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Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
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Organisation des Nations
Unies pour l'alimentation
et l'agriculture

Продовольственная и
сельскохозяйственная организация
Объединенных Наций

Organización de las
Naciones Unidas para la
Alimentación y la Agricultura

منظمة
الأغذية والزراعة
للأمم المتحدة

COUNCIL CONSEIL CONSEJO

**Hundred and Fiftieth Session - Cent cinquantième session -
150.º período de sesiones**

Rome, 1-5 December 2014

VERBATIM RECORDS OF PLENARY MEETINGS OF THE COUNCIL

Rome, 1-5 décembre 2014

PROCÈS-VERBAUX DES SÉANCES PLÉNIÈRES DU CONSEIL

Roma, 1-5 de diciembre de 2014

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

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COUNCIL CONSEIL CONSEJO

Hundred and Fiftieth Session Cent cinquantième session 150.º período de sesiones
Rome, 1-5 December 2014 Rome, 1-5 décembre 2014 Roma, 1-5 de diciembre de 2014
FIRST PLENARY SESSION PREMIÈRE SÉANCE PLÉNIÈRE PRIMERA SESIÓN PLENARIA
1 December 2014

The First Plenary Meeting was opened at 9.37 hours
Mr Wilfred J. Ngirwa,
Independent Chairperson of the Council, presiding

La première séance plénière est ouverte à 9 h 37
sous la présidence de M. Wilfred J. Ngirwa,
Président indépendant du Conseil

Se abre la primera sesión plenaria a las 9.37
bajo la presidencia del Sr. Wilfred J. Ngirwa,
Presidente Independiente del Consejo

CHAIRPERSON

Good morning Ladies and Gentlemen, I call the first meeting of the Hundred and Fiftieth Session of the FAO Council to order.

I wish to welcome Council Members and observers to this session, especially those of you who have travelled to be here today. A special word of welcome to new Council Members: the Czech Republic, Iceland, Malaysia, Mali and Zimbabwe.

I am also pleased to congratulate the countries which received an Award yesterday in recognition of their efforts to eradicate hunger, thus achieving the World Food Summit Goal and the first Millennium Development Goal, namely: Brazil, Cameroon, Ethiopia, Gabon, the Gambia, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Kiribati, Malaysia, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, the Philippines and Uruguay.

Before proceeding, I would like to ask the Secretary-General of the Council to make a short announcement. Mr Gagnon you have the floor.

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 information document CL 150/INF/3, which is available online and at the documents desk. I wish to draw the attention of the meeting to this declaration.

CHAIRPERSON

I now wish to extend a warm welcome to the Director General, who has joined us for the start of this opening meeting.

Director-General, you have the floor.

DIRECTOR-GENERAL

Your Excellency Wilfred Ngirwa, Independent Chairperson of the Council, let me start by congratulating again the countries that were awarded yesterday for meeting the First Millennium Development Goal hunger target or the World Food Summit Goal: Brazil, Cameroon, Ethiopia, Gabon, the Gambia, Iran, Kiribati, Malaysia, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, the Philippines and Uruguay.

I would like to thank the presence of the Vice-President of Gambia and the Ministers of Brazil, Cameroon, Ethiopia, Gabon, the Gambia, Mauritania, as well as the Vice-Ministers and Deputy Secretaries of Malaysia, Mexico, and Philippines.

I would also like to recognize the presence with us today of the Ministers of Albania, Mozambique, Rwanda, Samoa and Sierra Leone, as well as that of the Deputy Ministers of Pakistan and Thailand.

Your Excellencies, Distinguished Members of the Council, Distinguished Permanent Representatives, Distinguished non-state actors, Ladies and Gentlemen, it is a pleasure to welcome you to FAO.

Exactly 3 years ago, on 1 December 2011, I stood here before you as Director-General elect of FAO, for the first time. It feels like yesterday. But we have already accomplished a lot. These have been 36 busy and productive months working together.

We are a more efficient, focused Organization with clear priorities, putting the full weight of FAO behind our work and achievements.

We have completed the reform process. We have cut administrative costs.

The Strategic Framework is enhancing the coherence of our work at the global, regional and country levels and guides our Technical Cooperation Programme.

We have strengthened our institutional capacity at Headquarters and in the field.

We are engaging external partners in more meaningful and effective partnerships, following the guidelines you approved.

Today, FAO is much better prepared to address the food security and nutrition, and also the sustainable development challenges of the 21st Century.

Your trust and constant support over the past three years have allowed us to get where we are.

The rise in voluntary contributions despite the still difficult economic situation is one testimony that FAO is on the right track. I would like to take this opportunity to thank FAO's main resource partners, including for both regular program and voluntary contributions.

They include the following ten Member Nations: the United States of America, Japan, United Kingdom, Germany, Italy, France, Canada, Saudi Arabia, Brazil and Norway.

They also include UN trust funds, the Global Environment Facility (GEF), and the European Union, which is our biggest single partner in voluntary contributions. I thank you all for your support.

I hope that the trust and support of the FAO Membership will translate into a real budget increase in the next Program of Work and Budget: we will ask only for a modest 0.5 percent, about 6 million dollars more.

We are still working on the staff cost increase estimates for the next biennium. We hope that the relatively low inflation of the last period will mean a smaller increase than the one we saw in the last biennium.

However, we will need to wait and see to what extent staff cost increases can be absorbed without additional efficiency savings.

The real increase that we are asking for will be used to bring the TCP budget to the 14 percent minimum level recommended by Conference.

As you might recall the recommendation was first made in the 1989 Conference, 25 years ago, a long time before the first International Conference on Nutrition. And it has been reiterated many times since then: in 1991, in 1993, in 1999 and in 2007. Four times. Even more if we include Regional Conferences. We hope that we will be able to reach this level now.

There are renewed commitments to food security and nutrition by FAO Members and growing challenges to which we need to help respond.

This real increase that we are asking for will be particularly important for the Small Island Developing States, the group of countries most affected by climate change.

Ladies and gentlemen, the Second International Conference on Nutrition illustrates how far FAO has come and the important role of the Organization in contributing to a better world.

I want to thank all of you for making ICN2 a success.

ICN2 has reminded all of us that there can be no development if the health, the well-being and the productivity of over half of the world's people are damaged by malnutrition.

But ICN2 is just the beginning.

The proposal for a Decade on Nutrition will be considered by the United Nations General Assembly. ICN2 should also help add prominence to nutrition in the Sustainable Development Goals agenda.

The Rome Declaration and the Framework for Action provide clear guidance on how to move forward. It is up to us to transform this good will into better nutrition results.

We are not wasting any time.

On 26 November, immediately after ICN2 ended, WHO Director-General Margaret Chan and I wrote to the UN Secretary General informing him of the results of ICN2, and requesting him to bring the Rome Declaration on Nutrition and the Framework for Action to the attention of the General Assembly.

This Council will also discuss ICN2 and the follow up to the Conference.

I would like to outline the main elements that frame how FAO plans to take the nutrition agenda forward.

First, FAO is firmly committed to fulfilling its mandate: help Members end hunger and raise levels of nutrition.

Second, we urgently need to improve global governance arrangements for food security and nutrition.

This last point has two sides: first, enhanced coordination within the United Nations System. And the other, better governance mechanisms that include civil society and the private sector and that are accountable to Member States.

We are committed to improving coordination within the UN System without creating new structures. Personally, I believe that the United Nations High-Level Task Force on Global Food Security is well placed to meet this need.

Specifically related to the Scaling Up Nutrition Network and REACH, we support a proposal that their coordination be located in WFP.

As I said, we also must ensure multi-stakeholder participation in the global governance for nutrition.

I believe there is nothing more natural than for the Committee on World Food Security, our CFS, to take on a bigger role in the global nutrition debate.

For this to happen, the World Health Organization and other organizations with a mandate touching on nutrition must join the CFS. We have already begun exploring this possibility informally.

Of course, this will not happen overnight. That is why FAO has offered to temporarily host the United Nations Standing Commission on Nutrition, the SCN, for a transition period as FAO has already hosted the Commission in the past.

Ladies and gentlemen, I would like to thank you again for your continued trust in, and support to my leadership and to FAO.

As I have said, we have done a lot, but we still have a lot to do.

We must consolidate the transformational changes to fully deliver the expected results.

We need to strengthen decentralization even more to increase our effectiveness in responding to national and regional needs. We need to further develop South-South Cooperation. We are only now starting to tap this immense potential.

And we need to enhance our relationship with middle-income countries. This includes supporting them as they play a more active role in international cooperation; and responding better to their needs. This is clearly seen in nutrition, as many of them now have to deal with undernourishment and obesity at the same time.

Ladies and gentlemen, few times in its history has FAO had such strong commitment and support from its Members.

And this commitment and support comes at a symbolic time.

For many reasons, 2015 will be an important year for all of us. 2015 marks the end of the Millennium Development Goals and the beginning of the Sustainable Development Goals era.

And also in 2015, we will also celebrate FAO's 70th anniversary.

FAO has done a lot in its first 70 years, especially on the food production side.

However, ending hunger, food insecurity and malnutrition is still a pending challenge. Ensuring sustainability, healthy and inclusive food systems, and improved access to food are all necessary for this.

I am confident that, together, we can meet the test of our time. But we cannot wait another 70 years. We need zero hunger, zero malnutrition within our lifetimes.

That is what we are fighting together for.

Thank you very much for your attention and support.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you, Director-General.

I would like to remind delegates that to ask for the floor they simply need to press the red button located by the microphone. The light will flash until the delegate has spoken. The order of speakers will be automatically recorded and displayed on the screen above the podium.

I now invite the Secretary-General to give a brief account of the documentation for this session.

SECRETARY-GENERAL

The documentation for this session of Council includes 19 main documents. Eight documents were published by the deadline of 3 November. Ten documents were online one week later, six of which were reports of meetings which took place either after or just before the deadline for despatch of Council documents. One document, concerning ICN2, went on line last week.

Item 1. Adoption of the Agenda and Timetable

Point 1. Adoption de l'ordre du jour et du calendrier

Tema 1. Aprobación del programa y el calendario

(CL 150/1; CL 150/INF/1; CL 150/INF/3)

CHAIRPERSON

We now proceed to item 1 on the agenda: *Adoption of the Agenda and Timetable* as set out in documents CL 150/1, CL 150/INF/1 Rev.1 and CL 150/INF/3.

Document CL 150/1 contains the Provisional Agenda which was distributed on 1 October 2014 to all Members of the Organization, together with the invitation to this Session.

Since our 149th Session in June this year no invitations have been issued to Non Member Nations to attend FAO meetings, nor have there been any applications for Membership in the Organization, hence sub-item 9.1, *Invitations to Non-Member Nations to attend FAO Sessions* and sub-item 9.2, *Applications for Membership in the Organization* can be removed from the Agenda.

Are there any comments on the proposed amendment? Thank you, the Agenda is adopted as amended.

Adopted

Adopté

Aprobado

CHAIRPERSON

With respect to the Provisional Timetable, you have before you document CL 150/INF/1 Rev.1.

I should like to point out that the items on the Provisional Agenda have been scheduled to allow the Drafting Committee to convene its first meeting on the afternoon of Wednesday 3 December. This in turn should enable the Committee to finish its work in good time on Thursday and so allow the Report to be adopted on Friday afternoon.

Does this draft Timetable, with the deletion of item 9, meet with the approval of the Council? Thank you, the Timetable is approved.

Adopted
Adopté
Aprobado

CHAIRPERSON

I would like to draw the Council's attention to my pre-session letter proposing the procedure to be followed when examining the report of the Joint Meeting of the Programme and Finance Committees. Given that the Report of the Joint Meeting contains advice and comments on agenda item 10, *Independent Review of Governance Reforms*, I would like to propose that we make comments on this specific matter when the pertinent item, that is item 10, is taken up on Tuesday morning. This will help focus our debate and avoid repetition.

I take it that the Council approves this approach.

Ladies and Gentlemen, before we continue with the Agenda, and in the interest of the safety of all of us, I request your attention for a short video presentation on fire safety.

Video Presentation
Présentation vidéo
Videopresentación

Item 2. Election of three Vice-Chairpersons, and Designation of the Chairperson and Members of the Drafting Committee

Point 2. Élection des trois vice-présidents et nomination du Président et des membres du Comité de rédaction

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

CHAIRPERSON

We now move on to Item 2, *Election of three Vice-Chairpersons, and Designation of the Chairperson and Members of the Drafting Committee*.

Following consultations among the Regional Groups, the following proposals for the three posts of Vice-Chairperson have been received: Mr Mafizur Rahman (Bangladesh), Her Excellency Maria Laura da Rocha (Brazil), His Excellency Serge Tomasi (France).

If there are no objections, I wish to congratulate the three Vice-Chairpersons on their election.

Applause
Applaudissements
Aplausos

CHAIRPERSON

For the Drafting Committee, the Regional Groups have proposed His Excellency Jón Erlingur Jónasson from Iceland as Chairperson, and the following countries as members: Afghanistan, Argentina, Australia, Canada, Chile, France, Jordan, Liberia, Pakistan, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation and Zimbabwe.

Are there any objections? Thank you, it is so decided.

May I suggest that, in line with our consolidated method of work, Council Members keep their interventions as brief and focused as possible, and that preference be given to interventions by representatives of regions whenever feasible, rather than single countries repeating comments already made.

Similarly, the quality of interpretation will be improved if interventions are made at a reasonable pace.

I should also like to remind you that the full written text of your interventions may be submitted for the Verbatim Records of this Session, and a shorter version delivered orally in the interest of good time management.

Furthermore, may I also request that if you wish to make a statement during the meeting a copy of the text be provided to the Secretariat in advance. This will allow the interpreters to convey your ideas as clearly as possible. The relevant email address for the submission of electronic versions of statements will be projected on the screen behind me and is also given in the Order of the Day. Timely submission of texts facilitates the work of the verbatim reporters and ensures greater accuracy.

Following the discussions on each of the agenda items, I will draw up conclusions to facilitate the drafting of the Report of this session. The Report will consist of conclusions, decisions and recommendations in keeping with the practice established at recent sessions of Council. I invite you to point out any inadvertent omissions that you believe should be included in the draft report rather than waiting for the meeting of the Drafting Committee. In this way the task of the Drafting Committee will be made easier, allowing it to carry out its work more efficiently.

In addition, may I remind you that in the interest of good time management, it is important that we start each meeting punctually. Please ensure that you are here in the Red Room at the times indicated in the Order of the Day.

Item 3. Technical Committees

Point 3. Comités techniques

Tema 3. Comités técnicos

Item 3.1 Report of the 31st Session of the Committee on Fisheries (9-13 June 2014)

Point 3.1 Rapport de la trente et unième session du Comité des pêches (9-13 juin 2014)

*Tema 3.1 Informe del 31.º período de sesiones del Comité de Pesca (9-13 de junio de 2014)
(C 2015/23)*

CHAIRPERSON

We now come to item 3, *Programme and Budget Matters arising from Reports of Technical Committees*.

The first sub-item is 3.1, *Report of the 31st Session of the Committee on Fisheries*, which took place in Rome from 9 to 13 June 2014.

Please ensure that you have document C 2015/23 before you.

I will now invite Mr Johán Williams, Chairperson of the 31st Session of the Committee on Fisheries, to present the report.

Mr Johán WILLIAMS (Chairperson, 31st Session of the Committee on Fisheries)

The 31st Session of the Committee on Fisheries was held in Rome, from 9 to 13 June 2014. As Chair of the 31st COFI Session, I am very pleased to report before FAO Council on the outcome of the 31st Session of COFI.

The 31st Session of the Committee was attended by delegates from 116 Member Nations of FAO, six UN Agencies, and representatives from 65 Intergovernmental Organizations (IGOs) and the Civil Society.

COFI is by this by far the largest of the FAO technical committees and the broad attendance underlines the importance of FAO and the Committee as the workshop for developing the normative framework for world fisheries, aquaculture, sector trade and its contribution to world food security and nutrition.

At the outset I would like to report that at this last session, COFI endorsed two very important instruments: the Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-scale Fisheries in the Context

of Food Security and Poverty Eradication (the SSF-Guidelines), and the Voluntary Guidelines for Flag State Performance.

As the Committee did not manage to adopt the Report from the 31st COFI in full, the Draft Report of the Session prepared by the Drafting Committee was adopted subject to a special arrangement, and it was agreed that some comments, invitations, suggestions, would be reproduced in Annex D to the Report.

I will now turn to the outcome of the 31st Session and will focus on programme and budgetary matters of particular relevance to the Council.

The first substantial item on the Agenda was item 4, State of World Fisheries and Aquaculture and progress in the implementation of the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries and its related instruments.

Under this particular agenda item the Committee expressed its praise and support for the State of World Fisheries and Aquaculture (SOFIA) 2014 publication.

The Committee emphasized the need for strengthened effort to further measures to rebuild fish stocks.

The Committee, while commending the new web-based questionnaire on the implementation of the FAO Code of Conduct, called upon FAO to further develop and review the questionnaire.

While noting the progress made by the Members in implementing the Code and related instruments, the Committee also underscored the need to continue supporting developing countries to this end.

The Committee acknowledged efforts being made by Members in combating Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) fishing and emphasized the importance of the coming into force of the 2009 Agreement on Port State Measures to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate IUU fishing (PSMA) as soon as possible.

The Committee requested FAO to expand its efforts to effectively implement the International Guidelines on Bycatch Management and Reduction of Discards.

Under Agenda item 5, Securing Sustainable Small-scale Fisheries the Committee endorsed the SSF Guidelines and welcomed FAO's initiative for establishing a Global Assistance Program for promoting implementation of the SSF-Guidelines and recommended to develop further the assistance program in a participatory manner.

Agenda item 6, Global and regional processes and instruments, had two sub-items, 6.1: Global and regional processes and 6.2: Instruments combating Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) Fishing.

Under the sub-item 6.1, the Blue Growth Initiative (BGI) of the FAO Director-General was presented, responding to the call from Rio+20, and as part of the Strategic Framework of the Organization.

The Committee acknowledged this initiative and suggested the establishment of a working group to further develop the application of the initiative.

Under sub-item 6.2, the Committee endorsed the Voluntary Guidelines for Flag State Performance (VGFSP).

With Agenda item 7 Inland Fisheries, the Committee for its first time addressed inland fisheries as a stand-alone agenda item.

The Committee acknowledged the importance of inland fisheries and recommended that inland fishery issues be better included in national, sub-regional, regional and global instruments addressing water use and food security.

The Committee called upon FAO to provide guidance and increase development efforts in the inland fisheries sector.

The Global Conference on Inland Fisheries scheduled to be held at FAO from 26 to 28 January 2015 is an immediate answer to this call.

Under Agenda items 8, Fish Trade, and 9, Aquaculture, the Committee endorsed the reports of the 14th Session of the Sub-Committee on Fish Trade and the 7th Session of the Sub-Committee on Aquaculture, with the recommendations and decisions made by those sub-committees.

The election of chairs for the two sub-committees is being changed to follow the mode established for election of officers for COFI. The Bureau will further have the sub-committee chairs/vice-chairs as sit-ins during Bureau meetings, in order to create a modality enabling COFI and the Sub-Committees to work in a well coordinated manner.

Concerning FAO's work in fisheries and aquaculture under the reviewed Strategic Framework, the Committee welcomed FAO's new Strategic Objectives as a basis for focusing FAO's work in fisheries and aquaculture.

The Committee also endorsed the progress report of the Multi-year Programme of Work (MYPOW) 2012-2015 of the Committee and the MYPOW 2014-2017.

The Committee adopted the proposed amendments to its Rules of Procedure.

You will be informed later this week under Agenda item 17, Calendar of FAO Governing Bodies and other Main Sessions 2014-16, of the proposed scheduling of COFI 32, as agreed by the Committee, to be held in 2016.

Finally, I will draw the attention to the report on the Role of Fish in Global Food Security and Nutrition and the decisions taken on this issue at the 41st Session of the Committee for World Food Security (CFS) in October this year. It was the first time that CFS addressed fish and thus the first time fish was on the menu in the context of food security and nutrition.

The initiative came partly from COFI. The recognition of fish having a role in food security and nutrition clearly challenges the fisheries and aquaculture sectors. COFI can and should take a leading role in addressing this challenge, and this will necessitate priorities in programs and budgets.

This concludes my presentation and the Council is invited to review the conclusions and recommendations of the 31st Session of COFI, as introduced, in particular on program and budgetary matters, and if found agreeable endorse its Report.

Mr Jon E JONASSON (Iceland)

This statement is made on behalf of the Nordic Countries: Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden.

We would like to thank the Chairperson of COFI for his report and give our full support to its endorsement by this Council.

We take the floor to bring to the Council's attention a major achievement of this last COFI meeting. That is the endorsement of the Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication.

It was the 29th Session of COFI in February 2011 that recommended that this instrument should be developed. We would like to thank all stakeholders for their contribution to make this a reality. This is in our view an important step towards recognition of Small-scale Fisheries as a major contributor to poverty alleviation and food security. This milestone is particularly welcome when we are still working on a new Post-2015 Development Agenda.

Targets on marine resources, oceans and seas have been recognized as one of the opportunities to a successful Post-2015 Development Agenda. Targets around ocean issues will not only have a major influence on the future of fisheries in developing countries, but also on the success of other targets and goals in the Agenda.

Furthermore this milestone can also contribute to recent developments in the CFS meeting last October in Rome, where the contribution of fisheries and aquaculture to food security and nutrition was recognized as a primary source of protein and essential nutrients, and as a provider of income and livelihoods. In summary, in future we cannot improve fisheries-relevant policies and strategies for the

fisheries sector only, due consideration has to be given to food security, nutrition and poverty alleviation.

Mr Wimol JANTRAROTAI (Thailand)

My delegation congratulates the review of the Strategic Framework under the Committee on Fisheries, and notes that many issues of international interest and concern have been progressed.

We encourage FAO Members and others to respond to the Code questionnaire and commend FAO on the development of a web-based system which can facilitate easier response by the respondents. The questionnaire should consider regional differences and provide open questions for those who cannot fit into a specific question.

FAO should assess the responses and come up with the constraints for implementation and then develop a programme of assistance accordingly. It is important for socio-economics, environment and biodiversity that the programme of work on sustainable fisheries, food security and poverty eradication be considered as complimentary to each other, therefore the programme of work and budgetary allocation for fishery management and the sustainable development programme should be in comparable balance.

We support FAO's new Strategic Objectives which provide a basis for FAO's work in fisheries and aquaculture. Sustainable management and the use of aquaculture resources should be implemented regarding Strategic Objective D: quality and safety of food; Strategic Objective F: sustainable management of land, water and genetic resources; Strategic Objective G: improve livelihood development; and Strategic Objective H: improve food security.

We are pleased to endorse the Small-scale Fisheries Guidelines and support FAO's proposal for a Global Assistance Programme for implementation of the Sustainable Small-scale Fisheries Guidelines. Since Small-scale Fisheries are more and more important to many developing countries, we urge FAO to continue building capacity in implementing Small-scale Fisheries Guidelines and assess its contribution to food security and poverty eradication.

With these comments, our delegation endorses the report of the 31st Session of the Committee on Fisheries.

Ms Laurence ARGIMON-PISTRE (European Union)

I am honoured to speak on behalf of the European Union and its 28 Member States. The candidate countries to the EU, Albania and Turkey, align themselves with this statement.

The European Union and its Member States welcome the results of the 31st Session of the Committee on Fisheries and acknowledge the large and active participation of the FAO Members. Important decisions have been taken.

We commend the FAO Fisheries and Aquaculture Department for its excellent work in producing the SOFIA publication and encourage it to continue reporting on the State of World Fisheries and Aquaculture. To complete SOFIA reporting, the EU encourages the FAO to develop further the diagnosis of production trends whilst providing more information on fleet capacity. The FAO should also provide more support to countries on data collection and quality.

We welcome the endorsement by COFI of the Voluntary Guidelines on Securing Sustainable Small-scale Fisheries. Increased attention to the role of Small-scale Fisheries is essential both for food security and as a lever for economic growth in coastal areas. These Guidelines address a wide range of issues relevant to Small-scale Fisheries while aiming to secure sustainable utilisation of fishery resources. They will be an important complement to the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries. We agree with the development of implementation strategies for the Guidelines at various levels, including the local, national and regional levels.

We welcome the endorsement of the Voluntary Guidelines on Flag State Performance. This instrument, though voluntary, is of high political importance in the fight against illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing.

We are also pleased to note the broad support within the COFI for the establishment of a Global Record of Fishing Vessels, Refrigerated Transport Vessels and Supply Vessels, including the use of the IMO number as a unique vessel identifier for phase one of its development. We will continue to actively support the development of the Global Record and cooperate with the FAO on its development and implementation in particular in the fields of technical guidance and advice, evaluation of the Global Record prototype and testing of data exchange. The maintenance costs of the Global Register system should be assessed and addressed by the FAO with due regard to the principle of cost-efficiency.

We would like to stress once again the importance we attach to the entry into force of the Agreement on Port State Measures and invite all States to ratify or accede to it as soon as possible, as the measures provided for in the Agreement will only be truly effective in combating IUU fishing if and when they are enforced worldwide in a comprehensive, uniform and transparent manner.

In addition to these important elements in the fight against IUU, we would emphasise the value of Catch Documentation Schemes in combatting IUU fishing. We fully support the decision by COFI to convene an expert consultation to develop guidelines on Catch Documentation Schemes taking into account existing schemes. CDS are the best tools for ensuring full traceability of fishery products as catch certificates provide the means to identify illegal consignments and subsequently prevent them from being imported.

We welcome COFI's approval of the Evaluation Framework for assessing conformity of public and private certification schemes with the FAO guidelines on aquaculture certification.

We appreciate the fact that COFI also addressed the issue of bycatch management and reduction of discards and asked the FAO to continue its efforts to effectively implement the International Guidelines on Bycatch Management and Reduction of Discards and look into ways of addressing the problem of Abandoned, Lost or otherwise Discarded Fishing Gear (ALDFG) better.

We welcome the FAO Blue Growth Initiative which recognises the contribution of aquatic resources to food security. We further encourage the FAO to work on the prioritisation of this initiative to make it more effective.

Lastly, we consider that COFI would do well, in future, to provide clearer reflections and recommendations to the Council. This would further strengthen COFI's role in providing a basis for the FAO's decision-making. The FAO should focus on challenges related to its core mandate and join forces with its partners through better coordination. The FAO should also ensure that fisheries and aquaculture priorities are included under the Strategic Objectives.

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

Mr Chairperson, please permit me to congratulate the Council for achieving this milestone of 150 sessions, and in doing so, pay tribute to our previous Directors-General, our present Director-General and indeed the gentlemen whose portraits adorn the walls of this august chamber, our previous Independent Chairpersons, all of whom led this Council, as you are doing, Chair, in efforts to champion the cause of food security and nutrition for all of mankind during the decades of this renowned Organization.

My delegation congratulates and thanks the Committee on Fisheries for its valuable and comprehensive work at its 31st Session, especially since the government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago supports the view that fish is a critical food source and in particular provides a significant proportion of protein in the diets of most Small Island Developing States (SIDS).

We also wish to highlight that the Committee on Fisheries recognized the importance of aquaculture for food security and nutrition, poverty alleviation, income generation, employment and trade. This is significant given that farmed fish production is the fastest growing food production sector, and for the future increased demand for fish which will have to be satisfied through aquaculture production.

My government is actively encouraging the development of a national aquaculture industry. Some of the key elements of the plan to develop this industry include: development of technological packages

to support consideration of requests for supporting investments in the sector and development of appropriate criteria for statutory environmental approvals for aquaculture; conduct farmer training and extension activities; encouragement of the adoption of global aqua culture alliance standards; development of a model farm for promotion and testing of models and research for key components of the sector; facilitation of access to diagnostic testing services to address disease identification and control in aquaculture facilities.

Accordingly, my delegation endorses the report of the 31st Session of the Committee on Fisheries.

Mr Abdul Razak AYAZI (Afghanistan)

Following your wish and also the wish of the Chairperson of COFI, we limit our intervention to the contents of page three and four of the document, requiring the attention of the Council.

From the programmatic and budgetary aspects, which are the main expectation of the Council from the report of the technical committees, ten out of the 20 bullet points listed on pages three and four are relevant and may have resource implications. We support these ten bullet points, which could be grouped into four categories.

Category one: Blue Growth Initiative (BGI). This includes bullet point five, collaboration among countries on Blue Growth Initiative; bullet point six, establishment of BGI working group; item one of bullet 20, provides more technical precision regarding BGI's contribution to the Strategic Objectives.

Category two: Capacity development, bullet point seven, assisting developing countries in strengthening and harmonizing Port State Measures, bullet point ten, guidance and capacity development in data collection and analysis, stock assessment and post-harvesting, bullet point 11, capacity building on post-harvest issues.

Category three: Sustainable fisheries and aquaculture, including small-scale fisheries: bullet point two, assisting developing countries to enhance food security through sustainable development of fisheries and aquaculture; bullet point 15, technical assistance and engagement with national governmenta for the development of agriculture in all its aspects; bullet point 18 and item two of bullet point 20, impact of climate change on fisheries and aquaculture.

Category four: Better data information base. These are the four elements listed under bullet point one, improving food based systems and better formulated questionnaires; and item three of bullet point 20, assistance to Member Nations to improve statistics on small-scale fisheries and communities.

With these comments, we endorse the report of COFI 31 and we wish to see the recommendation of COFI reflected in the Programme of Work and Budget 2016-2017, both in normative activities of fisheries and aquaculture, as well as field operations.

Ms Tereza Helena GABRIELLI BARRETO CAMPELLO (Brazil) (Original language Portuguese)

As Minister of Social Development and Fight Against Hunger, it is with great satisfaction that I take part in the present FAO Council Session.

We would like to congratulate the Committee on Fisheries and Professor Fábio Hazin for the adoption of the “Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication”. From the social development perspective, I would also like to emphasize the areas of aquaculture and inland fisheries, which are a priority and essential for small producers.

Since I must leave this afternoon, I would like to share with you briefly some important results achieved by Brazil in the fields covered by FAO.

Yesterday, I had the honor of receiving, with other countries, the acknowledgement of the Organization for the achievement of the targets of the World Food Summit and of the Millennium Development Goals: Brazil has reduced undernourishment at a fast pace and has now left the World Hunger Map, having only 1.7 percent of the population in a situation of food insecurity today.

This result stems from political and technical efforts, which gained momentum as of 2003. Incentives to economic growth, income-guarantee policies and improved public services were the basis of our strategy. A lot of work, dedicated financial resources, evaluations and constant improvements were our methodology. The goal that inspired us was to achieve Zero Hunger. This strategy was launched by President Lula at the time when he was supported and advised by Mr José Graziano da Silva, now Director-General of FAO, and we are delighted to have him at the helm of this Organization.

We are happy with our achievements, but we know that there is still a long way to go. We will fight now, together with our President Dilma, to reach those specific publics that are missing – such as indigenous people and geographically-isolated groups – until no Brazilian ever again suffers from food and nutritional deficiencies, and we will invest in an agenda for the future which consists in adequate nutrition, the fight against obesity and overweight, the incentive for the production and consumption of organic food.

Our partnership with FAO has been fruitful over the years. With FAO's support, the Brazilian experience has been shared with other countries, in the fields of school feeding, of family farming, and in humanitarian cooperation in emergency situations.

Brazil is investing over four million dollars in projects in nine Latin American and Caribbean countries, alongside efforts within the framework of sub-regional organizations. We are also working in five African countries with the goal of improving school feeding, through the Purchase from Africans for Africa (PAA) Project, which is supported by FAO. In addition, we are acting within Mercosur and the Community of Portuguese Language Countries to strengthen regional strategies for the promotion of food and nutrition security.

All of this has been possible thanks to the redirection of FAO's actions as well. The Director-General José Graziano has been giving new impulse to the fight against hunger and poverty, to the promotion of the development of sustainable agriculture and fisheries, to the protection of natural resources and to the prevention of disasters, without neglecting important trade issues.

This is also why I am here, to congratulate him for the work done so far and to express once again our confidence in his ability to lead and accomplish. I count on the support of all of you to keep FAO united around the common goal of eradicating hunger worldwide.

Sra. Maria Eulalia JIMÉNEZ ZEPEDA (El Salvador)

Nuestros agradecimientos al Presidente del 31.º período de sesiones del COFI por la presentación de este informe.

La Delegación de El Salvador desea reiterar la importancia de los trabajos realizados por los diferentes Comités Técnicos de la FAO, en los cuales se basa el trabajo de esa Organización.

Los resultados del COAG, COFI, COFO, Comité de Problemas de Productos Básicos, orientan el camino a seguir, por esta razón es importante reafirmar ante este Consejo las prioridades técnicas que estos Comités han establecido.

Para mi país y para los países del Sistema de Integración Centroamericana, SICA, los trabajos del Comité de Pesca son de particular importancia y es por ello que en el COFI nuestros países examinan con anticipación los temas a tratar y presentamos siempre posiciones comunes en cada uno de ellos.

En ese sentido, y como señalamos durante el COFI en nombre de El Salvador y de los países del SICA, reiteramos la importancia de atender bajo el concepto de crecimiento azul el enfoque integrado y multidisciplinario para afrontar los aspectos medioambientales, socioeconómicos y jurisdiccionales que sustentan los procesos de ordenación pesquera actuales.

Felicitemos al Director General por esta iniciativa. Deseo reiterar asimismo la importancia que reviste para los pescadores y los Estados contar con las directrices que nos orienten hacia un manejo sostenible de las pesquerías artesanales, para asegurar la sostenibilidad de la pesca de pequeña escala. Por eso nos congratulamos por la aprobación de las Directrices Voluntarias para lograr la sostenibilidad de la pesca en pequeña escala en el contexto de la seguridad alimentaria y la erradicación de la pobreza.

Reiteramos nuestro respaldo al establecimiento de un programa de asistencia mundial para la ejecución de estas directrices.

Mr Jingyuan XIA (China) (Original language Chinese)

The Chinese delegation would like to congratulate Brazil and other countries on the MDGs achievement. The Chinese delegation fully supports the FAO Director-General's remarks, and we support your summary of work and your view for the coming future. The Chinese delegation would like to thank the COFI Secretariat for the report and the good presentation.

The Chinese delegation commends FAO's work for three reasons.

First, we praise FAO's attention on aquaculture and fisheries in the new Strategic Objectives Framework.

Second, we laud FAO's support in the implementation of the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries and the relevant International Guidelines.

Third, we appreciate FAO's contribution in developing aquaculture to ensure food security and nutrition.

As you may know, China is a big country in the fishery production and trade. Over many years, we have carried out our work in three areas.

Firstly, we have been committed to combatting Illegal Unreported and Unregulated Fishing. The Chinese Government gives great importance to this matter.

Secondly, we took measures to suspend fishing to protect fishery resources, which yielded fruitful results.

Thirdly, the Chinese Government gives great importance to bilateral and multilateral cooperation in fisheries, including the cooperation with FAO. Therefore, we could promote our fishery development sector by cooperating with other countries and FAO.

In that regard, we have three suggestions: one, we think that FAO should integrate the fishery sector development into the Blue Growth Initiative. The FAO Director-General once talked with our Minister about this Initiative and we believe this is a very good opportunity. We could also take into account the formulation of the Post-2015 Development Agenda. We could then work hard to set the fishery sector as one of the priorities of the Blue Growth Initiative.

Two, we should upgrade the capacity building of the small-scale fishermen. There are many big fishing countries which are also developing countries. There are many small-scale farmers and to improve their capacity it is very important to promote a sustainable development. FAO could work together with other countries within the South-South Cooperation Framework and also ameliorate and enhance technical support.

Three, we want to improve our capacity to effectively share information by establishing good communication and an information sharing network. We could cooperate to promote a good and sustainable development for the fisheries sector around the world.

Mme Josiane RATSIMBAZAFY (Madagascar)

Je suis très honorée de prendre la parole au nom du Groupe Afrique. Monsieur le Président, Monsieur le Directeur général, honorables invités, je voudrais tout d'abord vous féliciter pour la bonne conduite de nos travaux et je suis persuadée que cette session du Conseil aboutira à des résultats probants. J'adresse par la même occasion mes vives félicitations aux trois Vice-présidents ainsi qu'aux membres du Comité de rédaction qui apporteront leur concours pour le succès de nos travaux. J'adresse mes remerciements aussi au Président du COFI pour sa brillante présentation du Rapport de la trente et unième session du Comité des pêches.

Mon intervention sera sur ce point de l'ordre du jour portant sur le Rapport de la trente et unième session du Comité des pêches, au nom du Groupe Afrique. Au regard de la contribution significative des produits de la pêche et de l'aquaculture pour la sécurité alimentaire et la nutrition et compte tenu

de la nécessité des pays en développement de mettre en place des politiques sectorielles, le Groupe Afrique se félicite de l'édition de 2014 du rapport sur la Situation mondiale des pêches et de l'aquaculture.

Le Groupe Afrique reconnaît assurément les progrès accomplis dans le cadre de la mise en œuvre du Code de conduite pour une pêche responsable et des instruments connexes. Toutefois, nous souhaitons que la FAO continue une assistance technique accrue aux pays en développement et aux organismes régionaux. Nous pensons qu'une meilleure application de ce code en matière de pêche artisanale et d'accès aux marchés contribuerait à l'amélioration des conditions de vie des populations les plus défavorisées. Le Groupe Afrique se félicite donc des nouveaux questionnaires en ligne sur la mise en œuvre du Code de conduite et demande à la FAO d'en poursuivre le développement et de le réexaminer.

Concernant la lutte contre la pêche illicite non déclarée et non réglementée, nous devons admettre que cette forme de pêche a des impacts négatifs considérables sur la durabilité de la pêche. Au regard de la faiblesse des moyens techniques des États de la Région Afrique, nous appuyons les initiatives concourant à une meilleure gestion de ce problème par le biais des outils et des instruments internationaux. Tout comme le COFI, le Groupe Afrique réaffirme son soutien inconditionnel et ferme à la FAO pour la poursuite des travaux sur un Fichier mondial, en coordination avec d'autres initiatives.

Le Groupe Afrique se félicite de l'adoption des Directives d'application volontaire, visant à assurer la durabilité de la pêche artisanale dans le contexte de la sécurité alimentaire et de l'éradication de la pauvreté, car il faut souligner qu'au-delà de sa dimension sociale et économique, les captures pour la consommation humaine réalisées par la pêche artisanale sont importantes comme celles réalisées par le secteur de la pêche industrielle. Le Groupe Afrique accueille favorablement aussi la proposition de la FAO concernant un programme d'assistance mondiale destiné à appuyer la mise en œuvre des Directives sur la pêche artisanale et recommande à la FAO de poursuivre l'élaboration du programme en question de façon participative.

Enfin, dans le cadre des nouveaux objectifs stratégiques de la FAO, le Groupe Afrique souhaite que les priorités dans le domaine des pêches et de l'aquaculture soient prises en considération en mettant l'accent sur la sécurité alimentaire. Le Groupe Afrique salue l'Initiative de la FAO en faveur de la croissance bleue et demande au Secrétariat de continuer à développer cette Initiative et que des ateliers et réunions soient organisés à cet effet. À la lumière de ces observations, notre délégation, en son nom et au nom du Groupe Afrique, approuve sans réserve ce rapport et invite les autres membres du Conseil à faire de même.

Mr Wan Zakaria WAN IBRAHIM (Malaysia)

Malaysia supports the endorsement of the Report of the 31st Session of COFI, which addressed a range of issues related to the long-term wellbeing of marine and inland fisheries and aquaculture and discussed potential action by Governments, Regional Fishery Bodies, NGOs, fish workers and other actors in the international community.

Malaysia also supports recommendations regarding COFI programme and budgetary matters especially on the need to continue supporting developing countries in enhancing food security through the development of sustainable fisheries and aquaculture and various assistance and technical capacity programmes suggested.

We welcome the proposal for a Global Assistance Programme to support the implementation of the SSF Guidelines, and for FAO to continue with the delivery of its capacity development programme to assist developing countries in strengthening and harmonizing Port State Measures.

We congratulate COFI for the endorsement of two key sets of voluntary guidelines designed to improve sustainability and responsible fisheries conduct, respectively the Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-scale Fisheries and the Voluntary Guidelines for Flag State Performance.

We request FAO to broaden its engagement with partners to develop a global assistance programme that will help countries implement both guidelines.

M. Carlos AMARAL (Angola)

L'Angola souscrit dans l'intégralité à l'intervention de Madagascar qui s'est exprimé au nom du Groupe Afrique. De même, l'Angola approuve le rapport du Comité des pêches.

Nous voulons juste souligner certains aspects. L'importance du travail de la FAO sur le renforcement des capacités pour la mise en œuvre des différents instruments déjà adoptés, et j'aimerais faire plus particulièrement référence aux Directives sur la pêche artisanale, approuvées récemment par le COFI, car la pêche artisanale est le secteur qui emploie le plus de personnes et le principal contributeur pour l'approvisionnement du marché des poissons.

Nous voulons également conseiller à la FAO de concentrer davantage ses efforts pour aider le développement de l'aquaculture, en particulier en Afrique, qui a une population qui augmente rapidement et se débat encore avec des difficultés alimentaires et nutritionnelles.

Enfin, je tiens à féliciter le Groupe d'experts de haut niveau du Comité de la sécurité alimentaire mondiale qui a préparé une excellente étude sur la durabilité de la pêche et l'aquaculture au service de la sécurité alimentaire et la nutrition. J'aimerais bien, vu son importance, faire la liaison avec la conclusion du Comité des pêches.

J'aimerais mettre en évidence surtout quatre points: (i) la nécessité de donner au poisson la place qu'il mérite dans les stratégies, les politiques et les programmes menés en faveur de la sécurité alimentaire et la nutrition, ce point a été soulevé par le Président dans la présentation du rapport; (ii) relever les défis liés au développement de l'aquaculture, notamment à travers la recherche, l'innovation et la promotion de la coopération sud-sud; (iii) renforcer la contribution des marchés et du commerce aux niveaux national et international tout en évitant de créer des obstacles tarifaires et non tarifaires; et (iv) renforcer la protection sociale et le droit des travailleurs en tenant compte du principe d'égalité entre les sexes. Je vous remercie.

Sr. Luis Alejandro PEDRON HURTADO (Venezuela)

La República Bolivariana de Venezuela agradece la presentación del documento C 2015/23 mediante el cual se reflejan los resultados del 31.º período de sesiones del Comité de Pesca.

Respaldamos las recomendaciones que se presentan a continuación del Consejo al igual que lo hicimos en el 31.º período de sesiones del COFI. Expresamos nuestro aprecio por la publicación *El estado mundial de la pesca y la acuicultura (SOFIA)*, de 2014, la cual es de vital importancia para el sector de la pesca.

Igualmente, apoyamos la recomendación destinada a mejorar los cuestionarios del seguimiento sobre el Código de Conducta para la Pesca Responsable. Es muy importante continuar apoyando a los países en desarrollo para que puedan hacer los reportes de seguimiento.

Asimismo, tomamos nota de la adopción de las Directrices Internacionales sobre el Estado del Pabellón y así como de la aprobación de las Directrices Voluntarias para lograr la sostenibilidad de la pesca en pequeña escala en el contexto de la seguridad alimentaria y la erradicación de la pobreza y reiteramos nuestro apoyo a la FAO para incrementar sus esfuerzos en función del Programa de Asistencia Mundial para la implementación de estas Directrices.

Los principios incluidos en estas Directrices tales como: los derechos humanos y la dignidad; el respeto de las culturas; la no discriminación; la equidad y la igualdad, incluida la dimensión de género; la consulta y la participación; el respeto a las leyes; la transparencia; la rendición de cuentas; la sostenibilidad económica, social y ambiental; junto a la responsabilidad social; la factibilidad y viabilidad social y económica, ofrecen un marco adecuado para respaldar la pesca en pequeña escala en las diferentes regiones del mundo, ya que constituye un medio de vida para millones de familias, especialmente en los países en desarrollo.

La República Bolivariana de Venezuela, a partir de la aprobación en el año 2001 de la Ley de Pesca y Acuicultura, cambió el paradigma de la pesca, la acuicultura y sus actividades conexas hacia un enfoque de desarrollo social que contribuye a garantizar la seguridad alimentaria de la población,

involucrando de forma participativa y protagónica los conocimientos y opiniones de los pescadores y acuicultores en la ordenación pesquera y regulación de los recursos.

Como medida específica en favor de la pesca en pequeña escala, desde el año 2009 fueron totalmente prohibidas las actividades industriales de pesca de arrastre dentro de la zona económica exclusiva de la República, o sea, seis millas marítimas próximas a la línea de costa con el objetivo de evitar la erosión de los fondos marinos altamente explotados durante décadas, y mantener los medios de trabajo de los pescadores artesanales. Esto ha conducido a un incremento sensible en la producción de diversas especies que han repoblado nuestras costas. Por lo que alentamos a los Estados Miembros a fomentar la pesca en pequeña escala.

En este escenario hemos firmado un acuerdo de Cooperación con la FAO para medir el impacto económico, social y ambiental que ha tenido la prohibición de la pesca industrial de arrastre en Venezuela.

Para la implementación de estas Directrices reconocemos la importancia del fomento de la cooperación internacional, con énfasis en los niveles subregional y regional. En este ámbito estamos realizando grandes esfuerzos mediante la Cooperación Sur-Sur en materia de pesca, como ha sido destacado durante el 33.º período de sesiones de la Conferencia Regional de la FAO para América Latina y el Caribe, celebrada el pasado mes de mayo en Chile.

Finalmente, reiteramos la posición expresada en el 30.º y 31.º períodos de sesiones del COFI de que las referencias a la Convención sobre Derechos del Mar (CODEMAR) y a otros acuerdos internacionales en los documentos del Comité, en ningún caso prejuzgan la posición de los Estados Miembros del COFI para su firma o ratificación.

Mr Alexander A. OKHANOV (Russian Federation) (Original language Russian)

After everything that has been said by other delegations, especially the European Union, there is scarcely anything to be added since they have highlighted the most important aspects considered at the 31st Session of the Committee on Fisheries.

Nonetheless, the Russian Federation would like to emphasize the importance of this session since the 2009 Agreement on Port State Measures was adopted, as well as the Voluntary Guidelines on Securing Sustainable Small-scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication.

In this relation, I would like to make a proposal that we could explore the possibility of developing, on the basis of the Agreement on Port State Measures, some sort of legally binding document, and we would like to stress the importance of the upcoming activities scheduled next year in FAO, such as the Global Conference on Inland Fisheries: Fresh Water, Fish and the Future.

I would like to conclude by saying that we endorse the report and we approve the recommendations contained in it.

Ms Sultana AFROZ (Bangladesh)

The Bangladeshi Delegation welcomes the review of the Strategic Framework as a basis of FAO's work in fisheries and aquaculture in support of achieving food security and poverty eradication.

We congratulate the Director-General's Blue Growth Initiative and we would like to continue to support it, but we also request FAO to continue and further refine its work.

Bangladesh would like to request FAO to support Member Nations in marine fisheries issues where needed, especially in the Blue Economic Zone, to which Bangladesh also belongs. We would also like to request FAO to extend its support for the effective implementation of Port State Measures and the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries.

Finally, Bangladesh thanks the Chairperson of the Committee of Fisheries for his presentation, and we fully endorse the report of the 31st Session of COFI.

Mr Seyed Aminollah TAGHAVI MOTLAGH (Islamic Republic of Iran)

I would like to thank the Director-General of FAO for yesterday's event, granting 13 countries an award for achieving MDG goals set by Food World Summit 1996, and I am proud that the Islamic Republic of Iran was one of them.

The Islamic Republic of Iran acknowledges and appreciates the contribution of FAO for this achievement; therefore, the Islamic Republic of Iran fully supports Mr Graziano da Silva, Director-General of FAO and his strategy and goals for eradication of food insecurity and malnutrition.

We would like to thank the Chairperson and the Secretariat of COFI for producing this excellent and very well focus oriented document. We thank the Director-General of FAO for his initiative on Blue Growth and support the establishment of a Working Group to further develop its application.

We also acknowledge the importance of inland fisheries for livelihood of many people around the world and we support the inclusion of inland fisheries as national, sub regional, regional, and global instruments in addressing water use and food security. We also endorse the Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-scale Fisheries (SSF), which are very important for food security and also for the sustainable utilization of aquatic resources, we welcome FAO's proposal for a Global Assistance Programme for the implementation of SSF Guidelines. The Islamic Republic of Iran endorses the report.

Mr Matthew WORRELL (Australia)

Australia would like to thank, firstly, the Chair of COFI for his presentation of the Report of the 31st Session of COFI. We would also like to express our appreciation for the open and inclusive way in which the Chair and the other COFI Bureau members have conducted their intersessional activities during the last period. We believe the way and the processes that have been employed by the Chair and the other Bureau members offer potential for other FAO Technical Committee Bureaus to consider.

Obviously, fisheries is a very important sector for food security and economic well-being of countries in the Southwest Pacific Region. It is important to recognize that a large proportion of the global tuna stocks come from the Pacific.

From the 31st COFI session report, Australia would like to highlight the discussion regarding Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated fishing (IUU). IUU fishing from vessels originating outside of the Pacific Region is a major challenge. We fully agree with COFI's emphasis on the importance of the coming into force of the 2009 Agreement on Port State Measures to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate IUU fishing as soon as possible. We would also fully support COFI's endorsement of the Voluntary Guidelines for Flag State Performance.

Mr Vimlendra SHARAN (India)

I align India's statement with the rest of the house here to fully endorse the report.

Having said that, I have a small question that maybe the ADG could clarify. When I see the matters which have been brought to the attention of the Council, every bullet point reads "the Committee" except the sixth bullet point which reads "Some members suggested the establishment of a BGI Working Group".

So my question is twofold: is this just a suggestion of some members or is this a Committee recommendation? And, if it is a Committee recommendation, what will be the contours of the Working Group that you intend to frame in this regard?

Mr Ropati Mualia LE MAMEA (Observer for Samoa)

I would like to voice a few remarks on the report now in discussion. Currently, 1 to 5 December, the Global Tuna Commission is meeting in Samoa. The Tuna Commission works to improve the conservation and the development of measures to protect and safeguard the depletion of tuna stocks in the world.

The question that arises is why is this meeting being hosted in Samoa? For the information of fellow delegates, the Southwest Pacific is the custodian of the largest tuna stocks in the world. The report now discussed emphasizes efforts made by Members in combating Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated fishing, and the expansion of efforts to implement International Guidelines on Bycatch Management and Reduction of Discards.

This is one of the problems currently faced by the Southwest Pacific Island countries. Due to a large increase of designer fishing vessels on our side of the world, the Forum Fisheries Agency (FFA) in the Southwest Pacific is doing its best in the safeguarding of tuna stocks by combating illegal and unreported and unregulated fishing by fishing boats and vessels from large countries in Europe and Asia currently fishing in our seas.

Secondly, the Tuna Commission is meant to develop measures to safeguard stocks of fish, especially tuna stocks in the Pacific.

FAO should be working together with various agencies who are doing the same work around the world, like FFA that we have in the Southwest Pacific, instead of separately developing their own measures which can be a duplication of work for the various agencies, including FAO. We suggest that FAO develop linkages with these agencies since they are doing the same type of work, and I am pretty sure that by working together in collaboration, they could arrive at a much better sustainable development for the fishing stocks, especially tuna stocks, which is gradually depleting in the world.

Mr Seerat ASGHAR (Pakistan)

We thank the Chair of the Committee on Fisheries for his statement. We also appreciate the very able manner in which he led the Committee. In general, we endorse all the recommendations of the report.

Specifically, I would like to state that we welcome the adoption of the International Guidelines on Securing Sustainable Small-scale Fisheries at the 31st Session of COFI. We support FAO's proposal for a Global Assistance Programme for its implementation.

FAO should provide technical support to developing countries for development of sustainable fisheries and implementing the guidelines. However, the guidelines should not be used by countries as a barrier to trade. Aquaculture and inland fisheries can play an important role in the provision of livelihood and food security. FAO should continue to provide support for the expansion of Small-scale Fisheries in developing countries and development of inland fisheries as part of its Strategic Objectives of food security, sustainable development, poverty alleviation, stable markets, and increased resilience.

With over 1,000 kilometers of coastline, thousands of kilometers of rivers and canals, and lakes, ponds, and other open water bodies, Pakistan has an immense potential for enhanced fish production. We would like to request FAO's technical support in this area.

FAO should also provide support to developing countries in dealing with the impacts of climate change in relation to the fisheries and aquaculture sectors. Assistance should also be provided for data collection related to fisheries, including socioeconomic data and related information on Small-scale Fisheries and communities.

Mr Johán WILLIAMS (Chairperson, 31st Session of the Committee on Fisheries)

I of course appreciate the very good reception of the report. To make it even simpler for me, I will ask the Assistant Director-General Árni Mathiesen to answer the questions.

Mr Árni M. Mathiesen (Assistant Director- General, Fisheries and Aquaculture Department)

It is always a pleasure to make life easier for the COFI Chair. This is not a very difficult question to answer; however, the question of the exact language, whether it's a language difference, it's possibly a little bit more difficult to explain. The wording quoted by the Representative of India means to us and the Secretariat that this is an issue that will be taken up with the Member Nations to see if there is consensus to carry it forward. Later on this month there will be a Bureau meeting where this issue will be on the agenda, and judging by the reception the Blue Growth Initiative has had so far, and as

reflected in the comments here this morning, I have no doubt that there will be a Blue Growth Working Group set up very soon.

There is only one more comment that really requires an answer: that is the comment by the Representative of Samoa with regards to the cooperation on tuna in the Pacific. The biggest project that we run in the Fisheries and Aquaculture Department at the moment is the GEF ABNJ Tuna Project which has a very large element in the Pacific, and the WCPFC is a part of that project, as are the other four Tuna Regional Fisheries Management bodies.

In addition to that, we also run the OFMP-2 project in cooperation with UNDP which goes into even more detailed cooperation with the very same organizations that the Representative of Samoa mentioned earlier. In addition to that, the Director-General has taken decisions recently with regard to the strengthening the office in Samoa, which will very strongly contribute to the workings of the office. In addition, all of these organizations are a part of and cooperate with the RFMO network, of which the FAO Fisheries and Aquaculture Department is the Secretariat. So this is definitely an area and an issue that we are emphasizing.

I would like to thank the Council for the very positive comments with regard to COFI and the COFI report. I would also like to thank the Chairperson, Mr Williams, for his excellent cooperation and I express my high hopes for cooperation with the incoming Chairperson, Mr Hazin, over the next two years.

Mr Yohannes TENSUE (Erirea)

I would like to comment on the remarks made by India, that the report in most of its parts says that “the Committee” did this and that, or endorsed and reviewed, but in some of the paragraphs it says that “some countries noted”.

I think it is a common practice that we have been following so you don’t have to go to the Bureau meeting to review the way it is reported. Some countries may express reservations, but it doesn’t mean that there was an objection.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you. I would like to conclude sub-item 3.1 as follows:

1. The Council endorsed the conclusions and recommendations contained in the Report of the 31st Session of the Committee on Fisheries and in particular:
 - a) welcomed FAO’s Strategic Objectives as the basis for focusing the Organization’s work in fisheries and aquaculture on food security, poverty reduction and sustainable management of natural resources;
 - b) welcomed the Blue Growth Initiative and encouraged its further enhancement in pursuing the Strategic Objectives;
 - c) underlined the importance of FAO’s continued work in support of effective implementation of Port State Measures, the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries, the International Guidelines on Bycatch Management, as well as development of sustainable fisheries and aquaculture;
 - d) welcomed the proposal for a Global Assistance Programme to support the implementation of the Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication;
 - e) welcomed the endorsement of the Voluntary Guidelines for Flag State Performance, which will contribute to the fight against Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) fishing;
 - f) acknowledged the importance of inland fisheries as a means towards meeting the Strategic Objectives on food security, sustainable development, poverty alleviation, stable markets and increased resilience; and
 - g) encouraged FAO to support capacity development in the areas of data collection and analysis, stock assessment, management, post-harvesting, and policy development.

2. The Council also welcomed the acknowledgement by FAO of countries which had achieved the targets of the World Food Summit and Millennium Development Goals, noting that the reorientation of the Organization's action over the past three years had given new impetus to the fight against hunger, notably through the promotion of sustainable fisheries and aquaculture.

I think the Report has been well received. That is the end of my summary and I think it will guide the Drafting Committee. We have concluded this agenda item.

Item 3.2 Report of the 22nd Session of the Committee on Forestry (23-27 June 2014)
Point 3.2 Rapport de la vingt-deuxième session du Comité des forêts (23-27 juin 2014)
Tema 3.2 Informe del 22.º período de sesiones del Comité Forestal (23-27 de junio de 2014)
 (C 2015/24)

CHAIRPERSON

We will now move on to Sub-item 3.2, *Report of the 22nd Session of the Committee on Forestry*, held in Rome from 23 to 27 June 2014. The document before Council is C 2015/24.

The Chairperson of COFO, His Excellency Bharrat Jagdeo had to cancel his trip at the last moment due to unforeseen developments. So I now give the floor to Mr James Singh, Commissioner of Forests of Guyana, and Vice-Chairperson of COFO, to present the report.

Mr James SINGH (Vice-Chairperson, Committee on Forestry)

The 22nd Session of COFO, whose slogan was “Forest and People – World and Beyond”, was organized together with the Third World Forest Week and was attended by over 600 delegates from 117 Member Nations plus 34 UN Agencies and observers.

The very rich ambitious agenda was developed by the steering committee based on the recommendations of the six regional forestry commissions and contained the following five main thematic blocks as outlined in the slide above: State of the World's Forests, Enhancing socioeconomic benefits for forests, Contribution to global processes and initiatives, Progress on previous recommendations and in the work of statutory bodies, FAO's work in forestry on the revised Strategic Framework.

COFO made several recommendations to its Members, in particular it invited countries to create enabling frameworks to unlock the full gamut of potential offered by forests and ensure the sustained provision of socioeconomic benefits which are often unrecognized and undervalued.

Secondly, they established and strengthened platforms for cross-sectorial multi-stakeholder dialogue and initiatives that link forestry and agriculture and other natural resource related sectors to enable more effective coordination and communication at a landscape level.

In the International Year of Family Farming, COFO invited members to create an enabling environment for forest communities, family forest owners, forest rights holders and forest and farm producer organizations which include clear tenure, access to markets, incentive programs and financing mechanisms. COFO also invited countries to strengthen their response to a Zero Hunger challenge by developing relevant forest policies, integrating cross-sectorial approaches to food security and nutrition, sustainably manage forest ecosystems, residence and wildlife habitats and promote policies that increase productivity of small holders. It invited countries to advocate for and work actively towards achieving zero illegal deforestation and to protect, conserve, restore and sustainably manage forest resources and biodiversity at global levels.

COFO invited countries to ensure adequate consideration of gender issues in forestry in all deliberations and *fora*. They further encouraged countries to strengthen collaboration amongst all unused sectors and invited COAG, COFI and COFO to explore opportunities in this regard. The benefit of including the Committee on World Food Security in this collaborative effort was emphasized.

The Committee also invited interested countries to foster the cooperation within their existing initiatives working on boreal forests, and requested FAO to scale-up its support in this area. It further

invited countries to work with FAO for a formulation of a global capacity development program on sustainable management and restoration of dry-land forests and agro-silvo-pastoral systems.

Additionally, COFO considered its use of global strategic relevance and provided its guidance for Member Nations. Countries were requested to strengthen efforts to recognize forests contribution to the sustainable development goals and to ensure adequate consideration and visibility of forests in the SDGs and the Post-2015 Development Agenda.

Members were also requested to consider further strengthening the collaborative partnership on forests in any future international arrangement on forests and to ensure coordination across all relevant government agencies so that CPF activities are fully integrated and financed.

COFO invited countries to consider membership in the International Poplar Commission and encouraged the Executive Committee to continue their reform process of the Commission. It further invited countries to elevate the red-plus discussions to the highest political level in the countries, regions and globally, and support the forest initiative of the UNSD Climate Summit and strengthen mechanisms for inter-sectorial coordination to achieve effective climate change adaptation and mitigation.

The Committee appreciated the excellent work and recommendations of the regional forestry commissions, and emphasized the need to consider FAO's work in forestry in the broader context of FAO's Strategic Framework and prioritize it accordingly. The programme should be realistic, and sufficient financial resources need to be allocated.

The Committee gave guidance for a development of the next Multi-Year Programme of Work and requested the Secretariat to develop it in consultation with the Steering Committee for consideration and adoption by the 23rd Session of COFO.

Regarding guidance to FAO, COFO recommended strengthening the management and access systems on people's use and benefits for forests, as well as transparency and accountability. It recommended that FAO continue to work on strengthening the links between forests and food security, in particular in the context of Strategic Objectives I and III. It recommended that FAO in collaboration with CPF members and others contributes to the development of appropriate targets and indicators on forests in the SDGs, including improved indicators for the socioeconomic benefits of forests especially as they relate to poverty reduction and food security.

COFO recommended FAO to upscale capacities for monitoring the contribution of forests to address the zero hunger challenge at regional and global levels and present the contribution of forests to food security to the Committee on World Food Security for its consideration.

The Committee further encouraged FAO to contribute actively to the international arrangement of forests and requested FAO to continue its leadership role in the CPF and together with Members consider new ways of strengthening the CPF and developing a vision for its future. It recommended that FAO further develop, disseminate and test the sustainable forest management toolbox and complete the development of the voluntary guidelines on national forest monitoring for a final endorsement by the next session.

COFO requested FAO to continue supporting the regional forest communicators' networks, and to continue enhancing the forestry related knowledge base, and to include education and research initiatives in FAO regional activities. FAO was also requested to continue promoting cross-sectorial collaboration within FAO's Strategic Framework and its objectives and elaborate in consultation with the respective Bureau a detailed proposal for collaboration for a consideration of the technical committees in their forthcoming sessions.

Finally, it requested FAO to present possibilities for enhancing interdisciplinary work on boreal forests and a recommendation for the establishment of the working group on dry-land forests and agro-silvo-pastoral systems for consideration and possible adoption at the next session.

COFO requested FAO to support countries in upgrading and disseminating socioeconomic data, strengthening tenure and governance processes, strengthening forest-based industries, producer

associations and community-based forest organizations, strengthening and introducing best schemes given for environmental services, policy and planning, information exchange and access to funding to achieve zero illegal deforestation, gender mainstreaming and economic empowerment of women, forest landscape restoration, forest and climate change mitigation and adaptation.

These recommendations have been brought to your kind attention in detail in the Report. To conclude, the COFO agenda was developed by the COFO Steering Committee based on the recommendations of the Regional Forestry Commissions. COFO was characterized by the strong involvement of heads of forestry administrations, including two facilitated dialogues discussing enabling policies and a zero illegal deforestation challenge. COFO was organized in conjunction with the World Forest Week. Forestry developed its own reporting service and published the event on the COFO website allowing persons and organizations to follow developments remotely.

The COFO Steering Committee met immediately after the session and engaged in a brainstorming exercise on how to intensify its intersessional work and explore opportunities for further strengthening the impact of future COFO sessions.

Mr Ringson J. CHITSIKO (Zimbabwe)

Zimbabwe is taking the floor on behalf of the Africa Group. Right from the onset, let me take this opportunity to congratulate you, Mr Chairperson, and the Secretariat for providing this comprehensive document which is now before this 150th Session of the FAO Council.

The Africa Group welcomes the Report of the 22nd Session of the Committee on Forestry and fully supports its messages and recommendations, especially with respect to the contribution that forests make towards sustainable development.

Africa is endowed with forests, as you know, and there is therefore need to manage and conserve them. There is also need for a coordinated approach at the national, regional and international levels in order to combat forest degradation through a number of tools and strategies in a wide range of institutions and stakeholders. In this way, we would have made an important contribution towards the achievement of food security and mitigation of the results of climate change.

We recognize that forests and trees have important multiple functions and provide a wide range of forest goods and products, including flora, medicines, timber, construction materials and forest foods, such as caterpillars, honey, mushrooms, bush-meat and so on. These are critical to the livelihoods of both the rural and urban communities. It is therefore vital that measures are taken to ensure that forest resources are available today and in the future.

The Africa Group is cognizant of the need to strengthen Member Nations' capacity to develop, implement, monitor and evaluate evidence based forest policies, investments and programmes that take into consideration the role of forests in addressing the Zero Hunger Challenge. Furthermore, there is need to develop mechanisms to improve data collection, monitoring and reporting on the role that forests play in food security and nutrition.

The Africa Group looks forward to participating at the 14th World Forestry Congress which will be held in Durban, South Africa, from 7 to 11 September 2015. We note with appreciation that the Government of the Republic of South Africa as the host is organizing and financing the Congress while FAO is providing technical and administrative support. As we are aware, the theme of the Congress is "Forests and People Investing in a Sustainable Future". The Congress will, through this theme, focus on people-centered forestry, socio-economic issues and the need for opportunities for investment in the vital role forests and forestry play in sustainable development. Members are therefore encouraged to participate in this important meeting.

Finally, the Africa Group recommends that the Report of the 22nd Session of the Committee on Forestry be adopted by the Council.

Mr Gianni GHISI (Italy)

I am honoured to speak on behalf of the European Union and its 28 Member States. The candidate country to the EU, Albania and Turkey, aligns itself with this statement.

The EU and its Member States highlight the importance of forests and the multiple environmental and socioeconomic benefits they provide.

We welcome the publication of the State of the World's Forest 2014, with its focus on the socio-economic benefits of forests and its central message about the importance of forests for sustainable development.

The quantification of socio-economic benefits is a complex exercise. Further work is needed to assist countries in upgrading their system for collection and analysis of socio-economic data on forests, so as to ensure that the full range of socio-economic benefits is quantified.

The publication of this report comes at a very crucial juncture, as the international community is currently engaged in the development of sustainable development goals (SDGs) as part of the post-2015 development agenda as well as reviewing the International Arrangement on Forests, including the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF). The evidence provided in this report should help policy-makers to understand and recognise more fully that forests are not only a threatened environmental resource, but that they deliver - when sustainably managed - multiple social and economic benefits.

Forests are linked to a range of other priority areas in the development of SDGs. These include sustainable agriculture and food security, health, sustainable growth and jobs, climate change, biodiversity, water, disaster prevention and resilience, gender equality, governance and the rule of law. We stress the imperative need to focus on these benefits while promoting the sustainable management of forests worldwide. With regard to gender equality, we would stress that women play a crucial role in managing forests throughout the world. That role needs to be duly recognised and promoted further. In that context, the FAO can play an important role in strengthening capacity and providing technical support for gender mainstreaming and the collection of gender-disaggregated data in the forest sector.

2015 will also bring another major event, the 21st Conference of the Parties to the Climate Change Convention, in the context of which forests are closely associated with mitigation and adaptation issues.

The FAO can also make an important contribution to initiatives such as the Zero Hunger Challenge and the Zero Illegal Deforestation Initiative. Halting and reversing deforestation is essential if the international community is to meet its agreed forest-related goals and targets. Here we highlight the goal of reversing the loss of forest cover worldwide, which is enshrined in the Forest Instrument.

The challenge of achieving zero illegal deforestation requires, above all, stronger land governance, secure land tenure and more integrated land-use planning, particularly between the agricultural and the forestry sectors. We welcome the recommendation by COFO to expand FAO work in this area and recognise the FAO's role and unique position in supporting member countries on these matters. We therefore request that the FAO works in partnership with other organisations, including the United Nations Forum on Forests, other members of the CPF and all relevant UN.

The EU and its Member States would recall our view that the priority areas of work should include monitoring and assessment, forest ecosystem services, REDD+, urban and community forestry, integrated land use and landscape management, governance, gender, wood energy, forest biodiversity, innovation in forest products, and education. We also encourage further promotion of cross-sectoral collaboration between the FAO statutory bodies within the FAO's Strategic Framework and its objectives.

We believe that the FAO's activities should focus more on actual results on the ground in the regions. We welcome the fact that the COFO documents contained a wide range of recommendations from the regions presented through the Regional Forestry Commissions, which are a unique vehicle for regional and global collaboration, and programme and policy coordination. In particular, we would highlight the importance of the joint UNECE-FAO cooperation in our region. We welcome this interaction and would encourage the Regional Forestry Commissions to intensify or extend

cooperation with other UN organisations and forest-related processes, whilst continuing to provide input to the FAO Regional Conferences.

Ms Maria Laura DA ROCHA (Brazil)

Brazil supports FAO's mandate to promote sustainable forest management worldwide and recognizes the work done by the Committee on Forestry in setting forth this agenda.

FAO's report on the state of “the State of World's Forests” highlighted the contribution of forests to people's livelihoods, but also revealed the need of improving information and adapting policies to enhance forest's socio-economic benefits. COFO was particularly successful in bringing to light the linkages between forests and family farming and the role played by of forests to achieve food security and nutrition, but, again the lack of reliable data unveiled the need of fostering research.

That is to say that some good work has been done by the Committee on Forests but there is a lot more ahead. No other agency is better placed than FAO to work in this crosscutting field, linking forestry, family farming and food security.

Brazil welcomed the “Zero Illegal Deforestation Challenge”, which is indeed consistent with our 2007 National Plan on Climate Change. As a result of cross-sectorial policies, deforestation in the Amazon has decreased by 79 percent in the last ten years. More recently, a programme for the *Cerrado bioma* was put in place to address the need to protect this ecosystem, frequently called the Brazilian Savannah, where agriculture and livestock are major economic drivers.

Notwithstanding our steady progress to combat deforestation, new challenges are being posed on us, requiring the upscaling of strategies. Therefore, in our view, the international call to protect and sustainably manages forests must be accompanied by the provision of appropriate means of implementation. Cooperation must be in the heart of our common goals.

The outcome document of Rio+20 recognized the wide-range of social, economic and environmental benefits of forests to people. Now, the Post-2015 Development Agenda and the SDGs should support countries in the implementation of policies to sustainably manage their forests. However, in order to enhance and renew forests' benefits, we must promote more sustainable patterns of consumption and production, both in developed and developing countries. FAO can definitely play a role in this area.

Mr Wimol JANTRAROTAI (Thailand)

Our Delegation supports the outcome of the 22nd Session of the Committee on Forestry. Many areas of works have contributed to sustainable forest management. We are appreciative to COFO for initiating more cross-cutting issues on forestry in other Technical Committees.

Therefore, the implementation of the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the context of National Food Security must be encouraged and intervention of FAO through capacity-building can facilitate the implementation. Along with this, we concur with the request of COFO to FAO to complete the development of the Voluntary Guidelines on National Forest Monitoring.

Under FAO's Strategic Objectives, we would like to see more of the regional forestry commissions to identify and prioritize regional specific issues to cover in the programme of works. Topics and work areas on REDD+ are important in contributing to achieve Strategic Objectives. We acknowledge FAO for its activity and support to countries on forests and climate change mitigation and adaptation.

We request FAO to consider the regional approaches and to enforce regional collaboration on this matter. Accordingly, my delegation endorses the Report of the 22nd Session of the Committee on Forestry.

Mr Ivan G. KONSTANTINOPOLSKIY (Russian Federation) (Original language Russian)

I would like to thank the Secretariat for the document prepared, and would also like to thank the Vice-Chairperson of the Committee, Mr Singh, for his very detailed report about the session.

We would like to support FAO's activity in forestry as a very important integral element in the activities of the Organization in sustaining a sustainable way of managing natural resources. In this

connection, we agree with the recommendation of the 22nd Session of the COFO with relation to allowing FAO to assign sufficient financial resources for forestry work.

In particular, it is important to take due account of this when we develop the Programme of Work and Budget for 2016-17. This, of course, requires that we maintain the topical relevance of recommendations with regard to the assigning of priorities for FAO activities in forestry.

We believe that it is very promising to see the study planned about the relationship between forestry and food security, which is fully falling within the mandate of the Organization. We commend the decision of the 41st Session of the Committee on World Food Security with respect to the preparation by a High-Level Expert Group of a report on this same topic in 2017. This step is a logical follow-on of the discussion which has taken place at the Rome Conference on the contribution of Forests to ensuring Food Security and Nutrition which took place in 2013.

We also call upon for better monitoring of the implementation of the United Nations Secretary General's initiative on Zero Hunger and we would also like – as an aside – to emphasize the importance of giving due consideration to forestry issues as a whole in the global Post-2015 Development Agenda. In this context, we would commend FAO efforts in attracting international attention to this theme.

We endorse COFO's recommendation with regard to stressing even more the importance of supporting country efforts in collecting statistics which would reflect the socio-economic role of forestry. We support further development of FAO's work with regard to improving efficiency and productivity of the forestry sector. We indeed are happy to see that the 55th Session of the FAO Advisory Committee on Sustainable Forest-based Industries was scheduled in St. Petersburg this year.

We consider that FAO activities, with regard to the use of firewood and introducing innovation into forestry and preserving forestry biodiversity, is something which remains extremely topical indeed. As before, we are especially interested in pursuing the exploration of opportunities to involve FAO in disciplinary work on boreal forests and in strengthening this thrust of the Organization.

Sra. Maria Eulalia JIMENEZ ZEPEDA (El Salvador)

La Delegación de El Salvador agradece al Vicepresidente la presentación de este informe.

Respaldamos en su conjunto el mismo y deseamos destacar la necesidad de que la FAO en general, y a través de su programa forestal, siga dando prioridad a las actividades en apoyo del Marco Estratégico Revisado y se fortalezcan aún más los vínculos entre la silvicultura y la seguridad alimentaria.

Consideramos importante que la FAO trabaje en el fortalecimiento de la asociación de colaboración en materia de bosques y que participe activamente en el programa de colaboración de Naciones Unidas para la reducción de emisiones de la deforestación y la degradación de bosques en países en desarrollo. El apoyo de la FAO en la puesta en marcha de la iniciativa sobre bosques en la Cumbre del Clima convocada por el Secretario General de las Naciones Unidas es fundamental.

Apoyamos la recomendación realizada en el informe a las comisiones regionales para que proporcionen orientaciones sobre áreas prioritarias a nivel regional respecto del sector forestal, lo cual brindará fundamento precioso a los cinco objetivos estratégicos de la FAO y contribuirán a su consecución.

Sr. Luis Alejandro PEDRON HURTADO (Venezuela)

La República Bolivariana de Venezuela agradece al Vicepresidente la presentación del documento C2015/24 mediante el cual se reflejan los resultados del 22.º período de sesiones del Comité Forestal.

Respaldamos las recomendaciones que se presentan a continuación del Consejo, en especial aquellas que solicitan a la FAO cooperar con los países para mejorar sus capacidades de gestión forestal. También queremos reiterar nuestra satisfacción por la presentación del documento *El estado de los bosques del mundo, 2014* (SOFO 2014), el cual señaló, a la consideración del COFO, la contribución de los bosques al desarrollo sostenible. En especial, deseamos destacar la dificultad identificada por la

FAO para obtener información detallada con indicadores precisos que permitan medir los beneficios socioeconómicos de los bosques.

A pesar de esto, las principales conclusiones del informe demuestran el gran impacto económico y social de las actividades forestales que emplean millones de personas a nivel mundial en los sectores formal e informal de la economía, quienes suministran leña para cocinar, proveen fuentes energéticas alternativas y productos forestales de alto valor para la fabricación de viviendas, entre otros.

La República Bolivariana de Venezuela apoya la ordenación forestal sostenible y ejecuta con apoyo de la FAO el proyecto titulado *Fortalecimiento de capacidades para la formulación y adopción de una estrategia nacional de conservación, manejo y gestión forestal*, mediante el cual se está formulando la política nacional forestal y las estrategias para su implementación. Asimismo, hemos preparado nuestro Informe nacional forestal, que forma parte de la Evaluación de los recursos forestales mundiales (FRA) que publicará la FAO el próximo año. Estas iniciativas desarrollan los lineamientos contenidos en la Constitución de la República Bolivariana de Venezuela para promover la protección del equilibrio ecológico, la Ley de Bosques promulgada en el año 2013 y en el 5° Objetivo del Plan de la Patria 2013-2019 de contribuir con la preservación de la vida en el planeta y la salvación de la especie humana.

Asimismo, queremos reiterar los comentarios generales que realizamos respecto del enfoque asignado a varios de los documentos que analizamos en el 22.º período de sesiones, en particular nuestra preocupación por las reiteradas menciones a la economía verde o a las economías más verdes. Para Venezuela es importante destacar que conforme al párrafo 56 de la Declaración de Río +20, la economía verde y la transición hacia la misma es solo una de las tantas opciones de política de desarrollo que los países pudieran acompañar o no. Por tanto, es pertinente acotar que existen otros modelos y políticas relevantes para el desarrollo sostenible, los cuales también deberían ser tomados en cuenta y respaldarse con financiamiento, desarrollo de capacidades y cooperación técnica. Consideramos en ese sentido que los documentos del COFO deben reflejar con claridad los conceptos definidos en la Declaración Final de Río +20.

Asimismo, nos preocupa la referencia realizada al concepto de agricultura climáticamente inteligente cuando tratamos la relación entre los bosques y la agricultura familiar. Por tanto, reiteramos que esta definición no goza de consenso en el sistema de Naciones Unidas, por lo que recomendamos ser sumamente cuidadosos en su utilización.

Igualmente, dejamos constancia que cuando sean abordadas materias que vinculan el clima y la seguridad alimentaria, debe hacerse referencia a la Convención Marco de las Naciones Unidas sobre Cambio Climático, foro competente en esta materia.

Mr James SINGH (Vice-Chairperson, Committee on Forestry)

On behalf of the Chairperson of COFO, I would like to thank the Distinguished Delegates for their additional comments, suggestions and recommendations, and for supporting and endorsing the recommendations contained in the report.

I will now ask the Assistant Director-General to make a few more detailed comments.

Mr Eduardo ROJAS-BRIALES (Assistant Director-General, Forestry Department)

It is a pleasure to address you today and to acknowledge such a great support and very constructive comments received by several countries to the report and the session's outcomes. In addition, I would also like to thank Vice-Chairperson Singh for coming on short notice all the way from Guyana.

With regards to the several comments, we take notice of the last intervention from Venezuela on definitions. I would like to take the opportunity to report very briefly on the progress in the implementation of the COFO recommendations.

As highlighted by several speakers – especially by the Russian Federation – important momentum was identified during COFO regarding the role of forests in the SDGs, and a few weeks later, the Open-Ended Working Group Report ensured that forests were recognized at the same level as mountains,

which is also an FAO responsibility, while biodiversity and ecosystems were borne under other items in the SDG 15. Forests were also identified in SDG 6 with regard to water.

