

council

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

conseil

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

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EIGHTEENTH PLENARY MEETING
DIX-HUITIEME SEANCE PLENIERE
18ª SESION PLENARIA

(17 June 1977)

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council

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

conseil

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

consejo

ORGANIZACION DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS PARA LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION

CL

CL 71/PV/1

Seventy-First Session

Soixante et onzième session

71° período de sesiones

FIRST PLENARY MEETING
PREMIERE SEANCE PLENIERE
PRIMERA SESION PLENARIA

(6 June 1977)

The First Plenary Meeting was opened at 10.20 hours,

G. Bula Hoyos, Independent Chairman of the Council, presiding

La première séance plénière est ouverte à 10 h 20 sous la présidence de G. Bula Hoyos,, Président indépendant du Conseil

Se abre la primera sesión plenaria a las 10.20 horas bajo la presidencia de G. Bula Hoyos, Presidente Independiente del Consejo

EL PRESIDENTE: Seíoras y seiores declaro abierto el 71° perfodo de sesiones del Consejo. Doy la cordial bienvenida a los representatives de aquellos países que a partir de 1977 han entrado a formar parte del Consejo: Guinea Bissau, Rwanda, Bangladesh, Checoslovaquia, Grecia y Venezuela.

I - INTRODUCTORY - PROCEDURE OF THE SESSION

I - INTRODUCTION - QUESTIONS DE PROCEDURE

I - INTRODUCCION - CUESTIONES DE PROCEDIMIENTC

EL PRESIDENTE: Durante los primeros meses de este año, como todos ustedes saben, han tenido lugar numerosas reuniones de Organos subsidiaries del Consejo, de cuyos informes nos ocuparemos ahora antes de que pasen a la Conferencia. Uno de los temas principales del periodo de sesiones que iniciamos hoy sera el resumen del Programa de Labores y Presupuesto para 1978-79, cuyo texto definitivo debe ser la guía, la biblia, para orientar las actividades de la FAO en los dos años futuros. Yo estoy seguro de que los comentarios que ustedes van a hacer, las observaciones que crean del caso presentar, el asesoramiento necesario al Director General, contribuirá a que este Primer Programa de Labores y Presupuesto presentado al Doctor Saouraa como Director General de la FAO, será un documento de mucha utilidad.

Confio igualmente en que los debates que vamos a celebrar contribuirán también a que el Consejo aporte sus puntos de vista para que se corpendie y se consolide la nueva politica que está destinada a dar una dimension diferente a la FAO y que, según lo ha dicho el Director General, tiene por objeto primordial servir de manera mas eficaz y más pragmática a todos los Estados Miembros, particularmente a aquellos en vías de desarrollo, a la luz de los principios que sustenta el nuevo orden económico internacional.

A pesar de los esfuerzos realizados por el Sr. Director General y apoyados por mí como Presidente del Consejo en el sentido de reducir al mínimo los temas para nuestros programas, para nuestras agendas, notarán ustedes que el programa, la agenda de este periodo de sesiones aparece bastante recargado. Por esa razón quiero pedirles, muy cordialmente, a los Presidentes de los Comités que deberán presentar sus informes, así como a los funcionarios de la Secretaria, que sean, por favor, muy breves y concretos en sus declaraciones. Por la misma razón desde ahora, nuestro primer día de trabajo, demando el asentimiento del Consejo para que en cuanto a las intervenciones de los observadores yo pueda aplicar en la mayor medida posible, las disposiciones vigentes en los métodos de trabajo que adoptó nuestro Organismo.

En el pasado he sido criticado por haber concedido la palabra a algunos observadores antes de haber concluido la lista de oradores inscritos de propios miembros del Consejo. Para evitar que se repita esa misma situación, los observadores, en general, solo intervendrán después de que se haya agotado la lista de los miembros del Consejo. Naturalmente serán las opiniones de los miembros del Consejo las que constarán en la redacción del informe sobre los distintos puntos de que vamos a ocuparnos.

Finalmente, sobre los observadores, una palabra mas, en el sentido de que ojala colaboren con nosotros y se atengan en sus intervenciones a referirse a aquellos asuntos por los cuales sus países tengan interes directo. No obstante las consideraciones que acabo de hacerles en beneficio del mayor rendimiento de nuestros trabajos, yo confio, una vez mas, en que todos los miembros del Consejo participen en nuestras deliberaciones con su tradicional buena voluntad, con su espíritu de cooperación y con su inteligencia y capacidad reconocidas a fin da que la reunion que iniciamos hoy pueda ser cumplida en el tiempo previsto y con el mayor rendimiento posible.

1. Adoption of the Agenda and Timetable

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

1. Aprobación del Programa y el Calendario

FL PRESIDENTE: Si no hay ningún comentario por parte de los miembros del Consejo y según el Orden del D 002a que ha sido distribuido para hoy, pasaremos al Tema 1: "Aprobación del programa y el calendario". Documento CL 71/1: "Programa Provisional", tal como fue distribuido a los Gobiernos al cursar las invitaciones para el actual perfodo de sesiones. Documento CL 71/1 (a): "Programa Provisional Anotado", que contiene exactamente los mismos temas que el documento anterior con la diferencia de que, mmo es costumbre, el programa provisional anotado se ha ampliado con los subpuntos correspondientes a cada uno de los veintidos temas que aparecen en el Programa.

CHIN FENG-CHU (China) (interpretation from Chinese): Mr. Chairman, in order to perfect Article XXII of the FAO Constitution concerning the authentic texts of the Constitution, the Chinese delegation proposes that this Article be amended to read as follows:

"The Arabic, Chinese, English, French and Spanish texts of the Constitution shall be equally authoritative." We hereby request that the proposed amendment to Article XXII be included as an additional Sub-item under Item 18 of the Provisional Agenda of this Council Session.

I. A. IMTIAZI (Pakistan): The Pakistan delegation supports the proposal made by the delegate of China.

H. APDALLAH (Egypt) (interpretation from Arabic): We, on our part, would like to support the proposal put Forward by the delegate of China.

EL PRESIDENTE: Han escuchado ustedes las intervenciones del distinguido delegado de China apoyado por Pakistan y Egipto. Entiendo que la Republica Popular de China propone que se incluya un tema adicional en nuestro programa provisional como un subpunto mas en el actual tema 18. Subpunto que podría decir: enmienda al Artículo XXII de la Constitucion de la FAO, texto chino autsntico de la Constitución. Si el Consejo estuviera de acuerdo, este subpunto para el tema 18 podría agregarse después del actual penúltimo subpunto del tema 18, que se titula: " Situación y empleo de los idiomas en la FAO", y sería discutido, si el calendario que les proponemos es adecuado, el proximo viernes.

El actual texto del Artículo XXII de la Constitución dice: los textos en árabe, español, franées e ingles de la presente Constitución tienen igual fuerza legal. La propuesta de China, si la he entendido bien, está dirigida a agregar el idioma chino en este articulo XXII: o sea, que el texto de la Constitucion en el idioma chino tenga igual fuerza legal que en los otros cuatro idiomas. Si el Consejo está de acuerdo agregaremos este subpunto en el tema 18.

Conviene recordar que,según las disposiciones vigentes,el Consejo o cualquier representante de un Estado Miembro, mediante carta dirigida al Director General, puede proponer enmiendas a la Constitucion, a condición de que el Director General disponga de, por lo menos, ciento veinte días de anticipación para distribuir esos proyectos de enmienda a todos los gobiernos de los Estados Miembros y Miembros Asociados. De manera que desde el punto de vista legal no habrá ninguna objeción para acoger la propuesta china e incluirla a nuestro programa provisional y después de la discusión respectiva el Director General procederá a cumplir las disposiciones legales vigentes.

Entiendo que el Consejo está de acuerdo en que procedamos así.

Podemos seguir ahora la consideración del tema 1, para el cual hay un último y tercer documento, el CL 71 /INF/1: "Calendario Provisional".

Quiero insistir, una vez mas, en que este calendario que les proponemos no se trata de un marco rígido, sino de una indicación flexible respecto a la cual podremos introducir reorientaciones, organizaciones, si así lo aconsejase el curso de nuestro debate.

B. AZEVEDO DE BRITO (Brazil): I take note of your last remark, Mr. Chairman, that our timetable contained in document CL 71/INF/1 would be taken in a flexible manner and my observation relates basically to this afternoon and tomorrow morning. I hope that on Tuesday morning we can make comments on the world food situation. I am afraid not all of us will be prepared to finalize our comments on the world food situation this afternoon and I therefore hope we will be allowed to do so tomorrow morning.

EL PRESIDENTE: sí, yo creo que el distinguido colega del Brasil ha interpretado adecuadamente mi observacion. Lo mejor es adoptar este calendario como lo proponemos y ver como se van desarrollando nuestros

Si no hay ningún comentario por parte de los Miembros del Consejo puedo entender, entonces, que todos estamos de acuerdo en aprobar el tema 1, adopción del Programa y del Calendario. Queda así adoptado.

2. Election of Two Vice-Chairmen, and Designation of Chairman and Members of Drafting Committee 2.
Election des deux Vice-Présidents, et nomination du Président et des membres du Comité de

redaction 2. Elección de dos Vicepresidentes y nombramiento del Presidente y los miembros del Comité de
Redacción

EL PRESIDENTE: Podemos pasar ahora al tema 2, Elección de Vicepresidentes y nombramiento del Presidente y de los Miembros del Comité de Redacción. Para hacer propuestas sobre el primer Vicepresidentes quién desea intervenir?

I. A. IMTIAZI (Pakistan): The Pakistan delegation proposes the name of Dr. Amin Abu Seneina, Minister of State, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Natural Resources of Sudan, for the first Vice-Chairmanship of the Seventy-First Session of the FAO Council.

H. ABDALLAH (Egypt) (interpretation from Arabic): . It is my honor and privilege to second the nomination put forward by the delegate of Pakistan. The delegate of Sudan comes from a country which plays a paramount role in promoting agriculture in Africa and in the Arab world. He is also an eminent figure in the field of agriculture and therefore it is for us a pleasure to second his nomination.

EL PRESIDENTE: Si no hay ninguna otra intervención por parte de los miembros del Consejo entiendo que todos estamos de acuerdo en aceptar la propuesta que ha hecho Pakistan, apoyada por Egipto, para elegir al Doctor Amin Abu Seneina, Ministro de Agricultura, Alimentación y Recursos Naturales del Sudan, como Primer Vicepresidente del actual periodo de sesiones. Así está decidido.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

AMIN ABU SENEINA (Sudan) (Interpretation from Arabic): It is for me an honour and a pleasure to address you in this meeting and I would like to voice the hope that the work of our Council will be successful. In fact your proposal, gentlemen, is an honour which is done in the first instance, foremost to my country and I promise that I will spare no effort in order to see to it that this Session is a successful one. In this connection I wish to thank you warmly for the nomination. I would also like to welcome the new members who have joined the Council in the course of this year 1977.

EL PRESIDENTE: En nombre del Consejo felicito muy cordialmente a nuestro distinguido y querido Primer Vicepresidente. Además de las capacidades con que cuenta para ayudarnos en la dirección de los debates de este período de sesiones, creo que conviene destacar el hecho de que para el Consejo de la FAO y para todos es muy honrosa la participación de un Ministro como representante de un país tan distinguido como el Sudán

Para segundo Vicepresidente;. quién desea hacer propuestas?

A. A. W. LANDYMORE (United Kingdom): It is my honour and pleasure to propose as our second Vice Chairman Mr. Antti Nikkola, the Chief of the Bureau for International Affairs of the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry of Finland. Mr. Nikkola is well known to those of us who have frequented this Council and this Organization over a number of years. I believe I am right in saying that he has attended every conference of the Organization since 1965, as well as attending, of course, a great number of other committees at which he has given his help and displayed his talent. Mr. Nikkola is a man of stature and not easily overlooked and I am sure that his knowledge of FAO's affairs and his interest in them measures up to his stature. I am sure that he will be a most useful help to you Mr. Chairman in the conduct of the affairs of this Seventy-first Session of the FAO Council.

E. CAKAYDA (Tchécoslovaquie): La delegation tchécoslovaque voudrait appuyer la proposition formulée par l'honorable délégué du Royaume-Uni pour que Monsieur Antti Nikkola, Chef du Bureau des Affaires internationales du Ministère de l'Agriculture de Finlande, soit élu second vice-president de la soixante et onzième session du Conseil de la FAO. Cette candidature reflète en même temps le rôle extrêmement positif que la Finlande joue dans la collaboration Internationale.

EL PRESIDENTE; Después de las intervenciones del Reino Unido y de Checoslovaquia, si no hay ningún otro comentario por parte de los Miembros del Consejo, entiendo que todos estamos de acuerdo en elegir al Señor Antti Nikkola, Jefe de Asuntos Internacionales del Ministerio de Agricultura y Montes de Finlandia, como Segundo Vice presidente, Así se decide .

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

A. NIKKOLA (Finland): On behalf of my delegation and myself I warmly thank the Council for the confidence put in me. I hope that with your experienced guidance I will succeed in the very important job of presiding over this distinguished gathering; anyway I will do my best.

EL PRESIDENTE: En nombre del Consejo felicito muy cordialmente a nuestro distinguido colega y amigo Antti Nikkola, de Finlandia, y estoy seguro que contaré con su cooperación y asesoramiento para dirigir el actual período de sesiones.

Sobre el tema 2 queda pendiente el nombramiento del Presidente o Relator y de los miembros del Comité de Redacción. Sobre el Relator quién desea hacer propuestas?

J. C. VIGNAUD: (Argentina) La Delegación de Argentina desea proponer al señor Tejan Wadda, que es el Representante Permanente de Gambia ante la FAO, como Presidente del Comité de Redacción, Todos nosotros hemos tenido oportunidad de conocer al señor Wadda y apreciar sus condiciones a través de su participación en los debates de FAO; además, muchos de nosotros hemos tenido ocasión de conocerlo en Ginebra cuando trabajaba como acreditado ante las Naciones Unidas. De manera que, tanto la eminente personalidad del señor Wadda, como su experiencia en Organismos Internacionales creo que lo capacitan para desempeñar una función tan importante, y muchas veces tan pesada, como es la de presidir el Comité de Redacción. Por esos motivos mi delegación se complace mucho en proponer su candidatura para ese cargo.

L. VELAY (France): Je voudrais tout simplement appuyer la proposition qui vient d'être formulée par mon eminent collègue d'Argentine. Je pense que le choix qui a été proposé est tout à fait heureux. La tâche du vice-president de rédaction, de son président rapporteur, est une tâche éminemment délicate et qui compte énormément pour le succès de notre session. Aussi, je pense que notre collègue d'Argentine a fait une proposition très heureuse que je suis content d'appuyer.

J. BUDARARA (Burundi): La delegation du Burundi voudrait se joindre aux propositions faites par l'Argentine et par la France pour appuyer la candidature de la Gambie au poste de president du Comité de rédaction.

E. HRAUI (Liban) (interpretation de l'arabe): La delegation du Liban a le plaisir d'approuver la nomination du rapporteur. Nous le connaissons tous. Nous connaissons sa compétence et ses activités dans le cadre de notre Organisation. Nous apprécions tous ses efforts dans ce contexte et nous sommes persuadés qu'il est digne de la confiance que nous plaçons en lui.

E CHELBI (Tunisie): Je voudrais me rallier á la proposition des honorables délégués qui m'ont précédé pour appuyer la candidature de l'Ambassadeur WADA au poste du Comité de rédaction. La large experience de Son Excellence l'Ambassadeur WADDA dans le domaine des organisations internationales et plus particulièrement la FAO, est une garantie de succès pour le travail, combien lourd, qui incombe au president du Comité de rédaction.

EL PRESIDENTE: Después de la propuesta argentina, apoyada por numerosas Delegaciones, entiendo que el Consejo está de acuerdo en elegir como Relator y Presidente del Comité de Redacción al señor Embajador Wadda, Representante Permanente de Gambia ante la FAO.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

A. TEJAN WADDA (Gambia): My delegation take this as a great honour by Argentina for the nomination of myself as Chairman of the Drafting Committee and I would like to take this opportunity to thank all members of the Council for their confidence in me. We shall do our best to see that the work of the Council and especially the Drafting Committee will complete its work in the earliest time.

EL PRESIDENTE: En nombre del Consejo felicito cordialmente a nuestro distinguido colega y amigo el Embajador Wadda, seguro de que con su capacidad y su amplia experiencia internacional cumplirá eficazmente la delicada tarea de presidir el Comité de Redacción.

Para concluir el tema 2 sólo nos quedan pendientes los Miembros del Comité de Redacción. Hemos iniciado las consultas pertinentes, pero aún no hemos concluido la selección de los nombres a proponer al Consejo. De manera que, si Vds. están de acuerdo, como lo hemos hecho siempre anteriormente, proseguiremos durante el día de hoy esas consultas y probablemente mañana estaremos en condiciones de proponer al Consejo los países que habrán de integrar el Comité de Redacción. Entiendo que así se decide.

VI - OTHER MATTERS

VI - AUTRES QUESTIONS

VI - OTRAS CUESTIONES

21. Any other business

21. Questions diverses

21. Otros asuntos

- Application for Membership in the Organization by the Republic of Seychelles

- Demande d'accession á la qualité de membre de l'Organisation presentee par la République des Seychelles

- Solicitud de ingreso de la República de Seychelles en la Organización

EL PRESIDENTE: Continuando el Orden del Día distribuido para esta mañana pasamos ahora al punto 21, "Otros asuntos - aplicación para miembro de la Organización presentada por la República de Seychelles".

El Gobierno de la República de Seychelles ha solicitado ser admitido como miembro de la FAO. Esa solicitud, al igual que otras cinco solicitudes de las cuales ya nos hemos ocupado en este bienio, solo podrá ser resuelta en forma definitiva por la Conferencia de noviembre de 1977. Sin embargo, a la luz de los párrafos b.1., b.2 y b.5 de la Declaración de Principios acerca de la concesión de calidad de

Observador a los Estados, y de acuerdo con el párrafo 11 del Artículo 25 del Reglamento General de la Organización, el Consejo puede autorizar al Director General a invitar a los representantes de este Gobierno, a que asistan como Observadores a las próximas reuniones del Consejo, a reuniones técnicas y regionales y a todas aquellas reuniones en las cuales pueda estar interesado ese Gobierno.

A la luz de estas disposiciones pregunto al Consejo si está de acuerdo en autorizar al Director General para que proceda de conformidad.

Entiendo que los Miembros del Consejo están de acuerdo, y así concluimos este tema 21.

I - INTRODUCTORY - PROCEDURE OF THE SESSION (continued)

I - INTRODUCTION - QUESTIONS DE PROCEDURE (suite)

I - INTRODUCCION - CUESTIONES DE PROCEDIMIENTO (continuación)

3. Statement by the Director-General

3. Expose du Directeur general

3. Discurso del Director General

It is my privilege and pleasure to welcome you to the Seventy-First Session of the Council.

I pride myself that I devote a considerable portion of my time, more so - I am told - than perhaps any Director-General in the past, to consulting Member Governments.

This is because I consider it to be my primary duty to understand and promote the substantive interests of Member States. These are varied and often difficult to reconcile, but all are concerned with the world situation of today. Rarely has the world - developed as well as developing - been at such a juncture as it is now.

I have analyzed in past speeches the nature of the situation. I do not propose today to repeat the grim comparative statistics of GNP per caput, rural income or protein consumption. We cannot, however, ignore the facts that while there is a world recession, there is also world inflation; that as well as the perennially higher unemployment or underemployment in developing countries, there is serious unemployment in most developed countries; that no way has yet been found to give a fair deal to the exports of developing countries, while at the same time they are crushed by an impossible burden of debt to the rich countries; that, as recently said by the President of the Council of Ministers of the European Economic Community, the growing gap between the richest and poorest nations "is morally unacceptable, demeans human dignity, and is a force for unpredictable tensions..." I was just quoting.

In this connexion, it has been suggested in some quarters that there are too many references in the Summary Programme of Work and Budget to the New International Economic Order. I make no apology for this. The New International Economic Order is not just an empty slogan, comforting to the ears of some and irritating to those of others.

It is in fact very important; it is relevant; it is called for by resolutions of the General Assembly and of the FAO Conference. In these resolutions, progress in various specific aspects of the food and agricultural sectors is recognized as crucial to the achievement of the overall objectives.

The dialogue we can have here about solving the problems of food and agricultural development reflects some of the vital roles and functions of this Organization. Even more important are action programmes that we can continue and initiate to show concrete results at the country level.

An important aspect of the dialogue will be consideration on a system-wide basis of the parameters and prospects of the Third Development Decade and beyond. We will be making an important contribution to this normative work, mainly through our prospective study "Agriculture: Towards 2000". This and other useful studies will continue to have priority in our work. I repeat the word "useful". The tendency to allow the programme to become the slave of planning - in vacuo and for its own sake - must be checked. This is not what Member Nations need or want.

Of much more relevance to them are FAO activities such as the Global Information and Early Warning System and the work of the Committee on World Food Security, which met recently. Whatever the prospects for good crops, grain supplies, and reserves, we must not be complacent. We cannot fail to to the underlying and continuing threat of world food shortages in the years to come.

The Committee on World Food Security recommended greater efforts to ensure food security and added that unless production is stepped up in developing countries, their dependence on cereal imports and food aid would not only continue but also increase in the future.

The Committee on Commodity Problems also recently considered the gravity of the present agricultural trade situation and the disappointment and frustration of developing countries with the lack of tangible progress towards solutions.

The CCP, perhaps not surprisingly, held different views on the reasons for this slow progress, but it did reach a consensus on a number of points. I hope the Council will endorse the recommendations of the CCP.

The work of our other main Committees is also of great interest to Member Nations, as their attendance and interest at the recent meetings of the Committee on Fisheries and the Committee on Agriculture show.

At its last session, the Committee on Forestry endorsed the proposed priorities which are elements of the programmes now submitted for your consideration.

The Committee on Fisheries, which was attended by over seventy Member Nations, held its Eleventh Session in April. As you will see from its Report, the Committee on Fisheries considered in detail the implications for fisheries of these developments in the regime of the sea and indicated the general lines of action for FAO in this respect.

The Committee on Agriculture concluded a fruitful session, perhaps the most successful since its inception, in early May. It reviewed the implementation of the current programme and medium and long-term problems, and assessed the proposed programme of our two main departments for the next biennium.

In addition, the Committee dealt with certain special subjects of great importance. The subject of Small Farmers' Development should form a practical platform for fruitful discussion at the World Conference for Agrarian Reform and Rural Development in July 1979.

This Conference can be of great importance in shaping policies for progress and really effective social as well as technical action at the grass roots level. We must guard against the Conference simply being a vehicle for the exponents of semantics and sociology. I intend to do all I can, together with all my colleagues in other Agencies, to ensure that the Conference is productive of concrete and crisp results.

The other special subject with which COAG dealt was Reduction of Food Losses. The idea of reducing food losses, particularly post-harvest losses, is not of course an original one. And, in this connexion, Mr. Chairman may I recall that the subject was of lively interest at the World Food Conference. That the Seventh Special Session of the General Assembly called for a 50 percent reduction of post-harvest losses by 1985, and that you requested me last November to present a proposal for a \$20 million fund at this session.

I am glad that my proposals were endorsed by the Committee on Agriculture and by the Programme Committee, both of which made helpful comments and suggestions. The Finance Committee were satisfied as to their practicality and economy of operation. It has fully endorsed the proposed Fund and the use of an amount of \$10 million from the sum accumulating in the current Suspense Account to initiate the Fund.

I am sure that the Council will agree that we should now go forward quickly and courageously with this imperative, action campaign. I trust it will receive added and increasing interest and support from Member Governments, since it is necessary to make a weighty and sustained attack over several biennia on the presently criminal loss of available food.

There may be other priority programmes, particularly food production which still comes first. There may be other similar campaigns which we ought to wage in future. There can however be little doubt that by cutting down avoidable waste of food we will be saving many lives. The conquest of easily avoidable food losses can be one of the greatest achievements which FAO will spearhead through the next decade.

Before turning to the Summary Programme of Work and Budget, I would like to say something about other important matters. One of these is the report of the CCLM, which is also submitted to you.

The report of the CCLM will enable you to fulfil your responsibility of preparing for the Conference the constitutional amendments necessary to implement such decisions as may be taken on some important issues, including the constitution of the Council itself.

The issues are few but fairly straightforward. Some are, of course, more controversial than others. For example, I would hazard a guess that the most controversial will prove to be the question whether there should be any change in the constitution of the Programme and Finance Committees.

I am somewhat tempted to give views on this issue, but they are of particular interest, of a largely political character, to Member Governments. I shall therefore not say more at this moment, although I will be following your debates very closely.

I should next like to say something about recent developments in the UN System which are of importance to FAO.

About IFAD, (International Fund for Agricultural Development) there is little to say except that we eagerly await the time when it emerges from the cradle and begins to walk and then - we hope - to take giant steps forward towards its declared objectives. Meanwhile, we are doing all we can to support the Preparatory Commission and Interim Secretariat. An increase of \$60 000 in our financial contribution has been requested and readily agreed to, together with other facilities; and close and cordial relations continue with His Excellency Ambassador Sudeary.

The resources of IFAD will not, of course, meet all the needs. I am therefore happy to be able to say that when I met Mr. McNamara a few weeks ago, on a cordial occasion, he informed me of his hopes for a large increase in the World Bank's resources available for agriculture and of his desire to expand our Cooperative Programme. I naturally welcomed and supported this. It is a testimony to the value of the services we can provide and the health and efficacy of our arrangements for the benefit of Member States of this Organization.

Our relations with the UNDP are also close and particularly in the field, where our reduced but still numerous project staff faithfully carry on their devoted work together with their counterparts. Our relations with the UNDP Resident Representatives are generally harmonious and effective, as I have personally noted in my visits to member countries.

I will make every effort to ensure that this will continue to be so. It is in the interest of the developing countries which themselves provide the bulk of the resources for development. The important actions and the greatest need for coherence and coordination are in the field, at the country level: not in Headquarters in New York or Rome or Geneva.

This is something I will not forget, even in the heat of argument between Organizations about policies. And, there will be argument, because in his energetic attempts to renew UNDP's strength and to achieve a reasonable growth in real terms, the Administrator of the UNDP, my good friend Bradford Morse, is bound to challenge some established ideas and patterns of cooperation in the UN system. This is evident from the recent discussions in the IACB, some subjects of which will be discussed in the next few days under the appropriate Agenda items.

The subject of the future role and functions of the UNDP will no doubt occupy minds here and in New York for some time to come. A more immediate issue is the future of Agency Costs reimbursement which is before the Governing Council of UNDP, which opens next week. I need clear and firm guidance in the next few days from this Council to present to the Governing Council. A satisfactory outcome is crucial not only to our future as an executor of UNDP projects but also to the future of the Regular Programme itself.

The main point I should like to stress at this moment is that in our recent debates - let us admit, differences on some issues - with UNDP, we have been in good company, with the other large agencies, the UN, and the World Bank.

We were united not on the basis of the territorial imperative, but in a conscientious concern for the development process. All the organizations are broadly speaking composed of representatives of the same Member Governments and cover all sectors of development. The health and tried worth of the System lies in its specialized diversity, its decentralization of initiative, and its flexibility of response.

The Agencies recognize the need for some change in the workings of the UN System. The system must, of course, be improved, so as to bring about more effective international cooperation and the best use of resources for development.

We must therefore respond positively to the challenges now facing us. They have their healthy aspects. Among other things, the Specialized Agencies are being stimulated not only to insist on true partnership within the System, but also to revise their ideas, take new initiatives, and fulfil their own, necessary role as Agencies for development in their own right.

This positive approach to the future has played its part in the shaping of my proposals for the Summary Programme of Work and Budget. The document is brief and concise. As foreseen, it lacks the detail you will eventually find in the full version to be issued next September. The Programme and Finance Committees considered, however, that it provided a satisfactory basis for the purposes of this Council and they have made a number of very useful comments. I need not therefore cover all its contents, but there are certain points that I should stress.

In November last, I outlined to you the financial framework within which I proposed to formulate my proposals and submit a budget level.

This framework was well received by you last November. I have followed it in preparing my proposals for programme changes. I have now presented you with what represents my best judgement of the minimum package which is necessary and feasible at this juncture.

In this connexion, an issue of some importance for the future is the proposal to set up a Suspense Account on the lines of the first one. The Finance Committee more realistically prefer to call it a Reserve Account.

I am glad that the Finance Committee has endorsed a new Reserve Account which is very modest in comparison to what exists for protecting and even expanding the approved programme in many other Organizations.

Bearing in mind the financial framework, I should now like to say a few words about important aspects of the programme itself.

The corner-stones of my programme for 1978-1979 have been those which you approved -may I point out, on behalf of the Conference - last July; emphasis on concrete action at the country level, on investment, the establishment of FAO Representatives, and the creation of the Technical Cooperation Programme. Your decisions then, taken after a profound debate, were fully and enthusiastically endorsed by the subsequent Regional Conferences in a series of declarations which also recognized the relevance of these policies to the objectives of the New International Economic Order and self-reliance among the countries of the Third World.

The decisions of 1976 set FAO on a new course which I am following conscientiously and determinedly.

I have also had to take into account a number of particular programme needs. Among these are crops, trypanosomiasis, seeds, forestry, fisheries, various aspects of rural development, including the World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development, and cooperation with UNCTAD. Not all of these involve large additional resources. Some activities can be priorities without needing extra money: others can be catered for by switching resources from low priority activities. Some things need extra money without necessarily fitting into my highest priorities. For example, I had the legacy of the special additional lapse factor of 25 percent for the new 1976-77 posts which it has been essential to retain in the next biennium. This 25 percent lapse factor missing in the current budget now has to be added back, but under the ruling of an earlier Finance Committee, the amount involved, of \$1.1 million, counts as part of the new programme increase.

A new factor of a different kind is that I have had to bear in mind increasing demands for participation in system-wide activities, some of which are politically important and others of a more bureaucratic and theoretical nature. Even more important is that we should be able to respond appropriately to the needs of the important developing countries whom we hope soon to welcome to the membership of FAO.

Nevertheless, I have in my proposals brought about a notable reduction in professional staff in Headquarters and an increase in the proportion of expenditures in the field. These are testimony to my determination to re-shape FAO in accordance with your wishes.

The fact is that as a result of the decisions last July, FAO has a new life, a concreteness and practicality in its approach to problems, and a flexibility to act in a way that Member Governments can appreciate and ordinary people can understand.

And Member Governments are responding accordingly, so that there has been a great change in the circumstances of FAO since a year ago. This response shows that member countries realize and welcome

the fact that FAO is not building up the bureaucracy at Headquarters but is disposing its strength and its force to the real centers of struggle for progress, to the field, one might even say to the battlefield of hunger!

Let us take first the establishment of FAO Representatives. Since you approved my proposals last July, 47 official requests for the establishment of FAO offices have been received from Member Governments. In addition, 12 other governments have expressed interest. We have already completed 15 negotiating missions and many more are under way or in the course of preparation. Twelve agreements have been concluded and we shall very soon have the first half-dozen Representatives in place.

Thus, the process of phasing out the present arrangements of Senior Agricultural Advisers/CRs has already started, with a few incumbents retiring but also with the gradual substitution of one system of representation for the other. The major changes are expected to occur during the next biennium. We are making these changes in full consultation with the UNDP and Member Nations concerned.

Any constraints as regards continuity of representation in countries will not arise from our side: it is more likely that they may occur as a result of financial pressures on the UNDP or lack of flexibility in their administrative arrangements. You may, however, rest assured that I shall continue to work closely with the Administrator in this matter.

Let us take now the response of Member Nations to the Technical Cooperation Programme. This was approved nemine contradicente last July. It might be, however, that one or two countries would like immediately to dismantle this vital new instrument for FAO service to Member Nations. Frankly, I cannot be doctrinal, since it is frankly difficult to understand what doctrine could apply which is not also applicable to the small and unsystematic amount of technical assistance available in the past or to the proportionately large amounts available in many other Specialized Agencies.

In this connexion, the Administrator of the UNDP justly observes in a document now being submitted to his Governing Council that "In many Agencies, technical cooperation, whether it is financed through the regular budgets or through extra-budgetary resources, has become an integral function of the Agencies."

I believe that you will find, as I do, that a demand to dismantle the TCP now would not only be quite unjustified and unjustifiable but also disappointingly insensitive and out of tune with the needs and sentiments of the great majority of our Member States whether from Developing or developed countries.

In any case, it is not a demand which I could possibly accept nor one which I believe you could possibly heed. The TCP is an integral part of the new policies approved by the Council in July and of the new thrust of FAO for practical, concrete action at the country level.

I believe, however, that at the present time it would not be right for me to propose a large increase in the TCP. It would be premature at this stage when only a few projects have been completed.

I can give you a progress report on commitments to date. Despite an inevitably slow start, given my deliberate concern that projects should conform with approved criteria, the TCP has already proved its usefulness to 52 member countries from all Regions. I has done this in the form of 86 projects involving a total of some \$6.9 million. A list is being made available in an additional document.

Of this amount, roughly 1.8 million dollars has been committed to emergencies, six hundred thousand dollars for missions and activities in direct support of investment, nearly two million dollars for small-scale, gap-filling, and 2.6 million for training.

The subject matter covered by these allocations is very broad, as was to be expected. Certain points of concentration are apparent -for example, seed production, land and water development, plant protection, animal health, and training of extension agents. I think you will agree that these fit well with Regular Programme priorities set by you in past sessions.

The current rate of commitment is over \$1 million per month. In the next biennium we will certainly receive requests from many countries other than those so far covered. These will no doubt include new members of the Organization whose needs for immediate, short-term assistance of all kinds will be great. We will, however, be also working to a more established rhythm. In any case, it will then be possible to provide you with the proper evaluation, which I propose to carry out, of this first phase.

Meanwhile, I believe that for the next biennium, a higher amount might be justified for emergencies and the greater part of the resources should continue to be used for quick action projects which FAO is peculiarly equipped to and can provide without duplication of or harm to UNDP or other activities.

