

June 2013



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

Продовольственная и
сельскохозяйственная
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Наций

Organización
de las
Naciones Unidas
para la
Alimentación y la
Agricultura

COUNCIL CONSEIL CONSEJO

**Hundred and Forty-seventh Session - Cent quarante-septième session
147.º período de sesiones**

Rome, 24 June 2013

VERBATIM RECORDS OF PLENARY MEETINGS OF THE COUNCIL

Rome, 24 juin 2013

PROCÈS-VERBAUX DES SÉANCES PLÉNIÈRES DU CONSEIL

Roma, 24 de junio de 2013

**ACTAS TAQUIGRÁFICAS DE LAS SESIONES PLENARIAS DEL
CONSEJO**

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**FIRST PLENARY SESSION
PREMIÈRE SÉANCE PLÉNIÈRE
PRIMERA SESIÓN PLENARIA**

24 June 2013

The First Plenary Meeting was opened at 9.40 hours
Mr Wilfred J. Ngirwa,
Independent Chairperson of the Council, presiding

La première séance plénière est ouverte à 9 h 40
sous la présidence de M. Wilfred J. Ngirwa,
Président indépendant du Conseil

Se abre la primera sesión plenaria a las 9.40
bajo la presidencia del Sr. Wilfred J. Ngirwa,
Presidente Independiente del Consejo

CHAIRPERSON

Excellencies, Director-General of FAO, Ladies and Gentlemen. I now call this opening meeting of the 147th Session of the FAO Council to order.

This being the first Council meeting after the Conference, it is traditionally a short one, a one-day or even a half-day meeting. So I call upon you for your cooperation keeping our proceedings as business like as possible.

I wish to take this opportunity to extend a particular cordial welcome to Council Members who have begun a new term during this Council, namely, Angola, Hungary, Iran, Liberia, Madagascar, Morocco, South Africa and Turkey.

Further, allow me to express to you my highest respect in the acceptance of the mandate which I have to undertake as Independent Chairperson of the FAO Council for the period 2013-2015.

I am grateful to the President of the Republic of Tanzania, His Excellency H.E. Jakaya Mrisho Kikwete, for endorsing, supporting and forwarding my candidature to FAO for ultimate election by the Conference.

I am also thankful to all the Member Nations of FAO who, from the start, showed their willingness by offering me an opportunity to run as the sole candidate and thereafter electing me to the position.

I feel very honoured, and I have the duty to work trustfully and objectively with all Member Nations by discharging my responsibilities. I will stand to be guided, among others, through the relevant sections of the Basic Text of FAO as well as referring to the Immediate Plan of Action.

I know the ICC is one of the most challenging and high positions in the Organization's governance hierarchy. I listened very carefully to the Members' congratulatory remarks they made after my election and I take all their advice seriously.

I will explore my capabilities to facilitate for greater openness, solidarity and enhanced trust among the Members, as well as to build strong and effective synergies with the Secretariat. My purpose will be that of moving together, so that FAO can deliver the Programme of Work and Budget 2014-15, which was well received and endorsed by all Member Nations, and not forget our duty to conclude the Programme of Work and Budget for 2013-14.

The 2009 Conference Resolution on the role of the Independent Chairperson of the Council requires the incumbent to take such steps as may be required to facilitate and achieve consensus among Member Nations, a responsibility which I will take very seriously not only by listening to what is said here in the Red Room during meetings, but also through contacts between sessions.

In concluding, let me take this opportunity to express my gratitude and congratulations to my predecessor, Mr Luc Guyau, for his dynamic leadership during his two terms of office. I wish him and his family a successful future.

Excellencies, Director-General, ladies and gentlemen, I thank you. Let us make a difference. It is possible. Play your part. I will play my part.

I shall now give the floor to the Secretary-General of the Council to make a short announcement.

SECRETARY-GENERAL

I wish to bring to the attention of the Council that the European Union is participating in this meeting in accordance with paragraphs 8 and 9 of Article II of the FAO Constitution. I have been asked to inform you that the declaration made by the European Union and its Member States is contained in document CL 147/INF/1, which is available at the document desk, and I wish to draw the attention of the meeting to this declaration.

CHAIRPERSON

I now would like to welcome the Director-General, thank him for joining us at the start of this session and give him the floor.

DIRECTOR-GENERAL

Mr Wilfred Ngirwa, Independent Chairperson of the Council, Members of the FAO Council, Ladies and gentlemen, I hope all of you had a good Sunday's rest.

I want to start by welcoming the new Members of Council and its new Independent Chairperson. Wilfred, you can count on the full collaboration of the Secretariat for Council activities and to your work as Independent Chair.

I am confident that we will build on the constructive dialogue that has marked the relationship between the Secretariat and FAO Members in the last months.

We have just ended a successful Conference. And I want to highlight once more the consensus we achieved last week. Consensus building is not an easy process, but it is a necessary one for any multilateral organization, especially one with the history and the challenges of FAO.

Now we can say that we have a shared vision endorsed by Conference and an agreed upon Programme of Work and Budget.

It is time for a shift of our focus from preparation to implementation. With the consensus reached at Conference, your unequivocal support and the transformational change we already undertook in the last 18 months, FAO is a much stronger Organization.

This helps us help you, our Members, reach your sustainable development and food security goals. But we are still at the beginning of the road. There are many challenges.

Two of the immediate challenges are directly related to this Council and the FAO Membership.

The first one is the need to identify some USD 22 million in savings. As requested by Conference, the Secretariat will report to Council on this matter, and others, at your December session. I would like to take this opportunity to ask Members not to be tempted into micromanagement.

The second is a challenge for the Membership: as encouraged by the Report of the Conference, to provide voluntary contributions to support the full achievement of the Strategic Objectives and the full implementation of our Programme of Work.

Rest assured that I will continue working closely with all governing bodies, especially with this Council, its members and its Independent Chair.

Best of luck in your new role, Wilfred. And I wish you and the Council a successful session.

CHAIRPERSON

On behalf of the Council and myself, I wish to thank the Director-General for addressing the Council at its first session after the Conference. I would also like to congratulate the Director-General on the successful Conference which endorsed the Programme of Work and Budget for 2014-2015.

It is now the duty of all of us to see that the Programme of Work and Budget is fully and successfully implemented. I thank you Mr Director-General.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen, before we move on to the first Item of our Agenda, I would like to ask the Secretary-General of the Council to report on the documentation of this session of the Council.

SECRETARY-GENERAL

The list of documents for this short session of Council includes three main documents; two of them, the agenda and the document concerning Membership of the Programme and Finance Committees and the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters, were posted on the Webpage of the Council a week ahead of the publication deadline, whereas the calendar of Governing Bodies session was published one week after.

1. Adoption of the Agenda and Timetable (CL147/1; CL 147/INF/1)**1. Adoption de l'ordre du jour et du calendrier****1. Aprobación del programa y el calendario****CHAIRPERSON**

The first Item we have before us is the Adoption of the Agenda as set out in the document CL 147/1. Can I take it that the Council wishes to adopt the agenda?

I can see the Members nodding. Thank you. The agenda is adopted.

Adopted

Adopté

Aprobado

CHAIRPERSON

At this point, I would like to propose to the Council that a brief presentation on the desert locust situation in Madagascar be presented this morning and that this presentation will only take place during the count of the vote should a secret ballot be held.

Can I take it that the Council accepts this proposal?

2. Election of three Vice-Chairpersons**2. Élection des trois vice-présidents****2. Elección de los tres Vicepresidentes****CHAIRPERSON**

Now we move on to Item 2, Election of three Vice-Chairpersons. I give the floor to the Secretary-General.

SECRETARY-GENERAL

Following consultations among the Regional Groups, we have the following proposal for the three posts of Vice-Chairperson: Mr Hideya Yamada of Japan, His Excellency Bandar Abdulmuhsin bin Shalhoob from Saudi Arabia, and His Excellency Hassan Abouyoub from Morocco.

CHAIRPERSON

Are there any objections? I wish to congratulate the three Vice-Chairpersons on their elections.

3. Election of the Chairperson and Twelve Members of the Programme Committee**3. Élection du Président et des 12 membres du Comité du Programme****3. Elección del Presidente y los 12 miembros del Comité del Programa**

(CL 147/LIM/1; CL 147/INF/5)

CHAIRPERSON

We now turn to Item 3 of our Agenda, Election of the Chairperson and 12 Members of the Programme Committee. I wish to draw your attention to document CL 147/INF/5, in connection with applications for Membership to the Finance Committee and to the Programme Committee for the Near East Region.

This document reproduces a letter of 11 June 2013 from His Excellency the Ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Iran, as Chairperson of the Near East Regional Group. Ambassador Motlagh provides information on the withdrawal of the nomination of the Islamic Republic of Iran for the Finance Committee, and a modification in the nomination of Sudan from the Programme Committee to the Finance Committee.

I should like to ask the Council if it accepts the proposal that Sudan be considered as a candidate for the Finance Committee rather than for the Programme Committee. This would leave a clean slate for nominations from the Near East for both the Programme and the Finance Committees.

Mr Esteban N PAGARAN (Philippines)

Philippines is withdrawing from the Programme Committee election in the spirit of compromise. However, we continue to uphold the principle that small countries and small regions should be represented in the Technical Committees and that we should follow a rotation principle that allows more countries a chance to contribute to the work of such Committees.

As it is, it would take 60 years for Members of our Sub-region to be given a chance to participate in the Technical Committee.

CHAIRPERSON

Let us move to elect the Chairperson and Members of the Programme Committee.

For the Chairperson of the Programme Committee, paragraph 4 of document CL 147/LIM/1 shows that there is only one candidate for the post: Ms Cecilia Nordin Van Gansberghe from Sweden.

According to paragraph 10(a) 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 Chairperson may submit to the Council that the appointment be made by clear general consent.

Can I take it that the Council wishes to appoint Ms Cecilia Nordin Van Gansberghe as Chairperson of the Programme Committee?

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

CHAIRPERSON

It is so decided. I congratulate Ms Cecilia Nordin Van Gansberghe on her appointment as Chairperson of the Programme Committee and wish her all the best as she continues to preside over the work of the Programme Committee, as she has done in the past.

I now give the floor to Mr Gagnon, who will inform the Council on the candidates for the posts as Members of the Programme Committee.

SECRETARY-GENERAL

As indicated in paragraph 5 of document CL 147/LIM/1, for the regions of Africa, Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean, and the Near East, there are two seats to be filled and two candidates for each region.

For the regions of North America and Southwest Pacific, there is one candidate for one post to be filled for each region.

