examen de la situation de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture mondiale et avant un sommet qui sera consacré au même sujet, j'ai cru bon de m'y attarder. Dans ce contexte je voudrais, une fois de plus, souligner que les difficultés des transformations qui se produisent en Europe centrale et de l'est sont considérables, bien supérieures et plus complexes qu'aucuns ne le pensaient initialement, dans une analyse de la situation de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture au

monde, de nos jours, elles méritent d'être évoquées. Nous sommes à la fois confiants et motivés pour suivre l'évolution de la situation de notre région avec les autres Membres du Conseil de la FAO.

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Con esto creo que concluye esta sesión matutina de nuestros trabajos. Les voy a leer de nuevo la lista de oradores y solicitarles que, si hay alguna otra delegación que desea hacer uso de la palabra, me lo indique de inmediato. La lista va como sigue: Ghana, Japón, República de Corea, Comunidad Europea, Burkina Faso, Australia, Barbados, Zimbabwe, Mauritius, República Islámica de Irán y Tailandia.

**The meeting rose at 12.30 hours**

**La séance est levée à 12h 30**

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



1 October 1996



منظمة الاغذية  
والزراعة  
للأمم المتحدة

联合国  
粮食及  
农业组织

Food  
and  
Agriculture  
Organization  
of  
the  
United  
Nations

Organisation  
des  
Nations  
Unies  
pour  
l'alimentation  
et  
l'agriculture

Organización  
de las  
Naciones  
Unidas  
para la  
Agricultura  
y la  
Alimentación

Council

Conseil

Consejo

Hundred and Eleventh Session Cent onzième session 111<sup>o</sup> período de sesiones

SECOND PLENARY MEETING  
DEUXIEME SEANCE PLENIERE  
SEGUNDA SESIÓN PLENARIA

1 October 1996

**The Second Plenary Meeting was opened at 14.45 hours**

**Mr José Ramón López Portillo,**

**Independent Chairman of the Council, presiding**

**La deuxième séance plénière est ouverte à 14 h 45  
sous la présidence de M. José Ramón López Portillo,  
Président indépendant du Conseil**

**Se abre la segunda sesión plenaria a las 14.45 horas  
bajo la presidencia del Sr. José Ramón López Portillo,  
Presidente Independiente del Consejo**

**II. WORLD FOOD AND AGRICULTURE SITUATION (continued)**

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

**II. SITUACIÓN MUNDIAL DE LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACIÓN (continuación)**

**4. State of Food and Agriculture 1996 (continued)**

**4. Situation mondiale de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture 1996 (suite)**

**4. Estado Mundial de la Agricultura y la Alimentación en 1996 (continuación)**

**Mallam Issah SEIDU (Ghana):** Like other speakers, the Ghana Delegation also expresses appreciation for the Secretariat work and for the presentation made this morning. Regarding the item under discussion, Mr Chairman, the Secretariat paper as well as the document *State of Food and Agriculture 1996*, reveal certain facts of interest. It is of concern to us to note that most indicators tend to show negative or declining trends for the African continent, thus as always making it the area with the most food security problems.

The document before us, Mr Chairman, has forecast that agricultural production in the years to come could expand at a rate faster than in the past. But gains in per caput terms are not likely unless extraordinary actions are taken to mobilize both external and African continent's resources towards increased food production. This calls for measures, in the view of my delegation, to increase productivity through increased yields. A great potential exists to increase the food production of the over 36 countries facing acute food shortages through better water control and increased plant nutrients.

Most African soils are literally depleted of their nutrients with the removal by plants at a faster rate than what is returned to the land. FAO statistics show that Africa accounts for only 3 percent of world fertilizer consumption in 1992–93. And eight countries only in Africa accounted for 99 percent of the total. This leaves the rest of Africa with virtually zero use of fertilizer. The rural poor, many of whom live on environmentally fragile areas are the victims just as they are responsible for soil degradation. Staple food producers working on marginal soils have little choice but to sacrifice the future for the present-clearing trees and depleting soils in an unsustainable manner to provide livelihood.

Mr Chairman, this observation is not intended to play down the use of organic nutrients. The key to sustainable and environmentally sound plant nutrition is through the use of other sources of plant nutrients to complement and supplement mineral fertilizers under the integrated plant nutrition systems (IPNS). Sustainable increased agricultural production and improving farmers' profitability can only be achieved through the judicious use of mineral fertilizers, organic manures and biological nitrogen fixation.

My delegation, Mr Chairman, has opted to limit its intervention to production constraints with the understanding that Africa, as a net food importer is carrying a heavy burden due to the high international market prices.

Africa has first of all to increase its production before it can enjoy the boost to the world economy as a result of the trade measures introduced by the Uruguay Round.

**Eiji SUZUKI (Japan):** I appreciate the efforts made by the Secretariat to provide the document CL 111/2, a summary of the *State of Food and Agriculture*, 1996. I would like to make brief comments on this document. First, paragraph 9 states that a major reason for convening the World Food Summit is the expected 680 million undernourished people in the year 2010. We concur with the importance of this estimated figure and stress that the problem of present hunger and malnutrition should be dealt with in the World Food Summit along with future sustainable food production capacity of the world in a balanced manner. On the world agricultural markets section, we would like to point out a couple of important observations contained in the Secretariat document.

The first point is in paragraph 10, where it concludes that "the global supply/demand situation would remain tight and global food security precarious for at least another year." We, as a food importing country, view these consecutive years of a tight supply/demand situation with great concern.

The second important point on the present situation is in paragraph 14, where the very low world stock level is well described. The lowest stock level, as well as the high prices of major commodities, are obviously two sources of concern for importing countries in general, and especially for low-income food-deficit countries.

Mr Chairman, the present 1996 *State of Food and Agriculture* discusses the topic of trade liberalization and price instability, which is very important. My country imports the major part of its food supply from external sources and this is the reason why we are so concerned about the effectiveness of trade versus supply stabilization. Although part 25 of this section does not specify as a conclusion whether trade liberalization contributes to stabilizing world market prices or not, we generally see the structure of changes following the Uruguay Round Agreement as adversely affecting the world price stability. More specifically, with respect to paragraph 16, we doubt whether clarification should, in principle, improve stability. And in paragraph 17, we share concern that further liberalization will lead to further cuts in the programmes that produced considerable stocks in the past, possibly leading to further instability.

Finally, Mr Chairman, in paragraph 26, it seems that the Secretariat paper infers that trade liberalization was the ultimate goal and that temporary price instability was an interim obstacle. But on the contrary, we feel that trade liberalization should not be regarded as the ultimate goal. In any case the relationship between trade liberalization and price instability should be carefully studied.

**Dong Tae KIM (Korea, Republic of):** I would like to briefly touch upon some issues concerning the current world food situation. There are over 800 million hungry and malnourished people in the world. In addition, the outlook for the world food supply is not optimistic. FAO has reported that the ratio of ending stock to world food and consumption for 1996 is only 14 per cent, significantly below the recommended level of 17 per cent.

Furthermore, the food situation in many food importing countries, especially in the low-income food-deficit countries, is deteriorating as a result of the tight food supply and higher food prices. These factors have been all too characteristic of the international market trend.

Moreover, FAO forecasts that the gross rate of all agricultural production will be lower in the period from now to the year 2010, in contrast to comparable periods in the past. Many food research institutions have also reported that the outlook for the long-term food situation will be even worse.

FAO has already made a significant contribution to combatting world hunger and undernutrition. However, many serious food security concerns still remain to be addressed. For example, the food crisis in the low-income food-deficit countries requires immediate international action. The international community must pay more attention to solving this problem. We expect that the forthcoming World Food Summit, to be held in November, will be a turning point in efforts to ensure food security for present and future generations, affirming that food is a basic right, essential for an active, healthy and dignified life.

In the midst of the complexities posed by natural and social political conditions, it is difficult for a country to fulfil its basic food requirements through imports, given the unstable nature of the world market. Like most industrial commodities, food is an ever-present and continuous basic need. Having food is the basic right of all human beings, which must be satisfied with a minimum

degree of risk. Also each country faces unique individual food supply circumstances just as each country enjoys its unique diet.

I firmly believe that the specific characteristics of each country's food, agricultural and nutritional problems must be given full consideration when designing solutions to such problems. In this context, I would like to stress the importance of each country's efforts to ensure food security for its people. Without providing basic food requirements the achievement of world food security will be limited. The effect of trade liberalization on food security therefore merits very careful consideration. The premiss that each country has the right to achieve food security must also be respected.

Finally, Mr Chairman, let me commend FAO staff for organizing this Council meeting and wish them every success. Thank you very much for your attention.

**Raffaele DE SANTIS (Communauté européenne):** Excusez-moi de reprendre la parole mais c'est seulement pour une petite précision suite à l'intervention de la délégation des Etats-Unis. En ce qui concerne la taxe dans le secteur des céréales, je voulais souligner que cette taxe était une réponse à une situation de prix très élevés. Elle n'était pas du tout une cause de ces prix élevés, mais une mesure prise dans un moment particulier du marché. La démonstration en est qu'une fois baissés à un niveau moins élevé, la taxe a été éliminée. Une deuxième remarque est que cette mesure conjoncturelle dans le secteur des céréales a été prise dans l'Union européenne conformément à l'accord de l'Uruguay Round et, de plus, nous nous sommes assurés de respecter les engagements vis-à-vis des pays en voie de développement en ce qui concerne les approvisionnements de leurs marchés.

**Christophe KIEMTORE (Burkina Faso):** Monsieur le Président, je voudrais, avec votre permission, faire rapidement quelques commentaires sur ce point à l'examen. En premier lieu, j'aimerais très sincèrement féliciter le Secrétariat et, en particulier, M. De Haen qui a fait une présentation très claire de ce document. Ma délégation est satisfaite de la présentation de ce document qui est très différente de ce que nous avons l'habitude de recevoir. Cette forme de résumer la situation de l'alimentation dans un document de 4/5 pages permet aux délégations de prendre connaissance d'un fait majeur qui marque ce secteur. Nous voudrions donc profiter de l'occasion pour demander au Secrétariat de continuer à travailler dans ce sens, pour permettre aux délégations d'avoir la possibilité de consulter les documents dans d'autres circonstances et tel qu'annoncé pendant ou après le Sommet mondial.

Le deuxième point que j'aimerais souligner concerne la situation déjà préoccupante de l'alimentation dans le monde telle qu'il en ressort du document examiné. On y voit que la production est en baisse pour certains produits, que les prix sont en hausse pour d'autres, que les stocks et les réserves alimentaires mondiales sont précaires. Le rapport souligne à juste titre que la situation est très préoccupante pour le continent africain. Il contient aussi des perspectives qui ne nous sont pas très favorables. Ma délégation se félicite que le Secrétariat ait pu mettre en évidence le problème qui touche la majorité des pays africains, et nous voudrions saisir l'occasion pour exprimer notre regret pour le fait qu'au cours des négociations concernant les documents du Sommet et la situation particulière du continent africain, qui ressort d'ailleurs dans tous les documents examinés par la FAO ou d'autres instances. Nous regrettons donc que cette spécificité du continent ne ressorte pas clairement dans les documents et n'apparaisse pas avec clarté dans le processus des négociations. Nous pensons que ce continent mérite, étant donné sa situation particulière, que des mesures spécifiques soient préconisées pour aider l'ensemble de ces pays à assurer la sécurité alimentaire dans leur territoire régional ou national.

Le troisième point que je voudrais évoquer concerne l'importance qu'il faudrait accorder, dans ce contexte, à la production nationale et à sa maîtrise. Le document souligne à juste titre l'importance d'un certain nombre de facteurs; cela dit, le volume et les flux de production mondiaux sont bien

décrits. On y évoque aussi l'importance des marchés, l'importance des échanges et de leur libéralisation, et nous pensons que, pour assurer la sécurité alimentaire, les pays concernés devront compter avant tout sur la maîtrise de la production nationale dans les pays respectifs. Le commerce à lui seul ne peut contribuer durablement à une sécurité alimentaire dans les ménages, surtout si les pays concernés ne sont pas en mesure d'accroître la capacité locale de production, d'où l'importance pour ces pays d'accroître les investissements dans le secteur agricole. La maîtrise de l'eau est un facteur essentiel, parce que les phénomènes de sécheresse et de désertification sont liés à ce facteur. La résolution des sols est également un facteur très important, ainsi que le transfert de technologies, l'éducation et la formation de la population d'une manière générale, et des producteurs en particulier.

Un quatrième point concerne l'importance des facteurs climatiques. Je voudrais mentionner que pour un certain nombre de pays, surtout ceux qui sont dans la zone désertique, la pollution est totalement dépendante du facteur climatique, et tant que ces facteurs climatiques ne seront pas maîtrisés, il est tout à fait impensable de prévoir la maîtrise de la sécurité alimentaire dans ces pays. Le problème de la désertification devrait retenir l'attention du Conseil et aussi retenir votre attention pendant la préparation des documents du Sommet mondial.

Un dernier point concerne la constitution des réserves et des stocks de sécurité au niveau national et ce point n'est pas suffisamment souligné dans les documents que nous avons examinés. Nous pensons que des mesures de sécurité doivent être prises par les pays eux-mêmes à travers un mécanisme permettant de mettre à la disposition du pays des stocks et des réserves pour assurer la sécurité alimentaire dans les zones les plus touchées. Aussi longtemps que la production nationale restera soumise au facteur climatique aléatoire, la constitution des réserves et des stocks au niveau national sera un facteur clé pour aider les pays à assurer un minimum de sécurité alimentaire pour l'ensemble de la population.

**Dennis GEBBIE (Australia):** Let me first join others in welcoming the continuing work of the Secretariat in the area covered by the State of Food and Agriculture Report.

In terms of the forecasts for agricultural products for 1996–97, the Australian Bureau of Agriculture and Resource Economics (ABER) has recently released its own latest forecasts for this period and these forecasts are broadly in line with those mentioned in the summary paper provided by the Secretariat.

The key forecast, I think Mr Chairman, is that world grain prices will fall in 1996–97 as the tight supply situation of the previous year eases with a recovery in world grain production. The message here is that price signals are reaching producers, as they should and this illustrates that the market is working as it should. It also highlights the key or vital role of trade in ensuring world food security. In our own case, we have in prospect a very large winter grain crop which should be, in fact, the second highest harvest on record.

I will not repeat the comments made by a number of others on the reasons for the recent high grain prices. The United States, in particular, highlighted the role of the weather and the input situation in the former USSR as key elements for those high prices, rather than being an impact of trade liberalization. The link between trade liberalization and price instability is obviously an important one. It has been mentioned by many delegates. I think it is worth recalling here paragraphs 25 and 26 of document CL 111/2, or the summary document from that, paragraph 25 in particular, Reports on the Experts Meeting on Price and Stability. It points out quite clearly that the experts felt that the new international trading environment was likely to be characterized by lower levels of global stocks but more resilient markets, owing to faster response to production demand stocks. The experts were not clear if price and stability would be higher or lower or the probability of price sparks greater or smaller. I think the message coming out of the Experts Meeting was that we need to be very careful that we do not make some of the prejudgments that

are being made as to adverse effects on price and stability caused by trade liberalization. It seems quite clear that any such judgements are premature.

Let me turn now to the Stocks to Use Ratio issue, which has been mentioned by a number of delegates. The Stocks to Use benchmark used in the State of Food and Agriculture Summary was in fact established in the period of quite different Government policies than exist today.

In the early 1970s, the FAO estimated the level of stocks it felt was required to ensure global food security. This assessment was based on transport requirements, the level of market integration and the timing of production availability that existed during the early 1970s, which is quite a long time ago now. Given the increased integration of international markets, including developing countries and improvements in transport and handling methods, it is unlikely that the estimate of the Stocks to Use benchmark is applicable to the present environment. The estimate that world grain stocks need to be at least 17 per cent of utilization to ensure adequate global food security, we think is out of date and tends to be somewhat narrow. A further issue here is that by limiting the Stocks to Use analysis to grains, the approach does not truly represent global food availabilities, which cover a much wider scope. It also, Mr Chairman, in our view, does not represent any more a reliable benchmark of food security.

In this context, I would draw attention to paragraphs 9 and 10 of CL 111/10. This was a report of the Twenty-First Session of the Committee on Food Security. These particular paragraphs highlight well the shortcomings of over-reliance on the Stocks to Use ratio.

Finally, let me just say a few words about the United States Farm Bill. We very much welcome the passage of the FAIR Act and believe the United States deserves a good deal of commendation for the radical change in direction that they have taken under the FAIR Act. It certainly does not resolve all of the market and trade distortion problems that have existed with US agricultural policy in the past but it is a very important step and there is a very good message and a good deal of leadership there to draw on throughout the world in this new direction the United States has been taking.

We also very much welcome the restraint of both the United States and the European Union, in terms of the absence of use of subsidies on exports of grain over recent times and we would thoroughly endorse the US call for a continuation of such restraint. In fact, we would argue strongly that the realities of the market suggest there is no valid reason for resuming these practices.

**Cephas GOODING (Barbados):** First of all, I would like to join in thanking the FAO Secretariat for providing us with a very useful summary of the state of food and agriculture. I shall try to keep my statement brief and to the point.

I would wish to share the concern expressed by other delegations regarding the world food situation. Certainly, the abnormally slow growth in the total crop and livestock production recorded for the last year, is a matter to which we all need to devote renewed vigour. We all have concern, I am sure, but it seems to me that we need to do more to ensure that adequate stocks as well as food aide flows are available and adequate so that the scourge of hunger and malnutrition can be effectively tackled. We certainly can not be comfortable with the 11 percent contraction of commitments of external agricultural assistance recorded for 1994.

Barbados, like many other small land-locked and island states, is a net importer of food. We have, for many years, been pursuing a policy designed to stimulate food production. This policy calls for the diversification of our agricultural production system. Diversification has, however, proven to be particularly challenging. This is so since farmers have to be taught how to master new

production systems and also because difficulties have been experienced in accessing funding on reasonable and concessionable terms for the needed new investments in the agricultural sector.

I am pleased to report, however, that our country has been able to achieve some success in its diversification programme. We are now self-sufficient in the production in several commodities, including root crops, vegetables, selected fresh fruits, fresh milk, fresh pork and whole chicken. Clearly we still have a lot to do.

I have to point out that it is extremely important that the special needs of developing countries, particularly small, land-locked and island states, be taken fully into consideration, if there is to be any meaningful improvement in the state of food and agriculture in the world and a general improvement in world food security.

With the serious decline in international aide flows and the availability of technical assistance generally, many developing countries have to mobilize their resources needed for investment in agriculture from their own resources. It is therefore extremely important that these countries be allowed to access available commodity markets, under whatever arrangements, so that they can earn necessary foreign exchange to pay for imported food and other goods, to serve the needs of their population and also so that their farmers can earn a reasonable income.

Finally, we believe that the protection of natural resources must be given high priority at national, as well as international levels. That is why we are disappointed at the report that the majority of species subject to fishing are now fully over-exploited. There must clearly be a greater spread of cooperation among countries, particularly at the regional level if our natural resources, including shared resources, are to be properly preserved for future generations.

**B. SANDAMU (Zimbabwe):** While the document on the state of food and agriculture paints a very gloomy picture about Africa, particularly Sub-Saharan Africa, I am happy to report that in the twelve member Southern African development community, 1995–96 agricultural season has been one of the best in the last five years and suddenly the food security situation in that region is improved tremendously. Countries that had to import food because of the 1994–95 drought are, this year, in a position where they can export.

You will also be aware that for some years our region suffered a lot of civil strife and, at the moment, peace seems to have returned to the region and we hope that it will prevail. Because of the peace in the region, we see agriculture production improving in those countries that are now enjoying peace that previously were torn apart by civil strife.

We are very concerned with the trend in the decrease in agricultural commodity prices. For countries that rely mostly on exports of primary products, the reduction in the prices of agricultural commodities affect our balance of payments. We would like to see stable world prices for our agricultural commodities.

Government policy in our region is given top priority to the effects of drought mitigation in the future. We live in a region that is endemic to droughts and we have learned lessons in the past that we should always be prepared of eventualities such as droughts. As a result, we also appeal to the international community to assist us in investing more in agricultural production, particularly in the smallholder sector, that is very much vulnerable to changes in the weather patterns.

We also welcome the convening of the World Food Summit and the Commitment to improve global food security.

**Suresh Chundre SEEBALLUK (Mauritius):** First of all, my delegation wishes to associate itself with the previous delegations in commending the FAO Secretariat for its very informative report.

This report has drawn attention to the situation of uncertainty that the Uruguay Round may bring about and this confirms the apprehension that many African countries and small island countries, like Mauritius, have been having on the impact of the Uruguay Round. Indeed, what appeared to be sound in theory, may not be so, in practice.

While my delegation concedes that the new trade environment is likely to be beneficial to a number of developing countries, it may not be appropriate to leave all developing countries in the same group. Most of the studies, if not all, that have been carried out so far on the impact on the Uruguay Round, have indicated that the new trade regime would be unfavourable to the African countries, especially those in the Sub-Saharan region. This is where hunger and malnutrition is more prevalent.

Therefore, my delegation, hopes that process of reform that the WTO agreement on agriculture will undergo, eventually will address these concerns. At any rate, my delegation considers that the move to establish a level playing field should be approached with caution since nature has wished it otherwise and the various players, indeed, cannot ever aspire to play in the same league.

**Jalal RASSOOLOF (Iran, Islamic Republic of):** My delegation is honoured to welcome you, once again, on this august meeting and wishes you full success in achieving the goals and objectives of the session of the FAO Council. I also would like to sincerely thank the Secretariat and all FAO's specialized departments for preparing the documents of the Council and commend them in their very high quality performance in this regard.

In order to meet your criteria of time allocation, I will try to be very brief and restrict myself to comments related to some important issues of the summary document CL 111/2, the State of Food and Agriculture 1996 and then, bring to the attention of the distinguished colleagues and delegations, very briefly, a few achievements of the Islamic Republic of Iran in agriculture sector and especially in food security.

My delegation is most pleased to note, as mentioned in paragraph 6 and 7 that the world output in 1996 has expanded at 3.5 per cent with robust 5.9 per cent growth in the developing countries. It is also promising that this acceleration continues to 1996 and that agriculture value added expected to exceed population growth in all developing country groups. We pray for the continuation of this trend in the very long future.

Apart from this, the rest of the report is not very promising. At the global level 1995, was a year of abnormally slow growth in total crop and livestock production. Stocks and food aide flows declined and international market prices rose which added to the burden of net food importing countries. Total food aide shipments, in cereals, in 1995–96 are estimated to have decreased further compared to the previous year. At the same time, total commitments of external assessment to agriculture continued the declining trend of the previous years, contracting by an estimated 11 percent in constant 1990 prices. Stock recovery in 1996–97 would be very modest compared with the sharp reduction during 1995–96, leaving cereal reserve below minimum safe levels in 1996–97.

The global supply demand situation would remain tight and global food security precarious for at least another year. Furthermore, the situation would be aggravated and deterioration of agricultural terms of trade in 1996.

During the discussion, at the previous CFS session and Inter-Sessional Working Group, trade and market liberalization were over-emphasized as a measure of food security by some distinguished delegates while my delegation believes in the important role where free market and trade can play in this respect. We would like to draw the kind attention of all delegations to the following phrases of the document under consideration, which I quote: "although, tariffication should in



principle improve stability, it is not clear that the practice market price stability will increase over the next few years, particularly for the temperate zone commodities".

The big decrease in Government stock has not been off-set by a corresponding increase in private stocks. In general, as Governments reduce their stocks, the private trade does not fully replace them on balance, changes in levels and ownership of stocks are likely to be dis-stabilizing. Furthermore, the meeting of Experts on Agriculture Price Stability held in Rome, June 1996, discussing the impact of the implementation of the Uruguay Round agreement stated that pricing stability would be greater in the interim than after the system had settled down. Therefore, we believe that it is the responsibility of the exporting countries, which are the main beneficiaries of the implementation of the Uruguay Round agreement, to help net food importing countries at least during the interim period to face and solve their related difficulties.

Allow me to complete this not very pleasing picture by adding two more facts from paragraph 4 and 9 of the document under consideration, which I quote: "no less than 26 countries in the world are currently reported as facing acute food shortages requiring emergency assistance...". In the long run, "FAO estimates that by the year 2010 there will still be about 680 million persons suffering from undernutrition...". The very existence of this fact shows that we, the Member States of FAO, still have a long way to go before achieving the goal. We choose as the symbol of FAO, 51 years ago, that is the *Fiat Partis*.

Please note that a man from Africa, the most food insecure and vulnerable region of the world, as the Director General of FAO, who has closely witnessed the pain of hunger, has called for a World Food Summit at the level of Heads of state and Governments to be held next month, here in this building. Let us join hands and give him the full support in achieving the very humanitarian goal of this summit. Only over good will, solidarity and commitment can guarantee our success.

Mr Chairman, let me briefly inform you of some of our achievements in agriculture development and increased food production in the Islamic Republic of Iran. The rate of agriculture growth during the first five years development plan, 1988 to 1993 was 5.9 per cent, which far exceeded the rate of population growth. Wheat, the most important commodity in our diet, increased by 4 million metric tons, reaching a total production of more than 11 million tons per year. In spite of a rather high population growth, the self-sufficiency coefficient in wheat production increased from 72 per cent to 84 per cent per capita. Cereal production in 1995 was 275 kilograms. This production level permits for a 120 days emergency reserve per year. Total crop and horticultural production increased by 45 per cent. Livestock production also increased by 20 per cent, that is, from 5.1 million tons to 6.2 million tons during this first five year programme.

The second five year development plan, which has started in 1995, has given priority to agriculture as the main provider of the national food security. A structure adjustment programme would continue in this plan. Input subsidy, which decreased dramatically in the first five years, now would continue its downward trend throughout the second plan and would far exceed the criteria established in the Uruguay Round final Act. Decreased application of chemical fertilizer, pesticides and insecticides, is also a major goal of the second agriculture development plan. The level of chemical inputs would decrease by 30 per cent at the end of the plan. The money saved in this way would be spent on environmental and biological pest control research.

Last, but not least, I would like to convey my appreciation to FAO for the valuable assistance they have provided to the agricultural development of the Islamic Republic of Iran. In particular, I have to commend the TCDC Department for their valuable support and especially, for the very constructive and efficient mechanism recently developed in this unit.

**Chamnong VATHANA (Thailand):** My delegation is very grateful once again to see you in the Chair of this FAO Council. My congratulations are also extended to the Vice-Chairman. The Document CL 111/2 indeed gives sharp and precise information. I thank the Secretariat for responding to the data of the Member Nations. As all you know, rice is vital to Thailand, both as a source of foreign income and as a staple food for all the people in Thailand. Let me brief you on the rice situation in my country. In 1996 rice production is expected to be around 21.3 million tons, slightly increased from the previous year. The export projection in 1996 is around 5.6 million tons or 0.4 percent less than 1995. It is my prediction that the world rice supply is sufficient to meet the demands of rice importing countries. I can assure you that Thailand will remain a reliable rice supplier to the world market. Mr Chairman, may I now turn your attention to trade liberalization and price instability. In this regard my delegation would like to express its appreciation of the work that has been carried out by FAO, particularly after the Uruguay Round Agreement was concluded partially.

On the 10 and 11 June this year, FAO held an informal meeting of experts and examined agricultural price instability and Thai/FAO work. We have read this document carefully and we are very interested in reading more details of this report. I therefore would appreciate if the Secretariat could make this report available, at least to my delegation. Finally, Mr Chairman, my Delegation fully supports the continuation of the reform process of the Uruguay Round Agreement, based on the effective removal of the subsidies and barriers that distort international trade especially in agricultural products. We firmly believe that the subsidies on agricultural products would adversely affect food production and distribution, particularly in the European countries which do not subsidize their international production.

**Ahmad RUSLI JOHARIE (Malaysia):** Malaysia would like to commend the FAO for producing an authoritative and useful report on the State of Food and Agriculture. This report, no doubt, will be heavily quoted and will be very useful for us in looking at world trends in production, prices, trade and other related matters pertaining to food and agriculture.

Mr Chairman, while many Member Nations report on optimistic production levels of cereals and downward trends in prices, Malaysia is very concerned that the issues of malnutrition, undernutrition and famine still afflict a substantial portion of the human population. This is reflected in the FAO estimates that in the year 2010 there will still be about 680 million people suffering from this malaise. While we understand that the World Food Summit in November will address this issue, Malaysia is concerned about the effectiveness of present policies, strategies and programmes to elevate this problem. The poor, undernourished and unfortunate millions cannot afford to wait for the World Food Summit to come up with proposals, recommendations and plans of actions. Their problems must be tackled immediately and in the short term. Henceforth, we believe future reports of the FAO on the State of Food and Agriculture should also focus on effective policies, strategies and programmes that have been employed to overcome this problem.

We need to know and emulate success stories, if any. In this connection, Malaysia is concerned about the scope of coverage of the report on the State of Food and Agriculture. While we appreciate that the compilation of statistics on supply, demand and price trends, and analyzing trends is important, it is our opinion that the State of Food and Agriculture report should also highlight selective issues of what has been done and needs to be done to overcome the problems of the food sector, especially in overcoming hunger and malnutrition. In this regard Malaysia would like to propose that FAO also highlight policy, strategies and programme issues. These issues have also been addressed by many Members of the Council in their deliberations.

Finally, Mr Chairman, FAO Regional Officers must play a greater role in assisting the various regions, especially food-deficient regions, in cooperation with regional economic bodies and organizations, to come up with viable options for increasing supply and moving towards regional and national self-sufficiency in food requirements and animal feed.

**Wilberforce SAKIRA (Uganda):** Mr Chairman, we think that this document CL 111/2 is a good paper. It is short and informative and it gives the State of Food and Agriculture in a clear and precise manner. We would like to thank the Secretariat for providing us with such a useful document.

The paper has indicated that, in general, food production has been increasing in the recent past and that prices have been declining with time in developed countries but increasing in developing countries. Our delegation, like others which have taken the floor before us, has noted that the gloomy picture presented in the document is a cause for concern and we are particularly concerned with four areas.

The first one is in paragraph number 4, Mr Chairman, if you will allow me to quote, although unfortunately it has already been quoted by the delegation from Iran. Paragraph 4 states no less than 36 countries in the world are currently reported as facing acute food shortages requiring major assistance, more than half of which are in Africa. Mr Chairman, this morning the delegation of Canada alluded to this point and has indicated that there is a need to address the problems of Africa. Surely we cannot see and continue to see the problems of Africa continuing to afflict these people from year to year while we do nothing. Secondly they are concerned about the statement that there have been shortages in the world cereal market and that this has affected the nutritional status of the poor. I believe that there is a need for Council to address this problem. Thirdly, we have noted that the global cereal supply/demand situation in 1996–97 is likely to remain tight and global food security is predicted to be precarious. Mr Chairman, we think that it will be necessary for the Secretariat to continue advising Member Nations to put in place policies and programmes and also ensure that programmes are implemented which will address food security in these countries, particularly in the Low-Income Food-Deficit Countries. Mr Chairman, if you can allow us, I want to give two areas which we think are very important in crop production and where we think that FAO should continue giving assistance. One, Mr Chairman, is with regard to soil and water conservation. There are various areas in the world where soil erosion is rampant and this leads to excessive soil wash, it leads to loss of mineral nutrients and to low yields. And as you know, Mr Chairman, it takes about one thousand years, one thousand years for just one inch of soil to be formed through natural processes. I repeat, one thousand years for just 2.54 centimetres of soil to be formed through natural processes. In other words, soil is a resource which cannot be renewed. So there is a need to address the problems of soil and water conservation.

Another area which I would like to emphasize is the idea of using organic manures. There is no need for us to continue using mineral fertilizers because of the problems which are known by everybody here. So here we are only giving two specific areas where we think maybe FAO could give assistance to Member Nations. Lastly, Mr Chairman, when talking about Stock to Use ratio the delegation of Australia has indicated that this yardstick or benchmark as accorded may not be realistic now. They have proposed that the ratio should be reviewed to suit the conditions and the dictates of today. We entirely agree with this proposal that FAO should look into this suggestion which has been put forward by the Australian delegation.

**LI ZHENG DONG (China) (Original language Chinese):** First of all, Sir, I would like to thank the Secretariat for having prepared an excellent document, the one now before us, CL 111/2. This document is very concise and enables us to understand the food and agricultural situation in the world.

Mr Chairman, the food and agricultural situation of the world is something before the eyes of all. Hunger and poverty continue to resist and to exist in numerous regions throughout the world and especially so in the African continent, but from the viewpoint of the number of the hungry and the famished the food and agricultural situation in Asia should not be overlooked or neglected. We always feel that hunger and poverty are two closely interrelated problems and this is the reason why, Sir, the solution thereto must take into consideration the fact of their being interconnected. Mr Chairman, we feel that the difficult food and agriculture situation today is so much different

from the one we experienced in the 1970s. We all know that hunger and malnutrition affect many parts of the world but at the same time, in addition to all that, you have the issue of overproduction and over-nutrition in parts of the world. This means, Sir, that the problem which we have to resolve is not only to increase the production of food in poor countries but also to address the problem of the distribution and marketing of foodstuffs. In order to resolve the food problem when a country has to count on its own efforts and promote the development of local production, we must not overlook assistance from the international community. In particular it is necessary to allocate a sufficient degree of importance to the considerable role played by foreign aid with a view to the development of the agriculture sector in developing countries.

Certainly emergency and humanitarian aid are indispensable, but this should not lead us to lose sight of the importance of development-oriented assistance because this is something which comes into the picture for long-lasting or sustainable development and progress. The world trade of foodstuffs also to a great extent influences the food and agriculture situation in the world. We feel that in the process of the liberalization of trade and foodstuffs, it would be necessary to take into consideration the concrete situation of developing countries, take into consideration their just demands and their interests and, I repeat, take into consideration what are their interests. To this end it is necessary to enable them to be in a position to support their own production systems with a view to their food security situation.

**José ROBLES AGUILAR (México):** Queremos agradecer a la Secretaría de la elaboración del informe presentado. El resumen es valioso porque en forma breve nos aporta elementos sobre la situación reciente y las perspectivas de la agricultura y la alimentación. Advertimos que la situación agrícola y alimentaria en el mundo se presenta aleatoria, así, mientras que en algunas áreas hay indicios de mejorías en otras se observan retrocesos. Sin embargo, el panorama en su conjunto justifica la necesidad de fortalecer las acciones internacionales para resolver de manera común los problemas que afectan a este sector clave. En este contexto, quisiéramos resaltar dos elementos contenidos en el informe.

En primer lugar, la escasez que observan los mercados de cereales. Este hecho tiene efecto directo en la disponibilidad de alimentos y, consecuentemente, en el estado nutricional de la población y plantea riesgos para los numerosos países en desarrollo importadores de estos granos. Durante la discusión, que en los pasados días se tuvo sobre el plan de acción de la Cumbre, se ha infatizado la necesidad de que los países proveedores de alimentos sean fuentes confiables y seguras. De igual forma, reviste importancia el nivel de reservas contemplados por la FAO. Estimamos que compete, tanto a los proveedores como a los consumidores, la responsabilidad de mantener estos niveles en rangos aceptables. Por lo que respecta al crecimiento de la producción agrícola, el documento ubica ésta en 1,2 por ciento en 1995, nivel actual insuficiente si se consideran los objetivos compartidos por todos nosotros en relación a un aumento cuantitativo y cualitativo de los alimentos. No obstante ello, el informe nos reporta también un elemento positivo, en el sentido de una expansión de la producción, previéndose, que el valor añadido de la agricultura, excederá el crecimiento demográfico en varios grupos de países en desarrollo.

El texto presenta asimismo, un escenario en que descienden los compromisos totales de asistencia externa a la agricultura y se reducen los envíos totales de asistencia alimentaria. Ello viene a ratificar la necesidad expresada por los países en desarrollo, de que en la próxima Cumbre se adopten compromisos sobre las acciones complementarias de cooperación internacional, en un marco, en el que, además, los organismos multi-laterales se ven actualmente presionados por diferentes circunstancias a reducir sus apoyos.

Una prioridad que conviene resaltar, para garantizar una mayor disponibilidad de alimentos, consiste en mantener las superficies de cultivo e incrementar los rendimientos, lo cual requiere una planificación adecuada, precios remuneradores y servicios de sanidad agropecuaria indispensables. En lo internacional, es importante que el comercio transcurra en condiciones justas, sin

distorsiones, un comercio nacional apropiado en los países. México hace esfuerzos por incrementar su producción nacional de alimentos, para lo cual ha diseñado un plan integral para el campo, en el que todos los actores de este sector, participan activamente, ello, en un marco en que las condiciones climatológicas han sido adversas en el último trienio. De igual manera, se realizan esfuerzos para mejorar la comercialización de sus productos agropecuarios y pesqueros, tanto en el plano nacional como en el internacional, buscando el equilibrio entre el beneficio de productores y consumidores.

**Abdel Rahman ABDELHAFIZ (Observer for Arab Organization for Agricultural Development)** (Original language Arabic): Mr Chairman, ladies and gentlemen, may the peace and the health of the Almighty be with you. For me it is an honour and a pleasure to take the floor on behalf of Dr. Yahia Bakour, Director-General of the Arab Organization for Agricultural Development (AOAD). It is an honour for me and a pleasure to extend to His Excellency Jacques Diouf, the Director-General of FAO, and to all of his senior staff members, our heartfelt thanks for having been so kind as to invite AOAD to attend the 111th Session of the FAO Council.

Ladies and Gentlemen, Mr Chairman, the Arab Organization for Agricultural Development is one of the specialized institutions belonging to the League of Arab States, which was created in 1970 in view of the heightened awareness of the importance of the agricultural sector for the economy of Arabic countries and to coordinate the efforts of the Arab countries in that area. The Organization, that I am pleased to represent today, selected the city of Khartoum for its headquarters and it has national offices in countries such as Algeria, Mauritania, Morocco, Libya, Egypt, Syria, Jordan, Iraq and Yemen.

This organization has never ceased to deploy efforts in order to attain the objectives indicated in the Protocol for its creation and which are the following: the promotion of natural and human resources in the area of agriculture; the improvement of their investments and the enhancement thereof; to raise the levels of yield and to ensure integration of the agricultural sector in the economies of all Arab countries; to reinforce, bolster and strengthen inter-Arab trade in the area of foodstuffs; to reinforce agricultural production with a view to attaining the objective of self-sufficiency; to promote and support agricultural projects and agro-allied projects to improve the level of income of those in this sector.

The Organization has its general assembly which is made up of all of the Ministries of Agriculture in the Arab countries. It has an executive its Executive Council, which has 7 members who are Ministers of Agriculture of their respective countries. In 1993, 25 years more or less after its creation, the organization took a break, as it were, to do some stocktaking on its past achievements, review its policies and look ahead to the future. In this sense it drew up a strategy for the 1990s. Moreover, the activities and the programmes of the organization can be summarized in six main activities: a programme for environmental research; a natural resource promotion programme for the improvement and promotion of human resources; a programme of scientific research into new front-edged technologies; a study programme into the evolution of the situation--the regional and international situation and its implications upon the Arab world; and a programme of cooperation with international and regional organizations.

The Arab Organization for Agricultural Development coordinates its activities with all of the international and regional organizations of a pertinent nature and this to the extent that it is involved in funding and takes part in seminars and activities which are organized by IFAD, FAO, the United Nations and other organizations. This bears witness to our direct and remarkably active activities. The General Assembly of the Arab Organization for Agricultural Development, at its 24th Session which was held in January 1996 in Tunis, decided to prepare a working document for the forthcoming World Food Summit scheduled to take place here in Rome in November 1996. This document was drawn up by the Organization in an effort to illustrate its views on food security for the entire Arab world, and it is a pleasure for me to indicate that our Organization has

also prepared a report on the state of food and agriculture in the Arab world. This document was submitted for consideration by the 23rd Regional Conference of Near East Countries held in Rabat, Morocco, in March 1996.

The AOAD annually publishes two documents: *The State of Food and Agriculture in the Arab World or Agriculture and Food Security in the Arab World* as well as *The Statistical Yearbook of Arab Agriculture*. These two documents deal with the evolution of production and yield of the major crops, especially oil seeds, cereals, sugar, animal production and fisheries, for all Arab countries. The Organization has been able to produce these documents in the form of diskettes, which makes it possible for them to be distributed and circulated.

Ladies and Gentlemen, Mr Chairman, in this brief overview of our situation, I have tried to give you an idea of what the Arab Organization for Agricultural Development actually does and to talk about its programmes and activities which pursue the promotion of the agricultural sector in the entire world, and in some African countries which are also party to the Arab world, including Burkina Faso, Mali, Chad and others. By way of conclusion, Mr Chairman, I trust and hope that your proceedings will be successful.

**H. de HAEN (Assistant Director-General, Economic and Social Department):** Mr Chairman, first of all let me thank you all, on behalf of the staff who prepared the document as well as the full report on the situation of food and agriculture, for your very complimentary comments. We have taken careful note of the information that you have provided. I heard only a few questions but many interesting comments, but to these few questions I will try to give some short replies.

Beginning with the issue of the minimum safe levels of stocks, we have noted various comments on them but also a concern that we may have to re-compute and re-estimate these minimum safe levels which in fact were established quite some time ago, but as you know, those who attended the CFS in one of its previous normal sessions, regular sessions, the Secretariat has a study underway on these minimum safe levels. In fact, we will report about further progress in this regard, firstly, at the next intergovernmental grain meeting which will be held, I think, in February 1997 and also at the next regular session of the CFS. I think this takes care of a number of comments with regard to the stocks.

We have noted with interest the debate that our chapter on the relationship between trade liberalization and price instability has initiated and we have taken due note of all the critical and complimentary comments on it, including the debate amongst yourselves about the impact of various types of export policies on price instability. We have taken note of the suggestion to continue monitoring the impact of developments on the market and trade reform on instability. I can assure you that the report about this expert consultation, from which we reported in the document, can be and will be published if you so wish. We will make efforts to make this report available as soon as possible, as suggested by the distinguished Delegate of Thailand in particular.

We noted the comment by the distinguished Delegate of the United States that we should, as I understood it, have a proper geographical balance in picking specific cases of country policy. Over the years, when you look at the SOFA, you will see that we have chosen different aspects which we considered important but, as your country contributes to almost exactly 50 percent of total cereal exports globally, it seemed to us of interest to choose the topic of your Farm Bill this year to highlight certain potential impacts on the world markets.

Distinguished Delegate of Bangladesh, you certainly correctly underlined that our wording that our forecast is based on the assumption of normal weather still needs to be checked. Since the report was printed we know more about the weather worldwide and the major cereal production regions. In fact, when you compare our report with the figures in the document and the ones I mentioned already, you will see that the percentage is now slightly lower, that the forecast production of global cereals will be above last year's production. The report speaks of 6 per cent and orally I

spoke of 5.2 per cent. So somewhere in the world, or some of the weathers in the world are slightly less than normal and than we predicted originally. To be precise, our current forecast for global cereal production this year would be 1.8 to 1 billion metric tons.

Regarding investment, still with reference to the comment of Bangladesh, the downward tendency to which we referred is not investment but, if I took it correctly, it's the official development assistance. The financial assistance given to developing countries was in fact--I do not have the figures here--but we have had in 1990 constant dollar terms a decline, over the last 5 or 8 years, from around US \$ 15 billion to nearly US \$ 10 billion going to the agriculture sector. Since you addressed investment, as you know, investments are covered in one of the technical documents for the Summit in which we only provide an estimate of current actual investment to agriculture, but we must admit that we do not have very good statistics and, in collaboration with all of you, we could do better in establishing a time series on investment. I reveal no secret when I say we still know even a bit more, I think, on investment in some developing countries and even in some developed countries. Altogether we can do better in having time series on investment, but the report for the Summit in fact compares our actual investment to the investment needed to attain the 2010 forecast of global agricultural production in developing countries and comes to the conclusion that it should be more; investment should be, as you know, gross investment should be about US \$ 30 billion higher, taking an annual average between now and the year 2010. That's about all we have said so far about investment.

Most of the other comments were just of a commentary nature. (continue en français)

Je remercie le délégué du Burkina Faso pour ses remarques sur l'Afrique. Je cite aussi les commentaires d'autres représentants un peu préoccupés parce que nous n'avons pas assez souligné la production et la tendance négative de la production dans quelques pays africains et que nous avons trop souligné les échanges, les marchés et les prix. J'admets que c'est vrai pour le document devant vous mais, comme vous le savez, de nombreux autres documents de la FAO traitent déjà des sujets sur la production et l'investissement dans l'agriculture africaine et sa problématique, et en particulier, les ressources naturelles comme l'a souligné le délégué de l'Ouganda. Comme vous le savez, le document sur l'investissement, préparé pour le Sommet mondial de l'alimentation, a un chapitre sur le problème du manque d'investissements en Afrique et le résultat en est que, pour atteindre le but pour l'An 2010, l'investissement agricole en Afrique devrait être augmenté plus que la moyenne des pays en voie de développement, c'est-à-dire 30 pour cent. C'est le résultat de ce calcul qui n'est pas très spécifique disons-le, mais qui souligne comme vous l'avez également fait les problèmes spécifiques de votre continent. (continues in English)

Concerning just a final remark, distinguished delegate of Malaysia, you proposed that the report about the situation of food and agriculture in future should have more details on policies and policy experience. We take note of that, although the full report contains quite a number of case studies. So please do not infer from what you have here in brief--and many of you complimented us for having been brief--do not confuse that with the much thicker full report which has a number of very specific case studies. In addition I recommend that you read, as soon you have it in all languages, the technical documents for the Summit, one of which has the title *Success stories for Food Security*. I hope that will give you more information on experience with policy than we have been able to present in this document.

I think, Mr Chairman, I have covered most of the comments and I thank you for your attention.

**EI PRESIDENTE:** Gracias, señor de Haen. No solamente ha contestado a las diversas preguntas que se le formularon y a los interesantes comentarios, sino además ha hecho un estupendo resumen en inglés y en francés de este debate que ustedes seguramente se unirán a mi en calificar como de una alta calidad. Le agradezco por ello y esto además me permite ahorrrarme y ahorrrarles a ustedes el resumen que de otra manera me atrevería hacer de los debates, porqué el doctor De

Haen lo ha hecho con gran destreza y no es necesario entonces que yo utilice mis notas para repetir lo que él ya ha formulado. Si no hubiera entonces otra delegación que deseara hacer uso de la palabra sobre el tema 4, lo cerraremos y pasaremos inmediatamente al tema 6.

6. **Reports of the 2nd Extraordinary Session of the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (CGRFA) (Rome, 22–27 April 1996), and of the 4th International Technical Conference on Plant Genetic Resources (ICPGR) (Leipzig, Germany, 17–23 June 1996)**
6. **Rapports de la deuxième session extraordinaire de la Commission des ressources génétiques pour l'alimentation et l'agriculture (Rome, 22–27 avril 1996) et de la quatrième Conférence technique internationale sur les ressources phytogénétiques (Leipzig (Allemagne), 17–23 juin 1996)**
6. **Informes de la segunda reunión extraordinaria de la Comisión de Recursos Genéticos para la Alimentación y la Agricultura (Roma, 22–27 de abril de 1996) y la Cuarta Conferencia Técnica Internacional sobre los Recursos Fitogenéticos (Leipzig, Alemania, 17–23 de junio de 1996)**

**El PRESIDENTE:** El tema 6, como ustedes saben, son los informes de la 2a reunión extraordinaria de la Comisión de Recursos Genéticos para la Alimentación y la Agricultura y la 4ª Conferencia Técnica Internacional sobre los Recursos Fitogenéticos, documentos CL 111/8 y CL 111/17. En ese tema el Consejo discutirá estos informes. Estas dos reuniones complementarias han permitido la finalización del primer informe sobre el estado que guardan los recursos fitogenéticos en el mundo y la adopción del primer plan mundial de acción y la continuación de las negociaciones para la revisión del compromiso internacional.

Como ustedes saben el proceso preparatorio de la conferencia técnica ha sido conducido por los países a través de sus informes nacionales, reuniones regionales y subregionales y la segunda reunión extraordinaria que sirvió como comité intergubernamental preparatorio. El éxito de la conferencia técnica ha sido debido al esfuerzo negociador y a la voluntad política de los países que han contado en todo momento con el apoyo decidido de la comunidad científica y la sociedad civil, así como con la dedicación y el trabajo de la secretaría de la FAO y muy en particular por el apoyo, la organización y la decidida voluntad del gobierno y el pueblo alemán para llevarla a cabo.

La preparación del primer informe sobre los recursos fitogenéticos y la adopción en Leipzig del Primer Plan Mundial de Acción, ha dotado al sistema mundial de la FAO sobre los recursos fitogenéticos de los instrumentos internacionales solicitados por la comisión con el fin de racionalizar su trabajo y facilitar sus funciones de supervisión y coordinación de actividades. Con respecto a la aplicación del Plan de Acción Mundial, la conferencia técnica acordó que éste se aplicará como parte integrante del sistema mundial en armonía con el convenio de biodiversidad, y que los gobiernos, a través de la comisión de recursos genéticos para la alimentación y la agricultura, supervisarán y orientarán los progresos realizados. Los países participantes también estuvieron de acuerdo en que tanto el informe sobre el estado de los recursos fitogenéticos en el mundo como el plan de acción mundial, serían examinados y revisados periódicamente por la comisión.

La Conferencia Técnica ha cumplido su misión, pero si no queremos que el Plan Mundial de Acción quede en papel mojado, ahora es preciso asegurar su puesta en práctica y su financiamiento por parte de los gobiernos y de organizaciones relevantes. Deseo invitar, por tanto, al Consejo para que endose el informe de la Conferencia Técnica incluyendo el Plan de Acción. El Consejo podría también invitar a la Conferencia de las Partes del Convenio de Diversidad Biológica a utilizar el Plan de Acción mundial para guiar sus prioridades y políticas relacionadas con la conservación y utilización de los recursos fitogenéticos de interés para la agricultura y la alimentación. La Comisión tendrá, como ustedes saben, que concentrarse en su próximas reuniones



en la otra labor, no menos importante y también derivada del programa 21 de la Cumbre de Río de Janeiro, es decir las negociaciones para la revisión del Compromiso Internacional Sobre Recursos Fitogenéticos, incluidas las condiciones de acceso al germoplasma y la realización de los derechos del agricultor. Es fundamental para el éxito de este proceso la participación de los países en vías de desarrollo, y esto se facilitaría grandemente mediante la aportación de fondos extrapresupuestarios. La rápida conclusión de estas negociaciones que fueron solicitadas en la resolución C 7/93 permitirán dotar al plan mundial de acción de un marco jurídico y de una base financiera sólida.

**Gerd MASSMANN (Germany):** My delegation feels very grateful to the Secretariat for the comprehensive documentation before us of the results of the Second Extraordinary Session of the Commission on Genetic Resources and of the International Technical Conference on Plant Genetic Resources last June in Leipzig.

My country was hosting this important FAO event. This was a great privilege but also a great challenge. German authorities involved have done their utmost to comply fully with the hosting function. This, I think, was a major contribution of my country to help advance worldwide efforts for the conservation and sustainable use of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture.

The Leipzig Conference must be seen in conjunction with ongoing developments and debates in other international fora, especially those related with the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity and with world food security. That is why the Leipzig Conference has found worldwide attention, respect and response.

The Conference had to address quite difficult issues. Therefore, by its successful conclusion, a good basis for the future development of activities of FAO in this field was laid. Speaking as a representative of the host country, I would like to thank the FAO Secretariat for the efficient and close cooperation in preparing and holding the Conference. Likewise, my country's thanks go to all participating countries whose delegates, with their active involvement and willingness to compromise, have contributed to this outcome.

The Second Extraordinary Session of the Commission on Genetic Resources faced the difficult task to overcome a number of controversial issues before the Leipzig Conference would meet. As you know, the International Technical Conference had to cope with some of them still open when it was inaugurated. These questions proved to be very complex and interwoven with different agenda items that had to be discussed separately. It would have been unrealistic to believe that the Commission was able to solve these major issues. However, its deliberations allowed for an exchange of views on the main issues.

Furthermore, the Commission had done a far-reaching first review of the Draft Global Plan of Action, thus setting the necessary scope and the basis for the discussion of these subjects by the Conference. My country was pleased by the decision of the FAO Secretariat to convene an additional working party meeting in Rome right before the Conference. Thanks to the good quality of the work done by the Secretariat and the countries involved, the review of the global plan of action could be finalized. Thereby, some major controversial issues could be identified and commissioned to the Conference for resolution.

The adoption of the first global plan of action for the conservation and sustainable use of plant genetic resources and of the Leipzig Declaration, has allowed to provide a sound basis and the expression of the clear political ability of Member countries for FAO's future work in this field to be continued and intensified in collaboration with other international agencies. Of course, it is the Member states that are called upon to take the necessary measures, based on the priorities agreed for the implementation of the global plan of action in the framework of their food and agriculture development needs. In this respect, Germany is reviewing its national programme on plant genetic

resources for food and agriculture, with a view to further strengthen and make it compatible with other programmes in the field of genetic resources for food and agriculture as part of our national strategy for the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity.

My country expects that the FAO Secretariat will likewise act swiftly to carry out the decisions contained in the Conference report. This includes, above all, the decisions for the implementation and financing of the global plan of action. Unfortunately, it proved impossible to finalize, in Leipzig, the Revision of the International Undertaking on Plant Genetic Resources as had been the hope of the 27th Session of the FAO Conference.

The accomplishment of the revision is a matter of great urgency in order to define the framework conditions for the future international cooperation which will have to be intensified. Only with a satisfactory conclusion of the Revision of the International Undertaking, the objectives of the Global Plan of Action can be attained and the measures foreseen be successfully carried out. My delegation expects the FAO Secretariat to carefully prepare the forthcoming round of negotiations, so that they can be continued without delay, as was agreed by the Commission on Genetic Resources at its Second Extraordinary Session and reiterated in the Leipzig Declaration.

Mr Chairman, distinguished delegates, I may inform you that my government has made arrangements for the Chairman of the Leipzig Conference, State Secretary Dr. Feiter, to present the results of Leipzig, the Global Plan of Action and the Leipzig Declaration, to the Third Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity early in November, in Buenos Aires, and to the World Food Summit in mid-November, in Rome.

My delegation expresses its hope that the Conference results and FAO's work in this field, will meet there with approval and further support. Close and fruitful cooperation should be developed with all relevant agencies, so that well coordinated measures and coherent activities will make the best efficient use of the financial resources available. Likewise, we do hope that FAO itself will reinforce its efforts in this sphere.

**EI PRESIDENTE:** Muchas gracias distinguido delegado de Alemania por esta importante declaración. Deseo reiterarle en nombre del Consejo el agradecimiento profundo a su gobierno y al pueblo alemán por facilitar la celebración de la Conferencia Técnica de Leipzig y por luchar por los resultados tan exitosos conseguidos. Yo estoy seguro que este Consejo sabrá dar las indicaciones necesarias para adoptar los resultados de dicha Conferencia, y para que éstos se traduzcan en una acción de la FAO, así como en una invitación a todas aquellas instituciones involucradas en el apoyo y financiamiento a los programas y proyectos que se deriven del Plan de Acción, así como al apoyo con fondos extrapresupuestarios para que se continúe con aquella labor que la Conferencia no concluyó y que la comisión está encargada de hacer lo que es la Revisión del Compromiso Internacional.

**Christophe KIEMTORE (Burkina Faso):** J'ai suivi avec attention l'intervention du délégué de l'Allemagne qui nous a expliqué l'importance des deux documents à l'examen et qui se réfèrent tous à la situation des ressources phytogénétiques pour l'alimentation et l'agriculture. Le Plan d'action mondial constitue pour ma délégation un pas important qui consacre des efforts mis en oeuvre au sein de la FAO et nous avons encore en mémoire le processus assez long, souvent difficile, qui devait aboutir un jour à cette Conférence technique internationale et nous nous félicitons pour le rapport de la quatrième Conférence technique qui a été adopté et sur lequel le Conseil devrait se déterminer.

Ma délégation pense que le Plan mondial de l'alimentation arrive à point nommé au moment où au sein de la FAO nous sommes en train de traiter des questions de l'alimentation et de la sécurité alimentaire d'une manière générale. Nous y voyons d'ailleurs un point commun car les ressources

phytogénétiques, leur exploitation, leur conservation et leur utilisation, ne font que concourir et assurer une production plus stable et plus maîtrisée; tout cela poursuit donc un même objectif.

Ma délégation, à ce stade, apprécie vivement le contenu du document et nous pensons que le Conseil pourra en exprimer les mêmes sentiments. Si c'était le cas, et nous pensons que nous devrions, nous pouvons, le cas échéant, formuler une résolution pour consacrer notre effort. Nous verrons, dans ces conditions, comment en formuler la résolution et comment négocier les différents paragraphes; toujours est-il que le principe de la résolution est vu, de la part de ma délégation, comme l'élément essentiel sur lequel le Conseil devrait se concentrer pour marquer le succès qu'il a remporté à cette étape des négociations sur les ressources phytogénétiques relatif à l'agriculture et à l'alimentation.

Je propose que nous prenions une résolution pour adopter le rapport.

**N. SHIBANI (Syria) (Original language Arabic):** The delegation of my country welcomes with satisfaction the success achieved in the area of plant genetic resources and appreciates the documents we have read and which incorporate all these subjects. We commend the very important paper on plant genetic resources to increase food production, especially when these resources are used in the appropriate fashion. Therefore we support the Leipzig Declaration and we support all efforts deployed for the implementation of this Global Plan of Action on plant genetic resources. Despite the importance we attach to this Plan of Action, I have some very brief comments to make, mainly highlighting some points such as education and training.

Plant genetic resources, Mr Chairman, exist everywhere in the world: resources are abundant in those countries that lack the appropriate know-how to use them appropriately. The Leipzig Conference has stressed the importance of making efforts, now that we approach the year 2000, to better use plant genetic resources to the benefit of all peoples and this requires the training of experts. This is why we should start working right away to draw up and implement programmes aimed at training experts and specialists in those countries that may require them. We therefore recommend, Mr Chairman, that this Session of the Council adopt a Resolution or a recommendation to the effect that FAO start executing training programmes for the people working in the area of plant genetic resources.

**El PRESIDENTE:** Muchas gracias distinguido delegado de Siria por esta confirmación de la intención y la importancia de poder, eventualmente, producir una resolución que instrumente los resultados de Leipzig.

**George APOSTOIU (Roumanie):** La délégation de la Roumanie apprécie l'important effort du Gouvernement de l'Allemagne et de la FAO pour la préparation de la Conférence technique internationale sur les ressources phytogénétiques de Leipzig.

La Déclaration de Leipzig et le Plan d'action mondial doivent créer un climat et les moyens pour instaurer une coopération fructueuse entre les agriculteurs et les chercheurs d'une part mais aussi entre les 110 pays parmi lesquels se trouve aussi le mien, qui a l'engagement international sur les ressources phytogénétiques. Pour ce qui est de l'implication financière du Plan d'action mondial, nous considérons que les engagements de fonds nouveaux et supplémentaires pris dans le cadre de l'Action 21 de la CNUED et de la Convention sur la diversité biologique devraient servir à financer l'exécution du Plan. De même, le rapport qui nous est soumis pour approbation sur les travaux de la session extraordinaire de la Commission des ressources génétiques pour l'alimentation et l'agriculture montre combien nos pays sont intéressés à la bonne gestion des ressources phytogénétiques pour l'alimentation et l'agriculture et, en particulier, à assurer la sécurité alimentaire des générations présentes et futures.

En examinant le rapport de la Commission tenue au mois de mars dernier (*document CL 111/8*), nous voudrions souligner que la Roumanie a adhéré à l'engagement international sur les ressources phytogénétiques ayant clairement comme objectif d'établir un système d'accès aux ressources génétiques et de concrétiser les droits des agriculteurs et des communautés rurales, de manière à garantir que nos pays et nos collectivités profitent de façon juste et équitable des bénéfices découlant de leur utilisation. Le problème du développement doit être conçu en liaison directe avec une bonne politique de conservation et d'utilisation des ressources phytogénétiques. Mais, pour beaucoup de pays, les moyens techniques et financiers sont évidemment une question difficilement abordable. Lorsqu'il s'agit de doter nos institutions nationales de moyens à la hauteur de cet objectif, nous sommes confrontés à beaucoup d'obstacles. Nombre d'Etats ont encore un chemin à parcourir pour conformer leurs possibilités et leur potentiel scientifique aux principes généralement affirmés et acceptés. C'est pourquoi nous voulons manifester notre satisfaction pour le fait que le rapport de la session extraordinaire contient dans le paragraphe 15 la conclusion de la Conférence technique internationale de Leipzig qui réaffirme, et je cite: «les fonds devraient être mis à disposition pour financer la mise en oeuvre par les pays en développement et les pays à l'économie de transition du Plan d'action mondial».

**José ROBLES AGUILAR (México):** Al apoyar los resultados de la Conferencia de Leipzig, queremos hacer eco del reconocimiento que usted hizo hace un momento al Gobierno alemán por haber hospedado este importante evento. Coincidimos como lo han señalado varias delegaciones, en el sentido que los acuerdos alcanzados en esta Conferencia no fueron fáciles, requirieron esfuerzo y voluntad política de todas las partes para alcanzar estos acuerdos. La Conferencia de Leipzig tiene un significado particularmente importante, a luz de que se celebra en el año en el que también tendrá lugar la próxima Cumbre Mundial de la Alimentación. La importancia que los recursos fitogenéticos cumplen en este sector, consideramos es fundamental. En este contexto, señor Presidente, queremos resaltar también la activa y creciente labor que la FAO está realizando en el campo de los recursos fitogenéticos. Los meses precedentes a la Conferencia de Leipzig y los próximos meses son muestra del gran dinamismo y de la gran actividad que ha desplegado la FAO en esta importante área en un contexto de creciente importancia de estos recursos. Queremos resaltar, como ya lo han señalado algunas delegaciones, la importancia del aspecto financiero que fue uno de los aspectos más difíciles sobre los que se alcanzó acuerdo en la Conferencia de Leipzig. En este marco, queremos también, señalar que en la reciente Conferencia Regional de la FAO para América Latina y el Caribe, celebrada en Julio, en Asunción, Paraguay, se solicitó a la Secretaría desarrollar actividades de seguimiento regional sobre la Conferencia de Leipzig.

Por último, señor Presidente, queremos hacer algunos comentarios sobre la actividad que mi país, México, realiza en este campo. Actualmente se desarrollan esfuerzos de coordinación interinstitucional y de carácter programático en materia de recursos fitogenéticos. La programación nacional, consideramos que ayudará a que cada país, en particular y en lo general, contribuyan a que la cooperación se fortalezca en este campo. Apoyamos ampliamente los informes presentados por la Secretaría para este tema y expresamos la importancia de alentar acciones nacionales que permitan concretizar los propósitos de Leipzig.

**Ahmad RUSLI JOHARIE (Malaysia):** On behalf of the Malaysian Delegation, I would like to congratulate FAO and Germany on their successful efforts in convening the Fourth International Technical Conference on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture in Leipzig from 17 to 23 June of this year. This Conference, we acknowledge, is a significant step in our efforts in the conservation and sustainable utilization of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture. However, there are some concerns that Malaysia would like to put forward for the consideration of the Council.

Malaysia regrets that the fragile consensus reached during the Technical Conference, as expressed in the Leipzig Declaration and the Global Plan of Action (GPA), has diminished the opportunity for the GPA to be a truly effective Plan of Action. In our opinion, some important matters such as

financing the implementation of the GPA, the operationalization of farmers' rights, technology transfer to assist the developing countries and access and benefit-sharing arrangements, have either not been covered or inadequately covered in the GPA. Such being the case, the GPA, in our view, is only a technical recommendation for the conservation and utilization of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture, rather than an action plan for immediate implementation, as it should be.

We would also like to express our deep concern over the lack of strong commitments to the GPA, in particular the weak reference to funding in the GPA and its complete absence in the Leipzig Declaration. This essentially leaves the GPA in a financial void, if no serious efforts are undertaken. The financial resources and the financial mechanism to implement the GPA have to be worked out immediately. In this regard, Malaysia would like to propose that the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture deal with this matter adequately during the Third Extraordinary Session of the Commission in December this year, besides discussing the equally important revision of the International Undertaking on Plant Genetic Resources.

Mr Chairman and distinguished Delegates, the Malaysian delegation is also concerned over the lack of progress in the operationalization of access and benefit-sharing in the field of agricultural biodiversity, especially access to collections that have been acquired but not in accordance with the Convention on Biological Diversity. This matter has to be resolved immediately in view of the substantial increase in the number of plant varieties protected under the patent of plant breeders' rights legislation. In many fora, Malaysia has often stated that increased and more effective conservation and utilization of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture could only be achieved by establishing a built-in mechanism in the global system that provides for fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from commercial utilization of plant genetic resources. This built-in mechanism would also minimise redundancies in the national and international collection of these resources and should result in increased international cooperation and exchange of germplasm. More importantly, it will remove the fear of developing countries that their ideas, knowledge systems or genetic materials will be patented or misappropriated without payment.

Lastly, Mr Chairman, we would like FAO to assist member countries in the development of viable and effective national policies and legislation in relation to the conservation and sustainable utilization of genetic resources.

**Aidan O'DRISCOLL (Ireland):** I have an extremely brief statement.

I would like simply to underline the importance of the outcome of the Fourth International Technical Conference on Plant Genetic Resources and, in particular, the commitments we have all undertaken to implement the Global Plan of Action. The main objective of the Plan must be to enhance world food security through the conservation and sustainable use of plant genetic resources, while promoting the fair and equitable sharing of benefits. We acknowledge that the Global Plan of Action must be implemented as an integral part of the FAO Global System for the Conservation and Utilization of Plant Genetic Resources and in harmony with the Convention on Biological Diversity.

The Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture is the most appropriate body through which national governments can monitor the overall progress on the implementation of the Plan of Action. We and, I believe, our partners in the European Union, are ready and willing to actively participate in its work next December.

**YUAN HAIYING (China) (Original language Chinese):** Thank you, Mr Chairman. After the unswerving efforts of all delegates from all countries, the 4th International Technical Conference on Plant Genetic Resources adopted the Leipzig Declaration and Plan of Action. We would like to take this opportunity to thank once again the FAO Secretariat and the host nation, Germany, for their great efforts.

The Chinese Delegation believes that the two documents, particularly the Global Plan of Action, will help all countries to strengthen their efforts in the protection and utilization of plant genetic resources, is conducive to international cooperation among all countries and will promote food security in the world.

The Leipzig Declaration and the Global Plan of Action have both been included in the report of the 4th International Technical Conference and, as all other countries, we recommend that Council approve the Report of the above-mentioned two Conferences. China will earnestly implement this Global Action Plan. At the same time, we take this opportunity to appeal to the international community once again to increase their financial and technical support in order to protect and utilize plant genetic resources, to translate the agreement on paper in Leipzig into actions in our endeavours to protect and utilize plant genetic resources, and to the protection and utilization of plant genetic resources so as to contribute to the development of food and agriculture in the world.

**Pedro PINTO DA SILVA (Portugal):** Distinguished Delegates, the Portuguese Delegation recognizes the importance of the Global Plan of Action within the Global FAO System for the Conservation and Sustainable Utilization of Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture for the conservation and sustainable utilization of these resources as essential for food and agriculture, in particular, for the food security of present and future generations, and wishes to express its commitment to take the necessary steps to implement the Global Plan of Action (GPA) in accordance with its national capacity.

By establishing long-term national coordination structures, we wish to strengthen the integration of institutional and community efforts, namely by the Government, the farmers, the breeders, the public research institutions, the private sector and the non-governmental institutions, in order to better cope with our obligations of conservation and sustainable use of plant genetic resources and, in addition, to cope with our obligations to the global effort through regional and international cooperative action. We recognize the need for an adequate follow-up of the GPA with future refinements, including other sub-sets of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture and the correct allocation of the existing resources to a detailed portfolio of projects to implement the Plan.

Finally, the Portuguese Delegation urges the CGRFA to finalize an agreed text with IU as an invaluable document for the full implementation of the GPA.

In addition, the Portuguese Delegation sees this truly wonderful effort on plant genetic resources and respect for biodiversity in a larger context of a global effort that endeavours to respect and protect the heritage of cultural diversity of all peoples.

**Cengiz AYSUN (Turkey):** Mr Chairman, I take the floor to present the Turkish views on the report of the Second Extraordinary Session of the Commission on Genetic Resources.

The views of Turkey on the matters and articles to be pronounced during the Global Plan of Action were expressed and finalized during the Second Extraordinary Session of the Commission on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture and the Fourth International Technical Conference on Plant Genetic Resources, in Leipzig, Germany, 17 June 1996. Therefore, for our part, we are in agreement with the articles set out in that Plan, except for, first of all, that Turkey is not willing to establish the safe duplication of its own plant genetic resource material in any other country. Safe duplications are being set up by an institute in Turkey.

Turkey is not willing to regenerate its own plant genetic resource material outside the country. Turkey is not willing to store plant genetic resource material voluntarily at regional and international levels. On the other hand, if the necessary financial support is made available, the country has the appropriate sub-structure to store other countries' material.

Turkey, having a sub-structure of international standard to store its own plant genetic resource materials, is against sending its material abroad to restore and/or duplicate it.

Now I come back to criticism of some articles of the Global Plan of Action from the Turkish point of view. The distribution of plant genetic resource material in Turkey is on a free exchange basis within the framework regarding agreements. Turkey is fully aware of conservation matters. Several applications arising from external conservation conditions, gene banks, tissue culture, etc., are performed properly. However, high technology conservation means such as DNA are lacking. For requirements such as technology transfer, training and financial support would appear to be a necessity. Besides external conservation, Turkey has also initiated institutional activities.

Now I am going to present Turkish points on the reports of the Fourth International Technical Conference on Plant Genetic Resources held in Leipzig.

The views of Turkey on the matters and articles to be pronounced in Leipzig Declaration were expressed and finalized during the Second Extraordinary Session of the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture and the 4th International Technical Conference on Plant Genetic Resources, held in Leipzig, Germany, on 17 June 1996. Therefore, for our part, we are in full agreement with the articles set out in the Declaration. Matters relating to the collection, conservation and utilization of the plant genetic resources of Turkey can be summarized as follows.

The storage facilities and conditions in gene banks within each agricultural research institute are suitable to conserve plant genetic resource materials for short-, medium- and long-term storage, in accordance with international standards.

Replication and regeneration of the material with insufficient seeds, following the results of periodical emergence and tests carried out on collections stored in the gene bank, in accordance with international standards, are performed regularly under their original and/or similar biological conditions.

Characterization, evaluation and utilization activities on the material carried out on various crops have just started and have been completed on others.

I think, I must summarize the last point as agreements on developments, which could benefit and be shared by the Turkish farmers and Government on breeder and patent rights pertinent to cultures developed or being developed through plant genetic resources originating from Turkey, should be implemented.

**E. Wayne DENNEY (United States of America):** The United States participated fully in both the Commission's Extraordinary Session in April and in the June International Technical Conference in Leipzig. We have a few comments on both meetings.

While the Commission served primarily as a negotiation session for Leipzig, it did address other matters that merit Council attention. The Commission offered numerous suggestions regarding future reports on the state of the world's plant genetic resources. Many of these are noted in paragraph 10 of that report. We believe that the Commission should provide more specific guidance to the Secretariat before the next State of the World's Plant Genetic Resources report is prepared. While there has been considerable attention paid to the Global Plan of Action, and at least some attention devoted to the State of the World Report, the vast amount of information contained in the 158 country reports have been virtually ignored by Member Governments. We know that the Secretariat relied heavily on these reports in preparing the two global documents for Leipzig but Member Governments have not had the same privilege; thus, we recommend that the

Secretariat explore ways of providing these country reports to Member Nations, preferably in computerized form. The United States is willing to assist the Secretariat in this effort.

The Commission also briefly addressed the on-going process of revising the international undertaking in harmony with the Convention on Biological Diversity. The United States recognizes the value of the discussions that have already taken place in this regard, as reflected in the third negotiating draft, but we believe that having the working group prepare a simplified draft, which addresses scope, availability and the concept of farmers' rights, would help narrow the focus for subsequent Commission negotiations.

Turning to the Technical Conference in Leipzig, we believe that its results represent a milestone achievement. As the Director-General noted, it was a unique and historic event for the international community and a major turning point in international efforts for the conservation and utilization of plant genetic resources.