On the contrary, it is my firm intention that a basic aim of the Technical Cooperation Programme should continue to be to fill gaps and stimulate the flow of investment and aid from financing institutions and other sources. It is and will be operated in full consultation with Member Nations and FAO and UNDP Resident Representatives at the country level. As I have repeatedly said, there will be full coordination at the country level.

On this basis, I recommend to you without reserve my proposals for the TCP in 1978-1979, which as you will already have calculated are somewhat conservative, even on the assumption that the Conference will agree to the carry-over of any funds uncommitted at the end of 1977.

I feel sure that Member States in this Council and in the Conference itself will wish me to go further ahead in the next biennium with the implementation of these new policies. The Technical Cooperation Programme, the scheme for the establishment of Country Representatives, the proposed campaign against food losses, and the other priorities in the Summary Programme of Work and Budget go together in ensuring that FAO can make a worthwhile contribution to the attack on the basic problems of food and agricultural development.

Without a sustained and successful attack on the world food problem, the search for equity among rich and poor nations, rich and poor people, will be fruitless. To those who criticize the effects of emphasis on increased production or on technical cooperation, I would say that FAO cannot and will not become a mere venue for doctrinaire debate. Without a secure production advance, rural development cannot thrive: it will remain the arid resort of ideologues.

I am convinced that when we talk of development, and above all of rural development, we must remember that in themselves these are meaningless. They are not a substitute for determined and sustained action to meet the basic needs of the rural poor and landless.

It is an inescapable duty to recognize that technological advance and production increases will not be lasting, nor above all, beneficial for those most in need unless fashioned in the framework of sound and just social policies.

The needs of our time and of our posterity are all too painfully obvious. Nations great and small debate and hesitate about the crucial issues of wealth and debt, barter and trade, energy and pollution.

As ever, the needs and concerns of the rural areas in the greater part of the world tend to be overshadowed. We must not allow this to happen. We must show by our concern and our vision that the world food problem was not just the theme for one World Conference or the "raison d'être" for creating new bureaucracies and debating institutions. We must be able to offer sound policies and effective scientific and technological help to those in need of them.

You are, in your various ways, struggling against many difficulties to achieve these goals. You all have something to offer, to each other and to the world. You sustain this Organization, notwithstanding the difficulties inherent in being a member of a multinational institution involving Member Governments of different creeds, standards, and resources.

Such are the political, economic, and cultural differences between members of international organizations that it is hardly surprising that the path of agreement and cooperation in them is beset with obstacles and snares.

I believe however in the underlying importance and strength of the United Nations system. We must have wisdom and courage and not mistake the doctrinal, procedural, and methodological disputations of today for the important issues of tomorrow.

Most of all, I believe deeply and intensely in the mission of FAO, which remains valid and urgent. I believe in the potential of the Organization for constructive, international cooperation and concrete action. I believe that FAO can withstand the hard times brought by world recession and inflation, that it can confront positively the challenge posed by efforts to reshape the position of the UNDP or to restructure the UN system as a whole; that it can help not only to make the IFAD a successful reality but also to see beyond the exhaustion of its currently pledged resources; that it can continue its successful Cooperative Programme with the World Bank in efforts to expand its lending to agriculture; above all, it can prove its concrete, direct worth to Member Nations.

I believe that FAO can do these things if led with the necessary courage and conviction. Mr. Chairman, honourable delegates, I pledge my faith and determination to this cause and, without reserve, I ask for your confidence and support.

EL PRESIDENTE: En nombre del Consejo agradezco al Director General la interesante declaración que acaba de hacernos. Ha hecho usted referenda a los intensos contactos que ha tenido con los gobiernos de los Estados Miembros, a los cambios que se han producido en los últimos meses en la situación de la agricultura y de la alimentación en el mundo y a la importante misión que corresponde a la FAO en estos momentos.

Muchos de los temas que usted ha tratado en su declaración están vinculados a los puntos del programa de este período de sesiones. Estoy seguro que mas adelante y en cada oportunidad propicia, los miembros del Consejo utilizarán adecuadamente los conceptos y las informaciones que usted acaba de expresar. Si en este momento, no obstante, algunos de los miembros del Consejo desean hacer comentarios generales sobre la declaración del Director General, podrán hacerlo.

J.C. VIGNAUD (Argentina): La delegación de Argentina ha escuchado con atención la exposición del Director General y creo que la importancia de las materias que el aporta inducen a que hagamos algunos comentarios.

Por cierto, que tengo presente lo que Ud., señor Presidente, ha señalado en el sentido de que muchos de los temas que ha tratado el Director General serán discutidos en el curso de nuestras deliberaciones a medida que Ud. vaya presentando los temas que están previstos en nuestra agenda. Sin embargo, creo que cabe ahora hacer algunos comentarios generales.

En primer lugar, deseo reiterar el interés con que Argentina sigue las actividades de FAO, tanto a través de los debates en sus Organos Rectorés como en la aplicación de su programa de trabajo en la sede y en el campo. Es por ello que mi Gobierno decidió designar al Viceministro de Relaciones Exteriores a cargo de las relaciones económicas internacionales para que presida esta Delegación. Lamentablemente no ha podido llegar todavía, pero estamos seguros que llegará en tiempo útil como para hacer aportes a nuestros debates.

Creo que es oportuno indicar desde ya que, en nuestra opinión, los lineamientos generales del Programa de Labores que se propone para el próximo bienio cristalizan y concretan las nuevas políticas y objetivos que el Director General propuso y fueron en su momento aprobados por el Consejo. En efecto, resulta de la propuesta del Programa de Labores y de la distribución del presupuesto que se pone un positivo énfasis en la concentración de esfuerzos en aquellas actividades concretas susceptibles de traducirse en el incremento de la producción y de la productividad de alimentos y de un efectivo desarrollo rural.

Mi Delegación considera que es conveniente poner el acento en la acción a corto plazo, tanto para hacer frente a una particular coyuntura caracterizada por las expectativas de la población rural en los países en vías de desarrollo, por lo general mejoras sustanciales en su nivel de vida, como también por la necesidad de devolver la confianza a un Organismo cuyos engranajes estaban empastados y que la mayor parte de los recursos los utilizaba para hacer frente a los gastos emergentes del crecimiento constante de una burocracia que no lograba demostrar acabadamente su eficiencia.

Es por ello que acogemos con satisfacción la propuesta que se nos formula de reducir el personal en la sede. Nos damos cuenta de que la reducción no es sustancial, pero, no obstante, ello implica un cambio de tendencias que nosotros apoyamos decididamente.

El apoyo al FIDA es también una inquietud que desde ahora deseo plantear, pues una adecuada participación de la FAO en su actividad a la vez que permitiera que el Fondo se convierta en una fuente adecuada de ayuda, evitará que se creen estructuras paralelas a las que ya existen en esta casa. La propuesta que se nos formula en relación con el Fondo para la reducción de pérdidas posteriores a la cosecha ha sido también analizada con vivo interés por mi Gobierno y deseo anticipar desde ahora que en su oportunidad será objeto de nuestro apoyo.

Como ya lo dijo el propio Director General, no se trata de una idea nueva, pero no decimos esto para restar originalidad o importancia a la iniciativa, sino para subrayar que, si bien en otras ocasiones este tema ha sido analizado, pocos resultados concretos se obtuvieron. Hoy, aunque la presentación que se nos hace es todavía en cierto modo esquemática, nos ha producido la sensación de que las actividades que se proponen se orientan a la obtención de resultados concretos y tangibles.

La información que se nos ha brindado con respecto al programa de operaciones técnicas es otro tema que creo que también merece que haga algunos comentarios generales. Esa información hace vislumbrar que las actividades que se desarrollan en ese marco están bien encaminadas; por ello, aunque quizás todavía sea algo prematuro poder hacer una evaluación definitiva precisa sobre el impacto que este programa está produciendo, creo que los datos preliminares que se nos han proporcionado son suficientes como para reiterar el apoyo que inicialmente mi Delegación dio a estas actividades y expresar la esperanza de que el Director General no tropiece con dificultades en su aplicación.

Deseo referirme también al interés de mi país en que se promueva la cooperación técnica entre países en desarrollo en el ámbito de la agricultura y la alimentación. La utilización amplia de instituciones nacionales, individualmente y en programas conjuntos o interagenciales y el apoyo en la transferencia horizontal de tecnología entre países en desarrollo debe ser ampliada en aquellas áreas en que los países en desarrollo demuestran significativos avances con homogeneidad de situaciones y requerimientos y aspiran a trabajar juntos en soluciones apropiadas. Me referiré en detalle a este tema en el punto 17 de nuestra agenda, pero reitero que debe explorarse la posibilidad de promover nuevos métodos de cooperación técnica entre países en desarrollo con vistas a adecuar las actividades de FAO a las crecientes necesidades y potencialidades de sus Miembros, tanto en el ámbito de la FAO, PNUD, como para las actividades del Fondo Fiduciario.

Desearía, por último, decirle al Director General que con satisfacción observo que deberá modificar las cifras que nos dio en relación con las peticiones oficiales que ha recibido para la designación de representantes de FAO residentes en los países, pues mi Gobierno ha instruido a esta Delegación para que formalmente solicite iniciar negociaciones para la designación en Buenos Aires de un Representante Residente de FAO.

Por último, desearía pedir que el discurso del Director General sea distribuido entre nosotros como un documento de trabajo.

DONA PAULINA DE CASTRO MONSALVO (Colombia) : La declaración que acaba de hacer el señor Director General merece la mayor atención de la Delegación de Colombia. De la amplia reseña presentada por el Doctor Saouma se desprende esos fondos como la necesidad de seguir con actitud vigilante la situación alimentaria mundial y la importancia creciente de la FAO en la solución de esos problemas.

En su declaración el Director General ha hecho una interesante y completa revisión de los acontecimientos que han tenido lugar particularmente en los primeros seis meses de este año. Todo ello lo analizaremos más adelante al obtener el documento informativo que contendrá el importante discurso que acabamos de escuchar.

En este momento la delegación de Colombia sólo desea destacar, en términos generales, la adecuada orientación con que el Director General ha expresado sus opiniones y ha presentado sus planes ante este Consejo.

El Gobierno de Colombia reitera su apoyo a los pilares prioritarios básicos de la nueva política de la FAO. Concretamente queremos reafirmar nuestra confianza en los resultados positivos de la descentralización, tesis obtenida permanentemente por los representantes de Colombia en los órganos rectores de la FAO; descentralización que Colombia ha hecho realidad al firmar en marzo pasado el acuerdo mediante el cual se estableció en Bogotá la primera oficina propia de FAO en toda América Latina. Después nos referiremos en detalle a la Declaración del Director General que consideramos ha sido de gran importancia e interés.

H. ABDALLAH (Egypt) (Interpretation from Arabic): We wish to express our appreciation of the excellent statement by the Director-General, and would like to express our satisfaction over his achievements during the relatively short period which passed since he has taken office. We in particular would like to welcome the approach he has adopted by consulting Member Governments on major issues. At this stage we shall confine ourselves to certain items to which the Director-General has referred.

We would like to express our support to the conception of the TCP which has provided FAO with the flexibility it lacked for many years, since it was operating at the mercy of other organizations. We have noted the value of this program during the recent visit by the Director-General to Cairo when he was able to meet some urgent requests on the spot. Here we would like to associate ourselves with the views expressed by the representative of Argentina concerning the value and importance of using national institutions.

We would like also to pay tribute to the Director-General's approach concerning the establishment of country offices. We also welcome the action taken by him to effect gradual and balanced decentralization of services to regional offices.

An important development taken by the Director-General was his proposal for establishing two funds, one for seed development and the other on post-harvest losses. We welcome this very much in terms of functions, financing and methodology. However, we feel that something should be done in the field of animal production by providing artificial insemination facilities to developing nations.

Finally, we would like to express our support of the draft programme of work and budget which reveals a commendable approach in terms of contents and financial provisions. We will be going into the details of these subjects when they are dealt with under the appropriate items of the agenda.

I. OROZCO (Mexico): Nosotros queremos también expresar en forma muy breve algunos comentarios generales acerca de la interesantísima declaración que nos ha hecho en esta mañana el Director General de la FAO. En gran parte se resume en lo que va ha expresado nuestro distinguido representante de Argentina, que se ha expresado en mejores términos de los que nosotros mismos hubiéramos podido hacerlo. Queremos hacer nuestra esa declaración a la que nos asociamos y habrá oportunidad de referirnos a cada uno de esos conceptos que son de vital importancia para nuestra Organización y a los que mi Gobierno atribuye un interés marcado y a los cuales otorga un apoyo constante.

A. HUQ (Bangladesh): We are attending this distinguished Council for the first time. We want to record our compliments to the Director-General for his very informative statement and I also want to express our deep appreciation of the very quick response he gave earlier this year in assisting us in the matter of studying the hard realities of the situation of food and agriculture in Bangladesh. He was very quick in his response and we got the expert services we very urgently needed. We are deeply appreciative of this. We endorse his policies of decentralizing the FAO administration and I take it that he also has in mind the strengthening of the regional institutions that concern problems of food and agriculture in different parts of the world and also his desire expressed in many meetings to strengthen national institutions of research, service, studies, etc. At this stage I would close here and I hope at an appropriate time later on we will go into details of programmes with which we are particularly concerned.

L. LA CORTE (Venezuela): Nuestras palabras son para saludar muy cordialmente a todos los Miembros del Consejo. Esta es la primera vez que Venezuela forma parte de este importante cuerpo y, por lo tanto, en nombre de nuestro Gobierno y en el personal de quien habla, damos nuestra cordial salutación a to-dos los miembros de este cuerpo.

Debo expresar la satisfacción, después de la presencia de nuestro Presidente ante este Organismo en su reunión general, de poder responder al interés que tiene Venezuela en el buen funcionamiento de la FAO con la creación, que me complace representar, de la Embajada Permanente de Venezuela ante la FAO; iniciamos así también los primeros pasos para solicitar en el futuro la mejor representación de la FAO ante el Gobierno de Venezuela y ante el pueblo venezolano.

Nos satisface respaldar ampliamente los planteamientos del Director General, especialmente los relacionados con el FIDA, con el Fondo de Reserva, que ha solicitado y continua solicitando el señor Director General. El programa del FIDA se encuentra ante el poder legislativo venezolano para su respaldo y aprobación. Con la participación decidida de Venezuela queremos con nuestra presencia y con esta información y respaldo dar nuestro agradecimiento y asegurar nuestra palabra de colaborar al mejor desenvolvimiento de las actividades del Consejo y de la FAO en general.

A. DAS (India): Our delegation expresses its appreciation of the various priorities and policy indications expressed in the illuminating address of the Director-General of the FAO. We particularly welcome the sustained efforts in providing the much needed support and resources to developing countries for quick action orientated and positive programmes directed towards starting production programmes in the fields of agriculture, animal husbandry, fisheries, forestry, including cooperative efforts in these fields, and in particular to rural development and agrarian reform with

the object of ameliorating the lot of small farmers. We particularly appreciate the Director-General's and FAO's initiative to prevent post-harvest food losses and to provide the use of experts and technologists by strengthening FAO's country offices.

We also welcome the suggestion of some of the members of this Council for transfer of technology through the medium of the FAO. In this context we are happy to note that a great agriculturally advanced country like the People's Republic of China is now providing facilities for transfer of agricultural technology and expertise of their country by arranging visits through the medium of the FAO. We are sure that similar friendly efforts and visits from one country to another, particularly to agriculturally developed countries, would not only promote friendliness, but would also promote the much needed efforts which the Director-General is striving for in transferring technology, and in effecting improvements in the techniques of agriculture, animal husbandry, fisheries and forestry, which the member countries of the FAO could learn from each other. We feel this would lead not only to greater cooperation in the field of agricultural production but would also lead to a greater fulfilment of the objectives of the FAO.

I.A. IMTIAZI (Pakistan): We have listened to the Director-General's statement with attention and great interest. We find ourselves basically in agreement with most of what he has said in regard to FAO's objectives and the practical matter-of-fact strategy to achieve those objectives. Of particular interest to us are his ideas on a technical cooperation programme, on IFAD, on the establishment of the FAO representative country offices, on the crash programme for reducing harvest and post-harvest food losses on strengthening of national institutions and so on.

The only point on which we feel a little reservation is perhaps his view to the effect that more funds need not be asked for, for the TCP this year. We feel that this technical programme is of great interest and value to all the developing countries and it is only by making it more effective that we can hope to achieve the kind of results that he and the FAO have in mind. However, since we shall have occasion to discuss these matters in greater detail later, at this stage we content ourselves with the broad endorsement of his valuable and useful statement.

E. CHELBI (Tunisie): Je voudrais me limiter à une observation générale sur l'allocation de M. le Directeur general.

Voilà presque une année, M. le Directeur general a eu l'occasion de développer le programme et les nouvelles orientations qu'il voulait donner aux activités de la FAO. Son allocution d'aujourd'hui fait donc le point de la situation et de la réalisation qui a eu lieu.

Nous sommes convaincus que le dialogue qu'il a instauré avec les pays membres et les Organisations internationales ont prouvé sa décision ferme d'agir avec délérité, mais aussi d'éviter les doubles emplois et de rechercher le maximum d'efficacité.

Je voudrais exprimer notre satisfaction quant à ce changement de tendance. Quoique recent, nous pensons qu'il répond aux aspirations de la majeure partie des pays membres, et nous espérons qu'il ait le temps de se renforcer suffisamment pour devenir irréversible.

EL PRESIDENTE: Hemos agotado así el programa previsto en el Orden del Día para esta mañana y si no hay ningún comentario por parte de los miembros del Consejo, vamos ahora a levantar la sesión y nos reuniremos esta tarde a las 14.30 horas. Les ruego que sean puntuales, por favor.

The meeting rose at 12.10 hours

La seance est levée à 12 h 10

Se levanta la sesión a las 12.10 horas

council

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

conseil

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

consejo

ORGANIZACION DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS PARA LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION

CL

CL 71/PV/2

Seventy-First Session

Soixante et onzième session

71º período de sesiones

SECOND PLENARY MEETING
DEUXIEME SEANCE PLENIERE
SEGUNDA SESION PLENARIA

(6 June 1977)

The Second Plenary Meeting was opened at 16.05 hours, G. Bula Hoyos, Independent Chairman of the Council, presiding

La deuxième seance plénière est ouverte á 16 h 05 sous la présidence de G. Bula Hoyos, Président indépendant du Conseil

Se abre la segunda sesión plenaria a las 16.05 horas bajo la presidencia de G. Bula Hoyos, Presidente Independiente del Consejo

II. WORLD FOOD AND AGRICULTURE SITUATION

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

II. SITUACION MUNDIAL DE LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION

4. Current World Food Situation

4. Situation actuelle de l'alimentation mondiale

4. La situación alimentaria mundial en la actualidad

EL PRESIDENTE: Como está previsto en el Orden del Día comenzaremos la discusión del tema 4, situación alimentaria mundial en la actualidad, tema para el cual disponen Uds. del documento básico CL/71/2 y también el corrigendum 1.

Vamos ahora a conceder la palabra al señor Walton, Jefe encargado del Departamento Económico y Social, para que actualice esta situación alimentaria mundial.

D.J. WALTON (Officer-in-Charge, Economic and Social Policy Department): Besides your injunction of this morning, I have a very good substantive reason for being brief. The Council examined the state of food and agriculture in some detail only six months ago, and the picture has not changed very substantially since then. Consequently, I can limit myself to a few remarks to bring up to date the information contained in document CL 71/2 and Corr.1.

The general assessment of the world food situation given in that document was finalized in March 1977, but more recent information confirms the main body of its findings. The latest revisions to FAO's index numbers of world and regional food production show that results for 1976 were marginally better than expected earlier. World food production is now estimated to have risen by 3.6% compared to the earlier estimate of 3.4% so that on a rounded basis it now becomes 4%. There are also some relatively minor adjustments in regional figures, which I do not need to enumerate.

Plantings of soy beans are likely to be sharply up in the United States and in Brazil, and large increases are also expected in production of other oil crops in both Canada and the United States. In Asia the upward trend in palm oil output is likely to continue as more young trees come into full bearing. It is still too early to forecast the 1977 sugar crop, but first indications suggest that the current surplus situation will continue.

World milk production has grown only slowly so far in 1977, while total production of the four main types of meat is still forecast to increase very little in 1977.

The latest indications suggest that the fisheries' catch in 1977 is unlikely to show any increase over 1976, mainly because of the anticipated decline in catches of non-food fish.

Finally, it appears that the fear expressed in document CL 71/2 that commitments of external assistance to agriculture might decline in 1976 has in fact been realised. This means that the gap between commitments and requirements, as estimated by FAO at the time of the World Food Conference, already large in 1975, will have widened.

Mr. Chairman, this brief review shows that the immediate world food situation is relatively encouraging, while the medium and longer-term outlook remains disturbing. A number of documents before the Council, including not only the paper the Council is now considering - which I may add was also considered by the preparatory meeting for the World Food Council - but also the reports of the Committees on World Food Security, on Commodity Problems, and on Agriculture, all these documents draw attention to many unsatisfactory features of the longer-term trends. I would like to emphasize now that the present short-term recovery - which remains fragile - must not be allowed to undermine efforts by both developed and developing countries to tackle the fundamental problems of world food and agriculture. These efforts must be viewed in a long time-perspective and, at international level, within the framework of the search for a new international economic order.

EL PRESIDENTE: Acaban ustedes de oír la intervención del señor Walton quien ha utilizado la situación alimentaria mundial como argumento. Según, el mismo, no ha habido cambios sustanciales en los últimos tiempos. Podemos ahora iniciar el debate del tema 4. En primer lugar voy a conceder la palabra a Checoslovaquia.

E. ČAKAYDA Czechoslovakia (Interpretation from Czechoslovakian): My country, a founder member of the Organization greatly appreciates being one of those selected to contribute their best to the development activity and to the future programmes on world agriculture and in particular those of developing countries. Now, personally it is a great honour to represent my country at this session.

In the objective and the detailed analyses prepared by the Secretariat as shown in document CL 71/2, in spite of significant progress during 1976 and relatively positive prospects for 1977, the basic structural problem of development in world agriculture, food production, and trade remain to be resolved by FAO in collaboration with other United Nations bodies.

My Government is determined to cooperate actively and frankly in the implementation of programmes in line with our resources and in accordance with our own programme of international assistance in the fields of agriculture and nutrition. We would like to contribute in all activities related to the solution of the world food problem, the provision of food for all, and the protection of the human population from famine and under-nourishment which still exist in other countries and areas.

Since particular importance is given to the technical side of assistance for developing countries, and since their needs and requirements, as recommended by their experts and authorities according to local conditions, are respected, we are in full agreement with all the new lines and provisions of technical and financial assistance.

I feel that the example and the experience of Czechoslovak agriculture can be utilized even in other countries throughout the world in future. Intensification of production with a concomitant reduction in import and labour requirements can demonstrate the benefits of the system and suitable forms of food production under difficult conditions. These results in Czechoslovak agriculture were developed in close cooperation with all socialist countries and by large-scale application of the new approved methods. We have proved the fact that it is only through the highest training and educational standards of our professional people, combined with an intensified post-graduate training programme that we are able to maintain such impressive results in agricultural production under relatively difficult conditions.

We are convinced therefore that it is in the field of training and education in different specializations that Czechoslovakia can contribute to the present and changing programme of FAO's international assistance by the preparation of complex training courses, seminars, etc. adapted to specific local conditions in the individual developing countries.

We are also interested, in cooperation with other socialist countries, to develop and to intensify further cooperation in the European region in the field of scientific and technical cooperation with an effective impact on some problems of developing countries. We strongly believe that our international activities, cooperation and contacts will intensify through our participation in this FAO Council and we shall be able to find, with your kind support, a suitable way to utilize some of our selected specialized schemes for the benefit of international assistance through the FAO programme. We are sure that this kind of cooperation will contribute positively and effectively to a general appreciation of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. We therefore fully support the general lines of the approach of the Director General, Mr. Saouma.

DOÑA P. de CASTRO MONSALVO: (Colombia): La delegación de Colombia considera que el documento CL 71/2 utiliza adecuadamente hasta marzo de 1977 el estado de la situación alimentaria mundial. Nos complace que la grave crisis que tuvo lugar, particularmente entre 1972 - 74 haya cesado, recuperándose a partir de 1975/76. Sin embargo, como dice este documento, subsisten muchos aspectos sobre todo a largo plazo. Esto confirma la necesidad de que los gobiernos concedan mas alta prioridad a la agri-cultura en los planes nacionales de desarrollo, como se dice en el párrafo 4, a fin de que así se estimule y canalice más efectivamente la asistencia técnica de la FAO.

El párrafo 2 nos indica que los buenos resultados de 1975-76 de la producción agricola en los países en desarrollo han conducido al aumento anual medio del 2,6 por ciento. Esta cifra es alentadora pero está por debajo del 4 por ciento establecido para el Segundo Decenio para el Desarrollo de las Naciones Unidas, y aún mas lejos del 6 por ciento de que ya se habló en otros documentos.

Estos hechos confirman la necesidad de que debe insistirse por todos los medios en el aumento de la producción agrícola en los países en desarrollo como condición esencial para evitar nuevas crisis en el futuro

La última frase del párrafo 6 dice que en algunos países en desarrollo a pesar de haberse recogido mejores cosechas, los consumidores más pobres no han podido comprar alimentos suficientes para atender sus necesidades nutricionales. Esa situación confirma el lamentable estado del poder adquisitivo de las poblaciones rurales, lo cual desvirtúa el alcance del beneficio en desarrollo que nos llega a los grupos más vulnerables. Por eso la delegación de Colombia apoya otro de los aspectos de la política del Director General, en el sentido de que a través de la acción de la FAO deberá buscarse la mejora de las condiciones de los pequeños agricultores.

En el capítulo Producción Alimentaria, párrafo 18, nos complace registrar el aumento que se había logrado en algunos países de América Latina. Dentro del espíritu de solidaridad que une al Gobierno a todos los pueblos del Tercer Mundo nos preocupa la situación de África descrita en el párrafo 30 y pedimos que se intensifique la acción de la FAO en pro de todos los países de la región africana.

En cuanto a las perspectivas de 1977 leímos con preocupación las que se hacen en los párrafos 24 a 29 pero conservamos la esperanza de que esas perspectivas mejoren. La Sección Consumo de Alimentos y Nutrición revela el párrafo 34 que en América Latina el valor energético de la ración alimenticia se ha mantenido en el 6 o el 7 por ciento por encima de las necesidades. Este es un indicio de la buena política nutricional de los países de la región latinoamericana.

En Colombia, el Gobierno del Presidente López Micheleno ha adoptado como política social y económica el plan nutricional de alimentación, en cuya deliberación se contó con la valiosa asistencia de la FAO.

La sección sobre los países más gravemente afectados, a partir del párrafo 49, contiene datos que revelan las condiciones desfavorables de los 45 países catalogados en esas condiciones. Esto impone un esfuerzo mayor y la necesaria solidaridad en torno a estos países más gravemente afectados. Finalmente, sobre la ayuda alimentaria, nos complace que esa ayuda haya aumentado porque la consideramos necesaria en estos momentos aún de crisis, pero la delegación de Colombia considera que esta ayuda debe ser transitoria y que lo esencial es que la FAO asista a los países en desarrollo a que obtengan bases sólidas sobre las cuales asegurar el continuo crecimiento de la producción agrícola.

A. DAS (India): The Indian delegation notes with satisfaction that the process of improvement in world food supplies which began in 1975 has continued and there has been distinct improvement in the immediate food situation in the world. We are particularly glad that during the last two years the developing countries have been able to expand their food production at an average rate of about 4 percent per annum. The longer term growth rate of food output in the developing countries has also improved since 1970 to an annual average of 2.6 percent.

Apart from favourable weather conditions, the accelerated developmental efforts put in by the developing countries, including the extended use of water, improved seeds, fertilizers and pesticides, have contributed to the increased output. This bears ample testimony to the fact that it is not the absence of the will of the people but the constraints on the availability of resources as well as on the supply of crucial inputs like fertilizers which prevented the developing countries from achieving a higher rate of growth of food production.

The recent improvement in the immediate world food situation should not, however, leave any room for complacency since the longer term growth rate of 2.6 percent of food output achieved in the developing countries still remains considerably below the minimum agricultural growth rate of 4 percent per annum stipulated by the World Food Conference. Besides, some of the most seriously affected countries have not shared in the increased harvests of the past two years.

It is obvious, therefore, that in the coming years world food security will continue to depend to a considerable extent on the ability of the developing countries to expand food production at a much higher rate. In this regard we very much appreciate the help already rendered by the donor countries and the international organizations, including FAO to the developing countries in stepping up their food-grain production, but the rate of assistance will have to be considerably stepped up to enable these countries to accelerate their pace of growth of output.

Against this background, the information furnished in the Secretariat document to the effect that the total developmental assistance for agriculture in the developing countries during 1976 is likely to decline as compared to the previous year, is rather disquieting and disconcerting and should be a cause for serious concern to the international community. In this context, the Indian delegation would wish to re-emphasize the urgency of increasing the flow of resources to agriculture in the developing countries to at least the level of \$8.3 billion, per annum of which at least \$6.5 billion should be in the shape of concessional assistance. Of course, this should be done in implementation of the 0.7 percent target of the official development assistance which was reconfirmed at the 7th Special Session of the General Assembly.

World food security is closely linked to the system of food reserves and the accessibility of those reserves to those countries which may be in need from time to time. However, it is disconcerting to note that even though a number of years have passed since the international undertaking on world food security was adopted by the international community, little progress has been made towards the establishment of an internationally coordinated system for the holding and management of food stocks.

It is imperative that all the countries, developed as well as developing, should participate and adopt methods to implement the Undertaking on World Food Security. The developing countries could participate in the system only if assisted in procuring supplies through food aid and flow of financial resources. Thus food aid is required not only for meeting the immediate requirements but also for aiding the developing countries to build up national reserves.

On the subject of food aid, the Secretariat's paper points out that the food aid shipments of cereals in 1975-76 and commitments for 1976-77 remain well below the minimum target of 10 million tons recommended by the World Food Conference. My delegation would like to reemphasize the need for fulfilling the target of food aid to help the developing countries in meeting their growing requirements. In fact, we would urge that the target of 10 million tons which was the minimum target, should be raised so as to help the developing countries in, firstly improving the nutritional standards of their people, who are at present suffering seriously from malnutrition; and secondly, in building up and maintenance of national reserves in the interest of improving food security. The Committee on Food Aid Policies and Programmes which has decided to review the targets should also be asked to keep these criteria in view in their analysis. In order to ensure continuity of food aid for food security purposes, my delegation would like to reemphasize that the new International Grains Agreement should, as in the past, provide for a Food Aid Convention. Apart from this, the new agreement should have provisions for reserve stocks, the earmarking of a part of this stock for meeting the requirements of the developing countries at reasonable prices during periods of crop failure and other appropriate safeguards for the developing countries.

There are a number of other important issues on which we would have liked to comment, such as forward planning in food aid, achievement of 500 thousand tons target under the International Emergency Reserve, etc. We shall come back to these matters under the relevant agenda items.

Before concluding, we cannot but reemphasize the need for the international community, especially in food exporting developed countries, to undertake immediate measures which would ensure international food security. I should therefore urge that the opportunity provided by the unique conditions which exist now in the accumulation of substantial grain stocks should be fully utilized to create a grain reserve this year which would ensure against a repetition of the disaster of 1972-74.

C.R. FRANK (United States of America): The United States delegation heartily commends the FAO Secretariat for its brief and informative review of the current state of food and agriculture. We are indeed encouraged that world food production increased again in 1976, that this increase was the largest since 1973 and that average annual growth from 1970 to 1976 exceeds the rate of population growth. We are also encouraged by the very large increase in the amount of cereal grains production and the growth of cereal stocks which had been seriously depleted. Let us not be complacent, however, because of recent hopeful trends in world food production. More and sustained growth in world food production is required if we are to avoid major world food shortages and a growing food deficit for the developing nations whose food needs are the most critical.

Let us also be mindful that increased food production is not the only important food objective. More food must find its way to the hungry and malnourished. Better storage, transport, trade and distribution facilities are essential if basic food needs are to be satisfied. National and international economic and social policies also determine whether hungry mouths are fed or not. The United States place special emphasis on the alleviation of hunger and malnutrition as part of a basic strategy for world wide development cooperation to satisfy basic human needs. Alleviation of hunger and malnutrition is a critical element of the economic and social rights contained in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights to which our country subscribes. In recent widely reported speeches President Carter, Secretary Vance and Ambassador Young have all stressed our commitment to economic and social rights in meeting basic human needs. This United States commitment will be an essential part of our future approach to all the development activities of the United Nations and its specialized agencies, including the Food and Agriculture Organization.

In this connection we would welcome any information that FAO can supply concerning the impact of food production increases in raising the nutrition standards of the poor majority in the developing world. Meeting food and nutritional needs is a joint responsibility of national governments and the international community. External resources are indeed required to meet food needs. In this connection the United States welcomes the prospective establishment of the International Fund for Agricultural Development and the positive results of the first Conference on International Economic Cooperation in calling for increased international cooperation in the field of food and agriculture.

External resources, however, must be matched by an acceleration of internal efforts both to provide more domestic resources and to overcome social and institutional obstacles to agriculture and rural development. Thus our delegation believes FAO could usefully provide information in its survey on investment trends in the agricultural sector.

Let me conclude by saying the United States strongly supports continuing FAO efforts to survey the world food situation and believes they are essential to an understanding of FAO's role in helping to expand world food production.

EL PRESIDENTE: El Delegado del Brasil, quien es Presidente del Grupo de los 77. me ha pedido la palabra para hacer una declaración.

B. de AZEVEDO BRITO (Chairman of the Group of 77) I am not going to speak as delegate of Brazil but as Chairman of the Group of 77 and I hope I may be allowed to take the floor later on this item specifically to give the comments for Brazil. Mr. President, distinguished delegates, I have been requested by the Group of 77 to convey to you its views on the main issues before the Council at the current session in the hope of providing an initial stimulus to our discussion. We will comment on specific items in more detail in the course of the deliberations as individual delegations. These observations are made in a spirit of mutual interest and cooperation.