For the Asia and the Pacific region, there are by now, following the intervention made by the Philippines, three candidates for two seats.

I will now read the names of the candidates:

For Africa: Mr Mohamed Mellah of Algeria and Mr Abreha Aseffa of Ethiopia.

For Asia and the Pacific: Mr Xia Jingyuan of China, Mr Vimlendra Sharan of India, Mr Hamim Hamim of Indonesia.

For Europe: Ms Natalie Feistritz of Austria and Ms Christina Emma Grieder of Switzerland.

For Latin America and the Caribbean: Mr Gustavo Infante of Argentina and Mr Jose Antonio Carranza of Ecuador.

For the Near East: Mr Abdul Razak Ayazi of Afghanistan and Mr Khalid Addulrahman Al-Akwa of Yemen.

For North America: Mr Eric Robinson of Canada.

For Southwest Pacific: Ms Fiona Duncan of New Zealand.

CHAIRPERSON

Given that we have the same number of nominations as seats to be filled for the regions of Africa, Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean, North America and Southwest Pacific, I propose that the Council appoint these countries by clear general consent.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you. It is so decided.

As regards the Asia and Pacific Region, if none of the three remaining candidates wish to withdraw, we shall proceed to a secret ballot. May I inquire whether any of the candidates wish to withdraw?

Given that all three candidates wish to stand, we shall proceed to a secret ballot. The Secretary-General will provide the relevant information.

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, should cast a vote by marking a cross in the box beside the candidate he or she wishes to elect.

Each elector must cast two votes on each ballot paper. I repeat, no more and no less than two votes. Ballot papers which do not bear two crosses will be considered invalid.

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, ballot papers must carry no other notation or mark than those required for the purpose of indicating the vote.

As already mentioned, any ballot paper carrying votes for more or less than the post to be elected shall be declared defective.

In accordance with paragraph 10(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. The clean ballot paper will be delivered on the surrender of the invalidated ballot paper.

CHAIRPERSON

I am assured that there is a quorum for voting so voting may commence.

I now invite the delegates of Argentina and Canada to act 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 15 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

CHAIRPERSON

Voting has ended. The tellers will now leave the room with the ballot boxes to count the votes.

In the meantime to make best use of our time, I would like to propose that we are given an *Update on the locust situation in Madagascar*, which will be made by Mr Dominique Burgeon, Director of the Emergency and Rehabilitation Division and Mr Clayton Campanhola, Director of the Plant Protection Division.

Mr Dominique BURGEON (Director, Emergency and Rehabilitation Division)

Mr Chairperson of the Council, Distinguished Delegates, thank you for providing us with the opportunity to bring the locust crisis affecting Madagascar to your attention once again.

As we previously reported, Madagascar is facing an uncontrolled locust plague and risks a serious food crisis. The livelihoods and food security of 13 million people, nine of whom earn a living from agriculture, are threatened.

Locusts have already infested over more than half of the country. By September, FAO expects that two-thirds of the country will be infested. A recent rapid impact assessment shows that rice and maize, the two main cereal crops, are damaged, as well as pastures. It also confirms that losses in the most infested areas are as much as 70 percent, which has a dramatic impact on the concerned farmers.

Overall, the report is that 15 percent of the annual rice harvest in the country will be lost. This represents 2.5 to 4 times the level of annual rice imports. Trade campaigns over three years to bring the crisis to the end are necessary to combat the plague. In total, USD 41.5 million are required over three years.

As of today, the World Bank has pledged USD 5 million, while the EU has given its principle agreement to a Euro 4 million contribution, and France is considering contributing Euro 1 million. The funding gap, however, remains close to USD 30 million. Even if the pledges of the World Bank, the EU, and France materialize, USD 10.8 million are still required by July to implement the first emergency large-scale locust campaign over the three-year response programme.

In order to have all the supplies and personnel in place to mount a wide-scale anti-locust campaign starting in September, funding should be allocated by July at the latest. The three-year response programme needs to be fully funded. Otherwise, undetected or uncontrolled locust populations will continue to breed and produce more swarms. The plague would, therefore, last several years. Controlling it will be lengthier and more expensive and it would surely affect food security, nutrition and livelihoods.

Prevention and early action are key. The cost for controlling the desert locust plague in 2003-2004 exceeded USD 500 million, not to mention the cost in terms of lost crops and food aid. We estimated in 2011-12 that USD 7 million would have been needed to control what was at the time an upsurge. Only 26 percent out of this, or less than USD 2 million, were made available.

A joint crop and food security assessment mission supported by FAO, IFAD and WFP and in close cooperation with the Government of Madagascar is closely on the ground to measure the locust plague damages to food security and livelihoods. More detailed data analysis will be available in July but resources are urgently required now.

Since August 2012, FAO has issued various warnings, calling for financial support. If we do not act now, the plague will last several years and hundreds of millions of dollars will be required for what will be humanitarian assistance.

If you agree, Mr Chairperson, I will now pass the floor to my colleague, Clayton Campanhola, Director of the Plant Production and Protection Division.

Mr Clayton CAMPANHOLA (Director, Plant Production and Protection Division)

First of all, I want to mention that this crisis did not start yesterday. In 2010, Madagascar faced a locust upsurge which could have been controlled during the 2010-11 locust campaign. However, FAO received only 50 percent of the USD 14.5 million required, which resulted in the need for a second emergency campaign estimated at USD 7 million in 2011 and 2012, of which only 26 percent was funded.

As a consequence, uncontrolled locust populations developed and spread, and the financial resources required to address the current plague have increased. Migratory locust adults can multiply rapidly and form highly mobile groups and swarms. Depending on its size and density, a locust swarm can consume up to one hundred thousand tons per day of green vegetation, including crops.

Madagascar is currently facing hundreds of surge swarms. Given the magnitude and geographical scope of the locust plague, FAO estimates that three consecutive locust campaigns are required to bring this crisis to an end.

The migratory locust can have up to four successful generations during the rainy season which usually starts in September through October. As locust control focuses on the helpers, the locust campaigns must be implemented from September up to May/June to successfully control the successive breeding.

To start the first campaign, all supplies and personnel must be in place by the coming September. For this, as mentioned by Mr Burgeon, funding must be allocated by July.

In response to the locust plague, FAO and the Ministry of Agriculture of Madagascar have joined to prepare a three-year emergency programme. The overall objective of the programme is to safeguard the food security of rural populations in Madagascar.

Considering the importance in geographic stance of the infested and contaminated areas, it is estimated that at least three successive locust control campaigns are now necessary to return to a locust recession situation. A locust recession is a period without widespread and heavy infestations of locust swarms.

The first locust campaign aims to fight against the plague. One point five million hectares must be treated starting in September 2013. In the second year, it is estimated that 500 000 hectares will need to be treated and 150 000 hectares in the third year.

In Madagascar, aerial surveillance operations are essential. They have to be carried out in the three consecutive locust campaigns at least from September to March of each of the three years.

The three-year programme has five components. The first is strengthening capacity for monitoring and analysis of the locust situation. Second, strengthening locust control capacity. Third, preserving human health and protecting the environment. Fourth, implementing and coordinating the programme, including the national locust emergency plan. Fifth, assessing the effectiveness of the locust campaigns and of the impact of the locust crisis on crops and pastures.

Immediate action is needed to avoid skyrocketing human and financial costs. As mentioned by Dominique, in the Sahel in 2003 and 2004, the cost of controlling the desert locust plague exceeded USD 500 million, not to mention the cost in terms of lost crops and food aid. That amount could have paid for 170 years of prevention. Let us not repeat the costly mistake in Madagascar.

I would like to conclude showing you a recent report made by *Agence France Presse* that summarizes the situation quite well showing impressive images of swarms. I apologize for the fact that the video is in French only.

Video Presentation

Présentation vidéo

Videopresentación

M. Monsieur MONJA (Madagascar)

Monsieur le Président, j'aimerais tout d'abord remercier le Secrétariat de la FAO d'avoir organisé cet événement spécial concernant l'invasion acridienne à Madagascar. J'aimerais remercier aussi les deux directeurs ici présents pour leur intervention très détaillée, exhaustive.

Madagascar est attaqué par l'invasion acridienne et presque la moitié du pays est ravagée par ce fléau, comme ils l'ont dit dans leur intervention. Monsieur le Président, je lance donc un appel vibrant à tous les Représentants ici présents de sensibiliser, de saisir leur capitales respectives pour venir en aide à Madagascar et surtout aux 13 millions de paysans concernés par ce fléau.

Je profite de cette occasion pour remercier la France, la Banque mondiale, l'Union européenne et ceux qui ont contribué à exécuter ce projet qui va durer pendant trois ans. Et je lance un appel aux autres pour poursuivre cette solidarité. D'ores et déjà, le Gouvernement malgache va prendre, en ce qui le concerne, sa responsabilité pour éradiquer ce fléau.

Mme Bérengère QUINCY (France)

Permettez-moi de saisir cette première occasion que j'ai de prendre la parole pour vous dire le plaisir et l'honneur que j'ai de vous voir présider nos travaux.

Je voudrais revenir sur la présentation qui a été faite au podium et sur les propos de mon collègue de Madagascar pour confirmer que devant la gravité de la situation à Madagascar, la France, qui a déjà contribué à la lutte préventive en 2011 et 2012 contre les acridiens à Madagascar, est sur le point de confirmer aujourd'hui un concours d'urgence, via la FAO, d'un million d'euros. Nous avons réagi de même rapidement pour la lutte antiacridienne au Sahel, et je peux vous dire que dans ces cas-là, lorsque nous serons en mesure de le confirmer, les déboursements pourront être rapides.

Je remercie le Gouvernement malgache et je remercie mon collègue d'avoir confirmé la disposition du Gouvernement malgache à prendre ses responsabilités. Et j'appelle les Organisations internationales et les autres donateurs à joindre leurs efforts pour permettre à Madagascar de surmonter cette crise, qui, si on n'agit pas vite maintenant, va être encore plus dramatique et va coûter encore beaucoup plus cher qu'aujourd'hui.

Ms Abla MALIK OSMAN MALIK (Observer for Sudan) (Original language Arabic)

I would like to start by congratulating you on taking over the Chair of this Council. I am sure that under your Chairmanship we will be able to take advantage of your considerable experience. You were certainly the best candidate to take over the job. Congratulations.

In Sudan we understand the suffering and the problems of the people and the authorities of Madagascar because locusts are a plague which occurs almost every year. These locusts cause damage and harm even worse than what we suffer from them in Sudan. The scale of the problem varies from one region to another, but we need to know the origin of the problem. Where do the swarms come from?