I think we are well placed, and with the guidance and support of the coming process in the General Assembly will ensure that the forests are seen from the world perspective and sufficiently identified.

We also appreciate the mention made by the Africa Group regarding the importance of the World Forest Congress that will be held in September next year in South Africa for the first time in the region. We know that important progress is moving ahead in very intense cooperation between South Africa and FAO and that a mission took place last week in the country and we look very much forward to the success.

We would also like to highlight, as commented by the Director-General, the increased support of countries under GEF and the strengthening of our GEF Unit. This will affect, of course, not only forestry projects, but also fisheries and other areas. We are experiencing very important progress in the upscaling of our capacity to support countries in the GEF and I am sure that the engagement of FAO in implementing GEF projects will grow significantly very soon. We are also very much satisfied that the Committee on World Food Security approved for 2017 the report on the contribution of Forests to Food Security, as several speakers also highlighted.

Discussion is ongoing in the COFO Bureau to implement recommendations which arose during discussions in COFO to establish a high level segment in COFO to ensure that we take advantage of the presence of high level officers such as Ministers, Vice-Ministers, Permanent Secretaries and Secretaries-General, so as to ensure that items of a more political nature are dealt with in this high level segment, whereas more technical items are taken in our technical segment. Discussions regarding SOFO 2016 are very well advanced so that we have also a recognized report and we are very thankful for this.

Regarding the work in REDD+ areas, and especially in UN-REDD, there is an important work ahead. During the last months, FAO has streamlined its internal UN-REDD arrangements which will surely provide better support to countries. Moreover, the three Rome-based Agencies are working very intensively together to ensure that for the next second and third phase of REDD we are prepared. The UN-REDD participants have grown to over 250 million recently thanks to the support of Norway and other donors, and with 56 Member Countries' support I really think that in that area we are moving ahead. Furthermore, the International Poplar Commission is moving ahead as recommended by COFO, and FRA 2015 is being prepared.

Finally, on the review of the International Arrangement on Forests and UNFF, we are working very closely with the CPF partners in order to prepare a joint submission for the AHEG meeting in January in New York. We are also working closely with DESA, suggesting and supporting the possibility that if the International Forum on Forests wishes to establish a regional dimension, that the Regional Forestry Commissions of FAO are seen as an opportunity to catalyze this, to avoid further fragmentation of forest processes.

To conclude, we are very much in your hands to avoid that we get further fragmented in the forest scenario, as the forestry evaluation we approved two years ago anticipated. In that sense, we would wish that the clear support to the FAO leading role in the CPF as the eminent Chair would be also echoed by the same countries and other bodies, as we have seen unfortunately some inconsistent approaches in recent times.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you. I think the report was positively received by the Members. This enables me to make the following conclusions.

The Council endorsed the conclusions and recommendations contained in the Report of the 22nd Session of the Committee on Forestry and welcomed the State of the World's Forests 2014. In particular, the Council:

- a) stressed the need for FAO as a whole, and its forestry programme in particular, to continue to prioritize its activities in support of the reviewed Strategic Framework, and to continue strengthening the links between forestry and food security;
- b) recommended that FAO assist countries in strengthening tenure rights and governance processes, including through building capacity to implement the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security;
- c) underscored the importance for FAO to support the Regional Forestry communicator Networks;
- d) requested FAO to continue its leadership role of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests, and in collaboration with the World Bank and other members, seek new ways of strengthening the Collaborative Partnership on Forests; and
- e) urged FAO to continue to actively participate in the Forest and Landscape Restoration Mechanism, UN-REDD and the International Arrangement on Forests;
- f) supported the formulation of policy and planning, information exchange and dialogue, as well as access to funding, with a view to achieving zero illegal deforestation;
- g) acknowledged the need to strengthen Members' capacity to develop and implement evidence-based forest policies, as well as cross-sectoral programmes that take into consideration the role of forests in addressing the Zero Hunger Challenge;
- h) supported the development of appropriate targets and indicators on forests in the Sustainable Development Goals and the development of indicators for the socio-economic benefits of forests; and
- i) encouraged FAO to explore further possibilities for interdisciplinary work on boreal forests.

Mr Ivan G. KONSTANTINOPOLSKIY (Russian Federation) (Original language Russian)

On the whole, we agree with your wonderful summary. We just wanted to recall that, during the course of the discussion, some delegations referred to the importance of Regional Forestry Commissions and, in particular, we recall that the Delegate of Italy speaking on behalf of the European Union highlighted the importance of the coordinated work of FAO and the European Economic Commission, and our delegation agrees with that.

We are in favour of pursuing the traditional partnership and cooperation between these two organizations and I think that this could be very well reflected in your summary as well.

CHAIRPERSON

I do not have any problem with that because of the importance of regional forestry commissions and their cooperation with other organizations was discussed. This will be added. Thank you.

We have concluded this agenda item. Ladies and gentlemen, that brings us to the end of this morning's session. To be efficient and effective and to focus on guidance, you may wish to shorten your statements during the afternoon session.

May I remind you of the side event "Building a Common Vision for Sustainable Food and Agriculture", taking place from 13:00 to 14:30 in the Red Room.

The Council will resume with Agenda Item 3.3 at 14:30 hours sharp.

The meeting rose at 12:31 hours

La séance est levée à 12 h 31

Se levanta la sesión a las 12.31

COUNCIL CONSEIL CONSEJO

Hundred and Fiftieth Session Cent cinquantième session 150.º período de sesiones
Rome, 1-5 December 2014 Rome, 1-5 décembre 2014 Roma, 1-5 de diciembre de 2014
SECOND PLENARY SESSION DEUXIÈME SÉANCE PLÉNIÈRE SEGUNDA SESIÓN PLENARIA
1 December 2014

The Second Plenary Meeting was opened at 14.32 hours
Mr Wilfred J. Ngirwa,
Independent Chairperson of the Council, presiding

La deuxième séance plénière est ouverte à 14 h 32
sous la présidence de M. Wilfred J. Ngirwa,
Président indépendant du Conseil

Se abre la segunda sesión plenaria a las 14.32
bajo la presidencia del Sr. Wilfred J. Ngirwa,
Presidente Independiente del Consejo

CHAIRPERSON

Ladies and Gentlemen, I declare the Second Meeting of the 150th Session of the FAO Council open.

Before continuing with our work this afternoon, I would like to invite you to view a short video presentation on interpretation. By following the guidance provided in the video I am sure we can improve communication among us.

Video Presentation

Présentation vidéo

Videopresentación

Item 3. Technical Committees (continued)**Point 3. Comités techniques (suite)****Tema 3. Comités técnicos (continuación)**

Item 3.3 Report of the 24th Session of the Committee on Agriculture (29 September - 3 October 2014)

Point 3.3 Rapport de la vingt-quatrième session du Comité de l'agriculture (29 septembre-3 octobre 2014)

Tema 3.3 Informe del 24.º período de sesiones del Comité de Agricultura (29 de septiembre-3 de octubre de 2014)

(C 2015/21)

CHAIRPERSON

Let us continue with item 3, from where we left off this morning and consider sub-item 3.3, *Report of the 24th Session of the Committee on Agriculture* which took place in Rome from 29 September to 3 October 2014.

Please ensure that you have document C 2015/21 before you. This document contains the Revised World Soil Charter in Appendix B which is submitted to the Council for endorsement and transmission to the 39th Session of the Conference in June 2015.

I now give the floor to His Excellency Joseph Sam Sesay, Minister for Agriculture, Food Security and Forestry of Sierra Leone, who was elected Chairperson by the 24th Session of the Committee on Agriculture, to present the report.

Mr Joseph Sam SESAY (Chairperson, Committee on Agriculture)

Before I start my presentation, I just want to make one observation that I wish this could have been made before lunch. Already, I see I will fail on one item and that is the presentation being fully visible to all of you down there. Nonetheless, I gave a copy of it to the interpreters and I think they will be able to follow.

Our report of the 24th Session of the Committee on Agriculture was held from 29 September to 3 October this year and has three parts. The first part presents the categories and numbers of participants during COAG, a total of 139. The opening formalities included an inspiring keynote address by the President of the Dominican Republic, His Excellency Danilo Medina. The main Report itself has five subparts, 12 findings and recommendations of the Committee, ten that require the attention of the Council, decisions on the next Session of COAG and election of seven members of the Bureau and the Chairperson, myself, for the 2014-2016 term of the Bureau.

We have three recommendations and two conclusions. Let me hasten to say that we did have nine side events including a special one on the Ebola virus disease that is affecting Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone. As I said in terms of participation, we had a total of 139 participants representing 111 Members of COAG, five Member Organizations, the whole EC, five UN agencies, six international NGOs and 11 national NGOs.

As I mentioned, we had a very inspiring speech keynote address from His Excellency Danielo Medina from the Dominican Republic. Regarding the first aspect of matters requiring the attention of this

Council, we discussed and agreed and made findings and recommendations on the following issues: family farmers; FAO strategy for improving food safety globally; water governance for agriculture and food security; new data for monitoring investment in agriculture; FAO's work in the food and agricultural sector under the reviewed Strategic Framework; global agenda for sustainable livestock; Report of the second meeting of the plenary assembly of the global soil partnership; and the endorsement of the World Soil Charter (this needs special attention with regard to the endorsement by the meeting today), the Globally Important Agriculture Heritage Systems; and the International Rice Commission's Report.

In terms of the main decisions made by the Committee that have significance on the work of FAO, we have the following:

- The Committee called on FAO to continue its work and the promotion of family farming and its integration into FAO's Strategic Framework and the post-2015 Development Agenda.
- We encouraged FAO to further integrate its work on the sustainability of food systems, including the development of a programme on sustainable food systems to be integrated in a tenure framework of programmes on sustainable consumption and production and in accordance with the rules governing this framework.
- We welcomed and agreed with FAO's approach to building a global agricultural database and firstly sourcing existing country data to reduce costs, duplication and response burden on countries.
- Concerning FAO's work in the food and agricultural sector under the reviewed Strategic Framework, the Committee agreed with the identified trends and emerging issues within the global development context.
- We requested FAO to continue giving high attention to addressing transboundary animal diseases and to provide a report on antimicrobial resistance and the role of FAO, OIE, WHO and other relevant partners detailing actions and a verdict in line with FAO's Strategic Framework to be submitted to the FAO Council and Conference with a draft resolution on the matter.
- Expressed support for the Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems (GIAHS), concept and recognized its contribution to cultural heritage, biological diversity and sustainable development.

The Committee also endorsed the following: the key areas of work identified as core under the FAO Food Safety Strategy; second, the main priorities for food and agriculture that should be taken into account in the review and implementation of action plans and programmes during the 2014-2017 period to achieve FAO's Strategic Objectives, taking into account national and regional specificities and considering different approaches; third, the updated World Soil Charter, this is very important. We need an endorsement on this particular one. Then the Resolution on the International Rice Commission, we agreed that a standing item on rice be included in the Committee on Agriculture's regular Session when appropriate.

In the third part of the main Report are recommendations by the Committee, the first being a recommendation to FAO and its Members and partners to explore new sources of funding to meet the challenges and growing demands on FAO's food safety scientific advice programme. Second, FAO is to play a greater role in contributing to global food chain intelligence in assisting countries to contain the growing threat of antimicrobial resistance and the potential relative impacts on food and agriculture in collaboration with WHO, OIE, the African Union and other partners as appropriate. Third, FAO Member Nations to consider incorporating water governance for food security and sustainable agriculture in their national policies and priority frameworks with due consideration to specific contexts and adversities, as well as in their collaboration with FAO and other partners.

In conclusion, the Committee invites this Council to: take note of the conclusions as I have inter-alia mentioned, as well as, to endorse the recommendations of the 24th Session of the COAG accordingly.

Ms Maria Laura DA ROCHA (Brazil)

The Brazilian delegation would like to point out the important results reached at the 24th Session of the Committee on Agriculture in areas such as family farming, sustainable agriculture, including adaptation to climate change, statistics, animal health, soils, and food safety.

Brazil adopts public policies aimed at supporting family farming, has promoted the theme regionally – in Mercosur and Latin America as a whole – and has integrated the International Steering Committee of the International Year of Family Farming. It has been with great satisfaction that it has promoted the inclusion and discussion of this issue in COAG, and its inclusion on the Organization's agenda. The legacy document of the International Year, adopted in Manila, also points in the direction of keeping the theme alive in the work of FAO, with the broad participation of concerned stakeholders.

Public policies to promote sustainable agriculture are also underway in Brazil. This includes a national programme to lower carbon emissions in the field and adapt agriculture to climate change. The Brazilian experience is proving that sustainable agriculture can both increase productivity and tackle environmental concerns.

Nevertheless, there is no easy track to achieve sound results – and countries must be supportive of each other in the international fora. Firstly, discussions on sustainable agriculture should keep the balance between social, economic and environmental dimensions. Secondly, climate policies for the agricultural sector must focus on resilience and adaptation, to attend to the world's growing demand for food – being, at the same time, fully consistent with the overall guidance provided by the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. Finally, developing countries should not be harmed by unilateral measures which ignore their socio-economic, technical, environmental and climatic characteristics.

In relation to food safety, Brazil supports the strict observance of CODEX standards, which nations should strive to make sure that they continue to be science-based. Brazil, therefore, is opposed to standard setting initiatives that do not take into account the CODEX criteria and standards. Brazil, consequently, supports the important role of FAO as a provider of capacity-building programmes aimed at helping governments, along with other stakeholders, to implement the CODEX standards.

Brazil has welcomed the endorsement by COAG of the Global Soil Partnership and the support to the International Year. Both initiatives provide much needed visibility to such an important issue, which until recently had been somewhat neglected. Brazil hopes that the example given by COAG will help establish the theme more firmly on FAO's agenda, in all its dimensions.

Mr Abdul Razak AYAZI (Afghanistan)

I will try my best to observe the guidelines of the video that we just saw.

Afghanistan is making this intervention on behalf of the Near East Group and I shall try to be brief, but first of all I want to thank The Honourable Minister of Agriculture of Sierra Leone for introducing this agenda item.

I will follow your instructions to confine the statement to the nine bullet points requiring cultural heritage, as stated on pages one and two of document C 2015/21.

One, we strongly support FAO's work related to family farming because it is the cornerstone of sustainable agriculture and we all recognize that sustainable agriculture is embedded in FAO's Strategic Framework and the proposed Goal Two of the Post-2015 Development Agenda.

Two, we wish to see an expansion in the resources of FAO and its partners for food safety to be able to cope with the growing threats of antimicrobial resistance. In this respect, partnership with WHO and OIE is of paramount importance.

Three, given the increasing reliance on groundwater for irrigation, as well as for house use in many parts of the world, we strongly support strengthening FAO's capacity in the governance of groundwater including where the groundwater is shared among countries.

Four, we welcome FAO's initiative in monitoring the flow of investment in agriculture, as well as tracking public expenditure on agriculture and rural development. Filling this gap is of high priority.

Five, we endorse the main priorities related to the mandate of COAG, as included in the reviewed Strategic Framework that we submitted to this Council as information note CL 150/LIM/6, as was requested by the Programme Committee at its 115th Session in May of this year, and which we may discuss under Agenda Item 4. CL 150/LIM/6 lists 26 priorities related to the mandate of COAG under the five Strategic Objectives and under Objective Six.

Six, we urge FAO to continue giving attention to cross-boundary diseases, and in this respect to strengthen its strategic partnership with the OIE.

Seven, we approve the World Soil Charter as presented in Annex B and we applaud that 2015 will be the International Year of Soils and look forward to the concept note on sustainable management of soils resources.

Eight, we wish to see the completion of the draft conference resolution on GIAHS, along with its budgetary implication for presentation to the 39th Session of the FAO Conference.

Nine, we support the suspension of the International Rice Commission, but making sure that rice is included as a standing item in COAG where appropriate. In this connection, we have to say how important rice is for a very large area of the world. I am talking about Asia and Africa.

With these comments, the Near East Group endorses the Report of the 24th Session of the Committee on Agriculture.

Sr. Claudio J. ROZENCWAIG (Argentina)

La República Argentina da la bienvenida al Informe del 24.º período de sesiones del Comité de Agricultura y desea realizar algunos comentarios y reiterar su posición en algunos temas específicos. En relación al párrafo sexto del informe relativo a los agricultores familiares alimentar al mundo-cuidar el planeta, deseamos subrayar que esta es una cuestión sumamente relevante para la Argentina y por ello resaltamos la labor del Comité en este tema.

Nuestro país reconoce la importancia de la agricultura familiar para la seguridad alimentaria y la nutrición, la gestión de los recursos naturales y la economía local por lo que subraya la necesidad de que los estados elaboren y apliquen políticas específicas, programas y estrategias y asociaciones eficaces. Asimismo, reconoce la importancia del establecimiento de criterios comunes para conseguir definiciones y tipologías de agricultura familiar y de perfeccionamiento del análisis y los indicadores clave para evaluar mejor la situación y las tendencias de los diferentes tipos de agricultura familiar.

Con respecto al párrafo 11 del Informe referido a la labor de la FAO en relación con la alimentación y la agricultura de conformidad con el Marco Estratégico Revisado, la Argentina desea señalar lo siguiente: en relación con las tendencias y las cuestiones emergentes como parte del contexto mundial de desarrollo, punto tres del documento, es necesario destacar que en el análisis debería darse más lugar a la cuestión de los accesos a los alimentos pues las principales causas de la inseguridad alimentaria y la malnutrición son la pobreza y la desigual distribución del ingreso, ambas cuestiones relacionadas con el acceso. Por lo tanto, cuando se hace referencia a las tendencias y cuestiones emergentes, es clave pensar en los siguientes desafíos: mejorar los ingresos sobre todo de las poblaciones más vulnerables, reducir la pobreza, mejorar la distribución del ingreso, y fortalecer las políticas que promuevan el empleo y las redes de protección social entre otras.

Todas estas cuestiones están directamente relacionadas con el Objetivo Estratégico 3 del Marco Estratégico de la Organización. Si bien el cambio climático y los temas relacionados con los recursos naturales son importantes de abordar en relación con los desafíos de la seguridad alimentaria, no se debe perder de vista que hoy por hoy el problema del hambre requiere respuestas inmediatas nuevamente lo manifiesto en relación con el acceso y, por lo tanto, el Comité de Agricultura debe incorporar en su programa de trabajo de manera más categórica las cuestiones relacionadas con la dimensión social. Con respecto al párrafo 17 del Informe sobre el Programa de Trabajo Plurianual del Comité, tanto para este Comité como para los otros Comités, se considera apropiado evitar la

proliferación de temas. Lo conveniente es que las labores del Comité se centren en las cuestiones más relevantes para los Estados Miembros que están bajo el mandato del COAG evitando duplicar o prejuzgar discusiones que se dan en otros foros. Esta debería ser una guía para las labores de todos los Comités.

Argentina desea también respaldar lo manifestado por la Delegación de Brasil acerca de la importancia de trabajar fuertemente en lo relativo a la Alianza Internacional de los Suelos.

Por último, con respecto al tema de los SIPAM, la Argentina desea señalar que compartimos las razones que se persiguen en este argumento y que son loables, pero deseamos siempre resaltar que se deberá tener en cuenta que estos no sean utilizados para establecer mecanismos de protección comercial.

Mr Lupiño Jr. LAZARO (Philippines)

The Philippines would like to thank and congratulate the new Chairperson, Minister Joseph Sam Sesay, and the Secretariat for their presentation of the Report on the recent COAG session. We are pleased with the results of the Committee meeting that address a number of issues that are of interest to our delegation, including sustainable product intensification and sustainable food systems, the Global Soil Partnership, MYPOW, the Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems (GIAHS) and the International Rice Commission.

Following your request on time management, we will be focusing our intervention on family farming, for which we are grateful specifically to the former COAG Chair, Ambassador Mario Arvelo, and the Bureau, for its inclusion on the Committee's agenda.

As we cited during our regional group statement at the COAG session, FAO estimates that there are over 500 million family farms worldwide. As it is mentioned in the State of Food and Agriculture in Asia and the Pacific issued this year, family farming is essential for the sustainability of agricultural, forestry, and fishery production systems. In this regard, the group supported the Committee's decision to recognize the importance of family farming for food security and nutrition, natural resource management, rural heritage, including traditional knowledge, reservation and local economy and the development of common criteria for definitions and ecologies of family farming.

Similar to the earlier speakers, Brazil, Afghanistan on behalf of the Near East, and Argentina, our delegation takes particular interest in the call on FAO to continue its work in the promotion of family farming and its integration in the FAO Strategic Framework and the Post-2015 Development Agenda. This becomes truly relevant in light of the recent closing event of the International Year of Family Farming in the Philippines last 27 November. The event caps a campaign initiated by the World Rural Forum, or WRF, back in 2008. The event was co-organized by the Philippine Department of Agriculture, Agrarian Reform and Foreign Affairs. I am delighted to inform the body that the closing event was successfully conducted, realizing its objectives of taking stock of the year's resounding accomplishments and charting the future courses of action in favor of family farming.

One important highlight of the event is the endorsement of the document "Legacy of IYFF 2014 and the way forward", which contains the results of the Year and its vision to help ensure the continuity of the IYFF goals and advocacy even beyond 2014. This document was a part of a series, at times a painstaking process, of deliberation by the IYFF International Steering Committee, or ISC, involving Members, Governments, Farmers' Organizations, Civil Society, the Private Sector, and UN Rome-based Agencies and other intergovernmental organizations. With a common interest at hand and reasonable flexibility, the document was finalized last 13 November. We deeply appreciate the presence of some of the ISC members in the closing event.

Allow us to take this opportunity to express our utmost gratitude to the ISC members and the Secretariat in coming up with the Legacy document, and more importantly, for all the stakeholders for their invaluable contribution and hard work during the year. On the occasion of this Council meeting, we extend special thanks to the FAO, starting with the Director-General, relevant staff, the Task Force and Secretariat, Governing Bodies and Technical Committees, including COFI, COFO, and CCP, aside from COAG, in facilitating and fully supporting the successful conduct of the year.

Finally, as emphasized in the Legacy document, to keep the momentum and follow up on the Legacy of the IYFF 2014, partnership and collaboration at the global level on family farming will have to be maintained. UN-Rome based Agencies, as well as other international organizations and regional institutions, should consider and maintain family farming as an integral element of their agenda and facilitate participation of the representatives of family farmers in their work. One step towards this direction is the COAG decision on its call on FAO to continue its work on the promotion of family farming. And we look forward to the same treatment to the incoming international years on soils and on policies.

With these remarks, the Philippines endorse the Report of the 24th Session of COAG.

Mr Wimol JANTRAROTAI (Thailand)

My delegation acknowledges the work of the 24th Session of COAG. Thailand recognizes the importance of family farming and commends FAO for the initiative.

Family farming plays a vital role, particularly for developing countries in terms of food security, sustainable environment development, poverty alleviation, and rural and organization integrity. We are concerned over the decrease of farmers in the agriculture sectors and scarcity of new generations of young farmers. The uncertainty in agriculture production due to natural disasters, high production costs and price volatility causes farmers to leave the sector. I would like to draw FAO's attention to look into this challenge seriously.

We appreciate FAO's efforts to work on the world governance for agriculture and food security. We would like to see FAO's initiative on the guidelines for the efficient and responsible use of water for agriculture. We recognize the contribution of the Globally Important Agriculture Heritage System to cultural heritage, linked to sustainable agriculture development.

We support that the GIAHS be vested with formal status within FAO's Framework and call for FAO to continue this initiative, and task the Secretariat to provide information regarding the budget implications and its governance arrangements, as suggested by the Finance Committee and Programme Committee.

We are pleased to inform that Thailand is developing a proposal to apply for a GIAHS site. We appreciate the progress made by the Global Soil Partnership in this regard. Thailand engages in promoting sustainable soil management to help improve productivity and the livelihood of farmers, as well as the environment.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank FAO for organizing the upcoming International Year of Soils 2015. Thailand will join and hold many activities to promote the event as part of technology transfer, as well as the adoption of sustainable soil management practices throughout the year. For this reason, during Council the International Year of Soils 2015 will be launched and World Soil Day will be held this Friday, 5 December at 12:45 hours at the Sheikh Zayed Centre.

Finally, we endorse the findings and recommendations of the 24th Session of the Committee on Agriculture.

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

My delegation joins previous speakers in congratulating and thanking the Honourable Minister for his comprehensive report.

In addition, my delegation wishes to acknowledge the significant work undertaken by the Committee on Agriculture and generally endorses its findings and recommendations. We underscore the update of the World Soil Charter, which was developed over 30 years ago, especially in view of new scientific knowledge. Issues such as soil pollution and climate change adaptation have become more prominent and have become a stimulus for the identification of new priorities for follow-up actions. The updated World Soil Charter can become an instrument to facilitate sustainable use of the soil.

Like previous speakers, my delegation supports the findings and recommendations of the COAG encapsulated in this report of its 24th session.

Mr Phil KARSTING (United States of America)

We would like to thank the Secretariat for its hard work in producing the document. The United States remains committed to active cooperation with FAO, in particular at the technical level. We believe that as the world's foremost agricultural technical organization, it is important that the FAO leverage the organization's resources to maximize the impacts of all its activities. We are pleased to agree with all of the findings and recommendations of the Committee. We would like to note a couple of items.

In particular, we are pleased to recognize, together with FAO, the importance of family farming for food security and nutrition, natural resource management, rural heritage, including traditional knowledge preservation and local economy. We would like to encourage FAO to continue its work in the promotion of family farming and its integration in the FAO Strategic Framework and the Post-2015 Development Agenda.

With regard to the new data for monitoring investments in agriculture, we welcome and agree with FAO's efforts to build a global agricultural investment database and harvest existing data to reduce cost, duplication and response burdens on countries.

We also encourage FAO, in strong coordination with Members, to fine-tune the development and testing of new investment indicators. We believe that it is very important that FAO continues supporting countries and enhancing their capacity to collect, compile, manage, and disseminate official agricultural statistics.

In closing, we would like to express our full support for the concept of the Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems and their contribution to cultural heritage, biological diversity and sustainable development. We look forward to receiving, as we agreed, more information about the program and budget implications, as well as governance arrangements, before we consider the draft conference resolution.

Mr Luca FRATINI (Italy)

I am honoured to speak on behalf of the European Union and its 28 Member States. The candidate countries to the EU, Albania and Turkey, align themselves with this statement.

The EU and its Member States thank the Secretariat for the preparation and organization of the 24th Session of the FAO Committee on Agriculture. In this context, we would stress the importance of continuing work on the Strategic Framework, including the setting of priorities. This is reflected in the revised MYPOW for 2014-2017 and is of critical importance for achieving the FAO's Strategic Objectives.

We endorse the report, which shows that the Committee on Agriculture has strengthened its pivotal role in the FAO's work. We welcome the progress made by the FAO towards a more holistic approach that integrates economic, social and environmental sustainability with production, including the need for complementary actions along the food chains and sustainable diets, and the need for the agricultural sector to cope with climate change. In this regard, we welcome the alignment of the priorities identified in the Strategic Objectives, as set out in document CL 150/LIM/6.

Emphasis needs to be placed on work in the following areas: family farming, sustainable agriculture, food safety, animal diseases, soils, water and statistics. We look forward to further discussion on these priorities in the context of the Programme of Work and Budget for 2016-2017 at the next Conference.

Regarding the Global Soil Partnership, we endorse the World Soil Charter and look forward to participating actively in the future partnership.

As regards the FAO Food Safety Strategy and the Global Agenda for Sustainable Livestock, we endorse the increasingly important role that the FAO is to play in contributing to global food chain intelligence. In close cooperation with OIE and within its joint work with WHO and in Codex Alimentarius Commission, FAO should also assist countries to contain the growing threat of antimicrobial resistance (AMR) and the potential negative impacts on food and agriculture. We are looking forward to a Resolution on AMR at the Conference in 2015.

We also welcome the Committee's recommendations on the Global Agenda for Sustainable Livestock, in particular the request to the FAO that it consider issues relating to coordination with other initiatives, representation and membership, the clarification of the respective roles, and the reporting by the Global Agenda to the COAG.

We are also pleased with the support given to the integration of activities related to family farming.

We underline the need to respect the new rules of procedure, as amended during the last COAG session. We are certain that such arrangements will help COAG to fulfill its mandate and we look forward to further evaluating the results of the new arrangements. While the Chair is to be elected *ad personam*, the Bureau Members should exercise their functions in close consultation with the Regional Groups that they represent. The Chair should continuously and effectively liaise with the Bureau and the Secretariat; we insist, moreover, that nominations for the office of Chair be based on merits and cost efficiency. As a general principle, we would recall the practice of equitable rotation of the office of Chair.

Mr Eun Jeong LEE (Republic of Korea)

I would like to convey my appreciation for the presentation of this most informative and excellent report by the Chairperson of the Committee on Agriculture. The Republic of Korea strongly believes that the word "governance" is becoming important to sustain our agriculture and secure food security. In this regard, I would like FAO to establish the Regional Initiative on Water Governance taking into consideration the water management situation of each region and country.

In the context of national and regional environment and climate conditions, FAO is also requested to participate more actively in the consultation and the debate process on water governance. For reference, the Republic of Korea will host the Seventh World Water Forum next year to deliberate on the barriers and issues related to water. Therefore, I would like to invite all the Member Countries to actively participate in this meaningful meeting.

Additionally, I would like to encourage FAO's initiative for smallholder farmers and indigenous peoples: it is very important to appreciate their contributions towards sustainable agriculture.

Sra. Maria Eulalia JIMENEZ ZEPEDA (El Salvador)

Agradecemos al Ministro de Agricultura, Silvicultura y Seguridad Alimentaria de Sierra Leona por la presentación de este Informe. Aprovecho esta ocasión para expresar nuestro agradecimiento también al Presidente anterior del COAG, el Embajador Mario Arvelo de la República Dominicana por el excelente trabajo realizado al frente del Comité de Agricultura.

La Delegación de El Salvador respalda las conclusiones y recomendaciones del 24 período de sesiones del Comité de Agricultura.

De manera particular, respaldamos lo señalado sobre la gobernanza del agua en favor de la agricultura y la seguridad alimentaria y lo relativo a la importancia de la agricultura familiar para la seguridad sanitaria y la nutrición.

Tal como informamos en la reciente Segunda Conferencia Internacional sobre Nutrición, el Parlamento Salvadoreño trabaja en la ratificación de la reforma constitucional relativa al reconocimiento tácito del derecho al agua y a la alimentación adecuada, así como también debate la aprobación de la ley de soberanía y seguridad alimentaria nutricional. El objetivo que buscamos es dar rango constitucional a estos derechos inherentes a los seres humanos.

Expresamos nuestro respaldo al papel de la FAO sobre la alimentación y la agricultura dentro del Marco Estratégico Revisado y en ese sentido agradecemos el apoyo que esta Organización ha proporcionado a El Salvador en este tema.

Para concluir, deseo respaldar lo indicado en este Informe sobre la Carta Mundial de los Suelos Actualizada. Confiamos en que el 2015, Año Internacional de los Suelos, será un éxito y permitirá hacer conciencia sobre la importancia de los suelos para la agricultura y la seguridad alimentaria.

En este sentido, respaldamos plenamente los señalados hace unos momentos por Brasil y Argentina en esta sala.

Sr. Manuel CLAROS OVIEDO (Venezuela)

La República Bolivariana de Venezuela agradece la presentación del documento C 2015/21 mediante el cual se reflejan los resultados del 24.º período de sesiones del COAG que ha realizado el Ministro de Agricultura de Sierra Leona.

Al igual que las delegaciones que me precedieron en el uso de la palabra, queremos igualmente expresar al Presidente y a la mesa del 24.º período de sesiones, nuestra felicitación por la organización de los trabajos que concluyeron con éxito.

En especial modo, deseamos destacar la importante participación que tuvo el Presidente de la República Dominicana, Su Excelencia Danilo Medina, quien presentó ante el COAG la experiencia de su país en la implementación de políticas para la erradicación del hambre y la pobreza.

En cuanto a las recomendaciones que se presentan a consideración del Consejo, reiteramos nuestro respaldo a favor de la labor de promoción de la agricultura familiar y la integración de la misma en el Marco Estratégico de la FAO y la Agenda para el Desarrollo después de 2015. En este ámbito, mi país ha formulado un plan nacional de agricultura familiar y cuenta aproximadamente con más de 300.000 predios dedicados a este tipo de agricultura, lo que ha permitido promover y fortalecer la organización de los productores, rescatar y a la vez fomentar los haberes ancestrales en el ámbito agrícola.

En ese sentido, apoyamos el trabajo que viene desarrollando la Organización para el establecimiento de criterios comunes para que permitan fijar definiciones y tipologías de agricultura familiar y del perfeccionamiento del análisis y los indicadores clave para evaluar mejor la situación y el impacto de los planes nacionales en este ámbito. Creemos que de esta manera los gobiernos podrán perfeccionar e implementar políticas acorde con los contextos nacionales.

También reiteramos el llamado a la FAO para perfeccionar los trabajos en curso sobre la gestión del agua y sus procesos, para integrar más la relación entre el agua y la seguridad alimentaria y la agricultura sostenible. El enfoque que se indica en el informe de pleno derecho a la soberanía nacional y en colaboración con las iniciativas y asociaciones existentes nos parece adecuado.

Como hicimos en el Informe anterior, deseamos reiterar que el concepto de agricultura climáticamente inteligente que se utilizó en varios documentos del pasado período de Sesiones del COAG no goza de consenso en el sistema de Naciones Unidas; por lo tanto, consideramos se debe ser sumamente cuidadoso en su utilización. Nuestra Delegación considera que al abordar materias relacionadas con el cambio climático tales como los procesos de adaptación y mitigación al mismo debe siempre reconocerse el rol primario de la Convención Marco de Naciones Unidas sobre el cambio climático y sus principios. Entre ellos, el de las responsabilidades comunes pero diferenciadas.

Finalmente tomamos nota de la propuesta para elaborar una nota de exposición de concepto sobre la gestión sostenible de los suelos con el apoyo del Grupo Técnico Intergubernamental sobre los Suelos con vistas a presentarla en la siguiente Asamblea Plenaria de la Alianza Mundial de los Suelos y el Consejo de la FAO.

También reconocemos los avances que ha habido para el establecimiento del Sistema de Patrimonio Agrícola Mundial, SIPAM, mediante un proyecto de resolución a ser presentado a la Conferencia en 2015. El SIPAM es muy importante porque creemos que lo es como mecanismo que permite asegurar el patrimonio cultural, la diversidad biológica y el desarrollo sostenible.

Considerando también que la Comisión Internacional del Arroz ha suspendido sus actividades, respaldamos la decisión del Comité de incluir un tema permanente sobre el arroz en el programa COAG cuando así proceda.

Finalmente, deseamos el mayor de los éxitos a la nueva mesa del COAG presidida por Sierra Leona quien se encargará de la preparación del próximo período de sesiones.

Mr Mohammed S. SHERIFF (Liberia)

Liberia is requesting the floor for Sierra Leone who will speak on behalf of the Africa Group.

Liberia would like to congratulate the Chair of COAG for his election and the well presented and comprehensive report. We will also join others to commend Ambassador Mario Arvelo for his good work.

We will now pass the floor on to Sierra Leone to make a statement on behalf of the Africa Group on the report of COAG, which Liberia also endorses.

Mr Jongopie Siaka STEVENS (Observer for Sierra Leone)

Sierra Leone is taking the floor on behalf of the Africa Group. I would like to congratulate the Chair of the Committee on Agriculture and the Secretariat for the excellent report presented.

We fully endorse the findings and recommendations of the Committee which have been well articulated by the Chairperson. We recognize the importance of family farming for food security and nutrition, natural resource management, rural heritage, including traditional knowledge preservation, and local economy, as well as the need to develop and implement specific policies, programmes, and effective strategies and partnerships.

We support the development of key analyses and indicators to better assess the status of the different types of family farming, including access to market, and therefore call on FAO to continue promoting family farming and its integration in the FAO's Strategic Framework and Development Agenda.

We support FAO's work on local adoption of Sustainable Production Intensification practices, value chain and methodologies to assess and reduce food losses and waste in support of sustainable food systems.

We encourage FAO to integrate further its work on Sustainable Food Systems to be integrated in the Ten-Year Framework of Programmes.

We also endorse the following: FAO's Strategy for Improving Food Safety Globally, Water Governance for Agriculture and Food Security, and New Data for Monitoring Investment in Agriculture.

Sierra Leone also endorses the Global Agenda for Sustainable Livestock, the Global Eradication Programme, the Report of the Second Meeting of the Plenary Assembly of the Global Soil Partnership, the Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems, and the International Rice Commission.

Finally, the Africa Group endorses the report of the 24th Session of the Committee on Agriculture, and therefore requests Council to endorse it *en bloc* as presented by His Excellency Sam Sesay, the Chairperson of COAG.

Sra. Maria De Lourdes CRUZ TRINIDAD (México)

Primeramente, quisiera expresar el agradecimiento de México a la FAO por el reconocimiento otorgado a mi país por avanzar hacia el primer Objetivo de Desarrollo del Milenio, de erradicar el hambre antes del plazo límite de finales del 2015.

Agradecemos el documento C2015/21, mediante el cual se refleja el Informe del 24.º período de sesiones del Comité de Agricultura, apoyamos el contenido del mismo en sus conclusiones y recomendaciones. Coincidimos en la importancia de la agricultura familiar para la seguridad alimentaria y la nutrición, así como la necesidad de que se elaboren y apliquen políticas y programas específicos para su apoyo, por lo que se alienta a la FAO a continuar su esfuerzo de promoción de la agricultura familiar y de su integración en el Marco del Plan Estratégico de la FAO y en la Agenda para el Desarrollo después del 2015.

Apoyamos la Carta Mundial de los Suelos actualizada y esperamos trabajar en ello. En cuanto a las actividades de la Organización para mejorar la inocuidad de los alimentos, se respalda el papel de la FAO en los Programas de facilitación del comercio. Lo relevante de este tema, reside en garantizar

que el abasto de los productos agroalimentarios se den en condiciones inmejorables para su consumo, por lo cual se apoya la recomendación de que la FAO desempeñe un papel destacado en la contribución a la información sobre la cadena alimentaria a nivel mundial y en la prestación de asistencia a los países en esta materia; así como en explorar nuevas fuentes de financiamiento con el propósito de abordar el desafío para el impulso del Programa de asesoramiento científico sobre inocuidad de los alimentos. Con ello, México refrenda este informe.

Mr Jingyuan XIA (China) (Original language Chinese)

First of all, I would like to thank the elected Chair and thank him for his work. The 24th Session of COAG was quite successful and the report was excellent.

The China delegation supports adopting the Report. It is fair to point out that in recent years, FAO has done a great deal in awareness raising of family farming, promoting sustainable production in desertification, improving sustainable food system, improving global strategy for global food safety, monitoring investments in agriculture, implementing global agenda for sustainable livestock including numerous global eradication program as well as this. Besides, FAO has done also a lot in building the Global Soil Partnership, as well as water governance for agriculture and food security. The China delegation highly appreciates and supports the Secretariat in the related area and we hope the Secretariat will continue its efforts.

With regard to the GIAHS, the United States delegation, the delegation of the Philippines and the delegation of the Africa Group all speak in favor of this work. As you all know, China has always appreciated efforts made by FAO in this area. Last September the China Delegation had consultations with the Deputy Director-General and ADG of FAO that USD two million should be transferred from the South-South Cooperation into the GIAHS project. As you all know, China's Premier has made a promise to contribute USD 50 million in the future five years. I think with this sum of money we also support the work in areas of GIAHS.

We hope that the Secretariat will live up to the expectations of all Member Nations. Before the meeting in March of the Programme Committee and Finance Committee and the Council, the Secretariat should submit a programme to modify the Conference resolution particularly regarding the funding, the budget and governance arrangement. That means by the end of February, the modification work will have to be finished. Only after discussion and adoption at the meeting of the Programme and Finance Committees and Council next March can we submit it for adoption for the next Conference. Otherwise, our work of two years will be lost. Therefore, we urge the Secretariat to accelerate the work in this view.

Mr Ivan G. KONSTANTINOPOLSKIY (Russian Federation) (Original language Russian)

We note the importance of the decisions of the 24th Session of the Committee on Agriculture and support the development of this key sector for guaranteeing food security, nutrition and poverty reduction in rural areas. We also note with satisfaction the wealth of committed debate at the last session. We especially would like to stress the significance of the global agenda for sustainable livestock adopted by the Committee. We also advocate the strengthening of the Global PPR Control and Eradication Programme. We support the decision to improve the management of this programme. For its part, Russia is ready to make a contribution to implementation of the programme through the involvement in its work of leading Russian veterinary research centers.

We would again like to draw attention to the importance of soil protection and sustainable management of this unique natural resource. We agree with the approval by Council of the updated World Soil Charter. We also support the development, with the participation of the intergovernmental technical panel on soils, of a concept note on the issues of national use of soil resources for submission to the next plenary assembly of the Global Soil Partnership and the session of the FAO Council.

Mr Seerat ASGHAR (Pakistan)

We thank the Chairperson of the Committee on Agriculture for his able stewardship of the 24th COAG session and for his presentation. Pakistan endorses the recommendations of the report.

Family farming remains the backbone of agriculture globally. Therefore, we support the recommendation by the Committee on Agriculture that FAO should promote family farming and integrate it in its Strategic Framework.

Water governance and management is another area where FAO can offer support to developing countries. FAO should further refine its proposed work on water governance, as well as ongoing work in water management. However, attention to water governance should not come at the cost of water management, which may still be relevant for a number of countries. In this regard the Organization should fully respect national sovereignty.

Livestock is an important sector for ensuring food security, sustainable development and poverty alleviation. Livestock contributes over 11 percent of Pakistan's GDP. We underscore the need for further investments in the sector and greater attention by FAO towards capacity building to enable it to play a greater role in poverty alleviation. We look at the Global Agenda for sustainable development of livestock with a lot of interest. FAO should ensure that the Agenda comprehensively addresses the sector's contribution to sustainable food and agriculture with due regard to the balanced treatment of the three pillars of sustainable development.

Antimicrobial resistance (AMR) and trans-boundary animal diseases are posing serious challenges to the livestock sector particularly in developing countries. FAO must assist these countries in developing strategies and capacities to counter AMR. We therefore, support the proposal which was made by the European Union in COAG that FAO should produce a report on AMR for the FAO Conference next year.

We also support the "*Peste des Petits Ruminants* Global Eradication Programme" as well as the governance structure outlined in the relevant document of COAG. The programme must focus on capacity building and financing needs of the concerned countries to tackle this challenge. PPR is causing an annual loss of USD 342 million to Pakistan and its eradication is certainly very important for many countries of the world.

Mme Diane Mariam KONE (Mali)

Je félicite également le travail accompli par le Comité de l'agriculture. Le Mali adhère parfaitement aux propositions du Groupe Afrique, mais nous souhaitons simplement souligner quelques points. En effet, comme cela a été dit par le Groupe Afrique, l'agriculture familiale, l'intensification durable et les systèmes alimentaires durables, le Programme mondial pour un élevage durable, le Programme mondial d'éradication de la peste des petits ruminants sont extrêmement importants, mais tout en prêtant attention aux autres maladies, surtout les maladies transfrontalières qui viennent d'être mentionnées par le Pakistan.

Le Mali retient les propositions avancées pour la Commission internationale du riz. Cela signifie la fin de la Commission internationale, mais une attention particulière continuera à être donnée au riz.

Nous saluons également la rencontre qui va se tenir en 2015 sur les sols, compte tenu de la situation durable des sols dans nos États. Enfin, nous demandons à ce que le Codex Alimentarius continue à être une préoccupation de la FAO. Et comme d'autres l'ont dit, nous adhérons parfaitement à toutes les recommandations du Comité.

Mr Matthew WORRELL (Australia)

Australia is happy to support the COAG meeting Report. I'd like to just make a few comments to reiterate Australia's position on a number of key programmatic and budgetary issues in the Report. Firstly on family farming, Australia recognizes the importance of family farming and the Australian government believes that a vibrant innovative and competitive agriculture sector will create jobs, encourage investment and help build strong rural and regional communities.

We believe that the types of government policies to support family farmers are those that assist the farm sector become more competitive, profitable and sustainable. We recognize that family farms in developing countries can face specific challenges including in relation to access to finance, high post-

harvest losses and integration into markets and value chains. These are all issues that FAO and the international community should work with national governments to address.

Australia's views on the appropriate policy mix to support the family farming sector is consistent with our view on the best approach to achieving global food security. That is, it requires a comprehensive approach that targets the immediate needs of the poorest while strengthening the foundations of long-term global food security including through open and efficient global markets to maximize food trade flow, increased focus on sustainable agricultural productivity, increased investment in agriculture including research and development, and emergency assistance of social protection for the most vulnerable.

In relation to FAO's strategy for improving food safety, specifically the financial arrangements for supporting the food safety scientific programme, Australia in principle supports exploring new sources of funding to be allocated for FAO's Food Safety Scientific Programme. This is a joint issue with the World Health Organization as the expert bodies that provide scientific advice to Member Countries and the Elementary's Commission operate under both FAO and WHO. Any actions taken by FAO to protect the budget for providing scientific advice should also be taken by the WHO, despite its different budgetary framework.

Australia supports new funding sources to be explored such as nongovernmental sources to fill this funding gap and supports a model where funding is not reliant on Member Countries extra budgetary contributions. Australia is a strong supporter of the Global Soil Partnership. Recently we've supported some meetings in our region to support the development of a regional soils partnership, and we therefore support Council's endorsement of the updated World Soil Charter.

Lastly, we look forward to the requested information on the financial programmatic and governance arrangements for the proposal to formalize the GIAHS resolution. We agree with Argentina's comments that GIAHS must not be used to establish trade protecting measures.

Mr Seerat ASGHAR (Pakistan)

I just wanted to add one more point. In addition to the PPR, which is primarily the disease of the small ruminants, in Pakistan we would also like to add Foot-and-Mouth Disease as a threat to cross-boundary trade. We would like to urge FAO to found a comprehensive strategy for the control of Foot-and-Mouth Disease, which is a big threat to the international trade on livestock.

Ms Marieta OKENKOVA (Observer for Slovakia)

Slovakia is a great supporter of family farming, as the previous speakers.

Mr Brian EVANS (Observer for the World Organization for Animal Health)

Thank you to the Council for granting OIE, the World Organization for Animal Health, the opportunity to reinforce to the Council the interdependent and valued relationship that exists between OIE and FAO. We believe that the Report of the Committee on Agriculture, which demonstrates in several areas including food safety, antimicrobial resistance, the global agenda as well as the global eradication program for PPR all reference the critical nature of synergistic and collaborative activities between FAO and OIE to achieve the desired outcomes.

We wish to reinforce our availability, our collaboration and our full support to the efforts of the FAO in these areas. We recognize the many comments made by members participating in the COAG meeting around the governance framework for the global eradication of PPR, utilizing the existing GF tads, the global framework for progressive control of trans-border animal diseases that exist between the FAO and the OIE as the critical oversight mechanism supported by the Secretariat proposed in order to work with the regions and Member Countries affected.

We commit our role as OIE for both the official disease reporting of our respective Member Nations, our work in establishing official procedures for official recognition of disease status, our standard setting for vaccine quality and finally our established procedures in working with shared donors in establishing vaccine banks to that programme with our full effort and our full support.

Thank you to the Council and thank you to the Members of both COAG and the Council in recognizing the role that OIE will play going forward in a positive and constructive way with our FAO partners.

Mr Joseph Sam SESAY (Chairperson, Committee on Agriculture)

We very much appreciate the kind sentiments expressed on the Report and I have valued the overwhelming endorsement of the Report. I must note that there have been very popular topics. Family farming has been extremely popular among the speakers and the Philippines has talked about a legacy document on the subject. The World Soil Charter is also another one mentioned by Trinidad and Tobago as it was developed 20 years ago.

The other topics are food and nutrition. Maybe this is a reflection of the recently concluded ICN2, but I must say on behalf of COAG that I highly appreciate the commitment made by China to transfer up to USD 50 million in support of South-South Cooperation, as well as the commitment made also by Russia that has promised to contribute to the programme on the livestock promotion. Having these two commitments is very important. As much as we deliberate on the issues here, the fact of getting resources to implement what we discuss and agree here is very important. So I want to heartily thank both China and Russia for their commitment in terms of assisting to fund some of these activities.

Generally, I think there are no topical issues or questions that I have to address on behalf of COAG other than the comments I have mentioned *inter alia* except if the Secretariat has more issues to quote.

Mr Jingyuan XIA (China) (Original language Chinese)

Talking about the transfer from the Chinese contribution to the GIAHS, I said that in September our officials from the Ministry of International Cooperation talked with the ADG and the Deputy Director-General of FAO.

In their consultation, they talked about the transfer of USD two million for the GIAHS. This amount of money will be used on work related to GIAHS. The amount of USD 50 million that I mentioned, was committed by our Prime Minister for FAO in the next five years. We might transfer some amount from that contribution as well. I just wanted to clarify that we are not contributing USD 50 million dollars for the GIAHS.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you, China, for that clarification and for making the resources available in FAO.

Mr Ren WANG (Assistant Director-General, Agriculture and Consumer Protection Department)

I would like to take this opportunity just to make a few remarks.

First of all, on behalf of the Secretariat, we very much appreciate the excellent leadership of the former Chairperson of COAG, Ambassador Arvelo from the Dominican Republic. Under his able leadership COAG was capable of organizing and presenting the portfolio of the agenda for the 24th Session, which had a really rich programme of work. This has been again demonstrated through the comments and the endorsements of today's session and it so very much appreciated. Besides, we value the strong endorsement and support of the Distinguished Delegates today in your remarks on the recommendations of COAG.

We are also very grateful for the excellent presentation made by His Excellency Minister Sesay and for his response, and we look forward to working with him under his leadership in the next two years of COAG.

On substantive issues, there was the comment from Afghanistan on calling FAO to continue our work in addressing transboundary animal diseases, which was also echoed by a number of other delegates.

In the light of that we have heard the statement from our colleague Brian Evans from OIE, Deputy Director-General of OIE who has stated a strong collaboration between our two Organizations as well as the tripartite cooperation with WHO. We appreciate that very much. This is also a response from the Secretariat, we reply to your calls and the advice to strengthen our partnership with OIE in particular.

I will not repeat the excellent comments that our Chair, His Excellency Minister Sesay made regarding comments on family farming. That is our commitment as the Secretariat not only to continue supporting and implementing the approaches and guidelines, but also to keep track on the progress made in family farming, promoting family farming as requested by Argentina, for instance.

Your Excellency we appreciate your endorsement very much, on FAO's or Secretariat's work to implement a strategy for strengthening or improving food safety globally. That is really a high priority for FAO and we will implement it. I do not think there is anything to add further.

Finally, perhaps just a few words to respond to the comment made by Venezuela regarding the COAG recommendation. There was a discussion on the Climate-Smart Agriculture with other UN climate change negotiations, in particular the UNFCCC.

I would like just to clarify that FAO, as you know, initiated or developed, in collaboration with other partners, the concept of Climate-Smart Agriculture, which had no intention at all of duplicating or in conflicting or interfering with any of the formal UN climate change negotiations, in particular UNFCCC.

FAO is not a member of the UN climate change discussions or UNFCCC, but we believe that our activities through implementing this approach of Climate-Smart Agriculture would contribute and provide a support to the formal negotiations. Therefore, I think there is no need really for confusion for the Climate-Smart Agriculture with regard to the formal negotiations. Climate-Smart Agriculture is not part of the UN negotiations.

Mr Berhe TEKOLA (Director, Animal Production and Health Division)

I would like to thank and reassure Pakistan that FAO, along with the OIE, we are on the right track of combating Foot-and-Mouth disease as well.

As you know, PPR eradication or control strategy is to be launched soon in Côte d'Ivoire. The same strategy has been done for FMD recently in Bangkok, Thailand, where the progressive control for FMD has been already launched. In that regard, we are working in close collaboration with OIE and other partners.

I can assure you that we are on the right track and we will gradually inform you the status of both FMD and PPR eradication or control strategy.

Mr Moujahed ACHOURI (Director, Land and Water Division)

I would like to thank you very much for endorsing the World Soil Charter. It is important to stress the direct link between the World Soil Day, which is 5 December and, of course, the International Year of Soils 2015.

Coming to the Water Governance, I thank you very much for endorsing the findings and recommendations, and I would like to outline that we will strengthen water governance taking into account your suggestions. We heard your comments about ground water and how FAO should strengthen its activities on this. We also take note that this will not be at the expense of integrated water management.

As regards the Globally Important Agriculture Heritage Systems, I would like to thank the Member Nations for their support. We heard today that about USD 2 million were already transferred for the implementation of the Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems.

CHAIRPERSON

I want to thank the Minister Dr. Sesay and the Secretariat. I would also like to join the others in thanking Ambassador Mario Arvelo, of the Dominican Republic, the outgoing Chairperson of COAG, for his good and hard work.

I can now draw my conclusions as follows:

1. The Council endorsed the conclusions and recommendations contained in the Report of the 24th Session of the Committee on Agriculture, and in particular:

- a) the key areas of work of the FAO Food Safety Strategy;
- b) the updated World Soil Charter;
- c) the support to Members in collecting new data for monitoring investment in agriculture by enhancing their capacity to collect, compile, manage and disseminate official agricultural statistics;
- d) the call on FAO to continue its work in the promotion of family farming and its integration in the FAO Strategic Framework and the Post-2015 Development Agenda;
- e) the suspension by the Rice Commission of all its activities, agreeing that a standing item on rice be included on the agenda of the regular session of the Committee on Agriculture; and
- f) FAO's work in the food and agriculture sector under the reviewed Strategic Framework.

2. The Council recommended that the Organization support Members in incorporating water governance for food security and sustainable agriculture in their national policies and priority frameworks.

3. The Council requested that FAO play a greater role in contributing to global food chain intelligence and in assisting countries to contain the growing threat of antimicrobial resistance, as well as the potential negative impacts on food and agriculture. In this regard, the Council requested that antimicrobial resistance be on the agenda of the 151st Session of the FAO Council, supported by a document setting out the role of FAO and its partners and that a related draft resolution be submitted to the 39th FAO Conference in June 2015.

4. The Council reiterated its general support for the Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems (GIAHS) and requested that the related budgetary implications be submitted to Members' review before the 39th FAO Conference in June 2015.

Thank you. Sub-item 3.3 is now concluded.

Item 3.4 Report of the 70th Session of the Committee on Commodity Problems (7-9 October 2014)
Point 3.4 Rapport de la soixante-dixième session du Comité des produits (7-9 octobre 2014)
Tema 3.4 Informe del 70.º período de sesiones del Comité de Problemas de Productos Básicos
(7-9 de octubre de 2014)
 (C 2015/22)

CHAIRPERSON

We now turn to sub item 3.4, *Report of the 70th Session of the Committee on Commodity Problems* held in Rome from 7 to 9 October 2014. The relevant document is C 2015/22.

I give the floor to Her Excellency Ambassador Maria Laura da Rocha, who was elected Chairperson by the 70th Session of the Committee on Commodity Problems, to present the report.

Ms Maria Laura DA ROCHA (Chairperson, Committee on Commodity Problems)

It is a great pleasure for me to present to you the report of the last Session of the Committee on Commodity Problems.

The 70th Session of the CCP took place from 7 to 9 October 2014. It was attended by 98 Members of the Committee, including 14 Ministers. In addition, 14 FAO Member Nations, including nine Ministers, the Holy See, one UN organization, four specialized agencies, ten intergovernmental organizations and one NGO participated as Observers.

The Session covered several agenda items that were grouped under four major areas: state of world agricultural markets; policy developments; reform of the CCP and Subsidiary Bodies; and international action on agricultural commodities.

All the items were covered during the planned time, with high interest by the Members.

Furthermore, three side events were organized during the Session: the first on the "Mitigating and adaptation measures for the control of banana fusarium wilt tropical race four (TR4)", organized by

the Intergovernmental Group on Bananas and Tropical Fruits; the second on “Tackling pulse markets and stability”, organized by the Global Pulse Confederation; and the third on “The role of smallholder and family farming in sustainable commodity development and global food security”, organized by FAO and UNCTAD.

The Committee appreciated the content and substance of the documents prepared for the Session and expressed its support to the work undertaken by the Secretariat in the area of agricultural commodity markets and trade.

The agenda covered a broad range of important items related to commodity markets and trade. In addition to reviewing market developments and short- and medium-term outlooks, the Committee deliberated on a various policy related issues, including WTO trade negotiations, import surges, and food stocks and price volatility.

I am very pleased to report also on the consensus that had prevailed throughout the Session and the constructive discussions that took place under the various agenda items.

On the CCP reform, the Committee approved further amendments to the Rules of Procedure with the view to improve its functioning and working arrangements.

The Committee had also reviewed the recommendations regarding the future of the Intergovernmental Commodity Groups (IGGs), which are sub-committees of the CCP, and agreed that only the IGG on Tea, the IGG on Hard Fibres and the IGG on Jute, Kenaf and Allied Fibres should continue to meet on a regular basis. The remaining six IGGs should only meet on a “when required” basis.

The Committee agreed with the presented trends and emerging issues in the area of markets and trade and endorsed the main identified priorities to be taken into account in the review and implementation of action plans and programmes during the 2014-17 period.

The Committee also received the Chair’s summary of the Ministerial Meeting on Governance and International Commodity Markets, which was held on 6 October 2014. The Committee welcomed the Chair’s summary and underlined the importance of the issues reflected in it, urging FAO to give due consideration to them.

One particular conclusion that had emerged from the Ministerial Meeting and the 70th Session of the Committee is the importance and relevance of the CCP. There was a shared view that the CCP could play a bigger role and become a more inclusive platform, not only to debate on commodity-related problems but also to identify appropriate solutions and provide guidance on policy related issues.

The various points that need the attention of the Council are listed in the decision box in the first page of document C 2015/22.

More specifically, the Council is kindly invited to:

- welcome the Chair’s summary of the Ministerial Meeting on Governance and International Commodity Markets (6 October 2014), underline the importance of the issues reflected in the Chair’s summary, in particular the significant role played by the CCP, and urge FAO to give due consideration to it;
- underline the importance of market developments and the short-term outlook for food and agricultural commodities, and their relevance to world food security, commend the role played by FAO in providing up-to-date market information and review and in promoting increased market transparency, and encourage the Organization to enhance its capacity building role in this area;
- call for the close monitoring of the trends and challenges facing food and agricultural commodities over the medium term, drawing particular attention to issues related to food labeling and standards, and encourage the expansion of coverage to include additional commodities when possible;

- stress the importance of medium-term commodity market projections as an essential tool for policy debate and planning, and welcome OECD-FAO collaboration on the medium-term outlook work as an example of a successful partnership;
- welcome FAO's technical assistance in relation to the WTO negotiations on agriculture, namely the provision of analysis, capacity development to countries, and the facilitation of *fora* for open debate away from the negotiating table;
- welcome the attention given to the topic of food stocks and price volatility, and recognize that FAO should continue to research the relationship between stocks and prices in the context of a comprehensive analysis of all factors influencing price volatility;
- recommend that continued technical assistance should be provided to developing countries in understanding the implications of increasing food imports in the context of higher global food prices, and that discussion and analysis on appropriate trade policy actions in the face of increasing imports should be facilitated;
- agree that: the Intergovernmental Group (IGG) on Tea should continue to meet on a regular basis; the IGG on Hard Fibres and the IGG on Jute, Kenaf and Allied Fibres should continue to hold regular joint meetings; and the remaining IGGs (Grains; Rice; Oilseeds, Oils and Fats; Meat and Dairy Products; Bananas and Tropical Fruits; and Citrus) should only meet on a "when required" basis;
- endorse the main priorities for work in the area of trade and markets to be taken into account in the review and implementation of action plans and programmes during 2014-17 to achieve FAO's Strategic Objectives, taking into consideration national and regional specificities;
- welcome the progress made with regard to the implementation of the Agricultural Market Information System (AMIS), noting its relevance to the activities of the Committee, and encourage its further strengthening.

Last but not least, I would like to thank the former CCP Bureau Members for their hard work and able leadership, which have enabled us to have a very successful CCP Session.

Mr Yohannes TENSUE (Eritrea)

I would like to express my appreciation for the comprehensive and excellent presentation made by Her Excellency the Chairperson of the CCP. Eritrea is speaking on behalf of the Africa Group on the report of the 70th Session of the CCP which was held from 7 to 9 October 2014.

The Director-General in his opening statement stressed the importance of the work of the Committee to FAO's reviewed Strategic Framework and expressed the commitment of the Organization to raising the profile of the CCP and make it an authoritative body on issues of agriculture, commodities and trade.

The Committee welcomes the reports of the Ministerial Meeting on governance and international commodity markets presented by Minister for Agriculture of Tunisia. The major market developments and short-term outlook for basic food commodities and for raw materials, horticulture and tropical products were reviewed. The important role played by FAO in providing up-to-date market information was well appreciated. Countries were urged to increase their efforts to improve the quality and timeliness of data and estimates of production.

With regard to the reform of the CCP and subsidiary bodies, for several years some countries were in the opinion of changing the name, especially the word "problem", but they didn't come up with a proposed change of name. During the last session, a new name such as "The Committee on Commodity Prospectus" was proposed. The Committee recommended that the Bureau should examine the name of the CCP and present their recommendations to the 71st Session of the CCP, including the revised rules and procedures which were adopted.

As far as the review of the CCP subsidiary bodies, the Committee agreed to mandate the Bureau of the CCP to the creation of an open-ended working group to carry out the required review on the

Consultative Subcommittee on Surplus Disposal and present its recommendations for consideration by CCP at its 71st session.

As to the Intergovernmental Community Group, it was recommended that wherever possible, meetings of the IGG should be combined for efficiency savings. The International Rice Commission suspended all its activities and operations in 2013. There was a wide range of unpleasantness with its suspension. Realizing the magnitude of consumers who have rice as their staple food and its impact on countries economy, it was agreed that a standing item on rice be included also in the CCP regular sessions as it was in the COAG when appropriate.

The African Group endorses the report, conclusions and recommendations of the 70th Session of CCP.

Mr Eric ROBINSON (Canada)

I would just like to take this opportunity to again congratulate the new Chair and Bureau as they take on the important role of steering the CCP over the next two years, and to again thank the Members of the outgoing Bureau and the Secretariat for their collaboration during my own term as Chair.

As noted in the CCP report, more than 100 developing countries depend on primary commodities, in particular agricultural commodities, for the bulk of their export earnings. Commodity trade is an essential source of job creation, income generation, and food security, as well as government revenues.

The 70th CCP did some important work and I trust that its conclusions and recommendations with respect to statistics and market information, food labelling and standards, access to markets, trade negotiations, related technical assistance, partnership and price volatility will be given appropriate consideration by both the Secretariat and by the Members.

The CCP has undertaken a major reform process over the past few years, and with the 70th Session of the Committee, this process has been largely completed. With this work done, I encourage the CCP Chair and Bureau to take the work of the CCP forward, not only as a think-tank as it has been inaccurately portrayed recently, but as an active, vibrant, and inclusive platform that can make a significant contribution to the development of global policy and regulatory frameworks, and which by focusing on solutions, can help the FAO attain its important goals.

Ms Florence BUCHHOLZER (European Union)

I am honoured to speak on behalf of the European Union and its 28 Member States. The candidate countries to the EU, Albania and Turkey, align themselves with this statement.

We are grateful for the succinct and useful report, which we endorse; we are pleased to note that the session, in light of the ambitious agenda, had a positive outcome on a wide range of issues.

Issues such as excessive food price volatility, the evolution of world commodity markets, stock levels and the latest developments in the WTO agricultural sphere are at the core of EU priorities and are essential elements for sustainable food security. The CCP session report reflects the fundamental importance of these considerations, and we welcome the Committee's focus on these issues.

We must all remain vigilant and resist trade-distorting measures such as import and export restrictions. We call attention to the agreement during the CCP session that the use of buffer stocks to stabilise prices has proved ineffective and costly. We recognise that emergency reserves can play a vital role in global food security efforts, but the focus must be on vulnerable populations.

The CCP has a crucial part to play in providing expertise and technical assistance on issues relating to agricultural commodities and trade. However, we also note that trade negotiations are the preserve of the WTO. It is important to recognise respective competence and avoid overlaps or confusion between the core mandates of the FAO and the WTO.

As already mentioned in previous meetings, further cooperation between international organisations and international commodity bodies would be welcome.

We underline the need to respect the new Rules of Procedure, as amended during the October CCP session. While the Chair is to be elected *ad personam*, the Bureau Members should exercise their

functions in close consultation with the Regional Groups that they represent. The Chair should continuously and effectively liaise with the Bureau and the Secretariat; we insist, moreover, that nominations for the office of Chair be based on merits and cost efficiency. As a general principle, we would recall the practice of equitable rotation of the office of Chair.

We appreciated the fact that the Ministerial Meeting on Governance and International Commodity Markets was held back to back with the 70th Session of the CCP, as this brought a new impetus to a Committee that is expected not only to address problems but to come forward with solutions. In this regard, though it is for the Bureau to examine the name of the Committee, we would recall our suggestion to change the name to "Committee on Commodity Perspectives" to indicate a more forward-looking approach.

Mr Lupiño Jr. LAZARO (Philippines)

The Philippines would like to join earlier speakers in thanking and congratulating the new CCP Chairperson, Ambassador Maria Laura da Rocha and the Secretariat for the preparation and presentation of the Report on the recent CCP session.

We commend the outcomes of the session that considered a number of issues of interest to our delegation including an update on the WTO negotiations, analysis on import surges and special safeguard mechanism (SSM), the International Rice Commission and the agricultural market information system.

We likewise welcome the Report on the Ministerial meeting on governance and international commodity markets held during the week of the CCP session. We find useful and relevant the inclusion of an update on WTO agricultural negotiations and the Committee's agenda to keep Members informed of relevant developments without necessarily engaging in actual negotiations which probably is within the WTO purview.

We therefore concur with the recommendation for FAO to continue supporting Members' effective participation in the formulation of trade related agreements including the provision of analysis on key negotiating issues, capacity development and facilitation of fora for debate away from the negotiating table. Similarly, we appreciate the revisiting and updating of the Secretariat's analysis on import surges in view of the changing global markets which will contribute to the better understanding and appreciation of the impact of surges and the design for an effective SSM.

Our delegation supports the suggested actions by the Committee including the continuing technical assistance, analytical work and facilitation of dialogue on import surges and SSM especially for developing countries. The background documents on the IRC at the session comprehensively reflected the process that transpired leading to the decision to suspend the activities and operations of the Commission. We therefore concur with the similar decision made at COAG to include rice as a standing item in the agenda of the Committee when appropriate.

We wish to reiterate that AMIS is one of those initiatives worthy of continued support from FAO and partner institutions that helps improve commodity information gathering, enhance transparency and promote policy coordination.

Finally, being one of the former CCP Bureau Members, the Philippines extends utmost gratitude to the outgoing Committee Chairperson, Mr Eric Robinson and our co-Bureau Members, and particularly for Mr Robinson's perseverance and systematic leadership and the Secretariat led by Mr Boubaker Ben-Belhassen for its substantive and able support making it possible to reach important achievements within the last two-year term.

We also wish the new Chairperson, Ambassador Da Rocha, all the best in her stewardship of the Committee in the next two years. With these remarks, the Philippines fully endorse the Report of the 70th Session of CCP.

Mr Wimol JANTRAROTAI (Thailand)

My delegation acknowledges the progress made on the 70th Session of CCP, and has observations as following: first, the Ministerial meeting on governance and international commodity market has

shown the collective political efforts in dealing with the international commodity problems. At least this meeting has created opportunity to overcome the challenges and provide betterment for farmers. We encourage the further work as the outcome of such meeting.

Second, we value the document on midterm agriculture outlook, trends and emerging issues. Information is an essential tool for policy and production planning, to manage supply and demand in the long run. We encourage the Committee to timely review and assess the document for the accuracy and updating of the information. Third, the information on agriculture market should be reliable at any given time. We know the necessity of strengthening the Agricultural Market Information System by obtaining large enough data from all Members for the analysis. Fourth, we support the commitment on the standing item on rice to be included in the Committee of CCP at the regular session agenda as appropriate.

With these points we endorse the Report of the 70th Session of the CCP.

Sr. Claudio J. ROZENCWAIG (Argentina)

En primer lugar, queremos agradecer a la Sra. Presidenta del Comité, la Embajadora María Laura de Rocha, por su valiosa presentación.

La Delegación argentina da la bienvenida al Informe sobre el Setenta período de Sesiones del Comité de Problemas de Productos Básicos, al respecto desea destacar que en el párrafo 34 del Informe se señala que el Comité aprobó el informe sobre los progresos realizados en la aplicación del Programa de Trabajo Plurianual aprobado para 2012-2016 y recomendó que se considerasen determinadas mejoras al elaborar el Programa de Trabajo Plurianual del Comité para el período 2016-2019.

En este sentido el documento CCP14/8, en el párrafo 19, romanito II, hace referencia a organizar y planificar actividades y eventos inter-sesionales sobre asuntos de importancia para la comunidad internacional. Sobre esta cuestión la Argentina piensa que se debería evitar que haya una proliferación de temas o una gran diversidad temática que impida que el Comité se centre en los temas más relevantes que caen bajo su mandato. Asimismo, se deben tomar en cuenta debidamente las consideraciones presupuestarias de la inclusión de nuevos temas. Es necesario que los Estados Miembro sean quienes manifiesten de manera clara cuáles son los principales temas de interés a tratar que caen bajo el ámbito del mandato de este Comité.

Por último, la Argentina desea reiterar un concepto que fue discutido en el ámbito del Comité.

La Argentina considera que la mejor herramienta para combatir la excesiva volatilidad de precios es mediante establecimiento de reglas claras que permitan la disponibilidad y distribución inmediata de información de los mercados agrícolas de manera de transparentar su funcionamiento. Esta tarea está siendo abordada de forma muy eficiente por el AMIS. Todo ello sin perjuicio de continuar el proceso de reformas de políticas agrícolas conforme al mandato de la Ronda de Doha a fin de abordar otras de las causas de la alta volatilidad de los precios.

Mr Olyntho VIEIRA (Brazil)

The Brazilian delegation fully supports the report of the 70th Session of the Committee on Commodity Problems and would like to point out not only the relevance of the matters discussed, but also the inspired decision by the Director-General to precede it by the Third Ministerial Meeting on Governance and International Commodity Markets. The two events combined helped strengthen the role of FAO as a natural forum for the discussion of world commodity issues.

The Ministerial Meeting this year did not restrain itself to the discussion of price volatility, and directed its debates to the broad issues of governance of commodity markets. The Meeting concentrated on the need to develop new institutional arrangements and to deepen the understanding of market realities, policies, technologies and trends.

FAO, for its part, is also – through such meetings and a renovated Committee on Commodity Problems – taking decisive steps to adapt to new realities and trends. Brazil supports this renovated role for the FAO, in tune with the need for new or updated institutional arrangements for the governance of commodity markets. FAO, however, should build upon its recognized strengths: as an

authoritative forum for discussions concerning agriculture; as a knowledge-based organization; and as a fundamental source for capacity building.

Brazil believes that FAO, through the CCP, should continue in this direction, which does not mean that it should aim to substitute other organizations, but that it should try to become a reference forum for the discussion of policies and ideas, working in cooperation with other institutions.

Besides the role played by the CCP, FAO should be encouraged to continue and strengthen its partnership with the OECD and its work in the AMIS initiative. AMIS is one central element of a broad set of measures identified by both the Ministerial Meeting and the CCP Session as a means of providing markets with greater transparency and, consequently more predictability and less risk.

Mr Wan Zakaria WAN IBRAHIM (Malaysia)

In the Report of the 70th CCP Session, under the subheading “Medium-Term Agricultural Outlook: Trends and Emerging Issues”, Malaysia wishes to highlight the concern regarding the food labelling issue especially which is not in accordance with international standard of practices and has affect to certain agriculture commodity production and trade. Malaysia seeks FAO support in monitoring this issue under the CCP mechanisms.

On developments in WTO agricultural negotiations, food stocks and price volatility, and import surges and safeguard mechanism, we acknowledge the importance of technical assistance programme to developing countries in addressing food security issues in the context of trade and high food prices.

Under the FAO’s work programme in trade and markets under the Reviewed Strategic Framework, Malaysia requests FAO to support capacity development programme for smallholder producers through agricultural cooperatives, and to consider adding trends and outlook of agricultural inputs as part of its work in addressing high food prices.

With that we endorse the Report of the 70th Session of CCP.

Sr. Manuel CLAROS OVIEDO (Venezuela)

Agradecemos la presentación del documento C 2015/22 referido a los resultados del 70.º período de sesiones del Comité de Problemas de Productos Básicos. En ese sentido queremos en primer lugar felicitar a la FAO por la organización de la Reunión Ministerial sobre la Gobernanza y los mercados internacionales de productos básicos. Creemos que fue una experiencia muy interesante que favoreció un diálogo de alto nivel sobre las diferentes visiones acerca de los mercados mundiales de productos básicos agrícolas.

Reiteramos nuestro respaldo al informe presentado durante el CCP con las novedades del comercio internacional que se relacionan con la seguridad alimentaria mundial y agradecemos el importante papel desempeñado por la FAO en cuanto al seguimiento con información actualizada y evaluaciones sobre los mercados agrícolas.

También queremos tomar nota de la asistencia técnica prestada por la Organización en las negociaciones sobre agricultura, concretamente mediante la presentación de análisis sobre las cuestiones clave de las negociaciones que contribuyen al desarrollo de la capacidad de los países así como la moderación de foros de debate abierto al margen de la mesa de negociación. Justamente, en cuanto al informe presentado durante el CCP en el mes de octubre sobre las negociaciones agrícolas en la Organización Mundial de Comercio (OMC), deseamos reiterar el llamado a la conclusión de la Ronda de Doha con una visión orientada a permitir el desarrollo de los pueblos. Nos preocupa que en ese foro se estén llevando adelante mecanismos plurilaterales de negociación que carecen de la transparencia necesaria para que los países de la OMC alcancen un acuerdo satisfactorio e incluyente.

Al igual que han expresado otras delegaciones que me han precedido en el uso de la palabra, deseamos también el mayor de los éxitos a la nueva mesa del CCP para 2014-2016 que estará presidida por la Embajadora Da Rocha de Brasil. Cuente Embajadora con nuestro apoyo durante el desarrollo de su gestión.

Mr Vimlendra SHARAN (India)

India thanks the Incoming Chairperson of CCP, Ambassador Maria Laura da Rocha and the Secretariat for the document and the presentation. India also places on record its appreciation for the excellent leadership provided to CCP by its outgoing Chairperson, Mr Eric Robinson.

We welcome the conclusions reached and recommendations made both at the Ministerial Meeting on Governance and International Commodity Markets and at the 70th Session of the CCP.

The Ministerial Meeting reached understanding on seven issues, which are very relevant and important and therefore bear reiteration from every relevant *fora*. We endorse them whole heartedly.

We welcome the enhanced emphasis the 70th Session of CCP has placed on timely and credible data to enhance market transparency, its update on WTO agricultural negotiations, though much has happened since in this area, and its review of Food Stocks and Price Volatility.

However, we do wish to highlight that at this stage we are not fully convinced with the finding that use of buffer stocks proves ineffective in stabilising prices in all situations. We therefore look forward to FAO's research findings on the relationship between stocks and prices in the context of a comprehensive analysis of all factors influencing price volatility. FAO has been encouraged to continue this research work by the Committee in paragraph 19 of the Report.

With these comments India endorses the report.

Ms Eun Jeong LEE (Republic of Korea)

The Republic of Korea fully supports the report of the CCP. I would like to make a short comment. According to the FAO food price index and other relevant indicators, recent food prices are even more stable, especially compared to 2007-08, when the food crisis was a great concern all over the world. Moreover the food price can be postured more easily and market transparency has increased due to the development and improvement of the Agricultural Market Information System. However, due to the frequent natural disasters and the climate changes, it is unexpected when the food prices polarity and instability will affect the world food market and vulnerable populations such as indigenous people, small farmers, and low income households.

In this regard, we would like to request FAO to develop global strategies to unexpected food price instability in collaboration with the regions and Member Nations, while each country should prepare its own strategies to improve its relevance to the food price increases.

The Committee on Commodity Problems should support related organizations and entities with price and timely information in more scientific manners through AMIS. Of course, establishment of statistics and projections are crucial for AMIS to work with. In that context, I recommend the discussion on the establishment of a Committee on Statistics in FAO. FAO should show its leadership in the area of statistics, supporting capacity building in data collection analysis and dissemination in Member Countries and developing scientific ways in statistics, in collaboration with other statistical organizations and experts.

Mr Jingyuan XIA (China) (Original language Chinese)

At the outset, we would like to thank the outgoing Chairman of the CCP for his outstanding work over the last two years, and we also would like to congratulate the new Chairman of the CCP. We know that in the coming two years we face a lot of challenges. The 70th Session of CCP and the Ministerial Meeting on Governance and International Commodity Markets were successfully held. Important issues were fully discussed at these meetings.

China supports the Report and recommendations of these meetings. From the Report, we see that the Committee reviewed the major market developments and short-term outlook for basic food commodities and for raw materials, horticulture and topical products. FAO plays an important role in providing updated market information and assessment, promoting market transparency, following the latest development in WTO agricultural negotiations, monitoring food stocks and price volatility, analyzing import surges and special safeguard mechanisms.

We appreciate all this work. At the same time, we also commend FAO's good cooperation with G20 in the implementation of AMIS. We hope that FAO will strengthen its cooperation in this field, provide Member States with information concerning trends in the international food market.

Mr Seerat ASGHAR (Pakistan)

We thank the Chairperson of the Commodity Problems for her briefing and her able leadership of the Committee. We endorse the recommendations of the report.

I would like to highlight two points.

First, we understand that there is no agreement on addressing price volatility of commodities through maintaining food stocks. However, there is considerable evidence to support that maintaining emergency reserves has an important contribution to food security, particularly in situations of natural disasters and calamities. We, therefore, stress the need for continued research by FAO on the relationship between stocks and prices in the context of a comprehensive analysis of all factors influencing price volatility.