Overall levels of food production, including production in developing countries, have increased substantially in the past two years; however, actual food supplies still vary greatly among countries and regions. There is food but not necessarily where it is needed and those in need do not necessarily have the resources to satisfy their food requirements. Moreover, food production still falls short of the goal of the 4 percent rate called for in the Second Development Decade a rate of growth which must be achieved if significant shortages are to be avoided and if actual progress is to be shared in improving the nutrition of the hundreds of millions that live in the developing world. With the improved food situation in cereal production there is, for the first time in a number of years, the possibility of building up adequately geographically located reserves and stocks that will caution us against a serious crop failure in the next season. The international community now has the opportunity to build a system of reserve capable of responding in a rational manner to the objectives of world food security as called for in the World Food Conference. We sincerely hope that at this instance the Council will find it possible to urge the international community to build up an internationally coordinated system of national stocks on the basis of the minimum level of 17-18 percent of world grain consumption.

Though the overall prospects for food security have improved somewhat, we must also realize that there has been an unusual degree of instability in the prices of commodities in the past two years. International efforts to expand markets and stabilize prices at levels remunerative to producers have not yet succeeded. This difficulty is confounded by the fact that a growing number of developing countries are facing balance of payment deficits of an unprecedented magnitude. While developing countries have been devoting an ever larger proportion of their internal resources to agricultural development and food production, we see with concern that the flows of external assistance, in particular official development assistance, have lagged far behind the targets of the Second Development Decade.

Within agriculture, after slight improvement in resource flows in 1974 and 1975, figures for 1976 unfortunately suggest stagnation. Thus it is with immediate food crisis temporarily averted, but with substantive problems looming ahead in many crucial areas that the activities of FAO must be reviewed. A number of important committees have met recently and the Council will be in a position to review their work. We believe that implementation of recommendations of the Committee on Forestry can provide a new impetus to forestry in the developing countries. We note with particular interest the emphasis on small-scale forestry operations and integration of forestry product projects include overall community development.

In the area of fisheries, a fresh look was given in the recent meeting of the Committee on Fisheries which has provided new insight on the manner in which developing countries can develop their fishing resources to better feed their populations. We would like to endorse the programmes directed to small-scale fishermen in view of the significant contributions this segment of the population can make in improving their own standard of living and increasing the food supplies of their countries. We believe that inland fisheries should be encouraged.

The emphasis on improved marketing, storage and processing to increase the amount of fish available for consumption also deserves our attention.

More important still, the Council now has the benefit of the overview of programmes given by the Committee on Agriculture which provides an excellent analysis of the programmes of the Organization.

In the deliberations of the Committee on Agriculture I would call the particular attention of the Council to two aspects, first the reduction of harvests and post-harvest losses and second the role of the small farmers in agricultural development. The proposal to establish a trust fund of \$20 million to finance programmes and activities to reduce harvest and post harvest losses calls for an input of \$10 million from resources accumulated in the suspense account of the present biennium as recommended by the Finance Committee. Developing countries fully support such a proposal and believe that it can have a very significant and immediate impact, both on increasing the availability of food in the Third World and of reducing dependancy on external food supplies. We also feel that the small farmer has an increasingly significant role to play in agricultural development. While we believe that agricultural development should be pursued through many approaches we are aware of the contributions that small farmers can make in providing a substantial increase in the production and availability of food. We welcome, therefore, the constructive suggestions made on the subject of small farmers during the recent Session of the Committee on Agriculture,

We hope that the forthcoming World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development will lead to a major improvement in rural welfare, inter alia by providing greater development support to small farmers.

In the area of rural development, we also support FAO's programme for the development of human resources, including training at the grass roots level and the promotion and integration of women in the development processes as participants as well as beneficiaries.

While the recent session of the Committee on Commodity Problems necessarily reflected the lack of basic agreement on the larger policy issues, it reflected both policy issues, which related both to the stabilization of the price of commodities and to the improvement of export earnings of developing countries, the Committee has done much useful work in imparting clear policy directives to the important intergovernmental bodies subordinate to it.

We very much hope that the International Guidelines on Meat will be implemented in full; that the Intergovernmental Group on Oilseeds, Oils and Fats will be in a position to develop a comprehensive set of guidelines for the sector so that the export interests of developing countries will be safeguarded; that the Intergovernmental Group on Rice will be in a position to report that the recommendations it adopted during its Nineteenth Session are adequately implemented. We hope, I said, that the encouraging progress towards an agreement on bananas will continue; that a comprehensive programme of action on tea will be successfully developed, and that the Ad Hoc Committee on Hides and Skins who meet next year in 1978 will be in a position to contribute substantively to the solution of the problems in this sector, especially those of market access of processed and semi-processed products for developing countries.

With regard to the overall situation of commodities of direct concern to FAO's activities, we cannot but express once more our dissatisfaction with the policies of some developed countries which, by pursuing self-sufficiency at very high cost, have increasingly resorted to import restrictions with serious negative consequences for the export earnings of the developing countries. We feel also compelled to register our concern for the increasing displacement of natural products - some of them of critical importance to developing countries - by synthetics and substitutes.

In this connection we would like to reiterate our position that, unless there are commodity agreements covering both the natural product and synthetics, it would be Utopian to maintain that producers could avoid additional market losses to synthetics merely by assuring continuity of supply at "competitive" prices.

Still in the purview of the report of the Committee on Commodity Problems, we would urge the Council to take favourable action on the proposal that, in the light of its expertise, the CCP be associated with the task of ensuring that food standards adopted in the Codex Alimentarius do in fact contribute to promoting fair trade practices in food trade and do not have harmful effects on the development of food industries and on the export trade of developing countries.

We understand that the Second Annual Report of the Committee on Food Aid Policies and Programmes will be submitted to the Council. While we note with concern that the target for food aid of ten million tons of grain per year has still not been reached, that the International Food Emergency Reserve did not, thus far, reach even fifty percent of its target of 500 000 tons, and that the food aid policies recommended by the World Food Conference have as yet received only superficial attention on the part of most donor countries, we are nevertheless satisfied with the vitality of the operations of the World Food Programme itself. Of particular importance is the renewed emphasis by WFP on development projects now possible through the increased resources available to the Programme and the improvement in the world food supply situation. We strongly urge WFP to expand its purchases in developing countries as a means to stimulate food production in these countries. We concur with the priorities accorded by WFP to the least developed and most seriously affected countries and, at the same time, wish to welcome, in particular, the prompt response of WFP to the requests of newly independent countries, of nations emerging from war, and of liberation movements. We sincerely hope that an agreement will be reached on the proposed pledging target of \$ 950 million for the 1979-80 biennium. We feel that the technical cooperation and investment activities within FAO, the future operations of the International Fund for Agricultural Development and the World Food Programme must be seen as complementary efforts geared to remove the fear of hunger from present and future generations.

It is on the basis of the substantive analysis made by its subsidiary bodies, the recommendations of the regional conferences and the policies it adopted at its 69th Session that the Council should assess the Programme and Budget proposals submitted by the Director-General. We hope our deliberations on these important matters will provide guidance to the Conference and will have a significant bearing on the future of our Organization. We understand that both the Programme and Finance Committees have concurred with the specific proposals and policies of the Director-General on the Programme of Work and Budget. On our part, we would like to put on record our general agreement with the trends and priorities reflected in these proposals. In the context of the renewed attention to agricultural development and food production since the World Food Conference, it is right and proper in our view that FAO assume a greater role in evolving the conceptual analysis, planning the strategies required to expand production and provide better nutrition for the growing world population, and designing field operations in line with the needs of the developing countries.

We note that the proposed budget calls for only a very modest increase of resources beyond what is required to cover inflation. We support the emphasis on de-bureaucratization that saves resources for practical action, on a decentralization that assists the real transfer of activities to the country level, and on technical cooperation activities specifically oriented to promote investment and encourage production. We believe that the Technical Cooperation Programme of FAO as well as the policies emphasizing the use of national institutions represent practical effective means to fulfill these goals. In establishing TCP the Council has responded to a long-felt need of developing countries to be able to find a

quick and effective response from FAO to their requests for technical assistance. As a matter of principle, developing countries feel that technical cooperation, as one of many forms of international cooperation must, as foreseen in the Constitution of FAO and as practised in the other organizations of the United Nations system, continue to be based, at least in part, on assessed contributions and, therefore, must constitute a separate chapter of the budget of the Organization. We reject the concept of assistance purely on the basis of voluntary contributions, for we believe that assistance to provide greater equality and justice is an established and undeniable right. At the same time, we strongly feel that in implementing programmes, in providing assistance and in replying on national institutions FAO can play a very significant role in promoting cooperation among developing countries. Efforts of the Organization in this direction have our fullest support.

During the next biennium the strategies for international cooperation for development in the 1980s will emerge. We look forward also to the analysis and projections of FAO on the future of agriculture in the year 2000 and fully support collaboration with UNCTAD and system-wide activities regarding the further development and implementation of the New International Economic Order. Finally, we would like to emphasize the need for support to developing countries in agricultural research, planning and data collection.

With regard to Constitutional matters, we believe that it is imperative to enlarge the Council in order to ensure equitable representation. We also believe that the accrued responsibilities of the Programme and Finance Committees, as well as the increasing complexity of the activities of FAO, call for the enlargement of these Committees. In relation to the election and tenure of the Director-General by the Conference, it is our feeling that Governments should be allowed to express their choice without any limitations. We concur with the principle of re-eligibility of the Executive Head of the Organization. In doing so, our basic aim is to ensure free and ample choice to governments and to avoid any harmful effect on the developments of the policies and programmes of the Organization. We feel that in this instance the responsibility of the Council for the future of the Organization is probably greater than ever. We feel strongly that it is the duty of the Council to contribute in a positive and affirmative manner to bring about the New International Economic Order in the field of agricultural development, food production and nutrition.

I thank you, Mr. President, for allowing me to make this statement in the name of the Group of 77.

I.A. IMTIAZI (Pakistan): My delegation has read document CL 71/2 with great interest and takes this opportunity of congratulating the Secretariat on attempting to present a realistic assessment of the world food situation and outlook. We are encouraged to note that the world food situation is not as grave as it has been in the recent past. However, this should not lead us to a sense of complacency.

As has been rightly pointed out by the Secretariat, much of the improvement in 1975/76 was due to largely favourable weather conditions, and it would be highly unwise to rely upon the continued clemency of weather. Thus, this important factor should always be borne in mind in assessing the present food situation. My delegation is therefore constrained to point out that the improvement in the short-term outlook is fragile, and what is even more important, the outlook for the medium and long term in developing countries is still a matter of considerable concern. Food production has increased on an average of around 2.6 percent a year during the first half of the present decade, which unfortunately is below the annual rate of population growth in many developing countries and far below the accepted target of 4 percent.

Regrettably, the long-run production trend continues to remain inadequate, and progress towards the agreed objectives of the World Food Conference has been almost non-existent. The problem therefore before us is far from solution, and although we do not underestimate the enormity of the task that lies ahead of us, we must confront it with determination and earnestness.

Again I feel constrained to point out that the improvement in the world food situation has been regional rather than global. Only recently, at the meeting of the Committee on World Food Security and the Committee on Agriculture, it was pointed out by many delegations that the food situation is still a matter of grave concern in their countries. Africa still remains an area of major concern where the annual rate of change has not kept pace with the other regions.

Another disturbing feature of the existing situation relates to the share of the developing countries in world trade and agricultural products, which has shown no signs of improvement, with the result that there has been a substantial fall in their agricultural export earnings. Recent upward trends in the prices of some of the agricultural commodities exported by developing countries has been more than offset by the rise in the prices of inputs, resulting in a net decline in the purchasing power of the developing countries. Relative abundance in world market is meaningless unless the developing countries are provided with opportunities to earn adequate income to buy their own requirements. There is still a substantial gap between commitments and requirements estimated at the time of the World Food Conference.

We have now been talking for over two and a half years, but so far food aid commitments have not attained the target of at least ten million tons per year as envisaged in the World Food Conference Resolution, nor have we been able to establish any emergency reserve stocks. Total fertilizer aid to be made available to the most seriously affected countries during the year under review is still below the target of one million tons. Regrettably, progress towards the agreed objectives of world food security has been slow and reserve stocks are still inadequate. The balance of payments situation of the most seriously affected countries still requires continued financing for it and fertilizer assistance during the coming year.

We are therefore concerned to note from the secretariat document that external resources for agricultural production are slackening off. There is also need for a speedy conclusion to the international discussions and negotiations on the International Grains Agreement before the expiry of the current extension of the International Grains Agreement. The concern expressed by the Secretariat in paragraph 41 of CL 71/2 regarding the possible ill effects of accumulation of stocks also deserves immediate attention.

Finally, my delegation would like to express concern over what has been stated in paragraphs 55 to 57 of document CL 71/2 regarding development assistance. The Secretariat's effort to present a balanced approach on a very real issue, namely, the fall in the total development assistance to agriculture, seems to have been clouded. The need of the hour is greater and bolder initiatives, and accordingly my delegation would place before this meeting for consideration the following proposals: one, immediate implementation of the objectives of world food security, particularly as the existing stock levels provide a unique opportunity; two, continuation of the external development assistance, both multilateral and bilateral, on concessional terms. The trend whereby the terms of assistance have been hardening must be reversed.

LI YUNG-KAI (China) (interpretation from Chinese): We see that many Council documents have referred to the prospects for world food and agricultural production for the current year. As this is a question of common interest, the Chinese delegation would like to make a few comments in the light of the agricultural situation in China.

In late December 1976, the Second National Conference on Learning from Tachai in Agriculture was held in our country. By summing up the experience gained in the previous year in the movement to learn from Tachai in agriculture and putting forward targets and tasks for the future, this Conference has inspired China's seven hundred million peasants with a new confidence in gaining a good harvest this year and given a great impetus to the movement to build Tachai-type countries, which has surged to a new high tide throughout China's rural areas in a short time. Under the wise leadership of Chairman Hua, the hundreds of millions of our people have plunged into action to eliminate the interference and sabotage done by the anti-Party "Gang of Four" in agricultural production over the years and carry on a stubborn struggle against serious natural calamities. People from all walks of life are doing their best to support agriculture. As a result, an excellent flourishing situation has emerged in China's agricultural production.

China's agriculture is often hit by natural disasters along its path of development. Since last autumn, many parts of China have suffered from low temperatures, drought and other unfavourable weather conditions. In numerous localities, there was no rain or snow for more than six months. All this caused considerable difficulties for the growth of over-wintering crops, spring plowing and sowing, and livestock breeding.

Paying great attention to this situation, we made tremendous efforts to overcome these hardships. People throughout the country were mobilized on an emergency basis to unfold a vast mass movement to fight /?/ In many places, full advantages were taken of farmland construction and irrigation facilities built over the years. Although the acreage under over-wintering crops had been expanded as compared with the year before, the crops were watered in time in practically all fields with irrigation

facilities. Rivers were dammed up, ditches dug and wells sunk so that all surface and underground water resources were tapped to do spring sowing and transplanting in time. Sometimes people would climb over mountains to fetch water or carry manure in buckets to fields severely hit by drought. In other words, our people are trying in every way possible to save the seedlings and reduce or prevent any loss in the output. Such endeavours have yielded striking results.

We are happy to note that in recent years, quite a number of developing countries have adopted the policy of giving priority to agricultural development as well as many measures aimed at increasing food production so as to consolidate their political independence and prevent super-power blackmail by means of food. This has led to expanded food production generally. It has led to basic self-sufficiency for some developing countries and surplus grain exports for a few. We are confident that where there is a will there is a way. It is always through struggle that man makes his progress forward. As long as we rely on the strength of the broad masses of the people, follow correct policies, mobilise all positive factors, and are willing to work hard, the prospects are indeed bright for the agricultural production of the developing countries.

SRA. I. di GIOVAN de SUAREZ (Argentina): El documento CL 71/2 es una síntesis ilustrativa de la situación alimentaria mundial; él mismo pone de relieve un apreciable aumento de la producción de alimentos en los países en desarrollo, particularmente en América Latina, como señala el párrafo 18 del documento citado. Con referencia a este párrafo, en el cual no se menciona a mi país, probablemente porque recién en abril se han comprobado las cifras de la campaña 1976/77, mi delegación desea hacer constancia del importante incremento de la producción agropecuaria argentina durante los últimos doce meses.

No deseo aburrirles con cifras, particularmente debido a lo avanzado de la sesión, pero permítaseme puntualizar que en los últimos doce meses la disponibilidad de productos alimentarios ha aumentado en 12,8 por ciento. Este incremento se descompone en un aumento estimado de cerca del 20 por ciento para la producción agrícola y un 4 por ciento para la producción pecuaria. Se trata de un aumento importante con pocos antecedentes históricos en mi país y en el caso de producción agropecuaria es el más alto registrado en los últimos años. Este aumento debe imputarse tanto al aumento del área sembrada como al aumento de objetivos. Pero debe imputarse esencialmente a la decisión del gobierno argentino de estimular la producción agropecuaria, a pesar de ciertas perspectivas negativas en el mercado de productos básicos, y extremadamente desalentadoras para los países en desarrollo que, como el mío, son productores eficientes de alimentos. En el sistema álgido puede ser la secuela a esas perspectivas desalentadoras del mercado de productos básicos a quien se ha referido el vocero del Grupo de los 77.

Sin embargo, al aumentar su producción agropecuaria mi país cree haber contribuido positivamente al mejoramiento mundial de las disponibilidades de alimentos. En tanto, cree haber contribuido a la obtención de un implemento valioso a las existencias de cereales, que significa un mayor grado de seguridad alimentaria para toda la comunidad internacional. Asimismo esta actuación ha permitido que mi país esté en condiciones de cumplir con todos los compromisos adquiridos en materia de ayuda alimentaria.

Deseo manifestar nuestra aspiración en el sentido de que esta recuperación registrada en el año 1976, comienzos de 1977 que es un reflejo de lo que ha señalado el señor Walton, sea proyectada en un enfoque a largo plazo que involucre todas las metas que son necesarias para un aumento sostenido de la producción alimentaria mundial. Para esto es preciso que los datos contenidos en el documento permitan encontrar a los países en desarrollo las metas fijadas por el Segundo Decenio de Desarrollo de las Naciones Unidas.

finalmente, deseo señalar la urgencia ya indicada por otras delegaciones en el sentido de que la coyuntura favorable registrada en la actualidad sea aprovechada en la implementación de los objetivos establecidos por la Conferencia Mundial de la Alimentación y la FAO en materia de seguridad alimentaria, suministro de alimentos, mercado de productos básicos y desarrollo rural.

N. RAHUMA (Libya) (Interpretation from Arabic): I would like to express our satisfaction with the improvement of the world food situation.

I would like to take this opportunity to refer to a problem which has to be faced by my country and some other countries in the region. In spite of the growth in certain development fields, especially in agriculture, which bring us closer to self-sufficiency and has provided more surpluses for export to cover world need, we have to face a special problem, which is the mines which have been laid during the world wars. These represent a danger and have been the cause of several deaths in our countries.

We would therefore like to ask the International Community to help us in our efforts to get those countries which are responsible for the placing of mines in our soil to help us to remove them.

G. TZITZICOSTAS (Grèce): La delegation de Grèce desire tout d'abord adresser ses felicitations á M. le Directeur general pour l'excellente allocution d'ouverture dans laquelle il a présenté la situation mondiale actuelle de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture. Il a très clairement souligné les progres obtenus, et il a surtout dressé un ample tableau des actions que nous devons entreprendre pour assurer la sécurité alimentaire, la production alimentaire et le développement rural en general.

Il a aussi traité avec son objectivité coutumière le bilan des réformes introduites dans notre Organisation qui ont vraiment change la physionomie de la FAO, comme il l'a lui-même souligné ce matin.

La situation mondiale de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture s'est nettement améliorée cette année, bien que les tendances a long terme restent un peu instables. La production a enregistré une forte expansion en 1976, et les perspectives de récolte pour cette année sont en general bonnes. Les prix des produits alimentaires ont eu une tendance a la detente. La consommation alimentaire dans les pays en développement a enregistré une nette reprise. Les stocks céréaliers mondiaux ont atteint un niveau très satisfaisant par rapport au faible niveau du passé. Enfin, il parait que le volume de l'aide internationale au développement dont dispose l'agriculture dans les pays en développement a connu une expansion encourageante, et la production alimentaire mondiale, selon les indices de la FAO, a augmenté de 3 pour cent.

Dans ce cadre en general optimiste et rassurant de la situation mondiale, la nouvelle reorientation de l'action de la FAO entreprise depuis déjà plus d'une année sur l'initiative très heureuse du Directeur general renforce nos espoirs pour l'avenir. En effet, cette reorientation doit assurer aux Etats Membres un soutien plus efficace pour améliorer la production et la productivité alimentaires. C'est pourquoi nous nous félicitons du fait que le Directeur general, M. Saouma, ait assigné de nouvelles priorités á l'action de l'Organisation, notamment en ce qui concerne les activités d'investissement et la formation au niveau pratique.

Egalement, l'institution du programme de la cooperation technique constitue une nouvelle approche, grace á laquelle la FAO peut fournir une aide directe au développement. Naturellement, notre delegation appuie vivement la realisation de ce programme. D'autre part, la nomination de représentants de la FAO dans les pays intéressés manifeste un esprit pratique de decentralisation de ses activités du Siège vers les pays membres.

Néanmoins, permettez-moi de faire quelques remarques.

Les récoltes de 1976 ont permis d'obtenir une premiere amelioration des disponibilités en denrées de base, telles que les céréales, le riz et le sucre, et un certain rélevement de stocks de report. Ces progrès s'accroissent, parait-il, en 1977, puisque fort heureusement les résultats décevants enregistrés en Europe occidentale du fait de la sécheresse ont été plus que compensés par des progrès dans d'autres regions du monde. C'est ainsi que les données les plus récentes recueillies par le Conseil international du blé confirment que la production du blé a dépassé de cinq pour cent les récoltes précédentes de l'année 1976. Cela va assurer une sécurité d'approvisionnement supérieure á celle du debut des années soixante-dix.

Néanmoins, la croissance de la position alimentaire au cours de la précédente décennie reste très en decá de l'objectif fixe dans la stratégie internationale pour le développement et réaffirmé par la Conference mondiale de l'alimentation. Pour autant, des efforts pour organiser la sécurité alimentaire sont absolument nécessaires, tant au niveau national qu'au niveau international. Au niveau national, la priorité doit être attribuée surtout par les pays en développement aux politiques et aux programmes nationaux. Cette priorité doit viser á atteindre complètement les objectifs de la sécurité alimentaire, organiser plus efficacement les marches intérieurs, assurer des débouchés réguliers aux producteurs agri-coles et enfin stimuler la production alimentaire.

Au plan international, les institutions internationales des pays développés et autres pays donateurs potentiels doivent accroître l'assistance financière ainsi que leur aide technique dans le contexte des objectifs de développement. A cet égard, tous les pays doivent profiter des discussions et des négociations en cours pour mettre en oeuvre et concerter à l'échelon international leurs politiques nationales de stockage, ainsi qu'augmenter les stocks nationaux dès que la situation économique et celle des approvisionnements le permettront.

Les propositions formulées par l'Assemblée générale des Nations Unies lors de ses sixième et septième sessions extraordinaires en vue d'instaurer un nouvel ordre économique international représentent le plus notable des faits nouveaux. L'aspiration vers un nouvel ordre économique mondial juste et équitable aura d'importantes incidences sur l'agriculture. Pour réaliser les objectifs du nouvel ordre économique international et notamment pour réduire environ de moitié l'écart de revenu par habitant entre pays développés et pays en développement, il faudrait remonter d'à peu près 5 pour cent par an la production agricole des pays en développement. C'est là un but difficile à atteindre si on le compare aux 2,5 pour cent par an des années soixante et soixante-quinze avec le 4 pour cent qui est l'objectif de croissance agricole fixe par les Nations Unies pour le développement.

D'autre part, il est à signaler que les efforts entrepris pour améliorer la situation alimentaire des pays en développement dans le cadre du nouvel ordre économique international ne doivent pas être limités seulement aux pays arriérés; nous croyons en effet qu'il faut stimuler également l'amélioration de la production agricole des pays qui sont un peu plus avancés dans ce domaine et dont l'agriculture présente des conditions de démarrage plus avantageuses, moins coûteuses et plus aptes aux progrès techniques qui doivent y être appliqués. Ainsi assistés, ces pays seraient dans le plus bref délai mieux à même de contribuer davantage au programme de la FAO. La coopération économique étroite et plus efficace entre pays en développement est indispensable pour aboutir à des résultats satisfaisants dans le domaine agricole et ceci au-dessus de l'aide internationale bilatérale ou multilatérale. Il faut créer des programmes régionaux de coopération et d'intégration économiques qui facilitent le mouvement des marchandises et des personnes. Il faut aussi s'efforcer d'identifier les échanges et l'assistance technique entre ces pays.

Je me permets de vous rappeler encore une fois que dans le cadre de ces initiatives, il faudrait aussi porter attention aux pays qui se trouvent à mi-chemin, dont le développement est déjà démarré mais qui n'ont pas encore atteint le niveau des pays développés. Les techniques modernes constituent un des principaux moyens de rendre l'agriculture plus productive; nous avons en vue notamment l'irrigation, les engrais, les pesticides, les semences de variétés améliorées, etc. Dans le même cadre, doivent être accomplis des efforts pour la formation et l'éducation à tous les niveaux. La formation et l'éducation doivent être à la base de tout effort de développement; qu'il s'agisse d'un programme entièrement national ou bénéficiant d'une aide internationale, la formation doit être orientée vers l'action, qu'elle s'adresse aux exploitants, aux techniciens, aux cadres ou aux administrateurs. L'assistance internationale, et surtout celle de la FAO, a un grand rôle à jouer dans l'organisation des échanges, dans la formation, et dans la mise au point des techniques appropriées. C'est un domaine très important qui doit attirer l'attention du Conseil.

Je voudrais vous dire aussi que la délégation de la Grèce porte un grand intérêt au problème de la réduction des pertes après récolte. Les pertes après récolte, qui atteignent parfois jusqu'à 20 pour cent de la récolte elle-même, sont incompatibles avec la lutte contre la faim et la malnutrition. Les mesures pour réduire ces pertes au minimum présentent un apport très important pour améliorer la situation alimentaire mondiale. Nous souhaitons que l'étude entreprise par la FAO à ce sujet soit activement poursuivie. En effet, c'est une question très difficile dont les données techniques doivent aussi être replacées dans un large contexte social et quelquefois aussi politique; mais, de toute façon, tous les pays développés doivent apporter le concours de leurs chercheurs et de leurs experts pour réaliser des progrès substantiels dans ce domaine. Il faut aussi contribuer étroitement aux entreprises de stockage, de transformation ou de conservation des denrées alimentaires dans les pays qui en ont encore besoin.

Il faut que le Conseil:

- 1) Définisse tous les aspects du problème;
- 2) Décrive les objectifs et les principaux éléments des actions à mener par la FAO et par d'autres organisations;
- 3) Indique les ressources nécessaires et celles déjà engagées, non pas isolément mais dans le cadre des efforts entrepris pour limiter aussi les pertes avant et durant la récolte.

Avant de terminer, deux mots sur notre politique agricole: la Grèce fait des efforts intensifs pour le développement de son économie et en particulier pour l'économie agricole. Certaines difficultés, accentuées en raison de la crise internationale et de la sécheresse, ont affecté la production dont le rythme de croissance a été un peu inférieur aux prévisions. Notre problème est de faire face à l'ajustement de l'offre et de la demande et à la réalisation des rythmes satisfaisants du développement agricole.

Nous continuons la politique d'amélioration de la productivité agricole, surtout par l'approvisionnement des exploitants agricoles en moyens de production ainsi que pour la promotion de la recherche agricole. En ce qui concerne plus particulièrement les produits, notre politique vise à l'augmentation de la production de certains d'entre eux pour lesquels nous sommes déficitaires, à la création de stocks régulateurs et de sécurité et à l'expansion de certains produits ayant des perspectives favorables à l'exportation.

Simultanément, des mesures institutionnelles sont prises pour la restructuration foncière, la promotion du mouvement coopératif et pour l'amélioration des structures commerciales, etc. Dans tous ces secteurs, nous suivons les lignes directrices élaborées par la FAO et nous comptons sur l'aide technique et matérielle utilisée dans certains de ses programmes.

EL PRESIDENTE: Señores, hemos sobrepasado ya el tiempo previsto. Todavía hay tres oradores en turno, mas el señor Walton, que seguramente querrá referirse a las observaciones planteadas por los miembros del Consejo. Tal vez conviene en este primer día de nuestra reunion que levantemos ahora la sesión de esta tarde para continuarla mañana con el Tema 4, para el cual están en turno los siguientes oradores: Indonesia, Mexico y Brasil.

Si no hay ningún comentario por parte de los miembros del Consejo levantaremos la sesión y nos reuniremos mañana a las 9,30 horas.

The meeting rose at 17.40 hours.

La seance est levée à 17 h 40.

Se levanta la sesión a las 17.40 horas.

council

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

conseil

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

consejo

ORGANIZACION DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS PARA LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION

CL

CL 71/PV/3

Seventy-First Session

Soixante et onzième session

71° período de sesiones

THIRD PLENARY MEETING
TROISIEME SEANCE PLENIERE
TERCERA SESION PLENARIA

(7 June 1977)

The Third Plenary Meeting was opened at 9.55 hours G. Bula Hoyos, Independent Chairman of the Council, presiding

La troisième seance plénière est ouverte á 9 h 55 sous la présidence de G. Bula Hoyos, Président indépendant du Conseil.

Se abre la tercera sesión plenaria a las 9.55 horas bajo la presidencia de G. Bula Hoyos, Presidente Independiente del Consejo

EL PRESIDENTE: Señores, vamos a empezar la sesión de esta mañana de acuerdo con lo que se hizo hasta ayer y tal como aparece anunciado en el Orden del Día para hoy.

II. WORLD FOOD AND AGRICULTURE SITUATION (continued)

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

II. SITUACION MUNDIAL DE LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION (continuación)

4. Current World Food Situation (continued)

4. Situation actuelle de l'alimentation mondiale (suite)

4. La situación alimentaria mundial en la actualidad (continuación)

G. SATARI (Indonesia): My delegation would like to thank Mr. Walton for his brief introduction of this agenda item. He stated clearly that the situation now, as compared to the last six months, has not changed substantially. Our comment will therefore be short, repeating, as it were, what the Indonesian delegation stated several times in various fora during the last months.

It was reported that in many developing and developed countries the results of food production in 1975 and 1976 were favourable. The world food supplies have continued to improve and the average annual increase in food production in developing countries has now risen to 2.6 percent. The world should now be better protected against harvest shortfall through the existence of stocks which, by the end of the current 1976/1977 season, are expected to amount to 159 million tons, that is, about 70 percent of the annual consumption considered as the minimum safe level for world food security. It should be noted, however, that the production of rice in 1976 was 1 percent lower than in 1975 and that stocks of rice are expected to decrease slightly by the end of the 1976/77 season to 60 million tons.

Moreover, experience has shown that adverse weather conditions would lead to a sudden and unexpected deterioration in the situation. The existence of huge carry-over stocks in exporting countries does not directly constitute a security for many developing countries, in particular for those who are not in a position to have full access to the international market due to their balance of payments constraints.

Furthermore, in many developing countries the improvement in food production is merely the recovery to earlier levels of food consumption and therefore does not in any way solve the problem of immensely large numbers of people who have been suffering from hunger and malnutrition. However, we must not lose this opportunity, when stocks are high and prices are relatively low, to set aside part of it to build grain reserves. This could restore the balance of supply and demand in favour of the producers and at the same time the world is safeguarded against sudden shortfall in supply. This is in line with the objective of the International Undertaking on World Food Security which should be fully achieved.

With regard to the rice situation, special efforts have been and will be made by the developing and developed rice producing countries to achieve their targets and improve and develop gradually their national stocks. Support is needed from the international community and FAO for substantial additional resources and technology. In this connexion the line of approach and integrated policies developed by the Director-General fully respond to this need, in particular the policy in mobilizing in developing countries and the implementation of the technical cooperation programme and the use of national institutions and training at grass root level.

In conclusion, although there is an easing in the immediate world food situation it continues to be fragile and the long term of production in developing countries remains below the level required to meet the rise in demand due to population and income growth. Concerted international actions are needed to mobilize substantial additional resources and technology in the field of food production, expansion of land and water resources, world food security, nutrition improvement and rural development.

I. OROZCO (Mexico): El documento que consideramos pasa revista a la situación alimentaria mundial, y de la información proporcionada se desprenden varios imperativos. Primero, la necesidad de incrementar las tecnologías que permitan infraestructuras más sólidas para un aumento de la producción en los países en desarrollo al abrigo de las graves repercusiones de los infortunios y catástrofes naturales o la baja producción causada por las malas condiciones del clima.

Dos, la necesidad de incrementar y estimular la creación de reservas nacionales. Tres, la urgencia de establecer un sistema internacional de reservas que provea precios estables para los productores y accesibles para los países importadores en desarrollo. Cuatro, este sistema de reservas debería incluir fertilizantes, plaguicidas y otros insumos necesarios. Cinco, no es convincente el hecho de haberse logrado últimamente un aumento del 4 por ciento en la producción agrícola por parte de los países en vías de desarrollo. Los esfuerzos deben encaminarse a lograr niveles de producción y de productividad mucho más elevados.

Seis, la importancia creciente de la pesca como fuente de alimentos proteínicos para los países en desarrollo y las necesidades crecientes de asistencia externa para fomentar el desarrollo de los recursos pesqueros de las nuevas zonas económicas marinas de jurisdicción nacional.

Siete, la necesidad de esfuerzos coordinados y con un sentido de integración para la cooperación económica y tecnológica, así como en el comercio de alimentos entre los propios países en desarrollo, f incluso en condiciones preferenciales y con espíritu de creciente solidaridad.

Ocho, el reforzamiento e incremento de la asistencia técnica, incluido el programa de cooperación técnica como concepto y realidad cotidiana de los programas ordinarios de esta Organización que provea una medida mínima y continua en este sector.