In March, in Sudan we had to deal with an equally serious crisis and not only Sudan was affected from it, but also Egypt and Saudi Arabia. All these countries had to deal with locust infestation.

What Madagascar is going through at the moment is not just their problem. It is likely to spread and reach probably Sudan and Egypt, for example, in the next few weeks or months.

Our situation is already serious enough because what happened in March cannot be allowed to happen again. If it does, the consequences are going to be very serious. I am basing my knowledge on expert reports from FAO.

That being the situation, I ask the following question. Why is it that concerted efforts are not being made to restrict or limit this scourge to its source so that it does not spread to neighbouring countries? Every year we have to try to do something about the consequences of locust invasions and bear the economic and social losses which occur as a result.

When we asked FAO for help with our problem, we received it. FAO provided support to us. It helped to mobilize funds which were a very considerable source of help. All that is good, but what we need more than anything else is the adoption of an effective and efficient plan that avoid these constant repeated invasions of locusts and their spread to neighbouring countries.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you very much Mr Burgeon and Mr Campanhola. I think the Members have heard your call on this programme which really needs several Bodies assistance because the livelihoods of the people in Madagascar, in particular the vulnerable ones, the small-holder farmers as well as the pastoralists, are at stake. Thank you very much.

We now have the results of the vote. I now ask the Secretary-General to read us the results.

SECRETARY-GENERAL

Report of ballot number one for the Programme Committee membership, Asia Region, for 2013-15. Ballot papers deposited, 49. Defective ballots, 1. Abstentions, 1. Valid ballots, 47. Seats to be filled, 2. Votes cast, 94. Majority required, 24.

Elected: Mr Xia Jingyuan of China with 41 votes and Mr Vimlendra Sharan of India with 35 votes.

Not elected: Mr Hamim Hamim of Indonesia with 18 votes.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

REPORT OF BALLOT RÉSULTAT DU SCRUTIN RESULTADO DE LA VOTACIÓN	No. 1	PROGRAMME COMMITTEE (Asia) COMITE DU PROGRAMME (Asie) 2013-2015 COMITE DEL PROGRAMMA (Asia)
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1. Ballot papers deposited Bulletins déposés Papeletas depositadas	49	4. Valid ballots Bulletins valables Papeletas válidas	47
2. Defective ballots Bulletins nuls Papeletas defectuosas	1	5. Seats to be filled Sièges à pourvoir Puestos que hay que cubrir	2
3. Abstentions Abstentions Abstenciones	1	6. Votes cast Suffrages exprimés Votos emitidos	94

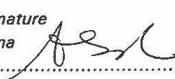
7. Majority Majorité Mayoría	24
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Elected - Élus - Elegidos		Not elected - Pas élus - No elegidos			
Mr Xia Jingyuan (China)	41	Mr Hamim Hamim (Indonesia)	18		
Mr Vimlendra Sharan (India)	35				

Tellers/Scrutateurs/Escurtadores

Andrea Silvina Repetti (Argentina)

Signature
Firma


.....

Adair Heuchan (Canada)

Signature
Firma


.....

Stephen Dowd, CPAC


.....

24/06/2013

Date
Fecha

Elections Officer
Fonctionnaire électoral
El oficial de elecciones

CHAIRPERSON

I wish to congratulate China and India elected to the Programme Committee.

4. Election of the Chairperson and Twelve Members of the Finance Committee**4. Élection du Président et des 12 membres du Comité financier****4. Elección del Presidente y los 12 miembros del Comité de Finanzas**

(CL 147/LIM/2; CL 147/INF/5)

CHAIRPERSON

We now continue with Item 4 of our Agenda, Election of the Chairperson and 12 Members of the Finance Committee. As you will have seen in paragraph 4 of document CL 147/LIM/2, we have one candidate for the post of Chairperson of the Finance Committee, Mr Médi MOUNGUI from Cameroon.

As previously indicated, when there is the same number of candidates for the same number of posts, the Council may decide on the appointment by clear general consent.

Can I take it that the Council wishes to appoint Mr Médi MOUNGUI as Chairperson of the Finance Committee?

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

CHAIRPERSON

It is so decided.

Congratulations Mr Médi MOUNGUI on his appointment as Chairperson of the Finance Committee. I wish you well for your work with the Finance Committee for the second term.

We now have to appoint the Members of the Finance Committee. I will give the floor to the Secretary-General so that he can inform the Council on the number of nominations received.

SECRETARY-GENERAL

As indicated in paragraph 5 of document CL 147/LIM/2, for the regions of Africa, Asia and the Pacific, Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean, and the Near East, there are two seats to be filled for each region, and for the regions North America and Southwest Pacific there is one candidate and one post to be filled for each region.

I should like to remind the Council that in document CL 147/INF/5 notification was provided by the Chairperson of the Near East Regional Group that Islamic Republic of Iran withdrew its candidature for Membership of the Finance Committee to be replaced by Sudan.

I will now read the names of the candidates:

For Africa: Mr Abdoulaye Traore of Guinea and Mr Fouzi Lekjaa of Morocco;

For Asia and the Pacific: Mr Hideya Yamada of Japan and Mr Khalid Mehboob of Pakistan;

For Europe: Mr Georg Friedel Cramer of Germany and Mr Vladimir Kuznetsov of the Russian Federation;

For Latin America and the Caribbean: Mr Olyntho Vieira of Brazil and Ms Emma María José Rodríguez Sifuentes of Mexico;

For the Near East: Mr Magdi Anwar Hassanein Hassan of Egypt and Ms Abla Malik Osman of Sudan;

For North America: Ms Natalie Brown of the United States of America;

For Southwest Pacific: Mr Matthew Worrell of Australia.

CHAIRPERSON

Given that we have the same number of nominations as seats to be filled for all regions, can I take it that there are no objections to the Council appointing these candidates by clear general consent?

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you. It is so decided.

5. Election of the Chairperson and Seven Members of the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters (CL 147/LIM/3)**5. Élection du Président et des sept membres du Comité des questions constitutionnelles et juridiques****5. Elección del Presidente y los siete miembros del Comité de Asuntos Constitucionales y Jurídicos****CHAIRPERSON**

We now move on to item 5, Election of the Chairperson and seven Members of the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters.

As the United States of America has withdrawn its nomination for the post of Chairperson of this Committee, we have one candidate for the post of Chairperson of the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters, Ms Mónica Martínez of Ecuador.

Again, the Council may decide to appoint the Chairperson by clear general consent. Can I take it that the Council wishes to appoint Ms Mónica Martínez as Chairperson of the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters?

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

CHAIRPERSON

I congratulate you, Ms Martínez, on your appointment as Chairperson of the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters and wish you well as you move from being a Member to the Chair of the CCLM.

We now have to appoint the Members of the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters. I will give the floor to the Secretary-General to provide the Council with information on the nominations received.

SECRETARY-GENERAL

As notification has been received from the permanent mission of Canada to FAO that Canada wishes to withdraw its candidature for Membership of the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters, there is now one post to be filled for each of the seven FAO Regions.

The candidatures are hence as follows:

For Africa: Mr Mohammed Sheriff of Liberia;

For Asia and the Pacific: Mr Mafizur Rahman of Bangladesh;

For Europe: Mr Lubomir Ivanov of Bulgaria;

For Latin America and the Caribbean: Mr Oscar Gabriel Pineyro Bentos of Uruguay;

For the Near East: Mr Abdulsatar Chiyad Al-Sudani of Iraq;

For North America: Mr Gregory Groth of the United States of America;

For Southwest Pacific: Mr Lawrence Kuna Kalinoe of Papua New Guinea.

CHAIRPERSON

Given that we have the same number of nominations as seats to be filled for the seven regions, can I take it that there are no objections to the Council appointing these candidates by clear general consent?

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you. It is so decided.

6. Matters Arising out of the Conference Session**6. Questions émanant de la session de la Conférence****6. Cuestiones planteadas en el período de sesiones de la Conferencia****CHAIRPERSON**

Now we move on to Item 6, Matters Arising out of the Conference Session. Does any Council Member wish to take the floor?

Ms Nomatamba TAMBO (South Africa)

As this is our first intervention since the Conference, allow me to warmly congratulate you on your election as the Independent Chairperson of the Council. It is indeed an honour for South Africa to have such a distinguished African in the Chair who commends the respect not only of my country and our continent but also of the entire Membership of FAO, who have all come to know and appreciate the vastness and wealth of your experience and leadership qualities during your time as a Permanent Representative of Tanzania in Rome, as well as Chair of the Africa Group in 2011.

South Africa was privileged to have been present and was one of the key countries that supported your candidacy for the ICC post in the run-up to the 2012 Regional Conference for Africa in Brazzaville, and we look forward to your guidance and able leadership over the next two years.

Chairperson, as this is also the first meeting since South Africa joined the Council, please allow me to express our appreciation for the support of our seven African sub-regional groupings, as well as the Africa Group and the entire FAO Membership, for the confidence placed in South Africa by electing us to the Membership of the Council.

South Africa is a firm and committed believer in multilateralism and will continue to play an active and constructive role in helping to shape debates and build the FAO that we can all be proud of, an FAO that is best committed to its mandate of overcoming rural poverty and hunger, developing agriculture, fisheries and forestry, and working toward assuring food security and nutrition for all children, women and men.

This last Conference has strengthened our resolve to tackle head-on our common challenges while trying to strike a delicate balance between the realities of many competing global priorities amidst an ever shrinking fiscal space and challenging global economic circumstances.

As we look forward to further engaging with the Membership and Secretariat on the detailed implementation plans for the various decisions taken during the Conference, we might also perhaps benefit from doing some inward reflection and seriously consider any lessons that can be learned from the way we ought to engage with each other on important issues.

Given our recent experiences with the adoption of a civil society strategy at the April Session of Council, or with the Programme of Work and Budget during this past week's Conference, perhaps it is time to consider whether there is not space for a more inclusive, regular, transparent and substantive exchange of views regarding key governance and programming and financial issues affecting the Organization.

In this regard, we would like to think that we should also be able to engage with each other in a broader ranging and informal manner on issues of key importance, long before we lock ourselves into formal negotiating positions within our Governing Bodies like the Conference, Regional Conferences or Council sessions or even at committee level.

Such a system of regular, informal consultations and round tables between the Council Membership and the Secretariat would allow for a more open and frank discussion on views in progress, with regards to issues such as the Programme of Work and Budget or regional priorities, new strategies directions, new draft policies and key reports.