Second, the collection of data on production, utilization, trade, stocks and prices of commodities is important for enhancing market transparency and allows for timely, efficient and coordinated action. FAO should assist capacity building of countries for data collection, in collaboration with other relevant stakeholders. We also recognize the usefulness of the Agricultural Market Information System. Pakistan is participating in the AMIS and would continue to strive to provide accurate data to the system.

In conclusion, we would like to thank the outgoing Chair of the CCP, Mr Eric Robinson for his leadership of the Committee over the last two years and congratulate the incoming Chair, Her Excellency Maria Laura da Rocha.

Mr Matthew WORRELL (Australia)

First, I would like to thank the outgoing Chair of CCP, Eric Robinson, for his leadership over the last two years, and to welcome the new Chair from Brazil. Thank you very much for the presentation and the meeting Report.

Australia would fully support the Council endorsing the Report of the 70th Session of the Committee on Commodity Problems. We found the agenda and the discussion at the meeting very interesting and very fruitful. A number of the items discussed at the meeting including the Medium-Term Agricultural Outlook and the Agricultural Market Information System are joint collaborations between FAO and the OECD. Being in the rather unique personal situation of being a member of Australia's permanent delegation to FAO here in Rome, but also of Australia's permanent delegation to OECD in Paris, I'm rather well placed to comment on the importance and value of this joint work. Now I encourage both organizations to continue the fruitful collaboration.

The Committee on Commodity Problems decision on the future of some of its subsidiary bodies will help FAO respond to calls from Member Countries to streamline the Organization's activities, avoid duplication and make contemporary needs for relevant and timely food commodity monitoring and analysis. FAO's Work Programme in the trade and markets area under the reviewed Strategic Framework is critical to FAO achieving its Strategic Objectives. As stated by the previous Chair of the Committee, we believe that the work of CCP can continue to be built on.

Lastly, I would like to provide some information to the Council on relevant outcomes from the recent G20 Leaders Summit. The Summit was held on the 15 and 16 November in Brisbane and leaders recognized that the global recovery is slow, uneven and not delivering the jobs needed. They agreed to an Action Plan to lift the G20s GDP by more than 2 percent by 2018. This will add more than two trillion US dollars to the global economy and create millions of jobs.

Measures to lift investment, increase trade and competition and boost employment along with macroeconomic policies will support development and inclusive growth and help to reduce inequality and poverty. G20 country growth strategies include reforms to facilitate trade by lowering costs, streamlining customs procedures, reducing regulatory burdens and strengthening trade, enabling

services. Leaders reaffirmed their longstanding standstill and rollback commitments to resist protectionism.

These commitments to increase economic growth and a strong international trading system will contribute to agricultural prosperity.

Sra. Maria De Lourdes CRUZ TRINIDAD (México)

Reiteramos el Informe presentado durante la Reunión del Comité de Productos Básicos en el mes de octubre. En cuanto al trabajo realizado en aspectos de volatilidad de precios de los alimentos, se insta a seguir colaborando en estrategias para mejorar dichos precios, lo cual es todo un reto. Una herramienta importante ha sido el sistema AMIS coordinado muy afinadamente por la FAO y creado en el marco del G20. La importancia de este tipo de instrumentos es dar transparencia a los mercados.

México reitera y aprueba el documento.

Mme Maria Laura DA ROCHA (Présidente du Comité des produits)

Je remercie beaucoup les membres du Conseil pour leurs commentaires et suggestions sur le Rapport de la 70ème session du CCP, que nous prendrons certainement en considération dans les travaux du Comité. Avec votre autorisation, Monsieur le Président, j'aimerais donner la parole à la Direction de la Division du commerce et des marchés, pour répondre aux questions des délégations.

Mr Boubaker BEN-BELHASSEN (Deputy Director, Trade and Markets Division)

Personally, I am very happy to hear about the wide support to the work conducted by the Committee on Commodity Problems. I take the opportunity also to thank the outgoing Chair, Mr Eric Robinson, and the CCP Bureau Members, for whom we worked very closely in the time between the 69th and the 70th Session, so hopefully we'll continue on. I'm sure we will build on that work with the new Bureau.

I would like to make a couple of comments. There was an issue raised about trade work. I think I would like to clarify in this perspective that what we do on trade actually is complementary to what's going on at the WTO. They are more of a negotiating body, as the Chair of the CCP said, they meet around a negotiating table. They negotiate provision modalities for the trade, but you complement that by providing analysis for the different provisional modalities under consideration, provide capacity building for countries to support the engagement or preparation for the agreement and so we provide a platform for discussion and for open debate, so I think that our role with the WTO is more complementary rather than an overlap. In fact, this was also witnessed by the last session in which we invited WTO to complement our reviews on what we think from the WTO trade negotiations.

I would like to confirm and assure the Membership that we are aware of this and that we work together. We attend their meetings all the time. In fact, as we talk today and tomorrow we have our Senior Economist in Geneva, they are contributing to the discussion, so it's really more of a complementary work.

Some observations that were made on the price volatility work, including on stocks. I think that we got a very rich discussion at the last CCP, which is also part of the mandate of the division. So I would like to confirm to the Membership that we will continue the work on price volatility. It's something that poses a lot of challenges at different levels, micro-level, macro-level, for households, for governments, for consumers, for producers, for traders, so that's also on top of our work priorities. We will continue to do that, including looking at stocks for ways on how to improve probably the use of stocks to contain sudden price increases or price volatility.

I must comment on the International Rice Commission. Probably we didn't explicitly include it here for the simple reason that in all sessions of the CCP, rice is one of the major commodities covered by the Committee. So when we report on the major market development on food commodities, rice, basically, is the first commodity to be reported on. We also have the IGG on rice, the Intergovernmental Group on Rice, which is a subsidiary body of the CCP. With the new provision, now with the new amendment of the agreement reached by the Committee, the IGG is still there. It will meet as the need arises. So there is the IGG there. So rice is our priority and then we will

continue to work on rice on short term, medium term, on trade and then we will continue to address this issue.

Finally, I want to thank my colleague David Hallam, who served as the Secretary for CCP between 2000 or 2001 into 2012. He is leaving FAO at the end of this year, so I think on behalf of everybody and all of you, I would like to thank him for the service rendered to the Committee, for the work done for the Trade and Markets Division and for FAO as a whole. Thank you very much.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

Mr David HALLAM (Director, Trade and Markets Division)

I would like to make a couple of comments about the work of the CCP, its Secretariat and the Bureau.

I think that all of the comments that have been made this afternoon are very supportive and very positive and obviously it's very gratifying to hear those. I think what they highlighted is the importance of the information and the analysis that is produced by the Secretariat of the CCP housed in the Trade and Markets Division. I think we should recognize that FAO, and specifically the Trade and Markets Division and the CPP Secretariat, are probably the center for excellence in the world today in terms of analytical capacity and the ability to transmit this capacity. Another comment I would make concerns regarding the significant engagement in the process of FAO reform over the last few years. I think that the comments that we've heard this afternoon on CCP suggest that, in this case, the reforms have actually been very successful, and I think they have moved the Committee forward. I think that the outgoing Chair, Eric Robinson, has been very important as the guinea pig in driving this, together with the other Bureau Members, so I think that's a very commendable point.

The last comment I would make is that Eric also mentioned the vital importance of commodities, and it's not so long ago that there were doubts about whether we should continue to work on commodities and so on and many other organizations more or less pulled out. We continued and I think that has paid off. In fact, the importance of commodity production and trade to jobs, income and economic growth, is one of the key features picked up in the Australian G20 presidency this year. I think it's important to always bear this in mind.

CHAIRPERSON

I want to join the others in congratulating Mr Eric Robinson of Canada, the outgoing Chairperson, for his good work and, in particular, for enhancing the intercessional work of the Bureau and chairing the last CCP session. I think your experience and knowledge will continue to be enjoyed by the new Bureau, as well as by the entire Committee.

Also, I want to thank Mr Hallam, who has done a very good job: very uplifting, while making the work of CCP relevant in FAO. I remember that some years ago attendance in CCP was one of the lowest. Today, CCP is well attended by many Delegates. So I thank you very much for your work and I wish you well in your new undertakings.

Allow me to conclude sub-item 3.4 as follows:

1. The Council endorsed the conclusions and recommendations contained in the Report of the 70th Session of the Committee on Commodity Problems and in particular:
 - a) welcomed the Chair's summary of the Ministerial Meeting on Governance and International Commodity Markets (6 October 2014);
 - b) commended FAO's role in providing up-to-date market information and promoting increased market transparency;
 - c) called for close monitoring of trends and challenges facing food and agricultural commodities over the medium-term, drawing particular attention to issues related to food labelling and standards;
 - d) stressed the importance of medium-term commodity market projections as an essential tool for policy debate and planning, and welcomed OECD-FAO collaboration in this regard;

- e) welcomed FAO's technical assistance in relation to the WTO negotiations on agriculture;
- f) welcomed the priority afforded to the relationship between food stocks and price volatility, and urged FAO to continue to carry out research on all factors influencing price volatility;
- g) recommended that technical assistance continue to be provided to developing countries on food imports in the context of higher global food prices, and to facilitate discussion and analysis on appropriate trade policy issues;
- h) agreed that:
 - i. the Intergovernmental Group (IGG) on Tea should continue to meet on a regular basis;
 - ii. the IGG on Hard Fibres and the IGG on Jute, Kenaf and Allied Fibres should continue to hold regular joint meetings; and
 - iii. the other IGGs (Grains; Rice; Oilseeds, Oils and Fats; Meat and Dairy Products; Bananas and Tropical Fruits; and Citrus) should meet as required; and
 - iv. a standing item on rice be included in the CCP's regular sessions agenda.
- i) welcomed the progress made with regard to the implementation of the Agricultural Market Information System, noting its relevance to the activities of the Committee.

Mr Lupiño Jr. LAZARO (Philippines)

This is just to raise the issue on the agreement made at the CCP with regard to making rice a standing item in the agenda of the regular session of the CCP. We do appreciate and are aware of the explanation made by the Secretariat on how rice regularly features in the policy discussion and updates of the CCP, and, of course, the presence of the IGG particularly on grains.

However, this does not preclude us from including in our session, in the Council notation at least, similarly to what we did with the COAG report, the agreement to have rice as a standing agenda item in the CCP. So we would strongly suggest that this be added or included.

CHAIRPERSON

I don't have any objections on the proposal to have rice as a standing agenda item in the CCP. It was also repeated by the Committee Members.

Before we take up our next item, I would like to pass the floor to the Secretary-General who will make an announcement.

**Item 7. Report of the 41st Session of the Committee on World Food Security
(13-18 October 2014)**

Point 7. Rapport de la quarante et unième session du Comité de la sécurité alimentaire mondiale (13-18 octobre 2014)

Tema 7. Informe del 41.º período de sesiones del Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria Mundial (13-18 de octubre de 2014)

(C 2015/20)

SECRÉTAIRE GÉNÉRAL

Je voudrais signaler qu'une correction a été apportée à la version française du document C 2015/20 où le paragraphe 20, alinéa c) a été rectifié comme suit:

“a noté que les Principes sont d'application volontaire et ne sont pas juridiquement contraignants”.

La révision du document est disponible au comptoir de distribution des documents.

CHAIRPERSON

We take up now item 7, *Report of the 41st Session of the Committee on World Food Security*, which was held in Rome from 13 to 18 October 2014. The document before Council is C 2015/20.

I give the floor to Ambassador Gerda Verburg, Chairperson of the Committee on World Food Security, to present the report.

Ms Gerda VERBURG (Chairperson, Committee on World Food Security)

I am happy to report here on the 41st Session of CFS held from 13 to 18 October 2014. It was a very successful session attended by a wide range of stakeholders. Indeed, 81 civil society organizations and 73 private sectors combined with philanthropic organizations, contributing to multi-stakeholder participation.

On the morning of the opening contributions, besides the heads of the Rome-based Agencies, FAO, WFP and IFAD who contribute equally in financial terms to the CFS and also provide technical support to the CFS which is very much appreciated, we also heard a message from the Secretary General of the United Nations, Mr Ban Ki-moon, read by Assistant-Secretary General, Mr Thomas Gass. We were very happy to have the support of New York for the multi-stakeholder approach that CFS is exercising.

Firstly we had the agenda item on Policy Convergence and we began with the endorsement of the 'Principles for Responsible Investment in Agriculture and Food Systems'. The final report, which was negotiated under the able Chairmanship of Switzerland, was voted unanimously. This pleased us greatly as this is the next step following the endorsement of the Voluntary Guidelines on the Governance of Tenure to Land, Forest, and Fisheries, by the CFS in 2012 and which is presently being implemented. It is my pleasure to share the good news reported by the FAO team, that FAO is already supporting 12 countries in the implementation of the Voluntary Guidelines and they have a waiting list of a further 18 countries. So implementation of the Voluntary Guidelines on the Governance of Tenure is ongoing and is very successful. Let us hope that further to the kickstart meeting scheduled for the first semester of 2015, the implementation of the Principles for Responsible Investment in Agriculture and Food Systems will be as successful as the Voluntary Guidelines implementation has been.

We also had two policy round tables, and as we all know, the policy round tables are based on the excellent reports of our High-Level Panel of Experts. This year we had round tables and policy recommendations on food losses and waste in the context of sustainable food systems. The negotiations on the policy recommendations were chaired by Egypt, and the follow-up to the policy recommendations will go through a series of global level conferences on this topic. A few of these include a meeting in Abu Dhabi in March next year, a conference in The Hague in June next year, one in Germany, one in Switzerland, one in Uganda, and one in Italy to be organized in collaboration with the European Union, in Portugal. I'm sure I have missed several others. So the topic of food losses and food waste has been taken on board and hopefully all these conferences will end up with very concrete recommendations that can be implemented, because only with implementation at the grass roots can one change anything.

The second round table dealt with Sustainable Fisheries and Aquaculture for Food Security and Nutrition, and also included a set of concrete recommendations to FAO and other organizations on the improvement of fisheries, and food and nutrition relevant policies. The negotiations on the recommendations were led by Johan Williams, the Chair of COFI, and in his report this morning, he has already made note of this and is very happy to have this topic on the agenda and in such a concrete way, based again upon an excellent report of the High Level Panel of Experts.

We also had an update on the work streams. The Agenda for Action for Addressing Food Insecurity in Protracted Crises is ongoing, and this work is co-chaired by Kenya and the USA. We were unable to finalize the work stream for this topic this year due also to its ongoing importance. Resilience building has gained increased attention and is more necessary than ever, and as of 2005, is also part of FAO work streams and priorities.

I also underline the attention paid to it by WFP and others. Resilience building has to be done otherwise we will never prevent nor avoid new crises. So the Agenda for Action's added value lies in its focus on bridges between short term humanitarian aid and long term development assistance. Such

an approach negotiated and owned by all stakeholders active on the ground in situations of protracted crisis is much needed and I call upon everyone to commit to reaching the best possible result.

There will be a consultation (the second draft of the document is available in all languages) this Friday, 5 December, followed by an Open-Ended Working Group organized on 13 January 2015 to get our feedback. Please feel free to make corrections to the draft, which will improve the final results. Negotiations are scheduled from 18 to 22 May next year and we hope to endorse the final results in our next plenary meeting, at the 42nd Session of CFS in October 2015.

Another work stream is monitoring and this work is chaired by Uganda. As a first step in setting up a framework for monitoring CFS effectiveness, a survey will be sent out in early 2015. This is very important and we would appreciate everybody completing that survey so that we can have your input. It is of immense importance. A second step will involve an in-depth country level assessment on a voluntary basis.

A further work stream is the multi-year program of work chaired by Italy. The High-Level Panel paper on Critical and Emerging Issues for Food Security and Nutrition has been published. The decision is that the focus of the HLPE report for 2015 will be on Water for Food Security and Nutrition, for 2016 it will be Sustainable Agricultural Development for Food Security including the role of livestock, and for 2017 the topic will be Sustainable Forestry for Food Security and Nutrition.

The communication strategy underscores the importance of communication by all CFS stakeholders to support effective implementation and realization of CFS recommendations and decisions. Only by implementing can we show its value in practice at the grass roots.

We have another work stream concerning the Rules of Procedure chaired by China, and they worked on the present composition of the Advisory Group and the distribution of seats among its categories, and it will further discuss matters related to the participation status of CSOs, NGOs, and private sector organizations through their independent mechanisms.

Last but not least, let me mention the work stream on the Global Strategic Framework chaired by Brazil. There was an update that included last year's policy recommendations on biofuels and food security and on investing in smallholder agriculture for food security and nutrition.

During that very busy CFS week, we also organized a meeting on coordination and linkages. Concerning the global segment, food security and nutrition in the post-2015 sustainable development goals, while the post-2015 development agenda is still a work in progress, CFS is actively engaging through its stakeholders, as the foremost inclusive international and intergovernmental platform, on issues related to food security and nutrition. CFS stands ready to play a role in providing a forum to take stock, to showcase progress and results, to learn lessons and to continue discussing progress made by countries on food and nutrition security issues in the years to come.

Our regional segments on coordination and linkages were dedicated to CAADP's effort to mainstream nutrition in national policies. This was a very enriching session.

We also had three country case studies on ten years of Voluntary Guidelines on the Right to Food. Country case studies were presented by El Salvador, India, and Jordan, and there was a lot to learn from their experiences. Following the stock-taking and presentations of progress made and lessons learned by the countries on the use and implementation of the Right to Food Guidelines, the Committee reaffirmed its commitment to the Right to Food Voluntary Guidelines, ten years after their endorsements.

During World Food Day we had an interactive meeting on innovation in family farming entitled "Towards Ensuring Food Security and Nutrition" which focused on innovation in family farming. We had a guest of honour, Her Majesty Queen Maxima of the Netherlands who is the Secretary General of the UN's special advocate for financial inclusion. Also present were representatives from several Governments, institutions in the field, and also the EU Commissioner for Agriculture.

Before I close the presentation of report of CFS 41, I would also like to mention that we have had a change in Secretary. After several years of very committed participation in the Secretary from Kostas

Stamoulis, we have been able to engage a full-time Secretary. Deborah Fulton arrived ten days before CFS 41 started, and she can support me in answering questions if you have any. A full-time Secretary is essential. Kostas did an excellent job but was having to take more and more on board. Last week we discussed and decided to also play a role in the implementation of the outcomes of the ICN2, so a full-time Secretary is needed even more.

Ms Maria Laura DA ROCHA (Brazil)

It is with joy that we acknowledge the outcomes of the 41st Session of CFS. Once again, the Committee on World Food Security proved its ability to promote an open dialogue on food and nutrition issues and to build consensus to tackle global challenges. The CFS 41 has contributed to the consolidation of the Committee as the foremost inclusive international and intergovernmental platform for a broad range of stakeholders to promote food security and nutrition.

Brazil was thrilled to note the widespread support to the multi-stakeholder nature of the CFS, recognized as one of the uniqueness and the strength of this Committee. As you are aware, social participation is one of the milestone of our policies against hunger, as we are convinced we cannot eradicate hunger and malnutrition without fully involving those who are most affected by them. Therefore, the CFS, as a democratic open *forum*, is an example of global governance on food and nutrition security that can serve as a model and an inspiration to other *fora*.

The CFS 41 has delivered very important results. The endorsement of the Principles for Responsible Investment in Agriculture and Food System is a major outcome of a long and participatory process of consultations and negotiations, and we would like to express our gratitude to the Chair of the Open-Ended Working Group, Christina Blank, and to the Secretariat, for their hard work. We believe the RAI is successful in guiding agricultural investments to promote the right to food and sustainable development, all while promoting family farming whose role is closely linked to food security. Brazil reaffirms its commitment to promote the implementation of the RAI.

We also acknowledge the endorsement of the Third Version of the Global Strategic Framework for Food Security and Nutrition (GSF 2014). As the overarching framework for food security and nutrition, the GSF is a powerful tool to coordinate efforts and to gather, in one single reference document, policy decisions and international commitments in this area, so we can continuously build on what we have already achieved. We therefore encourage FAO to further disseminate the GSF 2014 throughout the Organization, especially at the regional and national offices.

In the occasion of the 10 years of the Right to Food Guidelines, we welcome the renewal of the CFS commitment to the Right to Food, which is one of the most violated human rights and it is in the core mandate of the CFS to promote it, as we believe it underpins all the work of the Committee. Eradicating hunger is only possible through a human-rights based approach.

As the CFS gains more visibility, it will also face new challenges. Firstly, the CFS, with the support of FAO and other Rome-based Agencies, should further disseminate its decision to make sure it reaches policy makers and have concrete results on the ground. Secondly, the Committee will need to strengthen its link with other international initiatives and *fora*, since food and nutrition security is a cross-cutting issue, which depends on concerted efforts on different sectors. Thirdly, it should incorporate the results of the ICN2 in its work stream and in the GSF, as well as be ready to follow up on the commitments on nutrition.

Finally, Brazil wishes to express its deepest gratitude to Mr Kostas Stamoulis, for his enormous contribution to make CFS what it has become today, and warmly welcome Debra Fulton as Secretary of CFS, certain that she will further support CFS to face the challenges ahead.

With this comments, Brazil lends its full support to the Reports presented.

Mr Khaled EL TAWHEEL (Egypt) (Original language Arabic)

I would like to speak on behalf of the group of the Near East, which certainly is very satisfied with the work of the 41st Session of the Committee on World Food Security, especially on the topic of the reduction of food loss and waste. We would like to especially emphasize that we indeed endorse the

World Food Security Committee to allow it to pursue its efforts after the reforms that have been conducted in order to enable it to meet the challenges in terms of food security and nutrition. Indeed, it is necessary for all of the Rome-based Agencies to coordinate their work to provide added value, and which will be useful in the pursuit of this work.

We support the recommendations of the two round tables that have been conducted on this matter, as well as the round table on Fisheries and Agriculture to ensure sound food security. We are endorsing everything that is done along these lines to ensure food security.

We also endorse what is said in the Report in order to affect a radical drop of the world's under-nourished and hungry, as well as the reduction of malnutrition during the same period. We would call upon everyone to be very, very prudent as to the statistics that have been addressed in this regard because some regions have not been able to make as impressive progress as has actually been referred to and this needs to be noted by the Committee.

We note the adoption of the principles concerning RAI and indeed we believe that these principles must be voluntarily implemented by governments and countries for the good of small-scale farmers especially.

We call upon the World Food Security Committee to focus especially on Developing Countries' efforts, the efforts of the most disadvantaged countries in this sector. We would like to support FAO's engagement along these lines and certainly have the Committee on World Food Security include these items on its Post-2015 Development Agenda. The HLPE should certainly take due account on this when it comes to livestock breeding in 2016.

Finally, we are satisfied with the election of the new Secretary for the World Food Security. Indeed it is necessary for new groups to emerge in this Committee.

Mr Gianni GHISI (Italy)

I am honoured to speak on behalf of the European Union and its 28 Member States. The candidate countries to the EU, Albania and Turkey, align themselves with this statement.

We reiterate our strong support to the reformed CFS and would express our appreciation of the impressive work it has accomplished over the past year. We warmly thank both the outgoing Secretary, Mr Kostas Stamoulis, and the CFS Chair and the Chairs of the intersessional working groups for their involvement.

We welcome the new Secretary, Ms Deborah Fulton, and assure her of our full support. We recognize the multi-stakeholder approach reflected in the broad growing and diverse participation at the 41st Session of the CFS as evidence of a shared and common goal to achieve food security and nutrition for all. We appreciate the efforts made by all Members and participants to participate actively in policy discussions and for their perseverance even on sensitive issues. Inclusiveness and dialogue based on structured expertise is the specific feature of the CFS model and the guarantor of its added value.

We strongly welcome the adoption of the Principles for Responsible Investment in Agriculture and Food Systems, the formulation of which requires a tremendous collective effort. We now need to devote the same energy and commitment to supporting the application of the principles, including food and necessary capacity building and sound monitoring systems. Furthermore, we would ask FAO to insure that the principles are included as a priority in the next Programme of Work and Budget, in full consistency with the work done on the VGGT implementation.

Within the UN agencies, the FAO should take a leading role in promoting the application of the principles and providing support for the practical application by developing tools, instruments and guides. We would like to thank the High-Level Panel of Experts for its involvement and hard work, which provided a good basis for the debates of the two policy round tables.

The EU and its Member States are fully committed to the fight against food loss and waste and welcome the proposals resulting from the CFS debate. We also welcome the recommendation of the round table on fisheries and food security. We appreciate the transparent nature of the public

consultation process on the zero drafts of the HLPE Reports and the HLPE note on critical and emerging issues in the area of food security and nutrition.

It is of utmost importance to insure a proper follow-up and implementation of the decisions and recommendations arising from the CFS sessions. We therefore encourage the Council to acknowledge the outcomes of the 41st session of the Committee, as proposed in the decision box and support an increased involvement of FAO, WFP and IFAD in the CFS activities, in line with their respective mandates, core strengths and comparative advantages. Sufficient resources should be allocated by the three Rome-based agencies to facilitate the implementation of the CFS decisions and the work of the CFS Secretariat. We also count on the Rome-based agencies to actively disseminate information about CFS products and their uses throughout their Organizations.

Lastly, we would reiterate our full commitment to the work ahead of us, the finalization of the Agenda for Action for addressing food and security product crisis, the preparation of the next Multi-Year Programme of Work, the upcoming political Report on water and food security and the important upcoming intersessional work.

As decided in 2013, the upcoming work on the role of the CFS in the implementation of the Post-2015 Development Agenda on issues related to sustainable agriculture, food security and nutrition will also be of utmost importance.

Mr Wimol JANTRAROTAI (Thailand)

Thailand appreciates the outcome of the 41st Session of the Committee on World Food Security so successfully held, with policy discussion on food losses and waste. At the meeting on sustainable fisheries and aquaculture for food security, it was noted that attention at policy level will accelerate the implementation towards world food security. To this point, my delegation considers that a heavy and continuing campaign by FAO in building awareness for efforts to combat food loss will create a good sense of good food utilization.

Since food security is a global agenda, cross-cutting with other FAO technical committees, we support CFS to work closely with COFI, COFO and COAG and handle food security issues as a policy approach along the supply and value chain. Therefore, we support HLPE to undertake a study on sustainable agriculture, including roles of livestock, fisheries and forestry for food security and nutrition. However, we are concerned about the planned time for delivering the work in 2016 and 2017. It's too far away. We encourage CFS to accelerate the work to earlier than planned.

Accordingly, my delegation supports the Report of the 41st Session of the Committee on World Food Security.

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

My delegation wishes to indicate that we welcomed the opportunity to participate in the 41st Session of the CFS and considered the outcome of that conference to be quite beneficial, achieving the objective of being the most inclusive platform for all stakeholders to work together in a coordinated way to ensure food security and nutrition for all. I personally recall the stern and efficient manner in which the Chair conducted business and express our congratulations in that regard.

We wish to highlight that specifically in terms of addressing the issue of Food Losses and Waste, a coordinated and coherent approach is required in ensuring sustainability in food and nutrition security. The issue of FLW is a priority of the Small Island Developing States in the Caribbean, in the context of our particular characteristics such as our susceptibility to climate change and vulnerability to the fluctuating availability and excessive price volatility of food imports.

My Government supports the Principle for Responsible Investment in Agriculture and Food Systems. We are poised to promote and make use of these Principles in our foremost interventions to harness and invest in agriculture, such as: implementation of an appropriate fiscal policy regime; provision of an enabling legislative and regulatory framework; implementation of innovative incentive packages; implementation of an adequate institutional framework; and development of new partnerships with stakeholders.

With these few observations, Trinidad and Tobago supports the outcomes and recommendations of the 41st Session of the CFS.

Mr Manuel DOMINGOS (Angola)

The Republic of Angola takes the floor on behalf of the Africa Group with reference to document C 2015/20 and accordingly has the honor to make the following considerations.

First of all, the group would like to express its gratitude and thanks to the Chair and his team for excellent coordination of this session. Also recognize the leadership of the current CFS Chair, relevant Members and collaborators for the Report.

The regional group has, since the onset of the CFS, followed closely the various developments in terms of its work programme activities, achievements and participation in all relevant technical working groups and main sessions including the 41st session recently realized contributing all needed to the excellent outcomes reflected in the Report under consideration.

We believe that the Report proposed to this 150th Council Session for consideration and submission to the next Conference contains the unanimous activities for strengthening the work of CFS to enhance its ability to provide assistance in terms of advisory services to stakeholders, especially Developing Countries on several grounds including the cooperation with scientific research centers, policy, normative needs, as well as related latest information on appropriate technologies in view of the new trends to produce greater amounts of food and nutritional economically and sustainable use of available resource levels.

We would like to recognize the valuable awareness work done by FAO for the success of the Second International Conference on Nutrition in terms of number and active participation of Member Nations, the civil society and the private sector in successful approval of the Rome Declaration and its Framework for Action, paving the way for the inclusion of food security and nutrition issues in the Post-2015 Development Agenda.

A word of appreciation goes to the group of experts that produced two high quality documents on the losses and waste in the context of sustainable food systems and sustainable fisheries and aquaculture for security and nutrition. There was a discussion regarding these issues related to the recommendations together with the approval of the principle responsible for investment in agriculture and food systems will facilitate increased agricultural and fishery production and productivity as well as improvement in the supply markets.

While we are aware of the limiting factors such as inadequacy of resources which may prevent the realization of all approved inverse by the Committee of Food Security, we encourage FAO and each partner to strive in the setting up of priorities.

Finally, and with these few considerations, the Africa Group recommends without reserve the adoption of the Report in block.

Mr Ivan G. KONSTANTINOPOLSKIY (Russian Federation) (Original language Russian)

To start off with, we would like to thank the Chair of the CFS for his presentation, Mr Kostas Stamoulis for his long devoted work and indeed once again welcome his follower Ms Deborah Fulton.

We certainly give very high marks to the results and outcome of the 41st Session of the CFS. First and foremost, the adoption of the Principles for Responsible Investment in Agriculture and Food Systems, which indeed are going to be becoming a very useful instrument for sustainable management of the agro sector.

We are satisfied with the level of elaboration and the value intenseness of the discussions which took place at the session on questions having to do with how to cut down on food losses and waste as well as how to sustainably manage fisheries and aquaculture in the general context of food security and nutrition. We believe that the FAO can certainly become the ideal platform for exchange of experience, best in leading practices and technologies to counter losses and post-harvest losses included.

We welcome the discussion taking place in the CFS which has coincided with the 10th anniversary of the adoption of the Voluntary Guidelines to Support the progressive realization of the right to adequate food in the Context of National Food Security. We note that the decision adopted by the Committee in this regard is a balanced one and reflects the position of all of the Members of the CFS.

We believe that it is absolutely necessary to insure proper consideration of the topics of food security, nutrition, agrarian development as well as the improvement of the quality of life in rural areas as elements which should be folded into our work done to craft the global Post-2015 Development Agenda. In this connection, we certainly highly appreciate the capacity of the Rome-based UN agencies as a platform for activities to accompany and monitor the practical work done to achieve the goals of this whole category of topics in the Agenda in the future.

Sra. Maria Eulalia JIMENEZ ZEPEDA (El Salvador)

Permítame, en primer lugar, agradecer a la Embajadora de Países Bajos por la presentación de los trabajos del 41 período de sesiones del Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria Mundial, que como ella indico estuvo muy interesante y concurrido.

Reconocemos y agradecemos el excelente trabajo realizado por el Sr. Kostas Stamoulis y le damos la bienvenida a la nueva Secretaria de este Comité ofreciendo desde ya nuestra colaboración.

Al dar nuestro respaldo a este informe, deseamos reiterar en nombre del Gobierno de El Salvador, nuestro agradecimiento por habernos permitido presentar durante el 41 CSA, la experiencia de El Salvador en la aplicación de las directrices voluntarias para el derecho a la alimentación, en ocasión de los 10 años de su aprobación.

Consideramos que las recomendaciones formuladas por las dos Mesas Redondas sobre políticas llevadas a cabo en el pasado CSA, una relativa a las pérdidas y el desperdicio de alimentos en el contexto de sistemas alimentarios sostenibles y la otra sobre el papel de la pesca y la acuicultura sostenibles para la seguridad alimentaria y la nutrición deben ser plenamente respaldadas y que la FAO debe de trabajar para lograr la aplicación de estas importantes recomendaciones.

Uno de los logros más importantes del pasado Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria fue la aprobación de los principios de inversión responsable en la agricultura y los sistemas alimentarios, de carácter voluntario, cuyas difíciles negociaciones duraron más de dos años. Hacemos un llamado para difundir estos principios a nivel local, nacional, regional y mundial.

En ese sentido apoyamos se solicite a la Asamblea General de las Naciones Unidas, por conducto del ECOSOC, a que se examinen estos principios, que se aprueben y que se les dé una amplia difusión entre todos los órganos y organismos de las Naciones Unidas.

Mr Wan Zakaria WAN IBRAHIM (Malaysia)

Malaysia welcomes the 41st Session of the CFS Report and its main outcome, the “Principles for Responsible Investment in Agriculture and Food Systems” taking into account its voluntary and non-binding nature and constitutes responsible investment in agriculture and food systems covering various stakeholders. We also welcome its recognition to other internationally accepted guidance in achieving broader food security goals.

We also encourage all stakeholders to make use and support the Principles when investing in agriculture or food systems and when formulating related strategies, policies and programmes.

Having said this we also request FAO and partners to assist members in applying the Principles in their national programmes and partnership advocacies.

Mr Jingyuan XIA (China) (Original language Chinese)

I would very much like to thank the Chairperson of the CFS and the Secretariat for presenting the Report of the 41st Session of the Committee on World Food Security that was a huge success. This is a targeted report and inputs forward practical recommendations which are also feasible. Consequently, the Chinese Delegation would like to support the approval of this Report. We would also like to take this opportunity to make three remarks and highlight our position on a few subjects.

Firstly, in regards to the situation of food insecurity in the world, thanks to the concerted efforts of the international community, and namely governments and Member States, the number of people suffering from hunger has fallen; however, there are still significant gaps, therefore this is still a significant challenge. FAO and the CFS must continue their efforts to ensure that Member States reinforce their political commitment in giving priority to food security and nutrition and taking an integrated approach, which takes into consideration local specificities, to implement food systems and develop sustainable agriculture in order to improve food security and nutrition. South-South Cooperation has proven to be an innovative and effective mechanism, therefore we need to backstop this type of cooperation and enhance its innovative and productive aspects.

Secondly, as for food losses and waste in the context of sustainable food system, we agree with the results and conclusions of the high level panel of experts and also with the round table results. In this regard, we need to highlight the need to monitor the impacts of food losses and waste on food security and on nutrition. It is also necessary to work with a strategic vision in order to strengthen food security and reduce the impact of food systems on the environment and natural resources. The CFS and FAO need to strengthen their work in capacity building and knowledge sharing. For example, in carrying out basic studies and standardizing certain concepts and principles or definitions and by supporting Member States in the development of targeted strategies to reduce food losses and waste.

Thirdly, the Voluntary Principles for Responsible Investment in Agriculture were the CFS's priority for several years and the valuable outcome of hard work. Consequently, we need to be pragmatic and fully harness the potential of these principles in order to enhance agricultural investment, especially the preservation and strengthening of food security in different regions.

Mr Seerat ASGHAR (Pakistan)

I would like to thank the Chair of the Committee on World Food Security for her briefing on the 41st CFS session. We congratulate her for her extraordinary leadership and commitment to the Committee's work. We also endorse the recommendations contained in the Report.

At the 41st Session, the CFS contributes to demonstrate its usefulness as a multi-stakeholder forum for tackling food insecurity and malnutrition issues. A major achievement at this session was that option of the Principles for Responsible Agriculture Investment. This achievement is a result of the hard work by all stakeholders during the course of the last two years. The next stage is implementation of the Principles. If you should take steps to integrate the Principles in your stream work and develop a plan to assist countries in their implementation, reducing food losses and waste is essential to maintaining sustainability and resilience of agriculture and food systems and their ability to ensure food security and nutrition for all.

The high level panel of experts on this issue which was the topic of one of the round tables at the 41st Session had generated some important recommendations. FAO had a key role to play in developing common protocols and methodologies targeting FLW and analyzed the underlying causes. FAO, in coordination with the relevant partners, should support governments and match processes in reducing FLW in the context of sustainable food systems.

We also support the recommendations of HLPE report relating to Sustainable Fisheries and Aquaculture for Food Security and Nutrition. Regarding future work streams, we fully support the request of the HLPE to undertake a study on the Sustainable Agriculture Development for Food Security and Nutrition, including the role of the livestock, for presentation to CFS Plenary in 2016, and a study on Sustainable Forestry for Food Security and Nutrition for presentation in 2017. This would allow space for inclusion of any additional work stream connected to the outcome of the Post-2015 Development Agenda work if required.

The SOFI 2014 report notes that although the number of people experiencing hunger has reduced by 100 million over the past decade, 805 million people remain chronically hungry, which is unacceptably high. Coordination among the international partners, particularly the Rome-based Agencies and the CFS, is essential to address this situation. The Rome-based agencies should actively disseminate information about CFS products and the uses throughout the Organizations.

Sr. Luis Alberto Alvarez FERMIN (Venezuela)

La República Bolivariana de Venezuela agradece la presentación del documento C 2015/20 mediante el cual se reflejan los resultados del 41.º período de sesiones del Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria Mundial (CSA).

Al respecto, tomamos nota de los resultados señalados por la Presidenta del CSA, en particular, de las recomendaciones formuladas en las dos mesas redondas sobre políticas tituladas “Las pérdidas y el desperdicio de alimentos en el contexto del sistema alimentario sostenible” y “La pesca y la acuicultura sostenibles para la seguridad alimentaria y la nutrición”.

El 41.º período de sesiones del CSA ofreció la oportunidad de realizar un balance sobre el decenio de las Directrices Voluntarias, en apoyo de la realización progresiva del derecho a la alimentación adecuada en el contexto de la seguridad alimentaria nacional, adoptadas en el 127.º período de sesiones del Consejo de la FAO del año 2004.

Expresamos nuestro aprecio por los estudios de los casos presentados en este segmento; sin embargo, como indicamos en el 41.º período de sesiones del Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria, esperábamos que esta sesión retrospectiva presentara un documento sobre los diez años de las Directrices para que el Comité evaluara con profundidad los avances logrados, las dificultades confrontadas y los desafíos existentes en su aplicación, a fin de preparar sobre esa base, un cuadro de decisión con el camino a seguir en la lucha por alcanzar la seguridad alimentaria para todos.

Sin embargo, ese mandato se cumplió parcialmente a pesar de que el Programa de trabajo plurianual del CSA para 2014 – 2015, aprobado en el 40.º período de sesiones del Comité, estableció que esta retrospectiva debía elaborarse en 2014 tomando como base principalmente la labor de la división ESA de la FAO del relator especial de las Naciones Unidas sobre el derecho a la alimentación y de la Oficina del alto comisionado para los derechos humanos.

La República Bolivariana de Venezuela, al igual que muchos países de América Latina y del Caribe ha realizado encomiables esfuerzos institucionales para establecer el derecho a la alimentación: al menos en nuestra región, 20 países han establecido ese derecho a través de constituciones o leyes especiales.

De la aprobación de las Directrices Voluntarias en el año 2004, la FAO, a través de la Unidad del derecho a la alimentación creada en el 2006, ha apoyado a las diferentes regiones y países en el fortalecimiento de sus marcos legales. Creemos que como parte del balance de este decenio, debemos reforzar nuestro compromiso para elevar el perfil de esa Unidad y el apoyo que presta para alcanzar los Objetivos estratégicos de la FAO, y en especial el Objetivo estratégico 1: Contribuir a la erradicación del hambre, la inseguridad alimentaria y la malnutrición. El trabajo de esta Unidad debería ser fortalecido mediante un mayor apoyo financiero desde el Programa regular así como con recursos extrapresupuestarios.

En cuanto a la organización del 41.º período de sesiones del CSA, queremos llamar nuevamente la atención sobre el gran número de tópicos que se agregan a la agenda que lleva adelante el Comité, lo cual ocasionó que importantes temas, como el debate de las mesas redondas sobre políticas y la retrospectiva por el 10º aniversario de las Directrices Voluntarias del derecho a la alimentación, fueran desarrolladas parcialmente por limitaciones de tiempo.

Consideramos que la agenda del CSA debería estructurarse en función de prever el tiempo necesario para que los delegados puedan realizar sus intervenciones. Durante el 41.º período de sesiones, observamos que delegaciones de Estados Miembros y / o otros actores participantes, incluidos algunos panelistas, se vieron obligados a concluir sus presentaciones de forma apresurada por el poco margen de tiempo establecido para tratar cada tema del Programa provisional.

Finalmente, Señor Presidente, agradecemos las contribuciones realizadas por todas las partes interesadas del CSA en esta última sesión, así como la labor realizada por la mesa del Comité, a la vez que les alentamos a continuar su trabajo tomando en cuenta las recomendaciones que hemos expresado durante este debate.

Ms Natalie E. BROWN (United States of America)

The CFS is a valuable multi-stakeholder forum for discussing the urgent and shared challenge of global food security. Its voluntary recommendations highlight promising policies and ideas that members and organizations can consider for improving food security in their countries and work.

In this regard, we welcome the outcomes of the 41st Session of CFS, which notably include voluntary principles for responsible investments in agriculture and food systems, which we hope will encourage investments that will contribute to food security. With inputs from members, private sector, civil society, international organizations and other institutions, the RAI principles reflect rich discussions and broad consensus among a diverse group of stakeholders. We see great value in both the process and the outcome.

Responsible private investment is essential for accelerating agricultural development and improving food security and nutrition, and the United States encourages the Committee and members to promote private investment in agriculture and food systems, including by promoting the dissemination, consideration, and use of the voluntary principles.

We also encourage members to promote a broader diversity of voices in the work of the Committee, including farmers' organizations, in order to enrich its work and discussions, and to promote greater diversity within the civil society and private sector mechanisms. Only with a diversity of views can we capture the full complexity of an issue, leading to more fruitful discussions.

While we encourage the Committee to take up challenging issues, the Committee should focus on those issues that are core to its mandate and comparative advantage. As members we all should discourage renegotiating language and ideas that fall outside of the mandate of CFS and risk compromising the work of other committees or international bodies.

Lastly, we take this opportunity to express our appreciation for the leadership of CFS Chair Ambassador Gerda Verburg whose focus and energy are guiding the CFS in a positive direction. We also commend Per Pinstrup Anderson as Chair of the High-Level Panel of Experts and note the important role played by the HLPE in the work of the reformed Committee.

Sr. Gustavo INFANTE (Argentina)

Atento a lo avanzado de la hora voy a recortar nuestra presentación, pero no puedo dejar de reiterar nuestro agradecimiento al Señor Kostas Stamoulis por su dedicación y sus muchas contribuciones a las tareas y al éxito del Comité.

Damos también la bienvenida a la Señora Deborah Fulton y le deseamos el mayor éxito en su gestión para lo cual contará con nuestra colaboración. También quiero agradecer a todo el equipo de la Secretaría del Comité que con su habitual competencia y eficiencia permite que cada año logremos una mejor sesión del CSA.

De la misma manera agradecemos la dedicación de los Presidentes de los diversos grupos de trabajo y, en particular, a la Señora Christina Blank cuya conducción firme, paciente y constructiva facilitó la negociación y adopción de los Principios para la inversión responsable en la agricultura. Queremos expresar nuestra satisfacción por esos principios, ya que son balanceados y comprensivos y están orientados a fortalecer las cuatro dimensiones de la seguridad alimentaria.

Asimismo, incorporan el respeto a los derechos humanos de manera transversal y tienen especialmente en cuenta a la pequeña agricultura. Esperamos que la difusión y utilización de estos principios sea tan exitosa como lo es la aplicación de las Directrices Voluntarias sobre la gobernanza responsable de la tenencia de la tierra, la pesca y los bosques en el contexto de la seguridad alimentaria nacional.

Asimismo, también destacamos al Marco Estratégico Global para Seguridad Alimentaria y Nutrición, este es uno de los principales resultados del CSA; configura una efectiva instancia de coordinación a nivel global para poder llevar adelante acciones más integradas en la lucha contra el hambre y la malnutrición. El Marco estratégico tiene una función esencial como guía y como referencia y su actualización debe ser permanente.

Queremos manifestar nuestra satisfacción por el rol que el Comité cumple como plataforma inclusiva para compartir experiencias y trabajos conjuntos entre las múltiples partes interesadas en la seguridad alimentaria y la nutrición. En ese sentido, recibimos con agrado lo señalado por el Señor Director General Graziano Da Silva esta mañana sobre las medidas que se están aplicando para efectuar el seguimiento de los acuerdos alcanzados en la exitosa Segunda Conferencia Internacional sobre la Nutrición. El Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria mundial tiene un rol importante para cumplir en ese proceso, en base a su experiencia y métodos de trabajo, y buscando las mejores maneras de fomentar la cooperación con otras organizaciones, respetando sus funciones y mandatos.

Con esa perspectiva, respaldamos la adopción del informe y reiteramos que Argentina continuará trabajando con el Comité para hacerlo aún más efectivo y para que alcance plenamente los objetivos que buscamos con su reforma.

Sr. Juan HOLGUIN (Ecuador)

Agradecemos a la Presidenta del Comité por la presentación del informe, respecto del cual queremos comentar dos aspectos.

Primero, nos complace la aprobación de los Principios para la Inversión Responsable en la Agricultura y los Sistemas Alimentarios, que ha sido producto de un proceso inclusivo de consultas y negociación. Consideramos que este instrumento permitirá incrementar las inversiones productivas y sostenibles en la agricultura, sobre la base de un enfoque basado en los derechos humanos, a fin de alcanzar la seguridad alimentaria y nutrición para todos.

Junto con las Directrices Voluntarias para la gobernanza responsable de la tenencia de la tierra, pesca y bosques en el contexto de la seguridad alimentaria nacional y con el Marco Estratégico Global para Seguridad Alimentaria y Nutrición, los principios para la inversión responsable es uno de los principales productos del CSA; sin embargo, el Ecuador quiere reiterar lo que mencionó en el 41.º período de sesiones del CSA; o sea, que los progresos que se alcanzan en el Comité, como son la aprobación de estos documentos, sean el punto de partida para nuevos avances y no que los temas, conceptos y recomendaciones que se acuerdan en esos documentos sean motivo de cuestionamientos posteriores cuando se negocian nuevos instrumentos o se abordan nuevos temas. Es decir, lo avanzado debe ser un precedente a partir del cual el Comité continúe avanzando.

Otro tema importante que se abordó en el Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria fue la conmemoración de los 10 años de la aprobación de las “Directrices Voluntarias en apoyo a la realización progresiva del derecho a una alimentación adecuada en el contexto de la seguridad alimentaria nacional”.

Este documento constituyó un hito a nivel internacional y para el trabajo de la FAO sobre el cual la base del enfoque basado en derechos humanos, ha servido como piedra de partida y base para la elaboración de los posteriores instrumentos voluntarios desarrollados en el marco del Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria Mundial.

La región de América Latina y el Caribe ha experimentado avances notables en la lucha contra el hambre y la pobreza y a estos resultados ha contribuido la aplicación de estas Directrices. El derecho a la alimentación ha sido incorporado en las legislaciones de los países de la región y, algunos de ellos, como es el caso del Ecuador ese derecho ha sido recogido a nivel constitucional, entorno al cual giran las políticas públicas de desarrollo.

La aprobación de las Directrices voluntarias en apoyo a la realización progresiva del derecho a una alimentación adecuada, este fundamental instrumento en materia de derechos y en la lucha contra el hambre, se dio en el 127.º período de sesiones del Consejo, en noviembre de 2004, hace exactamente 10 años. En consecuencia, queremos solicitar, que una referencia a este importante instrumento y acontecimiento se refleje en el informe de este período de sesiones.

Mr Abdul Razak AYAZI (Afghanistan)

We congratulate the Chairperson of CFS, the Ambassador, for her excellent presentation of the Report. As a Member of the CFS Bureau, Afghanistan highly respects her leadership in making the work of the CFS more effective and more results oriented. Afghanistan supports the statement made by Egypt on behalf of the Near East Group.

Our intervention is to complement the statement made by Egypt and we will focus on four specific issues. First, the round tables, the recommendation of the two round tables needs to be made out of the work-stream of FAO and the two other Rome-based Agencies. This integration may require minor amendments in several of the organizational outcomes of FAOs Reviewed Strategic Framework. Where appropriate, the recommendation of the two round tables should also be given serious consideration in preparing or revising the FAO Country Programming Frameworks.

Point number two, the completion of the Principles for Responsible Investment in Agriculture and Food Systems is a landmark contribution for promoting sustainable agriculture and we wish to express our appreciation to Christina Blank of Switzerland who chaired the Open-Ended Working Group with diligence and patience, as well as to Members of the Technical Support Team for their useful contributions to the work of the OEWG. They all did a marvelous job.

The challenge facing Membership is the implementation of RAI principle by all stakeholders concerned, starting with the three Rome-based Agencies. RAI principles need to integrate into the investment guidelines of FAOs investment centers, and in the investment guidelines of IFAD. We feel that CFS 43 should receive a Progress Report on the recommendation of the RAI principles.

Point number three, we look forward for the completion of the other landmark study on the Agenda for Action for Addressing Food Insecurity in Protracted Crises. The next two meetings of the Open-Ended Working Group are planned for 30 January 2015 and in May.

In this connection, we wish to express our deep appreciation to the Co-Chairs for their leadership, Her Excellency Ambassador Josephine Gaita of Kenya and Ms Elizabeth Kvitashvili of the United States of America, as well as the Members of the Open-Ended Working Group and the Technical Support Team.

The approval of the Agenda for Action by CFS is an urgent undertaking to enable many crisis-affected countries to move forward with their building of resilience in their policies and programme. Donors assisting these countries do welcome the completion of the rye principle for action.

My fourth point is that we welcome the effort made to put in place a robust monitoring framework for tracking the implementation and effectiveness of the CFS decisions and CFS products. We thank Mr Robert Sabiiti of Uganda, Chairperson of the Open-Ended Working Group on Monitoring, for his leadership and in this important area of work. We also look forward to the outcome of the opinion survey to be initiated soon for this purpose.

With these comments, Afghanistan endorses the Report of the CFS 41.

Ms Eun Jeong LEE (Republic of Korea)

I would like to express my gratitude for the excellent presentations by Madam Ambassador Chairperson of the Committee on World Food Security which was held in Rome from 13 to 18 October 2014.

Let me present short comments on the Report. Firstly, I would like to welcome the adoption of the Principle for Responsible Investment in Agriculture and Food Systems and the global Strategic Framework for food security and nutrition in the context of realization of national food security and the right food for all. In the next stage, the FAO is encouraged to disseminate and facilitate the principles among Member Countries moreover I would like the CFS to present the most appropriate model and extend that for healthy environment friendly and nutrition based food system which also considers improving the food qualities.

Secondly, I would like to please see the CFS loan in nutrition area would be expanded in near future according to the immediate follow-up action by the Secretary in ICN2 held in Rome from 19 to 21 November 2014.

In response to paragraph 14 of the Rome Declaration on Nutrition, further space will be considered to enable the Committee on World Food Security to start the premier intergovernmental and multi-stakeholder collaborative forum on nutrition. In this regard, the CFS is requested to consider

monitoring and reporting not only its Member Nations nutrition profile but also implementation of a follow-up action presented in the loan declaration on nutrition.

Sra. Maria De Lourdes CRUZ TRINIDAD (México)

Se hace un reconocimiento a la Presidenta del Comité y a quienes colaboraron en este Informe, el cual refleja los éxitos y resultados del 41.º período de sesiones del Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria.

Fue muy importante haber refrendado los Principios para la inversión responsables en agricultura. Se apoya la amplia difusión de estos principios para su puesta en práctica y para impulsar las inversiones.

Se acoge con beneplácito las recomendaciones de las dos Mesas Redondas efectuadas sobre desperdicios de los alimentos y sobre el papel de la pesca y la acuicultura sostenible. El interés permanente en el tema de los desperdicios de los alimentos en el contexto de sistemas alimentarios sostenibles se da en la medida en que se mantiene como una constante cuando se habla de alimentación humana.

En lo relativo a la pesca y la acuicultura se plantean justamente aspectos fundamentales en la vinculación de la pesca y la acuicultura con la seguridad alimentaria y la nutrición en aspectos sociales y económicos que involucran y afectan directamente a la población.

En cuanto al Programa Multianual del Trabajo y a los trabajos de nutrición, se destaca la importancia que tiene una buena estrategia de la comunicación. En el marco de las estrategias mundiales se apoyan las políticas de biocombustibles relacionadas con la seguridad alimentaria. México respalda con beneplácito este Informe.

Ms Makiko UEMOTO (Japan)

Firstly, we would like to express our appreciation to the excellent work by Mr Kostas Stamoulis and welcome the new Secretary Ms Deborah Fulton. We also thank the hard work done by the CFS Chair as well as the High-Level Panel of Experts.

Japan aligns itself with other members in supporting the outcomes of the 41st Session of the CFS and welcoming the endorsement of the Principles for Responsible Investment in Agriculture and Food Systems.

In this connection, we would like to express our gratitude for the efforts made by all those involved in the consultation process of the Principles, including the Chair of the Open Ended Working Group and its members, participants and the Secretariat.

We would like to highlight that it is essential for all stake-holders to disseminate the Principles and support their implementation, as indicated in the CFS report.

Mr Yaya Adisa Olaitan OLANIRAN (Observer for Nigeria)

On this occasion of the 150th Session of FAO Council, Nigeria appreciates the Independent Chairperson's robust leadership.

Considering the document before us, C 2015/20, the report of the 41st Session of CFS, let me seize this opportunity to congratulate Ambassador Gerda Verburg for her noble presentation and also at this point fully support what has been said by the Africa Group as presented by Angola.

Ms Deborah Fulton, let me welcome you with others into the CFS arena, and also thank my dear friend Kostas Stamoulis who has been so instrumental to the shifting of the CFS to what it is today with all the staff members and the Secretariat. At the same time, I appreciate everyone at the High Level Panel of experts (HLPE) Secretariat and the Members of the Steering Committee for research oriented documents that they produced for CFS. We appreciate you.

Nigeria will also want to thank all those Member Nations and the Rome-based Agencies, including the multi-stakeholder Members, civil society, the private sector, academia and all that can really work towards seriously making the CFS activities to become mainstreamed in the governance of the FAO as we are experiencing at this Council meeting.

These in addition to the traditional path of reporting to the UN General Assembly through ECOSOC. The open-ended working groups happen to be rather complex and very strong network of the various components of CFS work which requires a lot of concentration, commitment and in most cases working out very narrow path which has to be well-defined. One cannot but appreciate the role that has been played by the monitoring group headed by Ambassador Robert Sabiiti of Uganda. The third version of the Global Strategic Framework, GSF, headed by Brazil and of course the integrating Rules of Procedure working group headed by China.

At the 41st CFS Session last October, it was clear that the wonderful job done by Christina Blank of Switzerland resulted in adoption of the rai principles, and one cannot but appreciate the patience, the tenacity with which she conducted this assignment over two years. Definitely, this is complimentary to the original universally accepted Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests. Working together on these principles, I believe that the role of the Rome-based Agencies which have been quite robust in terms of resources being made available and also the technical inputs, the CFS product should be well entrenched in the mainstream work of the agencies. There may be need to talk further on these and get the best way to do it.

Finally, allow me to plead with Member States to encourage that the CFS model of doing business be established at the national levels, because that is where we can really see the impact of all these efforts which is at global level. Nigeria therefore strongly supports all the recommendations that have been put forward in the report presented at the 41st Session of CFS.

Ms Gerda VERBURG (Chairperson, Committee on World Food Security)

Thank you very much for the remarks of support and recognition. It underscores that CFS is making progress and that it is heading into the right direction and that it leaves up to the expectations that were shared during the Reform in 2009.

Having said this, I would like to make seven remarks because there were very concrete topics.

The first one was the request from Thailand that made clear the urgency to present the HLPE report on Sustainable Agriculture Including Livestock for Food Security and Nutrition earlier than planned. We will certainly do our utmost but it will only be 2016 when we receive the report. But at least this underscores that we have chosen the right topic because also other representatives made the remark on the very same topic.

My second point refers to the suggestion done by El Salvador, supported by Nigeria, to request the UN General Assembly to analyze the Right Principles in order to stimulate the most broadly dissemination to all their channels in order to have the Right Principles implemented. I think this is worthwhile to examine and to do our utmost to get this done.

My third point regards the request made to FAO and to the other two Rome-based Agencies, WFP and IFAD, but especially to FAO, to take on board the implementation of rye. It was mentioned, I think by the European Union but emphasized by others, to take it on board already in the next Programme of Work and Budget and it was also highlighted the need to start as soon as possible with the implementation.

Next and fourth remark, there were a lot of requests to FAO, WFP and IFAD to disseminate the products of the CFS, as well as the structure and to support at country level also the implementation of CFS-like structures.

My fifth point is on the question raised by Venezuela to strengthen not only Strategic Objective One in FAO, and I think it was noted by the Council Secretariat, but also to limit the number of topics to deal with during the Agenda of the CFS Plenary. Well, here is my suggestion: as the Agenda is decided in the Advisory Group and the Bureau of CFS and we will have this, presumably, in January or March for final decision making, so please feel invited to contribute to prepare your Delegates in the Bureau meeting in order to try to fulfill your desire.

My sixth remark is a suggestion from Afghanistan, where your suggestion was amongst other remarks that you would like to see a kind of stock-taking and implementation report of the Right Principles during CFS 43. It is noted and we will try to take it on board to examine it.

And the seventh remark was made by Nigeria. Such remark is similar to what was requested earlier towards the FAO and the other Rome-based Agencies, but it is to strengthen the efforts, to establish structures in all countries. And as we all know, it is part of the reform documents that this should be the next step of CFS and I think it is time to look into the opportunity, not only at CFS because we do not have enough capacity, although we are very happy to have a full-time Secretary right now and a very much committed Secretariat, but we really have to work together to get this done.

Having said this, Mr Chairperson of the Council, I am curious to hear your conclusions and summary because they must be interesting, but let me end my contribution by saying that we are making progress, we are heading into the right direction, and apparently we live up to the expectations, but let us keep in mind that only if we continue to invest in inclusive cooperation, in building trust among multi-stakeholders, only if we stick to our orientation of being result-oriented, and so put emphasis also on the implementation of the outcomes, only then we will be able to make the difference for people at grassroots. And mentioned by China, there are still so many people that need our support at grassroots level. So, let us make it happen and thank you for all the support and remarks.

Sra. Maria Eulalia JIMENEZ ZEPEDA (El Salvador)

Disculpe, sé que es muy tarde, pero quería únicamente hacer referencia a lo que señaló la Presidenta. Le agradezco mucho que haya indicado la propuesta, aunque no es propiamente una propuesta, sino el apoyo que mi Delegación, junto con la de Nigeria, hizo a que las Directrices sean presentadas en la Asamblea General.

Yo tengo entendido que ese es un acuerdo del Comité porque en el párrafo 20, acápite g) se dice que el Comité “*decidió solicitar a la Asamblea de las Naciones Unidas, por conducto del ECOSOC, que examinase estos principios*”. Por lo cual, la idea es interesante, pero ya también tenemos una indicación de nuestro Comité a así hacerlo.

Ms Gerda VERBURG (Chairperson, Committee on World Food Security)

Thank you for this remark, but you're right, we have already decided this in the CFS. Thanks.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you, Ambassador, for presenting the report on the 41st Session on CFS. It has been well received. As you can see, so many Members of the Council have intervened and made very useful comments to the work of this Committee, which is very important to everybody.

I want to also join the others in recognizing to assist you of the Committee in its work. I thank Mr Stamoulis who has always been very active and very involved in the work of CFS.

I would like now to make the conclusions on this item.

1. The Council endorsed the conclusions and recommendations contained in the Report of the 41st Session of the Committee on World Food Security, and in particular:

- a) encouraged FAO and other stakeholders to implement the recommendations from the policy round tables on “Food Losses and Waste in the Context of Sustainable Food Systems” and “Sustainable Fisheries and Aquaculture for Food Security and Nutrition”;
- b) supported the Voluntary Principles for Responsible Investment in Agriculture and Food Systems, and encouraged FAO and other stakeholders to disseminate the Principles and support their implementation;
- c) noted that efforts for agreement on an Agenda for Action for Addressing Food Insecurity in Protracted Crises were ongoing, with a view to presenting a finalized document for endorsement at the 42nd Session of the CFS ;

- d) noted that a proposal on CFS activities to be carried out in 2016-17 would be developed, for endorsement by the CFS plenary in 2015;
- e) noted the requests for the High Level Panel of Experts to undertake a study on "Sustainable agriculture development for food security and nutrition, including the role of livestock", for presentation to the CFS plenary in 2016; and a study on "Sustainable forestry for food security and nutrition" for presentation in 2017;
- f) endorsed the amendments adopted by CFS to Rule IV and Rule V in the Rules of Procedures relating to the CFS Advisory Group and the HLPE;
- g) welcomed the CFS endorsement of the third version of the Global Strategic Framework, incorporating policy recommendations endorsed at the 40th Session of the CFS in 2013; and
- h) encouraged FAO to actively disseminate information about CFS products and their uses throughout the Organization; and

2. The Council noted that the Voluntary Guidelines to Support the Progressive Realization of the Right to Adequate Food in the Context of National Food Security were adopted in 2004 and welcomed their significant contribution in guiding national governments in the design and implementation of food security and nutrition policies, programmes and legal frameworks over the last ten years.

Mr Abdul Razak AYAZI (Afghanistan)

I'm sorry, maybe I missed – did you say anything about the monitoring framework? Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON

We will add it. Thank you.

I have an announcement to make before I close. Ladies and gentlemen, I regret to inform you that His Excellency Alberto Raoul Breccia Guzzo, eminent representative of Uruguay to the UN Agencies in Rome, passed away today.

I wish to convey our deepest condolences to the Government of Uruguay on this sad loss. In the memory of Ambassador Breccia Guzzo, I invite the Council towards the one minute of silence.

Sr. Oscar Gabriel PINEYRO (Uruguay)

Tomo la palabra para agradecer el gesto que el Consejo ha tenido al conceder este minuto de silencio en memoria del Representante Permanente del Uruguay, Embajador Alberto Breccia Guzzo.

Quisiera manifestar que él mismo procuraba siempre alentar la alegría y no quería bajo ninguna circunstancia convocar a la tristeza.

A su vez, guiado por su gran sentido de la responsabilidad y el compromiso para la solución de las problemáticas internacionales y regionales alentó siempre los esfuerzos de la FAO y demás Organizaciones de las Naciones Unidas con sede en Roma.

De acuerdo a lo dicho, y pese al estado de ánimo en el cual esta Delegación se encuentra ante el deceso del Representante Permanente, la Delegación del Uruguay continuará participando en las sesiones de este 150.º Consejo en el sentido de procurar el mayor éxito de esta reunión, lo cual entendemos que sería su deseo el cual compartimos.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

CHAIRPERSON

Ladies and gentlemen, that brings us to the end of this afternoon's work.

For tomorrow, I urge you and welcome short interventions but without losing substance and make use of the decision box provided on each substantive agenda item.

We will resume our work tomorrow morning starting with item five.

The meeting rose at 19:15 hours

La séance est levée à 19 h 15

Se levanta la sesión a las 19.15

COUNCIL CONSEIL CONSEJO

Hundred and Fiftieth Session Cent cinquantième session 150.º período de sesiones
Rome, 1-5 December 2014 Rome, 1-5 décembre 2014 Roma, 1-5 de diciembre de 2014
THIRD PLENARY MEETING TROISIÈME SÉANCE PLÉNIÈRE TERCERA SESIÓN PLENARIA
2 December 2014

The Third Plenary Meeting was opened at 9.37 hours
Mr Wilfred J. Ngirwa,
Independent Chairperson of the Council, presiding

La troisième séance plénière est ouverte à 9 h 37
sous la présidence de M. Wilfred J. Ngirwa,
Président indépendant du Conseil

Se abre la tercera sesión plenaria a las 9.37
bajo la presidencia del Sr. Wilfred J. Ngirwa,
Presidente Independiente del Consejo

- Item 5. Report of the 116th Session of the Programme Committee (3-7 November 2014)**
Point 5. Rapport de la cent seizième session du Comité du Programme (3-7 novembre 2014)
Tema 5. Informe del 116.º período de sesiones del Comité del Programa (3-7 de noviembre de 2014)
(CL 150/5)

CHAIRPERSON

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen, we now continue with the items that we were unable to deal with yesterday afternoon, first with Item 5, *Report of the 116th Session of the Programme Committee*. The documents before Council are CL 150/5 and CL 150/LIM/6.

I now invite Ambassador Cecilia Nordin, Chairperson of the Programme Committee, to introduce the Report.

Ms Cecilia NORDIN VAN GANSBERGHE (Chairperson, Programme Committee)

I cannot tell you how very happy I am to have this slot to present to the Programme Committee. Furthermore, it is raining outside so I hope that by discussing the very exciting agenda that we had in the Programme Committee, we will see some sunshine.

I would also like to thank the Members of the Programme Committee because our meetings are like a well-organized machine. People are prepared. They have consulted. They come on time. We have substantial discussions and it is a joy to be in the Programme Committee., I also believe that in that way we can formulate recommendations to better assist the Council in its programmatic work.

We all listened to Afghanistan with great attention and in June he called for a more programmatic substance in the Programme Committee, in that regard we have also seen the draft review of the Governing Bodies. So to try our hand at this, we requested a document including the priorities enumerated by the Technical Committees this year.

We trust that you know exactly what the priorities are, because we spent a long time discussing it yesterday. In the Committee we were happy to receive this document, especially since time was running short between the end of the round of the Technical Committees and the PC meeting.

I would like to thank the Secretariat both for the document and for the teamwork that was provided when they presented it. I am sorry to say that we are demanding customers, because we requested an additional document which was mentioned by the Chair and it is CL 150/LIM/6, priorities aligned with the Strategic Objectives as identified by the Regional Conferences and Technical Committees during 2014.

I would like to thank Director Haight and his excellent team for the document which I feel will be a useful tool when we study the draft Programme of Work and Budget which is planned for mid-February. I see signs of confirmation.

Besides, I would like to say that our request clarify the links between FAO and the Post-2015 process will be stated on Friday under Item 19, which refers to the important developments of FAO mandate. If you have had a chance to look at it, there is a background document CL 150/INF/4 and it shows the information under the heading “Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals and Post-2015 Development Agenda”.

So what did we say concerning the Medium Term Plan and Priorities? We emphasized that in an increasingly complex and challenging environment, FAO should carefully consider its mandate and take the lead in the required field of work, while respecting the work of other actors in areas where others have their mandates. A flexible and adapted approach is necessary in order to be able to face changing circumstances including emergencies. You will notice that this need for being flexible will come back under other headings of the mentioned Plan.

The Programme Committee agreed with the priorities under the Strategic Objectives, as expressed by the Technical Committees and it strongly encouraged further work to identify areas of special importance and of less importance. The Programme Committee underlined the phenomena of

urbanization of migration, both to cities and to and from countries and its consequences that have direct impact on FAO work.

Furthermore, we discussed statistical data. If you do not know what the situation is like, it is very hard to do something about it, so statistics need to be of good quality. Thus, we encouraged FAO to continue and further refine its work by producing reliable data, as well as assisting Member States to provide such data.

The fact that we acknowledge the impact on small holders and the upscaling of agriculture investment should also be included. This is something that needs to be said every time. It was said many times yesterday, but we need to keep on saying it. Promoting and providing equal opportunities for women and men must be centrally placed in FAO and adequate resources be set aside by the Organization.

Then, now we come to consider the two extreme sides of an interesting and valuable evaluation, which it was our privilege to study and discuss.

Firstly, we had the evaluation of FAO's contribution in crisis management related to relief towards development. The connection between relief, rehabilitation and development are major concerns to Countries in crisis. With FAO's resilient work, the Organization is going in the right direction. The Programme Committee encouraged FAO to continuously take action for a sustainable reduction in vulnerability. Furthermore, relief, rehabilitation and development must be regarded as whole and not just as individual parts.

We highlighted that the FAO contribution must always be targeted at the poor and most vulnerable, and that the correct identification of this group is important. The awareness of the importance of FAO remaining neutral must be at the core of work. In order to act the paradigm shift of linking relief, rehabilitation and development, FAO must continue to raise awareness with stakeholders including donors and FAO staff.

We underlined the vital importance of working according to the Country context and culture, and encouraged working with partners to achieve good analysis. Besides, being contextual, the country Programme Framework needs to increase their flexibility and include a sound risk assessment. This will have a dynamic and flexible effect according to the circumstances.

Moreover, the work on Gender must be further intensified and should be part of the main recommendations in the future. We really look forward to receiving a report on progress made on the implementation of the recommendation.

The next assessment is the joint WFP/FAO Evaluation of the food security group. We found this evaluation to be relevant, informative, of high quality. We particularly appreciated the joint management response and the fact that the implementation of the recommendations is already started. Furthermore, during our meeting, we had full participation of both those involved at FAO and WFP, so we felt there was really a true joint effort.

We also realised that the food security coordination group had shown positive results and encouraged both Organizations to utilize the coordination's full potential. We underlined the importance of national and local ownership and involvement and we felt that in the next Report we would like to see more details of the work carried out at the local level. Again, food security group must work with the locals and adapt to existing local mechanisms.

So we encouraged FAO and WFP to tackle the weak points, such as the lack of including preparedness and crosscutting issues.

Moreover, we look forward to be continuously kept updated. In this case, if you have not done so, I would like to advise you to look at the web page, because it really gives you an idea of the magnitude of the work that they do. I must say that I am impressed by how you manage to coordinate sometimes over 100 partners in very difficult circumstances and with an uncertain budget, but FAO and WFP manage to do this amazing job.

You may have thought that this was the end of the interesting part, but it is not true.

We had an evaluation on FAO's effectiveness at the Country level and it is a positive fact worth celebrating, as we did on Sunday 30 November 2014 that more and more FAO Members are now classified as mid-income Countries. Indeed, this assessment was a synthesis of four country evaluations of mid-income Countries. We looked at Armenia, Colombia, Sri Lanka and Vietnam. We noticed that the group is quite differentiated, and this synthesis was very useful because then we could see the systemic challenges at FAO. For instance, regrettably, the work of giving men and women equal opportunities is lacking behind the set standards.

We agreed with Management that as the mid-Countries are so heterogeneous, it does not make sense to have one single approach, but that FAO should strive to have a flexible Country Programming Framework approach based on each Member State's particular circumstances. I think you can see the theme here: adapt to the conditions and be flexible.

We underlined the importance of continued capacity building of the Decentralized Offices in order for the FAO to have a flexible and agile approach.

We recommended FAO to increase its visibility by participating and initiating relevant activities and suggesting leading solutions. With an increased visibility, FAO has the possibility to give an active support. One example could be to encourage mid-income Countries to exchange experiences among them as well as to assist lower-income Countries that will grow. This process will allow the Organization to take a more proactive approach.

In order to continue to have interesting evaluations, we need to have a plan so we looked at the work plan rolling of the Strategic and Programme evaluations. Thus, we welcome the shift to result-based evaluations, which of course is in-line with the FAO reform and the OED Charter. We recognize the challenges of measuring impact, not just the incumbent impact. We suggested awareness be raised about this fact.

We endorsed thematic evaluations of the five Strategic Objectives and underlined the importance of evaluating also the sixth Objective on Technical Knowledge and Skills as well as the crosscutting issues. The Programme Committee felt that due to the continuing challenges of giving women and men equal opportunities, FAO work on Gender should be evaluated sooner than foreseen in the document. In addition, Country evaluations should be results-based and we should have a geographical balance in these assessments.

As I just said, we encouraged the joint evaluations, and we wanted to have them presented to us. We thought that Article 14 regarding the Bodies should be the object of analytical reviews.

Yet, it certainly depends on the rules for each body. We all look forward to discussing the Terms of Reference for the planned evaluation of the Office of Evaluation at our next session in 2015.

We had also two follow-ups. The first follow-up was on the Code of Conduct to responsible fisheries and the second a follow-up was on the FAO's role and work in Forestry. Those were both very good. However, little time has passed to really see a corresponding result. What we said both for the conduct of responsible fisheries and FAO's role and work in forestry was that it is important to have a good cooperation at Regional level with the Regional Bodies. As for forestry we encouraged FAO to fully participate at an early stage in the upcoming review of the International Forestry Development Policy.

Then we come to the Globally Important Agriculture Heritage Systems. Yesterday, China reminded us very usefully that there will be a new document elaborated and presented to the Committees in March. When we discussed this item, we suggested that the item be discussed in the Joint Committees. In the light of that, we will be meeting next time in March.

In conclusion, in order for the Programme Committee to be able to do its work correctly, which consist of comprehending regional groups, it is imperative that documents arrive in time as the basic texts are quite big. We only reiterate 'in good time'. The Programme Committee discussed the possibility of an amendment of the Basic Texts for a minimum of 14 days before its session for the delivery of documents in all languages. We ended up reverting to the item at the following session.

I know also the little video yesterday on how to do presentations. I might have gone beyond, but I really feel that the Programme Committee is important. We indeed discuss really interesting items, and I hope I have not taken too much of your time.

Mr Wimol JANTRAROTAI (Thailand)

My delegation appreciates the Programme Committee for its dissemination of the Programme of Work relating to evaluation and to Programme planning and priority setting.

We welcome the technical priorities set up under the Strategic Objective by Technical Committee. In that regard, we would like to add that the technical priorities should have some flexibility to cope with unpredictable emergency issues. Therefore, we support an adaptive approach to dynamic circumstances in dealing with emergencies. We agree with the following idea: remind FAO to refine its work on collection of analysis of data and dissemination of the statistics to support the Members. We underline that data on future trends and scientific base predictions are useful for policy planning.

We concur with the Committee on the need for attention to the impact of technology change on small holders and Family Farming, increase in agriculture investment, increase productivity and review food loss. On the one hand, this positive impact can happen on condition that technology change must be transferred and human capacity building has to be done accordingly.

On the other hand, the priority setting needs to consider the negative impact of the technology goal change and as non-trivial issues, as well as the impact of climate change in relation to technology.

We welcome the result that the evaluation apply for the Work Plan of Strategic and Programme evaluation from 2015 to 2017. Key performance indicators setting for the Work Plan needs to be challenged in our next evaluations. We recognize that FAO continues its global role on contribution in crisis to relief, rehabilitation and development afterwards, we support to have this work done in FAO resilient Agenda.

For the evaluation of FAO we support the implementation of the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries (CCRF), this has been used for more than a decade. We have some concerns on the impact of action taken and tangible results, which still cannot be measured. The evaluation should point out the cost involved and how to tackle the problem. We agree with the importance of why dissemination of CCRF also through the Blue Growth Initiative and request an FAO Regional Body to work closely with its regional Members.

With these comments, we endorse the findings of the Programme Committee.

Mr Luca FRATINI (Italy)

I am honoured to speak on behalf of the European Union and its 28 Member States. The candidate countries to the EU, Albania and Turkey, align themselves with this statement.

We fully endorse the conclusions of the Programme Committee and would like to highlight a few issues which need due consideration in the follow-up to these deliberations.

While we agree with the technical priorities for the Technical Committees and the CFS under the Strategic Objectives, with a view to the next Programme of Work and Budget, we would like to see more information on areas of de-emphasis and a strengthening of the role of FAO as a provider of public goods, with particular regard to its normative work, while retaining the necessary critical mass of staff capacity at FAO Headquarters.

We would express our full support for the conclusions of the Joint FAO/WFP evaluation of the food security cluster and would encourage the FAO and the WFP to enhance their collaboration in other fields under their respective competence, in accordance with their comparative advantages.

We look forward to the thematic evaluations on the five Strategic Objectives and would stress the need to cover Objective 6 on technical quality, knowledge and services, as well as the cross-cutting themes, including gender, in the evaluations.

In conclusion, we wish to express our appreciation of the focused discussions and guidance provided by the Programme Committee.

Mr Vimlendra SHARAN (India)

Being a Member of the Programme Committee, it goes without saying that India fully endorses the Report of the 106th Session of the Programme Committee. While all the issues raised are of significance to the Organization, I wish to highlight just two or three points.

Firstly, we welcome the information note linking Priorities to the Strategic Objectives as also the proposed Thematic Evaluation of the Strategic Objectives detained in the rolling Work Plan for evaluation. Furthermore, we request for an early preparation of a status paper on the link between FAO's work and the Post-2015 Development Agenda as proposed by the Report in paragraph 3(i), understanding well that any document of this nature can only be transitory, at this stage.

We also demand advance work on refinement of the Country Programme Framework to better accommodate the flexibility needed by the Organization to work in crisis related transition period.

Lastly, we urge FAO to deliver upon the advice of the Committee to adopt a more proactive approach in MICs and initiate urgent steps for strengthening South-South and Triangular Cooperation, which is of great importance to India and perhaps to many other Developing Countries.

Mr Jon E. JONASSON (Iceland)

This statement is made on behalf of the Nordic Countries; Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden.

We applaud the undertaking of the Programme Committee to consider the technical priorities, as expressed by the relevant Committees, in order to assist FAO in developing a Programme of Work that will allow FAO to take the lead within its mandate as well as support others in theirs, in a flexible, dynamic and adaptive way.

We agree with the Programme Committee that a document consolidating priorities as expressed by the Regional Conferences, Technical Committees and relevant bodies will be most useful when discussing the Programme of Work and Budget. The monitoring system which is being set up is also an issue we will follow closely.

As to the interesting evaluations, we would like to underline four points: first, the importance of linking relief and development cannot be emphasized enough, and we encourage FAO to continue its work to sustainably reduce vulnerability; second, the fine cooperation between FAO and WFP both in the food security cluster work and the joint evaluation, and we look forward to continued joint implementation of the recommendations; third, in-country work must be guided by a flexible and agile Country Programming Framework in order to respond to a country's changing circumstances, and must be in accordance with "Delivering as One" and other relevant parts of the chapter on "Improved functioning of the United Nation Development System" in the 2012 QCPR resolution; four, synthesis of evaluations are valuable as they point out systemic failings – and we are very concerned by the fact that giving women and men equal opportunities is still not a reality in all FAO's endeavours.

Finally, if the proposal to amend the Basic Text is tabled so as to stipulate a timeframe of 14 days before the sessions for delivery of documents, we will support that.

