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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

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Hundred and Fourteenth Session • Cent quatorzième session • 114° período de sesiones

Rome, 19 November 1997
VERBATIM RECORDS OF PLENARY MEETINGS OF THE COUNCIL

Rome, 19 novembre 1997
PROCES-VERBAUX DES SEANCES PLENIERES DU CONSEIL

Roma, 19 de noviembre de 1997
**ACTAS TAQUIGRAFICAS DE LAS SESIONES PLENARIAS DEL
CONSEJO**

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CHAIRMAN

I call the first meeting of the Hundred and Fourteenth Council to order. This Session of the Council is traditionally short and to the point and so I call upon your cooperation in keeping our proceedings as smooth-running as possible.

Since I have the floor, may I take this opportunity to extend a cordial welcome to the new Council Members, namely, Eritrea, Greece, Namibia and Poland.

Before proceeding to the first item on the Provisional Agenda, I would like to make a short announcement. The European Community is participating in this meeting in accordance with paragraphs 8 and 9 of Article II of the FAO Constitution. I have been asked by the European Community to inform you that on all items of the Council's Agenda today, both competence and voting rights lie with the Member States. I would draw the attention of the meeting to this declaration.

We now come to the first item of the Provisional Agenda before us, namely, the Adoption of the Agenda as set out in document CL 114/1. Does any delegation wish to make a remark on the Provisional Agenda?

I. INTRODUCTORY ITEMS**I. INTRODUCTION****I. TEMAS INTRODUCTORIOS****1. Adoption of the Agenda****1. Adoption de l'ordre du jour****1. Aprobación del programa**

Andrew Keith PEARSON (Australia)

I certainly welcome a speedy movement through the Agenda and other items today. However, if I could just signal that under item 10, Any Other Matters, Australia would like to take up a point that was made at the Conference yesterday in relation to consideration by the Council, and possibly other technical bodies, of reviewing the functioning of the Conference and the various structures associated with it. I have noted that there was support of this intervention yesterday by Canada and also a number of my colleagues have raised this, so I think probably "Any Other Matters" would be where I would like to signal that.

CHAIRMAN

I think it is very proper to put this into "Any Other Matters" at the end of the Session. Any other remarks?

Since there are no other remarks the Agenda is adopted.

It was so decided

Il en est ainsi décidé

Así se acuerda.

- 2. Election of the three Vice-Chairmen**
2. Election des trois Vice-Présidents
2. Elección de los tres Vicepresidentes

SECRETARY-GENERAL

Following consultations among the Regional Groups, we have the following proposals for the three posts of Vice-Chairman: Mr. Michael Tabong Kima of Cameroon, Mr. Juan Nuiry Sánchez of Cuba, Mr. Etsuo Kitahara of Japan.

CHAIRMAN

Are there any objections?

Since I do not see any objections, I wish to congratulate the three Vice-Chairmen on their election.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

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

Retirement of Mr Howard W. Hjort
Retraite de M. Howard W. Hjort
Jubilacion del Sr. Howard W. Hjort

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DIRECTOR-GENERAL

I now take the floor to inform you with great regret that the Deputy Director-General, Mr Howard Hjort, has the intention to retire at the end of this year. Mr Hjort has been serving this Organization with great competence and dedication for a period of thirteen years, six of them as the Deputy Director-General.

He has had a varied experience in the private sector, in government departments and in international organizations. He held responsible positions with the Ford Foundation in India and senior positions with the United States Department of Agriculture before joining FAO in 1984 as the Director of the Policy Analysis Division. He served as the Director of the FAO Liaison Office for North America for one-and-a-half years from July 1990. In January 1992, my predecessor Mr Edouard Saouma appointed him the Deputy Director-General. Since I joined the Organization in January 1994, Mr Hjort has continued to serve as the Deputy Director-General with a vision, energy, devotion and ability not commonly seen in the international arena.

I must really get away from the text and say how appreciative I am of the work that Mr Hjort has done. I arrived in this Organization from outside, I was not used to the procedures and I did not know many of the people at FAO. I came with a number of ideas and I brought a lot of changes, but as I focused on explaining those ideas, on explaining those changes, on getting political support here and having to travel to get political support outside, someone had to operationalize those ideas and those changes. Someone had to get them through the machinery of this Organization, someone had to ensure that when I was away the Organization continued to work and that I was kept informed on a daily basis of what had happened .

Someone had to chair the meetings of the Establishments Committee, to change all the post descriptions, to readjust all the different Mission Statements, someone had to ensure that all the people who were leaving the Organization because of posts cancelled were treated fairly and that those whose posts were cancelled, but had still the possibility of serving the Organization, were redeployed in a transparent manner. All this was done in a way that was acceptable to the staff representatives and that was to my total satisfaction.

I would like to personally thank Mr. Hjort from the depth of my heart for having been very loyal. He has always expressed his views to me on my ideas, as to my proposals, but he never questioned decisions when they were taken by the Head of the Organization you elected. So, for his efficiency, for his loyalty and for the services he rendered to this Organization, I would like again to express my great admiration, appreciation and thanks to him. As he is leaving the Organization on a very well-deserved retirement, I pay my greatest compliment to this distinguished international civil servant.

The Organization now has to look ahead and find the most suitable replacement to take over the responsibility of the Deputy Director-General. After serious consideration of the matter, I have decided to appoint Mr David Harcharik to fill this position with effect from 1 January 1998. I do not need to spend much time in introducing Mr Harcharik to you. You are all familiar with him and have seen him as the Assistant Director-General in charge of the Forestry Department since February 1995. I have a great regard for, and a high expectation from Mr Harcharik, who has an impressive record of experience and accomplishments.

With a Masters and PhD in Forestry, Mr Harcharik has some thirty years of international experience. He had a two-year Peace Corps assignment in Peru early in his career when he served as a visiting professor with the Agrarian University in Lima. He later joined FAO and worked from 1972 to 1978 as Forestry Officer in the Forest Resources Division. He also worked as a private consultant for the World Bank and World Food Programme. He joined the United States Department of Agriculture, Forest Service in 1981 and held increasingly responsible positions. Then he became the Director of International Forestry in 1984 and Associate Deputy Chief of the Service in 1992. He has served as the Chairman of the Permanent Committee on Reforestation and Forest Management of the International Tropical Timber Council and as the Chairman of the Advisory Committee for the Siberian Forest Study of the International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis. He has also served on the Society of American Foresters' World Forestry Committee and the International Forestry Working Group, the Board of Directors of the American Forestry Association and the Strategic Council of the Yale University School of Forestry.

Rule XXXIX of the General Rules of the Organization stipulates, that "Appointment to the post of Deputy Director-General shall be made by the Director-General, subject to confirmation by the Council". As I have full confidence in Mr Harcharik assuming the position of Deputy Director-General, I would be most pleased to have the Council's confirmation of this appointment. I thank you for your kind attention.

E. Wayne DENNEY (United States of America)

The United States shares the sorrow expressed by the Director-General in seeing Mr Hjort leave FAO but at the same time we are delighted to see that Mr Harcharik has been named as his successor. This proposal certainly has our support.

The United States is very pleased and honoured to pay tribute to Howard Hjort for his outstanding contribution to FAO during his more than thirteen years with the Organization. It has been my personal privilege to have known Mr Hjort since early 1971 when he was with a leading US consulting firm in the Washington, D.C. area. In the late 1970s, Mr Hjort ably served as Director of Economics in the US Department of Agriculture, where he also managed the Department's budget and was instrumental in shaping US farm policy. He was appointed as Special Adviser to the Secretary of Agriculture in 1981 and shortly thereafter resumed the

consulting business where he was soon advising FAO in the development of its AGRISTAT system.

Senior FAO leadership was so impressed with Mr Hjort's capabilities that he was appointed Director of the Policy Analysis Division in 1984. Their confidence in his skills was quickly affirmed as the quality of the Division's output, including its report on the State of Food and Agriculture, spiralled upward. We particularly recall the outstanding study on agricultural price policy which policy-makers still utilize today. We have always thought that Mr Hjort prepared most of this report on his own.