We trust, as we move forward in implementing the outcomes of the last Conference and starting today to prepare for our next meetings of Governing Bodies, that the Council and indeed the entire FAO Membership will work together and contribute collectively to the only outcome that really matters and is contained in the FAO's Vision statement. Namely, and I quote, "A world free of hunger and malnutrition, where food and agriculture contributes to improve the living standards of all, especially the poorest, in an economically, socially, and environmentally sustainable manner." Unquote.

Mr Md. Mafizur RAHMAN (Bangladesh)

At the very beginning, I would like to thank, welcome and congratulate you for being elected as the Independent Chairperson of the Council for the next two years. Let me thank again from myself and from the Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh and from the common people of our country.

I would like to congratulate and welcome all 33 Council Members that were elected in the Conference. We would be very happy if we could take Cyprus with us, but since it was not possible for the election, we hope that for the next election Cyprus will be able to be a Member of the Council.

I congratulate the Chairpersons of the Programme Committee, Finance Committee and CCLM, and all other Members who have been just elected as Members of the different committees. We hope that these Committees will be effective in the near future.

I would like to thank all Member Nations for approving the budget level in the Conference by consensus and we expect and hope to see that the Programme of Work, that was approved by Council and Conference, will be efficiently implemented in the future.

We thank all of the Members of the Conference and Council for their coherence and solidarity in this decision-making process and we hope to see this tradition being continued in the future.

Mr John C.E. SANDY (Trinidad and Tobago)

My Delegation embraces this opportunity to congratulate you and express support for your appointment as Independent Chairperson of the Council. We know that your qualifications and experience are such that you are imminently suitable for this position. Accordingly, the Government of Trinidad and Tobago is confident that you will perform your duties with distinction.

I take this opportunity as well to welcome our new Members to the Council. In addition, my Delegation wishes to express sincerest thanks to the Members of the Conference, and in particular to our colleagues of GRULAC for the confidence posed in Trinidad and Tobago and by extension, in CARICOM, by allowing us to serve on the Council for another term.

My Delegation pledges to exercise continued vigor and enthusiasm as together we attempt to eradicate poverty, malnutrition, and hunger in the world.

Ms Gothami INDIKADAHENA (Observer for Sri Lanka)

I am honoured to speak on behalf of the Group of 77 and China. Let me take this opportunity to congratulate you once again on your election as the Independent Chairperson of the Council for the period 2013-2015. We wish to assure you our fullest support in discharging your role.

I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate the Chairpersons and the Members of the Programme Committee, the Finance Committee, and the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters on their election.

We also take this opportunity to express our gratitude to those Delegations who withdrew their nominations for the sake of reaching consensus, demonstrating their solidarity and preparedness to accommodate each other for mutual respect.

Speaking on the budget that we approved at the Conference, it is a remarkable achievement and it required considerable gains and losses from all Members' points of view. As the Director-General stated Tuesday morning, I think there is a lot of work to be undertaken in order to achieve the decisions that we agreed on in the Resolution adopted a few days ago.

I think we respect each other and assume a sense of responsibility. We have to make sure that the decisions we have taken in the Resolution are well respected and provide the Director-General the necessary flexibility to reach the targets that we have set for this institution.

I think we have a lot of work ahead of us. We, as Members, need to take this aspect into consideration and give our full support to the Director-General and the Secretariat in the days to come.

7. Calendar of FAO Governing Bodies and other Main Sessions 2013-14 (CL 147/2 Rev.1)

7. Calendrier 2013-2014 des sessions des organes directeurs de la FAO et des autres réunions principales

7. Calendario de los períodos de sesiones de los órganos rectores de la FAO y otras reuniones importantes en 2013-14

CHAIRPERSON

We can now move on to Item 7, Calendar of FAO Governing Bodies and other Main Sessions 2013-2014. The relevant document is CL 147/2 Rev.1 which has been prepared to avoid clashes with the dates of IFAD and World Food Programme Governing Body Sessions.

The dates given for the sessions in 2014 are for information only at this stage as they will be submitted for approval at the next Council Session in December. This is an update.

I assume that Members are in agreement with this small revision which has been made.

8. Provisional Agenda for the 148th Session of the Council (December 2013) (CL 147/INF/2)

8. Ordre du jour provisoire de la 148^{ème} session du Conseil (décembre 2013)

8. Programa provisional del 148.º período de sesiones del Consejo (diciembre de 2013)

CHAIRPERSON

I suggest that we move on to Item 8, Provisional Agenda for the 148th Session of the Council which will be held from 2 to 6 December 2013. An information document has been tabled under this Item, namely CL 147/INF/2.

Mr Thomas WRIESSING (Germany)

I would like to ask you to give the floor to Ireland who will speak for the EU and its 27 Member States. Thank you.

Mr Jarlath O'CONNOR (Ireland)

I take the floor on behalf of the European Union and its 27 Member States. As this is the first time that we take the floor today and possibly the last time, we would like to take this opportunity to welcome you, Mr Chairperson, to your new role, and wish you good luck in your future work in this important position.

We request that under the Programme, Budgetary, Financial and Administrative Matters sub-heading of the Provisional Agenda, items 3 to 6, a new point be added on social protection. This point would reflect paragraph 9 of Item 23 of the Report of Commission II of this year's Conference, document C 2013/II/REP/23.

This paragraph requests that further info on social protection activities of the Organization in implementing the PWB 2014-15 be provided to the Council. We hope that an update on those activities can be made available at the 148th Council Session.

Mr Rapibhat CHANDARASRIVONOS (Thailand)

I would like to congratulate you on your appointment as Independent Chairperson of the Council and also welcome the newly elected Chairpersons and Members of the Council Committees.

On the Provisional Agenda of the 148th Session of the Council in December this year, Thailand would like to add the Report of the First Meeting of the Global Soil Partnership Plenary assembly into the Provisional Agenda.

CHAIRPERSON

Is there anybody who has any objection to the proposals which have been made by Ireland and Thailand? So we will take those proposals to be part of our Agenda for the 148th Session of the Council which will take place in December.

I thank you for these comments which are very important for our work.

10. Working Methods of the Council**10. Méthodes de travail du Conseil****10. Métodos de trabajo del Consejo****CHAIRPERSON**

We can move on to Item 10 of the Agenda, Working Methods of the Council.

SECRETARY-GENERAL

Given that the last session of Council took place less than two months ago there is nothing to report under this item as regards the Council, but I would like to take this opportunity to inform the Council that, following comments made under this item at the last session of Council, the Secretariat is looking into the feasibility of upgrading the electronic voting system in use in the Plenary Hall.

CHAIRPERSON

I would like to suggest that at future sessions of the one day Council, which as you mentioned takes place a matter of weeks after the April session of Council, we do not table this “standing item”.

Can I take it that the Council agrees with this suggestion? It is so decided.

M. Carlos Alberto AMARAL (Angola)

Comme c'est la première fois que l'Angola a la parole, nous aimerions remercier tous les pays qui ont contribué à l'élection de l'Angola, notamment les pays du groupe Afrique et en particulier les pays de la sous-région de l'Afrique australe, et dire que nous ferons de notre mieux pour mériter la confiance de tous les pays.

Ma délégation voudrait également féliciter le Président élu. Nous avons eu le privilège de travailler avec lui pendant le Comité de la réforme et nous le connaissons bien comme Président du Groupe africain. Nous avons confiance et l'Angola vous transmet sa disponibilité pour collaborer avec vous.

Nous aimerions féliciter les membres élus du Comité financier, du Comité du Programme et du Comité des questions constitutionnelles et juridiques. Mais je prends la parole également sur ce point sur l'action de la méthodologie pour exprimer une opinion. Parce que nous avons analysé, nous avons négocié, nous avons discuté longuement de l'action du Programme de travail et budget, et un grand problème est en effet de faire des économies. Pour cette raison, je propose de faire des efforts pour réduire la durée du Conseil. Le Conseil prend normalement une semaine, quatre ou cinq jours utiles. Je pense qu'il faut essayer d'être plus objectifs, tenir compte de l'argumentation qui vient du Comité du Programme et du Comité financier, et privilégier les interventions des groupes régionaux afin de réduire la durée du Conseil. C'est une proposition.

Mr Yohannes TENSUE (Eritrea)

I join the other Members in congratulating you for this election.

As I have said in my statement last Saturday at the end of the Conference, regarding the majority when there are more candidates than seats, the method to calculate such majority makes it difficult to obtain. It was established a long time ago.

May the Council request the CCLM to review those counting methods, not only of the election held in Conference but for all the elections.

The counting method could be simplified and reviewed to one that is more reasonable and can save time and money. So, the Council requests the CCLM to review the counting methods for elections where there are more candidates than seats.

Mr Hassan JANABI (Iraq) (Original language Arabic)

I should like to congratulate you, Sir, on your election as Independent Chairperson of the Council.

I believe that there was an unwarranted error because there was no reference to Iraq being a new Member in the Council.

I should like to support what has been said by Angola, namely the due respect of the time management during the course of our discussions. I believe that time management is good, is as important as the management of financial resources. Therefore, I should like to ask you to make sure that our discussions should not go beyond 17.00 hours when we meet next time in our upcoming session.

As for the counting methods when in elections, I believe that during the Conference there was a general feeling this issue had taken a great deal of time and, therefore, we might find a faster method in counting the majority to declare those who win or those who are not elected.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you, Iraq. I am afraid there was a mistake, the mention of Iran was not intentional. So may I take this opportunity to welcome Iraq as a new Member of the Council which has started its work today. You are welcome.

We have heard the opinions and suggestions coming from Angola, Eritrea and Iraq regarding the working methods of the Council, in particular to the number of days, as well as the counting measures during a vote.

I think these are matters we should start discussing during this intersessional period and by December we will be able to report to you on how these suggestions have been received and will be treated.

Maybe by December, we may have a very fruitful discussion in the formal and informal discussions within ourselves as Members and, of course, taking advantage of the Secretariat.

I do promise you that these are very pertinent issues which we need to address because we are continuing to make the Council refocused and sharp. We don't want to spend much time and get exhausted and not be productive at the end.

Ms Mary Sibusisiwe MUBI (Observer for Zimbabwe)

I would like to congratulate you, Mr Chairperson, on your appointment to this very important post. I certainly believe that you are the right person for this job given your experience in the Organization, your skills in terms of building consensus, your understanding of the Organization. The fact that you were elected by the Membership is really a testament of the confidence that we have in your role.

I would also want to appeal to the various groups to work very hard and be supportive in the role because if we do not support the Independent Chair, then we'll be failing in making sure that our Governing Bodies do the work that they are supposed to do.