Mr Chairman, these are precisely our sentiments. The Conference may not have answered all the questions, nor accomplished enough to satisfy everyone, but it fully achieved what the project set out to do. As a strong supporter of this total effort, the United States believes that endorsement of the Leipzig Declaration and adoption of the Global Plan of Action for Conservation and Sustainable Utilization is something the Secretariat and FAO members can be justifiably proud. We want to again acknowledge the fine work of Dr Cary Fowler and his excellent staff for orchestrating this effort, and the German Government for hosting the event. We are pleased to hear that the outcome of the Leipzig Conference will be communicated to both the Third Conference to the Parties on the Convention on Biological Diversity in Buenos Aires and, of course, to the World Food Summit. However, we are not sure that a Council Resolution on this subject is necessary.

From the 158 country reports, the 12 sub-regional reports and regional meetings, the comprehensive assessment contained in the global State of the World's Plant Genetic Resources report, we know the strengths and the deficiencies that exist in managing plant genetic resources in every region and virtually every country of the world and the mini-recommendations for corrective action. The Global Plan of Action, while not providing specific project proposals, gives us a good umbrella framework from which to proceed. The development of such a strategic document would not have been possible without the well-planned, scientifically-based, country-driven approach that we embarked on together some three to four years ago.

The Global Plan of Action offers remedies dealing with *ex situ* and *in situ* conservation, sustainable utilization, institutional development and capacity building. In our view, no one area is more important than another; it depends on the specific needs of a country or a region. While the Global Plan of Action does not provide a detailed finance and implementation plan, it does note the wide range of existing funding mechanisms that provide resources to endeavours relating to plant genetic resources. We look forward to seeing the refined cost estimates that the Secretariat will make available to the Commission's working group prior to its December session. Future Commission sessions will have to make recommendations on how the Global Plan of Action will be financed and implemented, but Commission members must have a better insight into the range of current activities and their associated costs.

The Leipzig Conference brought together 150 countries and numerous international and nongovernmental organizations to debate actions necessary to stem the loss of plant genetic diversity essential for food and agriculture and, in particular, world food security. In his address to the Conference, Director-General Diouf made a strong plea to more fully utilize plant genetic resources to raise the yields of major food crops, which would enhance our likelihood of feeding three billion more people by the year 2025. We agree with the Director-General: with limited ability to expand land area and a decreased reliance on chemical fertilizers, utilizing our plant and



animal genetic resources will be the prime mover behind future productivity gains. It is important, in our view, that the Council highlight this point and, more importantly, that this message be communicated to the World Food Summit.

Finally, Mr Chairman, FAO, in collaboration with other institutions, will have to devote more of its resources to the many actions which are required to follow up to Leipzig and to fully support the Commission in its future work. Within FAO, the Plant Production and Protection Division, which includes some staff from the Secretariat that managed the Technical Conference, should be the focal point of the essential work that must be done. We trust that the Director-General will take this into consideration as he begins to formulate the Organization's next Programme of Work and Budget.

**Marco António DINIZ BRANDAO (Brazil):** First of all, we would like to congratulate FAO for the important achievements of the Leipzig Conference. In particular, I would like to make special reference to the efforts undertaken by the FAO staff, especially by Mr Cary Fowler and Dr Zehni and their staff, wisely guided by Dr Sawadogo. We would also like to thank the Government of Germany and the people of Leipzig for the reception they gave us and the arrangements provided for the Conference.

Mr Chairman, bearing in mind the high level and the high quality of the Delegations present in Leipzig, we understand that the outcomes of Leipzig are not to be discussed but rather to be supported by this Council. We are very happy to support the results of Leipzig in its entirety: the Report, the Leipzig Declaration and the Plan of Action. We think it is important that the Council recognizes the importance of the Leipzig Conference, in particular how the results of Leipzig will advance the cause of the conservation and sustainable use of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture. We also believe, Mr Chairman, that the Council should adopt the outcomes of Leipzig and transmit them to the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture for appropriate action.

We think it is now incumbent on the Commission to continue the processes started in Leipzig, to further develop the subject and to consider any outstanding issues. In particular, special attention should be given to the follow-up process regarding the implementation and financing of the Global Plan of Action.

In general, we would prefer to avoid substantive debate on the matter in the Council but, for the record, I would like to point out that our views in some cases are similar to those expressed by Malaysia and that we reserve our position on some statements made by other Delegates in this matter.

**Alan AMEY (Canada):** Please allow our delegation to express its pleasure with the results of the Leipzig Conference on Plant Genetic Resources. FAO, in cooperation with Germany, is to be congratulated for convening and organizing this very successful meeting.

Since countries have adopted the Leipzig Declaration and Global Plan of Action on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture at the Leipzig Conference itself, there appears to be no need for Council to readopt or reapprove them as we, like other countries, have said we do not wish to reopen discussions on the consensus gained. There have been suggestions on resolutions, there have been suggestions on agenda for the December meeting, but Canada feels strongly that this is not the place to redebate the agreements reached. Like the USA, we feel this is not the place for a resolution at this stage.

We take note that the FAO Conference, the World Food Summit and the Conference of Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, amongst others, will be informed of these positive results and that follow-up activities will be carried out by the FAO Commission on Genetic Resources for

Food and Agriculture. I support Ireland in the view that this Commission for Genetic Resources should be a forum for a substantive debate on these items. The Commission on Genetic Resources also has before it the important task of successfully completing the revision of the International Undertaking on Plant Genetic Resources in harmony with the Convention on Biological Diversity. In acknowledging the progress made in previous negotiating sessions, our Delegation supports the Commission's recommendation and the US observation that the Commission consider a simplified draft text at its next session in December. In order to provide better focus, in addition to the FAO Secretariat's work in responding to the Leipzig Conference's request to refine cost estimates for implementing the Global Plan of Action, sources of financing should be identified as these will be useful contributions to these discussions on financing the global system as a whole.

**Fernando GERBASI (Venezuela):** Yo quisiera al igual que otros oradores, en primer lugar, felicitar a la Secretaría de la FAO por los éxitos alcanzados con respecto a la Cuarta Conferencia Técnica Internacional sobre los Recursos Fitogenéticos. Pero quisiera también agradecer, de manera muy particular, al Gobierno Alemán, por su hospitalidad y por el apoyo, la capacidad de compromiso y la voluntad política que desplegó en la persona del Subsecretario de Agricultura el Dr. Franz-Josef Feiter, que presidió nuestros trabajos y, que sin lugar a dudas, fue un elemento esencial en la búsqueda del consenso.

Ciertamente, fue una Conferencia difícil, donde iniciamos con posturas muy divergentes, pero la buena voluntad de todas las partes permitió, señor Presidente, aprobar por consenso el Plan de Acción Mundial para la Conservación y Utilización Sostenible a los Recursos Fitogenéticos para la Agricultura y la Alimentación y, determinar también, las actividades prioritarias a desarrollar en este plan, las cuales mi país hace completamente suyas. Nosotros sí consideramos importante que el Consejo adopte el informe de la Conferencia; es tradicional y es normal que el Consejo lo haga y, por eso apoyamos esa postura, y pensamos señor Presidente que es, esencial de que el Plan de Acción, sea un instrumento, parte integral del sistema global de la FAO, en armonía con el Convenio sobre Diversidad Biológica y, que su seguimiento sea llevado a cabo por la Comisión de Recursos Genéticos tal como fue planteado. Igualmente, corresponderá a la Comisión de Recursos Genéticos, señor Presidente, revisar el Informe Sobre el Estado de los Recursos Fitogenéticos en el Mundo e, irlo adaptando a las nuevas informaciones que se puedan ir recabando.

Señor Presidente, sobre los otros aspectos de la Conferencia, sobre todo los financiamientos, no quisiera pronunciarme en estos momentos, creo que son cuestiones que tendrán su oportunidad de debate, pero, ciertamente la única manera de incrementar el plan, es poniendo en ejecución las recomendaciones que sobre esta materia se hicieran en la propia Conferencia. Ahora el próximo mes de diciembre tenemos la tercera Reunión Extraordinaria de la Comisión de Recursos Genéticos y considera mi delegación, que es esencial y fundamental, que aprovechemos este momento positivo que estamos viviendo en materia de recursos fitogenéticos para que continuemos en una forma intensa y dedicada en la Renegociación del Compromiso Internacional.

Señor Presidente, mi delegación sí considera que estos elementos y otros pueden ser parte de una Resolución que el Consejo adopte y, que se pronuncie sobre ella, en la cual endose el Plan de Acción, por lo tanto no reabro un debate sobre su contenido sino al contrario hace suyo ese contenido y, consideramos que ésto sería el reconocimiento mayor que se le podría hacer al éxito de la Cuarta Conferencia Técnica Internacional.

**EI PRESIDENTE:** Efectivamente, como usted lo ha mencionado, que este tema es para debate y decisión. El Consejo debe decidir si endosa y acoge el informe, los informes, tanto de la Comisión como de la Conferencia Internacional Técnica. Les recuerdo que la Conferencia Internacional Técnica no tiene un mandato sobre la FAO y sobre sus órganos rectores. Estos, deben autónomamente, decidir si acogen, si endosan el informe allí producido, para dar instrucciones, entonces, a la Organización para llevar a cabo los programas, las actividades, las adecuaciones administrativas que respondan a la implantación del Plan Global dentro de los trabajos de esta

Organización. Esto es una necesidad. O decidimos endosarlo o decidimos rechazarlo. Pero el Consejo tiene que tomar una postura al respecto.

**Christophe KIEMTORE (Burkina Faso):** Je voudrais revenir sur ce que vous venez de dire. La plupart des délégations ont fait leurs appréciations sur ce document, mais ma délégation a noté un point important qui est le fait que les travaux de négociation aient été très difficiles et il faut éviter de revenir sur des discussions déjà négociées. Ma délégation est tout à fait d'accord avec cette façon de voir les choses. C'est pourquoi nous pensons, et nous l'avons dit au début, que le Conseil devrait entériner ces décisions sous forme de résolutions, et nous avons aussi demandé que, pour que cela puisse se faire, nous revenions sur ce point demain.

Le Secrétariat ou un petit groupe pourrait essayer de tenir compte de ces éléments importants, mentionnés par certaines délégations, et voir comment le Conseil pourrait entériner le rapport de la Conférence sans réouvrir les débats, ce qui serait une base concrète des discussions, et les délégations pourraient peut-être s'entendre plus facilement. Je vous demande donc, qu'avant de revenir sur ce point, une proposition concrète soit faite tenant compte des craintes et contraintes exprimées par certaines délégations qui demandent que les débats ne soient plus réouverts sur les questions importantes.

**EI PRESIDENTE:** Muchas gracias distinguido delegado de Burkina Faso por su propuesta; creo que es muy sensata. Usted tiene razón, el Consejo no se está proponiendo, y yo no lo permitiría eventualmente, reabrir un debate sobre los temas que han sido discutidos y que de manera tan delicada, permitieron llegar a un consenso, sobre todos los tres aspectos resultantes de la Conferencia Internacional Técnica sobre Recursos Fitogenéticos. Pero sí, el Consejo debe, quizás, felicitar a esos resultados y darle una relevancia al hecho de que ese esfuerzo se va a traducir en una acción definitiva y clara en esta Organización.

Yo creo con usted, y me permito, en este caso sí ser parcial, que el Consejo debe darle cierta relevancia a los resultados de una Conferencia tan importante y tan exitosa como ésta, particularmente, por lo que implicó en términos de negociaciones. Si ustedes proponen un instrumento como una resolución, yo lo distribuiría y el Consejo eventualmente determinaría si ésa es la forma, en que quiere apreciar y endosar los resultados de la conferencia técnica y de los trabajos de la comisión. Por lo pronto, este asunto vamos a posponerlo hasta el día de mañana, cuando quizás algún grupo de países estén en posición de presentar una propuesta que luego revisáramos. No creo que debemos precipitarnos respecto de si es la forma final o no, para endosar estos temas, pero creo que sí, es una propuesta importante que el Consejo debe tomar en consideración.

Distinguidos delegados, en virtud de que algunos de los Miembros del Consejo que me habían pedido hacer uso de la palabra no se encuentran ahora en la sala y que otros más solicitaron hacerlo el día de mañana, voy a suspender esta tarde nuestra sesión; veo que ha pedido hacer uso de la palabra el distinguido delegado del Reino Unido.

**David SANDS SMITH (United Kingdom):** I note that certain delegations are proposing to put forward a draft Resolution. Might I ask that we all have plenty of time to look at it. As far as my delegation is concerned, we do not have the relevant expertise here and it would mean that we would have to telephone London and consult before we could take a position.

**EI PRESIDENTE:** Por lo que he escuchado, de quienes intentan producir un instrumento de este tipo, éste no tocaría los temas fundamentales en cuestión, simplemente, acogería los resultados de la Cuarta Conferencia Técnica Internacional. Pero en fin, veamos lo que nos proponen y, espero que el día de mañana les podamos a ustedes distribuir, en algún momento, este proyecto que eventualmente será discutido al adoptar el informe del Consejo, de manera que tendrán ustedes tiempo suficiente para estudiarlo aquí en el Comité de Redacción y luego al adoptar nuestro informe.

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**The meeting rose at 17.30 hours**

**La séance est levée à 17 h 30**

**Se levanta la sesión a las 17.30 horas**

2 October 1996



منظمة الأغذية  
والزراعة  
للأمم المتحدة

联合国  
粮食及  
农业组织

Food  
and  
Agriculture  
Organization  
of  
the  
United  
Nations

Organisation  
des  
Nations  
Unies  
pour  
l'alimentation  
et  
l'agriculture

Organización  
de las  
Naciones  
Unidas  
para la  
Agricultura  
y la  
Alimentación

Council

Conseil

Consejo

Hundred and Eleventh Session • Cent onzième session • 111° Período de Sesiones

THIRD PLENARY MEETING  
TROISIEME SEANCE PLENIERE  
TERCERA SESION PLENARIA

2 October 1996

The Third Plenary Meeting was opened at 10.00 hours

Mr. José Ramón López Portillo,

Independent Chairman of the Council, presiding

La troisième séance plénière est ouverte à 10 h 00  
sous la présidence de M. José Ramón López Portillo,  
Président indépendant du Conseil

Se abre la tercera sesión plenaria a las 10.00 horas  
bajo la presidencia del Sr. José Ramón López Portillo,  
Presidente Independiente del Consejo

- II. WORLD FOOD AND AGRICULTURE SITUATION (continued)**
- II. SITUATION MONDIALE DE L'ALIMENTATION ET DE L'AGRICULTURE (suite)**
- II. SITUACION MUNDIAL DE LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION (continuación)**
- 6. Reports of the 2nd Extraordinary session of the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (CGRFA) (Rome, 22–27 April 1996), and of the 4th International Technical Conference on Plant Genetic Resources (ICPGR) (Leipzig, Germany, 17–23 June 1996) (continued)**
- 6. Rapports de la deuxième session extraordinaire de la Commission des ressources génétiques pour l'alimentation et l'agriculture (Rome, 22–27 avril 1996) et de la quatrième Conférence technique internationale sur les ressources phylogénétiques (Leipzig (Allemagne), 17–23 juin 1996) (suite)**
- 6. Informes de la segunda reunión extraordinaria de la Comisión de Recursos Genéticos para la Alimentación y la Agricultura (Roma, 22–27 de abril de 1996) y la Cuarta Conferencia Técnica Internacional sobre los Recursos Fitogenéticos (Leipzig, Alemania, 17–23 de junio de 1996) (continuación)**

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Distinguidos delegados, queda abierta la tercera sesión plenaria de los trabajos del Consejo. Deseo recordarles que en los últimos años la preocupación de la gran mayoría de ustedes por lograr eficiencias y ahorros en la Organización llevó, entre otras cosas, a subrayar un punto que era tratar de ser puntuales en el inicio y en el fin de las sesiones para evitar desperdiciar tiempo de interpretación. Desde luego, quienes están presentes, no deberían sentirse culpables de esta observación del Presidente Independiente del Consejo, pero creo que en futuras ocasiones, debemos ser consecuentes con nuestros propios principios y peticiones. Espero que el Consejo pueda continuar trabajando con toda puntualidad.

Distinguidos delegados, deseo hacerles una observación respecto del Calendario y la Orden del Día para hoy. Como habrán notado, se ha incluido en la Orden del Día para hoy el Tema 17, moviéndolo así de lugar y pasándolo inmediatamente después del Tema 11. La razón de este movimiento obedece a que el presidente del CCLM nos indicó su indisponibilidad para estar presente en el día jueves. Por eso es que hemos movido este tema para esta tarde. Yo creo, sin embargo, que el punto no merecerá mayores debates y discusiones de parte de ustedes y por tanto podremos resolverlo rápidamente. Si terminamos con el Tema 17 hoy en la tarde, continuaremos de inmediato con el tema 12.

Como saben ustedes, el día de ayer estábamos por concluir el Tema 6. Se había anunciado por algunas delegaciones que se iba a presentar un proyecto de resolución y seguramente aquellas delegaciones están todavía discutiéndolo. En el momento en que me lo entreguen, lo distribuiré a todos ustedes en los varios idiomas.

**Franco GINOCCHIO (Italy):** The Italian delegation would like, first of all, to thank the FAO Secretariat for having organized in Leipzig, the Fourth International Technical Conference on Plant Genetic Resources, which has adopted a Declaration on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture and a Global Plan of Action.

The Government of Italy would like to confirm its support for the Declaration and the Global Plan of Action as it is aware of the importance of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture for achieving food security for present and future generations. The Leipzig Conference has represented a main forward step towards the strengthening of the FAO global system for the conservation and utilization of plant genetic resources which includes the Global Plan of Action and the International Undertaking on Plant Genetic Resources. This revision is under way in order to harmonize it with the Convention on Biodiversity.

Now we endorse the report of the Fourth International Technical Conference, with the awareness that FAO and its Member Nations, will have to make further efforts for the implementation of the Global Plan of Action. In regard to this, we wish to underline the importance of the recommendations contained in paragraphs 20 and 27 of the report, in relation to the need to submit the outcome of the Conference to the main international forums and institutions, including the financial institutions, and to the need to utilize the funds contributed in the framework of Agenda 21 of UNCED in order to finance the follow-up actions of developing countries and countries in transition. Therefore, the outcome of the Leipzig Conference will have to be submitted to the Conference of the Parties of the Convention on Biodiversity and to the World Food Summit.

Italy, also attaches great importance to the Revision of the Undertaking on Plant Genetic Resources and hopes that at the Third Extraordinary Session of the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, further progress will be made with regard to the process of negotiations, particularly in relation to the farmers' rights and access to genetic resources.

Finally, on behalf of the Italian delegation, I would like to thank the government of Germany for hosting the above-mentioned conference.

**Srta. María Cristina FERRARI (Argentina):** Queremos agradecer igualmente a la Secretaría, al doctor A. Sawadogo, al doctor M.S. Zehni y al señor M.C. Fowler, los esfuerzos desplegados para la realización de la Cuarta Conferencia Técnica Internacional sobre Recursos Fitogenéticos en Leipzig. Argentina participó activamente en los debates de Leipzig, atento la importancia que nuestro país le reconoce a los recursos fitogenéticos para la alimentación y la agricultura. Si bien hubo logros importantes en Leipzig, no creemos necesario una resolución del Consejo para aprobar sus resultados como lo proponen actualmente algunas delegaciones. Argentina entiende que las tareas de seguimiento para la aplicación del Plan de Acción y todas las demás actividades conexas deberán ser debatidas en el seno de la Comisión de Recursos Genéticos. No creemos que sea el Consejo la instancia adecuada para pronunciarse sobre estos particulares. Nos complace saber, que el Gobierno de la República Federal de Alemania, al que expresamos nuestra gratitud por el apoyo y la acogida brindada a la Cuarta Conferencia Técnica Internacional, ya haya dispuesto todo lo necesario para que el señor Francio Cefaita presente a la Cumbre Mundial de la Alimentación y a la tercera Conferencia de las Partes en Buenos Aires el Plan de Acción de Leipzig.

Como es de conocimiento, la República Argentina concede gran importancia a la reunión de noviembre de la Conferencia de las Partes que tendrá lugar en Buenos Aires y donde se debatirán temas importantes relativos a la agrobiodiversidad, derechos del agricultor, acceso y distribución justa y equitativa de los beneficios. Sin duda, los resultados de esa reunión servirán de importante aporte a la tercera reunión extraordinaria de la Comisión que se reunirá en diciembre en Roma.

Queremos finalmente, agradecer a los donantes sus esfuerzos financieros que posibilitaron el desplazamiento a Leipzig de los delegados de países en desarrollo.

**EL PRESIDENTE:** El delegado de Tanzania nos ruega insertar su discurso en las Actas de Verbatim para ahorrar tiempo. Muchas gracias señor delegado de Tanzania.

**Fernando GERBASI (Venezuela):** Muchas gracias señor Presidente. Yo no sé si es oportuno. El día de ayer anunciamos que teníamos la intención de introducir un proyecto de resolución relativo a los resultados de la Cuarta Conferencia Técnica Internacional sobre Recursos Fitogenéticos y la acción que se debería seguir aquí dentro de la FAO. Si fuera el momento, para mi sería sumamente grato introducir este proyecto de resolución.

Yo introduzco este proyecto de resolución en nombre de Burkina Faso y de Venezuela. Este proyecto de resolución, señor Presidente como he señalado, simplemente se refiere a la Cuarta Conferencia Técnica Internacional sobre Recursos Fitogenéticos y a sus conclusiones. Es un

proyecto de resolución compuesto de siete párrafos “considerando” y ocho “resolutivo”. Me voy a permitir señalar, en forma sucinta, el contenido de los principales párrafos y posteriormente, solicitaré a la Secretaría que lo reproduzca, lo traduzca a los otros idiomas y lo haga circular, con el fin de poder hacer las consultas del caso y con la esperanza de que sea adoptado por el Consejo.

Nosotros en primer lugar acogemos con satisfacción los resultados y la aprobación por parte de 150 gobiernos y 54 organizaciones, de la Cuarta Conferencia y la Declaración de Leipzig y del Plan de Acción Mundial para la conservación y utilización de los recursos fitogenéticos para la alimentación y la agricultura. En segundo lugar, señor Presidente, se acoge con satisfacción la decisión II, 15, de la Segunda Reunión de la Conferencia de las Partes del Convenio de Diversidad Biológica, Sistema Mundial de la FAO sobre la Conservación y Utilización de los Recursos Genéticos para la Agricultura y la Alimentación, que apoya específicamente el proceso iniciado en el seno de la Comisión de los Recursos Genéticos para la Agricultura y la Alimentación, mediante la convocatoria de la Cuarta Conferencia Técnica Internacional sobre Recursos Fitogenéticos y la aplicación de la Resolución 7/93 de la Conferencia de la FAO sobre la Revisión del Compromiso Internacional. Consideramos que las prioridades para la acción señalada por los gobiernos, por medio del proceso participativo dirigido por los países de la Conferencia Técnica Internacional, deben impulsar ahora al apoyo internacional a las actividades nacionales para la aplicación del Plan de Acción Mundial. Consideramos también, señor Presidente, que el Consejo debe reconocer que el Plan de Acción Mundial para la Conservación y Utilización de los Recursos Fitogenéticos, es un elemento importante en el proceso hacia la seguridad alimentaria mundial, y este hecho, debe contribuir de manera esencial a alcanzar los objetivos de la Cumbre Mundial de la Alimentación.

Tomamos nota de que la Conferencia Técnica Internacional recomendó que se publicara y actualizara periódicamente el primer informe sobre el estado de los recursos fitogenéticos en el mundo, basado en la información del sistema de información directa mundial en apoyo del Plan de Acción Mundial progresivo.

Tomamos nota igualmente que el reconocimiento por parte de la Conferencia Técnica Internacional del Plan de Acción Mundial era un elemento importante del sistema mundial sobre los recursos fitogenéticos para la alimentación y la agricultura y podía ser una contribución fundamental para facilitar la aplicación del Programa 21 y del Convenio sobre la Diversidad Biológica.

Finalmente, tomamos nota asimismo de que la Conferencia Técnica Internacional reconoció por una parte que: la plena aplicación del Plan de Acción Mundial supondría un aumento significativo de las actividades actualmente en curso, así como la importancia de la contribución de las fuentes internas con inclusión de los sectores, tanto público como privado, y por la otra: reafirmó que, en virtud de los compromisos relativos a los fondos nuevos y adicionales adquiridos en el marco del Programa 21 de la Conferencia de las Naciones Unidas sobre el Medio Ambiente y el Desarrollo y por las partes en el Convenio Sobre la Diversidad Biológica, se deberían proporcionar fondos para financiar la aplicación del Plan de Acción Mundial por parte de los países en desarrollo y los países con economía en transición y pidió a esta Conferencia que se invitara a las principales instituciones de financiación a examinar los mecanismos de apoyo a la aplicación del Plan.

Entonces, la resolución aprueba el Informe de la Cuarta Conferencia Técnica Internacional. En segundo lugar, endosa el Plan de Acción Mundial y la Declaración de Leipzig. En tercer lugar, ratifica el acuerdo alcanzado por los gobiernos en esta Cuarta Conferencia, en el sentido de que el Plan de Acción Mundial se aplique como parte integrante del sistema mundial de la FAO para la Conservación y Utilización de los Recursos Fitogenéticos y que esto se haga con la supervisión y orientación de la Comisión de Recursos Fitogenéticos para la Alimentación y la Agricultura. En cuarto lugar, invita a la Conferencia de las Partes en el Convenio Sobre la Diversidad Biológica, a que adopte en su Tercera Reunión las políticas y prioridades del Plan para sus próximas actividades en la esfera de los recursos fitogenéticos para la alimentación y la agricultura, con inclusión de los programas y proyectos que se han de financiar por medio del fondo para el medio ambiente



mundial, como mecanismo financiero provisional del Convenio. En quinto lugar, invitamos a las organizaciones internacionales de financiación, particularmente el Fondo para el Medio Ambiente, el programa del PNUD del Fondo Internacional de Desarrollo Agrícola, el Banco Mundial, el Fondo Común para los Productos Básicos, y los bancos regionales, a que adopten también las prioridades del Plan como orientación normativa en sus programas de financiación y préstamos y a que inviten a sus miembros a promover su aplicación y tomar parte en ella cuando proceda. En sexto lugar, invitamos a la FAO para que examine su capacidad de apoyo en la aplicación del Plan, la actualización periódica del informe sobre el estado de los recursos y el Plan de Acción Mundial progresivo, la supervisión en la aplicación del Plan y reorientar sus programas de trabajo y actividades en consecuencia. En séptimo lugar, se insta a los países que mantengan el impulso dado al Compromiso Internacional Sobre los Recursos Fitogenéticos para la Alimentación y la Agricultura, y completen su revisión en armonía con el Convenio Sobre la Diversidad Biológica en respuesta a la Resolución 7/93 de la Conferencia y que, establezcan un marco jurídico para la aplicación del Plan de Acción Mundial y una base financiera sólida. Finalmente, se insta a que la Comisión de Recursos Fitogenéticos para la Alimentación y la Agricultura en su Tercera Reunión Extraordinaria que tendrá lugar en diciembre de este año, se concentre en la Revisión del Compromiso Internacional y que se movilicen fondos en apoyo de la representación necesaria y adecuada de los países en desarrollo en estas negociaciones.

Señor Presidente, nosotros pensamos que es una Resolución importante y fundamental, cónsona con la acción que desarrollamos en la Cuarta Conferencia Internacional de Leipzig y con sus resultados; simplemente trasladamos las decisiones fundamentales de la Conferencia a una decisión del Consejo que es el órgano político de la institución y solicitaría por su intermedio, a la Secretaría, que por favor lo tradujera a los otros idiomas, lo circulara y creo entender, por lo que usted señaló ayer, que esta resolución-de adoptarse-se haría el último día, por lo que nos daría el tiempo suficiente para consultas del caso, y tanto la delegación de Burkina Faso como la nuestra están a disposición de las otras delegaciones para cualquier aclaración o conversación sobre esta materia.

**Raphael O.S. MOLLEL (Tanzania):** On behalf of the Tanzanian delegation to this 111th Council meeting, I would like to congratulate the FAO Secretariat, the various countries, institutions, NGOs, governments, host countries of sub-regional meetings, the Consultative Group Centres and in particular the International Plant Genetic Resources Institute for developing a sound proposal for the Global Action on Plant Genetic Resources.

Tanzania shares the responsibility in the outcome of the Leipzig document as it did participate in both the preparation of the country's plant genetic resources status and in the Leipzig Conference.

I would, however, want to reiterate what has been aired by other delegates on the need for fairness and recognition of intellectual property rights between developed and developing countries in the transfer of Plant Genetic Resources given the current disparities in the use of modern biotechnology that is more advanced in developed countries than developing countries.

In Tanzania implementation of the Global Plan of Action for the conservation of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture is being carried out through: our continuing *ex situ* planned and targeted collection of local and regional SADC plant genetic resources as part of the SADC regional programme of germplasm conservation; under the SADC Pilot Regional Programme that involves Tanzania and Zambia, Tanzania has just completed an *in situ* survey and inventorising of forage genetic resources and a report is under preparation; and *in situ* survey and inventorising of root crops is also planned with the collaboration of HTA and should be executed once funding has been obtained.

It should also be known that Tanzania has its National Plant Germplasm Conservation Centre and though my Government is continuing with its efforts to provide the Centre with the required

manpower and local facilities to enable it to operate. We request more donor support in terms of equipment and training of our manpower.

Finally, while current efforts are aimed at addressing Plant Genetic Resources, the Commission on Genetic Resources should consider instituting a similar process on Livestock Genetic Resources so as to adequately address the problems of hunger and malnutrition<sup>1</sup>.

**Mohamed Said Mohamed Ali HARBI (Observer for Sudan) (Original language Arabic):**

Mr. Chairman, I would like to most warmly thank the Secretariat for the efforts deployed since the April meeting held in Rome and all the way to the Leipzig meeting. A meeting, which was a great success, where the delegation of Sudan contributed with other members of the Near East delegation.

Plant genetic resources for food and agriculture involved plants, animals, forests, fish and all this, is also based on our potential. This is why we are so interested in improving plant genetic resources and genetic resources of all kind. This to improve quality and yield. Research in the area of plant genetic resources can indeed lead to the creation of specie for microbial and pest control and this could help us spare pesticides, considering the negative impact of pesticides on the environment.

Science and research will allow us to find serial species that can help combat the tremendous heat which exists in some of our countries. This is why we have used our best endeavour in our Research Centre in Medani, to find a strain of wheat which is resistant to heat and would grow wheat in all seasons and not only in winter, as is the case now.

By, changing the name of the Plant Genetic Resources Commission to Commission on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture it is including animal genetic resources, fisheries and aquatic resources. This will allow us to deal with all of the problems which may arise in these other areas of genetic resources.

Mr. Chairman, the threats to the crop sector in our country are such that we have a great interest for the activities of the commission. FAO has given us assistance in this area and we have had very clear presentations on these subjects. We also hope that animal genetic resources may be improved to increase meat production, dairy production and the production of hides and skins and wool. We are interested in improving, therefore, all genetic resources and we unreservedly support this sector.

We must not forget the ethical aspects involved in the selection of genetic resources, if the aim of genetic resource banks is to improve species. I hope that, in the future, we shall not feel the negative impact of the importation of foreign strains. This could be a two-edged sword. I hope that FAO will control the genetic resources conserved by these banks. FAO, a specialized UN Agency in food and agriculture, must see to it that there is appropriate conservation and distribution of this genetic material.

I hope that animal genetic resources will meet with the same interest as plant genetic resources since agriculture, on the whole, incorporates plant genetic resources and animal genetic resources. I am certain that the Agriculture Department of FAO will attach all of the necessary interests to this matter.

Finally, we pay tribute to the efforts made by the FAO Secretariat in Leipzig and we congratulate Germany for hosting this conference.

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

**Abdel Rahman ABDELHAFIZ (Observer for the Arab Organization for Agricultural Development) (Original language Arabic):** In the name of Good, the merciful, the compassionate, delegates, ladies and gentlemen. At the outset, I would like to thank you, Mr. Chairman, for giving the Arab Organization for Agricultural Development a chance to attend the discussions concerning this crucial point, Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture.

We attach great importance to plant genetic resources because we are convinced that this sector will help quantitatively and qualitatively improve agricultural production. Our Organization, in its programme of work for 1997–98, has established a specific programme for genetic resources. We are ready to collaborate with FAO in this sector to attain our common goal, which is to improve productivity and achieve food security, in particular, in the Arab world and the world in general.

**Riccardo MORANDINI (Observer for the International Union of Forestry Research Organizations):** I have the honour to represent here IUFRO. We know that the Leipzig Conference decided not to include forest genetic resources in the present plan of action and it is not our intention to reiterate here the debate we had on this point in this very room during the preparatory meeting. We wish only to underline the importance of forest gene resources for the general development of agriculture and, especially, of rural people who often depend upon forestry for their livelihood, in terms of both food and economic resources. Our organization, which includes almost all modern research institutions dealing with forest research around the world, is ready to collaborate in any way with FAO in developments for the general improvement of forest resources and plant resources in general.

**EL PRESIDENTE:** No creo que es el momento para discutir el contenido de la resolución; lo que haríamos, como ha indicado muy bien el señor Embajador de Venezuela, es traducirla a los varios idiomas, circularla entre todos ustedes, y mi propuesta es, efectivamente, que la estudie el Comité de Redacción. En el Comité de Redacción todas las regiones están representadas y seguramente ustedes tendrán el tiempo suficiente para indicar cuales son sus puntos de vista respecto al contenido de dicha declaración. Eventualmente, el proyecto de resolución se transmitiría por el Comité de Redacción al Consejo en el momento de aprobar su informe y, en ese momento, se adoptaría la Resolución o se rechazaría, según ustedes lo decidan. Bien distinguidos delegados, si no hubiera otro comentario, deseo agradecer al señor Embajador de Venezuela y a la delegación de Burkina Faso por este esfuerzo y estamos pendientes de recibir el proyecto que ustedes someterán a consideración del Consejo.

**M.S. ZEHNI (Director, Plant Production and Protection Division):** I need not take much of your time, but let me first say that we in the Secretariat are very gratified by the supportive sentiments expressed by the distinguished members of the Council for the role of the Secretariat in the Conference. As several of you stated, this has been an example of the collective wisdom of many partners and so our role was really to facilitate things, but nevertheless we are gratified by your support.

Mr Chairman, we welcome the offer made by the distinguished delegate of the US Delegation to help and support our efforts in the dissemination of the information assembled as a result of the preparation for the Leipzig Conference and particularly the country reports, and we will discuss the details of how we proceed on that with them. Maybe I should mention that by now at least about fifty of these reports are available on the Internet in the languages in which they are produced, and we are adding the other reports to the Internet so they are available on request or through the Internet.

The distinguished delegate of Malaysia indicated the need for support of developing countries in assisting them in policy and legislation matters and we can assure him that we are foreseeing activities in that regard.

The distinguished delegate of Venezuela mentioned that the State of the World Report should be updated periodically to include new information, and I want to assure him that we are putting in place arrangements and mechanisms to ensure that this is done in an interactive and up-to-date way. The distinguished delegate of Italy referred to the need to convey the outcome of the Leipzig Conference to many fora, including international agencies and donor agencies as well as to the World Food Summit and to the parties to the Convention. As we indicated in the documentation in front of you, the Director-General has already communicated the outcome to over forty-five or fifty international organizations and donor agencies. As far as conveying the outcome of the Leipzig Conference to the World Food Summit, you will recall that the Commission itself made a recommendation in that regard. Mr Chairman, the Council is the one major meeting before the Summit because the Commission will meet after the Summit, so you may feel it appropriate that the Council make the proper recommendations with regard to conveying the messages to the Summit.

My last point. I am gratified that a number of delegates referred to enabling the participation of developing countries in the crucial negotiations of the Commission. I would stress that extra-budgetary resources are exhausted, and we are looking forward to the continuing support that we had from the generous donors before.

**EI PRESIDENTE:** Muchas gracias, Doctor Zehni. Parece que su respuesta ha motivado a varias delegaciones que desean hacer ahora uso de la palabra. Reconozco a Irlanda, Egipto y Estados Unidos. Tiene la palabra el distinguido delegado de Irlanda.

**Aidan O'DRISCOLL (Ireland):** I am taking the floor little bit late, but I wish to refer to the suggestion you have made about how the proposals from Venezuela and Burkina Faso on plant genetic resources, how that proposed Resolution should be dealt with.

You have indicated, Chairman, if I understood correctly, that this would be discussed first at the Drafting Committee and then subsequently the Council would return to it only at the point where we are adopting our report. I must say, Chairman, that we feel very strongly that the function of the Drafting Committee is to reflect the discussions of Council and not to anticipate them. For this reason we think it absolutely essential that, if there is to be a Resolution presented to this Council, time must be made available at Council to discuss it before any consideration by the Drafting Committee of our report.

Furthermore, it is necessary that the timing of the discussion should be such as to permit adequate consultation with capitals. Obviously, many delegations do not have here their experts in this area and therefore it will be necessary to allow sufficient time for that consultation to take place. As I say, Chairman, I think this is an extremely important point, I do not think it is possible to simply refer the Resolution to the Drafting Committee and proposed, and I must ask you therefore to make the appropriate time available during Council at a time which allows delegates the opportunity for prior consultation with their capitals.

**Adel Mahmoud ABOUL-NAGA (Egypt)(Original language Arabic):** Mr. Chairman, forgive me for having arrived at this meeting rather late. I was attending other meetings aimed at preparing for the World Food Summit.

I should like to add the name of my country to Burkina Faso and Venezuela as joint sponsors of the draft Resolution being referred to. We are convinced of the importance of what we were doing in Leipzig, of what we achieved there, and this is one of the most outstanding achievements of our Organization over the last ten years. I think we should crown the Leipzig Conference with a resolution which would lead to implementation of the results of that Conference.

Adding to what was said by the representative of Ireland, I think that we should study the text of the draft Resolution before passing it to the Drafting Committee. We support your suggestion that we have a working group which could deal with the draft Resolution before it is adopted by Council.

**E. Wayne DENNEY (United States of America):** We have a few things we need to sort out here. One, clearly, is that if we are going to adopt a Resolution we need ample time to send it back to our capitals and to have some response which will precipitate some further discussion, but a major question for us is the purpose that it would serve.

On hearing a summary of its contents--or its proposed contents--from the Ambassador from Venezuela, it appeared to us that many of these items would have been covered elsewhere in the report itself. So the resolution appears to be substantially duplicative of what you would typically find in the report of the Council on this item, and so the reason for it is not at all clear to us.

Rather than moving too quickly towards setting up an *ad hoc* working group to talk about its contents I think further discussion needs to take place regarding what its purpose, what its need is. There has been no disagreement regarding the tremendous achievements accomplished at Leipzig and we should be able to capture that in a few paragraphs in the Report of the Council rather than going through the resolution mechanism.

That is our preliminary thought, having heard what the Ambassador from Venezuela told us.

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Según he entendido la discusión, la razón del proyecto de Resolución y, como ayer les dije, en este sentido, soy parcial porque yo considero que es importante que haya algo más que una mera recolección de hechos en el informe, es darle un lugar destacado a la adopción, al endoso que le da el Consejo, de un informe de una conferencia que fue particularmente difícil en su negociación pero exitosa en sus conclusiones. El proyecto de resolución, según lo ha planteado tanto el Embajador de Venezuela como el Representante de Burkina Faso y el de Egipto, busca darle un lugar, una posición destacada a los trabajos de este Consejo porque, como ustedes saben, la Conferencia de Leipzig no tiene una facultad mandatoria sobre la FAO o sobre los órganos rectores, son los órganos rectores los que tienen que endosar, adoptar, acoger esas conclusiones e instrumentar o dar indicaciones para su instrumentación.

Se puede hacer a través del informe o se puede hacer a través de una resolución. Por lo que he entendido, pienso que ustedes mismos deberían estar de acuerdo, es simplemente dar un lugar destacado a la forma en que el Consejo endosa las conclusiones. El contenido de la Resolución lo desconozco en sus detalles, eso lo pueden ustedes estudiar, pero a estas alturas yo no puedo rechazar un proyecto de resolución. Estoy obligado a recibirlo y entonces someterlo a consideración de ustedes a través de cualquiera de esos dos mecanismos: o el comité de redacción o un grupo de trabajo. Parece que la fórmula que prefieren ustedes es un grupo de trabajo, por tanto, les convoco a que revisemos el proyecto en un grupo de trabajo y para darles tiempo que sea el día lunes de la próxima semana. El lunes encontraré pues, el tiempo para que un grupo de trabajo restringido y representativo, pueda revisarlo.

**Fernando GERBASI (Venezuela):** No era nuestra intención ni es nuestra intención generar un debate entorno a un proyecto de Resolución que hemos presentado en esta ocasión. Creemos que es necesario por una parte que el texto se estudie, se lea con atención, sin embargo me complace mucho la intervención del señor Representante de los Estados Unidos porque yo coincido plenamente con él. En realidad aquí no ha habido ningún punto de discordia, solamente ha habido reconocimiento de la labor de la Cuarta Conferencia Internacional. Todos hemos reconocido la importancia de lo que adoptó esa Conferencia. Todos hemos reconocido el papel futuro de los resultados de la Conferencia. Pues bien, usted lo ha señalado con toda claridad, la intención también de este proyecto de Resolución es que el Consejo de la FAO destaque ese hecho, lo destaque como lo merece porque fue una Conferencia que requirió mucho trabajo, mucho proceso de negociación,

de entendimiento, de buena voluntad y que en definitiva sus resultados serán sumamente útiles no solamente hoy sino en el transcurso del tiempo.

Ahora señor Presidente, estoy totalmente de acuerdo con usted de que se haga un grupo de trabajo, simplemente, le solicitaría que comenzara a funcionar el martes. Lamentablemente el lunes por otros motivos es imposible estar presentes en Roma, y yo creo que es importante que siendo el autor de este proyecto de resolución yo participe en ese proyecto y en ese grupo de trabajo.

**Alan AMEY (Canada):** I think all delegations here are agreed that the Leipzig report is a great accomplishment. We all endorse it; there is no question about that. I think we all would like to see the report publicized and we would like to see the actions adopted. I think there is no discord on that.

However, my greatest fear at this point is procedural. I am afraid, in listening to the report, that there might be a great duplication in the content and the report itself. At this point it is not entirely clear what the value added is, in other words, what new things would come from this that has not already been achieved. I think Mr Zehni indicated that the report had already been sent to over 50 international organizations and bilateral donors. So I am really in a quandry at this point because on the one hand we want the Leipzig work endorsed and promoted, but at the same time is this the proper way to go about it? My greatest fear is that first of all we are drawn into a question of substance, in which case I endorse the recommendation of the delegate from Ireland that this resolution receive a full and complete debate within Council. I think that would be necessary, I do not believe the Drafting Committee itself can accomplish that.

Secondly, I am afraid that, given the outline of the Resolution I have heard, we might be drawn into a repetition of all the debates in Leipzig.

My final point is that we are under great pressure for an efficient and effective utilization of our resources here. The translation time is precious, our time is precious. Is this really the best use of our time at this point? Basically what I am saying is that we endorse Leipzig entirely, but I am very worried about the value added of this exercise of a Resolution at this time. I am afraid it may be very expensive in terms of our time and really not accomplish what the drafters had hoped to achieve. So I would plead with other delegates to consider this and perhaps we could debate this further.

**EL PRESIDENTE:** No se preocupe usted, distinguido delegado, veremos la forma en que no haya duplicaciones y encontraremos la manera también de ser eficientes. Yo se que el Consejo está avanzando rápidamente y seguramente dispondremos de tiempo para que, sin utilizar a equipos de interpretación adicionales, tener la oportunidad de discutir ésto en un grupo de trabajo. Ese sería entonces el mecanismo para tratarlo eventualmente en el Consejo en pleno, al final, en el momento de la adopción de su informe; se lo vuelvo a repetir que no puedo en este momento rechazar un proyecto de resolución que ustedes mismos lo han visto y que ha sido presentado de manera formal a esta plenaria.

**David SANDS SMITH (United Kingdom):** I share some of the perceptions raised by my colleague from Canada. Knowing there were long negotiations at Leipzig before agreement was reached, I fully agree that it is appropriate that this Council should welcome and endorse those achievements.

I am somewhat cautious of going further than that because I have a fear that if we go further than welcoming and endorsing overall what has been agreed, as agreed, we could get ourselves into difficulty. If we produce something which picks up on certain elements, that would be dangerous ground I suspect. If we highlight one thing, somebody else will say something else needs to be highlighted. So my general feeling is that we need to welcome and endorse, and we need to do so

wholeheartedly, but I do have a very great concern that we do not reopen things, that we do not get ourselves into a long debate.

It seems to me, in any case, that we need to look at the text of what is being proposed and only when we have looked at the text can we seriously consider whether this would be something that would cause people serious difficulties. If it does cause people serious difficulties, at that stage I think they need to say so, I think we need to be clear about it. Then we know that we are into a difficult area which would have to be discussed in Council. Mr Chairman, that does not help you a very great deal but those are my thoughts at this point in time.

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Yo se que muchos tienen una preocupación similar y podríamos seguir hablando de esto. Yo las he recogido. Entiendo su preocupación pero ésta no la podemos prever, no la podemos prejuiciar, tenemos que tener el texto en frente de nosotros y a partir de él ver si se confirma lo que usted ha dicho de que haya algunos temas que son complicados, algunas cosas que se destacan y que no se debería, pero ustedes van a tener tiempo de corregirlas si es que ese es el caso. Pero para qué adelantarnos en algo que de todas maneras vamos a hacer en un grupo de trabajo y finalmente en el Consejo en pleno el día 10 de octubre. Observo que hay otras delegaciones que desean hacer uso de la palabra. Yo no quiero extender los debates. No es posible a estas alturas decir que no vamos a discutir un proyecto de Resolución. El proyecto de Resolución va a ser entregado, va a ser distribuido y circulado, y va a ser trabajado en un grupo que se reunirá, como veo ahora, el día martes de la próxima semana, y encontraré con la Secretaría el tiempo, y consultaré con ustedes las modalidades para discutir dicho proyecto y eventualmente someterlo a la consideración de la plenaria el último día. Pero yo creo que las cuestiones que podrían haberse planteado están planteadas, y yo les suplico que ya no continuemos con este punto. Vamos a trabajar mejor.

**Dennis GEBBIE (Australia):** I take note of the points you have just made so I will be very brief. Just let me say that we fully endorse the comments made by both Canada and the United Kingdom.

**Srta. María Cristina FERRARI (Argentina):** Bueno, Australia en su brevedad anticipó también lo que Argentina quería decir, pero además Argentina quiere manifestar una preocupación más. El tema de los recursos fitogenéticos para la República Argentina es un tema altamente sensible. La República Argentina participó activamente en la Conferencia de Leipzig, se hizo un informe, pero sin embargo seguimos reiterando la necesidad de que las discusiones de todos esos temas respeten grupos abiertos de trabajo. Las representaciones restringidas, lamentablemente, preocupan a la República Argentina. Nosotros en estos temas queremos defender personalmente nuestros intereses.

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Haré consultas con cada región para observar qué delegación está interesada en participar en dicho grupo de trabajo. No le voy a excluir por principio, distinguida delegada. En vista de que este tema va a ser tratado en un grupo de trabajo y no por el comité de redacción, quizás es también conveniente que no cerremos este tema de la Orden del Día, que lo dejemos abierto y volvamos a él en un momento ulterior la próxima semana. De todas maneras y para adelantarles cual es el estado de cosas y resumir un poco los debates de esta parte del Tema 6, voy a permitirme hacer un breve resumen. En primer lugar, que los debates sostenidos entorno al informe de la Cuarta Conferencia Técnica Internacional sobre los Recursos Fitogenéticos fueron acogidos por el Consejo en pleno, que expresó su satisfacción por el proceso participativo dirigido por los países y por los resultados de dicha Conferencia. Con ello el Consejo endosó unánimemente el informe de la Conferencia, incluyendo el Plan de Acción y la Declaración de Leipzig y la recomendación de publicar el Estado Mundial de los Recursos Fitogenéticos. Al respecto algunas delegaciones indicaron que presentarían un proyecto de Resolución para darle un lugar destacado a este endoso y transmitir a través de ello las indicaciones necesarias para una ulterior acción. Algunas delegaciones indicaron que una Resolución no era necesaria para acoger el informe.

El Consejo ha reiterado la recomendación de la Conferencia Técnica de que el Plan de Acción se aplicase como parte integrante del sistema mundial de la FAO en armonía con el Convenio de Biodiversidad y que los gobiernos, a través de la Comisión de Recursos Genéticos para la Agricultura y la Alimentación, supervisarían y orientarían los progresos realizados.

El Consejo ha estado de acuerdo en invitar a la Conferencia de las partes del Convenio de Biodiversidad Biológica a utilizar el Plan de Acción Mundial como guía para sus prioridades y políticas en materia de recursos fitogenéticos para la agricultura y la alimentación. Se estuvo también de acuerdo en que la rápida conclusión de las negociaciones para la revisión del Compromiso Internacional Sobre Recursos Fitogenéticos, que responde a la resolución *CF 7/93* de la Conferencia, permitiría dotar al Plan de Acción de un marco jurídico y de una base financiera sólida. También se consideró que la Tercera Reunión Extraordinaria de la Comisión de Recursos Genéticos debería concentrar sus actividades en la negociación del Compromiso Internacional.

Se ha reiterado la importancia de la participación de todos los países en las negociaciones del compromiso, se ha agradecido a los donantes por haber permitido con fondos extrapresupuestarios ampliar la asistencia o mantener una asistencia amplia en los trabajos de la Comisión y se hizo un nuevo llamado para proporcionar con los extrapresupuestarios con el fin de facilitar la participación de los países en vías de desarrollo en la Tercera Sesión Extraordinaria de la Comisión que tendrá lugar en diciembre próximo de este año y la Séptima Sesión Regular en 1997.

Bien, el informe es solamente indicativo. Como ustedes saben el Comité de Redacción tendrá la oportunidad de estudiar su informe e indicar la manera en que se presentará a consideración del Consejo.

**Marco António DINIZ BRANDAO (Brazil):** Thank you, Mr Chairman, and thank you very much for your summary.

For the record, I would like to inform you that there are parts of your summary with which we do not agree.

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Distinguido delegado del Brasil, me puede indicar con qué parte del informe no está usted de acuerdo.

**Marco A. DINIZ BRANDAO (Brazil):** Since you have asked me to be more specific, Mr Chairman, we do not agree with the comments regarding the Conference of the Parties and the Third Session, where you said that the Council was in agreement and suggested to the Conference of the Parties that the Plan of Action should guide the actions of the Conference of the Parties in this regard. We are also not in agreement with the comments that you have made regarding the relationship between the Plan of Action and the International Undertaking.

I may have missed something but these are the main two points.

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Bueno yo pensé que estaba recogiendo, en buena parte, lo que han endosado ustedes respecto de la Conferencia de Leipzig pero allí hubo un consenso en este sentido y pensaba yo que había sido transmitido a este Consejo y el Consejo lo había adoptado, pero no quiero entablar un diálogo ahora entre usted y yo, no voy a permitirlo. Esto se va a transmitir al Comité de Redacción y el Comité de Redacción va a tener la oportunidad de hacerlo. Mi informe o mi resumen, como les he dicho, es solamente indicativo y de ninguna manera se lo impongo al Consejo.

Dejamos el tema, entonces, abierto. Yo no se si hay alguna otra aclaración de parte de la Secretaría. Les quiero decir que no quiero terminar esta parte del tratamiento del tema 6 con una nota aparentemente pesimista. Creo que debemos estar todos muy satisfechos y muy contentos con



los resultados de Leipzig y con derecho de que el Consejo los ha acogido de manera muy entusiasta. Creo que hay un trabajo importante de aquí en adelante y que ha habido una enorme cordialidad y solidaridad en cuanto a la importancia de darle toda la atención a estos temas.

Sin clausurar el tema 6 y esperando la reunión de un grupo de trabajo el día martes de la próxima semana pasaré, entonces, al Tema 11 de nuestra agenda que son la revisión de los ajustes al programa de labores y presupuestos 1996–97.

#### **IV. PROGRAMME, BUDGETARY, FINANCIAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS**

#### **IV. QUESTIONS CONCERNANT LE PROGRAMME, LE BUDGET, LES FINANCES ET L'ADMINISTRATION**

#### **IV. ASUNTOS DEL PROGRAMA Y ASUNTOS PRESUPUESTARIOS, FINANCIEROS Y ADMINISTRATIVOS**

##### **11. Adjustments to the Programme of Work and Budget 1996–97**

##### **11. Ajustements au Programme de travail et budget 1996–97**

##### **11. Ajustes del Programa de Labores y Presupuesto para 1996–97**

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Deseo destacar a la atención del Consejo que le damos la bienvenida y nos congratulamos de contar con la presencia de la Presidente del Comité del Programa que presidiera también la Sesión Conjunta del Comité del Programa y de Finanzas en su reunión de septiembre.

Como ustedes saben, la Conferencia, a través de la Resolución 8/95, delegó al Comité del Programa y de Finanzas que en su reunión de mayo de 1996 tuviera la importante responsabilidad de aprobar los ajustes al Programa de Labores y Presupuesto para 1996, inicialmente sometido por la Secretaría dentro del nivel que la Conferencia determinó de 650.000.000 de dólares. El 110° Período de Sesiones del Consejo que tuvo lugar inmediatamente después de la Conferencia, dio una línea general y determinó algunos criterios específicos para este propósito, invitó a los dos Comités del Programa y de Finanzas para informar sobre el tratamiento de ese tema al Consejo e inmediato posterior.

Por tanto, la Presidente del Comité del Programa que está ahora presente nos informará sobre la importante labor realizada tanto en mayo como ahora recientemente en septiembre. Los informes de las reuniones de mayo de los dos Comités se encuentran en el documento CL 111/14 y las posiciones conjuntas de ambos comités en los párrafos 1.1 a 1.11. También la posición de los respectivos Comités de Finanzas y luego de programa lo pueden encontrar en los párrafos 2.8 a 2.21 para el de programa y 3.11 a 3.21 para el de finanzas. Yo considero que la Secretaría de la FAO debe ser elogiada por haber logrado cumplir con este cometido tan difícil y en tan breve tiempo y también por haber logrado llevar a cabo economías importantes en sus programas y en actividades técnicas. También considero que los ahorros permitieron como ustedes pueden observar, evitar que la FAO tuviera que sacrificar una parte importante de sus actividades y absorber la reducción neta del presupuesto para este bien. En la reunión de septiembre, los dos comités recibieron el informe de avance sobre la ejecución de los ajustes aprobados en mayo del Programa de Labores y Presupuestos 1996–97 sobre los que el Presidente del Comité seguramente deseará informarnos.

Como el tema inmediato posterior al 11, es el tema 12 de nuestra Agenda, que también comprende los informes de ambos comités y del Comité del Programa, yo desearía también invitar al doctor Bommer a que haga una presentación general si así lo estima pertinente, para evitarle una ulterior alusión al respecto. No se si esa sería una forma para facilitar el trabajo del doctor Bommer o quizá desea nada más tratar el tema 11, pero en fin se lo dejo a usted, está en sus manos.

**D. BOMMER (Chairman, Programme Committee):** Thank you very much, Mr Chairman. I think I am completely in your hands with regard to what item I should speak on but I am happy to provide you with some introductory remarks on item 11, which is an important one, as you refer to, and you made actually yourself the necessary introduction. I wanted to add here that I speak also on behalf of the Chairman of the Finance Committee, who unfortunately cannot be here today in the Council meeting, therefore I have undertaken to introduce this item.

As you have seen in the Report, both Committees in the joint meeting in May appreciated the presentation made by the Director-General and know that the proposals were broadly responsive to the guidance given by the Council. A major portion of the savings were made either through efficiency improvements or through reductions in administrative areas. In fact, most of the total amount, which arrived close to 70 per cent, was from these areas. Both Committees regretted, at the same time, it recognized, that it was not feasible to fully protect all the technical and economic activities.

Both Committees, as well as the preceding 74th Session of the Programme Committee and the 84th Session of the Finance Committee, considered the proposals in some depth. The Committees endorsed the organizational changes, including the restructuring of the Sustainable Development Department, the streamlining of functions hitherto covered by the Publications Division and the abolition of the Office for External Relations. It noted the abolition of over 200 posts, many of which were incumbered, and urged that the situation be handled in a humane manner in line with the Rules and Regulations of the Organization: probably one of the most difficult tasks to be done.

The Council specifically requested, as did both Committees, at its 110th Session, the report on this application of criteria to which you have referred, Mr Chairman, in the review of the technical and economic activities and its proposed adjustments. The Secretariat applied a set of criteria which were broadly consistent with those established by the Council, and noting that there were technical difficulties in applying the same criteria to all levels of the Programme, from elements up to the major programme level, for instance, outputs versus the programme objectives. The Secretariat noted that this issue would be explored further in a paper on a new programme model, which we discussed later on in the Programme Committee, in our September Session. I will therefore address the subject further in this connection.

Considering the net reductions proposed for the technical and economic programmes, individual members of both Committees identified areas where they particularly regretted that such reductions had been necessary and expressed the hope that it would be possible to restore resource levels in future biennia. A proposal to better protect Chapter 2 by shifts from Chapters 3 and 4 did not find majority support.

In conclusion, the Committee, Mr Chairman, felt that due to the special circumstances of the adoption of the budget level for this biennium by the last Conference, the document presented by the Director-General represented reasonable compromise and, on behalf of the Conference, approved the financial adjustments as proposed by the Director-General.

Then at the joint meeting, as you said, Mr Chairman, the Committees received a progress report on the implementation of the adjusted Programme of Work and Budget. They took note of some difficulties involved, understandably, in the process of adjustments. They were satisfied with the measures taken by the Director-General and the progress made in the implementation of the adjusted Programme of Work and Budget. They requested that the next progress report, in our April 1997 Session, should better reflect measures taken to address the human-related issues, with the adjustment in staffing, and to provide extra figures related to cost savings of the various items.

The Committees were informed of developments in the various areas of identified efficiency savings, including on travel costs and new arrangements which had been implemented or initiated

for cost recovery of technical support services from projects. They welcomed the updated statistics on the use of new partnership agreements and observed the practical difficulties involved in implementing these. They requested more qualitative assessment of the use at future meetings.

Finally, the Committees were satisfied that the information provided, particularly on income prospects, confirmed the feasibility of full implementation of the US \$ 650 million budget, as approved by the Conference.

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Muchas gracias doctor Bommer por estas notas introductorias del tema a propósito del trabajo que se ha realizado en el Comité de Programa y de Finanzas en sus reuniones conjuntas y por separado. Creo que este Consejo debe felicitarles a usted y a través de usted también a los miembros de ambos comités por la labor realizada que le ha permitido a la Organización continuar con sus trabajos eficazmente.

Bien, doy la palabra a ustedes, que quedan invitados a hacer comentarios.

**Nasreddine RIMOUCHE (Algérie):** Monsieur le Président, prenant la parole pour la première fois, permettez que mes premiers mots soient pour vous dire à quel point nous sommes ravis de vous voir présider notre Conseil, et exprimer également nos félicitations chaleureuses à M. Bommer, Président du Comité du Programme, pour son excellent exposé préliminaire. J'ai le grand plaisir, en tant que membre du Comité du Programme, de lui dire ma plus haute appréciation pour la somme considérable d'engagements, de persévérance et de compétence qu'il a investi dans la conduite des travaux de ce Comité.

Monsieur le Président, la délégation algérienne qui a pris part aux travaux du Comité du programme et aux réunions conjointes, et qui a déjà fait part de son point de vue, s'identifie pleinement au contenu du rapport du Comité du Programme et des sessions conjointes, objet de l'examen et ce, dans le cadre du point 11 sur les ajustements du Programme de travail et budget 1996-97. Je ne vais pas être très long mais je vais m'arrêter sur certains points importants. A l'heure de l'examen par le Conseil de la mise en oeuvre des critères d'ajustements du Programme de travail et budget, et après son adoption par cette même instance, il est réconfortant de constater, comme le souligne amplement le rapport, que les différentes recommandations d'ajustements portant tant sur le programme que sur le budget, ont connu un début d'application prometteur et une rationalisation judicieuse des activités. Cependant, il n'en demeure pas moins que l'atteinte des objectifs du Programme de travail et budget pour 1996-97 demeure incertaine en raison de l'insuffisance manifeste des ressources et du problème de liquidité dans lequel se trouve confrontée l'Organisation depuis plusieurs années.

A ceci s'ajoute le retard constaté dans l'application de ce Programme de travail. L'espoir est de garantir son application intégrale dans les délais fixés. Le fait même qu'il n'ait pas été possible de protéger des activités techniques et économiques de l'Organisation revêtant une importance pour les pays en voie de développement et qui figurent dans le Programme de travail et budget initial, justifie et entretient la préoccupation de ces pays. Parmi ces activités nous citons, à titre d'exemple, le développement de l'élevage et des productions laitières, la protection intégrée et lutte contre les ravageurs, la gestion des ressources en eau, la nutrition des plantes et le développement de la recherche et de la technologie. A cet effet nous tenons à rappeler que ces programmes devront être parmi les activités primordiales de l'Organisation durant le prochain biennium. Il est néanmoins rassurant de constater que le Programme de coopération technique a été épargné, et la Division du Centre d'investissements renforcée. Ce faisant, la délégation algérienne tient une fois encore à réitérer son plein appui aux mesures prises pour les ajustements au Programme de travail et budget, ainsi qu'aux rapports intérimaires.

**James W. SCHROEDER (United States of America):** The United States participated fully in the discussions of the joint sessions of the Programme and Finance Committees, which approved the Director-General's amended Programme of Work and Budget for 1996–97 which accommodates the Conference Budget Resolution.

No country can be fully satisfied with either the decision on the budget level or the items selected for cuts. But today's fiscal realities will, we believe, make negative nominal growth budgets commonplace in the future. We expect future budgets of the United Nations and its specialized agencies to generally follow this policy. Our views on this matter will be further elaborated as we commence discussions of FAO's 1998–99 Programme of Work and Budget next January.

While we were able to join consensus on the revised Programme of Work and Budget for the current biennium, we, as the previous speaker from Algeria noted, would have preferred fewer cuts in the technical and economic programmes and more in the development services area. We believe that FAO's normative programmes are its strength and the fundamental basis for its future operations. We recognize that this is a very general statement and clearly we do not subscribe the same value to all normative or field programme activities but, in general, the United States believes that FAO's comparative advantage lies in its normative work.

With this overview, we have several specific comments relating to the adjustments which are being implemented. Of the programme areas which were essentially protected in the adjustment, we are particularly pleased with the high priority accorded to the Global Information and Early Warning System, Codex Alimentarius, the Secretariat for the International Plant Protection Convention, Integrated Pest Management, the World Agricultural Information Centre, Women in Development and Animal Genetic Resources. We also support the reinstatement of the sub-programme on Post-Harvest Management. We would like to have seen FAO's Forestry Department protected to a greater extent. Having a Technical Cooperation Programme that is three times as large as Forestry does not reflect our relative sense of priorities. We are also a bit perplexed by the reduction in Food and Agricultural Information and work of the Global Perspectives Unit. FAO has a strong comparative advantage in both of those areas.

In the personnel area, many positive steps are being taken, including the reduction of selected posts, down-grading of posts, hiring more junior people and doing more outsourcing. We are convinced that with prudent management, FAO's role as a centre of excellence in food and agriculture within the UN system, will be strengthened, not eroded, with these changes.

The United States is pleased that FAO has begun to look at ways to achieve efficiency savings by cutting travel costs, shortening meetings, and reducing or eliminating publications. While the Director-General has already implemented several actions in this regard, we believe more can be done. Using the Internet to transmit data, information, studies and meeting documentation, appears to be a logical move that will have an immediate impact, not only to enhance savings, but to distribute information on a more timely basis. Like all FAO Member Nations, the United States wants to maximize the impact of FAO's programmes within increasing resource constraints.

As we implement the current Programme of Work and Budget and begin to prepare for the next one, we need to continually think of ways to make our Organization more efficient, effective and responsive. Perhaps FAO has programmes and sub-programmes that are outdated or no longer valued by its Members. Perhaps the Secretariat spends too many resources on servicing a multitude of meetings instead of directing, and directly assisting, Member countries.

We believe that these, and other ideas, need to be explored by the Programme and Finance Committees when they are deliberating on the 1998–99 budget outlined next January.

**Y. HATA (Japan):** On Agenda Item 11, I just meant that as PWB was to start this afternoon Japan would like to reserve its comments until this afternoon.

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Espero que efectivamente no terminemos en la sección de la mañana. Le ofrezco no cerrar el tema para permitirle a usted que su delegación hable esta tarde.

**H. Pradeep RAO (India):** At the outset I would like to thank Dr. Bommer for his very concise introduction to the work of the Secretariat and the Programme and Finance Committees, which has been submitted to us in the form of Council documents CL 111/14 and CL 111/15.

It is a matter of considerable gratification that the Secretariat has managed to make a major step forward in the question of achieving savings. As Dr Bommer pointed out, seventy per cent of the savings are from efficiency savings and in administrative areas. We realize that it would not always be possible to protect fully the technical activities. The distinguished delegate from Algeria has already enumerated some of these areas which are of specific and special concern to us.

I would also tend to agree with the observation of Dr Bommer that there is a very important dimension, namely the human dimension, when it comes to carrying out a review of organizational structures. A number of posts have been abolished and it would be necessary to keep this angle in mind.

We are hopeful that the same efforts and the drive to achieve administrative efficiency will generate additional savings which could be used to strengthen activities which are of concern, especially the technical and economic activities.

**Christophe KIEMTORE (Burkina Faso):** Comme les autres délégations, je voudrais tout d'abord féliciter M. Bommer qui nous a offert une présentation fidèle des travaux qui se sont déroulés au sein du Comité restreint. Permettez-moi dans ce contexte de me référer plus particulièrement au Secrétariat et surtout au Directeur général pour l'efficacité de leur action qui a abouti à l'adoption des propositions de réajustements du Programme de travail et budget, travail qui s'est déroulé dans un contexte assez contraignant. Nous aimerions ici notifier notre satisfaction pour l'efficacité et la manière dont ils ont conduit ces différents travaux.

Par ailleurs, permettez-moi de revenir sur un aspect peut-être de forme. J'aimerais apporter une précision qui me semble très importante. On se souviendra que, pour la première fois, le Conseil a permis au Comité restreint d'approuver des documents en son nom. Il faut se souvenir que les paragraphes pertinents du rapport du Conseil prévoient d'autoriser le Comité restreint, dans le cadre du Comité conjoint, d'approuver au nom du Conseil. Cela signifie que les réajustements budgétaires ont déjà été approuvés et je crois que c'est un élément important qu'il faut souligner ici. Cela dit, le Comité restreint, au cours de sa session d'approbation, a fait un certain nombre de commentaires très pertinents qui figurent dans tous les paragraphes auxquels vous avez fait référence. Ma délégation estime que c'est maintenant au Conseil d'entériner cette approbation dont il n'est plus question d'approuver les réajustements puisqu'ils ont déjà été approuvés en son nom. Il nous semble que tous les commentaires et suggestions ou préoccupations que les Etats Membres du Conseil pourraient formuler à ce stade ne seront peut-être pas pris en compte mais pourront l'être dans le cadre des exercices de programmation ultérieure donc dans le Programme de travail et budget 1998-1999.

Voilà ce que je voulais dire pour que nous nous entendions sur les différents commentaires qui pourront être reçus au prochain Programme de travail et budget. Ceci étant, ma délégation voudrait réitérer son appui à un certain nombre de paragraphes qui figurent dans les documents à l'examen et notamment les paragraphes 16 et 17 du rapport de la Session conjointe du Comité du Programme et du Comité financier.

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Efectivamente, como usted ha indicado, la Conferencia delegó en los Comités del Programa y de Finanzas la aprobación de los ajustes al programa de la Organización en virtud del presupuesto aprobado por la Conferencia de 650.000.000 de dólares. En la ocasión en que se reunieron en mayo, ambos comités aprobaron los ajustes presentados por el Director General con las modalidades que los comités le dieron, y en la reunión de septiembre, como ha indicado el doctor Bommer, se hizo un examen del progreso y de la forma en que tales ajustes habían sido llevados a cabo. Este Consejo, claro, lo que tiene que hacer es endosar los informes de los comités sobre este punto y tomar nota de la situación del estado en que se ejecutan esos programas a partir de la aprobación de ambos comités del Programa de Labores para 1996/97.

**Alan AMEY (Canada):** Canada supports the adjustments to the Programme of Work and Budget for the biennium 1996–97, which were requested during the last Conference. As we in Canada can well testify, it is no small matter to cut over US \$ 50 million from the budget and still maintain the majority of programmes.

As for the programmes that Canada supports, we may have some minor disagreements for some of the items that were scaled back but the overall package was acceptable. The publication of ratings, according to the criteria advanced by the Council, was of benefit to aid in the transparency of the exercise.

Notwithstanding the above comments, Canada, like the United States, is disappointed that the forestry budget was cut at all, since it is the smallest of the three technical departments. Forests are high on the international agenda and do not receive sufficient allocations under the FAO budgets. These types of normative programmes point the way forward for FAO and we endorse their continuation and expansion.

Finally, we would like to endorse the report of the Programme Committee, specifically paragraphs 2.8 to 2.21 on the adjustments to the Programme of Work and Budget and the joint meetings of the Programme and Finance Committees.

**Adel Mahmoud ABOUL-NAGA (Egypt) (Original language Arabic):** Allow me to begin by expressing our sincere thanks to Dr Bommer, not only because of the excellent introductory statement he has made on behalf of the Programme and Finance Committees just now, but we also wish to compliment him on the excellent way in which he has carried out the work of the Committees with Mr Khan.

A splendid job was done on this Item of the Agenda. This is to be expected in an international organization where the interests of various countries may not always agree but where the joint aim of us all is to reach a consensus. This is precisely what we managed to do, thanks to the joint meeting of the two Committees. Those two joint meetings enabled us to give our approval to the proposals made by the Secretariat and the Director-General, not because these simply satisfy all our interests but because this does represent compromise, a realistic acceptance for us all.

Of course, during this Council session, I wish once again to reiterate the salient aspects of the debate held on this crucial matter. We all expressed our congratulations and our thanks for the various savings achieved as a result of improved efficiency in governance. We did, however, regret the fact that it was not possible to protect all the various economic and technical activities of the Organization. We expressed the firm hope that these cuts would only be temporary and that as soon as possible we would obtain resources from either the regular budget or extra-budgetary resources, resources which would enable us to provide further protection for these economic and technical activities.

The two Committees have noted net cuts in certain programmes, especially in extension, livestock development, integrated production and management of water resources. We are convinced that

these savings cannot have an immediate effect because the application of such savings calls for a certain amount of time.

Attention was drawn to the need to reduce the negative affect of these measures -- these cuts -- the negative effect on FAO's activities. Indeed, that is why I wish to remind you that we approved these adjustments because they represented a reasonable compromise, it being understood that varying interests, differing interests, of Member countries existed. This of course would be in the context of the budget accepted by the general Conference, a budget level which was not entirely acceptable to all concerned.

**Fernando José MARRONI DE ABREU (Brasil):** Yo quisiera, en primer lugar, felicitar al doctor Bommer por el difícil trabajo y labor que realizó al frente del Comité del Programa, para ajustar el presupuesto de la FAO en este momento que todos esperamos que sea pasajero.

Yo quisiera hacer dos breves comentarios: el primero, es en cuanto al espíritu y al objetivo de la FAO. Brasil está entre los países que creen que las actividades normativas son parte de la actividad y el objetivo de la FAO. Hay otras actividades que son igualmente importantes y relevantes, entre las cuales, por ejemplo, podríamos citar la cooperación técnica en el dominio de la alimentación y la agricultura. La FAO es reconocida como la organización que domina esta área, y no vemos porqué deberíamos disminuir la acción y el presupuesto de la FAO para esas actividades. Brasil también está entre las delegaciones que creen que es importante que se hagan esfuerzos, para que la contribución de los países se ponga al día de manera que la FAO no enfrente los problemas que estamos enfrentando en este momento. Yo creo que si todos los países hiciéramos un esfuerzo en ese sentido, el doctor Bommer no hubiera tenido la difícil tarea que tuvo en el Comité del Programa, así como en el Comité de Finanzas.

**David SANDS SMITH (United Kingdom):** We are convinced that the future strength of FAO depends both on its efficiency and on its effectiveness. We believe this means building on FAO's strengths in its areas of comparative advantage, particularly where there are major problems of world food and agriculture and helping to find solutions. Against this background, we welcome the work that has been done in adjusting the Programme of Work and Budget and see this as a valuable stepping-stone in the process in strengthening our Organization.

**Raphael O.S. MOLLEL (Tanzania):** As this is my first intervention since the beginning of this Council meeting, my Delegation would like to take this opportunity to congratulate you and all those who have been elected to Vice-Chairmanship of this meeting.