While most of you know that Mr Hjort served as Director of FAO's Liaison Office in Washington before assuming the position of Deputy Director-General in 1992, many of the traits that he exhibited in the mid- and late-1980s are unchanged today. He is an accomplished economist, a top-notch communicator, a stern manager and someone who rarely works less than 70-80 hours a week -- I am sure his wife can attest to that. He is a staunch advocate for FAO and may not take kindly to anyone who thinks otherwise.

Despite the above strengths and attributes, Mr Hjort does not spend all of his time at the office. Many of you may know that Mr Hjort is an avid volleyball player, which occupies his Sunday afternoons virtually every week of the year. While this activity presents an opportunity to interact in a somewhat relaxed atmosphere, most will agree that it is more enjoyable to be on his side than on the opposing team. We have found the same to be true in FAO fora. We are delighted that Mr Hjort will once again be returning to the Washington area, where we will undoubtedly continue to seek his wise counsel on FAO matters. While his presence in Rome will be deeply missed, we expect that the Director-General will continue to rely on the many talents of this exceptional individual.

Howard, once again, the United States is extremely pleased with the role you have played in contributing to FAO's work for the past fourteen years and we look forward to your continued friendship and dialogue.

Turning to my friend and colleague, David Harcharik, let me first say that you certainly have big shoes to fill, but we have no misgivings about your ability to be an outstanding Deputy Director-General. While Mr Harcharik has been Assistant Director-General for Forestry for less than three years, he has been closely following FAO for more than twenty-five years. The Director-General has provided an excellent summary of the background and experiences which make Mr Harcharik very qualified for this immense task. His formal training in forestry, his background in the Peace Corps, his progressively more responsible positions in the international arena of the US Forest Service and, of course, his previous tenure at FAO in the early 1970s, have combined to enable Mr Harcharik to do an outstanding job as ADG for Forestry. In less than three years he has reinvigorated the Forestry Department by better defining its mission and priorities, including the development of a Strategic Plan for Forestry, preparing a new report entitled "The State of the World's Forests" and working to integrate the Forestry Department's work with other technical units in FAO. His ability to make decisions based on the total good of the Organization will be especially helpful in his new capacity.

The United States looks forward to working with Mr Harcharik as Deputy Director-General in the coming years. His deliberate, thoughtful style will instil a positive team spirit throughout the Organization. David, once again, our warmest and sincere congratulations for your selection to this prestigious post.

Mame BALLA SY (Sénégal)

Puisque c'est la première fois que, vous aussi, vous présidez le Conseil, c'est un plaisir pour la délégation du Sénégal de vous présenter, au nom du Groupe africain, toutes nos félicitations et nos vœux de succès dans votre mission, tout en vous assurant de notre détermination à collaborer le plus étroitement possible avec vous dans l'intérêt bien compris de l'Organisation que nous

aimons tant, pour la rendre beaucoup plus efficace et dynamique au service de l'humanité et surtout des populations les plus démunies. Monsieur le Président, à propos de la question importante qui nous est soumise ce matin, je disais que c'est une coïncidence assez émouvante pour moi car j'ai connu Monsieur Hjort il y a treize ans, comme diplomate et représentant de mon pays auprès de cette même Organisation où j'assume actuellement les fonctions d'Ambassadeur. C'est avec beaucoup de regrets que nous allons devoir nous passer, momentanément je l'espère, parce que nous aurons toujours à compter sur sa sagesse et ses conseils, de cet homme affable et toujours patient, prêt à écouter, à servir l'Organisation avec une loyauté et une efficacité très rares. Je pense qu'il s'agit-là d'un homme dont les services rendus à cette Organisation ne peuvent pas être énumérés par un être humain car je peux vous dire que j'ai retrouvé treize ans après le même homme avec le même dynamisme, la même foi, la même loyauté. Donc, le Groupe africain, par ma parole, voudrait exprimer toute sa reconnaissance à Monsieur Hjort. Je me souviens encore des heures tardives durant lesquelles il a, sans désespérer, participé à la préparation du Sommet mondial jusqu'à la dernière minute et a même accepté, parfois, de subir des affronts qu'il a su, avec beaucoup d'intelligence et de sagesse, digérer au nom de la seule cause poursuivie par l'Organisation, c'est-à-dire aider les populations les plus démunies. Naturellement, comme mon collègue des Etats-Unis, je sais que son futur remplaçant est un homme pétri de qualités, mais effectivement, il aura une dure tâche, celle de remplacer Monsieur Hjort. Toutefois, nous sommes conscients, compte tenu de ses qualités, qu'il pourra le remplacer valablement tout en pouvant compter assurément sur notre soutien. Cela dit, nous souhaitons beaucoup de succès à Monsieur Hjort dans ses activités futures aussi bien professionnelles que familiales, tout en souhaitant qu'il soit souvent avec nous, aussi longtemps que le besoin s'en fera sentir. Nous souhaitons également beaucoup de succès à son futur remplaçant, dont nous sommes sûrs qu'il possédera les qualités et la détermination requises. Je vous remercie.

Pedro Alfonso MEDRANO ROJAS (Chile)

Quisiera en primer lugar expresar nuestra satisfacción por ver a usted presidir esta primera sesión del Consejo. Quisiera asegurarle, al igual que lo hizo el distinguido Embajador de Senegal, que de nuestra parte, tendrá todo nuestro respaldo para que pueda cumplir adecuadamente sus labores como Presidente del Consejo.

En segundo lugar quisiera referirme a la partida de nuestro querido Howard Hjort. Es para mí en lo personal un alto honor el poder señalar de que he tenido siempre el privilegio de su amistad y que en tal sentido el hecho de que se marche ciertamente deja un vacío muy grande en esta Organización. Creo considerarme uno de sus amigos, tanto de él como de su familia. He tenido el privilegio de compartir largas horas de trabajo con el doctor Hjort y he aprendido a admirarlo por su inteligencia, por su capacidad de análisis y por su lealtad a la Organización. Hemos encontrado siempre en él una persona que ha sabido guiarnos y darnos, en momentos muy difíciles, soluciones que parecían muchas veces imposible de encontrar.

Quisiera muy en particular resaltar el decisivo aporte que el doctor Hjort prestó a la preparación de la Cumbre Mundial Sobre la Alimentación. En mi calidad de presidente del Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria Mundial tuve el privilegio de tenerlo siempre a mi lado representando no sólo los intereses de la Organización sino, también, tratando muchas veces de interpretar lo que nosotros a veces queríamos expresar pero no podíamos hacerlo adecuadamente.

Deseo expresarle a él y a su distinguida esposa, y entiendo que a su hija, que no alcanzo a distinguir, que nos acompañan en esta reunión, nuestra gratitud, nuestro reconocimiento y nuestros mejores deseos para el futuro. No sabíamos de sus habilidades deportivas, pero ahora entendemos cómo muchas veces él de alguna forma las ponía en práctica en nuestras reuniones. Estamos seguros que él podrá sentirse muy honrado con este reconocimiento que hoy día le hace el Consejo y que yo pediría, señor Presidente, que conste en las actas del Informe de este Consejo, el reconocimiento y la gratitud que este Consejo le expresa al doctor Hjort por su incalculable aporte a la Organización.

Al mismo tiempo quisiéramos expresarle al doctor Harcharik nuestros mejores deseos de éxito en su trabajo y asegurarle que puede contar desde ya con nuestra colaboración en todo lo que pueda ser de utilidad para su trabajo.

Mrs Hannelore A.H. BENJAMIN (Dominica)

Today, it is the first time that you Chair the Council as Independent Chairman of the Council and we would like to congratulate you heartily for doing so.

On behalf of GRULAC, I would like to say that it is always very hard to say goodbye to a loyal friend. I have known Mr Hjort for many many years and there has not been one time where I could not turn to him in seeking advice. Readily that advice was given to me and his door has always been open as Deputy Director-General, as a friend. His efficiency, his correctness, has been above all, and no adjectives higher than outstanding can be formed in any dictionary.