Nueve, a pesar del aumento en los precios de algunos productos de exportación de los países en desarrollo, se constata un continuo deterioro y desigualdad de los ingresos de los países en desarrollo frente a los altos costos de los bienes importados provenientes de los países desarrollados.

Respecto de todos los puntos señalados, la FAO está llamada a cumplir un papel más presente y actuante en los países en desarrollo por lo que mi país ha apoyado y alienta las propuestas del actual Director General que imprime una nueva dimensión a esta Organización.

En este sentido, la FAO, a través del renovado apoyo de sus miembros sobre todo de los países que contribuyen con mayores recursos, debe estar a la vanguardia para permitir a los países en desarrollo alcanzar niveles de seguridad y confianza en el área de la agricultura y de la alimentación libres del espectro de las condiciones de hambre y malnutrición y alentar su constante desarrollo integral para lo cual instamos a los países desarrollados y a todos los potenciales países donantes a hacer realidad los objetivos de asistencia para ayuda al desarrollo y para lograr las metas de la Conferencia Mundial de la Alimentación.

B. de AZEVEDO BRITO (Brazil): My delegation already had a chance to speak yesterday in the name of the Group of 77 and we touched all too briefly on the agenda item we are discussing now. On this occasion I will make some very brief and general remarks on the question of food production and agricultural development.

In our statement we have already indicated that first, although production in developing countries has improved in the past two years, actual distribution among developing countries is not even; we still have serious problems of food production in many developing countries. However, I think one point is quite clear: that we, developing countries, are all making strenuous efforts to improve our production of agricultural products. However, it is not only a question of having to produce more, it is a real participation in trade of agricultural products. The results in that respect are not altogether satisfactory. The gains registered in 1976, for instance, were indeed very small. Moreover, if one takes into account actual export earnings the results are not very satisfactory (I am speaking in global terms of developing countries) - even less satisfactory if one takes into account the cost of their imports. It is against the price of their imports that we really have to measure the export earnings of developing countries. As in fact we have tried to reflect in our joint statement, developing countries are also facing very serious problems in terms of competition with synthetics. I do not want to elaborate on this point since it is very well known to a all of us.

Again, as we also touched upon briefly in our joint statement, developing countries are facing increasing problems in terms of restrictive practices in trade that make it difficult and sometimes even impossible for our products to have access to the markets of some developed countries; and that, of course, is a question of concern. As I mentioned before, developing countries are making very considerable internal efforts to produce more to satisfy their own markets and their own populations and at the same time, and as far as possible, also to contribute towards better world food security.

In the particular case of Brazil I think a few figures will give the Council an idea of the magnitude of our own efforts and the results that we have thus far succeeded in achieving. For instance, in terms of rice, from a figure of 6.4 million tons in 1974 we moved in 1975 to 7,5 millions tons; last year, 1976,

to 9.6 million tons of rice. Production this year, 1977, is expected to be reduced marginally mainly as a result of world conditions in the market of rice. Production this year is expected to be around 8.7 million tons. Even then, however, this production is significantly above what is needed for internal consumption. Roughly, internal consumption of rice in Brazil is between 7 and 7.5 million tons and therefore a production of 8.7 million tons leaves more than 1 million tons of exportable surplus.

In the case, of soya we reached a production in 1976 of 11.2 million tons; the current crop just being harvested is estimated at 12.4 million tons and a significant part of this is for export and will therefore help meet world demand. Expected exports for this current year will be around 4 million tons of beans, 500 000 tons of oils and 4.5 million tons of meals - as a contribution to satisfying world demand.

The case of two other products might be of interest. In maize Brazil reached in the past season 1976/77, practically 18 million tons compared to the usual level in the past two or three years of 16 million tons, which again gives a margin for export. On the critical product of wheat which is the basic and perhaps the only major commodity in which Brazil is deficient, we are, however, making strenuous efforts to reach self-sufficiency. After a crop failure in 1976/77 which produced only 1.7 million tons, we succeeded last season, the harvest of 1976/77, to have 4.5 million tons and we are therefore approaching self-sufficiency on wheat which is in fact the only product in our food basket for which we depend on imports.

Similarly in other crops like sugar, cocoa and also coffee, we have recent improvements and production is increasing. In the case of coffee it is a question of recovering from a frost the magnitude and results of which you are all familiar with. Efforts to increase production are promoted by a number of policies which have been consistently followed by the Brazilian government, in several different areas. In transport we have policies to ensure easy, efficient and cheap transport to the centres of consumption and for export, in the case of crops for export. Rural credit policies with special emphasis and special programmes for the small farmer and his specific requirements and needs are being developed. We also have policies for quality control of products and efforts to promote research and extension; in research, just one example of the new areas being developed in rice is dry rice for our arid plains, where we have at present about 70 percent of our rice crop as opposed to irrigated rice. The opening of new lands is also a normal part of our production, which we combine with efforts to improve and increase productivity, so that we can meet demands of our increasing population and at the same time provide an exportable surplus.

The Brazilian population, as you know, grows at approximately 2.9 to 3 percent a year. Agricultural production has been growing since 1969 at the level of 6 percent with some years of very high growth rates. For instance, in 1971, we had an 11.4 growth rate; in 1974 we had an 8.4 growth rate and in 1977 we expect a growth of around 10 percent. We are trying to build up surpluses in a consistent manner so that we can contribute in our own way to world food security. That, we believe, is the manner in which we can answer the concern of the world community to eradicate hunger and malnutrition from the world.

Now Mr. President, if you will allow me to go back to my initial point. The world food situation depends not only on our internal efforts - all of us in our own way are making great efforts within our own limitations - but also on an external environment favourable to these efforts, favourable in terms of aggregate external resources to support our own efforts and favourable in terms of access to markets. We cannot look at only one side of the coin however. It is not enough to tell developing countries, "You should make the effort". We are making these efforts as hard as we can. It is necessary that we have also real support for a policy of increased production in the developing world from the international community.

M. GUERIN (France): L'excellent document CL 71/2, dont il faut féliciter les services de cette grande maison et les prévisions qui nous ont été apportées depuis hier montrent une nette amélioration de la situation alimentaire mondiale depuis 1975 et annoncent de bonnes perspectives pour 1977, en particulier pour les pays en développement. La France ne peut que s'en réjouir mais, comme d'autres délégations, elle tient à mettre en garde la communauté internationale, non pas nous ici qui en sommes parfaitement conscients mais je dirais l'opinion publique internationale contre un excès d'optimisme, tout d'abord parce que la production agricole reste étroitement soumise aux aléas climatiques, vous le savez tous, et la France en a fait l'amère expérience en 1976, année d'extrême sécheresse, comme notre pays n'en avait pas connu depuis cinquante ans, qui a gravement affecté nos récoltes de céréales, notamment, de betteraves, mis en péril notre élevage et atteint gravement le revenu des producteurs agricoles, et cette campagne 1976 venait après deux campagnes déjà médiocres où l'augmentation brutale des coûts de production s'était ajoutée à des calamités naturelles localisées.

Il nous a donc fallu, pour ne pas décourager les producteurs et dans une conjoncture économique générale difficile, prendre des mesures exceptionnelles sur le plan national.

Deuxième point: tous les économistes agricoles que nous sommes savent que la caractéristique principale des productions et des marchés agricoles est de subir des fluctuations cycliques qui prennent une ampleur d'autant plus grande que les économies s'interpénètrent et que les courants d'échange augmentent. Il est de notre responsabilité de tout faire pour régulariser ces cycles, en écrêter les hauts et les bas, afin que les producteurs agricoles qui, plus que les autres, ont besoin de sécurité et de stabilité, s'engagent raisonnablement et durablement, dans la voie d'une production agricole croissante et maîtrisée.

C'est à ce titre que nous souhaitons faire quelques observations en ce qui concerne le stockage. Certes, la reconstitution des stocks de report de céréales en augmentation même est un signe encourageant et il est à noter que ces stocks augmentent non seulement chez les pays exportateurs mais aussi chez certains pays en développement importateurs, ce qui doit d'ailleurs leur poser de sérieux problèmes de financement de coûts d'investissement. Mais il n'existe malheureusement pas toujours de politiques concertées de ces stocks au niveau international et, faute d'un accord de ce type, il est à craindre qu'une accumulation de stocks, puis leur écoulement ultérieur, n'entraînent une chute brutale des prix et donc un découragement de la production. Cela nuirait manifestement au développement à long terme et risquerait même de faire réapparaître des situations de pénurie du type de celle rencontrée au début des années soixante-dix. Seul donc, à notre avis, un accord international d'organisations de marché " où le stockage serait régulateur, peut-être accompagné de dispositions économiques appropriées, comportant notamment une fourchette de prix maximum et minimum, valable aussi bien pour les producteurs que pour les consommateurs, pour les importateurs que pour les exportateurs - peut permettre un développement continu de la production.

Un tel accord devrait bien sûr comporter un volet particulier d'aide alimentaire et contenir des dispositions préférentielles de nature à prendre en réelle considération les problèmes spécifiques des pays en développement, tant importateurs qu'exportateurs. Je pense, en fonction des derniers événements connus que nous pouvons être raisonnablement optimistes pour la conclusion d'un tel accord sous les auspices appropriés du GATT et de la CNUCED.

Je terminerai sur une dernière note d'optimisme car je crois que les résultats de la Conférence Nord-Sud de Paris, surtout en ce qui concerne nos problèmes d'alimentation et d'agriculture, sont bons puisqu'un accord total a été enregistré sur tous les points en discussion et je pense que le Conseil en prendra acte à propos des divers points de son ordre du jour.

A.E. HANNAH (Canada): The Canadian delegation has listened with great interest to the many comments on the world food situation that were made yesterday and this morning, and we have also studied in detail the very fine report that was prepared by the Council Secretariat.

We were pleased to hear the Director-General emphasize yesterday in his statement the importance of increasing food production in the developing countries through the programme such as the development of human resources for food production.

However, we would like to suggest that this alone will not be enough if the people involved do not take up the challenge and use the technology and the aid effectively.

This is the first time that I have had the honour of attending this august body, and I was rather expecting to hear statements from the various countries as to what was happening within their countries in respect to food production, with respect to how they are preparing to solve their problems, and how they had intended to use the technology that was being offered through international bodies such as the FAO.

Brazil indicated what they were doing, which is a very fine summary of an effort and a programme. I would have thought that we would have heard many other statements such as this as to how the solutions to the food problem were being tackled in the various areas of the world. China left us, I think, with a very significant message and a very interesting report of how the people of China have solved some of their problems of food production and overcome some of the problems of drought as well as other things in their country by well-directed programmes and much hard work, and I would like to suggest that this message is applicable to many countries of the world.

In Canada last year we harvested a record crop of cereals. However, there was some indication of drought in 1976/77 and 1977/78, which gave us cause for some concern. Although we do have stockpiles of grain, of wheat, more than normal this year, and prices are down, it does indicate that we are very dependent on weather, and the assurance of a crop in the next year cannot be taken for granted. With weather conditions more favourable, of course, we can harvest an excellent crop, but weather alone, I would suggest, does not ensure a successful harvest, and this applies to all countries of the world. We need human resources to manage the operation and to plan the use of resources to seed and harvest the crop and to ensure adequate storage of that crop. This we are pleased to see in the Director-General's programme, that he does emphasize some of these aspects, but this alone, of course, as I indicated earlier, is not enough. It must be taken into account and integrated into the programmes. Such programmes as rural development, as outlined, are, along with the adequate price policies, financing and pertinent socioeconomic structures, the only things that will ensure increased food production and adequate distribution. Canada, of course, will continue to place emphasis on and increase its development assistance in the agricultural sector. We believe these programmes are important and will continue to support them.

With respect to food aid, we are presently supplying one million tons of food grain, which is one-tenth of the World Food Conference target of 10 million tons, and we would urge other countries to try as well to participate more actively. As I indicated, in our own production area we do have surpluses of grains, of wheat, this year, but this is temporary, and I would also echo what France has indicated, that we must not be overly optimistic but we must also increase our production around the world so that we will have effective food supplies and efficient distribution of those food supplies.

I am very interested, since this is my first meeting, to hear what is going on and hear how we can solve the food problems of the world, but here again, as indicated by France, this body knows what the problems are. It is a problem to ensure that the rest of the world also knows and institutes adequate policies.

A. UL HUQ (Bangladesh): As I said in my brief intervention yesterday, Bangladesh is sitting as a member of this august Council for the first time this year. We appreciate your words of welcome to us. May I extend to you, Mr. Chairman and distinguished colleagues, friendly greetings from the people and the Government of Bangladesh. We participate in this meeting of the Council with a deep sense of appreciation and expectation of mutual exchange of ideas and experiences conducive to meaningful approaches to the problem of food and nutrition for the people of the world.

We compliment the Director-General for his forthright exposition of the world food situation and priorities of action as he sees them. It is heartening to note that the gloomy days of 1974 have been succeeded by brighter prospects in 1975 and 1976. Yet it is somewhat sad to note in the middle of 1977 that some of the major tasks we set for ourselves in the World Food Conference of 1974 have not yet been substantially achieved. Some among other features of the situation are: the rate of increase of food production in developing countries still remains well below the target of 4 percent for the Second Development Decade; an internationally coordinated system of world food security is still not in the offing; food-aid commitments in respect of cereals for 1976-77 are below the targets suggested by the World Food Conference; improvement achieved in 1965 and 1976 has hardly generated a process of growth conducive to solution of longer-term problems of production.

There are other features, but these are of vital importance. The world community has the means to solve these problems. The need of the hour is increased investments in terms of resources and care.

Since the World Food Conference of 1974, commitments by the donor countries and international agencies for agricultural development in developing countries in general, and to the MSA and LDC countries in particular, have not increased. On the contrary, in 1976, the commitments have come down not only in quantum but also in real terms. And even among the developing countries, per capita commitment to food deficit countries was much lower than to other developing countries. We firmly believe that all developing countries irrespective of their per capita income and level of development, require massive

assistance for development of their agriculture. Poverty and hunger is to be seen in all these countries; it is only a question of degree rather than of kind. The world community is faced with the challenge of eliminating hunger, to quote the World Food Conference, by a decade. If hunger is to be eliminated in the foreseeable future, the world community must recognize its obligations to the developing countries in general and to the food deficit countries in particular, who require special attention.

As a developing country and one of the most seriously affected, we in Bangladesh are conscious that the process of growth has to start at home. External assistance is an essential supplement to indigenous efforts, but by no means a substitute for that. We have a big population. With our limited land resources our obvious choice is higher agricultural productivity. We have to harness our land, water and human resources simultaneously and intensively. Our farmers are fortunately responsive to technological innovations. But adoption of the new technology of intensive agriculture calls for huge investments in equipment, fertilizers, pesticides, storage and so on. We are in serious difficulty in respect of finding increased resources for investment in improved agriculture. To add to our difficulties, we are subjected to much too frequent natural disasters.

We have consciously attached the highest priority to programmes of food grains production, population control and rural institution-building. We have reason to believe that in spite of many difficulties we have been able to engineer a process of planned change for the better. This process, however, deserves to be strengthened and extended without delay. We have launched simultaneous efforts to remove the cereals gap, to reduce the protein gap, to diversify agricultural production and to increase employment opportunities in and around agriculture. We have initiated concerted action to organize and involve rural people in the process of planning for production and distribution of agricultural commodities. We have an integrated programme of agricultural and rural development.

In this context we have been particularly happy to note the Director-General's concern in respect of post-harvest losses of food grains- In our situation the estimated food loss is about half the deficit in our food needs. We earnestly believe that the proposed fund to deal with post-harvest food loss should be launched expeditiously. We similarly wish that the process of finalizing projects under the Technical Cooperation Programme should be made more simple and quick.

We note with some disappointment that the International Fund for Agricultural Development, (IFAD), has had a slow and painful process of birth. We wish the Fund will become operational within the earliest possible time.

Food is a matter of common concern for all humanity. Problems of raising crops, fish, livestock, cannot be left to experts only. Similarly, while a large part of the human family faces starvation or suffers from severe malnutrition, there is no sense in wastages of food in any fashion, or in artificial barriers in the movement of food from the producers of surplus to those who need them.

The world today has the skill to produce the food it needs. The will to so use this skill as to solve the problem of human hunger is what is most urgently needed. Where else can the world look to for a lead other than this distinguished assembly? This Council has the obligation to provide the leadership it is so eminently suited to do.

A. CUISSE (Niger): La délégation du Niger remercie le secrétariat pour son excellent rapport sur la situation alimentaire mondiale. Il pense d'autre part que l'existence de stocks mondiaux n'est pas forcément une mesure de sécurité permanente pour l'ensemble de l'humanité. Cela permet de juguler l'effet de la famine en un point du globe. La meilleure solution ne serait-elle pas la sécurité par pays, ou, à la limite, par région ou sous-région? En effet, quand le Sahel souffrait de la sécheresse, l'effort financier fut énorme. On s'était rendu compte que le coût de transport des produits dépassait de loin le coût d'acquisition des produits vivriers. Le problème de la lutte contre la famine passe par conséquent par l'exécution de projets agricoles mais aussi par le développement de l'infrastructure agricole, du transport, du désenclavement de certains d'entre eux. Les six pays du Sahel ont présenté un programme à moyen et long termes pour résoudre le problème de l'autosuffisance. Les premiers projets ont été estimés à 3 milliards de dollars E.-U. et les projets à long terme allant jusqu'à l'an 2000 ont été estimés à 15 milliards de dollars E.-U. Les chiffres vous montrent combien est grand l'effort auquel il faut consentir pour le développement de notre région. C'est pourquoi le Niger appuie le programme de coopération technique visant à solutionner les problèmes de développement dans nos régions: transferts de technologie, production d'engrais, irrigation, etc.

T. MINKOUE (Gabon): La délégation gabonaise accueille avec satisfaction les conclusions du Secrétariat sur la situation alimentaire mondiale et se félicite de la clarté du document CL 71/2. Bien que l'incertitude plane sur les statistiques à long terme, on peut admettre déjà que, d'une façon générale, le niveau de production alimentaire s'établit dans les pays en développement. Le taux de 3 pour cent d'accroissement de la production alimentaire mondiale est encourageant bien qu'inférieur aux 4 pour cent prévus. Si les résultats sont satisfaisants dans l'ensemble, il n'en reste pas moins vrai que beaucoup de pays dépourvus des ressources nécessaires ne peuvent satisfaire leurs besoins alimentaires. Il convient donc à nos gouvernements respectifs de redoubler d'efforts, pour qu'à l'avenir on enregistre une production agricole toujours accrue.

Le Gabon, en ce qui le concerne, ne manque pas à cet appel. Bien que présentant une situation toute particulière parmi les pays en développement, il ne va pas sans dire que, dans son essor économique, le problème alimentaire soit l'une de ses principales préoccupations. Cette situation a fait que le Gabon dans son troisième plan quinquennal 1976/1980, accorde la priorité à l'agriculture. C'est là pour le Gabon, une stratégie qui consiste à utiliser les ressources financières tirées du pétrole en vue de préparer l'ère de "l'après-pétrole" en réalisant des investissements dans une des principales activités susceptibles d'assurer, dans l'avenir, une croissance permanente de son économie dans ses efforts d'investissements. Pour atteindre ses objectifs pour 1980, le Gabon se propose d'accorder un quart des investissements des secteurs productifs à l'agriculture. Il estime le taux de croissance du secteur agricole à 3,5 pour cent par an. Ce faible taux, malgré la priorité donnée à l'agriculture et le très grand effort qui lui est consenti, s'explique par les lents délais de maturation des investissements agricoles; la véritable croissance de la production agricole ne pourra alors se faire sentir qu'après 1980. Cette politique d'investissements dans le domaine agricole ne peut aboutir par la seule volonté des planificateurs. Le programme de coopération technique de la FAO, que nos délégations ne sauraient remettre en cause, peut de beaucoup aider à la mise en oeuvre et à la valorisation des nombreux projets de cette agriculture que l'on veut prospère. Notre délégation, qui a suivi avec grand intérêt l'allocution du Directeur général à l'ouverture de la présente session, ne peut que se féliciter des décisions d'aboutir qu'il a employées tout au long de son programme. Ma délégation, comme elle l'a manifesté lors des deux précédentes sessions, ne peut qu'appuyer l'énergique programme de travail du Directeur général et souhaiter son succès.

F. GOMEZ IRURETA (España): Me felicito del crecimiento que ha experimentado en producción agraria durante el año pasado el mundo. Desafortunadamente en España solo hemos tenido un crecimiento del 1,7 debido a motivos climatológicos, como la sequía y heladas. En este momento tenemos un déficit de la balanza comercial de productos agrarios del orden de 1 000 millones de dólares; por ello somos netamente importadores de materias primas agrarias; hay algunos, como el café, el cacao y maderas tropicales que por su situación climatológica y geográfica España siempre es dependiente del exterior.

Desafortunadamente hemos observado un crecimiento desmesurado en el precio del café; en las razones que han producido este crecimiento no voy a entrar.

Tenemos, podríamos decir, un déficit estructural de maíz y de soja. En maíz haremos un esfuerzo para producir más de lo que ahora producimos, pero en soja vemos muy limitado nuestro crecimiento por razones climatológicas.

Apoyo la nueva tendencia del Director General hacia una cooperación técnica más intensa con los países en vías de desarrollo, pero espero que dentro de esta cooperación técnica que puede ser puesta en valor de tierras, nuevos regadíos, etc., también la FAO de alguna manera oriente a estos países posibles productores en aquellos bienes que pueden ser complementarios para otros países, de manera que hubiera una complementariedad entre producciones de nuevas puestas en valor que seguramente iban a encontrar una acogida en determinados países, como por ejemplo el mío.

Actualmente también registramos un crecimiento de precios casi desconocido en la soja del que se conoció el año 73. Por eso insisto que esta cooperación técnica no sea meramente una aplicación de fertilizantes, una mejor aplicación de regadíos etc., sino también una orientación a estos países de qué tipo de cultivos pueden poner que tengan un porvenir a un medio o largo plazo.

En cuanto a lo que ha apuntado el Delegado de Bangladesh, España se ha adherido hace escasamente dos semanas al FIDA con una aportación que no ha sido todo lo grande que hubiera deseado, pero dadas las circunstancias actuales ha sido lo más que podíamos hacer.

EL PRESIDENTE: Señores, llegamos así a la conclusión del tema 4 sobre el cual quisiera hacer un resumen breve y concreto.

Tal vez podríamos decir que el Consejo tomó nota de que en los últimos meses ha habido pocos cambios en la situación alimentaria mundial; situación que presenta algunos aspectos relativamente alentadores, aunque no puede expresarse excesivo optimismo porque subsisten algunos problemas principales pendientes de solución, particularmente las tendencias a largo plazo son preocupantes, así como el deterioro del comercio internacional en desventaja para los países en desarrollo.

El Consejo tomó nota de que algunos de esos problemas pendientes serían estudiados más adelante en este mismo período de sesiones cuando consideremos los informes del Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria Mundial y del Comité de Problemas y Productos Básicos.

El Consejo observó que había tenido lugar en algunas regiones cierto apreciable crecimiento de la producción agrícola, especialmente de cereales, pero una vez más el Consejo insistió en la necesidad de asegurar un crecimiento sostenido de la producción alimentaria mundial, único medio para evitar que en el futuro puedan presentarse nuevas crisis.

El Consejo apoyó la política del Director General de la FAO dirigida a estimular el aumento de la producción agrícola, particularmente en los países en desarrollo.

Algunas delegaciones hicieron observaciones concretas; sus textos están en las actas que podrán ser utilizadas si se considera conveniente por el Comité de Redacción para los efectos pertinentes.

Creo que si no hay ningún comentario por parte de los miembros del Consejo podríamos así terminar este tema 4.

Amin Abu Seneina, First Vice-Chairman of the Council, took the Chair Amin Abu Seneina Premier Vice-Président du Conseil, assume la présidence Ocupa la presidencia Amin Abu Seneina, primer Vicepresidente del Consejo

5. Review of General Content, Structure and Timing of SOFA

5. Examen du contenu general, de la structure et de la parution du SOFA

5. Examen del contenido general, estructura y periodicidad del SOFA

R.W. PHILLIPS (Chairman, Programme Committee): Members of the Council will recall that a number of different arrangements have been used in the past for presenting the report on The State of Food and Agriculture to the Conference and the Council and, in particular, that since 1974 on an experimental basis the Conference and Council had received what has been called a "mini-SOFA" which is essentially a preliminary version of the world chapter of the printed report supplemented by an updating statement tabled at the session while the printed SOFA was, as far as possible, finalized towards the end of the year in question.

The Eighteenth Session of the Conference expressed its general satisfaction with that system and agreed to continue it for another two years on a trial basis. That further two years is now ending and the Committee, after having examined the situation, endorsed the Director General's proposal that the trial system which had been in use for the past four years should now be confirmed as the best practical solution.

In doing this the Programme Committee wished in particular to emphasize the usefulness of this report on The State of Food and Agriculture and the widespread interest it has consistently attracted. It is probably one of the most widely quoted of FAO's publications and is in fact what could best be described as the "best seller" among those publications.

I would only add to this that in paragraphs 2.124 and 2.125 of the document before you (CL 71/4) there are some suggestions regarding the special chapters that might be incorporated, about new procedures for reproducing the SOFA so that some time and money will be saved, and also an endorsement of the Director-General's approach that SOFA should be development-oriented with a high content of policy analysis of direct practical usefulness to governments, that there should be flexibility in planning its content, and, while endorsing brevity wherever desirable, that this should not be done at the expense of omitting important and useful material. The Committee also stressed the use of SOFA wherever feasible to get widespread distribution of important materials that might otherwise reach only a limited audience.

I need say no more than that. The Committee did endorse the Director-General's proposal and it is for the Council to decide whether to agree with that endorsement and if so then this experimental trial period of four years would be continued as the permanent arrangement for the preparation of material on The State of Food and Agriculture and the issue finally at the end of the year of the full document commonly called SOFA.

F. SHEFRIN (Canada): After listening to Dr. Phillips introduce the subject, one has difficulty in disagreeing with anything he has said and we can accept it as it stands. But I have a problem and it may be that we will want to have another look at it. I am not sure what we are going to get in the new State of Food and Agriculture. It is all right to say that in the past it has been one of the most popular of the FAO publications. That was partly because it provided information which was not available anywhere. But basically it was a source from which you could run a comparison from year to year. I recognize that one cannot maintain for several centuries the same type of report, there must be a certain flexibility, when I looked at this report I was thinking of some of the other FAO publications - for example, there is CERES which is an excellent outlet for policy discussion. It is certainly development oriented, there is no question about that. It offers scope for a more independent discussion by the Secretariat and by outsiders. There are a number of monthly publications issued by the Organization which provide interesting data whether in agriculture, fisheries, forestry or economics, but when I finished reading what is being proposed for The State of Food and Agriculture I said "this has everything for everybody but not enough of anything for anybody". That is my difficulty in trying to understand what kind of a report we are going to continue. I address my comments to the Chairman of the Programme Committee which is where the comment will be at this stage. It seems to me that we have to decide what sort of a report we want to have. If I get an annual report every year and one year it is one thing and another year there is another type of approach then although it is very useful it does not provide us with the opportunity for comparison. The proposal contains all the right words: flexibility, development-oriented, interesting, brief, on time. But that can be applied to everything, so perhaps, Dr. Phillips, you could explain a little more as to what was in the minds and brains of the members of your Committee when you made these recommendations.

DOÑA P. de CASTRO MONSALVO (Colombia): La delegación de Colombia apoya en general las recomendaciones del Comité del Programa sobre este tema 5 en relación con el examen del contenido general, estructura y periodicidad del SOFA. Consideramos que el sistema actual permite que el mini SOFA, complementado con una exposición actualizada, representa un adecuado medio de información para el Consejo,

Por lo tanto, la delegación de Colombia apoya la opinión del Comité del Programa en el sentido de que al terminar los dos años del período experimental se continúe ese ensayo en su forma actual por constituir una solución muy práctica. Somos conscientes de que el método vigente ofrece algunos inconvenientes pero consideramos que esta manera es la más indicada.

La delegación de Colombia apoya igualmente la intención del Director General de que en adelante el SOFA se reproduzca a partir del ejemplar mecanografiado, pues ese sistema representará ahorro y en realidad lo que nos interesa es el contenido y no la belleza de su presentación. Finalmente, la delegación de Colombia apoya la propuesta del Director General de que el SOFA trate de ser cada vez más un documento orientado hacia el desarrollo con análisis de política práctica para los Estados Miembros.

H. ABDALLAH (Egypt) (Interpretation from Arabic): I should like to thank Dr. Phillips for his very clear statement, and the members of the Committee for the excellent study they have made. The delegate of Colombia expressed eloquently what we had the intention of saying and therefore I can be very brief. I will say that we give our support to the continuation of the system of this experiment and that we second the proposals made by the Director-General that this publication should deal essentially with development and with analysis of agricultural development. We also give our support to the proposal made with regard to the mimeographing of this document, in order to make savings.

A.A.W. LANDYMORE (United Kingdom): First of all, I think it is worth recalling a little history on this subject, because it goes back quite a few years. Several years ago we found that if SOFA was produced in time for consideration by the governing bodies, it had to be started too soon and its information was out of date by the time it actually reached the governing bodies. Essentially, this is a question of time and timing of the presentation of relevant information and in particular the analysis of the year, for which SOFA has achieved a deserved reputation. My understanding is that the mini-SOFA is a sort of advance installment of the main chapter on analysis together with such statistical information as is normally attached to that chapter, and that its topicality and relevance are maintained in that form so that what reaches the governing bodies on that essential part of SOFA is timely, up-to-date to the extent that it can be. It is a question of time, in the view of my delegation.

In view of those considerations and what is put forward in the report of the Programme Committee, my delegation endorses the proposal that the experimental system should now be put on a permanent basis.

D. FRANTZGSUAUIS (Greece): The Greek delegation fully supports the decision by the Programme Committee at its 32nd session last April, by which it endorsed the Director-General's proposals on the future arrangements for the annual report of the State of Food and Agriculture. The system introduced a few years ago on a trial basis should be confirmed so as to be continued on a permanent basis.

As regards the disadvantage mentioned in the report, this delegation agrees that important regional material is incorporated in the mini-SOFA and relevant special charts be presented as separate documents for the Conference and Council consideration. The SOFA should be issued before the end of the year to which it refers and should contain, as far as possible, detailed information which will be of practical usefulness to all Member Governments. Topics for special consideration should be chosen on the basis of the Director-General's priorities. In its analysis of the world food and agriculture situation, an attempt should be made to distinguish the effects of the weather and of government policies, and be a development-oriented document incorporating the necessary information concerning economic and social factors to enable member countries to prepare and apply a most successful development programme.

N.M. MWAUNGULU (Malawi): The delegation of Malawi welcomes, like the previous speakers, the recommendations that the Committee has made regarding SOFA; especially it finds no difficulty in accepting that the trial period be made permanent, that the publication be produced in typewritten copy instead of letterpress, in order to reduce costs.

Also we support, of course, the objective of making it more development-oriented in the content of policy analysis. On this, though, we would be interested in being enlightened as to what is meant by development-orientation, because something is probably necessary here to avoid making the document more theoretical and less practical by emphasizing development-orientation,

B. de AZEVEDO BRITO (Brazil): I would like to offer some brief comments on this particular issue; first on the contents, second on the presentation. On contents, we are inclined to agree with both the Director-General and the Programme Committee that brevity in so far as possible, is good and useful in such a document. We believe that the document should provide a general view including regional trends. We would also agree with the Director-General that such a document should be development-oriented. The way I understand development-oriented - and here I take the point of my good friends from Malawi - is that it focusses on the problems of development of agriculture in developing countries in order to identify better where are the problems and where the solutions can be found. That is my interpretation of development-oriented and, with that interpretation, I would, of course then be more than happy with the suggestion that the document should be development-oriented.

We also agree with the Director-General - and this point I think is very important - that the document should not only provide data but should also emphasize timely policy analysis of direct usefulness to governments; and we believe that the document can, by the inclusion of such policy analysis, become extremely useful to governments without, of course, becoming a purely theoretical paper.

As far as presentation is concerned, we believe that the practice which we have tried in the past two years proved good in that it presented, first, a condensed version and then a final complete version, which we would, of course, appreciate having as early as feasible, although we understand the problems inherent in completing the final version too early in the year.

I. OROZCO (México): Seré muy breve. Únicamente para apoyar las conclusiones del Comité del Programa acerca de la estructura, contenido y periodicidad del SOFA, así como para asociarnos a las declaraciones que han hecho los delegados del Brasil, Grecia y Malawi.

H.L. CLAVERI R.(Venezuela): Dentro de la concreción y de la claridad con que el tema ha sido presentado a la consideración del Consejo, mi delegación se siente proclive a no extenderse en el comentario que tan claramente ha sido enjuiciado por el Consejo mismo en esta reunión.

La delegación de Venezuela siempre ha dado especial importancia al SOFA, al Estado mundial de la agricultura y la alimentación, y ha estado en general de acuerdo con su presentación y la forma con que ha venido desenvolviéndose. En todo caso la propuesta del Comité del Programa, y la del Director General específicamente, gozan de nuestra simpatía, llamando la atención solamente sobre el hecho de que por la rapidez en el tiempo y la concreción en la implementación de las políticas diseñadas como aparezcan en el SOFA y en el "mini-SOFA" no vayan a incurrir en detrimento del análisis y del trasfondo analítico que el mismo mensaje debe dar al lector.

Nos mostramos de acuerdo con la propuesta del Director General y con la implementación del SOFA, tal como lo ha dado el Comité del Programa.

F. GOMEZ IRURETA (España): Apoyo por agilidad y menor costo la puesta en permanencia del sistema actual y, efectivamente, si se trata de dar una orientación sobre políticas, comprendo las dificultades que supone para los redactores el poder distinguir entre lo que han sido daños climatológicos y lo que ha sido cambio de política. Ello no obstante, se podría hacer algún comentario indicando si el aumento o disminución de determinados productos en una región han sido afectados por la climatología; por supuesto, sin llegar a afinar excesivamente en cuánto han podido ser las pérdidas que hay en experimentado esas regiones, pero se puede tener una idea de si ha habido un cambio radical en la política de producciones o si siguiendo la política de producciones una tónica general, sin embargo ha sido afectada fuertemente por la climatología, lo cual nos daría una orientación de cuál es el movimiento a nivel mundial de la tendencia de las producciones agrarias.