Mr Ivan G. KONSTANTINOPOLOSKI (Russian Federation) (Original language Russian)

We thank the Secretariat for preparing the Report as well as the Members and the Chair of the Programme Committee for the very productive work in the context of the review of several priorities for the Medium Term Plan (2014-17).

We support the emphasis in FAO's work on fields such as contributing to the development of the social protection system, collection, analysis and dissemination of specialized statistical data, enhancing the productivity of the agricultural sector, reducing losses and waste of food.

We highly commend the comparative advantages of the FAO in the work on linking emergency assistance and rehabilitation and post-crisis transition. We support the efforts of the Organization in this area, particularly making efforts towards strengthening resilience of vulnerable countries given

threats to their food security, nutrition and agricultural development, as well as their readiness to deal with emergency situations. In this regard, we welcome the conclusions of the joint FAO-WFP initiative assessment on the coordinating role in the food security cluster. We reaffirm the importance of that work.

With respect to the follow-up on evaluating the FAO's support to Forestry, we agree with the conclusions of the Programme Committee to the fact that there is a need to take greater account of the Regional Forestry Commissions, in discussions at the Regional Conferences.

We also call for continuing the multi-year joint force of the FAO and the UN Economic Commission for Europe in this multilateral coordination work. We would specifically single out the recommendation of the Programme Committee regarding the importance of drawing attention to the FAO's potential in Countries with medium-level income. We feel that this, first and foremost, contributes to expand FAO work with respect to the languages used in those countries.

Sr. Claudio J. ROZENCWAIG (Argentina)

Gracias Señora Presidenta por la presentación del Informe que la Argentina apoya respecto al Comité del Programa, el cual nuestro país integra. El Comité del Programa examinó diversos asuntos relativos a la Evaluación y a la Planificación del Programa y el establecimiento de prioridades, en particular con respecto al examen del Plan de mediano plazo para 2014 – 2017, prioridades técnicas y al Plan de trabajo eslabonado indicativo de evaluación de estrategias y programas para 2015 – 2017.

Al respecto, la Argentina desea subrayar la importancia de que las evaluaciones abarquen también el Objetivo Sexto sobre Calidad, Conocimientos y Servicios técnicos; así como los temas transversales, en particular el género, tal como se señala en el párrafo 5b del informe. Además, queremos apreciar que las evaluaciones de los Programas por países se centren en los resultados, subrayando la importancia del Equilibrio Geográfico en la selección de los Programas por países, que se evaluarían como se indica en el párrafo 5d del informe, y la evaluación de la contribución de la FAO en fases de transición relacionadas con crisis, vinculación de socorro al desarrollo, párrafo sexto.

Asimismo Argentina desea resaltar que se ha avanzado en un alineamiento de las labores de las Conferencias Regionales, los Comités Técnicos y el Marco Estratégico, y que este logro debe ser un continuo objetivo de la Organización. Por otra parte, la Argentina desea subrayar que existe un error de traducción en la versión en español, en el cual se señala en el párrafo 9c que el Comité recalcó la importancia de dar amplia difusión a la Iniciativa sobre Crecimiento Azul. La versión correcta en inglés sostiene que “they stressed the importance of wide dissemination of CCRF”.

Mme Karima BOUBEKEUR (Algérie)

L'Algérie intervient sur ce point au nom du Groupe Afrique. Le Groupe Afrique se félicite des conclusions du Rapport de la cent-seizième session du Comité du Programme et souscrit à toutes ses recommandations. Concernant le point relatif à l'examen du Plan à moyen terme, le Groupe Afrique félicite la Direction pour l'élaboration de ce Plan qui a tenu compte des priorités dégagées des Conférences régionales et des Comités techniques.

Comme indiqué lors de la Conférence régionale pour l'Afrique, tenue en mars dernier, le Groupe se réjouit du fait que les priorités régionales soient étroitement alignées sur les Objectifs stratégiques de la FAO et qu'elles aient appuyé les efforts déployés par l'Union africaine pour en finir avec la faim d'ici à 2025. Dans ce cadre, nous exprimons de nouveau notre satisfaction quant aux principaux domaines d'action de la FAO dans la région Afrique et aux trois Initiatives régionales comme moyens pour mieux cibler les travaux de la FAO aux fins de l'amélioration de l'impact à l'échelle des pays et de la mobilisation des ressources dans le cadre du Programme de travail et budget 2014 – 2015 et du Plan à moyen terme 2014 – 2017.

Toutefois, nous invitons la FAO à renforcer davantage l'intégration des questions de parité et les programmes en faveur des femmes et des jeunes; de tenir compte des aspects régionaux et des répercussions des crises nationales; de renforcer la mise en œuvre de différents types de programmes de protection sociale, afin d'améliorer la nutrition et les moyens d'existence; de renforcer les

capacités nationales et régionales en matière de statistiques agricoles et de tenir compte de la priorité que constitue la décentralisation en Afrique.

Le Groupe demande également à la FAO que des mesures soient prises pour renforcer les capacités des Bureaux des pays et améliorer le processus de sélection des représentants de la FAO, de manière à nommer des représentants ayant les compétences techniques et administratives requises et invite la FAO à faciliter la coopération sud-sud et d'aider les États Membres à concevoir des Projets à l'appui de l'emploi des jeunes.

Nous invitons également la FAO à tenir compte d'autres enjeux qui auront certainement des incidences sur les activités et les priorités de la FAO à moyen terme. Il s'agit particulièrement de l'élaboration et de la mise en œuvre des Objectifs de développement durable relevant du Programme de développement pour l'après-2015 au niveau des pays et le défi que constitue le changement climatique. Nous attendons avec grand intérêt des informations actualisées en matière de suivi des indicateurs relatifs aux produits dans le cadre des résultats du Programme à moyen terme.

Le Groupe Afrique se félicite également de toutes les évaluations élaborées et examinées lors de cette session du Comité du Programme et tout particulièrement de l'évaluation stratégique et programmatique 2015 – 2017 - plan indicatif à horizon mobile. Sur ce point notre groupe met l'accent sur l'importance de la concrétisation de ces évaluations qui sont, de notre point de vue, d'une grande importance et est favorable à ce que ces recommandations couvrent également le sixième Objectif stratégique.

Le Groupe Afrique se félicite du travail accompli et des progrès réalisés depuis la création en décembre 2010 du Module mondial d'actions groupées FAO – PAM en matière de sécurité alimentaire et encourage la poursuite de ce travail. Le rôle de la FAO en situation de crise et d'urgence est d'une grande importance. À cet effet, nous encourageons l'Organisation à cibler ses activités en faveur des plus pauvres et vulnérables, et à conduire une évaluation des risques beaucoup plus rigoureuse. Enfin, nous encourageons la FAO à poursuivre l'Initiative de la croissance bleue, notamment les aspects liés au renforcement des capacités et le développement de l'aquaculture durable, et se félicite également des progrès enregistrés en matière d'intégration des questions forestières, prioritaires dans le Programme de travail de la FAO et les cinq Objectifs stratégiques, ainsi que dans le cadre des programmations par pays.

Il est également nécessaire de renforcer davantage l'intégration des activités des Commissions régionales des forêts dans les travaux des Conférences régionales et du Comité des forêts, et de poursuivre l'élaboration d'une politique forestière internationale. S'agissant de l'évaluation de l'efficacité des activités de la FAO dans les pays à revenus intermédiaires, le Groupe Afrique considère la FAO comme un partenaire précieux dans ces pays, notamment pour sa contribution en capacités techniques.

Cependant la FAO doit relever quelques points négatifs aux défis, comme mentionné dans l'évaluation, et auxquels nous souscrivons, tels que l'absence d'un représentant ou un personnel suffisamment compétent sur le terrain, l'irrégularité de l'appui et de l'assistance apportée par les Bureaux régionaux et leur siège. Nous invitons également la FAO à renforcer davantage sa contribution en matière de renforcement des capacités, l'intégration des questions d'égalité entre les sexes et de dépasser le stade analytique par rapport au CPP.

Mr Eaid AL LOZI (Jordan) (Original language Arabic)

I am honored to intervene on behalf of the Near East Group. The Near East Group welcomes the conclusions of the 116th Session of the Programme Committee focusing on the questions related to the planning of programmes and the definition of priorities.

As far as the review of the Medium Term Plan 2014-17 and the Technical Priorities therein are concerned, we do approve the recommendations of the Programme Committee in this regard and we stress the points related to the dissemination of collection of statistics and providing more technical assistance to Member Nations to enable them to collect better and more precise statistics to be reliable for the sake of programme formulations in the future.

Second, regarding the Indicative Rolling Work Plan of Strategic and Programme Evaluation 2015-17, we do agree with the recommendations of the Committee in this regard, and we emphasize Recommendation D regarding the need to ensure a geographical balance in terms of the selection of countries that will be subject to evaluations, and the point E regarding the Independent Evaluation and the Terms of Reference that will be discussed in the upcoming session of the Committee.

In terms of the evaluation of FAO's contribution in crisis-related transition linking relief to development, we welcome the recommendations of the Committee in this regard, especially linking relief and rehabilitation and development in a comprehensive manner. The evaluation of FAO's effectiveness at country level and the synthesis of evaluations in middle income countries, in that regard, we also approve all the recommendations made by the Committee.

Regarding Point E: joint FAO-WFP evaluation of the Food Security Cluster Coordination, we welcome the recommendations of the Committee and we highly appreciate the coordination within the Food Security Cluster and we encourage both agencies to make every use of every opportunity to ensure that coordination.

As far as point F is concerned: Follow-up on the evaluation of FAO's support to the implementation of the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries, we stress the importance of the ongoing evaluation of the CCRF and the consequences of its implementation.

Finally, the Near East Group approves all the recommendations of the Programme Committee and we express our thanks to its Members and Chairperson for all their efforts during the meetings of the Committee and we highly appreciate all the work and effort.

Sr. José Antonio CARRANZA (Ecuador)

Agradecemos a la Presidenta del Comité del Programa por la presentación del Informe y el Ecuador, como miembro del Comité, respalda las recomendaciones contenidas en el mismo, y solamente queremos hacer hincapié en dos temas.

El primero, el relativo a la evaluación de la eficacia de la FAO a nivel nacional, síntesis de las evaluaciones realizadas en países de ingresos medios. Al respecto, y al tiempo de reiterar que si bien la base de la labor de la FAO en los países son los marcos de programación por país lo que le garantiza presencia y visibilidad a la FAO, la Organización debería plantearse también el tener un enfoque para los países de ingresos medios.

No hablamos de una estrategia especial para esos países, pero es un enfoque, una visión hacia ellos dadas las características, necesidades y potencialidades de los países de ingresos medios, como así lo ha reconocido la mencionada Evaluación, y como también ha sido reconocido en los informes de evaluación de las Oficinas Regionales y Subregionales de la FAO, por ejemplo en materia y en el ámbito de la Cooperación Sur-Sur y triangular.

En ese contexto, cabe recordar que el Consejo, en su 149.º período de sesiones, en el párrafo 16b del Informe, destacó la importancia de que la FAO prepare un estudio sobre las potencialidades y desafíos de la labor de la Organización en los países de ingresos medios. En consecuencia, alentamos a la preparación de dicho documento.

Por fin, queremos resaltar un tema que consideramos muy importante o sea el de la urbanización y la migración como un tema emergente al que la FAO debería dar mayor énfasis y abordarlo de manera integral, debido a las implicaciones que tiene este tema en la agricultura y en la seguridad alimentaria. En este sentido, respaldamos la recomendación que ha hecho el Comité del Programa sobre este particular.

Mr Olyntho VIEIRA (Brazil)

Brazil supports the Report and the comments, the very good work done, as usual. We would like to talk about a few items.

The first is about the document CL 150/LIM/6. We understand it is a very useful document that we should have as sort of a companion document. It helps a lot in understanding what we do here. So we applaud the document and we understand it is very important.

The second item is about statistics. We understand that this is one of the main activities that should be developed at FAO and we understand that it is well done, and we also agree that they must be of good quality, so we have to invest as much as possible in the statistics because it is an important instrument for the planning and the actions of governments.

The other point is that we support very much the concept that relief, rehabilitation and development should be stressed and this is a work that has been done in quite a good way and we support its continuity.

Finally, we support this permanent issue to have the documents on time. So I think the Basic Texts should reflect the importance of this issue, so we support it very much.

Ms Akiko NAKANO (Japan)

The Government of Japan would like to take this opportunity to appreciate the Programme Committee for its Report and to congratulate the Madam Chairperson on her excellent leadership.

We would like to welcome the Review of the Medium Term Plan 2014-17 – Technical Priorities and we praise the teamwork displayed in the preparation of the document.

We value each Technical Committee's summary, especially with its priorities in the identified areas of emphasis and de-emphasis.

We hope FAO not only to be normative and inclusive, but also dynamic in its performance, particularly in refining its work on collection, analysis and dissemination of statistics. We would be grateful to commend the FAO for being a forward-thinking body.

Lately, the Principles for Responsible Investment in Agriculture and Food Systems were approved by the Committee on World Food Security, as we were informed, and which werewelcomed yesterday by many Members. Here again, we sincerely wish for FAO to continue promoting and disseminating public awareness for its projects, thereby providing a good incentive to every stakeholder.

With regard to the indicative rolling work plan of strategic and programme evaluation 2015-17, we welcome its shift to a results-based view, especially in the cross-cutting themes, including gender.

With this intervention, Japan fully supports the endorsement of the Report of the Programme Committee.

Sr. Manuel CLAROSO OVIEDO (Venezuela)

Agradecemos a la Presidenta del Comité del Programa la presentación del informe que refleja los resultados del 116.º período de sesiones.

En especial, deseamos destacar el acuerdo que han alcanzado los Miembros del Comité en relación con los Objetivos Estratégicos de la FAO y las prioridades provenientes de los cuatro Comités Técnicos que han sesionado durante este año 2014. Agradecemos además a la Secretaría la Nota de información preparada que agrupa, de acuerdo con los Objetivos Estratégicos, las prioridades señaladas por las Conferencias Regionales, los Comités Técnicos y otros órganos que han sesionado este año.

Una vez avanzado este trabajo, que consideramos preliminar, quedaríamos a la espera de los documentos de Plan a plazo medio y Programa de trabajo y presupuesto para su examen en nuestra próxima reunión el próximo año.

Respecto de la contribución de la FAO en fases de transición relacionadas con crisis y la vinculación del socorro al desarrollo, tomamos nota con satisfacción de la conclusión general de la evaluación que indica que la FAO está tomando la dirección correcta en el ámbito de las actividades de transición.

Asimismo, alentamos a la Organización a seguir aplicando un enfoque integrado con miras a reducir de forma sostenible la vulnerabilidad considerando el socorro, la rehabilitación y el desarrollo de una forma integral, como sugiere la evaluación y las conclusiones del Comité.

En cuanto a la evaluación de la eficacia de la Organización a nivel nacional y a los estudios de caso presentados en los países de ingresos medios, compartimos el criterio expresado por el Comité, de que

en cada país se debe aplicar un enfoque flexible en función de las circunstancias y las necesidades particulares para hacer frente a cada caso.

Respecto del seguimiento de la evaluación del apoyo de la FAO a la aplicación del Código de conducta para la pesca responsable y el seguimiento de la evaluación estratégica de la función y la labor de la Organización en el sector forestal, tomamos nota de las conclusiones y de las discusiones que hubo en el seno del Comité y apreciamos que durante el período de sesiones se haya vinculado estos temas a la labor de las Conferencias Regionales y otros foros.

En cuanto a la posible enmienda del Reglamento del Comité de Programas, a fin de incluir el plazo para el envío de los documentos en todos los idiomas antes de cada período de sesiones queremos expresar nuestra preocupación, que ha sido siempre compartida por otros Estados Miembros, en cuanto a la importancia de mantener la rigurosidad en la entrega de los documentos debidamente traducidos. Para nuestra Delegación es fundamental que tenga plena vigencia el multilingüismo que ha sido establecido en todas las Naciones Unidas.

Si bien el Comité dentro de sus atribuciones realizará los debates sobre este tema, queremos llamar la atención sobre la importancia del envío de los documentos correctamente traducidos y en tiempo oportuno, de tal manera que sea posible la mayor participación de los Estados Miembros en los diferentes órganos rectores.

Mr Eric ROBINSON (Canada)

As an active Member of the Programme Committee, Canada endorses the findings of this Report. We would, however, like to take this opportunity to briefly highlight two key Programme Committee recommendations.

In paragraph 3b, the Programme Committee agreed with the technical priorities under the Strategic Objectives expressed by the four Technical Committee sessions held in 2014, and underlined the importance of identifying areas of emphasis and de-emphasis in the FAO's Programme of Work.

In our view, the Programme of Work and Budget 2016-17 should build upon the section on this topic contained in the PWB 2014-15 with a comprehensive and detailed analysis of areas of programmatic emphasis and de-emphasis for the next biennium.

As others have mentioned, we welcome the plan for the FAO to conduct thematic evaluations of the five Strategic Objectives. And we would also like to emphasize the importance for evaluations to cover Objective 6 on Technical Quality, Knowledge and Services as well as the cross-cutting theme of gender.

Mr Abdul Rayaz AYAZI (Afghanistan)

As a Member of the Programme Committee, I should not be intervening on this Agenda Item. However, there is one issue which I wish to bring to the attention of the Council and that refers to the request of the Programme Committee from the Secretariat of deliberation of document CL 150/LIM/6.

First, we want to thank Mr Boyd Haight and his colleagues in preparing this document. It is very useful. Taken together, the five Technical Committees and the six Regional Conferences make 162 references to priorities under the 13 Organizational outcomes of the five Strategic Objectives. I am not counting Objective 6.

A rudimentary analysis of this paper reveals the following conclusion: 162 references to prioritize are equally divided between the five Technical Committees and the six Regional Conferences, each one 81 priority references.

Strategic Objective 2 and Strategic Objectives 5 account each for 26 percent of the 162 references, though Strategic Objective 2 is far more overarching than Strategic Objective 5.

Reference to priorities in the Report of the Regional Conference differs very much from seven references in the Regional Conference of Africa to 19 references in the Report of the informal Regional Conference for North America.

Sra. Maria Eulalia JIMENEZ ZEPEDA (El Salvador)

Gracias a la Presidenta por la presentación de este informe tan detallado.

Agradecemos y apreciamos la nota de información presentada en la que se han agrupado con arreglo a los Objetivos Estratégicos las prioridades señaladas por las Conferencias Regionales, los Comités Técnicos, y otros órganos pertinentes en el 2014, lo cual le fue solicitado al Comité del Programa en la reunión de principios de noviembre.

Consideramos ese documento muy importante, pues como hemos indicado en otras oportunidades, es de estos órganos que deben de provenir las prioridades en las áreas que tiene que trabajar la Organización.

Reiteramos la importancia de dar mayor atención a la relación entre el trabajo de la FAO y la Agenda post-2015.

Asimismo, apoyamos el trabajo indicativo de evaluaciones de estrategias y programas para 2015-2017 y agradecemos las evaluaciones temáticas de los cinco objetivos estratégicos.

Para concluir, apoyamos lo indicado por la delegación de Ecuador sobre el documento relativo a la Evaluación realizada en países de ingresos de renta media y sobre la importancia de que la FAO aborde el tema emergente de la urbanización y la migración.

Sra. Maria De Lourdes CRUZ TRINIDAD (México)

Primeramente, se agradece a la Señora Presidenta por el trabajo realizado en este informe del Comité del Programa.

En cuanto a los diversos asuntos relativos a la evaluación y a la planificación del programa y el establecimiento de prioridades, en particular se hace hincapié en que la FAO siga trabajando en el ámbito de datos y análisis de inclusión de estadísticas especializadas. Se respalda, se sigue impulsando el tema de género y también las recomendaciones en cuanto al impulso a la Cooperación Sur-Sur, y a continuar con el tema emergente sobre aspectos de migración; en ese sentido se respalda este informe.

Ms Sultana AFROZ (Bangladesh)

We would like to thank the Chairperson for the work performed in submitting the detailed Reports of the Programme Committee.

Bangladesh appreciates the Information Note linking priorities from the Regional Conferences and the Technical Committees to the Strategic Objectives. We would like to request that importance be given to the need to identify areas of emphasis and de-emphasis in FAO's Programme of Work.

Bangladesh would also like to request that more attention be given to the link between FAO's work and the Post-2015 Agenda. My delegation endorses the rolling Work Plan for evaluation and welcomes its thematic evaluation of the five Strategic Objectives.

Finally, Bangladesh endorses the findings of Reports of the 116th Session of the Programme Committee.

Ms Cecilia NORDIN VAN GANSBERGHE (Chairperson, Programme Committee)

You all now understand why we have such good discussions in the Council we have very active Members, as you have noticed and I am also happy to say they are very forward looking.

Thank you Afghanistan for having already started the analysis on CL 150/LIM/6. For those of you, who like myself, might not have had the time to take notes, you will find it in the Verbatim. And also special thanks to Ecuador and El Salvador who mentioned factors of the growing number of mid-income countries which is a very happy factor, and then the trends of urbanization and migration which, of course, will impact on the work of this Organization.

As I listened, I had the feeling that the Council endorsed our recommendations and which I take as a sign that we have done our work properly. I would like to thank you all for the understanding of the need for having documents in time.

Mr Boyd HAIGHT (Director, Office of Strategy Planning and Resource Management)

I would like to thank very much the delegates for their observations on the review of the Medium-Term Plan, the technical priorities and the priorities from the Regional Conferences. I also very much appreciate that there is a real balance expressed in how the Organization should address these priorities, which is very much in-line with our seven core functions.

I heard in the interventions today, and those of yesterday in the consideration of Technical Committee reports, the focus that we need to place on norms and standards, on statistics and information as a basis for evidence based policy advice in countries, for capacity development to implement policies and the various guidelines that have been agreed in the Governing Body such as the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security, and Principles for Responsible Investment in Agriculture and Food Systems, the technical advice to be provided to countries at country level, and working in partnership and advocacy.

The fact that you are recognizing that these are areas where we need to focus in order to address the priorities is very important. The priorities from the Regional Conferences and the Technical Committees will be used to help us refine the outputs and the indicators that we have in our Medium-Term Plan, and the resource allocations for the implementation of this plan in the second half of the four-year cycle, which is the 2016-17 biennium for which we are preparing the Programme of Work and Budget.

The LIM/6 document has helped us to start synthesizing these priorities. As the delegate of Afghanistan observed, there are many of them. They have been consolidated but there are areas that cut across the Strategic Objectives. For example, you will notice under Strategic Objective 5 there is a priority on the control of animal diseases, plant pests and food safety hazards that is relevant to three of the four outcomes and.

But what is important about these priorities is the link you are making to the need for flexibility to address them at regional and particularly at country level, because in the end, these priorities are about what we do to address and make progress on the results, the targets and the indicators that we have agreed to in our results framework of the Medium Term Plan. What we do at country level is how we will make progress. Different countries, many of you have noted, have different requirements and that is how we will be able to make refinements and make progress.

The results framework is also our basis for monitoring. We will be reporting to the Programme and Finance Committees on the first year of the biennium 2014 in March 2015 and we will use that to help us to refine our indicators. The results framework provides a good basis for the strategic evaluations of the objectives in the future.

CHAIRPERSON

I want now to make my conclusions as follows:

The Council endorsed the report of the 116th Session of the Programme Committee, and:

- a) appreciated the information note provided by the Secretariat with consolidated information on priorities aligned with the Strategic Objectives, as emerged in the relevant bodies in 2014;
- b) underlined the importance of identifying areas of emphasis and de-emphasis, taking into account priorities arising from Regional Conferences and the Committees;
- c) looked forward to elaboration on the connection between the work of the Organization and the Post-2015 development process;

- d) welcomed the indicative rolling work plan of strategic and programme evaluation for 2015-17 and supported the thematic evaluations of the five Strategic Objectives and evaluation of Objective 6, including statistics and cross-cutting themes of gender and governance;
- e) welcomed the evaluation of FAO's contribution in crisis-related transition and looked forward to further refinement of Country Programming Frameworks in this regard;
- f) welcomed the synthesis of evaluations of middle-income countries and encouraged FAO to continue in its proactive approach, including with regard to advocacy and South-South Cooperation; and
- g) commended FAO and WFP for the joint leadership of the food security cluster, and encouraged funding partners to further recognize the importance of cluster coordination for effective humanitarian assistance.
- h) Noted the Programme Committee would continue to review options for ensuring timely dispatch of documents in all languages prior to its sessions.

Item 6. Reports of the 155th (27-28 October 2014) and 156th (3-7 November 2014) Sessions of the Finance Committee

Point 6. Rapports des cent cinquante-cinquième (27-28 octobre 2014) et cent cinquante-sixième (3-7 novembre 2014) sessions du Comité financier

Tema 6. Informes de los períodos de sesiones 155.º (27 y 28 de octubre) y 156.º (3-7 de noviembre de 2014) del Comité de Finanzas

(CL 150/4; CL 150/11; CL 150/LIM/2)

CHAIRPERSON

Ladies and Gentlemen, we now move on Item 6, *Reports of the 155th and 156th Sessions of the Finance Committee*. Please ensure you have documents CL 150/4, CL 150/11, as well as CL 150/LIM/2 regarding the status of current assessments and areas.

Document CL 150/LIM/2 sets out the status of assessments and arrears as at 24 November 2014.

Member Nations currently owe FAO over USD 168 million for 2014 and prior years, which represents 32 percent of current assessments and clearly complicates FAO's liquidity management.

With the situation as it is now, 47 Member Nations still have arrears outstanding from 2013 and previous years, and 12 owe arrears in such amounts as would prejudice their right to vote at the forthcoming Session of the Conference in accordance with Article III.4 of the Constitution.

There is no decision to be made on this point, but the Council may wish to include a statement regarding arrears in its report on this item.

I now invite Mr MOUNGUI Médi, Chairperson of the Finance Committee to introduce this item.

Mr Médi MOUNGUI (Chairperson, Finance Committee)

I wish to recognize the Ministers from Cameroon, Gabon and Sierra Leone. I am pleased to be here with you today to present the Report of the 155th and 156th Sessions of the Finance Committee.

These Reports are submitted to the Council in documents CL 150/4 and CL 150/11. In addition, document CL 150/LIM/2 has been prepared to provide the Council with an update on the status of contributions and arrears as at 24 November 2014. While the 156th Session dealt with FAO issues, the 155th Session was a special session convened to deal with WFP matters. A report on WFP matters has been submitted to the World Food Programme Executive Board and was considered at its Second Regular Session in 2014.

As agreed with you, Mr Independent Chairperson of the Council, I shall now present to you the highlight points of the Report of the 156th Session of the Finance Committee. This Report contains four major items that were considered during the session: one on the financial position of the

Organization, another one on budgetary matters, another one on human resources, and a fourth one on oversight matters.

Starting with monitoring of the financial position of the Organization, in reviewing the financial position of the Organization, the Committee welcomed the improvement in the required position of the Organization. Mindful of cash shortages in recent years due to non payment of contributions, the Committee urged all Member Nations to make timely and full payment of assessed contributions to ensure that FAO continues to meet the operating cash requirement for the Programme of Work.

As of November 2014, this is an update and you have mentioned it in your introductory remarks, Mr Chairperson, and also you requested the Council to take note and probably to reconsider it in the deliberations. I would like to say that the Organization has received USD 186 million and 135 billion Euros in respect of 2014 assessments. This represents 71 percent of both USD assessments and Euro assessments.

During 2014, approximately USD 9 million were received from Members in full settlement of arrears and 70 million dollars were received for partial payment of arrears. As of 24 November 2014, 29 percent of assessed contributions still needed to be settled. This figure is higher than the one if we had to compare it with the one at the same period last year which is at 32 percent. The Council is invited to note the importance for all Member Nations irrespective of size to honor their financial obligation to the Organization to enable it to continue to fulfill its mandate.

The Committee reviewed the measures currently in place to improve the timely payment of contributions in arrears. Recalling the guidance of the Council at its 149th Session, requested the Secretariat to continue exploring measures to encourage timely payment of assessed contributions in particular by examining and applying best practices used by other international Bodies.

Recalling the recommendation of the Committee at its 154th Session that the incentive scheme be abolished and the Council endorsement of this recommendation at its 149th Session, the Finance Committee decided, and this is among the decision that we could take which is vested to the Committee, we decided that a rate of 0 percent should be used in determining the amount of discount for each Member Nation that had paid its contribution in full before 31 March 2014, pending formal approval of the recommendation to abolish the incentive scheme by the Conference at its 39th Session in June 2015.

The Committee examined the FAO audited accounts for the Biennium 2012-13, together with the Long-Form Report of the External Auditor. The Committee welcomes the issues of the External Auditor's own qualified opinion and expresses appreciation for the quality of the Long-Form Report noting the comments and clarifications provided by External Auditor and the Secretariat. The Committee recommended that the Council submit to the Conference in June 2015 for adoption the audited account for 2012-13 Biennium, and accordingly agreed to submit to the Council the draft resolution which is contained and presented in paragraph ten of document CL 150/4 for forwarding to the Conference and that Draft Resolution is before you for endorsement.

The Committee considered options to address the funding up of the After Service Medical Coverage Liability. It is a very difficult issue. The Committee acknowledged that FAO's organizations active involvement in the UN Common Systems searched for an optimum solution to this complex and highly technical issue. The Committee reiterated the financial constraints for additional funding by Member Nations and requested the Secretariat to continue in its effort to contain the cost of medical insurance. Cost containment is the key word here.

On budgetary matters, that is the second part of the regulations, the Committee reviewed the Annual Report on Support Cost Expenditures and Recoveries covering the period from 1 June 2013 to 31 May 2014 and noted that all trust fund projects open during the period under review had been charged at a rate which fell within the presently approved policy. The Committee considered an update on the development of the Comprehensive Financial Framework for Cost Recovery. The Committee welcomed the proposal of the Director-General for a more transparent and concrete cost recovery policy that treated its budgetary sources supporting FAO's Programme of Work in an integrated manner. In this regard, the Committee endorsed the proposed Comprehensive Financial

Framework Cost Recovery model, including the new standard 7 percent cost category of Indirect Support Costs (ISC) and requested the Secretariat to prepare a detailed policy for consideration at the next Regular Session.

Coming to the issue of the Human Resources, you know how delicate that issue is within any organization. We consider it really matters, so let me first report on the consideration of Progress on Implementation of the Human Resources Initiatives and plan for the Biennium 2014-15. The Committee noted with satisfaction the progress made on human resources initiatives and encourages Secretariat to continue in these efforts. The Committee noted with concern that the ongoing review of the Comprehensive Package by the International Civil Service Commission in New York was proceeding slowly and a timeline for finalization of the review at the end of 2015 would not allow the outcome to be taken into consideration by the 39th Session of the Conference in June 2015 when considering the Programme of Work and Budget 2016-17.

Recalling previous discussions and the guidance of our Council at this 149th Session, the Committee reiterated the importance of engaging FAO Members with the Fifth Committee of the United Nations General Assembly and the International Civil Service Commission in order to achieve meaningful once again containment of staff costs at FAO.

Coming to the oversights within FAO, there are many reports. And the first one is the progress made on implementation of FAO's Audit Committee and the FAO Audit Committee recommendations contained in its 2013 report. The Committee highlighted importance of establishing implementation deadlines for the recommendations so that they are not repeated for one year to the next.

The Committee also reviewed progress made by the organization on implementing recommendations by the Office of the Inspector General with particular emphasis on long outstanding high risk recommendations. I want to emphasize on that with particular emphasis on long outstanding high risk recommendations.

The Committee acknowledged the progress made in implementing long outstanding recommendations and encouraged the Secretariat to explain it, implementation under this. The Committee requests that the Inspector General to review the order outstanding recommendations include it in its annual report, specific proposal to close in where possible.

The Committee reviewed and updated progress report on implementation of the External Auditor's recommendations and welcomed the progress made in closing recommendations of the External Auditor, urging the Secretariat to continue in his effort to close the remaining outstanding recommendations. The Committee reiterated the critical importance of the Organization of a strong and effective accountability and internal control framework and the importance of this function for FAO's work, and endorsed the step B to commence to develop a formal accountability policy and an internal control framework.

The Committee considered a progress report on the status on implementation on the Joint Inspection Unit recommendations and appreciated the overall rate of acceptance and implementation of relevant Joint Inspection Unit recommendation by the Secretariat.

In conclusion, the sessions of the Committee were overall very productive and, in particular, I believe that it was possible to address a number of important issues pressing the Organization. On behalf of the Members of the Committee, I would like to extend our appreciation to the Secretariat for its assistance in our deliberation, and our gratitude to the Member Nations for FAO for providing us this opportunity to sort out the important work of the organization.

On a personal note, I wish to openly recognize the support and the listening and the availability of the Secretariat, which I enjoyed myself, and also the hard work of the Members of the Committee in delivering our mandate. I want to mention specifically the organization of informal meetings that showed to be very productive in terms of fitting us with information prior to the discussion in formal settings. And I also want to recognize that the Secretariat did a wonderful job with improving the timely production of documents which was recognized by Members.

I would be pleased to provide any further explanation you may have of the Council regarding our report.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you, Mr Médi. You have been here to report on what was deliberated during the 156th Session. This is where the discussion should center.

Deliberations for the 155th Session were intended for WFP and action has been taken by the Executive Board of WFP.

Mr Khaled EL TAWHEEL (Egypt) (Original language Arabic)

Egypt also endorses the intervention of Morocco later on behalf of the Near East Group. As a Member of the Finance Committee, we would like to welcome and endorse both reports of the Finance Committee's 156th and 155th sessions, but we would like to comment on the report of the 156th Session of the Finance Committee.

Allow us to say the following. We welcome the improvement in the liquidity position of the Organization and we call on all Member Nations to pay their assessed contributions and arrears in due time and promptly. We also call on the Finance Committee to find creative ways to encourage Member Nations to pay their contributions in line with the recommendations of the Council and the Conference of FAO. We would also like to highlight the deficit in the After Service Medical Coverage Fund which may reach USD 890 million. This is a very serious issue that may hinder the ability of our Organization to undertake its mandate. We welcome the Human Resources Policy and we call on more accountable geographical representation in the Secretariat of FAO.

In conclusion, the Republic of Egypt would like to thank the Secretariat of the Finance Committee for its commendable efforts

Mr Seerat ASGHAR (Pakistan)

We thank the Chairman of the Finance Committee for his comprehensive report. The Finance Committee always has a lengthy agenda as it is required to review a number of financial, budgetary and oversight issues of the Council.

We would like to highlight some of the issues from the 156th Session of the Finance Committee. We welcome the improvement of the organization's liquidity situation as shown by the review of its financial position. An item of concern, however, is the significant deficit on the general fund which is principally due to gaps in funding of the After Service Medical Coverage Plan and the Terminal Payments Fund. The Medical Coverage aspects we believe are very complex and highly technical. They concern the entire UN system and we are pleased to note that the Secretariat is actively engaged in the UN Common System's search for a solution to this problem. The Finance Committee will be keeping this matter under review we believe.

The Committee also examined the Audited Accounts of FAO for the Biennium 2012-13, together with the External Auditor's Long Form Report. We are pleased to note that the External Auditor has given an unqualified opinion on the financial statements of the organization. The Long Form Report, when the audit of the financial operations of FAO makes a number of recommendations which were implemented would result in significant improvements. The Auditor has also given significant attention in her report to the question of internal control.

In this connection, we may recall that the Director-General's Transformational Change Programme already included improvements in accountability and internal control. And in addition, we note with satisfaction that the Secretariat is putting in place a strong and effective accountability and internal control framework in FAO. We understand that the accountability policy will be promulgated this month and the internal control framework by June 2015.

The Committee also considered the development of the Comprehensive Financial Framework for Cost Recovery, the aim of which is to develop a cost recovery framework based on the Principle of Food Cost Recovery. This would also align with the General Assembly's resolution which requested Organizations to review the issue of cost recovery to ensure that all resources do not subsidize

projects funded by extra budgetary resources. Based on this financial framework, the Secretariat will be preparing a new cost recovery policy for the Finance Committee's consideration at its next session.

Finally, we would like to complement the HR Division on the good progress made on the various Human Resource Initiatives and plans therein this year.

With these comments, we endorse the report of the Finance Committee.

Mr Luca FRATINI (Italy)

I am honoured to speak on behalf of the European Union and its 28 Member States. The candidate countries to the EU, Albania and Turkey, align themselves with this statement.

We welcome the Finance Committee's reports, in particular the one on the 156th Session, which provides an excellent overview of the Committee's important work. We fully endorse the Committee's conclusions.

We are pleased to note that the liquidity position of the Organization as of 30 June 2014 has improved, foremost due to timely payment of assessed contributions. In this regard, we reiterate our strong support for the Committee's call for timely and full payment.

Referring to the Audited Accounts 2012-13, we appreciate the External Auditor's *unqualified opinion* and endorse the Committee's recommendation on this matter. However, we are concerned that monitoring and internal control need to be further improved and we encourage the Management to strengthen the *internal control framework* in Decentralized Offices before taking further steps towards further decentralization.

Further attention should be given to the substantial General Fund deficit due to the After Service Medical Coverage liabilities which appear in FAO's financial statements due to IPSAS accounting. We encourage the Secretariat to continue its commitment in the UN working group on this matter, bearing in mind the financial constraints with regard to additional funding by Member Nations. While we appreciate the Secretariat's progress in cost containment, we expect further steps into this direction.

We welcome the progress in the development of the new Comprehensive Financial Framework for Cost Recovery. We are looking forward to a new transparent and equitable cost recovery policy based on this framework.

Since FAO is a knowledge-based agency, proper Human Resource management is crucial. Therefore, we appreciate the progress made on most HR initiatives. We encourage the Secretariat to continue its efforts, in particular on the deployment of the Global Resource Management System in Decentralized Offices. We regret that the review of the compensation package by the ICSC as an important basis for meaningful containment of staff costs at FAO will not be finalized before the end of 2015.

Finally, we noted with satisfaction that the Finance Committee reiterated the critical importance of a strong and effective accountability and internal control framework, and we strongly encourage the Management to develop a formal accountability policy and an internal control framework as a priority.

Mr Olyntho VIEIRA (Brazil)

Brazil supports the report by the Chairperson of the Finance Committee and we thank the Secretariat for the work done.

With reference to the report of the 156th Session, Brazil commends to professional work of the Secretariat in the management of the financial resources and recognizes the good liquidity of the Organization which has enough resources to spend four months of working and it has no need to seek external finance to keep its activities.

However, the concerns about the financing of the deficit related to the coverage of the USD 890 million liability, mainly related to the After Service Medical Coverage, are still present. This problem has to be faced and FAO has to work to find a suitable solution. The issue is not new, as we know. The plan is part of FAO's package of benefits to its employees for six decades and it

becomes continuously heavier due to two main reasons: the continued growth in health costs and the longevity of the population.

The problem became more evident after the full compliance by FAO with the International Public Sector Accounting Standards, IPSAS, which establishes full recognition of the liabilities. The problem exists in varying proportions in the UN system agencies which adopt similar mechanisms, also known as After Service Health Insurance. At FAO, the issue was recognized in 1997, and since then there have been transfers from the Regular Budget to cover such liability, but not in amounts capable of neutralizing its continual growth. The Secretariat has made serious efforts to find a solution to the problem. The scenarios explored up to now are realistic and recognize that this is a systemic problem that needs a systemic approach.

Brazil supports the conclusion of the Finance Committee in the sense that the Secretariat shall continue its efforts to find a solution to the problem and to report back at future sessions of the Committee.

My delegation would also comment on the work in progress for the construction of a new model of a Comprehensive Financial Framework for Cost Recovery. The work done so far is encouraging and is in line with similar initiatives in the UN system which foresees full cost recovery. The proposal of the adoption of a flat rate of 7 percent seems appropriate and Brazil supports the continuation of the good work that has been done so far.

With these remarks, we fully support the reports of the 155th and 156th Sessions of the Finance Committee.

Mr Zaid AL-LOZI (Jordan) (Original language Arabic)

I am honoured to speak on behalf of the Near East Group and I would like to endorse the previous intervention by the Republic of Egypt.

I should like to speak about the report of the 156th Session of the Finance Committee that met to review the financial position of the Organization. I had a very long intervention, but in order to save time I shall be brief.

First of all, I would like to speak about the financial position of the Organization. We welcome recommendation A that encouraged all Member Countries to pay their assessed contributions on time, in full, so that the Organization can meet its operating cash requirements for the Programme of Work. We would like to also shed light on the deficit of USD 890 million which is expected by the end of this year. This is a very worrying trend because it is expected that next year this deficit may reach USD 1 billion, especially due to the After Service Medical Coverage Liabilities. We call on the management to find quick solutions in order to deal with this deficit and to mitigate its cost as much as possible. Also, we would like to call on management to adopt measures by which we can encourage Member Nations to pay their assessed contributions on time and to benefit from experiences in other UN System Agencies in this regard.

We in the Near East Group would also like to support recommendation F. That is to say a rate of 0 percent in determining the amount of discount for each Member Nation that had paid its contributions in full before 31 March 2014 pending the formal approval of this recommendation by the Conference of the Organization.

We would also like to endorse the recommendations of the Finance Committee regarding the After Service Medical Coverage Funding, and we also welcome changing the provider of the After Service Medical Coverage, and we do hope that this will lead to efficiency savings. We hope that long-term solutions will be adopted for this very worrying problem for the management of FAO.

I would like now to move onto budgetary matters. We would like to endorse the Annual Report on support costs, expenditures and recoveries within the Comprehensive Financial Framework and the Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems. We would like to stress the importance of the GIAHS to our group.

Regarding the Human Resources, we welcome the recommendations of the Committee related to the progress report on Implementation of the Human Resources Strategic Framework and Action Plan and we would like to stress in particular recommendation C that requested particular attention to be given to geographical representation regarding appointment in the Organization and its decentralized offices.

We also support other recommendations of the Finance Committee, taking into account the particular recommendations I refer to in my intervention. I would like, in conclusion, to thank Members of the Finance Committee and the Secretariat and all staff members who contribute to the success of FAO's work.

Sra. Maria De Lourdes CRUZ TRINIDAD (México)

En primer lugar, me gustaría agradecer muy cumplidamente al Presidente del Comité por el excelente Informe que nos ha presentado. Apreciamos mucho su conducción de los trabajos del Comité este año, que ha realizado varios aportes importantes para mejorar la situación financiera de la Organización.

En cuanto a los planes relativos al personal, queremos destacar que el informe del auditor externo señala la necesidad de financiar las obligaciones relacionadas con el personal con urgencia extrema, ya que el aplazamiento comprometería la viabilidad financiera del Programa de Trabajo en años futuros. Es por ende necesario que la Organización avance en la elaboración de un plan global para financiar plenamente el pasivo del seguro médico para lo cual, como se ha señalado, debe buscar activamente una solución en el marco de Naciones Unidas.

Asimismo estamos preocupados por los retrasos en los pagos de las contribuciones a la Organización e instamos a los Estados que aún no lo han hecho a que cumplan con estos compromisos.

Habiendo dicho esto, quisiera manifestar nuestro apoyo al informe, a los informes y la resolución contenida en ellos.

Ms Akiko NAKANO (Japan)

As a Member of the Finance Committee, the Government of Japan appreciates the Chairperson and the Distinguished Members of the Committee. We support the recommendation and guidance of this Report with a few observations.

First of all, we fully align with the Committee in urging all Members to make full assessed contributions. We would like to voice our continuous reliance, strong willingness and our alliance with the work of FAO. This is the spirit in which Japan places in fulfilling its dues faithfully, despite the fact that we are facing economic and financial difficulties of our own homeland.

We hope that our voice may be an incentive to other Members, although we welcome the abolishment of the Incentive Scheme. In this connection, we also hope that alternative incentive measures are explored by the Secretariat at the earliest opportunity.

We are grateful of the careful examination by the Committee on the 2012-13 Audited Accounts and the External Auditor's Report and we support its recommendation, as well as its approval on the 2013 Audit Accounts of the FAO Commissary.

Regarding the funding of After Service Medical Coverage, we consider this as quite an agenda. However, contrary to the suggestion of increasing funds, as a witness of the FAO's remarkable achievement in cost savings in recent years, Japan believes FAO is on the right road in its resilience and its strategy with its action in modernized and in efficient manner. We would like to wish, therefore, the Secretariat to demonstrate its full capacity to avoid any increase in the regular budget level.

At the same time, let us state our tremendous confidence in the Director-General's leadership in the course of discussion in ICSC of the United Nations System.

Japan again intends to be a vigorous Member and support the work of FAO, as well as the Report of the Finance Committee.

Ms Sultana AFROZ (Bangladesh)

First of all, we would like to express our profound thanks to the Chairperson of the Finance Committee for the work performed in submitting the detailed Report.

Bangladesh endorses the draft resolution of the Audited Account 2012-13 be transmitted to the Conference for approval. Bangladesh also welcomes the Director-General's proposal for a more transparent and fairer policy for support costs which also integrates extra budgetary activities into the Programme of Work.

We would also like to urge all Members to engage with the ICSC and the Fifth Committee of the General Assembly in New York to contain staff costs at FAO.

With this comment, Bangladesh fully endorses the Report of the 156th Session of the Finance Committee.

Mr Médi MOUNGUI (Chairperson, Finance Committee)

I would like to come back to a few issues which were raised and emphasized by Members in our Report.

The first issue regards staff liabilities. It is so far, as the Committee noted, increasing year by year but still it remains a very difficult one to resolve. It is true that we recommended in the Committee that the Secretariat should continue to engage and discuss with the UN System as a whole, but we also emphasized that FAO should play a leadership role. This is very important because we may think that we are a bit forward in the discussion within FAO, but the discussion in New York may delay if we, as an Organization, do not push a little bit given the experience that the FAO has already had on the matter.

The funding of the ASMC liability is also far from the discussion that triggered in the Committee related to cost containment. It is true that we advised FAO to do its utmost to contain costs, but the discussion should go beyond that. It still remains tricky if we start a discussion only at our level. We will certainly encourage FAO to report on the discussion that is going to take place in New York.

The second issue I would like to mention is the one of the internal control within FAO. This is also an issue which has been stressed and stressed by either the Audit Committee or the Inspector General's recommendations. I think it is key for the work of FAO: to make sure that there is accountability within FAO and that reporting is easily tracked. I think the recommendation of the Finance Committee is to request that the Secretariat work further in this area.

The last thing I would like to mention is the issue of the financial position of the Organization. As you heard from the update, it is true, there is no law setting here, but we have tried to compare what happened this year and what happened last year at the same period, that is 24 November.

It is clear that Members are a bit behind in terms of their payment, this is a fact, but we don't want to say that Members do not want to pay. I think Members will pay, but it takes time. I don't know exactly because it is not a Conference year, but certainly next year we will have a better record on this.

We want, as the Committee has said, to encourage Members to pay their contributions on time.

CHAIRPERSON

We have covered everything and it is easier now for me to make my conclusions as follows:

The Council approved the reports of the 155th and 156th Sessions of the Finance Committee, and in particular, on the Financial Position:

- a) urged all Member Nations to make timely and full payment of assessed contributions to ensure that FAO continued to meet the operating cash requirements for the Programme of Work;
- b) welcomed the External Auditor's issuance of an unqualified opinion on the Organization's Financial Statements for 2012-13 and recommended that the Draft Resolution presented in para 10 of document CL 150/4 be submitted to the 39th FAO Conference for adoption;

- c) noted the Finance Committee's decision to set a rate of 0 percent for use in determining the amount of discount for each Member Nation that had paid its contributions in full before 31 March 2014;
- d) Encouraged the Secretariat's continued involvement in the UN Common System for an optimum and practical solution to the complex matter of the After Service Medical Costs liability, and requested the Secretariat to continue in its efforts to contain the costs of medical insurance.

On Budgetary Matters:

- e) Welcomed the proposal of the Director-General for a more transparent and required costs to recover policy, which integrates better activities funded by the extra-budgetary sources into the Programme of Work and looked for a detailed policy for implementation for consideration at its next session.

On Human Resource matters:

- f) Noted with satisfaction the progress on Human Resource initiatives and encouraged the Secretariat to continue in these efforts.
- g) Supported the Finance Committees reiteration of the importance of engagement by FAO Members with the Fifth Committee of the United Nations General Assembly and the International Civil Service Commission in order to achieve meaningful containment of staff costs at FAO.

On oversight matters:

- h) Noted the importance as stressed by the Finance Committee for the Organization to have a strong and effective accountability and Internal Control Framework and the steps being taken by the Secretariat in this regard.

On other matters:

- i) Endorsed the Committee's guidance provided to Secretariat on all other matters within its mandate as well as initiatives to improve its own Matters of Work.

Mr Luca FRATINI (Italy)

I would like to repeat what I had said before on behalf of the European Union and its 28 Member States, in particular the need to reflect in the conclusions: the request for strengthening management and internal control of FAO Decentralized Offices.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you. This will be reflected in the report. It is a very important point and was repeated by several Members.

Item 4. Report of the Joint Meeting of the 116th Session of the Programme Committee and 156st Session of the Finance Committee (5 November 2014)

Point 4. Rapport de la Réunion conjointe du Comité du Programme (cent seizième session) et du Comité financier (cent cinquante-sixième session) (5 novembre 2014)

Tema 4. Informe de la reunión conjunta del Comité del Programa en su 116.º período de sesiones y el Comité de Finanzas en su 156.º período de sesiones (5 de noviembre de 2014)

(CL 150/6)

CHAIRPERSON

We now turn to item 4, *Report of the Joint Meeting of the 116th Session of the Programme Committee and 156th Session of the Finance Committee*.

Please ensure that you have document CL 150/6 before you.

I would like to remind the Council that the section of the Joint Meeting Report on the Independent Review of Governance Reforms will be discussed right after the conclusion of this item under

item 10. The Chairperson of the Joint Meeting will present their deliberations during that meeting on this item.

Ambassador Nordin, the Chairperson of the Programme Committee, who chaired the Joint Meeting last month, will introduce the Report.

Ms Cecilia NORDIN VAN GANSBERGHE (Chairperson, Programme Committee)

As you know, my alter ego, the Chairperson of the Programme Committee and myself share this duty and this time it fell on me.

As the Chair said, we will return to the Draft Report on the Independent Review under Item 10. Under Item 4, we will discuss the two remaining items from the Joint Meeting, starting with the Report on the Implementation of the Strategies for Partnerships with Civil Society and Private Sector. As you can see, we have Ms Villarreal, Director of OPC with us who gave a very interesting presentation.

We welcomed this update and we commended the Secretariat for the impressive work that has been done in a short space of time. We underlined that the objective of partnerships is to achieve the Strategic Objectives, to build bridges, and heighten FAO's visibility, and not specifically to mobilize resources. We look forward to FAO's continued efforts to build partnerships with non-state actors at all levels.

The monitoring evaluation system, which is being built, will be vital in ensuring that the partnerships effectively contribute to FAO's goals. We encouraged FAO to continue the ongoing work on developing tools and establishing this monitoring evaluation system and look forward to following the work.

We requested that the next Reports of Progress in Work with the two strategies contain differentiated information on the different groupings of partners at global, regional and national levels. Work in this area should obviously be consistent with a concrete Programming Framework. We emphasized the importance of risk management and of FAO neutrality.

If you do have the time, please have a look at the FAO website where you will find a plethora of partnerships described. It is very interesting to see the wide variety of partners and activities. I found this brought me to a better understanding of the work.

The other item was the Progress Report on language balance in FAO products. We noted the Report and strongly underlined the importance of increased efforts to reach language balance and to seek partners to find service providers at best cost and quality. The Joint Meeting requested a more in-depth Report to be presented to its next Session, and I have been assured that this will be provided.

Mr Zaid AL LOZI (Jordan) (Original language Arabic)

With regards to the issue related to Independent Review of Governance Reforms, we take note of discussing this under Item 10.

I speak on behalf of the Near East. First, we do support the Report of the Joint Meeting and all the recommendations contained in that Report. We stress paragraph 8 in that Report related to the efforts aiming at language balance in FAO's products.

Mr Seerat ASGHAR (Pakistan)

The FAO's strategies for partnership with civil society organizations and with the private sector were approved in 2013. The Joint Session of the Programme and Finance Committee considered a progress report on the implementation of the two strategies. We would like to commend the Secretariat for the significant progress made in the short span of time.

We also note with satisfaction the impressive risk management system the Secretariat has headed up whereby mechanisms have been established to identify and manage actual and potential risks in the implementation of FAO's partnership programmes. The system includes a due diligence process for all new partnerships between FAO and civil society and private sector organizations. This process will assist in avoiding the types of problems and criticisms which FAO encountered in past years and will also ensure FAO's independence and impartiality.

We endorse the Report of the Joint Session, particularly its comments regarding the importance of partnerships and supporting FAO's mandate and the pursuit of the Strategic Objectives. The need for monitoring and evaluation to ensure that partnerships contribute to FAO's goals and the importance of alignment with Country Programming Frameworks.

Mr Ivan G. KONSTANTINOPOLSKIY (Russian Federation) (Original language Russian)

We thank the Secretariat for preparing the documentation on this Agenda Item. We also thank the Chairperson of the Programme Committee for her presentation.

We commend the implementation of the FAO's strategies for partnerships with civil society and the private sector. A reflection of the success of these documents has been the conclusion of 54 agreements between FAO and non-state actors over the last six months.

In this regard, we once again propose that consideration be given to strengthening FAO's cooperation with the scientific community. One of the instruments for achieving this might be the practice of establishing FAO Chairs at specialized universities, following the example of the UNESCO Chairs. We welcome the expert consultations held in June of this year on FAO's cooperation with research organizations.

We feel that it would be advisable to place the draft strategy considered at these meetings for partnership between the FAO and the scientific communities on the Organization's website for broad discussion and this should be put forward for approval by the Council session in March of 2015.

As regards maintaining language balance at FAO, we support the recommendation of the Joint Meeting to submit to its next session in March 2015 a detailed report on this issue. We feel that this report should encompass all the aspects of languages of the Organization; publications, terminology manuals, the FAO website, interpretation and translation at meetings, translation of sectorial materials, for example the standards of the Codex Alimentarius Commission and the international standards on phytosanitary measures. We trust that this report will contain details and statistical data on specific languages.

We also note that following the decision of the 149th Session of Council, this question should be considered not only by the Joint Meeting, but also by the Council itself. Russian became an official language of FAO in 2007. Figuratively speaking, it's the youngest language in the Organization. Five years ago, we allocated 3 million Euros in order to establish the Russian language in FAO. Today, on the basis of the available statistics, we can see that Russia continues to lie at the bottom of the FAO language table according to all indicators. This pertains to the percentage of translated publications, which amounts to 3 percent of the total number, as well as the share of documents in the electronic repository of FAO, just 2 percent, and the number of language equivalence on the terminology portal. Russian lags behind the other languages in terms of a number of indicators several times over.

According to expert assessments, 260 million people speak Russian across the globe. Many of them live in countries which recently joined the Organization. Assistance is sorely needed there. In 2013, an independent evaluation of the regional and sub-regional offices of FAO of Europe and Central Asia referred to the absence of sufficient numbers of Russian translations, which may become a fundamental obstacle to expanding FAO outputs in that region.

The 146th Session of the Council and the 29th Session of the Regional Conference for Europe stressed the importance of increasing the number of FAO materials translated into Russian. Notwithstanding the marked progress made at the regional level, we see that the number of publications in Russian in 2012 and 2013 remains roughly at the same level as for 2010 and 2011. Moreover, the overall number of FAO publications over the last biennium increased by almost 40 percent. As a result, a broad swathe of materials which are of tangible interest to specialists from the countries of Eastern Europe, Central Asia and the Caucuses remains inaccessible to the Russian speaking audience.

We see some efforts by the Secretariat to address this situation, and we display understanding regarding the technical difficulties related to guaranteeing language balance. For our part, we expect due attention to be paid to supporting the distribution and dissemination of the Russian language through all areas of FAO's work. Taking all of this into account, we propose that the Council once

more emphasize the importance of increasing the quantity of FAO materials translated into Russian and it should also note the need for additional efforts to bring about the fully fledged integration of Russian into all the areas of FAO's activities.

Sr. Claudio J. ROZENCWAIG (Argentina)

La Argentina acompaña el Informe presentado. Al respecto, en el citado Informe, se abordan temas de gran relevancia; entre ellos el Examen Independiente de la Reforma de la Gobernanza que se tratará posteriormente en el tema 10. Aunque sobre este punto, y solo en vía preliminar, la Delegación argentina desea realizar un especial hincapié en las recomendaciones de la Reunión Conjunta en relación con tener en cuenta las consecuencias presupuestarias de las recomendaciones y usar un lenguaje concordante con los Textos Fundamentales respecto de las funciones internacionales de la FAO.

Subrayamos también el Informe sobre la aplicación de las Estrategias para las Asociaciones con la Sociedad Civil y con el Sector Privado y el Informe sobre los progresos realizados respecto del equilibrio lingüístico en los productos de la FAO, teniendo siempre en cuenta la defensa de la resolución 5011 de la Asamblea General de las Naciones Unidas sobre el multilingüismo que la Argentina ha sostenido y sostiene desde su adopción en el año 1995.

Por último, resaltamos como positivo y apoyamos la política de la Organización de bajar los costes de los recursos extra presupuestarios del 13 al 7 por ciento ya que esto constituye un incentivo para los donantes.

M. Marc MANKOUSSOU (Congo)

La délégation de la République du Congo prend la parole au nom du Groupe Afrique. Nous tenons tout d'abord à vous féliciter de la manière dont vous dirigez nos travaux. Nous sommes convaincus que sous votre présidence éclairée, notre session aboutira aux résultats souhaités.

J'aimerais également remercier et féliciter les deux présidents du Comité du Programme et du Comité financier. Le Groupe Afrique Monsieur le Président, approuve les conclusions et les recommandations de la Réunion conjointe. Nous notons que la réunion a débattu de trois documents très importants pour notre Organisation. Monsieur le Président c'est pour cette raison, à la lumière du contenu de ces documents, que le Groupe Afrique tient à formuler trois observations.

Permettez pour le premier point, bien qu'il sera examiné au point dix, nous aimerions dire à propos de l'examen indépendant des réformes concernant la gouvernance que nous notons que ces réformes ont permis de dynamiser le fonctionnement des organes directeurs. Par ailleurs, pour faire écho aux observations faites sur de nombreuses questions par la Réunion conjointe, le Groupe Afrique encourage le Secrétariat à s'en servir en vue de finaliser le rapport.

Deuxièmement, au sujet du Rapport sur la mise en œuvre des stratégies en matière de partenariats avec la société civile et le secteur privé, le Groupe Afrique souligne l'importance de mettre en place un système de suivi et d'évaluation doté d'indicateurs appropriés conformément aux objectifs de la FAO. Nous insistons aussi sur l'importance de la gestion des risques ainsi que de la neutralité dans le choix des partenaires.

Monsieur le Président enfin, sur le dernier point, au titre du rapport intérimaire sur l'équilibre entre les langues dans les produits de la FAO, le Groupe Afrique attend avec intérêt le rapport détaillé sur cette question qui sera examinée lors de la Réunion conjointe.

Monsieur le Président, le Groupe Afrique invite le Conseil à approuver le Rapport de la Réunion conjointe du Comité de Programme et du Comité financier.

Sr. José Antonio CARRANZA (Ecuador)

Queremos agradecer a la Presidenta del Comité del Programa por la presentación del Informe de la Reunión Conjunta. Al respecto, el Ecuador respalda la recomendación contenida en dicho informe y solamente quiere hacer hincapié en un aspecto, reconocemos los progresos realizados en la implementación de las estrategias y asociación con Organizaciones de la Sociedad Civil y del Sector Privado reflejados como se menciona en el informe de la secretaria en la formalización de

54 acuerdos, 19 de ellos con el Sector Privado, 10 con Organizaciones de la Sociedad Civil y 24 con la Academia, si bien este último grupo no es parte de las dos estrategias.

Dentro de esos acuerdos, queremos resaltar el referido a la Asociación Mundial de Radios Comunitarias y alentamos a que se continúen estableciendo asociaciones con mecanismos que puedan hacer oír las voces y fortalecer la participación de los pequeños agricultores, campesinos y pueblos indígenas. El informe de la implementación de las dos estrategias, tienen un enfoque FAO con actores no estatales, sin embargo el Ecuador, como lo mencionó en la reunión conjunta, considera que debían presentarse dos informes específicos, uno para cada estrategia, conforme lo estableció el Consejo en su 146 período de Sesiones, en los que se reflejen más detalladamente los progresos específicos y diferenciados de cada estrategia, en el contexto las características, necesidades y roles diferenciados que tienen las Organizaciones de la Sociedad Civil y del Sector Privado.

Por lo tanto, apoyamos la recomendación de la Reunión Conjunta, la cual va en ese sentido. Sin perjuicio de lo mencionado, queremos reconocer y respaldar el trabajo desarrollado por la secretaría en la implementación de las estrategias.

Sra. Maria Eulalia JIMENEZ ZEPEDA (El Salvador)

Agradecemos a la Presidente la presentación que ha hecho sobre la Reunión Conjunta de ambos Comités. Desearía referirme en forma muy breve, a dos cuestiones. En primer lugar, acogemos con satisfacción el informe sobre el progreso realizado en la implementación de las estrategias de alianzas con la Sociedad Civil y con el Sector Privado que reflejan la excelente labor que ha realizado la FAO en este campo, por lo que le instamos a continuar trabajando en las mismas.

Estimamos sin embargo que sería más provechoso recibir en el 2015 informes separados sobre la marcha de ambas estrategias, como acaba de señalar el delegado del Ecuador. Agradecemos el informe sobre los progresos realizados respecto del equilibrio lingüístico en los productos de la FAO. Instamos a esta Organización a continuar con sus esfuerzos para garantizar el equilibrio entre los distintos idiomas en la FAO, teniendo en cuenta las medidas más rentables para lograr este objetivo. Quedamos en espera del informe más detallado que será presentado a la Reunión Conjunta en su próxima reunión. Con estas consideraciones, aprobamos este informe.

Ms Akiko NAKANO (Japan)

Japan would like to appreciate the Joint Meeting Report and we support wholeheartedly its endorsement with one brief observation.

With regard to the implementation of the Strategies for Partnership with Civil Society and with the Private Sector, we should share a common vision towards FAO's goal. Therefore, we underline the importance of the bridge between us. These bridges we hope to be laid in wide range, more stable, open and equal to each Member Nations.

We highly respect its importance of risk management and neutrality in approaching partners, as the Joint Meeting stressed.

On this count, we support the request for future specific Progress Reports, considering its crucial role in sharing lessons learned and progress made.

Mr Luca FRATINI (Italy)

I am honoured to speak on behalf of the European Union and its 28 Member States. The Candidate Countries to the EU, Albania and Turkey, align themselves with this statement.

We would like to thank the Chairperson of the Programme Committee for providing us with the Report of the Joint Meeting of the Programme and Finance Committees and appreciate efforts made by the Chairperson to streamline our work by raising one issue under one agenda item.

We warmly welcome the update on the FAO's work with non-state actors and recognise that too little time has passed since the endorsement of the strategies for work with civil society and the private sector to be able to see the actual impact of that work.

We look forward to continuing to follow this important work, not least the development of tools and the establishment of a monitoring and evaluation system.

Without effective partnering, the FAO's effort in supporting the fulfilment of the Strategic Objectives will not have maximum potential impact. Furthermore, improving cooperation will enable the FAO to become more visible and to be seen as a natural partner. This can also have a positive effect on mobilising resources.

Given the diverse nature and objectives of entities that seek partnership with FAO, we encourage it to assess the benefits and costs of each partnership according to standard criteria and to ensure that any risks are mitigated.

Finally, language balance within the Organization is important. In this area and in others, the FAO must deliver quality while seeking to be cost-efficient.

Sr. Manuel CLAROSO OVIEDO (Venezuela)

Nosotros nos sumamos a la felicitaciones que se han realizado a la presentación de este informe de la Reunión Conjunta y solo queremos hacer hincapié al informe sobre los progresos realizados respecto al equilibrio lingüístico y queremos dar nuestro pleno respaldo a la intervención que señaló la Delegación argentina sobre este tema. Creemos que ese es el enfoque más apropiado para revisar esta cuestión.

Mr Evgeny SOBOLEVSKY (Observer for Belarus) (Original language Russian)

We very much welcome the work done for a thorough independent review of the efficiency of governance reform. The analysis in this review already makes it possible to draw a conclusion about the positive impact of FAO reform on strengthening cooperation between Members of the Organization and the Secretariat, together with the stimulation of the Governing Bodies, to ensure that they optimize their work. We are confident that placing this evaluation activity on a systematic basis will undoubtedly contribute to enhancing the effectiveness of the Organization and enhancing its role in the global system.

With regard to the report on language balance in FAO, we welcome the efforts made to achieve it. It is gratifying that this issue is part and parcel of the Programme of Work and Budget of the Organization. We highly commend the efforts of the Regional Office for Europe and Central Asia to increase the number of publications in Russian.

At the same time, even on the basis of such a brief report, it is graphically evident that there is enormous scope for further work to achieve language balance. A lot still remains to be done, especially with respect to the under-utilized languages. Further movement in this area would be fully consistent with the spirit of the decisions of the 149th Session of the Council held in June of this year. We feel it is extremely important to pay greater attention to Russian, which is under-used compared to the other languages, both in terms of the number of publications and the share of electronic materials, as well as in the area of terminology support. Many FAO website pages continue to be inaccessible in Russian and that substantially hampers the fully-fledged participation of Russian speaking sectorial experts in the Organization's work. In this regard, we feel it is important to pay greater attention to extending the use of Russian across the work of the Organization.

Ms Cecilia NORDIN VAN GANSBERGHE (Chairperson, Programme Committee)

I think sometimes it would be wonderful if I could all address you in Swedish, but I guess that's not going to happen. I am sure that maybe we'll very ably chair the interesting session that we will have in March on that, and I personally would really appreciate to hear an update from Director Villarreal concerning the interesting suggestions from Russia and others if we have time for that.

Ms Marcela VILLARREAL (Director, Office for Partnership Advocacy and Capacity Development)

Thank you to all of the Members who gave us their comments. We actually do believe that through the implementation of these strategies we will be able to ensure better, more sustained implementation of the Five Strategic Objectives with more impact and results that can be better up-scaled, so we are

very hopeful of the implementation of these strategies, including in the areas for academics as suggested by the Russian Federation.

We take note of your suggestions and assure you that we are developing a monitoring and evaluation system with appropriate indicators, and, of course, we will be reporting back to you on how we are progressing with the system. We assure you that we are doing our utmost to implement all the principles of the Risk Management System that was presented to you in order to ensure FAO's neutrality throughout the process as this is one specific and very important element in the implementation of any partnership, and that we are working very closely at the country level to ensure that all of the implementation of the strategies is absolutely aligned with the country programming frameworks.

We also take note of the proposal of improving and increasing the cooperation with the scientific community, including of looking into the issue of creating chairs at universities. This is something we have already started working on with some universities and some partners. Of course, we will keep you informed about the developments in these areas. And, of course, we will share also the advances on the development of the Strategy of cooperation with academia itself.

Finally, I would also like to refer to Ecuador's comments in terms of the importance of using our partnerships also to raise the voices of the poor, the hungry, the small-holders and the indigenous communities, including through our cooperation with Denmark and other cooperations. This, for us, is a very important part of solving the whole problem of food insecurity in the world. We will definitely report back to you, as you have requested, in two separate reports.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you for that detailed elaboration on the issue of partnerships. I am going to conclude now this agenda item as follows.

The Council endorsed the Report of the Joint Meeting and commended the progress made in implementation of the Strategies for Partnerships with Civil Society and with the Private Sector, emphasized the need for neutrality, overcome the risk management mechanisms, and invited the Organization to continue efforts in building partnerships with non-state actors at all levels.

It reiterated the request of the Joint Meeting for specific progress reports on each of the two Strategies in the future.

The Council underlined the importance of increasing concrete efforts to reach language balance in the FAO products through pragmatic measures to ensure cost efficiency and noted that it needed updates that would be reviewed by the Joint Meeting at its next session.

Mr Ivan G. KONSTANTINOPOLSKIY (Russian Federation) (Original language Russian)

We agree with your summary as regards a proposal for the strategy for partnerships with research organizations and the scientific community. We understand that this is a serious endeavor which will take a lot of time and effort. We just felt that this document exists and we couldn't find it on the website. Perhaps in your summary where you talk about the need to increase and bolster work with non-state actors, you could perhaps add "*in particular with the scientific community academia*".

Furthermore, we have to point out that your summary on the question of languages, although we fully agree with it, it does not in our opinion reflect the full discussion held in the Council on this issue. Especially, we would like to see reflected in it the additional efforts for the Russian language.

Moreover, we raised the question of a detailed report and we would like to see it, but since we see the Secretariat on the podium, we are confident that our request will be heeded so we won't insist on that being in your summary. We would be grateful if we could see that.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you, Russia, for agreeing to my summary and adding some few points. When I was reading regarding partnership, I read as follows: *invited the Organization to continue efforts in building*

partnerships with Non-State Actors at all levels which I implied also included the Academia. But if you want the word *academia* can be singled out.

As regards languages, I think that all languages deserve equal treatment and it is understood in the discussions which goes on in FAO in the different committees, this issue is being addressed and to be now reported during the Joint Meeting in March. So there is a great deal in the attention being followed up. I don't think it's very good to single out one country in our report.

Mr Luca FRATINI (Italy)

I would just like to reiterate the concept of cost-effectiveness in the conclusions, which could be related to the language situation, but also to other areas.

Mr Ivan G. KONSTANTINOPOLSKIY (Russian Federation) (Original language Russian)

As regards the academic community, academia, if it can't be included then we won't insist, but it would simply reflect the discussion. As regards languages, we will insist because there was a discussion in Council on this matter in our opinion, and also the last session of the Council, but unfortunately it was not reflected in the Chair's summary at this Council either. I've already taken up quite a lot of time explaining the reasons why additional information should be devoted to the Russian language and I won't toil on it further.

I would also like to point out that in stressing the significance of efforts to increase the use of Russian in FAO we are not at all singling out one country as you said, so we would nonetheless propose that we reflect the need for additional efforts for under-utilized languages, all languages, in particular Russian. We would be grateful if you could consider that.

CHAIRPERSON

Russian is spoken by 260 million people, so I know it is not only one country, and Belarus spoke on this issue.

Maybe it is my English because it is not my mother tongue, so I am sorry if you took it that I singled out one country, but that was not my intention. My intention is that the way we continue working in FAO, we try to avoid singling out countries or groups, but we try to move together.

For this matter, I would say it will be covering all FAO languages including Russian. This is accepted.

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

As you are all well aware, there are three languages which do not receive the same attention other languages receive in the organization. Three languages, Arabic, Chinese and Russian, in my opinion, are not fully represented in this Organization, so if we are to refer to a language, then we need to speak about under-represented languages, including these three languages. I don't think that the Russian language is the only language that is not fully represented in this Organization.

Mr Zaid AL LOZI (Jordan) (Original language Arabic)

I would like to second the suggestion of Sudan. I don't think that the Arabic language is fully represented. It is rather under-represented and perhaps it should be referred to along with Russian in your summary.

Mr Khaled EL TAWHEEL (Egypt) (Original language Arabic)

I think singling out one language is, again, a rule this Council functions on. Therefore it is easier to speak of underrepresented languages in general or to mention Russian, Arabic and Chinese. We support what was mentioned by Jordan and Sudan.

Mr Chuang NIE (China) (Original language Chinese)

I think Russia is right, but at the Council meeting, if we think about one language or one country, it might not be appropriate. So I would support the Chair's proposal. We can either go along with the previous proposal of the Chairperson or we can mention Arabic, Chinese and Russian all together, but this sounds very complicated.

CHAIRPERSON

Do you agree that covering all FAO languages is important, including Russian, Arabic and Chinese?
Accepted.

Thank you. So we'll resume at 14:30 to continue with item 10.

The meeting rose at 12:44 hours

La séance est levée à 12 h 44

Se levanta la sesión a las 12.44

COUNCIL CONSEIL CONSEJO

Hundred and Fiftieth Session Cent cinquantième session 150.º período de sesiones
Rome, 1-5 December 2014 Rome, 1-5 décembre 2014 Roma, 1-5 de diciembre de 2014
FOURTH PLENARY MEETING QUATRIÈME SÉANCE PLÉNIÈRE CUARTA SESIÓN PLENARIA
2 December 2014

The Fourth Plenary Meeting was opened at 14 :38 hours
Mr Wilfred J. Ngirwa,
Independent Chairperson of the Council, presiding

La quatrième séance plénière est ouverte à 14 h 38
sous la présidence de M. Wilfred J. Ngirwa,
Président indépendant du Conseil

Se abre la cuarta sesión plenaria a las 14.38
bajo la presidencia del Sr. Wilfred J. Ngirwa,
Presidente Independiente del Consejo

CHAIRPERSON

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen, before we start I will give the floor Mr Gagnon who will make an announcement.

SECRÉTAIRE GÉNÉRAL

J'ai une communication à faire à la demande de la Représentation permanente de la Côte d'Ivoire, qui vous prie de bien vouloir noter que l'inauguration de l'exposition prévue cet après-midi à l'occasion du cinquantième anniversaire du G77 et de la Chine aura lieu juste après la session de cet après-midi du Conseil de la FAO.

Item 10. Independent Review of Governance Reforms**Point 10. Examen indépendant des réformes concernant la gouvernance****Tema 10. Examen independiente de las reformas de la gobernanza**

(CL 150/9)

CHAIRPERSON

Our Agenda this afternoon starts with Item 10, *Independent Review of Governance Reforms*. Please ensure that you have documents C L150/9, the "Draft Report of the Independent Review of FAO Governance Reforms", and CL 150/LIM/7, an "Overview of the Structure of the FAO Governing Bodies and their Reporting Lines" before you.

The 146th Session of the Council in April 2013 requested the Secretariat to organize an Independent Review of Governance Reform, in compliance with Action 2.74 with the Immediate Plan of Action for FAO renewal, with the purpose of carrying out an evidence-based assessment of progress in governance reforms and to identify areas for further improvement and adjustments.

The review covers the period from 2010 to 2014, and the final report will be submitted to the 39th FAO Conference in June 2015, further to its consideration by the Joint Meeting of the Programme and Finance Committees and the 151st Session of Council in March 2015.

The Council will also recall its request that the Independent Chairperson of the Council hold the oversight role of the Review, and that Informal Meetings of the Regional Groups be convened to facilitate discussion among Members during the entire process.

I am glad to inform you that during the course of this year, three open-ended informal meetings were held, on 7 February, 15 May and 9 September, during which we had the opportunity to exchange views, raise questions and follow the process as it unfolded.

In particular, during the open-ended working group meeting of 9 September, the Review Team presented their preliminary findings to Members, who provided initial inputs prior to the finalization of the draft report on 30 September.

Following discussion at the Joint Meeting in November, the draft Report is now presented to Council for our consideration.

The Joint Meeting requested a brief outline for this session of the Council on overall Governing Body architecture of FAO. In response to this request document CL 150/LIM/7 has been tabled at this session of Council and the Secretary-General, Mr Louis Gagnon, will make a brief presentation on the reporting lines of the Governing Bodies.

SECRETARY-GENERAL

As the Chairperson just recalled, the Joint Meeting requested when they met earlier in November that a brief outline on the governance mechanism at FAO be prepared. Consequently, document CL 150/LIM/7 was distributed as an information note.

I will make a short presentation on the main features of this document. I will try to be brief because I understand that a fair number of you already have a good understanding of the governance mechanism at FAO.

In my presentation I will touch upon three main elements: the overview of the Governing Bodies, their mandate and their inter-relationship.

You will remember that, as part of the Reform of Governance, Members adopted a definition of Governing Bodies which is now part of the Basic Texts, and can be found on page 131 of the English version. It is reproduced in the form of the Conference Resolution adopted by the Conference in November 2009, when most of the amendments to the Constitution reflecting the reforms approved by the Members were adopted.

Three main functions of the Governing Bodies come out of this definition: the definition of the overall policies and regulatory frameworks of the Organization; the establishment of the Strategic Framework, the Medium-Term Plan and the Programme of Work and Budget; and the oversight of the administration of the Organization.

The next slide illustrates which are the Governing Bodies. There are a total of 14: the Conference and Council; three Committees of the Council: Programme Committee, Finance Committee and the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters (CCLM); four Technical Committees: Agriculture (COAG), Commodity Problems (CCP), Fisheries (COFI), and Forestry (COFO); and five Regional Conferences, including one informal Regional Conference.

One major outcome of the Reform, which is also contained in the Report of the Review Team that will be discussed by Members later this afternoon, is this dual reporting line that was established in 2009 for most of the Governing Bodies in such a way that Conference is concerned mainly with global policy issues and international frameworks, whereas Council was given more of an executive oversight function on programme and budgetary matters, with the assistance of the three Committees mentioned before.

Council convenes five times per biennium and the Council Committees normally meets four times per biennium. All Committees have regionally balanced Membership.

The Programme and Finance Committees have 12 Members and a Chairperson, whereas the CCLM has 7 Members and a Chairperson.

I already mentioned the four Technical Committees. The Committee on World Food Security (CFS) is not listed as an FAO Governing Body but its very existence is provided for in the Constitution of FAO and it reports both to the Conference and the Council, as you will have seen yesterday.

In 2011, there was an agreement among Members reflected in a Conference Resolution whereby an informal Regional Conference for North America was set up and which reports to Council as do the other five "formal" Regional Conferences.

On this slide you can see the reporting lines among Governing Bodies and the dual reporting line I referred to before: the three Council Committees, the four Technical Committees and the five Regional Conferences report to the Council on programme and budgetary matters, and they report to the Conference on global policy issues and international frameworks. The CFS is more of a *sui generis* entity, but it still reports to Conference and Council, as well as to the UN.

I will close this short presentation by reminding you of the various websites where you can find a wealth of information about governance at FAO. First and foremost you have the Governing Body webpage which is easy to access from the FAO Governing Body link at the bottom of the FAO Home Page (<http://www.fao.org/unfao/govbodies/gsbhome/gsb-home/en/>). Secondly, you have the Members Gateway (<http://www.fao.org/members-gateway/en/>) where each Permanent Representation has been assigned a user name and a password and it also contains useful information for newly accredited Representatives, as well as a web mailbox. Finally, the Basic Texts are available from the FAO Governance webpage and the Legal Office link at the bottom of the homepage.