Mr Hjort has played an important role in FAO. His exceptional work in the Committees, Councils, Conferences have shown, and proven, all his abilities possible. We will remember him for what he is, a fine gentleman, a hard working person, a great economist and an excellent Deputy Director-General.

Personally, I am not saying goodbye to you because I know our paths will cross many times when I come up to Washington. It is, however, also that in our diplomatic life we know that often we have to say goodbye to the person, the least one to say goodbye to, but that is life. Therefore, we wish Mr Hjort and his family a well earned retirement and wish him and his family, all the best in the days to come and may God bless him and his family.

At the same time, Mr Harcharik, we would like to welcome you, as the new chosen Deputy Director-General, by the Director-General. Again, I have to say that you and I have met many times talking about forestry, talking about various issues in connection with my country and in connection with FAO's work. I look forward, GRULAC looks forward, to working with you together to achieve the aim that is most important so that our forest can remain and is not being destroyed. Thank you for all, and God speed to Mr Hjort.

Ahmed Suleiman AL-AQUIL (Saudi Arabia, Kingdom of) (Original language Arabic)

On behalf of the Government and people of Saudi Arabia, I would like to congratulate you as Independent Chairman of the Council and I wish you every success in your new tasks.

I will not be lengthy after all we have heard about Mr Hjort. I also wish to express our sorrow for the news that he will be leaving us very soon. We have known Mr Hjort as a calm, quiet, balanced and wise person. We deeply appreciate him and we wish him every success in his future life, following the great achievements he has scored, as we have heard this morning.

On this occasion, I would like to welcome Mr Harcharik, the new Deputy Director-General, we wish him every success, particularly, as he has been working for the Organization, he is well informed and knows its own problems. We are confident that he is the right person for this post.

Juan NUIRY SANCHEZ (Cuba)

En primer lugar, señor Presidente, quisiéramos felicitarlo muy sinceramente por su elección y también por verlo en la conducción de este 114° Consejo de la FAO en el día de hoy.

Aún conociéndola, nos sorprendió la noticia dada en el día de hoy por el Director General sobre la jubilación del señor Hjort. Aunque aquí han hablado la Presidente del GRULAC y el Embajador de Chile por América Latina, nosotros tenemos la obligación de hablar hoy sobre el señor Hjort.

Estas son las situaciones que nos proporciona la política multilateral, conocer las mejores personas de todos los países. Podemos decir aquí que en el señor Hjort su capacidad ha ido junto a su sencillez, su profesionalidad y conocimiento a la par de su transparencia y su gran y al

mismo tiempo útil sentido del equilibrio. Podemos decirlo, que cuando teníamos un problema íbamos a ver al señor Hjort sin ningún tipo de reserva, al contrario, para enriquecernos ganar con lo que él nos iba a decir, su visión y acertado juicio cuando más difícil era una situación en la Plenaria o dentro de un debate o un análisis, los cuales eran conocidos y tal vez, pudiéramos incluso decir, esperados.

Al doctor Hjort le pudiéramos decir que cuando uno ha cumplido cabalmente con su vida laboral, es merecida la tranquilidad del descanso. Su presencia será recordada con cariño y aprecio aquí donde su aporte es tan apreciado. Por eso respaldamos totalmente lo planteado por Chile, al pedir que todas estas apreciaciones queden en el Acta.

Es más bien una cuestión formal, porque le pudiéramos decir al doctor Hjort que más que en el Acta va a quedar en nuestros corazones. En el doctor Hjort se une capacidad de trabajo y resultado de su gestión, es por eso que tanto para él, para su señora, para su familia, le deseamos lo mejor.

Al señor Harcharik lo conocemos por su capacidad y cooperación demostrada en sus trabajos anteriores, fundamentalmente en montes, y entendemos sinceramente que podrá ser un relevo efectivo y capaz en este árido trabajo.

Al señor Hjort nuestra más sincera despedida, y al señor Harcharik nuestra más cordial bienvenida y trasladándole el propósito de nuestra colaboración más sincera.

Ms Katriina KORTTEINEN (Observer from Finland)

Thank you, Mr Chairman for your kindness in allowing me to speak although I almost missed my chance.

On behalf of the OECD group countries, I would like to express the whole group's warm and respectful thanks for the work and services Mr Hjort has done for this Organization. Mr Hjort, on behalf of the OECD countries, I also thank you sincerely for your help and your support to us, the Member Countries, on every occasion. Sometimes a person becomes identical to or identified with his work; in this case, Mr Hjort, you have become identical to the whole Organization. We thank you for all you have done and we hope your volleyball career will get a new spring in Washington. Thank you very much and we wish you all the best.

Mr Harcharik, we received the news of your appointment with great satisfaction. It will be a privilege to work with you and we are happy to see your towering presence over the Forestry Department now spreading over the whole Organization. We wish you all the luck and all the best in your work and look forward to cooperating with you.

Upatissa PETHIYAGODA (Observer from Sri Lanka)

As the current Chairman of the Asia Group, I would like to add our own congratulations and felicitations to you in your important position as Independent Chairman of Council. I will be very brief, in the light of all the general tributes that have been paid and the hopes that have been held out by speakers who came before me. However, I have to say that I am particularly pleased, as a member of the Asia Group, to see you occupy the Chair and to pledge the unreserved cooperation of our Group in the conduct of your high office. Your experience and competence for chairing this august body is beyond doubt. I would, however, like to draw very brief attention to the appellation Independent in your important title. That you will measure up completely to this description also leaves us in no doubt. So on behalf of the Asia Group, you launch out on this important period with the fullest pledge of cooperation and sincere help that we can proffer you.

Secondly I would like to take this opportunity to thank Mr Hjort, the outgoing Deputy Director-General, for his long and exceptional service to this Organization. I cannot claim to have intimate knowledge of his ability and his character; however, I have watched with great interest the competence, the clarity and the eloquence with which he has addressed the various Bodies that I have been privileged to attend. I have no doubt that all of the tributes that have been paid to him

for his official, as well as his athletic prowess are well deserved and I would also like to associate ourselves with these sentiments. I wish him, on behalf of all of us, a happy retirement, a healthful one and a long one in the company of his family and perhaps in the indulgence in his favourite sport.

Also to Mr Harcharik who comes into the office of Deputy Director-General, I wish to express our warmest sentiments. He has been head of a very important section of the FAO's mandate, and I have no doubt that the competence that he has displayed in matters relating to the Department of Forestry will also be transmitted to his functioning as the Deputy Director-General. I have little doubt that our Director-General, Mr Diouf, will have in you an able lieutenant and a great help in fulfilling the mandate of this important Organization.

With those very brief words -- brief but sincere -- may I congratulate you, Mr Chairman, a big farewell to Mr Hjort and welcome Mr Harcharik on behalf of the Asia Group.

Suharyo HUSEN (Indonesia)

On behalf of the Indonesian delegation and the Government of Indonesia, first of all I would like to thank and appreciate to all Members of the Council and other Members of FAO for their support and cooperation to the Indonesian delegation during the Conference, as well as before the Conference, for the success of the Indonesian candidature for the post of Independent Chairman of the FAO Council. We intend to give all our support and cooperation towards the success of our Organization, FAO, especially in carrying out its functions and objectives to help people in the world to be free from hunger and malnutrition and to eradicate all poverty in all Member Countries.

Since the beginning of the participation of Indonesia in the work of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, Indonesia has committed itself to cooperate with other Member Countries in supporting the Organization for the implementation of each programme in assisting the Member Countries.

Allow me now to thank the Director-General for this morning's announcement of the change of the Deputy Director-General. In these times we feel deeply sorry for the retirement of Mr Hjort from the post of Deputy Director-General. The Indonesian delegation would like to join the Director-General and previous speakers in expressing the thanks and high appreciation for Mr Hjort's services to the Organization. We wish every success for Mr Hjort in the future in other places.