Es un ejercicio difícil, pero posible, difícil de cuantificar, pero se puede orientar en cuanto a un aspecto cualitativo. ~~

A. GRAY (Trinidad and Tobago) These four brief paragraphs from the report of the Programme Committee, in spite of their brevity, must surely be ranked as one of the more solid and commendable offerings. Having ourselves reviewed the practice of the FAO over the years on this matter on the content and presentation of SOFA we find we can generally endorse the recommendation made by them.

The document which we call SOFA is a most important one. Our assessment of the food and agriculture situation determines the FAO's overall ethos, its pursuits, priorities, organization, recruitment patterns, everything. It is also against this that the performance of FAO and all the institutions in the food and agriculture field is measured. This final point requires no emphasis since perhaps the World Food Conference and the events leading to, as well as the conclusions, which prompted its convening are too recent to be recalled on this occasion.

The importance of assessment of the food and agriculture situation is also highlighted by your general rules which in Rule No XXXII.2c highlights the importance of the annual publication as communication to member nations and associate members of a detailed world survey of the State of Food and Agriculture. Mention might also be made of Rule II, paragraph 2C(i) among others as to the timing of this SOFA, bearing in mind the difficulties and time resources required to obtain, analyse, and publish all • relevant data we agree with the views of the Programme Committee according to which the Council and the Conference would be presented with a condensed document. It has to be updated to the particular session, while the complete assessment will be made towards the end of the year. This would indeed appear to constitute a very practical solution. Ultimately we feel that the most important thing is that the State of Food and Agriculture should be constantly monitored and that the information so derived be assembled in such a way as would allow rapid adjustments to it should these be indicated.

We are speaking in general terms, stating general principles. Perhaps we may add that FAO has of late been very vigorous in obtaining and disseminating data on production, trade prices and other relevant information on a very wide range of commodities. In particular we appreciate the current live information contained in the supplements of the global information and Early Warning System.

As we have stated then we opt for constant monitoring. There is always a lapse of time before problems are recognized, then before measures can be elaborated and then for those measures to take effect and the aim must be to shorten these lags in a way which FAO now seems able to do, although we must not be complacent here.

With reference to the content of the document we absolutely endorse the view that SOFA should be thoroughly reviewed with a development orientation and I think the definition given by Brazil goes a long way to satisfy us.

We are particularly satisfied with the content of paragraph 2.125 in the Programme Committee's Report. Especially we do recognize that a more flexible approach should be taken to the contents of SOFA aiming at a blend of the minimum necessary standard material with maximum coverage of topics with subjects of interest. Of course, at a later stage there may be a difference of opinion as to which particular topics are to be treated or as to the manner of such treatment but this does not detract from the basic principle enshrined in the paragraph to which I have referred. Indeed, I suspect that most of the difficulties we have had in the past about SOFA and its contents arose from a feeling that certain vital issues were left outside the focus of FAO. With the World Food Conference but two years behind us and with a constant flood of literature on the FAO and the problems of the food and agriculture sector we cannot be unaware of the needs of FAO to keep abreast of world developments, to keep in tune with the changing situation and to respond rapidly and efficiently to the food and agriculture needs of member countries. A thorough implementation for this new approach will just about fulfil our expectations.

A. TEJAN WADDA (Gambia): We would just like to add our voice to those who have already endorsed the report presented by Dr. Phillips. As we have seen in paragraph 2.122 to paragraph 2.125, it is quite clear that SOFA was produced on an experimental basis since 1974 and now the Director-General is recommending to bring an end to this experimental period and start a permanent form of production. A recommendation has been made as to the content and the production of SOFA. It is quite clear, with regard

to the production, that the Director-General's reasons for recommending the typewritten copy instead of the typographical composition is based entirely on costs saving and more rapid production. I do not think that any member of Council will argue with his reasoning, the saving on rapid production. SOFA is an information giving medium and the quicker it is readily available to its recipients the better and any form of production that will delay its production or distribution will be most unwelcome.

With regard to its contents now that it has been through the experimental period and it is found that SOFA should be development oriented, it is most welcome by all who have spoken from the developing world and not only that it is being development oriented but that it should contain policy analysis. This type of content will fill a gap within the developing countries agricultural programmes and I would join my delegation's voice with those who have endorsed Dr. Phillip's report.

R.W.PHILLIPS (Chairman, Programme Committee): As I listened to the discussion I think I heard rather complete agreement with the Director-General's proposals and the Programme Committee's comments thereon so I will direct my attention only to the question raised by Canada.

I would first point out to him that he made a Freudian slip when he referred to me as the Chairman of the Finance Committee. Those of you who have been in this Council for many years I think are well aware of Mr. Shefrin's enjoyment in sticking needles in people; also that he takes particular pleasure in sticking needles in citizens of that country south of that common border which is one of the longest in the world!. So if I may I would like to give a partial answer to his question and then share the effects of the needle with the Secretariat!

It seems to me that basically there are to be two kinds of material, one is what might be called the ongoing factual material about the world food situation and the analysis of the trends in that situation, what I think the delegate of Trinidad and Tobago referred to as the monitoring of the current situation, getting the factual material before governments. The key issue here is the timing, as pointed out by the United Kingdom, and the proposal visualizes three timings of materials, the so-called mini-SOFA which gets it out for the appropriate session of the governing bodies, updating of that material as the governing bodies' session and a final updated version as near the end of the year as possible. So there is that material which is the on-going material, which would not really change very much in general nature, it would change only in the specific details of the contents as it reflected the world food situation in any particular year.

Then turning to the so-called policy-oriented materials; here, I think, without going into any detail one of the best examples of what at least the Programme Committee considered was in the minds of the Secretariat, is an item on the Agenda of this Council Session, i.e.. the reduction of harvest and post-harvest losses. Let us assume that over the years we can expect continuing concern with the world food situation and whether there is adequate food supply, adequate food distribution, etc.

Then, in relation to that, some key topic of interest might be discussed, and taking the one just noted, the reduction of harvest and post-harvest losses, and considering what are the potentials for helping to meet food needs by a more adequate control of these losses, what are the steps that governments and others can be taking to increase the food supply by reducing those losses, etc. So it is this kind of a problem which I think, again in the words of Malawi, would be a practical problem that needed to be tackled by governments and gone into through SOFA as to how it could be best tackled.

Those are the kinds of materials one could go on about in great detail, but I think, Mr. Chairman, if you would agree, it would be desirable to have Mr. Bhattacharjee of the Secretariat add his response to this analysis so as to absorb a part of the punch of the needle and continue the answer.

J.P.BHATTACHARJEE (Director, Policy and Analysis Division): Somehow I do not seem to feel the punch of the needle to which Mr. Phillips referred to earlier. Having known Mr. Shefrin for quite some time, we know that he always has a good intention.

The Director-General in making his proposal has, as you know, broadly taken into account the various issues which have been raised in meetings of the Council and Conference of the last two to three years, so in proposing that the present experimental arrangement be confirmed as a regular arrangement, he has in the first instance taken into account the need to provide SOFA on time. In the second place, he in line with his policy thinks there should be a little brevity in the size of the SOFA and particularly that there should be in that context a flexibility given to him in deciding the mix of contents which will go into each issue of SOFA, and here may I emphasize this point, namely, it is a mix of contents, not any particular chapter or anything else.

In all these three aspects, the main approach that he has in mind is that in line with the previous recommendations of this body and the Conference, the SOFA should be given a development orientation in the sense that it will not be concerned with the state of the monsoons or the state of the harvest as of the time of reporting but it will look at the changing agricultural situation against the background of the goals that are envisaged or laid down by the various conferences, by the governing bodies, and other international fora, and this approach towards the goal will be evaluated, as the Council has said many times, against the longer term trends.

In this connexion, there have been various recommendations and suggestions made by the Council. One question came up today in the intervention by Spain, namely, the changes in the situation have to be identified to the extent possible to the various factors and related to the various factors, not just weather, but as far as possible related to the effects of the various policies that the different governments adopt and the results or the impacts of those policies.

Accordingly, what the Director-General proposes is that the SOFA in its World Chapter will contain, of course, the necessary minimum amounts of analysis of the ongoing current features on production, trade and consumption, stocks, prices, and also development assistance including food aid and the conditions of the particularly vulnerable countries like the most seriously affected countries, less developed countries, etc.

This minimum coverage I can assure Canada will always be there, in the World Chapter as well as any annexed tables, but around these general coverages and the continuing element of analysis, the Director-General wants to inject in every issue of SOFA a policy theme which, as was mentioned in one issue, may be the post-harvest losses, and another it may be the review and appraisal of progress in the development decade, as will be the case in 1977 in SOFA. In another one, it may be a particular aspect of the world food security. This will depend on him, and he wants flexibility to be able to decide on it so that he will explain in his own introduction or foreword why he selected the particular topic.

Secondly, there is in this question of flexibility the question of the extent to which the SOFA should go into development in each region. This has been a difficult problem. We could not get every year an adequate amount of information to include in the regional chapters. Therefore, the Director-General and the Programme Committee feel that the obligation to bring out a regional chapter in every issue should not be there, and the Director-General should be given the flexibility to decide in which years the regional chapter should be brought out and in which years it should not be.

Here again, in the light of our other publications, the regional chapters also provide not just detailed information country by country but significant policy developments and responses of the governments in the regions of major changes in the world situation.

Thirdly, there is the question of the special chapter which always brings in something different which is related to issues of particular concern that the Director-General feels FAO should have an analysis on. In SOFA J 976 the special chapter related to energy and its use in agriculture ; in 1977 the chapter will be on the state of natural resources and human environment of food and agriculture. It is a review of the environmental and human resources aspect from a longer term point of view. These are special chapters about which the governing bodies have indicated special interests, but on the whole, the main point here is that the Director-General feels that if all the recommendations of all the Sessions of the Conference and Council are to be taken into account by him and implemented in a systematic manner, it just will not be possible within the size limitation of SOFA to implement them in every issue. He therefore expects that the Council will give him the needed flexibility. He takes into account the need to maintain the certain types of data and information which are required and used by all readers, and I can assure you those things will be there.

CHAIRMAN : If there is no further comment we move on to the following item.

6. Report of the Committee on World Food Security (2nd Session, Rome, April -1977)

6. Rapport du Comité sur la sécurité alimentaire mondiale (deuxième session, Rome, avril 1977)

6. Informe del Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria Mundial (segundo período de sesiones, Roma, abril 1977)

CHAIRMAN : The Committee wishes to draw attention of the Council in particular to the points on page 4 of Document CL 71/10.

DOÑA P. DE CASTRO MONSALVO (Colombia): La delegación de Colombia ha estudiado con atención este documento CL/71/10 que contiene el informe del segundo período de sesiones del Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria reunido en Roma durante el pasado mes de abril.

La delegación de Colombia desea apoyar en particular en la parte A, recomendaciones y solicitudes a los Gobiernos, el apartado(b) del párrafo ii, en el sentido de hacer un llamado a los países desarrollados y a los donantes en general a fin de que aumenten su asistencia financiera y técnica a los países en desarrollo para acelerar la producción alimentaria.

La delegación de Colombia quiere referirse al apartado [e) de este mismo párrafo para apoyar también el esfuerzo que debe hacerse para que los países en desarrollo logren constituir adecuadas reservas nacionales de alimentos.

La delegación de Colombia expresa su complacencia por el hecho de que el Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria Mundial haya pedido al Director General que, de acuerdo con las disposiciones vigentes, envíe este informe al tercer período de sesiones del Consejo Mundial de la Alimentación que se celebrará en Manila próximamente.

Consideramos que es uno de los medios para coordinar la acción de los órganos de la FAO con el Consejo Mundial de la Alimentación, lo cual corresponde a lo que ya decidimos en este Consejo.

En la sesión D párrafo vii en la cual el Comité manifestó su acuerdo sobre la necesidad de elaborar medidas internacionales que permitan a los países en desarrollo reforzar su autodependencia en la producción y seguridad alimentaria, la delegación de Colombia piensa que si bien las asistencias son necesarias en ciertos momentos de emergencia lo esencial es asegurar la propia producción alimentaria de los países en desarrollo.

Finalmente mi delegación apoya plenamente la declaración del Grupo de los 77 sobre la cual se ha venido discutiendo en el seno de este Comité. El Gobierno de Colombia es solidario con la opinión del Grupo de los 77 en que es urgente adoptar medidas concretas y eficaces para lograr objetivos mínimos.

La delegación de Colombia apoya en particular la posición del Grupo de los 77 reflejada en el apartado (b) del párrafo 51 y en el párrafo 53 sobre la necesidad de que se adopten medidas en el comercio internacional para defender los intereses de los países en desarrollo.

G. SATARI (Indonesia): The Committee on World Food Security should be commended on the work they have done in making useful conclusions and recommendations to which my delegation can lend its support. Many of the recommendations should receive our sympathetic consideration and support. In regard to their assessment of the world food security situation, my delegation would like to stress two main points.

The first is the important determinant of long-term production prospects and food security in different countries would be their ability to sustain and further increase their agricultural production, and furthermore the flow of resources needs to be increased and landing terms improved.

Second, although world cereal stocks approach the minimum safe level required for food security, no formal international food agreement on stocks has yet emerged as to their level, composition and management. In this connexion we also agree that an international grains agreement should be concluded soon, and that the objectives and main elements of the international undertaking on world food security should be appropriately reflected in the provisions of the agreement. The Director-General should be requested to bring the proposals on specific policy provisions submitted by the Group of 77 to the attention of the preparatory group of the International Food Council for appropriate consideration.

In the light of our statement on the world food situation on agenda item 4, in particular with reference to rice, my delegation fully supports the request of the meeting that the Secretariat analyses the long term implications of the past rates of growth in rice production, which have been considerably lower than for wheat, on the food security situation of rice consuming countries, in particular the Far East, and suggests steps needed to remedy the situation in conjunction with other bodies. To make food security effective, as a first step it is necessary that the undertaking be fully implemented by member countries, and in this regard all countries should, by the end of 1977, define and adopt national stock policies in conformity with the guidelines of the Undertaking.

The Committee was assigned by the FAO Conference to assess the efficacy of stocks needed to meet the objectives of world food security. The Secretariat, after elaborate and comprehensive preparation, suggested that in order to maintain world consumption of cereals in one year, in around 95 percent of the cases the minimum safe level of carryover stocks of cereals would need to be within a range of 17 to 18 percent of world consumption.

My delegation appreciates the efforts made by the Committee to come to a consensus on the figure for the minimum safe level of food for world food security. We therefore underline the outcome that they, pending further explanation, agree with the Secretariat's figures as a reasonable basis for this assessment.

Finally, we also agree on the need to develop the national resources in support of food security in developing countries with a view to strengthening their self-reliance in food production and food security with the ultimate objections of obviating their dependence on external food assistance in accordance with national plans and priorities.

A. DAS (India): The Indian delegation would like to lend its full support to the adoption by the Council of the Report of the Second Session of the Committee on World Food Security. We have already expressed our views on the issues relating to providing expanded external assistance to agriculture in the developing countries, which according to the views of the Secretariat, appears to have declined in 1976 as compared to the previous year.

For improving the World Food Security, the Council should strongly support the provision of food aid and financial resources not only for meeting current consumption requirements, but also for helping developing countries to build up and maintain stocks, and to create storage capacity. Unless these countries have their own stocks which can be used for meeting emergencies at short notice, the food position of these countries will continue to remain highly vulnerable to natural hazards and disasters.

The Indian delegation would therefore urge that the donor countries and the concerned international and regional organizations should take steps to provide the necessary food, financial and technical assistance in the form of grants and on specially favourable and soft terms to develop and implement national policies and to build and maintain food reserves in developing countries, including storage and transport facilities.

An important point on which we have some satisfaction is that the Food Aid Committee has, pending further examination, accepted the Secretariat statement that the estimated figure of 17 - 18 percent of the world consumption as the minimum safe level of carryover stocks in a reasonable basis for future assessment. The figure of 17 - 18 percent consists of 5 - 6 percent as a reserve element, the rest being working stocks. The Council should endorse these figures, and ask for their adoption by the Committee on World Food Security and other international agencies for the purpose of making further assessments.

My delegation would urge that the Director-General may be requested to forward the proposals made in the statement by the Group of 77 to the International Wheat Council. In particular, the International Wheat Council should be requested to implement the recommendation made by the Committee on World Food Security that the objectives and main elements of the International Undertaking on World Food Security should be appropriately reflected in the provisions of the new International Grains Agreement, which should also pay particular attention to safeguarding the special interests of developing countries, and all efforts should be made by the concerned Governments to conclude the discussions and negotiations of a new International Grains Agreement before the expiry of the current extension of this agreement. We would urge that the new International Grains Agreement as recommended by the Committee on World Food Security should be concentrating on building up food stocks appropriate for ensuring food security as well as price and supply stability.

My delegation shares the views expressed by my distinguished predecessor the representative from Indonesia, on World Food Security and we endorse the recommendation of the Committee on World Food Security about analysing the long term implications of the fact that rates of growth in rice production - which had been considerably lower than for wheat - on the food security situation of rice producing and consuming countries, specially for the Far East, and we suggest possible steps may be taken to remedy the situation in cooperation with other concerned bodies.

We also fully share the view of the Committee on World Food Security that there is urgent need for an international agreement which should envisage the building up of reserve stocks, not merely for ensuring food security, but also for ensuring price and supply stability. The maintenance of price stability is very vital and of crucial importance for ensuring the level of production and level of supplies, particularly on the part of food-exporting countries, so that supplies are not in any way slackened and there is not merely stability in the availability of food grains but also stability of prices for the benefit of the growers as well as of the consumers.

R. FOUAD (Egypt) (interpretation from Arabic): First I should like to say that the question of World Food Security has often been discussed by the Committee which deals with this problem and by the World Food Conference, but given the practical nature and the importance of this problem, particularly as far as it concerns developing countries, and given the development of agriculture during the last few years and the possibilities of meeting World Food Security, I should like to say once again that there are some subjects which have not benefited from agreement from all interested parties.

The first point concerning increase in agricultural production in developing countries concerns funds which have been allocated by the Secretariat of the Organization and by the World Food Conference. Although there has not been an agreement on this question, we think that it should be reviewed in more detail.

The second point concerns the minimum of 10 million tons of cereals established by the World Food Council. This aid reached a figure of eight million during last year whereas during preceding years a higher level was reached, namely fourteen million tons. That aid should continue and intensify given the population growth in the world today. The third point concerns emergency stocks. The quantity laid down for these stocks, namely 100 000 tons, has not yet been reached. The fourth point concerns world stocks. We have estimated these at being 17-18 percent of world consumption and we have not reached that level, unfortunately. The last point concerns some partial objectives - for instance in fertilizers. We note with satisfaction the progress achieved in the early warning system and decisions taken by various governments on stocks. At this stage I should like to repeat our support for the statement made by the Group of 77 contained in the report of the Committee on World Food Security requesting governments to guarantee world food security.

A. NIKKOLA (Finland): My delegation gives its general support to the recommendations presented in the Report of the Second Session of the Committee on World Food Security. In our view the good crops of the last two years and the considerably improved stock position make it possible to so improve world food security that the food crisis of the years 1972-74 could not repeat itself in the future. We fully support the view that the objectives of the FAO International Undertaking on World Food Security should as far as possible be taken into account in the formulation of the new International Grains Agreement. Therefore, we note with satisfaction that the proposal for a reserve stock scheme is under discussion in the preparatory group of the International Wheat Council.

My delegation also supports the proposal that a new food aid convention should be an integral part of the new Grains Agreement.

I should also like to draw attention to the important recommendation of the First Session of the Committee on World Food Security to the effect that all countries should define and adopt national grain stock policies and targets or objectives and modify them as required in order to conform with the FAO Undertaking. So far as my country is concerned for many years we have applied a defined national stock policy which includes an obligatory stock target of food grains, corresponding to approximately seven months' domestic consumption. When developing our policy in the future we will fully take into account the requirements of the FAO Undertaking.

C.R. FRANK (United States of America): The United States has noted with particular interest the Report of the Committee on World Food Security. The subject of world food security is, in our view, a vital subject of continuing importance to every nation, one that needs our very best efforts not only in that particular Committee but in all the international fora which deal with matters of food, food supplies and food nutrition.

The United States has subscribed to and believes in the International Undertaking on World Food Security. We regret that some countries, including some major trading nations, have not yet seen fit to subscribe. We hope that they soon will be in a position to do so.

The United States is prepared, as we said at the Committee on World Food Security, to work with other nations to narrow differences on major issues and develop a new international agreement to succeed the present International Wheat Agreement. We hope that these efforts can meet with eventual success and can lead to the early establishment of a reserves agreement and negotiation on a renewed food aid convention.

As many delegates know, the United States has already taken action to establish national reserves of wheat and rice. The stocks will be held on farms under a programme of 3-year extended loans for the 1976 crop. The programme has specific provisions related to price movements for the release of reserves so that they will be held when they should be held and will be released if changes in circumstances warrant. We view this programme as a stabilizing influence at home and abroad and see it as supportive of the efforts of the International Wheat Council to develop an international system of nationally held grain reserves.

On a closely related manner I should like to draw attention to the fact that the United States has announced its readiness to contribute up to 125 000 tons of food aid, in concert with other donors, towards the 500 000 ton international emergency reserve called for by the Seventh Special Session of the United Nations General Assembly. We feel that this emergency reserve can in the short run meet important food aid requirements. At the same time, we place paramount emphasis on the speedy implementation of an international system of nationally held grain reserves as the basis for broader world food security. Further, at the recent meeting of the Conference on International Cooperation in Paris, the Development Commission recommended that steps be taken to provide technical and financial assistance for seed production, training and research in developing countries in an amount of at least \$20 million. The United States is proud to have a part in the agreed recommendation and is ready to do its share.

Those are some of the recent concrete actions taken by my country in support of the objectives in the struggle towards world food security. They are evidence of our willingness to cooperate with other nations in seeking a common goal. For it is only through international cooperation that the goal of world food security can be achieved.

J.M. SCOLAR (United Kingdom): First of all may I draw the attention of delegates to document CL 71/10 Corr.1 which is now the agreed record of the meeting. The point was not raised in earlier discussions and we should make it clear that the corrigendum is now part" of the record.

Secondly, may I say that we in the United Kingdom delegation have read this report with great interest and in particular we endorse the review of the current situation set out in paragraph 16. The major outlook is, as we see it, very much in line with the Committee's views.

Thirdly, we support very strongly the development of the global early warning system. This is very effective and very valuable and helps to meet the needs of those developing countries in most particular-need of assistance in planning their future and in dealing with the problems they face.

Lastly, we also feel that this valuable document should go to the ministerial meeting of the World Food Council in Manila as is the view of other delegates.

F. SHEFRIN (Canada): In listening to the discussion on food security I believe we should bring a note of balance into the discussion because if our understanding is correct, when we discussed food security we discussed two aspects, the question of increased production in the countries that need the food and also the question of stockpiling or storing food and having reserves. During this morning's discussion there has been no reference to that first and most important part the question of increased production. You cannot establish stocks, even if you receive aid for a number of years, if you do not increase production. That point has not been discussed adequately so far it seems to us.

We have also heard several appeals by a number of speakers that more should be done to finance the building of stocks. We are certainly in agreement with those appeals. The tendency, however, has been to refer to wheat-producing or wheat-exporting countries and that is a very limited approach. There are many other countries which are not wheat producers or wheat exporters, which can also assist in the building of stocks in developing countries and I suggest to our friends that they should also think of those countries which are not necessarily the ones which are exporting wheat or are large-scale wheat producers. Many of them are very important importers and others are producers of other commodities which bring in substantial revenues. I hope therefore that there will be a more balanced approach to these requests.

So far as Canada is concerned, we are at present carrying a very large stockpile of wheat. Our production has increased in line with the appeals made for more wheat. At the same time we are providing as a form of aid one million tons of wheat per year in line with the World Food Conference Resolution. But it costs money to carry such large stocks. Nobody talks about the cost of carrying them at a time when the price of wheat is low and our producers are faced with the problem of having to carry stocks on the farms and of also receiving low wheat prices. So when we talk about this subject we should maintain a balance in what we are asking.

At the same time, Canada is very active in the negotiations for a new international wheat arrangement and certainly this is an area where we will be looking very carefully at the concept of establishing stocks. However, if any conclusions are to come out of this meeting it would be advisable to look at paragraphs 21 to 23 of our Report of the Second Session of the Committee on World Food Security, especially in relation to the aspect of targets. There was no agreement of the figure of 17-18 percent. There was a compromise statement which said in effect that it should be considered that that estimate provided a reasonable basis for assessment but it would carry no particular commitment as to the desirable level of stocks in an International Grains Agreement. Our delegation had argued in the Second Session that we did not know what the figure should be. We are carrying far more than 17 percent already. If one stops to calculate what it would cost to carry 60 million tons one would find that the storage costs would be between \$4 and \$6 billion. We urge caution therefore and I hope that the Council will not go beyond this sense of compromise which was carefully worked out in the Report. We also made the proposal in the Committee on World Food Security that this Report should be submitted to the World Food Council which will be meeting in Manila at the end of this month.

B. de AZEVEDO BRITO (Brazil): The views of the Group of 77 were presented at the time of the Committee on Food Security, as all of us know, through a comprehensive position paper updating our own paper presented a year ago. Of course, in our updating statement we took into account events which took place between the two sessions of the Committee on World Food Security. As is made clear in the report now before us, the developing countries in their joint statement laid special emphasis on a number of points. I will just very briefly refer to some of them; I do not believe I need to go on extensively since the report explains our views quite clearly.

On the question of the minimum safe level of carry-over stocks, I must say we were happy to see that for future assessments the Committee on World Food Security found it possible to agree with the definition of minimum safe level of carry-over stocks on the basis of 17-18 percent of annual consumption, out of which 5 percent to 6 percent as reserve stocks. We understand that the acceptance of this figure for future assessment was a positive step taken by the Committee on World Food Security.

Secondly, we attach special importance to the attainment of the target of 10 million tons a year of grains as food aid; the fact that in 1976 this figure was not reached, and that the prospects for 1977 do not look too bright, of course give us concern. We expressed our concern at the session of the Committee on Food Security and we repeat our concern here. The other target relevant in this case relates to the emergency food reserve within the World Food Programme, of 500 000 tons of grains while some progress occurred after the Session of the Committee of World Food Security, at the Committee on Food Aid, when additional pledges were announced, the target of 500 000 tons has still not been reached and, in fact, we have not even reached 50 percent of that specific target.

In our joint statement at the time of the Committee on Food Security we also laid particular emphasis on the early conclusion of the new International Grains Agreement. Moreover, we also placed special emphasis on a number of clauses and provisions which we think are very important for inclusion in this new International Grains Agreement. I call attention to the two general lines of thinking which are important in this connexion: safeguarding the interests of the developing countries in the International Grains Agreement and providing preferential facilities for the developing countries before us and I do not think I need to elaborate beyond that point.

Another point on which we laid emphasis in the overall question of food security is the question of aid to build and maintain reserves: aid in the form of food aid, technical aid and financial aid. We believe that it is very important that developing countries receive such assistance to build up their national reserves; such aid should be a consequence of the recognition by the international community of the need to build up such reserves.

Another point on which we laid emphasis in the overall question of food security is the question of aid to build and maintain reserves, aid, food aid, technical aid, financial aid. We believe that it is very important that developing countries receive such assistance to build up their national reserves, that is, it should be a consequence of the recognition by the international community of the need for building up such reserves.

Also, we elaborated briefly in our statement before the Committee on World Food Security on the question of sub-targets. Let me speak on them very briefly. Our idea is that while the Committee on World Food Security will in the future continue looking into the implementation of arrangements for food security, we will probably need benchmark estimates to see whether there is, in fact, reasonable progress in the direction of food security, for instance in terms of fertilizer and other inputs.

As one final point, I would like to mention the emphasis that the developing countries lay on food production. For use it is an agreed fact - that was a point made by the delegate of Canada moments ago - that food security without food production is meaningless. Real food security can only be ensured by food production and by increased food production in the developing countries. If I may add one point in this respect, it is that food security cannot -e based purely on grains. We developing countries rely on a number of products for our basic nutrition and our nutritional security requires attention to a number of different products. Therefore, more and more in the future, we shall have to look at food security not only in terms of grains but of other products as well. Possibly, this is such an important question, that this Council may wish to give direction to the future deliberations of the Committee on World Food Security. In fact, the Committee on World Food Security has already suggested the need to look more into these other areas of production.

I would like to conclude my statement, in which I tried to summarize the views of the Group of 77, by saying that we developing countries need to have assistance to stimulate our own production. We also need to have assistance in building up our own reserves.

M. GUERIN (France): Si vous permettez, un certain nombre d'observations sur les différents points de ce document qui est soumis à l'examen du Conseil. A propos de l'objectif de dix millions de tonnes pour l'aide alimentaire en céréales, comme cela a été acté à la Conférence de Paris qui vient de se terminer, nous sommes d'accord, il y a un consensus général pour obtenir rapidement le niveau des dix millions de tonnes pour l'aide alimentaire en céréales et la France, aussi bien sur le plan bilatéral qu'à travers l'aide alimentaire de la Communauté européenne, y contribuera en fonction bien sûr de ses disponibilités physiques et budgétaires.

Nous sommes d'accord, néanmoins, sur le principe d'une planification pluri-annuelle de cette aide et au sein de la Communauté économique européenne nous sommes en train actuellement de définir les modalités d'une telle planification, mais je crois que nous devons également améliorer la connaissance des besoins réels nutritionnels par une approche plus fine par pays fondée à la fois sur des critères quantitatifs; normes minimales en matière de nutrition, revenu par habitant, examen de la situation de la balance des paiements et des critères qualitatifs, et nous nous félicitons qu'une décision sur l'étude dans ce domaine ait été prise lors de la réunion du Comité.

De plus, nous ne devons pas perdre de vue que la priorité en matière d'aide alimentaire doit aller au soulagement des situations d'urgence et à la lutte contre les famines qualitatives ou quantitatives; que l'aide alimentaire soit utilisée par certains pays en développement pour constituer des stocks est naturel et tout à fait conforme aux recommandations de la Conférence mondiale de l'alimentation de 1974, mais, de toute évidence, comme l'a dit notre collègue canadien, la constitution et le maintien de tels stocks sont des opérations très coûteuses, nécessitant des investissements supplémentaires considérables. Il s'est dégagé un consensus à Paris pour aider, sous la forme de fonds ou de contributions à caractéristique spécialement favorable, les pays en développement à mettre en oeuvre les politiques nationales de stockage comprenant des investissements d'augmentation de capacité et d'amélioration de la conservation et de la distribution des produits. Cela est indispensable, quel que soit l'appel fait à l'aide alimentaire, pour garantir la sécurité d'approvisionnement à partir des productions nationales et pour éviter qu'en cas de pénurie le poids des augmentations brutales des prix, inévitables du fait de l'absence de capacité suffisante de stockage, soit supporté par les couches les plus pauvres de la population. Donc, pour nous, l'aide alimentaire pour le stockage par les pays en voie de développement peut constituer en elle-même une solution suffisante, d'autant plus que les aléas climatiques qui peuvent affecter d'une année à l'autre des régions très éloignées du monde obligent à conserver une grande souplesse dans l'utilisation et la mobilisation des réserves. Il faut ajouter que, dans le cadre de la priorité à donner par les pays en développement eux-mêmes à l'augmentation de leur propre production agricole et alimentaire, et notamment les productions vivrières, il faut veiller à ce que l'aide alimentaire n'ait pas pour effet de décourager les producteurs nationaux. Tout le monde le reconnaît. Il faut se féliciter à cet égard, également, d'un point acté lors de la Conférence Nord-Sud, consistant dans des cas appropriés à mettre en oeuvre des opérations que l'on appelle "triangulaires" entre pays donateurs, pays en voie de développement exportateurs et pays receveurs.

Je rappelle enfin, toujours sur ce point de l'aide alimentaire en céréales qu'elle doit être le corollaire d'un véritable accord international de régulation et de stabilisation des marchés dans l'intérêt de toutes les parties et j'ai relevé avec intérêt ce qu'a dit notre collègue de l'Inde tout à l'heure à propos de la stabilisation des prix et je partage également ce qu'a dit notre collègue canadien quant à l'inclusion dans un tel accord d'un pourcentage à partir de l'estimation faite par le Secrétariat de la FAO.

Le deuxième point que je voudrais évoquer c'est celui des actions d'urgence, la réserve de cinq cent mille tonnes. Je crois que nous avons pris l'engagement de participer à cette action et nous saluons en particulier l'action du PAM dans ce domaine, tout spécialement pour le lien qui est fait avec des progrès concrets de développement, et la France, comme la Communauté économique européenne, s'est engagée à indiquer au PAM ses disponibilités pour les actions d'urgence, disponibilités qui sont croissantes mais, en fonction d'engagements internationaux, il est compréhensible que le PAM ne soit pas pour nous le seul canal d'acheminement des aides d'urgence Il faut rappeler aussi qu'il ne peut pas être établi

a priori la part que l'aide d'urgence doit représenter car il faut bien tenir compte du caractère imprévisible des événements susceptibles d'affecter la situation agricole et alimentaire de la communauté internationale.

H.L. CLAVERIE R. (Venezuela): Venezuela ha venido actuando activamente y ha seguido muy de cerca pertenecer al Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria Mundial y esta materia ha merecido toda nuestra atención y nuestro mayor interés.

En esta ocasión la Delegación venezolana ha estudiado en detalle el documento CL 71/10 que estamos analizando referente al Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria Mundial. Lo encontramos aceptable y acorde con lo que el Comité ha venido tratando; por lo tanto, en líneas generales, le concedemos todo nuestro apoyo, pero nos gustaría comentar algunos aspectos que nos merecen especial atención ante el tema en cuestión.