I would also like to take the opportunity to congratulate all the newly elected Members of the Council, the Chairpersons of the Programme and Finance Committee and the CCLM.

In looking at the agenda item on the Council, I would want to suggest, if it's not too difficult for the Secretariat, that, when new Council Members are appointed, they have a half-day meeting where they

talk about their duties and responsibilities of Council Members. Many Members are new to the Organization, and I was personally in a fog for quite some months before I started figuring out, and one of those who assisted me in working it all out was the Chair, but I think we need to have a collective approach to new Council Members.

There is no harm in revisiting what we are supposed to do as Council Members, looking at the Reform document and other relevant documents, so that we are all starting from the same basis. So, I would want to suggest that as a way of getting the new Council Members to work together and build some level of synergies.

CHAIRPERSON

Some of the Members are what we call "the old wine in the new bottles" but it is very important not only for the Council Members but also for every Member of this Organization to be aware of what goes on within this institution. And it's important that to read well the Basic Texts of FAO, in particular on areas of relevance and get knowledge about the IPA because the IPA is something which you have to move with.

For the new Members, you will note that the old ones are always referring to the IPA. In fact, some mention even the paragraphs and the sub-paragraphs. So this is very important for everybody.

This is my call that we refresh ourselves reading the IPA and relevant sections of the Basic Texts.

Mr Bandar Abdulmuhsin bin SHALHOOB (Saudi Arabia) (Original language Arabic)

First of all, I would like to congratulate you on your election as Independent Chairperson of the Council. I wish you every success in your endeavours and I am confident that you will lead this Council to success. I would also like to congratulate all those who were elected to the Governing Bodies of this Organization.

We are speaking about savings in the Council and the working methods of the Council. Perhaps I am thinking aloud here. Let us not forget that half the cost is dedicated for the Drafting Committee. We have to wait for a long time until Members volunteer to participate in a Drafting Committee and once they do so, it takes a very long time, sometimes they have to work until midnight to produce a text.

When we meet again to adopt the Report, we find out that most of the speakers are those who participated in the Drafting Committee. They re-open the discussion, they speak again as if they had not met the day before and reached a consensus. Perhaps we should all think thoroughly about how to make savings and come up with a strong Report that is really a consensus Report.

I believe that we have to work according to the working methods of the WFP. We need a single rapporteur, elected from various Regional Groups on a rotational basis, who can represent all views from all Regional Groups. In this way, we would be able to save time, efforts, as well as bring down costs during the Council.

I believe that many Delegations take the floor in order to express thanks and gratitude and also to welcome other delegations, and this takes up a lot of time. It is better to do away with these complimentary words.

I think that we need to be very brief in our interventions. We need to refer directly to the document we are going to speak about and to the subject at hand.

CHAIRPERSON

I think the issue of drafting is really something we should have worked on and we have a document. What we need to do is just a matter of management. This will be my responsibility.

Sra. Emma María José RODRÍGUEZ SIFUENTES (México)

Permítame felicitarlo por su elección y también al resto de los colegas, por el resto de los Comités.

Tres puntos, Señor Presidente. En primer lugar, queremos dar la bienvenida a los esfuerzos que hará el Secretario de la FAO para actualizar el sistema de votos en el Plenario. Realmente creemos que es

muy importante fortalecer a la FAO, fortalecer a la institución misma, y dará confianza y seguridad a los Estados Miembros sobre el sentido de sus votos en la propia Conferencia y en los Comités.

El segundo tema, también quisiéramos apoyar la Propuesta que ha sido hecha para revisar o examinar el sistema de votación para la elección de los Miembros en la Conferencia. Creemos que es un tema que ya está de las últimas dos Conferencias y sería muy útil poder trabajar en este sentido para hacer más eficiente nuestros esfuerzos. Habrán algunas cosas relacionadas que también habría que reconsiderar, que habría que tener en sus manos, una reacción poco amplia para revisar todos los aspectos relacionados con el tema.

El tercer y último punto, Señor Presidente, damos la bienvenida a la propuesta hecha por la distinguida Embajadora de Zimbabue para que se haga un curso introductorio para los Miembros del Consejo. Yo creo que esto es muy útil, ha resultado muy útil en otras áreas y esto permitirá que los Miembros del Consejo tengan un punto de partida o base común de sus conocimientos para su participación.

M. Aristide ONGONE OBAME (Gabon)

Je tiens quand même à vous féliciter, puisque c'est la première fois que je prends la parole ce matin, de votre élection.

Alors, j'aimerais effectivement intervenir sur le décompte, mais pas le décompte des voix. Nous avons dit qu'au niveau du Conseil il faut qu'il y ait une rotation. Ça c'est très bien dit, mais je me pose vraiment la question: est-ce que nous y croyons? Si vraiment on y croit, il faut qu'il y ait peut-être quelque chose d'écrit quelque part, qui confirme comment faire cette rotation, parce qu'on le dit mais rien ne nous guide, ce qui fait que nous risquons effectivement de nous retrouver toujours avec les mêmes pays, les mêmes Membres qui sont au Conseil, alors qu'on dit qu'il y faut une rotation. Comment faut-il faire cette rotation? Est-ce qu'il y a une règle? S'il n'y a pas de règle, est-ce que nous pouvons l'introduire?

CHAIRPERSON

I don't want to make a clarification on this issue of rotation. It is mentioned in the Basic Text, but it is not mandatory. It is upon the Regions, but within the Basic Text it is given that every country should have an opportunity to serve on the Council. It is implied there as a rotation, but it is upon the Regions themselves to decide.

Anyway, Members can discuss this if they wish and if there is any change they want to be binding, it is upon the FAO Members.

Ms Debra PRICE (Canada)

I just wanted to make a brief reaction to some of the ideas that have been put forward. Very interesting proposals however just to flag that in the current practices are enshrined many important principles, among them fairness and inclusivity which we value very much. So we hope that we can keep that in mind in our discussion.

Sra. Maria Eulalia JIMÉNEZ (El Salvador)

A este Consejo no soy muy capaz de hacer el gruñido que se nos dijo, pero quisiera darle la bienvenida también como se hace en su país.

La Delegación de El Salvador quiere, Señor Presidente, respaldar lo que acaba de mencionar la delegada de México, principalmente en lo que se refiere a la necesidad y urgencia de que reformemos nuestro reglamento para que las votaciones en la Conferencia y en el Consejo sean más eficientes y nos permitan ahorrar este recurso, Señor Presidente. Consideramos también la idea de que se prepare a los Miembros del Consejo para que lleguemos mejor informados al mismo, podría ser una actividad positiva para los trabajos de la Organización.

CHAIRPERSON

I don't see any other requests from the Members as well as from the observers so all the comments which have been taken and suggestions. We'll be able to bring them to you when we make the Report.

11. Any Other Matters**11. Autres questions****11. Asuntos varios****CHAIRPERSON**

Now we move on to Item 11, Any Other Matters. Does any Member wish to take the floor? Thank you. Item 11 is now closed.

9. Developments in Fora of Importance for the Mandate of FAO (CL 147/INF/3 Rev.1)**9. Évolution des débats au sein d'autres instances intéressant la FAO****9. Novedades en los foros de importancia para el mandato de la FAO****CHAIRPERSON**

Now we are moving to item number 9, that is Developments in Fora of Importance for the Mandate of FAO. The relevant document is CL147/INF/3 Revision 1.

The Council will be provided through the various presentations with information on important debates taking place in other international fora which are of importance to FAO's mandate.

We will have the pleasure to listen to:

Mr Gerold Wyrwal, Agricultural Officer, Member of the Secretariat of the Rotterdam Convention.

Maybe as I call you, please take your seat on the podium.

Mr Pietro Gennari, Director and Chief Statistician of the Statistics Division;

Mr Arni Mathiesen, Assistant Director-General of the Fisheries and Aquaculture Department;

Mr Yohannes Mengesha, Coordinator of the UN Expo 2015 team;

Mr Peter Csoka, Senior Forestry Office from the Forestry Department;

Ms Xianjun Yao, Director of the Climate, Energy and Tenure Division and Mr Andrea Sonnino, Senior Agriculture Research Officer, both from the Natural Resources Management and Environment Department.

In the interest of good time keeping, which is being urged by Members, I propose that questions from the floor be taken after all the speakers have made their presentations and I'll give the speakers only five minutes. If they wish, they can do less. You can take less minutes, so that is a pressure from the Chairman.

I will now ask Mr Gerold Wyrwal to introduce the first presentation under this item, "Outcome of the Conferences of the Parties to the three Chemical and Waste Conventions held from 28 April to 10 May 2013. Mr Wyrwal, you have the floor.

Mr Gerold WYRWAL (Member of the Secretariat of the Rotterdam Convention, Agriculture and Consumer Protection Department)

It gives me a great pleasure to present to you the outcomes of the meetings of the Conferences of Parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions and their relevance to FAO.

First of all, I'd like to recall that the Secretariat of the Rotterdam Convention is jointly provided by FAO and UNEP and the Director of the FAO Plant Production and Protection Division holds the responsibility for half of the Secretariat of the Rotterdam Convention.

This joined FAO/UNEP Secretariat is a very good example of a well-functioning cooperation among UN agencies. UNEP holds the Secretariat for the other two conventions.

The meetings convened from 28 May to 10 June 2013 in Geneva where indeed a series of six meetings; three individual meetings of the Conference of the Parties of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions with Joint Sessions embedded in an Extraordinary Conference culminating in a high-level segment of Ministers.

The meeting agenda fueled the interest of almost 2,000 participants from 172 Parties, predominantly representatives of Ministries of Agriculture and Environment, but also Health and Foreign Affairs, a large number of NGOs representing the public sector, as well as 82 Ministers attended these meetings.

Let me summarize the overall relevance to FAO in six points only. Global trade in chemicals, including pesticides, was valued around 3000 billion USD for 2010. Many of these chemicals are used in agriculture. Sustainable production intensification depends on sustainable partnerships and synergies at all levels.

It is essential that FAO's normative work on pesticides is directly translated into action at field level to protect human health and the environment.

70 percent of the chemicals listed in the Rotterdam Convention are pesticides and this is key to FAO's focus on pesticides risk reduction, sustainable intensification and action on highly hazardous pesticides.

At the meeting, Ministers called for stronger synergies among the three Conventions and FAO has demonstrated support to countries in implementing all three Conventions.