The Indonesian delegation would like also to welcome and congratulate the appointment of Mr Harcharik to the post of Deputy Director-General of this very important Organization. We look forward to the cooperation of the work of the Organization. I wish also every success to Mr Harcharik in the new post, especially in strengthening the Organization.

Melainine OULD MOCTAR NECHE (Mauritanie)

Merci, Monsieur le Président. Ma délégation se félicite pour votre excellente élection au poste de Président indépendant du Conseil. C'est là aussi l'occasion pour ma délégation de joindre sa voix à celle des autres intervenants qui m'ont précédé, pour féliciter Monsieur Hjort pour l'excellent travail qu'il a réalisé pendant tout son mandat, tout en souhaitant au nouveau Directeur général adjoint, Monsieur Harcharik, plein succès. Je ne terminerai pas ce message sans féliciter notre Directeur général, Monsieur Diouf, qui, grâce à son esprit de collaboration et de sagesse, a pu conserver Monsieur Hjort jusqu'à sa période de retraite, et pour le choix excellent qu'il a fait en choisissant Monsieur Harcharik comme Directeur général adjoint.

Mansour Mabrouk AL SEGHAYER (Observer from Libya) (Original language Arabic)

Mr Chairman, since you are presiding our deliberations for the first time, on behalf of the Near East Group and on behalf of my own delegation, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate you on your election as Independent Chairman of the Council. I would like to assure

you of our full cooperation and support so that you can be able to fulfil your job in a successful manner.

We would also like to thank Mr Hjort for the services he has rendered to the Organization and we wish him and his family every success.

We would also like to welcome Mr Harcharik who has been appointed Deputy Director-General.

DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL

Thank you, Mr Chairman, for this opportunity to respond to a series of totally outrageous comments.

I wish to paraphrase a Country and Western song to say that the Council is rough on standing Deputy Director-Generals but it sure speaks well of the retired or the retiring ones.

Mr Director-General, I believe the mood of this Council is such that if there is any particular matter that you would wish to have them approve, today would be the day to do it.

I also, at the outset wish to assure the Members that the first condition in our search for a house in the Washington DC area was that it had sufficient yard-space for a volleyball court.

I do want to express appreciation for the comments that have been made. At a time like this, one flashes back through their career and thinks of some of the highlights. In my case, it is now 35 years since I became a policy analyst in the Secretary of Agriculture's office in USDA during Jack Kennedy's presidency. It was 28 years ago, nearly, that I went to India with the Ford Foundation for a wonderful two-and-a-half years. Twenty years ago I became Economic Adviser to the Secretary of Agriculture during the Carter years. Thirteen years ago, as has been mentioned, I joined FAO as the Director of the Policy and Analysis Division. It was not an easy decision at that time but I am extremely grateful that I decided. It was the right choice. The Organization's purposes, goals and objectives are extremely close to my beliefs and values, so it has been rewarding.

Six years ago I was given the honour and the privilege to serve this Organization as the Deputy Director-General and that, of course, was the highlight of my personal career. The highlight during that period was of course the World Food Summit, a remarkable event, engineered by the new Director-General of the Organization. It has put food security back on the agenda, or at least higher on the agenda of the Organization, of the Member Countries and of the people of the world. We will be grateful for that action in the years to come. We have a long way to go, a long way to go to have "food for all" but the stage is set for it and this Organization, as we approach 1998, is in a better position to facilitate the attainment of that objective by the Member Countries of the world than it has ever been before.

I have had an extremely fortunate life. I have had the opportunity to stand on the shoulders of exceptional people and to work under the guidance of gifted people. At almost every step of my career I have often wondered why I was so blessed, why I was given those opportunities. The last 13 years have been the best, due mainly, as I previously said, between the compatibility between my own beliefs and values and the purposes and goals and objectives of this Organization. The last six, and especially the last four, have been the most demanding and the most rewarding. During that period, not only as far as the Organization is concerned but I also had the opportunity to find a loving wife, a supporting wife and we had the opportunity to have a child. Our little love, she is here.

I am grateful to my family for letting me work outrageous work schedules, devote so much attention to the work of the Organization. I am grateful to have had the opportunity to meet the people in this room and those who were the Ambassadors or the Permanent Representatives before you. The Member Countries have an exceptionally talented group of people that they assign here. I will cherish the friendships that I have managed to forge over these years, and that I have had the privilege to serve the Organization and especially in this position.

I must express appreciation to the staff, my immediate staff and the total staff of the Organization, for making it possible for me to make the contributions that I have been able to make. One does not do those things alone.

Finally I am deeply appreciative of having the opportunity to work with this Director-General. I can sympathize with Mr Harcharik in that this Director-General keeps saying that we are reaching the end of this reform and the revitalization and so forth and so it will be easier to get to normal work. But those of you who know him, know that he has so many ideas. Each time that he comes back from a trip he has one or two or three new ideas that he wants us to look at and see if we should not move forward to implement them. So I wish you well Mr Harcharik.

Finally, I want to note that I am retiring from the Organization. I will be 66 years of age in December but I do not intend to retire from active life. The Director-General has already mentioned and asked about my interests in the retirement programme for US\$ 100 a day and I am considering that. I do not want to be as active and as busy as I have been in recent years, I want a more relaxed life, but I will have the opportunity to pick and choose. There is one particular matter which I would appreciate the opportunity to be involved in and that is the so-called Track Three of UN system reform, because I am fearful that the present tracks may be running off the rails if we do not get the specialized agencies and the financing institutions into full consideration on the reform matter.

I have gone on too long. You have a big Agenda in front of you. Let me simply close by saying, thank you, thank you very much for all you have said, including those things that were beyond the truth.

Applause
Applaudissements
Aplausos

David A. HARCHARIK (Assistant Director-General, Forestry Department)

I confess that it is difficult to speak after those very emotional and moving words by our colleague and friend, Howard Hjort.

I would like to express my sincere thanks and appreciation, first to you, Mr Director-General, for the confidence that you have voiced in me by asking me to serve as your Deputy. I look forward to working as hard as I possibly can, not to betray that confidence.

Second, I would like to thank the representatives of our Member Governments here today for confirming the Director-General's decision. Through my responsibilities in Forestry, I have come to know many of you and I have enjoyed a very open and constructive dialogue with you. I am very anxious to continue and to expand on that rapport over the coming years: to work very closely with you in every way possible and, indeed, to serve you in this Organization that you have created.

Also, I would like to add my thanks and congratulations to Mr Hjort -- Howard -- for a long and exemplary career. I doubt that anyone in the history of FAO has worked harder for this Organization and its ideals than you have, and few have been as successful. Thank you for the advice that you have offered me, especially over this past year, and for the advice still to come. I will need it, all of it, and even more, for your shoes will be hard to fill. Indeed, I accept this assignment with a deep sense of humility, for I will be replacing the most experienced and hardest working person in FAO, and I will be moving to, perhaps, the toughest job in the Organization and the greatest challenge of my professional career. It is a challenge that I welcome, and I am anxious to begin. Yet, I ask myself how I can ever measure up to this responsibility and to my predecessor. The only answer that I have to this, is that I will turn to my colleagues, the Assistant Directors-General, for assistance, and my colleagues in the Office of the Director-General, those of you sitting behind me here today, and the Regional Representatives, the ADGs, from our Regional Offices. I have the utmost confidence in each of you and I respect

you for your talents and your commitment. You can expect me to seek your advice and support on a very regular basis.

Let me also say a sort of short goodbye to my friends and colleagues in the Forestry Department. Although I will not be far off, I will miss the day-to-day contact with you, for you are the best team of international civil servants with whom I have ever had the privilege to serve, and I mean that. You have inspired me over these past three years and you have made my job easy and fun -- usually!

I would also like to express my thanks and appreciation to my wife for her constant support to me and my career, and I note that she is sitting next to Mrs Hjort right now, getting advice on how to cope with an absent husband and one who comes home with piles of work.