I would like to thank the Secretariat for the presentation of documents CL 111/14 and CL 111/15. My delegation would like to join the Programme and Finance Committees in commending the Director-General for the measures he has advanced in putting forward and implementing the adjustments to the Programme of Work and Budget for 1996-97, following the guidance of the 110th Session of the FAO Council.

While we support and believe the cost cuts were based on priority setting and efficiency, we feel the downward cost adjustments to the technical cooperation and the technical and economic programmes will limit FAO's capability in programme implementation as well as deny members, especially those of us from developing countries, the necessary development services.

My delegation, however, supports the abolition of the Office of External Relations and the restructuring of the Sustainable Development Department.

My delegation would like to request that FAO continue the review and assess the implementation of the adjusted Programme of Work and Budget with a view to ensuring efficiency as well as the impact of the adjustments on the FAO staff. We would also like to request, as far as possible,

flexibility of transfer of any savings between programmes, if need be, in the cause of the implementation.

**Dieter LINK (Germany):** My Delegation prefers to intervene only once on the main topic: programme, budget, financial and administrative matters.

My delegation appreciates the efforts made by the Programme and Finance Committees and, of course, by the Secretariat itself, to adjust the programme of work to the reduced budget available for this biennium. This effort is well reflected in the Report of the Committees' September Sessions which, however, reached us only very late. Although my Delegation shares the general concern over inevitable cuts in technical programmes, the Organization must face reality. This means implementation of a reduced Programme of Work on the basis of the financial resources available for the development and application of criteria as decided by the 110th Council Session for the Programme Adjustment, approved by the appropriate procedure. Therefore, my Delegation welcomes a conclusion by the two committees so that the 1996-97 Programme of Work can be carried out as planned.

When comparing the percentage shares of the seven budget chapters adjusted- I refer to the tables 1.11 of document CL 111/14-one can realise that the Secretariat has indeed produced a reasonable compromise which hurts the technical and economic programmes and the TCP programme less than the General Services, which now account for somewhat lower shares, whilst Chapters 2,3 and 4, after adjustment, have the same share as before or even somewhat higher shares of the total budget.

With regard to the management review, my delegation is pleased to see that the indispensable methods underway will ultimately contribute to attain one of the objectives of the review initiated after the 106th Council Session---decentralization and reinforcement of activities outside headquarters.

My delegation agrees with the Committees' judgement that the grading of posts should be approached with caution. Although the employment of lower graded, younger professionals brings some relief, the required higher level must be safeguarded where the rank and priority of concrete programmes may demand it.

Since the 28th Session of the Conference, the Secretariat, the Finance and Programme Committees and Member Nations have been working quite intensively to open up possibilities for savings and higher efficiency in governance. This process is still underway and what has been attained so far is promising. My country endorses streamlining efforts in governance as proposed.

Concretely, my delegation favours the existence of one body for fertilizer problems. The FAO/UNESCO/ILO Joint Advisory Committee on Agriculture Education could be dropped to avoid duplication. The Third Regional Commission for Asia and the Pacific, related to animal health and production, plant protection and food security is apparently a viable body that needs to be retained.

The review of FAO's Statutory Bodies and Panels of Experts, as reflected in document CL 111/12, is under way. It shows effective need for economy. My delegation agrees with the general approach chosen for the review: reduce the activity of bodies or abolish those bodies that have not met, or have only met sporadically over a longer period; concentrate on those bodies that are of importance for priority programmes because complex technical problems are involved; FAO to have a normative function in order to allow a sound exchange between member countries and good coordination between FAO and other UN Agencies.

In view of the very likely disappearance of ECE's Committee on Agriculture, the European Commission of Agriculture (ECA) must **be** maintained and should **be** open to European countries



which are not members of FAO. In its future work, the ECA should try to absorb some of the problems covered by the two joint working parties that will end their activities due to lack of funds.

With regard to Panels of Experts, my delegation favours the idea of a close control of their active life and their dissolution when their work has been completed. Speaking of costs, my delegation would like to suggest that, wherever possible, meetings of small bodies should be in one or two languages only, to save funds, otherwise needed for interpretation and translation. My delegation would have liked to see this review presented in a tabular format to allow a better overview of the problems.

Germany agrees with the procedure proposed for the Review.

**José ROBLES AGUILAR (México):** Como lo ha señalado reiteradamente mi delegación, hubiéramos preferido no haber entrado en este ejercicio de reducciones y ajustes al Programa de Labores y Presupuestos. Sin embargo, a la luz de los niveles de presupuesto aceptado por la Conferencia, se ha tenido que enfrentar esta situación. En este contexto reconocemos, no obstante, que el ejercicio realizado por los Comités del Programa y Presupuesto y que hoy se somete a este Consejo, se ha realizado en base a los criterios que este Consejo había sugerido; particularmente, respecto al hecho de que las mayores reducciones se hicieran en las áreas de incremento de la eficiencia. Un aspecto que queremos destacar en este sentido, y al que se han referido varias delegaciones, es el relativo a la función normativa. Si bien esta parte mandatoria de la FAO es importante, consideramos que la parte relativa a la función de cooperación técnica reviste una importancia fundamental y que debe, en la continuación de este ejercicio, ponerse bastante atención.

Respecto a la continuación del ejercicio de racionalización queremos señalar el hecho de que para nosotros es importante, en cuanto a la revisión de los órganos de la FAO, que se mantenga la estructura actual fundamental establecida por los propios documentos básicos de la Organización, y en relación a los órganos que serían objeto de una revisión y evaluación en la próxima fase, consideramos que se debe ver, a la luz de todos los elementos, de los diferentes impactos, y no analizados exclusivamente desde una perspectiva estrictamente económica; creemos que tiene que verse también desde una función política, social, en la que los órganos respectivos de la FAO también den sus opiniones; es decir, los comités técnicos deberían pronunciarse también antes de que se tome una decisión sobre cualquiera de estas propuestas.

**Ahmad RUSLI JOHARIE (Malaysia):** Malaysia supports the adjustments to the Programme of Work and Budget that had been undertaken by the Director-General of FAO since it has been widely accepted by the Programme Committee members. Nevertheless, we would like to express our view that the reduction in implementation of field programmes, especially in developing countries, should be temporary in nature until the financial situation of FAO improves. These programmes should then be reinstated.

**Dennis GEBBIE (Australia):** We welcome the important work of the Programme and Finance Committees. Difficult as adjustment to some of the cuts in the budgets will be, we believe that these cuts are necessary and they need to be seen in the light of the significant cuts that are being made in the budget of many of our Member Nations.

There must be a focus on what FAO does best, that is those areas where its comparative advantage lies. The available resources must be addressed to those priority programme areas which address the real problems of world food and agriculture. Many of these were mentioned by the United States, for example. We think it is inevitable that resources will need to be diverted from lower priority areas, including support services.

**Adel Mahmoud ABOUL-NAGA (Egypt) (Original language Arabic):** I apologise for speaking again but I would like to respond to what was stated by the representative of Germany. In the

positive and constructive suggestions he made in his statement, he mentioned that meetings should be held in only one or two languages. This is a very sensitive matter for many countries speaking languages other than French or English. This is why I believe that if this measure is adopted by the Secretariat, it will raise great difficulties on the part of the group and I hope that this decision will not be taken.

**Wilberforce SAKIRA (Uganda):** Uganda has noted with regret that the areas which we think are extremely important, especially for developing countries, received most reductions. The problem areas which are of concern to us are water management, development of research and technology, plant nutrition, integrated pest management (IPM), extension and training and, lastly, livestock and dairy development.

Like the Finance and Programme Committees, we hope the cuts which you have made will be temporary. We believe there will be a need for fiscal budgets to adequately cater for these important areas.

Lastly, our delegation supports the proposal to abolish the Division of External Relations.

**Nasreddine RIMOUCHE (Algérie):** Je n'espérais pas intervenir, mais je crois que ce qui a été dit par le Représentant de l'Allemagne en ce qui concerne l'utilisation d'une seule langue ou de deux langues dans les différentes réunions est une option qui pourrait être négative pour les résultats des travaux de ces réunions. Par ailleurs, cet objectif pourrait ne pas être réalisable et même compromettrait la participation de certaines délégations à ces réunions. D'autre part, je dirai que la FAO agit de la sorte en ce qui concerne les conférences régionales. Pour les réunions intergouvernementales, l'utilisation des langues officielles est importante si l'on veut atteindre les objectifs et les résultats qu'escomptent toutes les réunions au programme.

**Dieter LINK (Germany):** Yes, I would like to clarify. I said meetings of small bodies and of course it can be decided. We have this situation quite often in which we have to negotiate in small bodies and it is, of course, up to all Members if they agree but it could be a point of savings. I did not ask to introduce German as a language also. I thought it is better to try and decrease not increase costs, therefore this is a proposal which has, in each case, to be discussed and should not be generalized. I fully agree that in bigger meetings all languages have to be translated but in meetings outside of Rome sometimes it may be possible even to restrict. I am totally aware that there are principles which cannot be touched and should not be touched. We are fully in agreement with this.

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Estoy seguro que uno de esos idiomas podría ser el árabe y el otro, desde luego, el español.

**A.M.M. SHAWKAT ALI (Bangladesh):** I join my colleagues here in appreciating the work done on which elaborate discussions have already taken place so I would like to be very brief in my statement.

I fully endorse the statement made by our Australian colleague to concentrate on areas which are of comparative advantage for FAO. In this regard, I notice that in paragraph 2.1.3 certain areas are identified and these areas are those relating to the key issues of global interest particularly pesticide, plant protection and genetic resources. I would also like to add that, for my country, the area of post-harvest reduction or post-harvest loss, how to reduce the loss is an area of critical concern. We estimate that about ten percent of the gross production is what we lose during the post-harvest stage. If it can be brought down to five percent the same area of land can produce a higher quantity of grains and that, we believe, will contribute to what we often refer to as sustainable development because that will put lesser space on other lands.

The second point that I would like to make is the future of FAO. In the context of localization of the economy, especially, the continued trust on private sector growth, I do not see that intergovernmental organizations like FAO will have a lesser role to play. On the other hand, I strongly believe that intergovernmental organizations like FAO will have to re-invent itself and assume a greater role in terms of dissemination of technological ideas and policy dialogue between the private and public sectors and provide more particularly the leader support that developing countries would need in the process of this transition to a new economic order.

I also stress the need for FAO's continued strengthening of information gathering and dissemination of the same information to the Member Nations because timely and correct information, if made available to the Member Nations, they can get it as a policy import for their respective countries. There was some reference to cost savings in terms of, among others, cutting down publications. I would rather say that we should not aim at cutting down publications, we should rationalize publications and we would believe that publications which are of importance, which are relevant for the Member Nations, must be published and made available.

Finally, Mr Chairman, one of the particular areas that we, from Bangladesh, would like to stress upon is the question relating to the impact of privatization, especially, fertilizers. We have experienced that it has brought salutary effects but there are also other effects which are of concern to us. This relates to the current trend of unbalanced use of fertilizers which severely impinge crop productivity.

I hope in these areas we will continue to receive the advice and guidance from FAO.

**YUAN HAIYING: (China) (Original language Chinese):** Mr Chairman, I thank Mr Bommer for his introduction of this Agenda Item. China finds itself in agreement with the report for the adjustments to the Programme of Work and Budget for 1996–97. We wish to seize this opportunity to clarify two points. Firstly, we hope that FAO may continue making savings without reducing the efficiency of its work. Secondly, we also hope that economic and technical activities may be fully maintained, or at least maintained to the maximum.

The projects which will be temporarily suppressed, such as training programmes and disease prevention and other programmes such as water management, for instance, still remain extremely important areas for developing countries. Therefore, we hope that FAO will adopt energetic measures to compensate for the negative effects of such reductions and when resources are replenished, we indeed hope that these programmes will be restored. We also support the proposals made by Algeria and Egypt concerning working languages, that all the official languages of the Organization be preserved as working languages of the United Nations.

**Mrs. Rosmalawati CHALID (Indonesia):** Let me express, first of all, our appreciation to Mr Bommer for his introduction to the Agenda Item under discussion.

Indonesia would like to reiterate its support to the continuing efforts undertaken by the Director-General to improve and enhance efficiency and the effectiveness of the work of Member Countries of FAO. Indonesia would also support the adjusted Programme of Work and Budget in order to achieve efficient work of the Secretariat.

**Cephas GOODING (Barbados):** My delegation wishes first of all to express its gratitude to Mr Bommer for the very excellent work which he has done in introducing this topic. It would also wish to acknowledge the achievements of the Programme and Finance Committees as well as the FAO Secretariat, in seeking to comply with the directions given by the Conference.

Mr Chairman, my delegation recognizes that a great deal of resources are needed if FAO is to carry out its mandate effectively, that is why we considered it remarkable that it was possible to realize a

reduction in the original budget of just over US \$ 50 million and still provide the programme coverage which we have. Nevertheless, we trust that in the future it would be possible to strengthen those programmes which are considered critical in helping developing countries to increase their food security. In this connection we wish to highlight the contents of paragraph 1.10 of document CL 111/14. In concluding, therefore, we wish to lend support to the adjustments to the Programme of Work and Budget for 1996–97.

**Aidan O'DRISCOLL (Ireland):** My delegation would wish to applaud the efforts of FAO to live within its means by improving efficiency. We think that the efforts of the Programme and Finance Committee in this regard are to be commended. Decisions on reductions are never easy but are useful discipline for any organization.

FAO is not alone in having to submit to this discipline. National administrations and other international organizations have had the same experience in recent years. We agree with those Delegations who have said that the Organization should concentrate on those areas of work where it enjoys a comparative advantage. In this regard we think it important that in the progress of seeking efficiency improvements we do no damage the Organization's core competencies.

I must, therefore, express my delegation's concern at the weakening of FAO's capacity in meat and dairying. I need not stress the critical role played by livestock and livestock products in a great many developing countries and also in some developed countries, including my own. It is clearly critical that FAO recognize this area as a high priority in its work. Nevertheless, Chairman, I wish to express my delegation's support for the total package of measures that are now being implemented but we do realize that it is difficult to accord all priorities their proper place.

Finally, Chairman, I am also glad to know that efforts continue to reduce the costs of FAO meetings. We feel a great deal can be done to reduce the cost, improve the efficiency and shorten FAO meetings. We hope that this issue will be pursued vigorously.

**Suresh Chundre SEEBALLUK (Mauritius):** Mr Chairman, any cut in budget is always a very painful exercise and it is not one that can be undertaken without creating some unhappiness here and there.

Nevertheless, my delegation wishes to compliment the Director-General for the savings that have been generated through efficiency improvement. However, we should like to express our concern to the cuts in the Technical Cooperation Programme. These cuts will surely affect FAO's capability to do what it is expected to do. We only hope that these cuts will be temporary and that the next budget will commit appropriate funds to the Technical Cooperation Programme.

My delegation wishes to support the views expressed by the distinguished delegate from Brazil and request Member Countries to make their contributions on time. This, I am sure, will save the Director-General from the agony of having to maintain such budgetary cuts if we can.

**Pinit KORSIEPORN (Thailand):** Very briefly, Thailand fully supports the Director-General's effort in cutting costs of the administration of the Organization. We believe these cuts are necessary. However, the adjustment of the Programme of Work and Budget for 1996–97 budget for field programmes should not be reduced from the previous biennium.

Lastly, we also urge our Member Nations to pay their contribution on time.

**Horacio SOARES (Cap Vert):** Je serai très bref dans mon intervention. Je voudrais tout d'abord remercier M. Bommer pour l'excellente présentation qu'il a faite des travaux et, également le Comité pour le remaniement du budget qui, à mon avis, mérite une approbation de tous les membres. Néanmoins, certaines remarques très importantes sont à faire, comme vient de le signaler

notre collègue, le remaniement du budget n'est pas une chose facile. Il est vrai qu'il faut mettre à profit les moyens financiers à notre disposition et, malheureusement, nous n'en n'avons pas en ce moment. Néanmoins, il faut tenir compte que notre but vise à construire un monde meilleur où tous les peuples puissent vivre de la meilleure façon possible. C'est dans ce contexte que la délégation du Cap Vert voudrait attirer l'attention sur un certain nombre de points qui lui semblent très importants. Pour ce qui est des questions de ressourcement, c'est un point auquel les programmes futurs doivent apporter une attention prioritaire et, également, celles concernant l'élevage et la protection des végétaux. Aussi, faut-il dire qu'en ce qui concerne les Programmes de coopération technique très importants du moins pour les petits pays comme le Cap Vert, nous aimerions souligner un autre aspect significatif de ces programmes PCT qui peuvent jouer un rôle très important. La FAO peut fournir un soutien aux pays dans la conception et la mise en oeuvre des programmes de politiques stratégiques et de développement à moyen et à long terme. Dans ce contexte, j'espère qu'à l'avenir on trouvera une meilleure façon pour permettre à la FAO d'accomplir ses tâches le mieux possible.

**Sra. Ana María NAVARRO ARRUE (Cuba):** Le saludo a usted y también saludo la presentación hecha por el doctor Bommer y todos los esfuerzos realizados por él al frente de los Comités del Programa y las acciones conjuntas que se hicieron entre Programa y Finanzas con relación al Programa de Labores y Presupuesto de la Organización. No es fácil hacer una reducción tan drástica de los programas de la Organización en un momento en el que se palpa una urgente necesidad de parte de nuestros países, en su ejercicio por encaminarse correctamente hacia un desarrollo económico sostenible, que alivie los acuciantes problemas de atraso, falta de acceso, en fin, obstáculos que exacerban el flagelo del hambre, hecho que tiene permanente prioridad en la FAO y, concretamente, en la Cumbre Mundial sobre Alimentación.

Mi país, señor Presidente, al igual que otros países que me han antecedido, tuvo a bien aceptar esta reducción tan drástica atendiendo solamente a los acuerdos que de consenso se aprobaron en la pasada Conferencia. En aquella oportunidad, nuestra posición frente a este ajuste, fue de que era inaceptable esta disminución o reducción, y que sólo podíamos aceptarla si este hecho era pasajero o provisional. Saludamos, no obstante, los esfuerzos realizados por ambos comités, como le decía anteriormente, en tratar de acomodar de la mejor forma nuestras prioridades, que como usted conoce, las de los países en vía de desarrollo, están plasmadas de la importancia que le damos a poder tener una mayor asistencia de la FAO y a fortalecer el Programa de Cooperación Técnica de la cual otros países ya la han planteado. Por supuesto, este ajuste afecta a otros programas que esperamos, no minen ni reduzcan la ya precaria capacidad de la FAO.

Apoyamos el hecho de que se mantengan las estructuras actuales de la Organización y que otra propuesta de cambio no se haga basada solamente atendiendo a los impactos económicos y financieros, como bien planteó el delegado de México.

Apoyamos también los planteamientos de Egipto y Argelia en base a que la Organización atienda las necesidades de tener en cuenta nuestros idiomas para una mejor expresión dentro de los órganos que están establecidos dentro de la Organización.

Apoyamos también la atención, con prudencia, de la reducción de funcionarios dentro de la Organización y abogamos por que se tenga en cuenta la capacidad profesional en cada caso, a fin de evitar climas de inseguridad dentro de la casa, que no ayudarían en este dramático proceso que hacemos frente en estos momentos.

Por último señor Presidente, no debemos olvidar los aspectos positivos que la Cumbre Mundial sobre la Alimentación dejará a la FAO. Es por ello que esperamos que en breve, este ejercicio pueda ser enmendado y se dote a la FAO con la necesaria voluntad política y económica de recursos e instrumentos necesarios para que funcione con eficiencia y amplitud.

**N.F.C. RANAWEERA (SRI LANKA):** My Government, reluctantly, has to agree to the adjustments that have been made in these two programmes. We recognized that while it has become necessary, that these reductions are needed, it is with concern that we accept them.

The areas that are to be cut, namely, extension and training, livestock, dairy development, IPN, water management and plant nutrition, are essentially basic towards any agricultural development programme either in the medium or the long term. While in the short term these cuts might be acceptable, it is with concern that we hope that action will be taken, as soon as possible in the future to revive and to renew these cuts. Unless some of these things are replaced in the short term, the medium term effects of some of these cuts to the agricultural development programmes in our countries would be rather heavy and could be even disastrous. It may be necessary to spend far more to revive these programmes than what we have now.

**Mohamed Said Mohamed Ali HARBI (Observer for Sudan) (Original language Arabic):** In the name of God the Compassionate the Merciful, thank you Mr Chairman. In brief and as an observer and as a member of the Finance Committee representing the Near East region, I would like to second the previous speakers in paying tribute to Dr. Bommer and Mr. Salim Khan and the Administration as a whole of the FAO, under the supervision of Mahboub El Haq, because they have actually facilitated our work during the joint meeting.

Mr. Chairman, please allow me to announce my full support to what has been said by the distinguished representative of Egypt and Algeria with regard to languages. As you are well aware, Arabic is one of the official working languages of the United Nations so why should we be so harsh on Arabic in a direct or indirect way. As a matter of fact, in a lecture on WAICENT and with regard to the languages that will be used in this network, it has been mentioned that English, French and Spanish will be introduced into this network. When we asked why those three languages and how about Arabic, he said that this could be possible but we are constrained by some financial difficulties and the opinion of the donor countries.

I am submitting this to your august Council and we hope that Arabic will be treated equally as is the case with other languages whether the meetings are big or small, big seminars, small seminars, conferences. What is important, Mr. Chairman, we have to be democratic and we have to respect the peoples speaking Arabic.

**Humberto MOLINA REYES (Chile):** No quisiera iniciar o abrir un debate, pero quisiera eso sí, hacer algunas reflexiones sobre el tema de fondo que se analiza en este momento.

Se han mencionado recortes presupuestarios, argumentando que dichos recortes han mejorado la eficiencia o la eficacia. Quisiera plantear algunas reflexiones sobre estos conceptos.

La eficacia o la eficiencia, señor Presidente, están básicamente relacionadas con lo que se determina el negocio o misión de una organización. Es decir, si uno hace recortes presupuestarios no necesariamente esas disminuciones presupuestarias van a transformarse en un ahorro en el mediano o en el largo plazo. En otras palabras, cuando se desea reiniciar esas actividades, a mediano o largo plazo, significan un mayor costo para la Organización el volver a poner en vigencia dichas iniciativas.

En otras palabras, señor Presidente, lo que yo quiero apuntar es que es necesario iniciar un esfuerzo de reflexión para determinar cual es el negocio, cual es la función o la misión fundamental de la Organización, porque a partir de ello debemos estar dispuestos a financiar todas las acciones que ese negocio o esa misión signifique.

Participo con la opinión dada por el distinguido Representante de Cabo Verde, en el sentido de que hay ciertas actividades que no son desarrolladas por otras organizaciones y que están dentro del

ámbito neto de la FAO, y que entiendo que los recortes presupuestarios sean necesarios de realizar, pero no olvidemos que parte de esas funciones no van a ser realizadas y significa que en un mediano plazo van a tener un mayor costo.

La segunda reflexión, señor Presidente, referida al mismo tema, es que los reajustes presupuestarios en cualquier organización, incluso en la empresa privada (se ha mencionado una tendencia moderna del *Outsourcing*, una tendencia que se está utilizando muchísimo en el sector privado, no necesariamente puede ser la mejor o la única solución para ese ajuste presupuestario); pero en definitiva, lo que decía es que, cuando se define una política de reajuste presupuestario hay que incluir las inversiones necesarias para optimizar la eficiencia de la organización o el negocio de que se trate. En otras palabras, el recortar presupuestos o personal se traduce, en definitiva y muchas veces, en un aumento de los gastos y no una disminución del presupuesto. Quería aportar estas reflexiones, señor Presidente, porque creo que es importante que nos avoquemos a estudiar una propuesta realista en que se consideren en una política de mediano y largo plazo las menores disponibilidades que eventualmente pueda tener la Organización.

Es cierto que se pueden utilizar técnicas modernas para mejorar las comunicaciones entre los Estados Miembros y la Organización, pero también creo que hay ciertas realidades en países en vías de desarrollo que no están en condiciones de asumir esas nuevas tecnologías; por lo tanto, en algunos casos es necesario continuar con los mismos métodos que se tienen. Eso hace que es necesario definir este esquema del mediano y largo plazo.

**Pedro PINTO DA SILVA (Portugal):** The delegation of Portugal wishes to thank Dr. Bommer for his clear and succinct report. We are pleased that programme cuts were made while minimalizing the reductions in technical positions. As to the medium and long range future plans for FAO, we envisage FAO's main vocation as a normative one. Indeed it is our belief that future challenges in agriculture and food will require an FAO that is a world centre of excellence in prospective thought. Thus, FAO must reacquire its leadership position in all facets of agriculture, in particular, in areas like environmental degradation where the world will face losses that will be irreversible, or that will be so costly to recover that they will be no longer feasible.

This said, the delegation of Portugal sees also the clear and present usefulness, as well as pressing needs for field based development activities. However, our outlook is mainly positive in that, within a foreseeable future, development of countries in particular in Africa, will come to parallel that achieved in so many countries in Asia. Thus, we feel that it is imperative that FAO retains and sharpens its normative capacities where it has established a long and distinguished record to prepare for challenges that we all will soon and acutely face.

**Kiala Kia MATEVA (Observer for Angola):** En premier lieu, je voudrais féliciter au nom de ma délégation M. Bommer pour la brillante présentation des différents documents. Monsieur le Président, mes propos ont déjà été exprimés par les différentes délégations qui m'ont précédé. Mon Gouvernement voudrait appuyer les ajustements proposés par le Directeur général. Comme les Comités du Programme et financier que ma délégation félicite en passant, mon pays regrette les réductions dans les différents domaines indiqués au paragraphe 1.6. J'exprime les mêmes préoccupations que le délégué de la Thaïlande, et appuie tous ceux qui ont parlé sur le Programme de coopération technique. Comme vous savez, mon pays est en train de panser ses blessures de la longue guerre, et a donc besoin de cet appui pour résoudre ses difficultés, graduellement, jusqu'à la paix totale. Enfin je profite de cette opportunité pour appuyer l'intervention des délégués du Chili et du Cap-Vert.

**Mansour Mabrouk SEGHAYER (Observer for Libya) (Original language Arabic):** I will be as brief as possible.

First, my delegation would like to pay tribute to Dr Bommer for his excellent presentation on the report of the joint meeting of the Finance and Programme Committees.

My delegation supports the proposals of the Director-General without any reservation with regard to the budget adjustments for the biennium 1996–97.

However, my delegation would like to stress the importance of maintaining the economic and technical activities that serve the interests of the Member Nations of this Organization.

Mr Chairman, I shall not be lengthy, but I would like to support what has been said by the distinguished representatives from Egypt, Algeria and the Sudan with regard to the use of the working languages in this Organization. I do support you, Mr Chairman, in what you have said in terms of holding meetings once in Arabic and once in Spanish. We have no objection to that.

**The meeting rose at 12.40 hours**

**La séance est levée à 12 h 40**

**Se levanta la sesión a las 12.40 horas**



4 October 1996



منظمة الإغذية  
والزراعة  
للأمم المتحدة

联合国  
粮食及  
农业组织

Food  
and  
Agriculture  
Organization  
of  
the  
United  
Nations

Organisation  
des  
Nations  
Unies  
pour  
l'alimentation  
et  
l'agriculture

Organización  
de las  
Naciones  
Unidas  
para la  
Agricultura  
y la  
Alimentación

Council

Conseil

Consejo

Hundred and Eleventh Session · Cent onzième session · 111º período de sesiones

FOURTH PLENARY MEETING  
QUATRIÈME SEANCE PLENIÈRE  
CUARTA SESION PLENARIA

4 October 1996

The Fourth Plenary Meeting was opened at 14.50 hours

Mr José Ramón López Portillo,

Independent Chairman of the Council, presiding

La quatrième séance plénière est ouverte à 14 h 50  
sous la présidence de M. José Ramón López Portillo,  
Président indépendant du Conseil

Se abre la cuarta sesión plenaria a las 14.50 horas  
bajo la presidencia del Sr. José Ramón López Portillo,  
Presidente Independiente del Consejo

- IV. PROGRAMME, BUDGETARY, FINANCIAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS (continued)**
- IV. QUESTIONS CONCERNANT LE PROGRAMME, LE BUDGET, LES FINANCES ET L'ADMINISTRATION (suite)**
- IV. ASUNTOS DEL PROGRAMA Y ASUNTOS PRESUPUESTARIOS, FINANCIEROS Y ADMINISTRATIVOS (continuación)**
- 11. Adjustments to the Programme of Work and Budget 1996–97 (continued)**
- 11. Ajustements au Programme de travail et budget 1996–97 (suite)**
- 11. Ajustes del Programa de Labores y Presupuesto para 1996–97 (continuación)**

**K. SHIMIZU (Japan):** My delegation wishes also to join other speakers by commending the efforts of the members of the Programme and Finance Committees and wishes to take note of the reports with appreciation. However, my delegation would like to seek further information or clarification on the following issues.

First, on the reform of the two departments, namely, Administrative and Finance Department and the General Affairs Information Department. To my recollection, the reform of the two departments was not clear, while other departments were under the reform process. The reform plan of the two departments had been awaited. It seems to me that no information about the result or the plan of the reform has not been given to the members of this Organization yet. If so, the House should be enlightened and if not, the reference would be appreciated. It is also recalled, Japan suggested to merge the two departments into one. If it is difficult, another suggestion would be to downgrade one of the departments to a lower level unit, including one of the ADG posts to a lower level. This suggestion is based on the reflection that there is not much difference in numbers of senior posts despite some reductions in numbers at P post levels. If we are looking into the standard field structures which is also another area, in future, for review.

Secondly, on the PERSYS and the FINSYS programmes, I raised the question on the programme of the systems, at the last sessions, and expressed some concern over the seriousness of the problem. It had involved a considerable amount of resources which had not been effectively used and as a result, now the programmes are to be replaced with new ones. The information or explanation given to the House by the Secretariat was not satisfactory. My delegation, and some others as well, were not convinced. My intervention, again, is based on the conviction that the problem, as such, should not be repeated. To my understanding the replacement process is now going on. If that is the case, I wish to put a few questions to the Secretariat, through you, Mr Chairman:

How are the past lessons or experiences reflected in the replacement process?

Are the views or opinions of the staff members studied or reflected?

Is responsible management or operational restructure reestablished to avoid a repetition?

Are progress reports on the replacement process regularly submitted to the Programme Committee as well as to the Finance Committee?

When is the replacement process to be complete, including the information on the total replacement cost and on the resources expended so far?

Lastly. What are the probabilities of the success of the replacement programme?

**Franco GINOCCHIO (Italy):** The Italian delegation would like, first of all, to thank Mr Bommer for his clear introduction to Agenda Item 11 concerning the process of adjustment to the Programme of Work and Budget for 1996–97.

In this regard, after the May session of Programme and Finance Committees, Italy expected that the adjusted Programme of Work and Budget would be implemented in an orderly manner and in conformity with the proposals adopted by the two above mentioned Committees. We actually consider it important that budgetary reductions are absorbed through a combination of efficiency savings and rationalization measures in the structure of offices and departments of the Organization, as well as, as a last resort, through selective reductions under various budgetary chapters which were estimated at nearly 0.7 per cent of the whole Programme of Work and Budget.

Now, after reading the report of the last session of the joint meeting of the Programme and Finance Committees, we realize that it has not been possible to protect all economic and technical FAO programmes. Consequently, we hope that the budgetary reductions in the technical and economic programmes of great importance, will be only temporary, and we would like also to suggest exploring the possibility to replenish the resources allocated to the priority programmes in case extrabudgetary resources might become available. In this context, Italy is awaiting with great interest for the next progress report on the implementation of the Programme of Work and Budget for 1996–97, which might be issued in April 1997, in order to have a more detailed picture of the impact of the process of adjustment on the staff and on the output of the Organization. As a matter of fact, Italy considers it important to protect the priority programmes of FAO and we think that the priority activities of the Organization have been highlighted in the Medium-Term Plan approved by the last Conference.

Finally, we hope that FAO will receive sufficient financial support from Member States in order to be able to carry out, in the best way, its activities as a centre of excellence in the field of food and agriculture, including also an adequate level of technical cooperation activities.

**Inge NORDANG (Norway):** Thank you for giving me the floor at this late hour in the debate. Like other Members of the Council, my delegation can support the conclusions from the Programme and Finance Committees. I just meant a reduction to budget realities is important even if we, like others, would have liked to see a situation where such cuts had not been necessary.

Norway has, together with the other Nordic countries, for a long time advocated a higher priority to the forestry sector. We therefore support the statement made by the United States and others, that we would have liked to have seen a larger protection of these programmes.

FAO is, as we know, engaged in very important normative work in the forestry sector. My delegation holds the view that the Organization needs to engage in field activities in order to perform its normative functions in a satisfactory manner. In this respect, I wish to point out the fact that there are discussions going on with donors to the field programme, on modifications of the reimbursement scheme for support costs. In this regard, I would like to point to paragraph 2.21 in document CL 111/14, and the need for attracting extra-budgetary resources in support of technical and economic programmes. My delegation is concerned that any increase in support costs reimbursement as indicated in paragraph 2.19 of the same document might have a negative effect on the mobilizations of such funds.

**P.K. CHEPKWONY (Observer for Kenya):** Allow my delegation to congratulate Mr Bommer, the Chairman of the Programme Committee, for presenting a concise and lucid introduction to Agenda Item 11 on adjustment to the Programme of Work and Budget of 1996–97, as contained in document CL 111/14.

The Kenya delegation would like to add its voice of support to the concerns raised by the Uganda delegation, amongst others, regarding the net budget reduction on important issues for developing countries. These areas are education, extension and training, and others, as referred to in paragraph 1.6 of CL 111/14. My delegation considers these elements critical to the improvement of not only agricultural productivity but also human resource capacity. In this regard, we call upon FAO to continue finding ways and means of addressing these issues in favour of developing countries.

**D. BOMMER (Chairman, Programme Committee):** A very concrete question I have been asked by the distinguished delegate from Japan and these questions are directed towards the Director-General and his colleagues and I am happy to leave it to Mr. Hjort to reply to those.

But I would like to say that, on behalf of the colleagues of both Committees, Finance and Programme Committees, I am certainly glad to know that our work has found satisfaction of the Council Members in a very difficult and important task which has been entrusted to both Committees. It is a good example, if we talk about improvement of governance, how a kind of distribution of responsibility and preparatory work for specific discussions can be performed in this Organization without necessarily going into repetitive debates on specific issues.

**DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL:** First, let me respond in general to comments that were made about the budget reduction process being underway in a widespread manner including among Member governments. The first point I wish to make here is that this Council will recall, from its meeting in June of 1994, that the move toward improved efficiency and effectiveness of this Organization was initiated before we had to confront the budget reduction process. At a very recent meeting of the UN system agencies, where reform and review is very much on the agenda, it became evident to all of those participating in that meeting, that FAO was in the lead on this matter.

The other point I wished to remind the Council, although I know you are aware, among the UN system agencies, the reduction in FAO's budget for this biennium, compared with the previous biennium, was larger than for any of the other members of the system.

The second point I wish to mention is the human factor. The Chairman mentioned this point. It was noted in the joint meeting that our documents did not sufficiently address the human factor associated with this process of reduction. That was a valid concern on the part of the members and I wish to report to the Council that the human factor is very much in mind in the process of trying to find a solution to those many people that were on posts that have been abolished. The Director-General established redeployment task forces. One for the professional and above, and another for the general service.

The task forces include representatives from the staff bodies in both cases. The approach has been to search for every possibility to redeploy the staff member that is in this situation, including making available resources for retraining, to move them into a occupational category where they have an aptitude or some background, some experience, or could, with some training, be moved into another occupational group.

The Director-General has accepted proposed agreed terminations on a case by case basis. An agreed termination means that the staff member agrees to the terms and conditions associated with their leaving the Organization. In this process, clear priority is given to humanitarian cases and to those who have a health problem. We also consider agreed terminations from people that are on the redeployment lists, and in certain occupational groups, where there is a very difficult problem in redeployment, the agreed termination approach has been used with people not on the list but in the occupational group, to free up a post for the person that needs to be redeployed.

Nevertheless, there are some occupational groups-fortunately now very few-where the situation is extremely difficult. We have tried to avoid having to go to the step of non-renewal of fixed-term contracts. If we do, the Director-General has instructed that, even in this case, to make certain the human factor is taken into account. I would close on this digression by saying that the people that have been involved in the redeployment process have, in my view, performed a marvellous task. They have not completed their work, but by the end of September they had made far greater progress than I believe anyone could have expected, and we all are appreciative of that.

Just a footnote on regrading of posts of the Organization. I simply want to remind the Council, as I did the Programme and Finance Committees, that for some years in previous biennia, the Organization was upgrading posts so we ended up in a situation, by the beginning of 1994, with a grade structure that was not defensible. The structure was compressed and we had people in some cases only in the top two grades of the professional categories.

The comments made about forestry in particular, maybe fisheries also, I will ask Mr Wade to respond, but it is obvious from the comments that were made that there is a misunderstanding, as no programme reductions were made with respect to forestry but that can be explained in more detail.

We were encouraged to use Internet. We have been on Internet for some time. WAICENT is there. We are getting twenty-five thousand hits a day on Internet. I might note here that I noticed in the news releases from the UN that they were going to start doing so last week. We do have, as you have seen in these documents, a strong push toward electronic dissemination of documents and information. However, we have some Member Nations that cannot make effective use of information in that form and so we certainly will continue to provide hard copies of information for those countries.

There was a comment about cash flow but I believe that will be reviewed in a forthcoming agenda item, so I could now turn to the questions that came from the representative from Japan.

The first with respect to the AF Department and the GI Department. The review of the General Affairs and Information Department has been largely completed and the results of the review were presented to the joint meeting and they, in turn, approved the abolition of one of the largest Divisions in this Organization and the transfer of certain retained functions to three other Divisions, two in that Department and one in the AF Department. Roughly, one half of the abolished posts in this last exercise, if I remember right, arise from that GI Department. So there is a substantial downsizing and outsourcing in turn to take care of the work.

The management review of the AF Department is in process. Mr Mehboob is here and can explain in more detail if the members would so wish. It is scheduled to be completed by the end of this year, and hopefully in time, for the results to be incorporated into the proposals for 1998/99. No decision has been made to merge the two Departments. Nor has any decision been made to downgrade one of the ADGs. I would point out, if my memory is right, that so far in terms of the reduction in posts, that the biggest percentage reduction has taken place in D-2s. The D-2 category which is one step below the ADGs, the next highest is P-5s.

Concerning the replacement of FINSYS/PERSYS, the specific questions I will seek to respond, hopefully in an adequate way, but somewhat more general, and again if you wish further information Mr Mehboob is here to respond to any questions you might have.

First, have the past lessons been reflected upon? The answer is yes. As a matter of fact, to avoid or to minimize, the potential problems that we faced in connection with FINSYS/PERSYS, the Director-General insisted that the replacement be something that had been tried and tested. You will recall that when the FINSYS/PERSYS system was developed, we were not in a situation such as we

are today that is there were no package solutions available and one basically had to build the system and, that is what was done. Today there are packages available and the search was on, including through the tendering process, for packages and a package was selected: the ORACLE package which was judged to be the best alternative that existed.

Have the staff members been consulted? The staff members have been consulted since the first day of the FINSYS/PERSYS in the sense that it is staff members that bring to the attention of the managers problems with an existing system.

The structure to avoid repetition or any problems? It is a more comprehensive structure. Mr Mehboob chairs a group that contains high-level officials from each of the Departments of the Organization. There is a link with the users and they are fully involved in this ongoing process of replacing the system.

Regular reports are being submitted and we certainly will be reporting to the Governing Bodies when it is complete and even as the process continues.

As far as resources expended, I do not have the exact numbers but I am sure others do. The only point I would make here is that it is a fraction of what is being mentioned for systems elsewhere in the UN system or in Member Governments.

What is the probability of success of replacement? I would say very high. As I said it is a package solution. It needs some fine tuning to fit our particular circumstances but we are making a very serious effort to see if policies and procedures can be changed to accommodate the package, rather than programming or augmenting the package in some way to fit present procedures. In other words, there is the back and forth between policies, procedures and the capabilities of the package. The completion date is 1 January 1998. The schedule calls for the testing, in effect almost a parallel system operating during 1997, but the key should be turned 1 January 1998.

Mr Chairman, I believe that takes care of everything, with one possible exception, that one of the members made a policy statement with respect to the future budgets of organizations. I note, for the record, that I assume that statement is made with respect to the policy of the existing administration.

**Khalid MEHBOOB (Assistant Director-General, Administration and Finance Department):** Mr Hjort has, in fact, answered all of the questions. I just want to give one or two details, particularly on the first question about us having learned from past mistakes. The lessons we learned from the failure of FINSYS/PERSYS were that FINSYS/PERSYS was developed without the procedures and business practices of FAO having been reviewed. So, the old practices and the old procedures were computerized. That was one of the major reasons why the system failed, because it was reflecting too cumbersome a process.

The second aspect of the failure was that there was not enough user consultation. We have taken care of both these aspects because we have done a review of our procedures and processes to streamline them before developing our requirements to implement this package.

Secondly, the user consultation process has been formalized. In fact, we have nine user groups reflecting the whole spectrum of the Organization and we operate through workshops wherever there is a problem: to analyze, to thrash out solutions, we establish workshops involving people from other divisions. In addition, there is the formal structure of the Steering Committee, etc.

On the question of the probable dates, as Mr Hjort said, there are two dates: one is January 1997, when a configured system for the Human Resources Management aspects and the accounting and financial aspects would be delivered to users for testing, data conversion and parallel runs, etc. for the system to go live on 1 January 1998.

**Tony WADE (Director, Office of Programme, Budget and Evaluation):** Very briefly, there were two questions on the budgetary side of the issue. The first concerned the need to protect Forestry, in particular, and also Fisheries was mentioned. The Director-General shares your concern and, in fact, throughout this whole process insisted that no posts be reduced from either Forestries or Fisheries; that is neither Professional nor General Service posts, throughout the adjustments to the budget. These were the only Departments that were protected in that way. With an 8.1 per cent reduction, you can imagine it was quite difficult to achieve.

The only reductions the Departments did face were in two areas. First of all in the areas of travel and in the areas of publications where, in the processes, certain suggestions were made about places where funds could be saved without excessive programme damage. Secondly, all of the efficiency savings which could be applied, were applied across the board. So, for example one aspect of this was that we reduced the cost of publications by changing the whole structure of the Publications Division and outsourcing more of our work at a much lower rate than it was costing us internally.

In the adjustments to the budget we took 15 per cent off the cost of publications. In fact, we have done little better than that in practice. We took 15 per cent off in the adjustments and that adjustment was made also to Forestry and Fisheries. I should say that adjustment was therefore made without programme impact; it did not reduce the outputs that those Departments can produce. The same is true of all of the other efficiency savings, for example, the change in travel contractual arrangements, etc.

So, I would like to emphasize that the Director-General does share the priority that the Council shares for Forestry and for Fisheries and had taken specific action to protect these programmes as much as possible.

Very briefly, in response to the comment from the distinguished delegate of Bangladesh concerning publications and the need to maintain publications and rationalize them rather than cut them, I think that is exactly what we are doing. The vast majority of the reduction in publications comes from a reduction in the production cost of publications. There are some other reductions that were chosen by the Departments themselves as being those lower priority areas which they felt they could manage without. But, as I say, 15 per cent of the savings comes from reducing the production costs through the various means described in the documents that went to the Committees.

**Adrian CIUBREAG (Roumanie):** Je voudrais au nom de mon pays dire quelques mots d'appui au rapport des Comités du Programme et financier respectivement (documents CL 111/14 et 111/15), qui visent dans leur substance l'ajustement au Programme de travail et budget 1996-97. Nous apprécions vivement le vaste processus d'analyse et de consultations et les efforts déployés par le Directeur général afin de préparer un programme à partir d'un budget de 650 millions de dollars, approuvé par la Conférence. La méthodologie adoptée nous a parue bonne. Une forte proportion des économies ressortissait du gain d'efficacité (39,1 pour cent du total) et les chapitres budgétaires 1, 5 et 6 couvraient essentiellement des domaines administratifs et de soutien (30,7 pour cent du total). Nous partageons l'opinion, exprimée dans la conclusion du rapport de la session conjointe du Comité du Programme et du Comité financier du 8 mai dernier, qu'il faut continuer à rechercher des gains d'efficacité. Ce qui nous intéresse c'est de préserver, en toutes circonstances, la capacité de notre Organisation d'assurer à l'avenir une activité au service du développement et, par voie de conséquence, des programmes techniques et économiques dans le cadre de programmes de coopération. En ce qui concerne le rapport de la session qui s'est tenue du 6 au 10 mai dernier, du Comité du Programme, nous sommes tout à fait d'avis que le rôle de la Division du centre d'investissements doit s'accroître dans la formulation de projets d'assistance technique complexes, et cela en coopération avec les institutions financières partenaires (paragraphes 2.17 du rapport). Nous manifestons une certaine réserve au sujet de la conclusion du rapport (paragraphe 2.20) sur les conséquences possibles, probablement jugées négatives, de la réorganisation de la Division des publications. Ceci pouvant être source d'économies supplémentaires, surtout dans la distribution

sans affecter les actions techniques et économiques. Un chapitre important pour un pays comme la Roumanie, qui est sous-représenté dans le Secrétariat de la FAO, est celui concernant les postes vacants. Une bonne et équitable politique de personnel doit assurer aux pays membres le sentiment de parfaite égalité. Il y a encore beaucoup à faire en la matière. La délégation de la Roumanie considère que notre Organisation dispose de ressources et de volonté suffisantes pour assurer à chacun un accès adéquat à sa vie fonctionnelle et administrative.

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Con esto concluye el debate sobre el Tema 11. Quisiera advertir nuevamente que mi resumen no prejuzga el informe que prepare el Comité de Redacción que presentará a la Plenaria el día 10 de octubre.

El Consejo agradeció al doctor Bommer, Presidente del Comité del Programa, la presentación de este tema y también la dirección atinada de parte de los trabajos de las reuniones conjuntas del Comité del Programa y de Finanzas. Pidió transmitiera este agradecimiento al señor Salim Khan, Presidente del Comité de Finanzas, así como a todos los miembros de ambos comités.

La decisión de la Conferencia de aprobar el presente presupuesto para 1996–97 fue excepcional y representó un gran reto para la Secretaría de la FAO, así como para los Comités del Programa y de Finanzas que tuvieron que responder de manera rápida y eficaz para la aprobación del programa de labores para el corriente bienio.

Se reconoció que ningún país podía estar satisfecho con los recortes. Los ajustes al programa aprobados por ambos comités son la base para la realización de las actividades para este bienio y, los informes de dichos comités y el debate del Consejo, arrojan la impresión positiva de que la ejecución del programa marcha adecuadamente. El Consejo, no obstante, está en espera de un informe de avance y de su ejecución.

El Consejo tomó nota con satisfacción de los ahorros y eficiencias logrados por la FAO y también de los cambios organizacionales que fueron incorporados en el ajuste del Programa de Labores y Presupuesto. Estos tienen impactos importantes sobre el personal de la Organización, el cual ha absorbido el impacto con un esfuerzo mayor a fin de minimizar la parte negativa de este proceso difícil; el factor humano de estos efectos es primordial y se dieron seguridades, de parte de la Secretaría, de tenerlo en cuenta al cancelar puestos. Las naciones manifestaron sus preferencias por priorizar unas u otras actividades. Al referirse a las ventajas comparativas de la Organización, algunos delegados destacaron la necesidad de potenciar el trabajo normativo de la FAO como el más ventajoso; muchos otros insistieron en la importancia de un equilibrio entre la esfera normativa y la operativa y, destacaron la importancia de la asistencia técnica al desarrollo y de los programas de cooperación técnica.

También el Consejo tomó nota de la importancia que para algunos países representaban ciertos programas técnicos; en lo que se refiere al forestal, se dio la seguridad de que éste había sufrido algunos recortes pero en menor medida que otros programas. Se hizo un nuevo llamado para que todos los países paguen por completo sus atrasos y se pongan al día en sus pagos. Esa, reconocieron, sigue siendo la fuente de las dificultades financieras de la entrega del programa para este bienio.

Al tomar nota con satisfacción de los logros alcanzados se hizo un renovado esfuerzo para continuar aplicando medidas de ahorro y deficiencias internas y así mismo para evitar duplicaciones, reducir el costo de reuniones, descentralizar la administración aún más, eliminar órganos y paneles de expertos en la medida en que sea necesario y conveniente, y porque no cumplen más con un propósito prioritario, continuar reduciendo gastos de viajes y de publicaciones.

Algunos delegados solicitaron conocer el plan de reforma de algunos departamentos de la FAO, tal como el GI y la reorganización de los niveles de puestos.



Asimismo se tomó nota de los planes para reemplazar FINSYS y PERSYS y se indicó que no debía caerse en los errores anteriores, mientras que debía crearse una estructura más eficiente rindiendo informes de progreso regulares.

Se planteó también el uso de sistemas electrónicos informáticos para reducir costos en la distribución de documentos en la comunicación, pero esto en la medida de lo posible y en la medida que fuera conveniente, de acuerdo a las capacidades de cada país.

Se insistió, en que se siguiera dando un tratamiento igualitario a todos los idiomas de trabajo de la organización.

Hay algunos otros puntos seguramente que no he recogido yo, pero éstos, el Comité de Redacción, los tomará en cuenta.

Bien distinguidos delegados, si no tienen ustedes ninguna otra observación, concluimos el Tema 11 y pasaremos al tratamiento del tema 17 que espero lo resolvamos rápidamente.

## **V. CONSTITUTIONAL AND LEGAL MATTERS**

## **V. QUESTIONS CONSTITUTIONNELLES ET JURIDIQUES**

## **V. ASUNTOS CONSTITUCIONALES Y JURÍDICOS**

### **17. Report of the Sixty-fifth Session (Rome, 9 -10 September 1996) of the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters**

### **17. Rapport de la soixante-cinquième session du Comité des questions constitutionnelles et juridiques (Rome, 9–10 septembre 1996)**

### **17. Informe del 65º período de sesiones (Roma, 9–10 de septiembre de 1996) del Comité de Asuntos Constitucionales y Jurídicos**

#### **17.1 Broadening the mandate of the Advisory Committee of Experts on Forest Products, and Abolition of the Advisory Committee of Experts on Pulp and Paper**

#### **17.1 Elargissement du mandat du Comité consultatif d'experts des produits forestiers et abolition du Comité consultatif d'experts de la pâte et du papier**

#### **17.1 Ampliación del mandato del Comité Asesor sobre la Pasta y el Papel y supresión del Comité sobre Paneles a base de Madera**

#### **17.2 Change of title of the North American Forestry Commission**

#### **17.2 Modification du titre de la Commission des forêts pour l'Amérique du Nord**

#### **17.2 Cambio de la denominación de la Comisión Forestal para América del Norte**

**S. HAMDI (Président du Comité des questions constitutionnelles et juridiques):** C'est moi qui vous remercie, M. le Président, et vous prie de m'excuser si j'ai peut-être introduit quelques éléments de perturbation dans votre programme initial. Je vous remercie beaucoup, et vous suis très reconnaissant M. le Président, mes chers collègues, honorables délégués, de me permettre de vous présenter très brièvement le rapport de la soixante-cinquième session du Comité des questions constitutionnelles et juridiques qui a eu à examiner lors de cette session deux petites questions. Il faut dire que c'était deux questions assez simples et dont l'examen n'a pas posé de problèmes particuliers.

Le premier point concerne le regroupement des activités des deux comités en un seul comité. Il s'agit donc du Comité consultatif de la pâte et du papier et du Comité des panneaux dérivés du bois. La proposition a été présentée par le Secrétariat au Comité des questions constitutionnelles et juridiques pour essayer de «fusionner» les activités de ces deux comités parce qu'il existe des relations assez étroites entre ces activités d'une part et cela peut correspondre-c'est du moins ma

perception-aux efforts de restructuration, aux efforts d'économie et de coûts déployés depuis plusieurs mois par l'Organisation et ses organes directeurs.

Il est donc proposé au Conseil d'essayer d'adopter la proposition du Comité visant à élargir le mandat du Comité consultatif de la pâte et du papier en vue d'y inclure les activités du Comité des panneaux dérivés du bois à ce comité, et la conséquence immédiate de cet élargissement du mandat rejaillit au niveau du libellé du «nouveau» Comité. Nous aurons ainsi un nouveau libellé intégrant le Comité consultatif du papier et des produits dérivés du bois, voilà le nouveau libellé du Comité après inclusion des activités du Comité des panneaux dérivés du bois dans le mandat du Comité consultatif de la pâte et du papier.

Ce regroupement ou cette restructuration aura également une action au niveau de la composition du nouveau comité et sera composé d'un nombre de 15 à 25 experts choisis par le Directeur général qui participeraient à titre individuel et à leurs frais. Comme mentionné plus haut, ce regroupement des activités va se traduire par la suppression du Comité des panneaux dérivés du bois et sur le plan coûts, par des réductions des dépenses assumées auparavant par l'Organisation pour financer les réunions et les activités des deux comités. Le Comité soumet au Conseil cette question-qui s'est avérée après examen conforme aux textes fondamentaux de l'Organisation-pour approbation avec le Projet de résolution qui consacre cette proposition du Comité.

Le deuxième point, soumis à l'examen du Conseil après examen du Comité des questions constitutionnelles et juridiques, concerne la modification du titre de la Commission des forêts pour l'Amérique du Nord. Il semble que la proposition vienne du Comité lui-même donc des pays intéressés, à savoir les Etats-Unis d'Amérique, le Canada et le Mexique et il semble que la proposition tienne un peu au terme anglais "forestry" qui avait pris une connotation quelque peu négative. Par conséquent, les membres et le Comité proposent de changer le nom de ce Comité par "Commission des forêts...". Remplacer le mot "forestry" par le mot "forest" en anglais. Je crois que cela n'a aucun impact sur le titre en espagnol. Cela ne concerne également pas le titre en français et bien sûr le titre en arabe. Cette question également n'a pas posé de problèmes lors de son examen et surtout elle n'a aucun impact du point de vue de sa conformité aux textes fondamentaux et je vous soumetts cette proposition pour approbation.

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Señor, deseo aclararles también que hay un error en el texto de la Orden del Día, en cuanto que este tema 17 dice que es nada más para debate; en verdad, como han ustedes escuchado, es también para decisiones. Ustedes tiene que decidir dos cuestiones, una, respecto al subtema 17.1, aprobar el Proyecto de Resolución que aparece en Apéndice C del documento *CL 111/5*, a fin de que se pase éste a la Conferencia y, posteriormente, el Consejo lo aprueba y, en segundo lugar el cambio de la denominación del título, que afecta aparentemente solo el inglés, de la Comisión Forestal para América del Norte.

Si ninguna delegación hace ninguna observación esto indicaría que ustedes aprueban estas dos cuestiones que someten para su decisión.

**Nasreddine RIMOUCHE (Algérie):** Permettez-moi d'abord de féliciter le Président du Comité des questions constitutionnelles et juridiques, M. Salam Hamdi pour l'exposé qu'il a bien voulu nous présenter et qui reflète clairement les décisions qui seront prises aujourd'hui. Nous avons examiné avec intérêt le document du Secrétariat concernant le rapport de la soixante-cinquième Session du Comité des questions constitutionnelles et juridiques. Nous avons pris connaissance dans ce document et notamment dans le paragraphe 7, du rôle du Comité consultatif de la pâte et du papier, et avons conclu qu'elles sont importantes. D'autre part, le document brosse un tableau des différentes activités du Comité des panneaux dérivés du bois et, par conséquent, une trêve dans ces activités est enregistrée depuis 0 en raison du manque de ressources financières et de personnel au niveau de la Division des produits et aussi de l'Organisation. Pour ces raisons, il est proposé de supprimer le Comité des panneaux dérivés du bois et, par la même occasion, d'élargir le mandat du

Comité consultatif de la pâte et du papier pour qu'il couvre d'autres produits forestiers. Ceci nous amène à dire que des prérogatives du Comité des panneaux dérivés du bois seront transférées au Comité de la pâte et du papier. Et nous approuvons cette proposition car elle correspond à l'esprit de la décision de la cent-dixième Session du Conseil visant à entreprendre un examen des organes statutaires et constituer une liste d'experts afin de réaliser des gains en efficacité. Enfin, nous approuvons que le projet de résolution soit soumis par le Comité des questions constitutionnelles et juridiques.

Monsieur le Président, nous souhaitons attirer l'attention du Secrétariat sur une situation qui nous préoccupe, c'est-à-dire celle qui concerne la suppression de ce Comité due essentiellement au manque de ressources et de personnel. Il ne faudrait pas que cette pratique soit un exemple à suivre pour d'autres comités et il faudrait que les raisons de suppressions soient objectives. Par la même occasion, nous approuvons sans aucune difficulté, la deuxième proposition qui nous est soumise, partant du fait que cette modification est de nature terminologique et que la proposition émane des pays concernés.

**Pereira A. SILIMA (Tanzania):** The Tanzania delegation has studied the report and recommendations of the 65th Session of the Committee on the Constitutional and Legal Matters as presented in the document CL 111/5 and in the Resolution 30/59 of the 10th Session of the FAO Conference on Pulp and Paper Development, as well as in the Resolution 3/43 of that 43rd Session of the Council on the FAO Committee on Wood-Based Panel Products.

My Delegation welcomes the recommendations to broaden the mandate of the Advisory Committee on Pulp and Paper and the abolition of the Advisory Committee of the Experts on Wood-Based Panel Products. The Delegation fully endorses the idea and approves the Resolution.

Mr Chairman, the proposed action will reduce total costs of the Organization in supporting only one committee and it is likely to enhance efficiency. My Delegation sees that decision as more justifiable since the Advisory Committee of Experts on Wood-Based Panel Products has failed to meet since 1990.

**YUAN HAIYING (China):** The Chinese delegation is in favour of the first proposal, which is to abolish the Advisory Committee on Wood-Based Panel Products and expand the mandate of the Advisory Committee on Pulp and Paper and its functions so that it will include sawn timber and other products and also change its name to the Advisory Committee on Paper and Wood Products. We also agree to the composition of this Committee.

Here we want to stress one point, which is that we hope this Committee will focus more on the interests of the developing countries and make efforts to facilitate extension, production and research and make a positive contribution in these areas.

As a person specialized in forestry, I also hope this Committee will strengthen its connection and cooperation exchanges with China. Here I have a small question and need clarification. In today's agenda, item 17, there is a little mistake. It says "Abolition of the Advisory Committee of Experts on Pulp and Paper". It seems this is not correct.

**LEGAL COUNSEL:** The distinguished delegate of China is of course correct -- there was a mistake in the agenda item. The correct names are on the draft Resolution in Appendix C.

**YUAN HAIYING (China):** There is also a mistake in the Chinese version, which contains the same mistake.

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Distinguidos delegados, con esto ustedes han aprobado la resolución del Apéndice C del documento *CL 111/5*, al igual que el cambio en la denominación de la Comisión Forestal para América del Norte.

Si no hubiera ninguna otra consideración desearía yo, a nombre del Consejo, agradecer al Presidente del CACJ por su presencia y por los trabajos realizados por su Comité.

**IV. PROGRAMME, BUDGETARY, FINANCIAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS (continued)**

**IV. QUESTIONS CONCERNANT LE PROGRAMME, LE BUDGET, LES FINANCES ET L'ADMINISTRATION (suite)**

**IV. ASUNTOS DEL PROGRAMA Y ASUNTOS PRESUPUESTARIOS, FINANCIEROS Y ADMINISTRATIVOS (continuación)**

**12. Reports of the Seventy-fourth (Rome, 6-10 May 1996) and Seventy-fifth (Rome, 2 – 6 September 1996) Sessions of the Programme Committee**

**12. Rapports des soixante-quatrième et soixante-quinzième sessions du Comité du Programme (Rome, 6–10 mai 1996 et 2–6 septembre 1996, respectivement)**

**12. Informes del 74° (Roma, 6–10 de mayo de 1996) y el 75° (Roma, 2–6 de septiembre de 1996) períodos de sesiones del Comité del Programa**

**14. Achieving Savings and Efficiencies in Governance**

**14. Economies et gains d'efficacité en matière de gestion**

**14. Consecución de economías y eficacia en el ejercicio de gobierno**

**14.1 Review of FAO Statutory Bodies and Panels of Experts**

**14.1 Examen des organes statutaires et des groupes d'experts de la FAO**

**14.1 Examen de los órganos estatutarios y los cuadros de expertos de la FAO**

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Con ello se cierra el tema 17. Ahora pasamos al tema 12 de nuestra agenda que, como ayer ustedes mismos aprobaron, comprenderá también en subtema 14.1, que es la revisión de los órganos estatutarios y cuadros de expertos de la FAO, documento *CL 111/12*. Como les comentaba yo hace un momento, el doctor Bommer nos va a informar sobre esta parte relativa a los informes del Comité del Programa, y los temas que conjuntamente con el Comité de Finanzas discutieron. Entre ellos figuran el examen de la gestión para determinar los niveles de estructura de personal apropiado de la Organización que el Consejo aprobó en su 109° Período de Sesiones y, acerca de los cuales los Comités recibieron informes, y en segundo lugar, un nuevo modelo para mejorar la planificación y presentación de los programas para facilitar la evaluación de los mismos, según lo solicitado por el Comité del Programa a la Secretaría. Como les decía, los dos comités también examinaron en sus períodos de sesiones de mayo y septiembre, el tema de las economías y eficiencia en el ejercicio del gobierno. El subtema 14.1 fue tratado en la reunión conjunta de los Comités del Programa y de Finanzas en su reunión de mayo, en donde como se reporta, mantuvo un debate sustantivo y profundo sobre este tema. Pero la misma reunión conjunta de septiembre, tuvo un debate mucho más breve al respecto.

Se tomó nota de que ya se habían comenzado a aplicar algunas de las directrices encaminadas a reducir los costos de las reuniones y se discutieron otras, que se encuentran en el documento *CL 111/15* que tienen frente a ustedes. Llamo la atención, en particular al párrafo 1.19 de dicho documento, en donde se hace referencia a que, en virtud de que las propuestas de los Estados Miembros fueron recibidas con atraso, los Comités proponen que éstas se entreguen organizadas, a partir de cada región, a más tardar el día 31 de diciembre de este año, con el propósito de que la Secretaría pueda preparar un documento en el cual todas las opiniones sean organizadas en los apartados oportunos y, en donde se señalen los aspectos de estas propuestas en donde hubiera convergencia y obviamente, donde hubiera también divergencias. Este documento deberá entregarse

con sesenta días de anticipación a la reunión de los Comités del Programa y de Finanzas que se celebrará en la segunda parte de abril de 1997, y a la vez, los Comités del Programa y de Finanzas enviarán su informe al Consejo, el que estudiará este tema en profundidad en la reunión de junio del próximo año. Debo aclarar que el documento *CL 111/12* no fue considerado por los Comités del Programa y de Finanzas, puesto que los miembros no lo recibieron a tiempo.

Se decidió entonces, que este Consejo tendría que dar orientaciones a la Secretaría sobre el proceso que se habría de seguir para completar el examen de todos los órganos estatutarios y cuadro de expertos. Yo quiero darles a ustedes todas las garantías de que existe la máxima voluntad para que este asunto se trate en la próxima reunión de los Comités del Programa y de Finanzas en abril de 1977 y que este Consejo igualmente, lo estudiará en junio de ese año. Desde luego, esto implica contar con su colaboración para enviar las propuestas relativas a la brevedad posible y no más tarde del 31 de diciembre y según la recomendación del párrafo 1.19, organizadas a partir de cada región.

Bien no quiero abundar más y deseo que el Dr Bommer presente los informes del Comité del Programa relativos.

**D. BOMMER (Chairman, Programme Committee):** Thank you very much Mr Chairman. Actually you do not need an introduction from my side because you have introduced it already. I can only support what you have said but I would like to repeat four major items.

First you have noted in the joint report, after the adjustment which we discussed under item 11, we had discussed the progress of the Management Review we had requested and the Council endorsed to be undertaken on the staffing in the Organization, including the grade structure, etc. Some of you referred to this already this morning. It is a progress report that we have received and the review should be in 1997 and then I think we will have the full report. I would like to draw your attention to two points.

The first, I think, is important because there were many of you who had referred to the recourse to external advice. We have been assured that external advice is being sought on the review of the Administrative and Financial Department, which will become part of the total Management Review. At the same time we had identified that there is certainly a whole range of other issues on which such a Management Review -- related only to staffing -- impinges. These issues are listed just for your information, I think for future progress in this area.

The second was under agenda item 14.1 on Savings and Efficiencies of Governance. There we seek to ascertain the progress going on, and the Chairman has said already what FAO did on three points. Because we received the document, CL 111/12, Review of F AO's Statutory Bodies and Panels of Experts too late, it could not be discussed. We seek the advice of the Council on how you wish to handle it, which certainly includes looking into this document and possibly approving two items.

Number one: this whole exercise should be completed because the first part you have -- "the Director-General has undertaken"-deals with all the bodies established by the Council, its Subsidiary Bodies and the Director-General. The second part was considered to look into all the bodies established by the Conference. As now time has elapsed, the question is would you agree that we ask the Secretariat to complete this and combine both documents in one document?

Second, in the document you have a list of criteria against which the evaluation had been made by the Director-General, and you have seen already that some of the results of this review and the recommendations made by Director-General have been quoted. So these two points actually need to be agreed upon by the Council or advice given.

The Chairman stated too that, in reviewing the improvement of working methods of FAO, we had made an attempt in our May meeting to request further inputs from additional Governments because we had received only a few views, which were to be provided through the regional groups to the Secretariat for compilation and presentation to us. Only one regional group actually followed this procedure, but even this material came too late. It was not available in the respective languages and, if you think of the debate you had earlier, we could not discuss it.

So we repeat now this request, which is that country which wishes to advise on possible improvements in governance and in the methodology of work of those bodies should please provide these through their regional groups. If possible, they should be compiled already in a kind of sequence to avoid unnecessary duplication, for presentation to the Secretariat by 31 December. The Secretariat will then prepare its final document, which will be submitted to our meeting in April to follow up on the request you have made to the joint committees for consideration.

These two points are very important to underline so that the work can be performed. We have listed a number of items in the document you have received, and I would like to add a few other points which I think governments might be requested to give their views on: the procedures and modalities of various bodies, such as agendas for meetings, preparatory documents, conduct of meetings, form of report and length of report, etc., to name a few.

Finally, if any Government wishes to make recommendations on the change of mandate and structures, although these should be listed, our Committee agreed it is not our business to discuss mandates and structures, but I think it is something you, the Council, will have to discuss finally. This is the request which is clearly expressed in the report as you can see.

The question is now if, Mr Chairman, you wish to finish this item before we move to item 12. I will continue here with the additional work the Programme Committee has performed. Remember that in our normal review we have to undertake a non-Conference year programme which included a whole list of major programmes, but we had in addition requested that two specific items should be reviewed. You agreed to this proposal and we had in the May meeting a review of the *Relationship between Regular and Field Programmes*. It is contained in paragraphs 2.22 and 2.25 of document CL 111/14, and here the Programme Committee emphasized the importance of the continuing synergy between the Regular and the Field Programmes. I think this came out very clearly, including essential and invaluable feedback from the field to the normative activities of the Regular Programme. Nevertheless, the Committee stressed the importance of selectivity as field projects were not homogenous in the degree of their contribution to the synergy intended, with further selectivity needed.

It noted also the improvements made to recover support costs; something has been achieved. Certainly 13 members voiced their conviction of full recovery but you know this controversial debate which goes on for some time.

The second item we had requested and which we handled in the September meeting, was an *In-depth Analysis of one Selected Programme as a Model to Improve Programme Planning and Presentation and to Facilitate Programme Assessment*. This is reflected in document CL 111/15, paragraphs 2.6 to 2.16. We benefitted here from excellent preparation by the Secretariat, but in particular from the participation of the Land and Water Development Division, using the Natural Programme 2.1.1 to plan its activities according to the new model which is being worked out by the Organization and presented to us. We felt that there are a lot of advantages such a revised programme planning activity. The modified approach has the potential to better meet the demands of the Governing Bodies, in particular it provides transparency, accountability and interlink of planning, implementation and evaluation, and it provides the much easier possibility within the Organization of planning on an interdisciplinary basis, to depart from this narrow disciplinary view which had prevailed in the history of the Organization.

There are a number of other aspects involved particularly in that the project idea is prevailing; in that technical programmes, normative technical activities are considered within a clear timeframe, with clear objectives and a clear output formulated, including the resources necessary. Another type of activity, which is more continuous in nature, -- such as the statistical work of the Organization and the so-called Service Agreements -- would facilitate provision of the input of various units in such a programme to plan, on a much better basis, and to make it transparent to Member Nations.

Any change of this nature also carries with it difficulties, especially for those who are used to the old structure and would find it difficult to live in the new one. Therefore, we have stressed the need for continuing consultation. Before a full application we would recommend that, in future biennia, the result of a parallel exercise applying the revised approach to this programme, 2.1.1 Natural Resources, be presented to you in the Programme of Work and Budget for 1998-99 together with the normal programme planning done in the normal form you have been used to in the past. So you have the possibility of comparing the new format with the old format and seeing its advantages, and then the decision might be taken in future biennia to plan the total Programme of Work and Budget of the Organization based on these new approaches or these new models.

It was my intention to draw your attention to this important aspect. Related to this is the list of criteria you have sanctioned and established for the adjustment process, which had been used also by the Secretariat in trying to set priorities for the selection of various programme items. Here it has been clearly shown that some modification is necessary to make it fit into the various programme levels, without trying to add too many additional criteria, thus making more difficult the individual weighing-up of criteria used in this planning process, to either accept or reject a particular project idea which is being presented within the programme planning.

So this is the second special item we had discussed. The programme reviews we made, the normal ones related to the Major Programme 2.2 Food and Agriculture Policy Development and to Major Programme 2.1 Agricultural Production and Support Systems, you have in the Report. I wish to state here that the Committee was generally satisfied with the status of implementation of these programmes, in spite of a number of problems which had to be faced in a period of considerable structural changes and programme adjustments.

In this context it addresses some general aspects which warranted further attention at future sessions. I wish to refer here only to one--there is considerable time required to fill vacancies. The Committee urged the Secretariat to seek further improvements in this area, in addition to the improvement which has already been made and inserted. This is still a considerable stumbling block in order to be forward looking in the planning and the performance of the Organization.

**Adel Mahmoud ABOUL-NAGA (Egypt)(Original language Arabic):** Mr Chairman, Mr Bommer as usual has introduced this Report in a clear and very transparent way and I cannot but support what he has stated so far. However, I would like to refer to some points which are important in this connection.

The first point is related to the Committee's appreciation of the staff members of the Secretariat, those who had to carry out supplementary work because of these activities, and of the determination of the staff of the Secretariat to carry out their duties in a proper way. I believe that this was highly appreciated by the Committee and I feel it should be stressed here in front of our august Council.

Secondly, with regard to the savings and efficiencies in governance, Mr Bommer referred to the proposals which ought to have reached the Secretariat from the various regional groups: the groups were preparing for the World Food Summit and therefore they were unable to send their proposals or they sent their proposals late. However, despite this, we reached a conclusion whereby we have to consider a number of principles submitted by the Secretariat. These principles are to be found in document BC 75/3, in addition to our agreement on a number of principles referred to in paragraph

121 of this document. Therefore, I do not see the need to enumerate these points because these paragraphs are very clear and, therefore, these principles are important as a preliminary conclusion for solving this matter.

The third point, Sir, I should like to raise is the new approach suggested. We have supported this approach, as was stated by Mr Bommer. Of course this new approach would increase the transparency of our work and it would further clarify our objectives and the best ways and means to achieve these objectives together with a better preparation for the projects. In addition, this approach would present a clearer view to the Governing Bodies of this Organization and, therefore, we can be fair when we deal with the various projects submitted to the Organization. So, if we support or adopt a programme we have supported the whole range of elements included in that project, meaning that if we adopt a programme we cannot go back on certain elements in that programme or project. This was unfortunately the case with a number of projects in this Organization and the output of these projects has been affected.

Mr Chairman, we would like to adopt such an approach, and we hope that this approach will be adopted with regard to the budget and the various project possibilities of this Organization. Furthermore, we should like to stress the following. When we discuss these sub-projects, particularly those on agricultural management, the members of the Committees stressed the importance of the various programmes, namely crops, animal resources, support systems or the agricultural applications of isotopes and bio-technology. As I have stressed during the deliberations of the Programme Committee, I do hope that this will be borne in mind when we adopt the Programme of Work and Budget so that we do not adopt a contradictory position whereby we adopt and support these programmes and, when we discuss the budget, we go back on our position and ask for cuts in these same projects and programmes. I believe that we have to be logical: either we give the relevant importance to these programmes and thereby allocate the necessary resources or we decide that they are not important and therefore we delete them altogether. We cannot morally support these projects and negate our financial support as this would be a contradiction in our position.