Of course the division to which I belong, the Conference, Council and Protocol Affairs Division would be more than happy at any time to provide you with additional information should this be needed.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you, Mr Gagnon, for responding to the request made by the Joint Meeting of the Programme and Finance Committees.

I would like to invite Ms Nordin, who Chaired the Joint Meeting, to speak on the section of the Joint Meeting Report which deals with the Independent Review of Governance Reforms.

Ms Cecilia NORDIN VAN GANSBERGHE (Chairperson, Programme Committee)

I just want to say that this review has been a true example of stakeholder participation and inclusion. We have the Review Team here for the last time, to which I'm very grateful.

As the Chair pointed out, this process was for the consultants to make an independent, evidence-based review. The process has been going on for about a year now. I understand that some of you might be chafing at the bit to start entering into the meat of the matter, but as the Chair stated, this is our last chance to tell the consultants what is still missing, if anything, in the Report. At the end of December, we will have the finalized Report in our hands and we as Member States will have the opportunity to thoroughly discuss it all through Spring for decisions at the Conference in June. So, I think it will be very useful if we can take this opportunity to hold our horses a bit and make additional requests to the Review Team for things that might still be missing in the Report.

As stated by the Chair in the Joint Meeting, we asked for this overview which we have been provided with in document CL 150/LIM/7 and it has also been presented by Mr Gagnon and we thank the Secretariat very much for this. In the meeting, we appreciated this thought provoking quality draft Report and we looked forward to discussing the contents in-depth once the Report is finalized at the end of December this year.

We noted with pleasure that the IPA implementation has led to more dynamic Governing Bodies, more understanding and trust between Members, but also between Members and the Secretariat. We vowed to continue work in this direction.

In order for the Report to be finalized, the Joint Meeting Members recommended a clear description of priority setting and the Member States role, a clearer description of the CCLM and its role using language inline with the Basic Texts on FAO's international functions, awareness of the importance of continued trust building which the recommendations should support, and also keeping in mind the budgetary implications of the recommendations.

The document CL 150/LIM/7 that we have will be a useful companion for discussions as would also be the graphic representation of progress made, current problems and the recommendations to facilitate Member States discussion.

Furthermore, we were of the opinion that a section on comparing the functioning of Technical Committees would be useful as would a section on the impact of ministerial meetings. I know that the review team has already noted this down, probably has already worked on it but I'm sure they stand ready to take additional comments.

Ms Maxime OLSON (Member of the Independent Review Team)

It is a pleasure for both of us to be here today as our Chair has mentioned. We will be sharing the presentation this afternoon. In addition, as it has been mentioned, we have had the benefit of a very productive session during the Joint Meeting in which we received very useful feedback. We are looking forward to getting related feedback from this session too.

We have not changed the text yet, but we will be including some of the responses and additional information to some of the points that were made in the Joint Meeting earlier. As I said, we have had quite a lively discussion with various opinions that have been voiced about what we have recommended. To us, this is an indicator of success. Our purpose is to generate dialogue and I think that we have been successful in that regard.

While our Report as a whole captures the findings and conclusions in 17 recommendations and 8 suggestions to deal with what we describe as practical facts. However, this afternoon we are going to

concentrate and, as suggested during the Joint Meeting, we are going to focus on the key five messages of the Report itself.

The first of these, as you see from the screen above us, is that progress has been considerable since the IPA was originally agreed. Overall, we have found that the Member States and the Secretariat have made impressive progress with regard to the IPA Governance aspects. We are of course only focused on the Governance aspects. The majority of those 101 IPA actions with regard to Governance have been implemented. We will be discussing as we go along on those that have not been carried out.

Among those things that we can see as the results of the IPA implementation, there are clearer definitions of the responsibilities of each Governing Body and the Governance workflow among them. Meetings are well structured, business like; we find that a sense of accountability of the Secretariat to Members has increased. We were informed that Governing Bodies documentation has improved in many cases from the Secretariat to the Governing Bodies. Besides, trust has largely been re-established between Members and the Secretariat and among Members themselves, which was at a low point during the IPA.

Beyond these very substantial improvements, the Team did find some actions that had not had the desired effect. While we do not want to diminish the successes, our Report focuses of course on what remains to be done in order to fulfill IPA intentions. Therefore, our second message is that a more focused approach to FAO's international functions is needed. As it has been already mentioned, in the Report we used the terms that were used in the IEE which referred to Global Governance. It was pointed out during the Joint Meeting that the 'international functions' is the text that is used within the Basic Texts and we are beginning to use this terminology instead. So, you will realise a transition in what we are saying today as well as in the text..

With regard to strengthening the international functions, the IPA had adopted all of the IEEs recommendations. Moreover, the responsibilities of the concerned Governing Bodies are now in place in terms of the flow of information concerning global matters as Mr Gagnon's presentation had indicated.

Yet, there is a critical part that is still missing and this is the IPA Action 2.1 which specifies, and I quote, "That the Governing Bodies should systematically review the global situation to determine those issues requiring priority initiative for greater policy coherence and to study current regulatory frameworks to determine areas requiring early action by FAO in *other fora*."

Without this step, in order to determine these priority initiatives at the level of the Organization, discussion about priority issues is spread as we have heard this morning during the consultation on the priorities set by the Regional Conferences as well as by Technical Committees. Each Regional Conference and Technical Committee is developing its own priority actionplans, many of which are extremely important and these play a vital role in that specific region or in that technical area. However, the process has not resulted to be a central activity in the Organization as a whole. On the contrary, there is now a very long priority list where it is difficult to be able to provide the kind of close attention to a particular issue. This process, therefore, does not fulfill IPA Action 2.1, which is aimed at properly arranging the Organization's resources to make a significant impact among the Global community around the selected and agreed priority area.

We are recommending that this essential step of priority setting be implemented in order to mobilize the international functions Governance process. This step is also useful to identify an area for corporate-wide action for each Biennium. In this Report we have mapped out this work that could be done and the diagram is contained in the Report on the basis of the discussions that we have already had. We have slightly modified it a for your consideration today and for any ideas or suggestions that you may have.

We would start by proposing to create an Open-ended Meeting or Working Group or a meeting that would review potential issues with the participation both of Secretariat, given the expertise from the Strategic Objectives Coordinators as well as of the Technical Departments along with Members. Specifically, Membership from the Regional Conferences as well as the Technical Committees should discuss and identify a particular priority issue for the coming Biennium.

The results of their discussion would go to the Programme Committee's attention. The Programme Committee would consider it, recommend it to Council. Then, of course as a part of what the Council ordinarily does in terms of recommending the Agenda to Conference, it would also go to Conference whereby Commission one would decide on the issue and request the Regional Conferences and appropriate Technical Committees to take it up.

This process would be done during the coming Biennium. The views, both of the Regional Conferences and the Technical Committees would then be formulated into a consolidated document. This document could be considered at the next session of Commission one in order to develop a wide corporate position and approach to a priority statement. Such a corporate position may be either used within the Organization, or among its Member Nations and also possibly in other *fora* outside FAO like a Global Conference or some other forum that would seem to be appropriate for that purpose.

Let me go back to this matter. The question was raised as to whether, if this process were instituted, what would happen to the theme that is now there. The IPA had indicated that a specific theme should be selected for each Conference for a focused debate in a Plenary session. We would then suggest, that that theme be discontinued and that the theme that is selected for more in-depth discussion through the process of the Governing Bodies also be the focus of the Conference Plenary itself. This way we should streamline the number of global themes that are being considered by the Governing Bodies.

Consideration might also be given as to whether the topic of the State of Food and Agriculture publication could also be coordinated with the Priority issue. Besides we should duly reflect to the extent that is possible whether FAO could work for coordination with themes that are selected for International Years.

As noted above, the Priority theme as defined by this process should be tied to a major global event like a Global Conference. The Planned Humanitarian Conference is one that has come up in discussion with Members here. And as Global Conferences are decided many years in advance, the two-year term cycle for FAO, is a long period, but it is a timeframe that would give the appropriate amount of time to be able to consider a particular issue that would then be also used for a Global Conference itself.

Our third message focuses on the Internal Governance within FAO itself and the role of Governing Bodies for the work of the Organization. We are recommending that this oversight should be results-based. Now this suggestion, is certainly something that has been there, as it was a part of the IPA, but it has not yet been fully implemented. We have seen that the Reviewed Strategic Framework has definitely put in place a new results system. So, the point is coming where indeed it should be possible for you as a Governing Body to have results-based information available to the Members.

We are recommending that the Governing Bodies continue to play a very active role in ensuring that this needs-based information that is collected as a part of the monitoring support be one that truly reflects your needs. The perspectives of Management and of Governing Bodies are complimentary but they are not identical. Management will be primarily concerned with the Programme implementation and achieving specific programme outputs, but you as a Governing Body have delegated implementation to Management. So it is not so much those particular outputs for which you are responsible and interested to looking at, but it is rather to focus your attention on the success of the implementation to make a reasonable contribution to the greater outcomes. In continuing dialogue with the Secretariat on results monitoring, the Governing Bodies will need to ensure that sufficient information is being collected on the type of results that the Governing Bodies need for its oversight purposes.

We are also recommending that there be more information given to Governing Bodies on resource allocation to specific Programmes in all Governing Bodies so that Members will have more information on the scope and the potential impact of the Programmes under consideration. We will come back to this later in the presentation, as well.

Our fourth message is that the Governing Bodies need to be more proactive in order to strengthen their own impact on the work of the Organization. At the time of the IPA, the Members of the

Governing Bodies took the initiative to organize the IEE and formulate an Action Plan of the Organization.

It is not adequate to maintain this high level engagement over a long period of time. Yet, we did note that there is a substantial dependence by the Governing Bodies on the Secretariat information for its deliberation. This is normal within UN Governance Processes. However, just as FAO's Governing Bodies were the first to undertake a comprehensive Member-driven reform by the IPA, this time the Governing Bodies may wish to consider putting in place some options to expand the perspectives and information available to them on a case-by-case basis. They should consider taking independent decisions to ensure that Governing Bodies have the information they need to fulfill their responsibilities as a normal part of National Governance. This approach has also a natural place in International Governance. Such actions are a reflection of the fact that all the Members and the Secretariat work closely, but they are not the same.

The suggestions that we have made with regard to more space and more independence by the Governing Bodies are modest ones and they are the following.

Firstly, Members should establish a practice of tracking cross-cutting issues during the sessions of the Programme Committee, Finance Committee, to be able to contribute with their own perspectives on the progress of the Organization and implementing agreed measures over a certain period of time.

Secondly, Members should have the potential to bring in outside expertise to advise them on a case-by-case basis when expertise is not available within the Secretariat or when another point of view is seen as potentially valuable by the Members for a specific issue.

Thirdly, we suggest that Members should slightly expand the information available in Governing Body reports to include information on discussion of critical ongoing matters for the purpose of noticing positions in evolving issues that require continuing attention. This is a matter adding one or two paragraphs to synthesize the issues discussed in addition to the conclusions of the Chair's summary. We are not suggesting to go back to the days of long and inconclusive reports but something that, again, is worth noting ongoing discussions.

In FAO, Audit and Evaluation functions play a valuable role in providing information on the work of the Organization at a particular point in time. We are proposing that Governing Bodies themselves may wish to maintain this longer term vigilant task on certain seemingly difficult issues between the in-depth analysis provided by Audit and Evaluation by continuing to track Secretariat actions, and in some cases, to have the option to access external support.

By its review of the Governing Bodies proceedings, the Team itself noted three specific subjects that have been intermittently discussed, but not yet resolved. Therefore, more in-depth work by the Governing Body itself seems to be needed.

As already mentioned, the first issue is to have results-based management to ensure that the information and tools developed contain information needed by the Governing Bodies., The second point is Gender balance in the staffing of the Organization, as well as mainstreaming Gender in FAO Programmes which has been repeatedly discussed but progress has been elusive., The third element is about prioritization and deprioritization of specific issues in the work of the Organization in order to sharpen the programme focus and increase its impact.

There is agreement to systematically track one or more of these issues over time as a part of the regular review of programme documentation, Audits and Evaluation by the Governing Body Members and the possibility that they draw on expertise to assist them if they deem this useful to help strengthen the Members' role in holding the Organization accountable to produce effective responses to outstanding issues.

While discussing these proposed options, the Joint Meeting has raised the concern that outside advice might jeopardize the trust that has been established between the Secretariat and the Governing Bodies. This is certainly not the intention of the Team. Trust is vital on both sides, and as we have said earlier, the increased level of trust is one of the most positive aspects of the IPA. Within that atmosphere of

trust there is room for the Governing Bodies to develop their own collective perspectives on selected issues that could enhance the Governing Body's effectiveness.

The cost was also an issue raised by the Joint Meeting particularly for outside expertise; our estimates at this time, given the FAO formula for the cost of consultants, is that a monthly cost would be around USD 20-25,000. It does not have to be a big issue and a long item.

Ms Nadia HIJAB (Member of the Independent Review Team)

I will try and go through as quickly as possible also to leave room for discussion. Our fifth and final message deals with the role of the Regional Conferences as well as the Technical Committees; but first to start with the Regional Conferences.

So the IEE recommended that the Regional Conferences be integrated into the Governance process, and it recommended that this be reviewed in six years' time. It gave this really a lot of importance and that's why we have devoted a significant portion of our time during this evaluation to assessing the progress of the Regional Conferences as Governing Bodies in carrying out both their functions of their international functions, as Maxine described earlier, as well as their oversight functions to support the work of the Council.

Now as we describe in our report, there has been really good progress. Attendance is significantly increased at a high level, agendas and documentation make a very clear distinction between the international functions and the oversight functions, and the Regional Conferences do reflect the interests of the Members. So the agenda-setting process has been successful in this regard. But we also found that there is still a lack of clarity around the scope of each of the Regional Conferences function.

Maxine has described the issue of global priority setting that needs to be done in a much more focused way. But also when it comes to the Regional Conferences rule in terms of oversight of FAO's work in the Region, there is a lack of clarity here, too. This is partly due to the absence of results-based information, as Maxine has described, but also because the scope of their deliberation is unclear.

Is it supposed to be a region-wide or does it also include national activities? Is it a recommendation for the Council or is it just for information? In this round of Regional Conferences which, in fact, we all attended, we attended all of them, Regional initiatives were proposed, and this is useful because it does provide a concrete focus for the consideration of the Regional Conferences. However, the information provided about the intended resource frame and the scope of the Regional initiatives was not there, so without this information it was very difficult for Members to be clear as to what those Regional initiatives could be expected to deliver.

So in the interests of greater effectiveness of the Regional Conferences in the Governance stream, we're recommending that their formal oversight function be clarified. Is it for Regional activity as being for Regional activities only so as to avoid confusion with the authority of national Governance for activities within their countries? We are also strongly recommending that there be more detail on substance and availability of resources for regional activities should be provided to the Regional Conferences as a basis for their decision. These are changes that would be fairly easy to implement. They do need to be made, however, to provide the basis for actual decisions by the Regional Conferences. And to emphasize this point, we have suggested that the next round of Regional Conferences in 2016 should reflect these changes so that the Regional Conferences can really play an effective role.

Now we would very much like to clear up some misunderstandings about our report. And we want to emphasize that we really never said that the Regional Conferences should be disbanded. What we have said is that, at present, the Regional Conferences are not getting the information they need for their oversight function, and without that information, they are not really performing the role of a Governing Body. And our recommendations would help to address this gap.

Moving onto the role of the Technical Committees. Now the Technical Committees, because they have been in existence as Governing Bodies for a much longer time than the Regional Conferences, they were not a specific focus of the IPA as the Regional Conferences were. And the time that was

made available to us has not allowed us to go into the kinds of in-depth analysis that we went into with the Regional Conferences. So we have more or less focused on the very specific IPA actions concerning the Technical Committees and their dual responsibilities in terms of international functions to Conference and to Council – to Conference on Global Policy and Regulation and to Council for oversight.

What we have found is that the Technical Committees are not clearly structured around their international and oversight functions, and also that the participants themselves are often not equipped to carry out these functions, especially the oversight functions, because the meetings are very large and they bring together a very diverse set of actors, of participants, with different interests. We have, however, refrained from making specific recommendations or suggestions on these findings because our investigation has been necessarily limited.

The Joint Meeting recommended that we enhance our Text, as Ms Nordin has said, and we will do so definitely to the extent that we can with the time and information available to us.

Now in the case of the intersessional activities for the Regional Conferences and the Technical Committees, we have looked at that because that was discussed by the IPA. It mentioned the role of Chairs in the case of Regional Conferences and we have also discussed the role of Bureaus in the case of the Technical Committees. However, we should note that the IPA did not specifically mention a role for Bureaus or Bureaus per se. What the IPA said is that Chairs should be active in the intersessional period and it only mentions their responsibility to report the work of this Governing Body to Conference and Council and to prepare for the next session.

In terms of expanding the activities of these Chairs beyond reporting and preparation for the next session, the Rules of Procedures of the Technical Committees specify that the Committee may delegate responsibilities to its Bureau but this has not yet been done so far formally. We understand that some of the Bureau are maintaining dialogue with the Secretariat on their work, but the mandate of the Technical Committees themselves for such interaction with the Secretariat needs to be clarified.

Now one of the issues, as Ms Nordin has mentioned, raised at the Joint Meeting was what is the purpose of these Ministerial segments of the Technical Committees that we are suggesting in our report and how would they relate to Conference. We will clarify in finalizing the text of our report. We will clarify that these Ministerial Meetings would only be for a very specific technical purpose and should not jeopardize the role of Conference as the primary Ministerial forum of the Organization.

We are moving on now to the outstanding IPA action, the three of them; the size of the Council, the role of the Council and setting the budget and level decision and the DG qualification statement. We have left these outstanding issues until the end because, in our view, none of them seriously impedes the work of the Governing Bodies. Some Members at the Joint Meeting took exception to our saying that the three outstanding actions should be closed. We want to stress that this is entirely the Members' decision. It is your decision. All we are doing, what our function is, is to raise the issue and stimulate further thought. We want to emphasize that we did review at length the very substantial efforts that Members made during the IPA and after the IPA to deal with each of these three areas. And when we finalize our report, we will make sure that the full extent of our review is clear because we don't want you to think that we didn't give these issues very serious consideration. We did.

For all three of the outstanding issues, we found during our document review and in our interview with a substantial number of Members, we found that despite the intensive efforts by Members, especially as relates to Council size and the recommendation by Council of the budget level, no consensus could be reached. So despite our best efforts with the interviews and the document review, we could not identify a suggested way forward. These are political issues, clearly, and they need a political decision for consensus. We fully understand that each one of these issues is important to a certain group of Members; however, we did not find that consensus can be reached in the foreseeable future. In addition, these actions, as we said earlier, are not critical to the Governing Bodies main function. Moreover, and equally important, they exist as an ongoing area of contention and dissatisfaction, thus we believe that they should be closed. This would not prevent you as – this is our

recommendation – it would not prevent you as Members, of course, for deciding to keep one or more of these issues open or to close them and to continue the discussion. That's up to you. But our recommendation is that they should be closed.

In conclusion, we have said there have been major gains so far. There has been real clarity and definition of roles, there has been very good efficiency and effectiveness. There is a lot more discussion in our report about efficiency. There has been very good progress and efficiency and effectiveness in the sessions of the Governing Bodies. And the IEE had repeatedly identified trust as the biggest obstacle to the work of the Governing Bodies, and so the fact that trust has been reestablished is very important indeed, as well as the sense of greater accountability by the Secretariat to the Members.

We have identified where further gains and effectiveness are possible to enhance FAO's influence globally to strengthen the Governing Bodies' input and impact on the work of the Organization and we have identified these areas that Maxine has spoken to in detail earlier. We have noted that there has been very good progress in the work of the Regional Conferences and the Technical Committees but that clarification is needed. And so, really, all that remains for us is to say thank you, to thank you all, a very big thank you to all the Members, as well as to the Secretariat, for their information, all of your information that you gave us, and your views, these together with the documents review have been the basis of our reports and we have been really impressed with your support of your Organization and your pride in its many achievements. And Maxine and I hope that our full report, which is in your hands and from which we have taken only a very few items to show you today, we hope that our full report will give you useful information for your discussion and for any eventual decisions that you might wish to take to further strengthen your Governance process.

M. Menye ESSIMI (Cameroun)

Le Cameroun félicite l'équipe d'évaluation indépendante pour ce premier projet de rapport qui date du 30 septembre 2014, traitant des réformes concernant la gouvernance de la FAO.

Au plan méthodologique, le rapport couvre de manière systématique tous les aspects de la gouvernance de la FAO. Les critères et les outils d'analyse utilisés sont conformes aux canons exigés en la matière. L'équipe de l'évaluation indépendante a bénéficié de la contribution de toutes les parties prenantes, ce qui contribue à rendre nos processus crédibles.

En rapport avec les analyses, nous en apprécions la profondeur et nous ne souhaitons pas revenir outre mesure sur les résultats de l'Examen indépendant. Nous faisons néanmoins quelques remarques par rapport à certaines recommandations contenues dans le rapport.

Premièrement, le Conseil devrait accepter le principe de passer ponctuellement commande de travaux sur des questions données indépendamment du Secrétariat et de prendre les mesures nécessaires pour organiser la réalisation de ces travaux, notamment en trouvant les ressources nécessaires. Bien que reconnaissant la validité de cette recommandation qui concerne le Conseil, nous nous interrogeons sur sa faisabilité, si tant est vrai que son application fera appel à des ressources supplémentaires qui seront difficiles à trouver, ou alors si elles sont disponibles, seront des ressources en moins pour le financement des programmes techniques.

Par ailleurs, nous savons que les pays sont organisés de manière à avoir des soutiens dans leur capitale respective pour l'examen des questions techniques. Une telle recommandation pourrait entraîner des doubles emplois de fait. Il n'est pas aussi dit à quel niveau, ou quel est l'organe de gouvernance à l'échelle du Conseil qui est le plus approprié pour recevoir des avis techniques indépendants pour préparer des documents.

Enfin, si les organes directeurs s'investissent pour préparer un document technique, comment pourraient-ils les censurer a posteriori, sans courir le risque d'être juge et partie. Cette recommandation mérite donc d'être revisitée.

Deuxièmement, il faudrait clore l'action du Plan d'action immédiate (PAI) non encore achevée concernant la formulation d'une recommandation par le Conseil sur le montant du budget à l'intention de la Conférence. La mise en application de cette recommandation du Plan d'action immédiate n'a

pas encore été suffisamment expérimentée. Il serait peut-être plus juste de demander sa mise en veilleuse avec la possibilité de la rouvrir à un autre moment.

Troisièmement, il faudrait clore, l'action du Plan d'action immédiate non encore achevée concernant la taille et la composition du Conseil. Il est difficile d'envisager la clôture de cette recommandation du PAI, tant la demande de plusieurs États Membres pour le changement de la taille et de la composition du Conseil est récurrente.

Et enfin, quatrièmement, il faudrait clore l'action du PAI non encore achevée qui concerne les qualifications attendues des candidats au poste de Directeur général. Cette question a jusque-là été traitée avec des considérations politiques en toile de fond. Bien évidemment, il sera difficile de s'écarter de ces considérations et il est tout à fait normal de la mettre en veilleuse. Nous sommes heureux de savoir que l'Équipe chargée de l'examen indépendant a estimé que les organes directeurs avaient accompli des progrès importants dans la mise en œuvre de leur réforme. En effet, en menant à bien quasiment toutes les actions du PAI concernant la gouvernance, ceci a profondément amélioré les conditions dans lesquelles celle-ci s'exerce au sein de l'Organisation.

Par ailleurs, le changement très transformationnel voulu de tous est en œuvre. Cela se traduit par une confiance absolue entre les membres d'une part, et entre les membres et la haute direction d'autre part. Nous avons également examiné le graphe de l'encadré 1 sur la gouvernance mondiale. Il est important de revisiter ce graphe, pour faire une séparation nette des responsabilités et des rôles entre les organes directeurs et les membres du Secrétariat. Nous attendons d'examiner la version définitive du rapport sur les réformes de la Gouvernance lors de la cent cinquante et unième session du Conseil.

Mr Abdul Razak AYAZI (Afghanistan)

Afghanistan is speaking on this item on behalf of the Near East Group. We thank the two consultants for their presentation.

The Near East Group welcomes the independent review of governance reforms, which has yet to be finalized for submission to the 39th Session of the FAO Conference. The Joint Meeting of the Programme and Finance Committees in November considered the draft as thought provoking and in-depth. The Near East Group wishes to associate itself with this judgment.

The review has been conducted methodically and had involved extensive consultation with individuals, both within and outside FAO. The Near East Group agrees with the four criteria selected by the Independent Review Team (IRT) in assessing the implementation of governance reform, paragraph six of the Report, and the use made of the seven main tools, paragraph seven. The Near East Group also supports the decision by the IRT to submit recommendations, paragraph nine, for the consideration of the Council and the Conference.

Chairperson, given the limited time, the Near East Group wishes to limit its intervention to the 17 recommendations submitted by the IRT. Due to lack of time, we are not prepared to comment on the findings of the review at the present time. In paragraph 19 of the Report, distinction is drawn between global governance and internal governance. While we can live with this distinction it has to be pointed out that the reviewed Strategic Framework of FAO does provide space for linkages between global policies, strategic priorities, major initiatives and programmatic nature and implementation processes. While different Governing Bodies deal with specific segments of the Strategic Framework at the level of Conference, there is a degree of convergence. In short, the interface between global and internal governance may not be as short as desired by the IRT but it is by no means passive.

To start with, the Near East Group supports the recommendation to close three IPA actions because Member Nations have not been able to reach a consensus on them. These IPA actions are related to the following three recommendations: Recommendation 4, which deals with the role of the Council in making a proposal to the Conference on the budget level. Recommendation 5, which seeks changes in the Council seat, and recommendation 17, which relates to the qualification of nominees for the post of the Director-General of FAO.

In principle, the Near East Group supports recommendation one which aims to strengthen the role of the Conference in global policy and regulation, and the unification of the global policy on priority

setting by the Technical Committees and other FAO Governing Bodies. Two features of this recommendation are underlined.

One, review by the Secretariat of global trends and situation with a view to identify global policy teams for consideration by the Conference. Two, the transformation by the strategic global policy team into priority areas which in turn further strengthens FAO's global governance.

The thought behind recommendation one is sound and we support it. But, we wish to draw attention to the fact that the FAO Secretariat has not shied away from the two aspects just mentioned. Examples are the 15 regional initiatives currently in process, and the contribution of the Secretariat to the Post-2015 Development Agenda. Let us also not forget that on many occasions the FAO Secretariat has been at the origin of global policy initiatives like the Code of Conduct on Responsible Fisheries, the Right to Food and the VGGT.

The Near East Group cautiously approves recommendation 2, namely that if the Council needs technical expertise on some specific technical problems, then such expertise be provided and funded but, only on a case-by-case basis.

The Near East Group also approves recommendation 3, namely that the Council should push for result based information. But If it doesn't get the required result-based information from the Secretariat, then it could seek outside expertise but only again on a case-by-case basis.

The Near East Group agrees with recommendation 6, namely that if additional responsibilities are given to the ICC then the necessary resources must be provided. On recommendation 7, qualification criteria of the ICC, the Near East Group would prefer combining the proposal of the IRT with the existing wording in the Basic Text, so it would read and I quote, "Appropriate experience in areas relevant to the Organization's work taken from the Basic Text", and then adding to it, "including the functioning of FAO Governing Bodies taken from the proposal of the IRT.

The Near East Group supports recommendation 8, namely to set aside time in the Agenda for tracking progress on crosscutting and strategic issues over time. In fact, the PC and I'm sure my Chairperson would confirm it, PC has been pushing for this on this matter. While the Near East Group supports recommendation 9, tightening the qualifications of the PC, FC and CCLM as stated in the Basic Text, politically speaking it is not practical to implement. The Basic Text does not provide for any screening process of candidates for Membership to these Committees of the Council.

The Near East Group also supports recommendation 10, review of evaluation and other Reports. Currently, Reports of corporate evaluation are reviewed by the PC and of the other Reports by the FC. The interface between evaluation and other Reports does not exist at present but there is room for it.

The Near East Group feels that such interface can be best handled by the two Chairpersons of the FC and PC. They should decide which evaluation and which other Report should be discussed by the Joint Meeting. For this, selection criteria have to be developed.

The Near East Group does not support recommendation 11, which states that for the intersessional period that TCs can delegate governance issues to their Bureaus. The Near East Group considers Bureaus of TCs as facilitating bodies and not decision making bodies, especially on matters of national, regional and global policy.

The Near East Group agrees with recommendation 12, namely that in setting priorities, the Regional Conferences should focus on Organizational outcome level, and recommendation 13 which states that the Regional Conferences should have result based information at their disposal. The RBM Result-based Management and the GRMS, Global Resource Management System, should make this possible.

On MYPOWs for the Council PC, FC, and CCLM, the Near East Group can agree with recommendation 14 taking over time outstanding and strategic issues.

The Near East Group does not agree with recommendation 15, that is the discontinuation of MYPOW for TCs and RCs. The Near East Group feels that Member Nations have found such MYPOW is useful for information. There is no solid evidence either from TC or RC for their discontinuation.

The Near East Group agrees with recommendation 16, but with a qualification. It supports that the thematic evaluation should focus on Organizational outcomes of the reviewed Strategic Framework. However, thematic of evaluation should also draw on the outcomes of field projects, compilation of “meta” data would definitely help but the thematic relation cannot rely entirely on “meta” data.

Finally Chairperson, the Report of the IRT makes a number of good suggestions which are not labeled as recommendations. But, for the sake of time, the Near East Group has refrained from highlighting these good suggestions.

One more point, on CL 150/LIM/7, if I recall the Secretary-General said four Technical Committees; that is COAG, COFI, COFO and CCP. Where does CFS stand?

Sra. Alejandra GUERRA (Chile)

Antes que nada quisiera agradecer las presentaciones realizadas en este punto del programa, especialmente la del equipo independiente. Dicho esto, mi país toma nota de varias recomendaciones, entre ellas las realizadas referente a las Conferencias Regionales, ello porque en este momento Chile es el país presidente de la Conferencia Regional de América Latina y el Caribe.

Tengo varios puntos sobre los cuales quisiera comentar, pero voy a ceder a mi derecho para que Costa Rica en representación del GRULAC, haga una declaración conjunta.

Sra. Estela BLANCO (Costa Rica)

Hago esta intervención en nombre del Grupo de América Latina y el Caribe (GRULAC).

En primer lugar para agradecer al equipo independiente por la preparación de este proyecto de informe y la presentación del mismo, el cual consideramos amplio y rico en información. Apreciamos también la oportunidad de poder efectuar consideraciones sobre el proyecto de informe. Sin embargo, queremos enfatizar que el documento presentado para consideración del Consejo, es justamente eso, un proyecto. Por ello, no profundizaremos específicamente en las recomendaciones que se plantean hasta tanto no conozcamos el informe definitivo.

No obstante, queremos realizar comentarios generales y preliminares respecto del proyecto presentado, el equipo de evaluación para el desarrollo del informe calificó en primera instancia las dos funciones de la FAO como gobernanza mundial y gobernanza interna. Al respecto y como los representantes del GRULAC manifestaron en la Reunión Conjunta de los Comités del Programa y de Finanzas, el GRULAC no está de acuerdo con el empleo de los términos “gobernanza mundial” y “gobernanza interna”, los cuales no son empleados en los Textos Fundamentales y tampoco en el Plan inmediato de acción, siendo definiciones imprecisas que podrían generar interpretaciones inapropiadas y apartadas del sentido previsto en los textos fundamentales.

Por lo tanto, el GRULAC respalda la recomendación contenida en el informe de la Reunión Conjunta de los mencionados Comités para que se use un lenguaje concordante con los Textos Fundamentales respecto de las funciones internacionales de la FAO, y en consecuencia, agradecemos al Equipo Independiente que haya revisado el uso de estos términos. Para el cumplimiento de la medida 2.1, relativa a que los Órganos rectores examinen sistemáticamente la situación mundial para determinar cuestiones a priorizarse, el equipo de evaluación propone un proceso mencionado en el recuadro 1, en el que a partir de las cuestiones prioritarias propuestas por los coordinadores de los objetivos estratégicos, éstas pasan a analizarse en el Comité del programa, el Consejo y la Conferencia y después en las Conferencias Regionales y los Comités Técnicos.

En nuestro criterio, este es un modelo de arriba hacia abajo y por el contrario debería considerarse un enfoque de abajo hacia arriba, es decir, que sobre la base del documento preparado por los coordinadores de los objetivos estratégicos, las Conferencias Regionales y los Comités Técnicos deben ser los entes que examinen primero la cuestión y posteriormente con esos insumos se continúe con el proceso regular del Comité de Programa, del Consejo y la Conferencia.

Con respecto a la propuesta de que el Consejo pueda pedir un asesoramiento independiente para ejercer su función de supervisión, consideramos que todavía hay margen para que el Consejo y sus Comités puedan mejorar dicha función y a ello se han dedicado las últimas sesiones adoptando

reformas en su reglamento y procedimientos. Nos parece que el empleo del asesoramiento independiente podría dispersar esfuerzos cuando es necesario fortalecer las capacidades de la Secretaría para llevar adelante su tarea y mantener así la confianza alcanzada ante los Estados Miembros y la Secretaría.

Con relación al tamaño y composición del Consejo, el Equipo Independiente señala que no todos los Grupos Regionales actúan con la misma eficacia y que a medida que los Grupos Regionales sigan aumentando la eficacia y eficiencia será factible reducir el tamaño del Consejo.

Al respecto, el GRULAC considera que no es una cuestión de eficacia. Los intereses y visiones de los países pueden ser diferentes en una misma región, por lo que no necesariamente puede presentarse una sola voz en los mismos temas, una resolución del Consejo podría limitar las posibilidades de hacer presente esa diversidad.

Asimismo, la eficacia del trabajo del Consejo pasa por mantener una apropiada representatividad regional y en adecuar a ella su método de trabajo. Igualmente el GRULAC respalda los demás lineamientos que brinda el Informe de la Reunión Conjunta respecto del examen independiente, particularmente en lo relacionado a que el informe evite recomendaciones que puedan socavar la confianza entre los Estados Miembro y la Secretaría y que se fortalezca el rol de las Conferencias Regionales como Órganos rectores y un mayor análisis en el informe sobre los Comités técnicos y el Comité de asuntos constitucionales y jurídicos.

Finalmente, el Grupo de América Latina y el Caribe espera conocer el informe final del Equipo Independiente para debatir con más detalle sobre las recomendaciones que presente, para lo cual, además de las discusiones que tengan lugar en los Comités del Programa y de Finanzas, sugerimos el establecimiento de un espacio abierto de diálogo político para que todos los Estados puedan participar a fin de determinar las esferas en las que podrían darse mejoras y ajustes para ser presentadas a la Conferencia.

Mr Jon E JONASSON (Iceland)

This statement is made on behalf of the Nordic countries; Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden.

We welcome this opportunity to discuss this Draft Report of the Independent Review of the Governance Reform. We commend the team for its work so far and the quality of this Draft Report. To them we say, stick to your conviction and make your recommendations based on your own findings, otherwise your final Report will not be credible contribution to the reform process as a whole.

It is then for the Members to take the next step after their own consideration of the final report of the Independent Review. We also would like to thank the Independent Chair of the Council for his leadership in making sure this process is both open and transparent to Members. We look forward to taking part in the open discussion on the final recommendations.

At this juncture, I will commence. Some suggestions to the Review Team are in line with the guidance from the Joint Meeting of the Programme and Finance Committees. From those issues, we would like to highlight especially the importance of including in the report a graphic representation of progress made, current problems and recommendations. This would facilitate our deliberations of the final report.

Finally, we support this part of the reform process. Reform is a serious business and should always be on our agenda. We reform to improve our work, correct what we do wrong and remove what is a defect. We owe it to the hungry and the poor to make sure the machine is working, that FAO will make a difference, be relevant and deliver on its objectives.

Mr Gianni GHISI (Italy)

I am honoured to speak on behalf of the European Union and its 28 Member States. The candidate country to the EU, Albania, align itself with this statement.

We thank the evaluation team for its thorough work and look forward to a finalised report, incorporating the suggestions made by Members since the draft was published in September.

As indicated in the Independent External Evaluation, one concern was the lack of trust. We are happy to see that this trust has been rebuilt, both between Members and between the Members and the Organisation. It is to be hoped that the present process will further consolidate trust and confidence between ourselves and with the Secretariat, leading to dynamic and efficient governing bodies.

We agree with the Joint Meeting's recommendations that the following should be included in the final report to be issued at the end of December:

- clarification of the practicability and the benefit of the recommendations, as well as their budgetary implications;
- an analysis of the role of the CCLM;
- a graphic representation of progress made, current problems and the recommendations;
- a comparison of the functioning of the technical committees;
- an analysis of the impact of ministerial segments;
- an analysis of the role of and the requirements for the ICC.

Furthermore, in general terms, we consider it very important that there is consistency between the main findings of the evaluation and the conclusions and the recommendations to be included in the final report.

Finally, as regards the recommendations, we have understood that the purpose of today's discussion is not to assess the draft recommendations which are still under discussion. However, if we were asked to give our view, we would be ready to do so, particularly on those draft recommendations which we would not want to see included in the final report.

Rest assured, Chair, that we will study the final report with interest, in order to participate constructively in the discussions during the spring, in order to reach decisions at the Conference. Together, we have made great strides towards making FAO more relevant and dynamic these last few years and we wholeheartedly support the continuation of efforts to further this work.

Mr Vimlendra SHARAN (India)

India takes the floor on behalf of the Asia Group. We welcome the thought-provoking Draft Report for its in-depth of analysis and for threat presentation.

As suggested by the Chair and the Chair of the Programme Committee, instead of commenting on the recommendations, we have tried to comment on what we feel could be added to the various recommendations.

Before that, on the three outstanding IPA issues covered under Recommendations 4, 5, and 17, the Asia Group completely supports to close these issues. The multiplicity of views on the matter, each with its own set of advantages and disadvantages, are beyond reconciliation at this stage and is best closed to avoid any further waste of time and resources.

Coming to the other recommendations, where we will limit ourselves only to those where we have a suggestion. Recommendation one on review of gaps in global policies, we see its value in mutual reinforcement of global policy setting by the Conference and priority work areas of the Governing Bodies and Technical Committees, besides ensuring an Organization-wide involvement on identification of priority global teams in a systematic manner for follow-up to discuss and work on. However, we also need to see how these global teams integrate with those set and see if results will realize international use. It will be appropriate for the Report to comment on this and also consider the likely time and effort of Technical Committees and Governing Bodies which may go into negotiating the priority team for the Conference.

In finalization of the CFS team for HLPE studies is any indication it would mean a lot of time and effort gone into this. Moreover, a two year internal deliberation process, as suggested in the report, may lead to a flagging of interest by the time the team reaches the Conference stage.

The second point covers a few recommendations, I think, the next three or four recommendations. Given the financial constraints which the Organization is facing, we feel the report should consider restricting itself to cost neutral recommendations. In this light, though we understand the logic and intention behind the advice for Council to have access to independent advice, we do not think it is desirable at this stage to institutionalize the process. Similarly, while agreeing with the Council's oversight function and importance of result-based information, we caution against any easy result to hiring independent expertise. We feel that the Report should highlight why strengthening of in-house capacities has not been found to be the appropriate way ahead and has not been considered over hiring of independent expertise.

The Asia Group finds the recommendation on tracking issues over time very interesting. We agree that the current structuring of the session agendas do not allow for a focused attention on selective strategy for cross-cutting issues from one session to the next. However, this may need further deliberation, especially on the modality to take this forward. Perhaps the Report could consider further elaboration on the process. The idea behind the recommendation is definitely worthy of serious thought and follow-up.

Regarding TCs role, scope of action and internal governance, we agree with the first part of the recommendation to make realistic budget information available to TCs to ensure their efficiency and effectiveness and restrain them from framing recommendations much beyond the Organization's financial capacity. However, we feel the role and authority of the TC Bureau during the intersessional period needs further elaboration in the report in view of their role in assisting the Chair and their added value and functioning of the Committee.

On RCs, Regional Conferences, we wish to underline the importance of making RCs integral to the system of Governing Bodies and the need to work towards strengthening their role in the Governance framework. It has been an arduous journey for the RCs from the periphery of FAO to the center stage and their importance must be recognized and supported. We therefore agree with the recommendation of clarifying the formal oversight function to strengthen their role as a Governing Body.

On MYPOW, we deserve our comments regarding the suggestion for deletion of the results section in MYPOW, as well as on the discontinuance of MYPOWs for RCs and TCs as we need to deliberate further on the issue. The evidence for these aspects within the report is weak and the IR team may perhaps consider strengthening the report in this aspect. However, we are in agreement with the inclusion of outstanding and strategic issues to be tracked over time in the MYPOW.

Before we end, we would like to comment on just one aspect mentioned in the nuts and bolts, and that is regarding the suggestion of including a brief summary in the proceedings. We would urge to tread with caution. Our understanding is that in the Governing Body deliberations brief is a very deceptive and often violated phrase. Our suggestion would be therefore to continue with the current format.

Mr Osamu KUBOTA (Japan)

Japan welcomes the Independent Review of Governance Reforms and thanks you for providing such a thoughtful and in-depth draft review report. It is really impressive work.

Japan fully supports the comment made by India on behalf of Asia Group and we would like to make a few supplementary comments to the Asian comments.

First, with regard to recommendation 4, we agree to the recommendation as per the Asian comment that the outstanding IPA action regarding Council's recommendation of the budget level to Conference should be closed. However this does not mean that discussion on budget in Council is completely useless. Japan still thinks discussion of budget in Council is useful to know how each country thinks about the budget, even if that does not come to any conclusion.

Second, with regard to recommendation 7, we have a little doubt with regard to changing the wording of the Basic Texts. We understand that the ICC will need to take an important role in FAO Governance. However, we think that experience of the functioning of FAO governance is essential for the ICC's qualifications and we consider that the current text, that is: *appropriate experience in the areas relevant to the Organization's work*, is enough for the ICC's qualifications.

Third, we cannot support the recommendation of having Ministerial Meetings at the end of Technical Committees sessions. Technical Committees are of a technical nature and we do not think that their items need political consideration. Besides, if Ministerial Meetings are introduced, they may be confused with the Conference in terms of role dividend of the meetings. We think it would be difficult to clearly define their respective roles.

These are the three points we wanted to raise.

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

My delegation expresses its appreciation to the members of the Independent Review Team for their tremendous work in the review of governance reform of the FAO. We note that the comprehensive review involved the three outstanding Immediate Plan of Action (IPA) matters, the global and internal governance as well as operational issues. Additionally Chairperson, my delegation supports in principle, the pragmatic approach to addressing the outstanding IPA actions, by bringing closure to three issues for which there is no likely prospect of Members arriving at consensus and which do not substantially affect the ability of Members to govern the FAO. We recognize the need for prioritization to address the global policy gaps related to the mandate of the FAO and agree that the Organization should adopt a systematic review of the global situation to identify priority initiatives for policy coherence. We acknowledge that the various Governing Bodies of the FAO do significantly add value and the focus of the Internal Review Team of strategies to make the governance system more effective and efficient, is a prudent approach.

My Government generally supports the conclusions arrived at by the Independent Review Team, but notes that further comments and consultations would be required on the recommendations on Governance Reform of the FAO.

Sr. Claudio J. ROZENCWAIG (Argentina)

Agradecemos la presentación del informe y también valoramos la oportunidad de considerar el borrador del examen independiente de la reforma de la gobernanza de la FAO y destacar que el equipo de trabajo realizó una extensa y profunda revisión de la estructura de la organización de sus mecanismos de trabajo en función de las reformas realizadas en cumplimiento del plan inmediato de acción para la renovación de la FAO.

Asimismo, deseamos reconocer con satisfacción el cumplimiento de dicho plan por parte de los miembros y de la administración y los positivos efectos logrados en consecuencia. En relación con las recomendaciones concretas, la Delegación de Argentina, quisiera resaltar lo siguiente, con respecto a la utilización del término gobernanza, entendemos que del examen, el término gobernanza es utilizado con fines prácticos a fin de individualizar los ámbitos de acción de los órganos rectores. El informe de la evaluación externa independiente del año 2007 ya utilizaba esta terminología. Sin embargo, destacamos que desde el año 2007, el término no ha ganado en claridad y su empleo general a nivel multilateral puede generar confusión respecto a su alcance y a su contenido.

Al respecto, teniendo en cuenta lo anterior es más apropiado que en lugar de utilizarse el término gobernanza mundial se haga referencia a las funciones internacionales de la FAO adecuadamente precisadas en el artículo 1º de su constitución y eventualmente también al marco estratégico revisado aprobado en la conferencia de junio de 2013. En virtud de lo anterior destacamos en particular el apoyo de esta delegación al párrafo 5h del informe de la reunión conjunta, referido a *Use Language in line with the basic text of FAO international functions*.

Respecto a las tres medidas del día todavía pendientes de aplicación, el equipo considera que los miembros no tienen el interés o la voluntad para lograr el consenso sobre ninguna de estas cuestiones en el futuro previsible y como ninguna de ellas afecta sustancialmente a la capacidad de los miembros

de gobernar la organización deberían considerarse cerradas y así lo presentan en las recomendaciones 4, 5 y 17. Al respecto, Argentina considera que esta opinión del equipo no es justificativo suficiente para declararlas cerradas, ya que una decisión de este tipo debe estar adoptada caso por caso y por parte de los Estados Miembros. Sobre la recomendación 1, sobre el examen de las deficiencias en las políticas mundiales y las líneas de trabajo relativas a las funciones internacionales de la FAO, el equipo propone una mayor intervención de la Secretaría.

Sobre este punto señalamos que el aporte de la Secretaría es conveniente basado en las contribuciones de los coordinadores de los objetivos estratégicos pero ello no debería ser la única fuente considerada en el Comité del Programa, el Comité de Finanzas y el Consejo, los miembros podrían hacer los aportes necesarios para la decisión. Respecto a la recomendación 2 y 3, el equipo considera que hay margen para que los órganos rectores ejerzan una supervisión más eficaz y hacer que la Organización rinda cuentas. Destaca la falta de un instrumento de seguimiento basado en los resultados e insta al Consejo a entablar un diálogo dinámico con la Secretaría para asegurar que los órganos rectores dispongan de la información pertinente y si fuera necesario, tome las medidas que sean convenientes para crear sus propios recursos con objeto de complementar los de la Secretaría, a fin de obtener información basada en los resultados sobre la ejecución de los programas.

Sobre este punto, recordamos que la administración está trabajando en el desarrollo de instrumentos de seguimiento e informes basados en los resultados contemplando la cuestión a la que apunta la recomendación 2. Respecto a la recomendación 3, respaldamos el pedido para contar con la información en tiempo y forma, pero que se recurra a especialistas independientes puede ser una alternativa que disperse recursos y por lo tanto debería evaluarse muy cuidadosamente.

El proceso de reforma de la FAO ha dado lugar a una mayor confianza entre miembros y miembros y la Secretaría y por ello, el uso de expertos externos como señalamos debería estudiarse profundamente. Los comentarios anteriores son válidos para las recomendaciones 12 y 13, ya que en ambos casos un mejor sistema de seguimiento e información basados en los resultados contribuirá al trabajo de los Comités Técnicos y las conferencias regionales. Respecto a reevaluar la inclusión de las conferencias regionales en la gobernanza interna no parece necesario realizarlo. La condición de las conferencias regionales como órgano rector es reciente y debe asentarse a lo cual contribuirá el desarrollo de un mejor sistema de seguimiento.

Por último, respecto a la recomendación 11, sobre las mesas de los Comités Técnicos, recordamos que este tema ya ha recibido atención y en las dos últimas rondas de sesiones de los Comités Técnicos se han realizado progresos en cuanto a la integración de las mesas y la reglamentación de sus actividades. En este sentido, apoyamos lo manifestado por la distinguida delegación de Afganistán respecto a las funciones de las mesas en los períodos inter-sesionales.

Mr Sompong NIMCHUAR (Thailand)

Thailand aligns itself with the statement made by the Chairperson of the Asia Group. We thank the Independent Review Team for their intensive review and for the recommendations and suggestions provided to further enhance Governance in FAO. The benefits of implementing the Immediate Plan of Action on the Governance Reform are becoming visible.

With particular regard to recommendation one, we support the Asia Group's view on the need to integrate priorities set by CFS and International Years in the priority setting process and systematic review of global situations by the FAO Conference.

Ms Eun Jeong LEE (Republic of Korea)

The Republic of Korea would like to appreciate the Secretariat's sincere effort toward the efficient reform of FAO Governance by conducting the evaluation based on relevant standards and the various tools for the analysis of changes in the Governance and other UN entities, namely UNDP, UNESCO, WHO and WFP, perceptions of key stakeholders through in-depth interviews and direct observation of the FAO Governing Bodies.

Korea supports the recommendations of the Review Team to close the three outstanding issues thus to avoid the useless debate and dissatisfaction among Members and other stakeholders.

Korea truly supports India, who spoke on behalf of the Asia Group, and also supports Japan's comment about organizing Ministerial segments during the Technical Committees. This would mean omitting the technical issues in favour of political issues. Ministerial meetings during TCs would also cause disappointment of Member Nations if we consider the costs.

Sr. Manuel CLAROS OVIEDO (Venezuela)

Nosotros también nos sumamos a las palabras de agradecimiento a los evaluadores independientes por habernos presentado el proyecto contenido en el documento CL 150/9. Teníamos más comentarios para hacer sin embargo, visto que la presentación fue exhaustiva y los comentarios de los Miembros también han sido bastante extensos sobre este tema. Solamente queremos hacer hincapié en dar nuestro respaldo a la declaración realizada por Costa Rica a nombre del GRULAC y reiterar, como han hecho otras Delegaciones, nuestra preocupación por la atribución que asigna a la FAO el equipo de evaluación relativa a las funciones de gobernanza mundial y/o gobernanza interna. Para nosotros estos términos son definiciones imprecisas que quizás generan interpretaciones inapropiadas y se apartan de lo que establecen para esta Organización los Textos Fundamentales.

Nosotros también expresamos esta preocupación y exhortamos a que se haga un uso del lenguaje acorde con los Textos Fundamentales de la FAO que hablan, o mejor dicho se refieren, a las funciones internacionales que cumple la Organización. Quedamos pues a la espera de las posteriores versiones de este documento para hacer comentarios con mayor profundidad a lo que va a ser ya la versión definitiva.

Mr Ropati Mualia LE MAMEA (Observer for Samoa)

I would like to speak on the Report CL 150/9 of the Independent Review of Governance Reforms of FAO.

I would be speaking not only as Samoa's Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries, but also as the current Chairperson for the Southwest Pacific Region Group of Ministers of Agriculture. I apologize if I will be taking much of the valuable time of the Council to speak on the ongoing issue of the disparity of regional groups representation and their Membership in the Council. As a matter of fact, this was Conference Resolutions 1/2008, paragraph 5a.i 2, which states that the Conference Committee for Independent External Evaluation follow-up to recommend any changes found desirable in the size and regional representations in the Membership of the Council.

I have gone through the Report several times, especially section 52-57 and section 64. To be honest, I am very sad that even though the Conference Committee IEE has identified that the problem of disparity does exist and yet the Conference Committee IEE does not or is not willing to do anything about it. To quote the reform Report, "The IEE had no solutions to offer on the issue of such anomalies, however, it emphasized the importance of creating mutual trust between Members." To quote section 55 of the independent review of FAO governance reform, "The Conference Chairman IEE worked hard during the open-ended working group II in 2009 to address the question of the size and composition of Council offering several different configurations, but was unable to achieve consensus." The Independent Chair of Council's efforts in 2010 also was unable to achieve consensus. Many Members feared that if the issue was to be reopened to address the anomaly certain regions face, other groups will argue for more seats and a large Council. To us, this sounds like an assumption, but if this is also an assumption, what is wrong with it?

The important point here are (i) the creation of mutual trust between Members, as trust is valuable. (ii) The inability of the CoC IEE to solve this longstanding issue and thus did not carry out the Conference resolution 1/2000 paragraph 5a, I, 2.

In the Council meeting of 2012, I pointed out to the Council the huge anomalies and disparity currently existing in the allocation of Council seats in FAO, using Southwest Pacific as an example. I urged and requested the Council then and the responsible Committee to please recommend to the Conference an additional seat in the Council for the Southwest Pacific region as our region consists of 16 Members and has only one seat in the Council which is currently taken up by Australia.

This issue was raised and discussed at length in the March 2013 Southwest Pacific FAO Agriculture Ministers Meeting in Samoa. There was full support that FAO be approached to allocate at least one extra seat in the Council for the Southwest Pacific region to represent the Southwest Pacific island countries in the FAO Council. This issue was also raised in the Asia Pacific FAO Agriculture Ministers Meeting in Mongolia earlier this year, 2014, and was again endorsed.

Today I am here at this Council meeting as current Chair of the Southwest Pacific Ministers of Agriculture Meeting to implore this Council on this same issue for at least one extra seat in the Council for the Southwest Pacific region. Currently, the total Membership of FAO stands at 194. The Council of 49 Members is divided into seven regional groups; Africa with 49 Members is allocated 12 Council seats, Asia with 25 Members is allocated 9 Council seats, Europe with 48 Members is allocated 10 Council seats, Latin America and the Caribbean with 33 Members is allocated 9 Council seats, Near East with 21 Members is allocated 6 Council seats, North America with 2 Members is allocated 2 Council seats, and yet the Southwest Pacific with 16 Members is allocated only 1 Council seat. Surely we do not all have to be mathematicians to figure out that there is a huge disparity in the allocation of only one Council seat for the 16 Member countries in the Southwest Pacific region.

The fact that the Conference in 2008 had already passed a Resolution that the Conference Committee for the Independent External Evaluation to follow-up and recommend any changes found desirable in the size and regional representation in the Membership of the Council and that the CoC IEE to point out in their Report page 14 that it had no solution to offer on the issue of such anomalies is very disheartening. May I point out that issues of this nature creates frustration in the Organization Membership and could lead to mistrust in the system.

I am very concerned with the independent review of FAO governance reforms recommendation five on Council size which says that the outstanding IPA action regarding the size and composition of the Council should be closed, even though there is a very important fisheries meeting currently taking place in Samoa of the global tuna commission. I have taken it to myself to travel all the way from the opposite side of the globe to be here in Rome to present our case and request the FAO Council to allot our Southwest Pacific region with at least one extra seat in the FAO Council to represent the Southwest Pacific island countries.

Just today, noticing my name was on the Board and they keep on pushing it down. That's another reason why I should be sitting there or one of the country island Members should be sitting there in the Council to voice our concerns. For the sake of fairness, good governance and transparency I implore and urge the honorable Members of the Council and Distinguished Delegates attending this Council to endorse our humble request and recommendation for one extra seat in the Council for the Southwest Pacific region and its 16 Member countries.

Mr Olyntho VIEIRA (Brazil)

Brazil aligns itself with the GRULAC statement presented by Costa Rica. We also thank the efforts of the independent review team and all stakeholders involved in the preparation of this draft Report and governance reforms and would like to add some comments.

First, we recognize that the entire FAO reform process has led to rebutting the needed trust among Members and between the Members and the Secretariat. The proposals and recommendations of the final Report on governance reforms must reflect and support this trusted evidence.

Second, we cannot lose sight that all this process is based on the consensus achieved by the Members in order to a more efficient and effective Organization. In this regard, for instance, the Members agreed in the IPA process that revisional Conference become a formal part of the FAO Governance Framework with many important responsibilities. Brazil strongly supports this agreement and considers that the Regional Conferences have an important role to play in the FAO governance.

Finally, Brazil would like to refer to the three main IPA actions that are still outstanding. We agree with recommendations formulated by the team in order to close these actions considering the difficulties and impossibilities for their execution.

Ms Liping SHEN (China) (Original language Chinese)

I would like to thank the Secretariat for submitting this Report and the related introductions.

Since the end of last year, the Independent Review Team has followed the request of IPA and carried out in-depth studies on Governing Bodies such as Conference Council, Finance and Programme Committees, CCLM and other Technical Committees, Regional Conferences, as well as Article XIV Bodies.

The Report has put forward remarkable comments and also it has put forward the concrete suggestions. The Chinese delegation fully support the statement made by the Indian delegation on behalf of the Asia Group. We also support most of the recommendations by the Evaluation Team. At the same time, we wish that the Independent Review Team further revise and complete the Report for considerations by the relevant Governing Bodies in the future.

Mr Lupiño Jr. LAZARO (Philippines)

The Philippines fully aligns itself with the Asia Group statement delivered by India and would like to thank the Review Team for the comprehensive Draft Report and the Programme Committee Chair for the presentation of the Joint Programme and Finance Committee's discussion.

We only wish to seek a few clarifications on the section regarding Technical Committees, particularly on issues relative to the Committee on Commodity Problems. The Philippines is a former bureau Member of this Committee. While we understand that there have been limitations in the review of Technical Committees, please allow us to pose the following questions.

Firstly, we are under the impression that their review may have focused more on the trade related work of the CCP and may have raised questions on the mandates and role of the committee under FAO and the WTO. May we inquire if the Committee's work in relation to commodity markets and other economic and governance related functions, as reflected in the CCP's mandate has also been sufficiently looked at?

Secondly, have the recent Committee's reforms such as the enlargement of the bureau and its synergy with other Technical Committees, especially COAG been fully taken into account?

Finally, has there been or will there be consultation to be undertaken with the CCP Chairpersons and Secretariat prior to finalizing the Report?

M. Carlos Alberto AMARAL (Angola)

L'Angola reconnaît que des progrès importants ont été accomplis dans l'application de la réforme et l'impact sur l'Organisation est visible. Les relations de travail entre les membres du Conseil et du Secrétariat se sont améliorées et on connaît une participation accrue de la société civile et du secteur privé. Nous pensons qu'ont contribué également la dynamique et la façon de travailler du nouveau Directeur général de la FAO et son personnel, ainsi que les conseils pertinents du nouveau Président indépendant du Conseil. Nous savons que la réforme est un processus continu, en cours, et nous devons faire tous les efforts pour réaliser les actions prévues dans le PAI. Pour accélérer les processus de décentralisation, il faut à cet effet continuer à réduire le poids de la structure centrale de la FAO, et renforcer les structures des régions, sous-régions et pays.

En ce qui concerne les trois questions en suspens – la taille du Conseil, le budget et les qualifications des candidats au poste de Directeur général, la délégation du Cameroun a déjà donné son avis que nous partageons. Est également pertinente l'opinion de l'Afghanistan sur les rôles des bureaux des Comités techniques ; ils doivent avoir un rôle de facilitateurs et pas de décisionnaires.

Je trouve que ces rapports et des informations axées sur les résultats peuvent faciliter le suivi des pays membres et permettre de mieux évaluer l'impact des réformes et le travail de la FAO dans le contexte international, régional et national.

Je voudrais remercier l'équipe indépendante pour l'information que vous nous avez donnée ici sur l'action des conférences régionales, parce que j'avais l'impression que vous vous n'étiez pas totalement d'accord sur le fonctionnement de ces conférences régionales. Je pense que les conférences

ont permis aux responsables de l'agriculture et de la pêche des pays des régions de se prononcer sur le travail de la FAO et les priorités à suivre. Je pense qu'il faut renforcer la liaison entre les conférences régionales, le Conseil et la Conférence de la FAO.

Monsieur le Président, il est nécessaire de faire des efforts afin de réduire la durée des sessions des comités techniques, du Conseil, du Comité du Programme et du Comité financier, par le biais de rapports plus courts axés sur les recommandations des sessions faites par leur Président.

En ce qui concerne les budgets, nous sommes d'avis qu'il faut partir du principe que le Comité du Programme et le Comité financier doivent présenter un chiffre consensuel, justifié et pragmatique au Conseil.

Je sais que la question n'est pas simple, c'est un sujet sensible. Il faut peut-être réaliser des réunions préliminaires ouvertes à tous les États Membres et éviter de politiser la question. L'expérience du PAM et du FIDA à ce sujet peuvent aider à trouver la solution. Nous convenons que l'on devrait chercher à améliorer les spécifications concernant les qualifications des candidats au Comité du Programme et au Comité financier. Mais une question cependant se pose: quelle sera l'entité qui analysera les curriculum des candidats pour voir s'ils ont les bons profils.

Pour finir Monsieur le Président, nous attendons le rapport final, mais pourriez-vous nous dire quels seront les pas suivants après cette discussion?

Mr Ivan G. KONSTANTINOPOLSKIY (Russian Federation) (Original language Russian)

First of all, we would like to thank the Independent Review Team for the very meticulous and broad ranging work that they have done. We support so many of your considerations and we believe our lively discussion demonstrates that your work is a very topical one and that it is certainly necessary.

We would like to make comments on three points. On the three outstanding IPA Actions, we would like to say that these three actions have to do with the most high priority recommendations here that have a very significant impact on the work of the FAO.

In this connection, we remember what one of the Members of the Joint Meeting actually said and if there is no consensus now, maybe it would be logical to close these actions yet, but decision would probably not be the ideal way of responding to the challenge of these outstanding actions.

In relation to this, we would recommend caution in taking this recommendation from the Review Team. We would not undertake a fast solution to just plainly closing down these actions. Possibly with time, there would be better circumstances for a very practical meticulous analysis of the essential principle, especially since we have heard quite rightly by the Review Team that the present state of these actions is not impeding progress in the work of the Organization.

As regards the mechanism and the use of outside experts, we would suggest that we should refrain from institutionalizing this practice. This is the practice that might give the impression that the present highly developed system of the subsidiary bodies in the Organization is not sufficiently effective and enough self-sufficient and adequate. This could also have a negative impact on the way in which Member Nations and the Secretariat of the FAO interact, which does not mean that we would preclude the possible use of external experts if it is really proven that we objectively need such experts. However, we do not believe this should be made systemic and systematic.

We also agree with delegations having spoken up before who have suggested that we should not use ambivalent terminology, in particular "Global Governance" is a term that we would suggest be set aside.

Ms Mi NGUYEN (Canada)

We would like to thank the Independent Review Team for their presentation which reflected the many suggestions received from Members since the first Draft Report was shared and we look forward to the Final Report.

For the purposes of today's discussion, we would like to focus our comments on three points where we believe there's still room for improvement or clarification in particular in the section on Technical Committees.

First, with respect to the Committee on Commodity Problems, the assertion in paragraph 131 that it is beyond the scope of the CCP to contribute to developing global policy and Regulatory Frameworks does not reflect the reality. New disciplines on food shipments and the role of the Consultative Subcommittee on Surplus Disposal have been discussed at several recent CCP sessions and the Committee has tasked the current Bureau with carrying this forward. We will be happy to meet with the Independent Review Team to discuss this in further detail if it so wishes.

Second, we support a more proactive role for the Bureaus of the Technical Committees during the intercessional period, and we believe that the Report should recognize that this is already being done in some Technical Committees such as the CCP where the Bureau has been mandated by the Committee.

Third, we note the recommendations to eliminate the MYPOW from Technical Committees. While we recognize that these could be improved to enhance their usefulness, we do see more value in more efficient and long-term planning for Technical Committees, as well as accountability, and would welcome the Independent Review Team's suggestions in the Final Report as useful alternative tools to achieve this.

Ms Natalie E. BROWN (United States of America)

We wish to thank the evaluators and the Secretariat for this comprehensive look at governance throughout the organization. We commend the thorough assessment of the governance and organizational challenges facing FAO today and appreciate the openness with which the evaluation was conducted and some of the resulting out-of-the-box recommendations.

We appreciate the clarifications provided as a result of the presentation to the joint meeting of PC and FC and related discussion, and look forward to more in-depth discussion with our regional partner, during the next informal meeting convened by the Independent Chair, as well as in the Open Ended Informal Meeting.

In the run up to those future consultations, we remind all members and the Secretariat about the importance of caution regarding any new commitments of budgetary resources in our current financial climate. In addition, we should carefully approach the notion of giving new mandates or adding new layers to currently functioning FAO Governing Bodies.

Mme Diane Mariam KONE (Mali)

Notre délégation appuie la déclaration du Cameroun. Toutefois à notre avis, l'évaluation indépendante devrait s'étendre à la gestion des ressources humaines, chose qui n'a pas été pris en compte, je pense, par les consultants. Nous souhaitons donc, si possible, que cet aspect puisse être pris en compte. C'est pourquoi nous demandons de ne pas instituer l'expertise extérieure, comme beaucoup d'entre nous l'ont déjà dit.

Nous pensons également que le recrutement au niveau des fonctionnaires de la FAO doit tenir compte de la représentations géographique, parce que ces derniers temps nous constatons au niveau de l'Afrique que le recrutement n'est pas à hauteur de cette représentation.

Ms Maxine OLSON (Member of the Independent Review Team)

I am afraid that I am not going to do justice to the richness of the comments. I would like to thank you all for all that you have said. As has been briefly noted with regard to the CCP, yes, we would be happy to meet with you to a limited extent, we're here today and tomorrow, to be able to discuss further any points that you would put forward and afterwards certainly remotely.

Early in the process I said we are but mere mortals here, Nadia and I, and this is a huge scope, as you can well see. We will take into account your clarifications and your views. We want to make the report as robust as possible so that when it comes time to look at each of these individual

recommendations, you have an accurate and as complete a picture as we are able to provide within the scope of our terms of reference.

At this point, thank you very much for this, and as I say, we would welcome any individual discussions on the side if that would be useful for you.

Ms Nadia HIJAB (Member of the Independent Review Team)

I fully agree with Maxine on this, as always almost. I just want to say, in case this was not clear in our presentation, that we are, as part of our revision of the work of the report, preparing a graphic that shows where the recommendations fit and the progress and so on. So just to assure you on that point, and the costs to the extent possible.

We have taken careful note of your comments, and as Maxine said, we will do our best to integrate everything to make the report as useful to you as possible.

Ms Maxine OLSON (Member of the Independent Review Team)

I would just like to add that we are independent, as we have also been reminded to be, and the report is for your own decisions as well so that we will continue to be an independent team, but with our decisions and our recommendations based on good evidence, as well as of course the discussions with you.

CHAIRPERSON

After the Council, on 10 December, I will be making a presentation to the Chairpersons of the Regional Groups and other groups on how we are going to discuss the proposals, in the form of a matrix. This will also include the updates we have from the Review Team, as well the interventions which have been led here, so that we have addressed the draft and now we move forward.

On 15 January next year we have another meeting, the Informal Meeting of the Regional Chairs and other groups to receive feedback from Members, including decision on recommendations to be accepted, rejected, discussed further or left pending.

So from now onwards until 15 January, Regional Groups will get together and we will all listen to the comments coming out from their discussions, taking also into account what has been discussed or debated here. Then, on 6 February 2015 we have an open-ended informal meeting with all Members to try to agree on what will be presented to the Council. So this is the way forward.

Now I will make my conclusions, but with the richness of interventions, it might be very difficult and possibly I will not be pointing out all that has been said. But what is important is that the comments you have made on the draft have been taken by the Review Team.

I would like to conclude as follows:

1. The Council welcomed the Draft Report of the Independent Review of Governance Reforms and looked forward to an in-depth review of the contents at its next session, following finalization of the report. It expressed its appreciation for the presentation by the Independent Review team and provided preliminary comments on the Draft Report prior to its finalization.
2. The Council noted and agreed with the criteria and tools used by the Independent Review team to assess the implementation of the governance reforms.
3. The Council appreciated that reforms at FAO had led to more dynamic governing bodies, and welcomed the greater degree of trust among Members, and between the Membership and the Secretariat.
4. The Council endorsed the findings and recommendations of the Joint Meeting of the Programme and Finance Committees, and requested that the report be finalized accordingly, as well as on the basis of guidance provided during its debate, with particular attention to the following:
 - a) ensure consistency with issues agreed by consensus by the Membership during the FAO reform process, including on the integrity and scope of the mandates of individual governing bodies, and the format of their reports;

- b) avoid proposals or recommendations which may undermine the trust dividend achieved so far, including the notion of using external expertise;
- c) avoid suggestions and recommendations which may lead to duplication or inefficiency in the governance flow, recalling in this context that the reviewed Strategic Framework provides for linkages between global policies, strategic priorities, major programmatic initiatives and implementation processes, as well as ensuring effectiveness priority-setting for the Organization;
- d) recognize the contributions of Regional Conferences within the system of governing bodies, and their unequivocal and integral status within the governance framework of FAO;
- e) refine the recommendations on the three outstanding IPA actions, notably as concerns the membership of Council;
- f) clarify practicality and budgetary implications of recommendations;
- g) hold in abeyance recommendations for the whole or partial abolition of MYPOWs of governing bodies;
- h) reassess the role and mandate of the Committee on Commodity Problems (CCP), taking into consideration the full array of its activities and contribution to the mission of FAO;
- i) use terminology and definitions consistent with language in the FAO Basic Texts; and
- j) include a graphic representation of progress made, current problems and recommendations to facilitate Members' discussions

5. The Council noted that the Final Report would be made available to Members by the end of 2014 for discussion at the 151st Session of the Council in March 2015

I think this conclusion will be taken up also by the Review Team for their consideration. Thank you very much. With this acceptance of my conclusion, we have concluded this agenda item.

I want to thank Maxine and Nadia for your good work which has been well recognized and received by the Council and I look forward to receive your final report.

Item 15. Outcome of the Joint FAO/WHO Second International Conference on Nutrition (ICN2)

Point 15. Conclusions de la deuxième Conférence internationale conjointe FAO/OMS sur la nutrition (CIN-2)

Tema 15. Resultados de la Segunda Conferencia Internacional sobre Nutrición (CIN2) convocada conjuntamente por la FAO y la OMS)

(CL 150/10)

CHAIRPERSON

We proceed now with item 15: *Outcome of the Joint FAO/WHO Second International Conference on Nutrition (ICN2)*. The document before Council is CL 150/10 with a revision in Arabic, French and Spanish only.

Before passing the floor to Mr Jomo Sundaram, Assistant Director-General of the Economic and Social Development Department, allow me to express my appreciation not only for the success of the ICN2 itself, but also for the impressive efforts made by both Members and the Joint FAO-WHO Secretariat to ensure that the outcome documents were completed on time and that the Conference and pre-Conference events were well prepared.

In particular, I would like to recognize the pivotal role of the Co-Chairs of the Joint Working Group, Ms Mónica Martínez and Ms Natalie Feistritz.

Of course, thanks and recognition also go to Jomo Sundaram who now has the floor to introduce this agenda item.

Mr Jomo SUNDARAM (Assistant Director-General, Economic and Social Development Department)

I am very pleased to introduce the report on the outcome of the recently concluded Second International Conference on Nutrition which many of you have personally attended. As you all know, the Conference was very well-attended at all times. There were more than 2,200 registered participants. This attendance was found not only in the Plenary Hall where many eminent guests were present, but also throughout the proceedings of the three round tables as well as the nine side events during the pre-Conference meetings of Parliamentarians, Civil Society, as well as the Private Sector. Media coverage at all events was significant prior to, during, and after the Conference.

Following the unanimous adoption by the Conference of the Rome Declaration on Nutrition and the Framework for Action, over 170 statements were made in the course of the general debate, with most pledging support to the commitments set out in the Rome Declaration, with many describing recent as well as planned initiatives at the country level. In this regard, a number of delegates expressed appreciation for the efforts made by the Joint Working Group and the Open-Ended Working Group and the leadership of the respective co-Chairs and co-Vice Chairs as mentioned by the Independent Chair of Council. And most importantly, the conclusion of the outcome documents ahead of the Conference which ensured the high level of interest as well as participation in the Conference itself.

Secondly, for the engagement of the Directors-General and the support of the Joint Secretariat in regards to the preparation and conduct of the Conference. Thirdly, allow me to take this opportunity to underscore with deep gratitude the facilitation role played by the Independent Chair of Council following the decision made by Council in December 2013 following the preparatory technical meeting.

May I also take this opportunity to reiterate our expression of deep gratitude to the resource partners who have generously supported the organization of ICN2, namely the European Union, Italy, Russian Federation, Germany, Norway, Spain and Switzerland.

Let me now mention some follow-up actions taken by the Secretariat. As mandated by the Rome Declaration, the Directors-General of FAO and WHO have requested the Secretary General of the United Nations to arrange for the United Nations General Assembly to endorse next year the Rome Declaration on Nutrition and the Framework for Action and to consider declaring a decade of action on nutrition from the year 2016 to the year 2025 inclusive.

In reference to the call in the Rome Declaration to increase investments for improving nutrition, FAO has taken the initiative to establish an action for nutrition trust fund to support governments in transforming the ICN2 commitments into concrete actions. The multi-donor trust fund is intended to mobilize resources for country programs as well as projects on nutrition. The FAO Nutrition Division, led by Dr Anna Lartey on my immediate right, will support implementation of the fund's activities and ensure accurate planning and operation of the projects and programmes. Moreover, nutrition will be further mainstreamed as a cross-cutting theme in the reviewed Strategic Framework of the Organization.

Beyond FAO's own follow-up work, intensive collaborative efforts are underway to improve UN system coordination on nutrition, particularly with a view to enhancing normative policy and operational coordination for effective support to countries by strengthening existing mechanisms. Further steps are also being considered to enable the Committee on World Food Security to serve as the premier global intergovernmental as well as multi-stakeholder forum on nutrition.

Further action will be required from FAO and WHO to operationalize some of the recommendations of the Framework for Action, such as joint reporting on implementation of the commitments set forth in the Rome Declaration and tabling reports on ICN2 follow-up on the agendas of relevant Governing Body sessions.

Moreover, being dedicated to feeding the planet as well as energy for life, Expo Milan 2015 will provide a unique opportunity to give greater visibility to the ICN2 outcomes and to focus the world's

attention on the crucial issues of food security as well as nutrition. Thank you very much for your attention and for your support throughout the ICN2.

Dr Mafizur RAHMAN (Bangladesh)

At the beginning I would like to thank FAO and WHO for the successful completion of the ICN2. Recognizing the gravity of hunger and malnutrition, the Second International Conference was a very, very timely intervention, about 22 years after the first ICN in 1992. The attendance indicates how the Conference has drawn the attention of the global community.

From the preparatory technical meeting in November 2013, a full one year was totally devoted for ICN2. The endeavor of the Joint Working Group, the Secretariat, Open-Ended Working Group was tremendous to complete the political outcome document, that is the Rome Declaration, and a Framework for Action. I would like to thank all of the Members of the Joint Working Group and Open-Ended Working Group, as well as the co-Chairs, particularly Ms Natalie Ferstritzer of Austria and Ms Monica Martinez of Ecuador, and two co-vice Chairs and particularly both the Director-General of FAO and WHO, and a special thanks to Mr Jomo Sundaram of FAO and Mr Francesco Branca of WHO for their heartiest effort and tremendous level to successful day's Conference. We would also like to thank the Independent Chair of the Council for his oversight role towards the ICN2.

Bangladesh was a strong advocate of keeping both the documents short and context-specific, action-oriented, and finally, it was found like that. We feel proud to be part of the whole process as a Member of the Joint Working Group. Bangladesh was a strong advocate of setting the National Nutrition targets and milestones consistent with the timeframe 2016-2015 of the commitment and achieving the WHO target on Non-Communicable Diseases by 2025. We are really committed to achieve the target and would like to see the positive changes at the end of the timeline.

We should not have the complacency only for successful completion of the ICN2 because the real challenges are in front of us. Though Rome Declaration and Framework for Action is a set of voluntary policy options and strategies, the National Governments and other stakeholders should take it up as a mandatory policy options that it was committed by all in the paragraph 15 of the Rome Declaration to eradicate hunger and malnutrition.

We welcome the actions proposed in paragraph 16 of the document establishing the Nutrition Trust Fund to support governments in transforming ICN2 commitments into concrete actions particularly in developing countries.

Bangladesh is requesting the development partners of each Member Nation to contribute as much as possible to the proposed trust fund. We also endorse the actions proposed in paragraphs 17 to 20 of the document. We are highly encouraging and expecting the maximum visibility of the ICN2 outcomes in the upcoming Expo Milano 2015.

Mr Seyed Aminollah TAGHAVI MOTLAGH (Islamic Republic of Iran)

The Islamic Republic of Iran welcomes the agenda Item 15, *Outcome of the Joint FAO/WHO Second International Conference on Nutrition* and speaks on behalf of the Near East Group.

Participation of Member States, Civil Society, Private Sector, Newspaper, Media and different UN agencies show that nutrition is widely on the frontline of concern. The international Conference which took place in Rome on 19-21 November has to be considered the introduction for an international event jointly organized by FAO and WHO. We would like to congratulate FAO Director-General and Director-General of WHO for all of their endeavors to make the Conference successful.

We also congratulate FAO and WHO on supporting and facilitating the process of preparation of the Rome Declaration on Nutrition and the Framework for Action. We also wish to thank the co-Chairs on the joint working group, Ms Natalie of Austria and Ms Monica Martinez of Ecuador for their dedication and hard work leading the negotiation process on the Rome Declaration on Nutrition and the Framework for Action to a successful conclusion. The applause they received on the last day of ICN2 is well deserved.

Mr Jon Jonasson and his team have been fully engaged from the starting point and devoted their time and energy for preparing the *Rome Declaration on Nutrition* and the *Framework for Action* and also for holding the Conference. We know that all Members acknowledge their effort and engagements with heartfelt appreciation.

On the one hand, the high level participation showed that Nutrition is a cornerstone of Sustainable Development. On the other hand, the diverse presentation made by Ministers responsible for Agriculture, Health, Social Welfare, Planning, Finance and Trade demonstrate that the Member Nations consider that Nutrition has multi-sector challenges and it is not only confined to the Health and Agriculture sector. The importance of the Rome Declaration as an overarching guide was emphasized by most of the speakers during the Conference. We urge FAO and WFP to the implementation of the Framework for Action and the mobilization of resources including the funding from the Private Sector.

We recommend earnestly that FAO and WHO establish mechanisms to monitor the progress of implementation, to evaluate the achievements of outcomes and to disseminate in each Biennium the result of the world nutrition progress for the public information.

At the Country level, this strong political support and internal coordination on Nutrition is a keystone to promote the causes of nutrition at National level. We encourage forcefully that FAO and WHO help especially the least developed countries and the developing countries; and they should consider this important element in their National plans and Programme for improving Nutrition.