In closing, let me assure you, Mr Director-General, and everyone present here that I believe, without reservation, in the goals of this Organization. I am also fully committed to the very many positive changes that you have brought to FAO, changes which revitalized and better-focused our programmes, moved more of our staff closer to the most needy nations, streamlined many of our internal procedures, reduced operating costs and brought us into the modern electronic era.

I look forward to working with you and to continue these efforts and even more. Indeed, to put us, in FAO, on a course of continued improvement, so that we not only do a good job now, but that we become, in the future, all that our Member Governments want us to be.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

II. ELECTION OF COMMITTEES

II. ELECTION DES COMITES

II. ELECCION DE COMITES

4. Election of the Chairman and Members of the Programme Committee

(CL 113/7; CL 114/LIM/1)

4. Election du Président et des Membres du Comité du Programme

(CL 113/7; CL 114/LIM/1)

4. Elección del Presidente y los Miembros del Comité del Programa

(CL 113/7; CL 114/LIM/1)

CHAIRMAN

We will resume our Session and we now turn to Item 4 of the Agenda, namely, the Election of the Chairman and Members of the Programme Committee.

For the Chairman of the Programme Committee, we have one candidate: Mr Dieter F.R. Bommer of Germany. According to paragraph 9 of Rule XII of the General Rules of the Organization, in the case of an election when there are not more candidates than vacancies, the Chairman may submit to the Council that the appointment be made by clear general consent.

I propose that the Council appoint Mr Bommer Chairman of the FAO Programme Committee in this manner.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

CHAIRMAN

For the Members of this Committee, we have a similar situation, as indicated in paragraphs 7 and 8 of the document CL 114/LIM/1.

For the Regions of Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean, and the Near East, we have eight candidates for eight seats: for Africa, Ethiopia and Zimbabwe; for Asia, Japan and the Philippines; for Latin America and the Caribbean, Peru and Trinidad and Tobago; for the Near East, Lebanon and Libya.

Given that we have the same number of nominations as posts to be filled, I take it that there are no objections to appointing these countries by clear general consent?

It was so decided.

Il en est ainsi décidé.

Así se acuerda.

SECRETARY-GENERAL

The Council has just appointed Mr Bommer of Germany, which is in the Europe Region, as Chairman of the Programme Committee. There are now two seats vacant for Members from the Regions concerned, and we have two candidates for the two seats, Canada and Australia.

CHAIRMAN

Given that we have the same number of nominations as posts to be filled, again I take it that there are no objections to appointing these two countries by clear general consent?

It was so decided.

Il en est ainsi décidé.

Así se acuerda.

5. Election of the Chairman and Members of the Finance Committee

(CL 113/7; CL 114/LIM/2)

5. Election du Président et des Membres du Comité financier

(CL 113/7; CL 114/LIM/2)

5. Elección del Presidente y los Miembros del Comité de Finanzas

(CL 113/7; CL 114/LIM/2)

Mame BALLA SY (Sénégal)

Monsieur le Président, l'élection du Président et des membres du Comité financier va se dérouler pour la première fois. Cet organe existe dans des conditions inhabituelles qui méritent une clarification. Suivant un "Gentleman's Agreement" que nous venons de consacrer d'ailleurs, la présidence du Comité du Programme est assurée par un représentant de l'OCDE tandis que celle du Comité financier a toujours été occupée par un représentant du Groupe des 77. De cet arrangement-là, le choix de l'OCDE a toujours été respecté puisque la prérogative de désigner le Président du Comité du Programme lui revient, et nous venons de le consacrer.

Concernant le Comité financier, sa présence a été depuis sa création assurée suivant une parfaite, et je souligne "parfaite", rotation entre les régions Afrique, Amérique latine, Caraïbes, Asie et Proche-Orient, à raison de deux mandats successifs de deux ans chacun. L'Asie, par le Pakistan, vient d'achever ses deux mandats, ce qui devrait automatiquement permettre à l'Afrique de reprendre la présidence du Comité financier. Pourquoi cette rotation parfaite a-t-elle suivi le contrecoup actuel? Très simple à expliquer. Le Président sortant a, il y a quelques mois, exprimé son souhait de bénéficier exceptionnellement, et je souligne "exceptionnellement", d'un seul mandat supplémentaire de deux ans. Le Groupe africain était prêt à accepter cette requête aux conditions suivantes. Premièrement, cela ne devrait en aucun cas créer un précédent. Deuxièmement, cela ne devrait en aucune manière affecter l'ordre de la rotation établi et selon lequel le Groupe africain devait reprendre, aussitôt après son mandat exceptionnel, son tour de présidence du Comité financier pour ses deux mandats successifs. Troisièmement, ces conditions précitées devaient être acceptées par le Groupe asiatique d'abord, et par tous les autres groupes régionaux du Groupe des 77. C'est parce que le Groupe asiatique n'a pas pu s'entendre sur ces

conditions que l'Afrique a cru devoir s'en tenir à la rotation parfaite établie pour assurer la présidence du Comité financier en la personne de son éminent candidat, Monsieur Julian Alexis Thomas. Son expérience, son sérieux et le travail remarquable déjà accompli au niveau de ce Comité, sont autant d'atouts qui, au-delà de la rotation, justifient qu'il soit brillamment élu.

Compte tenu de ce qui précède, je lance un appel à tous les membres du Conseil pour que les principes établis, et auxquels nous avons tous souscrit, soient respectés sans état d'âme puisque c'est la règle du jeu. Dans le même esprit, le candidat africain comme membre du Comité financier est Monsieur Samba Moomi Te Avela, un homme sérieux, compétent et capable d'apporter de précieux services au Comité financier. Le Groupe africain demande aussi qu'il soit élu aux côtés de Monsieur Julian Alexis Thomas à ce Comité au titre de l'Afrique. Je vous remercie et remercie les membres du Conseil dont le bon sens et l'attachement aux principes établis ne feront, j'en suis sûr, l'ombre d'aucun doute. Je vous remercie.

CHAIRMAN

Is there any other Member who would like to make an intervention?

We have two candidates for the post of Chairman of the Finance Committee: Mr Thomas of South Africa, and Mr Khan of Pakistan.

Given that neither of the candidates is willing to withdraw, we shall have to proceed to a secret ballot. I would like to ask the Secretary-General for the relevant instructions for the ballot.

SECRETARY-GENERAL

Delegates will be called, one at a time, to go to the voting area where they will receive a ballot paper indicating the names of the candidates. Each elector, unless he or she wholly abstains, shall cast one vote.

In accordance with Rule XII, paragraph 4(c) of the General Rules of the Organization, any ballot paper left blank will be recorded as an abstention. In accordance with paragraph 4(d) of this same Rule XII, ballot papers must carry no other notation or mark than those required for the purpose of indicating the vote.

Any ballot paper carrying votes for more than one candidate shall be declared defective.

I should like to take the liberty of reminding you that, in accordance with paragraph 9(f) of Rule XII of the General Rules of the Organization, any delegate who makes an error in completing the ballot paper may request a clean one from the Elections Officer.

CHAIRMAN

I now invite the delegates of Mexico and Denmark to act as tellers and proceed to the voting area, after which the Secretary-General will begin calling the countries.

Finally, may I draw your attention to paragraph 14 of Rule XII, which specifies that, once voting has commenced, no delegate or representative may interrupt the voting, except to raise a Point of Order in connection with the voting.

Vote

Vote

Votación

CHAIRMAN

We now have the results of the vote for the Chairman of the Finance Committee.