**David SANDS SMITH (United Kingdom):** If I may I would like to join Mr Aboul-Naga of Egypt in expressing gratitude to Dr Bommer for an introduction which I think, if I may say so, was masterly. It drew our attention to all the key elements in exactly the way in which it needed to be done and I think we should be grateful to him for that. I would like to mention three points. The first one, savings and efficiencies in governance; secondly, Statutory Bodies; and thirdly the new programming model. I can be brief on all three.

As far as savings and efficiencies in governance are concerned, I think it unfortunate that it was not possible to pull together all the comments as rapidly as we might have hoped. On the other hand, as Mr Aboul-Naga has rightly pointed out, we are very much concerned with other work at the moment and there are a number of us who feel we cannot do everything at once. However, I do very much hope that work can be completed and, on the basis of whatever comments the Secretariat receives by the deadline set, that there can be a substantive discussion in the Programme and Finance Committees. I would point out that we have, in fact, already achieved some very useful changes in our procedures which I believe make our governance more effective. I think there is scope for further work in this direction and I think it is excellent that the Council has agreed this is a standing item in the future for the Programme and Finance Committees. So our work will move forward but I think that the deadline you, Chairman, have set this afternoon for comments to be provided to the Programme and Finance Committees is the best way forward to ensure that they have those comments and then they can conduct their discussions at their meeting in April next year.

I would then turn to the question of the Statutory Bodies and so far as the Statutory Bodies are concerned I would only make one comment. This relates to the criteria which are listed in the paper



that we have before us and rightly the first one of these is centrality to FAO's mandate. I am sure that must be the case. I would add only one point to that: I think it should be exactly that, also, looking in each case at the comparative advantage that the Organization has in the area concerned and the work that may be going on in other areas—indeed that is referred to in criteria N° 5 under the element of overlap. So it is already effectively there.

Thirdly, the new programme model, if I can use that name for it. The model to improve programme planning. I must say that I think this is an excellent initiative, I commend the work that has already been carried out. Clearly a great deal of thought has gone into this and it does seem to me, and to my authorities, that the way forward as proposed, with the experiment with one programme and running in parallel, is an excellent way to go forward so that we can see one model against another and then decide whether at a future date this represents a sound basis for us to adopt, whether adaption is needed or, whether we stay with our existing arrangements. However, I do regard this as an excellent way in which to proceed and, I would repeat I think that the work that has already been done on this is to be commended.

**Franco GINOCCHIO (Italy):** I would like to deal with Agenda item 14.1 concerning the Review of FAO's Statutory Bodies and Panels of Experts.

The Italian Delegation considers it very appropriate to review the various Statutory Bodies and Panels of Experts, in order to identify and to eliminate possible duplication of activities in order to increase the efficiency of their work. In this regard the Italian Delegation would like to thank the FAO Secretariat for document CL 111/12 and for the pertinent comments on the individual Statutory Bodies that give guidelines for the measures to be implemented.

In this context we realize that further work has still to be carried out by the Programme and Finance Committees in order to allow the FAO Council, at its next Session, to examine the possibility of presenting concrete proposals to the FAO Conference next year. We think that this exercise could be useful, taking into account that the Organization has already started the review of its Statutory Bodies and Panels of Experts.

In this regard the decision taken by the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters to broaden the mandate of the Advisory Committee on Pulp and Paper, in order to include wood-based products, constitutes an example of the possible elimination of duplication of activities and further streamlining of Statutory Bodies and Panels of Experts.

With regard to the review of the Bodies created by the Conference, which will take place in the second phase of this exercise, we agree in principle with the criteria set out in paragraph 9 of document CL 111/12.

**Alan AMEY (Canada):** I would like to touch on a few points that Dr Bommer has brought to our attention and give the Canadian viewpoint.

As far as the criteria for the review of Panels of Experts are concerned, I think we are in agreement with it; it is a good set of criteria to use. In terms of the review of working methods, I think all countries should agree to forward their comments by 31 December; I think that is a viable way to work. We need not necessarily be confined to regional views but perhaps more than one region at a time might apply.

With regard to the venue for discussion of the decisions once the review is completed and the criteria applied, Dr Bommer has brought up the possibility of the Programme and Finance Committees in 1997 and I think we would approve of that. I believe that once both phases have been completed, Council and Conference will be in a position to make up their minds finally on the abolition or retention of these Bodies.

Finally, regarding the management review, we are pleased with the progress so far and look forward to further progress.

**Daniel BERTHERY (France):** La délégation française tient à marquer sa satisfaction de voir engagé le processus d'examen des Organes directeurs de l'Organisation dans une perspective de rationalisation. Elle tient à saluer et remercier à cette occasion le Secrétariat pour le travail déjà produit à cette fin, notamment la préparation du document CL 111/12 et le répertoire des organes statutaires et groupes d'experts.

Ces organes ne sont pas indépendants les uns des autres, ils sont complémentaires et s'inscrivent dans une hiérarchie de mandats. Il est donc nécessaire, à notre sens, d'avoir une vue globale de la situation, "un état des lieux" complet permettant une analyse critique de la pertinence de chacun d'eux et de la cohérence de l'ensemble et d'identifier les éventuelles duplications.

Les résultats de la seconde phase nous seront donc nécessaires pour nous prononcer sur cette question importante.

Dans l'immédiat, et dans l'attente de disposer de tous les éléments qui nous permettront d'avoir cette vision globale, au plus tard à la date annoncée par le Secrétariat, nous suggérons de concentrer nos efforts sur les aspects relatifs au fonctionnement des Organes directeurs et divers Comités en faisant appel aux techniques éprouvées pour la conduite des réunions et l'animation des groupes.

Nous proposons de rassembler dans un guide pratique à l'intention des participants à ces comités et à leurs Présidents, les nombreuses propositions pertinentes évoquées à de nombreuses reprises sur le thème de l'amélioration du fonctionnement des Organes directeurs, propositions dont certaines ont déjà fait la preuve de leurs mérites.

Un tel guide pourrait s'articuler autour des cinq chapitres suivants:

- a) la maîtrise des ordres du jour par les Organes eux-mêmes (rôles respectifs du Secrétariat, de la Présidence, et des membres éventuellement consultés dans le processus d'élaboration de l'ordre du jour);
- b) la préparation de la documentation par le Secrétariat (contenu structuré des documents et présentation adaptée aux besoins des membres des Organes directeurs, pour une préparation plus efficace des travaux par chacun);
- c) la conduite des réunions par la Présidence et la nécessaire discipline des participants;
- d) le relevé des conclusions, en séance par les Présidents et la rédaction de rapports fidèles;
- e) l'évaluation systématique des performances, en termes de coût/efficacité.

Ces idées font partie de la contribution de la France à la réflexion engagée au sein de l'Union européenne et, plus largement, au sein du groupe "Europe".

Maintenant, Monsieur le Président, la délégation française voudrait attirer l'attention du Conseil sur l'usage d'une seule langue de travail au sein du Sous-Comité consultatif de l'écoulement des excédents. Notre délégation partage notre préoccupation commune de réduire les coûts de fonctionnement en faisant des économies; mais cela ne saurait, comme de nombreuses délégations l'ont rappelé aujourd'hui, conduire à déroger au principe d'égalité de traitement entre les langues officielles de l'Organisation.

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Deseo indicarle a los distinguidos delegados que como hemos visto sus distintas propuestas, su posición respecto de esta revisión de los órganos estatutarios y cuadros de expertos de la FAO, la deberán presentar ustedes por escrito, para organizar la discusión de este tema y que el Comité del Programa y de Finanzas lo pueda revisar exhaustivamente en su reunión de abril y luego el Consejo en junio del próximo año, de manera que no es imperioso ni necesario que ustedes declaren ahora cuales son sus puntos de vista respecto de este tema, simplemente indicarnos si están de acuerdo con el procedimiento que vamos a seguir y que se describe en el párrafo 40 del documento *CL 111/2* respecto de la revisión de todos los órganos que serán revisados por la Secretaría de acuerdo a los criterios allí descritos, para ser sometidos a la reunión de abril de los Comités y, en segundo lugar, si están de acuerdo con el procedimiento propuesto en el párrafo 1.19 del documento *CL 111/15*.

**E. Wayne DENNEY (United States of America):** Thank you very much, Mr Chairman. I think we can oblige you on this request.

First, we agree with comments made earlier by our colleagues from the United Kingdom and Canada.

Second, the document on the review of FAO's Statutory Bodies and Panels of Experts provides a number of useful proposals and we would be delighted to submit those as you have requested, in writing. We find ourselves in large agreement with most of the proposals and we also concur with the suggestion that FAO present a comprehensive package of proposals for adoption by the Council at its next Session.

Briefly returning to the idea of preparing a revised approach to the Programme 2.1.1 on Natural Resources during the 1998-99 Programme of Work and Budget process, in addition to the regular presentation, appears to us to be quite innovative and a move in the right direction and we support this. The exercise will no doubt result in a number of refinements as we go forward in future biennia but it is a good place to start.

**Christophe KIEMTORE (Burkina):** Permettez-moi de souligner deux points à ce stade du débat. Je crois que ceux qui ont participé aux travaux des Comités du programme et financier - et ils pourront eux-mêmes le confirmer - ont convenu que les comités restreints avaient besoin d'un message très clair de la part du Conseil. C'est pourquoi dans ce sens je voudrais appuyer ce que la délégation française a évoqué il y a quelques instants et dire que dans le laps de temps imparti jusqu'à l'échéance du 31 décembre et pour les travaux de 1997, l'attention du Comité soit concentrée sur l'analyse et l'examen du fonctionnement des organes. Il est très important que le message du Conseil soit très clairement exprimé pour que les comités puissent concentrer leurs efforts sur un aspect particulier, et que l'examen puisse se faire étape par étape vers une finalité tout à fait cohérente. Je pense donc que la délégation française a été plus exhaustive que moi à ce sujet, et nous pourrions éventuellement, si le Conseil est d'accord, nous référer à ce qui a été dit par cette délégation. Voilà le point sur lequel je voulais insister.

**Khairuddin Md. TAHIR (Malaysia):** Malaysia supports FAO's efforts in reviewing the various Statutory Bodies and Panel of Experts in FAO. We believe that there are some commissions and intergovernmental commodity groups that have not met for many years and some whose responsibility and scope of work have been overtaken by events. Therefore, it is indeed appropriate to review the relevance of these bodies.

In this context of relevancy, Malaysia feels that there is a need for consideration and area of relevance to both developing and developed countries of a group of commodities called the Tropical Fruits. We understand that there are commodity groups within FAO handling such fruits as bananas and citrus, but their concern is specific and restricted and do not include other equally important fruits such as papaya, mango, pineapple and avocados. The tropical fruit status within FAO is still

at consultation group level and Malaysia had the honour to host, jointly with FAO, the 1st International Consultation on Tropical Fruits in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, last July. It was attended by 22 Member Nations from both developed and developing regions and other relevant international bodies related to tropical fruit trade.

Mr Chairman, Malaysia would like to propose to the Council the feasibility of upgrading this Consultation to a Commodity Intergovernmental Group, which we feel is of little extra cost to FAO but of enormous benefits for Member Nations, especially the developing countries. The trade of these tropical fruits exceeds US \$ 1 annually and it is important to the economies and nutrition of developing countries. Two other countries, at the last Consultation, have indicated their willingness to host the next two sessions in 1998 and the year 2000. The development of tropical fruits will inevitably contribute to world food security and international trade.

**Fernando José MARRONI DE ABREU (Brasil):** Muy rápidamente, quisiera apoyar con todo énfasis lo que fue propuesto anteriormente por la delegación de Malasia.

**Dennis GEBBIE (Australia):** Just a few comments on the Statutory Bodies and Panels of Experts. Like others, we think the criteria are reasonably sound and a good basis for doing that.

We had a question about the coverage of Phase 2. There is a reference in the document in paragraph 41 to all sub-committees which, we presume, includes those also addressed under Phase 1. We would appreciate clarification of that.

We have a number of comments on the agencies reviewed in Phase 1, which we will submit to the Secretariat in writing, but there is one area I would like to refer to briefly, and this concerns the effective functioning of the World Trade Organization Sanitary and Phyto-Sanitary Agreement, which depends very much on the development of international plant and animal quarantine and food standards. The implementation of the SPS Agreement has greatly increased the significance of the role of the Codex Alimentarius Commission. Now, some of the proposals for improved efficiencies include a suggested reduction in the time available for sessions of the Executive Committee of the Codex Commission. We believe this would create considerable difficulties for the Commission in meeting the expanded responsibilities now expected of it. In that context, Mr Chairman, I would note that at the last meeting of the Commission, it was unable to consider all of the items on its agenda, so I think that is an important one we may need to look at closely, to ensure that we are not undermining the important enhanced international role expected of the Commission.

**Saeed NOURI-NAEENI (Iran, Islamic Republic of):** Thank you, Mr Chairman. I will be extremely brief. I want only to fully and strongly support the proposal made by the distinguished delegate of Malaysia.

**E. Wayne DENNEY (United States of America):** Thank you very much, Mr Chairman. We wanted to comment specifically on the proposal made by Malaysia and so far supported by Brazil and Iran.

We are not in favour of the Council making any recommendation regarding the possible conversion of the existing Consultation on Tropical Fruits into an Intergovernmental Group on Tropical Fruits. As these Delegations, I hope will recall, this item was deliberated extensively at the last Session, I believe in April of 1995, of the Committee on Commodity Problems and my recollection is that that same Committee, when it meets in February, will discuss this item again. We need cost information, we need a specific recommendation from the Director-General on the matter: given what the Committee on Commodity Problems agreed would be the process. We feel it is completely inappropriate for the Council to make any such judgement at this time.

**Wilberforce SAKIRA (Uganda):** Mr Chairman, contrary to what has been stated by the US Delegation, Uganda would like to associate itself with, and support strongly what has been stated by, the Delegation of Malaysia with regard to tropical fruits.

**Chamnong VATHANA (Thailand):** Mr Chairman, the review of FAO's Statutory Bodies and Panels of Experts is indeed necessary at this stage.

Very briefly, my delegation would like to express our support to upgrade the Tropical Fruits Consultation Group to an Intergovernmental Group on Tropical Fruits, as proposed by Malaysia.

**José ROBLES AGUILAR (México):** Queremos retomar en esta parte algunos elementos que mencionamos en el marco del tema anterior, particularmente por lo que se refiere al ejercicio de revisión de los órganos de la FAO. Coincidimos respecto a la importancia de que se respeten los criterios, creemos que éstos son unas guías importantes para que haya una evaluación correcta y objetiva sobre la utilidad de los órganos subsidiarios, particularmente de aquéllos que en este momento están siendo objetos de consideración. Estos son elementos importantes que se deben considerar a lo largo de todo el ejercicio y en este marco, señor Presidente, nos gustaría también apoyar la propuesta de Malasia respecto a la conversión de éste, en un grupo intergubernamental sobre frutas tropicales. Esta es un área muy importante para varios países, principalmente países en desarrollo y varios países de la región latinoamericana.

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Respecto de este punto, efectivamente, me confirma la Secretaría que este tema será revisado en la próxima reunión de la Comisión en febrero de 1997. Entonces, si ustedes desean tratar este tema en ese momento, creo que ese es el lugar adecuado y no bajo este punto.

**A.M.M. SHAWKAT ALI (Bangladesh):** After getting the clarification from the Secretariat that this will be discussed at the next meeting in February, I do not think I will make an elaborate statement but simply point out that the subject matter raised by our colleague from Malaysia merits attention of the Council. It is in no way irrelevant, because what we are discussing now is the review of FAO's Statutory Bodies. It is only a question of procedures whether the Council would have to wait till it is brought up at the next February meeting of the Committee on Commodity Problems. If that is the requirement under the procedures, I will not speak further on this. If that is not the requirement, I would like to make a further statement on this issue.

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Creo que debe aclararse cual es la cuestión de procedimiento, porque efectivamente, el Consejo no puede tomar una posición en este momento, respecto de este punto. En la posición que algunos países están manifestando y el interés que seguramente reconfirmarán en la reunión de febrero de la Comisión, el Consejo recibirá ese informe ulteriormente, pero para aclararnos la situación del procedimiento le pido desde este momento que el señor Hjort tome la palabra.

**DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL:** I am operating from memory but it is my recall that at the last meeting, held in the region, there was again the recommendation that there be an IGG established for tropical fruits. The Chairman of the CCP has agreed, in consultation with the Director-General, to include the matter on the agenda of the forthcoming meeting of the CCP.

The CCP is a main committee of the Council, and the CCP will consider the matter at its next meeting and in its report will have its recommendation to the Council or its conclusion on this particular matter. In fact, as far as the inter-governmental groups are concerned, the CCP itself has a good deal of authority to establish or to abolish the working groups. The basic texts state "the Committee may, when necessary, establish sub-committees, inter-governmental commodity groups and *ad hoc* subsidiary bodies, subject to the necessary funds being made available in the relevant chapter of the approved project over the Organization". So, in fact, the matter is one for the CCP,

at least in the first instance. And as I just read out, the CCP itself has the authority to consider subsidiary bodies. So that will be the forum. The CCP will be the forum to consider this matter.

The report of the CCP will contain the conclusions of the CCP with respect to this matter; the report will be considered at the June 1997 Session of the Council.

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Yo entiendo que es un asunto muy importante para muchos Países Miembros de la Organización, entiendo desde luego que es muy posible que en algunas de las propuestas que someterán el 31 de diciembre, uno de esos puntos será éste, pero también han escuchado que el tema se tratará por completo en la reunión de CPBB de febrero de 1997. Quizás sea esa la ocasión para abundar en ello.

**Alan AMEY (Canada):** Mr Chairman, I think you stole the words out of my mouth as you were speaking earlier. The Terms of Reference of the Review are in paragraph 2 of the document and I think the Terms of Reference are clear -- it is just to give a review -- and in paragraph 41 there is procedural advice on where to proceed from here, so I think the decision of the Council is clear.

**David SANDS SMITH (United Kingdom):** Like Canada, I hardly need to take the floor because you and Mr Hjort have said virtually what I was going to say, that this afternoon we are looking at the question of whether we move to a Phase 2 of the review of Statutory Bodies and what the should criteria be. What I have heard so far this afternoon indicates that, indeed, we should be doing that but we are not, I think, this afternoon, looking at the question of particular products.

**Pedro A. MEDRANO ROJAS (Chile):** Muy brevemente porque lo principal del tema del procedimiento ya se ha señalado. Quisiera simplemente asociarme a la delegación que manifestó su preocupación, en relación a la recomendación para suprimir o reducir la duración de las reuniones del Comité Ejecutivo, de la Comisión del *Codex Alimentarius*. Creo que para todos, es evidente que, después de los acuerdos de la Ronda de Uruguay, la Comisión del *Codex Alimentarius* está llamada a tener un papel muy importante y, en tal sentido, creo que la responsabilidad de la Comisión del *Codex Alimentarius* será aún mayor, de manera que entrar a definir la reducción de las reuniones del Comité Ejecutivo en un contexto en el cual todavía no se evalúa del todo cuales serán las mayores responsabilidades y costos que incluso podría implicar el que, la Comisión del *Codex Alimentarius* cumpla adecuadamente su mandato, me parece prematuro. Recordará señor Presidente, que incluso durante la discusión del presupuesto, distintas delegaciones plantearon la necesidad de incrementar los recursos de la Comisión del *Codex Alimentarius*. En tal sentido, yo quisiera manifestar, nuestra posición en el sentido de que esta recomendación no sea considerada antes que no se haga una evaluación de las reales necesidades de la Comisión del *Codex Alimentarius* en esta nueva fase.

**Khairuddin Md. TAHIR (Malaysia):** When Malaysia raised this question it was within the broader contexts of the review of the FAO Statutory Bodies. If the procedure says that the decision has to be brought up by the CCP, we will accept it but I hope the support we have received from many countries is reflected in the Council report.

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Bueno distinguido delegado de Malasia, podría reflejarse en el informe, pero yo creo que no cumpliría con ningún propósito, en vista de que el Consejo no puede tomar una posición al respecto, aunque desde luego, puede reflejar la posición de algunos países que indicaron que esto debería ocurrir. Pero esto no perjudica lo que va a discutirse en el CPBB en febrero del próximo año, y la decisión que, en consecuencia, se tomará del informe que revisará el Consejo en junio.

**K. SHIMIZU (Japan):** At this juncture I must recall the statement made by my Delegation at the last Council Session on the importance of the "scrap-and-build principles" to be applied when

addressing issues such as those before us. The principle is, namely, to establish new units by abolishing the existing ones. This principle should apply to issues such as those before us.

**D.P.D. VAN RAPPARD (Observer for The Netherlands):** According to the Order of the Day, we should deal this afternoon with agenda item number 17, including agenda item 14.2. Item 14.1 should be dealt with on 8 October. This agenda is causing a few problems and we would like to come back later on: we should like to ask for your indulgence.

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Distinguido delegado observador de los Países Bajos, como se sabe el Consejo ha tratado el tema 17 en sus partes 17.1 y 17.2. El Presidente del CACJ ha presentado su informe y las dos decisiones han sido ya tomadas por este Consejo. Lo que se refiere al tema 14.1 lo estamos tratando en este momento junto con el tema 12 y si usted tiene algún comentario en relación a los informes del Comité del Programa o a la revisión de los órganos estatutarios y grupos de expertos de la FAO, con mucho gusto le invitamos a hacer sus comentarios.

**D.P.D. VAN RAPPARD (Observer for The Netherlands):** The point I was going to make is that we are not prepared to speak on this issue at this moment because 14/1 was scheduled later on during the Council meeting.

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Sí, reconozco distinguido delegado que en el calendario original así estaba, pero el día de ayer, al aprobar el calendario, acordamos que el tema 14.1 se trataría conjuntamente bajo el tema 12, así fue acordado por este Consejo y así se está haciendo en estos momentos, de manera que le pedimos su indulgencia por esta equivocación, este error que según usted fue transmitido a su delegación pero, el Consejo acordó tratar estos dos temas conjuntamente.

**D.P.D. VAN RAPPARD (Observer for The Netherlands):** The Netherlands are in favour of bringing about reforms of the decision making process within FAO and enhance simultaneously cost-effectiveness.

The following ideas and suggestions may be offered towards:

Conference and Council: A stricter division of labour and responsibilities between Conference and Council seems desirable. More than is presently the case, the Conference should engage itself in framing and polishing the broad policy directives within which FAO should operate. The Council should concentrate more than present on action oriented follow-up. The Conference, as the eminent organ of FAO should express itself clearly on broad policy issues. The instrument for this is the Resolution. Strategies with underlying policy considerations for the FAO family are to be embodied in the expressions of the supreme legislative body.

The Council is to work on the action oriented decisions specifying resolutions in programmatic details, time schedules, etc. A more effective debate in both organs will be the result, saving both Conference and Council meeting days.

Council: In our view, the above calls for an optimal representativity within the Council. A more balanced allocation of Council seats over and within the different electoral groups is sought. Adaptations of the present electoral groups are in our opinion overdue.

Programme Committee and Finance Committee: Because of the intricate relationship between Programme Committee and Finance Committee a coherent approach of programmatic developments, budget formulation and financial and administrative implications is indeed not easy to achieve. The very option of integrating the two bodies deserves further study and consultation. Here too, rotation of membership could be increased. Furthermore, meetings should become public.

Reporting: The need of clarity and adequate reference is not sufficiently met through the present practice of incorporating decisions throughout the texts of the (summary or full) reports. It is highly preferable to adopt a reporting system, in which a clear distinction is made between, on the one hand, observations and opinions of memberstates (as well as the secretariat) and, on the other hand, the conclusions, recommendations or decisions of the meeting concerned.

Field Programme Committee/Technical Committees COAG, COFO, COFI: Although the main FAO bodies have not been prominent in their views in multi-bi cooperation and otherwise extrabudgetarily funded field operations of FAO, the plea for establishing a Field Programme Committee did not yet materialize. However, the need of an open and regular exchange of views on FAO's field programme has not diminished, based-as it should be-on the cross fertilization between the regular programme and normative functions of FAO and its field operations, which constitute actual investments in problem solving. To fill this gap, the mandates of the main technical committees may be stretched up so as to cover in their respective activities also the relevant field operations. FAO's Programme Implementation Report and Programme Evaluation Report (which deal with both normative and field activities and usually appear on the agenda of the Conference) should be brought before the technical committees. Conference and Council could henceforth restrict themselves to considering concise synthesis reports.

Drafting of agendas: Present practice allows Member Nations only little influence on the drafting of agendas, their composition and their contents. These matters are largely determined by the secretariat. Ideal would be that all FAO bodies plan well ahead their future activities, master their own work programmes and draft their own agendas for forthcoming meetings. An intermediate solution, with different and additional merit might be the establishing of an advisory committee of permanent representatives. This to consult and cooperate with the Director-General and his secretariat in outlining the different (draft) agendas for the next biennium.<sup>1</sup>

**Mohamed Said Mohamed Ali HARBI (Observer for Sudan) (Original language Arabic):**

I was not in the hall. I came in late and when I sat down, the Malaysian Delegate was speaking about the tropical forests. What he said is absolutely right, and he mentioned the production of fruits in tropical areas. Since my country falls within these tropical areas, I would like to make observations on what has been said by Malaysia.

We have made leaps and bounds in this field, in meetings within this Organization to which the former Representative of Malaysia to the Organization contributed greatly. The information given us by Mr Hjort-and he is an expert, an old hand in this Organization -- affirms the importance of this said Committee on Tropical Fruits.

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Seguramente debido a que no se benefició usted con la discusión anterior, no pudo enterarse de que la propuesta de Malasia relativa a un grupo intergubernamental sobre los frutos tropicales era un tema que trataría el CPBB en febrero de 1997, pero que ha sido apoyado por varios delegados. El Consejo ha tomado nota de este apoyo, pero también ha reconocido que esta cuestión deberá tratarse en febrero del próximo año y entonces transmitida a través del informe de dicho Comité al Consejo de junio de 1997.

**D. BOMMER (Chairman Programme Committee):** First of all I would like to say, that I am sure the members of the Programme Committee and of the Finance Committee will be happy about the support we have received and I hope that the deadline of 31 December can be met. At the same time, with regard to the preparation of the full review of the Statutory Bodies I just wanted to draw the attention of the French Delegation, and I think it was also Burkina Faso, to the fact that it gives a complete list of all the statutory bodies, including their origin and their length of session and even

<sup>1</sup>State inserted in the verbatim records on request.



an evaluation. This was available in August 1996 and it is regularly updated. So, at least, I think there is an important piece of information available which can be used to refresh our minds when we wish to look into these bodies.

**DEPUTY DIRECTOR GENERAL:** I just wanted to follow up on that statement to remind that in my statement on Tuesday I informed, and I trust I was informing you properly, that a copy of the Directory was in your boxes.

Two other points. There was a question about the interpretation of 41, on the scope of this review and the application of the criteria. What we intend to do, with your approval, is to subject all of the statutory bodies and panels to the criteria that are proposed in paragraph 40 so that we can include in the material that we provide to the Programme and Finance Committees in April and, therefore, as a basis for their report to you for consideration in June, information on all of the bodies. It will not exclude those that are referred to in document CL 111/12.

The second point is simply to encourage you to make the submissions that are mentioned in paragraph 1.19 of the report you are considering—the views of governments through their regional groups -- available to the Secretariat in written form not later than 31 December 1996. The reason for that deadline is because we were late with our report on this matter to the Programme and Finance Committees last time. That got us into a considerable amount of difficulty. We would just as soon not get into that difficulty again. The reason we got into difficulty is that we did not have submissions from most countries right up until the day of the meeting. So, I would encourage you to make those submissions to us on time and we will put them together and we wish to have them available to you, to the members of the Programme and Finance Committee, on a timely basis.

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Bien, si no hubiese algún otro comentario me permitiría resumir muy brevemente nuestros trabajos de la siguiente manera. En primer lugar el Consejo agradeció al Dr Bommer por su exhaustiva y clara presentación de los informes del Comité del Programa, así como los relativos a la revisión de los órganos estatutarios y cuadro de expertos de la FAO, comprendidos en el subtema 14.1 y como parte de las reuniones con el Comité de Finanzas y, asimismo, el Consejo elogió su labor al frente del Comité del Programa el cual ha sido guiado de manera excelente; el Consejo, con ello endosó los informes del Comité del Programa. Se expresó satisfacción por los progresos realizados en relación con el examen de gestión incluido el uso propuesto de asesoramiento externo en determinados aspectos y se tomó nota, de que se habían conseguido logros notables en los últimos tiempos para reducir el número general de puestos y racionalizar la estructura organizacional de la FAO y, el Consejo espera en una conclusión satisfactoria de este examen. En cuanto al nuevo modelo, marco de programación, se tomó nota de que el Comité del Programa expresó su amplia satisfacción y que se les darán ulteriores consultas. De hecho, el próximo programa de labores y presupuestos tendrá la misma presentación que en 1996–97, aunque se reconoció la utilidad de la revisión del tema seleccionado 2.1.1, Recursos Naturales, paralelamente al procedimiento actual, con el fin de que se pueda adoptar una decisión más definitiva en el próximo bienio.

En relación al subtema 14.1, el Consejo decidió que todos los órganos serán revisados por parte de la Secretaría de acuerdo a los criterios expresados en el párrafo 40 del documento *CL 111/12*. Esto será revisado por la Secretaría y presentará un documento con la antelación requerida a la Reunión de los Comités del Programa y de Finanzas de abril de 1997, los mismos que ulteriormente presentarán su informe al respecto al Consejo en su reunión de junio del próximo año. Asimismo se decidió que, las propuestas serán presentadas por los grupos regionales y sometidas a la Secretaría de la FAO a más tardar el 31 de diciembre de este año, de acuerdo a la guía del párrafo 1.19 del documento *CL 111/15*. Con esto hay otro punto, el Consejo tomó nota también del interés de varias delegaciones, de crear un grupo intergubernamental sobre frutos tropicales aunque también tomó nota, de que este asunto será discutido por el CPBB en febrero de 1997 y, su informe transmitido al Consejo en junio de 1997 cuando se tomará una decisión relativa.

Bien distinguidos delegados, reconozco que hay otros temas que ustedes plantearon y que son importantes; no los he tomado en cuenta en mi resumen pero el Comité de Redacción tendrá toda la oportunidad para atenderlos.

Como tenemos todavía algunos minutos y si no hay ninguna otra observación, le voy a pedir al Vicepresidente y Presidente Encargado del Comité de Finanzas si tiene a bien presentarnos los informes correspondientes bajo el tema 13, a fin de que podamos de inmediato, comenzar con este punto el día de mañana y, agradezco al Dr Bommer por su presencia en esta sesión del Consejo.

El Consejo le da la bienvenida al señor representante de los Estados Unidos, el señor Thomas Forbord como Vicepresidente del Comité de Finanzas, quien ha aceptado nuestra invitación para presentar el tema 13.

- 13. Reports of the Eighty-third (Rome 16 January 1996), Eighty-fourth (Rome, 6–10 May) 1996) and Eighth- fifth Sessions (Rome, 2–6 September 1996) of the Finance Committee**
- 13. Rapports des quatre-vingt-troisième, quatre-vingt-quatrième et quatre-vingt-cinquième sessions du Comité financier (Rome, 16 janvier 1996, 6–10 mai 1996 et 4–10 septembre 1996, respectivement)**
- 13. Informes del 83° (Roma, 16 de enero de 1996), 84° (Roma, 6–10 de mayo de 1996) y 85° (Roma, 4–10 de septiembre de 1996) períodos de sesiones del Comité de Finanzas**

**Thomas Austin FORBORD (Vice-Chairman, Finance Committee):** I am pleased to be here to introduce the reports of the three Finance Committee meetings which took place since the last meeting of the Council.

The Secretariat has prepared for me introductory remarks indicating that this type of introduction is the tradition of the Council. This prepared text is seven pages long, single spaced, and it will take me about a half an hour to read this to you.

Chairman, I think the Secretariat must have been thinking of how the Council used to operate before you introduced, with the full support of F AO Membership, many efficiencies and cost-savings. Therefore, as you and I discussed, I am not going to read that statement. It repeats what is in the Finance Committee reports which have been distributed to all F AO Members.

Instead let me highlight only the one issue that the Finance Committee has forwarded to the Council for a decision today. Last month the Finance Committee examined the F AO and WFP 1994–95 audited accounts and recommended that the Council submit them to the Conference for adaptation. The External Auditor has expressed unqualified opinions on both sets of biennium accounts.

The Committee's report to you in paragraph 3.35 of document CL 111/15 has a draft Conference Resolution for your consideration. It refers only to the FAO accounts; after the WFP Executive Board has reviewed the WFP accounts there will be an amendment to that Resolution which includes WFP accounts as well. I, or the Secretariat, would be happy to answer any questions on the reports of the Finance Committee.

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Muchas gracias, señor Forbord, Presidente Actuante del Comité de Finanzas, por su breve y clara introducción de este tema. Todavía tenemos algunos minutos de interpretación. Si ustedes consideran que están en posición para comenzar a tratar este tema yo les daría la palabra en el entendido de que no cerraré la lista de oradores el día de hoy. Obviamente continuaremos con este punto del orden del día mañana por la mañana.

**Nasreddine RIMOUCHE (Algérie):** Désolé de prendre la parole. Ce n'est pas pour intervenir sur le point de l'ordre du jour, mais pour savoir quels sont les points qui feront l'objet de discussions

demain pour les deux séances. Il y a eu une petite modification et on voudrait bien connaître les points pour se préparer en conséquence.

**The meeting rose at 17.30 hours**

**La séance est levée à 17 h 30**

**Se levanta la sesión a las 17.30 horas**



3 October 1996



منظمة الأغذية  
والزراعة  
للأمم المتحدة

联合国  
粮食及  
农业组织

Food  
and  
Agriculture  
Organization  
of  
the  
United  
Nations

Organisation  
des  
Nations  
Unies  
pour  
l'alimentation  
et  
l'agriculture

Organización  
de las  
Naciones  
Unidas  
para la  
Agricultura  
y la  
Alimentación

COUNCIL

CONSEIL

CONSEJO

Hundred and Eleventh Session · Cent onzième session · 111° Período de Sesiones

FIFTH PLENARY MEETING  
CINQUIEME SEANCE PLENIERE  
QUINTA SESIÓN PLENARIA

3 October 1996

The Fifth Plenary Meeting was opened at 9.45 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:** Distinguidos delegados, antes de continuar con el tema 13, permítanme hacer varios anuncios y ofrecerles algunas aclaraciones.

En primer lugar, tienen ustedes una Orden del Día que podría ser confusa para algunos y entiendo la razón. En la Orden del Día, como ustedes ven, se ha cambiado un poco el orden del Calendario, después de intensos contactos con la Secretaría al igual que con el Presidente del Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria.

En primer lugar, el tema 15 se va a tratar inmediatamente después del tema 13, porque está ligado a él y porque se refiere también a los trabajos del Comité de Finanzas.

En segundo lugar, el tema 5, como ustedes pueden observar, está dividido en dos partes: una parte a tratarse esta mañana y otra parte a tratarse esta tarde. La razón es la siguiente: hay dos informes, o más bien, un informe y un reporte del Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria, uno de enero/febrero de este año y el otro de septiembre. Esta mañana vamos, exclusivamente, a tratar el informe del Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria del 29 de enero al 2 de febrero de este año. Y esta tarde, una vez que esté preparado el Presidente del Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria que está realizando algunas consultas, entonces trataremos el estado en que se encuentran las discusiones del 22º Período de Sesiones del Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria.

Luego, observen también, que se han pasado para la discusión del día de hoy, los temas 8 y 9. El tema 7, que debíamos haber tratado el lunes de la próxima semana conforme a nuestro Calendario, no lo hemos incluido en esta lista porque algunos delegados esperan a sus expertos para la próxima semana, y les resulta difícil discutir ese tema en estos momentos. Esto en lo que se refiere a la Orden del Día.

En lo que se refiere a los documentos que se encuentran en sus casilleros, seguramente habrán notado que se ha distribuido el proyecto de resolución sobre el tema 6 presentado o copatrocinado por dos delegaciones, la de Burkina Faso y de la Venezuela. Ese documento está ya en sus casilleros y ustedes, desde luego, tendrán el tiempo necesario para realizar las consultas que luego nos permitirán acelerar el trabajo en la discusión de la resolución del día martes de la próxima semana, en un grupo de trabajo que todavía está por integrarse.

- IV. PROGRAMME, BUDGETARY, FINANCIAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS (continued)**
- IV. QUESTIONS CONCERNANT LE PROGRAMME, LE BUDGET, LES FINANCES ET L'ADMINISTRATION (suite)**
- IV. ASUNTOS DEL PROGRAMA Y ASUNTOS PRESUPUESTARIOS, FINANCIEROS Y ADMINISTRATIVOS (continuación)**
- 13. Reports of the Eighty-third (Rome 16 January 1996), Eighty-fourth (Rome, 6–10 May) 1996) and Eighth-fifth Sessions (Rome, 2–6 September 1996) of the Finance Committee**
- 13. Rapports des quatre-vingt-troisième, quatre-vingt-quatrième et quatre-vingt-cinquième sessions du Comité financier (Rome, 16 janvier 1996, 6–10 mai 1996 et 4–10 septembre 1996, respectivement)**
- 13. Informes del 83° (Roma, 16 de enero de 1996), 84° (Roma, 6–10 de mayo de 1996) y 85° (Roma, 4–10 de septiembre de 1996) períodos de sesiones del Comité de Finanzas**
- 13.1 Status of Contributions**
- 13.1 Situation des contributions**
- 13.1 Estado de las cuotas**
- 13.2 Resourcing and Financing of the World Food Programme**
- 13.2 Ressources et financement du Programme alimentaire mondial**
- 13.2 Obtención de recursos y financiación del Programa Mundial de Alimentos**

Distinguidos delegados, permítanme -sobre el tema 13- llamar la atención de nuevo del Consejo sobre el Proyecto de Resolución que está contenido en el párrafo 3.3.5 del documento *CL 111/15*. Ese Proyecto de Resolución, deberá ser apoyado por este Consejo; se refiere a las Cuentas Comprobadas.

Les doy la palabra para que se pronuncien en relación al tema 13, pero antes de ello deseo también hacerles notar que el documento *CL 111/LIM/1* contiene el estado de la recaudación de las cuotas al 30 de septiembre. Se reconoce que hay 79 Estados Miembros que tenían atrasos pendientes de años anteriores. Desde entonces hasta ahora, deseo subrayar, se han recibido dos contribuciones: una, de Venezuela por 1.265.465,39 dólares y, la otra de Burkina Faso por 103.565,61 dólares. En relación a la situación de las contribuciones, yo espero que este Consejo se pronuncie, en el sentido de hacer un llamamiento a todos los Estados Miembros para que liquiden integralmente y lo antes posible sus atrasos pendientes y sus cuotas corrientes.

**Ralph BRESLER (United States of America):** We support the draft decision. Things seem to be in order in the documentation which has been presented to us. I would like, nevertheless, to take the floor with regard to the United States' contribution to FAO.

I think you are aware that the Congress has just passed a budget for the fiscal year 1997. The amount appropriated in this budget, unfortunately, is less than the Administration's budget request of 1.045 billion dollars for a year's contributions to the International Organizations' account from which FAO is funded. Thus a shortfall in the US payment to FAO for 1997 appears likely.

We are currently working on sorting out how to allocate the funds available among forty-eight different International Organizations. We hope to reach a decision soon and expect to be able to pay our contribution in the month of November. Thank you very much for allowing me to make this clarification.

**H. Pradeep RAO (India):** My delegation supports the draft Resolution on the Audited Accounts for the 1994–95 biennium to be forwarded to the Conference. Chairman, yesterday we all had appreciated the efforts made by the Secretariat in achieving efficiency savings and introducing a

number of administrative improvements in the Organization. This is our Organization and we as Member also have to play the role expected of us. It is now our duty to strengthen the Organization and we therefore support the appeal made in the Report of the Finance Committee to all Members to pay their assessed contribution and arrears in full as soon as possible.

**Franco GINOCCHIO (Italy):** With regard to paragraphs 3.56 and 3.57 of the Report of the Finance Committee, the Italian Delegation would like to point out that negotiations are underway between the Italian authorities and FAO with the purpose of resolving the matters which are still contentious related to the implementation of the Headquarters Agreement.

Concerning the exemption from payment of the Value Added Tax for purchases for the official use of the Organization, the Italian authorities sent to FAO a Note Verbale at the end of June proposing to start negotiations in order to reach an agreement on the minimum level of expenditure required for exemption from Value Added Tax in accordance with the provisions of the Headquarters Agreement and with the Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the specialized agencies of the United Nations.

The Headquarters Agreement, under Article VIII paragraph 19.6, foresees exemption from the Value Added Tax for wholesale purchases and the Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the Specialized Agencies foresees under Article III, Section 10, the exemption from Value Added Tax for important purchases. Therefore, these Agreements do not specify the minimum amount of expenditures corresponding to wholesale purchases and important purchases.

In this context the Ministry of Finance has requested the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to negotiate with the three Rome-based organizations in order to agree upon a specific amount for the minimum level of expenditure. The Minister of Finances expects that this minimum level of expenditure will be fixed at five hundred thousand lire which is the minimum level of expenditure foreseen by the Decree 323 of June 20 and which is applicable to all diplomatic officials.

With the same Note Verbale we also informed FAO of the reduction of the minimum level of expenditure from one million lire to five hundred thousand lire applicable to diplomatic officials. Now, I would like to point out that it is necessary to distinguish between the minimum level of expenditure applicable to FAO officials, which is the same as that applicable to diplomatic officials, and the minimum level of expenditure applicable to the purchases for the official use of FAO.

I would like also to inform the meeting that we have received a reply from the World Food Programme which suggests that the minimum level of expenditure for the purchases for official use of the Organization should correspond to three hundred thousand lire. Of course this minimum level of expenditures should be equal for all three organizations.

Concerning the payment of Value Added Tax by the FAO Commissary, the problem has not yet been solved due to the fact that the Minister of Finance has expressed a negative view on the possibility to grant exemption from the Value Added Tax for purchases made in Italy. During a meeting held at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Minister of Finance underlined that the provisions of the Headquarters Agreement that is Article III, Section 27JEE-allow the Italian authorities to grant exemption from Value Added Tax only to imported products for the Commissary and not for products purchased in Italy. The Permanent Representation of Italy has not succeeded in persuading the Minister of Finance that FAO is not within the Italian customs territory. However, the Minister of Foreign Affairs is willing to contact the Minister of Finance again on this matter but cannot give assurances about a positive reply from the Minister of Finance.

Concerning the Garbage Collection Tax, the Minister of Foreign Affairs has recently sent to the Municipality of Rome a Note Verbale of 2 August whereby FAO expresses its intention to entrust to private contractors the service of garbage collection. Up to now the problem of payment of the



Garbage Collection Tax for 1995 has not been solved but the Minister of Foreign Affairs has expressed his willingness to request the Municipality of Rome to deduct all the elements of tax and, in particular, a percentage of 3.75 corresponding to the tax to be paid to the Provincia di Roma.

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Señores delegados, con esto concluimos el tema 13. El Consejo, en consecuencia, ha aprobado los informes del Comité de Finanzas en sus partes relativas al tema 13, los documentos *CL 111/4*, *CL 111/14* y *CL 111/15*. El Consejo aprueba la Resolución sobre Cuentas Comprobadas contenidas en el párrafo 3.35 y al examinar el estado de las contribuciones al 30 de septiembre y la actualización a la fecha, el Consejo tomó nota de que, a pesar de una mejora en la tendencia general de las cuotas recaudadas este año, muchos Estados Miembros no habían pagado todavía sus cuotas corrientes o habían aún atrasos, y por consiguiente, el Consejo renovó su llamamiento para que todos los Estados Miembros paguen sus cuotas y sus atrasos íntegramente y lo más pronto posible.

## **15. Audited Accounts**

### **15. Comptes vérifiés**

### **15. Cuentas comprobadas**

#### **15.1 Regular Programme 1994–95**

#### **15.1 Programme ordinaire 1994–95**

#### **15.1 Programa Ordinario, 1994–95**

#### **15.2 UNDP 1994–95**

#### **15.2 PNUD 1994–95**

#### **15.2 PNUD, 1994–95**

#### **15.3 Commissary Accounts 1995**

#### **15.3 Comptes du Groupement d'achats du personnel 1995**

#### **15.3 Cuentas del Economato, 1995**

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Pasamos ahora, si no hubiese otro comentario, al Tema 15 de la Orden del Día, cuentas comprobadas. Deseo hacerles notar que el Consejo tiene ante sí el documento C 97/5 que contiene las cuentas comprobadas correspondientes al Programa Ordinario y a las actividades de proyectos financiados con cargo al PNUD para el bienio 1994/95. Por lo tanto, los subtemas 15.1 Programa Ordinario 1994–95, y 15.2 PNUD 1994–95, se han fusionado en un solo tema. Deseo que tomen nota de ello.

Conforme con lo dispuesto en el artículo 27.7, 1 del reglamento general, el Comité de Finanzas ha examinado las cuentas comprobadas con detenimiento y lo ha hecho en nombre del Consejo.

**Thomas Austin FORBORD (Vice-Chairman, Finance Committee):** Thank you Mr Chairman, just very briefly to note that the Resolution you just approved was on the Audited Accounts, so we have in effect already approved it.

**Khalid MEHBOOB (Assistant Director-General, Administration and Finance Department):** In fact, Mr Chairman, the document is self-explanatory. The only thing which I would like to mention is that, in accord with our normal practice, we will be preparing progress reports on the recommendations of the External Auditors. The progress on our implementation of these recommendations and this document will go through the Finance Committee, the Council to the Conference. We will start doing that as we now start implementing these recommendations.

**Alan AMEY (Canada):** Mr Chairman, Canada welcomes the Report of the External Auditor and would like to make some observations.

In the first place, it is noted that there has been no support costs levied to the Special Programme for Food Production. This is unacceptable as a support cost can be a very significant part of the overall cost structure. We would like to support the recommendation that the support cost be levied on the basis of the actual cost expected to be incurred by FAO on the principle of users pay.

The External Audit performs a valuable function for the Organization, not only does it express an opinion on the presentation of the financial statements but identifies areas where Management should improve systems and practices to achieve greater autonomy, efficiency and effectiveness. We hope the External Auditor will continue and expand his work in the value for money audit.

We note that the current system of forward exchange purchasing has led to a gain of US \$ 23.5 million in 1994–95 and we estimate, based on the information in Note 27 to the Financial Statement, a gain of US \$ 13 million. The Canadian Auditor General, in its role as External Auditor of the International Civil Aviation Authority (ICAO), commented on the practice of establishing a budget rate that differs from the forward purchase rate. He stated that it may be possible to reduce future assessments, for forward purchasing of local currency, by making the budget rate of exchange equal to the average forward purchase rate. Canada suggests that this possibility be explored, in order to reduce the assessments of Member Nations commencing in the 1998–99 biennium.

Canada is pleased to see that FAO has adopted the UN Common Accounting Standards. We have supported the adoption of common standards in various fora in order to enhance the readability, comparability and understandability of financial information presented to Member States.

Finally, Mr Chairman, Canada pays its contributions in full and on time to all international organizations.

**Tony WADE (Director, Office of Programmes, Budget and Evaluation):** Very briefly, in response to the questions from the distinguished delegate of Canada.

There is a little bit of a misunderstanding on the question concerning the Special Programme for Food Production. In fact, we have levied support costs at an average rate of 7 per cent on this Programme, as is in fact suggested by Canada. We agree entirely that you have to record the full costs of programmes within the programmes otherwise you have some sort of distortion in the process. The point of the comment in the Auditors Report was a little bit different I think and maybe it was a little ambiguous in the report. So on that question we are doing as you suggest.

With regard to the forward purchase issue, this has been suggested before by the previous External Auditor to FAO, that in fact, the budget rate could be set at the forward purchase rate. The response of the Secretariat, and I think of the Council itself, although I must admit I cannot recall exactly how it was processed, was that there is a danger associated with that recommendation. The difference between the forward purchase rate and the actual rate on the day, is a function of the comparative interest rates between the two currencies in question.

In other words, at the moment the Italian Lira has a higher interest rate than the US dollar, so therefore, the forward purchase causes a gain on exchange to exist. If it was the other way around; that is, that the US dollar had a higher interest rate than the Italian Lira, which is not impossible but unlikely in the immediate short term, then of course it would be a loss that you would be facing. In such a case, setting it at the forward purchase rate would actually damage the Programme. Therefore, the Director-General's conclusion has been that we should remain with existing practice, put the loss or gain in a Special Reserve Account, which then has its own mechanisms for returning that to Member Nations should it reach its ceiling, etc. That is the way we have handled it up to now and it is not our intention at this stage to change it, unless the Council should decide otherwise.

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Le pregunto al delegado de Canadá si está satisfecho con la respuesta. ¿Desea formular alguna otra observación? No. En ese caso podemos seguramente concluir que el Consejo endosó el informe del Comité de Finanzas en lo que se refiere a los párrafos 3.29, 3.35 del documento *CL 111/15* y endosó también el informe del Auditor externo y, con ello, se pasará a la Resolución contenida en el párrafo 3.35 del documento *CL 111/15* a la Conferencia de la Organización.

Con respecto al tema 15.3, deseo señalar a su atención el párrafo 3.45 del documento *CL 111/14* que se refiere al Período de Sesiones del Comité de Finanzas celebrado del 6 al 10 de mayo del presente año y que contiene un proyecto de Resolución relativo a las cuentas anuales del Economato del personal, para que el Consejo lo apruebe y lo pase a la Conferencia. ¿Hay algún comentario respecto a este punto de la Orden del Día? No. En ese caso queda aprobado el proyecto de resolución párrafo 3.45 y el Consejo lo transmite a la Conferencia.

## **II. WORLD FOOD AND AGRICULTURE SITUATION (continued)**

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

### **II. SITUACIÓN MUNDIAL DE LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACIÓN (continuación)**

- 5. Reports of the Twenty-first (Rome, 29 January-2 February 1996) and Twenty-second (Rome, 25–27 September 1996) Sessions of the Committee on World Food Security including Preparations for the World Food Summit (continued)**
- 5. Rapports des vingt-et-unième et vingt-deuxième sessions du Comité de la sécurité alimentaire mondiale (Rome, 29 janvier-2 février 1996 et 23–27 septembre 1996 respectivement), y compris les préparatifs du Sommet mondial de l'alimentation (suite)**
- 5. Informes del 21° (Roma, 29 de enero-2 de febrero de 1996) y 22° (Roma, 23–27 de septiembre de 1996) períodos de sesiones del Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria Mundial, con inclusión de los preparativos para la Cumbre Mundial sobre la Alimentación (continuación)**

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Pasamos ahora sí al tema 5, que se refiere a los informes del Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria. Les vuelvo a hacer notar que hemos dividido el tema en dos partes: una, el endoso por parte del Consejo del informe del Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria del 29 de enero al 2 de febrero de este año, que es lo que vamos a estudiar ahora, y luego la segunda parte de la discusión de este tema, que tendrá lugar en la tarde del día de hoy.

**DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL:** The part of item 5 that is for consideration at the moment is covered in Council document CL 111/10, the Report of the 21st Session of the Committee on World Food Security. The agenda items that were covered at that time are listed on the first page, the contents. You will note that among those, there was an assessment of the current world food security situation and short-term market outlook. In view of the fact that you have already considered the current food and agriculture situation, I would assume there would be no need for discussion on that.

I also note that Item 4 on that agenda was the status report on the Special Programme on Food Production in Support of Food Security.

The rest of the document dealt with the procedure to proceed toward the preparations for the World Food Summit. That matter will be considered later today. What is before the Council is the approval of the Report.

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Han escuchado ustedes los comentarios introductorios que ha pronunciado el señor Hjort. Les vuelvo a repetir, el Consejo -lo subrayo- lo que tiene que hacer en esta ocasión es endosar el informe del 21° Período de Sesiones del Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria de enero y febrero de este año. Ofrezco la palabra.

Bueno, me parece que hay consenso en aprobar el informe del Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria. ¿Algún observador quiere tomar la palabra? ¿No? En ese caso el Consejo aprueba el informe del 21º Período de Sesiones del Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria celebrado del 28 de enero al 2 de febrero de 1996.

## **8. Climate Agenda**

### **8. Action pour le climat**

### **8. Acción para el Clima**

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Distinguidos delegados, pasamos ahora al tema 8 de nuestra Agenda. Estaba citado para esta tarde, y les pido disculpas que lo adelantemos para la mañana; espero que estén ustedes preparados para tratarlo. El tema 8 trata la Acción para el Clima, y se refiere a la propuesta redactada conjuntamente por varios organismos, entre otros, además de la FAO: la Organización Meteorológica Mundial, la OMM; el Programa de las Naciones Unidas para el Medio Ambiente, PNUMA; la Organización de las Naciones Unidas para la Ciencia y la Cultura, UNESCO; la Comisión Oceanográfica Internacional, COI; y el Consejo Internacional de Uniones Científicas, CIUC.

Hay varias propuestas en el documento, de las cuales ustedes deberán tomar nota, pero para presentar el Tema le voy a pedir al señor Carsalade que tome la palabra.

**H. CARSALADE (Sous-Directeur général. Département du développement durable):** Le point de l'ordre du jour qui vous est présenté est le document joint à cette présentation. Le document *CL 111/13* se réfère donc au Programme d'action pour le climat. C'est la vingt-huitième session de la Conférence de la FAO qui avait souhaité que soit porté à l'attention de ce Conseil le Programme d'action pour le climat, et bien entendu, la participation de la FAO dans ce Programme d'action. J'essaierai d'être très bref en ne rappelant pas les événements successifs qui se sont produits à ce titre, et qui sont résumés dans le document; simplement pour rappeler que sont soumis à votre attention les lignes générales de ce Programme d'action, et les termes de référence du Comité interinstitutions qu'il est proposé de réunir pour assurer une meilleure coordination, une meilleure efficacité des organisations du système des Nations Unies en cette matière. Très brièvement donc, la proposition de cadre général, puisque c'est ainsi qu'on l'appelle, identifie quatre axes principaux pour l'action commune de nos organismes en matière de climat, d'abord un effort nouveau en matière de climatologie et de prévisions climatologiques, ceci est assez facile à comprendre, ensuite le développement d'un service climatologique dans la perspective du développement durable et puis l'évaluation de l'impact des changements climatiques et des stratégies de réponse visant à réduire les risques et la vulnérabilité, en particulier des zones les plus sensibles; enfin, sous l'égide de l'Organisation mondiale de la météorologie, des observations spécifiques du système climatique.

Je crois que vous avez le détail de ces actions dans; le document, peut-être pourrions-nous répondre à des questions spécifiques si vous le souhaitez. Je crois que de la même manière vous avez dans votre document les termes de référence de ce Comité inter-institutions, et il vous est demandé à la fin de statuer sur la poursuite de l'action de la FAO comme partenaire de ce groupe d'institutions internationales, bien entendu sans engagement financier de notre part, auquel nous ne pourrions pas faire face, participation et engagement dans ces conditions auxquelles nous sommes bien évidemment très favorables.

**EL PRESIDENTE:** El Consejo ha tomado nota de esta intervención introductoria. Estoy seguro que ustedes reconocerán la importancia creciente que tiene el clima, sobre todo en virtud de los cambios que muchos auguran, ocurrirán en el futuro, y los efectos de estos cambios climáticos sobre la agricultura, la zootecnia, la pesca y las actividades forestales. De allí la importancia de asegurar una coordinación muy estrecha y una armonización en las actividades relacionadas con el clima y, seguramente el Consejo querrá destacar la importancia de que la FAO participe activamente en el Comité inter-Organismos sobre la Acción para el Clima (CIAC) que es el successor

directo del Comité Coordinador del Programa para el Clima. Por eso es que el Consejo, quizás, querrá también destacar que la FAO debe estar debidamente representada en dicho Comité. Asimismo, deberán ustedes tomar nota de que, dadas las actuales limitaciones financieras, la FAO no podrá ya contraer compromisos financieros vinculados con el CIAC como el apoyo a la oficina del mismo.

**Nasreddine RIMOUCHE (Algérie):** Permettez-moi tout d'abord de féliciter M. Carsalade pour l'exposé qu'il vient de nous faire sur cette question importante et la délégation algérienne se félicite de l'action prise par la FAO de se joindre au Comité de coordination du Programme climatologique mondial, afin de contribuer à la mise en oeuvre du Programme d'action pour le climat qui revêt une importance tant pour les pays développés que pour les pays en développement. Nous sommes préoccupés par le contenu du paragraphe 14 en ce qui concerne la préférence marquée par les membres du Comité de coordination du Programme climatologique mondial pour les aspects physiques, en accordant peu d'attention à l'application des données climatologiques, par exemple l'agriculture. Si pour certains pays la lutte contre la dégradation de l'environnement s'analyse en termes de préservation de la qualité de la vie, pour d'autres, cette lutte, dans nombre de ces aspects, est celle pour la vie tout court et dans bien des cas elle s'apparente à la lutte pour la simple survie; la lutte contre la sécheresse est au nombre de ces cas. Si le phénomène de la sécheresse et de la désertification n'est pas particulier à un continent, c'est singulièrement en Afrique qu'il déploie à très grande échelle tous ses ravages. La sécheresse prolongée et la désertification, particulièrement en Afrique, ont grandement contribué à la baisse de la production agricole en provoquant ainsi de graves crises alimentaires.

S'ajoutent à cela les catastrophes naturelles qui aggravent davantage les conditions désastreuses dans lesquelles se débattent de larges couches de population. La gravité des effets de ces fléaux, tant sur la nature que sur la population, ont été à l'origine de la conclusion de la Convention internationale sur la lutte contre la désertification et la sécheresse. Il est aujourd'hui vital et urgent que des efforts concertés de l'ensemble de la Communauté internationale soient déployés en vue de traduire rapidement dans l'effet les principes et objectifs ainsi que les engagements contenus dans les divers accords relatifs au climat, en particulier la Convention sur la lutte contre la sécheresse et la désertification. Il est également important que la dimension environnementale soit prise en compte aujourd'hui dans le cadre des politiques et programmes de la FAO et que des mesures concrètes soient prises par les pays développés en matière de transfert de technologies à des conditions non commerciales.

La délégation algérienne approuve la recommandation figurant dans le paragraphe 15 du document CL 111/13 pour son inclusion dans le rapport du Conseil et, par la même occasion, fait part de son regret quant à l'incapacité de la FAO de contribuer financièrement au fonctionnement du bureau inter-institutions du Programme d'action pour le climat. S'ajoute à cela une proposition visant à inclure dans le paragraphe proposé (paragraphe 15) l'inclusion au rapport du terme "agriculture" après "incidence" dans la troisième ligne du texte français qui se lira donc comme suit: "Il a été décidé que la FAO devrait continuer d'être associée au Programme d'action pour le climat, en particulier en ce qui concerne les activités qui permettent aux pays d'intervenir en cas de changements climatologiques et de phénomènes extrêmes ayant une incidence sur l'agriculture et la sécurité alimentaire (cultures, élevage, pêches et forêts)."

**N. SHIBANI (Syria) (Original language Arabic):** Mr Chairman, first we would like to thank the Secretariat for this excellent presentation, and the document we have before us.

Very briefly, I would just like to say that we are in favour of an integrated proposal for this Inter-Agency Committee, which establishes four lines of action: first, the new perspectives concerning climatology; secondly, the climatology services with a view to helping sustainable development; thirdly, preparing studies to evaluate the repercussions of climate change and strategies to cope with the dangers implied; and then the detailed follow-up on all work linked with climate change.

We believe that there is full complementarity in these issues because we must deal with all these serious objectives, which we feel would help to improve agricultural production in our countries, particularly in those countries where production suffers largely from agricultural changes.

I would also like to say that it would be important to give sufficient importance to this issue, because it helps to improve participation in improving agricultural and food production in our countries.

We hope FAO will be able to play a very important role in this Committee.

**Raphael O.S. MOLLEL (Tanzania):** Mr Chairman, my delegation wishes to thank the FAO Secretariat for preparing the important document CL 111/13, an Integrating Framework of International Climate-Related Activities.

The proposal before us, when implemented, will ensure better utilization of the resources available within the UN system and the Member Nations by harmonizing climate-related activities. By doing so, we shall reduce costs and indeed it is a cost-effective approach, aiming at providing coordination and effective communication on climate issues.

Mr Chairman, the main targets in implementing the climate agenda should be prediction of climate changes and the impact of these changes on agricultural production, i.e. crops, livestock, fisheries and forestry sectors. My delegation strongly supports the initiative. We believe that advance information on climate change will assist countries to get prepared for extreme events, such as drought and the resulting famine, which can have catastrophic consequences.

Mr Chairman, my delegation hopes that Member Nations will adhere to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, so as to achieve the overall objective of stabilizing greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere at a level that will prevent dangerous interference with the climate. The anticipated preparedness and intervention will ensure eco-systems adapt naturally to climate change and in this way ensure food production, and thus ensure that economic development continues in a sustainable manner.

Mr Chairman, my Delegation concurs with the Secretariat that the task of understanding the climate system is too large for any one nation or international organization to deal with in isolation.

In supporting the climate agenda, the overall aims, objectives and priorities, we shall collaborate with FAO and other governments to implement parts of the programme based on available expertise and capacity. We would request FAO and donor agencies to provide the necessary support to enable implementation of the proposal by developing countries.

Mr Chairman, my Delegation has reviewed the terms of reference, membership and operation of the Inter-Agency Committee on Climate Change, and finds them appropriate for dealing with the situation, if funding can be made available for the Committee to effectively function.

In conclusion, my Delegation urges the Council to endorse that FAO continue to be associated with the Climate Agenda and pay particular attention to the activities which will make countries able to respond to climate fluctuations and extremes which affect crop, livestock, fisheries and forestry sectors, in accordance with FAO's climate-related programme and activities.

**Mario MOYA FALENCIA (México):** Mi delegación desea también dejar constancia de su reconocimiento a la Secretaría por la forma en que nos ha presentado este tema.

México está apenas saliendo de una terrible sequía, que afectó el norte del país, y esto ha incrementado nuestro interés y yo diría, nuestra angustia, alrededor de los problemas relacionados

con el clima. Recuerdo que, por 1987 u 88, los Organismos Internacionales empezaron ya a preocuparse más por este tema. Las Naciones Unidas, a petición de Malta, empezaron a estudiar la posibilidad de una cooperación internacional para prever el clima y para prepararse sobre sus efectos. Creo que este es uno de esos temas donde todos debemos cooperar y estamos obligados a hacerlo. El clima, tanto en sus aspectos benéficos como adversos, nos une por igual a países ricos y pobres. Generalmente, se dice que hay mejor clima en el sur, pero muchas catástrofes climáticas no reconocen la línea del Ecuador y, sobre todo, los efectos de las adversidades climáticas suelen ser, obviamente, más difíciles de prever y de combatir o de paliar en los países que tienen un menor grado de desarrollo.

Lo que a nosotros más nos interesa, señor Presidente, son: los efectos de clima sobre la agricultura, la ganadería y la pesca e, incluso, los temas productivos que son objeto de competencia de la F AO; efectos muy localizados que suelen ser muy graves. Por eso, todo el esfuerzo de combinar investigación, datos y elementos de esclarecimiento de los fenómenos naturales, la posibilidad de influir en algunos de ellos pero, sobre todo, de estar preparados para detectarlos y tener capacidad de respuesta, son imprescindibles y por ello mi país apoya fervientemente la acción para el clima y los programas internacionales relacionados con el clima que hemos visto aquí y creo que nuestra Organización, la F AO, debe seguir empeñada en desarrollar este tipo de acciones.

Mi gobierno me ha pedido, señor Presidente, que yo haga una breve declaración textual a continuación:

Es de alta prioridad institucional contar con un marco de integración que contenga elementos que permitan la toma de decisiones, tanto a nivel local como regional, en aspectos en que los cambios climáticos afectan la producción de alimentos. Asimismo, es conveniente contar dentro de este marco, con modelos que permitan pronosticar con cierta exactitud cambios de clima que afecten tanto a la ganadería como a las áreas cultivables, como es el caso reciente que sufrió el norte de nuestro país, con sequías que dieron como resultado la muerte de muchas cabezas de ganado y con un modelo confiable que a través del cual, se pudiera detectar el fenómeno con anterioridad y vender estas especies para que el efecto del calor no cobrara tantas víctimas.

Es por esto señor Presidente, que nuestro país está muy interesado en estas cuestiones y que ofrece también su colaboración para contribuir a un movimiento internacional de cooperación en este aspecto.

**Harald HILDEBRANDT (Germany):** Several delegates speaking before me have well shown that there is a close interaction between climate on the one hand, and agriculture and food production and food security on the other. In view of the vital importance of this global issue -- and I think this globality has been well reflected in the document under consideration -- Germany is in favour of FAO's continued attention to current and future impacts of climate fluctuations and future climate change on food production and its stability.

Efforts should be made, despite certain constraints in our budget, that is to say, efforts within the framework of the Regular Programme, and in conjunction and in good coordination with the other agencies involved, to continue to study ways to mitigate the effect of climate-related factors on food security. The recommendation suggested in paragraph 15 of the document under discussion meets with my delegation's approval.

Finally, Mr Chairman, I would like to ask the Secretariat to refer me to specific documentation which reflects FAO's current climate-related programme and activities.

**Ms. Laura WHITAKER (United States of America):** The United States urges the FAO to remain an active participant in ongoing international climate change dialogue. In this context, we generally support the draft recommended action proposed in paragraph 15. Recognizing that the FAO may not

be able to make a financial contribution to the Bureau of the Inter-Agency Coordinating Committee of the WCP, we urge that the FAO continue its involvement in this critical issue and closely monitor the emerging science.

It is important that FAO's focus not be limited to an assessment of the consequence of current climate to food and agricultural issues, but that it also consider future climate changes and their effects in its assessment and operational work. Such an engagement could be integrated into its ongoing priority tasks, including those related to sustainable development and the collection and dissemination of information.

The United States endorses the recommendation that the Coordinating Committee increase its representation from the users community, in particular those from the CGIAR system, and that issues related to the services delivered to Member Nations with regard to socio-economic, ecological, and agricultural applications be provided an increased emphasis.

**YUAN HAIYING (China) (Original language Chinese):** Mr Chairman, we would like to thank the Secretariat very much for the introduction to this Agenda Item. We are all well aware of the importance of climate and its importance in agricultural production.

The Chinese delegation approves the proposals of activities contained in document CL 111/13. We propose to change the word 'crop' and replace that word 'crop' with 'agriculture', in the third line of the second paragraph, under the recommended action-to replace the word 'crop' with the word 'agriculture'.

The Chinese delegation feels that as a prior condition thereto, climatological-related projects is an area in which FAO should continue taking full part and also help to strengthen and bolster the capacities of developing countries, national capacities of developing countries, in order to be able to tackle and cope with the negative effects of bad weather or bad climate on agriculture, livestock, fisheries and forestry activities.

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Ustedes han escuchado ya una propuesta que ha sido confirmada respecto al cambio en el texto, que podría incluirse en el informe sobre este tema. Espero que las delegaciones que hablen de aquí en adelante, si tienen alguna objeción al respecto, la indiquen.

**Aidan O'DRISCOLL (Ireland):** The development of a coordinated approach within the agencies of the UN through the Climate Agenda, is in our view, a valuable step and should be fostered and supported. We are aware that behind the general formulation of the Climate Agenda lies a complex series of climate-related programmes dealing with every facet of the subject, including impact on agriculture. For this reason, Ireland would urge FAO to participate in the IACCA as fully as possible. We accept that resource limitations may limit what can be done at this time, but we think it important to ensure that FAO through, the Climate Agenda, avoids duplication of effort and ensures that its work is relevant and useful to the wider international agenda on this issue. We would welcome the inclusion of adequate representation to ensure that the needs and concerns of the agricultural sector are properly taken into account in the IACCA.

We can support the existing formulation in paragraph 15 but we have no difficulty with the proposal to include the word agriculture.

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Quiero aclararles que se trata de incluir las palabras "Agricultura y Seguridad Alimentaria" y luego poner entre paréntesis, referente a los sectores agrícolas: "ganadería, pesca y actividades forestales".



**Alan AMEY (Canada):** Like all the other speakers, Canada welcomes the proposal from the Coordinating Committee of the World Climate Programme, for the Climate Agenda and thinks that there are many interesting suggestions in the proposed Climate Agenda.

Canada accepts the precautionary principle and believes that action to reduce greenhouse gas emissions should not be delayed. Canada acknowledges that, not only is the risk of climate change very significant in the next century, but Canada believes that the growing weight of evidence indicates that we are also starting to observe early signs of climate change.

There are also increased constraints on the operating resources available to all international agencies, so Canada urges FAO to take every suitable opportunity to work with other agencies in areas of common interest. In the case of WMO and the Climate Agenda, the most significant common issues are climate variability and desertification.

The looming risk from climate change is specifically the projected rise in sea-level to small island states, requires special attention in spite of the small proportion of the world's population currently living in these states. The potential environmental refugees from the middle to the end of the next century could come from many nations unable to cope with climate change impacts. Therefore, in addition to its other roles, FAO should facilitate the search for adaptation strategies to both climate change and climate variability, such as biogas fuel, as part of the FAO participation in the Climate Agenda.

We have no objection to the proposed change from "crop" to "agriculture" in the recommendation.

Finally, Canada supports FAO in its selective approach to the Climate Agenda and its decision not to financially support the IACCA at present.

**Dennis GEBBIE (Australia):** We are also pleased to support the recommended action in the agenda paper. The approach proposed, we think, is a sensible one. It recognizes the tight resource situation as well as the fact that FAO's participation must be conditional on it being relevant and useful to FAO's own work programme.

FAO's main interest, we believe, is in current impacts of climate which are a main factor in variability of food production from year to year.

We do have some concerns with the membership of the Climate Agenda Coordinating Body which, we believe, does show somewhat of an imbalance towards the physical aspect of climate, rather than the implications of climate on agriculture and the environment. For this reason, we also strongly support FAO's efforts to have CGIAR representation in the membership of that Coordinating Body.

**Harald HILDEBRANDT (Germany):** I would like to come back to China's proposal to change, in the text of the recommended action paragraph, "crop" to "agriculture". I think the Secretariat on purpose used crop to specify the different sectors and normally in FAO we understand by agriculture, cropping, livestock, forestry and fisheries so maybe, it would be better to stick to crop.

**EL PRESIDENTE:** La propuesta consiste en agregar las palabras "Agricultura y Seguridad Alimentaria". Y luego entre paréntesis, sin eliminar los sectores a los que usted se ha referido. Quedarían seguramente entre paréntesis haciendo referencia a estos dos puntos: Agricultura y Seguridad Alimentaria. Me parece que usted aprueba, entonces, la enmienda.

**Noah M. NKAMBULE (Swaziland):** I wish to thank the Secretariat for preparing and introducing document CL 111/13 concerning the climate agenda.

First of all, my delegation supports, very strongly, the suggested coordination by various UN agencies on this very important subject. Our countries in southern Africa have suffered drastically because of lack of prediction ability on the recent drought that was engulfing the region.

Currently, we hear rumours that we have entered a rain cycle. This is because we do not have reliable information on future climate changes and this seriously undermines our preparedness. My Delegation, therefore, supports the prepared actions as contained in paragraph 11. We, however, need to be assured that the lack of financial contribution by FAO will not compromise FAO's effective participation in this important collaboration.

Lastly, my delegation supports the recommended action on paragraph 15 and also, the suggested amendment to the substitution of "agricultural" for "crops" and livestock.

**Cephas GOODING (Barbados):** Barbados would wish to join the other delegations in expressing their appreciation and gratitude to the FAO Secretariat for its efforts in this very important matter.

My Delegation recognizes the close relationship between climate and agriculture. We believe that a better understanding of the climatic factors, affecting agriculture, will enable us to formulate more appropriate technologies for helping to increase agricultural output and so help to strengthen world food security. We, therefore, wish to support the involvement of FAO in the World Climate Programme to the extent that resources would allow.

As regards to the proposed change to the recommended action, we have no difficulties.