The Integration of the Framework for action with the post-2015 Development Agenda is essential and has been emphasized by many delegations, especially with respect to goal two: end hunger, achieve food security and improve nutrition for all and promote sustainable agriculture. Although the action at Country level to implement the Framework for action is the most important and it is the first priority, it is obvious that it needs international cooperation in the promotion of Nutrition particularly in resources mobilization for the capacity building and for South-South cooperation.

More visibility of Nutrition in the post-2015 Development Agenda was highlighted by many delegations. We express our support that Nutrition should be adequately incorporated in the post-2015 Development Agenda. As the work on nutrition is shared among several UN agencies, FAO, WHO, WFP, UNICEF, EFAD, and UNHCR the natural cooperation is essential to promote the Global Agenda on Nutrition.

Nutrition is a public issue because good nutrition is the right thing for everyone and this makes Governance at the central issue to bring into consideration the causes of Nutrition at local, national and international levels. The starting point is seen and dedicated political commitment and good governance is a part and distinct of a successful political commitment. Therefore, we exhort all Governments, inter-governmental Organizations, UN agencies, Civil Societies, Private sector and all relevant stakeholders to employ this principle for such commitment.

Governance elements could include: legislation, transparency, partnership, unified approach, accountability, monitoring and internal coordination to accelerate the implementation of the national nutrition plan policy and programme. We stress that Governments should consider all these elements in Nutrition governance.

Nutrition is and remains the cornerstone of Sustainable Development. Now a single sector can fulfill the nutritional needs of a Nation and a Community to move forward on Nutrition especially for vulnerable groups.

It is essential to adopt a multi-sector approach involving agriculture, food processing, industry, health, education and trade. A multi-sector approach requires better Governance and coordination. Therefore strengthening the mechanism for coordination among different stakeholders is indispensable at the Country level.

Sr. Benito JIMENEZ SAUMA (México)

Para el GRULAC este tema es de suma importancia por eso le solicito le dé la palabra a Costa Rica para que en nombre del GRULAC haga una declaración

Sra. Estela BLANCO (Costa Rica)

Es un honor para mí realizar esta intervención a nombre del Grupo de América Latina y el Caribe, el cual acoge con gran satisfacción los resultados de la Segunda Conferencia Internacional de Nutrición. En especial modo deseamos resaltar la aprobación por aclamación de la Declaración de Roma sobre la Nutrición y el Marco de Acción, los cuales reflejan un importante consenso alcanzado tras largos e intensos meses de negociación en la cual nuestro Grupo participó de forma muy activa a través de nuestros voceros, Colombia y la República Bolivariana de Venezuela, los cuales realizaron una excelente labor al inicio del proceso y directamente como Estados en las etapas finales.

Asimismo, queremos agradecer a las dos Co-Presidentes del Grupo de trabajo abierto, la representante de Ecuador en la OMS y la representante de Austria en la FAO por su excelente trabajo. En este contexto, sin embargo, el GRULAC como lo hizo reiteradamente a lo largo de todo el proceso de negociación, desea recalcar que debemos tomar como lecciones aprendidas todos aquellos procedimientos utilizados que dificultaron la marcha de la negociación y que implicaron para los Estados Miembros y para la Organización esfuerzos e incluso gastos adicionales. Debido a lo anterior consideramos que en la planificación y en la organización de futuros eventos debemos contemplar seriamente estas enseñanzas evitando como se ha reiterado en varias oportunidades que los procedimientos utilizados sean considerados como antecedentes de otros procesos negociadores.

El GRULAC contribuyó decididamente al éxito de la Conferencia de Nutrición, en primer lugar porque estamos comprometidos con esta Organización, asimismo porque en nuestra región existe voluntad política para colocar a la nutrición como una prioridad en la agenda pública de nuestros estados, ya hemos obtenido resultados alentadores que nos impulsan a continuar avanzando, elaborando y perfeccionando, según el caso las políticas, las estrategias y realizando las necesarias inversiones en los aspectos relacionados con la seguridad alimentaria y la nutrición.

Por ello, el GRULAC apoya una vez más la declaración de una década para la nutrición y en línea con la Declaración de Roma sobre la Nutrición respaldamos la solicitud formulada por la FAO para recomendar a la Asamblea General de las Naciones Unidas que considere declarar un decenio de acción sobre la nutrición de los años 2016 al 2025.

Además, en línea con la recomendación sesenta del Marco para la Acción, reiteramos nuestra expectativa de que los Órganos rectores de la FAO, incluidas las Conferencias Regionales, examinen regularmente los informes sobre el seguimiento general de la CIN 2. Igualmente, nuestro Grupo considera que para el seguimiento de la implementación de las recomendaciones contenidas en el Marco de Acción acordado no se requiere la creación de nuevas estructuras. Este seguimiento deberá hacerse de forma sencilla, pragmática y constructiva, utilizándose de preferencia las estructuras ya existentes a fin de contener los costos de las actividades de seguimiento. En este sentido, todas las Agencias que trabajan en el tema de la nutrición desde distintas aristas deberán coordinar sus esfuerzos e informar a sus Estados Miembros y otras partes concernidas respecto de los avances que se vayan alcanzando.

En cuanto al rol del sistema de las Naciones Unidas, reiteramos lo expresado en los párrafos 14(o) y 16 de la Declaración de Roma sobre la Nutrición. Asimismo, el GRULAC acoge con beneplácito la iniciativa de la Administración para establecer un Fondo Fiduciario de Acción para la Nutrición, instrumento que servirá para la movilización de recursos y acciones con miras a apoyar a los Estados en la implementación de los compromisos contraídos en la Conferencia.

Asimismo, respaldamos la incorporación de la nutrición como tema transversal en el Marco Estratégico revisado y alentamos a la inclusión del tema en el marco de resultados así como al despliegue de personal especializado en materia de nutrición a todas las oficinas regionales.

Finalmente, reiteramos la disposición de los países del GRULAC de compartir nuestra experiencia con todos aquellos que la consideren apropiada utilizando para esto las diversas modalidades de

cooperación, en especial la Cooperación Sur-Sur y triangular en la cual nuestra región ha alcanzado resultados positivos.

Mr Jon E JONASSON (Iceland)

The Nordic countries; Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden would like to congratulate FAO and WHO on their work in convening the second international Conference on nutrition. Continued increased concrete cooperation among UN agencies is essential for the future relevance of the UN System.

While the Nordic countries welcome the endorsement of the political outcome document on the framework for action, we wish to pay attention to one particular nutrition issue of major importance, namely the healthy diet. The description of healthy diet is needed to guide the implementation of the Rome Declaration on Nutrition and the Framework for Action. As it is vitally known, the description was included in the draft framework for action but was unfortunately removed at the end of the last open-ended working group in October together with parts of the framework for action.

As a result, according to Co-Chair's summary of the October Open-Ended Working Group, it was decided that the language would be used by the joint Secretariat to prepare a separate information note on the framework for action. Such an information note or another relevant type of documentation containing the description of the healthy diet is essential and needs to be publicly available. It has been brought to our attention that the note is available on the ICN2 homepage. Having realized its placement on the homepage, the Nordic countries would kindly suggest to the Secretariat that it will be given another more prominent and easier to find place on the homepage alongside other documents from the Conference.

Finally, we welcome the information on immediate follow-up presented in the document CL 150/10 including consideration by CFS of its role in the follow-up provided further refinement vis-à-vis Membership of the WHO in CFS. We expect that ICN2 follow-up will also be discussed in the context of other priorities as part of the process of deciding on FAO's Programme of Work and Budget for 2016-17.

Mr Ivan G. KONSTANTINOPOLSKIY (Russian Federation) (Original language Russian)

Russia highly commends the conduct of the Second International Conference on Nutrition with WHO and FAO, as well as its results.

We consider that this Conference is due to become a significant milestone in the development of international efforts to combat all forms of under-nutrition and its consequences, malnutrition, overweight and obesity and micronutrient deficiencies. Taking into account the growth in global interest in the issue of balanced nutrition, we trust that the ICN2 will impart an additional boost to the work on the whole array of problems of healthy diets at the country level as well.

We are satisfied by the unanimous adoption of the Rome Declaration on Nutrition and the voluntary Framework for Action, which corresponds to our vision of improving nutrition. We commend the holistic intersectoral approach taken to nutrition in these documents, which provides for cooperation between the food and agriculture sectors, health, social protection and education. We agree about the importance of taking into account the specifics of food systems and all links in the food chain in order to guarantee a balanced diet.

We are satisfied that such key aspects as education in nutrition, consumer education and advocacy of healthy lifestyles as well as guaranteeing the safety and quality of food and the social protection of vulnerable stratas of population were dually reflected in the outcome documents of the ICN2.

Today a very topical issue is the commencement of coordinated implementation of follow-up in the context of the ICN2 process. In this context, we are convinced that the issue of nutrition and food security and the agricultural development closely related to them must occupy the proper place on the post-2015 Development Agenda. Russia highly commends the work of FAO and WHO in preparing the Conference and focusing international attention on the issue of nutrition.

We would like to express appreciation to the FAO Secretariat ensuring that the ICN2 Conference was held in Rome at a high level. Special thanks go to the Assistant Director-General, Jomo Sundaram, and all the staff in the Nutrition Department. We think it is important to continue to agreed to work among the UN System Organizations in this area on the basis of the Conference recommendations. We support the enhancement of the FAO's coordinating role in this process. In this connection, we welcome the proposal of the Director-General, Graziano da Silva to devote greater attention to the issues of nutrition in the context of the work of the Committee on World Food Security as well as the shifting of the activities of the UN Standing Committee on Nutrition to the FAO remit.

Mr Mhutang SELEKA (South Africa)

This statement is made on behalf of the Africa Group. The Africa Group would like to commend the Secretariats of the World Health Organization and the Food and Agriculture Organization for the excellent work done in planning and organizing a successful Second International Conference on Nutrition held in Rome from 19 to 21 November 2014, and for the exceptional cooperation with the Member Nations especially at a time when both organizations – and in particular the WHO – were faced with an overwhelming and a daunting challenge of addressing the Ebola epidemic which has placed the global health system under an enormous strain.

Hunger and malnutrition constitute a violation of human dignity, and we therefore welcome the outcomes of the ICN2 which placed the global attention on the multiple challenges of nutrition. We are in this regard pleased that it produced, by consensus, not only a political outcome document, the Rome Declaration, but more importantly also a Framework for Action providing practical guidance on how to achieve the many objectives in nutrition that we have set ourselves.

The Framework for Action comes at an opportune time and as such. It cannot be viewed in isolation of the Post-2015 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), as the goals and actions we have committed ourselves to at ICN2 and those that we will commit ourselves to under the SDGs are mutually dependent. We cannot fully achieve our development goals under the SDGs without also achieving our goals on nutrition in the Rome Declaration, and it is, therefore, imperative that we all – Member Nations, the FAO and other relevant United Nations Agencies, the private sector and civil society – collectively and in partnership dedicate ourselves to the full implementation of the Framework for Action.

The Africa Group expects that the FAO will follow the principle of ‘Delivering as One’ and play a leading role in setting up a cost effective global coordination mechanism aimed at fully realizing our nutrition goals. We firmly believe in the possibility of achieving a world free of acute, chronic and hidden hunger, and we are therefore, fully committed to helping the FAO and other UN Agencies implement the Rome Declaration and accompanying Framework for Action.

In conclusion, we urge the FAO Council to take note and support the outcome of the ICN2, which will strengthen the UN Secretary-General’s call for high degree of policy coherence at global, regional and national levels, thereby lending support his clarion call to leaders to take up the Zero Hunger Challenge.

Mr Gianni GHISI (Italy)

I am honoured to speak on behalf of the European Union and its 28 Member States. The candidate countries to the EU, Albania and Serbia, align themselves with this statement.

We congratulate the FAO and the WHO on the success of the Second International Conference on Nutrition, 22 years after the first ICN in 1992. We strongly believe that the ICN2 outcomes consisting of the Rome Declaration on Nutrition and its Framework for Action will represent a leading basis for concrete action in all areas related to nutrition, thus helping governments and International Organisations, in collaboration with non-State actors, with structuring and implementing appropriate policies and programmes to combat malnutrition in all its forms and promote healthy diets.

We stress the crucial role played by the ICN2 in raising awareness about the issues related to malnutrition in the framework of the Post-2015 Global Development Agenda. The outcome documents from ICN2 will usefully feed into the discussions leading to the 2015 September final

document on the Post-2015 Agenda. The EU and its Member States firmly believe that nutrition must remain a global issue and one that requires a strong political commitment and multi-sectoral action and cooperation from all stakeholders. A human rights-based approach is also essential.

We wish to congratulate all participants, in particular the Co-Chairs and the Facilitators for their contribution to the Conference and for their pledges to tackle food and nutrition security and place nutrition high on their agenda. The high level of participation by heads of state, ministers, parliamentarians, senior officials and leading non-State actors provides a very positive signal in this regard.

We also greatly valued the participation of his Holiness Pope Francis and the other guest speakers who, with their inspiring words, enhanced the message of ICN2 around the world.

We welcome the reports of the three pre-ICN2 events delivered by the representatives of civil society and the private sector, and by the Chairperson of the Parliamentary meeting. These events gave all stakeholders the opportunity to review the progress made towards improving nutrition since the first ICN in 1992, and to reflect on the new nutrition challenges and on their respective roles in fighting malnutrition.

The EU and its Member States will continue to be strong partners in addressing malnutrition. We strongly encourage the co-organisers of this Conference, FAO and WHO, in close cooperation with other UN agencies, particularly the RBAs, to step up their efforts further on incorporating nutrition in their policy work. In this regard, we request a clear indication on the way in which the FAO intends to implement the Framework for Action, in particular as regards nutrition-sensitive food chains. We would also like to support further collaboration and coherence with the WHO. Information about the financial implications of the FAO's "Action for Nutrition" Trust Fund would be much appreciated. Furthermore, we are interested to receive the report on the financial and budgetary aspects of ICN2, requested by the Finance Committee.

We are ready to start and support the process of implementation of the ICN2 recommendations in the near future and are eager to work in close multi-stakeholder cooperation with other actors, including the CFS, which we regard as the most inclusive and representative multi-stakeholder platform for food security and nutrition.

The EU and its Member States would stress again the importance of the Conference and would therefore invite the organisers, the FAO and the WHO, to develop, in close cooperation with the other UN agencies, an overarching and clear architecture for a coherent implementation and governance of its outcomes. This should include measuring the results and monitoring progress, so as to keep up the momentum and continue working towards our ultimate goal a world without hunger and malnutrition.

Sr. Juan HOLGUIN (Ecuador)

Ecuador se suma a la intervención realizada por Costa Rica en representación del Grupo de América Latina y el Caribe (GRULAC). Además, queremos reiterar nuestras felicitaciones al trabajo desplegado por las co-presidentas, la delegada de Austria y la delegada del Ecuador, mi querida colega Mónica Martínez.

Por otro lado, queremos enfatizar que después de la adopción de la Declaración de Roma y el Marco de Acción en la Conferencia Internacional sobre Nutrición es fundamental generar acciones concretas para viabilizar los compromisos establecidos en dichos documentos. Con este objetivo queremos informar a este Consejo que el Ecuador va a presentar un proyecto de resolución en el seno de la Asamblea General de Naciones Unidas para el endoso de los resultados obtenidos en la Conferencia Internacional sobre la Nutrición 2.

Sr. Manuel CLAROS OVIEDO (Venezuela)

Nosotros nos unimos a las palabras de agradecimiento que ya han expresado otras Delegaciones por el Informe presentado por el Dr. Sundaram relativo a la Segunda Conferencia Internacional sobre la Nutrición a la vez que deseamos adherirnos y respaldar plenamente la declaración realizada por Costa Rica a nombre del GRULAC.

Creemos que la Segunda Conferencia Internacional sobre la Nutrición fue un foro de gran éxito que permitió destacar en la agenda política la necesidad de erradicar la malnutrición. Correspondió a mi Delegación ejercer como vocera del Grupo de América Latina y el Caribe durante el proceso de negociaciones del Grupo de Trabajo conjunto FAO/OMS. Compartimos el criterio expresado de que el proceso de preparación de la Conferencia fue complejo y requirió un gran esfuerzo de trabajo para los Miembros de la FAO y la OMS con miras a concluir el proceso de negociaciones de los documentos finales de la CIN2.

Creemos que la Declaración de Roma sobre la Nutrición y el Marco de Acción ponen el centro de la atención en las funciones del sistema alimentario y cómo éste puede determinar hábitos de consumo inadecuados que profundizan los problemas de malnutrición. En particular, como fue expresado por mi Delegación en la Sesión Plenaria al señalar nuestra preferencia por sistemas alimentarios más sostenibles que promuevan dietas diversificadas, creemos que estamos promoviendo un cambio sustancial frente al enfoque que presentaba la nutrición dentro de la dicotomía salud/enfermedad.

También queremos destacar que los eventos paralelos organizados durante la Conferencia ofrecieron la oportunidad de debatir diferentes visiones y perspectivas para hacer frente a los desafíos mundiales de la malnutrición. En especial queremos resaltar el evento paralelo que fue organizado por el GRULAC y el equipo de Naciones Unidas para la Expo de Milano que permitió presentar a la Conferencia los modelos de Cooperación Sur-Sur para alcanzar la seguridad alimentaria y la nutrición y erradicar el hambre antes del año 2025 que se implementan en nuestra región. Particularmente correspondió a mi Delegación también realizar una exposición sobre la Cooperación Sur-Sur bajo el esquema ALBA TCP a través del cual pudimos compartir con ustedes nuestra experiencia y logros en los primeros diez años de ese modelo de integración basado en la justicia, la inclusión social, la solidaridad y la complementariedad.

En cuanto a las propuestas de seguimiento, nos parece importante que la Secretaría Conjunta haya iniciado el estudio de opciones para dar cumplimiento a los mecanismos establecidos al respecto tanto en la Declaración de Roma como en el Marco de Acción, en especial el rol que tendrá el Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria Mundial. Asimismo, respaldamos con satisfacción las acciones tomadas por los Directores Generales de la FAO y de la OMS para someter a examen del setenta período de sesiones de la Asamblea General de las Naciones Unidas (ONU) estos documentos entre los que se incluye la propuesta de declarar un Decenio de acción sobre la nutrición de los años 2016 a 2025 la cual estamos seguros será ampliamente respaldada por los países que integran las Naciones Unidas, con lo cual tomamos nota de la propuesta que ha realizado también sobre este tema la Delegación del Ecuador antes de nuestra intervención.

Sr Claudio ROZENCWAIG (Argentina)

La Delegación de Argentina da la bienvenida a los resultados de la CIN 2 y señala la importancia crucial que tuvo esta conferencia. Agradece a la FAO y a la OMS y a las Co-Presidentas, Representantes de Ecuador en OMS y de Austria en la FAO por su excelente labor.

Asimismo, la Argentina respalda la declaración realizada por Costa Rica en nombre del GRULAC.

Por otra parte, la Argentina desea subrayar y precisar algunos puntos de su posición nacional sobre esta materia. Esta Segunda Conferencia Internacional sobre la Nutrición con su Declaración política y su Marco de Acción que contiene importantes recomendaciones para los Estados, constituye un hito para trabajar en conjunto con todas las partes interesadas para permitir plasmar políticas sustentables a largo plazo. En este sentido, y teniendo en cuenta que las políticas en materia de nutrición tienen una importante relevancia en Argentina, nos comprometemos a aunar esfuerzos para que este tema ocupe un lugar fundamental en la agenda de los próximos años.

La Argentina apoya fervientemente como hemos dicho las conclusiones a las que arribamos y agradece el compromiso particular del Director General de la FAO, José Graziano Da Silva y de la Directora de la OMS, Margaret Chan por habernos conducido a finalizar la Conferencia con éxito.

Desde este punto de vista la Argentina respaldará la solicitud formulada en los documentos mencionados tanto en el ámbito de Naciones Unidas, Asamblea General y Segunda Comisión

tendiente a declarar un Decenio de acción sobre nutrición de los años 2016 a 2025, como a endosar la Declaración política y su Marco de Acción. En este sentido la Argentina acompañará el proyecto de resolución que será presentado en las Naciones Unidas y por el Ecuador y que ha sido anunciado recientemente aquí por el Embajador ecuatoriano. La Argentina considera que para el seguimiento de la implementación y de las recomendaciones incluidas en el Marco de Acción no se requiere la creación de nuevas estructuras burocráticas y por ende, está a favor de que se utilicen las estructuras ya existentes. La Argentina estima que la implementación y el seguimiento deben ser realizados de acuerdo a lo establecido en la Declaración de Roma, párrafo 14 "O". Al respecto, todas las agencias que trabajan en el tema de la nutrición desde distintas aristas incluyendo el Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria Mundial que para nosotros desde el punto de vista sustantivo posee mandato para avocarse a este tema deberán coordinar sus esfuerzos e informar a los Estados Miembros y a las otras partes concernientes respecto de los avances que se vayan alcanzando. Esperamos que la FAO, que entendemos está trabajando al respecto, avance con la OMS en definir un marco de interacción entre ambas agencias.

También expresamos nuestro acuerdo en la iniciativa de la FAO de establecer un Fondo Fiduciario de Acción Política para la Nutrición que servirá para recibir aportes y poder cumplir con los objetivos prefijados.

Por último, y no menos importante, la Argentina entiende que de la Conferencia Internacional sobre la Nutrición (CIN-2) ha surgido un consenso importante sobre que el tema de nutrición es un tema de política pública, la búsqueda de una mejor nutrición es un bien público y, por ende, de fundamental importancia para los Estados, los cuales nos debemos abocar a brindar soluciones al respecto. Lo que no podemos es dejar que este importante argumento sea de alguna manera privatizado.

Ms Maria Laura DA ROCHA (Brazil)

Brazil fully endorses the statement made by Costa Rica, on behalf of GRULAC, and wishes to highlight a few points.

Firstly, let me congratulate FAO and WHO for the success of the Second International Conference on Nutrition. This accomplishment was not without challenges along the preparatory process: one year ago, we would not have imagined this great outcome. However, both Agencies have proved that we can work together for a common goal, with shared responsibilities, notwithstanding different structures and functions and we believe, as the global community endeavours to address cross-cutting issues, this collaboration will be all the most needed.

We note with great satisfaction the high-level international attention generated by the ICN2 and we urge all stakeholders to build on this special momentum to further advance on the global agenda on nutrition. Global attention is only valuable if we can use it wisely to translate commitments into actions.

Therefore, we appreciate FAO's and WHO's invitation to the 70th Session of the UN General Assembly to endorse the Rome Declaration on Nutrition and the Framework for Action, and to consider declaring a Decade of Action on Nutrition from 2016 to 2025. We expect the commitment of Member Nations expressed here in Rome to be reflected also in New York, in order for the General Assembly to recognize our achievements in the ICN2. In this regard, Brazil welcomes the initiative of Ecuador on drafting a Resolution to the UN General Assembly and hereby announces its full support to the proposal.

Brazil also welcomes the adoption of the outcome documents, noting the collaborative work of all of us, who managed to bridge our gaps in a very short period of time for a successful outcome. Brazil is fully committed to the Rome Declaration on Nutrition and its Framework for Action, as they take us a step further on fulfilling the human right to food and to health, through a multistakeholder participation and a cross-sectoral approach. They provide an updated view on the multiple-burden of malnutrition, recognizing the challenges posed by nutrition at this 21st Century. They also place food systems in the center of our policies, as we cannot dissociate production patterns to consumer's outcome.

The adopted documents are an important reference but should be seen as a starting point, rather than a finish line. We are committed to continue to build on the basis of these documents to address malnutrition. Much is still to be done: we need to provide bolder responses to increasing overweight and obesity, we urgently need to build more sustainable food systems, a food system which not only produces enough food, but respects the environment, the culture and traditions of our people, and contribute to a more socially just system, that benefits those who need it the most.

With the success of ICN2, we need to look forward and think strategically on how FAO will follow up on this achievement. We don't want to look back, 22 years from now, and realize this Conference was a missed opportunity and the Rome Declaration was just empty words. This is the challenge we face and for which we should be accountable in the years to come. In this sense, Brazil welcomes FAO's initiative to establish an Action for Nutrition Trust Fund to support concrete actions, as it will help to channel much needed resources to nutrition. Political commitment demands budgetary commitment.

Moreover, noting the cross-cutting nature of nutrition and that it cannot be promoted by isolated policies, Brazil encourages FAO to further mainstream nutrition within its activities and throughout its reviewed strategic framework and objectives, strengthening its comparative advantages to address malnutrition and food security.

Finally, as we witnessed during the ICN2 debate, global governance on nutrition is a crucial issue to achieve consistent and solid progress on the follow-up of the Conference. Taking into account that nutrition is in the core mandate of the Committee on World Food Security and the need to avoid duplication in a context of resource constraints, we welcome efforts to further strengthen CFS so it can fully comply with its mandate on nutrition and provide an intergovernmental platform for following-up on ICN2. We understand that some adjustment shall be made on the Committee as to allow it to better perform this task, including, for example, a broader participation of WHO. But we are certain that the RBAs and Member Nations are ready to support CFS in its role.

Ms Liping SHEN (China) (Original language Chinese)

We highly appreciate the Secretariat for the Report. Last month we very successfully held the ICN2 in Rome and the Conference adopted the Rome Declaration on Nutrition and Framework for Action. The Chinese Delegation highly commends and appreciates the Conference outcome. These two documents will provide a policy direction and action guidance in the following ten years to tackling the hunger and obesity issues.

In the past decade, the Chinese Government has achieved visible results in dealing with poverty and hunger and we reached MDG 1 in advance. The Chinese Government will continuously work closely with the international community and to step up our work in the Poverty Reduction and Nutrition Enhancement. We also hope FAO and WHO can strengthen their cooperation with Member States and to enhance the following up work after the ICN2, and especially need to enhance the work in development of assessment and monitoring indicators and also to continue the work on accountability and evaluation.

Ms Eun Jeong LEE (Republic of Korea)

I really appreciate Mr Sundaram and his colleagues for the sincere efforts which led the various stakeholders and organizations to consensus, and I congratulate the Co-Chairs of FAO and WHO and the Members of the Working Group for their magnificent performance. Individually, it is a great joy and a proper experience to be with them.

According to the State of Food Insecurity 2014, we have achieved a great advance in reducing the undernourished people around the world.

However, it is estimated that around 805 million people are still suffering from malnutrition. In this respect, it is highly welcome to hold the ICN2 to review progress made in improving nutrition since the ICN1 in 1992 and to identify new challenges, opportunities and policy and institution options for enhancing nutrition worldwide.

I think that a series of immediate follow-up actions in the report are very detailed and feasible to be implemented, and can be of great help in streamlining the nutrition issues within the international communities and other international organizations including UN Post-2015 Agenda (Sustainable Development Goal).

I would like to touch on the 'Action for Nutrition Trust Fund' to support governments in transforming the ICN2 commitments into concrete actions.

With regard to this trust fund, we hope to see its detailed operation plan, such as funding target and management method and so on by the FAO. Once again, the Republic of Korea fully endorses the report of outcome of the joint FAO/WHO Second International Conference on Nutrition.

Mr Seerat ASGHAR (Pakistan)

Pakistan is making this statement on behalf of the Asia Group.

I would like to begin by congratulating FAO and WHO for successful organization of ICN2. We thank the Secretariat for the briefing and the document before us.

The Conference has been successful for several reasons: It brought the spotlight back to the issue of nutrition, which had been missing for a long time; It highlighted the significance of nutrition as a central element for ensuring sustainable development at a time when the international community will be meeting to finalize the Post-2015 Development Agenda; It elicited commitments by Member Nations to address the nutrition situation both domestically and at the international level; and finally, in the Rome Declaration on Nutrition and the Framework for Action we have a way forward for addressing the challenges in the area of nutrition that commands consensus of the international community.

Governments have the primary responsibility for addressing food security and nutrition situation in their countries. They should demonstrate political commitment by prioritizing this issue in national policies. However, support of international partners and other stakeholders is also essential in bridging gaps of resources and capacity.

Therefore, following ICN2, it is imperative to quickly develop an action plan to assist States in the implementation of the outcome documents.

In this regard we would like to highlight the following elements.

The first step is obviously resource mobilization. We congratulate FAO for quickly establishing the Action for Nutrition Trust Fund. Given the importance of nutrition, Member Nations should generously contribute to it. Funding should also be sought from the private sector.

Second, since nutrition is a cross-cutting issue, implementation of the ICN2 outcomes would require a multi-stakeholder approach. Coordination between various UN entities that are working in the field on nutrition such as FAO, WHO, WFP, UNICEF and CFS on normative, policy, capacity building and operational aspects of nutrition will also be required. In this regard the comparative advantage of each stakeholder needs to be considered. CFS as the premier intergovernmental forum on food security and nutrition can play an important role in providing policy coordination and convergence. However, there is a need to carefully consider what is possible within the capacity and resources of CFS and how that situation can be improved.

Third, South-South Cooperation should also be explored for capacity building purposes.

Fourth, over the years the issue of nutrition has not received the priority it deserves within FAO, which may have impacted the Organization's capacity. Delivering on ICN2 outcomes will require robust capacity in the Organization both at Headquarters and the field. We take note of FAO's intention to mainstream nutrition as a cross-cutting theme in the reviewed Strategic Framework as well as deployment of nutrition staff to cover all regional offices and select sub-regional offices. We would also like to have a better understanding of the staffing situation in the Nutrition Division at Headquarters.

Fifth, FAO and WHO should jointly establish a mechanism for monitoring the progress of implementation and evaluating the achievements of the outcomes in pursuance of paragraph 59 of the Framework for Action.

In conclusion, the Asia Group would stress the need to act quickly to maintain the momentum generated by ICN2. FAO should regularly update membership regarding the steps it is taking to implement the ICN2 commitments.

Ms Makiko UEMOTO (Japan)

Japan congratulates FAO and WHO on the successful organization of the ICN2. Malnutrition poses significant challenges that all stakeholders need to address in collaboration at the national, regional and global levels.

In this regard, we welcome the ICN2 outcome documents, the Rome Declaration on Nutrition and the Framework for Action, which have been adopted unanimously and will be served as one of the key foundations for such collaboration.

FAO has been dealing with nutrition issues from the perspectives of agriculture and access to food, while WHO from the perspectives of health care.

ICN2 has provided an opportunity for the two organizations as well as others to further share knowledge and experiences, and strengthen collaboration.

In its statement on behalf of the Asia Group, Pakistan highlighted the importance of coordinating among the various UN agencies and considering comparative advantages of each stakeholder.

We would like to see FAO to maximize its comparative advantage when tackling malnutrition. FAO is a unique organization, which has accumulated knowledge, expertise and lessons learned on food and agriculture throughout its long history. We believe that with its own strengths FAO can contribute to addressing nutrition issues through the food-based approach. In addition, making effective use of FAO's existing financial, organizational and technical resources, including the technical bodies, is essential and need to be well considered.

Mr Juan Manuel CAMMARANO (United States of America)

We commend the FAO on hosting ICN2 and are grateful and energized by the renewed attention ICN2 brings to nutrition. A key outcome of ICN2 will be for FAO to consider concrete ways the Organization can better account for nutrition and improved nutrition outcomes in its work. That said, we note there appeared to be significant staffing and cost implications with regards to mainstreaming nutrition as a crosscutting theme in FAO's review Strategic Framework, and expect FAO management will present a fully developed and constant approach in the future for consideration.

We would caution identifying the CFS as the premier global forum for nutrition. Nevertheless we agree that the CFS should consider how the Committee can add value and more explicitly account for nutrition in its work. These efforts should be appropriately constrained by both the mandate and capacity of the CFS and consideration of the ongoing work or comparative advantage of other Bodies.

Lastly, and perhaps most importantly, we urge and expect FAO management to consult and collaborate very closely within the UN System and in particular with UNICEF, WFP, and WHO as it considers how to advance the outcomes of ICN2.

Ms Mi NGUYEN (Canada)

Canada would like to join others in expressing our deep appreciation for the excellent work and collaboration of FAO and WHO in convening a successful Second International Conference on Nutrition and its valuable contribution to nutrition. We also wish to thank Mr Sundaram for his presentation.

We note that the Report indicates that the trust fund would support accountability mechanism at country level. We would appreciate information about how FAO would envisage accountability mechanisms for the follow-up to ICN2. We wish to stress the importance of building on existing mechanisms both in countries and globally, and avoiding duplication.

Further, the coordination of the UN System on nutrition is critical at the country level. We note that the Report refers to initiatives being discussed to improve such coordination. What specific efforts are underway to allow better coordination amongst UNICEF, World Food Programme, WHO and FAO in support of national governments efforts on nutrition?

Mr Jomo SUNDARAM (Assistant Director-General, Economic and Social Development Department)

I would like emphasize that the success of ICN2 is really due to a collective effort. The Secretariat played its role. You played your role. Our colleagues and counterparts in the WHO also played very important roles. I should add that the rest of the UN system also contributed. They were part of the Steering Committee and all this contributed to the success of the Conference. So please consider the congratulations as also involving all of you.

Allow me quickly to try to respond because there are a number of issues and I know that you are very far behind schedule in terms of your own workload. As far as the financial reporting is considered, we expect to be able to produce a financial Report in time for the next Council meeting in March. Many items are not fully settled yet and this is unfortunately quite necessary.

As far as the Framework for Action information is concerned. It was very difficult because the first placement of the information note was together with Member State outcome documents so we had to make it very clear it was not a Member State document. It was a joint Secretariat document so it was moved somewhere else but unfortunately there was great difficulty in locating it. So the third location of the information note is now together under preparations and publications. We believe that this is quite prominent but if you feel that it is not appropriately prominent, we can try to find some other way. But we had toyed with the idea of creating a special category and that would have insured that it would be less prominent. So this question of prominence is always a very problematic issue.

Moving very quickly, as far as the staffing issues are concerned raised by Pakistan, I think it is important to note that the Director-General has announced that there are a number of additional positions which have been made possible due to efficiency savings but these have all been in the field. All Regional Offices will have one officer working on nutrition and three sub-Regional Offices as well particularly where the nutrition problems have been most pressing.

On the question of country level coordination, I will deal with that in the context of global coordination. And on the question of the nature of the work which is envisaged that FAO in particular will undertake and have greater responsibility for within the larger division of labor and nutrition, if you will. The nature of the division has been primarily involved in three types of issues: Advisory work on policy issues. Secondly, nutrition education. Thirdly, food composition analysis with particular focus on addressing micronutrient deficiencies. This will not fundamentally change following ICN2 but obviously we will need to enhance our work. We will need for example to pay far more attention to innovative ways of conveying important nutrition messages rather than the formal ways associated with formal education.

Now, on the question of global coordination, allow me to make three quick points. Firstly, the outcome documents are very clear that we should work within existing structures and available resources. In respecting that, we do believe that, and also because CFS has a clear mandate for food security and nutrition, it is appropriate to explore that option first and foremost. If for some reason CFS does not decide to address nutrition, then of course we will have to address and look at other options but I think we should allow the CFS the opportunity to rise to the challenge of being the premier intergovernmental as well as multi-stakeholder forum on nutrition as well as food security.

UN System coordination is a vexed issue. It is currently meant to be addressed by the standing Committee on nutrition. The standing Committee on nutrition has been in existence since 1977. In 1998 the Secretariat moved it to the WHO and we take heed of Iran's interventions suggesting that the SCN move back to Rome and possibly to the FAO itself. This has been mentioned by the Director-General in this context. However, there is a need to recognize that the situation as far as coordination is concerned has become much more complicated. There are many new developments. The World Bank, which is part of the UN system, is a very important player in the area of nutrition and there are

others as well who have been trying to rise to the challenge on nutrition including IFAD which is one of the Rome based agencies. We will try to work very closely with all these agencies in trying to advance our work on nutrition. UNIDO for example has been very concerned about food processing so it's not just the agriculture side but also the processing side which becomes extremely important in addressing nutrition.

Now the remaining challenges are being addressed. The Director-General as well as his counterparts have been having a number of meetings to try to improve UN system coordination. We may well see some significant developments within the next half year or so. I cannot anticipate what the outcomes of these discussions will be but I can assure you that it is receiving the attention not only of the Director-General but also of his counterparts in the rest of the UN System.

There is of course a great deal of cooperation already going on around the Scaling-up Nutrition Initiative (SUN). Some countries which are supported by the UN, but obviously that only involves the 54 countries of SUN and we also need to be sensitive to the different needs and different perspectives which the remaining 140 odd countries bring to the discussion of nutrition.

Finally, on the question of the initiative of Ecuador. We agreed very, very appreciative of this initiative of Ecuador and until this morning I would have had very little comment to say except to express a great deal of appreciation. I was quite shocked late this morning to learn that the second Committee of the General Assembly has already passed the resolution last week on ICN2. They used an earlier draft documents and there is no mention of the decade on nutrition. I think it is very important therefore in light of this experience for us to ensure far better coordination between what is happening in Rome, in Geneva, and with our counterparts in New York. There are a number of steps which need to be undertaken.

My colleagues have been helping in trying to identify which initiatives have been able to secure the attention of the General Assembly as well as the economic and social Council. We are trying to draw lessons. There have been since 1961, when the first development decade was declared, about 39 decades on various matters which have been approved by the General Assembly, but it is also important to recognize that although the first international Conference on nutrition in 1992 recommended a decade of action on nutrition, there was no decade of action on nutrition. It is very important therefore that we proceed with great haste but perhaps with less speed looking at the lessons we learned from the past eras in securing very, very broad support in order and doing all the necessary background work which is necessary in order to secure the decade of action on nutrition.

But I want to thank Ecuador for its initiative in this regard. It is extremely important that we build support around this Ecuadorian initiative. It is also very important that we ensure that besides securing the endorsement for the Rome declaration and its accompanying framework for action that we also secure the support of the General Assembly on the recommendation of the Economic and Social Council for the decade of action which, we is proposed in the outcome documents.

Once again, allow me to take this opportunity to thank Members for their support of the ICN2. We hope to continue to count on your support as we move forward on the follow-up actions needed.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you, allow me to conclude item 15 as follows.

1. The Council expressed satisfaction at the successful outcome of the Second International Conference on Nutrition, jointly organized by FAO and the World Health Organization in Rome from 19 to 21 November 2014, and praised the efforts of all stakeholders involved in ensuring such success. It welcomed the adoption by ICN2 of its two outcome documents, namely the Rome Declaration on Nutrition and its companion Framework for Action.
2. The Council noted the high level global attention generated by the Conference, and thus the importance for FAO to enhance its comparative advantage in addressing malnutrition and food security. Accordingly, the Council:

- a) appreciated the request by the Directors-General of FAO and WHO to the UN Secretary General to invite the UN General Assembly to endorse the Rome Declaration on Nutrition and the Framework for Action, and to consider declaring a Decade of Action on Nutrition from 2016 to 2025;
- b) welcomed the initiative to establish an Action for Nutrition Trust Fund to support governments in transforming the ICN2 commitments into concrete actions;
- c) encouraged further mainstreaming of nutrition as a cross-cutting theme within the reviewed Strategic Framework; and
- d) encouraged FAO to develop, in cooperation with other UN Partners, a coherent mechanism for monitoring progress on the implementation of the outcomes of ICN2.

3. The Council noted that efforts to improve UN system coordination on nutrition should be based on the strengthening of existing mechanisms. It welcomed further steps aimed at enabling the Committee on World Food Security to serve as the foremost intergovernmental and multi-stakeholder global forum on nutrition

4. The Council stressed that nutrition was a key element of sustainable development and looked forward to the integration of the Framework for Action into the Post-2015 Development Agenda.

These are my conclusions.

Sr Juan HOLGUIN (Ecuador)

Ante todo, respaldamos el resumen que ha hecho pero solamente queríamos referirnos muy brevemente a la explicación que dio la Secretaría con respecto a la Resolución de Naciones Unidas. Primeramente agradecemos a la Secretaría por la explicación y luego referir conocimiento a la presentación 137 ante la Comisión 2 en el tema de nutrición.

Sin embargo, el Ecuador lo que estaría presentando es este proyecto de Resolución en el programa de la Asamblea General en el punto 13, referido al seguimiento de los grandes eventos y conferencias y en el que se pone en este proyecto de Resolución, se presenta la propuesta de la aprobación de la Década de acción sobre nutrición. Queremos hacer sólo esta breve aclaración.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you for the clarification.

Ms Mi NGUYEN (Canada)

We would like to comment your conclusions regarding two items. One is the Nutrition Trust Fund, and the other regards the role of the CFS.

I believe that we are waiting for more information about these two recommendations or for actions in the Report. I believe it would be better to wait for that information before having a conclusion about these two Bodies.

CHAIRPERSON

Is that an additional intervention or do you want to my conclusion to be changed?

Ms Mi NGUYEN (Canada)

I think this should be reflected in the conclusions so instead of “welcoming the establishment of the trust fund”, we could “note the establishment of the trust fund” and the fact that further information will be provided at the next session of the Council.

Similarly, maybe note that the CFS is considering the recommendation to have a greater role on follow-up to ICN2.

CHAIRPERSON

I don't know how other Members feel about this on the establishment of a trust fund. That is to be noted. I think my listening on that was well received. My understanding is that any implications of this trust fund will be reflected in the discussion on the Programme of Work and Budget if there are

any cost elements involved. My understanding was that this trust fund really would be funded by extra budgetary resources.

On CSF, this is also my general view in listening carefully to all the Members who spoke regarding CSF becoming central in an area where a meeting of all stakeholders, meaning Members and other interested Bodies, can meet and discuss issues of nutrition. So, there is no element of continuing consideration, but it is felt that CSF should now take this up as one of its roles.

Mr Juan Manuel CAMMARANO (United States of America)

We would like to agree with our colleagues from Canada regarding the point on CFS. We as the Council can note that the CFS will evaluate its role in nutrition, but I don't think it's our place as the Council to dictate or to imply what the CFS will or will not take on at this point. We just think that it's easier to reflect it in the report to say that we note that the CFS is considering its role.

Sr Gustavo INFANTE (Argentina)

Nosotros respaldamos el resumen que ha presentado y en relación con el rol del Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria Mundial entendemos que es una alternativa que ya ha sido contemplada en la Declaración de Roma y durante el proceso que llevó a la misma y al Marco de Acción. El resumen del Presidente indica correctamente que esto se encuentra en consideración y no parece que merezca un reconocimiento más claro y enérgico que simplemente notar que es un proceso en desarrollo.

Un punto importante que hemos mencionado es que queremos que el seguimiento de las tareas que están previstas se realice sin la creación de nuevas estructuras, y sin comprometer recursos adicionales. Se está organizando el fondo fiduciario y el objetivo del mismo no va a ser apoyar estas estructuras sino justamente apoyar la tarea de apoyo a los países en el terreno.

Por tanto, si queremos trabajar sin crear nuevas estructuras ni comprometer recursos adicionales y además contamos con el Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria Mundial, que ha acumulado una experiencia de trabajo conjunto muy positiva entre múltiples partes interesadas, creemos que es el mejor camino para salir adelante y para incorporar la nutrición a esos trabajos. Una incorporación que, por otra parte, está contemplada en las tareas del Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria como bien lo indica el Marco Estratégico sobre seguridad alimentaria y nutrición que aprobamos en el Comité

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you, Argentina, for that explanation; brought by Argentina, accepted by Canada and the United States of America.

Mr Ivan G. KONSTANTINOPOLSKIY (Russian Federation) (Original language Russian)

On the whole, we agree with your summary. The only thing which we were a little concerned about was the reference to the term foremost when you talked about the CFS as the “foremost intergovernmental multi-stakeholder global forum on nutrition”. Our Delegation fully supports the devotion of additional attention to nutrition in the context of the work of the CFS. At the same time, we feel that at this current juncture, it might be a little premature to put such language into the wording of our report. I'll explain.

The Committee on World Food Security is a unique structure but it may not be sufficiently tailored to all of the work required in the field of nutrition; for example, the work done by the Standing Committee on Nutrition of the United Nations.

So, once again, I stress that we support the strengthening of emphasis on nutrition within the context of the CFS with the appropriate consequences for the CFS that ensue from that. But at the same time, we would request you to adjust your summary a little with respect to the actual wording that you have used in it.

Mr Seerat ASGHAR (Pakistan)

We just want to put on record our agreement with your summary of the item and the support of what Argentina has just said about the Trust Fund and the CFS.

Mr Abdul Razak AYAZI (Afghanistan)

We thank Argentina for providing this explanation and we hope that both Canada and the United States of America will consider accepting his explanation.

Mr Juan Manuel CAMMARANO (United States of America)

Is there a consideration of the revised summary? If not, then I will make an intervention. If not, I will wait until after any presentation.

Mr Claros OVIEDO (Venezuela)

Sólo muy brevemente, porque creo que ya Usted está nuevamente por presentar las conclusiones para ver si podemos cerrar este punto.

Al igual que lo expresaron otras delegaciones, apoyamos lo que señaló Argentina. Creo que la forma expresada por la Delegación de Argentina recoge de alguna manera las visiones del debate de forma equilibrada. Si bien no todos podemos reflejar nuestra opinión precisa si podemos estar de acuerdo en un resumen equilibrado como el que Usted ha presentado de todas las visiones con respecto al seguimiento.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you, Venezuela. Let me go back to point number 3. I want to make it balanced as you have said.

3. The Council noted that efforts to improve UN system coordination on nutrition should be based on the strengthening of existing mechanisms. It welcomed further steps being considered to enable the Committee on World Food Security to serve as the appropriate intergovernmental and the multi-stakeholder global forum on nutrition.

Thank you. This agenda item is concluded.

Item 11. Arrangements for the 39th Session of the Conference (including Provisional Agenda and a recommendation by Council on a theme for the general debate at Conference)

Point 11. Organisation de la trente-neuvième session de la Conférence de la FAO (y compris l'ordre du jour provisoire et une recommandation du Conseil au sujet du thème du débat général de la Conférence)

Tema 11. Disposiciones para el 39.º período de sesiones de la Conferencia (incluidos el programa provisional y la recomendación del Consejo sobre un tema para el debate general en la Conferencia)

(CL 150/8)

CHAIRPERSON

We proceed now with item 11, *Arrangements for the 39th Session of the Conference (including Provisional Agenda and a recommendation by Council on a theme for the general debate at Conference)*.

The document before Council is CL 150/8, which gives an overview of arrangements for the 39th Session of the Conference to be held from 15 to 22 June 2015 and contains proposals regarding: the Provisional Agenda for the session; the scheduling of items listed in the agenda; deadlines for receipt of nominations for election purposes; the address to Council and Conference by candidates for the Office of Director-General; and proposed resolutions and invitations.

I will pass the floor to the Secretary-General, Mr Gagnon, who will inform us on the decisions Council is requested to take under this item.

SECRETARY-GENERAL

Under this item, the Council is invited to take decisions on: a) the Provisional Agenda of the 39th Session of the Conference which may be found in Appendix A to the document; b) the main theme for the general debate on the State of Food and Agriculture; c) limiting statements by Heads of

Delegation during the general debate to no more than five minutes; d) deadlines for the receipt of nominations for the Independent Chairperson of Council for the period July 2015 to June 2017; and Council Membership for the period July 2015 to June 2018 and July 2016 to June 2019; e) the establishment of Commission I on Substantive and Policy Matters and Commission II on Programme and Budgetary Matters; f) inviting Palestine to participate in the session as an observer.

CHAIRPERSON

I suggest we begin by considering the draft Provisional Agenda proposed for the Conference.

Does Council wish to approve the Provisional Agenda for the 39th Session of the Conference contained in the Appendix A of document CL 150/8 which starts on page 6?

Thank you. Silence means that you are in agreement with the Provisional Agenda. The Provisional Agenda for the 39th Session of Conference is approved and will be despatched with the invitation to the session in early March 2015.

With regard to the main theme for the general debate on the Conference under item 9, *Review the State of Food and Agriculture*, it is proposed that Council consider the theme on the 2015 State of Food and Agriculture publication, that is “Social Protection and Agriculture: Breaking the Cycle of Rural Poverty and Hunger”.

Before giving the floor to Delegates, I invite Mr Jomo Sundaram, Assistant Director-General of the Economic and Social Development Department, to provide clarification on this proposal.

Mr Jomo SUNDARAM (Assistant Director-General, Economic and Social Development Department)

As you know, the process to which the publication – the preparation of the SOFA theme and its relationship to Conference has been uneven over the years. At the last two Conferences, the theme selected by Council for debate was the theme of the SOFA publication and I am informed by my colleagues that the debate, as a consequence, was much more coherent and focused as it was informed by the preparation and the availability of the SOFA. On other occasions, Council selected themes which did not coincide with what was being prepared for SOFA and I am informed that the quality of debate and discussion was affected as a consequence.

The proposed theme for this year is the question which we have just heard about, the social protection and agriculture, breaking the cycle of rural poverty and hunger. It is particularly timely that discussion on this issue be conducted at this time, namely in mid-2015. Precisely, we are in the process of preparing the post-2015 Development Agenda and it will be coming to its climax.

Why is this important? I think we know and we are agreed that much of the attention of Member States, much of the attention of the development debate, largely focuses on two issues, namely poverty and hunger. We also know that progress in reducing poverty and hunger has been uneven and that reliance on growth-based strategies alone can take a long time and may not be enough to ensure the elimination of poverty and hunger.

Most of the poor in the world, well over 70 percent of those designated as poor, are to be found in the countryside. It is also true that, historically, social protection has developed principally in relation to the formal sector, to the urban formal sector; hence the work which has recently been initiated at FAO in terms of scaling up the work on social protection. It is of great significance, particularly in addressing both the questions of poverty as well as the question of hunger.

Now the FAO's approach to social protection is distinct and different from the work which is undertaken by other parts of the UN system, more significantly led by the ILO. The ILO's work has largely focused on the formal sector, and quite understandably so, whereas the FAO's work has focused on the informal sector, particularly in the rural areas.

Also very importantly, unlike work which is associated with social protection in the urban formal sector, the FAO's work involves much more and involves work and productive activities as a means of addressing hunger and poverty rather than through welfare benefits. This is a very important difference and the emphasis in the work on social protection here at the FAO makes a particular

emphasis on what we term the transition on accelerating the transition from protection to production by ensuring that protection facilitates productive investments by the poor to ensure much more inclusive growth. These positive effects do not emerge automatically. They have to be nurtured through design of social protection policies, as well as projects, and they have to be targeted appropriately. Policy coherence between social protection and productive interventions can be very important, therefore, in reducing both hunger as well as poverty.

There are, of course, a range of related themes; for example, the question of gender, the question of inclusion, and other issues including that of coordination and governance are extremely important. It is for this reason that we do hope that Council will consider it appropriate to adopt this theme, the theme of SOFA as the theme for the debate at Conference in the middle of next year. This will also provide us with an important opportunity to demonstrate, not only to our Members but also to the rest of the world, the crucial role of the FAO's approach to social protection, particularly in reducing both hunger as well as poverty.

The report itself will consider a range of issues, including questions of visibility, impact, cost-effectiveness, various social protection measures, including recognition of the differences in such measures to be found in different parts of the world. It is therefore, for this reason, I would quickly run through the outline of the SOFA. We will provide the rationale. We will identify trends in social protection. We will identify instruments of social protection. We will identify circumstances under which social protection have provided a way out of hunger as well as poverty, and how social protection measures can be combined effectively with other agricultural policies in order to stimulate development. We do hope to be able to address particularly the questions of cost-effectiveness and financing issues in making recommendations in our concluding chapter.

Mr Luca FRATINI (Italy)

I am honoured to speak on behalf of the European Union and its 28 Member States. The candidate countries to the EU, Albania and Serbia, align themselves with this statement.

We have one observation regarding the arrangements for the FAO Conference in June 2015. This concerns the proposed theme for the General Debate.

We would suggest extending the scope of the General Debate to cover the more general theme of resilience in rural areas.

This would certainly encompass social protection and also cover other aspects of building resilience in rural areas, such as smallholder engagement in value chains.

Against this background, our suggestion for the theme of the General Debate would be: “Breaking the cycle of rural poverty and hunger: strengthening rural resilience and agricultural development, with special focus on social protection and smallholder engagement in value chains”.

May I add that we believe this theme shall not be identical to that of SOFA in order to ensure a quality debate during the Conference.

Mr Abdul Razak AYAZI (Afghanistan)

We have no problem with the theme. We have a problem with the title of the theme proposed by the EU that we all heard. We feel that the nexus between social protection and agriculture must be maintained. That's very important because the whole chapter of SOFA dealt with that.

Now, the question arises if you want to break the cycle of rural poverty and also eliminate hunger then that word “agriculture” has to be qualified. It could be qualified in two ways: either we say “sustainable agriculture” or we say “small-holder agriculture”. “Agriculture” alone to us is not right, it is not the proper term.

Ms Rosemary NAVARRETE (Australia)

Australia is supportive of the proposed main theme for the general debate of Conference – “Social protection in agriculture”. Social protection is one of the key policy responses to reducing poverty and

supporting inclusive economic growth, and is particularly useful in promoting stability during periods of economic reform.

We need to be careful that this debate does not lead to a discussion on policies characterized by market distorting interventions, such as price supports or subsidies as such policies tend to counter efforts to improve livelihoods.

Sr. Nazareno C. MONTANI CAZABAT (Argentina)

Queremos agradecer las explicaciones del Doctor Sundaram. Creemos que han sido muy claras y exhaustivas. En este punto Argentina quiere apoyar, como tema de la trigésimo novena Conferencia, la cuestión de la protección social y la agricultura, romper el ciclo de pobreza rural y hambre y en este punto nos parece que deberíamos mantener el título lo más simple posible para poder tener mayor espacio en las intervenciones y poder tener un debate focalizado en las cuestiones que nos interesan.

Y en este punto, creemos que es clave la aclaración del Doctor Sundaram respecto del valor agregado de la FAO en la cuestión de la protección social, sobre todo respecto de los sectores informales de la economía.

Es por esto que creemos que el tema debería mantenerse tal como está. La FAO tiene una amplia experiencia, una amplia trayectoria y caminos recorridos en estas cuestiones y es por eso que nos parece que el tratamiento de este tema en la próxima Conferencia podría ser crucial para que nuestros Estados puedan intercambiar experiencias y para que la comunidad internacional promueva el uso de las políticas de protección social en vistas a la erradicación del hambre y la pobreza.

Ms Mi NGUYEN (Canada)

I would like to thank Mr Sundaram for the presentation of the theme and also for his remarks that FAO focus on its comparative advantage and not duplicate the work of other UN Agencies. That is very appreciated.

Canada could support the proposed theme for the Conference but we wish to also express support for the theme as proposed by the European Union.

M. Menye ESSIMI (Cameroun)

Le Cameroun fait cette déclaration au nom du Groupe Afrique.

Je crois que le thème retenu nous convient parfaitement et nous attendons que ce soit traité dans les prochains travaux parce que, effectivement, même quand l'agriculture familiale continue à nourrir nos populations, ces populations restent fragilisées par les influences du marché et il est important que la protection sociale et l'agriculture soient discutées lors de la prochaine Conférence.

CHAIRPERSON

My understanding now is that the title should be simple. Maybe it may need to qualify on agriculture. We will wait for Mr Sundaram.

Ladies and Gentlemen, I also take it that statements by Heads of Delegations will be limited to five minutes, as proposed in the document and as has been the case over many sessions of Conference.

We now move on to the proposed deadlines for submission of nominations for the Independent Chairperson of the Council and Council Membership.

The deadlines proposed are as follows: Monday, 8 April 2015 at 12:00 hours for the Office of Independent Chairperson of the Council; and Monday, 8 June 2015 at 12:00 hours for Council Membership. Does Council agree with these proposed deadlines? I can see there is an agreement to these deadlines.

I would like to point out to that, in keeping with regional rotation, the FAO Southwest Pacific region was approached with a view to nominating the Chairperson of the Conference.

Subsequently, the Southwest Pacific Regional Group informed the Secretariat that a representative of Southwest Pacific island states will be proposed as Chair of the Conference at the 151st Session of Council in March 2015.

Regarding the formation of the two Commissions of the Conference, it is proposed to appoint a representative of a country which does not belong to the Group of 77 and China to Chair Commission I, which deals with substantive issues and policy, and a representative of the Group of 77 and China to Chair Commission II, which deals with matters relating to the Programme and Budget.

Does the Council wish to endorse the above proposals? I see yes. Thank you.

As regards the General Committee and the Credentials Committee, I would suggest that Membership of these Committees be discussed at our next session in March 2015.

Finally, does Council agree to follow past practice and to invite Palestine to participate in the Session in an observer capacity? Thank you.

Let me give the floor to Mr Sundaram to read what has been proposed taking into consideration what has been said by Members.

Mr Jomo SUNDARAM (Assistant Director-General, Economic and Social Development Department)

This is very much built on the EU proposal. The proposed title is “Breaking the Cycle of Rural Poverty and Hunger by Strengthening Rural Resilience: Social Protection and Sustainable Agricultural Development”.

CHAIRPERSON

I hope this is acceptable. I can see smiles. So we take it that the proposed theme will be “Breaking the Cycle of Rural Poverty and Hunger by Strengthening Rural Resilience: Social Protection and Sustainable Agricultural Development”.

I thank you for your understanding. This brings us to the end of this Agenda Item. I will conclude as follows:

1. The Council agreed to submit to the Conference the provisional agenda and the arrangements outlined in document CL 150/8 for approval, and in particular recommended that two commissions be established to examine respectively one substantive and policy matters in food and agriculture; and two, programme and budgetary matters.

The deadline for receipt of nominations for election to the Council be set at 12:00 hours on Monday, 8 June 2015 and the election be held on Friday, 12 June 2015.

2. The Council further agreed to recommend to the Conference that the theme of the general debate of the 39th Session be “Breaking the Cycle of Rural Poverty and Hunger by Strengthening Rural Resilience: Social Protection and Sustainable Agricultural Development”, and that statements by heads of delegation be limited to a maximum of five minutes each.

3. The Council decided to establish a deadline for receipt of nominations for the Office of the Independent Chairperson of the Council at 12:00 on Wednesday, 8 April 2015. Regarding nominations of the Chairperson of the Conference and the Chairpersons of Commission I and Commission II.

4. The Council noted that in keeping with regional rotation, the FAO Southwest Pacific regional group had been approached with a view to nominating representative of a Southwest Pacific island state as Chair of the Conference at the 151st Session of Council in March 2015. Furthermore, it agreed that the Chairperson of Commission I be from a country not within the G77 and China group and the Chairperson of Commission II be from a country belonging to the G77 and China group.

5. The Council agreed to defer to its 151st Session in March 2015 the nomination of candidates for the Offices of Chairperson of the Commissions of the Conference; Three Vice-Chairpersons of the

Conference; Seven elected Members of the General Committee to the Conference; and Nine Members of the Credentials Committee.

6. The Council agreed to recommend to the Conference that Palestine be invited to the Conference in an observer capacity.

These are my conclusions.

Item 8. Report of the 99th Session of the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters (20-23 October 2014)

Point 8. Rapport de la quatre-vingt-dix-neuvième session du Comité des questions constitutionnelles et juridiques (20-23 octobre 2014)

Tema 8. Informe del 99.º período de sesiones del Comité de Asuntos Constitucionales y Jurídicos (20-23 de octubre de 2014)

(CL 150/7)

CHAIRPERSON

Let us move on to Item eight, *Report of the 99th Session of the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters* which took place in Rome from 20 to 23 October 2014. The document before Council is CL 150/2.

I should like to invite Ms Monica Martínez Menduino, Chairperson of the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters to present the Report.

Sra. Mónica MARTÍNEZ MENDUÑO (Presidenta del Comité de Asuntos Constitucionales y Jurídicos)

El Programa en su 99.º período de sesiones del Comité de Asuntos Constitucionales y Jurídicos (CCLM) contenía varios asuntos, algunos de los cuales ya han sido examinados previamente por los Órganos rectores de la FAO: el CCLM revisó un proyecto de resolución de la Conferencia que contiene una propuesta de enmienda al párrafo 7 del artículo XXXIII del Reglamento general de la Organización con el objeto de permitir la celebración de períodos extraordinarios de sesiones del Comité de seguridad alimentaria mundial si la mayoría de los Estados que son miembros del Comité, como mínimo, así lo solicita.

En este punto, a través de usted, Señor Presidente, invito al Consejo a refrendar el proyecto de resolución de la Conferencia que está adjunto en el apéndice 1 del informe y remitirlo a la Conferencia de FAO para su aprobación. El CCLM examinó además un documento titulado “*Nuevo examen del proyecto de normas y procedimientos para la participación de organizaciones de la sociedad civil y representantes del sector privado en reuniones de la FAO*”, apéndice 1 del documento CL 149/2 Rev. 1, que se había debatido con algún detalle en períodos de sesiones anteriores del CCLM y durante el 149.º período de sesiones del Consejo.

Tomando nota del resultado de las consultas informales llevadas a cabo por la Secretaría, el CCLM decidió recomendar al Consejo que encargara a su Presidente Independiente que celebre consultas con los Grupos Regionales, en las que participasen todos los Miembros, a fin de alcanzar un acuerdo en materia de políticas sobre las normas propuestas. El CCLM consideró que podría examinar una propuesta y finalizar su trabajo sólo después de que los Miembros hubiesen alcanzado un acuerdo.

Se invita al Consejo a encargar al Presidente Independiente del Consejo que celebre consultas con los Grupos Regionales a fin de alcanzar un acuerdo en materia políticas sobre las normas propuestas y a solicitar al CCLM que examine una propuesta y finalice su trabajo una vez que los miembros hayan alcanzado un acuerdo.

El CCLM también examinó tres asuntos referidos a los Órganos estatutarios establecidos conforme al artículo VI o al artículo XIV de la Constitución de la FAO.

Primero el CCLM examinó la propuesta de modificación del acuerdo para el establecimiento de la Comisión General de Pesca del Mediterráneo. El CCLM consideró que las propuestas de enmiendas no entrañaban nuevas obligaciones para las partes contratantes y acordó remitir al Consejo el

Convenio para el establecimiento de la Comisión General de Pesca del Mediterráneo enmendado, adjunto en el apéndice 2 de este informe con vistas a su aprobación. Se invita al Consejo a aprobar las enmiendas propuestas del convenio para el establecimiento de la Comisión General de Pesca del Mediterráneo, adjuntas en el apéndice 2 del informe.

Segundo, el CCLM examinó un documento titulado “*Examen de los procedimientos para la creación y supresión de órganos estatutarios, aplicación de la resolución 13/97 de la Conferencia*”. El CCLM confirmó que la resolución 13/97 de la Conferencia seguía siendo pertinente, teniendo en cuenta la necesidad de simplificar los Órganos estatutarios existentes, evitar la proliferación de dichos órganos y lograr aumentos de la eficiencia. El CCLM consideró que la Secretaría debería tomar parte activa en la identificación de Órganos estatutarios que el Consejo o la Conferencia tal vez desearan suprimir por estar inactivos o por estar encargados de realizar funciones que podrían llevarse a cabo mediante procedimientos de trabajo más flexibles, con una orientación práctica y un calendario preestablecido. En este contexto, el CCLM examinó el proyecto de resolución de la Conferencia titulado “*Examen de los Órganos estatutarios de la FAO*”, adjunto en el apéndice 3 de su informe. Se invita al Consejo a refrendar el proyecto de resolución de la Conferencia adjunto en el apéndice 3 del informe y remitirlo a la Conferencia para su aprobación. Se invita asimismo al Consejo a recomendar a la Conferencia que esta resolución, así como la resolución 13/97 de la Conferencia se incluyan en el Volumen II de los Textos Fundamentales de la Organización, habida cuenta de la importancia de esta cuestión.

Tercero, el CCLM respaldó un proyecto de resolución del Consejo adjunto en el apéndice 4 de su informe, sobre la eliminación de la Comisión de Protección Fitosanitaria para el Caribe, establecida en 1967 mediante la resolución 8/48 del Consejo. El CCLM notó que un proceso de consultas sobre el asunto había tenido lugar con los países involucrados.

Se invita al Consejo a adoptar el proyecto de resolución adjunto en el apéndice 4 de su informe, sobre la eliminación de la Comisión de Protección Fitosanitaria para el Caribe. Finalmente, el CCLM recibió información sobre las “Actividades de la Subdivisión del Derecho para el desarrollo” LEGN de la Oficina jurídica. El CCLM alentó a proseguir esta labor del LEGN tanto en términos de su alcance como de su calidad y señaló el especial valor de las actividades destinadas a atender las prioridades determinadas por los países y regiones. El CCLM subrayó la importancia de velar por el mantenimiento del carácter multilingüe de la labor de la LEGN.

Deseo invitar al Consejo, mediante su persona Señor Presidente, a aprobar el informe del 99.º período de sesiones del CCLM y en particular las acciones propuestas que acabo de destacar

Mr Mohammed S. SHERIFF (Liberia)

We commend you for the able manner you are conducting this Council. Liberia is honored to take the floor on behalf of the Africa Group.

We also want to thank the Chair of the CCLM, Dr. Monica Martínez Menduino and we commend the Committee Members for their work. Also we want to say to Dr. Martínez, thank you very much for your active role in the ICN2.

The Africa Group welcomes the Report presented by the Chairperson of the CCLM and the CFS proposed amendment to Rule XXXIII of the General Rules.

The Africa Group notes the CCLM proposal to amend paragraph 7 of Rule XXXIII of the General Rules of the Organization Concerning the Committee on World Food Security. The Africa Group concurs with the Committee that the following amendment be made to the proposal set out in Appendix 1 to document CCLM 99/2. If at least a majority of the Member Nations, which are Members of the Committee, so request, in so far as it should be clarified that Membership concerned the Committee and not the Organization. The Africa Group endorses the report of the CCLM and asks Council to endorse the draft Conference resolution in Appendix 1 entitled Amendments to Rule XXXIII of the General Rules of the Organization for subsequent transmission to Conference.

The proposal of the Commission on Statistics: the Africa Group recognizes that any FAO body that is dedicated to addressing statistical matters could be useful to the organization, particularly in terms of enhancing consistency, harmonization and standardization in respect to collection of statistics.

Therefore the Africa Group suggests that the proposal to establish the Commission on Statistics be further reviewed and the Secretariat be requested to develop proposals to clarify the relationship anticipated between existing Regional Bodies and the proposed Commission on Statistics.

On item 4, the further review of the draft, the Updated Rules and Procedures for Participation of Civil Society Organizations and Private Sector Representatives in FAO Meetings. The Africa Group welcomes the recommendation of the Committee which requests Council to mandate the Independent Chairperson of the Council to hold consultations with the Regional Groups involving all the stakeholders in order to reach a policy agreement on the proposed Rules for the Participation of Civil Society Organizations and Private Sector Representatives in FAO Meetings, and thereby to finalize the outcome of the said agreement among Member countries.

The Africa Group, however, requests that after such consultation, all Regional Groups should unambiguously state their position on this said proposal in order for the CCLM to finalize and conclude its work. Notwithstanding, pending the establishment of the new Rules for the Participation of Civil Society Organizations and Private Sector Representatives in FAO Meetings, the Secretariat should continue the ongoing practices in respect of invitations of civil society organizations and private sector representatives to meetings of the organization.

On the proposal to amend the agreement of the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean, the Africa Group approves the amended agreement for the establishment of the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean set forth in Appendix 2 to the report. Having taken into account that the GFCM agreement did not involve new obligations for the contracting partners, we therefore recommend Council's approval.

On item 6, the Abolition of Statutory Bodies: the Africa Group endorses the draft Conference resolution set out in Appendix 3 to the report entitled Review of FAO Statutory Bodies and request Council to follow same to the Conference for approval. Given the importance of this matter, the Africa Group recommends that this resolution, as well as Conference Resolution 13/97 be inserted in Volume 2 of the Basic Text of the Organization.

On item 7, the Abolition of the Caribbean Plant Protection Commission: the Africa Group endorses the draft resolution on Abolition of the Caribbean Plant Protection Commission established in 1967 by Council Resolution 8/48 considering that a consultation process on the subject matter has already taken place with the country's concern. The Africa Group therefore asks Council to adopt the proposed draft Council resolution set out in Appendix 4 of the report.

On item 8, Development Law Branch, the activities of the Development Law Branch: the Africa Group notes the CCLM's encouragement that the Development Law Branch of the Legal Office continue its work thereby responding to the priorities identified by the regions and countries while ensuring the continued multilingual nature of their work and to continue providing the CCLM with information reports on the activities undertaken by the LEGN at future sessions.

Nine, the Multiyear Programme of Work, the MYPOW for CCLM progress report: in conclusion, the Africa Group follow note that now extending the considerations made on the initial of the CCLM work, the issue of its MYPOW should continue to be kept under review in light of the distinctive features of the Committee's *modus operandi*.

Africa Group therefore endorses the progress report of the CCLM.

Ms Mi NGUYEN (Canada)

Canada commends the work of the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters, recognizing the distinctive features of its *modus operandi*. We endorse the findings of its report, noting its efforts to align FAO's work to its Strategic Framework. We too wish to comment on the recommendation regarding the proposal to establish a new FAO Commission on Statistics.

As highlighted by many Delegations in the Council, work on statistics is central to FAO's core and overall mandate, allowing also for better evidence-based decision making in governments and

organizations at all levels. We note the strong support expressed for a Global Commission on Agricultural Statistics by many Regional Conferences and Regional Bodies on Statistics.

We note, however, that the Council is only asked to note that the proposal might be reviewed by the CCLM at a future session. Echoing comments made by Liberia on behalf of the African Group, we believe that the proposal should be reviewed once it includes the information requested. We would also propose that a timeline of next steps be presented at the next session of the Programme and Finance Committees as well as at the next Council session in March.

Finally, we look forward to the consultations to be held by the Independent Chair of the Council on the Updated Rules of Procedure for Participation of Civil Society Organizations and Private Sector Representatives in order to move forward on this issue.

Mr Luca FRATINI (Italy)

I am honoured to speak on behalf of the European Union and its 28 Member States. The candidate countries to the EU, Albania and Serbia, align themselves with this statement.

We appreciate the work done at the 99th Session of the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters, support in general its recommendations and proposals to the Council, and take note of the information provided in the Report of the Session.

The European Union and its Member States welcome the proposal to amend paragraph 7 of Rule XXXIII of the General Rules of the Organization, concerning the CFS and support the endorsement by the Council of the Draft Conference Resolution set out in Appendix I to the Report of the 99th CCLM Session.

We appreciate the efforts made by the Secretariat in implementing the tasking formulated by the last Session of the FAO Council to convene information meetings and hold consultations with Regional Groups for review, analysis and debate on the draft Rules and Procedures for Participation of Civil Society Organizations and Private Sector Representatives in FAO Meetings. It should be noted with regret, however, that due to differences among member states on some political aspects the CCLM was not able to respond to the expectation of the FAO Council to finalize its work on the issue at its 99th Session.

The EU and its Member States reaffirm their conviction of the need for an updated, simplified and coherent mechanism for such participation which will be instrumental for the effective implementation of the FAO Strategies for partnership with the Civil Society Organizations and with the Private Sector. We will participate in a positive and constructive manner in the future consultations to be held by the Independent Chairperson of the Council with a view to reaching a policy agreement on the proposed rules and procedures and express the hope that the process will continue in a spirit of consensus building and without unnecessary delays.

The EU and its Member States support the endorsement by the Council of the draft Conference Resolution entitled "Review of the FAO Statutory Bodies" as well as the recommendation of the CCLM that this Resolution and Conference Resolution 13/97 be inserted in Volume II of the Basic Texts of the FAO. We attach high importance to this issue and expect substantial results in terms of streamlining existing statutory bodies, avoiding proliferation of them in the future and efficiency gains.

Sr. José Antonio CARRANZA (Ecuador)

Queremos agradecer a la Presidenta del Comité de Asuntos Constitucionales y Jurídicos por la presentación del Informe, y queremos referirnos a dos aspectos. Primero, con respecto a la enmienda al artículo XXXIII.7 del Reglamento general de la Organización relativo al Comité de seguridad alimentaria mundial y la convocatoria a sesiones extraordinarias, a la cual el Comité de Asuntos Constitucionales ha realizado modificaciones. Queremos señalar que, sin entrar a debatir el argumento del Comité para realizar la modificación, la enmienda que propuso el Comité de seguridad alimentaria fue producto de una larga negociación que alcanzó un texto de compromiso y que posteriormente fue aprobado por el plenario del Comité de seguridad alimentaria.

Considerando que las modificaciones hechas por el Comité de Asuntos Constitucionales, en principio, no son de sustancia, los elementos anteriormente expuestos, consideramos nosotros, deberían ser tomados en cuenta por el Comité. Por otro lado, con relación al proyecto de enmienda de las normas y procedimientos actualizados para la participación de organizaciones de la Sociedad civil y del Sector privado, el Ecuador quiere manifestar que llama la atención que dicho proyecto haya sido nuevamente puesto a consideración del Comité cuando el Consejo, en su 149.º período de sesiones, pidió a la Secretaría que convocase reuniones informativas y mantuviese consultas con los Grupos Regionales para examinar, analizar y debatir el proyecto de normas y procedimientos, como paso previo al conocimiento del tema por el Comité de Asuntos Constitucionales.

Por esta razón, respaldamos la recomendación que hace el Comité de Asuntos Constitucionales al Consejo para que se encargue al Presidente independiente del Consejo la celebración de consultas con los Grupos Regionales a fin de alcanzar un acuerdo político sobre las normas propuestas.

Para concluir, queremos manifestar que en este último aspecto antes mencionado, nos preocupa la forma y la oportunidad de los temas que se presentan al Comité de Asuntos Constitucionales, ya que en ocasiones el Comité pasa a ser el primer paso y no el único paso para la revisión de los temas, cuando estos como hemos visto ameritan previamente un debate o un acuerdo político previo o requieren el criterio previo de otros Órganos. Estos son temas en los que, a propósito del Examen independiente de las formas de la gobernanza, deberíamos de reflexionar. Con estos comentarios, refrendamos el informe del Comité.

Ms Rosemary NAVARRETE (Australia)

Australia thanks the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters for its work at its 99th Session and can fully endorse the report. However, we believe it might be worthwhile to highlight the following.

We support the recommendation by the CCLM at its 99th Session that the Independent Chairperson of Council hold consultations with Regional Groups with the involvement of all Members to reach a policy agreement on the proposed changes. Australia supports in principle any progress that can be made towards updating, modernizing, homogenizing the current rules of procedure in this respect, ensuring rules, procedures and practices in the UN system are taken into consideration. Australia expects standards or policies to this effect to be developed without influence by any vested interest and urges a sense of caution that any changes must ensure the continuous, efficient and effective running of the meetings and delivery of the FAO work.

Sra. Mónica MARTÍNEZ MENDUÑO (Presidenta del Comité de Asuntos Constitucionales y Jurídicos)

Permítame hacer una aclaración con relación a la intervención de Italia en nombre de la Unión Europea. El Comité de Asuntos Constitucionales y Jurídicos de la FAO no es un órgano político, es un órgano técnico, por lo cual los pronunciamientos del Comité son de carácter técnico, y en esto quisiera destacar que no somos la primera instancia generadora de iniciativas, somos receptores de las propuestas que vienen de los Estados Miembros de esta Organización. Nuestra obligación es única y exclusivamente revisar la pertinencia legal de una propuesta hecha y no de pronunciarnos por el contenido político de cualquier iniciativa que provenga de los Estados Miembros.

Esto me parece pertinente aclarar para explicar por qué el CCLM tomó la decisión de solicitar que sea el Presidente independiente del Consejo quien conduzca las consultas de carácter informal que tienen que llevarse a cabo previo a llegar a un consenso con relación al tema de la Agenda sobre las normas y procedimientos para la participación de las organizaciones de la Sociedad civil y representantes del Sector privado en reuniones de la FAO

Mr Antonio TAVARES (LEGAL COUNSEL)

At this late hour, I will not make extensive comments on the observations that have been made. In fact, I want to just briefly make a few comments and provide some information on the work of the Committee.

Regarding the proposed amendment to the General Rules of the Organization concerning the possibility for Members to call special sessions of the CFS, the Committee considered that the wording that had been negotiated was perhaps not sufficiently clear. There was a doubt as to whether the Member Nations that could call a session were the Member Nations of FAO or the Members of the Committee and so, I think within its role, the Committee proposed a slight amendment to the text. I think the substance of the provision has been improved, that point has been clarified, so there is no difficulty with this proposed amendment.

Regarding the CSOs and the work on the CSOs, I can but support the position expressed by our Chair that the CCLM looked into this matter, but concluded that there was no consensus on a number of issues of a policy nature and we have seen this during the last session of the Council when there was an extensive debate about this topic.

This leads me also to a third point regarding the Commission on Statistics. It also appeared that there were still some discussions that were needed and some doubts regarding the financial implications of this Commission and its relationship with existing Regional Commissions. It was considered that it was preferable to let the process of discussion first take place within the Programme Committee and the Finance Committee. The Secretariat is, meanwhile, reconsidering the proposal.

But this also leads me to a final observation and a more general point. In the life of the CCLM, which has existed for many years, since 1959 in fact, in the life of the CCLM, sometimes a matter is submitted to the Committee on the assumption that there is consensus and it turns out that a particular issue that the Members considered consensual actually gave rise to debate. This has happened many times. The manner in which discussions normally take place in FAO does not necessarily follow the pattern whereby a political decision is taken and then the legal dimension of the matter is reviewed and the decision is implemented. Sometimes there is an assumption and the Governing Bodies consider that a particular matter is ready for legal decision. But this is not always the case with all items. This happened with the Commission on Statistics, where there was a parallel submission to the Programme Committee and the Finance Committee, but it turned out that that text still needed refinement.

I will stop here and I can but welcome and note support for the report. I am pleased to acknowledge this.

CHAIRPERSON

I want to make a conclusion as follows:

1. The Council approved the report of the 99th Session of the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters;
2. In particular, the Council:
 - a) endorsed the draft Conference Resolution set out in Appendix 1 to its Report entitled "Amendment to Rule XXXIII of the General Rules of the Organization", and decided to forward the Resolution to the Conference for approval
 - b) mandated the Independent Chairperson of the Council (ICC) to hold consultations with the regional groups, with the participation of all Members, with a view to reaching agreement on the proposed rules for participation of Civil Society Organizations and Private Sector Representatives in FAO Meetings, and noted that the CCLM would review a proposal and finalize its work only after agreement among Members had been reached;
 - c) approved the Amended Agreement for the Establishment of the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean, set forth in Appendix 2 to the CCLM Report;
 - d) endorsed the draft Conference Resolution set out in Appendix 3 to its Report entitled "Review of FAO Statutory Bodies", decided to forward it to the Conference for approval and recommended that this Resolution, as well as Conference Resolution 13/97, be inserted in Volume II of the Basic Texts of the Organization;

- e) adopted the draft Resolution on "Abolition of the Caribbean Plant Protection Commission established in 1967 by Council Resolution 8/48" set out in Appendix 4 to the CCLM Report; and
- f) noted the contribution of the Development Law Branch (LEGN) of the Legal Office to the Organization's mandate and its Strategic Framework, which should continue to respond to the priorities identified by the regions and countries, while ensuring the continued multilingual nature of its work.