En cuanto a las conclusiones sobre la estimación de la situación de la seguridad alimentaria mundial, nuestra Delegación ve con preocupación lo relatado en el apartado 6 del párrafo 16 sobre el nivel mínimo seguro exigido para una seguridad alimentaria mundial.

Estamos totalmente de acuerdo en que un compromiso internacional formal sobre existencias contribuirá a solucionar el problema de la inestabilidad en las perspectivas seguras de aprovisionamiento cerealero mundial.

Reiteramos nuestro acuerdo con lo formulado por el representante del Grupo de los 77 sobre el nivel mínimo estimado del 17 al 18 por ciento de consumo mundial como mínimo seguro deseado para cumplir con el compromiso.

Igualmente declaramos nuestra reiterada adhesión a la declaración del Grupo de los 77 en la cual se actualiza su declaración del año anterior.

Tal como hemos declarado en ocasiones anteriores, la delegación venezolana estima que el esquema general de la problemática incluido en la declaración del Grupo de los 77 continúa siendo vigente y valedera y, por lo tanto, cree necesario llamar la atención de este cuerpo sobre lo útil y conveniente de acoger sus recomendaciones.

En cuanto al sistema mundial de información y alerta manifestamos nuestra simpatía por la forma como ha venido funcionando. Creemos, eso sí, que el sistema se debe reformar y potencializar, pues sin la contribución y colaboración de la totalidad de los países acreditados ante la FAO sus efectos se verían disminuidos y debilitados.

Por lo tanto, otorgamos todo nuestro apoyo a los esfuerzos del Director General en relación con la prioridad que le otorga a esta materia. Por supuesto, la Delegación venezolana manifiesta su simpatía con la propuesta de que el Director General ponga a disposición del Tercer Consejo Mundial de Alimentación, que se reunirá próximamente en Manila, el informe del Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria Mundial.

I.A. IMTIAZI (Pakistan): My delegation has read document CL 71/10 with interest and would wish to compliment the Secretariat on presenting a useful and comprehensive paper on the state of world food security. The Committee no doubt has made some progress but we have a long way to go. Examples of progress are (a) the Committee's tentative agreement to the Secretariat's estimated figures for the minimum safe level of carryover stocks to maintain world food security and (b) the Committee's

agreement to the provision of assistance to developing countries in areas such as irrigation supplies, purchases of fertilizers and pesticides, of high-yielding varieties of seeds, storage facilities, development of agriculture and agricultural infrastructure in general and prevention of harvest and post-harvest losses. No doubt such measures will contribute significantly to increasing agricultural production in developing countries. These measures are matters of common concern to developing countries and we urge their implementation in earnest since we firmly believe that the only real solution to the problem lies in improving food production in the developing world itself. However, coming to the more specific issues we would like to endorse the Committee's assessment of the world food situation as outlined in paragraph 16 of document CL 71/10. My delegation feels particularly perturbed to note the decline in external assistance to agriculture and this trend must be reversed if the world is to be freed from hunger and malnutrition in the foreseeable future. My delegation would also like to commend for favourable consideration in view of the ideal opportunity that the present cereal stocks provide to formulate international agreement on stocks.

As regards the position of the Group of 77 my delegation fully supports their position. We would further like to add that in view of the urgency in achieving a sound and fully coordinated system of world food security we do hope that the FAO Council would not only endorse the conclusion of the Committee on World Food Security but also accept the basic principles and approaches enumerated by the Group of 77 at the time of the first and second sessions of the Committee on World Food Security. In particular we would like to stress the need for a speedy conclusion and negotiation of a new grains agreement, including provisions of reserve stocks and other economic provisions before the current International Wheat Agreement expires. This should facilitate the full implementation of the conditions in the international undertaking.

As regards the minimum safe level of overall stocks on world food security, my delegation supports the position as outlined in paragraph 21 of the document under reference. The Committee on World Food Security has examined this question in detail and has had the benefit of studies not only by the Secretariat but by some of the most prestigious institutions in the world that have all come to the same conclusion, namely that the minimum safe level of carryover stocks is 17 to 18 percent of world consumption of cereals.

As regards the Global Information and Early Warning System, my delegation supports the findings of the Committee that the System has worked well and that the information supplied is of practical use to user governments. I would particularly commend the initiative taken by FAO to help interested countries to set up international early warning systems, including data and crop forecasting and providing machinery for assessing all emergency needs.

Lastly, my delegation would recommend that the Committee on World Food Security continued to make specific policy oriented and action oriented recommendations arising out of the periodic reviews of the world food security situation so as to make its task useful and meaningful on a continuing basis.

W.A.F. GRABISCH (Germany, Federal Rep. of): The positive attitude of my Government towards food security is very well known so I do not think I need to go into detail but I just want to highlight some points. My Government helps inasmuch as possible developing countries, in accordance with their own priorities, to increase food production because we do feel, and other speakers before me have said it several times, that this would be the only lasting solution towards achieving food security.

For this reason my Government also supported right from the beginning the idea of establishing a Global Information and Early Warning System for food and agriculture in various international fora because we do feel that this is a pre-requisite to food security. Unless we have permanently, on a continued basis, some sort of balance of what is happening in production and consumption we cannot hope to achieve food security. My delegation notes therefore with particular interest what the Committee on Food Security says in paragraph 31 of its report, namely that this system is working very well. We regretted that a number of countries, including some major food producing countries had not yet joined the system and urged them to participate to make the system truly global.

My Government was also one of the first to subscribe to the International Undertaking because we do feel that this is an effort in which, hopefully, all countries will join to help to get food security. My Government for the same reason participates in FAO's food Security Assistance Scheme and hopes that others also find it useful to participate in this action-oriented approach.

As to the International Emergency Reserve my Government contributed last year 35 000 tons to that reserve and announced at the Second Session of the Committee on World Food Security that we are prepared to contribute the same amount this year. My Government is also in agreement with all those who think

that we should come to an early conclusion of a new international agreement but if we look into the report we find that the Committee on World Food Security, for various reasons, felt it very wise not to prejudice these deliberations and therefore I do feel that it would be difficult for my delegation to agree if the Council intended to go further in its recommendations than the Committee on World Food Security in its report. It refers in particular to the question of a certain level of stocks to which the Committee on World Food Security referred in paragraph 23 but I do feel now, after the intervention of the delegation of the United Kingdom, who drew the attention of other Council members to the corrigendum which is issued to that report, that we can all agree that a further examination of such a level has to be done and in our view it would be the Committee on World Food Security which would have to take up that task.

Now, as to the proposals put forward by the Group of 77 at the First and Second Sessions of the Committee on World Food Security, here we do have in the summary of the report in paragraph B(i) a clear statement namely that the Director-General is asked to pass, with appropriate considerations, the views expressed by the Group of 77 to the preparatory group of the International Wheat Council. I have no doubt that if the Director-General has not done so yet, that he will of course be prepared to do that,

Now with this understanding that there are further points which have to be taken up by the Committee on World Food Security, we generally endorse the report as it is presented to us by the Committee.

CHAIRMAN: I would like to draw the attention of the Council that we will reconvene at 14.30 hours.

The meeting rose at 12.45 hours.

La seance est levée à 12 h 45.

Se levanta la sesión a las 12.45 horas.

council

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

conseil

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

consejo

ORGANIZACION DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS PARA LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION

CL

CL 71/PV/4

Seventy-First Session

Soixante et onzième session

71° período de sesiones

FOURTH PLENARY MEETING
QUATRIEME SEANCE PLENIERE
CUARTA SESION PLENARIA

(7 June 1977)

The Fourth Plenary Meeting was opened at 14.45 hours, A.A. Seneina, First Vice-Chairman of the Council, presiding

La quatrième séance plénière est ouverte à 14 h 45 sous la présidence de A.A. Seneina, Premier Vice-Président du Conseil

Se abre la cuarta sesión plenaria a las 14.45 horas bajo la presidencia de A.A. Seneina, Primer Vicepresidente del Consejo

II. WORLD FOOD AND AGRICULTURE SITUATION (continued)

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

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

6. Report of the Committee on World Food Security (2nd Session, Rome, April 19 77) (continued)

6. Rapport du Comité de la sécurité alimentaire mondiale (Deuxième session, Rome, avril 1977) (suite)

6. Informe del Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria Mundial (Segundo periodo de sesiones, Roma, abril 1977) (continuación)

CHAIRMAN: We continue our deliberations on Agenda item 6. I still have two speakers on my list and I call first upon the representative of Mexico.

I. OROZCO (México): Mi delegación desea tomar la palabra para ratificar su apoyo a la labor del Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria y para apoyar sus conclusiones y recomendaciones que aparecen en el informe del mismo. Deseamos también manifestar nuestra solidaridad con aquellas delegaciones de Venezuela, Brasil, Colombia, Indonesia, India, Pakistán y otras que se han referido a todos aquellos puntos que son ampliación de las posiciones en el Grupo de los 77 y que nosotros también compartimos acerca del asunto que nos ocupa.

Deseamos enfatizar la labor que el Consejo está llamado a desarrollar acerca de este tema a través de una ratificación de esas conclusiones y a través de una reafirmación de su convencimiento del problema de la seguridad alimentaria mundial. Nosotros instaríamos al Consejo a que percibiera precisamente la importancia y la coyuntura actual de existencias de cereales para motivar el llegar a un acuerdo internacional de los mismos que permita mantener precios estables y propiciar también un estímulo a los productores.

Considerando que aparte de que apreciamos los esfuerzos que han hecho los mayores productores y exportadores de los cereales en el campo de las existencias de las reservas nacionales, consideramos que esa medida de los esfuerzos realizados debería también manifestarse en la voluntad política para llegar a ese acuerdo internacional regulado y convenido de cereales. Nosotros consideramos que el establecimiento de este acuerdo debería ser uno de los puntos de consideración prioritaria por parte del Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria Mundial y que el Consejo debería enfatizar este punto para que fuera analizado en su próximo período de sesiones.

Desde luego que apoyamos que el informe del Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria Mundial sea objeto de consideraciones y de recomendaciones por parte del Consejo Mundial de la Alimentación, pero deseáramos que este Consejo aprobara ya la medida de ese compromiso y que se manifestara en las nuevas directivas que dará el Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria Mundial sobre la materia.

Deseo nuevamente ratificar las posiciones del Grupo de los 77, tal como fueron manifestadas en el 2º período de sesiones del Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria y como las vemos reflejadas en los informes de este propio Comité.

Mme J. BENOIT (Communauté économique européenne.) • Monsieur le Président, ce n'est pas pour faire une déclaration que je me suis permis de vous demander la parole, mais c'est pour une remarque qui, par ailleurs, n'est pas simplement une remarque formelle.

J'aimerais rappeler, au nom de la Communauté économique européenne qui a participé activement aux travaux du Comité de la sécurité alimentaire et également à la réunion préparatoire de la troisième session du Conseil mondial de l'alimentation, que le chapitre 1 du document CL 71/10 ne peut faire partie intégrante du rapport de la deuxième session du Comité de la sécurité alimentaire, parce qu'il n'a pas été soumis à l'attention de ce comité, mais ajouté par la suite. On nous avait promis de faire droit à notre requête. Comme il semble que nous n'avons pas été clairement compris, je dois, dans ces conditions, rappeler que le résumé qui nous a été présenté dans un esprit de concision que je ne mets pas en doute, relève néanmoins à nos yeux de l'unique responsabilité du Secrétariat.

Je demande, Monsieur le Président, avec votre permission, que mon observation soit prise en considération dans le rapport du Conseil.

D.J. WALTON (Officer-in-Charge, Economie and Social Policy Department): The Secretariat did not wish to intervene at the beginning of this debate on purely procedural matters but I would like to report to this Council that due to the timetable of the meetings of other bodies action has had to be taken already on two specific requests addressed to the Director-General by the Committee on World Food Security.

In paragraph 51 of its report the Committee quotes certain proposals relating to a new International Grains Agreement which were included in the statement of the Group of 77. In paragraph 52, the following paragraph of its report, the Committee agreed to request the Director-General to bring the above proposals to the attention of the Preparatory Group of the International Wheat Council as a statement of the views of the developing countries for appropriate consideration. The proposals in question were in fact brought immediately to the attention of the International Wheat Council so that they could be taken into account in the work of the Preparatory Group,

Secondly, in paragraph 61 of its report the Committee requested the Director-General to make available its report to the Third Session of the World Food Council. Here again the report was made available immediately to the Preparatory Meeting of the World Food Council which, as many delegations will know, met here from the 9th to the 14th May. The report was circulated to the Preparatory Meeting of the World Food Council and the main findings of the Committee were drawn to the attention of the Preparatory Meeting by the Secretary of the Committee on World Food Security. I may add that the Preparatory Meeting of the World Food Council has forwarded a draft resolution on food security for consideration by the Ministers when the World Food Council meets at ministerial level in Manila. The report of the Preparatory Meeting of the World Food Council is at the moment being processed but we hope to reproduce it as an information document for members of the FAO Council in the course of this session.

CHAIRMAN: With that statement we have come to the end of our discussion so far as Item 6 is concerned. I now give the Chair to Mr. Bula Hoyos, our Chairman.

G. Bula Hoyos, Independent Chairman of the Council, took the chair
G. Bula Hoyos, President indépendant du Conseil, assume la présidence
Ocupa la presidencia G. Bula Hoyos, Presidente Independiente del Consejo

III. ACTIVITIES OF FAO AND WFP

III. ACTIVITES DE LA FAO ET DU PAM

III. ACTIVIDADES DE LA FAO Y DEL PMA

11. Proposal for Strengthening FAO Activities Aimed at Reducing Harvest and Post-Harvest Losses

11. Proposition pour renforcer les activités de la FAO ayant pour objet de réduire les pertes avant et après la récolte

11. Propuesta de reforzar las actividades de la FAO dirigidas a reducir las pérdidas de cosechas y las que se sufren después de la recolección

EL PRESIDENTE: Gracias señor Vicepresidente por su eficaz cooperación. Siguiendo el Orden del Día vamos a empezar ahora el Tema 11: "Propuesta de reforzar las actividades de la FAO dirigidas a reducir las pérdidas de cosechas y las que se sufren después de la recolección".

Hay dos documentos básicos, el CL 71/4, existe también un corrigendum en inglés de este documento, y el documento CL 71/9, que es el informe del Comité de Agricultura, cuyos párrafos 104 a 124, según aparece en el Orden del Día, se refiere a este Tema 11.

En primer lugar voy a conceder la palabra al señor Bommer', Subdirector General Jefe del Departamento de Agricultura.

D.F.R. BOMMER (Assistant Director-General, Agriculture Department): A strong and determined attack on avoidable losses in food production will be a major priority of FAO in the years to come. This new effort to assist member countries was recognized by the Seventieth Session of this Council which requested that this subject be considered in depth by the Committee on Agriculture at its session in April 1977.

The working paper submitted to the Council contains a brief assessment of the magnitude of losses and their causes at each stage of the post-harvest system and of the constraints which limit action at the present time. Most importantly, it presented the outline for a programme of action to reduce food losses in developing countries. A number of model projects were given as examples of components which could be fitted into national programmes for that purpose.

The Committee also considered a proposal for a \$20 million fund to reduce food losses required to initiate without delay projects which will form part of an overall effort involving hundreds of millions of dollars.

As Council members who participated in the COAG session are aware, the Committee on Agriculture gave its full support to the action programme proposed by the Director-General. The Committee recognized that while its major attention was on post-harvest losses proper, the term could be understood to cover all losses after the crop reaches maturity in the field, in other words, it includes losses occurring during harvest. The views of the Committee on Agriculture are contained in paragraphs 104 to 124 of its report, CL 71/9, and the purpose of my statement is to highlight the main recommendations.

The Committee first endorsed the emphasis on staple foods, that is, cereals, roots and tubers, to ensure the maximum return in terms of foodstuffs with the limited manpower and funds available. Second, recognized the need for more definite loss data and efforts to standardize the methodology and terminology on loss assessment. Third, endorsed the guidance presented for loss reduction activities by member countries, by FAO and by other agencies which emphasized the development of national country programmes for food loss reduction, and a commitment to reduce losses to establish an action plan and to provide resources to implement it.

Fourth, emphasized the need for overcoming the lack of trained manpower at all levels to conduct the action programmes involving to the maximum extent feasible national institutions in developing countries. Fifth, endorsed the proposed FAO action programme stressing that the model projects are indicative only to be combined and adjusted as necessary to meet local requirements and that efforts must be continued and expanded beyond the period of one and a half years to two years of the initial project, to achieve a lasting and significant impact. The Committee also considered a proposal by the Director-General for a \$20 million fund to finance our assistance programme to reduce food losses.

Following its review of the mechanisms for the operation of the fund outlined in document COAG 77/6-Sup.1, the Committee expressed support for the proposal to establish a special fund for reduction of food losses. A draft resolution to this effect is contained in the report of the 39th session of the Finance Committee in document CL 71/4 as Appendix F. The Committee recognized that projects financed from the fund would form only an initial part of the total effort required to implement national programmes. It is our concern to begin the action programme as soon as possible wherever that is possible, and we feel that the special fund will enable the Organization to spearhead a general effort by all concerned with emphasis on action projects at the country level and coordination of international cooperation to make a great and concrete contribution to the solution of this important problem.

From the large number of very helpful comments made by COAG, reference should be made particularly to those supporting the criteria proposed for approval by the Director-General of projects to be financed from the fund and to those approving the mechanism proposed for implementing the action programme.

In conclusion, I wish to recall the plea by the Director-General in yesterday's opening statement for the need to go forward quickly and courageously with this imperative action campaign. It is a campaign

to be carried out in each country with the cooperation and assistance of others where needed. Only with such individual and cooperative effort can success in this important area be achieved.

R.W. PHILLIPS (Chairman of the Programme Committee): The Programme Committee welcome the selection of the reduction of harvest and post-harvest food losses by the Director-General as a priority area. When it considered the matter it was of course already aware of the findings of the Committee on Agriculture to which Dr. Bommer has referred, so I think I need say only a very few things to supplement what he has already reported to you.

I would refer specifically to paragraphs 2.163 to 2.170 in the document CL 71/4. Beginning with paragraph 2.164 where you will find a reference to the target of a 50 per cent reduction in losses which the Committee considered was a very ambitious target but which, with adequate effort, was not impossible of achievement, at least. The Committee also noted that while priority in the action programme would be given to the least developed countries and the most seriously affected countries, there was also a case to be made for attention to the problems in other developing countries, particularly those with a high level of cereal production and of cereal exports, where a loss reduction programme could have a major impact on increasing food supplies.

In the following paragraph, 2.165, you will see a reference to the Committee's welcoming the emphasis in the proposal on the need for training at all levels, and in paragraph 2.166 a brief reference to the additional staff that is proposed in order to man this programme which, in the Committee's view, appeared to be a modest increase. I will not go into the details; you can read them there.

In paragraph 2.167 I would call your attention to the general list of functions of a central unit to coordinate this programme. I will not read those; you can easily glance through them for yourselves.

In the next paragraph, 2.168, you will see that the Committee noted that the proposed FAO fund was intended for initial, relatively short-term actions which could be a stimulus to further action and investment; in other words, priming the pump. Here I might just point out, for those who would like to be editorially correct, that in the last sentence a word got left out: where it reads "It would be complementary as a source of funding", the "of" got omitted in the typing. Also, the Committee noted that the activities - or at least some of the activities - being undertaken through the World Food Security Assistance Scheme were similar to those planned under this proposed food loss reduction scheme and that therefore close coordination would be necessary and, indeed, desirable between those two kinds of activities.

Finally, I would like just to highlight the last paragraph of this section of the Committee's report, paragraph 2.170, where the Committee records its feeling that the overriding emphasis should still be on increasing food production; and it further felt that the substantive programme activities of FAO should support national programmes for food loss reductions. It endorsed the Director-General's substantive proposals and, with regard to the proposal on funding, the Committee recognized that this was mainly a question of managing of finances and that it was therefore within the framework of the Finance Committee's activities, but it did express support for the general approach and felt that the reference to a fund with a capital 'F' should not lead to unnecessary controversy, since the concept and the method of operation would presumably not be substantially different from other activities, such as the Food Security Assistance Scheme, which are financed from various sources.

I think that is all I need say by way of comment on behalf of the Programme Committee.

M. BEL HADJ AMOR (Vice-President du Comité financier): Tout d'abord, je voudrais attirer l'attention des honorables délégués sur le fait que les paragraphes qui concernent spécialement la création du Fonds ne sont pas tout à fait ceux qui ont été mentionnés: c'est-à-dire 3.125 à 3.135. Je crois qu'il s'agit plus particulièrement de 3.131 à 3.135. Il ressort de ces paragraphes que le Comité financier a appuyé la proposition concernant la création du Fonds spécial pour réduire les pertes d'aliments et il a approuvé également le fait que ce Fonds soit alimenté par le montant de 10 millions de dollars prélevés sur ce qui restera au compte d'attente qui, normalement, aura un excédent à la fin du biennium 1976/77 de 15 millions de dollars.

Je ne voudrais pas entrer dans les détails concernant la question du compte d'attente, étant donné que l'on aura à examiner ce point à une date ultérieure. Il me semble que je n'ai pas d'autres commentaires à faire en ce qui concerne l'aspect financier de la création de ce Fonds, mais de toute façon, je suis prêt à répondre à toutes les questions.

EL PRESIDENTE: Gracias, Sr. Presidente del Comité de Finanzas. Comenzamos ahora el debate sobre este tema 11. Hay cuatro oradores inscritos en mi lista, el primero es Checoslovaquia.

S. STAMPACH (Tchécoslovaquie): Ma délégation souscrit aux propositions faites par les organes subsidiaires au Conseil dans les documents cités, dans le but de réduire essentiellement les pertes alimentaires après récolte à tous les stades, en commençant par celles qui se manifestent au niveau de la production jusqu'à la consommation. Nous sommes entièrement d'accord avec l'affirmation que le niveau actuel des pertes représente une des plus importantes ressources potentielles, parfois sous-estimées, pour la solution du problème alimentaire mondial.

Nos expériences en Tchécoslovaquie démontrent que la réalisation des mesures appropriées doit nécessairement viser les domaines de la biologie et de la technique; les institutions tchécoslovaques se concentrent en tout premier lieu sur la protection des plantes et des animaux, étant donné que les phénomènes pathologiques sont ceux qui influencent de manière négative l'intensité de la production.

En Tchécoslovaquie, nous avons élaboré dans la pratique expérimentale un système de protection et organisé la formation d'un grand nombre d'experts qualifiés. Mon gouvernement se déclare prêt à intensifier l'aide et la transfert de son expérience aux pays en voie de développement et à collaborer avec d'autres pays intéressés. Au niveau technique, plusieurs mesures planifiées sont introduites dans mon pays, à savoir avant tout la réduction des pertes au cours de la récolte technologique, des pertes pendant la conservation, le transport et la transformation des produits agricoles.

Il faut cependant ajouter que la réalisation des mesures exige des investissements sensibles, mais notre expérience nous démontre qu'il s'agit d'investissements hautement effectifs, spécialement dans des pays tels que la Tchécoslovaquie dont la surface de terre arable par tête d'habitant est tellement réduite.

Par suite, nous sommes persuadés que les investissements introduits afin de réduire les pertes alimentaires au niveau international auront un résultat et un effet immédiats. C'est pourquoi ma délégation soutiendra au maximum les mesures prises dans le cadre de l'activité de l'OAA.

J.C. VIGNAUD (Argentine): Sr. Presidente, desearía dividir la intervención en dos aspectos: uno primero de orden formal y otro de orden sustancial referido concretamente a la propuesta que aquí se nos formula. El primer aspecto de orden formal se refiere a que este tema que figura como número 11 en esta agenda, que es uno de los temas principales que va a tratar el Consejo en este período de sesiones, no tiene documento, lo cual dificulta sensiblemente que las delegaciones hayan tenido la posibilidad de examinarlo a fondo. En efecto, los documentos que se citan en la agenda anotada son el reporte o informe del Comité de Agricultura, del Comité del Programa y del Comité de Finanzas, pero no se cita el documento básico que es donde esta propuesta está explicada, aunque esquemáticamente, con algún detalle y que es el documento que se presento al Comité de Agricultura bajo la sigla COAG 77/6. En consecuencia, dado que este tema no lo estamos examinando bajo el tema 10, que es el examen del informe del Comité de Agricultura, lo lógico hubiera sido que este documento COAG 77/6 que se refiere específicamente a este tema, se hubiera presentado a la consideración del Consejo.

Y digo esto porque no es una mera observación formal, sino que el documento en tanto no se preparo para el Consejo tampoco estaba en el Document Desk, lo cual significa, al menos para las delegaciones de habla española, algunas dificultades para obtenerlo. Tengo la esperanza de que esto no se repita en el futuro.

Entrando ahora al tema sustantivo, quiero reiterar lo que mi delegación dijo ayer en el sentido de que comparte la opinión que ya se ha manifestado en que es conveniente otorgar prioridad a esta actividad que el Director General propone, y es lógico que mi país esté de acuerdo en que se otorgue prioridad a esta actividad porque nosotros mismos en Argentina experimentamos algunas pérdidas de cierta relevancia después de las cosechas.

No obstante, deseo recordar que las pérdidas no sólo se producen por deficiencias en el manejo de las cosechas, sino también por la utilización inadecuada de los medios de producción como consecuencia del uso indebido de tierras y aguas. Por ello aunque se decida dar prioridad a este proyecto entendemos que no debe descuidarse la atención que se presta a las actividades destinadas a aumentar la producción y la productividad de alimentos.

Creo también, y ahora refiriéndome al documento del Comité de Agricultura, no tengo otra alternativa pues es el documento básico de esta discusión, que convendría hacer algunos ajustes en la terminología para saber exactamente de qué estamos hablando; porque en ese documento se habla de reducción de pérdidas posteriores a la recolección, luego, en el título que figura abajo en romano II, párrafo 5, cuando se define lo que debe entenderse por pérdidas, se indica que se trata de las que se producen después de la recolección y la entrega al consumidor, mientras que en el párrafo 14 se habla de las pérdidas en la recolección en sí misma.

En consecuencia, sería conveniente precisar qué es lo que realmente se propone; es decir, la actividad que aquí se propone seguramente, entiendo, va a abarcar las pérdidas de la recolección y posteriores a la recolección. Estoy seguro que es así porque he seguido estos debates, pero tengo el temor de que la gente que no ha tenido la oportunidad de participar en debates anteriores sobre este tema no pueda tener una idea clara al respecto, al menos del documento en español.

Como dijimos ayer, no es éste un tema nuevo, lo dijo el propio Director General, pero apunta a un fenómeno que reviste graves características en muchos países en desarrollo.

Las causas identificadas en el documento COAG que se ubican en las etapas de recolección, trilla, rescado, almacenamiento, elaboración, transporte, etc., en nuestra opinión deben ser referidas al contexto más amplio de las condiciones de infraestructura, capacitación técnica y recursos económicos que caracterizan la estructura productiva de los países en desarrollo. En este contexto la solución del problema de las pérdidas de cosecha tiene complejas y significativas implicaciones que deben ser tenidas en cuenta al confeccionar los programas para evitar que un enfoque excesivamente localizado pueda tornar estériles los esfuerzos y los recursos que se dediquen. En este sentido las necesidades de capacitación masiva del potencial humano, el establecimiento de un sistema eficaz de abastecimiento de plaguicidas y otros insumos y la introducción de una tecnología en gran escala de almacenamiento, elaboración y manipuleo que se han mencionado en el párrafo 22 del documento a que me referí exigen una infraestructura y una capacidad financiera de proporciones que no serán evidentemente cubiertas por el programa de asesoramiento, capacitación e investigación aplicada y transferencia de tecnología que sugiere el proyecto.

Por ello nuestra Delegación estima de fundamental importancia la coordinación de FAO con otros Organismos en esta materia, particularmente con el Banco Mundial y a través de los programas FAO/Gobiernos y el Fondo Fiduciario.

Asimismo es preciso tener en cuenta la conveniencia de dar una participación sustancial a las instituciones nacionales en este tipo de programas para asegurar su adecuación a los hábitos y técnicas locales y a la continuidad de los mismos. Ratificamos, además, las prioridades que ya ha aprobado el Comité de Agricultura para que los esfuerzos se concreten en una primera etapa en granos y tubérculos.

Apoyamos en general, como dije al principio, la filosofía de la propuesta en la medida en que ésta se traduzca en efectos concretos y no derive en una actividad de la que por ser demasiado amplia, ambiciosa o difusa consuma una parte importante de los recursos disponibles sin producir un mejoramiento real correlativo de las condiciones de producción agrícola en los Países miembros.

La posible creación de un fondo especial para financiar estas actividades ha sido un tema controvertido. En efecto, surge del informe del COAG, párrafo 114, que parte de sus miembros se reservó la posición, que otros opinaron que este programa debería estar incluido en el presupuesto del programa ordinario, que otros aún pensaron que sólo podría tomarse una decisión sobre el Fondo cuando se hubiera realizado un estudio de las actividades en curso vinculadas a este respecto.

Según nos indico el Doctor Phillips, que nos acompaña y que es el Presidente del Comité del Programa, el Comité del Programa estimo en principio que por sus implicaciones con el presupuesto más bien era un tema de competencia del Comité de Finanzas. El Doctor Hadjamor, que está con nosotros y que es el Presidente del Comité de Finanzas, nos acaba de decir, ya lo sabíamos al leer el informe, que Finanzas ha apoyado la constitución de este fondo, aunque no conocemos en detalles las modificaciones o argumentos que llevaron al Comité de Finanzas a tomar esta decisión. Es que, en realidad, son pocas las informaciones que el Consejo dispone en relación con este fondo, pues si bien alguna mención se ha hecho en el documento presentado al COAG que, como dije antes, no es documento del Consejo, este cuerpo, y nosotros mismos, sólo contamos con la mención que tanto el COAG como el Comité de Finanzas ha hecho en relación con la creación del Fondo, sin aclaraciones acerca de su naturaleza, constitución, funcionamiento, estructura administrativa para su funcionamiento y otros datos que, a juicio de mi delegación, son imprescindibles para que seriamente pueda tomarse una determinación.

Por ello, nuestra Delegación, por ahora, no está segura de la necesidad de crear un nuevo fondo, no sólo por estos motivos, es decir, por la falta de una información completa, sino también porque podría pensarse que la creación de un nuevo fondo podría automáticamente llevar al establecimiento de un nuevo mecanismo burocrático cuyo sostenimiento podría afectar a las disponibilidades financieras del propio Fondo. No sabemos qué porcentaje se va a gastar de la cantidad propuesta para este Fondo mantenga el mecanismo administrativo que lo haga funcionar; no sabemos bien cómo va a funcionar, cuantos profesionales lo integrarán, etc.

Por otra parte, tenemos el programa de cooperación técnica y nos preguntamos cual sería la diferencia entre el fondo que existe para este programa y el fondo que ahora se propone en cuanto a la asistencia que se preste a los países para evitar pérdida después de la cosecha. Nos surge la duda de si no sería mejor aprovechar ya la estructura del programa de cooperación técnica para evitar un fraccionamiento en las actividades y en las disponibilidades presupuestarias que en realidad se dirigen al mismo objetivo. Nos preguntamos si no sería mejor, quizá, que estas actividades contaran con una asignación normal dentro del programa ordinario.

Para finalizar, como dije antes, apoyamos la prioridad que se da a la acción propuesta, pues tiende a ayudar a los países a fin de que eviten pérdidas en las cosechas, pero por ahora tenemos reservas en cuanto a la constitución del Fondo. Por supuesto que esta reserva podrá salvarse en la medida en que tengamos mayor información, pues no tenemos la intención de asumir una actitud obstruccionista, sino más bien una actitud constructiva que permita a nuestra Delegación al menos poder tomar una decisión con un conocimiento pleno de lo que se está hablando.

DOÑA PAULINA de CASTRO MONSALVO (Colombia): La delegación de Colombia quiere ser muy breve. Apoyamos las propuestas del Director General, del Comité de Agricultura, del Comité de Finanzas, o sea que la delegación de Colombia apoya la creación de este fondo tal como lo ha propuesto el Director General.

RAMADHAR (India): My delegation would like to compliment the Director-General for having taken quick steps to bring forth his proposal for a US\$ 20 million fund to finance the assistance programme to reduce pre-harvest, harvest, and post-harvest losses. The action initiated by the Seventieth Session of the FAO Council and further discussed by the Fourth Session of the Committee on Agriculture is in line with the Resolutions of the Seventh Special Session of the United Nations General Assembly setting a target of 50 percent reduction in these losses by 1985.

My delegation agrees with the general assessment that there are very few reliable overall losses estimates even for a single crop in a single system. In spite of the lack of precise data on this vital issue, there is no doubt that post-harvest losses are colossal particularly in the developing countries. We are therefore in broad agreement with the assessment with the FAO Secretariat that the reduction of post-harvest losses by half would mean the saving of over 40 million tons of cereals or roughly half the projected cereal deficit of the developing countries. This would represent a saving in foreign exchange of the order of approximately US\$ 7.5 billion a year. This has been assessed on a very conservative loss estimate of 10 percent.

The initiative of FAO, therefore, in putting up a proposal to set up a US\$ 20 million fund for this purpose is very timely, and my delegation would like to fully support it. We are aware that many of the developing countries, including our own, had been taking concrete measures to reduce the post-harvest losses, but there is an imperative need for coordination of all such activities. My delegation also would like to support the priorities indicated by the Fourth Session of the Committee on Agriculture. I would, however, like to emphasize particularly the two components of the proposed programme, that is research and training, which are so vital for the successful implementation of the entire programme.

Research and development institutes should be strengthened and new ones set up both at regional and international levels with assistance from the proposed fund. Some of the national institutions in developing countries may be converted into regional research centres by suitable strengthening. Close relations should be established between institutions in developing countries to create a network of cooperation. The training may be dovetailed into these research institutions, as there has been an acute shortage of trained experts in this field. This would accelerate technology transfer between developing countries whose problems and needs for their solution have a lot of similarity.