**H. CARSALADE (Sous-Directeur général, Département du développement durable):**

Tout d'abord je voudrais vous dire combien nous sommes sensibles à l'appui unanime que vous avez apporté à cette perspective de nous voir nous associer encore davantage avec d'autres institutions des Nations Unies pour mieux répondre au déficit que nous posent les problèmes climatiques. Je crois que la FAO est très convaincue de l'importance de ces problèmes, elle y attache beaucoup d'importance, et ne serait-ce comme un exemple si vous voulez, que notre association très étroite avec tout ce qui se fait en relation avec la Convention de lutte contre la désertification à laquelle nous collaborons très activement. Je crois également qu'il est clair que le rôle spécifique que joue la FAO dans ce secteur est bien celui que certains délégués, j'ai en mémoire l'intervention de l'Algérie et de l'Australie, souhaitent nous voir jouer, c'est-à-dire le rôle de ceux qui se préoccupent de la prévention, de l'information et des conséquences des problèmes climatiques sur l'agriculture et les agriculteurs, c'est-à-dire sur l'aspect agricole et l'aspect humain des phénomènes climatiques.

Nous n'avons pas la capacité technique de travailler les problèmes climatiques en tant que tels, nous travaillons sur leur description, sur leur analyse, sur leur prévision et sur la manière de faire face à leurs conséquences. Je crois que ceci est très clair, et je crois que c'est un rôle que nous nous préparons à jouer encore plus activement dans le concert des organisations qui sont associées à cette vaste opération. Ceci nous concerne également pour les changements climatiques, nous ne pourrions pas apporter un travail spécifique sur la compréhension du phénomène du changement climatique, puisque nous n'en avons pas les moyens. En revanche il faudra que nous continuions avec les partenaires, avec la communauté scientifique, à réfléchir sur l'impact possible et probable qu'auront ces phénomènes sur l'agriculture, les agriculteurs et les populations rurales. Je crois que ceci est bien clair, mais votre souci de nous voir aller dans cette direction nous encourage tout-à-fait. Je crois que c'était pratiquement la seule question qui était posée, l'autre avait trait pour l'Allemagne, si je me souviens bien, à la liste des programmes de la FAO qui concerne le climat.

Nous avons un document qui recouvre l'ensemble de ces programmes; nous allons le faire dupliquer et le mettre à votre disposition si vous le souhaitez. Il vous donnera la liste détaillée des opérations qui sont conduites à la FAO. Il est peut-être un peu long pour que je le décrive, parce-qu'il y en a beaucoup, et elles sont disséminées dans l'ensemble des Départements et des Divisions, mais je

crois qu'il n'y a aucun problème pour qu'on le mette à votre disposition très rapidement. C'est simplement une question de temps pour la production, mais nous allons le faire très rapidement. Je crois que je n'ai rien oublié et je voudrais vous remercier pour l'appui que vous nous apportez en cette matière.

**Abdel Rahman ABDELHAFIZ (Observer for Arab Organization for Agricultural Development) (Original language Arabic):** I just wanted to indicate that the Arab Organization for Agricultural Development allocates to the issue of climatic change what we regard as very special importance. As you know, Sir, the vast majority of Arab countries are located in an area characterized by a desert or semi-desert climate, hence the agriculture in Arab countries suffers substantially from climatic changes and climatic fluctuations. In this regard, the Ministers of Agriculture, meeting together in the General Assembly of the AOAD, decided that the Organization, as such, would conduct projects against desertification in four areas in the Arab world, that is in Northern Africa, in the Syrian countryside, in the Gulf States and in the African Horn States. Moreover, the Organization in its Programme of Action for the three-year period, 1996–1997–1998, is also contemplating a major programme which would have to do with the environment and its impact on agriculture, with a view to improving agricultural status.

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Quisiera resumir los trabajos de este debate de la manera siguiente: el Consejo fue informado sobre la Acción para el Clima y estuvo de acuerdo por unanimidad con las propuestas, teniendo en cuenta los beneficios que cabe esperar derivados de la armonización de las actividades de los organismos participantes en la Acción para el Clima. Se alentó a la FAO para que participe activamente en el Comité inter-Organismos para la Acción sobre el Clima, dado que es el sucesor directo del Comité Coordinador del Programa para el Clima.

Al apoyar a la acción propuesta en el párrafo 15 del documento *CL 111/13*, el Consejo aceptó también la inclusión del texto propuesto y aportó una enmienda que consistiría en incluir en la tercera línea "la agricultura y la seguridad alimentaria" dejando entre paréntesis "agricultura, ganadería, pesca y actividades forestales". El Consejo consideró que la agricultura, la zootecnia, la pesca y las actividades forestales figuran entre las actividades humanas que más sufren por las inclemencias del clima y por los cambios climáticos que, muy probablemente, se avecinan en años futuros. Se propuso, por tanto, que estas actividades estén debidamente representadas en los trabajos del CI AC, en particular mediante la participación formal del sistema del GOAL. Se instó también a que la FAO ofreciera asesoramiento en este sentido y fomentara una mayor cooperación entre los organismos y entre los países en lo que concierne a la agricultura y la alimentación.

Se tomó nota también que dadas las limitaciones financieras de la Organización no podría ésta contraer compromisos financieros vinculados con el CI AC como el apoyo a la oficina del mismo. De esta manera y por unanimidad, el Consejo adoptó las propuestas del documento *CL 111/13*.

### **III. ACTIVITIES OF FAO AND WFP**

### **III. ACTIVITES DE LA FAO ET DU PAM**

### **III. ACTIVIDADES DE LA FAO Y EL PMA**

#### **9. Coordination of Emergency Humanitarian Assistance of the United Nations**

#### **9. Coordination de l'aide humanitaire d'urgence des Nations Unies**

#### **9. Coordinación de la ayuda humanitaria de urgencia de las Naciones Unidas**

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Bien, distinguidos delegados, pasamos de inmediato al Punto 9 de la Orden del Día: Coordinación de la ayuda humanitaria de urgencia de las Naciones Unidas.

**DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL:** The document before you for this agenda item is CL 111/16. The title of the document, *Follow-up to Economic and Social Council Resolution 1995/56, Strengthening of the Coordination of Emergency Humanitarian Assistance of the United Nations*.

In the introduction to the document the purposes are stated as being to inform the Council of the humanitarian related activities of the Food and Agriculture Organization and of the actions that have been taken to strengthen FAO's capacity for humanitarian assistance since 1991, when General Assembly Resolution 46/182 was approved.

We also seek guidance, in general, from the Council on these activities and actions and, in particular, I invite the comments of the Council with respect to the funding problem--the timeliness of funding -- that is identified in paragraph 46 of the document, where there is a proposal presently pending to establish a multi-donor fund, a revolving fund so that we could initiate action more expeditiously, pending the receipt of contributions from donors.

I also wish to draw particular attention to paragraph 60, where we report that our working relationships with the non-governmental partners on agricultural relief and rehabilitation have been on an informal and case-by-case basis so far. There is interest within the System, and we have under consideration the possibility, of more formal memoranda of understanding or letters of agreement with the non-governmental partners. Perhaps, also, there may be need to do so with the other UN system agencies with whom we do not have formal arrangements.

In this connection, I would note that the International Committee of the Red Cross has turned out to be one of the strongest players with respect to agricultural relief and rehabilitation and they have expressed an interest in working more closely, together with us, on these matters.

Finally, for information, I wish to note that as of today there are eleven Inter-Agency consolidated appeals pending that cover fourteen countries. Over the past year, our FAO/WFP Crop and Food Supply Assessment Missions have been to sixteen countries, where conditions have been abnormal. We have ongoing agricultural relief and rehabilitation operations in twenty-four countries today.

With that Mr Chairman, I turn it back to you. Thank you.

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Han ustedes tomado nota sobre los puntos respecto a los cuales el Consejo debe tomar acción. Reconozco que hay algunas delegaciones que no están preparadas para hablar sobre este tema esta mañana y por tanto aún cuando se concluya la lista de oradores para la mañana yo dejaré abierto el tema para continuarlo por la tarde.

**Ralph BRESLER (United States of America):** It looks like we are the only volunteer on some of these issues but we will try to get things rolling here.

I would like to thank the Secretariat for an excellent paper setting out FAO's role in humanitarian assistance. As many of you know, the United States has traditionally been a leading donor in the emergency field and we do have a keen interest.

The paper correctly points out the importance of prevention, and we would like to note that we believe FAO and WHO do very good work, for example, in areas such as nutrition and surveillance. The paper briefly mentions policy advice. This obviously could be very useful, or is very useful, and we would even suggest perhaps the FAO might be able to do even more in terms of providing good policy advice to developing countries to enhance their agricultural sectors.

In our view, the most important role for FAO in this field is early warning. Here we feel that FAO has done excellent work over the years. Perhaps the best example was the Southern African drought when FAO was able to alert the world with sufficient notice so that large quantities of food were moved in time to avoid starvation in Southern Africa. In our view, many lives were saved because of this very skillful handling of what could have been a major humanitarian catastrophe.

Another key item, of course, is the Food Needs Assessment Missions where FAO does very good work to get the confidence of the donors. A thorough assessment is needed in order to establish the needs and, without this, it is difficult to attract donor assistance, unless they are confident that the needs are real, given the very high cost of shipping food, sometimes into isolated areas.

A very useful recent addition to the work in this area is ReliefWeb, which the United States has played a key role in developing and continues to support. We feel this will help very much, increasing in availability of information in humanitarian crisis countries and we think should help.

Finally, we would like to note that, clearly, very close coordination with the World Food Programme and DHA is crucial to effective work in humanitarian assistance and FAO, which has fewer resources to bring to the table, must work closely with these groups to be effective in this area.

**David SANDS SMITH (United Kingdom):** Like the United States, I would express my gratitude for a very useful and helpful Secretariat paper.

We too regard the early warning work that FAO undertakes as being of cardinal importance. We would draw attention to the fact that that work has been developing, has become much more sophisticated in recent years and particularly, very recently, that there have been some major developments in the early warning work undertaken by FAO.

We believe this is very worthwhile. We particularly think it is worthwhile to build up on-going pictures so that you have a general assessment, at any point in time, of what is happening with regard to the climate, and what is happening to crops. This makes the job of early warning much more effective. It also is more effective than having suddenly to build up a picture at the time when a mission takes place. The more material that is available in advance, through on-going activity, the better. I believe, from what I personally have seen of the work that is going on in the early warning section, in FAO, that there is some extremely useful activity taking place. That is my first point.

In the paper that the Secretariat have presented, in the section on prevention, they have referred to the role that can be played by the Special Programme on Food Production. I would not want to go into that this morning. My authorities at a number of meetings have expressed certain reservations regarding that Programme. We would like to continue dialogue with FAO on that question and I believe that others may also believe that some evolution and further dialogue are necessary in that respect.

With regard to rehabilitation and recovery, I know this is an area of concern to FAO. I know that it is not always easy to obtain a donor response. At the time of an emergency it is often easier to secure a donor response. I have no panacea to offer. Whether a revolving fund on procurement might provide a way forward, I have an open mind on that question. I think that it would be difficult to discuss it this morning, in this Council, but I do think further dialogue would be valuable and I would encourage the Secretariat to pursue that avenue in consultation with key players.

**Philip MOUMIE (Cameroun):** Nous voudrions tout d'abord féliciter le Secrétariat de la FAO pour la profonde analyse qu'il a fait et pour sa participation à cette action de coordination, reconnue comme nécessaire par tous. Nous voulons cependant attirer l'attention sur les problèmes que pose cette coordination nécessaire, lorsque nous savons que la plupart des organisations qui interviennent en cas d'urgence ont des structures bien particulières et des instances de décision qui travaillent dans un cadre bien défini. Nous connaissons bien les rôles du Haut Commissariat pour les Réfugiés (HCR) et du Programme alimentaire mondiale (PAM), mais également celui de la FAO qui peut être beaucoup plus considéré dans le cadre de la prévention, qu'elle exerce d'ailleurs pleinement, un mérite que la plupart des Etats Membres de la FAO qui sont également des Etats Membres du PAM

ou du HCR, c'est-à-dire des Nations Unies d'une manière générale. Il est souhaitable que la question soit clairement inscrite dans les débats en cours au niveau de ces instances, parce qu'il sera certainement possible à ce moment là d'arriver à définir la notion de chef de file lorsqu'une urgence se présente. En effet on a souvent constaté qu'en cas d'urgence, lorsque le chef de file n'est pas clairement défini, et surtout lorsqu'on intègre des organisations non-gouvernementales (**ONG**) qui ne sont pas régulièrement établies dans tous les Etats, même des **ONG** internationales, cela pose des problèmes.

Nous suggérons donc, en ce qui concerne la participation de la FAO, que dans des cas d'urgence, lorsque les structures étatiques fonctionnent, que la coordination soit beaucoup plus axée au niveau local qu'au niveau international. Car au niveau local cela permet de faire jouer pleinement le rôle par des organisations qui sont effectivement présentes pour faire accélérer les décisions. Car s'il faut toujours se référer au Siège en cas d'urgence, les procédures sont souvent trop longues. C'est l'observation que nous voulions porter sur la documentation, en demandant que le processus du débat en cours soit clairement défini mais pris en compte au niveau des autres instances des organisations des Nations Unies.

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Distinguidos delegados, pasemos entonces al tema 16. Reconozco que hay temas pendientes como el tema 9, el tema 5 y el tema 6, este último aún pendiente para que un grupo de trabajo estudie el proyecto de resolución. Pero creo que podemos avanzar bastante para que las deliberaciones de hoy en la tarde sobre el tema 5 permitan, eventualmente, al Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria o, la fórmula que pueda proponer, utilizar quizás algún tiempo del Consejo, si eso es lo que convienen.

#### **IV. PROGRAMME, BUDGETARY, FINANCIAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS (continued)**

#### **IV. QUESTIONS CONCERNANT LE PROGRAMME, LE BUDGET, LES FINANCES ET L'ADMINISTRATION (suite)**

#### **IV. ASUNTOS DEL PROGRAMA Y ASUNTOS PRESUPUESTARIOS, FINANCIEROS Y ADMINISTRATIVOS (continuación)**

#### **16. Revised Calendar of FAO Governing Bodies and Other Main Sessions 1996-97**

#### **16. Calendrier révisé des sessions des organes directeurs de la FAO et des autres réunions importantes, 1996-97**

#### **16. Calendario revisado de los períodos de sesiones de los órganos rectores de la FAO y de otras reuniones importantes para 1996-97**

**EL PRESIDENTE:** En relación al tema 16, Calendario revisado de los períodos de sesiones de los órganos rectores de la FAO y de otras reuniones importantes para 1996-97, les indico que tienen ante ustedes el documento *CL 111/11* que presenta el calendario revisado de los órganos de gobierno y de otras sesiones importantes para este bienio. La diferencia principal entre este calendario y aquél aprobado por ustedes en la última sesión es la propuesta, endosada por la reunión conjunta del Comité del Programa y el Comité de Finanzas en mayo y en septiembre, de que la Conferencia de la FAO programada para comenzar el 7 de noviembre de 1997 debería concluir el día martes 18 de noviembre. En otras palabras, las sesiones de la Conferencia durarían 12 días de calendario, de los cuales 9 días serían de trabajo; de la misma manera que ocurrió en la Conferencia de 1995 y que se compara, creo de manera positiva, con los 14 días aprobados por el Consejo en su última sesión.

Este esfuerzo por reducir la Conferencia es un elemento más en este proceso para lograr mayores ahorros y eficiencia en el gobierno de la Organización. Por tanto, lo que el Consejo debe hacer es aprobar esta nueva propuesta de calendario. Las sesiones del Consejo durante el período de la Conferencia en noviembre se efectuarán tres días antes y un día inmediatamente después de la misma.

Quiero reconocer ante los miembros del Consejo que los trabajos programados para este Período de Sesiones han resultado sumamente holgados. La razón por la cual, el Director General en consulta con el Presidente Independiente del Consejo, determinamos tener un Período de Sesiones de este tipo, era para acomodar discusiones sobre el tema 5 que podrían resultar muy abultadas, y también para acomodar cualquier eventualidad que resultara de la reunión del Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria, inmediatamente anterior al Consejo.

Quizás hoy en la tarde ustedes determinen alguna fórmula útil para aprovechar los días que restan de las actividades del Consejo y para los cuales ya se cuenta con interpretación contratada y pagada. Estará, desde luego, en sus manos y esto se discutirá esta tarde. Pero también tomo nota que el Consejo ha cobrado una nueva dinámica al convertirse en un órgano mucho más ejecutivo y que, de esta manera, podremos programar períodos de sesiones más breves y asegurar así ahorros y eficiencias mayores para la organización.

**Thomas Austin FORBORD (United States of America):** Looking at the schedule of Sessions for 1997, the United States agrees with the meetings that are being proposed.

We have, however, Chairman, a problem with the length of meetings proposed in some cases. As we are seeing this week, as we saw last year at the Conference, as we saw last year at COFO and COFI, Member Nations have become more efficient than the estimate of the Secretariat when it puts together a schedule.

Given our pace today, except for the fact that the Council meeting was planned wrong, we could finish tomorrow. In fact we are going to have to wait, doing very little, because there were events planned for next week that we have to wait for people to arrive to do. If the meeting had been better planned, I am sure we could have accomplished everything this week.

I have four very specific proposals for changes in this calendar. The first two are the same, they deal with COFO and COFI. Last year, we were successful in handling all of the business of both of those Committees in three days. Then, we had an additional two day ministerial which we are not planning but I am totally confident that the membership can manage the business of those two Committees in three days each. I propose that they be reduced to three days each.

There is a ten day Council meeting which includes, I assume, one day off, scheduled for June. Again, Chairman, we are convinced that the Council has improved its efficiency to such an extent, that we could schedule a one week meeting: a six day meeting, Monday through Saturday, and finish our business in six working days. We propose that that schedule be reduced to six days.

Finally, Chairman, we have, in November, a proposal that we scheduled 12 days for the Conference. As you will recall well, Chairman, we had a similar schedule in 1995 and we finished several days early. I suspect we will be able to do so again. To give us a target, I propose that we eliminate three days from the Conference schedule and have a nine day Conference in 1997. I am not going to propose precise dates there, it could come off at either end of this but that nine days, instead of the twelve proposed, is more than enough to accomplish the important business that we will have at the Conference.

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Sus comentarios en parte coinciden con los míos en el sentido de que se ha logrado una fórmula de brevedad en las intervenciones de muchos delegados en el tratamiento de algunos temas. Respecto al Consejo, en su 111° Período de Sesiones, les he explicado las razones por las cuales se tomó la decisión de tener un Consejo holgado, y quizás resulte útil el que lo hayamos hecho así, dependiendo de lo que se discuta esta tarde. No lo sé. Pero, cuando se tomó la decisión, responsablemente se consideró la posibilidad de tener una discusión larga y, quizás, pesada sobre algunos temas, sobre todo el tema 5. Todavía está por verse si es el caso.

Les quiero hacer otro comentario. Si ustedes determinan reducir de un día el Período de Sesiones de cualquier reunión pero, para concluir esas discusiones se requiere de servicios de interpretación adicional para una sesión nocturna, esa sesión nocturna cuesta tanto como un día entero de sesiones normales. Es decir, si ustedes programan tres días y por alguna razón un Comité, por ejemplo el COFI o el COFO, no terminan sus trabajos y requieren de una sesión nocturna, ésta costaría tanto, como un día normal o incluso más. Asimismo, una reunión del Consejo en sábado es un poco más costosa que una reunión de un día hábil normal. Ustedes tienen que determinar esto porque, en lo que se refiere a ahorros y eficiencias, no necesariamente este tipo de fórmulas son mejores. Aquí hay un *quid pro quo* que tenemos que determinar y explicar, quizás, mejor. Además hay otro factor; el Comité de Redacción de muchos comités y también el del Consejo, necesita tiempo para reunirse y luego un día para presentar su informe y éste, ser discutido. Si se compactan excesivamente los días, es posible que el Comité de Redacción no termine sus trabajos, y de todas maneras se tenga que aplazar el día de la aprobación. Eso puede suceder, y es algo que tienen ustedes que considerar. En todo caso, hemos tomado nota de esta inquietud; lo hemos hecho desde hace tiempo, y estoy seguro que el Director General, en consulta con el Presidente Independiente del Consejo, dará una respuesta positiva para continuar logrando eficiencias y ahorros en los períodos en que se celebran las reuniones de los órganos de gobierno y de los órganos estatutarios de la Organización.

**Christophe KIEMTORE (Burkina Faso):** Merci pour cette précision. Ma délégation avait demandé la parole pour appuyer l'intervention de la délégation des Etats-Unis et surtout l'effort à fournir pour réduire la durée d'un certain nombre de sessions. Il reste entendu que, compte tenu de ce que vous venez de dire, il faudrait tenir compte d'un certain nombre de facteurs que les membres du Conseil ne sont pas forcément à même d'approuver. Mais ma délégation appuie donc entièrement cette intervention.

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Yo estoy de acuerdo con usted, y haré todo lo posible para continuar compactando las reuniones del Consejo, en la medida en que ésto lo haga de todas maneras viable.

**David SANDS SMITH (United Kingdom):** Like Burkina Faso, I also very much support the sentiments and the views expressed by the United States of America. It does seem to me that again, as Burkina Faso has said, it is important that in seeking to reach conclusions regarding optimal arrangements for our meetings, we are in possession of all the information that we require.

I confess that I personally have difficulty in always grasping the full details of the contractual arrangements for interpretation and I think it might be useful, just for information, if the Secretariat could provide us at some time, preferably in the near future, with a little paper so that delegates are aware of what the situation is. So they are aware of what is required to bring in interpretation teams, so they are aware of the contractual arrangements; then they can be in a better position to make judgements.

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Yo creo que es una propuesta muy sensata. Hay que considerar que no solamente se trata de los equipos de interpretación sino también del personal de la Organización que tiene que estar horas extras, por ejemplo un sábado se paga de manera distinta, horas extras en la noche se pagan de manera distinta, pero creo que es una buena propuesta. De todas maneras para ilustrar y quizás guiar un poco más el debate, el señor Pérez de Vega pueda hacernos algunos comentarios.

**SECRETARIO GENERAL ADJUNTO:** Como usted lo ha indicado, no es solamente una cuestión de interpretación. A este respecto quisiera decir, que la Secretaría tendrá mucho placer en recoger en un pequeño documento los datos principales sobre costos de reuniones. Como les digo, no es solamente la interpretación; y el comentario que yo quería hacer es para apoyar lo que usted acaba de decir. Si la decisión es que el Consejo dure seis días, desde el punto de vista puramente de costos, sería mucho mejor que fuera de martes a martes, que no de lunes a sábado, porque traer el



sábado a todo el personal que trabaja detrás del escenario en la reunión, costaría muchísimo más de lo que se ahorraría con un día de sesión. Esa es la única sugerencia.

**EL PRESIDENTE:** La información será proporcionada eventualmente a ustedes. Este nuevo Calendario vamos a tener que aprobarlo considerando las opiniones, las preocupaciones aquí expresadas, que me parece son unánimes y, quizás, en una fecha ulterior podrá distribuírseles un documento de la Secretaría con una relación general de los costos de las reuniones y también un calendario ajustado, en virtud de sus observaciones y, una vez que el Director General haya tomado cartas en el asunto.

**Thomas Austin FORBORD (United States of America):** I just wanted to make note that in calculating the cost of conducting these meetings and looking at implications of when they are held, we cannot forget the costs to Member Nations directly. FAO Conference costs are not the only factor that needs to be considered. If we, for example, schedule a Tuesday to Tuesday session to avoid one day of overtime for FAO staff we are adding two additional days of overtime to Member Nations, many of whom, for meetings such as the Council, certainly the Conference, are coming from capitals. This is not a cheap town to stay in, it is very expensive for those travelling.

In terms of final approval, Mr Chairman, I certainly welcome the support that was given to a very specific proposal. I note there is no opposition to that proposal and that therefore we are approving a slight modification in this calendar.

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Así es, como les había anunciado ese es el caso. Aquí hay un *quid pro quo* al que yo me refería, si ustedes están de acuerdo en que seamos un poquito menos servicientes, o digamos, ahorremos menos recursos en la Organización a cambio de que ustedes puedan hacerlo, deberán reconocer que la optimización de costos tiene que distribuirse entre aquéllos de las delegaciones y aquéllos de la FAO. Pero es un asunto que está en sus manos.

**Alan AMEY (Canada):** I think a number of delegates have touched on some important points. Specifically the paper that the Secretariat is presenting should touch on the actual costs of extending the meeting to an evening or on a Saturday. It would be good to look at a number of scenarios, a number of combinations, so that we can make an informed judgement on that.

Secondly, I agree with the US on the suggestions for the shortening of sessions, subject to the availability of this study. I think, if my memory serves me well again, the sessions were much shorter than was actually scheduled officially and, unless some major crisis erupts between now and then, it would be good to think of shortening the sessions.

Thirdly, we need to make a decision on this. We either approve it or we defer it to another time or another body. It is unclear as to the step we are going to take here. We need some information to take back with us to our capitals.

Finally, I have some concerns about information available for sessions coming up, specifically COFO, COFI and CO AG. If I recall, we usually get the Summary Programme of Work and Budget for those meetings, and at this particular time we did not have that item. We had a much shortened version and I would just like to get some assurances from the Secretariat that we will have the full Summary Programme of Work and Budget for the COFI, COFO and COAG.

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Solamente dos comentarios: uno, ustedes están considerando principalmente el problema de eficiencias y ahorros, pero hay otro punto importante, que los debates se lleven a cabo de manera profunda. Eso es algo que está en sus manos. Ustedes han sido más breves, pero sigue estando en sus manos. La segunda cuestión es que el Consejo todavía no termina, tiene toda la intención de concluir en la fecha en que estaba previsto y por tanto hay tiempo para algunas consultas, quizás podemos volver sobre este tema más adelante la próxima semana.

**Mario MOYO FALENCIA (México):** Me ganó usted parte de lo que yo iba a decir. En sustancia, yo creo que este proyecto de calendario está bien planeado, no mal planeado, está planeado realísticamente porque está a favor de la Organización y no en contra, si no busca plazos muy angustiosos para las reuniones y como usted ha dicho, dicho bien, la eficiencia de nuestra Organización en la que todos estamos de acuerdo en lograrla, incrementarla, no sólo es un problema de cantidad sino de calidad, no sólo se basa en los ahorros sino en la forma de aprovechar el tiempo. Y es mucho más peligroso, más arriesgado, y tendría peores consecuencias, tanto para la Organización como para los Países Miembros, que por ser demasiado restrictivos en el calendario, tuviéramos, que llevar un diálogo y un gobierno precipitados de la Organización, posponer temas, negociar bajo la presión del tiempo o no satisfacer las condiciones necesarias del dialogo internacional.

Por tanto señor Presidente, estos elementos que son a mi juicio de mayor jerarquía que los simples conceptos del ahorro, que no son deleznable tampoco, deben ser tomados en cuenta cuando se juzga este calendario y, por eso, compartimos su idea en el caso de que si fuera necesario, pudiera ser corregido o retocado cuando las circunstancias lo manifestaran necesario.

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Usted pone efectivamente en una perspectiva más amplia las consideraciones que están, en verdad, en juego al aprobar este proyecto de calendario revisado. Si no hay ninguna otra delegación que desea hacer uso de la palabra, el Consejo ha tomado nota de las preocupaciones de los Estados Miembros, tanto en lo que se refiere a la posibilidad de asegurar mayores ahorros, eficiencias en los tiempos dedicados a los órganos rectores y también al calendario de las reuniones de los órganos subsidiarios de éstos y, de otras reuniones importantes para el bienio 1996–97. Se ha pedido a la Secretaría que prepare un documento que permita evaluar mejor, cual es la acepción de costos de estas reuniones y las implicaciones de opciones, como reuniones en fines de semana y reuniones nocturnas; no les puedo garantizar que este documento pueda distribuirse a ustedes en este Período de Sesiones, pero se ha tomado nota y seguramente el Director General tomará alguna acción al respecto.

Igualmente las consideraciones aquí formuladas en esos dos sentidos, la búsqueda de mayores eficiencias y ahorros por un lado, y por la otra, la garantía de disposición de tiempo suficiente para un debate rico, útil y benéfico para la Organización, estoy seguro serán tomadas en cuenta por el Director General para que, eventualmente, en consulta con el Presidente del Consejo en lo que a él le concierne, proponga un nuevo calendario para 1996–97.

Reconozco que el Consejo debe tomar una decisión al respecto. Yo les propongo que se apruebe este Calendario, como está, condicionado a su revisión en función de los comentarios aquí expresados, y en el entendido de que se preparará un documento con la relación de los costos de las reuniones y las implicaciones de modificaciones como ustedes lo han solicitado.

## **VI. OTHER MATTERS**

## **VI. QUESTIONS DIVERSES**

## **VI. OTROS ASUNTOS**

### **19. Date and Place of the Hundred and Twelfth Session of the Council**

### **19. Date et lieu de la cent douzième session du Conseil**

### **19. Fecha y lugar del 112° Período de Sesiones del Consejo**

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Pasamos entonces al tema 19 que es, fecha y lugar del próximo Período de Sesiones, el 112° Período de Sesiones del Consejo de la Organización para los días 3 a 12 de junio. Nuevamente, aquí podemos repetir las declaraciones hechas por ustedes, en el sentido de que se estudie la posibilidad de que este Período de Sesiones se lleve a cabo de lunes a sábado, en consideración del impacto que tiene para las delegaciones asistentes al Consejo, el estar en Roma más de seis días, es decir incluido un fin de semana.

Así yo les solicito que aprueben la propuesta como se encuentra en el documento *CL 111/11*, en el entendido de que está condicionado a consultas que celebrará el Director General con el Presidente Independiente del Consejo y, en ese sentido, también les garantizo que haré todo lo posible para lograr los dos objetivos: debates suficientes y adecuados y, desde luego, máximos ahorros tanto para la Organización como para las delegaciones que vendrán.

**Thomas Austin FORBORD (United States of America):** I note that there is a slight contradiction between approving the dates and urging the Independent Chairman and the Director-General to change them. I wonder if in both of these we could just do the latter, that in our Report we urge the Independent Chairman and the Director-General to take account of the discussion we have had and to set the dates, but not approve the dates that we asked you to change.

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Muy claro, vamos entonces a concluir que el Consejo aprobó, en principio, que se celebre la reunión del 112º Período de Sesiones en junio y que, en consideración de los comentarios formulados por los Miembros del Consejo, las fechas precisas se ajustarán una vez que el Director General, en consulta con el Presidente Independiente del Consejo y, tomando en cuenta estos comentarios, encuentren la fórmula óptima para la reunión del 112º Período de Sesiones.

Bien, con esto, distinguidos delegados, se concluyen todos los temas tratados hasta el día de hoy. Ustedes saben que el tema 9 está todavía abierto; es el primero que vamos a tocar en la tarde y luego continuaremos inmediatamente con el tema 5. En virtud de que, el Presidente del Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria está haciendo algunas exploraciones entre delegados y representantes de regiones, este tema tendrá que tratarse hoy por la tarde. También me he enterado de la posibilidad de que asista a la sesión de la tarde el Director General. Por tanto les propongo nos reunamos a las 16:00 horas el día de hoy para concluir con el tema 9 e inmediatamente después continuar con el tema 5.

**Christophe KIEMTORE (Burkina Faso):** Je n'ai pas de problèmes avec votre proposition, mais je voudrais vous rappeler que le Comité de rédaction avait prévu de tenir sa première session cet après-midi. J'espère que vous en tiendrez compte dans l'organisation des travaux de l'après-midi.

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Hemos tomado en cuenta y la idea es que, en el momento en que termine la sesión de esta tarde del Consejo, se reúna el Comité de Redacción con el propósito de optimizar la utilización de los equipos de interpretación. Yo espero que la sesión de esta tarde no concluya demasiado tarde para que ustedes comiencen sus trabajos inmediatamente después. Pero usted dispondrá de la interpretación necesaria para comenzar sus trabajos el día de hoy.

Bien, con esto entonces se concluye esta quinta sesión plenaria.

**The meeting rose at 12.15 hours**

**La séance est levée à 12 h 15**

**Se levanta la sesión a las 12.15 horas**



3 October 1996



منظمة الأغذية  
والزراعة  
للأمم المتحدة

联合国  
粮食及  
农业组织

Food  
and  
Agriculture  
Organization  
of  
the  
United  
Nations

Organisation  
des  
Nations  
Unies  
pour  
l'alimentation  
et  
l'agriculture

Organización  
de las  
Naciones  
Unidas  
para la  
Agricultura  
y la  
Alimentación

Council

Conseil

Consejo

Hundred and Eleventh Session · Cent onzième session · 111° Período de Sesiones

SIXTH PLENARY MEETING  
SIXIEME SEANCE PLENIERE  
SEXTA SESIÓN PLENARIA

3 October 1996

The Sixth Plenary Meeting was opened at 16.30 hours

Mr. José Ramón López Portillo,  
Independent Chairman of the Council, presiding

La sixième séance plénière est ouverte à 16 h 30  
sous la présidence de M. José Ramón López Portillo,  
Président indépendant du Conseil

Se abre la sexta sesión plenaria a las 16.30 horas  
bajo la presidencia del Sr. José Ramón López Portillo,  
Presidente Independiente del Consejo

**III. ACTIVITIES OF FAO AND WFP (continued)****III. ACTIVITES DE LA FAO ET DU PAM (suite)****III. ACTIVIDADES DE LA FAO Y EL PMA (continuación)**

- 9. Coordination of Emergency Humanitarian Assistance of the United Nations (continued)**
- 9. Coordination de l'aide humanitaire d'urgence des Nations Unies (suite)**
- 9. Coordinación de la ayuda humanitaria de urgencia de las Naciones Unidas (continuación)**

**Ms Turid KONGSVIK (Norway):** I am afraid I will have to start by deploring the very late arrival of this document. As far as I understand, it arrived in our pigeon holes yesterday and I got it this morning, so we have not really been able to study it thoroughly enough, and we have not been able either to discuss it with the various actors involved at home in UN emergency activities. We would still like to make a few comments on the document.

I would like to underline that Norway, like the other Nordic countries, is very much engaged in strengthening in general the UN system and its integrated response to emergencies, and we have been pushing for this Resolution, which was approved in the ECOSOC. The goal is of course to address weaknesses and shortcomings in the present set-up of the system, both at the agency level and in the system as such.

This exercise has a value *per se* because it allows the various actors, the UN agencies and organizations involved in this sort of activities, to demonstrate their ability to reorient themselves towards a more cooperative and integrated approach to cooperating in the UN system, and to get away from the sometime plagues of the various UN organizations in terms of wanting to go it alone, to suffering more or less from a complex of superiority towards their sister organizations and from the inability to see that the UN System's credibility now more than ever depends upon the ability of the system as such to work together.

Having said this, I find the document interesting in the description it gives of the FAO Secretariat's perceptions of its roles, functions and performance in relation to emergencies. I cannot agree with the US that the document is excellent because I think it has quite a few weaknesses.

First of all, in the description of its role and its operational responsibilities, it is very much taking as a point of departure its mandate, which is important, of course, but with the competitive climate prevailing now, it is not enough to be able to show only the mandate. It is also necessary to have a record to refer to.

The description concentrates very much on FAO as an actor almost in splendid isolation, instead of taking as a point of departure FAO as one actor in a system-wide effort.

You could be forgiven for believing that this paper was answering a question on how we became perfect, because there are very few references to any shortcomings and weaknesses here, and that was actually the point of departure. There are some problems, also at the system level ~ gaps in functions which are not clearly defined as being in the purview of any organization. There is a lack of cooperative mechanisms: various other issues which pertain to these problems should have been addressed and they are not really addressed in this paper. For example, I think the problem which the paper addresses specifically is resource mobilization. Here the paper recognizes that there is a problem. That is in paragraph 30. The Secretariat correctly points to the fact that donors more easily provide food than inputs such as seeds, agricultural inputs, and so on. That is certainly true and that is a problem, but FAO seems to put all the blame on the donors, and I would like to come back with a question: Could it be that FAO itself could do more? I must say that in my direct contact with FAO in this respect, I have found that those who are involved in the emergency activities are very much penalized by being in a more sedate environment, a long-term normative

culture, and are not so used to the rapid-response alertness which has to be a prevailing character of this sort of activity.

To the extent that we get requests-- and here I must open a parenthesis (On various occasions, we have gone to FAO and asked "Do you need funds for this or that?"; they have never asked us. It has also arrived that other UN organizations have come to us and said "Could you give FAO resources for this or that activity?", which we have not been asked for. ) -- when we get requests, they are often in the same form as correspondence we have with other Ministries and other officers in our administration which is more related to long-term activities. Those who deal with emergencies are very busy people, they need pinpointed information, easily accessible and very open. You have to read 60 pages to know what the main issues are when you get these requests from FAO.

So I think that, on this particular point, FAO has got something to learn from the other UN Agencies, which are more operational in their total activities, and they should perhaps see whether they can learn something from them.

By the way, I also would like to recognize, of course, that FAO, in many areas related to emergencies, does an excellent job. That is, of course, true for the early warning functions. We rejoice together with the Secretariat at the universal recognition given to FAO for the excellent work done in this field. We do it all the more so since this is one of the endeavours, the common endeavours, together with other UN organizations, that seems to go on in perfect harmony and with a very good end result in conjunction with the World Food Programme.

We were happy to note that FAO has had very high marks for what they have done on the Relief Web. I can see here that the Organization's input has been cited as an example to follow by other agencies. This is very appreciable and we congratulate FAO on this but, again, we think in other areas improvements are possible.

I would also like to address an issue relating to resource mobilization, which is taken up in point 46 of this paper: that is, the question of establishing a multi-donor revolving fund to be replenished. The idea at the outset is surely a good one: it is not clear whether this is again solely an FAO initiative or if this is something which you discussed with the rest of the UN system and that you will do in cooperation.

I think it is proper to draw attention to the fact that the number of true multilateral donors to the UN system in general, and to emergencies in particular, is vanishing. I think it is more or less the Nordic countries and the Netherlands which are giving non-earmarked contributions to emergencies, and I think it is not possible to expect that these countries continue to bear the multilateral burden, so to speak, while all the rest of the world earmarks their contribution.

So, in terms of pragmatism, the possibility of FAO exploring earmarked funds should be looked into in order to get more.

I would also like to ask whether the Secretariat could be more specific on the results of the Netherlands' evaluation of the FAO Special Relief Operation, which is referred to in paragraph 34. This is mentioned here but there is no indication of the result of the evaluation. Perhaps the Secretariat could go into this, and possibly it could be supplemented by information from the Netherlands if they would be so kind as to share their experience with us in this regard.

**Aidan O'DRISCOLL (Ireland):** Firstly, I would like to agree with Norway in relation to the late arrival of the document. The combination of the late arrival of the document and the moving forward of this session, in fact, has caused us quite a few difficulties. We are not in a position to give a very detailed consideration of this document.

Nevertheless, Ireland would wish to welcome the report, however late it has arrived. The timely and effective provision of emergency humanitarian assistance is one of the most important challenges facing the international community. This also involves, of course, preventing humanitarian disasters, including a long-term development perspective in response to emergencies, even at an early stage.

Our central objective is to ensure a timely, coherent and coordinated response from the international community to humanitarian emergencies. We and our partners in the European Union welcomed the Secretary-General's report of the 1996 Substantive Session of ECOSOC, on implementation of Resolution 1995/96 and, in particular, the establishment of an Inter-Agency Task Force to follow up the issues raised in the Resolution.

The report before us today is a useful summary of FAO's own response to the recommendations made in the Resolution.

Ireland would wish to highlight the importance of two important elements in the report.

In respect of prevention of humanitarian disasters, it is important that FAO develop, to the greatest extent possible, a comprehensive programme to address the underlying structural causes of humanitarian crisis through, *inter alia*, human resource development and institution building.

Secondly, and very importantly, agricultural emergency activities operated by the Special Relief Operations Service (TCOR) should involve full coordination with UN agencies and others on the ground, as well as with donors.

We wish to stress, Chairman, the critical importance of a full UN system-wide coordinated response to deal effectively with humanitarian crises.

Subject to these points, Chairman, Ireland welcomes the report before Council and urges full and rigorous implementation of the operational priorities outlined in it.

**Ralph BRESLER (United States of America):** I found Norway's remarks interesting and provocative. I would like to state that, in our case, I am not aware of any shortcomings in FAO's work on emergencies.

I also would note that Norway talked about the need to coordinate efforts in the lead of reforming the UN system. It appears to us, however, that there is also an issue of duplication of effort. The question is, should FAO mount a major effort to get into operational activities in emergency relief? I am not a specialist in the field but my opinion would be that this would not be wise, that a part of UN reform is avoiding duplication of effort, having organizations do what they do best and not try to duplicate each other. I would argue that, in the case of FAO, a very key role is early warning in which, I think all of us agree, they have done a wonderful job, and I think they will continue to do so in the future.

As far as contributions to emergency efforts, the United States continues to be a leading donor in this area. Fortunately, the problems we have with the Congress so far have not extended to emergency work where, I think, we can still be proud of our efforts. Whether our funds are earmarked or not is not terribly important, I would argue. I think that, by its very nature, contributions for emergency work will have to be country-specific and *ad hoc*. I would question whether revolving funds would be able to attract donor interest. I think, unfortunately, the way things work, most donors will be giving to specific emergencies, not putting money up front for the next one -- things just do not seem to work that way



**Nils-Arne KATSBURG (Observador de Suecia):** Como los oradores anteriores, lamentamos que este documento nos llegara tarde. Un tema de esta dignidad, merece una más amplia preparación e incluso un proceso de consultas previas con otros colegas.

Habiendo dicho esto, paso al inglés, (continues in English)

Sweden appreciates that the FAO Secretariat is following up this decision by ECOSOC. The intention is that each board of relevant organizations of the UN system, that each of the boards clarifies the role of each organization, the role that they have in response to various humanitarian situations, and establishes the extent of operational responsibility that their respective organization should assume. The idea is basically that it should not be a CNN-type effect that responds, but that there is an extent of operational responsibility in trying, within the framework of the mandate of different organizations, to ensure an initial response to many humanitarian situations.

On this basis of a definition of the role and operational responsibility, the issue of capacity, whether that relates to human or financial resources, can be discussed.

This decision by ECOSOC also places responsibility on Member Nations to follow up these issues, in a coherent and coordinated manner, in the relevant boards of the UN system organizations.

Turning to the role of FAO, the work of FAO in the prevention areas is well-known and well-established. The Global Early Warning Information system, as my Norwegian colleague and others have mentioned, with its reports, provides a valuable contribution to the UN System Early Warning Information and Analysis. FAO also has a clear role with regard to prevention and control of pest and disease emergencies.

In complex humanitarian emergencies, a number of agencies are involved in providing humanitarian assistance. However, the FAO role in these types of situations, and its relationship with the main humanitarian agencies, need considerable further development in the document presented by FAO. Our colleague from the US was just raising the issue of duplication of work. We have actually many agencies which purchase seed but do not necessarily have the expertise or technical knowledge to know what is the right type of seed that needs to be purchased. That technical knowledge exists within FAO. How can there be a communication link between the technical knowledge in this Organization and those that are involved in the immediate response?

Therefore, the FAO document provides a description of its present activities in the broad spectrum - - from prevention through humanitarian assistance to rehabilitation and development - but it does not describe the interface between FAO technical guidance and the UN operational agencies, such as UNHCR, UNICEF and WFP.

We would recommend that these issues that have been raised in the ECOSOC Resolution be dealt with in greater detail. The difficulty we have, in terms of when the board here could deal with this, is that the Secretary-General has been requested to present, by the summer of 1997, a report that identifies and tries to define the operational responsibilities of different agencies, as identified by the respective boards, and the types of measures that are required within each of the organizations to strengthen their capacities. Therefore we may have to have some dialogue with the FAO Secretariat to see how we could arrive at some good input into the Secretary-General's report with regard to FAO's input into that report.

One of the areas therefore that needs to be worked upon by FAO is the question of the relationship between FAO and agencies such as UNHCR, UNICEF and the World Food Programme, on what I would call borderline issues - the issues that fall between chairs. This, as the US colleague was saying, to avoid duplication, and as my Norwegian colleague was saying, in order to ensure a system-wide coordinated response.

So, there are issues related to that. What is the staffing and financial capacity of FAO to provide immediate technical guidance on seed purchase, to take one example? Are there memoranda of understanding detailing the respective responsibilities and cooperation modalities between these agencies and FAO and their active development, or could such a process be speeded up?

A second area relates to options on the FAO role and capacity to contribute to agricultural rehabilitation, as soon as possible after an emergency. How could we avoid long lead periods? Immediately after the emergency, we need a response but, as was also raised by a previous speaker, we need to avoid the long lead periods that are inherent in normal long-term development work. Other possibilities and options are using global resources from the regular budget to be combined with, as suggested, some type of revolving fund provided voluntarily by donors.

What is the role of FAO on environmental damage assessment? In many humanitarian situations, a major impact on the environment is caused by the lack of the provision of fuel for refugees or internally-displaced persons. What are the options in that area? Who could assume greater responsibilities in that area? They do not need to be responsibilities of FAO, they could be of other agencies, but FAO may point out the problem or a deficiency in the way the international community responds to the emergency situations affecting Member Nations.

Therefore, to summarize, we believe that, in these areas that we and other colleagues have outlined, FAO may need some further thinking. We should find forms of dialogue and some form of endorsement, in conjunction with the Council in June, that would enable us to provide a significant and substantive input to the Secretary-General's report on how the system-wide response to humanitarian emergencies should be redressed to avoid duplication of efforts and, at the same time, a coordinated and quick response, ensuring that the options on financial capacity include suggestions on the use of regular budget resources and not only voluntarily-funded trust funds.

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Sus dotes políglotas son verdaderamente excepcionales y le agradezco por haberse referido al principio en español.

**DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL:** First, I wish to apologise for the late distribution of the document. I personally will take the responsibility for that. I simply could not get it cleared in a timely fashion, so I apologise.

I appreciate very much the comments that have been made about the global information and early warning system as has been reported to the Council by a number of Members. That system is well established. It continues to be improved but, in fact, already plays an extremely important role in connection with humanitarian assistance.

The outputs from the joint FAO/WFP missions to countries where there are difficult situations is used in the Consolidated inter-agency appeals. In every case, the Organization has the responsibility for clearing the food supply information that is provided to all donors. The reason it can do that, is that over the last 20 years, the methodology, the guidelines, the approach have been widely discussed with experts from Member Nations with relevant experience.

So, the only related matter to that part of our role that I would mention, is Relief Web. Relief Web is taking the Global Information and Early Warning System output, as an input into its broader early warning system that covers things other than food supplies. I would point out that most of the work of the global information and early warning system is funded from the Regular Programme. Very little of it is extra-budgetary. We have had some support from Non-Governmental Organizations for the system but almost all of the activities of the Global Information and Early Warning System are from the Regular Programme.

I want now to turn to the second of the three major legs of our humanitarian activities: Agricultural Relief and Rehabilitation and then, I will come to the longer term rehabilitation to get back on the path of development.

Agricultural Relief and Rehabilitation, as has been mentioned, is the area where we have great difficulty in obtaining the resources needed for the producers of food to move quickly in the aftermath of an emergency to produce food. It is widely known, among the donors and certainly within the UN system, that this is the most cost-effective work that can possibly be undertaken. A bag of seed returns many bags of food and, therefore, makes it possible to minimise the food aid needs in the subsequent year. As I say it is a most cost-effective activity.

Nevertheless, in the present climate we hardly ever are able to obtain the resources needed for agricultural relief and immediate recovery in the aftermath of a disaster. We seek to provide the same service on assessing agricultural relief and immediate needs, as we do for the community, at large, with respect to food supplies. I will not say that we are there yet, but it is clear that there is nobody else in the system that is doing comprehensive agricultural relief needs assessments. We do one, at every occasion, before a decision is taken on what we could do with our own resources or in connection with appeals.

I would point out that in the Consolidated Inter-agency appeals, the project profiles that are prepared by FAO are based upon an assessment in country. You will notice, if you are familiar with those appeals, that the only appeals for agricultural relief and rehabilitation are made by FAO. The others, UNHCR, World Food Programme, UNICEF, do not appeal in the Consolidated appeals for agricultural seeds or fertilizer or other essential inputs, or vaccines for animals and so forth.

In the early stages of DHA you did in fact see some others appealing but DHA monitors this. Now, that does not mean, that FAO is the only agency that is providing agricultural relief and rehabilitation at the country level. In the normal situation we are not even the major player. At the present time, the country receives assistance on a bilateral basis or it receives assistance from donors through Non-Governmental organizations, or from the International Committee of the Red Cross, and from the UN system.

Turning now to coordination, at the global level, in my view, this is arranged in a better fashion than anything else that we are involved in. The Inter-Agency Standing Committee, a Committee at the Under-Secretary General level, was established in response to the General Assembly Resolution in 1991.

FAO has been a Member ever since then but the clear advantage that this Committee has is that it includes the International Committee of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, as well as the IMO and other NGOs. The Non-Governmental community has increasingly been represented on the Committee. So, it is a very broad-based Committee, that operates within the context of the UN system. It gives us an opportunity to have continuous dialogue with our main partners.

FAO's specific role on Agricultural Relief and Rehabilitation has been alluded to by the observer from Sweden. We have an advantage in that we do have a technical capability, and as the document indicates, we do provide procurement services and we offer procurement services to others that are participating in the process, including the Non-Governmental Organizations. That service is available. In any case, anything that this Organization is involved in is checked for the technical standards with the technical units and technical officers of the Organization, be it animal health or plant production.

In complex emergency situations, as distinct from response to a flood or cyclone, we normally use TCP resources, in other words, Regular Programme resources, to provide a coordinating mechanism in the country. This system at the local level provides the opportunity, working closely

with the government, to collaborate on the coordination and implementation of the agricultural relief and the rehabilitation efforts.

The point was made by the representative from Cameroon about the need for lead agency. This is a topic that continues to be discussed. In general the lead agency for food aid tends to be, either, UNHCR or the World Food Programme, depending upon the situation. If they are refugees, its the UNHCR. Otherwise its the World Food Programme. We, as I say, tend to be within the UN system the lead agency for agricultural relief and rehabilitation.

Just a note on the revolving fund. I wanted to make sure that the representative from the United States understood that the proposal is for a revolving fund; its purpose is to be able to move more quickly in response to an emergency. Its not visualized as something that will augment the total resources. We have to do that through convincing people that this is a high pay-off activity.

Finally, I wanted to express appreciation to the Netherlands for financing the review that is referenced in the document. I must say this was very helpful to us, in having a comprehensive review of the activities, particularly the agricultural relief and rehabilitation work. They gave us good recommendations on how to strengthen that work. We have already implemented some of the recommendations and the Netherlands offered to utilise the last four or five days of the consultant's time to help us prepare a mission statement for humanitarian activities and we are appreciative of that.

The final point, there was a question about the assessment of environmental needs. These are covered in the document with respect to the longer-term rehabilitation missions that go into the country when an emergency activity is underway.

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Muchas gracias, señor Hjort, por esta exhaustiva y comprensiva respuesta a las diversas preguntas y planteamientos. Si no hay otro delegado que desee tomar la palabra, me voy a permitir muy brevemente resumir los debates sobre el Tema 9 de la siguiente manera.

El Consejo acogió con beneplácito el informe contenido en el documento *CL 111/16*, y el Consejo felicitó a la FAO por su trabajo en la realización de la ayuda alimentaria de urgencia, socorro, rehabilitación y desarrollo. Se le felicitó por su excelente labor en proveer servicios de alerta temprana; se indicó que esos servicios se habían aumentado en sofisticación y que se habían acumulado experiencias importantes en el esfuerzo de prevenir catástrofes. Se destacó, en ese sentido, que era importante continuar actuando en la prevención de crisis.

Se subrayó también, la función de asesoramiento de la FAO a países, para evitar tragedias y la coordinación de emergencias. Estos servicios, se indicó, debían potenciarse. Aunque se reconoció que había problemas, entre otros, de tipo operativo y de coordinación, se destacó la importante labor que tiene la FAO en el contexto de Naciones Unidas en materia de ayuda alimentaria, emergencia, rehabilitación y desarrollo.

Se indicó también la voluntad de varios países de continuar apoyando el financiamiento de estos servicios de ayuda y se insistió en la importancia de la evaluación apropiada para atraer una mayor asistencia de donantes, especialmente, la evaluación del alto costo de estos servicios que atienden emergencias en lugares remotos.

La importancia también de disponer de información más oportuna y completa de situaciones precarias en países que requieren de ayuda.

Se insistió en la necesidad de una mayor coordinación de la FAO con otras agencias, como el PMA, PNUD, UNICEF y otras del sistema de las Naciones Unidas; entre otras cosas con el propósito de evitar duplicaciones.

Al referirse a que todos los organismos de las Naciones Unidas tienen que identificar su responsabilidad operativa en lo referente a este tema, se destacó que era importante determinar el papel concreto de la FAO en la coordinación de las acciones de ayuda. Entre otras cosas, esta identificación del "actor principal" permitiría ayudar a desatar y coordinar las acciones de Organismos No Gubernamentales que también participan.

Se hicieron finalmente propuestas respecto a la posible utilidad de un fondo revolviente que permitiría reaccionar más rápidamente a urgencias.

Distinguidos delegados, hubo otras cuestiones aquí planteadas, el Comité de Redacción las tomará en cuenta. Con esto concluyo el tema 9 y si no hubiese otra observación, voy a permitir de inmediato pasar al tema 5. El Consejo le da la bienvenida y agradece al Director General por su presencia en esta ocasión. Con esto subraya la enorme importancia que tiene este tema y me voy a permitir, señor Director, pasarle de inmediato la palabra.

## **II. WORLD FOOD AND AGRICULTURE SITUATION (continued)**

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

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

- 5. Reports of the Twenty-first (Rome, 29 January - 2 February 1996) and Twenty-second (Rome, 25–27 September 1996) Sessions of the Committee on World Food Security including Preparations for the World Food Summit (continued)**
- 5. Rapports des vingt-et-unième et vingt-deuxième sessions du Comité de la sécurité alimentaire mondiale (Rome, 29 janvier - 2 février 1996 et 23–27 septembre 1996 respectivement), y compris les préparatifs du Sommet mondial de l'alimentation (suite)**
- 5. Informes del 21° (Roma, 29 de enero - 2 de febrero de 1996) y 22° (Roma, 23–27 de septiembre de 1996) períodos de sesiones del Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria Mundial, con inclusión de los preparativos para la Cumbre Mundial sobre la Alimentación (continuación)**

**LE DIRECTEUR GENERAL:** Je vous remercie M. le Président pour vos propos très aimables et pour m'avoir accueilli à cette session du Conseil. J'ai cru devoir venir personnellement lors de l'examen de ce point de l'ordre du jour pour indiquer l'importance, qu'en tant que Directeur général, je me devais d'attacher à cette question, et vous rappeler que la Conférence de la FAO a décidé, à l'unanimité, la convocation, pour la première fois en cinquante ans de son histoire, d'une réunion de Chefs d'Etats et de gouvernements pour parler du problème de la faim et de l'alimentation dans le monde; rappeler que depuis deux ans avec votre coopération et votre collaboration nous avons pu progresser et avons aujourd'hui toutes les indications que ce Sommet devrait être un succès. Plus d'une centaine de Chefs d'Etats et de gouvernements ont déjà confirmé leur participation. Nous avons réussi à tenir dans de très bonnes conditions nos cinq conférences régionales; cette fois, il y en a même eu six, puisque nous avons eu le plaisir de constater que l'Amérique du Nord avait organisé sa conférence régionale. Nous avons aussi bénéficié d'une participation extrêmement efficace des organisations non-gouvernementales. Aujourd'hui les contacts pris permettent aussi d'être assurés que les activités parallèles vont connaître un succès. Les parlementaires du monde, lors de la réunion de l'union inter-parlementaire, à Istanbul, ont demandé à leurs membres de faire partie des délégations de leur pays qui vont venir au Sommet mondial de l'alimentation. En outre, il y a deux semaines, à leur réunion de Beijing, les parlementaires ont aussi adopté une résolution soutenant le Sommet mondial de l'alimentation et soutenant les actions pour assurer l'alimentation des 800 millions de personnes qui, à travers le monde, n'ont pas un accès adéquat à la nourriture, et aussi préconisant des mesures susceptibles d'assurer l'alimentation d'une population mondiale qui va atteindre 9 milliards de personnes en l'an 2030 contre les 5, 7 milliards d'aujourd'hui. Les jeunes aussi ont été associés à ce processus, et la plupart de vos pays ont organisé des concours dans des lycées qui ont permis de sensibiliser les jeunes aux problèmes

alimentaires; des lauréats ont été sélectionnés et ils devraient venir à Rome pour débattre de ces problèmes, qui seront essentiellement les leurs en 2030. Nous avons obtenu un soutien extrêmement important des Etats Membres dont les contributions volontaires ont dépassé de plusieurs fois les sommes mises en oeuvre dans le cadre du budget ordinaire de l'Organisation, ce qui est aussi une indication de l'engagement des pays à faire de ce Sommet un succès.

Il nous reste aujourd'hui deux points fondamentaux: la Déclaration de politique générale et le Plan d'Action. Dans le programme qui était initialement envisagé, on avait prévu que ces documents seraient adoptés par le Comité de sécurité alimentaire en sa séance qui aurait dû se terminer vendredi, et qui s'est en réalité terminée le lundi. Malgré des succès réels puisque nous partions d'environ 800 crochets qui étaient indicatifs des divergences des différentes délégations nous avons pu arriver aux alentours de 200 crochets. Mais ce n'était pas cela l'objectif; l'objectif, c'était d'arriver à des textes approuvés, des textes de consensus que nous puissions envoyer à nos différents Etats Membres pour qu'avant leur arrivée à Rome, les Chefs d'Etats et de Gouvernements aient eu l'occasion de faire étudier ces documents au niveau national et d'être en mesure de les signer lors du Sommet. Il faut donc que nous prenions les dispositions nécessaires pour pouvoir faire terminer le travail inachevé. Et pour cela il faut que nous ayons des occasions de rencontre, de concertation, de dialogue, de discussion afin de pouvoir rapprocher les points de vue et d'arriver à un document de consensus. Je voudrais donc demander à ce Conseil, qui avait fixé les dates de réunion du Comité de sécurité alimentaire, de bien vouloir prendre les décisions appropriées pour que de nouvelles occasions de concertation puissent permettre de faire avancer le travail. C'est le dernier obstacle, si je peux utiliser ce terme, qui se trouve sur le chemin du succès de ce Sommet sur lequel, vous et nous, avons travaillé avec beaucoup d'abnégation, avec beaucoup de conviction pendant deux ans, et qui devrait voir son couronnement au cours du mois prochain. Je suis naturellement à votre disposition pour apporter les éclaircissements qui pourraient se révéler utiles sur les modalités de telles rencontres et sur la contribution que le Secrétariat pourrait apporter en vue du succès de telles rencontres. Je vous remercie Monsieur le Président.

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Muchas gracias señor Director por esta importante declaración que estoy seguro guiará los debates del Consejo en esta segunda fase del tema 5 de la Orden del Día. Como había yo manifestado al principio de nuestros trabajos, este Consejo creo que debe tomar nota con preocupación del estado en que han quedado las cosas en el Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria que ha interrumpido sus trabajos y que, si bien ha tenido, como ustedes lo han expresado, avances muy importantes, no los ha concluido como esta previsto, con el propósito de animar una Cumbre Mundial con textos preparados que los Jefes de Estado tuvieran ante sí para firmarlos, pero además de todo, les recuerdo que este Consejo tiene que vigilar el cumplimiento de las resoluciones y los mandatos de la Conferencia. Entre otras cosas, la Conferencia dictó a Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria y le investió con la responsabilidad de presentar dos textos, una declaración, otro Plan de Acción para que los Jefes de Estado en la Cumbre Mundial los pudieran firmar. Además, de cubrir otros aspectos de la preparación de dicha Cumbre. El Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria está investido con esa alta responsabilidad y ningún otro órgano de esta Organización tiene esa responsabilidad, sólo el Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria. El Comité tiene que concluir conforme el mandato de la Conferencia con sus trabajos. Espero que este Consejo haga un llamado enérgico al Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria para que a la brevedad posible concluya con su alta responsabilidad.

**Pedro Alfonso MEDRANO ROJAS (Chile):** Quisiera informar a este Consejo respecto de la situación de los trabajos del Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria en cumplimiento del mandato que recibió por parte de la Conferencia general de la FAO. Quisiera señalar señor Presidente que, efectivamente, el Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria no ha concluido su trabajo. El día viernes 27 era el día estimado y previsto para que el Comité pudiera finalizar la preparación de la declaración política y el Plan de Acción. Lamentablemente, a pesar de los esfuerzos y del trabajo realizado, el Comité no pudo en esa oportunidad concluir sus labores, prolongó sus reuniones para el día sábado y el día lunes. El lunes, a medianoche, el Comité suspendió sus labores en vista de que aún

quedaban aproximadamente 200 textos entre corchetes y que el tiempo que se nos había destinado no nos permitía presentarle a este Consejo el informe del Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria con los textos debidamente finalizados.

Quisiera señalar, señor Presidente, que a lo largo de todo el proceso preparatorio, el Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria estableció reuniones para un grupo interseccional el cual se reunió en cuatro oportunidades. Estas reuniones permitieron conocer las posiciones de los países y asimismo las contribuciones de los Organismos No Gubernamentales y de las agencias del sistema de Naciones Unidas. A lo largo de todo este esfuerzo hemos procurado siempre, por lo menos, desde el punto de vista del Bureau del Comité, que igualmente presidió el Comité Interseccional o grupo de trabajo interseccional, actuar sobre la base del consenso de consultas y en general de guiar nuestro trabajo de acuerdo con procedimientos y criterios comúnmente aceptados. Al término de la jornada del día lunes, el Comité examinó distintas alternativas respecto de la forma de poder concluir con su trabajo y existió, yo diría, consenso en buscar por parte de este Consejo indicaciones claras o criterios que nos permitieran continuar con nuestro trabajo, antes de suspender la reunión. El presidente del Comité que les habla, señaló que como Presidente del Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria me permitiría proponer al Consejo el que este pudiera destinar parte de sus días de sesiones al Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria a fin de que pudiera terminar su trabajo y finalizar los textos y por supuesto antes del término de las sesiones de este Consejo informarle respecto de los resultados alcanzados y de lo posible de presentarles a todos ustedes los textos finalizados de la declaración política y el Plan de Acción. Las razones, señor Presidente, por las cuales la presidencia del Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria le plantea al Consejo esta petición, yo diría que tienen, básicamente dos aspectos: en primer lugar, estamos a siete semanas de la Cumbre Mundial y creo sinceramente que debemos aprovechar el tiempo disponible de la mejor forma posible para finalizar los textos; en segundo lugar, señor Presidente, es porque estoy firmemente convencido de que resulta imprescindible tener preparado los textos con la suficiente antelación a fin de posibilitar su conocimiento por parte de los Jefes de Estado y de Gobiernos que asistirán a la Cumbre. Pero en este último argumento, señor Presidente, lo que más me motiva a hacer este llamado es el hecho de que muchas delegaciones han indicado que la asistencia de los Jefes de Estado y de Gobiernos estará condicionada en gran medida por el contenido que tengan estos documentos y en tal sentido, resulta de la mayor urgencia el que ellos puedan conocerlos con la debida antelación porque no me parece a mi, que sea apropiado, entregarle los textos a Jefes de Estado y de Gobiernos, 24 horas antes de su venida a la Cumbre, en circunstancias de que su propia participación, en algunos casos, estaría determinada en gran medida por el contenido de estos documentos. En síntesis señor Presidente, y reitero, ésta es una petición que formula el Presidente en atención a que el Comité mismo no pudo concordar el criterio al respecto y en atención a las razones expuestas, es que creo que es extraordinariamente importante que este Comité pueda aprovechar las posibilidades que tiene actualmente en el marco de los arreglos y apoyos que tiene el Consejo de la FAO, creo que en tal sentido el Comité debería reiniciar sus tareas a la mayor brevedad posible a fin de cumplir con el mandato que le ha dado la Conferencia.

Esto es lo que quería informarle, señor Presidente, y para completar mi información en otro plano quisiera comunicarle igualmente que el Comité sí pudo finalizar el Reglamento de Procedimiento, lo cual creo que es importante destacar, ya que este fue materia de consultas y de discusiones que en definitiva permitieron una aprobación unánime del mismo.

**EL PRESIDENTE:** El Consejo ha tomado nota de su informe sobre el estado que guarda las negociaciones sobre la preparación de la Cumbre Mundial. Toma nota con beneplácito el que haya concluido con el Reglamento de Procedimiento y con preocupación que, a pesar de los avances logrados no hayan concluido con sus trabajos. Usted además de informarnos nos ha hecho una propuesta que, claro, debemos considerar, los miembros del Consejo deben tomar nota también de que los trabajos, por circunstancias muy particulares, se han acelerado en este Consejo y de que, este Consejo podría ofrecer, eventualmente, tiempo a disponibilidad del Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria para que si así lo determinen continúen con sus trabajos, con la fórmula que ustedes

propongan. Asimismo destaco la importancia de que, como usted lo ha mencionado, muchos Jefes de Estado determinarán su venida a la Cumbre en función de la disponibilidad de los textos de la Declaración y del Plan de Acción y por eso se hace todavía más urgente, imperativo, que el Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria acelere sus trabajos en la primera ocasión posible.

**Fernando GERBASI (Venezuela):** Hablo en nombre del Grupo de los 77 que me honro en presidir. Señor Presidente, para nosotros es sumamente grato constatar la presencia del Director General en el debate y en el tratamiento del tema 5 de nuestra agenda porque confirma, sin lugar a dudas, lo importante y trascendental del tema y de las decisiones que hoy podamos tomar. Nos complace también al escuchar su intervención, cuán avanzados van los preparativos para la Cumbre y cuántas posibilidades de éxito tenemos frente a los compromisos que otros han tomado en favor de esta Cumbre, pero también, los compromisos que él ha señalado, nuestros gobiernos a lo largo de estos dos años han puesto en vigor. Pero nos preocupa profundamente que quizás, los dos elementos esenciales para el éxito de la Cumbre aún están inconclusos, me refiero a la Declaración y al Plan de Acción.

Los países del Grupo de los 77, señor Presidente, a lo largo de todo este proceso, nos hemos preparado con una gran dedicación, con gran voluntad, convencidos de la importancia y la trascendencia de la Cumbre. Creo que nuestras reuniones regionales, conferencias regionales, al igual que la de las otras regiones, se vieron realizadas por la presencia de nuestros ministros que les dieron un pleno y total respaldo a las posiciones que ahí fueron adoptadas, y también ha sido arduo e intenso el trabajo de los representantes permanentes en Roma para tales fines. Aunque del 20 al 30 de septiembre avanzamos mucho, aunque logramos eliminar un importante número de corchetes, quizás dos tercios de ellos, yo creo que la cuestión no es tanto si nos quedan 10, 200 o tenemos 400 menos, lo grave es que aún no hemos cumplido con la responsabilidad como Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria que nos impuso la Conferencia.

Y el sentido de urgencia que señaló el Presidente del Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria Mundial, lo compartimos totalmente. Es difícil pensar, es inimaginable pensar, que un jefe de estado, que un jefe de gobierno pueda presentarse a Roma el día 13 de noviembre sin saber que es lo que va a adoptar. Y aquí, ahora abro una cifra, señor Presidente, no es que estemos a siete o a seis semanas, estamos a cuarenta días de que comience la Cumbre Mundial de la Alimentación. El tiempo es muy corto, pero además el conocer esos documentos no es importante solamente a los presidentes y jefes de gobierno, es importante a nuestros gobiernos, es importante a otros sectores de la sociedad. En muchos de nuestros países, se han creado comités nacionales preparatorios de la Cumbre, se han nombrado secretarías técnicas, se han involucrado diferentes actores y, la intención es que todos ellos sepan que es lo que Cumbre va a adoptar y va a hacer.

Además, esta Cumbre tiene una característica muy particular; indiscutiblemente el hecho de que sea a nivel de jefes de estado y gobierno ya le da una especificidad, pero es una Cumbre muy corta, de cinco días que no permite ningún proceso negociador como en otras cumbres se hizo, en algunos casos lo han citado como ejemplo. Aquí estamos en circunstancias totalmente distintas y diversas. Por eso nosotros, señor Presidente, en el Grupo de los 77 consideramos necesario, esencial, el concluir nuestro proceso de negociación, de consultas y tenemos la mejor buena disposición y la mejor buena voluntad de llevarlo adelante. Estamos convencidos que los documentos que se adopten tienen que ser documentos de consenso, documentos que nos involucren a todos, no simplemente para su adopción sino, fundamentalmente para su aplicación, que no sean simplemente un poco de tinta escrita sobre un papel, sino que sean realmente un Plan de Acción en favor de nuestros pueblos.

Por estos motivos señor Presidente, nosotros al igual que lo hicimos el lunes 30 de septiembre, apoyamos plenamente la propuesta del Presidente del Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria Mundial, y la apoyamos con más convicción porque hemos constatado que usted, a través de una labor tesonera y eficiente, ha hecho avanzar los temas del Consejo y tenemos la impresión, que es más que una



impresión, una certitud, de que usted estará en capacidad de darnos un par de días para llevar adelante esas negociaciones. Lo único que requerimos en este momento, señor Presidente, es buena voluntad por parte de todos. El Grupo de los 77 lo ha demostrado a lo largo de este proceso y está dispuesto a hacerlo también. Creemos que esto es esencial y hacemos un llamado a todos para que concurramos como lo hemos hecho en el pasado y podamos concluir con esa responsabilidad que nos dio la Conferencia.

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Muchas gracias señor Representante de Venezuela quien ha hablado a nombre del Grupo de los 77, me congratulo de que haya confirmado la voluntad de su grupo de continuar con las negociaciones a la brevedad posible. Yo estoy seguro que no hay ningún delegado u observador en este Consejo que no tenga igualmente esa inquietud porque es parte de su responsabilidad en cuanto que se ha comprometido como miembro del Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria a negociar estos documentos y el proceso preparatorio hasta el final.

Me congratulo por tanto de la aceptación que, a nombre del Grupo, ha hecho de la propuesta del Presidente del Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria.

**Alvaro Gurgel DE ALENCAR (Brazil):** I would like to thank you and the distinguished Director-General for your introductory words to this very important item. I have taken the floor in my capacity as Coordinator for the Latin American and Caribbean group of countries for FAO subjects in general and for the preparation of the Summit in particular.

I would like, on behalf of that group, to support the proposal made by the Chairman of the CFS and fully endorse the words of the distinguished Ambassador of Venezuela speaking for the Group of 77. He has given very clear reasons why we must continue the preparatory work. It is obvious, it is evident, to one and all that we cannot possibly allow the document to remain so incomplete until the eve of the Summit.

I think the Council, as the main body of FAO in between Conferences, has the responsibility, as you indicated at the beginning, to make a very, very strong appeal to the CFS to proceed with this work and as soon as possible. I am glad to see that it is possible to do it very soon because the Council would be prepared to yield facilities, services and time to the CFS for that purpose. I have no doubt in supporting very, very firmly the proposal.

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Muchas gracias por la declaración que ha hecho usted a nombre del Grupo Latinoamericano y el Caribe y por unirse a la propuesta del Presidente del Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria y respaldada inmediatamente por el Presidente del Grupo de los 77.

**Adel Mahmoud ABOUL-NAGA (Egypt) (Original language Arabic):** I would like, first of all, to welcome the Director-General who has honoured us with his presence today as we debate this important item on our agenda. This confirms the great importance that we all attach to this matter and, in particular, the importance which our Heads of State and Government attach to the World Food Summit. I would like to restate, quite categorically, that developing countries feel that this World Food Summit is an initiative of capital importance.

The Summit is intended to ensure world food security for all our peoples and, in particular, food security for those people all over the world who are hungry, who do not have enough food and who cannot meet their essential basic needs. So, I would like to support most warmly what has just been said by His Excellency, the Ambassador of Venezuela, speaking as Chairman of the Group of 77. Speaking on behalf of the Near East Group, I wish to reaffirm the great importance of this matter and reassure you that the CFS can successfully conclude its preparatory work and produce documents which can be adopted by consensus. This should be done in the shortest possible time so that we may submit these documents, these consensus documents to our Heads of State and

Government in good time so that they may familiarize themselves with the documents before they come to the Summit.

I fully support the proposal from the Ambassador of Chile, Chairman of the CFS. I stress that you have yourself said that it is not really possible to agree on the text of these arguments at the last minute because there will be no time, and our Heads of State and Government will find difficulties in deciding whether or not to come to the Summit unless they know, well in advance, what the texts to be discussed are. They cannot come and sign documents if they have not been agreed upon.

Once again, I give my full support and that of my group to the Chairman of the Group of 77. Let us take this unique opportunity that we have before us, the fact that the Council Session can be dealt with expeditiously so we may have some time to deal with the outstanding documents. We have made considerable progress but these documents must be agreed upon in the shortest possible time. Our Governments attach considerable importance to this matter and I am sure that we shall have a consensus together with all our partners.