Thank you for accepting those conclusions.

Ms Mi NGUYEN (Canada)

I apologize if I have missed an intervention, but I was wondering if there anything had been said about the proposal on FAO Commission on Statistics.

Sra. Mónica MARTÍNEZ MENDUÑO (Presidenta del Comité de Asuntos Constitucionales y Jurídicos)

Este es un tema que todavía sigue en revisión y como usted acertadamente lo mencionó antes, se ha puesto a consideración del Comité de Programa, el Comité de Finanzas; también tenemos entendido que hay un grupo regional que no ha sido debidamente consultado.

Entonces todavía hay elementos que faltan para que pueda ser, continuar siendo revisado por el CCLM. Entonces, continúa bajo revisión.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you for that clarification.

Ms Mi NGUYEN (Canada)

I would just like to confirm the wording of the conclusion regarding this item. I understand the explanation that it was under review, but I was just wondering what the suggested action for Council was.

CHAIRPERSON

It does not feature in my conclusion, with the understanding that it is still under review. This is in the report of the CCLM so it will be taken up. Thank you, Canada, for your understanding.

We have now come to the end of item 8.

We will resume our work tomorrow morning at 9:30 hours sharp. Thank you.

The meeting rose at 20:14 hours

La séance est levée à 20 h 14

Se levanta la sesión a las 20.14

COUNCIL CONSEIL CONSEJO

Hundred and Fiftieth Session Cent cinquantième session 150.º período de sesiones
Rome, 1-5 December 2014 Rome, 1-5 décembre 2014 Roma, 1-5 de diciembre de 2014
FIFTH PLENARY MEETING CINQUIÈME SÉANCE PLÉNIÈRE QUINTA SESIÓN PLENARIA
3 December 2014

The Fifth Plenary Meeting was opened at 9:41hours
Mr Wilfred J. Ngirwa,
Independent Chairperson of the Council, presiding

La cinquième séance plénière est ouverte à 9 h 41
sous la présidence de M. Wilfred J. Ngirwa,
Président indépendant du Conseil

Se abre la quinta sesión plenaria a las 9.41
bajo la presidencia del Sr. Wilfred J. Ngirwa,
Presidente Independiente del Consejo

Item 14. World Food Programme**Point 14. Programme alimentaire mondial****Tema 14. Programa Mundial de Alimentos***Item 14.1 Election of Six Members of the WFP Executive Board**Point 14.1 Élection de six membres du Conseil d'administration du PAM**Tema 14.1 Elección de seis miembros de la Junta Ejecutiva del PMA**(CL 150/3; CL 150/LIM/3)***CHAIRPERSON**

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen, good morning.

The first item on the Agenda this morning is item 14, which concerns World Food Programme matters.

Under sub item 14.1 the Council is required to elect Six Members to the WFP Executive Board. The documents before Council are CL 150/3 and CL 150/LIM/3.

Before commencing, I would like to extend a warm welcome to the World Food Programme Secretariat members, and for sub-item 14.1 to Mr Philip Ward, Secretary to the Board *ad interim*.

The Secretary-General will now give us an update on the candidates listed in document CL 150/LIM/3.

SECRETARY-GENERAL

Thank you, Chair, and good morning to everyone.

For list A, there is one candidate for one seat to be filled: Libya.

For list B, further to the withdrawal of Bangladesh, there is now one candidate for one seat to be filled: Islamic Republic of Iran.

For list C, further to a communication from the list C Coordinator, there is now one candidate for one seat to be filled: Brazil.

The list C Coordinator has informed the Secretariat of the understanding that Brazil will stand down from this seat at the end of 2015, and that Guatemala will stand for the seat for 2016 at the end of the December 2015 Session of Council.

It is further understood that Guatemala will stand down from this seat at the end of 2016 and that Brazil will stand for the remainder of the term of office to 31 December 2017.

For list D, there are two seats to be filled and two candidates: Australia and Denmark.

For list E, there is one seat to be filled and one candidate: Poland.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you, Mr Gagnon. Given that we have the same number of nominations as seats will be filled for lists A, B, C, D and E, I propose that the Council appoint these countries by general consent.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

Ms Mi NGUYEN (Canada)

Canada has issued a statement under the sub-item 14.1, *Election of six Members of the WFP Executive Board* and requests the Secretariat to reflect this in the verbatim record of the meeting. Thank you.

Ms Mi NGUYEN (Canada)¹

In our capacity as a member of the World Food Programme Executive Board, Canada welcomes the election of certain new board members and looks forward to working with them over the coming years.

Canada is a steadfast supporter of the World Food Programme and applauds the organization's indispensable work in fighting global hunger, especially in conflict zones such as Syria and Iraq.

With that in mind, however, we are concerned by today's acclamation of Iran, an actor which continues to fuel some of the very wars causing food crises in these regions. We do not see how a regime which so wantonly exacerbates starvation can have any credibility within a body seeking to assuage it.

Mr Seyed Aminollah TAGHAVI MOTLAGH (Islamic Republic of Iran)

We have a statement based on the note made by the colleague from Canada. I will send it to you for insertion in the records of the meeting.

I would like to make an intervention about this election.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen, on behalf of my Government, I would like to express my gratitude and sincere appreciation for the valued support that Member Nations have given to the candidature of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the WFP Executive Board.

I thank also our colleague from Bangladesh who after consultation decided to withdraw his candidacy in favour of the Islamic Republic of Iran. This kind of gesture is really appreciated and shows the solidarity and cooperation which exists among Member Nations. I wish to emphasize the role of Islamic Republic of Iran in fighting hunger side by side with the World Food Programme and the other Rome-based Agencies.

The Islamic Republic of Iran has always participated in the World Food Programme activities and takes pride in having a longstanding partnership with World Food Programme. The Islamic Republic of Iran follows actively all humanitarian issues in the region, hosting one of the largest refugee populations in the world and due to its geographical situation is an appropriate corridor for transition of food assistance and any other related issues by WFP.

The Islamic Republic of Iran always appreciates WFP for its excellent humanitarian assistance to the needy and destitute people all over the world and through this new mandate, which aims to strengthen its coordination with this Organization.

Mr Seyed Aminollah TAGHAVI MOTLAGH (Islamic Republic of Iran)²

The Islamic Republic of Iran regrets the statement made by Canada on Iran's unopposed election to the Executive Board of WFP and refutes the unfounded allegations contained therein.

The Islamic Republic of Iran would like to insist on the value of the Technical nature of FAO and urge other Members to respect the role and the nature of this Organization as a Technical Organization not as political organization. The Islamic Republic of Iran is always on the front line for fighting against hunger and food insecurity, helping the countries in the region with humanitarian interventions and supporting refugees in camps in the instability and insecurity of the region, but such allegations coming in this context are not appropriate in the respect for all Member Nations which should be the essential element in the United Nations Organizations and we hope that this kind of allegation will not be repeated in the future.

Finally, we would like to remind that the Islamic Republic of Iran has been a long time member of the Executive Board of the World Food Programme and its commitment, diligence through concrete actions have been fully recognized by Authorities of this Organization.

¹ Statement inserted in the verbatim report on request.

² Statement inserted in the verbatim report on request.

CHAIRPERSON

Let me conclude this item.

Pursuant to Resolution 7/2011 of 2 July 2011, the Council elected six Members of the WFP Executive Board, for a period of three years, that is from 1 January 2015 to 31 December 2017 with the following distribution: List A: Libya; List B: Islamic Republic of Iran; List C: Brazil; List D: Australia and Denmark; List E: Poland.

Item 14.2 Annual Report of the WFP Executive Board on its activities in 2013
Point 14.2 Rapport annuel du Conseil d'administration du PAM sur ses activités en 2013
Tema 14.2 Informe anual de la Junta Ejecutiva del PMA sobre sus actividades en 2013
(C 2015/LIM/10-CL 150/12)

CHAIRPERSON

We now proceed to sub-item 14.2, *Annual Report of the WFP Executive Board on its activities in 2013*. This item is presented to Council in line with the Resolution adopted by ECOSOC in July 2013 which requested United Nations funds and programmes to consolidate their current annual reporting cycles in line with the Quadrennial Comprehensive Policy Review.

Please ensure that you have document C 2015/LIM/10-CL 150/LIM/12 before you.

I will now pass the floor to Mr Chris Kaye, Director of the Performance Management and Monitoring Division, to introduce this item.

Mr Chris KAYE (Director, Performance Management and Monitoring Division, WFP)

It is an honour to have the opportunity to present the Annual Performance Report of the World Food Programme for 2013 to you today.

I have a number of slides that I will go through which will provide you with an overview of how the Report has been constructed, what it contains and bring your attention to particular areas of interest to the Council, without necessarily getting into the detail of the Report, taking account of the importance associated with the requirements demanded by ECOSOC and the QCPR.

The Report is a key accountability tool to highlight the results against our Strategic Plan and it is the primary oversight mechanism to inform the Executive Board of the work that the Organization has done in the preceding year.

It is prepared through a very extensive consultation at headquarters, in collaboration with our regional bureaus and our country offices. It draws on performance data that is collected through our standard project Reports. These are project Reports that are prepared annually on each of the projects that the World Food Programme undertakes across the globe.

The Report is produced for the annual session and is presented to the Executive Board for comprehensive consideration and discussion and final approval, and in fact the document that you have in front of you has been approved by the WFP Executive Board.

The Report consists of four parts: the first part provides an introduction, an extensive description of the global context within which WFP operates and carries out its mission during the year. It provides a narrative description of the particular challenges that we faced and gives an overview of how we have attempted to overcome those challenges. This is an important section that captures some of the activities that we were unable to fully articulate as a result of the collection of data through our various performance frameworks.

Part two provides a more detailed description based on our performance framework that has been developed against our Strategic Objectives. It consolidates the results that are collected through our standard project reporting format to be able to describe what we have done during the course of the year, specific to Strategic Objectives 1 to 4.

Part three is again a more technical section which describes how we have undertaken our work. It is based on a performance framework that measures activities associated with the way we manage our business, what we call our Management Results Framework. From here you get a greater deal of understanding of how efficient we have been.

Part four is a section which looks forward. It provides the reader with an understanding of the future challenges that we face in the coming year. This is presented in June. Since you are reading it now at the end of the year, you find challenges that we have predicted that we would face during the course of 2014. This section gives an indication of the opportunities that we think that need to be taken up during the course of 2014. Of course, that lays the foundation for what we then report against in the following Annual Performance Report.

The next slide gives some sense as to the key highlights of our performance in 2013. If we begin at the bottom, the way that we consider and we crafted a conceptual model to represent performance management is to think about a temple, which is founded with strong foundations associated to the way we manage our business.

The columns that sustain the temple are associated with the way that we undertake our business. Those columns represent each Strategic Objectives. You will see this representation within the document. Those pillars support the roof which in effect is our mission committed to supporting and addressing the requirements of the Zero Hunger Challenge.

The work undertaken to strengthen the foundations of the Organization in 2013 was based around the Organizational restructuring and strengthening work that was undertaken. In terms of our specific activities, the “what we did”, the body of our work was very much focused around the unprecedented requirements demanded of us through the four Level 3 emergencies and the broader span of assistance that we provide across 75 countries. As I said, there is a very strong commitment that the Organization has to steer our work to address all five pillars of the Zero Hunger Challenge.

Looking at some of the more specifics, the headline stories that we provided support close to 81 million beneficiaries during the course of the year with a variety of different assistance modalities: food, cash, vouchers, as well as other people benefiting beyond just those standard food transfer modalities.

We were able to demonstrate through our performance metrics good performance in terms of our ability to save lives in emergencies, to prepare communities for disasters, as well as to support the restoration of livelihoods in post-crisis situations.

We were also able to demonstrate good progress in terms of strengthening of national capacities, not only for preparedness, but also in the area of support for national nutrition programmes, school feeding and, more generally, food security.

I would like to turn to a few areas of particular interest to the Council in taking account of the commitments of the Organization to report to ECOSOC, as well as QCPR commitments.

The Report covers very significantly the important aspects of our collaboration with other Rome-based Agencies. It highlights the work that we have done not only with FAO, but also with IFAD with regard to aligning our plans and policies with the Zero Hunger Challenge, the continue support to the Committee on World Food Security, the increased number of operational partnerships at the country level with FAO and IFAD, during the course of the year and, more generally, the work that we do within the CFS with regard to the Post-2015 Development Agenda.

The Report is also strong in terms of reporting our strengthened efforts to improve partnerships and coordination. In 2013 we prepared a new corporate partnership strategy very much focused on the role that we play to not only support our partners in the field – the work that we do in leading the clusters in emergency situations – but also with regard to the work that we do with our partners in support to the Post-2015 Agenda and the Zero Hunger Challenge.

Finally, we also give note to the emerging work that was undertaken during the year with regard to the World Humanitarian Summit, which of course has accelerated significantly during the course of 2014.

The final slide gives a sense of the attention that we give to three other areas of particular interest, I think, to the Council. One, which relates to the work on Organizational Strengthening, with a comprehensive update on the progress that we made during the course of the year with regard to Strategy, our Organizational Design, Human Resources Management, Business Processes and Partnerships. There is a dedicated annex providing details on the allocation of funding and expenditure in each of those work streams.

The second area concerns our commitment to follow the requirements of the QCPR. For example, the Executive Board pointed out in the past that gender is not our strongest suite and that we needed to do more work on our commitments to gender equality. We were able to report more comprehensively in that regard in 2013. But also, with regard to the work that we have done vis-à-vis capacity development and South-South Cooperation.

And then we list a variety of very specific indicators that we have put into our performance framework which measures the extent to which we are committed to the requirements of “delivering as one” the alignment with UNDG programming principles, results-based management, accountability, simplification and harmonization, and so on. There is in general strong reference to the requirements of QCPR embedded throughout the Report.

As I mentioned, we realize that we need to do more work with regard to gender. Executive Board Members will recognize that this year we have taken every opportunity to update Membership on the work that we are doing to strengthen our commitment to gender equality. But within the 2013 Report, we were able to weave into all sections of the Report progress relating to our commitments and the use and reporting specifically on key indicators, getting the disaggregated data necessary to be able to provide more complete and thorough picture of how we are working, both in terms of our programme work, as well as in terms of the way we manage our business: staff profile and the use and application of the gender marker.

Finally, looking forward is very much the indication of the work that has been undertaken during the course of this year associated with the development of agenda policy, which the Executive Board will review next year.

Sr. Benito JIMENEZ SAUMA (México)

Agradecemos a la administración del PMA por la elaboración del Informe que es largo y completo y que muestra el valioso trabajo del Programa Mundial de Alimentos en países que sufren hambre. Algunas de las actividades del PMA se empalman y complementan con las que realiza la FAO, por lo que vemos esto genera oportunidades de colaboración entre ambos organismos. Hemos visto que la FAO y el PMA han fortalecido su colaboración aquí en Roma, pero creemos que todavía falta más por hacer en el terreno.

Un organismo puede aprender de las experiencias del otro, por ejemplo en actividades de distribución de alimentos, cupones por trabajo, desarrollo de mercados locales y cadenas de valor, así como la Cooperación Sur-Sur y triangular. Mi Delegación lo ha hecho en el PMA y ahora lo hacemos aquí en la FAO: hacemos un llamado para que ambos organismos colaboren de manera más estrecha en el terreno.

Mr Mhutang SELEKA (South Africa)

This statement is presented on behalf of the Africa Group.

We commend the WFP for their clear and focused nature of the document, in particular for its Organization in performance results reporting aligned with the Strategic Objectives, as well as the Organizational performance reporting by management results dimension.

The Africa Group would like to acknowledge the many challenges the WFP faced in 2013, not only in terms of addressing emergencies and hunger crises around the world, but also in bedding down and operationalizing the many internal reorganization and reprioritization initiatives in the way that most efficiently serves the global hungry poor.

As the Executive Director stated in her forward to the annual Report: “meeting these needs and the needs of other countries tested the limits of WFP’s response systems [...] but we met the challenge head-on, thanks to the contributions of governments, partners and individuals”. Being able to meet these challenges head-on in our view attests to the foresight and “can-do” attitude of the management and the rest of the WFP staff, especially those in the field. The Africa Group in this regard wishes to express its appreciation for the excellent work done as reflected in the Annual Performance Report.

The Africa Group welcomes the increased contributions to WFP in 2013 to USD 4.38 billion and expresses appreciation to donors for having contributed 12 percent more than in 2012, despite the ongoing global economic challenges. We urge all donors to build on the solid governance foundation of the WFP and to continue in the future to increase their commitments.

Furthermore, we would in particular like to urge donors to build on the 12 percent rise in donations and to also help in addressing activities in programmes that fall outside the global news coverage and to avoid creating so-called “forgotten emergencies” such as, for example, in the Republic of Chad and others.

It is not only the availability of funds that matters, but more importantly the efficient use of such resources, and in this regard we welcome that available funds were used as planned and unspent project balances reduced. We welcome that between 2012 and 2013 the percentage of undistributed food at year’s end decreased from 9.6 to 8 percent. We wish to also note that the percentage of undelivered cash and vouchers remained unchanged.

The Africa Group also notes that the WFP’s presence in conflict stricken areas has by necessity increased the need for staff security measures. We recognize that the frontline staff in the field often operates under extremely difficult and dangerous conditions, and we highly commend them for their unflinching commitment and dedication to assisting the global hungry poor.

In the same breath, we are however extremely concerned that a number of security incidents rose by 15 percent to 1,031 in 2013 – almost three per day – and of which 72 percent were work-related. In this regard, we strongly condemn any attacks on WFP and partners’ personnel as they go about doing their work and preserving the sanctity of life. To this end, we urge all affected parties to do everything in their power to guarantee the safety of all workers, including WFP and its partners in the field.

We note that the annual cost of food assistance paid per beneficiary increased from USD 38.75 to USD 48.57 between 2012 and 2013, as well as the general explanations given in the document for this, including that proportionally more food assistance was provided over longer periods; the up-scaling of cash and vouchers; declining beneficiary numbers; as well as the very significant demands of the operations related to Syrian Arab Republic during that year.

We also note and welcome that the WFP procured 2.1 million tons of food in 91 countries in 2013, valued at USD 1.2 billion, and that 79 percent of the tonnage was purchased in developing countries. We also welcome the increased purchases of food from local farmers in many areas and the P4P programme and look forward to the continued expansion thereof.

Finally, the Africa Group wishes to welcome the forward looking nature of the Annual Performance Report and the outlining of the various principles that will underpin the WFP’s work in the coming years and further commend the WFP’s continued commitment in 2013 to develop tools for augmenting staff capacities in line with Fit-for-Purpose.

We note that the middle-manager programme for P3 and P4 staff and national officers in 13 countries at equivalent grades attracted 295 staff, of which 34 percent were women. We also support in particular the continued development of the WFP People Strategy to build a capable, balanced workforce wherein diversity and gender are integral components; the WFP’s continued engagement with partners in the Zero Hunger Challenge; the focus on enhancing transactional processes to improve productivity and reduce unit costs, focusing on P4P, nutrition, home-grown school feeding, resilience, and climate change adaptation, the scaling-up of cash and vouchers; as well as continuing to increase the number of donors to provide the resources it needs.

Ms Mi NGUYEN (Canada)

Canada would like to thank the WFP Secretariat for providing a very interesting overview of the 2013 Annual Report. Canada was pleased to approve this report at the June 2013 Annual Session of the WFP Executive Board.

We were also pleased to see that the emphasis had been put on reporting against the Strategic Objective at the outcome level, which was a significant improvement from previous years.

The year 2013 was an extremely busy and challenging year for humanitarian actors. Simultaneous Level 3 crises, such as those in Syria, the Central African Republic and South Sudan stretched the humanitarian system like never before.

Through this report, WFP demonstrated its ability to deliver in difficult contexts. This report demonstrates WFP's strong performance and we commend WFP for its commitment to reaching those in need.

Mr Lupiño Jr. LAZARO (Philippines)

The Philippines would like to thank the WFP Management and Secretariat for the presentation of the Annual Report for 2013. We would like to take this opportunity also to congratulate the newly elected Members of the Executive Board.

We note the progress and achievements in Rome-based Agency collaboration partnership and coordination and organizational strengthening that are issues of interest to this Council. We would like to join earlier speakers in commending WFP in its leadership and contribution in addressing food security and nutrition, hunger, poverty, and for very well demonstrating its comparative advantage in extending humanitarian assistance.

We wish to appreciate in particular the responses delivered for three emergencies in 2013, including the Typhoon Haiyan disaster which hit the Philippines last year. We reiterate our gratitude for WFP's assistance, together with the international community, during those dark days of our recorded disarray.

With these brief comments, our Delegation endorses the Annual Report as we already did during the Executive Board Session.

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

My Delegation expresses its appreciation for a comprehensive Annual Report of the World Food Programme. I congratulate WFP on its tremendous accomplishment in providing direct food assistance to approximately 81 million people. We acknowledge the performance reporting against Strategic Objectives, as well as Management Result Dimensions from the core of the Annual Report.

We wish to highlight the significance of the results-based approach in implementing the work of the WFP since its approach as participator and based on priorities emanating from needs assessment and support the principles that will underpin the work of the WFP in the coming years.

In particular, one: partnership. Since the Government of Trinidad and Tobago espouses the power of partnership and the WFP aims to be the partner of choice in programmes addressing hunger, and hence the new Corporate Partnership Strategy will guide the development of partnerships at all levels. And two: processes and systems, since improvements in processes and systems contribute to increased operational efficiency and achievements of results.

Accordingly, my Delegation supports the progress made by the WFP in achieving its mission to end global hunger as reflected in its Annual Report for 2013.

Mr Mohammed S. SHERIFF (Liberia)

Liberia fully aligns itself with South Africa and the statement made on behalf of the Africa Group.

Liberia would like to take the floor at this moment to express profound gratitude to WFP for the help received in combatting the Ebola epidemic in the West Africa Region. WFP came to the need of the affected countries at the right time without any delay.

Also, we want to thank the Executive Director of WFP for her visit to the West Africa Region when many others were afraid to visit that part of the world. We also want to express our profound gratitude to the staff of WFP that is out in the sub-region assisting the affected countries in distributing food, as well as helping with infrastructure.

At this moment, we want to also inform you that the Ebola situation in Liberia and Guinea is improving: we have reduced most of the affected cases that we were previously reporting.

We also want to congratulate the newly elected Members of the Executive Board.

Liberia, therefore, concludes by endorsing the report.

Ms Eugenia A. DENISOVA (Russian Federation) (Original language Russian)

We would like to thank the WFP Secretariat for having prepared and presented a very high quality and very comprehensive document and we would also like to welcome the newly elected Members to the WFP Executive Board and wish them all the best.

We highly value the operative work of the WFP at eradicating the repercussions of massive humanitarian crises in the Philippines, South Sudan, Syria and the Central African Republic, which have required Level 3 emergency measures response.

We would like to especially say that this kind of success in the Programme necessarily involves very strict compliance with UN humanitarian principles and we welcome these steps made by the WFP to broaden its donor base. And we would point out in this connection that the 2013 determined 8 percent growth of the donor support financing.

The main task of the Members of the WFP Executive Board is to strengthen the authority, the prestige of the Organization as a non-politicized organization, to broaden the donor base pursuant to the requests of the recipient countries.

We would also like to speak in favour of continuing refinement of the evaluation approach to determining the number of beneficiaries.

Mr Chris Kaye (Director, Performance Management and Monitoring Division, WFP)

I would like to acknowledge the appreciation of Council Members and thank you very much.

We are committed to ensure that the quality of our report continues to improve every year. We are just engaging in the process of developing the report for 2014 and rest assured, we will take forward the improvements that were made in the Report for 2013, particularly with regard to reporting on outcomes, as well as some more specific reporting we hope that we can make with regard to advancements on gender-related issues, amongst others. We would like to thank Council Members for their comment.

CHAIRPERSON

I want now to make conclusions on Agenda 14.2 as follows.

1. The Council welcomed and endorsed the Annual Report of the World Food Programme to the Economic and Social Council and to the FAO Council on its activities in 2013 and noted that this report was presented for the first time in the form of the Annual Performance Report.

2. In particular, the Council:

- a) welcomed the efforts of WFP to strengthen collaboration with the other Rome-based Agencies, in particular with regard to the continued support provided to the Committee on World Food Security;
- b) welcomed WFP's involvement in partnership and coordination efforts, in line with its newly approved Corporate Partnership Strategy, its engagement with partners in the Zero Hunger Challenge and the post-2015 agenda, as well as its active participation in preparations for the 2016 World Humanitarian Summit;
- c) noted the important programmatic and structural changes implemented at WFP during the previous year under the Fit-for-Purpose Initiative.

d) noted WFP's implementation of the Quadrennial Comprehensive Policy Review reporting into its Annual Performance Report, with a particular focus on gender, capacity development, south-south and triangular cooperation, "Delivering as One", alignment with United Nations Development Group, results-based management and harmonization and simplification of business practices.

Mr Abdul Razak AYAZI (Afghanistan)

Thank you, Chairperson. We agree with your summary. Could you please also add one point about WFP's good performance in WFP actions? Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you. Accepted. We have concluded this Agenda Item.

Item 12. Council Multi-year Programme of Work 2015-18

Point 12. Programme de travail pluriannuel du Conseil 2015 -2018

Tema 12. Programa de trabajo plurianual del Consejo para 2015-18

(CL 150/7)

CHAIRPERSON

Ladies and gentlemen, the next Item on the Agenda is Item 12, *Council Multi-year Programme of Work 2015-18* (MYPOW). The document before Council is CL 150/7.

As agreed by the Conference, this planning tool is a standing item on the Council's Agenda. In my pre-session letter of 12 November, I pointed out that this living document is the result of consultations during the regular informal meetings with the Regional Groups' Chairs and Vice-Chairs.

Should Delegates wish to propose further amendments to the text you have before you, I suggest that we maintain the practice of circulating the proposed changes to Chairs and Vice-Chairs of the Regional Groups for discussion within the Regional Groups before taking them on board. I now give the floor to Delegates who wish to speak on this Agenda Item.

Mr Luca FRATINI (Italy)

I am honored to speak on behalf of the European Union and its 28 Member States. The Candidate Countries to the EU, Albania and Serbia, align themselves with this statement.

We appreciate the draft Council Multi-Year Programme of Work for 2015-18. We consider the draft MYPOW to be a living document and an effective planning tool. It has proven its value in the past and we would like to see it firmly established within the work of the Council over the coming years. We welcome the changes in the new MYPOW. We would stress the more detailed descriptions of the results and outputs, as well as the working methods in Chapter 2. We consider this to be an improvement on the previous version and believe this will increase appreciation of the Council as a Governing Body.

We believe that the presentations given by the Secretariat on Management Strategies and Policies to the Council are extremely valuable and provide a welcome opportunity to exchange ideas and promote mutual understanding and trust.

In order to further enhance the usefulness and quality of the MYPOW, we expect the Independent Chair of the Council to reappraise the MYPOW on a continuous basis and improve and adapt where deemed necessary. In particular, we would appreciate a similar improvement in Section D of Chapter 2 as we have seen in other sections.

We would like to reiterate the importance of monitoring the Calendar of the FAO Governing Bodies for the next biennium with a view to optimizing the planned sequence of Regional Conferences, Technical Committees, Finance and Programme Committees and Council.

Finally, we would like to take this opportunity to express our sincere appreciation of the intersessional work that you did as Independent Chairperson of the Council using existing informal structures. This

helps to maintain a good dialogue within the Membership. We therefore endorse the MYPOW for 2015-18.

M. Mostafa NAHI (Maroc)

La délégation du Royaume du Maroc prend la parole au nom du Groupe régional Afrique sur le point 12 de l'ordre du jour relatif au Programme de travail pluriannuel du Conseil pour 2015-2018.

Elle souhaite tout d'abord saisir cette occasion pour exprimer sa satisfaction devant le travail réalisé par le Secrétariat qui nous présente un document de qualité. Pour rappel, la Conférence avait décidé que le Programme de travail pluriannuel, en raison de son utilité en tant qu'outil de planification, devait figurer en permanence à l'ordre du jour du Conseil.

Le Groupe Afrique, après examen de ce document, exprime sa satisfaction quant aux orientations programmatiques retenues pour la période 2015-2018. Celle-ci demeure, dans l'ensemble, conforme à l'esprit et à la lettre de la résolution 8/2009 relative à la mise en œuvre des actions du Plan d'action immédiate concernant le Conseil.

Le Groupe Afrique prend note des amendements apportés au Programme de travail pluriannuel dans sa version présentée précédemment et souhaite inviter le Conseil à en faire de même, et plus spécifiquement, en ce qui concerne les décisions de la Conférence concernant les stratégies, les priorités, les programmes et le budget de l'Organisation, ainsi que la situation de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture dans le monde, qui sont alignés sur les objectifs stratégiques de la FAO, et se fondent sur les avis du Conseil: élaboration de l'ensemble des priorités des membres pour un plan de travail de l'Organisation; recommandations et décisions concernant la nécessité de convoquer des réunions ministérielles si nécessaire; retour d'information à la Conférence sous forme de rapport sur la mise en œuvre des décisions de gouvernance; présentation par le Secrétariat au Conseil des stratégies et des politiques de la direction, et enfin, renforcement, si nécessaire, des ressources humaines et financières mobilisées par le Secrétariat pour l'exécution du travail du Programme de travail pluriannuel et les suites qui lui sont données.

Des Textes fondamentaux de notre Organisation, aux recommandations du Groupe de travail sur la réforme de la gouvernance, en passant par les recommandations formulées à la mi-2007 par l'Évaluation externe indépendante, communément connue sous le nom de EEI, le Groupe Afrique ne peut que constater une certaine évolution dans la doctrine concernant les programmes de travail pluriannuels, à telle enseigne que le document CL 150/9, intitulé «Examen indépendant des réformes de la gouvernance», que le Conseil a examiné hier, les deux experts indépendants, que nous félicitons au passage pour la qualité de leur rapport, nous font le constat suivant, je cite: «De nombreux Membres ont une attitude ambivalente au regard de l'utilité des programmes de travail pluriannuels, tout comme certains des fonctionnaires du Secrétariat, chargés de l'établissement des projets» (paragraphe 164).

Toutefois, les deux consultantes nous recommandent, au paragraphe 168 du même document, de maintenir et de continuer à suivre la mise en œuvre des programmes de travail pluriannuels établis pour le Conseil, pour le Comité du Programme, pour le Comité financier, qui sont pleinement opérationnels, alors qu'elles nous recommandent de les supprimer pour les conférences régionales et les comités techniques.

Avant d'arriver, dans un proche avenir je l'espère, à l'adoption et la mise en œuvre de ces deux principales recommandations des experts indépendants, sur les programmes de travail pluriannuels, le Groupe Afrique souhaite, dans l'état actuel des choses, mettre en exergue le point E du document CL 150/7 de cet ordre du jour, et notamment la nécessité de doter les prochains programmes de travail pluriannuels du Conseil d'indicateurs de performance, comme cela est proposé. Ces indicateurs permettront de réaliser avec efficacité le «benchmarking» qui facilitera la comparaison de la gouvernance de notre Organisation avec d'autres organisations internationales. Monsieur le Président, si les tableaux figurant dans les pages 8 à 12 du document CL 150/7 donnent une vue d'ensemble des programmes de travail indicatifs du Conseil, il n'en demeure pas moins qu'à l'exception des 150, 152 et 153^{ème} sessions du Conseil qui se dérouleront toutes entre mars et décembre 2015, les programmes

de travail des sessions postérieures à décembre 2015 jusqu'à décembre 2018, demandent encore un effort de prévision plus affiné.

Nous comprenons par ailleurs, au sein du Groupe Afrique, qu'il soit encore trop tôt pour mener un exercice détaillé d'anticipation crédible.

Mr Abdul Razak AYAZI (Afghanistan)

We welcome this MYPOW, which is a much better improvement over the previous one. MYPOW is a living document and should remain a living document. We have a few comments to make, but I will not read them. I will take your suggestion that we submit their report to the Regional Group who will then submit it to our next meeting with the Chairs and Vice-Chairs of the Regional Groups.

Ms Molly RIVERA-OLDS (United States of America)

The United States of America thanks the FAO Secretariat for providing the opportunity to review the Multi-Year Programme of Work for the Council for 2015-18.

We thank the Members and the FAO Secretariat for considering revisions recently proposed by the United States. Whereas not all of our suggested changes were accepted, we believe the changes to the MYPOW proposed in Council document CL 150/7 will improve the functionality of the MYPOW by making it clearer and better focusing the outputs and indicators and adding more detail to proposed activities.

We believe this is an important step to making the MYPOW the clear and precise management tool it was designed to be. The United States encourages FAO to use the preparation of Council MYPOWs as an opportunity to examine its work plan in a structured manner in keeping with the results-based management approach, as well as a chance to review working methods and practices at regular intervals.

The United States supports the endorsement of document CL 150/7.

CHAIRPERSON

We can conclude on this Agenda Item as follows.

1. The Council reviewed and approved its Multi-year Programme of Work (MYPOW) 2015-18.
2. The Council noted the living nature of the document and agreed to continue using the informal meetings convened by the Independent Chairperson of Council with the Chairpersons and Vice-Chairpersons of the Regional Groups as a forum for further discussion and refinement of the document.
3. The Council agreed that any suggested amendments would be forwarded to the Independent Chairperson of Council for circulation to Members and further discussion during the informal meetings.

I thank you. This concludes our Agenda Item 12.

Item 21. Any Other Matters**Point 21. Autres questions****Tema 21. Asuntos varios**

Item 21.1 Appointment of a Representative of the FAO Conference to the Staff Pension Committee

Point 21.1 Nomination d'un représentant de la Conférence de la FAO au Comité des pensions du personnel

Tema 21.1 Nombramiento de un representante de la Conferencia de la FAO en el Comité de Pensiones del Personal

(CL 150/LIM/5)

CHAIRPERSON

We can now move on to item 21, *Any Other Matters*. Sub-item 21.1 concerns the *Appointment of a Representative of the FAO Conference to the Staff Pension Committee*.

Relevant information can be found in document CL 150/LIM/5.

The Council is invited to appoint a representative to the Staff Pension Committee due to the departure of one Conference Appointee.

Indeed, in view of the fact that the Conference holds biennial sessions, it decided to authorize the Council to appoint replacements for its representatives who have resigned or have been transferred for the remainder of the term of office.

Hence, I now ask if the Council is willing to proceed to appoint Ms Roxana Oller Catoira, Alternate Permanent Representative of the Plurinational State of Bolivia, for the period 1 January 2015 to 31 December 2017?

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you. May I congratulate Ms Roxana Oller Catoira on her appointment.

For Sub-item 21.1, I can therefore conclude that Ms Roxana Oller Catoira, Alternate Permanent Representative of the Plurinational State of Bolivia has been appointed Representative of the FAO Conference to the Staff Pension Committee for the period 1 January 2015 to 31 December 2017.

That concludes sub-Item 21.1.

16. Margarita Lizárraga Medal**16. Médaille Margarita Lizárraga****16. Medalla Margarita Lizárraga**

(CL 150/INF/6)

CHAIRPERSON

We now move to Item 16, *Margarita Lizárraga Medal*. The document before Council is CL 150/INF/6.

The medal is awarded in honour of the late Margarita Saucedo Lizárraga, Senior FAO Fishery Liaison Officer, for her decisive role in promoting the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries and is awarded biennially upon recommendation of the Council, to a person or organization that has served with distinction in the application of the Code.

It is proposed to bestow the 2014-2015 Award upon the “Stop Illegal Fishing (SIF) Working Group” of Botswana, in recognition of its endeavours to stop Illegal Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) fishing, by demonstrating that much can be accomplished with relatively limited resources through

good networking, sharing of information, regional and international cooperation, and a strong commitment to stop IUU fishing.

The SIF's achievement can be considered a role model and catalyst for similar initiatives in other regions.

The Council is invited to endorse the nomination of the proposed candidate organization, which will be awarded the Medal during a special ceremony to be held in 2015.

Sra. Maria De Lourdes CRUZ TRINIDAD (México)

En noviembre de 1997, la Conferencia de la FAO creó la Medalla bienal Margarita Lizárraga que se concede a propuesta del Consejo a una persona u organización que hubiese trabajado en la aplicación del Código de conducta por la pesca responsable.

La Medalla es un homenaje a la ya fallecida mexicana Dra. Margarita Lizárraga, Oficial superior de enlace de pesca en su papel decisivo en el fomento del Código de conducta para la pesca responsable por su productiva labor en el campo de la pesca durante casi cuarenta años, especialmente en los países en desarrollo.

En ese sentido, México se congratula por el refrendo de esta denominación.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you. Let me conclude as follows: The Council endorsed the nomination of the Stop Illegal Fishing (SIF) Working Group and proposed that the Medal be presented to it by the Director-General during a special ceremony to be held before 31 December 2015

Item 13. Status of implementation of decisions taken at the 149th Session of the Council

Point 13. Suite donnée aux décisions adoptées par le Conseil à sa cent quarante-neuvième session

Tema 13. Estado de aplicación de las decisiones adoptadas por el Consejo en su 149.º período de sesiones

(CL 150/LIM/4)

CHAIRPERSON

We now turn our attention to Item 13, *Status of implementation of decisions taken at the 149th Session of the Council*. The relevant document is CL 150/LIM/4.

As foreseen in the Multi-year Programme of Work, the Council is invited to note the information on the implementation of decisions taken at its last session. In addition, document CL 150/LIM/4 also contains an update on the status of implementation of decisions taken at the 148th Session of the Council held in December 2013, for which actions had not been completed at the time of the 149th Session of Council in June 2014.

I would like to point out that due to the nature of work involved, which in some cases requires the attention of sessions which have not yet take place, the status of a number of the items is shown as "ongoing".

M. Marc MANKOUSSOU (Congo)

La République du Congo prend la parole au nom du Groupe Afrique. Le Groupe Afrique voudrait féliciter Monsieur Gagnon, et toute l'équipe qui a produit la synthèse sur cette question relative à la suite donnée aux décisions adoptées par le Conseil à sa cent quarante neuvième session.

Après exploitation du document, le Groupe Afrique accueille favorablement le fait qu'un grand nombre des décisions adoptées par le Conseil ont déjà trouvé leur achèvement, et aussi que toutes les autres décisions adoptées soient en cours d'exécution.

Le Groupe Afrique note que les questions constitutionnelles et juridiques de gouvernance, celles relatives au Comité de la sécurité alimentaire mondiale et d'autres traitées au titre de questions

diverses ont trouvé leur achèvement. La majorité des décisions en cours d'exécution concernent les questions liées au Programme, au budget, aux finances et à l'administration.

Le Groupe Afrique encourage le Secrétariat de tout mettre en œuvre en vue d'aboutir à leur achèvement.

Pour terminer notre intervention, le Groupe Afrique prend note de toutes les informations contenues dans ce document.

Ms Mi NGUYEN (Canada)

The document provides Council with a very simple and useful tracking tool. We very much look forward to the further implementation of the Council decisions which are currently shown as “ongoing”, in particular those related to gender, decentralization and the further elaboration of the results framework.

As a strong advocate of the FAO's partnership strategies for civil society and the private sector, we join the Joint Meeting of the Programme and Finance Committees in welcoming the progress report on the implementation of the strategies presented in November 2014.

However, in June 2013, Council asked that progress reports on implementation of the partnership strategies with civil society organizations, the private sector and regional organizations be provided. The report in June was a welcome beginning, but it would be inaccurate to say that the implementation of this Council decision is complete.

Canada looks forward to the future specific progress reports on each of the two strategies containing differentiated information on different groupings of partners at global, regional and national levels.

CHAIRPERSON

Let me conclude Item 13 as follows.

1. The Council appreciated the document and took note of the status of implementation of decisions taken at its 148th and 149th Sessions (respectively 2-6 December 2013 and 16-20 June 2014).
2. The Council encouraged the Secretariat to pursue the completion of decisions shown as ongoing

Ms Mi NGUYEN (Canada)

Canada would like the point 3 of the status of implementation of decisions taken at the 149th Session which relates to providing *progress reports on implementation of the partnership strategies with civil society organizations, the private sector and regional organizations* be reflected as “ongoing” instead of “completed” and reflected in your summary. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON

It will be reflected in the Report. Thank you.

Mr Abdul Razak AYZI (Afghanistan)

I think what Canada said was covered, if I'm not wrong, when we discussed the Joint Meeting of the Programme and Finance Committees.

CHAIRPERSON

I think Canada would like to emphasize the importance of this work, so that it is reflected in the Report as ongoing.

Item 18. Provisional Agenda for the 151st Session of the Council (March 2015)**Point 18. Ordre du jour provisoire de la 151^{ème} session du Conseil (mars 2015)****Tema 18. Programa provisional del 151.º período de sesiones del Consejo (marzo de 2015)**
(CL 150/INF/2)**CHAIRPERSON**

We are now moving to Agenda Item 18, *Provisional Agenda for the 151st Session of the Council in March 2015*. The relevant document is CL 150/INF/2.

The Council is requested to consider the draft agenda for its next session and propose, if necessary, matters for inclusion.

However, I wish to draw the Members' attention to the following items, which have been included, in addition to standing items:

- Item 7: *Synthesis of Evaluations of FAO Regional and Subregional Offices*, which was requested by Council at its 149th Session in June this year

- Item 16: Status report on Antimicrobial Resistance, which was proposed by COAG at its 24th Session this year, and was supported when the Report of the Session was discussed at our first meeting on Monday.

No comments on this item?

For item 18, I can therefore conclude that: The Council endorsed the provisional agenda of its 151st Session that will take place in March 2015.

Item 20. Working Methods of the Council**Point 20. Méthodes de travail du Conseil****Tema 20. Métodos de trabajo del Consejo**

(CL 150/INF/5)

CHAIRPERSON

The next item on the agenda is Item 20, *Working Methods of the Council*. The relevant document is CL 150/INF/5.

I call on the Secretary-General to inform us of initiatives to improve our working methods.

SECRETARY-GENERAL

The following initiatives have been taken or are being undertaken for improved services to Members.

Firstly, the electronic voting system in the plenary has been upgraded and was used for the first time at the 41st Session of CFS in October 2014. The video wall installed on either side of the plenary hall displays the names of Members and how they vote during roll call votes.

Following the example set by United Nations Bodies, which have adopted paper-smart correspondence, the Organization is introducing new approaches to correspondence which would minimize and in many cases replace manually dispatched paper-based corresponds through expanded use of the Members Gateway.

Finally, a new webpage for "Announcements" has been set-up on the FAO Members gateway to publish non-work related announcements such as cultural and social events, and if I may add cars for sale.

Sr. Benito JIMENEZ SAUMA (México)

Agradecemos a la Administración su Informe sobre las Mejoras para el trabajo del Consejo de los Miembros de la FAO. En particular agradecemos a la Administración la cuestión del tablero electrónico en la Plenaria para votaciones, es algo que hemos impulsado y que nuestra Delegación había pedido desde hace algún tiempo y que hemos un poco fastidiado a la Secretaría en este sentido,

pero lo agradecemos, ya que hemos visto que funciona muy bien. Las votaciones no es algo que hagamos todos los días, pero ha funcionado muy, muy bien.

Querría añadir solo un par de puntos: uno es sobre la aplicación, no se mencionó, pero la hemos visto en otras sesiones, la aplicación iPermReps, que es para iPhones. Queremos agradecer esta iniciativa, pero sentimos que todavía falta mejorarla más.

A este propósito, tengo algunos comentarios que voy a enviar directamente a los desarrolladores. Otra es una cuestión práctica es para la Sala Plenaria, donde, a diferencia de otras salas de la FAO, no hay conexiones eléctricas para trabajar con nuestros laptops y quizá es algo que se podría poner en el futuro.

Sra. Maria Eulalia JIMENEZ ZEPEDA (El Salvador)

También nosotros queremos agradecer la presentación de este Informe y los esfuerzos que la Secretaría hace para mejorar las condiciones en que se trabaja en el Consejo y en todas las otras reuniones de la FAO. Nosotros queremos felicitar sobre todo en este momento el que se haya atendido la solicitud de algunos de nosotros para que se estableciera en un lugar separado el tipo de publicaciones, como las que señaló el Secretario, relativas a cuestiones más personales, como venta de vehículos porque realmente se nos llenaba el correo con ese tipo de información. Creo que es bueno que puedan acceder a ellos aquellos que estén interesados en este tipo de servicios.

Por otra parte, quiero respaldar plenamente lo que acaba de señalar el Delegado de México con relación a la necesidad de adaptar la Sala Plenaria para permitirnos poder trabajar con mayor facilidad, ya que actualmente la mayoría de los Miembros trabaja y necesita utilizar los servicios de la corriente eléctrica, que eso no está arreglado como se ha hecho tanto en la Sala Roja como en la Sala Verde y otras salas.

Por último, queremos también felicitar a la Secretaría por ese ahorro de documentos, ya que los mismos pueden ser consultados por Internet sin necesidad de utilizar demasiado papel, que todos sabemos las consecuencias que eso tiene. Y creo que también el Portal para Miembros de la FAO puede ser mejorado para permitirnos hacer un uso más eficiente de él.

Mr Khalid MEHBOOB (Pakistan)

I take the floor to support what Mexico has said about the upgrading of services in the Plenary Hall, particularly the electric sockets.

Mr Jon E JONASSON (Iceland)

As many of you know, I'm new. But I'm also old in the sense that I was here many years ago and I see so many improvements and I thank all the Members for doing that in between I haven't been here.

There is one thing I would like to mention regarding the Order of the Day distributed to the Members. It is my understanding, that the original timetable of the meeting in the afternoon is from 14:30 to 17:30 or later if required. That was totally misunderstood by me and I realized that many delegations were unsure if the Agenda Items originally scheduled for the meeting were going to be discussed or not. To enable better planning within the management of the Missions on the distribution of the Agenda Items, it would be helpful if the Chair could give advance information on the exact timing of the Session.

I also would like to mention that maybe the seats in the room could be changed or I simply will take a cushion from my home.

CHAIRPERSON

I know that these seats are not that comfortable but we are to work.

Sr. José Antonio CARRANZA (Ecuador)

Apoyamos el Informe que ha presentado la Secretaría sobre las mejoras y quisiéramos que a lo mejor se pudiera considerar el hecho, con referencia a las comunicaciones que se envían a las Representaciones Permanentes y el hecho de que se usa por supuesto la plataforma web de los

Representantes Permanentes, lo cual por supuesto que lo respaldamos. No obstante, también se ponen las comunicaciones en los casilleros de los países, con lo cual los países ya recibimos por vía electrónica a través de la página web esas comunicaciones y luego nos encontramos el mismo documento en papel en los casilleros, lo cual implica una duplicación, un gasto de papel y por supuesto, de trabajo en la FAO.

Por supuesto que hay comunicaciones que por la naturaleza tienen que ser por escrito, sin embargo, quizás se podría considerar que las comunicaciones que ya se envían a través de la página web de los Representantes Permanentes ya no se dupliquen en el casillero a fin de evitar costos, para no duplicar esfuerzos y trabajo.

SECRETARY-GENERAL

Thank you for the positive comments expressed by Members. Yes, indeed, we are trying to move towards paper-smart practices and it is to my knowledge the case in other United Nations Organizations, which are also aiming at paper-free environment. I must say that the recent experience of ICN2 was a step in a good direction, because very few documents were printed and most Delegates came with their own devices and followed the proceedings without using printed documents.

The other point I wanted to touch upon is the improvements in the Plenary Hall to install electric sockets. We identified this need some time ago and the Administrative Services Division is trying to identify funding to begin the works in the Plenary Hall. We will also install new seats because the FAO Membership is enlarged since the last Conference.

CHAIRPERSON

I can therefore conclude that the Council will count the initiatives taken by the Secretariat to improve the methods of work of the Council and encourage further improvements. Thank you.

Item 17. Calendar of FAO Governing Bodies and other Main Sessions 2014-16

Point 17. Calendrier 2014-2016 des sessions des organes directeurs de la FAO et des autres réunions principales

Tema 17. Calendario de los períodos de sesiones de los órganos rectores de la FAO y otras reuniones importantes en 2014-16

(CL 150/LIM/1)

CHAIRPERSON

The last item on the Agenda this morning is Item 17, *Calendar of FAO Governing Bodies and Other Main Sessions in 2014-2016*. The document before Council is CL 150/LIM/1.

To avoid the overlapping of meetings, FAO produces this calendar in close coordination with IFAD and WFP. Through this Web-based common calendar, all three Rome-based Agencies can insert their updates. This common calendar can also be consulted at any time by all Members on the FAO Members Gateway available from the FAO home page.

The schedule of meetings for 2014 is presented to Council for information as well as the proposed calendar for 2016. The Council is requested to approve the proposed calendar of meetings for 2015.

Dr Joseph Sam SESAY (Observer for Sierra Leone)

I note that the dates the Meeting of the Executive Board of WFP and the Governing Council of IFAD in February are scheduled back to back. It means that from 9 to 19 February Delegations will be here throughout this period of about ten days. I am just thinking about the duration, whether that is not too long to keep people here to attend both meetings continuously.

SECRETARY-GENERAL

As indicated in the table the meeting at WFP will be held from 9 to 13 February 2015 at WFP and the meeting scheduled at IFAD from 15 to 19 February will be held at IFAD and not here at FAO Headquarters.

Mr Mohammed S. SHERIFF (Liberia)

I think the question raised by Sierra Leone, even though the Secretary-General has answered, doesn't actually – because if the meeting at IFAD is 9 to 13 and at the same time there is another meeting that starts on the 15 to 19 February at WFP, not at FAO, and you expect Member Nations from Africa Region to attend those meetings, I think that's what he was basically referring to.

That indeed it would be a burden on those Member Countries to leave the Capital to come and sit in Rome from 9 to 13 February at IFAD, then remain here two more days from 15 to 19 February in WFP doing nothing but just IFAD and WFP meetings and leaving the task behind them as Ministers in the Africa Region will be too heavy. I think that is what the Minister was alluding to.

Mr Luca FRATINI (Italy)

We are only observing the calendar for 2016, and especially the second half, and we note that we are falling into the same situation we found ourselves this year with the sequence of very dense events starting in July with COFI followed by COFO in the following week, and then October we have COAG, CCP, CFS and CCLM all in a row followed by Finance and Programme. So I think that should be handled carefully as we stated also in previous occasions.

Mr Joseph Sam SESAY (Observer for Sierra Leone)

I think you have many more of these instances mentioned before. If you look at June, for example, the 6th to the 15th, remaining nine days here continuously. You look at 2016 February from the 8th to the 19th. We go down to October 2016 and Delegates will have to stay from the 3rd to the 12th, and not too long you'll come for CFS. So the point here is in the instance of events, Delegations would have to stay to attend one after the other seems to be too long in the instances I've mentioned. And I will say there are about four of them according to my notes here. In 2015 from the 9th to the 19th of February, also from the 6th to the 15th of June, and 2016 we are talking about 8th to the 19th of February, and we go down to October from the 4th to the 12th. You also have the CFS on the 17th. So you have around five days to be around, if you want. So there are some complications here in terms of the nearness and duration of these sessions that I've mentioned.

I do understand that they are being held in different places, whether it's WFP and FAO, and so on. But also be in mind that Delegations can be the same, running all over the place, especially when the events are sequenced. So you have the same team moving from one point to the other.

Mr Khalid MEHBOOB (Pakistan)

I would like to support what Italy has just drawn attention to. It's the density of the meetings within a short period of time which has caused problems this year, because apart from the density of the meetings, the three Rome-based Agencies keep calling informal consultations and informal seminars where representatives have to shuttle between the three organizations, apart from the fact that many Delegations have to make preparations and there's a massive amount of reading to do. So I would support Italy in suggesting that this density should be looked at.

SECRETARY-GENERAL

Let me first address the point made by Pakistan and Italy. Today we are to adopt the calendar for 2015 and 2016 is there for information. So these comments are well taken and we will see if there's a possibility to extend the sequence of meetings.

During 2014, I was impressed to see many delegates coming here in August to participate in meetings to work on the Voluntary Guidelines on Responsible Agricultural Investment. This could be a solution to avoid concentration of meetings, but we will evaluate all possible options.

Concerning the point made by Sierra Leone, let me observe that what is presented for 2015 and 2016 is also the pattern that we followed in February 2014. The priority is to avoid the scheduling of meetings in conflict among the three Rome-based Organizations. In order to do that we coordinate closely and well in advance with our counterparts at WFP and IFAD, but this may lead to have meetings scheduled back to back.

In addition, please note that WFP and IFAD have the practice of blocking the whole week when using the common calendar, when at times meetings have a shorter duration. This free time can be useful to prepare subsequent meetings.

CHAIRPERSON

You can see that we are not having many activities in July, August, September, I think it's a time when most of the Members are not in Rome. On the other hand, some Members noted that that when you have back-to-back meetings, you save on travel costs. All these comments will be considered for the calendar of 2016

I would like to conclude that the Council approved the proposed calendar for 2015 and took note of the draft calendar for 2016.

M. Mostafa NAHI (Maroc)

Je voulais juste poser une petite question pour le calendrier 2015, spécialement pour les activités prévues en octobre 2015, et plus particulièrement la célébration de la Journée mondiale de l'alimentation. Le document est muet sur le lieu alors que j'ai cru comprendre que peut-être cette Journée serait célébrée à Milan, dans le cadre de l'Expo Milano 2015. Je voudrais avoir des renseignements plus spécifiques sur ce point.

SECRÉTAIRE GÉNÉRAL

Ce que je peux dire, à ce stade, au représentant du Maroc, c'est qu'effectivement cela a été proposé, mais je ne peux pas vous en dire plus en ce moment parce que je n'ai pas d'information confirmée à cet égard. C'est une idée qui a été exprimée, et dès que nous en saurons davantage, je pourrai informer les Membres à ce sujet-là.

CHAIRPERSON

By approving the calendar for 2015, Council has decided that its next session will take place from 23 to 27 March 2015. Item 17 is concluded.

This brings us to the end of this morning's Plenary meeting. Please note there will be no Plenary meeting this afternoon and that the first meeting of the Drafting Committee will convene at 15 hours in the Lebanon Room.

The second meeting of the Drafting Committee will convene at 9:30 tomorrow morning; therefore we shall meet again on Friday morning at 9:30 for Agenda Item 19, Developments in Fora of Importance for the Mandate of FAO (CL 150/INF/4) which is presented to the Council for information.

I would like to remind you of the side event on Social Progress through Land Development: Lessons from Malaysia's FELDA", which will take place from 13.00 to 14.30 in the Iran Room and, this afternoon in the Austria Room from 17.00 to 18.00, the film "Symphony of the Soil" will be shown as a preamble to World Soil Day. Since we will not be meeting tomorrow morning, I wish to mention the side event "A Territorial Approach to Food Security and Nutrition and Rural Poverty Reduction", which will be held tomorrow Thursday 4 December, from 13.00 to 14.30, in the Iran Room.

The meeting stands adjourned.

The meeting rose at 11:38 hours

La séance est levée à 11 h 38

Se levanta la sesión a las 11.38

COUNCIL CONSEIL CONSEJO

Hundred and Fiftieth Session Cent cinquantième session 150.º período de sesiones
Rome, 1-5 December 2014 Rome, 1-5 décembre 2014 Roma, 1-5 de diciembre de 2014
SIXTH PLENARY MEETING SIXIÈME SÉANCE PLÉNIÈRE SEXTA SESIÓN PLENARIA
5 December 2014

The Sixth Plenary Meeting was opened at 9:36 hours
Mr Wilfred J. Ngirwa,
Independent Chairperson of the Council, presiding

La sixième séance plénière est ouverte à 9 h 36
sous la présidence de M. Wilfred J. Ngirwa,
Président indépendant du Conseil

Se abre la sexta sesión plenaria a las 9.36
bajo la presidencia del Sr. Wilfred J. Ngirwa,
Presidente Independiente del Consejo

CHAIRPERSON

Good morning Ladies and Gentlemen. I call the sixth meeting of the 150th Session of the FAO Council to order.

Before going any further, may I remind delegates of the need to register for Council if they wish to be included in the List of Participants of this session.

Ladies and Gentlemen, I wish to inform you that the Staff Representative Bodies have requested to make a statement to this session of Council.

As this request has been approved by the Director-General, may I take it that Council is willing to listen to the statement at this meeting? Thank you.

I would therefore like to invite Ms Susan Murray, General Secretary of the Union of General Service Staff to deliver a statement to Council on behalf of the Staff Representative Bodies.

Statement by a Representative of FAO Staff Bodies

Déclaration d'un représentant des associations du personnel de la FAO

Declaración de un representante de los órganos representativos del personal de la FAO

FAO Staff Representative

We express our appreciation for having been granted the opportunity to speak to you today. These words are a joint statement by the Association of Professionals-in-FAO and the Union of General Service Staff, delivered on behalf of all staff around the world working for FAO.

The staff that we represent are composed of hardworking and competent people, dedicated to the mandate and objectives of FAO. The dedication of FAO staff has been illustrated recently by the large number of volunteers who were ready to go that extra mile to make ICN2 a success.

We are all aware that FAO has been undergoing major changes over the last few years - A new Strategic Framework has aimed at making FAO's work more focused and effective. Decentralization has been part of a strategy of bringing FAO closer to people it serves. Efficiency savings have aimed at putting FAO in the position of using its resources more effectively. And all FAO staff have greatly contributed to this endeavor. It is thanks to the expertise and commitment of staff to Work as One, for example, that implementation of the new Administrative and Financial System, GRMS, in the field has been such a great achievement.

As staff representatives we are firmly committed to FAO's Decentralization Policy. In this respect, as it is already the case for the AP-in FAO, UGSS believe that it is of paramount important that the GS staff in the field have representation and look forward to seeing this project materialize in the near future.

The underlying purpose of the transformational changes has been to make FAO more effective in delivering its work and in fulfilling its mandate without waste of financial resources. What we fear that is being forgotten is the importance of the staff of FAO in this context. Ultimately, FAO's Programme of Work, its services to Members and the many global public goods that it provides will be delivered by the people working for FAO.

FAO needs enough staff, it needs the right staff and it needs motivated staff. In all three of these dimensions, we believe that there are reasons for serious concern. Current staff are both the historical memory and the key to the future of this Organization and we are eager to share our know-how with the new generations in order to maintain FAO's expertise and quality of service to a high standard.

Successive reductions in budgets have forced us to do much more with much less as posts have been abolished or downgraded or simply left vacant. However, the reduction in financial resources and number of staff cannot go on indefinitely. We believe we are close to a breaking point where further reductions may seriously damage the quality, as well as the quantity of outputs we are able to deliver. This has also been repeatedly stated by the Director-General.

We also believe that we have increasingly serious problems in terms of the composition of the workforce at FAO. We cannot continue – in the name of so-called “flexibility” and savings - the trend

towards abolishing posts and replacing experienced staff with non-staff human resources, without losing crucial capacities, experience and institutional memory. We are aware that this trend is not unique to FAO and is indeed common in the UN System. This, however, does not make it any less worrying. It is de facto creating a two-tier system with tenured employees with complete social benefits on the one hand and independent consultants with few if any benefits on the other. For the General Service category, the new policy on short-term contracts would seem designed to do away with the category altogether by creating yet more PSA and Consultant positions with little, if any, employment benefits.

This situation is not in keeping with international labor rights and the values promoted by the UN. We find that these policies are short-sighted, unfair, not in the best long-term interest of FAO and its Members and seriously detrimental to staff morale. We call for a more holistic view that takes into consideration the changes in the contractual market that are occurring in various European Member Nations seeking to reduce the number of temporary contracts and offering more job continuity. No society can continue to adopt austerity measures that do not afford people the possibility of investing in the future. We should not forget that sustainable job opportunities are vital in permitting human beings to have dignity in their lives.

We cannot but ask ourselves at this moment in time what is the route that the Member Nations wish to take and if there is room to promote a sustainable long-term human resources vision.

Dwindling staff morale in general may be the most serious concern we have. We perceive little recognition on behalf of Senior Management of the Organization of the competence, skills and hard work of staff. We are too often referred to as a burden or a cost, rather than an asset. We believe that this fundamental attitude has to change.

Proposals to eliminate the possibility of recognizing staff members who are making a contribution beyond their grade level through promotions will only make it even more difficult to progress and will eliminate incentives for them to make an extra effort, to develop new skills or take on new challenges.

We take serious issue with the calls on member countries to engage with the International Civil Service Commission and the Fifth Committee of the UN General Assembly to ensure a containment of professional compensation. We want to emphasize that the purpose of the ongoing review is not to reduce costs, but to streamline and simplify the overall professional compensation package while ensuring that it is competitive and meets the need of the Organizations in the Common System today. We are extremely concerned for any undue influence by different stakeholders on the International Civil Service Commission which is in fact an independent body of experts and should not receive instructions from neither Member countries nor the Common System Organizations.

Staff and their Representative Bodies are desirous of contributing to finding solutions to the challenges faced by FAO. Unfortunately, we do not always have the perception that our contributions and opinions are valued and given due consideration. We sincerely wish to see strong and effective Staff-Management relations based on mutual respect, good will, open dialogue, a true desire to listen to each other and to work in an environment where people can speak freely and openly.

We stand ready to do our part. Thank you for your kind attention.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

Item 19. Developments in Fora of Importance for the Mandate of FAO**Point 19. Évolution des débats au sein d'autres instances intéressant la FAO****Tema 19. Novedades en los foros de importancia para el mandato de la FAO***(CL 150/INF/4)***CHAIRPERSON**

We now turn to item 19 *Developments in Fora of Importance for the mandate of FAO*, which is presented to Council for information only. The relevant document is CL 150/INF/4.

The Council will be given presentations on important debates taking place in other international fora which are of importance to FAO's mandate. I should like to ask the Secretary-General to read the list of presentations.

SECRETARY-GENERAL

The Council will be given presentations on:

- Renewed Partnership for a Unified Approach to end Hunger in Africa by 2025 within the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) Framework
- The 37th Session of the FAO/WHO Codex Alimentarius Commission (Geneva, 14-18 July 2014)
- Global Health Security Agenda
- The United Nations Secretary-General's Climate Summit (New York, 23 September 2014)
- Convention on Biological Diversity / Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit-sharing
- Enhancement of the Multilateral System of Access and Benefit-sharing: International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture
- Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals and Post-2015 Development Agenda
- Global Migration Group

CHAIRPERSON

I would like to inform Members that queries should be raised upon completion of all the presentations.

Our first speaker is Mr James Tefft, Senior Policy Officer in the Regional Office for Africa, who will make a presentation via a video link on: *Renewed Partnership for a Unified Approach to end Hunger in Africa by 2025 within the CAADP Framework*.

Mr James TEFFT (Senior Policy Officer, Regional Office for Africa)

On behalf of Mr Bukar Tijani, Assistant Director-General of the FAO Regional Office for Africa and Mr Lamourdia Thiombiano, Deputy Regional Representative, RAF is pleased to inform you of the achievements and future plans of the Renewed Partnership to End Hunger in Africa.

Back in November 2012, the Director-General of FAO, together with former President Lula of Brazil and Chairperson Zuma of the African Union Commission, launched this Partnership with the goal of eradicating hunger.

Around this time, the Governments of Angola, Ethiopia, Malawi and Niger also made specific requests for assistance to FAO in this regard.

Today, we are very happy to report on the results that have been achieved to date.

In July 2013, the Renewed Partnership organized a High-level Meeting in Addis Ababa, leading to a Declaration and a Road Map to End Hunger by 2025.

This Declaration was subsequently endorsed by the African Union Executive Council in January 2014 and the AU Joint Conference of Ministers of Agriculture in May 2014 before being adopted by African Union Heads of State and Government as part of the Malabo Declaration.

FAO has accompanied the African Union Commission and NEPAD Agency throughout the process, culminating in the interventions made by the Director-General to Heads of State at both the NEPAD Consultative Committee Meeting and African Union Assembly in Malabo in June 2014.

More recently, FAO has been supporting African Union Commission and NEPAD in the formulation of the Implementation Strategy and Roadmap and working with development partners on new guidelines for support to this process.

Since becoming one of FAO's Regional Initiatives in 2014, the Renewed Partnership has helped to drive a coherent programme of work in the region, bringing together in a coherent and synergistic manner our strategic objectives, our Country Programming Frameworks, our programmes with regional economic communities and African Union institutions, and most recently through the Africa Solidarity Trust Fund.

In 2014 in both Angola and Ethiopia, FAO collaborated with Governments and stakeholders to identify policy and programme implementation gaps, as well as to determine actions that are needed to enhance harmonisation, coordination and capacity building for improved delivery to achieve the goals established in these countries.

Our advocacy work is best exemplified in the successful collaboration with the Government of Angola to organize an International Conference on Family Farming for Food Security and Nutrition.

In Malawi, FAO has been partnering with the three main farmer organizations to foster the sustainable development of cooperatives and is collaborating with the Ministry of Finance and development partners to provide harmonized support to the Government strategy to enhance resilience.

Finally in Niger, we have collaborated with the '3N Initiative' to prepare their implementation strategy and have been working to develop the national capacities to deliver the programmes at district level, to strengthen the governance and coordination mechanisms, as well as results-based monitoring to enhance the delivery.

We have also been piloting home-grown school feeding programmes throughout the region with a view to expand them in 2015.

At the regional level, and following the Malabo Declaration, we have recently developed with AUC, NEPAD and Lula Institute a Regional Action Plan, centered on the following areas: to intensify our support to ongoing hunger eradication efforts in the focus countries; to establish at NEPAD an African Center for best practice, capacity development and South-South Cooperation; to organize think-tank events that bring decision-makers together to discuss strategic issues affecting programme implementation and delivery in these countries; and to enlarge the partnership to other organizations, actors and countries.

The issues of youth employment, service delivery to small-holder farmers – particularly women, social protection, accountability mechanisms and civil society engagement will be central focus areas in the coming year.

In conclusion, allow me to reiterate our excitement at the results achieved to date and our conviction for greater partnership and actions at country, regional and continental levels in 2015.

On behalf of Mr Tijani, I wish to thank you again for your support and we welcome your suggestions and guidance.

CHAIRPERSON

I will now ask Mr Tom Heilandt, Secretary of the Codex Alimentarius Commission, to introduce the first presentation under this item: *37th Session of the FAO/WHO Codex Alimentarius Commission (Geneva, 14-18 July 2014)*

Mr Tom HEILANDT (Secretary, Codex Alimentarius Commission)

Thank you very much for the opportunity to speak in this forum to tell you about the 37th Session of the Codex Alimentarius Commission. I will also tell you what we are planning to do in the future.

Codex Alimentarius Commission is a joint FAO/WHO Body formed more than 50 years ago. We have 185 Member Nations and one Member Organization, the European Union.

With our two main objectives, to protect the health of consumers and to ensure fair practices in the food trade, we contribute mainly to FAO's Strategic Objective 4.

This year the Commission had a record attendance of 170 Member Nations and one Member Organization, plus 30 Observers. We have a very open system: we allow observers from industry, from consumers, to participate in the Commission as observers. They do not have right to vote but they can participate as much as other Members in other ways.

A new Chairperson was elected, Ms Awilo Ochieng Pernet from Switzerland along with three Vice-Chairpersons from Brazil, Japan and Mali.

At every session of the Commission we adopt roughly 30/40 standards. I am not going to go into any detail of the standards we adopt, but I can tell you that they are meant to ensure safe and good food for everyone everywhere in the world, for example, by adopting maximum residue limits, codes of practice to reduce contamination, food hygiene standards or quality standards that describe the product and make sure that buyers and sellers can agree on what they order in the market.

In the future, we will of course continue with this work. We have started a major new work on spices which was requested very strongly, especially by developing countries. We will also make sure that Codex, that in the 90's was still known as a 'club of the rich countries', will continue to move forward full participation, as for us it is a major goal to have every country in the world being able to participate in this process.

For this reason, one of the major efforts we are going to do next year is to develop a trust fund successor initiative, because the trust fund that we have at the moment is coming to an end and it has been very successful in ensuring that the participation can grow and that developing countries can participate as much as other countries in the Codex.

Since there is always something that we should reinvent, we should be making new plans and re-look at our structure as well, so for this reason we have established the Strategic Plan 2014-19, that we will start monitoring during the implementation phase.

One of the things we established for next year is that we will look at the way we work because we think that we could do better. The standard setting could work faster and something could be improved also in the functioning and composition of our Executive Committee.

Concerning our budget, at the recent session of the Commission, Members have noted the need for the improved budgeting and work planning process to be more transparent, and in addition Members were invited to advocate for adequate budgetary allocation for the Governing Bodies of FAO and WHO.

We appreciated the FAO/WHO scientific support and stressed the importance of funding to ensure the provision of scientific advice. This is sometimes overlooked, that all Codex standards for food safety have to be based on science and if scientific advice is not provided for lack of funds, Codex cannot take decisions.

We also appreciated the extra budgetary contribution by Members because the Codex programme is roughly to 50 percent financed by extra budgetary contributions from Members. These are the Governments that host our Technical Committees and provide at the same time the funds for the venue, for the interpretation, for the translation and other services. This does not come from the regular budget and it is roughly 50 percent of our budget.

As regards our future plans, recently I had the opportunity to see a presentation by a major CEO of a computer company and he said we have to plan to be in every home with our products, and I realized that Codex is already in every home: the food that you buy, the food you have in your refrigerator, etc. You already have Codex in your homes. So one of the major goals for us is to make that known, as Codex is not so well known outside this room and the Codex Committees, so we plan to work on a Codex communication strategy.

We will produce a further volume of Codex 'success stories' after the first volume last year. We are very happy that WHO has declared 2015 the World Health Day, and that the main topic is food safety.

We will contribute with our videos, with our material in the Expo Milano in 2015.

We also expect the recently concluded ICN2 to give input to Codex to develop new standards for nutrition and food labeling and possibly in other areas.

And last but not least, we want to make Codex more transparent for our Members to work online with systems for registration and for commenting, for document management, electronic working groups, regional websites and committee webpages. It is an ambitious work programme that we have for next year and we hope to be able to implement all of that.

CHAIRPERSON

I now give the floor to the next speaker, Mr Berhe Tekola, Director of the Animal Production and Health Division who will deliver the Presentation on the *Global Health Security Agenda*.

Mr Berhe TEKOLA (Director, Animal Production and Health Division)

The issue we are presenting now is related to the current and very important problem related to the day-to-day life and the way we focus to prevent things before happening and before managing the crisis related to global health.

The focus area of the Global Health Security Agenda is total red. The progress towards the world safe and secure from infectious diseases, threats and promote global health security are international secretary priority. This is led entirely by countries in collaboration with international organizations, both public and private, where stakeholders share responsibility bringing the health security and issues related to agricultural sectors together so as to have a common and shared action.

The major international organizations involved are FAO, WHO and OIE but they are not remitted to this, all in-line with the zoonotic diseases and other common health issues related. And What do we do here in FAO? We have our own tools which are based fully in prevention or prophylactic measure taking mechanisms and those are prevent, detect and respond. Why do we have to prevent? We have to prevent to reduce the livelihood of our threats, natural resilience or international related or global issues in order to avoid this type of crisis management activities.

To detect threat as heavily as saves lives, not only lives but livelihood and of course resources be it human resources or financial resources. The rapid and effective response requires multi-stakeholder, multi-disciplinary and international coordination and proper communication. Communication at the right time and to the right people will tackle diseases at its source, that is the animal, and this is what FAO is striving to do.

Specific action packages are the antimicrobial resistance which all of us know and this is labeled to be the silent killer that we don't see immediately today but it can provoke some unmeasurable crisis in the future if we don't act immediately. Zoonotic diseases, we're not 70% of human diseases are generated in the animal, so unless we invest in animals today, then it's like managing the crisis at the end of the day dealing with human diseases. We need to increase biosafety, biosecurity and national laboratory systems because, unless we have strong diagnostic mechanisms, we cannot really detect them from the very beginning. Real-time surveillance and continuous workforce development, emergency operation centers linking public health to rules and laws, and multi-sectorial rapid response. This is in-line with our CMC Animal Health Center in FAO.

So why FAO is so enthusiastic to support the agenda? First of all, because we have very strong mechanisms at FAO and, as you can clearly see, FAO established the Emergency Prevention System in 1994 and developed the Emergency Center for Transboundary Animal Diseases, ECTAD, which is not only limited to Headquarters but throughout our Regional Offices in response to the outbreak of H5N1, like ten years back, then other influenzas, even viruses and today Ebola; both with high impact introducing the risk of the animal and zoonotic diseases outbreaks.

Again, in terms of communication and information delivery system, we have the so-called Global Early Warning System, GLEWS, and the Crisis Management Center working in close collaboration

with our key partners WHO and OIE. The GLEWS has got its own website which is managed by three of our partners, OIE, FAO and WHO, while EMPRES, animal, plant and environment are again under the Department of Horticulture and Consumer Protection.

FAO strongly embraces the approach known as One Health. One Health considers human, animal and ecosystem health so as to bring and protect the global common goals. Our work in FAO is very much focused on implementation and providing our Members with leadership to good emergency management practice. This is accompanied by innovative technology in the field, taking into account the collaborative activities and ownership of the people on the ground. That said, without the act and participation of the Regional Offices, this cannot be implemented at all.

Finally, this is the approach we are acting and not only for the so-called One Health, but of course the social equity and the environmental factors should come together in order to protect the global, public and common goals.

CHAIRPERSON

I now call upon Ms Maria-Helena Semedo, Deputy Director-General, Coordinator for Natural Resources, who will speak on: *The United Nations Secretary-General's Climate Summit (New York, 23 September 2014)*

Ms Maria-Helena SEMEDO (Deputy Director-General, Coordinator for Natural Resources)

I am very pleased to report on the outcomes of the United Nations Secretary General's Climate Summit that took place in New York on 23 September during the UN General Assembly.

The purpose of the 2014 Climate Summit was to raise political commitment for a meaningful universal climate agreement in Paris in 2015 and to join forces at global-level to reduce emissions and build resilience to the adverse impacts of climate change.

The Summit was attended by an unprecedented number of high-level leaders, including 100 Heads of State and Government and more than 800 leaders from business, finance and civil society.

What was the objective of this meeting? The Secretary General wanted to create a global vision for low-carbon economic growth and he called upon the leaders to advance on five fronts.

The first one was "cutting emissions." We need to cut emissions on all fronts in order in order to keep the climate increase less, or the maximum, of two degrees. And, I must say, that many leaders committed to reduce emissions, to increase energy efficiency and to help farmers to reduce emissions.

Second one was "Moving markets and mobilizing money". During the Climate Summit the Secretary General underlined the importance of mobilizing sufficient public and private funds for climate resilient growth and the result was a new coalition of Governments, finance, business and multilateral development banks and civil society. They announced their intent to mobilize over two hundred billions dollars to finance a low carbon and climate resilience development.

The third one was "putting a price on carbon" and we consider that this will provide markets with the policy signals needed to invest in climate solutions.

Fourth point concentrated on "strengthening resilience". The world Leaders stated that strengthening both climate and financial resilience is a smart investment in a safer and a more prosperous future. A variety of innovative resilience initiatives were announced during the Climate Summit in New York.

Last one was "mobilizing new coalitions". A different coalition was launched in in Forestry, Energy and Agriculture.

One of the major outcomes under Agriculture was the launch of the Global Alliance for Climate-Smart Agriculture and the UN Secretary-General himself stressed the crucial role the Alliance could play, noting that "these efforts will improve food and nutrition security for billions of people."

The Inaugural Meeting of the Global Alliance on 24 September, brought together over 180 senior officials and high-level representatives from all regions and different stakeholder groups, among them the Prime Minister of Grenada, Ministers from Costa Rica, the Netherlands, Niger, Uruguay, Nigeria,

the African Union Commissioner for Agriculture and Rural Development, the Head of NEPAD, Heads of Civil Society Organizations and the Director General of FAO.

We launched the Alliance and I am proud to announce that FAO will host the Facilitation Unit of the Alliance since 18 December. As of today it comprises of 72 members.

The First Working Meeting of the Members of the Global Alliance for CSA will be held on 17 and 18 December 2014 at FAO headquarters. Finally, the World Leaders agreed on the way forward that is: climate action should be undertaken within the context of efforts to eradicate extreme poverty and promote sustainable development. Second, to limit global temperature rise to less than 2 degrees. This is very important because we go more than two degrees the world won't be able to sustain this increase.

Finally, a meaningful, universal new agreement under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) at COP-21, in Paris in 2015, and to arrive at the first draft of such an agreement at COP-20 in Lima, in December 2014 and we hope what we can agree on the first draft agreement.

To conclude, the latest IPCC report makes clear that we have no choice but to act now and we need to act together.

CHAIRPERSON

I now ask Ms Linda Collette, Secretary of the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, to make a presentation on: *Convention on Biological Diversity / Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit-sharing*

Ms Linda COLLETTE (Secretary, Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture)

I am pleased to report to you on the outcomes of the 12th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity and the First meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the First meeting of the Nagoya Protocol.

The Nagoya Protocol is a supplementary agreement to the Convention on Biological Diversity for Access and Benefit-Sharing. The meeting took place in the Republic of Korea from 6 to 12 October this year.

FAO with its renewed reviewed Strategic Framework, particularly the Global Goal 3, as well as the Strategic Objective 2 on Sustainable Agriculture, Fishery and Forestry, and the Strategic Objective for Agricultural and Food Systems, contributes to the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and the Aichi Targets.

There are 20 targets and some of them are particularly of relevance to FAO – and in fact FAO is key contributor on those – that is, Fisheries, Forestry, Agriculture, Invasive Alien Species (with the IPPC), Genetic Resources (with the Commission on Genetic Resources and the International Treaty), Ecosystem Services, Restoration of Ecosystem and Access and Benefit-Sharing (again, with the Commission and the International Treaty).

FAO has also sent to the Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity FAO's biodiversity-related instruments and tools, and that was welcomed by the countries at national level. It helps countries to implement the Strategic Plan and to revise their own national Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan, which takes into account the issues of FAO.