Let me mention only two specific outcomes of the Rotterdam CoP. By consensus, CoP-6 agreed to list the highly toxic insecticide Azinphos-methyl in Annex III to the Convention, thus making it subject to the so called Prior Informed Consent procedure under which export can only take place if the importing country provides prior consent.

As far as elections of officers is concerned, I'd simply like to mention that a new bureau was elected for the period up until the end of CoP-7 in May 2015, Chaired by Mr Khashashneh from Jordan.

Now what are the outcomes of the Joint Sessions of the three Conferences of Parties? In Joint Sessions of the three Conferences of Parties, delegates reviewed and approved a Programme of Technical Assistance and Capacity Building, putting more emphasis on joint delivery and joint implementation.

The Joint Session also endorsed the strategy for mobilizing financial resources and further discussed the establishment of Compliance Committees for the Conventions.

What are the outcomes of the Joint Sessions regarding the budget? A joint budget group discussed the overall, as well as the Convention specific, budgets. The Conference of Parties to the Rotterdam Convention approved an operational budget of 6.7 million USD for the biennium which is a plus of 1.6 percent over the last biennium. However, in scale of assessment, the increase is almost 15 percent compared to 2012-13.

The Conference of Parties also approved an indicative budget for the anticipated voluntary contributions of 6.4 million USD for 2014-15, which is an increase of almost 80 percent over the last biennium. The Secretariat, through its joint resource mobilization group, will endeavour to raise these voluntary trust funds.

The Extraordinary Conference of Parties adopted a unanimous decision on enhancing cooperation and coordination among the three Secretariats, thereby endorsing the matrix structure and the organization in the Geneva part of the Secretariat. It also requested the Secretariat to continue to develop and implement joint activities as an integral part of the proposed Programmes of Work and Budget of the three Conventions, further enhancing cooperation and coordination with relevant partners, as well as publishing regular management reports as a matter of increased transparency.

As far as financial mechanisms are concerned, the ExCoP noted with appreciation, the invitation to the Global Environment Facility (GEF) to revise, in the context of its sixth replenishment process, its Focal Area Structure and Strategy in order to address the chemicals and waste cluster.

Now what are the estimated cost savings resulting from this synergy process? Integration of the three Secretariats into one matrix structure was done to increase efficiency and effectiveness. Some of the advantages of integrating the management of three Conventions are: a reduced number of staff, savings through back-to-back meetings, reduction of office space, facilities and equipment, as well as less staff travel. For 2013, savings are estimated to be in the order of USD one million.

Finally, over 80 Ministers met at a High Level segment which was opened by the Director-General of FAO, the Executive Director of UNEP, and the Chief Executive Officer of GEF. The Ministers at the High Level segment agreed to put stronger emphasis on synergies and the implementation of the chemicals and waste Conventions, including raising the profile at national and regional levels.

Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen, Mr Ngirwa, I would like to thank you very much for your kind attention and I would also like to thank the team of the Secretariat of the Rotterdam Convention for their hard and dedicated work. Thank you very much.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you, Mr Wyrwal. I will now give the floor to the next speaker, Mr Pietro Gennari who will make a presentation on the Voices of the Hungry at the London meeting on 8 June 2013. Mr Gennari, you have the floor, please.

Mr Pietro GENNARI (Director, Statistics Division, Economic and Social Development Department)

Thank you, Chair, Excellencies, Distinguished Representatives, I am pleased to provide you with a brief report on the high level event “Nutrition for Growth: Beating Hunger through Business and Science”, organized by the Government of the United Kingdom, the Child Investment Fund Foundation and the Government of Brazil, held in London on 8 June 2013. The event followed on from the United Kingdom/Brazil Hunger Summit held in London on 12 August 2012 at the closing of the Olympic Games where FAO showcased the new monitoring tool for improving accountability on national and international levels to reduce food insecurity and under nutrition.

At the event, a total of 94 leaders from governments, international organizations, industry and civil society endorsed the Global Nutrition for Growth Compact, committed to put nutrition at the centre of the development agenda and made the historic pledge to end under-nutrition in our lifetime.

As an important step toward achieving this goal, the Global Nutrition for Growth Compact outlines the following targets to be achieved by 2020: ensure at least 500 million pregnant women and children under two are reached with effective nutrition interventions, prevent at least 20 million children under five from becoming stunted, save at least 1.7 million lives by reduced stunting, by increased breastfeeding, and through timely treatment of severe malnutrition.

In the Compact, donors and development agencies specifically committed to support countries as they enforce and implement national nutrition plans through mobilizing and aligning international resources, empowering country-led coordination arrangements to support effective delivery of resources, and promoting South-South knowledge-sharing and technical assistance.

FAO was present at the event and through our Director-General, committed to enhancing nutrition in all aspects of our work, to monitor and report nutrition related outcomes and targets against our new Strategic Objectives, and to work within the UN system to achieve the elements of the UN Secretary-General’s Zero Hunger Challenge announced at the Rio+20 Summit last June.

A crosscutting component of FAO’s commitment is to improve management of food insecurity, hunger and malnutrition. FAO’s Voices of the Hungry project represents an innovative approach for this purpose. The objective of this initiative is to establish a new global standard for measuring food insecurity experience that is validated by the scientific community, endorsed at the international level and used for global and country monitoring.

The starting point is the development of the Food Insecurity Experience Scale, a new measurement instrument that defines how food insecurity is experienced by people. Based on the responses to eight questions integrated into a single scale, it is possible to classify cases across three levels of food insecurity severity: mild, moderate, and severe, in a valid and comparable manner across cultures.

The Food Insecurity Experience Scale builds upon established experiences such as the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Household Food Security Module and the Latin American and Caribbean Food Security Scale, tested in various parts of the world, both in developed and developing countries.

The Voices of the Hungry initiative will provide the basis for substantially starting FAO's Global Food Security Monitoring System in the immediate future. The project will start to collect information on people's experience of food insecurity in 2014 by inserting a limited set of questions in the Gallup World Poll, a nationally representative survey carried out in more than 150 countries annually since 2005. Through this measurement approach, FAO will gather cross culturally comparable real-time information on the depth of food insecurity, at a relatively limited cost.

Because the information is gathered at an individual level, gender disparity in food access can be captured for the first time. These are considerable advantages over other methods for measuring food insecurity currently in use and which greatly facilitates timely action on the part of governments.

FAO has already started working closely with four countries through the Renewed Partnership to End Hunger in Africa, namely Angola, Ethiopia, Malawi and Niger, for the linguistic adaptation of the scale and the development of data processing and scoring routines.

With the Voices of the Hungry Initiative, FAO will be able to set baseline values for food insecurity in all countries of the world in 2015 and establish a standard for tracking progress for new, more precise indicators for food and nutrition security in line with recent discussions on the Post-2015 Development Agenda.

The report recently released by the High Level Panel of Eminent Persons on the Post 2015 Development Agenda in fact recommends a food nutrition specific sustainable development goal with five targets that are listed here which are inspired by the UN Secretary-General's Zero Hunger Challenge. One of the targets that is highlighted in the slide calls for ending hunger and realizing the right of all people to have access to sufficient, safe, affordable and nutrition-full food. The Voices of the Hungry initiative will provide FAO and the international community with the tools to properly and cost effectively monitor this new target. The support of all stakeholders, both countries and development partners, in the development and the implementation of the Voices of the Hungry project will be critical for the success of the initiative.

Thank you for your attention and your active collaboration in this important endeavour.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you, Mr Gennari. I will now give the floor to the next speaker, Mr Arni Mathiesen who will make a presentation on the Global Oceans Actions Summit. Mr Mathiesen, you have the floor.

Mr Arni MATHIESEN (Assistant Director-General, Fisheries and Aquaculture Department)

The Global Oceans Actions Summit for Food Security and Blue Growth will be held from 9 to 13 September 2013 in the Hague, the Netherlands, and will include a high level session on 12 September. The Summit is co-organized by the Government of the Netherlands, FAO and the World Bank Group, in close collaboration with the Global Partnership for Oceans.

The Summit will allow global leaders, ocean practitioners, scientists, representatives of civil society and the private sector to share experiences and demonstrate combined actions and partnerships for healthier and productive oceans to act as a driver of blue growth and sea prosperity.

The world faces one of the biggest challenges of the 21st century, how to feed nine billion people by 2015 in the face of climate change, economic and financial crises, and the growing competition for natural resources. The multiple challenges the world is facing in terms of food security, climate change, degradation of ecosystems and economic recession require an integrated response, an urgent transition of the world economy towards a sustainable, inclusive and resource efficient path.

Healthy and productive oceans are essential for global food security, livelihoods, and economic growth. Some 72 percent of the earth's surface is covered by a vast body of salt water. The oceans provide the global life support system that helps regulate the climate and supplies half of the planet's oxygen. Eighty percent of all life on earth is found in the oceans. "Healthy oceans" provide: seafood contributing 16 percent of the animal protein consumed by the world's population; over three hundred million livelihoods from fishing, agriculture and tourism among others; revenues in a global economy of more than 190 billion derived annually from seafood, and some USD 161 billion annually from marine and coastal tourism; over 12 000 biochemical compounds have been isolated from sea creatures since the 1980s, including aquaculture agents, HIV drugs, pain medications and others; a number of essential goods and services, such as protection from international hazards from the growing coastal population and the storage of carbon.

The natural systems underpinning the health of the oceans are changing at a rate and scale not seen since the rise of modern civilization due largely to human action occurring in the context of weak institutions. Three key threats to ocean health are the symptoms of this institutional failure:

(i) overfishing, (ii) habitat change and (iii) pollution. These problems are negatively impacting food security, livelihoods and sustainable economic growth. These challenges are compounded by climate change impacts and the spectre of a 4 degree Celsius world characterized by more coral bleaching, habitat loss, altered fish migratory patterns, storm surges, extreme weather events and loss of coastal livelihoods and infrastructure. More concerning is the potential for a catastrophic collapse of ocean ecosystems threatened by ocean acidification.

In the lead-up to the Summit, regional pre-summits were held in the Caribbean: Leadership Summit for the Caribbean Challenge Initiative (17 – 18 May 2013, British Virgin Islands); in the Indian Ocean and the Pacific: Ocean and Pacific Conference (18 to 22 June 2013, Bali, Indonesia).

A special launch pre-summit event was co-convened by Indonesia, the Netherlands and the World Bank in Bali (Indonesia) from June 18 to 21. During that working meeting the Summit agenda was finalized and the design of a Multi-year Oceans Campaign, building on the substance previously developed by the GPO was initiated. A third meeting will be held in Mauritius from 22 to 25 July.