SECRETARY-GENERAL

REPORT OF BALLOT

RESULTAT DU SCRUTIN

RESULTADO DE LA VOTACION

1

ELECTION OF THE CHAIRMAN OF THE

FINANCE COMMITTEE

ELECTION DU PRESIDENT DU

COMITE FINANCIER

ELECCION DEL PRESIDENTE DEL

COMITE DE FINANZAS

1. Ballot papers deposited Bulletins déposés Papeletas depositadas	48
2. Defective ballots Bulletins nuls Papeletas defectuosas	0
3. Abstentions Abstentions Abstenciones	0

4. Valid ballots Bulletins valables Papeletas válidas	48
5. Seats to be filled Sièges à pourvoir Puestos que hay que cubrir	1
6. Votes cast Suffrages exprimés Votos emitidos	48

7. Majority

Majorité 25

Mayoría

Elected - Elus - Elegidos		Not Elected-Pas Elus- No Elegidos			
SOUTH AFRICA	39	PAKISTAN	9		

Tellers/Scrutateurs/Escrutadores

Signature J. ROBLES AGUILAR, Mexico...

Firma (signed)

Signature .L.H. WORSOE, Denmark..

Firma (signed)

.19.11.97.....

Date

Fecha

...D. Debilde (signed)..

Elections Officer

Fonctionnaire électoral

El oficial de elecciones

CHAIRMAN

May I be the first to congratulate Mr Thomas on his election to the Chairmanship of the Finance Committee.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

Arif AYUB (Pakistan)

I would also like to congratulate the delegate of South Africa on his election as Chairman of the Finance Committee. At the same time, I would like to express my regret that Pakistan had to contend against South Africa for the post, but our initial assumption was that no other country was interested in the position of Chairman of the Finance Committee.

The need for a contest with a country with which we have extremely close diplomatic and economic relations could have been avoided if we had prior information about their candidature, since Pakistan firmly believes in the principle of geographic rotation of posts. A mere expression of interest would have sufficed to avoid an unseemly contest between friends.

CHAIRMAN

We now have to appoint Members of the Finance Committee and I give the floor to the Secretary-General.

SECRETARY-GENERAL

The nominations for the 5 seats on the Finance Committee for the regions of Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean and the Near East are as follows: for Africa, the Democratic Republic of Congo; for Asia, India; for Latin America and the Caribbean, Argentina and Panama; for the Near East, Sudan.

CHAIRMAN

Given that we have 5 nominations for the 5 posts to be filled, I invite the Council to appoint them by clear general consent.

It was so decided.

Il en est ainsi décidé.

Así se acuerda.

CHAIRMAN

I shall now ask the Secretary-General to inform us on the situation regarding nominations from the regions of Europe, North America and South West Pacific.

SECRETARY-GENERAL

As indicated in paragraph 8 of document CL 114/LIM/2, for these regions there are three posts to be filled, and we have four candidates.

For Europe: Italy, Slovakia, and the United Kingdom.

For North America: The United States of America.

CHAIRMAN

May I inquire whether any of the candidates wish to withdraw?

There is no withdrawal, so we shall proceed to a secret ballot and I shall ask the Secretary-General to read the relative instructions again.

SECRETARY-GENERAL

Delegates will be called, one at a time, to the voting area where they will receive a ballot paper indicating the names of the four candidates.

Since there are three places to be filled, each ballot should, therefore, bear three crosses only. No more or no less, beside the names of three candidates.

In accordance with Rule XII, paragraph 4(c) of the General Rules of the Organization, any ballot paper left blank will be recorded as an abstention.

In accordance with paragraph 4(d) of the same Rule XII, ballot papers must carry no other notation or mark than those required for the purpose of indicating the vote.

Furthermore, any ballot paper carrying votes for more candidates than there are vacancies, or for fewer candidates, shall be considered defective.

CHAIRMAN

I now invite the delegates of Mexico and Denmark to act once more as tellers and to proceed to the voting area, after which the Secretary-General will begin calling the countries.

Finally, may I draw your attention to paragraph 14 of Rule XII which specifies that once voting has commenced, no delegate or representative may interrupt the voting, except to raise a Point of Order in connection with the voting.

Vote

Vote

Votación

6. Election of the Members of the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters

(CCLM) (CL 114/2; CL 114/LIM/3)

6 . Election des Membres du Comité des questions constitutionnelles et juridiques

(CQCJ) (CL 114/2; CL 114/LIM/3)

6. Elección de los Miembros del Comité de Asuntos Constitucionales y Jurídicos

(CACJ) (CL 114/2; CL 114/LIM/3)

CHAIRMAN

I propose that while we are waiting for the votes to be counted we proceed to Item 6, Election of the Members of the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters. Can we do that? Are there any objections? I will ask the Secretary-General to enlighten us on the candidacy of this Committee.

SECRETARY-GENERAL

Here again, we have seven candidates for seven seats as indicated in CL 114/LIM/3. The seven nominations in question are: the Czech Republic, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, the Dominican Republic, France, Malta, Senegal and the United States of America.

CHAIRMAN

Here again we have seven candidates for seven seats. Does the Council appoint them by clear general consent?

It was so decided.

Il est ainsi décidé.

Así se acuerda.

IV. OTHER MATTERS
IV. QUESTIONS DIVERSES
IV. OTROS ASUNTOS

- 8. Calendar of FAO Governing Bodies and Other Main Sessions 1998-99 (CL 114/4)**
8. Calendrier des sessions des organes directeurs de la FAO et des principales réunions prévues en 1998-99 (CL 114/4)
8. Calendario de los períodos de sesiones de los órganos rectores y otras reuniones importantes de la fao para 1998-99 (CL 114/4)

CHAIRMAN

I hope you have all seen document CL 114/4, which I am informed has been prepared avoiding overlaps with the dates of IFAD and WFP Governing Bodies' Sessions. Any comments on the Calendar submitted? Can I take it that it is approved by the Council? The Provisional Calendar is thus adopted.

It was so decided
Il en est ainsi décidé
Así se acuerda.

- 9. Date and Place of the Hundred and Fifteenth Session of the Council (CL 114/4)**
9. Date et lieu de la cent quinzième session du Conseil (CL 114/4)
9. Fecha y lugar del 115º período de sesiones del Consejo (CL 114/4)

CHAIRMAN

Having approved the Calendar in document CL 114/4, the Council agreed that the date of its next session, which is the One Hundred and Fifteenth, would be from 23 to 28 November 1998 and the place would be the Red Room, following usual tradition.

It was so decided.
Il en est ainsi décidé.
Así se acuerda.

SECRETARIO GENERAL ADJUNTO

Tengo entendido que no hubo interpretación española y quería informar que el Presidente tomó el Tema 9 del Orden del Día para hoy, Lugar y fecha de la próxima sesión del Consejo. El Presidente en su introducción señaló que el Consejo había aprobado el Calendario de Reuniones para los años 1998 y 1999 en el que estaban incluidas las fechas del Consejo, que son del 23 al 28 de noviembre de 1998, y que el Consejo celebraría esta sesión en la Sala Roja como es tradicional. El Consejo estuvo de acuerdo con eso.

III. WORLD FOOD PROGRAMME
III. PROGRAMME ALIMENTAIRE MONDIAL
III. PROGRAMA MUNDIAL DE ALIMENTOS

7. Election of the Members of the WFP Executive Board (CL 114/3; CL 114/3-Corr.1 (e/f only); CL 114/3-Corr.2; CL 114/LIM/4; CL 114/LIM/4-Corr.1)

7. Election de membres du Conseil d'administration du PAM (CL 114/3; CL 114/3-Corr.1 (anglais/français seulement); CL 114/3-Corr.2; CL 114/LIM/4; CL 114/LIM/4-Corr.1)

7. Elección de los Miembros de la Junta Ejecutiva del PMA (CL 114/3; CL 114/3-Corr.1 (sólo i/f); CL 114/3-Corr.2; CL 114/LIM/4; CL 114/LIM/4-Corr.1)

Ould Mohamed AHID TOURAD (Mauritanie)

Monsieur le Président. Je propose, en attendant les résultats du vote - comme pour la question du point 7, il y a six candidats - qu'on puisse les faire passer pour qu'on puisse avancer les élections des membres du Conseil d'administration du PAM. Il y a six candidats et il y a six postes.

CHAIRMAN

If the Council is in agreement with the proposal of Mauritania, we can move on to item 7.