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Muchas gracias distinguido delegado de Egipto que en nombre del Cercano Oriente ha respaldado la propuesta del Presidente del Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria y de la declaración del Presidente del Grupo de los 77.

**Mame BALLA SY (Observateur du Sénégal):** Monsieur le Président, quand on parle des problèmes de la faim et de la sécurité alimentaire, je crois que les regards se tournent essentiellement vers une direction et si vous suivez ces regards naturellement, vous aboutissez à un continent qui est l'Afrique, le plus menacé, le plus concerné par ces problèmes. C'est pourquoi je suis d'accord avec le Directeur général que lorsque la Conférence de la FAO adoptait à l'unanimité cette décision, le message politique devait être adressé par tous les Etats Membres qui avaient pris cette décision. Ce message, nous sommes persuadés qu'il est au centre des préoccupations de toutes les délégations ici présentes et Membres de la FAO. Les efforts qui ont été consentis, et je puis en témoigner pour y avoir activement pris part lors des travaux suspendus du Comité pour la sécurité alimentaire (CSA), témoignent de la volonté et de la détermination de toutes les délégations de faire en sorte que cette décision prise à l'unanimité se traduise par un geste politique hautement significatif, afin d'exprimer notre solidarité commune à ceux qui souffrent de ce fléau. Je crois que ne pas achever cet effort serait extrêmement malheureux et je suis certain qu'aucun pays ni aucun groupe n'acceptera de prendre cette responsabilité devant l'humanité, au point qu'il s'agit simplement de s'entendre maintenant sur la manière de parachever cet effort. Attendre le dernier moment, je crains aussi que personne n'osera effectivement le soutenir. Parce qu'il n'est pas raisonnable et aucun pays ni aucun responsable au monde n'accepterait de se déplacer vers une conférence sachant bien qu'il n'aura pas la possibilité d'y négocier et sachant bien également que les textes sur lesquels il doit prendre un engagement ne sont pas prêts.

Ce qu'il nous reste à faire est de nous entendre afin d'être prêts suffisamment à l'avance. C'est pourquoi nous soutenons fermement en notre double qualité de Vice-président du CSA et de Représentant ou Coordonnateur du Groupe Africain la proposition, d'abord du Président du CSA qui est très raisonnable, et, ensuite, nous associer pleinement à la déclaration du Président du Groupe des 77 qui constitue un groupe d'Etats dont la taille numérique est assez prouvée mais dont la volonté a toujours été constatée tout au long de ce processus et je crois que, par respect pour un si grand nombre d'Etats dont les populations sont les plus meurtries par ce phénomène et qui sollicitent la solidarité de la Communauté internationale, il serait quand même justice de tenir compte de toutes ces considérations et de poursuivre cet élan qui nous a tous en tout cas guidé durant ces deux derniers jours pour parachever un travail appréciable déjà accompli.

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Muchas gracias distinguido observador por Senegal por su importante declaración a nombre del Grupo Africano y por el apoyo que ha dado a la propuesta del Presidente

del Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria y la asociación de su grupo a la declaración hecha por el Presidente del Grupo de los 77.

**TANG ZHENGPING (China) (Original language Chinese):** I should like to thank you, Sir, for putting this matter before us this afternoon and we are happy to see the Director-General of FAO here with us on this occasion; this shows the importance of the matter we are discussing.

The Delegation of China most fully and entirely supports the idea that we should get down to this matter, to complete it successfully as soon as possible, as stated by the Director-General. We entirely agree with the Chairman of the CFS, as was also expressed by the Chairman of the Group of 77, that we should devote as much time as possible, as soon as possible, during the time allotted for this Council Session, to the continuation of the Session of the Committee of the World Food Security which was suspended on 30 September.

The Summit has been convened and all the Member Nations of this Organization wish it to be a success. We all voted on this at the last Conference Session; unanimously, we are all committed to the process and to the Summit and to the success of the Summit. Therefore, we must leave no stone unturned in preparing documents, the texts which are necessary for its success. As we all know, all we have is forty or so days before us, before the Summit takes place. We made tremendous efforts throughout last week and quite substantial progress but still we have not yet completed a consensus document. We still have over 200 square brackets in the relevant text, so we must really get down to the very hard task of removing those square brackets and completing a clean text in good time for our capitals, for our governments, to analyze the document carefully and submit it to the Summit.

If we want the Summit to be a success, my delegation urges all countries and the Delegations concerned to take most seriously and to accept the proposal made by the Chairman of the CFS and supported by the Chairman of the Group of 77. In other words, we will resume the suspended CFS Session as soon as possible in order to complete the text of our document on a consensus basis.

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Muchas gracias, distinguido delegado de China, por su importante declaración y su respaldo a la propuesta del Presidente del Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria y su asociación con la declaración del Presidente del Grupo de los 77.

**YUN SU CHANG (Observer for the Democratic People's Republic of Korea):** I am happy to see the presence of the Director-General when we discussed the important Item on this subject. Thank you very much, Director-General, for your speech on the importance of the Summit Item. As Chairman of the Asian group, I would like to speak on their behalf. Member Nations discussed this Item before we held this meeting and we Asian and Oriental countries fully support the proposal made by the Chairman of the CFS and the Chairman of the Group of 77. In Asia it is our real hope, also our real wish that Asian and all other countries, are willing to adopt the clean document as soon as possible, at an early stage, before the end of October. Also this clean document has to be sent to all the capitals, all the countries before 31 October. All the Heads of State of the delegations, people coming to this World Summit should consider this clean document. This is our, all the Asia countries' position. This document must be clean with the unanimous agreement of the whole country.

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Muchas gracias, distinguido observador de la República Democrática de Corea, por su asociación con la propuesta del Presidente del Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria y la del Presidente del Grupo de los 77, y por indicarnos que, a nombre del Grupo Asiático, desea que se comiencen los trabajos a la mayor brevedad posible.

**David BEEHAN** (Ireland): Thank you for giving us the opportunity to have this discussion on how we plan our work in preparing for the Summit. Our enthusiasm is such that we had hoped we could have had this discussion earlier this week, despite the bureau working us extremely hard last week.

We wish to extend a warm welcome to the Director-General to this debate.

I noted with interest the reference to the Conference Resolution and the role of the CFS and I would be grateful for some elaboration on this point from the Secretariat, if it was possible, specifically with regard to if the Resolution imposes the onus on the CFS to actually have a clean text prepared in advance of the Summit.

I noted carefully what the Chairman of the Committee on World Food Security said in relation to the attendance of Heads of State and Governments being conditioned on the contents of the text of the Declaration and the Plan of Action. However, I would like to make one or two comments on this aspect.

Firstly, if, for instance Heads of State and Governments have the text a week or ten days in advance of the Summit and there are some of the contents they are not particularly happy with, will it endanger their participation at the Summit? For some Member States we must be aware that we have a small number of, what we might call, sensitive issues and issues that will take a considerable amount of effort to resolve. If Members concede on some of these points in advance of the Summit - a week or ten days in advance of the Summit - there is a political risk for them, whereas if such a concession is in the spirit of compromise nearer to the Summit, there is easier justification for giving a concession.

With regard to the proposal of the Chairman of the CFS, we in the European Union are not at all pessimistic. In actual fact we are quite optimistic and we are very encouraged by the work that took place over the last ten or twelve days. As you said --or the Director-General maybe at the outset --we succeeded in doing, I think, about 75 percent of the work when we deleted 600 of the 800 brackets and I think that has to be looked on very optimistically. In our view, the text which we now have is surprisingly clean and in the process over the last ten or twelve days we have visited the text, all of the text, and the dilemma now for many Delegations is that they need time to consider what we have to reflect and for consultation. In our view, revisiting the text next week would not achieve what we would hope for and we consider that at this stage it is not a question of time, it is a question of preparedness, of being in a position to take decisions when we do negotiate and to ensure that we make progress.

If we accept this, then we believe that we should plan in a way that is most practical, that is cost-effective, that is time-effective, that will ensure a successful finalization of the text and ensure a very successful Summit.

There would be a question for us, in revisiting the text too soon, that we would have major doubts; that, rather than making progress, we could even complicate things as we saw when we had gone so far at the closing Sessions on Monday evening when we went in reverse.

I can assure you that of the goodwill of the European Union in ensuring that we do reach a successful conclusion and we will be prepared to make a major input into that to be well-prepared when we think it is appropriate and people are in a position to take decisions.

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Muchas gracias, distinguido delegado de Irlanda, por sus importantes comentarios y por su declaración a nombre de la Unión Europea. Creo que hay una palabra clave en lo que usted ha dicho, que es importante destacar, y esta es "mantener la buena voluntad". Creo que ese es el espíritu en el que deben continuar trabajando. La buena voluntad, desde luego, es lo que debe prevalecer.

Respecto a las preguntas que usted ha hecho, yo creo que no es posible que ninguno aquí las respondamos, sino quizás, cada delegación, sobre todo en lo que se refiere a la vinculación de texto y venida del Jefe de Estado. De todas maneras este Consejo ha tomado nota de su posición.

Yo desearía que se manifestaran otras delegaciones que no han sido vinculadas a las declaraciones hasta ahora hechas por representantes de grupos.

**Thomas Austin FORBORD (United State of America):** The United States is prepared to continue our work on the Summit text as soon as possible if everyone is prepared to negotiate seriously and with goodwill. However, we did not always have goodwill last week and I am not convinced that I see a difference yet.

This proposal to continue the process that we were in will only work if there is, in fact, some change in attitude. Last week we had regional groups and countries that refused to allow sub- groups to meet in order to negotiate, and we lost a lot of time. We had groups insist on language that they knew was, at best, inaccurate, misleading. We had groups bring back proposals, after they had agreed to drop them, in exchange for concessions from other groups and that lack of goodwill really slowed down our work.

In the comments I have heard to date I hear pledges of continued goodwill but I have not heard any indication that a process next week has any new elements. Are there other proposals lurking out here that we have not heard about yet? Are there some other mechanisms that might help us progress?

It will also be extremely difficult, I really should say it will be impossible, for us to bring back senior negotiators only a few days after they left. What can we do to get capitals involved in this? Can we get early proposals so that we have an opportunity to get capital reaction to those in time for a meeting next week? If we start on Monday or Tuesday or Wednesday and simply have on the table what we had Monday night, I am not yet convinced that that would be very useful.

We are prepared to meet as soon as possible and as soon as is useful. I think I would still need to hear some reasons why next week is going to be more useful than the first day of this week was.

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Muchas gracias por su declaración y por apoyar la voluntad de su país en continuar las negociaciones a la brevedad posible y, en particular, por destacar la importancia de mantener la voluntad política en las negociaciones.

**E. KITAHARA (Japan):** Thank you Mr Chairman and the Honourable Director-General for giving me the floor.

I have listened carefully to the proposal made by the Chairman of the CFS and comments made by other delegates. Japan has actively participated in the whole process of the CFS. We would like to continue our efforts towards the success of the World Food Summit in a positive manner. I think, we all need to refresh our spirits and readdress the remaining issues, in order to make substantial progress.

In this regard, Mr Chairman, I am not in favour of the idea to hold the next meeting within the time framework of the Council. At this stage, I feel it is reasonable to try to have a certain period of time for reflection, both in our capitals and here in Rome, in order to prepare for the final conclusion of our work.

**Ronald ROSE (Canada):** Mr Chairman, let me begin by reassuring this meeting and my colleagues that Canada is in fact committed to a successful outcome of the World Food Summit. We have already invested a considerable amount of time and resources to make a successful Summit. We

started our investment with the meeting in Quebec City, almost one year ago. We are willing to do whatever it takes to make sure that this will be a successful Summit and that the political Declaration and the Plan of Action can be completed.

We are certainly willing to participate next week if the Council gives the facilities to the Committee on Food Security to continue next week.

Nevertheless, Mr Chairman, we have some serious doubts about the possibility of completing our work next week. Some of our colleagues have discussed the need for a period of reflection, the need for time to consult. Last week, in fact for the last ten days, many of our delegations have had senior officials from capitals, who came; with the help of those senior officials we were in fact able to remove a number of brackets.

My delegation, Mr Chairman, will not be able to bring back those senior officials for discussions next week. I remain ready to negotiate next week but I must admit that I am sceptical that we will in fact be able to complete our task by meeting for two or three days next week. Nevertheless, as I said Mr Chairman, we are willing to participate.

**Cengiz AYSUN (Turkey):** Mr Chairman, first of all I would like to thank the Director-General for his presence. Like all other Member Nations, Turkey wishes the success of the Rome Summit. To this end, the draft Declaration and draft Plan of Action to be submitted for approval to the heads of delegations who will participate in the Rome Summit should be bereft of brackets.

Since we cannot expect the distinguished Heads of States or Heads of Governments, working upon likely discussions on this point, accordingly, my Delegation supports and will support all endeavours aiming at reaching a consensus and we, on our part, will display such an attitude. I will add, Mr Chairman, that goodwill is essential.

On the timing of the CFS meeting, our attitude is similar to that of Canada.

**Dennis GEBBIE (Australia):** It is difficult to argue with the logic we have been presented with here, that we have a lot to do and little time to do it. But if we sit back and reflect on why we are where we now are, it has to be realized, I think, that the reason we are not finished is because a number of very sensitive issues are involved.

If we are to get the necessary flexibility to get around the difficulties we have and to finish our work, we think that capitals must be involved and be given the time to examine where we are. And in doing that we would need to take into account that those involved also have other commitments in the period ahead. If we are to continue next week, I fear that without a period of reflection, we may well be faced with the same blockages on these sensitive issues.

To resume the CFS during this Council Session, Mr Chairman, we think is simply too soon. It is not a matter of commitment but rather of finding an efficient and effective way to ensure that we can conclude our work successfully.

**Ms Turid KONGSVIK (Norway):**

Heads of State have not been dissuaded from coming to Cairo, to Beijing, to Copenhagen, well knowing that there was no document ready when they arrived. Actually, it can be argued that this enhances the interest. A Summit whose results are ready weeks ahead, at least in terms of media coverage and the general opinion, might easily be perceived as being without stakes.

I think that a lot of the excitement, the interest, the passion which surrounded the other summits, were due to the fact that the world opinion felt that there were issues at stake. They heard every day that now there were new results, whether it would have been productive, helped or not, what it meant or did not mean. This meant that a lot of people got conscious about issues which they will not be, if we do not have this excitement, which means that the media is interested in the Summit.

So on this account, I think that the Summit, if we have this sort of tension during it, paradoxically perhaps, will raise more interest than otherwise.

Another aspect of this is that you might look at a document having been prepared by bureaucrats weeks ahead, it is a sort of *fait accompli*, to which you put to your Heads of State and Governments. If they come here, if there are difficult issues remaining, they will be the ones to resolve it. They are the highest decision-makers and they will be easily accessible to us, and they will be the ones who can take the final decisions. We also then will have the pressure of time which will help us.

So, I think it is not really univocal the effect of being ready or not ready. One difficulty is here, that there is some idea of hiding the document. This was not done in Cairo, it was not done in Beijing, it was not done in Copenhagen, and as far as I can see in the Conference decision, there is no decision at the Intergovernmental level of signature. So it seems we are fiilly free to abandon this signature which this document, not being legally binding, is superfluous in any case, I would imagine.

I think perhaps we should place the discussion from another angle. Perhaps, we should rather see how many days more do we need of high officials meeting before the Summit. The idea has been here that we should meet next week for two or three days, apparently there is some belief that if we have three additional days, the document could be ready. Well, then let us discuss whether we should not convene these high officials three days ahead. We would also then have a length which would be very much similar to those of the other summits.

Finally, as has been pointed out by others, to the extent that all key players are not in a position to make compromises already next week. The pragmatic side of it also argues in favour of postponing further discussions on the brackets which, by the way, I have counted in a non-mechanical manner, I have counted them in a substantial manner and, if you take all the "or" alternatives, there are 101.

**EL PRESIDENTE:** El Consejo ha tomado nota que, de acuerdo con su delegación, no solamente es importante la voluntad política sino también un grado de tensión para hacer exitosa una cumbre. Yo me pregunto, sin embargo, si debemos buscar intencionalmente una mayor tensión de la que ya existe ahora para asegurar el éxito de la Cumbre. Y si, independientemente de la situación que ya prevalece en la preparación de los trabajos, el hecho de que hay 800 millones de seres humanos que mueren de hambre, no es por sí misma, la tensión más alta que puede existir en este momento para la humanidad y, por tanto, la responsabilidad mayor para la comunidad del mundo. Pero, de todas maneras, hemos tomado nota de que la experiencia de otras cumbres es importante y ello -desde luego- podría ser un ejemplo para encontrar una solución en este caso.

Pregunto si hay entre los países de la Europa Centrorienta, alguno que desee hacer alguna intervención con respecto a esto, señalando la posición de ese grupo, en relación a las propuestas aquí formuladas.

**Kamaruzzaman ALIAS (Malaysia):** Mr Chairman, Mr Director-General, distinguished Members and Observers. Malaysia supports and endorses any effort that enjoys consensus in moving forward the negotiation process so as to achieve a clean text for the World Food Summit. The earlier a clean document is produced, the more comfortable it will be for all of us in facing the World Food Summit next month. Undoubtedly, compromise and understanding should rule the day if consensus is to be achieved in a next round of negotiations.

A balanced document, acceptable to all parties, especially the 800 million under-nourished people, should be the desirable outcome. How could one imagine of a win-lose situation in such a noble endeavour of fighting hunger and under-nutrition.

In the past, Malaysia has participated actively in the various stages of the negotiation process and intends to continue to do so in the future. Our deep concern has been the high tendency of some to include in the text, factors or issues we consider as not central to the crucial task of achieving world food security. Although these issues are, in one way or another, related to food security, we hold the view that these issues have been adequately dealt with in other UN fora of the past, may they be Beijing, Copenhagen, Cairo or regional conferences.

We have wasted much valuable time discussing these issues. If certain parties insist on the inclusion of these issues, they could hinder efforts towards achieving consensus as early as possible. In addition, conditionalities and unjustified action also diluted the original bold ideas and initiatives aimed at achieving global food security in the earliest possible time period.

It is also our observation that in the past rounds of negotiations a lot of compromise have been made, especially by those who stand to benefit most from the Summit. We could, therefore, sincerely appeal to other parties who have not done so, to show the same spirit, thus avoiding long and futile rounds of negotiations. A situation which all of us obviously do not want to see occurring.

Mr Chairman, the responsibilities upon us are enormous. Let us move forward, let not the next generation point their fingers at us, in the same fashion, as we are now begging for answers as to what happened to the promised decade envisaged by the architects of the Food Summit of 1974.

Mr Chairman, Malaysia supports the proposal from the Chairman of the CFS.

**D. G. YODIN (Observateur de la Fédération de Russie):** Je n'engagerai que la responsabilité de la délégation russe et je ne parlerai pas bien sûr au nom du groupe des pays de l'Europe de l'Est centrale puisque nous avons un Président du groupe qui s'exprimera probablement, mais étant un membre actif dès le début des préparatifs de cette conférence, nous estimons que l'objectif recherché est, et doit rester, le consensus sur le document qui sera adopté à l'issue de la rencontre de Rome. Ce n'est pas le consensus recherché aujourd'hui, mais nous recherchons un consensus pour la fin de la rencontre, et il me semble que nous avons vu lundi dernier que les positions de certains groupes de pays se heurtent. Nous devons à mon avis laisser calmer les passions que nous avons connues la semaine dernière, prendre un peu de recul afin de reprendre la discussion, la négociation avec la tête froide et avec le désir d'arriver, en fin de compte, à ce consensus recherché.

La situation est grave aujourd'hui vu l'état de préparation des documents, mais pas dramatique, telle est l'appréciation de la délégation de Russie. D'autant plus que si on fait la comparaison avec l'état de préparation des documents des autres grands *fora* internationaux de ces dernières années, on peut dire que nous avons quand même pas mal progressé la semaine dernière. La délégation de Russie est toujours disponible pour essayer de progresser encore, mais nous doutons sérieusement de pouvoir effectivement progresser la semaine prochaine. Je ne sais pas si notre mot d'ordre d'aujourd'hui était d'avoir de nouveaux débats, mais nous devons maintenant rechercher les solutions de compromis sur les points qui restent encore en divergence. Je pense que les



délégations qui viennent de rentrer dans nos capitales devront essayer de préparer de nouvelles propositions pour que notre discussion, notre négociation soit vraiment fructueuse.

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Gracias, distinguido observador de la Federación Rusa, por sus comentarios y la posición de su país en el sentido de que las negociaciones se celebren en el momento que sean más convenientes.

**Saeed NOURI-NAEENI (Iran, Islamic Republic of):** First, I would like to welcome Mr. Director-General to this very important session of the Council. Then, I would like to refer to a very important point which was raised by the distinguished representative of the European Union, that is, the cost-effectiveness of the negotiations. I think it would be most cost-effective if we started next week, for two important reasons.

Firstly, the prepaid cost of interpretation and other costs which have been paid for the Council, which can be used for the negotiations.

Secondly, because lots of countries have the negotiators and high officials here. In this way, they can save the travel costs of these groups going back to capitals and coming back, which is very important for most of them. I appeal to the countries to consider this cost aspect which is very important to them.

So, if the goodwill exists, I think I have every reason to support the points which were raised by the Chairman of the CFS, the Chairman of the G77, and the representative of the Near East Group.

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Muchas gracias, distinguido delegado de la República Islámica de Irán, por su asociación a las propuestas formuladas aquí. Por recordarnos que también, por razones logísticas, muchas de las delegaciones ahora presentes en el Consejo, tienen entre sí a delegados de alto nivel que podrían continuar sus negociaciones y no hacerles venir en un momento futuro.

**A. M. M. SHAWKAT ALI (Bangladesh):** I understand that it is not a question of whether, but when, the CFS should resume. The fact remains that CFS has some unfinished work to do, and one proposal from the G77 supported by others, was to hold it on Monday. This was not thought feasible by some other delegations on two specific grounds.

One, there is need for time to reflect and that is necessary as was specifically pointed out by one delegation, that there is not enough good will. I am unable to agree with this kind of reasoning, for the precise reason that, at least, we have come to know that out of 800 brackets we have now only 101, not 200. There is enough goodwill, I think, on the part of all the delegations here. It is a question of making that goodwill work.

The second specific argument that was given for deferring this holding of the CFS meeting from Monday, to some other distant date, was the question of access to capital of the countries. The access to the capital, I also think that, is not much of a problem because we have enough technological advances in the telecom field, e-mail, faxes and all that, with which you can easily communicate if it is at all necessary.

Finally, I would say that the proposal of the Group of 77 be considered by all the delegations present here. At least, we can start the work and complete it in time.

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Muchas gracias, distinguido delegado de Bangladesh, por su asociación a las propuestas y por recordarnos que existen medios a disposición para continuar negociando.

**Mihail DOBRE (Roumania):** I have to make very clear that I am speaking just in a national capacity. We are not a leader of the Central and Eastern European Group at this time but Romanía

and Estonia are the only Eastern and Central European countries represented within the FAO Council. We are not the carrier of a common position or common standing from the Central and Eastern European countries because we did not discuss that.

Therefore, I would like to stress in a national capacity, that for Romania, it is extremely important that the work on the preparation for the policy statement and the plan of action, be completed successfully.

In the view of my Delegation it is extremely important to have the political will necessary to find the appropriate consensus. Romania will support the negotiating process which is devoted to the accomplishment of this document, whenever the key player will be ready to come back to the negotiating table for this purpose.

**Mario MOYA FALENCIA (México):** Agradecemos la presencia del señor Director General, la presentación que ha hecho usted del problema, y la propuesta del señor Presidente del Comité y las que después han hecho el Grupo de los 77 y los demás grupos regionales.

A través del distinguido representante del Grupo Latinoamericano y del Caribe nuestra posición, en este debate, está ya fijada a favor de la propuesta del Grupo de los 77 y, por otra parte, la habíamos dejado inequívocamente clara en el seno del propio Comité la noche del lunes pasado.

Lo que nos preocupa, señor Presidente, es encontrar los medios para que el comité realice el mandato que le dio la Conferencia y que sólo él puede realizar. No se trata de transferir a otro órgano o a otro grupo de personalidades o a la propia cumbre, el mandato de presentar estos textos a la cumbre que sólo y únicamente tiene el Comité.

Tenemos que encontrar la forma -y una, es aprovechar ciertos días de los designados a este Consejo- para que, con el menor esfuerzo y el menor gasto como se ha dicho aquí, se puedan continuar las negociaciones.

Algunos de los comentarios que aquí se han vertido nos hacen pesar sobre si este es un buen momento para interrumpir en el mundo el diálogo político. Porque en el fondo, este que parece un pequeño incidente procesual, se siente que no es sólo eso.

Es evidente que existen muchos focos de tensiones entre los países y dentro de la humanidad, como usted ha recordado, que implican la necesidad de que cada vez haya más contacto entre los distintos grupos y naciones, y que los muchos y graves problemas que padecemos los veamos con un espíritu superior e intentemos resolverlos en común.

En la medida que se cierran, frente a esas realidades, puertas de diálogo y de negociación -que eso es lo que significan los organismos multilaterales, aparte de las relaciones bilaterales-, en esa misma medida se pueden abrir otras formas de conflicto que deseamos se superen, pero que todavía están encendidas en todos los horizontes de la tierra.

Y cuando se habla de un problema tan serio como el hambre, la desnutrición, la inseguridad alimentaria, que está de hecho conectado a todos los demás fenómenos sociales y económicos, pues el asunto es muy preocupante.

Como miembros de un organismo como la FAO, no podemos admitir que después de que todos los países miembros de la Conferencia decidieron convocar esta cumbre como un instante estelar del diálogo político internacional, ahora no encontremos fórmulas para realizarla y para cumplir los mandatos que otros órganos derivados de la Conferencia y del Consejo tienen, me refiero específicamente al Comité, para preparar la documentación relativa.

Pienso que es a nosotros los delegados, a los gobiernos de nuestros países, no a los jefes de estado, a los que nos corresponde hacer nuestro trabajo y hacerlo bien para presentarlo en la Cumbre; y que debemos tomar todas las decisiones administrativas, estatutarias y procesuales para llevarlo a cabo.

Estimo, señor Presidente, que sólo demostrando voluntad política podemos sacar adelante esas tareas que son verdaderamente ingentes. Es posible que en 3 o 4 días que el Consejo ponga a disposición del Comité, pudiera no limpiarse totalmente los documentos, pudiera haber instancias en algunos asuntos delicados, como se ha dicho aquí, que dejaran todavía algunas cuestiones sin resolver; pero todavía el Comité puede seguir trabajando durante otras semanas posteriores durante el mes de octubre para continuar esa labor y dejar asegurado, lo más pronto posible, ese acerbo documento que es necesidad imperiosa dentro de la Cumbre.

Porque sino la Cumbre corre peligro, e independientemente de ello, si se llegara a realizar, como espero que todos deseamos, le faltaría una sustancia, una médula, una declaración oficial, un programa de los países; de tal manera, que pudiera ser un elemento de persuasión, de convencimiento, de difusión ante la opinión pública del mundo para que todos colaboremos en la medida de nuestras posibilidades a abatir ese tremendo flagelo que es la inseguridad alimentaria, y a incorporar, aunque sea paulatinamente, a 800 millones de hombres, de mujeres y de niños al goce de ese derecho fundamental que es la alimentación.

Por tanto, reitero en nombre de mi país, nuestro apoyo a la propuesta del Grupo de los 77 y otros grupos regionales para que se convoque a la brevedad posible, dentro de los días designados para las labores del Consejo, al Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria para que continúe sus trabajos. Si hay, como se ha dicho aquí, buena voluntad algo avanzaremos. Sino continuaremos después, pero es el Comité, y no otro órgano, el que tiene que llevar a cabo esas tareas.

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Muchas gracias, distinguido delegado de México, por su declaración, por su asociación a las propuestas del Presidente del CSA, por recordarnos que el único que está investido con la responsabilidad de concluir los trabajos es el CSA y no otro órgano, y por destacar la necesidad del diálogo internacional como fórmula para evitar conflictos y penas, que de otra manera tendríamos que pagar por otras vías.

**Pedro Alfonso MEDRANO ROJAS (Chile):** En el transcurso del debate se han hecho algunas afirmaciones que me parece tengo el deber, en algunos casos, de precisar.

En relación a la propuesta que he formulado, y la he hecho en mi calidad de Presidente del Comité, he creído seguir una lógica y una interpretación adecuada en la resolución de la Conferencia. Porque la Conferencia le dio el mandato a este Comité y el mismo, interpretando la resolución de la Conferencia, organizó su trabajo a lo largo del año con vistas a presentarle su informe al Consejo y, por supuesto, a la Cumbre. Y es por eso que nos organizamos desde un comienzo, y con consenso de todos, para tener una primera reunión en marzo, una segunda reunión en mayo, una tercera reunión en junio, una cuarta y última reunión en julio. Y todo esto con el fin de cumplir el mandato de la Conferencia y del Comité y, por supuesto, con el propósito de entregarle al Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria la posibilidad de examinar un informe de su grupo de trabajo.

La lógica ha sido siempre el poder avanzar en el tratamiento de la discusión de los textos con anticipación, porque si la lógica hubiera sido distinta, entonces nos hubiéramos organizado para colocar las negociaciones inmediatamente antes de la Cumbre. Era justamente eso lo que queríamos evitar: tener que llegar 2 ó 3 días antes de la Cumbre recién negociando un texto.

Yo no quiero discutir como se han organizado otras Conferencias. Somos respetuosos de otros procedimientos y de otras prácticas, pero en esta Organización nosotros acordamos, en la Conferencia, preparar los trabajos de manera tal de poderlos finalizar en septiembre, y por eso

hicimos el esfuerzo en marzo, mayo, junio y julio, e incluso más. Cuando en julio vimos el tremendo esfuerzo que tenía que hacer el Comité propusimos otros mecanismos, y estos eran: tratemos de adelantar el trabajo porque el Comité va a tener una tremenda responsabilidad. Y apelamos a todas las partes en el Comité, que por favor nos pusieramos a trabajar con la mayor antelación posible porque, de lo contrario, el Comité no iba a poder terminar su trabajo.

No quiero decir porque no fue posible, pero, lo que es claro, es que no pudimos trabajar en agosto ni en septiembre, y solamente lo pudimos hacer dos días antes del Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria.

De ahí la urgencia de que nosotros podamos completar ese trabajo. Me parece ilógico que usemos argumentos que no estaban en la base de nuestra decisión, porque no estuvimos discutiendo en ningún momento, motivos que hicieron más "excitante" la Cumbre. En ningún momento estuvimos buscando argumentos que hicieran que la opinión pública se concentrara en la Cumbre, porque creíamos que lo esencial era que la Cumbre se concentrara en los problemas esenciales del hambre y la malnutrición, y no, si estábamos discutiendo sobre medidas anticonceptivas o de población, o de otros aspectos que estaban resueltos en otra forma.

La lógica de la presentación que he hecho es justamente tratando de interpretar, de la mejor forma posible, el espíritu del acuerdo de la Conferencia; en ningún momento en la Conferencia, y nosotros la aprobamos, dijimos que teníamos que llegar una semana antes de la Cumbre a negociar. En ningún momento se previó, incluso en el proceso preparatorio, que hubiera una reunión del Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria inmediatamente antes de la Cumbre, porque, si así hubiera sido, entonces lo lógico habría sido haber colocado una reunión del Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria inmediatamente antes de la Cumbre, y le habríamos dicho anticipadamente a los jefes de estado y de gobierno: señores presidentes, señores jefes de gobierno, vengan ustedes, en la última parte, a negociar los textos.

En consecuencia, la lógica de la argumentación y de la propuesta está motivada por un sentido de cumplimiento de los acuerdos de la Conferencia, de terminar nuestro trabajo a la mayor brevedad posible, porque hay la voluntad política para hacerlo; y si la voluntad política y la buena voluntad que hemos escuchado es, justamente, la de avanzar, entonces la única forma de medirla es en la práctica cuando se reúne a trabajar. Y es ahí entonces, donde yo haría un llamado, en el sentido de que, si vamos a empezar a trabajar el lunes, el martes o el miércoles, es con el propósito de eliminar corchetes y no agregarlos, y tratar de cumplir lo antes posible nuestro trabajo.

Se han señalado elementos que podrían condicionar el trabajo: de mayor eficiencia, mayor voluntad, utilidad, etc. Creo que todos esos elementos los podemos resolver nosotros mismos; está en nosotros resolver si están dadas las condiciones o no y si queremos hacerlo o no.

Para ser más concretos, creo, señor presidente, que al tratar esta propuesta -repito que lo hago responsablemente como Presidente del Comité- y además avalado en el hecho -y son todos testigos- que hemos hecho todos los esfuerzos posibles a lo largo de este proceso para completar el trabajo. En consecuencia, lo que estoy planteando es: cómo podemos en lo posible aprovechar el mecanismo del Consejo para avanzar el trabajo. Ahora, si hay otras razones creo que lo lógico es decir cuáles son, expresar cuáles son los motivos, pero no creo que sea posible estar en este momento discutiendo sobre los mecanismos que pueden hacer más "excitantes" o no una Cumbre, o si los argumentos que estamos dando no tienen una base legal, porque creo que en la interpretación, incluso, del mandato legal de la Conferencia hay una voluntad política de cumplirlos adecuadamente y en su espíritu original.

En relación a una observación que se ha hecho respecto a la asistencia o no de jefes de estado, quiero señalar simplemente que eso lo recogí de algunas delegaciones y que eso me preocupaba, y que si era argumento incluso de algunas delegaciones para participar en la Cumbre, lo lógico era

pensar que teníamos que hacer el mayor de los esfuerzos a la mayor brevedad posible, y ojalá, con todas las condiciones que nos permitan avanzar en el proceso negociador.

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Muchas gracias, distinguido Presidente del Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria, por esta vehemente declaración que yo me atrevería a suscribir e inclusive, a nombre del Consejo, confirmar que la lógica del procedimiento era precisamente la que usted ha ahora descrito.

**DIRECTOR-GENERAL:** Mr Chairman, there are some clarifications, I think, that the Director-General needs to provide.

The Secretariat of the Organization tries always to be neutral, but neutrality means that it is able to say what is the truth, to say what is right, and to say what is wrong. And when somebody has been elected by 174 countries, when some very important issues come, he has to take the responsibility of saying what he thinks.

First, there was a question on the issue of when were the documents to be ready. I would like to read the Report of the 108th Session of the Council, which said: "The Council considered that the Committee on World Food Security should play the role of focal point during 1996 for the discussion by Members of the proposed policy document and the plan of action. It suggested that, in addition to its already scheduled January Session, a second Session of the CFS in 1996 could be held, possibly in September, to synthesize the conclusions of the Regional Conferences and prepare a Consolidated text for submission to the Summit".

On the basis of that indication, with a view to ensuring that the Consolidated text be ready by September, we wrote to all your countries, following the results of the July inter-sessional meeting of the CFS, to ask that your delegation be led by high officials who are plenipotentiaries, who have the authority to commit their Governments, so that we could finalize the negotiation of the Policy and Plan of Action and be able to send the document in time to the different Governments, so that Governments would have the time and the opportunity to study those documents so as to sign them at the Summit. All your Governments have received that letter.

I therefore think that the issue is clear. It has never been anybody's intention to wait until a few days before the Summit to agree on a document.

The second point which needs clarification is that there is a tendency to make confusion. First, there are a number of meetings that are called summits but which were not meetings of Heads of State and Government. Cairo was not a meeting of Heads of State and Government. The meeting of Habitat was not a meeting of Heads of State and Government. Beijing was not a meeting of Heads of State and Government. We therefore should not refer to what was done in those meetings and say, by extensión, that we do the same in the meeting of Heads of State and Government. Meetings of Heads of State and Government were held in Rio de Janeiro for the Earth Summit and in Copenhagen for the Social Summit. In all these meetings, the delegations had between four and two weeks to discuss and negotiate and it was, ahead of time, agreed that the negotiations would take place there, and therefore adequate time was given.

The CFS last week adopted the rules of procedure for the five days of the Summit -- five days -- and concluded that the Head of Delegation of each Member Nation would have only seven minutes to make a statement, and that the Representative of an observer country would have only four minutes. Despite those limitations, we would have to have night sessions every day, excluding the Saturday, when we are expecting a reception from the Head of State of Italy.

How, under those conditions, can we imagine that we will find the time to discuss the text of the Policy Document and Plan of Action? This is not realistic. And it has to be said.

I believe that if there is an opportunity to correct the failure --because it is a failure -- to finish the document in September as was planned and as clearly indicated as a goal to each Member Country of the Organization, if we see that failure, we should make every effort at the earliest possible time to try to arrive at a document that is agreed upon. And I do not think, under these circumstances, it is right to prejudge that we will fail and to assume from the beginning, before even having tried, that we will fail. I believe that, when an opportunity to exchange views exists, when an opportunity to negotiate in an Organization, which is based on the spirit of dialogue and the spirit of give and take, when an opportunity arises, whatever may be the concern of one or the other or the scepticism of one or the other, we should give chance to dialogue. We see around the world situations that are more difficult, far more difficult, far more tragic - and the events of these days have given us examples - yet people are talking and discussing to find solutions.

I think that when it comes to the issue of feeding 800 million hungry people, we should be ready to give chance to dialogue.

I believe that giving a chance to dialogue does not mean that if, after having tried we arrive at the conclusion that we have not succeeded, it should not give us another opportunity at another time and then allow whatever consultation - bilateral, multilateral - would facilitate the process. I think that is what is the spirit of the United Nations and the spirit of dialogue among nations and among countries.

The Secretariat is ready to help. The Secretariat is ready even to move beyond what it has done so far, which has been to ensure that all your meetings were held with the appropriate documents, with the appropriate information; we have compiled a Glossary to give you elements to facilitate your work. We are ready now even to give you texts because we believe that it is quite surprising, and I must say to be honest to you, shocking, that today we are blocked not on the issue of how to produce more food, not the issue of how to access food, not on the issue of quality of food, not the issue of how certain countries should produce better, with greater access to technology; with all those things we have no problem. We are having problems on things that have been the subject of an entire or several summits or meetings. We are not here to reinvent the wheel. We are not here to reopen negotiations that have been held. We are all agreed that population is important but there was an entire conference on population. Why should we come here and block the whole negotiation on food, on the issue of population? We all know there has been a Conference on Human Rights. Why should we come here and block the whole Summit on human rights? We know that for years our member countries have negotiated, in the Uruguay Round, trade issues leading to the agreement of Marrakesh and there will be very soon a meeting in Singapore to take up those matters. Now why are we being blocked on trade? We know that there have been several meetings that also took up the question of good governance. Why should good governance come and block our negotiations?

If we accept the principle that all those issues - and I am not saying they are not important, I am not saying they are not vital - have been dealt with or are being dealt with in the appropriate forum, if you member countries have created a specialized agency for food and agriculture, and created other bodies of the UN system to deal with other issues, why should you bring here, as a stumbling block, issues that are to be dealt with somewhere else? The United Nations are often criticized, but you, Member Nations are responsible for most of these problems.

Well, let's be honest. Who is creating all this - is it the Secretariat? We in the Secretariat are ready to participate with you, we have even written what we consider texts on some aspects that we believe should allow us to arrive at a consensus because these texts are texts you all agreed to in previous meetings of the UN and in previous Conferences. And we are ready to take the risk of giving you those texts. And we believe these would be new elements that you will have if you start your meeting next week because you have not had those elements before and, may be, that would allow you to advance. We even have other documents that we could provide to you but at this stage

we did not, because we thought we had to be careful and start with the texts based on solid ground; because we can tell you from which document, at which Conference, when and where you approved certain texts.

I therefore believe that we should keep the spirit of give and take. Keeping the spirit of give and take means we don't come and say: "This is what we want, everybody should agree to it". That is not negotiation. That is diktat. We therefore should ensure that, if there is a possibility of discussing within the framework offered by this Council, at a time when we have the Secretariat, we have the interpreters, we have everything and we have people who have flown here from the capitals, we should try; but at the same time, if we do not succeed, we should also be open to another meeting, when some countries would have had the opportunity to consult with each other, to discuss also, on a bilateral and multilateral basis, so as to be able, maybe, to come with solutions that we may not be able to find during the meeting of next week. That's a balanced way to approach things.

I am sorry if I have been a little too passionate, and have spoken frankly out of my heart what I believe in, but you elected me to guide the destinies of this Organization and we are taking responsibility before humanity and before our member countries of calling, for the first time in fifty years, our Heads of State and Government, who are the highest officials of our Governments, and I really think that when this is the issue at stake and the challenge, we have to get the courage of saying what we think, and I am sorry if I have done so in a way that might have not pleased some of you. I am sorry, that was not my intention.

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Muchas gracias, señor Director General. Usted tiene todo el derecho de ser apasionado cuando tiene usted y esta Organización, la gran responsabilidad de llevar a cabo una Cumbre Mundial exitosa. Yo no voy a repetir ni a resumir lo que usted ha dicho, lo que es claro y contundente ha puesto usted los dedos en la llagas, en la llagas no solo de un procedimiento que se quiere quizá distorsionar y en las llagas también del problema principal que sufre el mundo y que es el hambre y la necesidad de superarle. Yo creo que pronto debemos cerrar nuestros debates y llegar a decisiones.

Reconozco algunas banderas que se alzan para intervenir. Les suplico que sean breves porque este consejo después de este debate, lo que tiene que hacer es tomar decisiones.

**Fernando GERBASI (Venezuela):** Quisiera agradecer al Director General su intervención, reconocer en él su responsabilidad, su preocupación es simplemente prueba de su responsabilidad como director de los destinos de esta Organización, y tiene razón en el decir que él tiene que responder a esa responsabilidad frente a nosotros que fuimos los que lo elegimos y se la dimos.

Señor Presidente, usted me ha pedido ser breve, y voy a tratar de serlo. He escuchado con sumo interés el Director General sobre todo porque ha dicho algo que puede ser útil en una toma de decisiones. Ha indicado que la Secretaría estaría en capacidad de ofrecernos algunas alternativas que podrían ser analizadas en los próximos días, incluso habló de una posible segunda reunión. Yo tengo aquí en mis notas la declaración del señor representante de Irlanda en nombre de la Unión Europea, de los Estados Unidos, de Japón, Canadá, Turquía, etc. Todos ellos hablaron de la buena voluntad incluso y, para mi gran sorpresa y lo debo confesar así también, pero también para mi satisfacción, el Representante de Irlanda habló de optimismo. Yo espero que ese optimismo que él tiene se traduzca en hechos concretos, porque yo no quisiera recordar el pasado reciente en cuanto este proceso negociador porque no es la hora de culpabilizar, es la hora de mirar hacia adelante y ver cómo avanzamos.

Pues bien, señor Presidente, encontré en todas las declaraciones, una disposición a negociar, la mejor buena voluntad, sin embargo siempre dijeron pero necesitamos reflexionar, pero tenemos que consultar, pero, peros.

Señor Presidente, yo quisiera hacer una sugerencia muy concreta y sin haber tenido tiempo de consultar a mi Grupo, pero asumiendo también una responsabilidad como Presidente de ese Grupo. Decidamos reunirnos los primeros días de la semana próxima, revisemos lo que nos propone la Secretaría de la FAO, veamos si eso nos puede servir, incluso me atrevo a decir, *ad referendum* para tomar decisiones sobre esos temas que nos han trasladado de otras conferencias porque tiene toda la razón el Director General, lo que es fundamental para la FAO, está casi resuelto en su cien por ciento, pero pongámonos de acuerdo simultáneamente, señor Presidente, en una segunda reunión definitiva, que tiene que ser a más tardar en la segunda quincena de octubre, para que podamos negociar y dejar en claro los textos. Yo creo que ya terminó la hora de argucias y argumentos que no vienen al caso. Si alguien no sabe interpretar las resoluciones de la Conferencia de la FAO, que por favor se las lea de nuevo, pero que no vengan a hacer preguntas que están fuera de lugar, porque sino significa que el proceso que emprendimos en marzo, como dijo el Presidente del Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria Mundial, no tenía ninguna razón de ser. Yo creo que el Director General de la FAO respondió perfectamente.

Señor Presidente, esto sería una prueba más de flexibilidad del Grupo de los 77, nosotros estamos convencidos de que hay posibilidad de llegar a un acuerdo, nosotros sí somos optimistas porque creemos en lo que estamos haciendo, somos optimistas porque nos hemos preparado para esto, y somos optimistas también porque hemos sido flexibles y podemos serlo también en el futuro siempre y cuando otros sean flexibles.

Entonces, la propuesta mía señor Presidente es: reunámonos lunes y martes o martes y miércoles, como quieran, y hagamos una revisión de lo que nos propone la Secretaría, veamos de qué nos sirve, pero decidamos también desde ya una segunda reunión en la segunda quincena de octubre.

**Adel Mahmoud ABOUL-NAGA (Egypt):** I fully endorse the statement of the Ambassador of Venezuela, even if he did not consult us, but he takes the spirit of all the Group of 77.

Everybody has good will, that is good. Some of us are optimistic, some of us pessimistic, you understand that. Some of us ask what is the new element we have? I think that the Director-General has provided us with a good element. With this good offer of having the Secretariat provide us with a document which takes care of those which we agreed upon in some other forum of the Conference, then we have got a good element, which can help us in doing that, and I fully agree with Ambassador Gerbasi and the Director-General. Let us make some progress.

We do not say that we conclude everything in this trial. We have the facilities, we have the time, we have already paid costs for the interpreters, let us use them for a trial, to see how much we will progress. The new element, this document which is proposed by the DG, is most welcome. I have on so many occasions asked for the Secretariat to have a more active role as a catalyst to our association.

Yes, the thing is in our hands but we need their help, we need their facilitators. They are here to do that so I welcome very much this initiative and I think now we have a new element to work with.

**A. M. M. SHAWKAT ALI (Bangladesh):** I think the meeting of the CFS should resume, as has been proposed by G77. In addition, in order to avoid further confusion of the text I would propose, on the basis of the statement given by the Director-General, which should be taken as a guide, that the issues like trade, good governance, reproductive services, human rights which have been settled in other fora should not be re-opened here.

Finally, the primary duty of the next meeting of the CFS should be to remove the existing brackets on the basis of the discussions that we had here in the Council.



**Mame BALLA SY (Observateur du Sénégal):** Monsieur le Président, je crois que le Groupe des 77 prouve son état d'esprit comme l'a souligné l'Égypte. Sans consultation, nous sommes au moins toujours d'accord sur la manière positive de faire avancer l'objectif du Sommet. Je suis d'autant plus heureux de la proposition faite par le Directeur général que souvent peut-être nous évitons ou nous manquons de regarder les textes qui devraient nous guider. Si nous reprenons le texte de la Résolution qui a convoqué ce Sommet, à l'introduction au paragraphe 49, il est dit que la Conférence est convenue que, fondamentalement, le Sommet de l'alimentation devrait tenir compte du consensus auquel sont déjà parvenues d'autres conférences internationales sur des questions ayant une incidence sur la sécurité alimentaire, sans ouvrir à nouveau les débats y relatifs.

Je crois que cette proposition mérite d'être vue, ce qui nous permettra, comme il l'a si bien dit, de comprendre pourquoi nous nous heurtons sur certaines questions. J'ajouterai même que le dernier paragraphe de cette résolution nous donne un début de solution de compromis sur une question très vitale car on demande que le Comité de sécurité alimentaire (CSA) fasse rapport, par l'intermédiaire du Conseil et de la Conférence en 1997, sur tous les aspects du Sommet mondial et de son suivi. C'est pour dire que nous avons vraiment des prémices, des possibilités de nous mettre rapidement d'accord sur la proposition du Groupe des 77. C'est pourquoi je voudrais vous proposer une chose: que vous posiez la question suivante au lieu de poursuivre le débat. Est-ce qu'il y a une délégation qui s'oppose à cette proposition de se réunir la semaine prochaine pour essayer de voir ce qui est proposé, ce que cela peut nous rapporter, et de nous mettre d'accord aujourd'hui sur une date où le CSA pourrait reprendre au cours de la deuxième semaine d'octobre ?

Je crois que c'est très concret, très réaliste et conforme à ce que nous devons faire. Je pense qu'il suffit maintenant de prendre une décision parce que l'état général est que nous sommes déterminés à poursuivre les négociations dans les meilleures conditions possibles. Il faudrait être très concret. Je vous remercie.

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Quizá la respuesta a su pregunta de si alguien se opone a que haya una reunión, por lo menos preliminar, la próxima semana la tendremos en algunos momentos. Por otra parte una reunión posterior, quizá, el momento no sea hoy para determinarla sino a raíz de esas consultas que se podrían sostener la próxima semana y que serían, entonces, informadas al Consejo más adelante.

**David BEEHAN (Ireland):** I would like, just to make a few comments on some of the interventions already made. Firstly, in reference to the contribution from the representative from Mexico. In our view, we are not facing a political problem as he suggested. We are, at this stage, looking for the most appropriate timing for finalizing the documents that will be adopted by the Summit and I think the political will can not be put at stake in this process.

There is no link between finalizing a document, two weeks or one week, before the Summit and the problem of 800 million people suffering from hunger. What is before us is to do it right and to have it ready at the appropriate time. A re-commitment to eradication poverty and hunger, does not depend on a date a document is ready.

I noted the Director-General's contribution and I acknowledged the passion, interest and belief he has in the fight against hunger and that he has in ensuring that this is a successful Summit. However, I think we should not be pessimistic at this stage.

He did refer to other conferences and summits and that only two of them were for Heads of State and Government. I was at neither but as we stand now, at the state of preparedness that we are in, we have a text which has been considerably cleaned. We do know, that between now and the Summit, we will revisit that text to make it cleaner and we would hope that by the time the high level officials meet that the issues may be down to a number in very low, single figures. But, the reality is there are a few important, sensitive issues which we think will need resolution by high

level officials. But, we should be encouraged that in the process which we are now in, in my view and my member's views, there is no danger to the Summit, if we walk within the right framework. I think that when we revisit the text we will clean it to the extent that by the time the Summit opens, on the thirteenth of November, we will have a clean text. I think that would be a major achievement.

I would like to, unfortunately, refer to a comment by the representative of the G77 and I must say that I am disappointed that he questions the good will of the European Union. I am also disappointed that he saw fit to single out one group. We, I can assure you, are committed and the preparatory process in which we have gone, to date, and the time and money and effort by the National Experts in this preparatory process, should demonstrate the commitment on our part.

With regard to the meeting next week, as I said before, we are not talking about a question of time and by putting people into rooms will not solve the problems. We have to be in a position that we can take decisions.

I would like to refer back to the Norwegian intervention when they talked about tension would be heightened by the Summit and you referred to frustrations. I think we have to distinguish between frustration and tension towards the end of a very long negotiating period which ended on Tuesday morning. There were frustrations but we must acknowledge that we are all human, that we all put in a lot of work overload from the Friday, week before-hand. The Secretariat put in a lot of work. The Bureau. But you can only take a thing so far in one long, long step in which that was. But having said that, we achieved a lot.

Now it is our view, that before we are in a position to push forward and delete a large number of brackets further, that a certain process has to take place. We have to be realistic about this by just pushing people and time and effort at it now, will not take away the brackets in the way we would hope. We think that when the process of people having time to consult and reflect a little bit that then, if we reassemble that we can make significant progress.

In summary we would have major doubts that a meeting next week would be a good use of time and would achieve a lot.

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Efectivamente el ejercicio que estábamos haciendo aquí, es un ejercicio que busca ser útil a un propósito y ese es el que el Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria cumpla con el mandato y la Cumbre sea un éxito. Todos por unanimidad han manifestado su voluntad de continuar con ese proceso y de tener una Cumbre exitosa. No ha habido uno que se haya pronunciado en contra de este propósito. Todos los delegados aquí han manifestado su voluntad de hacerlo y en ese sentido el Consejo y los observadores unánimemente lo han declarado. Si el ejercicio que estamos haciendo debe ser útil, entonces, debemos concretizarlo a propuestas que puedan ser viables. Ha habido una propuesta del Presidente del Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria que ha sido apoyada por una mayoría y que ha sido modalizada de la manera siguiente: se propone, que el Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria, realice consultas, quizá el lunes de la próxima semana, y que pueda reunirse, quizá el martes y miércoles de la próxima semana, con el propósito de estudiar si se puede avanzar conforme a lo que ha expresado el Director General y en virtud de que muchas de las cuestiones que están en tela de juicio se refieren a temas que han sido tratados en otras conferencias, en otras ocasiones y sobre las cuales hay ya una redacción específica, si pueden avanzar para decidir *ad referendum* en torno a muchos de los corchetes que aún tiene el texto. Reconocemos que hay otros puntos que son más difíciles de resolver en esas condiciones, pero la otra modalidad es, si es útil el ejercicio que se puede realizar la próxima semana, entonces se llamaría un texto a una segunda ocasión después de que, de manera que *ad referendum* ustedes todos, puedan consultar con sus capitales y en esa otra ocasión más adelante, se pueda estudiar y avanzar en la limpieza del texto. Eso ha sido como lo he entendido yo, una propuesta específica que puede funcionar y que podría ser útil, por lo menos ha sido apoyada por una mayoría aquí.

Distinguidos delegados, como este Consejo tiene que tomar una decisión, debo advertir lo siguiente: en primer lugar, que se ha manifestado la voluntad política de mantener un clima de buena voluntad; en segundo lugar, la voluntad política de concluir con estas negociaciones o avanzar de manera radical para que la Cumbre sea un éxito. Se ha reconocido que es el mandato del Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria, el que tiene la función de concluir con los procedimientos y negociaciones para entregar, entre otras cosas, dos textos a la Cumbre Mundial en noviembre, y que ese mandato es intransferible. Se ha hecho una propuesta modalizada para utilizar el tiempo que, obviamente, puede poner el Consejo a disposición de los miembros del Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria para que estudien a la brevedad la forma más conveniente para avanzar en este proceso y conforme a su responsabilidad. El Consejo tiene tiempo de interpretación y de espacio y de apoyo para que el Comité trabaje en formular, la manera más conveniente para avanzar. Hemos tomado nota de las dificultades que algunos países, o grupos de países, tienen para resolver de inmediato el texto y sus corchetes, pero la fórmula alternativa ha sido propuesta, de decidir *ad referendum* con miras a una ulterior reunión en octubre. La fecha de dicha reunión en octubre, o en el momento en que el Comité lo considere pertinente, sería una, entre otras cuestiones que el Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria podría estudiar la próxima semana. Yo recojo de los debates que hay una mayoría de países inclusive, y me permito aquí incluir por razones obvias, entre los observadores que desean y están disponibles para continuar debatiendo y reunirse, por lo menos con esta modalidad y estas propuestas la próxima semana. La utilidad del ejercicio lo evaluaremos al final de los trabajos del Consejo, pero creo que no debe este Consejo perjudicar la posibilidad, la opción que se le abre de avanzar en los trabajos del Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria.

Entonces, distinguidos delegados, al resumir el debate y reconociendo que no hay unanimidad, pero que sí hay una mayoría de países interesados en continuar el diálogo, propongo lo siguiente: el lunes, el Presidente del Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria tendrá ocasión de reunirse y explorar, la forma, las modalidades en las cuales podría ser útil una reunión del Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria para el martes y el miércoles, entre otras cosas, trabajando sobre la base *ad referendum*, para avanzar en la solución de corchetes, muchos de los cuales se refieren a temas que han sido tratados en otras ocasiones y que no directamente se vinculan con los problemas de la seguridad alimentaria, como están recogidas en el propio Plan de Acción. Asimismo, la reunión que eventualmente se celebraría a raíz de las consultas que llevaría a cabo el Presidente del Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria, tendría como unos objetivos fijar la fecha más conveniente y próxima, para que se reúna dicho Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria y pueda resolver la máxima cantidad de corchetes. La fecha de dicha reunión no está perjudicada, no la está imponiendo este Consejo, es materia, obviamente, de negociación. El tiempo existe, la interpretación existe, el espacio existe, la voluntad política ha sido aquí manifestada.

Distinguidos delegados, esta propuesta que he hecho entiendo no es apoyada por todos, pero el Consejo deber tomar una decisión, y ésta es por lo menos la decisión que el Presidente del Consejo interpreta de la mayoría de las delegaciones que aquí se han manifestado.

**David BEEHAN (Ireland):** I regret having to come in at this stage of our debate and discussion and, maybe, for having to come so often and maybe you will have to call on the floor again for other people to come in. I am not too sure. We, as I have said already, Mr Chairman, need time to prepare for serious negotiations. We have lost a number of days, already, this week awaiting this discussion. I am not saying that it is anybody's fault and we do know the spirit in which people are working but the reality is, we have been here for the last few days awaiting this debate, and we could have used the time in examining the text which is coming out of the CFS and preparing ourselves.

This effort which is proposed for next week, will divert us from getting into our process of serious preparation for serious negotiations. It is not a question of time but if we put time, to talking about how we work, we will jeopardise the process. I think, we have to sit back and be a little bit realistic about what is needed, to ensure that we come to a good and timely conclusion to the

negotiations on the text. A stop-start effort of trying to push things for a couple of days next week, without allowing people the time to go home and consult and reconvene when they, then, have mandates.

I have heard many interventions tonight, saying that this process of reflection and consultation is needed before we can advance. We might meet next week for two or three days, we might take off ten or twelve brackets but the reality is where there are issues of reasonable substance. I am never going to try and identify a soft bracket from a hard bracket because the experience has been that the soft brackets are often more harder than the hard brackets.

The reality is, if we are to look at text that has evolved, some of the options within the text now are text, where there are some of our text, there are some of G77 text, there are some of North American text, they are mixtures of text where we all try to make an effort of compromise. We have, where there are brackets within text, the issues have been partially resolved. We need time to look at these, to see if we can bring it a step further and the time that will be used in what is being proposed for next week, will divert many of us from the serious business of preparing for serious negotiation.

I say it from my heart.

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Distinguido delegado, muchas gracias por su observación. Yo he entendido dos cosas: una, porque hemos perdido el tiempo en los debates del Consejo antes de estudiar el texto del Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria, no entendí eso; y la segunda cuestión que no entendí es porque el Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria podría perder el tiempo pensando la forma en que continuaría trabajando, quizá fue un problema de traducción. Pero usted dijo dos cosas: uno que hemos perdido el tiempo esta semana y la segunda cuestión que dijo es que el Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria perdería el tiempo estudiando cómo organizaría su trabajo futuro. De todas maneras, la propuesta concreta es la siguiente: que el Comité lo estudie exactamente, como lo ha hecho en pasado eliminando corchete por corchete. La propuesta es que decida *ad referendum* de manera que tengan ustedes una oportunidad posterior después de consultar con sus capitales para regresar. Una fórmula que se me ocurre y que ha sido aplicada en otras ocasiones es que el Presidente con la mesa, el Comité haga estas propuestas *ad referendum*. Ustedes no tienen que sentarse necesariamente a decidir que corchetes blandos van a poner o quitar, simplemente el texto se facilitará para su consulta ulterior.

En fin, hay varias posibilidades, por eso yo proponía el Presidente del Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria pueda explorar el lunes y, evaluar si verdaderamente el martes existen las condiciones para un debate de este tipo conforme a esa modalidad que ha sido apoyada aquí por una mayoría. No sé a qué podemos temerle.

Distinguidos delegados, yo creo que es tiempo de llegar a una decisión.

**Thomas Austin FORBORD (United States of America):** Your latest version of this proposal is slightly different than what I was hearing earlier and I have a lot more interest in the earlier proposal.

The Director-General had indicated that the Secretariat was preparing some text of agreed language from earlier Conferences. We have advocated several times at the CFS meeting last week the use of agreed language from earlier Conferences as not only the easiest, but probably the best solution, to a number of disagreements we have in the text. We would like to have a chance to see the Secretariat's agreed language, we would like to know when it is going to be ready, we will need to send that to Washington and get their reaction.

If it is ready tonight, we may have a reaction by Monday. That would be very tight but we will need reaction from Washington; others will need reaction from capitals, I am sure, as well.

I do not think consulting on Monday on what we do on Tuesday would be very useful but I think that, as soon as we start getting reactions from capitals on these proposals, consultations among ourselves on whether they do lead us out of a problem may be more useful. Then we could meet on Tuesday and Wednesday to learn reactions from capitals and areas where everybody agrees that the earlier text is still acceptable; we put it into the document and eliminate the brackets.

I do not like the idea of working *ad referendum*. If language is not agreed, it simply is not agreed. If we agree with advice from capitals that it could be done, I think we do it. To be clear what the status is, I think it has to stay in brackets, but we would be prepared to come here on Tuesday to give you reaction to language if we can get that language very quickly.

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Me parece muy bien, distinguido delegado de los Estados Unidos. Yo retiro esa modalidad que había propuesto a raíz de alguna intervención.

**LE DIRECTEUR GENERAL:** Je dois dire que nous avons déjà préparé un premier texte pour quatre paragraphes. Malheureusement, pour le moment, il n'est qu'en anglais, mais nous sommes en train de le faire traduire et sous réserve des réactions, nous serions prêts à vous proposer d'autres textes. Pour l'instant, nous avons des textes que nous pouvons vous donner immédiatement, pour que vous ayez le temps de les communiquer à vos capitales et de les consulter. Naturellement vous ne serez pas surpris que nous ayons commencé par ce qui nous semblait poser le moins de problème parce que nous étions en terrain beaucoup plus solide et nous étions dans des domaines où nous avions des textes très précis approuvés dans d'autres réunions. Nous sommes prêts, si vous le souhaitez, à continuer le même travail et à vous donner aussi d'autres textes élaborés en tenant compte des formulations qui ont été approuvées à l'occasion d'autres conférences internationales.

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Muchas gracias, Director General por esta información. Yo creo que los miembros del Consejo y los observadores esperan con cierta ansiedad estos textos que serán distribuidos a la brevedad en todos los idiomas.

**Ms Turid KONGSVIK (Norway):** I just wanted to make a point on the ways we proceed to make decisions. Up to now we have had some quite difficult issues, also on procedure, during the process but it has always been the attitude of everybody that we should resolve them with consensus. I would regret very much that we go away from that principle and try to impose the majority vote when many groups and countries have difficulties in accepting a majority view. So I hope that Chairman Medrano, who has been very much attached, I know, to this notion of consensus and has solved problems which have come along the way on the consensus basis, I would hope that we can continue to work on that basis also in the future.

**Fernando GERBASI (Venezuela):** Yo simplemente escuché otra interpretación distinta a la suya en las palabras de la delegada de Noruega. Quisiera decir que el consenso es importante, pero el derecho a veto es muy negativo.

**Gilbert DOH-DJANHOUDY (Observateur de la Côte d'Ivoire):** Je voudrais tout particulièrement remercier la présence du Directeur général dans la salle. Depuis le début de ces négociations, nous avons toujours clamé qu'il ne faudrait pas renégocier certains concepts qui ont déjà fait l'objet d'autres conférences et d'autres sommets. C'est pourquoi, je voudrais insister et faire la proposition suivante: que la déclaration du Directeur général, surtout sa dernière déclaration, soit publiée, que cela tienne lieu d'une lanterne pour de futures négociations sur les crochets qui restent, accompagnée bien sûr des textes qui nous sont proposés de manière à ce qu'en les examinant, l'on puisse avoir à l'esprit cette importante déclaration qui peut même faire partie du document de travail qui reste à faire.

**EL PRESIDENTE:** El lunes se dedicará a hacer las consultas por parte del Director General y del Presidente del Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria; martes y miércoles se reunirá el Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria y establecerá los puntos a tratar en dicha reunión. El Consejo tiene tiempo y se lo ofrece al Comité para estos propósitos.

**The meeting rose at 19. 50 hours**

**La séance est levée à 19 h 50**

**Se levanta la sesión a las 19. 50 horas**

7 October 1996



منظمة الأغذية  
والزراعة  
للأمم المتحدة

联合国  
粮食及  
农业组织

Food  
and  
Agriculture  
Organization  
of  
the  
United  
Nations

Organisation  
des  
Nations  
Unies  
pour  
l'alimentation  
et  
l'agriculture

Organización  
de las  
Naciones  
Unidas  
para la  
Agricultura  
y la  
Alimentación

Council

Conseil

Consejo

Hundred and Eleventh Session • Cent onzième session • 111° período de sesiones

SEVENTH PLENARY MEETING  
SEPTIEME SEANCE PLENIERE  
SEPTIMA SESION PLENARIA

7 October 1996

The Seventh Plenary Meeting was opened at 10. 00 hours  
Mr. José Ramón López Portillo,  
Independent Chairman of the Council, presiding

La septième séance plénière est ouverte à 10 h 00  
sous la présidence de M. José Ramón López Portillo,  
Président indépendant du Conseil

Se abre la séptima sesión plenaria a las 10. 00 horas  
bajo la presidencia del Sr. José Ramón López Portillo,  
Presidente Independiente del Consejo

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Buenos días distinguidos delegados. Se abre la séptima sesión plenaria del Consejo. Distinguidos delegados espero que hayan tenido un buen fin de semana y que se encuentren descansados. Deseo hacerles varios anuncios conforme a la decisión tomada por el Consejo el día jueves.

En primer lugar, el Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria se reunirá el día de mañana a las 9. 30 horas en esta sala.

En segundo lugar, respecto de nuestra Orden del Día, deseo llamar la atención del Tema 20, "Otros Asuntos". El distinguido Observador de Turquía ha pedido la palabra para hacer una declaración a propósito del Congreso Forestal Mundial que se celebrará en Antalia Turquía, del 13 al 22 de octubre del próximo año 1997.

En tercer lugar, les recuerdo que está pendiente el tema 6 de nuestra agenda, relativo a los recursos genéticos. Había un proyecto de resolución que fue presentado por tres países. Ustedes cuentan con una copia de ese proyecto desde la semana pasada. Como les había advertido, se constituirá un grupo de trabajo para estudiarlo. Yo propuse que este grupo de trabajo tuviera una participación limitada, que no fuera un grupo excesivamente grande. No quiero predeterminar el número pero sí les pido a cada uno de los representantes regionales, o a los presidentes de cada región que se consulten con sus miembros con el propósito de que dentro de los miembros del Consejo, se identifiquen a unos cuantos, pocos si es posible, representantes de cada región, de preferencia dos o tres de cada región, para que participen en los trabajos del grupo que estudiará el proyecto de resolución sobre recursos fitogenéticos, el día de mañana en la Sala Líbano a las 9. 30 horas. Hoy en la tarde, que en principio tendremos libre como Consejo, podremos entrar en contacto con los presidentes de los grupos regionales y con otros representantes para identificar a los miembros que participarán en el grupo de trabajo.

Otro anuncio importante es el siguiente, ustedes recordarán que el día jueves el Director General había prometido distribuir una propuesta de texto basado en documentos internacionales ya existentes. Dichos documentos se encuentran ya disponibles en todos los idiomas en la mesa de documentos. La razón por la cual no fue distribuido ayer es porque no estaban en todos los idiomas.

**David BEEHAN (Ireland):** Just a comment on the announcement about the CFS beginning tomorrow and Wednesday before I go into my statement. I understood that we were to have some consultations today, I thought this was agreed, but however it is just a comment.

Ireland, Mr Chairman, in its role as presidency of the European Union, presents this statement on behalf of the European Community and its fifteen Member States.

We regret, Mr Chairman, that we feel obliged to present a formal statement, in response to certain reactions of the platform to the interventions on the preparatory process of the World Food Summit, made on behalf of the European Union and a number of other members, at the Council on the afternoon of Thursday 3 October.

It is clear that we all share, whole-heartedly, a concern to achieve a consensual text which will lead the world forward in the effort to help resolving the problems of hunger and malnutrition. Up to this point, all concerned have put in an enormous effort and have worked together successfully, in developing the text for the Policy Statement and the Plan of Action that we now have before us. This represents an excellent progress, but our concern is to see that progress continues in resolving the remaining issues. A good atmosphere and consensus are essential to the process and these prevailed, throughout our considerations of text, in the technical group established by the CFS.



It is with sadness that we observed a change of atmosphere in the Council debate on Thursday afternoon, during our discussion on procedural matters that, unfortunately, became confrontational. Our concern was solely to find the best practical way forward, leading to a successful conclusion and this remains our paramount concern.

It is most regrettable that differences of opinion, on the process, were portrayed as being a lack of commitment to the fight against hunger of the world. We cannot believe that our commitment in this respect is in question, neither can there be any doubt on the contribution that the European Union makes to FAO and all its activities. We do not wish to see the Summit, to which we all attach enormous importance, put in jeopardy because we moved away from the traditional principle by which agreement is reached.

I would repeat, Mr Chairman, our conviction that to cap our efforts to the success that we are all so ardently committed, demands a positive spirit and an acknowledgement, of the necessity of moving forward on the basis of consensus. We are confident that this process will lead us to a final text in due time and before the Summit. Now, we feel it would be better for all parties to have a break to reflect and re-energize themselves.

On the matters of substance, referred to last Thursday, I should like to make very clear that the European Union takes extremely seriously, as prerequisites for sustainable food security, the need for democracy, good governance and human rights, and the essential relevance to food security, particularly, at household level, of improved reproductive health, advice and services.

We are particularly concerned that there was no attempt to develop a consensus which should be an inherent part in the process of preparing for the Summit, and in line with the tradition of the United Nations. Despite this, we are prepared to participate in the CFS over the next two days in a very positive manner.

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Muchas gracias distinguido Representante de Irlanda. El Consejo toma nota de declaración que usted ha hecho en nombre de quince países de la Unión Europea. El Consejo debatió este tema el jueves y tomó una decisión que no veo como una confrontación sino como una decisión que necesariamente el Consejo tenía que tomar. Esa decisión fue tomada y le agradezco a usted la expresión de buena voluntad, de buena fe y de participación en nombre de los Estados que usted representa. Esto abre, la posibilidad de continuar de manera fructífera el trabajo de ese Comité que está investido con la responsabilidad de concluir sus trabajos antes de a la celebración de la Cumbre.

No deseo abrir el debate sobre un asunto que ya ha sido tratado. El Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria informará el día jueves al Consejo sobre el resultado de lo que hayan discutido en estos dos días que el Consejo ha puesto a su consideración. Paso de inmediato al Tema 7 de nuestra agenda. Les repito distinguidos delegados, no voy a abrir el debate sobre un tema que ha sido ya terminado y las declaraciones aquí hechas no constarán en el informe en esa parte.

**Andrew Keith PEARSON (Australia):** It is certainly not to reopen discussions on this last point, but I wish to just pick up on some of your comments earlier in relation to the Plant Genetic Resources Drafting Group.

The Southwest Pacific has one Council Member. Obviously, it is very important that they participate fully in both the Council and now the meetings of the CFS that are due to start at the same time tomorrow morning. Could I just raise, please, the problem that clash is going to cause and ask that some consideration be given to the fact that, trying to be in two or three places at the same time on very important issues, is going to be a little beyond us.

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Tomo nota de lo que me ha dicho, seguramente otras delegaciones tendrán su mismo problema. Yo, hoy en la tarde como les había dicho, entraré en contacto con los representantes de los grupos regionales y a la luz de esas discusiones determinaremos, entonces, el momento más apropiado para reunirnos, de manera que no se intervenga con el Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria. De cualquier manera, deseo informarles que ya teníamos preparada una sala e interpretación para mañana; sino pueden reunirse buscaré una nueva oportunidad y espero poderse transmitir antes de que termine la mañana del día de hoy. Le agradezco por informarnos de la indisponibilidad de su delegación.

**David BEEHAN (Ireland):** I am sorry for slowing down your work of this morning. I just want to clarify: our statement will be included in the report of the Council.

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Distinguido delegado, el jueves concluimos con un proceso de negociación que terminó en una decisión del Consejo. Su declaración se presenta después de haber tomadouna decisión y por tanto deberá ser recogido en el informe, aunque no estemos debatiendo esa parte. En todo caso, su presentación está en el *verbatim* del Consejo, pero quiero que tome en cuenta, usted no puede referirse a un punto que ha sido clausurado y luego decir que su posición no fue discutida entonces.