While commending this scheme for adoption by the Council, I would like to briefly refer to the efforts that we in India have been making to tackle the problem of post-harvest losses. Our "Save Grain Campaign" has been continuing for more than a decade and has been strengthened. The main components of this campaign include the demonstration of modern and scientific storage techniques to the farmers and traders, supply of improved storage bins to the farmers, training to farmers, traders and extension officials to carry the know how further and help the voluntary organizations in implementing large-scale programmes on modernization of storage in their respective zones of operations. Experience has shown that this campaign has yielded positive results. Our institutions have not only been assisting small- and medium-scale industries which conserve and process foods but have trained a fairly large number of technologists of other countries of Asia and Africa in cooperation with FAO.

I would like to emphasize at this point that prevention of post-harvest losses requires a system approach. These losses do not occur only during handling and storage but also during post-harvest milling as well as during the manufacture of products based on them and due to non-utilization of by-products. If real benefits of preventing post-harvest losses are to be derived, then appropriate technologies must be carefully assessed, selected and effectively utilized at each stage for this purpose. It is not sufficient to give attention to a few cereals. The losses in the case of oilseed processing in many cases are even greater. If improved post-harvest technologies such as solvent extraction can be used in many developing countries, the availability of edible fat, of which there is an acute shortage, can be increased by 15 to 20 percent. Oilseed meals are an important source of protein but very few of these are used for direct human consumption. They are fed to animals who supply only one-fifth as much food in return. This is a serious post-harvest loss.

In the case of grain legumes, where they are consumed after dehusking and splitting, the milling losses can be 10 to 15 percent. These are not only important foods quantitatively but are an important source of proteins for a large majority of the people.

In the case of perishable products such as fruits, vegetables and fish, the losses are even greater than stable foods. These foods are vital as the basic, supplies of vitamins, minerals and proteins, besides being an important source of income.

The prevention of food losses as emphasized in the FAO Conference Resolution 12/75 on Conservation and Processing of Food and Agricultural Products has adopted a comprehensive approach to the subject. As against this, my delegation finds that the report of the Committee on Agriculture has adopted only a rather fragmented approach. We strongly feel that this should be corrected and brought in line with the FAO Conference Resolution which further emphasizes the need for selection and utilization of appropriate technologies that would improve food supplies by preventing losses, improve employment potential and income level in rural areas and raise the share of developing countries in industrial production. This is vital to achieve self-reliance and fulfill the objective of processing raw materials in the producing countries, as emphasized in the United Nations General Assembly Resolution on an International Economic Order.

We cannot prevent losses at one level and continue to allow them to occur at another. Prevention of losses through use of appropriate technologies must become an integrated effort that would stop the socioeconomic stagnation in developing countries and accelerate a better quality of life.

C.R. FRANK (United States of America): My Government has been vitally concerned with the losses in quantity and quality of food which occur following harvest. While significant progress has been made to increase food production, losses which occur following harvest are increasing and have been estimated by some to be at a level which could feed up to 400 million people a year. This magnitude of important loss need not be tolerated. Former US Secretary of State Henry Kissinger at the UN General Assembly's Seventh Special Session called upon the nations of the world to reduce post-harvest losses 50 percent by 1985. My Government continues to support this objective and views FAO efforts in this area as a positive start towards realizing this goal.

The United States has taken a number of steps toward understanding the magnitude and designing methodology to address the problem of post-harvest losses at home and in the developing world. At home we have planned to substantially increase our domestic research programme to aid in reducing the losses we suffer in the United States. To assist in developing plans to reduce losses in the developing countries we have also increased our international commitments. We have made a number of bilateral loans to countries to increase and improve their storage facilities. We have asked the U.S. National Academy of Science to do a major research project in the area of post-harvest losses.

The results of this study when completed, will be made available for use by FAO and all interested countries in developing post-harvest loss programmes.

Governments can often reduce losses substantially at nominal cost by transmitting their concern and their knowledge of conservation to those that till the fields and store the products of their labours for the use of their families and neighbours.

FAO's model programme, aimed at improving the capacities of countries to deal with the problem of post-harvest loss, appears soundly based and adequate to stimulate attention and action by member governments and we heartedly endorse it.

While supporting FAO's proposed programme the United States must oppose the use of surplus currencies in the Suspense Account to fund these activities. In supporting Resolution 16/75 which established the Suspense Account the United States was heavily influenced by the language of the Resolution which expressly prohibited the use of these currencies for anything other than offsetting exchange fluctuations. We still adhere to that principle and while we strongly support FAO's proposed post-harvest loss programme we must at this time and with equal vigour oppose the use of surplus currencies for these purposes.

The members of this Council I am sure, will on reflection recognize our stand for this principle, and join with us in devising an alternative funding mechanism for providing full support of the very important work to reduce post-harvest losses. We will cooperate in any way we can to try to achieve this objective.

In closing, we believe that FAO should take steps now to ensure positive and effective follow-up on post-harvest loss activities. In this regard we propose that FAO plan to convene in 1980 or 1981 a Consultation of Post-Harvest Experts to evaluate progress and to recommend any needed new directions for more effective operation of the loss reduction programme.

H. ABDALLAH (Egypt) (Interpretation from Arabic): We would like to express our appreciation to the Director-General for the initiative he has taken by proposing this important project for controlling post-harvest losses which affects not only developing nations but world food production.

We therefore wish to express our support of this proposal both in terms of substance and mode of financing of the proposed fund.

While on this subject we would like to point to the importance of minimizing losses during the existence of crops on the field as they are severely subjected to the attacks of birds, particularly sparrows. Here we invite FAO to take advantage of Chinese experience. It is also important to give due attention to the combating of rodents. It is indeed essential to combat crop losses in all these forms and all stages of crop production. We feel that one way of doing this is by crop processing which in addition to reducing losses will increase the marketability of crops, as the delegate of India has said.

We should also like to point to the importance of crop storage, especially at the farm level. In this connexion we wish to emphasize the importance of training at all levels, and here full use should be made of the experience of developing nations due to similarity of conditions.

Finally, we would like to state that the operations of the proposed Fund should be within the framework of a general strategy to be developed by FAO for the control of crop losses.

CHIN FENG-CHU (China) (interpretation from Chinese): The Chinese delegation would like to take this opportunity to make a few comments on the matter of "reducing post-harvest loss".

It is necessary and obligatory to prevent or reduce any loss of food and other agricultural produce before consumption. In the final analysis, it is the working farmers who take the greatest care of the fruits of their labour and try in every way possible to avoid or reduce the loss of harvested grain and other agricultural produce. In the vast third world countries, however, agricultural development has been slow and backward as a result of protracted imperialist and colonialist aggression and exploitation/Facilities for storing and processing grain are usually poor and inadequate. It is only to be expected, under such conditions, that post-harvest loss is greater here than in some other countries. Thus, we regard it as essential to adopt ways and means to prevent the loss of grains incurred in each post-harvest stage.

By the same token, while making every effort to develop agricultural production and increase grain output, China attaches great importance to reducing avoidable post-harvest loss and waste of grain in storage, processing, transportation and distribution.

It is our opinion, therefore, that appropriate attention should be paid to the reduction of post-harvest loss, so that, given the present production level, more grain could be used for actual consumption by reducing waste. On the other hand, however, this is only one of the ways to increase the amount of grain for consumption. The main problem confronting the third world, so far as food is concerned, is the inadequacy of food production. The most fundamental way for developing countries to meet their food requirements is to remove all constraints on food production and ensure a speedy increase in food output. This organization as an international agency should concentrate its manpower and material and financial resources on work promoting increased food production, thus helping developing countries to achieve complete or basic self-sufficiency in food in the shortest time possible. As for those already self-sufficient in food, further efforts should be made to increase food output so that they could gradually increase their grain reserves. On the basis of increased production, attention should also be paid to the reduction of post-harvest loss and avoidance of waste.

All work aimed at reducing post-harvest loss, we hold, should take into account the characteristics pertaining to the rural areas in each developing country. In other words, all such work should be done in accordance with local conditions and in the light of the specific economic and social circumstances of the locality. Generally speaking, the working people of all countries have accumulated valuable experience in food storage, processing and transportation through long years of practice. It is important to sum up such practical experience, publicize and popularize it, and at the same time, give necessary advice and help. Such improved methods will appeal to the working farmers as both acceptable and within their reach. This will certainly give better results than merely copying the so-called sophisticated methods of certain countries, which are not really suited to the conditions prevailing in the developing countries.

Señora DOÑA MIRLA PANIZA DE BELLAVITA (Panamá): La delegación de Panamá ha estudiado con atención el documento CL 71/9 sobre el Cuarto período de sesiones del Comité de Agricultura y, en particular, los párrafos del 104 al 124 sobre las pérdidas posteriores a las cosechas.

El Gobierno de Panamá apoya la creación de un fondo de 20 millones de dólares para financiar un programa de asistencia que reduzca las pérdidas antes, durante y después de la cosecha.

Nuestro país, señor Presidente, el año pasado se vio afectado por una sequía que trajo como consecuencia la pérdida de un 50 por ciento de nuestra producción de arroz, y además tuvo grandes repercusiones en el sector agropecuario. En la actualidad el Gobierno nacional está empeñado en un plan nacional de riego y drenaje con el fin de aliviar la situación y beneficiar al pequeño agricultor. Hacemos, por tanto, hincapié en que la FAO debe llevar a cabo proyectos sencillos y de aplicación directa.

Nuestra delegación apoya lo expresado en el párrafo 113 en lo que se refiere a la necesidad de una capacitación a todos los niveles en la tecnología y prácticas posteriores a la cosecha, así como también la conveniencia de utilizar y reforzar las Instituciones Nacionales existentes. El Gobierno de Panamá ve con gran satisfacción los cambios que se están llevando a cabo en las políticas de esta importante Organización.

Para terminar, felicitamos al Director General por esta iniciativa que contribuirá a resolver uno de los graves problemas que afectan a los países en desarrollo.

I.A. IMTIAZI (Pakistan): My delegation has read relevant portions of documents CL 71/4 and CL 71/9 with considerable interest. We feel that these two documents illuminate a problem area which has hitherto been obscured by the emphasis on higher production rather than on the conservation of what has been produced.

The last meeting of the Committee on Agriculture had considered the definition, the magnitude and the causes of harvest and post-harvest food losses. In spite of the lack of definitive food loss data in many countries, it is generally estimated that food-grain losses range from 10 to 20 percent of output. These are in addition to losses which occur relative to nutritional foods in non-grain forms such as roots, tubers, etc. The problem is thus enormous and complex.

Recognising the gravity, the enormity and the complexity of the problem, the Government of Pakistan has already commissioned a number of studies to identify appropriate strategy and to formulate a feasible action plan. My delegation, therefore, fully supports the action-oriented approach through national programmes to reduce food losses.

We believe FAO can play a useful and helpful role in the development and implementation of national programmes. Major inputs will be through investment in manpower, finances and physical resources.

My delegation is also of the view there is need for coordinating international, regional and inter-country activities which may be undertaken in this connexion. We propose this in order to make the best use of scarce expertise and to achieve the economies of scale and benefits of complementarity. We would suggest that such programmes be kept as simple as possible so that these remain economical and adjustable to local conditions. My delegation supports the criteria proposed for approval of projects by the Director-General as outlined in paragraph 119 of document CL 71/9. Also, as regards the financing of the scheme, my delegation fully and wholeheartedly supports the Director-General's proposal as outlined in paragraph 3.133 of document CL 71/4.

L.C.J. MARTIN (United Kingdom): My delegation and we in the United Kingdom attach considerable importance to the subject of harvest and post-harvest losses, and over a good number of years now through such institutions as the Tropical Products Institute and the Centre for Overseas Pest Research, the United Kingdom has tried to make a substantial practical contribution towards solving the problems that occur in this field.

However this afternoon I do not want to talk about the substance of the subject, and I do not want to take up the time of the Council talking about the subject itself because we fully endorse and support the programme which has been proposed by the Director-General. Therefore we have no problem about the programme. Our problem, as has been mentioned by earlier speakers, concerns the method of funding. I think we all still have a good deal of thinking to do on this financial aspect.

The representative of Argentina raised a number of problems in his intervention and I think he was right to make them although I would not agree with his tentative eventual conclusion that it would be better to handle the financing of work in connexion with post-harvest losses through the regular programme and budget. Many of our governments have difficulties with the ever-increasing regular budgets of the specialized agencies and if one wants to make a good and determined effort in relation to post-harvest losses and that were done through regular budgets the result might be regular budgets that we would feel obliged to vote against. My delegation would find that unfortunate because we do intend to support the level for the regular programme and budget which has been proposed by the Director-General. Moreover, if the right amount of work is to be done on post-harvest losses additional sources of funding will be necessary and that is why we agree with the proposal that there should be a special fund. I think that has a better chance of advancing our common cause than any suggestion that we should put it inside the regular programme.

But, like the representative of the United States, my delegation is rather worried about the proposal to use money from the suspense account to help the initial funding for post-harvest losses. It is a question of good financial practice. Just before lunch I took the trouble to re-read Resolution 35/75 of the last session of the General Conference, which even now is only somewhat less than two years away, and it was very clear that when the General Conference voted a resolution to establish a suspense account it had it in mind that at the end of this year any money that remained in that account should go into the Common Fund, the result being that Member States would in effect receive back their share of the money that was left because their assessed contribution would in proportion be that much less.

That is why I turn to the draft resolution in Appendix F of document CL 71/4. Before I go on, may I say that from here on I am speaking without instructions and cannot be held to account. I got this document only on arrival in Rome. Since the end of last Thursday and including today there is a public holiday in England because we are celebrating the jubilee of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. It is not possible for me to get in touch with ministers or my Civil Service colleagues to consult and get instructions. However, I have been looking at the resolution in Appendix F and it would seem to me that it would need some re-drafting before it could command even what we could call "consensus" support. Certainly as it is now drafted my delegation would be obliged to abstain and possibly vote against it. At the very least if a resolution of this kind were put to the General Conference with the suggestion that part of the suspense account should be used for the initial funding of the Fund for the reduction of post-harvest losses, there should be much fuller reference to Resolution 35/75 and I would think that there should be a recollection of the fact that the intention behind Resolution 35/75 was that any money remaining in the suspense account at the end of 1977 should go into the common fund.

If the general will of the Conference and the general wish of the Council to suggest to the Conference was that notwithstanding Resolution 35/75 some of the money should be used to start the fund for post-harvest losses, then it should be made abundantly clear that this was a very special circumstance which justified a one-time departure from accepted good financial practice.

I do not know how far that would help anybody when voting on a resolution of that kind and, as I say, I am not committing my government, but there is just some possibility of working on this resolution in a way which makes it clearer what we are all doing. I say this because although I do know that my government wishes to support the programme for post-harvest losses and presumably in some way wishes to help with the financing of the fund, I cannot say what we might contribute, but I would not want to go in for a complicated process by which we said to FAO "please send us back a cheque for our share of the money remaining in the suspense account and when you send that back to us we will send you a cheque for the same amount as our contribution towards the Fund for post-harvest losses." It gets altogether too complicated. But I would at least ask that everybody should be completely clear as to what we are doing.

I said that I have no instructions and am speaking entirely out of my head - and probably through the back of it as well - but I do think that this resolution needs a good deal more working on and even that we should defer a resolution to the General Conference about the financial aspect of the Fund for post-harvest losses until the next meeting of the Council. It would be a great pity if the real difficulties which surround the financing aspects were allowed to get in the way of what is probably

a unanimous endorsement of the Director-General's programme and the actual things that we want to do.

M. A. Cisse (Niger): La delegation du Niger appuie le Directeur general pour sa proposition de création d'un fonds pour réduire les pertes avant et après les récoltes. Les pertes estimées à près de 20 pour cent sont énormes pour des productions qui sont déjà marginales dans nos pays en développement.

Il faut signaler également que dans ces pays les moyens de stockage sont également inexistants. Ce Fonds permettra donc le financement d'actions avant la récolte: lutte contre les déprédateurs et, après la récolte, pour le financement d'infrastructure, de stockage selon ses disponibilités et surtout avec l'aide des pays développés ou d'autres donateurs.

Une tâche que l'on pourrait également réaliser par l'intermédiaire de ce Fonds est la formation de paysans dans la lutte contre les prédateurs et dans les techniques de conservation des produits des récoltes.

Quant à la relation avec le programme de coopération technique, nous pensons que la création de ce fonds permettra au Programme de coopération technique d'être plus efficace dans les autres domaines de développement rural, formation générale, projet d'irrigation, production d'engrais, enquêtes agricoles etc.

C'est par conséquent de vive voix que le Niger appuie la création de ce Fonds et souhaite la grande participation des donateurs à son fonctionnement.

G. SATARI (Indonesia): The problem of post-harvest food losses and consequently the programme for action including the resources needed have been exhaustively discussed in the Committee on Agriculture. The Programme and Finance Committees endorsed the proposal to reduce post-harvest food losses and the recommendation to establish a special fund for this purpose.

In the view of my delegation the most significant result of the Committee on Agriculture is their ability to agree on the principle of the programme for action which has been proposed by FAO. In the past it was always difficult to get agreement on action - it nearly always ended with the need for further identification of problems and further studies for action.

The programme of action concentrates on direct action national projects for storage construction at farm, village, and urban levels, for rodent and pest control, for simple drying and processing equipment and for in-service training at all levels. The programme is to be considered as an initial programme only in order to stimulate further assistance and investment. As has been proposed by the delegate of India, the programme should gradually also be complemented with integrated efforts such as training at all levels, especially at farm level, and with increased processing of agricultural food products as appropriate to prevent further losses. The Committee has also identified that lack of the necessary financial resources was a serious constraint in implementing loss reduction programmes.

In order to make the programme a success, we should simultaneously arrange our actions at the national and international level - in this case, FAO. Country programmes, including the necessary resources, need to be prepared and FAO is requested to assist the countries concerned. It is therefore important that FAO equips itself fully, technically and financially, for this purpose. In this connexion my delegation agrees with the proposed increases in the support to be provided under the Programme of Work and Budget, including the proposed central unit, to coordinate activity on reducing food losses with other related activities undertaken by FAO. If, however, the need arises for additional support from the Regular Programme, and we feel that it is needed, especially in the development and incrementation of national programmes, then this should be taken into account by FAO.

The strong and determined attack on avoidable losses of food production, particularly post-harvest losses, which is based on national programmes in cooperation with FAO, must therefore be covered by a fund. A programme of action without resources is meaningless. The proposed FAO special fund is intended for initial, relatively short-term actions which should be a stimulus to further action and investment.

It was proposed that the fund be initially funded through the transfer of up to \$10 million from the 1976-77 suspense account and by contribution from Member Governments. We realise that according to Resolution 35/75, any amount drawn from the suspense account at the end of the biennium should be returned to the general fund and consequently reimbursed to member countries. We believe that it is appropriate, where justified, that instead of returning this fund it would be useful - and indeed there is a real need for it - if the major part of the suspense account were transferred to the special fund for reduction of food losses. It should not be forgotten that indirectly each member country, big or small, has contributed to the special fund through the suspense account.

My delegation, therefore, supports the proposal to establish a special fund for reduction of food losses and the proposed resolution by the Finance Committee.

G. WEILL (France): Nous avons devant nous une question fort importante dont les contours eux-mêmes ne sont pas définis tant est ample la tâche que nous avons à accomplir. Je n'en voudrai pour preuve que les différents intitulés des points dont nous discutons. Ce qui est à l'origine de cette discussion aujourd'hui, c'est le rapport de la soixante-dixième session du Conseil sous le titre "Mesures prises pour réduire les pertes après récoltes". Le point de l'ordre du jour tel que libellé nous parle de réduire les pertes avant et après la récolte et le texte du rapport du Conseil de la précédente session, paragraphe 20, sans prendre parti sur la position du Directeur général (il en prend note), a trait à l'étude d'un dispositif permettant de réduire les pertes avant, durant et après. C'est-à-dire que nous avons un problème complexe et il faudrait savoir exactement, étant donné son importance et son ampleur, où et comment nous voulons l'attaquer. Ceci est une première question.

Ceci étant, conformément à l'accord que lui a donné le Conseil à sa précédente session, le Directeur général a effectivement saisi le Comité de l'agriculture, le comité du Programme et le Comité financier, et, comme l'a très bien dit le délégué de l'Argentine, à défaut d'avoir d'autres documents, c'est sur ces trois documents que nous nous appuyons. Le Comité de l'agriculture a fait un excellent rapport (un rapport objectif me semble-t-il), où nous trouvons les diverses opinions qui ont été exprimées et en ce qui concerne ma délégation, nous notons un certain nombre de remarques qui, je crois, ont de l'importance. En particulier, je voudrais souligner, comme l'a fait le Comité de l'agriculture, au paragraphe 105 et au paragraphe 107 de son rapport, que beaucoup reste à faire pour mieux connaître la nature des problèmes que pose la lutte contre les pertes de récoltes. Au paragraphe 105, le Comité reconnaît la nécessité de procéder à des enquêtes sur les pertes avant de lancer des programmes de réduction. Au paragraphe 107, de même, il est souligné qu'il est nécessaire

de poursuivre les travaux de recherche. Un autre aspect de ce rapport du Comité de l'agriculture nous semble fort important, nous le voyons au paragraphe 109 où l'on insiste sur le caractère global des différentes mesures à prendre pour lutter contre les pertes de récoltes avant, pendant et après; je crois que c'est véritablement là le problème.

Je n'insisterai pas, puisque nous n'avons pas le document qui a été diffusé pour le Comité de l'agriculture, sur le type même des opérations qu'il était envisagé d'effectuer mais je voudrais simplement dire, répétant en cela ce qu'a déclaré la délégation française au Comité de l'agriculture, que pour nous, il semble que la lutte contre les pertes implique beaucoup plus un travail de longue haleine et un travail de formation.

Ayant participé à la réunion du Comité de l'agriculture, notre délégation en conclusion a déclaré qu'elle n'était pas en mesure, pour réaliser les ambitions auxquelles nous souscrivons tous, de donner l'accord de la France à la création envisagée du Fonds. Je dois reconnaître que j'ai fait allusion à l'objectivité de ce rapport; le rapport du Comité de l'agriculture, au paragraphe 114 énonce en effet les différentes opinions qui sont exprimées en disant que, "dans sa majorité, le Comité appuie la proposition. Certains membres ont réservé leur position sur cette proposition jusqu'à la session du Conseil en juin. D'autres ont estimé que le Programme devrait être couvert par le budget du Programme ordinaire. Pour d'autres enfin, une décision au sujet du Fonds ne pourra être prise qu'après examen des efforts actuellement déployés dans ce domaine."

Dans ces conditions, vous ne serez pas surpris de la cohérence de la position de la délégation française et que je confirme que notre délégation n'est pas favorable, pour la réalisation de cet important travail de la FAO, à la constitution d'un Fonds particulier. Ce n'est pas que nous niions l'importance du problème. Je dirai que le problème de la lutte contre les pertes de récoltes est aussi vieux que l'agriculture et tous les agriculteurs du monde luttent avec les moyens à leur disposition contre les parasites et les maladies. Il n'y aurait pas d'agriculture s'il n'y avait pas de lutte contre les pertes. Ce qui est nouveau, c'est la prise de conscience du paradoxe qu'il y a à intensifier, notamment en faisant appel à la communauté internationale, les efforts pour l'accroissement de la production sans une action parallèle pour la réduction des pertes.

Je ne voudrais pas que l'on puisse traduire l'intervention de la délégation française comme l'expression d'une attitude négative à l'égard de ce problème. Je voudrais à l'occasion signaler que le rapport dont a eu à discuter le Comité de l'agriculture sur les pertes de récoltes, a été rédigé avec la collaboration d'un expert fourni gratuitement à l'Organisation par un institut de recherche agronomique français spécialisé qui est l'Institut de recherche agronomique tropicale. Voilà une preuve concrète de l'intérêt que nous portons à ces problèmes et probablement de la technicité reconnue à nos instituts.

Si nous ne sommes pas partisans du Fonds, par contre, nous sommes tout à fait en faveur de toutes mesures de regroupement des efforts et de coordination des différentes interventions qui visent à tirer un meilleur parti de toutes les activités qui peuvent concourir à la lutte contre les pertes; dans le rapport du Comité du programme nous trouvons un début de formulation qui nous paraît excellente de ce que pourraient être les activités de l'unité centrale de coordination dont la création est proposée. Nous sommes en faveur de la mise en place d'une unité de coordination. Le rapport du Comité du Programme, aux paragraphes 2.167, 2.168 et 2.169 parle des responsabilités de cette unité centrale de coordination et il me semble que le paragraphe 2.167 répond tout à fait à ce qu'on peut espérer d'une unité de ce type car nous lisons que cette unité centrale doit "coordonner le travail des unités techniques existantes et réunir des informations sur les activités que les pays, la FAO et d'autres organisations déploient en vue de réduire les pertes alimentaires, etc.". "L'unité assurera la coordination étroite du travail dans ce domaine avec les activités connexes entreprises par la FAO, par exemple au titre du programme intégré de lutte contre les ravageurs, du programme d'assistance pour la sécurité alimentaire, etc.". Nous souscrivons tout à fait à ce programme de l'unité centrale.

Le Comité du Programme, au paragraphe suivant 2.168, nous parle d'un aspect qui nous paraît fort important des activités qui sont envisagées. Il s'agit des activités financées par d'autres sources de financement, et, curieusement, bien que la question ait été évoquée antérieurement, on ne se réfère pas, à propos des activités envisagées, aux activités du Programme de coopération technique. Il nous semble que si des opérations d'urgence ou des opérations ponctuelles pouvaient s'avérer nécessaires, il pourrait sans doute être fait appel au Programme de coopération technique.

Enfin, pour terminer, et pour bien dire l'importance que nous attachons à cette unité centrale de coordination dont le Directeur général propose la création, je dirai que nous verrions bien cette unité centrale fonctionner comme fonctionne la structure de base qui existe actuellement pour le Programme international de développement laitier ou pour le Programme international de développement de la viande. Il s'agit d'une structure relativement légère, et c'est au travers de cette structure, ou en liaison avec elle, que devraient pouvoir être mobilisés les concours extérieurs qui pourraient également s'offrir à la FAO.

Ici, Monsieur le Président, si cela n'était pas suffisant, peut-être pourrait-on envisager de prévoir dans les nombreuses voies budgétaires de la FAO un fonds fiduciaire qui serait ouvert pour les contri-buteurs éventuels. J'ai parlé tout à l'heure de l'Institut français de la recherche agronomique tropicale. Il se peut que la collaboration avec l'Institut de la recherche agronomique tropicale puisse se faire par le moyen de ce fonds fiduciaire et au travers de cette unité centrale de coordination. Je vois que Monsieur le Directeur général sourit, j'espère que c'est de contentement.

G. de BARKER (Netherlands): It seems to be unavoidable that in meetings like this the main substance is about organizations, finance, administration, not about agriculture in the first place, although we are supposed to help agriculture to develop itself. I must say, therefore, that this subject of post-harvest losses appealed to me because it was, in a sea of floating subjects on administration, a piece of solid agricultural technology. Therefore, I read and I am going to participate in the debate with some interest although I must say that when I prepared my statement I also felt obliged to slip into matters of administration, of finance, of organization; you cannot help it here.

I would like to repeat what has been said before but I feel it is very fundamental, that the first duty we all have, whether we are developed countries, or less developed countries, developing, on the way to becoming halfway developed, whatever you have, the stimulation of production in our own country is a first responsibility for the government there, for the farmers there, for cooperatives, for everybody involved and when the harvest is done there in the fields and the farmer starts harvesting and the yield is in the barns the second very important thing comes, that is to keep the product from being wasted and that is really a very important matter because not having a product you could blame on so many things but when you have it in your own hands in your barn and then it gets lost it is really a waste and a pity. Therefore, I find this project very important. I must really commend the Director-General like many people did before me and behind him all the people in FAO and also the Committee on Agriculture and the Finance and Programme Committees who all supported it, that we are going to have an important and unanimously accepted programme in the future on post-harvest losses. I would say let us restrict it to harvest and post-harvest losses. There was some talk about pre-harvest but that is too much, we already have other programmes on pre-harvest losses. I would like to make a few remarks that we accept that when the programme is started it is going to be an important programme. In the first place I would mention that this kind of programme, because there are not so many experts around the world in this field, neither in the developed countries are there so many experts, perhaps in trade there are, but we must try to use them as much as possible . and I feel a good starting point would be what has already been mentioned as a priority principle by the Director-General that we must use national institutions and by national institutions in this case I mean national institutions in the developed and developing countries who work together to try that a certain developed country joins efforts with a certain developing country and forms a sort of joint unit that over the years, whether the money is there from that fund or not, is willing to continue this kind of cooperation. I do not think it is enough to hire some experts to send them to a certain country to help them build up, you must really have a continuous effort, and therefore I feel this joint programme between the developed country and developing country institute would be a good thing.

A second point I would like to make is that it is important for FAO itself but also in the country where the programme is going to be that there are organizational measures taken to have a good coordination with the other relevant activities. It has already been mentioned here in the house, the Food Security Assistance Scheme, I hope some money will come from IFAD when IFAD is already started really for this purpose. So there must also be, I feel some coordination and I use that word because it is a word that is not always appreciated in the countries with other programmes bilaterally started because we can be sure that in almost all countries that have already done or have under way programmes in this field, and it would be a pity if we were to see another example of competing programmes. I feel that the country representative of FAO could do a good job in trying to bring together programmes there in the country concerned started on a bilateral base and on this multilateral base.

Another remark I must make is that I praise the Director-General very much that in this case he is willing to do the job at 5 percent overhead charge. I understand that rightly, do I not, because we have been talking about overhead charges in the past and we feel that this is a good start, to ask for extra money and do the job the 5 percent overhead charge and would perhaps encourage certain donor countries to use this multilateral channel because I have heard when you ask the question sometimes, "Why don't you channel your money instead of giving it bilaterally to a certain country, why don't you channel it through FAO?", then you sometimes hear the answer, "Well, that costs another 14 percent." I do not think that is always fair because when you make your own provisions for executing a programme it also costs money, but that is another matter.

Now, about the financing, that is my third point; we very much appreciate the idea of a trust fund and I would like to ask where in these papers you speak about "fund", is that the same as a trust fund like we know it with the Associate Expert Trust Fund and with the Meat and Dairy Development Scheme and the Food Security Assistance Scheme? Is that the same? I mean, is it a kind of fund in which the donor countries and the recipient countries have a certain say, a certain influence, or is it just part of the overall cooperative of FAO where the countries just talk in the Council and in the Conference and get round in the sea of words like we are all doing now while with the trust fund we have the feeling that you have more intimate talks with the people who execute the programme. So I would like to hear what the position is, is this the kind of fund you have in mind, Mr. Director-General, and I will ask the question through the Chairman, that is comparable with the other trust funds here in FAO.

Now I must come to that difficult point of the \$10 million fund that you want to use from the Suspense Account. I would like to make a comparison; we always think that ministers in a church are having principles and are preaching about dogmatic principles but I can tell you that our Minister of Finance, who is another kind of minister, has also principles and dogmatic principles and he is always preaching about it and he asked me to preach about it. I am not a very good minister so I will not try to give you a beautiful story but I will just say that we are in the same position as several other delegates that it seems that when money has been earmarked for a certain purpose and resolutions have been passed it is useless to talk to a Minister of Finance to use that for another purpose. I have also got the same message that it is not so much the money involved, it is the principle involved to use this money that has been earmarked for another purpose, so I hope that the ideas that were generated by our United Kingdom colleague --he said without being instructed, I am instructed so perhaps I can therefore easily join his words, that we hope that another kind of wording for this resolution can perhaps be found so that we can go around the dogmatic principle of our Minister of Finance and the money that has been collected can be used in a way that is not against that principle. We must mention the fact that if this solution is not found we must reserve our position on committing new money to it. That is what I am instructed to say here. We would feel very bad about it because we admire the programme, we admire the initiative. We hope to be able to participate, especially with these kinds of joint efforts with other institutes in developing countries but this problem of the Suspense Account, hopefully by all your very able financial wizards that you have in your house, I hope it can be solved.

H. MAURIA (Finland): First, I would like to point out that we welcome very warmly indeed the fact that the matter of reducing post-harvest losses has been taken up by FAO for implementation and financing. We do welcome it because during the course of years on several earlier occasions we have, together with the other Nordic countries, emphasized the importance of tackling this programme in the context of FAO.

We fully support the high priority given to this matter. Reduction of post-harvest losses must be looked upon, as said before, as an activity which should be observed and taken care of at the farmer's level during the whole cycle of food production from sowing through growing, harvest and storing and post-harvest handling, too. The field of action will involve a great number of countries and a variety of agricultural products produced under a wide range of differing conditions. This in our view implies the need for a long-range continuous programme of action on the part of FAO and also increasing involvement at the national policy-making and institutional levels.

As regards the action of FAO, it will clearly need substantial human and financial resources for a long period of time. It is fair to believe that FAO should be prepared for involvement for much longer than only over the next biennium.

In accordance with our positive standpoint regarding the implementation of this item, we are in principle ready to support financing of action in favour of reducing post-harvest losses from FAO's regular budget in the coming biennium. This would grant a firm base necessary for input of resources and for the foreseeable continuity of action.

In saying this, we are aware that other currents of financing of post-harvest loss activities have been proposed and even agreed upon in the recent session of the Finance Committee. We can see the idea of flexibility in the proposal made, but we feel some doubts regarding particularly the use of the suspense accounts for this purpose. In our view, the importance that should be placed on such an activity as the item of reducing post-harvest losses could easily be suitable for and should be subject to planning and financing through the normal Programme of Work and Budget.

May I add that although we now have been elaborating on the activities under this item and on the basis of financing through FAO, we would like to indicate that we are looking upon the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) as a very appropriate source of financing in the future for activities in favour of reducing post-harvest losses.

A.E. HANNAH (Canada): The Canadian delegation would like to emphasize again, as many others have, the importance of this subject of post-harvest losses, and we would suggest that it is a matter of concern to many countries --in fact, all countries that produce food, both developed and developing. Post-harvest loss, particularly in cereals, is an area of research that Canadians have emphasized in the past and will continue to do, but I would suggest that research in cereals alone is not enough and some of the principles of research should be applied to other commodities, but the research must be done in those areas and those commodities of need.