The Key objectives of the Global Oceans Action Summit for Food Security and Blue Growth are: identify priorities and develop a strategic roadmap for scaled-up action alongside priorities as identified by the Partnership leading up to the Summit; showcase concrete innovative project solutions and action partnerships amongst a wide range of stakeholders including those amongst members of the GPO; present a prototype Oceans Knowledge Portal, in collaboration with Silicon Valley innovators; mobilize investments from all sources for scaled-up action and transformational change, including through the launch of a new GPO Financial Mechanism; and mobilize broad support for the optimal positioning of Oceans in the Post-2015 Sustainable Development Agenda.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

CHAIRPERSON

We will now move to the next speaker, Mr Yohannes Mengesha, who will address the issues of the UN system participation in EXPO Milan 2015.

Mr Yohannes MENGESHA (Coordinator, UN-EXPO 2015 Team)

I am making a short presentation on the UN systems' participation in the Expo that will take place in Milan in 2015 on behalf of the UN Commissioner-General.

The theme of the Expo "Feeding the Planet Energy for Life" could not be more appropriate for the mandate of work by the Rome-based agencies and also of course other UN organizations that will be working towards the goal of zero hunger launched by the UN Secretary-General and referred to also by my colleague earlier.

The Expo will take place during an important year. As you all know, 2015 will mark the deadline for achieving the MDGs as well as the expected launch of a new, inspiring Post-2015 Development Agenda. So it will be a happy coincidence that the Expo is taking place in that year.

As in the case of past universal exhibitions, the UN system participates as one, as one official participant. This provides yet another welcome opportunity for the Rome-based agencies and the rest of the UN system to collaborate closely on an important theme that covers food security, nutrition, and sustainable diets. The Milano Expo will provide ample opportunities for the Rome-based agencies and the UN family to showcase their best practices related to their activities in different parts of the world, the bread and butter of what the UN does.

The organizers expect some 20 million visitors to come to Milan on those dates that I gave before. What is very interesting is also what they plan to create: they will create a Cyber Expo Project that will enable millions more to have virtual access to the content of the exhibition and, of course, it will be part of the living legacy of the Expo.

As we all know, in today's world it is essential to make extensive use of social media and the digital world to connect people. This approach will also underpin the emphasis that is being placed on addressing future generations. The UN system will have an innovative horizontal presence in the various areas of the Expo site and more particularly in the two principle entrance spaces through which all visitors will enter the site.

We will be working with the organizers of the Expo to create a dedicated UN Expo website where visitors can see some of the good practices of UN agencies, as well as being able to link to their official websites and learn more about what the agencies do.

We want to explore opportunities to collaborate with countries that will build their own pavilions and also with those that will be grouped under the nine thematic clusters. All official participants have to nominate a Commissioner-General and most have done so and in fact, I would like to mention that we have already started consultations, having met recently with the Commissioner-General of France.

The UN system will also identify areas where there can be joint activities with Civil Society Organizations. The idea would then be to create a special itinerary for the UN so that visitors can see in which parts of the Expo site the UN will be present. This is part of the innovative approach.

As Chairperson of the Chief Executives Board the UN Secretary-General has designated the Rome-based agencies, obviously because of the theme of the Expo, FAO, IFAD, and WFP, as the lead agencies to coordinate the participation of the UN System under the guidance of the Director-General of FAO. The Commissioner-General will work in close collaboration with the entire UN System in coordinating the preparations for the Expo.

The Secretary-General has also written to the Executive Heads of the UN System and agency funded programs, encouraging them to participate in the Expo in view of the unique opportunity offered by the Expo for the UN to disseminate key messages.

A Steering Group for the lead agencies is responsible for strategic and policy aspects in the preparation for the participation of the UN at the Expo. There is also a UN Expo 2015 theme based at FAO headquarters that supports the Steering Group, as well as the Commissioner-General at the operational level. We expect that the UN participation contract is due to be signed in the coming days, with the Chief Executive Officer of the Expo and the UN Commissioner-General.

A word or two on financial aspects, which, of course, are always important for Member States. As the guidelines for the UN Systems stipulate that the organizers have to cover the costs related to the UN's participation in all universal exhibitions, a trust fund is being setup to support the collaboration mechanism between the lead agencies and Expo 2015. The organizers will also be responsible for directly covering the costs related to showcasing UN messages in appropriate spaces in the Expo site. Here I would like to express our appreciation to the Government of Italy and to the organizers of the Expo for the excellent collaboration mechanisms that have been put in place and, more importantly, for the resources, substantial resources, that are being made available to facilitate the participation of the UN System.

There will be many opportunities for the UN System and the organizers to collaborate on events when talking about conferences, debates on many of the key challenges and solutions that we always take up, not only during this exhibition, but also on the years preceding it. In this connection, we look forward to having a Side Event during the next session of the Committee on World Food Security in October and also of course on World Food Day. Already in 2012, I would like to mention that Expo was one of the sponsors for the Hunger Run that is normally held on that occasion and we expect the same to happen next year.

Finally, I would just like to say that of course we look forward to working closely with all of you in the coming weeks and months in order to ensure successful participation of the UN System at the Expo. Thank you and here you will see a nice picture of the Expo site that will be open in 2015.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

CHAIRPERSON

I will now give the floor to Ms Eva Muller who will deliver the presentation on behalf of Mr Rojas on the Tenth Session of the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF), held in Istanbul from 8 to 19 April 2013.

Ms Eva Muller (Director of the Forest Economics, Policy and Products Division, Forestry Department)

Thank you, Mr Chairperson. Excellencies, Distinguished Members of the Council, Ladies and Gentlemen. As Mr Chairperson just said, the 10th Session of the United Nations Forum on Forests met from 8 to 19 April 2013 in Istanbul.

Following the decision of the Special Session of the 9th Session, the Forum's task was to discuss as key agenda items the role of forests in economic development and means of implementation for sustainable forest management.

The Forum also considered its standing agenda items. That is, progress in implementing the non-legally binding agreement on forests, regional and sub-regional inputs, and enhanced cooperation and policy and programme coordination including further guidance to the Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF). FAO made an opening statement on behalf of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests which it Chairs, participated in the high-level segment and had dialogues with the heads of the CPF member organizations.

During the week, CPF also had a working meeting to discuss outstanding issues. During the UNFF10, Working Group 1 considered progress in implementation of the non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests; item three on regional and sub-regional inputs; item four on forests and economic development; item five; and enhanced cooperation which was item eight.

Working Group 2 considered the finance related issues and resolved on emerging issues, item six; means of implementation, item nine; and the UNFF trust fund, item twelve.

The Collaborative Partnership on Forests and its member organizations were invited to take steps in the following areas: first to continue and expand efforts to streamline and harmonize guidelines for national forest related reporting; foster synergies among the forest related activities and programs of its member organizations, and in particular the Rio Conventions'; enhance the role of forests and sustainable forest management in sustainable development; assist countries in assessing the non-market values of forest products, goods and service, and in the recognition and valuation of a wide range of forest values; strengthen their efforts to collect and facilitate access to data on forest financial flows, and promote the message of the importance of forests in the implementation of the outcomes of Rio+20 and the UN Development Agenda beyond 2015.

The Forum also addressed specific requests to FAO as an Organization and also as the Chair of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests. FAO is to strengthen collaboration for the implementation of the non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests, develop further the work on collecting data

about national public funding for sustainable forest management as part of the forest resources assessments, and facilitate in collaboration with the forum Secretariat, other CPF members, regional and sub-regional organizations and major groups, the celebration of the International Day of Forests.

You may wish to note that the 38th Session of the FAO Conference had requested FAO to facilitate the implementation of the International Day as stipulated in the GA Resolution A/67/200.

Now what's the way forward? The Forum agreed on a process of reviewing the international arrangement on forests in 2015 and considering options for the future.

The Collaborative Partnership on Forests as a partnership and its individual members were invited to provide input to this review. And the CPF will have a retreat on the 2nd and 3rd of July in Rome to discuss future directions of its work in the light of the recent decisions by UNFF and the Governing Bodies of its Members.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

CHAIRPERSON

I now call the next speakers, Ms Xianjun Yao and Mr Andrea Sonnino who will jointly represent Fora on Agricultural Innovations. Ms Yao and Mr Sonnino, you have the floor.

Ms Xianjun YAO (Director of the Climate, Energy and Tenure Division, Natural Resources Management and Environment Department)

I am very pleased to have the chance to update you on the latest progress on the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and also on the relevant work done by FAO.

In Durban at CoP 16 of the UNFCCC, agriculture was recognized for the first time as a real, critical political issue, but it was difficult to get any decisions. The Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technical Advice (SBSTA38) met in June in Bonn and discussed the inclusion of Agriculture under the Climate Change convention.

The meeting made progress and reached a successful conclusion with some substantive text agreed on Agriculture: It invited Parties and observer organizations to submit their views on “the current state of scientific knowledge on how to enhance the adaptation of agriculture to climate change impacts while promoting rural development, sustainable development and productivity of agricultural systems and food security in all countries, particularly in developing countries. This should take into account the diversity of the agricultural systems and the differences in scale as well as possible adaptation co-benefits.”

SBSTA39 (in November in Warsaw) will include an in-session workshop on Agriculture. Overall, FAO’s technical advice was welcomed and support to mainstreaming climate change considerations in agriculture sectors is increasingly being requested, including for example preparation of national adaptation plans

During the Sub38 conference, FAO Successfully launched the Sourcebook on “Climate-Smart Agriculture”, that emphasises strengthening of resilience. CSA means agriculture that sustainably increases productivity, resilience, reduces/removes greenhouse gases while enhancing the achievement of national food security and development goals. CSA increases productivity and emphasizes strengthening of resilience (of both ecosystems and livelihoods). Overall, enhances achievement of national food security and development goals. Reduces greenhouse gas emissions. The Sourcebook on CSA, helps improve knowledge and overcome methodological gaps at the practices, policy and financial levels, and helps stakeholders – from smallholders to policy makers and development agencies - to be able to successfully implement climate smart actions. On the CSA, FAO is working in close partnership with the World Bank, Rome based Agencies, UNEP Global Mechanism of UNCCD and the CGIAR system. More information is available on the website you can see on the screen.

The SBSTA meeting in Bonn also made good progress on a number of areas related to REDD+ (reducing emissions from Deforestation and Degradation). The SBSTA-38 meeting concluded with: positive progress on methodological issues; agreement on modalities for national forest monitoring systems; the UN-REDD Programme, including work by FAO which is continuously appreciated by many countries and supports many Member Countries in improving their knowledge and the quality of participation in the Climate Change negotiations, as well as the national data and complex reporting required under the Convention. In UN-REDD, FAO is working in close partnership with UNEP and UNDP, working as One-UN, as well as with the World Bank Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF) to coordinate support and activities with countries.