## **II. WORLD FOOD AND AGRICULTURE SITUATION (continued)**

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

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

#### **7. Report on the Progress of Negotiations on an International Legally-Binding Instrument for the Application of the Prior Informed Consent (PIC) Procedure for certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade**

#### **7. Rapport sur l'état d'avancement des négociations relatives à l'élaboration d'un instrument international juridiquement contraignant propre à assurer l'application de la procédure de l'information et du consentement préalables dans le cas de certaines substances chimiques et de certains pesticides dangereux qui font l'objet d'un commerce international**

#### **7. Informe sobre los progresos realizados en las negociaciones relativas a un instrumento internacional jurídicamente vinculante para la aplicación del procedimiento de información y consentimiento previos a ciertos productos químicos y plaguicidas peligrosos objeto de comercio internacional**

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Pasemos ahora a los informes sobre los progresos realizados en las negociaciones relativas a un instrumento internacional jurídicamente vinculante para la aplicación del procedimiento de Consentimiento Fundamentado Previo, a ciertos productos químicos y plaguicidas peligrosos, objeto de comercio internacional. Los documentos que tienen ustedes son el *CL 111/6* el *CL 111/6 Sup. 1*. El procedimiento de información y consentimiento previo sobre productos químicos prohibidos y rigurosamente restringido, es un programa conjunto entre en PNUMA y la FAO y actualmente el procedimiento es voluntario. El programa conjunto fue establecido por la Conferencia de la FAO y el Consejo de Administración del PNUMA en 1989. La FAO se ocupa principalmente de los plaguicidas en este programa.

**M. S. ZEHNI (Director, Plant Production and Protection Division):** As you indicated, Mr Chairman, in considering this Agenda Item, the Council has before it two documents: CL 111/6 which reports on the early stages of the negotiations, and a supplement was added to report in the meeting which took place in Nairobi, from 16–20 September this year. The supplement, obviously, was prepared after 20 September, so it could not have been advanced. I am sure all of you have got copies of this document which was made available to you here, in all languages.

Mr Chairman, you referred briefly to the background on the negotiations and the discussion and relations between UNEP and FAO. In this regard, I need not add to that, except to say that FAO and UNEP operate since 1989, the voluntary Prior Informed Consent Procedure for certain hazardous chemicals, including pesticides, in international trade. In this procedure, FAO chiefly addresses pesticides, while UNEP deals mostly with other chemicals.

In relation to pesticides, the procedure provides information on pesticides that are banned or severely restricted for human health or environmental reasons and on pesticide formulations that cannot be handled safely in developing countries. This procedure allows countries to make their informed decisions whether they wish to receive such compounds in future, while exporting countries should take measures, within their authority, to ensure that pesticides are not exported against the decisions of importing countries. Currently, 145 countries participate in the PIC. Twelve pesticides are included in the procedure, six will enter the procedure soon, and a further five are under consideration.

Turning now to the documents, Mr Chairman, they report on the progress in the negotiation to transform the voluntary procedures into a legally binding one. The first document traces the process in FAO and UNEP leading to the negotiations, including the recommendation by UNCED and the Commission on Sustainable Development and the decision by the 107th FAO Council and the 19th UNEP Governing Council. It also reviews the progress made during the first Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee held in Brussels, in March 1996. The Supplement Document reports on the progress made during the second session of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee held in Nairobi, last month, as I referred earlier.

The document also refers to parallel or other ongoing international discussions in the field of pesticides and chemicals' management. Two in particular are worth mentioning:

1. The international banning or severe restriction of Persistent Organic Pollutants, the so-called POPs. Most are chlorinated hydrocarbon pesticides that are persistent and accumulate in the environment. The compounds presently considered are of little importance to agriculture any more. Criteria for the inclusion of future compounds will be more important to agriculture.
2. The second area of negotiation is the further measures to reduce the risk from a limited group of hazardous chemicals.

In this regard, it is likely that the UNEP Governing Council will establish an Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee for POPs while discussions on further measures will continue. So we have two parallel activities.

Mr Chairman, although progress in the negotiations for the PIC procedure has been substantial, the second meeting has shown that the process cannot be concluded in three sessions of the International Negotiating Committee as was originally foreseen and planned. A number of delegations wished to have additional meetings as quickly as possible, with one additional meeting before the UNEP Governing Council, which will be held at the end of January 1997. Others believed that this was unrealistic. It should also be noted that additional meetings will also require further financing over and above the reimbursement of the UNEP environmental fund for the costs of the second International Negotiating Committee.

At this point, Mr Chairman, I would like to report that the collaboration between FAO and UNEP Secretariats, at all the various stages of this process, has been exemplary and I would like to take this opportunity to express our sincere appreciation.

As the negotiations proceeded, there emerged a number of views amongst governments relating to the scope and the coverage of the Convention. Some countries wish to modify the mandate for and

scope of the current negotiating, mandating the negotiation of a more comprehensive framework Convention embracing the PIC as well as others such as POPs, which I referred to earlier. In considering the merits of such broadening of the scope of the present negotiations, the Council may wish to take into account, on the one hand, the fact that all these matters are closely related, which may argue in favour of a more comprehensive agreement. On the other hand, the Council may wish to note that such a widening of the scope of the negotiations may well lead to considerable delays in concluding the negotiations, as well as the possible implications for the present arrangements for a joint FAO/UNEP Secretariat, in the negotiation process and indeed for the PIC procedure itself. In this context, it should be taken into account that the view of Ministries of Agriculture on pesticide availability and use is important, which may call for a continuing major role for FAO in this process.

I should conclude here by saying that we are looking forward to the views and guidance of the Council and remain at your disposal for any clarification or further information.

**Nasreddine RIMOUCHE (Algérie):** Permettez-moi d'abord de remercier et féliciter le Secrétariat pour la préparation du document, notamment en ce qui concerne l'actualisation du document *CL 111/6* à la lumière des résultats de la réunion de Nairobi. Je remercie particulièrement M. Zehni pour son exposé introductif sur le document et les explications fournies au sujet des questions qui y sont traitées. L'examen du rapport sur l'état d'avancement des négociations relatives à l'élaboration d'un instrument juridiquement contraignant, propre à assurer l'application de la procédure de l'information et du consentement préalable, dans le cas de certaines substances chimiques et de certains pesticides dangereux qui font l'objet d'un commerce international, me donne l'occasion de faire quelques commentaires et remarques qui découlent tout naturellement de l'importance particulière qu'attache mon pays à cette question.

Je relèverai de prime abord et avec regrets les difficultés qui persistent pour parvenir à un texte définitif, notamment pour ce qui est des divergences sur les questions de la procédure de notification des exportations de pesticides et d'autres produits chimiques interdits à l'intérieur des frontières et également pour ce qui est de l'assistance technique. Quelques mois seulement nous séparent de la tenue de la Conférence diplomatique en vue de l'adoption et de la signature d'une Convention ICP. C'est dire qu'aucun effort ne devrait être épargné pour activer et accélérer le processus de négociations afin d'en garantir l'indispensable succès. Il est non seulement vital de notifier les exportations de pesticides et d'autres produits chimiques interdits à l'intérieur des frontières, mais il est également nécessaire d'adopter des lois visant à interdire leur exportation. S'il est vrai que les pays en développement n'ont pas suffisamment de moyens pour évaluer les risques inhérents à l'utilisation de nombreux produits chimiques, il est cependant nécessaire de prévoir une formation et une assistance technique et financière pour ces pays, notamment en ce qui concerne l'évaluation des risques et la détermination des produits chimiques de remplacement soumis à la procédure ICP et de les aider à développer leur infrastructure qui leur permette d'assurer la gestion de ces produits. A notre avis, la création d'un fonds pour financer l'assistance technique devrait retenir l'attention particulière de la FAO et du Programme des Nations Unies pour l'environnement.

M. le Président, s'agissant du lien à établir entre les négociations ICP et d'autres débats et négociations, notamment en ce qui concerne un mécanisme international intégré par importance sur la gestion des substances chimiques dangereuses, nous estimons qu'une réflexion sérieuse et un examen exhaustif de cette question sont nécessaires. Ma délégation tient, à cette occasion, à réaffirmer son attachement à l'intégrité du mandat de la FAO et considère que sa participation à des négociations autres que celles relatives à l'information et au consentement préalable, notamment pour ce qui est des polluants organiques persistants, traduit l'importance du rôle qu'elle peut jouer pour faciliter les échanges d'informations entre les pays eux-mêmes ou entre les pays et les organisations internationales concernés, sachant que les pays importateurs de produits chimiques et de pesticides ont toujours besoin d'informations et d'une assistance supplémentaire. Enfin, pour

nous, pays en développement, la FAO revêt aujourd'hui une importance toute particulière. La portée de son mandat, sa composition universelle font de cette institution un cadre privilégié pour sa participation à d'autres négociations, ainsi que pour jouer un rôle important dans un futur secrétariat qui s'efforcera dans des occasions idoines de conforter les acquis enregistrés, ce qui nous amène à appuyer les initiatives susceptibles d'accroître les capacités opérationnelles de la FAO, d'en renforcer l'efficacité et de lui permettre de s'acquitter au mieux de son mandat. Je crois, M. le Président, que j'ai donné mon point de vue sur les quatre points figurant dans la conclusion et en même temps soumis la décision et à l'avis du Conseil.

**Henry WOOD (Ghana):** My delegation is grateful to Dr Zehni and the FAO Secretariat for the lucid report on the progress of the INC/PIC negotiations.

Ghana participated in the Second Session of the INC/PIC, held in Nairobi from 16 to 20 September 1996. Let me first mention that FAO, UNEP and the Government of Kenya deserve to be commended for convening a very successful conference. The Nairobi Conference had a lot of contentious issues to deal with. Notwithstanding rigid positions taken by the various delegations, due to the sensitive nature of the issues at stake, the negotiation to develop a legally-binding instrument on the operation of the PIC procedure was held in a spirit of give and take, understanding, appreciation and sensitivity to the views and consensus of all countries that participated.

For Ghana and the developing world, we have a vested interest in the outcome of the negotiations because of our desire to ensure the sustainability of our environment for agriculture and socio-economic development. A legally-binding instrument on the PIC procedure will enable the developing countries to determine which chemicals and pesticides they can safely accept in their territories for agriculture and other purposes. What we will require most is technical assistance and cooperation from the developed countries and relevant international organizations to develop national capacities in order to give real meaning to the Convention. From our assessment of the Nairobi meeting, and as Dr Zehni rightly reported, two more sessions would be required to finalize a legally-binding instrument for adoption and signature. We are not unmindful of the financial difficulties involved in organizing these sessions, but the benefits to be derived from the conclusion and adoption of such an instrument are enormous. Ghana will therefore urge FAO and UNEP not to lose sight of the momentum gained at Nairobi and to convene, at the earliest opportunity, the third INC to proceed with negotiations which will ultimately lead to the achievement of the mandate issued by the UNEP Governing Council and the FAO Conference.

Ghana wishes to commend FAO and UNEP for the exemplary collaboration and the efforts to bring into fruition a legally-binding instrument for certain hazardous chemicals and pesticides.

Much as we support the view that states should not employ measures that will limit the free flow of international trade, we are of the conviction that trade in chemicals and pesticides should be conducted by all states in the manner that would not endanger health, environment and, above all, food security of nations, particularly the developing countries. It is for this reason that Ghana enjoins members of the international community, particularly Member States of the FAO, to participate actively in the third INC and to adopt and to sign the instrument for the application of the PIC procedure, when it is finally concluded, hopefully in early 1997.

**N. SHIBANI (Syria) (Original language Arabic):** I would like to thank the Secretariat for the excellent presentation just made, and also we thank the Secretariat for efforts made in order to achieve an international legally-binding instrument for the utilization of certain hazardous chemicals and pesticides. We would also like to praise FAO and UNEP for their exemplary cooperation.

Very briefly, we shall highlight some issues.

My Delegation calls for continuous efforts in order to adopt an international legally-binding instrument in this field. We would like also to say that extra efforts are required, especially in connection with some problems that are still outstanding, namely, information related to exports of products which are locally banned -- Export Notification Scheme, if you like -- and other matters. Now this is a very sensitive issue; it is multifaceted and multifarious, international in character and therefore solutions are needed. We would like to choose the solution which aims at establishing a general framework for the treaty and the addition of complementary protocols later on, and this within a very clearly set timetable, starting with the most important and most sensitive issues.

Finally, we can only thank organizations and governments which are financially and logistically supporting INC sessions. I mention here FAO, UNEP, the European Union, the Government of Switzerland.

**Luis DELGADO SANCHO (EEC):** The European Community and its Member States consider that a constructive step has been made at the second session of the Intergovernmental Negotiation Committee for a Legally-binding Instrument for the PIC Procedure.

Now that the text of the future Instrument has been discussed in detail, participating countries now have a clear picture of the reciprocal point of view and concerns, which is the necessary step to achieve further progress. Notwithstanding, much work still remains to be done in order to make the various positions converge.

In this regard, the European Community and its Member States reconfirm its position recently expressed in Nairobi, in particular, with regard to the Export Notification Scheme. Whilst standing firm in the objective of including the Export Notification in the Convention, the European Community and its Member States are willing to consider some flexibility in the content of such a scheme, in order to take into account the concern expressed by some delegations.

Concerning the scope of the Convention, the European Community and its Member States deem appropriate at this stage to draft the relevant provisions of the Instrument in a way that can accommodate possible future developments, should the relevant international organizations decide to extend the scope of the present Convention.

In the meantime, the Intergovernmental Negotiation Committee (INC) should continue focusing its attention on the elaboration of practical and operational procedures to implement the PIC procedure.

With regard to the time of the next session of the INC, if, on the one hand, we share the point of view of finalizing the PIC Instrument as soon as possible, on the other hand, we deem it appropriate to spend the necessary time to elaborate a text which may be acceptable to most delegations. Therefore, we consider it untimely to hold the next session in December, as proposed in Nairobi.

**Pereira A. SILIMA (Tanzania):** My Delegation wishes to thank the FAO Secretariat for the preparation of this very important document regarding the distribution and use of chemicals and pesticides that are banned and restricted. This proposed agenda, when adopted, will be of crucial importance in the preservation of the environment, humankind and the microfauna.

My Delegation concurs with the views of the various for a which have been held by FAO and UNEP, and even others -- as paragraph 3 of this agenda -- for the initiation of an effective, legally-binding Instrument concerning the PIC Procedure.

The distribution and use of hazardous and persistent organic pollutants pose a more serious threat to developing countries, where they easily find their way, due to the inadequate capacity for their safe use and management. These chemicals are normally dumped without having been effectively used, after expiry, causing increased risks to consumers, as the technology for their destruction is non-

existent. It is for these apparent reasons that my Delegation would like the efforts being exerted by the international community to be accelerated in order to develop the proposed legally-binding Instrument.

The efforts of FAO and UNEP in the execution of the voluntary Prior Informed Consent procedure need no emphasis in the provision and exchange of information on chemicals in international trade. The mandate now vested in UNEP to conduct negotiations in pursuit of the development of a legally-binding instrument is crucial and timely for controlling the trade of products. Sources of funding for these important legal aspects should be provided by all concerned agencies, for their effective implementation. It is the opinion of my Delegation that the UNEP Governing Council will decide on the development of the legally-binding document by January 1997.

My country is benefitting from the use of the International Code of Conduct on the Distribution and Use of Pesticides, as provided by FAO. Its application, as in many developing countries, has been limited by several factors, which are physical, human and financial resources. New chemicals are tested before registration. With the introduction of a legally-binding Instrument, restricted or banned chemicals and pesticides will not find entry into the country. While this procedure is still in the pipeline, my country has developed comprehensive plant protection legislation which, *in alia*, will strengthen chemical and pesticide testing, registration and inspection for their safe use. The harmonized system is intended to control the entry of undesirable chemicals which are not approved by the international community.

The international legally-binding Instrument will greatly enhance our national efforts. Apart from the above, activities involved in the diversification and limited use of chemicals and pesticides obviously include the use of Integrated Pest Management and biological control.

My Delegation holds the opinion that the role of FAO should remain limited to the issues related to the management of pesticides. However, FAO should be fully involved in the negotiations for an integrated international legal mechanism. The possible role of FAO in future Secretariats should be co-shared with UNEP while FAO chiefly will deal with pesticides.

**Kamaruzzaman ALIAS (Malaysia):** Malaysia supports the development of a legally-binding Instrument for the application of the PIC procedure through a Convention which would have control over imports of unwanted chemicals that have been banned or severely restricted in the country of origin in order to protect human health and the environment. Such a convention would promote shared responsibility between exporting and importing countries in applying the procedure.

While we support the objectives of the Convention, however, there are certain areas on which Malaysia wishes to express its reservations to the Council at this meeting for its consideration. We are not without some concern over the proposed inclusion of the concept of prohibitions and phase-outs of PIC-listed chemicals in the Convention. This, in our opinion, is beyond the scope of the legally-binding application of the PIC procedure anticipated by us. Malaysia notes, with concern, that at the expert meeting in Copenhagen in 1996 it was agreed that concerted global action to ban or phase out all uses or production should not be necessary to address the local problems of chemicals which are distributed internationally. In this regard, Malaysia is of the opinion that countries should be given the sovereign right to make decisions regarding a PIC-listed chemical within its own domestic boundaries and legislations. With regard to procedures and criteria for identification of chemicals that should be included in, or taken out, of the PIC procedure, Malaysia is concerned that such procedures may turn out to be so stringent as to make it difficult for a party or country to comply: that is, should they wish to nominate a chemical for inclusion in or withdrawal from the PIC list. This may be more so for developing countries with limited resources and expertise at their disposal which may thus find the procedures and conditions to be burdensome and impracticable.

Malaysia would not like to see the procedures simplified to such an extent that the scientific basis for inclusion or withdrawal of a chemical from the list becomes insignificant or doubtful. Such being the case, we recommend that the procedures should be well balanced, well defined and most importantly, workable.

In conclusion, while this Instrument should be compatible with the 1994 General Agreement of Tariffs and Trade and related World Trade Organization agreements such as the Technical Barriers to Trade Agreement and Agreement on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Standards, Malaysia feels that it should not be a hinderance to trade itself. We note that the PIC procedure is aimed at assisting developing countries to make decisions on acceptable levels of wastes from hazardous substances. It should not become a tool to impose actions which may be deemed unacceptable or unfair to such countries in the long run.

**Ralph BRESLER (United States of America):** The US supports an early conclusion to the PIC Agreement. However, in our view this should not come at the expense of a good agreement. In this respect, it is now clear that the original goal of three sessions is unrealistic and, as other speakers have noted, additional sessions will be necessary.

We continue to believe that the only way we can get a quick conclusion to the PIC negotiations is to concentrate on making the voluntary procedure mandatory. That is to say, a clean PIC. Using the negotiations to achieve other objectives is likely to slow down the process considerably. It is also clear that the original objective of funding the PIC, exclusively through donor country contributions, is not an ideal way to manage a negotiation. While several countries have been generous in their support, the negotiations are currently 500, 000 dollars in debt and it will take additional monies to ensure that they are adequately financed. In this regard, we were pleased to note that Switzerland has offered to host another negotiating meeting and to make a generous contribution to the cost of holding that meeting. As some other delegations have already stated, we would agree with them that it would be good to go forward with this meeting sooner rather than later in order not to lose momentum in the negotiations.

As I said, we support an early conclusion to agreements on Prior Informed Consent for Trade and Hazardous Chemicals and on Persistent Organic Pollutants. We believe that the most effective way for these negotiations to reach an early conclusion is to keep them on separate tracks and to keep the discussions focused on the objectives of each agreement. We see the scope and purpose of these instruments as quite different. PIC involves information exchange on a broad range of hazardous chemicals. POPs involve risk-reduction for a sub-set of chemicals which, because of their innate characteristics, present global risks. Because both agreements cover some of the same chemicals, some believe that they should be put under one framework which could then serve as the instrument for future chemicals-related commitments. I believe that the European Union and Syria perhaps alluded to this possibility in their statements.

In our view, negotiating a framework would add a complex and time-consuming aspect to the current negotiations. The negotiations could slow down the entry into force of subsequent agreements on PIC and POPs if we were to try to negotiate a framework convention. PIC and POPs represent negotiations with focused, well-defined objectives. A framework Convention that is open-ended, and to which other commitments could be added at a later stage, or which mixes PIC and POPs together, could make it more difficult for some countries, including the United States, to ratify. The cost of a framework could therefore be lower participation by countries.

We also have concerns about continued participation of technical agencies, such as FAO, under a framework instrument. It has been our experience that the more legalistic a process the less informed it is by appropriate expertise and the more political the discussions tend to be.



We also have questions about whether there are specific POPs are the commitments in the future which would logically fit into such a framework. So far PIC and only agreements for which there has been widespread consensus or any real articulation. This is a very complex and significant issue: it deserves a full discussion among all organizations which could be affected by any broadening of the mandate of the PIC negotiations. As you are aware the International Forum on Chemical Safety will be meeting in February and provides an opportunity to engage the right parties in a substantive discussion. This is precisely the sort of issue that the Forum was created to discuss and we hope that it will be discussed at this time.

Meanwhile, the United States is opposed to any change in the PIC negotiations -- negotiating mandate -- which was set out in UNEP Decision GC18/12 paragraph 2.

**Ronald ROSE (Canada):** Canada would like to congratulate both the FAO and UNEP Secretariats for the excellent work and progress that they have made in the development of the PIC Instrument. The recently held meeting in Nairobi, Kenya, was well attended and made significant progress in the development of the technically complex PIC Instrument.

Secondly, we would like to thank the Swiss delegation for its generous offer to hold an INC meeting in Geneva prior to the next UNEP Governing Council meeting in January 1997.

In our view, the additional meetings are key to fulfilling the FAO and UNEP mandate to finalize the PIC instrument in 1997.

Finally, we would also note our appreciation of the offers from the European Commission and the Government of The Netherlands; through their generosity, the current, narrowly-defined PIC mandate can be met. We recognize that these tentative offers depend on additional resources to meet the full cost of these meetings within the current PIC mandate. Canada continues to believe that the only way to get an early conclusion of a Prior Informed Consent Instrument is by focusing on turning the current voluntary agreement into a legally-binding Instrument.

The reasons for maintaining the current mandate are:

One, funding. Funding is an unresolved issue affecting the narrowly-defined PIC mandate. We wonder how the negotiating sessions of the more complex instrument, such as an integrated legal framework or legal instrument convention, would be financed.

Two, any change of the PIC mandate would lose progress made and may delay fulfilling the objective of a legally-defined PIC Instrument.

Three, any decision to change the Prior Informed Consent mandate could also place the Persistent Organic Pollutants, or POPs, negotiations at risk. The POP negotiations for Canada are extremely important and we are concerned that they proceed on a separate track as quickly as possible. Therefore, Canada does not support changing the current PIC mandate and does not support the establishment of a broader framework agreement at this time.

Canada would like to remind Council delegates of FAO's fundamental role in the management of pesticides. The success of the FAO action, developing in consultation with appropriate UN agencies and other organizations, the International Code of Conduct on the Distribution and Use of Pesticides has set the benchmark for other groups to follow. Through this mechanism FAO established the basis for the sound management of pesticides throughout the international community, inspiring confidence in the availability, regulation, marketing and use of pesticides for the improvement of agriculture and public health. To date no guidance has been given as to what form the integrated legal mechanism may take. Canada sees the FAO Code of Conduct as a model for such a mechanism for industrial chemicals to be developed under UNEP. In our view, FAO

should increase its profile and provide leadership to UNEP on this matter, taking into account the fact that FAO action and experience, chiefly with pesticides, has demonstrated a practicable basis for developing an integrated sound management mechanism. Also, members should be aware that the Executive Director of UNEP is seeking the views of Governments on the need for a framework Convention and its possible advantages on chemicals. To that end, we would like draw your attention to the Canadian discussion paper, which has been distributed to Members of the Council, which looks at the potential of this mechanisms and possible alternate frameworks.

In our view, recent initiatives, such as the International Forum on Chemical Safety, will help to ensure greater coordination and cooperation among international organizations and countries, respectively, on issues related to the sound management of chemicals. These initiatives provide opportunities for information exchange on chemicals management activities and for sharing experiences. The experience of implementing the Code of Conduct on Pesticides shows that much can be accomplished on a voluntary basis. Once experience is gained with such a voluntary Code of Practice, certain aspects may lend themselves to further action, for example, Prior Informed Consent and activities on classification and labelling. On the basis of the London Guidelines for the Exchange of Information on Chemical in International Trade, which apply to all chemicals, including pesticides, UNEP has been involved in discussions on the need for an international instrument for Persistent Organic Pollutants. We see that the FAO has a key role to play in any Persistent Organic Pollutants negotiations as well as any subsequent Secretariat responsibilities, taking into account the fact that 75 per cent of the Persistent Organic Pollutant candidates under consideration currently, and most of those likely to be, which considered in the future, are pesticides are particularly important for agricultural development in developing countries. Currently, the FAO has well-established networks in place that empower developing countries to better manage their use of pesticides for agricultural purposes and for vector disease control in tropical climates.

We believe that FAO should continue to be the leading authority among the intergovernmental organizations for the sound management of pesticides. The results of the recent survey on the implementation of the Code of Conduct on pesticides should form the basis of a programme to update the Code and its supporting technical guidelines to reflect current pest management practices, health and environmental concerns. We see the Code as a dynamic mechanism that evolves with the changing needs of FAO Member Countries and as experience is gained in its implementation.

**Andrew Keith PEARSON (Australia):** Australia has given consideration to the proposal raised at the Copenhagen meeting of Government Designated Experts for the development of an integrated mechanism, or framework convention, on international management of hazardous chemicals. We also note, that the Executive Director of UNEP and the President of the Intergovernmental Forum on Chemical Safety, are seeking the views of Member Governments on the proposal.

Australia notes that chapter 19, of Agenda 21, has already set out a broad approach to work, to be undertaken internationally, to ensure the sound management of hazardous chemicals and that the advanced work is already under way, on implementation of the prior informed consent procedure and on persistent organic pollutants, POPs.

Two negotiating sessions have already been held on the PIC procedure and while Australia believes that substantial progress has been made, we consider additional sessions will be necessary to conclude the instrument. Unfortunately, the original time-table in which the convention was to have been finalized, at one more session in early 1997, is now unrealistic. Australia, is very appreciative, of the offer by Switzerland to host a further negotiating session in Geneva, in December 1996.

Australia is not convinced that a framework convention or integrated mechanism is needed, in order to carry out the tasks governments set themselves in Agenda 21. Integrated mechanism is likely to delay progress on the treaty on PIC procedure, currently being negotiated and also on a treaty on

POPS, should the negotiation of a such a treaty be endorsed at UNEP Governing Council in January 1997.

So, we would certainly agree, with the wishes of many countries that have been expressed this morning on the need to maintain momentum on two separate negotiating procedures, one for PICS and one for POPS. Australia, is also concerned, that it would not be appropriate to use the draft treaty on PIC procedure, as the basis for a framework convention, especially as PIC procedure and the management of POPS, although related to some degree, deal with different problems of chemical management.

Australia also recognizes that there are limited resources, internationally, to implement the goals of Agenda 21, including those dealing with a sound management of chemicals. We would not wish the development of a framework convention to place an additional demand on these resources, including those that may be used to build the capacity of countries, effectively, to manage chemicals.

Australia has noted the paper circulated by Canada and the range of options it identified for ensuring greater coordination in the area of chemical management. I would also like to draw the attention of Council Members to the paper which has been prepared and distributed by Australia, which outlines our thinking on these issues.

**K. SHIMIZU (Japan):** I wish to say a few words, mainly on the future framework about the comprehensive safety management of international trade of certain hazardous chemicals and pesticides beyond PIC.

My Delegation, is of the view that it is most appropriate to make full use of the existing mechanisms, those still under consideration at home. Therefore, my Delegation believes that IFCS, as such, is most suitable in this regard.

It is very important to study, carefully, pro and cons of the various proposals as suggested already by Canada. It is still premature to draw any conclusion, at this stage, on the future framework.

My Delegation is also cautious about the extended scope of the Intergovernmental Negotiating forum in terms of its feasibility, including the timeliness, practicability, resources as such.

**Srta. María Cristina FERRARI (Argentina):** La intervención de Argentina también va a ser muy breve y agradece al señor Zehni la presentación clara que hizo relativa a los informes realizados en las negociaciones para un instrumento internacional, jurídicamente vinculante, para la aplicación del procedimiento fundamentado previo. La presentación del doctor Zehni dejó bien claro que dicho documento *CL 111/6* y su suplemento, se refieren a determinar el ámbito y el alcance del Convenio y también sobre la posibilidad de aumentar el alcance del mismo que podría generar una demora en las negociaciones futuras.

Argentina entiende, con relación al párrafo 28 del documento *CL 111/6* que no ha habido todavía avances significativos en las negociaciones y que en todos los trabajos futuros se tendrían que tener como base los realizados por el Grupo de Expertos que trabajó especialmente en recomendaciones para ese Comité Intergubernamental, tomando como base las directrices de Londres. En cuanto a la participación de la FAO en las negociaciones entendemos que ello dependerá de los mandatos pertinentes que la FAO haya recibido del Foro de Estocolmo pero, sin embargo, como lo señaló el delegado de Tanzania, creemos que la participación de la FAO en las negociaciones que se desarrollan, se deberían ajustar al tema de los plaguicidas. Ella, por otra parte, como se dijo anteriormente, deberá ajustarse a sus mandatos pertinentes.

Sobre la posible función de la FAO como Secretaría del Convenio sobre la aplicación de ICP, también debería ser resuelta por el Comité Intergubernamental que está negociando el texto del

Convenio. Sin embargo queremos alentar para que continúen las negociaciones que tienen lugar en el seno del comité intergubernamental que es el Foro con mandato para este tema, que las negociaciones no se dilaten y exhortar a los países en desarrollo a que tengan una activa participación en ese Comité y en la negociación del compromiso.

**M. S. ZEHNI (Director, Plant Production and Protection Division):** There were no specific questions for us to address so I will be very brief.

Let me first thank you for your supportive statements as for the preparations of the documents.

There were two matters which I would like to refer to here, that several Delegates--Algeria, Ghana, Syria, Tanzania, Malaysia, Argentina and others--referred to the importance of the technical assistance and the provision of assistance to countries to cope with related matters. This is a very important thing. We took a very good note of this.

This is in relation to another point, which was raised by several, as of the role of FAO in this negotiation. We note that there is full support for continuing and strengthening the role for FAO in this negotiation. Some refer to it as strengthening capacities, some refer to it as FAO playing a leadership role. We can assure you that the Secretariat is fully aware of the need for us to play the role, particularly as related to pesticides and to keep a watching brief on the other negotiations, although they do not relate directly to our mandate.

Mr Chairman, there was some discussion on the timing of the next negotiation. As the distinguished Delegates from Argentina noted that progress was not substantial and others, noted that there are more grounds to be covered. Of course, we share the appreciation of the Swiss Government and others who volunteered assistance in this regard. I guess, the message I get from the Council, that there should be a trade-off between early conclusion of the negotiation and having a good outcome. I guess that will call for a careful consideration of the timing, particularly related to, of course, the funding, which everybody referred to, and the place of the next meeting.

The Secretariat, with other partners, will be looking into this. I can assure you that we would like to keep the momentum of the negotiation and we will do our best from our side, with our partners, to find ways and means to proceed with the negotiation as expeditiously and as effectively as possible. Of course, the Members expressed views on the scope and that is, I think, for the Council to pronounce.

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Podemos resumir brevemente nuestros trabajos de la siguiente manera. En primer lugar, el Consejo expresó plena satisfacción por los progresos realizados en las negociaciones sobre el procedimiento de Información y Consentimiento Previos; reconoció la necesidad de celebrar en varias reuniones de negociación adicionales que lleven a buen término las negociaciones; se tomó nota de los ofrecimientos que se habían hecho para financiar el proceso de negociación; en particular, se agradeció al Gobierno de Suiza su disposición para financiar una próxima reunión previa a la del Consejo de Administración del PNUMA.

Se pidió también a los países que proporcionen fondos adicionales para facilitar las negociaciones, en particular a la luz del hecho de que el fondo para el medio ambiente del PNUMA había ya adelantado pagos y que existía una deuda considerable.

Se recomendó que la Secretaría del PNUMA/FAO celebrara debates con los países, con el fin de llegar a un consenso sobre el calendario de negociaciones, teniendo en cuenta los problemas tanto de este calendario como del lugar.

Varias delegaciones apoyaron el establecimiento de un convenio en un marco más amplio mientras otras expresaron su deseo de limitar el ámbito de las negociaciones solamente al procedimiento de

información y consentimientos previos y yo considero, por tanto, que como no hubo consenso al respecto, continuaría el presente mandato. Evidentemente el Consejo tomó nota de que esto es también objeto de debate en el Consejo de Administración del PNUMA.

Al indicar la importancia de avanzar lo más rápido posible y de la manera más conveniente, varios delegados recomendaron realizar dos procesos por separado, uno para el ICP y otro para COPS. Se recomendó que la FAO participara en las negociaciones y debates sobre los contaminantes orgánicos persistentes y adoptar otras medidas para reducir los riesgos de algunos productos químicos, en particular en lo referente a los plaguicidas, pero cualquier otra participación de la FAO en este proceso obviamente deberá ser aprobada por el Consejo o la Conferencia.

Se pidió el reforzamiento de la FAO en estas materias, ofreciendo mayor asesoramiento técnico a los países, sobre todo, en sustancias no relacionadas con plaguicidas.

### **III. ACTIVITIES OF FAO AND WFP (continued)**

### **III. ACTIVITES DE LA FAO ET DU PAM (suite)**

### **III. ACTIVIDADES DE LA FAO Y DEL PMA (continuación)**

#### **10. World Food Programme**

#### **10. Programme alimentaire mondial**

#### **10. Programa Mundial de Alimentos**

#### **10.1 Report of the Executive Board to ECOSOC and the FAO Council on the Activities of the WFP Committee on Food Aid Policies and Programmes (CFA) in 1995**

#### **10.1 Rapport du Conseil d'administration au Conseil économique et social et au Conseil de la FAO sur les activités du Comité des politiques et programmes d'aide alimentaire du PAM (CPA) en 1995**

#### **10.1 Informe de la Junta Ejecutiva al Consejo Económico y Social y al Consejo de la FAO sobre las actividades del Comité de Políticas y Programas de Ayuda Alimentaria (CPA) en 1995**

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Pasamos entonces al tema 10, que está dividido en dos. Primero el 10.1 que es el Programa Mundial de Alimentos, referente al informe de la Junta Ejecutiva al Consejo, al ECOSOC y al Consejo de la FAO sobre las actividades del CPA en 1995.

**A. Namanga NGONGI (PMA):** Aprovecho esta ocasión para felicitarlo señor Presidente por la labor que viene realizando en el contexto del Consejo. Le agradezco la oportunidad que me brinda de presentar el informe que la Junta Ejecutiva del PMA remite al ECOSOC y al Consejo de la FAO sobre las actividades del CPA en 1995.

A raíz de mi reciente visita a la región de América Latina que ha comprendido los países de Costa Rica, Honduras y una estancia de un mes en El Salvador, donde he desempeñado las funciones de Director Interino de la Oficina del PMA, he tenido ocasión de comprobar en primera persona, los beneficios y resultados de la aplicación de las políticas y estrategias a las que se hace referencia en el presente informe.

Lamentablemente en esa ocasión no pude visitar México, pero confío en poder hacerlo en el futuro.

Con su permiso, señor Presidente, ahora presentaré el informe en inglés.

Mr Chairman, the Executive Board of the World Food Programme requested the Secretariat, at its annual session in May 1996, to transmit this report on the Board's behalf to ECOSOC and the FAO Council for discussion and approval in accordance with its general regulations.

As you are aware, effective 1 January 1996, following the decisions of the UN General Assembly and the FAO Conference, the Committee on Food and Policies and Programmes, CFA, was transformed into the WFP Executive Board. Hence, this year, and only this year, the Executive Board finds itself in the unique position where it is required to submit to ECOSOC and to the FAO Council an annual report on the activities of its Executive body, the CFA.

This report, on the CFS activities in 1995, has been prepared with a view to providing a concise decision orientated document, with exception of the recommendations of the formal Working Group on the options for WFP resource policies and long-term financing which were endorsed by the CFA and have been reproduced in full, giving their particular importance to the programmes of financial management in the future. All other decisions and recommendations of the CFA, during the last year of its existence, are being provided in this document in summarized form.

To facilitate it, a review of the decisions taken by the CFA during the past year, these were grouped under five main headings; Policy, Governance, Operations, Finance and Resources. Some of the important decisions taken by the CFA in 1996 could be pointed out; this concerns the governance, as I have already said, transforming the CFA into Executive Board; the long-term resourcing and financing decisions which have become operational from 1 January 1996, which were based on the principle of full cost recovery; the strategic and financial plan which was the new format of the medium-term planning of four years, renewed every biennium under conciliated budget of 228 million US dollars, which was approved on the basis of expected level of operations with a flexibility built into the budget, which was also a new format; and the question of WFP representatives in recipient countries which was proposed to be changed from the automatic representation by the UNDP representative, to the senior WFP functionary, in the country.

ECOSOC has already taken note of this report at its session held on 10 July 1996.

I am sure that the Executive Board would want me to express appreciation to the donors for their strong support that enabled WFP to carry out operations that brought sustenance to some 50 million people, mostly women and children, in 95 countries, at a cost of some 1.5 billion US dollars. The underlined conditions that determined the level of need throughout the world in 1995 have not changed dramatically. It is therefore hoped, that a strong donor support for WFP activities will continue through 1996 and 1997.

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Han ustedes escuchado, distinguidos delegados, las notas introductorias de parte del PMA sobre este informe. El Consejo está invitado a pronunciarse al respecto y a endosar el informe contenido en el documento *CL 111/9*.

**Thomas Austin FORBORD (United States of America):** The report of the World Food Programme is both concise and comprehensive. It deserves our appreciation. We also applaud the achievements noted in the report and strongly urge the World Food Programme to keep working towards greater efficiency and effectiveness.

Mr Chairman, the World Food Programme is a prime instrument through which the United States provides multi-lateral food aid to hungry populations around the world. The reform and revitalization of WFP are important to US interests. We welcome the progress which has been made and noted in this report, and the progress which continues to be made by the World Food Programme.

**Juan NUIRY SANCHEZ (Cuba):** En primer lugar quisiera expresar nuestra satisfacción respecto a la primera parte de la intervención del señor. Hemos visto que en su estadía en El Salvador ha perfeccionado su idioma español. Lo único que lamentamos es que no haya podido realizar una visita a Cuba. En definitiva, los países hermanos que nos han visitado nos hacen sentir igualmente

muy complacidos y, sinceramente, queremos destacar el gesto que, personalidades como el señor Ngongi, de un alto nivel en el PMA visiten nuestras regiones.

El informe del señor Ngongi es breve pero muy bueno. Ha expresado que el CPA se convirtió en Junta Ejecutiva. Nosotros podemos manifestar, por estar involucrados muy directamente, que el PMA es un organismo que se renueva, sin perder y sin olvidar el camino, tanto en la ayuda a la emergencia como al desarrollo. Eso mismo, el señor Ngongi, lo pudo comprobar en su estadía de más de treinta días en El Salvador, donde ha podido ver los problemas de cerca.

Sinceramente, estamos totalmente de acuerdo en el informe del señor Ngongi, lo felicitamos y, además está decirle, que queremos que el PMA siga en este camino que se ha abierto de renovación, la cual estará más acorde con los tiempos en que vivimos.

**John J. GAULE (Ireland):** Chairman, I would very briefly like to welcome the report of the Executive Board of WFP.

In discussing the adjustment to the Programme of Work and Budget of FAO, last week, we stressed with other Delegations, the importance of FAO concentrating on areas where it has a comparative advantage. The same, of course, must apply to WFP.

In this regard we believe that WFP can play a uniquely significant role in linking disaster relief and development. We therefore, wish to particularly welcome, the continuous emphasis on this link which is evident in this document. I would highlight, in particular, the Committee's decision that development activities should be increasingly tailored to promote disaster prevention, preparedness, mitigation and reconstruction.

I would also like to take this opportunity to welcome the institutional of changes in WFP with establishment of the Executive Board. Changes which improved the efficiency of decision-making are to be welcomed and may also act as an example for other organizations.

Finally, I would like to say that Ireland has, in recent years, substantially increased its support for WFP. We hope to continue this partnership in the future.

**Soetatwo HADIWIGENO (Indonesia):** On behalf of the Indonesian Delegation, first of all, I would like to appreciate and welcome the introduction made by the Deputy Executive Director of the WFP on the document before us. I observe that the report of the Executive Board to ECOSOC and the FAO concern on the activities of the CFA in 1995, was a very comprehensive one. My Delegation is in agreement with the report. Mr Chairman, my Delegation would like to see things continue in the same way in the future.

Finally Mr Chairman, my delegation would like to approve the report.

**Víctor A. ZUEZDIN (Observer for the Russian Federation):** I think that the presentation by Mr Ngongi and the report itself deserve high marks, really their concerns are very good.

Our delegation thinks that the World Food Programme is one of the most efficient organizations in the United Nations family and its work in the field of development and food assistance, especially humanitarian assistance, deserves high appreciation. I also share the view that Council could approve, the submitted report of the Organization,

**Mame BALLA SY (Observateur du Sénégal):** Je vous remercie de m'offrir l'opportunité de me réjouir d'abord de la présence de M. Ngongi, un ancien ami de la FAO que j'ai bien du plaisir à retrouver et dont j'ai pu apprécier la contribution si efficace au niveau du PAM. Ceci est également de l'avis de ma délégation, cette institution de la famille des Nations Unies a fait ses preuves,

continue de se perfectionner et rend un grand service à l'humanité notamment aux pays en développement, dont le mien. Nous avons également beaucoup apprécié la qualité de ce rapport par sa clarté, sa pertinence et sa concision. Nous apprécions la volonté constante du PAM, ce qui fait le secret de sa réussite, d'essayer toujours de mettre en oeuvre les observations et les directives qui émanent d'organes participant à l'amélioration de son fonctionnement. Cela dit, à l'instar des Membres du Conseil et des Observateurs qui m'ont précédé, ma délégation souhaite que le Conseil, non seulement prenne acte et approuve le rapport, mais continue de féliciter et d'encourager le PAM à persévérer et aller de l'avant, et surtout à maintenir une bonne collaboration avec des institutions comme la FAO, le FIDA qui participent toujours au développement et à l'épanouissement de l'être humain.

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Le doy la palabra al señor Ngongi expresándole, nuevamente, los elogios ya escuchados, que este Consejo ha hecho por su labor y la labor del Programa Mundial de Alimentación, deseo felicitarle por ello.

**A. Namanga NGONGI (WFP):** First of all permit me to thank the Members who have spoken, for the kind words they have expressed on behalf of the World Food Programme and on my own behalf. Of course, I will transmit these words to the Executive Director who will convey this to the Executive Committee of the Executive Board. I can only say that the World Food Programme always tries to use the resources which are made available to it, in the best way possible, to reach the common interest of reducing hunger and poverty around the world.

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Hemos sido compañeros por más de trece años, así que nuestra amistad ya es vieja y, desde luego, sus progresos en español son encomiables, como han destacado varios delegados. Le auguramos un futuro todavía mayor en este campo. Con ello deseo simplemente concluir, diciendo que el Consejo endosó con gran aprecio el informe de la Junta Ejecutiva que calificó como "claro, breve y útil". El Consejo, también, subrayó el continuado esfuerzo del PMA por alcanzar mayores grados de eficiencia y eficacia en la entrega de la ayuda alimentaria, tanto en lo que se refiere a la prevención de catástrofes, como en el apoyo al desarrollo; y se encomió, también, la creciente colaboración y coordinación de actividades con las otras agencias de las Naciones Unidas, en particular, la FAO expresó su agradecimiento al señor Namanga Ngongi, Subdirector Ejecutivo del PMA, por su presencia y presentación del informe.

## **10. 2 Election of Six Members to the WFP Executive Board**

### **10. 2 Election de six membres au Conseil d'administration du PAM**

### **10. 2 Elección de seis miembros de la Junta Ejecutiva del PMA**

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Permítanme pasar ahora al subtema 10. 2 Elección de seis miembros de la Junta Ejecutiva del PMA, documento *CL 111/7* y *CL III/OD/5*. Como indicado en el párrafo 6 del documento *CL 111/7*, los puestos vacantes son los siguientes: en la lista A, un puesto; en la lista B, un puesto; en la lista C, un puesto; en la lista D, dos puestos; y en la lista E, un puesto.

Como pueden ustedes observar en el documento *CL III/OD/5*, para las listas A, B, C y D el número de candidatos es igual al número de puestos vacantes; por consiguiente, quisiera llamar la atención del Consejo que, conforme al párrafo 9a del Artículo XII del Reglamento General, el cual dice que: "*cuando no haya más candidatos que vacantes, el Presidente podrá proponer al Consejo que el nombramiento se lleve a cabo por consenso general evidente*". Entonces, como éste es el caso para las listas A, B, C y D, y conforme a lo que permite el Reglamento General para confirmar la elección, les propongo que el Consejo elija en la lista A a Senegal, en la B a Jordania, en la C a Brasil y en la D a Francia y Suiza. Esto, por evidente consenso general. Si están ustedes de acuerdo, por aclamación podremos indicar el acuerdo del Consejo.



**Applause****Applaudissements****Aplausos**

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Me permito, en nombre de ustedes, felicitar de consecuencia a Senegal, Jordania, Brasil, Francia y Suiza por su elección en la Junta Ejecutiva.

En cuanto a la lista E, ustedes pueden notar que hay dos candidatos para un puesto. En consultas previas, he intentado apelar a ambos candidatos para resolver esta diferencia y lograr tener un solo candidato para este único puesto de la lista E. Me permito apelar de nuevo a ambos candidatos para que uno de ellos se retire y permita, igualmente, elegir al otro por evidente consenso general. Pregunto, por tanto, a los distinguidos delegados de Lituania y Eslovaquia, si desean hacer, a estas alturas, algún comentario.

Me parece, distinguidos delegados, que los candidatos de Lituania y Eslovaquia mantienen sus candidaturas y, en consecuencia, tendremos que recurrir a la elección por voto para elegir a un país para este puesto de la lista E.

**SECRETARY-GENERAL:** This election will be decided by secret ballot as required by paragraph 8 and paragraph 9, of Rule XII, of the General Rules of the Organization. Each elector will receive one ballot paper on which are written the names of the candidates. Each elector, unless he wholly abstains, shall cast one vote for the preferred candidate since there is one seat to be filled. This means, that any ballot paper carrying more than one vote will be considered defective.

Paragraph 9a, of Rule XII, also states that votes cast shall not include abstentions or defective ballots. Any ballot paper, left blank or marked abstention, will be recorded as an abstention.

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Han escuchado ustedes cuáles son las reglas para esta elección, estas reglas también requieren de un *quorum* de la más de la mitad, que vemos que sí existe en esta sala y por tanto podemos proceder de inmediato, pero antes de comenzar con la votación, quisiera solicitar muy amablemente a dos delegados de Canadá y Mauricio a que pasen como escrutinadores de esta elección.

Quisiera también recordar al Consejo que el párrafo 14 del Artículo II dice que una vez comenzada la votación, ningún delegado podrá interrumpirla salvo para plantear un punto de orden relacionado con la misma, si no hay por ello ninguna observación que deseen hacer, comenzamos, entonces, con la votación.

**VOTE****VOTE****VOTACION**

**VI. OTHER MATTERS (continued)****VI. QUESTIONS DIVERSES (suite)****VI. OTROS ASUNTOS (continuación)****20. Any Other Matters****20. Toutes autres questions****20. Otros asuntos****20. 1 Appointment of Representatives of the FAO Conference to the Staff Pension Committee****20. 1 Nomination de représentants de la Conférence de la FAO au Comité des pensions du personnel****20. 1 Nombramiento de representantes de la Conferencia de la FAO en el Comité de Pensiones del Personal**

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Distinguidos delegados, como ustedes saben, el proceso de cuenta de los votos emitidos toma aproximadamente veinte minutos. Yo creo que podemos utilizar ese tiempo para avanzar en nuestra Agenda y, si me lo permiten, dejamos todavía abierto el tema 10. 2 en lo que se refiere a esta elección para la lista E y tomamos de inmediato el tema de Otros Asuntos, tema 20. 1 que se refiere al nombramiento de representantes de la Conferencia de la FAO en el Comité de Pensiones del Personal. Es un tema para decisión y el documento relevante es el *CL 111/3*.

**A. T. SLATER (Director, Personnel Division):** You have before you document CL 111/3, Appointment of Representatives of the FAO Conference to the Staff Pension Committee.

The functions of the FAO Staff Pension Committee are set out in the document. As is stated also in the document in paragraph 8, the matter is being placed before you now as we need to appoint one Member and two Alternate Members of the Staff Pension Committee who have been reassigned to other duty stations.

The Secretariat has been informed that the following candidates had been proposed to serve as Member and Alternate Members representing the FAO Conference on the FAO Staff Pension Committee as follows: for the period 1 January 1997 through 31 December 1998 as Member, Mr Ewald Brouwers, Alternate Permanent Representative of the Kingdom of the Netherlands to FAO. For the same period as Alternate Member, Mr Salali Soukkar, Alternate Permanent Representative of Syria to FAO. For the period 1 January 1997 through 31 December 1999, as Alternate Member, Mr Jean-Louis Rysto, Alternate Permanent Representative of France to FAO.

Mr Chairman, you may wish to ask the Council to consider these candidatures and, if it finds them acceptable, to proceed with the appointment of the persons just named to become Member and Alternate Members of the FAO Staff Pension Committee.

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Distinguidos delegados, han ustedes escuchado las propuestas para ocupar estas posiciones de un miembro y dos miembros suplentes para los períodos 1° de enero 1997 al 31 de diciembre 1998, y el otro miembro suplente para el 1° de enero de 1997 al 31 de diciembre de 1999. Pregunto al Consejo, después de este tema que es para decisión, podemos elegirles por evidente consenso general. Entonces por aclamación les elegimos.

**Applause**

**Applaudissements**

**Aplausos**

**EL PRESIDENTE:** El Consejo con esto elige para el período 1° de enero de 1997 al 1998 como miembro al señor Ewald Brouwers, Representante Permanente Alterno del Reino de Países Bajos

ante la FAO, como miembro suplente al señor Salah Soukkar, Representante Permanente Alterno de Siria ante la FAO y para el período de enero de 1997 al 31 de diciembre de 1999 como miembro suplente al señor Jean-Louis Rysto, Representante Permanente Alterno de Francia ante la FAO. Con esto el Consejo les felicita por su nombramiento. Con esto terminamos el subtema 20. 1.

## **20. 2 Appointment of Second Alternate Chairman of Appeals Committee**

## **20. 2 Nomination du deuxième suppléant du Président du Comité de recours**

## **20. 2 Nombramiento del Segundo Presidente Suplente del Comité de Apelaciones**

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Pasamos ahora al subtema 20. 2, Nombramiento del Segundo Presidente Suplente del Comité de Apelaciones. Reconozco que el documento correspondiente no ha sido distribuido y por tanto le voy a pedir al señor Moore que nos presente este tema ampliamente para que el Consejo esté en posesión de tomar una decisión.

**LEGAL COUNSEL:** Staff Regulation 301. 111 - and I should point out that the Staff Regulations are approved by the Council -- deals with the question of the Appeals Committee and provides that an Independent Chairman should be appointed by the Council. It also provides that the Council shall appoint two Alternate Chairmen to serve when the Chairman is unavailable.

In 1983 the Council appointed, as Chairman of the Appeals Committee, Ambassador J. K. Atal, former Ambassador of India to Italy, and His Excellency Carlos di Mottola Balestra, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Costa Rica to FAO, as first Alternate Chairman.

As you note we have two Alternate Chairmen and in 1995 the Council appointed His Excellency Joseph Amichia Ambassador of Cote d'Ivoire to the Holy See as second Alternate Chairman. Ambassador Amichia has now completed his assignment in Italy and has gone back home. The Council is therefore requested to consider the appointment of a new second Alternate Chairman of the FAO Appeals Committee to replace Ambassador Joseph Amichia to take effect immediately.

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Han escuchado ustedes cuál es la situación, el Consejo tiene que nombrar un Presidente Suplente y para ello ofrezco la palabra para proponer candidatos.

**Salah HAMDÍ (Observateur de la Tunisie):** Monsieur le Président, après la brève déclaration de M. Moore sur cette question, j'aimerais avoir le plaisir et le privilège de proposer, en ma qualité de Président du CQCJ, la candidature de son Excellence Juan Cassiers, Ambassadeur de Belgique auprès du Saint Siège pour ce poste de deuxième suppléant du Président du Comité de recours de la FAO. M. Cassiers qui est de nationalité belge, dispose d'un Curriculum Vitae riche en expérience et il a par conséquent une brillante carrière diplomatique et présente, à mon avis, un profil excellent pour ce poste. M. Cassiers est un Docteur en droit. Il a travaillé pendant de longues années au Ministère des affaires étrangères belges et a été affecté à l'étranger dans des ambassades de plusieurs pays, à Washington, à Pékin, à Bonn et bien sûr Représentant permanent auprès de l'OTAN, Représentant auprès de l'OCDE à Paris et Ambassadeur à Washington en 1991. Le poste actuel de M. Cassiers est donc le poste d'Ambassadeur de Belgique auprès du Saint Siège depuis septembre 1994. Je propose donc au Conseil de nommer son Excellence, M. l'Ambassadeur Juan Cassiers au poste de deuxième suppléant au Comité de recours.

**EL PRESIDENTE:** El Consejo ha escuchado con atención la propuesta para ocupar el puesto de Segundo Presidente Suplente del Comité de Apelaciones al señor Juan Cassiers y, desde luego, el impresionante *curriculum* que usted ha tenido a bien informarnos.

**Thomas Austin FORBORD (United States of America).** In its capacity as a member of the CCLM, the United States has both the honour and the pleasure of seconding the nomination of His Excellency Ambassador Juan Cassiers to the position of Second Alternate Chairman of the Appeals Committee.

Ambassador Cassiers is one of Belgium's most distinguished Ambassadors: he is known very well to my government, having served most of this decade as Belgium's Ambassador to Washington. He is an outstanding choice for this position and we second the nomination.

**Patrick PRUVOT (France):** Monsieur le Président, la France, en sa qualité de membre du CQCJ, souhaiterait aussi appuyer chaleureusement la proposition faite de la nomination de M. Juan Cassiers à la fonction de deuxième Président du Comité de recours. Merci Monsieur le Président.

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Bien, señores Miembros del Consejo, han escuchado ustedes la propuesta de respaldo a esta candidatura que nos distingue. Les pido por aclamación nombremos al señor Juan Cassiers, Segundo Presidente Suplente del Comité de Apelaciones.

**Applause**

**Applaudissements**

**Aplausos**

**EL PRESIDENTE:** El Consejo se congratula de esta elección que tanto nos distingue y felicita a su Excelencia, el señor Juan Cassiers por esta nominación. Con esto concluye el subtema 20. 2 de nuestra Agenda.

### **20. 3 Preparations for the 11th World Forestry Congress, Antalya, 13–22 October 1997**

### **20. 3 Préparations pour le Hème Congrès forestier mondial, Antalya, 13–22 octobre 1997**

### **20. 3 Preparaciones para el 11° Congreso Forestal Mundial, Antalia, 13–22 de octubre de 1997**

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Les pido entonces que me permitan pasar a otro punto. El distinguido Representante de Turquía, nos ofrecerá informaciones sobre los preparativos del Congreso Forestal Mundial, que se celebrará el próximo año en Antalia, Turquía.

**Yavuz YUKSEL (Turkey):** As distinguished delegates would remember, the FAO Council accepted in June 1995 the offer of Turkey to organize the 11th World Forestry Congress. The Congress meets every six years. The first one was organized in Rome in 1926 and the last one was held in Paris in 1991.

The 11th World Forestry Congress will be held from 13 to 22 October 1997 in Antalya, a beautiful coastal town with its bright sun, white sandy beaches, palm trees and pine forests. It is also an ideal starting point for visiting the ancient cities and ruins. Furthermore, as a venue for the Congress, Turkey constitutes a bridge between not only two continents but also between North and South.

Since Rio, the World Committee has increasingly been focusing on global, environmental and sustainability issues, and many initiatives have been taken. Indeed, forestry lies at the very heart of UNCED follow-up processes. The 11th World Forestry Congress, therefore, will be an important milestone in making progress in clarification of issues and in providing technical response. When forests are properly managed in a sustainable way, they provide many benefits to the people, to national economies and to the environment, such as timber, fuelwood, oxygen, protection of soil and water resources, and habitat conservation. Failure to implement sustainable forest management programmes and practices will result in major negative consequences, such as floods, climate changes, pollution and acid rain, as well as loss of biological diversity and destruction of the soil and the landscape.

For these reasons, the general theme chosen for the Congress is *Forestry for Sustainable Development Towards the 21st Century*. After consultation with forestry administrations in all countries, as well as with international, governmental and non-governmental organizations interested

in forestry and related matters, the technical programme for the Congress has been structured in eight main areas and 38 topics, which all follow the basic criteria of sustainable forest management. An adequate number of sessions will be devoted to sustainable forest management in all six different major types of forests. Various special events will be organized, within the activities of the Congress, as follows:

- satellite meetings related to many important forestry meetings and events;
- study tours to interesting places and regions of the country;
- field visits to national parks, historical and eco-touristic sites;
- cultural programmes like opera, folk dancing and ballet in ancient theatres;
- a number of awards will be presented to students who submit essays;
- some special programmes to promote the involvement of youth and women.

Although the deadline for submission of voluntary papers is the end of October, we have already had approximately 850 proposed papers, which is an excellent indication of interest in the Congress. However, we are of the opinion that more technical contributions from Africa and the Near East should be encouraged in order to have a good balance between regions. Some 12 keynote speakers, eight others of position papers and around 50 others of special papers, have been identified and approached. Every possible effort has been made to have a well-diversified composition of orders and speakers, with an appropriate balance between regions and institutions.

During the Congress, simultaneous interpretation in English, French, Spanish, Turkish and Arabic will be provided.

Mr Chairman, Distinguished Delegates, the second announcement and first information bulletin of the Congress have already been distributed to all Member Countries and you will find detailed information therein.

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Muchas gracias, distinguido Representante de Turquía por esta información tan rica sobre los preparativos para la Celebración del 11° Congreso Forestal Mundial, en Antalia, Turquía. Esta reunión tendrá lugar del 13 al 22 de octubre de 1997. El Consejo ha tomado nota de estos preparativos, el grado de avance y la forma en que su Gobierno está organizándolo. Si no hay ninguna otra observación, con esta presentación concluirían los puntos que tenía anotados bajo "Otros Asuntos". Le pregunto, antes de cerrar el tema a los distinguidos miembros del Consejo, si bajo "Otros Asuntos" hay alguna otra declaración que deseen ustedes hacer. No habiéndola, se concluye con este tema 20.

### **III. ACTIVITIES OF FAO AND WFP (continued)**

### **III. ACTIVITES DE LA FAO ET DU PAM (suite)**

### **III. ACTIVIDADES DE LA FAO Y DEL PMA (continuación)**

#### **10. World Food Programme (continued)**

#### **10. Programme alimentaire mondial (suite)**

#### **10. Programa Mundial de Alimentos (continuación)**

##### **10.2 Election of Six Members to the WFP Executive Board (continued)**

##### **10.2 Election de six membres au Conseil d'administration du PAM (suite)**

##### **10.2 Elección de seis miembros de la Junta Ejecutiva del PMA (continuación)**

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Pasamos de inmediato a reportarles cual es el resultado sobre la votación que acabamos de tener, para elegir un miembro para la lista E de los miembros de la Junta Ejecutiva

<b>REPORT OF BALLOT</b> <b>RESULTAT DU SCRUTIN</b> <b>RESULTADO DE LA VOTACION</b>	No. <b>1</b>	<b>WFP EXECUTIVE BOARD</b> <b>CONSEIL D'ADMINISTRATION DU PAM</b> <b>JUNTA EJECUTIVA DEL PMA</b>
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1. Ballot papers deposited Bulletins déposés Papeletas depositadas	<b>42</b>
2. Defective ballots Bulletins nuls Papeletas defectuosas	<b>0</b>
3. Abstentions Abstentions Abstenciones	<b>0</b>

4. Valid ballots Bulletins valables Papeletas válidas	<b>42</b>
5. Seats to be filled Sièges à pourvoir Puestos que hay que cubrir	<b>1</b>
6. Votes cast Suffrages exprimés Votos emitidos	<b>42</b>

7. Majority Majorité Mayoría	<b>22</b>
------------------------------------	-----------

Elected - Elus - Elegidos		Not Elected - Pas Elus - No Elegidos	
<b>SLOVAKIA</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>LITHUANIA</b>	<b>9</b>

Signature  
Firma

**V. SAINT LOUIS**  
Comptroller

Tellers/Scruteurs/Escurtadores

Signature  
Firma

**D. CANOY**  
Mauritius

**D. DEBILDE**

Date **7 October 1996**  
Fecha

Elections Officer  
Fonctionnaire électoral  
El oficial de elecciones

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Ustedes tienen el resultado de la elección. Queda por tanto electa la República Eslovaca. Le felicitamos a dicha Representación. Bien, con esto concluye el subtema 10. 2 y por tanto, los temas de este Consejo, salvo el tema 6 que se encuentra todavía abierto, en consideración a los problemas que nos indicaba el distinguido Representante de Australia y otras delegaciones, para que en paralelo, se sostenga una Reunión del Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria y de un grupo de trabajo que estudiará el proyecto de resolución para los recursos fitogenéticos. El día de mañana, a las 12:30 horas, una vez concluida la primera parte de los trabajos del Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria, nos reuniremos en la Sala Líbano. El grupo de trabajo que estará integrado a partir de los nombres que las distintas regiones me proporcionen respecto de aquellos Miembros del Consejo, y lo subrayo, que deseen participar en dichos procedimientos.

Yo se que hay observadores que estarían interesados, pero esta es una resolución que eventualmente decidiría el Consejo y por tanto están invitados a participar sólo los Miembros del Consejo.

Les pido que, durante la tarde, informen sobre sus intereses en participar en dicha reunión al señor Pérez de Vega, en la oficina A-139 o bien al teléfono 52026. Yo trataré de ponerme en contacto con ustedes, para identificar la lista y en todo caso, ésta queda abierta hasta mañana a las 12:30 horas, después que terminen los trabajos del Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria.

**The meeting rose at 12. 30 hours**

**La séance est levée à 12 h 30**

**Se levanta la sesión a las 12. 30 horas**





10 October 1996



منظمة الأغذية  
والزراعة  
للأمم المتحدة

联合国  
粮食及  
农业组织

Food  
and  
Agriculture  
Organization  
of  
the  
United  
Nations

Organisation  
des  
Nations  
Unies  
pour  
l'alimentation  
et  
l'agriculture

Organización  
de las  
Naciones  
Unidas  
para la  
Agricultura  
y la  
Alimentación

Council

Conseil

Consejo

Hundred and Eleventh Session • Cent onzième session • 111° período de sesiones

EIGHTH PLENARY MEETING  
HUITIEME SEANCE PLENIERE  
OCTAVA SESION PLENARIA

10 October 1996

The Eighth Plenary Meeting was opened at 11 hours  
Mr. José Ramón López Portillo,  
Independent Chairman of the Council, presiding

La huitième séance plénière est ouverte à 11 h  
sous la présidence de M. José Ramón López Portillo,  
Président indépendant du Conseil

Se abre la octava sesión plenaria a las 11 horas  
bajo la presidencia del Sr. José Ramón López Portillo,  
Presidente Independiente del Consejo

- II. WORLD FOOD AND AGRICULTURE SITUATION (continued)**
- II. SITUATION MONDIALE DE L'ALIMENTATION ET DE L'AGRICULTURE (suite)**
- II. SITUACION MUNDIAL DE LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION (continuación)**
- 5. Reports of the Twenty-first (Rome, 29 January - 2 February 1996) and Twenty-second (Rome, 25–27 September 1996) Sessions of the Committee on World Food Security including Preparations for the World Food Summit (continued)**
- 5. Rapports des vingt et unième et vingt-deuxième sessions du Comité de la sécurité alimentaire mondiale (Rome, 29 janvier - 2 février 1996 et 23–27 septembre 1996 respectivement), y compris les préparatifs du Sommet mondial de l'alimentation (suite)**
- 5. Informes del 21° (Roma, 29 de enero - 2 de febrero de 1996) y 22° (Roma, 23–27 de septiembre de 1996) períodos de sesiones del Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria Mundial, con inclusión de los preparativos para la Cumbre Mundial sobre la Alimentación (continuación)**

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Distinguidos delegados, abrimos esta penúltima sesión de los trabajos del 111° Período de Sesiones del Consejo. Tenemos todavía dos puntos de la Orden del Día pendientes, el tema 5, Informes del 21° Período de Sesiones del Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria Mundial, con inclusión de los preparativos para la Cumbre Mundial de la Alimentación y 22° Período de Sesiones, y el tema 6, Informes de la Segunda Reunión Extraordinaria de la Comisión de Recursos Genéticos para la Alimentación y la Agricultura y la Cuarta Conferencia Técnica Internacional sobre Recursos Fitogenéticos.

Vamos a pasar de inmediato al tema 5, no sin antes agradecerle al Director General por su presencia esta mañana, en la que finalizaremos nuestros trabajos antes de pasar a la adopción del informe. Agradecerle con ello la forma en que usted subraya la importancia de la finalización de los trabajos de este Consejo, deseo destacar que debemos sentirnos satisfechos de que el Consejo haya podido ofrecer al Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria tiempo para importantes discusiones y que aparentemente han llegado a conclusiones muy útiles, muy oportunas en la preparación de la Cumbre Mundial. Esto es, desde luego, un pequeño mecanismo en un engranaje mucho más importante en donde hay mucho más que las diferencias inmediatas, donde está de por medio y como se ha destacado en estos días, quizás, el futuro de la humanidad misma.

Para informarnos de los resultados de la continuación del 22° Período de Sesiones del Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria me voy a permitir pasarle la palabra de inmediato al Embajador Medrano, Presidente del Comité.

**Pedro MEDRANO ROJAS (Presidente, Comité de la Seguridad Alimentaria Mundial):** Muchísimas gracias señor Presidente, Director General, ustedes Miembros del Consejo. Quisiera en primer lugar expresar, y creo interpretar al Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria en su conjunto, a este Consejo, nuestro reconocimiento por habernos permitido continuar con las labores del Comité durante los días 8 y 9 de octubre del presente año. Efectivamente, señor Presidente, el Comité continuó con sus labores que habían quedado suspendidas, y creo que los resultados, si los medimos en términos de corchetes removidos, son significativos.

Teníamos 221 corchetes, tenemos ahora 166 corchetes. Creo que eso nos ha ahorrado al menos un par de días de negociaciones durante la etapa final de este proceso. Pero quisiera señalar señor Presidente, que lo más importante es que el Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria, al reanudar su trabajo, lo hizo con un alto sentido de responsabilidad y con una participación constructiva y activa por parte de todos sus miembros en una atmósfera positiva, y creo que con ese espíritu logramos hacer importantes avances. Más allá de tener más o menos corchetes, tengo la certeza que estos dos días permitieron clarificar posiciones y si bien no se lograron resultados en lo inmediato, la

discusión que tuvo lugar y el intercambio de opiniones, nos coloca en una situación muy favorable para encontrar rápidamente soluciones a los problemas que todavía tenemos pendientes.

Señor Presidente, el Comité igualmente ha considerado la necesidad de finalizar sus trabajos y después de una larga discusión ha estimado como apropiado reunirse los días 28, 29 y 30 del presente mes, con el claro compromiso y voluntad de concluir sus trabajos para esa fecha. Creo también importante informar a este Consejo que al examinar las distintas alternativas para poder finalizar estos trabajos, se estimó que era en esta fecha cuando debía realizarse el trabajo y la negociación final de los documentos, y que se ha sugerido al Director General si podría cancelar la reunión de altos oficiales prevista para los días 11 y 12 de noviembre, a lo cual el señor Director General manifestó ayer, durante las labores del Comité, su disposición para así hacerlo.

Señor Presidente, en resumen puedo decirle que las labores del Comité todavía no han concluido, se espera concluirlos durante los días 28, 29 y 30 de octubre; los resultados que logramos están indicados en los números de corchetes menos, pero creo que lo más importante es que el espíritu con el cual trabajó el Comité en estos días nos permitirá seguramente avanzar muy rápidamente en la finalización de nuestros trabajos.

**EL PRESIDENTE:** El Consejo ha tomado nota con profunda satisfacción, en primer lugar, del espíritu de buena voluntad que prevaleció en la continuación de los trabajos del 22º Período de Sesiones del Comité que usted preside, asimismo tomó nota de los importantes avances que se lograron en tres sentidos; uno, la reducción importante de los corchetes de los textos; dos, el acordar la continuación de este Período de Sesiones en una fecha que ha sido identificada del 28 al 30 de este mes de octubre, en la cual el Comité se propone firmemente concluir con sus trabajos y, en tercer lugar, la propuesta al Director General de eliminar la reunión de altos funcionarios que tendría lugar en los días del 11 y el 12 de noviembre.

Tengo ahora el gran honor de pasar la palabra al señor Director General.

**LE DIRECTEUR GENERAL:** Merci Monsieur le Président de me donner l'occasion de m'adresser au Conseil. Je voudrais tout d'abord exprimer ma gratitude aux honorables représentants des Etats Membres pour les efforts extrêmement importants qui ont été faits au cours des derniers jours afin d'accélérer le processus d'adoption des deux documents de politique et de plan d'action et surtout pour l'esprit d'abnégation que les représentants ici ont montré en travaillant de longues heures, des heures tardives, et en dehors des heures officielles de travail, en continuant des contacts personnels, privés, informels pour faire avancer le débat sur les questions d'intérêt commun. Le fait que nous soyons passés de près de 800 crochets à 170 environ, est un indication de la bonne volonté des Etats Membres et de leur approche positive à ees négociations. C'est aussi une indication qu'avec cette bonne volonté nous devrions pouvoir arriver à des solutions de consensus dans les délais appropriés.

Je voudrais ici confirmer que j'ai répondu positivement à la suggestion de supprimer la réunion des fonctionnaires de haut niveau des 11 et 12 et je notifierai cette décision aux différents Etats- Membres. Je voudrais dire aussi que je suis convaincu qu'entre maintenant et cette date du 28-29 octobre, nous aurons l'occasion d'avoir des contacts. Il est évident que la réunion du 28, du 29 et du 30 ne pourra aboutir aux résultats auxquels vous vous êtes par avance engagés, c'est-à-dire d'adopter définitivement les textes de politique et de plan d'action, que s'il y a des consultations entre les différents Etats-Membres, des consultations à l'intérieur de groupes et des consultations entre groupes, pour mieux comprendre les positions des uns et des autres et pour mieux identifier les zones de convergence qui existent. Je voudrais encore une fois vous remercier aussi pour la confiance que vous faites au Secrétariat en acceptant certaines de ses suggestions, certaines de ses informations et en comprenant que nous le faisons dans le souci de vous servir, parce que nous sommes votre Secrétariat et nous sommes responsables devant vous des résultats des travaux et des activités de l'Organisation

Je vous remercie.

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Muchas gracias señor Director General por su declaración. El Consejo ha tomado nota con profundo aprecio de las facilidades que usted ha puesto de su empeño personal en lograr que los preparativos para la Cumbre sean exitosos e igualmente de la decisión de eliminar la reunión de altos oficiales que estaba programada para el día 11 y 12 de noviembre. Estimamos igualmente con gran aprecio, los esfuerzos que se desplegarán para que a través de contactos, se facilite la conclusión de los trabajos preparativos para la Cumbre.

Al felicitarle señor Director General, permítame que le proponga al Consejo lo siguiente: hay dos puntos sobre los cuales el Consejo deberá decidir. El primero es acoger de manera oral aunque constará en *verbatim*, el informe del Presidente del Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria sobre los resultados de sus trabajos y el grado de avance en el 22º Período de Sesiones de dicho Comité, y la segunda propuesta que este Consejo debe acoger es eliminar del calendario de los órganos rectores estatutarios de la Organización para el bienio 1996–97, la reunión de altos funcionarios que tendría lugar el día 11 y 12 de noviembre. Someto pues a su consideración estas dos decisiones.

Veo que hay consenso, inclusive unanimidad, de parte del Consejo en aceptar estas dos propuestas.

**David BEEHAN (Ireland):** Again, we welcome the presence of the Director-General to our discussions and it is nice to hear you say it is the second last of our sessions. After three weeks of sessions, Mr Chairman, it will be nice to get out for a change. Well, it is not really like prison, but it will be nice to get out.

With my Irish hat, first of all, Mr Chairman, I had contact with Dublin, since our meeting closed last night, to report in respect of the decisions we took under process for completion of our work. They appreciate the efforts that we have all made and they are glad to see that we have agreed dates when we will resume negotiations. I must say, on a lighter note, that I am glad that I am not the one who proposed a cancellation of the High-Level Officials' Meeting, without instructions from my capital.

As I think, the Chairman of the CFS and yourself have rightly summarized, we were reluctant to leave the meeting last night, Mr Chairman, without reaching a decision. I think we helped in keeping people there to reopen the debate at a time when it was nearly closing. We felt it important that we would lessen our time on procedural matters and to take agreement on what was before us. It was a very serious decision and that decision had to be taken. We would have been reluctant to leave the meeting, last night, without reaching some conclusion.