I suggest that we take a look at the first section which relates to arrangements made by the Member Nations in List D. As indicated, France, elected by the FAO Council for a term of office until 31 December 1999, has resigned from the WFP Executive Board. The Council is invited to take note of the resignation of France, and it is also requested to agree that Australia occupy the seat thus vacated for the remainder of the term of office. Are there any objections? I see none. Accordingly, the Council agrees that Australia is a List D member of the WFP Executive Board until 31 December 1999 in place of France.

It was so decided.

Il en est ainsi décidé.

Así se acuerda.

We now come to the election of six Members for the period 1 January 1998 to 31 December 2000. May I give the floor to the Secretary-General to explain the proceedings

SECRETARY-GENERAL

In paragraph 4 of the Corrigendum to document CL 114/LIM/4, the candidates are listed. I am referring to CL 114/LIM/4-Corr. 1. For List A there is one candidate, Burundi, for one vacancy. For List B, there are two candidates, Bangladesh and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, for two vacancies. For List C, there is one candidate, El Salvador, for one vacancy. For List D, there are two candidates, Netherlands and the United States of America, for two vacancies.

The reason for this is that among the List D candidates, Australia should be deleted from the list following the Council's decision that it would occupy immediately, and until 31 December 1999, the WFP Executive Board seat vacated by France. We therefore have six candidates for six seats.

CHAIRMAN

Thank you for the explanation. Does the Council now agree to appoint six candidates, namely: Burundi, Bangladesh, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, El Salvador, Netherlands and United States of America, to the six vacant seats by clear general consent?

It was so decided.

Il en est ainsi décidé.

Así se acuerda.

5. Election of the Chairman and Members of the Finance Committee

(CL 113/7; CL 114/LIM/2) (continuation)

5. Election du Président et des Membres du Comité financier

(CL 113/7; CL 114/LIM/2) (continuation)

5. Elección del Presidente y los Miembros del Comité de Finanzas

(CL 113/7; CL 114/LIM/2) (continuación)

CHAIRMAN

We now have the results of the vote to complete the Finance Committee membership

REPORT OF BALLOT
 REPORT OF BALLOT
 RESULTAT DU SCRUTIN

RESULTADO DE LA VOTACION 1 FINANCE COMMITTEE:

Europe, North America, Southwest Pacific)

COMITE FINANCIER

(Europe, Amérique du Nord, Pacifique du Sud-Ouest)

COMITE DE FINANZAS

(Europa, América del Norte, Pacífico Sudoccidental)

1. Ballot papers deposited Bulletins déposés Papeletas depositadas	48
2. Defective ballots Bulletins nuls Papeletas defectuosas	0
3. Abstentions Abstentions Abstenciones	0

4. Valid ballots Bulletins valables Papeletas válidas	48
5. Seats to be filled Sièges à pourvoir Puestos que hay que cubrir	3
6. Votes cast Suffrages exprimés Votos emitidos	48

7. Majority

Majorité 25

Mayoría

Elected - Elus - Eligidos		Not Elected-Pas Elus- No Elegidos			
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA	40	UNITED KINGDOM	31		
ITALY	39				
SLOVAKIA	34				

Tellers/Scrutateurs/Escrutadores

Signature L.H. WORSOE, Denmark
Firma (signed)

Signature J. ROBLES AGUILAR.....
Firma (signed)

..19.11.97....

Date
Fecha

D. Debilde (signed).
Elections Officer
Fonctionnaire électoral
El oficial de elecciones

CHAIRMAN

You have now elected the Finance Committee, and this concludes Item 5.

We can now go back to our agenda.

IV. OTHER MATTERS (continued)**IV. QUESTIONS DIVERSES** (suite)**IV. OTROS ASUNTOS** (continuación)**10. Any Other Matters****10. Autres questions****10. Otros asuntos****Andrew Keith PEARSON (Australia)**

As I had said earlier this morning and also, as I had raised in the Conference Session yesterday, Australia was concerned at what appeared to be a need to review and consider the procedures for the Conference Sessions, and the relevant General Rules of the Organization associated with these procedures, to try to improve and ensure that the procedures are efficient and time-effective. There were a number of examples of that occurred during the Conference to which various Members drew the attention of us all during the Plenary discussions.

So I wanted to suggest, in fact, that the Council consider including a request, I think, probably, to the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters to undertake a review of the procedures for the Conference. And that, the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters should, as appropriate, take into account comments from other relevant FAO Committees, as well as the FAO Regional Conferences which will be convening in the coming year. This would give an opportunity for a Report to be prepared by the CCLM, which would be available then for a consideration at the next Session of the Council which, as we have just decided, is in November 1998.

That would be, in essence, what I would propose. I am working on some specific language which could be included in the final Report, but if I could put that up as the basis for a discussion, I would be grateful.

Ronald ROSE (Canada)

When I first started to attend sessions of the Conference, they were lasting three weeks, and I understand that some sessions have even lasted longer.

We now have our sessions down to, I believe, nine working days. We should certainly all take pride in the fact that we completed our work within nine working days. We are still working under systems and traditions that were put in place for sessions of three weeks or more, however, I certainly support Australia's contention, that it is time that we looked at our working methods to make sure that our time is well spent and that we are able to devote the maximum amount of our time to the substantive discussions which do take place and which must take place at Conference.

So, I would, with pleasure, support Australia's proposal and agree that Council should forward a Resolution to the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters.

Juan NUIRY SANCHEZ (Cuba)

Nosotros oímos con mucha atención cuando la Representación de Australia planteó este tema en la Conferencia y hoy aquí; y, la respaldamos totalmente.

Nosotros hemos visto todo el desarrollo de la Conferencia y, sencillamente con el ánimo de buscar mejoras en los métodos de procedimiento, creemos que esto es correcto. Yo solamente sugiero que este ejercicio se haga a través de los grupos regionales, o sea que cada miembro del

Comité de Asuntos Constitucionales y Jurídicos tiene un representante de la región; y esto debe ser un ejercicio que vaya de abajo hacia arriba, que los grupos regionales discutan esto, lo lleven y den instrucciones a sus representantes en el Comité de Asuntos Constitucionales y Jurídicos acerca de sus puntos de vista, de sus análisis y de sus conclusiones. Esto lo estamos diciendo para que sea un ejercicio más amplio, y democrático, y que todos tengamos la oportunidad de que se nos escuche. Gracias.

Mame BALLA SY (Sénegal)

Permettez rapidement à ma délégation de féliciter tous les Etats et tous les Membres élus durant notre Conseil de ce matin. Cela dit, Monsieur le Président, je remercie également tous ceux qui ont apporté leur soutien aux candidats africains. Cette question soulevée est très importante, mais je suis d'avis, avec mon collègue de Cuba, qu'il faudrait qu'à ce stade nous nous limitions au rapport du Conseil. Il est à noter que cette question a été soulevée, qu'elle est importante et qu'elle mérite d'être étudiée de la manière la plus approfondie avant que nous ne puissions nous orienter vers des décisions assez systématiques pour une question qui n'a pas été approfondie et qui ne peut pas l'être aujourd'hui. Nous sommes d'accord qu'il faut initier l'étude de la manière la plus perfectionnée possible qui puisse offrir la possibilité à toutes les régions, à tous les pays, de s'exprimer, d'étudier la question, de recevoir les directives nécessaires et d'analyser tout ce qui est derrière cette question que nous soutenons comme démarche. En effet, pour tout ce qui peut améliorer le fonctionnement du système ou de l'Organisation, nous sommes tout à fait d'accord, tout à fait ouverts, tout à fait disponibles, mais il faudrait engager les procédures selon les voies qu'elles doivent emprunter.

Ms Laurie J. TRACY (United States of America)

I think that the Australian suggestion makes a lot of sense. I think that it was constructively elaborated upon by the delegate from Cuba when he said that this could take place through Regional Groups, or at least, they could be involved in a very important way because it would tend to make it a much broader effort that would take into account, the views of the wider range of representatives. I think we are particularly interested in seeing whether this effort could look at the functional responsibilities of three of the Committees. I am not limiting this effort, but the ones that come to our mind are Credentials, Nominations and Resolutions. The CCLM, working closely with the Regional Groups, could look at how these efforts undertaken by these three Committees might be streamlined and brought into the modern age and yet, still remain open and democratic. We strongly support that.