The collaboration and partnership that we have with the CBD Secretariat and others, such as UNEP, UNESCO, and UN family in the CBD are the Aichi Biodiversity Target Task Force, where we discuss the implementation of the Strategic Plan; the recently established Sustainable Ocean Initiative; the Collaborative Partnership on Sustainable Wildlife Management; the Collaborative Partnership on Forests and the Interagency Liaison Group on Invasive Alien Species.

Regarding the meeting itself in October, the CoP has widely recognized the importance of food security and the key contribution of biodiversity to food security, and it has specifically acknowledged and made reference in their decision to FAO's Reviewed Strategic Framework, particularly in

decision 12.6 and 12.5 were the target by the cooperation with the International Organization, as well as a decision on biodiversity and sustainable development.

When it comes to the specifics, there are, again, a series of decisions where the work of FAO is mentioned. Like in the cooperation with other Conventions, we have a reference to the work that FAO is doing in the preparation of the *State of the World's Biodiversity for Food and Agriculture*.

There was a decision on Ecosystem conservation and restoration, as I mentioned earlier, where the FAO Forest Landscape Restoration Mechanism has been highlighted as a key contributor.

Another one was on bushmeat and sustainable use of biodiversity. There is a collaborative partnership on wildlife where the Forest Department of FAO is serving as Secretary to the group.

On Invasive Alien Species, I already mentioned IPPC. Then, on marine and coastal biodiversity, this is where FAO's work on vulnerable marine ecosystem is stressed and how it helps to develop strategy on marine and coastal diversity.

As regards the Nayago Protocol, the meeting was held two days within that week and I already mentioned that the Nayago Protocol is a supplementary agreement to the Convention on Biological Diversity for Access and Benefit-Sharing.

At this stage 52 parties are parties to the Nayago Protocol, which entered into force quite recently, on 12 October. The Nayago Protocol made special recognition of the role of Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, particularly for food security, and it acknowledged the specific nature and the interdependency between countries when it comes to exchange of material.

It recognized the International Treaty as having a fundamental role to play and as a key component of the International Regime on Access and Benefit-Sharing. My colleague, Shakeel Bhatti, will say more about that as he attended that meeting and he will explain from his perspective.

When it comes to the Commission on Genetic Resources, some of you may know that we are now drafting elements for Domestic Implementation of Access and Benefit-Sharing for different subsectors of Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture.

We had a meeting recently, and all the work that the Commission is doing, as well as the International Treaty, contributes to the implementation of the Nayago Protocol and it is very well recognized.

Among the several decisions taken, two are the ones where FAO with its bodies and the Treaty can contribute: the clause and Code of Conduct when it comes to Access and Benefit-Sharing and the Global Multilateral Access and Benefit-Sharing System.

Now the way forward. There is no doubt that there is a long-standing collaboration between FAO and the Convention on Biological Diversity, but there is an increased momentum since the Convention on Biological Diversity moves away from conservation only to address the issue of sustainable use.

At the next meeting of the CoP, which will be held in Mexico in November 2016, the issue of mainstreaming biodiversity across sectors, including agriculture, forests and fisheries, has been highlighted as one of the elements of the Multi-year Programme of Work of the Convention on Biological Diversity. So we do have major opportunities to continue to strengthen and support the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020, as well as to the Aichi Target. We also offered the Executive Secretary to lead the Aichi Target 13 on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture.

There will be also a high level segment as part of the CoP and it seems, at this stage, that there is very high opportunity that the issues will be linked to agriculture, forests and fisheries and we would have an opportunity to express our views at that meeting.

Leading to CoP 13, there are a series of meetings that will be held. FAO will have an opportunity to work closely with the Convention on Biological Diversity's Secretariat to make sure that our views are expressed and taken into account in the development of their papers.

CHAIRPERSON

I now invite Mr Shakeel Bhatti, Secretary of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, to make a presentation on: *Enhancement of the Multilateral System of Access and Benefit-sharing: International Treaty on Plant Genetic*

Mr Shakeel BHATTI (Secretary, International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture)

It is an honor and a pleasure for me to brief you on the developments in the context of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources. Last year in Oman, the Governing Body of the Treaty decided to launch a process to enhance the Multilateral System of Access and Benefit-Sharing of the Treaty. And, as my colleague Linda Collette already mentioned, the International Treaty and the Multilateral System constitute a constituent element of the new International Regime on Access and Benefit-Sharing that was adopted in Nagoya by the Conference of Parties of the CBD.

As you are aware, the Multilateral System creates a gene pool of more than 1.6 million samples of plant genetic material currently documented, which the 133 contracting parties of the Treaty collectively manage as a global public goods for food security.

Presently, the system legally regulates access to and benefit-sharing for about 600/800 accessions that are being transferred per day worldwide. As you are also aware, the Multilateral System in the architecture of the International Treaty is intrinsically linked to other core mechanisms of the Treaty, namely the Benefit-sharing Fund of the Multilateral System and the Global Information System of the Treaty. And in order to give you a full picture of the developments under the Treaty, I will briefly update you in these three parts.

The first part is the enhancement of the Multilateral System. The Governing Body decided to enhance the Multilateral System by undertaking measures to achieve two objectives. First, to increase user-based payments and contributions to the Benefit-sharing Fund of the Treaty, and second, to enhance the functioning of the Multilateral System through additional measures such as, for example, by increasing the crop coverage of the Treaty by adding additional crops to the system.

We began the enhancement process with the First meeting of the Working Group that was constituted for this purpose. It consists of a wide range of representation from all stakeholder groups, including civil society, farmers' organizations, private sector, and, of course, the contracting parties, as well as the CGIAR. The Working Group held its First meeting in May, and will have its Second meeting next week in Geneva, followed by its Third meeting in April 2015. I would like to acknowledge and thank Brazil for hosting the Third meeting of the Working Group and also the Netherlands and Switzerland for supporting this meeting of the Working Group next year.

The results of the First meeting of the group were highly encouraging. The Group undertook a range of initial discussions on identified innovative approaches to enhance user-based payments to the Multilateral System and to the Benefit-sharing Fund and it requested an extensive set of economic research and consultations to be undertaken in preparation for the Second meeting next week. That research has now been completed and it is available on the website and will be discussed next week.

The second mechanism that I mentioned, which has made also extensive progress under the guidance of the Bureau of the Governing Body for its Sixth session, is the Benefit-sharing Fund where the third round of the Benefit-sharing cycle is now underway. The kinetic focus of the Benefit-sharing Fund, as you might be aware, is to support high-impact projects and programmes that enhance food security by helping farmers to adapt to climate change through conservation and sustainable use of plant genetic resources. The funds that are currently being dispersed in benefit-sharing projects are more than USD 10 million. And I would like to wholeheartedly acknowledge and thank the European Union and Norway for their major contributions to this round of benefit-sharing.

The current round of benefit-sharing is structured in two financing windows. The first one consists of immediate-impact projects which range up to approximately USD 800,000 for a four-year duration. The second is up to USD 500,000 for a three-year duration and is a window about partnering and

creating partnerships for co-development and transfer of technologies, in particular information technologies that enhance the use of plant genetic resources.

As the benefit-sharing cycle has been progressing, we received more than 390 pre-proposals from all around the world; 188 of those were considered eligible by an independent panel of scientific and technical experts. The Bureau of the Governing Body then invited a number of those to develop full proposals in supporting applicants, especially from developing countries and least developed countries, to develop high quality project proposals.

The Benefit-sharing Fund foresees the organization of a help desk which organized three Regional workshops in Ecuador, Egypt and Malaysia to support 64 applicants in the development of high quality proposals. The deadline for the submission of these proposals is actually today and we have already received quite a significant portfolio of high quality proposals, from which approximately 30 projects will then be funded, again, appraised by the Independent Panel of Experts.

Let me come to the third mechanism that I mentioned, that is the implementation of the Global Information System of the International Treaty under Article 17. Here, the Governing Body decided to activate the implementation of the system under this provision in its last meeting and the Governing Body here was implementing a twofold rationale.

First, that there is a great opportunity in increasing agricultural productivity and sustainability in food crops by integrating the product development chains that are based on plant genetic resources. This can be done by better connecting the upstream uses of genetic raw material, germplasm, from on farm or gene banks to the downstream uses with more advanced technologies being applied. And the second rationale is to address what I would describe as the dematerialization of the use of genetic resources. This is a summary of a set of different technological trends for the information content of genetic resources to be sequenced and processed and exchanged in its own right, detached from the physical plant genetic material.

I would just like to show you, for example, the costs of genomic sequencing technologies and its rapid decrease over the past four or five years. As you can see with the drop in costs of whole genome sequencing technologies, there is ample opportunity to enhance and speed up the breeding process in order to actually then develop more climate-resilient and productive plant varieties.

So in recognition of these trends, the Governing Body decided to initiate a global consultation on the Global Information System on Plant Genetic Resources. We will hold the First meeting of the Consultation in San Diego next January, back-to-back with the Plant and Animal Genome Conference, the PAG.

The objectives are, first of all, a needs assessment and to identify priorities where exchange of information on genetic material may be enhanced; secondly, to review major ongoing initiatives and then to identify gaps and to develop best practices for the improved use of the Global Information System, all culminating in a vision paper to be presented to the Governing Body.

The Information System has three broad data domains. The first one is accession level data which describe the genetic material at the level of the seed, through the data generated by the Multilateral System and contained in gene banks. The second one is the data domain we describe as the 'omics', which is genomics, phenomics, proteomics, metabolomics and so on. The third one is geospatial and environmental data. And the Global Information System is seeking to connect and increasingly make interoperable the use of these different data domains.

In the second domain of the 'omics' we have been working on a particular initiative together with the Global Crop Diversity Trust and the CGIAR and the Global Plant Council. The concept here is to connect the accession level data with molecular sequencing data and with phenotypic data. In the last months we have already received expressions of interest from 66 partner institutions, including world's leading universities, genomic research centers, agricultural research systems and gene banks, as well as observers from the private sector.

I would like to conclude with the point which Linda Collette has already mentioned, namely the work that we are doing with the CBD to implement the Nagoya Protocol harmoniously and in direct and close collaboration with the implementation of the Multilateral System.

The Conference of the Parties of the CBD and the CoP of the Protocol have recognized and strongly encouraged the continuation of this close collaboration. We are doing this in the context of our memorandum of cooperation and our joint initiative with the CBD, and it is also further enhanced through the Biodiversity Leaders Group of Conventions, which the Treaty has recently chaired.

In summary, the progress in the Treaty context has been quite extensive this year under the guidance and leadership of Matthew Worrell, the Chairman of our Governing Body. And in the next year we will see the Sixth Session of the Governing Body taking place in the first week of October here in Rome.

CHAIRPERSON

We will now move to the next speaker and I welcome Mr Boubaker Ben Belhassen, Deputy Director of the Trade and Markets Division and FAO Focal Point for Post-2015, who will make a presentation on: *Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals and Post-2015 Development Agenda*

Mr Boubaker BEN BELHASSEN (Deputy Director, Trade and Markets Division and FAO Focal Point for Post-2015)

I'm pleased to present you the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the Post-2015 Development Agenda. The Open Working Group outcome Report, which was released on 19 July, was brought to the attention of the General Assembly in September. The General Assembly adopted the resolution stating that the Open Working Group will form the basis for negotiation on the Post-2015 Development Agenda.

The Open Working Group Report included a short chapeau, highlighting that eradicating poverty and hunger remains top priority for the next 15 years, and a set of 17 goals and 169 targets covering a wide range of issues and addressing the three dimensions of sustainable development – economic, social and environmental.

Each goal has a number of targets and a set of means of implementation. The document is the result of five months of intensive inter-governmental negotiations, with the participation of non-state actors and the technical input and support provided by the UN System in a coordinated manner.

The overarching priority continues to be the eradication of poverty. In fact, Goal 1 expands the definition of poverty far beyond the USD 1.25 a day, and recognizes the importance of other critical dimensions for its eradication, including social protection, the poor's access to land and other productive resources, and resilience.

FAO co-led technical inputs three goals: Goal 2, Goal 14 and Goal 15, and had contributed to several others, including Goal 1 on poverty, Goal 5 on gender, Goal 6 on water, Goal 11 on human settlements, and Goal 12 on sustainable consumption and production.

Since 2012, the Rome-base Agencies (RBAs), following an agreement by the three heads of these Agencies, have worked together to promote an ambitious and comprehensive vision to eradicate hunger, achieve food security and nutrition, and promote sustainable agriculture, very much in line with the Zero Hunger Challenge of the UN Secretary-General.

Close collaboration with Member Nations both in Rome and New York ensured that the vision was reflected in the final formulation of the goal and the targets included in the Open Working Group Report.

It is particularly important that in Goal 2 the term 'food security' was re-included in the final formulation of the goal. This is a substantial improvement over MDG-1, which only contained one target on hunger, not allowing for a comprehensive and holistic approach to food security.

From an FAO perspective, we think that some targets could be better formulated to ensure that progress can be monitored in the implementation phase. However, in general, targets also reflect the ambitiousness and comprehensiveness of the approach promoted by the three RBAs.

Consistently with the Zero Hunger Challenge, a target on food loss and waste was originally included under Goal 2 but was later transferred under Goal 12 on sustainable consumption and production.

FAO is concerned that the limited number of Means of Implementation (MoI) currently listed for Goal 2, while important, do not probably cover many of the key enablers that would lead to a transformative agenda for the eradication of hunger and food insecurity. The current formulation also does not reflect the evolution of discussions among Members and a variety of stakeholders as captured in the outcome document of the High Level Consultation on Hunger, Food Security and Nutrition, that took place in Madrid in April 2013.

Moving to Goals 14 and 15, overall natural resources have become a much more central focus under the SDGs than was the case with the MDGs, which only had one goal (number 7) related to the environment, skewed towards conservation and isolated from the rest of the MDG agenda.

In particular, since the Rio+20 Conference in June 2012, FAO has strengthened the link between food security and the environment, all while maintaining the balance between the three dimensions of sustainability – economic, social and environmental. It has promoted awareness that ecosystem services and natural resources are continuously used in different food production systems and that not only conservation but also restoration and sustainable use are fundamental. This idea has now been comprehensively articulated in the Open Working Group Report.

Besides Goal 2, the aim of sustainably managing and efficiently using natural resources is covered by two standard goals: Goals 14 and 15 which deal exclusively with the management and use of natural resources, the first addressing oceans and aquatic resources and the second addressing ecosystems and biodiversity, forest and mountains and land and soils.

FAO's perspective on sustainable management, on the centrality of sustainable natural resource use for rural livelihoods, on the critical role of small-scale food producer as agents of change and managers of natural resources, are strongly reflected throughout the Open Working Group Report.

In the process, FAO has shown its role as a sustainable development agency in addition to food security and nutrition related issues.

Only yesterday the UN Secretary-General briefed Members on his synthesis Report, and an advanced copy of the Report was released. The full Report in all official languages will be made available by the end of this year. The Report was entitled "The Road to Dignity by 2030: Ending Poverty, Transforming All Lives and Protecting the Planet". The Report places people and the planet at the centre of debate by Member Nations.

The Secretary-General Report is complimentary to the Open Working Group Report. In his briefing, the Secretary-General sees the possibility to maintain all of the 17 goals but rearrange them in a focused and concise manner.

He also identified six elements as essential for a sustainable Development Agenda as follows: (1) Dignity: to end poverty and fight inequalities; (2) People: to ensure healthy lives, knowledge and the inclusion of women and children; (3) Prosperity: to grow to a strong, inclusive and transformative economy; (4) The Planet: to protect our ecosystems for all societies and our children; (5) Justice: to promote safe and peaceful societies and strong institutions; (6) Partnership: to capitalize global solidarity for sustainable development.

The Secretary-General has emphasized the importance of mobilizing the necessary Means of Implementation for the successful implementation of the new Development Agenda, which are: financing; technology, science and innovation, and bridging the technology gap; and human and institutional capacity building. The Report also covered the issues of data, monitoring and accountability.

Where do we go from here? The Post-2015 Agenda will be endorsed at the dedicated Summit of Heads of State and Government in September 2015, less than one year from now. The final negotiations, starting in early 2015, are expected to consolidate a "post-2015 package", including, first and foremost, a set of Sustainable Development Goals and Targets largely based on the Open

Working Group Report. The UN Secretary-General Report will also be an important input in the process.

The “post-2015 package” will also include inter-governmentally negotiated decisions on: development cooperation and means of implementation, the elements of which will be discussed and decided at the third Conference on Financing for Development, which will be in Addis Ababa in July 2015; it will also contain elements for the renewed Global Partnership for Development, supporting the implementation of the agenda through, among others, science-based and traditional knowledge, technology transfer and information sharing, and capacity development.

Also containing elements of the monitoring and accountability structure, in particular the High Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development under the auspices of ECOSOC. To complete the package, the UN statistics network, in close collaboration with experts appointed by the Secretary-General, will consolidate a set of indicators very likely to be reviewed and approved by the UN Statistical Commission. Work on the indicators is expected to take place between February and April 2015.

In conclusion, in FAO we are generally pleased with the outcome of the Open Working Group Report and we are committed to continuing our engagement in the process and to support Member Nations for the crafting of a transformative ambitious yet workable agenda.

There are, of course, concerns about the Means of Implementation. We hope that things will clarify in July at the Conference on Financing for Development.

On the indicators, it is still a work in progress because if we think about the MDGs where we have 8 goals, 18 targets and there were some issues in fact about the monitoring and the indicator, in this case we have 17 goals, 169 targets, so we have to see what to do about the indicators. In fact, some studies just did some estimation to look at how much it will cost probably if we want to be very comprehensive in monitoring the agenda.

Some studies are talking about fully dedicating the full amount of ODA for two to three years just to develop an effective monitoring system, so this is a huge exercise. In FAO we are working at least on the relevant goals we have hoping to see part of the development of realistic indicators.

We also stress that the collaboration with Member Nations both in Rome and New York, the Capitals and with all other stakeholders as we have been doing, this is very important in order to ensure the solid ownership of the Development Agenda.

CHAIRPERSON

Our last speaker is Mr Rob Vos, Director of the Social Protection Division, who will speak on: *Global Migration Group*

Mr Rob VOS (Director, Social Protection Division)

I am happy to inform you about the Global Migration Group that FAO recently joined. Over the last decades, we have witnessed a steady increase in the number of migrants across the globe. There are an estimated 200 million international migrants, and more than 700 million internal migrants people that move between areas within the borders of countries, particularly from rural to other rural areas and from rural to urban areas.

Migration decisions are complex and driven by a variety of factors, including poverty, food insecurity, inequality, poor income-generating opportunities and increased competition for scarce land and water resources. More often than not, these factors are linked to agriculture and poor living conditions in rural areas.

Consequently, the root causes of migration are closely linked to FAO’s mandate. As long as these root causes remain unaddressed, migration will remain a key component of rural household livelihood strategies to escape poverty.

Through its work, FAO aims to leverage the potential of migration for reducing rural poverty and improving food security and nutrition. In doing so, we take an integrated approach for action, which

includes: sound diagnostics, fostering policy dialogue, promotion of investment, and technical support and skills development. We foresee activities to promote policy dialogue between governments and rural stakeholders; facilitate innovative mechanisms that leverage remittances and foster migrant investments in agriculture and rural areas; and develop skills of youth, who are the most likely wanting to migrate.

Such an integrated approach requires working together with others and better international cooperation. This is why the Global Migration Group is important to FAO.

What is Global Migration Group?

In June 2014, FAO became an official member of the Global Migration Group (GMG). The GMG was established in 2006 and it represents the main body for dialogue on migration issues at global level. It is composed of 18 entities, including 16 UN agencies, as well as the WB and IOM. Its key priorities include: (i) promoting the application of instruments and norms relating to migration; (ii) encouraging the adoption of more effective approaches for coordinated response to the challenges and opportunities arising from migration, in particular, in the coordination between UN Agencies.

The GMG comprises the Heads of all participating agencies. The present Chair is the Director-General of ILO. It also has several technical working groups in which FAO participates actively at the working level.

GMG also contributes to the Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD), which is a main intergovernmental process for cooperation on migration and development.

WHY FAO has become a member of the GMG?

As said, GMG membership is crucial for implementing FAO's integrated approach to migration.

By being a member of GMG, FAO will be able to participate more effectively in global initiatives on migration and to contribute to relevant normative work at global level.

FAO will also gain the necessary visibility and recognition to expand work in this thematic area, especially in terms of evidence building, knowledge products and guidance materials. For instance, GMG will be a crucial forum through which FAO can disseminate lessons learned and policy recommendations of our country work in relation to migration.

FAO will also bring significant value added to this Group through its expertise and country level presence. Thematically, FAO will add focus and attention to the specific factors that drive rural migration, not just international migration, but also seasonal agricultural, rural-rural and rural-urban migration. These dimensions are essential to understand the implications of migration on rural poverty and food security and nutrition.

For all these reasons, participation in GMG constitutes a great opportunity, in partnership with other UN Agency and International Organization, to better address migration issues within FAO's mandates.

Mr Abdul Razak AYAZI (Afghanistan)

I have a curiosity about the Post-2015 Development Agenda: it is 17 goals, 169 targets and a number of indicators we still do not know, but it seems from the scale that the work indicator is delegated to the United Nations Statistical Commission.

Correct me if I am wrong, as far as my knowledge goes, the UN Statistical Commission Membership is only countries. I don't think the UN Specialized Agencies are included in the Membership of the Commission. Can you explain this?

Mr Mohammed S. SHERIFF (Liberia)

I will make my remark on the Ebola situation. The Government of Liberia is making a tremendous progress in combating the Ebola virus disease, yet there is still a lot of work to be done and therefore President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf has urged Liberians to maintain practices that have been put in place to ensure that Ebola virus is conquered.

On behalf of my Government and the people of Liberia, I would like to thank all of our partners, in particular the United Nations and its Agencies, the African Union and Member Nations, the Government and people of the United States of America, the People's Republic of China, who was the first to have intervened by bringing in the first load of protective equipment onboard Air China, the European Union and its Member States, Cuba with the technical assistance of medical doctors, Brazil, Venezuela, Japan, and many others for their great support to the three countries worst affected by the Ebola virus disease. As a result of their strong support, we have been able to make the progress that we have made thus far. I thank you all.

Currently as we speak, the UN Ebola Coordinator and Special Envoy of the Secretary-General Dr David Navarro, is visiting the three worst affected countries and is presently in Liberia. President Sirleaf briefed Dr Navarro on the current state of Liberia's fight against the further spread of the disease and expressed satisfaction with the progress we are making. She also attributed the progress to the combined efforts of the Government, the people of Liberia and the countries, many partners including the United Nations. President Sirleaf has informed the UN Ebola Coordinator that Liberia has set an ambitious goal of 'zero new cases' by Christmas this year. She underscored and stressed the need for a common reporting and information sharing system among the three worst affected countries.

Despite the progress, Liberians are avoiding complacency, controlling the anxiety and very cautious of the risk factors. Regional coordination is necessary now more than ever before in the war against Ebola and we therefore request the UN System in separating Liberia's recovery plan as Ebola is being defeated for post-Ebola epidemic crisis for education, food and nutrition.

We would like to particularly thank the efforts made by the United States which are well in the right direction to contain the spread of the Ebola virus, and we therefore commend them. We thank the United States President Barack Obama who has renewed his request to the United States Congress to approve USD 6 billion in emergency aid to fight the deadly Ebola outbreak in West Africa; a call made during his recent visit to the National Institute of Health where he congratulated scientists on work towards a vaccine.

Even though Liberia is making all these strives and efforts, the existence of cases of Ebola in our neighboring counties is also a threat to all. We appreciate the work of the medical charity *Medecins Sans Frontières* who has been there for the people of West Africa in the fight against this epidemic. The MSF has called on states who have biological disaster response capacities to help.

Most recently, Dr Joanne Liu, the MSF International President, said in a statement: "it is extremely disappointing that states with biological disaster response capacities have chosen not to deploy them".

Earlier this week, the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies said that stigma against travellers from Ebola-infected countries was hindering the fight against the disease by discouraging Western medics from helping.

On this issue, I will briefly read a letter from our Foreign Minister before ending my remarks.

The other forgotten dimension of the impact of Ebola in West Africa, we have over five million children out of school in West Africa due to Ebola. Some five million children are out of school in Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone because of the deadly Ebola outbreak, a call into a report by the Global Business Coalition for Education.

Schools and other public buildings have been closed because they are believed to increase the spread of the virus. Many of the schools are now used as holding centers for Ebola patients. Being out of school can have a crippling impact on vulnerable children, especially girls who are most likely to face high risk situations as a result, including early marriage and pregnancy. If schools are not reopened, the most vulnerable children will become trapped in a cycle of poverty with devastating consequences for their health and economic development.

Please allow me to quote what the UN Special Envoy for Global Education, Gordon Brown has said: "With children out of school definitely, Ebola threatens to reverse years of educational progress in

West Africa where literacy rates are already low and school systems are only now recovering from years of civil war”.

If schools are not reopened, the most vulnerable children will become trapped in a cycle of poverty, as I have stated earlier.

All three countries have some of the lowest primary school completion rates in the world. According to World Bank figures, in Guinea, 61 percent of children complete primary school, in Liberia, 65 percent, with Sierra Leone doing marginally better at 72 percent. Many children are less likely to return to the classroom if they have been out of school for a year. According to the report, Ebola emergency, restoring education, creating safe schools and preventing long-term crisis.

As I said earlier, let me read a short portion of the letter from my Foreign Minister, His Excellency Augustine Kpehe Ngafuan of Liberia.

“Let it be noted that citizens and residents of Ebola-affected countries have already been victimized by the deadly virus, so it is unfair and unconscionable for us to be doubly victimized by actions that are not necessarily aimed at attacking the disease but rather attacking the fact that we hold a particular type of passport.

This current Ebola outbreak is not only a problem for Liberia and other worst hit countries; it is also a test of human solidarity amidst human adversity. Ultimately, and as it has been repeatedly stated by the World Health Organization and other experts, the most effective way for governments across the world to deal with the Ebola menace is to stop the transmission at the source by assisting Liberia and other Ebola-affected countries to quickly eradicate the disease.

To reiterate, we hail the many countries big or small that have rendered exemplary assistance and empathy to Liberia since the outset of the Ebola epidemic in March of this year. These countries deserve tremendous credit for the progress we are beginning to register in our fight against Ebola. At this advanced stage in the fight, it will be extremely sad were they to allow the solid moral high ground on which they have stood and for which they have won commendation and appreciation from Liberians and people of good conscience from across the globe to cave into an unfortunate undercurrent of hysteria and paranoia that could lead to their joining the league of countries that have instituted measures that border on stigmatization and contradict international commitments.

While we appreciate the numerous assistance from governments and other partners from across the world in our fight against Ebola, it should be noted that no amount of external assistance can be more appreciated by the Liberian people in these trying times than to be treated with respect and dignity.”

Let it be known that we are all affected but we are not all infected. I thank you.

Sr. José Antonio CARRANZA (Ecuador)

Ante todo, expresar la solidaridad del Ecuador con los países afectados por el ébola y queremos referirnos a las presentaciones que se han hecho sobre los Foros de importancia para el mandato de la FAO. Agradecer también las presentaciones que se han hecho sobre estos importantes temas, señalar que coincidimos con las primeras recomendaciones que ha hecho el Equipo Independiente de la Reforma de la Gobernanza en el sentido de que este tema de la agenda es sumamente importante y que se debería encontrar un espacio que tenga una mayor relevancia dentro de la Agenda del Consejo.

Por otro lado, quisiera hacer un comentario con respecto al Grupo Global de Migración. Ante todo, queremos expresar nuestra complacencia de que la FAO se haya unido a este Grupo por el impacto que tiene la migración en la agricultura y en la seguridad alimentaria y la relevancia de las actividades de la FAO en este tema. En ese sentido, el Comité del Programa ha expresado la importancia del tema de la urbanización y la migración y el que se aborde de manera integral este aspecto, y este mismo tema ha sido igual motivo de debate en este Consejo.

Queremos además, como señalaba el Director General, en el sentido de que el aporte que podría dar la FAO a este Grupo tiene que ser más allá de la migración internacional, sino de aquella que va dentro del propio país, lo cual por supuesto que coincidimos, pero quisiéramos señalar también que nosotros consideramos que la FAO tiene un rol importante en la migración internacional. Recordar que la

mayor parte de los flujos migratorios son Sur-Sur, no son Sur-Norte, lo cual implica grandes desafíos para los países emisores y para los receptores de la migración.

Querría señalar el rol que tienen los migrantes en la agricultura y en la seguridad alimentaria, porque de los países o de los lugares donde sale la emigración son justamente otros migrantes que vienen a ocupar los lugares en las zonas rurales donde la agricultura ha sido abandonada, y digo estos nuevos migrantes vienen a ocupar un rol importante en el tema de la agricultura y su contribución a la seguridad alimentaria. En ese sentido, por ejemplo las Directrices Voluntarias para la pesca a pequeña escala reconocen justamente la contribución de los migrantes en la pesca a pequeña escala.

Con eso queremos enfatizar en el rol que sí tiene la FAO también en la migración internacional y en los posibles mecanismos de protección social que se podría brindar a los migrantes en el ámbito de la agricultura y de la seguridad alimentaria. Y con esto solamente terminar nuevamente reconociendo el hecho de que la FAO se haya unido a este Grupo Mundial de Migración.

Mme Diane Mariam KONE (Mali)

La Délégation du Mali remercie le Secrétariat général de fournir toutes ces informations aux Membres du Conseil.

Il est bien vrai que le Président vient de nous informer qu'il faut attendre l'intervention sur l'Ébola. Le Mali veut dire qu'il appuie la déclaration du Libéria, et que son pays a été également touché par Ébola, mais que pour le moment nous maîtrisons la situation.

Nous attirons l'attention des Membres du Conseil sur la nécessité d'appuyer la demande de la Commission du Codex Alimentarius en faveur d'une allocation adéquate des ressources budgétaires pour une production alimentaire de qualité.

Nous appuyons également le renforcement du Programme d'action mondial en faveur de la sécurité sanitaire pour une santé humaine et une santé animale dans un environnement sain.

Enfin, nous avons noté et appuyé le plaidoyer en faveur d'un personnel de qualité à la FAO, aussi bien à la Direction que dans ses représentations, compte tenu des exigences des résultats demandés à cette Institution

Mr Matthew WORRELL (Australia)

Firstly, I just wanted to thank the presenters for their excellent and informative presentations. We find this session very useful to get a quick snapshot on various developments that either FAO is directly involved in and contributing to, or are relevant to the mandate of FAO.

I just wanted to touch briefly on a couple of matters. It is more for informing the Council about some other relevant developments. One was just to note there were some meetings held earlier this week hosted by the OECD in Paris that also relate to Global Agricultural Policy and Food Security, i.e. the Global Forum on Agriculture and the OECD Committee on Agriculture. I will just speak briefly about the former.

The Global Forum on Agriculture is an annual event and was held this year with the focus on agricultural trade policy, and the countries that were represented there were not just OECD Members but in fact a number of countries that are here in this room.

This event was particularly timely given the very recent positive developments in Geneva to do with the WTO and the agreement on agriculture and the broader trade agreements. The Forum basically was looking at a couple of things. One was some of the main features of the structural market and policy shifts that have been occurring since the launch of the Doha Negotiations and clarifying some of the implications for future domestic and trade policy making. It was looking at some of the existing knowledge and analysis that already exists about the impacts of different trade and industry policy instruments, and it was looking at the important issue of food security and the role of trade, and about looking at some of those non- or minimally-trade distorting ways to achieve food security. I will just mention that FAO had a representative there and participated very constructively in those discussions.

I also wanted to briefly mention the G20. Australia was honored to host the G20 during this year. We appreciated the valuable input and expertise contributed by the FAO and other international organizations to the work of the G20 over the year and we thank all FAO Member Nations who participated either as G20 members, G20 guests, APEC economies or in our other consultations.

During Australia's G20 presidency, we worked to continue to strengthen some existing G20 food and agriculture initiatives, and these included the Agricultural Market Information System, the Meeting of Agricultural Chief Scientists, and the G20 instigated OECD Framework for Analysing Policies to Improve Agricultural Productivity Sustainably.

At the Brisbane Leaders' Summit in November, G20 leaders agreed on the G20 Food Security and Nutrition Framework, which will strengthen growth by lifting investment in food systems, raising productivity to expand food supply and increasing incomes and quality jobs. This Framework is a response to a review that was offered by FAO and the OECD looking at the opportunities for economic growth and job creation in relation to food security and nutrition.

Australia greatly appreciated the contribution and work of FAO and the OECD on this review. Australia will continue working with FAO and other partner countries to encourage agricultural sector reforms using some of the products that have come out of the year.

It would be remiss, I guess, not to give a plug to the International Treaty for Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture. I think the Treaty Secretary gave a very good overview of some of the current developments. I hope you got the impression that there are a real lot of positive things happening in the Treaty at the moment and there are a real lot of opportunities there for further growth. I just encourage those countries in the room that are not one of the 134 signatories to the Treaty to come on board.

Mr Jon E JONASSON (Iceland)

I would like to focus on one particular issue that I believe is of great importance for FAO and for all of us, that is the Post-2015 Development Agenda.

Allow me first to say that I was privileged to be in New York until the last two years when the Sustainable Development Goals were being negotiated, and I also was one of the Delegates who could have assistance from FAO when FAO was there. So I really saw FAO and the Liaison Office in New York work on an issue which I believe was not only helpful for the Member Nations there, but also for the Agency itself.

I am happy to see that we are briefed on what has happened, but I would like to ask the Secretariat to brief us on what are your plans now, which is equally important. And before I come to my exact question – just to make the importance very clear, there is a train leaving this station on 15 September next year and it will come again after 15 years, so where is FAO going to be and how are you going to be on the train station for the next 12 months while we decide on the future? I think it is of major importance for FAO, its relevance and convening power to be there.

I do regularly read the documents in New York with the glasses from FAO. I have been here in my earlier work and I see very often that things are not covered in accordance with their relevance and importance.

In the Strategic Objectives we have here, the key words there are not always equally represented. And I encourage you also to read the Synthesis Report from the Secretary-General with those eyes.

But my direct question is: where is FAO going to be for the next 12 months when we come to the Post-2015 New Goals, the New Agenda?

M. Carlos Alberto AMARAL (Angola)

Je prends la parole surtout pour féliciter le Secrétariat du Traité international sur les ressources phylogénétiques, pour les démarches réalisées pour éclairer la liaison entre le Traité et les protocoles de Nagoya, et souligner la volonté de continuer à renforcer la coordination entre les deux instruments.

J'encourage également le Secrétariat et son Secrétaire à continuer à travailler pour améliorer le Système multilatéral d'accès et de partage des avantages, et à résoudre en particulier les problèmes sensibles, et

que vous connaissez très bien, de l'insuffisance des contributions financières des utilisateurs au Fond fiduciaire.

M. Mostafa NAHI (Maroc)

Permettez-moi de poser une petite question sur le Groupe mondial de la migration. Il nous a été fait part d'une démarche conjointe de la FAO et du FIDA à l'intention de l'Union européenne, sous forme d'une fiche technique conjointe, pour essayer d'attirer l'attention des responsables européens sur les flux migratoires et leur impact sur la sécurité alimentaire, et spécialement, la migration de l'Afrique vers le continent européen.

Ma question: Est-ce que c'est la seule note technique que la FAO et le FIDA souhaitent envoyer aux pays du nord? Et je me demande pourquoi on ne généralise pas cette démarche aux autres continents, notamment les continents américain et asiatique, qui connaissent eux aussi des phénomènes de flux migratoires. Est-ce que cela veut dire que la FAO et le FIDA considèrent que dans les autres continents, la sécurité alimentaire n'est pas menacée?

Mr Shakeel BHATTI (Secretary, International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture)

I would like to concur entirely with the statement made by our Chairperson, Matthew Worrell, and also to say that we will strongly take up the recommendation made by Angola.

Mr Boubaker BEN-BELHASSEN (Deputy Director, Trade and Markets Division)

Two questions were raised on Post-2015: the first one relating to the work on indicators, asked by Afghanistan, who mentioned specifically the UN Statistical Commission.

Let me say that is actually the process. It is still a little bit uncertain how the work will be framed for the identification and approval of the development of the indicators. The UN Statistical Commission is a commission that assists ECOSOC in all the statistical related works. That's why probably there is the idea that the Commission will lead or at least at the end will discuss and approve a more specialized commission on the statistical related work. The Commission is composed of about 24 countries elected and those are usually assisted by the National Statistical Offices, so they have statistical background, but as I said, we are still uncertain on the process.

From the FAO perspective, we are being proactive and we have been in fact with working jointly with the RBAs already on indicators and their goals, but also under Goals 14 and 15 and some other related goals. We are trying to be strict probably in the next phase of the work in the sense that there are, as we mentioned, 169 targets on the work of the indicators.

The FAO post-2015 team is working very closely with our chief statistician, Mr Pietro Gennari, to come up with a stricter list of more realistic and measurable indicators, for which we will have a baseline by 2015 against which we will measure progress.

On the second question from Iceland on where FAO will be, I think I will ask Mr Sundaram to address that.

Mr Jomo SUNDARAM (Assistant Director-General, Economic and Social Development Department)

Allow me to respond to Iceland's very encouraging comments. We are very appreciative of the support received from Member Nations.

As you know from earlier briefings on the Post-2015 process, we initially identified 14 themes, 12 and a half of which were taken up by the Open Working Group. All of this has been well-reflected in four of the goals which have been identified so far by the Open Working Group, as Boubaker mentioned earlier in Goals 1, 2, 14 and 15, although you may find some elements in other goals as well.

This process of clustering in 17 goals which have been identified so far is probably likely to continue. I don't think anybody is committed to the 17 goals as they have been specifically articulated, and there may be a preference for clustering further and to reduce the number of goals to something like 8, 10

or 12. We will work to ensure that none of the major FAO concerns which have been reflected so far are lost in the process as we go forward.

The major challenges besides the question of the indicators which will be selected are several, but on the question of indicators, let us assume that there is one indicator per target and so far we have 169 targets.

The current estimate for the cost of monitoring is well over double the existing ODA budget. Just to give you a sense of how much effective monitoring of all the indicators would be on the assumption of one indicator per target. Obviously we need to reduce the number of indicators but I think it is very important to recognize that not all targets are easily measurable and that the loss of an indicator does not mean that the target is lost. This is something which I think will be very important for Member Nations to recognize as we go forward.

The second major challenge is the question of the Means of Implementation. The OWG in its wisdom included some Means of Implementation, but in my view there will be the need to further discuss them. However, a decision was made recently to integrate the decision of Means of Implementation with the Financing for Development Conference.

One of the problems which we need to consider is that not all Means of Implementation are strictly speaking related to financing issues. But, with this association, it then becomes important for us to recognize that there are two *fora*: the New York *forum* which will be discussing the Sustainable Development Goals for the Post-2015, and the *forum* for discussion on the outcome documents for the Financing for Development Conference that will now include Means of Implementation for the Post-2015 target.

It is important for Member Nations to be fully aware that there will be these simultaneous discussions going on and to keep in mind that Means of Implementation which are not financial are likely to be missed out if we do not take care to ensure that they are attended to.

There is a final discussion going on largely within the UN System among the Chief Executives of what is called Fit-for-Purpose. Is the UN Fit for Purpose? This is a discussion within the UN System among the various Agencies, Funds, Programmes, as well as in the General Assembly and ECOSOC. It will be very important to remember that this process is going on as we craft the Post-2015 Development Agenda.

Finally, I would like to conclude by thanking all of you for your keen interest. We have been updating you over the last two years, as Iceland correctly pointed out, and this communication with Capitals and with New York have been extremely important in ensuring that about one-quarter of the identified sustainable Development Goals which have been proposed by the OWG reflects FAO concerns. This would not have been possible without your support.

Mr Rob VOS (Director, Social Protection Division)

There were two questions about the Global Migration Group from Ecuador and Morocco. On the comments made by Ecuador, I think we are fully on the same page. First, I am aware of the discussions in the Programme Committee so we see very clear linkages between the challenges posed by urbanization processes to food security and how this links to migration.

We are working on a follow-up to that discussion on a vision paper in the broader context of securing food security and better nutrition. We should address the challenges but also the opportunities provided by urbanization processes, and in that context also address the migration issue.

I fully agree that both international and internal migration are important. The reason I stressed internal migration as an FAO contribution within the Global Migration Group is that so far that was the main concern of the Group. The larger number people moving is internal migrants, most people moving from rural areas, as I said from one rural area to the next or from rural areas to cities, small or large cities, and sometimes moving abroad. So it is not one or the other.

Regarding the issues raised by Morocco, it is not dealing with migration from a food security or agriculture perspective that we want to stop migration, but it is about making sure that the first

challenges posed by migration in some contexts where labor shortages emerge because young people are not willing to stay in agriculture and they don't see enough opportunities to work there, is need for FAO to make sure that we do have sufficient labor and entrepreneurship in agriculture apart from providing skills development.

At the same time, doing the same thing also facilitates the opportunities to move, when they move to other areas and the opportunities actually not fall into other forms of poverty when moving to cities or abroad. So from that angle we look in a holistic and integrated way at the issues. That also means that we are not just concerned with movements in Africa or from Africa to other parts of the world but also in other regions where migration is an important issue.

I hope that satisfies the questions raised. It is a very complex issue and we are aware of the complexities but in dealing with them we think it is necessary to look at them in an integral way and address the challenges posed, as well as seize the opportunities that can be seized from migration flows.

Ms Maria-Helena SEMEDO (Deputy Director-General, Coordinator for Natural Resources)

I would like to mention again that on 17 and 18 December we will be holding the first meeting of the Global Alliance on Climate Smart.

The first day will be open to observers and we intend to have a debriefing with Member Nations on 18 December on the outcomes of the meeting.

Ms Linda COLLETTE (Secretary, Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture)

There was no question addressed to me but I would like to take the time to invite Members to attend the 15th Session of the Commission on Genetic Resources which will be held from 19 to 23 January next year, as well as a special event on Friday 16 on Food Security and Genetic Diversity.

CHAIRPERSON

This concludes item 19 of the agenda. The list of presentations will be included in the Council Report.

In addition, the power point presentations we have just seen will be posted on the Members' Gateway at the end of this meeting.

Presentation on "Ebola, Food Security and FAO's Response"

Présentation sur le thème «Ébola, sécurité alimentaire et action de la FAO face à ces problèmes»

Exposición sobre "El Ébola, la seguridad alimentaria y la respuesta de la FAO"

CHAIRPERSON

Now a brief presentation will be made by Mr Dominique Burgeon, Director of the Emergency and Rehabilitation Division, on *Ebola, Food Security and FAO's Response*

M. Dominique BURGEON (Directeur de la Division des opérations d'urgence et de la réhabilitation)

En complément de l'intervention du Représentant du Libéria, ma présentation de ce matin visera à vous apporter des informations supplémentaires sur l'impact de l'épidémie de la maladie du virus Ébola sur la sécurité alimentaire dans les pays affectés en Afrique de l'Ouest.

Je résumerai également les efforts déployés par la FAO pour contribuer à la sauvegarde de la production agricole et des moyens d'existence des familles vulnérables et inviterai la communauté internationale et les pays membres à poursuivre leurs efforts pour éviter que les conséquences de l'épidémie aient des impacts dramatiques à long terme sur la sécurité alimentaire des ménages et leurs moyens d'existence, ainsi que sur les économies rurales, nationales et régionales, voire mondiales.

Comme vous le savez, l'épidémie de la maladie à virus Ébola, qui sévit en Afrique de l'Ouest depuis mars, est sans précédent de par son ampleur et de par sa répartition géographique. La Guinée, le Libéria et la Sierra Leone sont les pays les plus touchés et il convient de noter que les zones à forte prévalence de malades atteints du virus Ébola figurent parmi les régions agricoles les plus productives de ces pays.

Le Mali est également affecté depuis quelques semaines alors que le Nigéria et le Sénégal ont pu s'en libérer.

À ce jour, le nombre total de cas d'Ébola s'élève à 17,290. Depuis mars 2014, Ébola a emporté plus de 6,100 personnes.

Même si la croissance du nombre de cas n'est pas aussi rapide que nous ne le craignons, la transmission de la maladie à virus Ebola se poursuit à un rythme inquiétant, en particulier en Sierra Leone.

Il est clair que la priorité absolue de la FAO et de tous les partenaires du système des Nations Unies, dont la Mission des Nations Unies pour la lutte contre Ébola (UNMEER) est de stopper l'épidémie et la perte de vies humaines.

Outre son coût en vies humaines, cette épidémie a un impact sur l'ensemble des sociétés, comme l'a souligné le Représentant du Libéria dans son intervention. Le secteur agricole n'est pas épargné. L'épidémie a déjà sérieusement entravé le secteur agricole de la Guinée, du Libéria et de la Sierra Leone. Dans certaines régions, l'épidémie réduit considérablement les capacités de production alimentaire des ménages. Les restrictions de mouvements et la peur de la contagion ont en effet limité la capacité des populations de travailler dans leurs champs.

Dans les pays affectés, les activités agricoles ont été perturbées, parfois fortement, principalement par un manque de main-d'œuvre, et ce sur l'ensemble du cycle agricole. En particulier, les activités de préparation des sols, les semis, l'entretien des cultures (tels que le désherbage ou l'application d'engrais) et les récoltes ont été affectés, bien qu'à des niveaux différents selon les zones. La production de riz, principale culture de base dans la région, a été la plus touchée.

Selon les estimations du Système mondial d'information et d'alerte rapide, en cours de validation, la diminution de la production de riz serait de l'ordre de 4 pour cent en Guinée, de 8 pour cent en Sierra Leone et de 12 pour cent au Libéria.

Le niveau relativement modéré de l'impact de la maladie sur les productions agricoles nationales prévues cette année ne doit cependant pas en masquer l'impact sur la sécurité alimentaire et la production agricole dans les zones les plus durement touchées. Ainsi, les pertes de riz dans les comtés de Lofa et Margibi au Libéria, par exemple, sont de l'ordre de 20 pour cent. Les difficultés liées au commerce entre les zones de production et les zones urbaines engendrent un impact sur les prix et donc sur l'accès aux aliments, surtout pour les plus démunis.

Selon les estimations de la FAO, les pertes en matière de production de cultures vivrières (riz, maïs et petit grain) dues à Ébola pourraient s'élever à environ 47 millions de dollars pour la Sierra Leone, à 30 millions pour la Guinée et à 17 millions pour le Libéria.

Le virus Ébola a également un impact considérable sur les recettes à l'exportation, et il compromet donc directement la capacité des pays à couvrir leurs besoins d'importation de céréales. Ce constat est particulièrement important dans la mesure où ces trois pays sont particulièrement dépendants des importations de riz pour couvrir leurs besoins alimentaires. À titre d'exemple, le Libéria importe plus de 60 pour cent du riz qu'il consomme.

Au-delà de son impact sur l'agriculture et la sécurité alimentaire, l'épidémie Ébola affecte sérieusement les économies guinéenne, libérienne et sierra-léonaise. Les secteurs minier, manufacturier et des services ont été durement touchés. Selon les estimations de la Banque mondiale, l'impact à court terme de l'épidémie sur les productions nationales pourrait s'élever à une diminution de 4 pour cent du PIB en Guinée, 3,7 pour cent au Libéria et 7,3 pour cent en Sierra Leone. Un grand nombre de personnes qui travaillaient au début de la crise de l'Ébola en mars 2014, étaient en novembre au chômage avec de nouveau un impact sur leur capacité d'accès à l'alimentation.

D'une manière générale, les populations de la Guinée, du Libéria et de la Sierra Leone ont donc vu leur sécurité alimentaire et nutritionnelle se détériorer.

Depuis le début, la FAO est aux côtés des autorités des pays touchés et appuie la mise en œuvre de leur plan de réponse, en coordination avec les partenaires du système des Nations Unies. Pour tous, l'objectif premier est de stopper la transmission de la maladie et de sauver des vies.

La FAO, je l'ai dit, est pleinement engagée depuis le début de la crise, et ce dans deux domaines: celui de la santé et celui de la sécurité alimentaire.

Dans le domaine de la santé, la FAO contribue aux opérations de prévention sur le terrain, à travers la formation, la sensibilisation et l'éducation des agents de développement rural ainsi que la distribution de kits sanitaires de prévention. La mobilisation sociale, y compris la sensibilisation des communautés aux risques du virus, est cruciale afin de prévenir la propagation de la maladie parmi ces communautés. La FAO, en appui aux autorités gouvernementales, contribue à la mobilisation des réseaux du secteur, depuis les réseaux de vulgarisation agricole aux clubs de santé animale, en passant par les travailleurs forestiers, afin de sensibiliser les communautés aux risques de la maladie à travers la diffusion de messages de l'Organisation mondiale de la santé. Ces réseaux sont particulièrement utiles dans la mesure où ils sont en contact étroit et régulier avec les communautés et jouissent donc de leur confiance.

Dans le domaine de la sécurité alimentaire, la FAO, en appui aux efforts des gouvernements et en partenariat avec le Programme alimentaire mondial, a conduit diverses évaluations d'impact de l'épidémie Ebola sur l'agriculture et la sécurité alimentaire dans les trois pays. Évaluations rapides dans certaines zones, tout d'abord afin d'apporter une réponse aux besoins les plus urgents, évaluations plus détaillées plus récemment.

Les résultats des missions d'évaluation des récoltes et des approvisionnements alimentaires, conduites conjointement par la FAO et le PAM, fourniront une analyse de la production agricole, des prix, des marchés, des commerces et de la situation des stocks. Nous en attendons les résultats définitifs dans les tous prochains jours. Ces résultats seront présentés et discutés notamment au cours de la réunion du Réseau pour la prévention des crises alimentaires, qui se tiendra à Bruxelles le 17 décembre prochain.

Des actions immédiates doivent en outre être mises en oeuvre pour préserver la sécurité alimentaire et nutritionnelle ainsi que les moyens d'existence des populations affectées. Il est clair en effet que plus longue sera la crise, plus important en sera son impact.

Nous devons agir aujourd'hui et poursuivre les efforts déjà entamés pour éviter que les conséquences de l'épidémie aient un impact à long terme sur la sécurité alimentaire et sur les moyens d'existence des familles.

Il est fondamental de trouver et de mettre en oeuvre des mesures limitant cet impact, qui pour tous présente des défis souvent nouveaux, auxquels pour certains nous n'avons jamais été confrontés.

Comment aider à l'écoulement des denrées en reconnectant les zones de production aux zones de consommation? Comment améliorer le stockage des denrées au niveau villageois? Comment contribuer à faciliter le commerce sous-régional, également fortement affecté?

Comment aider à la recapitalisation des ménages et plus particulièrement des groupements féminins qui, faute d'accès aux champs, ont perdu leurs économies?

Comment s'assurer que les agriculteurs auront accès aux intrants agricoles pour la saison prochaine dont la préparation débutera en mars?

Autant de questions qui demandent non seulement la définition de bonnes stratégies, mais surtout leur mise en oeuvre.

En octobre, la FAO a lancé un appel de 30 millions de dollars pour répondre à l'épidémie et venir en aide à 90 000 ménages vulnérables en Guinée, au Libéria et en Sierra Leone et dans les pays à risque. Le Programme régional de réponse de la FAO a quatre objectifs principaux: contribuer à sauver des vies en stoppant la propagation de la maladie; dynamiser les revenus et la production agricole pour préserver les moyens d'existence; renforcer la résilience des communautés face aux menaces de maladie; renforcer la coordination pour une réponse améliorée.

Afin d'assurer la mobilisation requise au sein de l'Organisation, il a été décidé que la réponse de la FAO serait traitée comme une priorité et certains protocoles, relatifs aux urgences de niveau 3, ont été activés.

Depuis juillet 2014, la FAO soutient activement la Guinée, le Libéria et la Sierra Leone. Ainsi, nous avons mis à disposition un montant d'un million deux cent mille dollars à travers notre Programme de

coopération technique et 685 000 dollars à travers le Fonds spécial pour les activités d'urgence et de réhabilitation.

Je suis heureux de vous annoncer que tout récemment, le Fonds fiduciaire de solidarité africain a alloué un million cinq cent mille dollars à la FAO, pour soutenir son action visant à réduire l'impact de la maladie à virus Ébola sur la sécurité alimentaire et les moyens d'existence des agriculteurs et de la population rurale de Guinée, du Libéria et de la Sierra Leone. Les activités principales que nous conduiront comprendront la mobilisation sociale et la formation pour stopper la propagation de la maladie, le renforcement des systèmes d'épargne et de prêt, notamment en faveur des femmes, ainsi que la fourniture d'intrants agricoles pour aider les familles rurales à préserver leurs revenus et moyens d'existence.

Avec un soutien suffisant, la FAO pourra continuer l'action déjà entreprise afin d'atténuer les conséquences dramatiques de l'épidémie.

Au moment où je vous parle, le Programme régional de réponse de la FAO à Ébola n'est financé qu'à hauteur de 11 pour cent et je me permets donc d'attirer l'attention sur l'importance pour vos gouvernements de prendre en compte la dimension « sécurité alimentaire et nutritionnelle » dans leur réponse.

C'est ensemble qu'il nous faut poursuivre les efforts déjà entrepris. Ensemble, nous devons éviter que l'épidémie ait un impact durable sur la sécurité alimentaire et nutritionnelle des ménages, ainsi que sur les économies rurales, nationales et mondiales.

Merci de votre attention. Je tiens en outre à vous signaler que vous trouverez sur le site internet de la FAO tous les documents auxquels j'ai fait référence au cours de mon exposé.

Dr Joseph Sam SESAY (Observer for Sierra Leone)

I would like to provide some update on the comments on the presentation.

As of 4 December, in Sierra Leone about 6,201 persons were infected by Ebola, and the daily amount of persons infected are between 61 and 93 for the month of November, and 1,626 persons – which is about 26.2 percent – have died. But we do have some good news: the number of survivors – 1,174 persons – constitutes about 20 percent of the infected persons.

As it has been noted by my colleague from Liberia, all schools and tertiary institutions have not opened since the academic year. There is not agreeing voice to have them reopen against serious apprehension given the human to human transmission nature of the virus.

We appreciate the visits made by the leaders of international organizations and institutions, especially by the President of the World Bank, who has been there twice, the Executive Director of WFP, Dr David Nabarro of the UN Secretary-General's High Level Panel of Experts on Food Security and Nutrition, and some others.

We mostly appreciate the support given to us by the many organizations and countries, especially China that was first to be there with very timely and big support in cash and kind. The United Kingdom, the United States of America, the World Bank, the ADB, the African Union and the contributions to the African Solidarity Trust Fund, the UN System, especially WHO, FAO and UNICEF, as well as private entities and others I have not named in the long list of supporters for their assistance accorded to Sierra Leone during our very trying times.

I wish to observe that there seems to be a serious misunderstanding about Ebola in West Africa. That it is everywhere and affecting everyone. Also stigmatization is not only inappropriate but not applicable in this situation given globalization. It is also wrongly applied.

Many are not aware of when Ebola becomes contagious. And let me say here that it does when a person manifests the signs of very high temperature, vomiting, frequent stools, blood coming from parts of the body, as well as touching dead bodies.

In Sierra Leone, touching loved, dead family members is causing over 70 percent of the new cases of infected persons. The global press should not only spread the news about the status and impact of

Ebola but should have a moral responsibility to educate people about it, including how to avoid it, how to contract it, and how you identify infected persons to avoid the rather embarrassing situation of stigma and isolation.

Lastly, the fight against Ebola should be a double-edged one: providing healthcare and supporting family farmers who constitute the bulk of food producers in affected countries to produce and avail adequate diversified and quality food to the people of Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone. We should note that adequate and nutritious food leads to good health that boosts peoples' immune systems against any disease, including Ebola.

I hereby appeal to all of you and through you to your countries' organizations, agencies and private entities to give assistance to the three countries in order to rescue the situation. Please assist to put off the fire in our global neighborhood. It could also be a save to your own house. Thank you.

Mr Dominique BURGEON (Director, Emergency Operations and Rehabilitation Division)

I can only agree with what has been said by the Minister of Sierra Leone and confirm that, indeed, stigmatization is a big issue we have to deal with. Education is key.

This is why we are so actively working on social mobilization, not only to make sure that farmers are more aware of the issue, not only to avoid Ebola, but also realize and understand how it is being transmitted.

Through a rapid assessment we did in a number of countries it was clear that one of the reasons why farmers did not go to their field for extended periods of time, is simply because they were seeing their neighbours and friends dying, and they did not know where it was coming from and they were fearing that it may come from being in the field. That's why education is also important.

I cannot agree more with what has been said and reaffirm that FAO is fully committed to continue and possibly expand its support to the affected countries.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you for this very important update.

Debriefing on 2014 Field Visit by Senior Officials of Rome-based Permanent Representations in the United Arab Emirates and Oman

Compte rendu de la visite de terrain effectuée en 2014 dans les Émirats arabes unis et à Oman par des hauts responsables des bureaux des représentants permanents sis à Rome

Reunión informativa acerca de la visita sobre el terreno realizada en 2014 por altos funcionarios de las Representaciones Permanentes en Roma a los Emiratos Arabes Unidos y Omán

CHAIRPERSON

We will now listen to a debriefing on the Field Visit by Senior Officials of Rome-based Permanent Representatives to the United Arab Emirates and Oman from 18 to 24 October 2014.

I now have the pleasure to welcome to the podium Mr Mafizur Rahman of Bangladesh, who will debrief the Council on this field visit to the United Arab Emirates and Oman.

Mr Mafizur RAHAMAN (Bangladesh)

I would like to take this opportunity to give you a briefing about the field visit in United Arab Emirates and Oman. I am actually really sorry to inform you that this was supposed to be presented by His Excellency Don Miguel Ruíz-Cabañas Izquierdo, Ambassador of Mexico, but he is stuck in the traffic.

For the Field Visits scheduled from 18 to 24 October 2014, we had a total of five participants when we visited the United Arab Emirates. Our team consisted of Her Excellency Josephine Wangari Gaita of Kenya, myself from Bangladesh, for Europe Mr Rikesh of Netherlands and officials from Latin America and Caribbean, Mexico and Near East, Her Excellency Amira Daoud Hassan, Ambassador of Sudan, and we also had with us one Senior Programme Officer from FAO.

Before starting these field visits, we had a preparatory meeting with the concerned Mr Rodrigo from FAO so as to explain how actually visit will be conducted. We also had video conferences with both countries concerned, that is; Oman and U.A.E., and from the FAO Subregional office in Cairo. They all explained how the visit will be implemented and how actually we would like to over there and what type of facilities would be there. All the things were explained to this team.

The first field visit took place in in U.A.E on 19th October. Participants had a meeting with the Ministers mainly in U.A.E. High Level Officials for International Cooperation and Development, Agriculture, Water, Environment, as well as those sessions with the representatives from UNDP, WFP, UNICEF, and authorities from the International Center for Agricultural Research in Dry Areas, ICARDA, the International Humanitarian System, the international update from our Secretariat and the University of Animal Arts to obtain a general understanding of the main challenges that U.A.E. faces in the agricultural sector, food production, distribution, water access and nutrition sectors.

We also met with Her Excellency Sheikha Lubna bint Khalid Al Qasimi of U.A.E.'s Minister for International Cooperation and Development, MICAD. She actually gave us a broad overview of the whole U.A.E. development process with agriculture and almost everything and the relationship between U.A.E. and FAO. We also met the U.A.E.'s participation and international organizations such as UNHCR, UNICEF, WFP engaged in the international humanitarian activities. She explained how this became a hub of the whole country for the International Development even though the U.A.E. is not an agricultural-based country, but it's still a lot of grains and – I mean, they have imported rice, fruits in from other countries, they make it purified, packed and supplied other parts. So how actually the U.A.E. became the hub of the globe, she explained very in depth and received a great help from her.

The meeting with Abu Dhabi Control Authority Food Security and Farmer Service Center demonstrated that the Government of U.A.E. has been the financial resources which gained experiences, manpower and adequate policies to promote and broaden agricultural sector based on greenhouses modern techniques operation due to the fact that most of U.A.E.'s land is not adequate for open cultivation due to shortage of water. At the same time, respect the fact the U.A.E. has a total population of only nine million people with as much as 70 percent foreigners, the country is the most important market exporter in the region.

The U.A.E. has a very important role as a center of trade and investment for the whole region. With the expectation of the salary of the FAO's Representatives, FAO Subregional offices based in Abu Dhabi are financed entirely by the U.A.E. Government, though UTF with FAO. Taking into account U.A.E.'s abundant financial resources, this situation seems to be adequate, allowing FAO to invest more resources in other less developed countries in the region and other regions.

Finally, we have visited in the U.A.E.'s Head of Office, Mr Adrianus Spijkers. As a matter of fact, Subregional officer in FAO provided very useful information note detailing all the programmes and activities presently being carried out by FAO in U.A.E. As it happens with all other countries in the region, U.A.E.'s fundamental challenge is to maintain a strong agricultural sector and promote food security. Due to a scarcity of water resources, due to limited amount of water from rivers or ground water deposits that affects the country, the U.A.E. has developed in the last 40 years important infrastructure plans to desalinate water from the sea and plants and canals to direct the desalinated water to the cities to satisfy the needs of the growing population and to irrigate agricultural units. It seems that the use of this desalinated water for a long time may produce some negative environmental impacts, but at least for the time being, the U.A.E. and other countries in the region have no other option to do that.

Soon after the visit in U.A.E., we had plans to briefly visit Oman;. Participants of the field visit considered completed and stimulating programme for the visit prepared by the FAO Representatives in Oman The team had meetings with the most relevant officials of the Oman Government dealing with agriculture, fisheries, water supply, environment, climate change, including the Ministers of Agriculture and Fisheries, His Excellency Fuad Al Sajwani and his associates, the Secretary of the Environment and Climate Affairs and his assistants, the CEO of Oman Food Investing Holding

Company and Directors of the Fisheries Resource Centers. Participants also met with representatives in Oman of UNFP, WHO and UNICEF.

The FAO Representative, Mr El-Zein Mustafa El-Muzamil provided an information note on FAO main activities and current programmes in the country.

As is the case with the U.A.E., the Government of Oman funds all the activities of the FAO Office in the country, with the exception of the salary of Head of the Office. It must be emphasized that the office in the country is very new as it was established in January 2012, responding to a specific request from the Government of Sultanate of Oman.

The decision was one of the responses taken by the Government of Oman to the food crisis that affected many countries of the Gulf Region in the year 2007-2008. Since then, the country has developed a very active programme of cooperation activities, including several efforts related with water scarcity and climate challenges in the Near East and North Africa, and water supply and food security among other issues.

Although it was a short visit of only five days, the FAO field visit team particularly observed the following points:

Participants considered the FAO field visit was an excellent opportunity for them to observe how FAO is carrying out its cooperation activities with two countries of the Gulf Region, U.A.E. and Oman.

It was not an inspection visit, not a visit to evaluate the programme of the Subregional Office in Abu Dhabi or national office in Muscat. The main goal of this field visit was to familiarize with FAO operational activities in the field. Thanks to the efforts and professionalism of professionals working in those FAO offices, the field visit accomplished this goal. We learned a great deal about the kinds of specific obstacles and challenges, but mainly of the great opportunities for FAO that exist in high income developing countries affected by water scarcity and need to import food to feed their populations.

This necessitates, however, close partnership and a strong networking from FAO Office and cooperation from FAO Headquarters in order to facilitate FAO offices to act fast. In a competitive context, isolation and slow delivery of FAO offices will make authorities lose interest.

The U.A.E. office in particular, there was a point when the FAO office had a difficult time until the arrival of a Director. When new Director was clearly to be seen, it was very important that the new FAO Country Director be recruited displays both strong interpartnership skills and a broad knowledge of FAO in order to know where to find expertise.

At the same time, we learned a lot from the experiences of those countries in developing production of several food products such as fruits, from aquaculture and fisheries despite water scarcity. We learned a lot about their national history, culture, national identities. We learned a lot about their innovative strategies to promote food security and adequate nutrition of their respective populations. We saw how committed the U.A.E. and Oman Governments are to promote peace, constructive dialogue and tolerance, economic development and regional and international cooperation in conformity with challenges that have no respect for national borders such as water scarcity and climate change.

Finally, in the opinion of the field visit team, the Subregional office in Abu Dhabi, as well as FAO Country office in Muscat, deserve recognition for what they are accomplishing and that the coordination of its respective heads, Mr Spijkers in Abu Dhabi and Mr **EL-ZEIN Mustafa EL-MUZAMIL** in Muscat, we saw a committed group of technicians and professionals working on concrete projects and programmes of interest to the U.A.E. and Oman Governments. Moreover, they need all the support from the FAO Headquarters in Rome and Regional offices in Cairo to respond in a timely and efficient manner to the rather specific technical needs and demands that both the U.A.E. and Oman Governments are requesting.

Let me add a very personal opinion; we know that both U.A.E. and Oman have very scarce water problems, for this reason I would like particularly to request FAO that the Gulf-based Countries need more technical assistance particularly for water purification and water resources.

Sr. Miguel RUÍZ-CABAÑAS IZQUIERDO (México)

Antes que nada, le agradezco a mi buen amigo el Dr. Rahman que ha presentado en nombre de los miembros de la misión que fuimos a estos dos países, a los Emiratos y a Omán, el informe de nuestro grupo. Yo creo que el Dr. Rahman ha cubierto todos los puntos, solamente me gustaría subrayar dos o tres que me parecen realmente extraordinarios. El primero: estas visitas les permiten a los Delegados, a nosotros que estamos en esta sala, comprobar cómo las resoluciones que aprobamos, los enfoques, las propuestas del Director General que aprobamos aquí, se implementan en el terreno. Dónde empieza y dónde termina nuestro trabajo y cómo se van ajustando las oficinas de la FAO en estos dos países a los temas de descentralización, asistencia técnica y conocimiento.

Soy un partidario de que estas misiones continúen, no deben ser misiones de inspección, no nos toca a nosotros ver la administración a detalle de las oficinas de la FAO en el mundo, más bien nos toca ver cómo cumple la FAO en general su mandato en el terreno.

En segundo lugar, me parece muy importante destacar que el Director General, José Graciano da Silva, le ha dado una evidente nueva dinámica a la participación de la FAO, tanto en los Emiratos Árabes Unidos como en Omán, así nos lo dijeron los dos Directores de las oficinas y más importante, también nos lo dijeron los Representantes de los dos Gobiernos. Yo quiero destacar eso porque me parece importante y creo que es una buena decisión del Director General darle una importancia mayor a estos países y a la labor de la FAO en esta región.

En tercer lugar, quiero reconocer el trabajo de las dos oficinas. En ambos países los profesionales que allí tiene la FAO tienen un altísimo nivel técnico y nos ha dado gusto ver que hacen un trabajo realmente importante. La FAO es una Organización basada en el conocimiento y me complace poder decir que a pesar de que la FAO en el mundo actual compite con muchísimas organizaciones, sobre todo del sector privado, que tratan de dar asistencia técnica a los gobiernos en estos sectores mediante un pago muy substantivo. Por supuesto, la FAO lo hace simplemente por los ideales de la cooperación internacional, y esto no lo debemos olvidar.

La FAO es una realización de Estados, donde el ideal, la norma es la cooperación internacional para tratar de que los países tengan un sector agropecuario, el mejor posible de acuerdo a sus recursos naturales y puedan mejorar y garantizar la seguridad alimentaria de sus poblaciones. Esto es lo que es notable del trabajo de la FAO, debemos de fortalecer a la FAO en esta línea de cooperación internacional, incluso en aquellos países que por su nivel de ingreso tienen recursos para promover sus propios programas.

Nadie se compara con la FAO en su enorme capacidad técnica, sus cientos y cientos de expertos son realmente muy importantes y sí hacen la diferencia.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you. As you will be aware, a second Field Visit to El Salvador and Colombia took place from 23 to 30 November 2014, and therefore the participants have not had time to debrief this Session, but will do so at the 151st Session in March next year.

May I remind Members that the Note on Field Visits, containing lessons learned and recommendations for future field visits, can be downloaded from the FAO Members' Gateway.

Before closing this morning meeting, I would like to remind you that we will resume in the afternoon at 15:00 hours for the adoption of the report. The Report will be available at 14:30 hours.

I would also like to remind you that a side event on "World Soil Day: Soils, a Foundation for Family Farming" will take place from 12.45 to 14.40 in the Sheikh Zayed Centre.

The meeting rose at 12:32 hours

La séance est levée à 12 h 32

Se levanta la sesión a las 12.32

COUNCIL CONSEIL CONSEJO

Hundred and Fiftieth Session Cent cinquantième session 150.º período de sesiones
Rome, 1-5 December 2014 Rome, 1-5 décembre 2014 Roma, 1-5 de diciembre de 2014
SEVENTH PLENARY MEETING SEPTIÈME SÉANCE PLÉNIÈRE SÉPTIMA SESIÓN PLENARIA
5 December 2014

The Seventh Plenary Meeting was opened at 15:12 hours
Mr Wilfred J. Ngirwa,
Independent Chairperson of the Council, presiding

La septième séance plénière est ouverte à 15 h 12
sous la présidence de M. Wilfred J. Ngirwa,
Président indépendant du Conseil

Se abre la séptima sesión plenaria a las 15.12
bajo la presidencia del Sr. Wilfred J. Ngirwa,
Presidente Independiente del Consejo

**ADOPTION OF REPORT
ADOPTION DU RAPPORT
APROBACIÓN DEL INFORME**

CHAIRPERSON

Good afternoon Ladies and Gentlemen, welcome to the Seventh and final meeting of the 150th Session of the FAO Council.

We will now proceed with the Adoption of the Report. Please ensure that you have the relevant document before you: CL 150/Draft Report.

I now invite Mr Jón Erlingur Jónasson, Chairperson of the Drafting Committee, to present the report.

Mr Jón Erlingur JÓNASSON (Chairperson, Drafting Committee)

Allow me first to congratulate all of us for the World Soil Day, which most of us were attending during the lunch hour. That is a tribute to the soil.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

Mr Jón Erlingur JÓNASSON (Chairperson, Drafting Committee)

It is my pleasure to present to you this Report of the Drafting Committee. All Members of the Drafting Committee stand united behind the Report. We did our work in two sessions, on Wednesday afternoon and Thursday morning. There were not many issues we had to dwell on for very long. We agreed at the beginning of the meeting that we would have certain rules to conduct our meeting and we stuck to them and that was very helpful.

The main focus, not unexpectedly, was on issues where after the Chairperson's summary in the plenary there was a request for some additions or clarifications, and in some instances text was promised to be delivered to the Drafting Committee and that was done so by the Chair.

Those were very few places where we used a little bit of time for discussions, and in the end made sure that we all had the same understanding; but in most cases we ended by using exactly the text from the Chair's summary.

I have to thank the Members of the Committee for their work and their contribution. They worked with a constructive attitude and professionalism, which I think is very important in close meetings like this. There was very good respect between all of the Members and that helped to come to a final conclusion.

If there was anything I should add to this thank you statement it would be to recognize that this way to produce the Council Report has an enormous difference from the work at previous sessions of the Council, so I think we should congratulate ourselves for the Reform we have done but at the same time, I encourage also that we use the opportunity to revisit how we could even do better, when it comes to the conclusions of our Council meetings. We will have that opportunity after the Independent Review.

So my final words are, of course, that I sincerely hope that you stand behind your Drafting Committee and you will be able to adopt the Report *en bloc*. I thank you.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you Mr Jónasson. I would like to extend my appreciation to you and to the members of the Drafting Committee for the good work done.

It appears that the Report of this Session may be approved in block.

Any linguistic observations should be communicated in writing to the Secretariat in order to be included in the Final Report.

Does the Council wish to adopt the Report in block?

Applause
Applaudissements
Aplausos

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you. The Report of the 150th Session of the FAO Council is adopted.

I now invite the Director-General to address the Council.

DIRECTOR-GENERAL

Let me begin by congratulating you all for the results achieved here.

I would like to start saying that it is my sad duty to inform the passing away of Mr David Harcharik, former FAO Deputy Director-General. Mr Harcharik worked in our organization for nearly 20 years, until his retirement in 2007. He leaves many friends. In the name of FAO, I would like to express our condolences to his family and loved ones and to ask one minute of silence in his memory.

Here at the closure of this Council, I would like to remark that 13 ministers, 57 Ambassadors and a total of around 400 delegates from all parts of the world have joined us during this week.

I would also like to recognize the work of Italy, FAO host country and longstanding partner, during its term as President of the European Council, which will be concluded at the end of the month.

I am convinced that next year will not only be a special moment for FAO, which will celebrate its 70th Anniversary, but also for the Government of Italy, which will be hosting the already widely-recognized Expo 2015 in Milan.

FAO is very proud to take part in this event, to be inaugurated on 1 May, and is committed to following each step of its organization while helping to promote its main theme “Feeding the planet, energy for life”.

Let me take this opportunity to inform that I just spoke to the former president of Brazil Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva. He confirmed to me that he will attend the Expo2015 Forum of Ministers of Agriculture that the Government of Italy will host in Milan, on 4 and 5 June.

Former President Lula also accepted my invitation to join us at the next FAO Conference, to deliver the McDougall Memorial Lecture. I am sure his presence will give an even greater momentum to our efforts to promote food security, adequate nutrition and sustainable development.

2014 is coming to an end. As three years of my mandate are being completed, we need to focus our six remaining months on the conclusion of implementation before we head to the Conference in June.

Still this year, I will be kicking off a busy agenda over the next five weeks, with some intense activities away from the Headquarters.

Late next week, I will take part in the International Conference for South-South Cooperation, in Morocco; and after spending some time in Brazil during Christmas, I will join the International Green Week, in Germany, being able to participate in the Global Forum of Ministers of Agriculture which is happening in the second week of January.

During my absence, we must keep the focus on implementation and on the preparations for the next Council, to be held in late March.

At that time, we will be ready to present the initial results of our strategic objectives. And a few months later, during the Conference, we will be able to present concrete actions on the Regional Initiatives (RIs).

With respect to RIs, I would like to take this opportunity to launch the new “Investing for Results” pack with you today. This pack calls for broader partnership and greater investment to accelerate key results.

Eleven Corporate Areas for Resource Mobilization (CARMs) and 15 Regional Initiatives are highlighted, outlining the difference FAO and its partners can make with more resources. Each one is

embedded in FAO's Strategic Framework, contributing to critical results, in line with Strategic Objectives, and will also boost impact at country level.

This pack presents opportunities for strategic partnership with FAO. I urge all partners, member countries, state and non-state actors alike, to consider where they would like to invest in FAO's priorities. I am confident that you will agree, the CARMs and Regional Initiatives offer tangible thematic and geographical areas for partnership.

I wish you all a good end of the year, and pleasant holidays. Thank you for your presence and attention.

CHAIRPERSON

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen, as we draw towards the end, not only of this 150th Session of Council, but also of a very demanding and dynamic year, allow me to make a few closing remarks.

I would like to congratulate the Council members for the constructive discussions we had on all the twenty-one agenda items tabled, which all, with the exception of two, were for discussion and decision.

Serious attention was given to the reports from the Technical Committees and CFS. I want to thank the Committee Chairpersons for presenting the reports. I noted the increasing awareness of their governance role by getting to grips with their dual reporting line to Conference and Council.

As we started this session, the successful outcome of ICN2 was still very fresh in our minds: a success owed to remarkable and tireless engagement among members with highest trust and inclusive approach to other stakeholders.

The importance of nutrition has been highlighted during this meeting by endorsing immediate action on how FAO plans to take the nutrition agenda forward.

The Council also received a preliminary report of the Independent Review Team on Governance Reform. I think we were all happy to hear the very positive comments by the Review Team about considerable progress made in implementation of IPA governance reforms. The team noted how the membership's sense of ownership of governance processes has increased in direct proportion to the secretariat's sharpened sense of accountability. The re-establishment of trust and sense of greater accountability are certainly great accomplishments that Members can note with a degree of satisfaction.

Let me take this opportunity to remind you that on 10 December I will convene a meeting of Chairs and vice-Chairs of Regional Groups and propose an approach on how to respond to recommendations and suggestions of the Review Team. I count on the active engagement of the Regional Groups to hammer out a common position that can be shared at an open-ended informal meeting with all members on 6 February 2015.

At the start of the session, the Director-General, Dr Graziano da Silva, briefed the meeting on the achievements made during the past 36 months and, in particular, the successful implementation of transformational changes and the acknowledged commitment and support from FAO Members which made it possible.

It is my expectation that the inputs resulting from the June Council session and this session, now available to management, will enable good preparations of the Programme of Work and Budget for 2016-17 and membership will expect to receive the document in early February 2015. It is pleasing that the Director-General has shared with us in advance what he will be requesting. The trust, commitment and accountability which exist will be a springboard to have smooth discussions and a consensual PWB for 2016-17.

I have no doubt, I count on you. I recognize the enormous contribution that the members have made towards improving efficiency as exemplified by the excellent "on time" work of the Drafting Committee, wisely presided over by Mr Jónasson. The 'in block' adoption of the report testifies the consensus-based working spirit and trust that reigns among members. I am grateful to the Drafting Committee for taking into account the summing up of each item.

I would like to thank the Secretariat for their assistance this week, and also in the run up to this session by preparing required documents and background material. There is a high dedication of the staff to the mandate and objectives of FAO.

I would like to recognize the efforts made by those behind the scenes who ensured that this session of Council ran smoothly, such as the interpreters, translators, facilities staff, security personnel, room messengers, protocol, printing group, the verbatim hub and the reports office. Thank you for the excellent job done.

Recalling that the past three months have been dense with activity, I will not prolong this session of Council further as I believe we all deserve a good rest to recharge our depleted levels of physical and intellectual energy.

I will therefore close the 150th Session of the Council and wish you all my very best wishes for the forthcoming holiday season. For those who are travelling home out of Rome, I wish you a safe journey.

Thank you. The Session is closed.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

EL SALVADOR

Señor Presidente, sé que Usted ha clausurado el Consejo, pero quisiera pedir, si es posible, que en este documento se refleje el homenaje que hicimos hace un momento al Dr. Harcharik, quien sirvió con tanto entusiasmo y con tanta dedicación a esta Organización.

CHAIRPERSON

Will do so. Thank you.

The meeting rose at 15:34 hours

La séance est levée à 15 h 34

Se levanta la sesión a las 15.34