Eventually, it is a package deal, to an extent, Mr Chairman, and we used those words in our negotiations last night. I do not think it will be like a package holiday but it is a package deal. Of course, our meeting is scheduled for 28, 29 and 30 October. My understanding, is that we agreed that the deadline for the negotiations would be the 30th, that this is the time when we stop our negotiations. We understand that the documents have to be ready and finalized by the 30th, so our understanding is that negotiations finish on the 30th, Mr Chairman.

I take note of the Director-General's decision that he will be informing our authorities that the High-Level Officials' Meeting is being cancelled. I am very pleased to hear that. I would have been requesting the Secretariat to do that, and to explain a little on why we are taking this decision. As I did say last night, we had planned differently, on a different premise, and we would be grateful, if the notification or the letter to our authorities, could reflect the context in which the decision has been taken.

Other than that, Mr Chairman, I would wish to thank the Chairman of the CFS and the Bureau of the CFS for the hard work and the long hours that they have put in since, I am not sure when, the 20 September. We are beginning to forget.

I would like to pay a special word of thanks to the Secretariat who have worked harder, I think, than any of us and always had updated documents ready the next morning when we took up our negotiations. I would like to thank yourself, Mr Chairman, for giving us the opportunity, first of all, of having the two days to make some progress and, on a bracketed number, it's more progress than I think we would have anticipated. The score is coming down all the time and that is encouraging.

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Creo que, de igual manera, el Consejo debe expresar su aprecio a usted y al grupo que representa por el esfuerzo singular que tuvieron que hacer para acomodar este esfuerzo adicional en avanzar los trabajos del Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria. Sabemos que ustedes vienen de muy lejos para aceptar este compromiso. Lo hicieron con gran altura y con buena voluntad de compromiso y, por eso, el Consejo debe expresarles este aprecio. Igualmente, le agradecemos que concuerde con las propuestas aquí formuladas y tenga usted la seguridad que sus peticiones serán atendidas.

**It was so decided.**

**Il en est ainsi décidé.**

**Así se acuerda**

Con esto, entonces, el Consejo aprueba el informe del estado que guarda los trabajos del 22º Período de Sesiones del Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria. Entre otras cosas, el avance que ha realizado en aclarar párrafos y textos en corchetes; en segundo lugar, la continuación y finalización de los trabajos del 22º Período de Sesiones del Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria para los días 28 al 30 de octubre, fecha en la cual las negociaciones concluirán; igualmente, el Consejo toma nota de la intención del Director General de notificar a las autoridades de los países miembros de la Organización y a los participantes de la Cumbre, respecto a la supresión de la reunión de altos oficiales que tendría lugar el 11 y 12 de noviembre; y, finalmente, el Consejo aprueba la supresión de tal reunión en el calendario de trabajo de los órganos rectores y estatutarios para el bienio 1996-97.

Si no tienen ustedes ninguna otra observación, doy por concluido este tema de la Orden del Día y lo pasamos de inmediato al Comité de Redacción para que nos presente un informe al respecto.

Le agradecemos al Director General por su presencia y le saludamos.

6. **Reports of the 2nd Extraordinary Session of the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (CGRFA) (Rome, 22-27 April 1996), and of the 4th International Technical Conference on Plant Genetic Resources (ICPGR) (Leipzig, Germany, 17-23 June 1996): (continued)**
6. **Rapports de la deuxième session extraordinaire de la Commission des ressources génétiques pour l'alimentation et l'agriculture (Rome, 22-27 avril 1996) et de la quatrième Conférence technique internationale sur les ressources phylogénétiques (Leipzig, Allemagne, 17-23 juin 1996); (suite)**
6. **Informes de la segunda reunión extraordinaria de la Comisión de Recursos Genéticos para la Alimentación y la Agricultura (Roma, 22-27 de abril de 1996) y la Cuarta Conferencia Técnica Internacional sobre los Recursos Fitogenéticos (Leipzig, Alemania, 17-23 de junio de 1996): (continuación).**

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Pasemos ahora al último punto de la Orden del Día que estaba pendiente, el tema 6. Como ustedes recordarán, hubo una propuesta y presentación de un proyecto de resolución

para acoger los resultados de Leipzig. A raíz de esa presentación se constituyó un grupo de contacto para estudiar dicha propuesta. El Consejo, durante sus debates, tomó nota de que algunas delegaciones sentían que no era necesario una resolución para acoger los resultados de Leipzig. Sin embargo, el Consejo acordó que se creara un grupo de contacto para estudiar el proyecto. Ese grupo de contacto estuvo abierto a las partes interesadas; se constituyó un grupo, relativamente grande, en donde se tuvieron negociaciones duras, pero siempre positivas, sobre el texto original que fue presentado. En esas discusiones se repitió, en una primera instancia, el interés de algunas delegaciones porque no era necesario que se presentara una resolución. Más adelante, hubo propuestas, que fueron acogidas por muchos de los presentes en dicho grupo, en el sentido de que el proyecto de resolución debería ser muy reducido; sin embargo, como el grupo de contacto no actúa en contraste con el Consejo conforme a mayorías, sino conforme a consensos, esta presidencia decidió que, en vista de que estábamos lejos de la unanimidad en torno a una propuesta muy reducida de proyecto de resolución, y en respeto a los países que habían presentado el proyecto de resolución, y también, a un país que en nombre de otros había presentado comentarios específicos, párrafo por párrafo, sobre ese proyecto de resolución, esta presidencia decidió que el grupo de contacto debía hacer, al menos, el ejercicio de ir párrafo por párrafo, estudiando y evaluando aquellas partes que podrían, eventualmente, recibir un consenso.

Los trabajos que tuvimos llevaron a un texto que será distribuido próximamente a todos ustedes. El texto que será distribuido representa un compromiso delicado, un compromiso que le permitió al grupo, a pesar de todo, coincidir por consenso en su aceptación. Yo espero que las partes involucradas en la negociación respeten aquí el difícil consenso al cual llegamos. El proyecto de resolución estará en sus manos próximamente y el Comité de Redacción, si bien no lo va a estudiar porque ese se pasará directamente a la Plenaria, deberá, sin embargo, discutir los párrafos que describen la parte relevante del debate y aquellos aspectos que de la resolución, se acordó, que pasaran al informe del Consejo.

Les reitero que mi interés y mi función debía y tenía, por fuerza, que estar encaminada a la búsqueda de un consenso y, máxime, que el resultado de la Conferencia de Leipzig fue tan positivo y delicado a la vez, y que las expresiones que ustedes tuvieron aquí, en el Consejo, fueron igualmente muy positivas. Si el Consejo, esta tarde, aprueba el proyecto de resolución, creo que subrayará con ello el espíritu positivo que entorno a este tema ha prevalecido.

Distinguidos delegados, yo sé que resulta difícil, en estas circunstancias, cuando no cuentan ustedes con el texto final, discutirlo, pero les pido que acepten el siguiente procedimiento: que cerremos la discusión de este tema y que estudiemos el proyecto de resolución y la parte correspondiente del informe del Tema 6, esta tarde, una vez que el Comité de Redacción haya debatido los párrafos correspondientes del informe.

El proyecto de resolución será distribuido a todos ustedes, en todos los idiomas, a la brevedad posible. Les pregunto si tienen alguna objeción respecto al procedimiento que es: cerrar este tema y permitir al Consejo adoptar con su informe la parte correspondiente a este tema y, eventualmente, el proyecto de resolución.

El Comité de Redacción se reunirá a las 12.00 horas en la Sala México y les convoco para que estemos presentes para la adopción de nuestro informe a las 15.30 horas.

**The meeting rose at 11.30 hours**

**La séance est levée à 11 h 30**

**Se levanta la sesión a las 11.30 horas**

11 October 1996



Council

Conseil

Consejo

Hundred and Eleventh Session • Cent onzième session .111° período de sesiones

NINTH PLENARY MEETING  
NEUVIEME SEANCE PLENIERE  
NOVENA SESION PLENARIA

11 October 1996

The Ninth Plenary Meeting was opened at 16.00 hours

Mr. José Ramón López Portillo,  
Independent Chairman of the Council, presiding

La neuvième séance plénière est ouverte à 16 heures  
sous la présidence de M. José Ramón López Portillo,  
Président indépendant du Conseil

Se abre la novena sesión plenaria a las 16.00 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:** Distinguidos delegados, esta tarde vamos a aprobar nuestro informe. Los textos que tienen ustedes delante van del 1 al 8; el 9 y el 10 todavía no están listos, nos informarán de un momento a otro, pero creemos que estarán en sus manos dentro de una hora aproximadamente. El Comité de Redacción ha hecho un trabajo muy fructífero y le voy a pedir al Presidente del Comité de Redacción que presente el informe a este Consejo.

**Christophe KIEMTORE (Président, Comité de rédaction):** Je remercie les Membres du Conseil qui m'ont fait confiance et je voudrais remercier tous les délégués qui ont participé aux travaux du Comité. Je voudrais aussi remercier le Secrétariat qui nous a fourni de bons documents et qui grâce à cela nous a permis de réaliser un bon travail. Permettez-moi de vous dire en très peu de mots que le Comité a travaillé dans un esprit de collaboration totale. Je voudrais saisir l'occasion pour remercier tous les délégués qui n'ont cessé de manifester un esprit de collaboration, de participation franche, ce qui nous permet aujourd'hui de vous présenter ce rapport. Nous avons eu à consacrer beaucoup de temps à la négociation concernant certaines parties, surtout les parties encore en préparation, mais le Comité à l'unanimité est tombé d'accord sur les formulations que j'ai le plaisir de vous proposer et donc, M. le Président, je vous remets le rapport pour le soumettre à l'appréciation des Membres du Conseil. Tout d'abord, je voudrais attirer l'attention des délégués qui parlent notamment la langue française et peut-être d'autres langues, qu'un certain nombre de formulations (notamment, là je me réfère à la langue française qui a été ma langue de travail au sein du Comité) et des modifications appropriées ont été apportées à la dernière version des documents que vous avez et nous avons transmis au Secrétariat ces modifications en leur demandant de bien vouloir prendre les dispositions pour allier les textes français avec les textes anglais généralement assez bien formulés. Je vous remercie et je sou mets le rapport du Comité à l'appréciation des Membres du Conseil.

**EL PRESIDENTE:** El Consejo ha escuchado atentamente la forma en que procedieron los trabajos en la preparación de este informe, igualmente de las modificaciones aún pendientes que afectan al idioma francés.

Les propongo por tanto la adopción del informe.

**Adel Mahmoud ABOUL-NAGA (Egypt) (Original language Arabic):** I should like to thank the Chairman of the Drafting Committee as well as the Members of the Drafting Committee for the great efforts they deployed in preparing this report. We have listened to what the Chairman has said in terms of the openness and the constructive attitude of all the delegates.

I would suggest that we adopt the Reports from 1 to 8 *en bloc*, particularly after the great efforts deployed by all Members during the past two days at the CFS. I am aware that the Report will not be satisfactory to everybody but I can say that it is quite balanced and I believe that we could adopt it in block and then look into the remaining reports separately.

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Hemos escuchado su propuesta que es muy atractiva. Podemos proceder de la siguiente manera, de lo general a lo particular, voy a aceptar su propuesta y proponer a este plenario que adopte en bloque, del REP/1 al REP/8. Si no se acepta esta fórmula, entonces, propondré que se vaya adoptando REP/1 por REP/1, REP/2 por REP/2, etc. Si no se acepta esta forma, entonces ya iremos párrafo por párrafo.

¿Hay algún miembro que se oponga a que se adopte en bloque del REP/1 al REP/8? El REP/9 y el REP/10 vienen después.



**Thomas Austin FORBORD (United States of America):** There are a few small areas where we think some correction of the record is necessary and therefore would prefer not to go *en bloc*.

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Creo que basta que un miembro pida que no se adopte en bloque para que no lo hagamos, y por lo tanto voy a ir, entonces, documento por documento. Les pido, entonces, que consideren la posibilidad de adoptar el REP/1 y el REP/2. Si tienen ustedes alguna observación respecto de cualquier REP hágamelo notar y entonces iremos tratándolos párrafo por párrafo.

**Ms. Miriam M. SAIF (Secretary, Drafting Committee):** I have one announcement to make with regard to REP/1. It is in paragraph 5 and it regards the date on which Mr. Ambassador Saintraint passed away. It was not April 1996, but it was May 1996.

**DRAFT REPORT - PART I  
PROJET DE RAPPORT - PREMIERE PARTIE  
PROYECTO DE INFORME - PARTE I**

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Bien pasemos, entonces, a la adopción del REP/1. ¿Hay alguna delegación que tenga observaciones o comentarios sobre este documento REP/1?. Ninguna. Se adopta el REP/1.

**Draft Report of Plenary, Part I, was adopted  
Le 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 4 approved  
Les paragraphes 1 à 4 sont approuvés  
Los párrafos 1 a 4 son aprobados**

**PARAGRAPHS 5 TO 6  
PARAGRAPHERS 5 A 6  
PARRAFOS 5 A 6**

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Vamos, entonces, capítulo por capítulo. Capítulo 4: Estado Mundial de la Agricultura y la Alimentación, que va del párrafo 1 al 4. ¿Alguna observación sobre éste?. Ninguna. Se adopta.

Capítulo 17, Informe del 65° Período de Sesiones del Comité de Asuntos Constitucionales y Jurídicos; 17.1 párrafo 5. ¿Alguna observación? Adoptado. Párrafo 6: Cambio de la Denominación de la Comisión Forestal para América del Norte.

**Thomas Austin FORBORD (United States of America):** The first part of the Report is accurate: the Council approved the change in the title. But then there is some material added that says "on the understanding that this change in terminology did not necessarily constitute a precedent for interpretation of the word forestry". There was no such discussion in the Council. The only discussion about translation or interpretation was that changing the word in English had no impact on the French and Spanish translations, but there were no conditions or understandings on that change mentioned in Council and I cannot imagine how this crept into the Report.

**Christophe KIEMTORE (Président du Comité de rédaction):** Merci. La question n'a pas été évoquée pendant les débats au Comité de rédaction. Le Président avait compris que c'étaient les dispositions préconisées par le CQCJ, c'est-à-dire le Comité des questions constitutionnelles et

juridiques. Nous avons adopté les recommandations du Comité en bloc, sans revenir sur la question et nous pensons que peut-être le Comité pourra apporter des précisions. Voilà ce que j'avais à dire sur la question.

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Quizá para resolver el problema podemos acortar este párrafo y poner un punto y aparte después del nuevo nombre en inglés que es *North American Forest Commission* eliminando el resto del párrafo. ¿Estarían de acuerdo? ¿Estaría de acuerdo Estados Unidos?.

**Nasreddine RIMOUCHE (Algérie):** Je crois que pour ce qui est de ce paragraphe, la phrase qui vient d'être mentionnée par le représentant des Etats-Unis doit figurer dans le paragraphe 5. Dans notre intervention, nous avons dit que la suppression d'une commission ne doit pas constituer un précédent concernant le manque de ressources ou de personnel. Je crois que cette phrase a été prononcée par la délégation algérienne concernant le paragraphe 5 et non le paragraphe 6. Je vous remercie.

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Ahora ya entendemos de dónde viene la confusión. Es seguramente una confusión que se refería al párrafo 5, pero ¿no está proponiendo usted que esto vaya al párrafo 5?, ¿esta es su propuesta?, ¿propone usted que en el párrafo 5 se diga que dan por entendido que este cambio no constituye un precedente? No, no está proponiendo eso. Bien, entonces, es solamente una aclaración que agradezco y sigue válida, entonces, mi propuesta de que el párrafo 6 se recorte y se ponga un punto y aparte después del cambio de título en inglés.

**Paragraphs 5 to 6, as amended, approved**

**Les paragraphes 5 to 6, ainsi amendés, sont approuvés**

**Los párrafos 5 to 6, 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 - PART III**

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Vamos, entonces tema por tema. Tema 11 que comprende los párrafos 1, 2, 3, 4 y 5. ¿Alguna observación sobre ese tema? Si, Reino Unido tiene la palabra.

**David SANDS SMITH (United Kingdom):** Paragraph 2. I hope we can settle this fairly rapidly. The reference in the first sentence "the Council shared however the regret expressed by the two Committees that it had not been feasible to fully protect all technical and economic activities of the Organization". This is not a view that we expressed or subscribed to. I do not think fully reflects the reality of our debate. Certainly a large number of Member Nations expressed that view -- and I would not want to quibble whether it was some or many - let us say it was a large number of Member Nations expressed that view. My delegation particularly pointed to the importance of activities in areas where the Organization had comparative advantage. It also says here that the Council "shared", i.e. shared in the sense of shared the view of the Finance and Programme Committees. As I see, the Report of those Committees, the Committees said, and I quote, "the Committees recognized that it was not feasible to fully protect all the technical and economic activities of the Organization originally foreseen in the proposed Programme of Work and Budget". My suggestion in those circumstances, Chairman, to provide a rapid way ahead, would be that instead of saying "the Council" we say "a large number of Member Nations expressed regret that it had not been feasible to fully protect all the technical and economic activities of the Organization".

Further on in that paragraph we then again have reference to "the Council hoped that these cuts would be of a temporary nature and that it would be possible to restore levels in future biennia". Here again, I think it was a large number of Member Nations that expressed that particular hope rather than an overall expression of the Council, so I think an adjustment there would be in order to give a true reflection of our discussions.

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Han visto ustedes las propuestas del Reino Unido. Yo creo que para que tenga sentido la frase, sin embargo, en la segunda frase sí debería decir "el Consejo tomó nota", porque en ese sentido se trata de una acción pasiva del Consejo. Entonces, podríamos decir: "no obstante, un gran número de Estados Miembros compartieron su pesar," etc. En la segunda frase diría: "el Consejo tomó nota". Y en la tercera frase diría de nuevo: "Un gran número de Estados Miembros, expresó la esperanza". ¿Están de acuerdo?. No, Estados Unidos, tiene la palabra.

**Thomas Austin FORBORD (United States of America):** Two other drafting problems, Chairman. At the end of the paragraph it says that the "Organization should adjust its programme priorities to the financial resources available". I think that mixes a number of things. It should more accurately say the Organization should adjust its programme to the priorities and the financial resources available.

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Vamos por partes. En primer lugar, las enmiendas del Reino Unido han sido aceptadas, eso es una parte y creo que están de acuerdo con ella. En segundo lugar, la primera propuesta de Estados Unidos sobre la última frase consiste en modificarla, de manera que se lea, en su segunda parte: "pero indicó que en cualquier caso la Organización debería ajustar su programa a las prioridades y a los recursos financieros disponibles". Vamos a tomar primero esta propuesta de Estados Unidos. ¿Están de acuerdo con ella? No. Estados Unidos tiene la palabra sobre esta propuesta.

**Thomas Austin FORBORD (United States of America):** Chairman, I think it would be more accurate to say, "Its priorities", adjust its programme to "its priorities".

One other point, Chairman. In the previous sentence it talks about "the Council noted areas where net reductions had been effected". It certainly also noted areas where net increases had been effected such as the Technical Cooperation Programme and the Investment Programme. I think these words 'increases' and 'reductions' may not be fully accurate because it is not clear from what standard we are measuring. There was a proposed budget and there were reductions from the proposed budget but there were actual increases from the previous budget and it is not clear what we are talking about here. What reductions from what?

**EL PRESIDENTE:** En español lo estoy recibiendo de la siguiente manera: (habla en plural) "pero indicó que, en cualquier caso, la Organización debería ajustar sus programas a sus prioridades", ¿"y a los recursos financieros disponibles", eso queda? Si. ¿Hay alguna objeción? No. Ninguna objeción, queda aprobada esta nueva formulación de la última oración.

Respecto de la segunda oración, yo no puedo contestarle de qué manera la podemos formular. Quizás, el señor Wade propone que se utilice el título.

**Tony WADE (Director, Office of Programme, Budget and Evaluation):** I am not sure the problem is really there. The title of the Item is "Adjustments to the Programme of Work 1996-1997" and references the document which was about the adjustments to the original budget, to arrive at the final budget.

While I understand the expression made by the Delegate, the fact is the document was only about the adjustments. It was not about the earlier budget.

The reference to the term "net reductions", of course, is "net" as there was a net reduction of US\$56.9 million, as you know.

Whether we need to add some wording, having had that explanation, I am not sure. Perhaps you could advise.

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Creo que el problema sea solamente de claridad del texto, y no de modificar la substancia. ¿Tiene el delegado de Estados Unidos alguna formulación que nos ayude a ser más claros?

**Thomas Austin FORBORD (United States of America):** I think we could probably use the same type of wording that was necessary in the Report of the Joint Meeting.

I need to comment on what Mr Wade has just said. We did not have an earlier budget and a final budget. The Conference approved only one budget. The Organization has only one budget. It had several different proposals in the course of the year, starting with the budget outline, the budget summary and finally, a proposed budget but it approved only one budget. There is no such thing as a final budget and an earlier budget.

The way we handled this in Programme and Finance Committee was to use the expression-and it could be used here--"net reductions and net increases were effected from the level originally foreseen in the proposed Programme of Work and Budget".

**EL PRESIDENTE:** ¿Puede volver a leer la frase y la parte que introduce usted a nivel de dictado para que todos tomen nota, por favor? La oración entera que empieza con: "El Consejo tomó nota...".

**Thomas Austin FORBORD (United States of America):** Just starting at the end of the sentence, after the comma, where "net reductions and net increases had been effected from the levels originally foreseen in the proposed Programme of Work and Budget".

But you run into the problem again, Chairman, in the next sentence where you talk about "these cuts". Maybe, as long as we are talking about adjustment, it could be "these adjustments".

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Vamos primero con la segunda oración que es la primera que ha tocado usted. Espero que hayan tomado nota del texto que se adiciona al final de esta oración, después de "reducciones netas" continuaría con "y aumentos netos respecto de los niveles originalmente previstos en el PLP propuesto". ¿Están de acuerdo con ello? ¿Sí? Se incluye entonces.

**DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL:** Mr Chairman, it is for the Council to decide but, I note in the report that you have before you from the Joint Committees, the references to the "cuts"- "affected by the cuts" is the terminology used. I believe in the interventions at Council, when expressing their view, hoping that the "cuts" would be of a temporary nature, I think they were speaking only of the "cuts".

It could be taken care of by just saying, "a large number of Members hoped that the cuts would be of a temporary nature", changing "these" to "the".

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Si, creo que el problema está efectivamente resuelto por la enmienda que había introducido ya el delegado del Reino Unido y que se refería a una mayoría. Entonces, la última oración queda con la enmienda del Reino Unido más la enmienda de los Estados Unidos final, que se refiere a ajustar sus programas a sus prioridades, y queda la palabra entonces "recortes" como estaba en el texto. Bien, con esto se aprueba el párrafo 2.

**YUAN HAIYING (China) (Original language Chinese):** I think our Report must faithfully reflect the debate in the Council. During the Council debate I remember, quite clearly, most of the Members were quite concerned over the "cuts", the "net cuts", the "net reductions". However, I cannot recall if there was anybody who talked about "net increase".

I do not wish to make such an amendment.

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Lo que el delegado de Estados Unidos había propuesto era que se utilizara el mismo lenguaje de la Reunión Conjunta de los Comités del Programa y de Finanzas. Su preocupación se refiere, para beneficio del Consejo, al párrafo 2 del REP/3, en particular, a la segunda oración de dicho párrafo y a la enmienda introducida por Estados Unidos. Usted, por tanto, no desea que se incluya el término "y aumentos netos". Perdón, me hace notar la Secretaría que en el párrafo 1.6 del texto del Informe Conjunto no aparece la palabra "aumentos netos", sino se refiere solamente a "las reducciones netas", párrafo 1.6, lo voy a leer en inglés: "In addition other

Members indicated or re-emphasized those.....where they particularly regretted the net reductions, that net reductions had been necessary". No hay, tampoco, referencia allí a los aumentos netos.

Vuelvo entonces a poner a la consideración de los Miembros del Consejo, en vista de la observación del delegado de China, que al final de la segunda oración se diga: "en las que se habían efectuado reducciones netas"; quizás, podría continuarse con la propuesta de Estados Unidos que decía "a los niveles originalmente previstos en el PLP propuesto", y se elimina, según esta propuesta, la parte de la modificación de Estados Unidos que dice: "y aumentos netos respecto de".

Vuelvo ahora a leer toda la oración: "El Consejo tomó nota de las esferas de los programas técnicos y económicos de la FAO señaladas en el informe de los Comités, en las que se habían efectuado reducciones netas en los niveles originalmente previstos en el PLP propuesto". Esta es la modificación que ha presentado el delegado de China.

**Thomas Austin FORBORD (United States of America):** Chairman, you cited a sentence in the Report that "regretted net reductions", in the Report of the Programme and Finance Committee. This sentence has nothing to do with regretting anything. We are taking note of. We cannot take note of the budget without taking note of the budget. The budget has both increases and reductions. In the Report to the Joint Committee, paragraph 1.8 specifically talks about the areas where net increases were made. I do not see how we could take note of the budget without taking note of all of it.

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Estamos, efectivamente, tomando nota de lo que dice el informe del Comité de la Reunión Conjunta de los comités; pero, también es cierto que, estamos reflejando aquí los debates y, debo admitir que, en ningún momento escuché a ningún delegado referirse, por lo menos en esa forma, a los "aumentos netos" en el Programa de Labores y Presupuestos. Por tanto, distinguido delegado de Estados Unidos, ¿podría usted aceptar la última propuesta de China?

**Thomas Austin FORBORD (United States of America):** Chairman, certainly, nobody in the debate expressed regret at the "net increases" but this sentence is not about expressing regret, it is simply taking note of the adjustments. The adjustments included both increases and decreases. In fact, some of the decreases in the technical and economic activities that we are regretting were necessary because there were increases in some other areas.

I think for the balance you need to indicate that there were movements in both directions.

**EL PRESIDENTE:** ¿Porqué no lo simplificamos y decimos en lugar de "reducciones" o "aumentos netos" simplemente "ajustes netos"? "Ajustes netos". En otras palabras, diría: "El Consejo tomó nota de las esferas de los programas técnicos y económicos de la FAO señaladas en el Informe de

los Comités, en las que se habían efectuado ajustes netos". El título, en última instancia, de esta parte así lo indica.

**YUAN HAIYING (China) (Original language Chinese):** In fact, this phrase faithfully reflects the developing countries' concern over the cut in some of the activities of FAO. Instead of their opinions over the "cuts" and "adjustments" it reflects the concern of developing countries over these cuts. So we hope this concern of developing countries will be reflected in the Report.

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Después de la primera parte de esta oración que termina con "Informe de los Comités," podemos poner un punto y seguir de la siguiente manera: "Una gran mayoría destacó al respecto que se habían efectuado reducciones netas", es decir, vuelvo a leer esta oración que quedaría, entonces, de la siguiente manera: "El Consejo tomó nota de las esferas de los programas técnicos y económicos de la FAO señaladas en el Informe de los Comités. Al respecto, una gran mayoría señaló ("con pesar" si quiere) que se habían efectuado reducciones netas". ¿Puede eso resolver el problema? No estamos en el mejor de los mundos pero tenemos que avanzar.

**Nasreddine RIMOUCHE (Algeria):** Réellement ce paragraphe reflète fidèlement les débats parce que d'une part on se réfère à ce qui a été mentionné dans le rapport du Comité, et en plus on se réfère à ce qu'ont déclaré les différents délégués. Mais je crois que la majorité des délégations s'est référée à certains domaines d'activités qui ont été touchés par des réductions. Donc pourquoi ne pas préciser: "certains domaines d'activités ont fait l'objet de réductions nettes", se référant donc à ces "certains" domaines d'activités; donc rajoutez le mot "certains" domaines d'activités. Merci.

**EL PRESIDENTE:** La propuesta del distinguido delegado de Argelia, para que la tomen en consideración, consiste en que, en la segunda parte de esta oración se diga "en las que, en algunas esferas de actividad se habían efectuado reducciones netas".

Vamos a ir por partes. Les pido que reaccionen a esta propuesta de Argelia. ¿Estarían de acuerdo con ella? Tengo en mi lista a Canadá, pero no sé si desea intervenir.

**Ronald ROSE (Canada):** Just to respond to the intervention from the Delegate of China, indicating that no Delegations talked about areas where resources were increased, I would draw his attention to the fact that, certainly, the Canadian Delegation, while not expressing concern about some of these, did note that the reductions were uneven and that some areas were spared from the budget cuts and expressed concern over the way the cuts had been allocated.

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Creo que esta posición no afectaría la propuesta que ha hecho Argelia; al contrario, podría confirmarla. ¿Estarían de acuerdo, entonces, con la propuesta de Argelia como solución de compromiso? Quieren que se las vuelva a leer? La segunda oración empezaría: "El Consejo tomó nota de las esferas de los programas técnicos y económicos de la FAO señaladas en el informe de los comités en las que...". No, la primera parte es lo que está en el texto: "El Consejo tomó nota de las esferas de los programas técnicos y económicos de la FAO señaladas en el informe de los comités"; hasta allí como lo tienen ustedes.

La segunda parte de esta oración, después de la coma, diría: "en las que, en algunas esferas de actividad, se habían efectuado reducciones netas." Puede agregarse lo que había dicho el delegado de los Estados Unidos después de esto, es decir: "en los niveles originalmente previstos del PLP propuesto". Vuelvo a leer esta última parte, después de la coma de "comité" diría: "en las que, en algunas esferas de actividad, se habían efectuado reducciones netas en los niveles originalmente previstos en el PLP propuesto." ¿Están de acuerdo? Si.

**Thomas Austin FORBORD (United States of America):** Chairman, that is exactly the same sentiment that we had there originally. The very complicated additions that you have put in do not change it at all. It would be much simpler to just leave it the way it was.

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Yo no le he añadido nada. Yo he utilizado pedazos de lo que se ha propuesto aquí, entre otros su propia formulación, distinguido delegado de Estados Unidos y luego, con el beneficio de la propuesta de Argelia, que para evitarle a usted el problema de que esto se refería a la totalidad del presupuesto, y en vista de que muchos delegados se refirieron a partes de los programas técnicos y económicos que habían sido reducidos, se agregara el término "en algunas esferas de actividad". Pero visto que propone usted la misma oración, vamos a dejarla como estaba.

**Thomas Austin FORBORD (United States of America):** My request was to add the words "and net increases" and to add the words from the levels originally foreseen in the PWB. You have deleted "and net increases" and inserted instead "in certain areas of activities" which puts it right back to where it was without citing the increases.

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Yo no añadí ni quité nada. Estoy reflejando simplemente las propuestas que se están haciendo aquí para llegar a una solución de compromiso. Y ésta consiste en lo siguiente: el delegado de China y otros han ya marcado que nadie se refirió a "aumentos netos"; para evitar esa referencia y para evitar también su problema con que hay "aumentos netos", el término "algunas esferas de actividad" se refiere exclusivamente a aquellas donde hubo reducciones netas. Con esto se salvaría el problema y espero que usted esté de acuerdo porque relativiza la parte relativa a las "reducciones netas". Espero que usted pueda concurrir: no se refiere a la totalidad, se refiere a algunas esferas de actividades efectivamente y creo que nadie lo puede negar. Hubo reducciones netas, es un hecho.

Espero que puedan estar de acuerdo distinguidos delegados: no se acepta aparentemente el término que usted quiere introducir, delegado de Estados Unidos, y es el de referirse a los "aumentos netos" porque nadie hizo referencia específica a eso aunque sí se hicieron referencias a las "reducciones netas" en algunas esferas.

Les propongo entonces nuevamente la redacción que comprende la enmienda del distinguido delegado del Reino Unido, por lo que concordamos al respecto, el Consejo tomó nota y en la segunda parte de la oración la propuesta de Argelia "en las que en algunas esferas de actividad se habían efectuado reducciones netas" y luego la última parte de la enmienda de Estados Unidos que se refiere "respecto de los niveles originalmente previstos en el PLP propuesto".

**Paragraphs 1 to 5, as amended, approved**

**Les paragraphes 1 to 5, ainsi amendés, sont approuvés**

**Los párrafos 1 to 5, así enmendados, son aprobados**

**Paragraphs 6 to 16 approved**

**Les paragraphes 6 à 16 sont approuvés**

**Los párrafos 6 to 16 son aprobados**

**Draft Report of Plenary, Part III, as amended, was adopted**

**Le projet de rapport de la Plénière, troisième partie, ainsi amendé, est adopté**

**El proyecto de informe de la Plenaria, Parte III, así enmendado, es aprobado**

**Draft Report of Plenary, Part IV, was adopted**

**Le projet de rapport de la Plénière, quatrième partie, est adopté**

**El proyecto de informe de la Plenaria, Parte IV, es aprobado**

**DRAFT REPORT - PART V**  
**PROJET DE RAPPORT - CINQUIEME PARTIE**  
**PROYECTO DE INFORME - PARTE V**

**Paragraphs 1 to 3 approved**

**Les paragraphes 1 à 3 sont approuvés**

**Los párrafos 1 a 3 son aprobados**

**PARAGRAPH 4**

**PARAGRAPHE 4**

**PARRAFO 4**

**Thomas Austin FORBORD (United States of America):** Item 16, paragraph 4. Just to make the record more complete and therefore more accurate. There is a reference in the first sentence to "certain Sessions". It was not "certain Sessions" we actually discussed but: the Committee on Forestry, the Committee on Fisheries, the 112th Session of the Council and the 1997 Conference and there was a very broad agreement that these all could be reduced. I would like to have those four meetings listed here.

I am also a little troubled by the word "may be reduced". Chairman, that was really not a very good reflection of the discussion we had. "Could be reduced" or "should be reduced" would be more accurate. It is not reduced as a result of consultations, it is reduced as a result of the increased efficiency of the Governing Bodies and its Committees.

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Bien distinguido delegado, tiene usted varias propuestas aquí. Una es mencionar las reuniones a las cuales usted hizo referencia. Respecto del asunto relativo a si podría verse reducida tras las consultas celebradas entre el Director General y el Presidente Independiente del Consejo y los Presidentes de los principales Comités, yo no se si podemos imponerles ya una decisión, es decir creo que si va a haber consultas, esas consultas van a tender ciertamente a la continuada petición del Consejo y de otros órganos de hacer mayores avances en eficiencia, en ahorros, pero creo que no podemos imponerle al Director General y a las consultas que celebrará con los respectivos Presidentes que haya reducciones en la duración de dichas reuniones. Pero en fin, ese es un punto de vista personal.

De todas maneras y un poco para complicar el párrafo, más bien para amarrarlo, hay una adición que es necesario hacer en virtud de las deliberaciones que tuvo el Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria. Le voy dar la palabra al señor Hjort para que lea el texto que a raíz de eso debería entrar en este párrafo.

**DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL:** The point I wanted to make in connection with this Item, not related to the point that was just put on the table by the Representative of the United States, is to remind the Council that it took a decision, this morning, to delete from the revised calendar of FAO Governing Bodies and Main Sessions, the meeting of Senior Officials which appears in the calendar for 11-12 November. There also, of course, is the agreement to have a resumed Session of the Committee on Food Security on 28th to 30th. Maybe it need not be necessary to explicitly refer to that in this report but I think it is well for the Committee to understand that the revised calendar, reproduced in the Appendix, will include those changes that have been agreed.

It says "Revised Calendar", one could put another word in front of that the "amended Revised Calendar" as a signal. Then, we would assure that these changes that have been agreed will be made in the Appendix.



**EL PRESIDENTE:** Voy a tratar las propuestas del delegado de Estados Unidos que, en una primera parte, desea que se describan cuales son las reuniones a las que se refiere la segunda parte de esta primera oración del párrafo y la reducción que podrían o deberían sufrir dichas reuniones. Para explicar el procedimiento que se sigue y los problemas que podrían enfrentarse, le paso de nuevo la palabra señor Hjort.

**DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL:** Two points on this. One, perhaps there was only reference to specific Committees but the way this text is drafted it refers to the "main Committees". There are seven main Committees of the Council and by referring to main Committees you are referring to the Programme Committee, the Finance Committee, Committee on Commodity Problems, the Committee on World Food Security, and the Committees on Fisheries, Forestry and Agriculture. These are the formal main Committees of the Council.

I do not see the reference to the Conference and that probably should have been added because the discussion was also about the Conference, and the Council does play a role with respect to the length of the schedule and the preparations for the Conference.

I assume that this Council wishes to continue to express its concern, as at previous Councils, and advise that meetings be as brief as possible and that documents be as short as necessary, and so forth. This text, I think, was with the understanding that it was again a general guidance from the Council to all of the main Committees, the Council itself, as well as the Conference, to reduce their Sessions to the minimum. I assume from the proposed amendment that you would leave some of the main Committees out of this - there are certain Committees you wish to leave out. Okay, I think that is of importance.

On the second point that was raised, I am not the Legal Counsel but as you know, from the basic text the meetings of main Committees and the Agenda is decided by the Director-General, in consultation with the Chairman, after the Chairman has had consultations with the Members. It is not the Council itself, for the main Committees, that decides the length of Session. They are main Committees of the Council and the Council certainly can give them guidance or even instructions, on holding their Sessions and Agendas to the minimum necessary to conduct their business but the specific Agenda, and therefore the length and time required to cover the Session, is a matter for the Director-General, after consultations with the Chairman.

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Vamos entonces primero a pedirle al delegado de Estados Unidos que identifique aquellos principales Comités del Consejo a los cuales se refiere, para que reduzcan la duración de sus sesiones. Primero, díganos usted a cuáles se refiere si no es que es a la totalidad.

**Thomas Austin FORBORD (United States of America):** It is not only two Committees of the Council. Let me ask a question to Mr Hjort first. If this Council does not have anything to do with approving the calendar of Sessions, why is this brought to us for approval? You have just said; it is up to the Director-General and the Chairman of each of the Committees but when I look at this draft it says that we are approving a calendar. Either we are involved in approving it or we are not.

If it is done by the Director-General in consultation with some other people, maybe this should just come to us as an information item. But let me give the exact proposal, whether it is an information item or in approval, it would read the same way. "On the understanding that the duration of the Committee on Fisheries, the Committee on Forestry, the 112th Session of the Council and the Conference in 1997 should be reduced, following consultations between the Director-General and relevant Chairman," and then it would continue, "in the light of the Council's discussions."

**Christophe KIEMTORE (Président du Comité de rédaction):** Le Comité n'a pas vraiment eu un débat sur cette question parce qu'il n'a pas trouvé de difficultés particulières à la formulation proposée par le Secrétariat, et toutefois, en ce qui concerne la proposition du délégué des Etats-

Unis, le Comité ne se souvient pas que le Conseil ait discuté longuement sur cette question. Il y a eu une proposition qui a été faite et appuyée par un certain nombre de délégations, et il a été noté qu'il y avait des préoccupations émises par d'autres délégations pour que l'on ne sacrifie pas la qualité par rapport à l'économie. C'est donc pour tenir compte de tous ces avis que le Comité de rédaction a proposé cette formulation au conditionnel et utilisé la formulation proposée par le délégué des Etats-Unis. Il faudrait quand même tenir compte que le débat n'était pas seulement axée sur la proposition du délégué des Etats-Unis.

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Como aquí estamos aprobando el Informe y no estamos debatiendo el punto, aunque la pregunta del distinguido delegado de Estados Unidos es válida en cuanto a ¿porqué se aprueba un calendario cuando según esta formulación podríamos nada más estar informados?. Voy a darle la palabra al señor Hjort para que responda, pero no puede formar parte de un debate puesto que estamos simplemente recogiendo aquí lo que sucedió en la Plenaria.

Esa pregunta en verdad debería haber sido formulada entonces. De todas maneras, para beneficio de todos le pido al señor Hjort que nos aclare cual es el estado de las cosas.

**DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL:** The answer to that specific question I believe you will find in the next page of your report under item 5 where, I quote: "the exact dates would be decided by the Director-General in consultation with the Independent Chairman of the Council, taking into account the discussions held by the Council concerning length of meetings". In other words, you find a phrase very similar to that for each one of the main Committees, if it is COFI, COFO, and so on. What you have in the revised calendar is, you are working basically on a schedule to avoid duplication and so on, on the basis of the best information you have, you are putting the dates there. The Council does have a special responsibility, obviously, for itself and it also has an important responsibility with respect to the Conference.

These other dates, as I say, the answer is there, you will find a paragraph in each one of the reports of the main Committees that is very similar to paragraph 5 which you will soon approve. The exact dates are decided. These are reasonably firm when the dates differ from what the Council has, more often than not, at least recently, it is fewer days; they managed to finish in a shorter period of time. But, the Committees in fact are not bound by the schedule that appears in the Council Report.

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Volvamos ahora de nuevo a la redacción de este párrafo en función del debate que sostuvimos al respecto. Han escuchado ustedes la propuesta del delegado de Estados Unidos y también las advertencias y aclaraciones del Presidente del Comité de Redacción así como del señor Hjort respecto de este punto de nuestra Agenda. En virtud de estos procedimientos, los textos básicos deben llevarse a cabo, teniendo en cuenta que las consultas entre el Director General y los Presidentes, tanto del Consejo como de los Comités principales del mismo, no pueden imponerle al Consejo una duración limitada, sino hacer una recomendación respecto de que sea menor y en ese sentido podríamos, quizá, tomar la propuesta del distinguido delegado de Estados Unidos. Se podría formular, quizá, en las siguientes líneas. Si usted me lo permite, delegado de Estados Unidos, después de la frase que dice: "que figuren en el Apéndice X del presente informe", es decir, indicando su continuado interés o recomendando que la duración de las reuniones se vea reducida, tras las consultas celebradas entre el Director General y el Presidente Independiente del Consejo y los Presidentes de los principales Comités de éste. Porque el Consejo no puede tomar una decisión en sustitución del Director General y las consultas que se tienen que llevar a cabo. Usted también, distinguido delegado de Estados Unidos, al respecto mencionó su preferencia porque sean algunas reuniones las que se vean reducidas, no todas, pero yo me pregunto si éste, siendo un principio general, no debería prevalecer generalmente y no mencionarse ninguna reunión específica.

**Thomas Austin FORBORD (United States of America):** I do not think it can be applied across the board. Over the past two biennia we have reduced the COAG meeting from two weeks to one

week. That is a very good achievement. It is evidence of greater efficiency but I think, until we have a little more experience with a one-week COAG, it should not be reduced further at this time.

We have a two-day joint meeting of the Programme and Finance Committees scheduled in January next year. That meeting could not be reduced further as well. We have a two-week session of Programme and Finance Committee meeting either separately or jointly in the spring to look at the outline of Programme and Budget. In order to have the examination it deserves, that budget review really could not be shortened very much.

So I do not think it really does apply across the board; some meetings have been more successful than others in reducing their length. I do not think the successful ones should be punished because there are still some laggards. So it really does concern the four meetings that were discussed during the Council.

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Entonces, tendríamos que agregar al texto, según la propuesta norteamericana, "duración de las reuniones de el COFI, el COFO, el Consejo y Conferencia". Debo advertirle, sin embargo algo, distinguido delegado de Estados Unidos, por ejemplo la reunión del Consejo de junio el próximo año va a ser muy distinta a ésta y va a tratar el Programa de Labores y Presupuesto y por tanto las discusiones aquí no podrían acortarse tanto como en esta ocasión que yo la considero atípica. No piensen ustedes que vamos a poder hacer un Consejo de la mitad del tamaño del que está previsto. Por eso es necesario que se celebren consultas y que esas consultas además respondan al grado de avance que exista al respecto, de manera que, esto es un proceso que espero ustedes todos entiendan está un tanto abierto, pero la voluntad existe y creo que ustedes mismos reconocen que se han reducido las reuniones en la medida de lo posible, y se continuarán reduciendo. Entonces, se agregaría al texto la referencia COFI, COFO, Consejo y Conferencia. ¿Está, entonces, aceptado? Bien, ahora pasamos a la enmienda que resulta del tratamiento del Tema 5. Tiene la palabra el señor Hjort, si usted nos puede leer, a velocidad de dictado, cuál podría ser la propuesta para que el Consejo la considere.

**DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL:** I had two suggestions, one very simple and that would be just to insert after "the Council approved the ..." one could insert "amended". Alternatively, if one needs to be explicit, then the full phrase that should be inserted would be "after deleting the Meeting of Senior Officials, 11-12 November 1996, and adding the resumed 22nd Session of the CFS on 28-30 October 1996". The most appropriate place to insert this would be after "report". It does create a complication in that the next sentence that has been discussed should have a different beginning.

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Han escuchado ustedes las propuestas de enmienda.

**Ronald ROSE (Canada):** I know that later on we are going to be discussing a report of the Drafting Group that will discuss these two specific changes. Earlier on in our discussion, Mr Hjort assured us that the revised calendar, as reproduced in an Appendix yet to be lettered or numbered, would in fact reflect the two changes that we are about to consider. Rather than complicate our text unduly, I believe the Council should take him at his word and assume that the revised calendar will reflect the two changes that we are about to consider and that we leave this text unchanged. I would make that proposal.

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Me parece que es una forma sencilla y aceptable para todos.

**David BEEHAN (Ireland):** I would prefer to agree with Mr Hjort's proposal to insert the wording in the text.

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Entonces propongo que consideremos y aceptemos la propuesta que nos ha formulado el señor Hjort. ¿Desean ustedes que se repita? Sí, desean que se vuelva a leer. Le puedo pedir que lea toda la frase continuada a y a velocidad de dictado las partes que se adicionan.

**DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL:** Actually the insert could go either in the first line after "Council" or it could come after "report". You could say "The Council, after deleting the Meeting of Senior Officials, 11-12 November 1996 and adding the resumed 22nd Session of the Committee on World Food Security...". Actually one should even put 8-9 and 28-30, because the 8-9 is not presently on the calendar. So I back up a little bit to say "the resumed 22nd Session of the Committee on World Food Security, 8-9 and 28-30 October 1996", and then "approved the revised calendar" and so on.

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Espero que hayan tomado nota y que sea aceptable esta adición.

**YUAN HAIYING (China) (Original language Chinese):** With regard to deleting the Meeting of the Senior Officials and the resumption of the CFS, in the Report of the Council there is a special section for that, a special item covering that. That is why I do not think it is necessary to add this here.

**Christophe KIEMTORE (Président du Comité de rédaction):** Compte-tenu de ce que les collègues du Comité de rédaction viennent de dire, je voudrais proposer que le premier amendement proposé par M. Hjort soit accepté, c'est-à-dire celui qui ajoute le mot "amendé" après "calendrier révisé". Il est vrai que nous expliquons tout ce qui vient d'être lu dans les paragraphes que nous allons examiner dans quelques instants, et la phrase ainsi amendée devient tellement longue qu'il est très difficile de pouvoir la comprendre. Je vous suggère donc d'adopter le premier amendement. Le Conseil a approuvé le calendrier révisé, tel qu'amendé que le Secrétariat mettra à jour, et nous éviterons ainsi de mettre une phrase trop longue.

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Espero que sea aceptable para ustedes. Está efectivamente en el informe que viene a continuación y si ustedes, entonces, coinciden con el Presidente del Comité de Redacción de que se refiera al calendario revisado según fue enmendado, entonces podríamos incluir este texto que se ha propuesto.

**David SANDS SMITH (United Kingdom):** I can make your life simple - this is not an amendment to the text, it is simply a reminder. You may remember that during this debate I said that it would be helpful to us in making sound judgements regarding the duration of meetings if we could have a paper from the Secretariat. I do not wish to see it recorded here, I do not insist on that. It is simply a reminder that I said this, that you noted it, and the Secretariat undertook to provide such a paper.

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Desde luego, la Secretaría está comprometida a hacerlo. Esa información se le suministrará.

**Ahmad RUSLI JOHARIE (Malaysia):** I do not wish to prolong the discussion but I just would like to get clarification from the Secretariat on the last sentence, the meaning of the last sentence of this same paragraph.

**Christophe KIEMTORE (Président du Comité de rédaction):** Merci Monsieur le Président de me donner l'occasion d'apporter une modification que j'avais annoncée et qui de toute façon devrait être faite par le Secrétariat. Peut-être que cela répondra à la question de la Malaisie parce que je n'ai pas consulté la version anglaise. Cette dernière phrase devrait se lire comme suit: "les efforts faits pour réduire les coûts au minimum devraient porter sur les coûts occasionnés pour les Membres, aussi bien que pour la FAO elle-même". Ce sont les coûts supportés par les Membres

comme les coûts supportés par la FAO. C'est pour répondre à une intervention faite par un délégué. Je vous remercie.

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Les recuerdo que por ejemplo, la delegación de la República Islámica de Irán hacía notar que había costos involucrados para los Estados Miembros y que debía haber aquí un *qui pro quo* en cuanto a la reducción de costos para la FAO, pero también lo que implicaba en términos de costos para las delegaciones que asistían a las reuniones. Pienso que es a eso a lo que refiere.

**DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL:** I was just wondering if it would help clarify it if, in English, we could say "in seeking to minimize costs, those borne by Members, as well as FAO, should be considered", to substitute "borne by" instead of "associated with". Then I think it is a bit clearer, at least. The intent here is to look not only at the cost to FAO, but the costs of the Members that are going to have to travel.

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Creo que sea una buena propuesta que aclara el punto. ¿Está de acuerdo el distinguido Delegado de Malasia? Bien. Entonces con estas modificaciones se adopta el párrafo 4.

**Paragraph 4, as amended, approved**

**Le paragraphes 4, ainsi amendé, est approuvés**

**El párrafo 4, así enmendado, son aprobado**

**Paragraph 5 approved**

**Le paragraphe 5 est approuvé**

**EL párrafos 5 es aprobado**

**Draft Report of Plenary, Part V, as amended, was adopted**

**Le projet de rapport de la Plénière, cinquième partie, ainsi amendé, est adopté**

**El proyecto de informe de la Plenaria, Parte V, así enmendado, 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 of Plenary, Part VIII, was adopted**

**Le projet de rapport de la Plénière, huitième partie, est adopté**

**El proyecto de informe de la Plenaria, Parte VIII, es aprobado**

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Los documentos REP/9 y REP/10 están por producirse en los próximos minutos. Si ustedes pueden no salir del edificio y estar presentes en la sala a las 18.00 horas.

El Comité de Redacción trabajó duramente hasta el momento en que nos reunimos en la sala. La Secretaría ha hecho todo lo posible para producir estos documentos en todos los idiomas y reproducirlos a la brevedad posible. Este es el tiempo que se toma y no podemos actuar más rápidamente.

**Fernando José MARRONI DE ABREU (Brazil):** I just would like to suggest that we might accept the Resolution coming from the Working Group right now.

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Si están en condiciones de hacerlo y adelantarnos a los párrafos del informe, podríamos entonces pasar al proyecto de resolución, que el Grupo de Contacto presenta a ustedes,

después de haber estudiado la propuesta de resolución de las delegaciones que la copatrocinaron. Yo les expliqué el procedimiento a seguir hoy en la mañana y espero, por tanto, que los miembros del Grupo de Contacto respalden las conclusiones allí alcanzadas. Tienen frente a sí, por tanto, el proyecto de resolución sobre la Cuarta Conferencia Técnica Internacional sobre los Recursos Fitogenéticos para la Alimentación y la Agricultura. ¿Hay alguna delegación que desee hacer algún comentario sobre este texto de resolución? Les vuelvo a repetir: esto fue producto de deliberaciones duras y de un acuerdo.

**Christophe KIEMTORE (Président du Comité de rédaction):** Le Comité de rédaction n'a pas examiné la Résolution. Je préfère donner cette précision. Le Président a été contacté par un certain nombre de délégations qui ont, surtout ceux de langue française, relevé une erreur que je voudrais corriger. Pour éviter que cela ne soit débattu, cela porte sur la version française. Les termes "ressources phytogénétiques" ont été employés au lieu de "ressources génétiques" en ce qui concerne la version française. Si vous pouvez donner la parole à l'Algérie qui vous montrera où se trouve l'erreur de la version française.

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Para introducir el tema, permítame un segundo, distinguido delegado de Canadá; vamos a ver cuál es el problema en el idioma francés.

**Nasreddine RIMOUCHE (Algérie):** En ce qui concerne l'appellation de la Commission, dans le texte français il est mentionné: "La Commission des ressources phytogénétiques". Je crois que l'appellation exacte est: "La Commission des ressources génétiques". Je vous remercie.

**Fernando José MARRONI DE ABREU (Brazil):** Just two very minor corrections. The second line of the second paragraph is "sustainable utilization of plant.." and not "sustainably", in the English version.

Then, on the fourth operative paragraph, we have, at the end of the first line, two articles "the" "the".

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Creo que esto afecta solamente en el idioma inglés. Igualmente en el español, prevalece el error del francés respecto a la Comisión de Recursos Fitogenéticos; pero estas correcciones se hacen de curso, y espero que estén de acuerdo con el proyecto de resolución y con las correcciones en los respectivos idiomas que les han sido presentadas.

Vuelvo a someter el proyecto de resolución a su consideración.

**Andrew Keith PEARSON (Australia):** You are very quick. I will have to enter a technical reservation for the adoption of this, until we have seen and approved the full report, as the Chairman would remember the arrangement.

It is only a technical reservation, but I must enter it at this stage.

**EL PRESIDENTE:** La razón por la cual está haciendo ese comentario el distinguido Delegado de Australia, y quiero hacérselo saber al Consejo, es que en el acuerdo de presentación de este proyecto, un último párrafo del proyecto que se refiere a los trabajos de la revisión del compromiso internacional, iba a pasar al informe del Consejo y no quedaría en este proyecto resolutivo. De manera que, la petición del delegado de Australia es que se vea esto en paquete, pero en principio, si está de acuerdo con ese párrafo en el texto del Informe, el proyecto de resolución es aceptable, y de manera condicionada, aunque está usted haciendo una reserva técnica, estamos de acuerdo con esto. Vamos, entonces, a acordar con ese texto, a reserva de ver el Informe del Comité de Redacción.

Me informan que está listo el texto del REP/9. Se va a distribuir en la sala si ustedes permanecen en sus lugares. Les voy a dar tiempo para que puedan leerlo y, una vez que lo hayan hecho, continuaremos con nuestros trabajos.

**The meeting was suspended from 17.40 to 18.00 hours.**

**La séance est suspendue de 17 h 40 à 18.00 heures.**

**Se suspende la sesión de las 17.40 a las 18.00 horas.**

**DRAFT REPORT - PART IX**

**PROJET DE RAPPORT - NEUVIEME PARTIE**

**PROYECTO DE INFORME - PARTE IX**

**PARAGRAPHS 1 TO 5**

**PARAGRAPHERS 1 A 5**

**PARRAFOS 1 A 5**

**Nasreddine RIMOUCHE (Algérie):** En ce qui concerne la page de couverture du Rapport 9, il est indiqué que les dates de reprise de la réunion du CSA étaient du 8 au 10. Je crois que cela a été modifié. Ces dates sont: 8 et 9. Cette même erreur figure dans le paragraphe 3. Il faudrait donc procéder à la correction de la date. Je vous remercie.

**EL PRESIDENTE:** En el título en español está equivocado, efectivamente decía "8 a 10", pero en el párrafo 3 en español está correcto. En el caso del inglés está equivocado en el título y también en el párrafo 3. De manera que se corregirá la fecha para que diga "8 a 9 de octubre".

**David BEEHAN (Ireland):** We very much welcome this draft report and, once again, we appreciate the efforts of the Secretariat, Mr Chairman.

A couple of comments: we note that, included under this Agenda Item, in the title of it, we have the dates 28th to 30th, and it reads reports of the 21st and 22nd. The 22nd has three sets of dates but, as the 28th to 30th has not taken place yet, could we say "The Progress Report"? It is difficult for us to consider the report - may be I misunderstand the way it has been put but we are talking about a meeting that has not yet taken place. May be it has to be looked at. That is the first thing, Mr Chairman.

On the text itself, we are quite happy, except that we would like one minor modification. We think it makes our understanding of the decisions taken a little clearer. The modification we propose is in paragraph 3. Paragraph 3 has two sentences. In the second sentence, beginning "The Council noted that the CFS, in order to complete its work, had agreed at its 22nd Session be reconvened from 28 to 30 October in Rome and had recommended the cancellation of the Senior Officials' Meeting, scheduled for 11 and 12 November 1996 in Rome", we would wish that a full stop be put in after "Rome". We have dealt with now the convening of the meeting and the recommendation to cancel the Senior Officials' Meeting.

Then, our modification would be finished by starting a new sentence with the word "Therefore, the meeting from the 28 to 30 October 1996 will be the final negotiating session". So we would take out the words "to ensure that" and the word "would". The last sentence would read, Mr Chairman, and I repeat, "Therefore, the meeting from the 28 to 30 October 1996 will be the final negotiating session".

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Su planteamiento tiene varias partes. Respecto a la primera parte, el informe sobre el Período de Sesiones que no ha concluido; la razón por la cual está escrito de esta manera es porque se refiere a un Período de Sesiones, aunque no haya sido terminado el informe. Creo que sería difícil modificar el texto.

No sé si los delegados desean que se vuelva a repetir la propuesta del Delegado de Irlanda antes de considerarla.

**Christophe KIEMTORE (Président du Comité de rédaction):** Nous avons bien noté la proposition du délégué de l'Irlande et je crois savoir, compte tenu des débats au sein du Comité de rédaction, que la proposition de l'Irlande est acceptable du point de vue de l'esprit qui a régné au sein du Comité. Cette proposition de constituer une nouvelle phrase à partir de la fin pourrait être acceptable si les Membres du Conseil l'approuvent.

**Nasreddine RIMOUCHE (Algérie):** En ce qui concerne la proposition qui vient d'être faite par l'Irlande, cela ne pose aucun problème, mais je crois que le texte, tel que rédigé, reflète bien ce qui a été dit parce que certaines délégations ont axé leurs interventions sur cet aspect là en insistant que cette Session correspondrait à la dernière phase de négociations, et je proposerais la modification suivante, quant à la dernière Session: "dernière phase de cette Session de négociations" pour être bien précis. Parce qu'il s'agit de la même Session du CSA mais de la dernière phase de négociations de cette Session. J'aurais ensuite une autre proposition de modification au début du paragraphe 3 dans le texte français, il est écrit: "... à la fin de la reprise...", et je crois qu'il faut dire: "... à la fin de la Session..." et supprimer "...de la reprise...".

**Ronald ROSE (Canada):** I certainly have no problems with the amendment proposed to the end of paragraph 3. I think it reflects the debate that took place. I actually raise my flag to help the problem that is identified with the title and if we were to use the word "Report" in the singular -- "Report of the 21st and Progress Report of the 22nd meetings" -- that would solve the problem.

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Muchas gracias. Efectivamente íbamos a proponer esa modificación. Creo que es aceptable para todos. Se modifica, entonces, el título, de modo que lea: Informe del 21º Período de Sesiones e Informe de Progreso del 22º Período de Sesiones del Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria, con inclusión de los preparativos, etc. Entiendo que el Asesor Legal tiene un problema con el hecho de que en la Agenda fue aprobado este título y que la parte del informe debería ser consistente, por eso es que yo decía al principio que era difícil modificarlo, pero el Consejo es soberano y puede tomar decisión. Yo creo que, en virtud de las circunstancias y de la claridad, podemos aceptar la formulación propuesta por Canadá.

Vamos a dividir, entonces, la discusión respecto al título.

**Thomas Austin FORBORD (United States of America):** It is not on the title, Chairman. The title is fine.

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Déjeme terminar, entonces, esta fase. El título, entonces, se modifica conforme ha sido propuesto por Canadá.

**Thomas Austin FORBORD (United States of America):** In paragraph 3, just a minor editorial change. The first word could be 'after' rather than 'at' because he did not report to the Council at the CFS session, it was after the CFS session.

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Han tomado nota, pero hago observar como lo había dicho Argelia que éste es parte de un Período de Sesiones continuado. Quizá debe decirse, después del final de la parte del Período de Sesiones, reanudado durante los días 8 y 9 porque no es el final del Período de Sesiones del que estamos hablando en verdad, sino de la parte o la sección del Período de Sesiones reanudado durante los días. ¿Están de acuerdo en modificarlo de esa manera? podríamos concluir con esta parte. Se acepta la propuesta de Estados Unidos.

**Nasreddine RIMOUCHE (Algérie):** Désolé de prendre une autre fois la parole, mais je crois qu'il faudrait aussi procéder à cette modification avant de passer à la proposition irlandaise concernant les



derniers mots du paragraphe 3 où on parle aussi de la dernière Session de négociations, alors il faut dire: "... à la dernière phase de cette Session de négociations...".

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Esto atañe parte de las modificaciones propuestas por Irlanda porque la delegación de Irlanda, al final del párrafo había propuesto que después del 11 y 12 de noviembre de 1996 en Roma, se pusiera un punto y aparte y luego entraría una nueva frase que usted ha modificado y que según lo que tengo aquí diría: "por lo tanto, la última fase del 22º Período de Sesiones del CSA, del 28 al 30 de octubre, representa la reunión de negociación final". Quizá, usted, distinguido delegado de Argelia, pueda corregir lo que he dicho.

**Nasreddine RIMOUCHE (Argérie):** Ce n'est pas une modification de fond, mais je crois avoir indiqué que le texte ne nous pose aucun problème, tel qu'il est libellé actuellement, car même si la proposition irlandaise est maintenue, cela ne pose aucun problème, bien que nous préférons que le texte, tel que libellé, soit maintenu car il reflète bien le débat qui s'est instauré sur cette question.

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Si no representa problemas, entonces, podemos aceptar en principio que está siendo una nueva frase con la modalidad de introducir el término: "la última fase del 22º Período de Sesiones".

**David BEEHAN (Ireland):** Just to maybe clarify, Ireland is speaking on behalf of the European Union Member States and we are quite clear on the decisions that were taken at the CFS session which decided that the CFS would reconvene for three days, the 28th to the 30th. The two other aspects of this package which we have referred to were that the deadline for the negotiations would be the 30th and thirdly that the high-level officials' meeting would be cancelled.

We think that, to reflect the debate and the decisions taken, our modification would accurately reflect that. I think we should try not to confuse whether we talk about sessions, phases or meetings. The reality is that what we are talking about is the 28th to the 30th being the final session of negotiations. That is specifically the point and that is what was specifically agreed. Our proposal, as I put it originally, was considerably different to that that I heard the interpreter relate to me when you read it out, Mr Chairman. Our modification is quite short and in English reads: "Therefore the meeting from 28 to 30 October 1996 will be the final negotiating session".

**Philip MOUMIE (Cameroun):** Je ne demandais pas la parole pour intervenir uniquement sur le paragraphe 3, mais sur d'autres points.

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Muchas gracias. Vamos a concluir con esta propuesta de creación de una nueva frase al final o una modificación de la última parte del párrafo 3 y la nueva frase que propone Irlanda. ¿Están de acuerdo con la propuesta? Me parece que Argelia puede coincidir y por tanto se acepta. Bien, ahora pasemos a otras partes del párrafo 3.

**Philip MOUMIE (Cameroun):** Je voulais intervenir sur plusieurs paragraphes en même temps, pas uniquement sur le paragraphe 3.

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Si pudiera comenzar usted con el 3 para terminar este párrafo ya que lo estamos tratando, o ¿tiene alguna observación general?. Si es una propuesta de redacción, le pido la haga, si es una propuesta general que no la ha ubicado en ningún párrafo, entonces, espéreme a que concluyamos con el párrafo 3.

**Philip MOUMIE (Cameroun):** Je préfère intervenir sur les deux principaux paragraphes 1 et 2. Ce ne sont que des problèmes de rédaction dans la version française.

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Para terminar el párrafo 3, tenemos dos enmiendas, ustedes las han escuchado y espero estén de acuerdo y podamos aceptar el párrafo 3. Así lo adopta el Consejo.

Respecto de los párrafos 1 y 2 en la versión francesa, le pido al delegado de Camerún nos explique su problema.

**Philip MOUMIE (Cameroun):** Je voulais tout simplement proposer quelques formulations plus intelligibles en français. Dans le paragraphe 1, nous proposons que la rédaction soit la suivante, ce qui n'est pas une modification de fond: "...le Conseil a approuvé le rapport de la vingt-et-unième Session du Comité de la sécurité alimentaire mondiale (CSA) et "entendu", pas "écouté de son Président", et "entendu de son Président, un rapport oral sur l'état d'avancement des travaux de la vingt-deuxième Session du Comité". Dans la phrase suivante, il a noté que:".. le CSA avait approuvé à cette Session le projet de règlement intérieur du Sommet mondial de l'alimentation, mais avait suspendu ses travaux, n'étant pas parvenu à un accord sur les questions non résolues...", au lieu de dire:"... avant de parvenir...", puisqu'il n'est pas parvenu: "... n'étant pas parvenu à un accord sur les questions non résolues dans le projet du document du Sommet

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Permítanme primero tratar el párrafo 1. En la interpretación al español escuché pequeñas modificaciones al tiempo de los verbos pero es algo que, quizá, no afecta gravemente el párrafo y no se si en francés estarían de acuerdo con la modificación. Bien, hemos escuchado el tratamiento sobre el párrafo 1. No se si el Presidente del Comité de Redacción tenga algún problema. No tiene ningún problema. El párrafo 2 y es también un problema en francés, distinguido delegado de Camerún podría, quizá, tratarlo con el Presidente del Comité de Redacción. Haga el tratamiento general, por favor.

**Philip MOUMIE (Cameroun):** Je l'aurais certainement communiqué au Président du Comité de rédaction, mais comme vous me donnez la parole je la prends pour proposer à toute l'assemblée la modification suivante à la première phrase:"...et a noté que le CSA avait pour mandat de la Conférence...". On préférerait dire: "...et a noté que le CSA avait reçu de la Conférence le mandat de préparer...". Ceci est une modification de rédaction et non pas de fond. Il y en a d'autres que je communiquerai au Président du Comité de rédaction.

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Parece que afecta nada más que al idioma francés y podemos pedirle, entonces, que pase por escrito estas modificaciones al Presidente del Comité de Redacción para su incorporación en el informe final.

**Thomas Austin FORBORD (United States of America):** Just a very small change in paragraph 4. It now indicates that the continued session will begin on the 28th to the 30th: the words are "continuation of the session from 28 - 30". Instead of a hyphen between the dates, if you could put in the word 'to', it would make it clear that that period is not just the beginning, it also includes the end.

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Muchas gracias. Creo que esto afecta al inglés, en español es correcto.

**N. SHIBANI (Syria) (Original language Arabic):** Concerning Item 5, paragraph 1, at the end of the first line. This only concerns the Arabic text. It is from the Chairman of the "Committee", not of the "Council". This only concerns the Arabic.

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Si tienen alguna otra observación que afecta exclusivamente a un idioma, les suplico que se lo pasen al Presidente del Comité de Redacción, o a la Secretaría en su caso, para que ésta sea incorporada en la versión definitiva.

**Nasreddine RIMOUCHE (Algérie):** Pour ce qui est du paragraphe 4, il est dit à la deuxième ligne que le "Comité a souligné que le CSA devait achever d'ici au 30 octobre 1996 la tâche..." Il faudrait dire "devait achever au plus tard le 30 octobre 1996 la tâche..."

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Han escuchado ustedes la enmienda que se aplica a la segunda parte de la primera frase del párrafo 4 y que reza: "a más tardar el 30 de octubre", en lugar de: "para el 30 de octubre". ¿Están de acuerdo con esta modificación? Si, entonces se adopta.

**Paragraphs 1 to 5, as amended, approved**

**Les paragraphes 1 to 5, ainsi amendés, sont approuvés**

**Los párrafos 1 to 5, así enmendados, 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**

**Philip MOUMIE (Cameroun):** Merci Monsieur le Président. Mais ce n'est pas pour intervenir sur le rapport, c'est pour poser une question. Est-ce que nous pouvons espérer, avant de partir ce soir, avoir les documents issus des derniers débats du Comité de sécurité alimentaire d'hier soir, les projets de déclaration de politique et le plan d'action?

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Quizás, una vez que puedan hacerse las consultas respecto de cuál es la situación, le podremos informar en unos minutos, una vez que concluyamos con la aprobación del informe. Si me permite, entonces, nada más unos minutos para que se hagan las preguntas necesarias en el proceso. Me indica el señor Hjort que estarían listos en aproximadamente dos horas en todos los idiomas.

**DRAFT REPORT - PART X**

**PROJET DE RAPPORT - DIXIEME PARTIE**

**PROYECTO DE INFORME - PARTE X**

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Pasemos, entonces, a la última sección del Proyecto de Informe que es el REP/10. Ustedes han estudiado ya el texto del Proyecto de Resolución que ha sido aceptado a la luz del informe que el Presidente del Comité de Redacción, y para describir los debates ahí sostenidos y el equilibrio que se logró, le voy a pedir al Presidente el Comité de Redacción que nos introduzca esta última parte.

**Christophe KIEMTORE (Président du Comité de rédaction):** Le Comité de rédaction a consacré beaucoup de temps à ces trois paragraphes, et les formulations qui vous sont proposées sont le niveau de consensus auquel nous sommes parvenus; cet équilibre est assez précaire, et il a été acquis grâce à un certain nombre de concessions obtenues de la part des différents pays qui représentaient les différents intérêts. A ce sujet je voudrais juste attirer votre attention sur un aspect particulier qui a fait l'objet de négociations très poussées et qui concernait la participation des pays en développement aux prochaines sessions de négociations et aux discussions, et les représentants des différentes régions sont tombés d'accord. C'étaient "le consensus" et "le compromis" pour ne pas faire référence à ce paragraphe, étant entendu que la résolution ne pouvait être adoptée que dans ce contexte. Je voudrais donc vous demander de tenir compte de ces conditions spéciales des négociations dans l'examen du rapport que je vous soumetts.

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Espero que hayan tomado nota de las largas horas de trabajo del Comité de Redacción y el equilibrio difícil que alcanzó en la redacción de este texto, y que, a la luz de ello, ustedes puedan adoptarlo.

Vamos a ir párrafo por párrafo. ¿Párrafo 1? Aprobado. ¿Párrafo 2? Aprobado. ¿Párrafo 3? Aprobado. ¿Párrafo 4? Tiene el texto de la resolución que ustedes ya estudiaron y que, a la luz de este texto, espero sea aceptable. Se concluye la adopción de nuestro informe.

**Paragraphs 1 to 4, including Resolution, approved**

**Les paragraphes 1 à 4, y compris le Resolution, sont approuvés**

**Los párrafos 1 a 4, incluido el Resolución, son aprobados**

**Draft Report of Plenary, Part X, was adopted**

**Le projet de rapport de la Plénière, dixième partie, est adopté**

**El proyecto de informe de la Plenaria, Parte X, es aprobado**

**Andrew Keith PEARSON (Australia):** I would just like to note for the record now that I am lifting my technical reservation.

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Distinguidos delegados, con esto concluye la adopción del informe de un Período de Sesiones que fue, espero yo, un poco más ligero que los trabajos que sostuvieron inmediatamente antes y durante el período de suspensión del mismo; creo que el Consejo pudo utilizar plenamente el tiempo a su disposición, sobre todo para ofrecer, al Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria, el espacio para llevar importantes negociaciones. El clima de buena voluntad creo que fue enaltecido; ustedes lograron recobrar un ritmo importante que seguramente le dará, a la Cumbre Mundial, el éxito que merece, y también hemos probado que ha cambiado la forma de debatir los temas en el Consejo, no sólo por decreto, sino también por la voluntad manifestada y materializada por todos ustedes de ser más concisos, evitar duplicaciones, ir al punto, tomar decisiones, tener informes más breves y, sobre todo, ahorrarle a la Organización recursos que son, desde luego, importantes.

Yo quiero finalizar este Período de Sesiones del Consejo, agradecer a todos aquellos que lo hicieron posible y que nos permitieron, sobre todo, llevar a cabo estas sesiones en un clima de relativo optimismo.

Debo advertir que el distinguido delegado de Egipto no está presente en la sala y que me había pedido la palabra para manifestarle a los miembros del Consejo que éste era su último Consejo, por lo menos, como representante de su país aquí en Roma; que les saludaba y les agradecía el tiempo que convivió con ustedes.

Les pregunto, a estas alturas, ¿si hay algún miembro que desee tomar la palabra? Si no lo hay, agradezco al Presidente del Comité de Redacción por los esfuerzos, a los miembros del Comité de Redacción, al Grupo de Contacto y a todos ustedes por su asistencia, y espero que, ahora sí, logren descansar unos días y vean el sol. Gracias.

**DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL:** I am going to continue in a very brief and business-like style and say on behalf of the Director-General, thank you.

**The meeting rose at 18.45 hours.**

**La séance est levée à 18.45 heures.**

**Se levanta la sesión a las 18.45 horas.**