Pedro Alfonso MEDRANO ROJAS (Chile)

Yo quisiera expresar nuestra simpatía y apoyo a la propuesta que se ha hecho en términos de la necesidad de poder estudiar con más detención la estructura de trabajo, la forma de trabajo, y los procedimientos de la Conferencia. Personalmente creo que hay espacio más que suficiente para que este tema sea analizado con el tiempo necesario. Creo que este Consejo, no sólomente debe tomar nota de lo que se ha presentado, de lo que se ha indicado, sino que debe tomar una decisión en el sentido de instruir a sus órganos subordinados o dependientes del Consejo, para que examinen con atención esta materia. Yo me atrevería a sugerir y a enfatizar que ya que este año tenemos Conferencias Regionales, igualmente, aprovechar las Conferencias Regionales para que los países puedan expresar sus opiniones respecto a la mejor forma en que la Conferencia debería abordar las cuestiones más sustantivas que se relacionan con el trabajo de la Organización. Eso es lo que quería señalar.

DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL

Certainly the Secretariat would agree on the need for a review of the procedures. The point has been well made that we collectively have managed to reduce the time of the Conference, but we still have a set of procedures that implicitly assume that we have three weeks to do our business when we no longer have. So, there is a need to look at those Committees. I would suggest that the

review extend also to the voting procedures. We had a situation where it was clear that there was unanimous support for a particular matter but, because it required two-thirds vote, we had to have a roll call. It did not take a lot of extra time but it is a situation where, with a show of hands, it would have been clear. However, there is a provision in the Basic Texts that requires us to have it. So in support, yes.

Now is the CCLM the right body to be in the driver's seat? I would remind the Council that it has, as a standing item on the Agenda of the Programme and Finance Committees, a matter called 'Savings and Efficiencies in Governance'. I would also remind them that it was through that network, coming out of the Programme and Finance Committees to the Council, from the Council to the Conference, that you got into this situation where you have compressed the time but not looked at the procedures. So, you would have within that structure a framework, a Group that has already been considering this general matter but has not completed its business, if you will. It also is certainly so that the CCLM, also being a body of the Council, will deal with any legal matter that requires a change in the Basic Texts, before it goes to the Conference. However, you may wish to simplify the matter by assigning this task and making it a specific activity under the standing item on 'Savings and Efficiencies in Governance' and then, bring it up in that manner.

There also have been comments about Regional Groups, and the involvement of Regional Groups. One of the things that I have noted, in a very positive way, is that in recent years the Members of the Programme and Finance Committees have gone out of their way, it seems to me, and it now seems to be established practice, to meet with the Regional Groups before and after the meetings of Programme and Finance Committees so that they get guidance from the Group before, and they inform the Groups afterwards, on the outcome. Therefore, this matter, if it fits within the Programme and Finance Committees structure, will automatically have a link to the Regional Groups.

Finally, on Regional Conferences. As you know, and particularly those who were on the *Ad-Hoc* Contact Group on Statutory Bodies, the status of Regional Conferences is somewhat different. It can be used as an Advisory Body, but it has no authority to decide matters. The Regional Conferences do not have this authority. I see no reason why but you may want to say, in the terminology that you use in the Council giving its guidance: "Regional Conferences as appropriate", to leave some flexibility there. That is the extent of my comments.

CHAIRMAN

Any other comments? There seems to be a consensus that we should review the procedures that we have very lately adopted. The need for a review has been adopted, under "Savings and Efficiencies in Governance" of the Organization. Now, there have been suggestions from the floor on how we should perform the review that will result in proposals for new procedures to be followed by us.

I think the proposal made by the Deputy Director-General includes, in a way, all the suggestions made by the various speakers from the floor. He was suggesting that we ask the Programme and Finance Committees to look at this issue under the heading "Savings and Efficiencies in Governance" of the Organization. At the same time, inputs from the Regional Groups and the Regional Conferences will be received in developing new procedures. He also suggested that the relevant matters will go through CCLM anyway.

I want to offer this as a conclusion to the debate that we are having on the review of the procedures raised by the various Members of the Council. Of course, I then will ask the Secretary-General to put the debate in proper wording for inclusion in the Report of the Council. Can we adopt this? Can we agree on this?

Luigi FONTANA-GIUSTI (Italy)

I certainly agree with your summary. I would just like to put on record that due to the importance of the issue, the next Council will also deal with it. It will be included in the Agenda of the next Council.

Pedro Alfonso MEDRANO ROJAS (Chile)

Quisiéramos expresar nuestro apoyo al resumen que usted nos ofrece. Simplemente que quede claro que cuando tratamos de procedimientos estamos también hablando de métodos de trabajo, que no solamente se refiere a las cuestiones formales sino que también a métodos de trabajo.

Ould Mohamed AHID TOURAD (Mauritanie)

Monsieur le Président. Je suis tout à fait d'accord sur l'approche présentée par le Directeur général adjoint, mais j'avais quand même l'idée, comme le point est extrêmement important, d'avoir un Comité spécial. Ce Comité spécial, donc, proposé par le Conseil, pourrait s'inspirer des différentes commissions régionales, faire un résumé au Comité des questions constitutionnelles et juridiques et nous faire une proposition de document pour le prochain Conseil. Enfin, c'est une proposition, mais comme l'avis est unanime pour le Comité financier et le Comité juridique, je n'ai plus qu'à me plier à ce consensus général. Mais j'aurais voulu qu'on ait un Comité vraiment spécial pour ce problème qui, apparemment, est très important. Je vous remercie.

Pedro PINTO da SILVA (Portugal)

This is to support both the positions of Italy and Chile, in particular, because of the need for interpersonal negotiations that are involved in a lot of our work both at the Council and the Conference. So, just trimming to the bone, the time necessary for formal aspects of those meetings can be dangerous, in the sense that other time must be left. This one is more difficult to compress.

CHAIRMAN

Ladies and Gentlemen, I think that we have actually a consensus on the matter. I have asked the Secretariat to put in the wording correctly, taking into account the points raised by Italy, Chile, Mauritania and Portugal. I think this will be what we can conclude on because this is, indeed, a very important aspect to work on. If that is agreed upon, then, we can take it as the conclusion on the point raised by Australia and the other delegates.

Shahid RASHID (Pakistan)

We do appreciate the summary that you have given on this issue. We are, of course, fully supportive of this idea. Just in the interest of clarity, after listening to the intervention of Mauritania, which is slightly different from the proposal which was earlier discussed, I think we need clarification on the course that would be adopted.

My understanding on the discussions, so far taken on this issue, is that the Council would be deciding, in this Session, that in the interest of seeking further savings and efficiencies, the Programme and Finance Committees would undertake a review of the working methods and procedures of the Conference and would report the progress on this matter at the next, that is the Hundred and Fifteenth Council.

This is my understanding. I believe that since we are entrusting this task to the Programme and Finance Committees, the two Committees could set up an *Ad Hoc* Group or a Body -- as was done in the past regarding Statutory Bodies -- to look into this matter. And it may, perhaps, not be necessary to set up another Committee or a mechanism or a working group at this stage.

I would just like to reiterate that my understanding is that the Programme and the Finance Committees would be reviewing the working methods and the procedures of the Conference and would be asked to report to the next Council, at the Hundred and Fifteenth Session.

CHAIRMAN

I think that is the general understanding also. Mauritania I think will agree with this. Yes, Pakistan, that is the general understanding.

Any other matters to be discussed?

I thank you very much for the cooperation and this concludes the work of this Hundred and Fourteenth Session of the Council.

The meeting rose at 13.00 hours.

La séance est levée à 13 h 00.

Se levanta la sesión a las 13.00 horas.