FAO has strengthened its contributions to combating climate change significantly within the past few years. The Climate, Energy and Tenure Division is the responsible unit in this Organization to coordinate the organizational wide inputs to the international negotiations, specifically under the UNFCCC Framework.

So with the joint efforts of other FAO technical divisions, as well as a lot of external partners, the Organization has already developed much normative technical work for food security and also climate change.

The focus of these tools, maps and databases is on adaptation to Climate Change with co-benefits of mitigation. So you are very much welcome to visit our website for more information and I also thank you for your support.

I would like to inform you that the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture has adopted, at its 14th Session in April 2013, a Programme of Work on Climate Change and Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture. The Commission's Report was also adopted at the 38th Session of the FAO Conference on Saturday.

Regarding the Climate Change work of FAO, we look forward to receiving your continued support and also we look forward to collaborating with you all with more effort in the future. I thank you very much for your attention.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

Mr Andrea SONNINO (Senior Agriculture Research Officer, Natural Resources Management and Environment Department)

FAO promotes agricultural innovation through coalitions with the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR), the Global Forum on Agricultural Research (GFAR), the Global Forum for Rural Advisory Services (GFRAS) and other international partners, including the UN Roundtable on Communication for Development.

Regarding the CGIAR, collaboration has been continuing at different levels. At governance level, FAO is represented in the CGIAR Fund Council, in Boards of CGIAR Research Centres; on a technical level FAO has many collaborative activities with CGIAR centres and CGIAR research programmes.

In 2012, the CGIAR Consortium conducted an assessment of partner perceptions of CGIAR Stakeholders and according to more than 1 000 partners that provided feedback, FAO was found to be the most influential international organization in agricultural research for development.

The Secretariats of the CGIAR Independent Science and Partnership Council and of the CGIAR Independent Evaluation Arrangement are both hosted by FAO in Rome.

In February 2013, FAO also signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the CGIAR Consortium Office to improve strategic collaboration for achieving better impact of international agricultural research for development and both organizations are currently developing priorities for this strategic collaboration. On 2 July 2013, representatives from both organizations will attend a

workshop hosted by FAO to discuss implementation of the MoU that will serve to address knowledge gaps and research needs in support of FAO's new Strategic Objectives.

Ladies and Gentlemen, FAO also promotes agricultural research and development through partnerships with a wide number of other international partners, including the Global Forum on Agricultural Research (GFAR), whose Secretariat is hosted by FAO in Rome, and its regional fora. FAO contributes to the governance of GFAR, as well as to implementation of the roadmap of the Global Conference on Agricultural Research for Development (GCARD).

FAO and GFRAS collaborate to provide advocacy and leadership on pluralistic, demand-led advisory services within the global development agenda and facilitate national, regional and thematic extension networks. FAO contributes to the GFRAS Annual Meetings and working groups on extension evaluation, gender, capacity development and others.

Ladies and Gentlemen, FAO facilitates the Tropical Agriculture Platform (TAP), a G20 initiative which is dedicated to capacity development in agricultural innovation in the tropics with now more than 40 international, regional and national partner organizations as members dedicated to capacity development. For TAP, FAO has been working closely with the Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa (FARA), the Southeast Asian Regional Centre for Graduate Study and Research in Agriculture (SEARCA) and the International Centre for Tropical Agriculture (CIAT) to assess the needs for capacity development in agricultural innovation systems of selected countries in Africa, Asia and Central America respectively.

Recommendations from the needs assessments will be discussed and used for the development of the TAP Action Plan during a partner meeting to be held from 4 to 6 September 2013 in Hainan, China. The meeting is being jointly organized with the Government of the China.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

CHAIRPERSON

I will now give the floor to the Delegations who wish to speak on this item. I will take the names. Bangladesh, please, you have the floor.

Mr Md. Mafizur RAHMAN (Bangladesh)

I would like to thank all of the presenters for their nice and very brief presentations. I have a comment and a question regarding the first presenter. We know that actually the Basel Convention more or less deals with the trans-boundary movement of the hazardous chemicals and waste. We know in Bangladesh we have a very good ship dismantling industry.. All ships use a huge amount of chemicals and also have obvious waste and we face a lot of accidents per year, and we actually even have had loss of lives in the ship dismantling industry.

My question is: What mechanisms is UNEP following to stop this hazardous movement of transboundary chemicals and waste? Are there some provisions and conventions to stop the movement of this kind of hazardous waste and chemicals?

Mr Priyo ISWANTO (Indonesia)

Since this is my first intervention, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate you as Independent Chairperson of the Council. I assure you Indonesia fully supports the work of the Council. I would also like to congratulate the new Members of the Council and Programme Committee, Finance Committee, as well as the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters.

Mr Chair, my Delegation would like to thank all speakers for their presentations. With regard to the Global Ocean Summit, we would like to thank FAO for having supported the initiative, enabling fisheries as an important part of food security. As an archipelago country, Indonesia supports strongly this initiative. We also express appreciation for the participation of the FAO Members that have been attending and giving support to the pre-summit in Bali, Indonesia, this month.

We strongly support the success of the Global Ocean Actions Summit that will be held in The Hague, the Netherlands, next September 2013.

Mr Gianni GHISI (Italy)

Mr Chairperson, first of all let me echo the European Union Delegation in congratulating you. Actually, the EU Delegation has spoken on behalf of the Union and the Member States, but since it is the first time I have taken the floor, I would like to join in a special manner in this congratulation.

I have a general comment, Mr Chairperson. All of the presentations have been very, very interesting. I should thank all of the speakers and regretting that the time available is not that much in order for us to have a more interactive discussion. It would have been very useful, I imagine, for everyone, and I just wonder, and I leave this of course to your wise consideration, whether for the future, since this item will come back regularly to the next Council sessions, if before the Council meeting, it would be possible to have an informal open-ended or if it is so preferred, an informal meeting for the Council Members to be briefed. It could be open-ended but I am, of course, flexible, in order to get the briefing we got today and to incorporate maybe in the formal briefing during the Council Session, some of the comments made by the Council.

It is just an idea because really I would like to make comments on all of the presentations, but also for respect towards colleagues, I will refrain from doing so. Just let me mention two issues briefly: One is concerning the Voices of the Hungry. Let me take this opportunity to express the strong Italian support to FAO and in particular to the Director-General's initiative for Voices of the Hungry that is very much fitting into what Italy believes is a priority linking the nutrition issues to food security in the perspective of the Post-2015 Development Agenda. What has been reported in terms of this initiative is that it serves as an instrument really to measure the benchmarks, which are very, very useful for the Post-2015 Development Agenda with respect to food nutrition and security.

Concerning the very exhaustive presentation of Mr Mengesha on Expo Milan, my comment would just be that since this is a work in progress, we would encourage very much to have regular updates on this issue which we consider of primary interest for the Rome-based agencies in particular and for FAO as coordinator of the Rome-based agencies. So it would be interesting, I think, to see how the next important event in the three Rome-based agencies calendar, quoting one example, the Conference for Nutrition, will impact on the UN System participation in Expo Milan 2015.

Mr Gerold WYRWAL (Member of the Secretariat of the Rotterdam Convention)

Chairman, in response to the question by the Representative from Bangladesh, I would like to mention that the Basel Convention has established implementation and compliance committees. So under the convention, there is a committee that monitors implementation and compliance. What the Representative has referred to is likely to be "non-compliance" which in legal terms would be taken up by the Committee on Compliance and Implementation which exists under the Basel Convention.

More specifically, I would like to mention that such issues are, of course, an issue of enforcement at national level and that is why the Conventions try to mobilize resources and offer technical assistance to countries which would want to receive technical assistance. In the specific case of Bangladesh, I am aware of the UNEP Ship Dismantling Programme of Technical Assistance, so the Basel Convention is actually assisting the Government of Bangladesh through technical assistance in the dismantling of ships. Thank you, Mr Chairman. I hope that clarified.

Mr Yohannes MENGESHA (Coordinator, UN-EXPO 2015 Team)

Just to say that we have taken good notes of the suggestions made by His Excellency the Permanent Representative of Italy and the Commissioner-General will make sure that Member States get regular updates.

Mr Pietro GENNARI (Director, Statistics Division)

I would like to thank the Representative from Italy for the strong support showed to the Voices of the Hungry initiative. We are also thankful for the support that has been provided so far by the Government of the United Kingdom and the various foundations who we are in talks with, and thanks

to these development partners for ensuring that the survey will start from 2014. We have a very small window of time to ensure that and we have consulted with Gallup to start the survey in 2014. So we are actively seeking also other support from other countries for initiating this project.

As the Representative from Italy has mentioned, I think this will represent a major improvement in the way we are able to monitor food security and will strength FAO's position in the Post-2015 Development framework. I would also like to mention that the Voices of the Hungry project's indicator has been selected as a lead indicator for Strategic Objective One. So this project will support the cooperative monitoring of our new Strategic Framework.

CHAIRPERSON

Ladies and gentlemen, this concludes item 9 of our agenda. I thank you, the presenters, and as you are aware that the time has not been enough, we shall look into this. But I thank you and I give you an applause.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

Ladies and gentlemen, as I can see Members are packing their things, so it is obvious that we have come to the end of our Council meeting.

Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, this concludes the work of this 147th Session of the Council. Our next Session will open on 2 December 2013. At exactly 9:30, I will start the meeting. All of the related documents on the provisional agenda, with the endorsed two additions, will be made available to you in time.

I can conclude that this one day first meeting of the Council has been fruitful as we now have Members of the Council, Programme Committee, Finance Committee and the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters. Now the Council is in a good position to work now that we also have the governing bodies which feed into our work. The Regional Conferences and the Technical Committees are also in place.

Any interventions you have called for: the efficient and effective implementation of the Programme of Work is possible through interacting openly and moving together all along with Management. It is my desire and my responsibility that we will have to move together in a manner of openness, fairness, and inclusiveness. As I said, it is possible. Let us make a change.

After having attended the Conference all of last week, plus one day, Members may have wished that this Council Meeting was taking place on a Friday or on a Saturday, but unfortunately today is Monday. So I wish you strength during your undertaking during this week and for those travelling back to their countries I wish them a safe journey home. The meeting stands adjourned.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

The meeting rose at 12:54 hours

La séance est levée à 12 h 54

Se levanta la sesión a las 12.54