As Brazil pointed out, a balanced diet means different things to different people, and it must be recognized in terms of commodities, in terms of supply and in terms of the people that it is meant for. Therefore, what we are talking about in a programme of post-harvest loss and the protection of foodstuffs from such losses is the development of research and information which will cover many commodities and many forms of food.

I would also suggest that post-harvest loss for the development and improvement of food production in the world is a subject that falls well within the areas of responsibility and competence of FAO, and the Director-General, I would like to add, as many others have, is to be commended for placing a high priority on such programmes.

We also feel that it is necessary to evaluate the magnitude of the losses, and we must recognize that to obtain precise estimates of these losses is very difficult, especially in those countries where the food is not marketed through regular channels or is not exported through regular channels. Much of the food loss, in our view, comes just prior to consumption and much of it in local areas where there are no organized marketing systems. Therefore, the need for better information systems, for

better infrastructure and financing means to reduce these losses are the basic pillars of any post-harvest loss programme.

In this context, an effort should be made at the country level to determine the magnitude, the nature, the economic effects and the need for research on post-harvest losses. The proposed action programme, which appears to be a practical operational approach to preventing food loss problems, rightly stresses the use of local skills and materials in the construction of farm storage and village storage facilities. This is not a simple matter. It is one which must be researched and must be developed for the climate and the environment within which it must be developed.

In this context, I would like to mention among the efforts in this field a number of experiments have been initiated by Canada in support of the International Development Research Centre, and it has directed funds to projects such as these post-harvest losses and specifically to those areas of research needed in those countries where the food will be stored and used. Canada is well aware of its technological limitations in the field of tropical agriculture, and any of you that have visited our country knows we do not have a tropical climate, but we do have an understanding of some of the principles of research needed to develop protection against tropical post-harvest losses and therefore we feel we can make an adequate contribution and we do support very strongly the need for training at all levels in the countries where these programmes are being developed to develop qualified personnel not only to carry out the programmes but to continue and identify the programmes which will need research in the future. The prevention of post-harvest losses in food is a very complicated task and requires research on many species of insects, fungi, rodents as well as a combination of these. Therefore, it is not a simple matter of saying we will have money for post-harvest losses, it is a matter of saying how we are going to do these programmes, and it also means research into the physical structure to harvest and store the food.

Our delegation would again like to place emphasis on the need to help develop national policies and programmes aimed at major crop production and particularly to help the numerous small farm producers to develop a viable operation and to store that production adequately.

There are two additional points of concern which I would like to see in the research. The first relates to the method of crop and post-harvest supplies, the other to the whole cycle of food production and consumption. Remedies and solutions developed for post-harvest losses should be brought about in concert with the limitations of the environment and with the limitations of human health. I would trust that the members of this Council will agree with me in saying that reducing the level of food losses must be part of an integrated process commencing first of all at the planning phases and then finally to the marketing and consumption phases, because losses occur in all parts of this system. A weakness in any part of this system will of course weaken the total system and will induce food loss no matter where it occurs and would engage much of the effort which has been put into developing a more efficient and effective system in the world.

While recognizing FAO's overall responsibility in this field, I urge the Secretariat to take all the appropriate measures to coordinate as well as to cooperate with institutions, organizations and personnel involved in research and in the execution of projects on post-harvest losses. It is our understanding there are a number of projects being done in various ways. Canada is cooperating with the Office of FAO and with the Office of the Sahel Relief Organization 1975-76 and has presently three crop protection projects going in the Upper Volta, in Niger and in Mali. Canada will continue to support crop and post-harvest research and development for many areas in many kinds of food production.

However, with respect to the proposal for a special fund for the programme of post-harvest losses, Canada has been supporting such programmes on a bilateral and multilateral basis for a number of years. Therefore, we feel that more information is required before we can commit ourselves one way or the other on this fund. Much of the work that is being done now should be categorized, and we would like to know where it fits in with the present proposals or how these present proposals will be integrated with the work that is going on at present. We, as the Canadian delegation, very much like the proposal made by the United Kingdom, and we would support their comments that we are not at this point in time in a position to support the Resolution as stated here or to make any definite decision without further information. In our view, there is just not enough information available to make a decision. This was also emphasized by Argentina in his remarks earlier.

This is a general summary of what the Canadian delegation feels and we would therefore suggest that we would give high priority to this programme for post-harvest losses all through the food system, so that it will provide a more efficient and effective food production and food distribution system. However, we think there is more work to be done on how these programmes are carried out and how they will be financed.

A. TEJAN WADDA (Gambia): My delegation's main comment on this paper is entirely on the problems raised by the United Kingdom. We feel that the substance of this report with regard to post-harvest losses has been dealt with thoroughly by India. We could not agree more with his presentation. I think he has covered the ground admirably. The problems he has raised we fully associate with, and we hope that when we talk about post-harvest and utilizing the special fund to fight post-harvest losses this will not be limited to cereal crops only. Cash crops are very vulnerable, and there are also many other perishable agricultural products.

This is not just a programme which the Director-General has presented and is supported by the Committee, it is highly commended by all speakers. The problem as I have said - and I will echo the words of the delegate from the United Kingdom - is not the substance. The problem is how to finance the Fund to operate the Programme. It is quite clear to all delegations that FAO has spent a lot of money and time on investigation in agriculture and in production, but now we are faced with the problem of post-harvest.

Not much is being done on this. One has the right to question the wisdom of spending so much on investment and on production and then sitting down and seeing it wasted and lost. For this reason my delegation commends the Director-General for coming out in response to the World Food Conference Resolution and to the Resolution of the 7th Special Session of the United Nations General Assembly with a programme to fight post-harvest losses.

I will come back again to the problem. The problem is the form. In principle every delegation has accepted the programme. It would be contradictory to the Programme of Work that the Director-General

has presented to this Council. Last year everybody commended the Director-General for reducing the budget and making savings by decentralization of the Organization. This saving led to the setting up of the TCP. I do not think the Director-General would now create a form that would add more to the regular budget.

He has a programme and as the delegate from the United Kingdom has said, the problem is how to finance this. The Director-General, I would say, is faced with the problem of either using the Regular Budget, which would mean eventually increasing it, or asking Conference for a Plenary Session so as to establish the form.

With due respect to the delegate from the United Kingdom, this would involve, as he rightly said, reforming the form as to the amount of money that is in the Suspense Account to member nations and asking them to pay it again and repay it for the Fund. It might be complicated but on the exchange of cheques someone is going to make a profit and to avoid that party making the profit the Director-General is saving member nations from the process if he were to adopt that.

The problem is this Suspense Account is savings that have been made due to the inflation. I will not look at the Director-General, and I am sure all the Members too do not look at him as the executive head of a business organization whereby any savings would be returned to the shareholders. I do not think any member government is looking for that. But there is a misconception of the Programme and the suggestion the Committee has put before us, no-one is saying the Council should overrule the Resolution passed by the Conference and to ask the Director-General to ignore that Resolution - if I understood the Council report, Council is asking, or the Committee is suggesting the Council, to recommend to the Conference that they review their Resolution as it is only Conference which can change a Conference Resolution with regard to spending. Council has not the power to change a resolution.

Therefore the suggestion of setting up the fund is no contradiction to what the Conference has already decided upon. I therefore feel that regarding the question raised by the delegate from Argentina saying the TCP is being utilized for this purpose when we set up the TCP it was quite clear it was going to be a fixed amount and that it would be limited to the Regular Budget. By adding any expenditure on the TCP, we would then be increasing it, and we would be using two types of funding for the TCP, which would be a dangerous step to start with.

The idea of joining the post-harvest to the TCP would be completely out of order, in the opinion of my delegation, and I hope that my explanation will satisfy the delegate from Argentina.

When one looks at the post-harvest fund which is being set up and one examines the problem of the amount of losses, in the region where I come from - the Sahel Region - one would feel the amount earmarked would be inadequate, but the amount of money being suggested is not coming from the Regular Budget and neither the Director-General nor the Committee are asking for the increase of the Regular Budget nor are they saying it is going to be recurrent; what is being suggested here is that the amount of money that is now being earmarked, which is anticipated from the savings out of these inflationary gains, be earmarked to finance the post-harvest instead of being refunded to member countries.

This is the suggestion, and here I cannot agree more with the delegate from the United Kingdom that the Resolution which is attached to this report needs to be redrafted to reflect back that what Council intends to do is not ignore it but try to call the Conference to amend the Resolution. If members understand it in this way, I pray any action we take here will not set back this noble effort of the Director-General in answer to a needy problem.

B. de AZEVEDO BRITO (Brazil): Again on this item the Group of 77 has already given its basic position in favour of the proposal to establish a trust fund of \$20 million to finance programmes and activities to reduce harvest and post-harvest losses with an input of \$10 million from the Suspense Account.

I would like, however, as the Brazilian delegate, to elaborate again on this proposal, since we believe that this is a very important area of activity for FAO. In fact, as previous speakers have indicated, action by FAO in trying to reduce harvest and post-harvest losses is a direct response to a call by the World Food Conference and by the 7th Special Session of the General Assembly. This is a point made clear by previous speakers.

In fact, we believe this is part of the response of FAO to bring about the new international economic order for agriculture in a practical and effective manner. The magnitude of the problem is made clear by one single sentence which we find in the COAG Committee Report of its Fourth Session. It says "A 50 percent cut in post-harvest losses for cereals and coarse grains alone assuming a conservative ..." - I stress the word "conservative" - "... estimate of a 10 per cent loss would mean savings of 40 million tons of cereals or half the projected imports of developing countries by 1985." That makes quite clear what we are trying to do in favour of the millions of people who live in the developing world and do not yet have adequate food and nutrition.

We believe the urgency of the matter is clear, and in that context I must say I would not be able to concur with the suggestion made - that in 1981 we convene a conference of experts. We do believe this is something for action now, and not a conference of experts in four years' time to see what we can do.

I would like to give some comments, brief ones, on the substance of the matter. First, where do the priorities lie? My delegation would concur with the comments made by the majority of delegations in the Committee on Agriculture that activities by FAO to reduce harvest and post-harvest losses should concentrate on staple foods, on tubers and roots, but not to the exclusion of other crops such as cash crops, perishable foods, oils and fats. There are a number of very important lines of production in developing countries which also deserve attention in the activities of FAO that tackle these specific problems.

Also speaking of priorities, we would agree with speakers who have indicated that there must first be an emphasis on research. I would agree with, I think it was my colleague from Canada who spoke about the importance of research on tropical questions and tropical products. The knowledge of the prevention of harvest losses for crops of temperate zones, is much more diffused. When we come to tropical products and equatorial products the situation is slightly different. We believe it is necessary and appropriate to have more emphasis on the support of research here.

On this point, I would also agree with our colleague from the People's Republic of China when he calls attention to the need for developing adequate technology and making use of the actual knowledge of the farmer in the field. We must take this point into account. We believe that in conducting these activities, emphasis on training is also important. In this area, we also often lack overall management capacity. To plan an overall operation to prevent harvest losses, the management aspect is in our view important.

Finally, some comments on who should be the beneficiaries of such activities of FAO. Of course, we realize that the food deficient countries have a priority, but this is an area in which every developing country needs assistance in the sense that each of us needs to take a step forward and reduce our losses to improve the availability of food and other crops.

On the conceptual approach to this problem, I should like to make another point in light of the Brazilian experience. We try to see this question in a rather comprehensive and integrated way. It is not only a question - and this is an important point to our way thinking - of better utilization of harvesting equipment, for instance. It is not only a question of an improvement in rodent and pest control. It is not only a question of improving storage facilities. We also have to see that there is economy in transportation. There are many ways in which transport can be made economic and efficient: there is for instance the elimination of excess water in products, which can effect great savings in the cost of transportation; there is also better use of transport equipment, which is important for developing countries; better spacing and timing of transport operations, so that one does not have the whole transport operation at the peak of the harvest; and savings to avoid losses in the marketing process. I also fully agree with the delegate of India about the processing of the original product. Both in marketing and in processing considerable losses can be cut.

Finally, on what I would call an integrated approach to the problem, we cannot conceive of a policy of reducing harvest losses and post-harvest losses independently from our policies of credit for production. These policies must also be seen in the context of making the maximum use of what is going to be produced. I make these comments in order to emphasize the integrated approach which I am quite sure FAO will keep in developing activities in this field.

As to the actual proposals before us, my delegation fully supports a greater emphasis within the regular Budget for activities to reduce and prevent harvest and post-harvest losses. As I said before, we also fully support the proposal to establish a special fund for that purpose. We concur with the idea of having an initial \$10 million input from the suspense account of the current biennium for that fund. A remark was made that we must respect good financial practices; but we must first examine what are really good financial practices. In our opinion - and it is an opinion which is consistently defined in different fora of the United Nations system - the actual test whether resources within a Regular Budget should be used or not, is the acknowledgement by the international community that action in this particular field is important. If it is important, then it should be financed at least in part of the basis of the regular Budget. I will give you an example, an example which we have repeated many times, namely the environment. When we established the environment fund developing countries also made it quite clear that activities would continue to be financed by the regular budget of each agency in the system and

this practice goes on. Here, as many delegates have said, we have a crucial activity, that of increasing the availability of food in the developing countries. What we do can have a very significant impact. If that is the case there is no reason, why resources within the regular Budget should not at least in part try to cover the needs of these specific activities.

Those are the comments I should like to make at this stage. I reserve my right, of course, to speak on details later on if the Council gets into a more detailed discussion.

E. HRAOUI (Liban) (interprétation de l'arabe): La délégation de mon pays, après avoir étudié le rapport du Comité de l'agriculture et du Comité du Programme, ainsi que celui du Comité des finances, appuie la proposition tendant à renforcer les activités de la FAO dans ce domaine et notamment dans les domaines visant à éviter les pertes pendant et après les récoltes. Ces pertes, à la suite des activités dans le domaine des récoltes, sont des pertes considérables et dans les pays en développement, elles varient entre 10 et 60 pour cent de la récolte entière. Nous pensons que la FAO a la responsabilité d'aider les pays en développement à trouver des méthodes et des moyens de spécialisation valables qui s'adaptent à l'augmentation de la production agricole et qui conviennent aux demandes des populations en matière de vivres et de produits agricoles. Cela signifie que la FAO doit absolument jouer un rôle essentiel dans le domaine de la formation des agriculteurs, spécialement en matière de techniques nouvelles, en matière de transfert des techniques, notamment dans le domaine de la commercialisation, depuis le début des opérations de la récolte jusqu'à la consommation, en passant par toutes les étapes possibles. C'est pour cette raison que nous appuyons la proposition du Directeur général visant à créer un fonds spécial pour le financement des opérations relatives à la réduction des pertes d'aliments et que l'on réserve 20 millions de dollars spécialement à ce fonds dont 10 millions de dollars vont être consolidés grâce aux économies réalisées dans le budget de l'Organisation. Nous ne pouvons pas imaginer que la FAO puisse être considérée comme une caisse d'épargne alors que la plupart des pays, et notamment les pays producteurs, ont un objectif essentiel qui consiste à faire en sorte que les récoltes dans le monde se fassent d'une façon satisfaisante et s'inquiètent également des quantités de la production agricole dans le monde. Nous pensons que l'Organisation doit participer à toutes ces activités. L'Organisation doit être un instrument de développement; elle doit consacrer toutes ses ressources et elle doit profiter de toutes ses possibilités pour remplir la mission pour laquelle elle a été créée, c'est-à-dire la réalisation du bien-être et la réalisation d'une production suffisante de produits alimentaires pour les populations du monde et elle doit contribuer également à l'établissement d'un nouvel ordre économique international basé sur la justice. La délégation de mon pays appuie ce qui a été dit par le Président du Groupe des 77 à ce propos et en fin de compte, nous espérons que le budget proposé pour ce fonds spécial, c'est-à-dire 20 millions de dollars, constitue un premier pas et qu'à l'avenir on puisse l'augmenter.

S. SHAMMOOT (Jordan) (interpretation from Arabie): The problem of food losses after harvest is of considerable interest to my country and I support what was said by the various delegates speaking before me who expressed the importance of this question and the importance of the need to make serious efforts to reduce these food losses in an effort to arrive at sufficient food and food of better

quality throughout the world. This proposal is considered to be working in the field and is one to which we must give our utmost support. I would say that FAO should mobilize all its technical and material forces in order to implement this project and thus endorse what was said by the Director-General regarding the struggle against bureaucracy.

The implementation of this project obviously calls for financial backing and if we were satisfied just with supporting this project that would not enable FAO just by our support to carry this out. For this reason my delegation is of the view that it is necessary to reserve the total of \$10 million which has been saved on the Organization's budget. That amount would be the foundation stone of this scheme. This does of course mean that there is a considerable responsibility on our countries. It is important of course that this should not have any important effect on the other activities of the organization, but this figure is a result of economies made which we did not expect to make. I do not think that there is a single country which would envisage asking for its share of this balance to be repaid. I am sure that all the countries here would agree on the essential nature of the activities of this Organization which are activities to do with development, and not banking activities.

F. GOMEZ IRURETA (España): En primer lugar, sigo pensando que la FAO debe continuar dando prioridad a la mejora de la productividad agrícola como lo viene haciendo hasta este momento.

Parece ser que flota en el ambiente un temor a la creación de un nuevo fondo porque la experiencia nos dice que cuando algo se crea nunca desaparece. Yo quisiera ser optimista en este sentido y si el Fondo es válido pues puede continuar, y si no es válido pues podría desaparecer.

Tengo un cierto temor a dispersar esfuerzos. Se ha hablado de antes de la cosecha, en la cosecha, después de la cosecha, todo tipo de cultivos, etc. Yo sería más prudente; dado que la financiación es escasa seleccionaría aquellos países que sufren estos deterioros, me he quedado sorprendido que estén situados entre un 10 y un 20 por ciento, lo desconocía, en cereales, y que más necesidades alimentarias tiene. Por otra parte, dejaría para un próximo futuro otros productos más perecederos que requieren una tecnología mucho más sofisticada que la conservación de cereales y directamente atacaría el problema del almacenamiento y distribución de los cereales, pérdidas que se pueden producir en estas fases, pero concretándome a los cereales.

En cuanto a los tubérculos son importantes, pero pienso también que como perecederos tienen sofisticación de conservación bastante alta: frío, ambiente climatizado, etc., y haría una prueba piloto con ciertos países para ver si se resolvía satisfactoriamente el problema de reducir las pérdidas en cereales. Es una cuestión de seleccionar, tanto en países como en el grupo de cereales y de que la FAO se encargase de ver los resultados prácticos que se obtienen de este programa a corto plazo mediante un seguimiento y evaluación adecuada, dado que hablo a corto plazo porque el tiempo no es precisamente un bien que pueda malgastarse en los momentos en que vivimos.

En cuanto a la creación del Fondo yo, desde luego, no espero, creo que represento el sentir de mi país, obtener dividendos de esta Organización, como creo que ha dicho algún distinguido Delegado últimamente, el de Jordania; si es un ahorro que ha realizado la Organización bien vale la pena emplearlo en este complemento del aumento de la producción mundial de alimentos, complemento que es reducir pérdidas, es de sentido común. Sin embargo, si hubiera que hacer aportaciones adicionales a este ahorro no tengo en este momento información suficiente sobre la cuota que me tocaría, o que tocaría a mi país y no tengo tampoco instrucciones para poder asumir esta responsabilidad.

EL PRESIDENTE: Señores, hemos sobrepasado ligeramente las 5.30 que es el horario preciso. Tengo todavía 11 oradores en mi lista. Esto significa claramente que no será posible terminar esta tarde el tema que estamos discutiendo. Por lo tanto voy en primer lugar a leer la lista de los oradores para mañana: Japón, Libia, la Rep. Fed. de Alemania, Filipinas, México, Sudan, Italia, Nueva Zelandia, Bangladesh, los distinguidos observadores de Guinea, Níger y Tailandia. Como ustedes verán se están agregando los otros oradores. El primer día, al iniciar nuestras labores quedó pendiente del tema 2 el Comité de Redacción.

I - INTRODUCTORY - PROCEDURE OF THE SESSION (continued)

I - INTRODUCTION - QUESTIONS DE PROCEDURE (Suite)

I - INTRODUCCIÓN - CUESTIONES DE PROCEDIMIENTO (continuación)

2. Election of Two Vice-Chairmen, and Designation of Chairman and Members. of Drafting Committee (continued)

2. Election des deux Vice-Présidents, et nomination du Président et des membres du Comité de rédaction (suite)

2. Elección de dos Vicepresidentes y nombramiento del Presidente y los miembros del Comité de Redacción (continuación)

EL PRESIDENTE: Ahora, parece que han concluido las consultas y me permito proponer al Consejo los siguientes puestos para integrar el Comité de Redacción: Bangladesh, Brasil, Estados Unidos, Francia, Gabon, Nueva Zelandia y Pakistán. Como decidimos el lunes, este Comité será presidido por el distinguido señor delegado de Gambia.

I. OROZCO (México): Me parece que en la lista de miembros que compondría este Comité de Redacción se está omitiendo en forma evidente a delegaciones de habla hispana que forman este Consejo. Desearía entonces al hacerle esta indicación que al llevar a cabo las consultas adecuadas hubieran sido incluidos dos miembros de habla hispana, lo cual podríamos solucionar al final de esta sesión.

, J.C. VIGNAUD (Argentina): Observo con satisfacción que las personas que han efectuado las consultas para integrar el Comité de Redacción han tenido el buen tino de seleccionar de la delegación representada por eminentes delegados que estoy seguro que van a cumplir con el pesado trabajo que requiere el Comité de Redacción con gran eficiencia. Sin embargo, deseo adherirme a la observación que ha formulado el delegado de México en el sentido de que como delegación de un país de habla hispana que, conforme con el artículo 41 del Reglamento General, es uno de los tres idiomas de trabajo de la Organización, me cuesta mucho poder acordar con la constitución que usted nos ha propuesto, particularmente porque siendo Argentina coordinador del Grupo Latinoamericano, al menos desde la iniciación de este Consejo no ha sido consultada.

Yo mismo, he ido a hablar con el Sr. Tedesco, que creo que hizo las consultas, a efecto de preguntarle cómo se integraba la delegación. El me dio alguna información pero en su momento no fui consultado. Por tanto yo desearía que conste en el informe esta reserva en el sentido de que es de mala práctica quizás que en los comités de redacción no estén representados los países que hablan los tres idiomas, que, conforme con el Reglamento General, son los idiomas de trabajo de la Organización.

Quizá usted esté en condiciones de resolver esta dificultad porque entiendo que el Comité no se va a reunir inmediatamente; quizás haya un tiempo adicional para revisar esta decisión.

EL PRESIDENTE: Tengo dos oradores en mi lista y yo espero que no vamos a hacer un largo debate a estas alturas. Procuraré dar solución rápidamente a esta cuestión.

G. ESCARDO PEINADOR (España): Yo quisiera adherirme a lo que acaban de manifestar los delegados de México y la Argentina. Es que, aparte de las razones reglamentarias que acaba de decir la Argentina, encuentro que hay una razón además de tipo práctico. Usted sabe que cuando llegamos al final de la discusión del informe se pierde tanto tiempo por la mala redacción en algunas de las lenguas. Es lógico que si no hay un representante de lengua española se pierdan muchas horas en estar pidiendo aclaraciones en la lengua española.

Por lo tanto, no solamente me adhiero a elio, sino que me atreverla a proponer que se incluyese por lo menos en el Comité de Redacción al delegado mexicano que ha comenzado por hacer esa manifestación.

H. ABDALLAH (Egypt) (interpretation from Arabic): I would like at the outset to point out that the delegation of Egypt does not want to be a member of this Drafting Committee. If it were offered to do so, we would of course refuse it because we are not a big delegation. However, the delegate of Mexico did raise a very important point concerning languages and representation on the Committee according to the languages of the Organization. This is a very relevant point indeed, but we also have geographical representation, namely representatives of regions, as is the case in this Organization. I do not think the Near East is being represented here in this Committee, either linguistically or geographically. As we know, drafting committees as a rule take due account of participation of the different delegations in relation with specific items. For example, the fund for reducing food losses; there are different viewpoints in this Council. Some are in favour and others are against the fund for preventing losses.

I therefore think, this being the case, that we should have several viewpoints represented and we therefore need three types of representation: languages, geographical distribution and the interest of delegations in specific items. Thus, as you know, Mr. Chairman, we would have to look at the membership of this Committee again and take due account of geographical distribution as well as the membership of this Council and their views.

EL PRESIDENTE: Tengo todavía varios oradores en mi lista, pero ya los problemas que inicialmente se habían planteado han sido ahora presentados bajo otro aspecto: el de la representación geográfica. Les propongo antes de dar la palabra que aplacemos la definición de la composición del Comité de Redacción hasta el día de mañana para hacer nuevas consultas. Tengan en cuenta esta propuesta.

A. TEJAN WADDA (Gambia): I was just going to second the suggestion made by the delegate of Egypt, that the list be withdrawn and further consultations held, and a new list be presented tomorrow.

J. C. VIGNAUD (Argentina): El punto de orden, apoyando su moción es de cierre del debate y para darle a usted la posibilidad de hacer nueva consultas y no prolongar la sesión de esta tarde, volveríamos mañana sobre el tema.

B. de AZEVEDO BRITO (Brasil): Creo que mi colega y amigo de Argentina, no obstante su punto de orden, me permitirá que hable en este punto, y me parece muy importante que en el Grupo de Redacción haya personas que conozcan suficientemente bien las lenguas de la Organización y por esto propondría la inclusión de un representante de lengua árabe.

EL PRESIDENTE: Se aplaza la propuesta sobre composición del Comité de Redacción. Se levanta la sesión. Nos reuniremos de nuevo mañana a las 9.30 para seguir el orden previsto.

The meeting rose at 17.40 hours

La séance est levée à 17 h 40.

Se levanta la sesión a las 17.40 horas.

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FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

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ORGANIZACION DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS PARA LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION

CL

CL 71/PV/5

Seventy-First Session

Soixante et onzième session

71° período de sesiones

FIFTH PLENARY MEETING
CINQUIEME SEANCE PLENIERE
QUINTA SESION PLENARIA

(8 June 1977)

The Fifth Plenary Meeting was opened at 9.50 hours G. Bula Hoyos, Independent Chairman of the Council, presiding

La cinquième seance plénière est ouverte à 9 h 50, sous la présidence de G. Bula Hoyos, Président indépendant du Conseil

Se abre la quinta sesión plenaria a las 9.50 horas bajo la presidencia de G. Bula Hoyos, Presidente Independiente del Consejo

III - ACTIVITIES OF FAO AND WFP (continued)

III - ACTIVITES DE LA FAO ET DU PAM (Suite)

III - ACTIVIDADES DE LA FAO Y DEL PMA (continuación)

11. Proposal for Strengthening FAO Activities Aimed at Reducing Harvest and Post-Harvest Losses (continued)

11. Proposition pour renforcer les activités de la FAO ayant pour objet de réduire les pertes avant et après la récolte (suite)

11. Propuesta de reforzar las actividades de la FAO dirigidas a reducir las pérdidas de cosechas y las que se sufren después de la recolección (continuación)

Y. NARITA (Japan): My delegation followed the statements yesterday by various representatives and we find that there is common ground, which is that all representatives stressed the need and importance of reduction of post-harvest losses. Our delegation shared this view and so would be right to say that there exists good justification for putting one of the highest priorities on the reduction of post-harvest losses. For our part we are prepared to collaborate in this field by bilateral means and multilateral means using our experience and knowledge. It is not the wish of my delegation to enter into the substance of the post-harvest losses, which were discussed by the Committee of Agriculture.

I would like to make some remarks about the Fund. Firstly there were several representatives yesterday who pointed out that there was no such information about the Fund and we share this view. We do not know why \$ 20 million is needed at the initial stage. Will \$ 20 million be exhausted in one year or more? If it is exhausted in one year what will be the requirement in the second year? Those factors we want to know as early as possible.

Secondly, as the French delegate pointed out yesterday there will be certain mechanism within the Organization to tackle this matter and I think, and my delegation thinks, that this is the first thing we have to do. There are other possibilities, such as the representative of the Netherlands pointed out, and that is to utilize the International Agencies such as IFAD.

With these opinions, and as was expressed in the Committee on Agriculture Report, paragraph 114, we think that it is premature to decide whether the Fund must be established or not.

Lastly, concerning the use of the \$ 10 million from Suspense Account we second the view expressed by the representative of the United Kingdom. Maybe this is a matter of procedure or a matter of principle but the Japanese Government thinks, as does the Ministry of Finance of the Netherlands, that it is a procedure which must be kept.

N. RAHUMA (Libya) (interpretation from Arabic): I do not want to repeat what has already been said by previous speakers but I would like to stress the importance of the struggle against pre- and post-harvest losses and I would like to say that we support the initiative of the Director-General for setting up the Fund.

W.A.F. GRABISCH (Federal Republic of Germany): There is no doubt about the urgent need for a better and more concerted attack on avoidable food losses. My government therefore strongly supported the pertinent recommendation of the World Food Conference. At the Seventh Special Session of the General Assembly my country, for the same reason, actively participated in formulating the very explicit recommendation on the crucial issue before us. ...

What are we doing at home? Everything possible to avoid food losses at all stages, that is to say at production level as well as at the level of processing, distribution and consumption.

In the context of our close cooperation with developing countries concrete measures for reducing post-harvest losses have already been included in many projects of my government's bilateral assistance. Our participation in the so-called Sahel relief operation and follow-up action thereof, in particular our part in the Food Security Assistance Scheme is well known so that I can refrain from going into detail.

Turning to the concrete proposal before us, I wish to take up the programme and the financial questions involved separately, My Government can in general support the proposed action programme, and we wish to commend the Director-General for it.

With regard to the proposed measures and actions, my delegation feels that it is important to underline, first, that national programmes for food losses should also get priority ranking within overall country development plans. Second, the drawing up of programme plans and preparations of models should by no means delay action wherever possible, in particular at the national level, and about such action, we must learn as much as possible from each other. Yesterday India drew our attention to the national "Save Grain Campaign", which is going on in this country. The Delegation of China and Pakistan also, referred to action in their countries at national levels.

At the last COAG meeting, my delegation heard with great interest of the actions being taken in Nigeria, Indonesia and Lesotho, to name just a few delegations who gave, in the view of my delegation, very good examples of actions at the national level where the so-called multiplication factor had been made maximum use of in trying to get action carried out at as little cost as possible,,

But the exchange of experience, the learning from one another on the crucial issue before us at the last COAG meeting was, in my delegation's view, not deep enough. We therefore support the fact that provisions are being made for broadening this exchange of views. One provision could be an expert consultation, as proposed by the United States. Another - and I do feel a very important one - could be to include this subject in the agenda of regional conferences with a view to extending experiences at the regional and sub-regional levels. It is here I think where probably one could give and get most information and make most use of each other country's experience,

A third one, in the view of my delegation, would be to include this issue as one of the main items in the agenda for the next COAG session. I think we would give particular emphasis to this exchange of experience, because it is there where most countries already participate in the deliberations and where I think we can have the broadest possible exchange of views. The timing then could be made in such a way that one would start with that issue with, for example, special experts who could just come for the beginning and then could go home so that there would be no need for them to stay over the whole session, or it could be even taken up before the session,,

On actions which could be taken with little or relatively small cost involved, I wish to say another word. It is now three years after the World Food Conference, and it is now two years after the Seventh Special Session of the General Assembly where special recommendations on that issue were made. So far it has not come to my knowledge that there does exist a worldwide hammering message which is being broadcast every morning or every lunch time or every evening through the air asking people to do everything possible to avoid food losses at all levels. I think such an action would not be very costly, in particular since in many countries the broadcasting system is being supported by governments and could have quite an impact, in my delegation's view, and I think FAO, if it has not done so so far, could and can assist member countries in such a not very costly action which, as I said, could have a great impact, in our view.

Turning now to the budgetary question with regard to this and concerning the proposed programme, my delegation cannot for budgetary reasons and as a matter of principle, as explained yesterday and today by the United States, France, the United Kingdom, the Netherlands and Japan, agree to the proposed use of the accumulated amounts in the suspense account. The proposal contained in Appendix F of the Programme and Finance Committees' reports would probably - and I say probably because my colleague from the Finance Ministry only arrives this afternoon and this report was not in our hands before we left home - it could probably do harm to another proposal which is put forward, namely, the establishment of a new suspense account. I therefore feel that the question of how to finance best these activities merits some more thought and should be taken up again at the next Council session before the 19th Conference. Let us hope that at that time a proposal is being put forward which can hopefully be supported by all member countries. At this stage I can offer no solution. On a personal basis I can say one way out could be to give a higher priority to this very important activity, to this programme within the proposed budget level, just up to the stage when feasibility studies have been finished and concrete projects are being worked out so that they can be offered for financing to IFAD, IBRD, UNDP, Regional Banks. We feel that such priority requests coming from overall country development programmes should get and will probably get the necessary financial support. Another solution could be the establishment of a true trust fund. Still another we could think of could be probably a combination of the two just mentioned and trying to work out some sort of a special scheme if; needed. ;

H.M. CARANDANG (Philippines): At this stage of the discussion, the Philippines would like to give its views on the reduction of post-harvest losses. There has been a consensus in COAG that this programme of action on the reduction of post-harvest losses be established; the Programme and Finance Committees after looking carefully at the programme have approved it. Nobody has ever seriously questioned the merits of this programme. If there is then a consensus on the merits of this action-programme, the means and the monies have to be found to get this programme off the ground. The Philippines would therefore like to support the Resolution to put up the fund to combat harvest and post-harvest losses, as proposed by COAG and the Programme and Finance Committees.

The importance of the reduction of post-harvest losses is shown by the assessment that a fifty per cent reduction of harvest and post-harvest losses by 1985 would be saving about 40 million tons of cereal or roughly one half of the cereal deficit of developing countries. If this did materialize, we may not even be needing food aid. We know that this is a very ambitious goal, yet we know that the programme for avoiding post-harvest losses is a good start in the right direction. It is hoped that the programme would generate not only more money and funds but also enkindle interest and focus on a major problem and generate action at the country and international level in this direction, as has been outlined by Germany.

The paper of COAG 77/6 in the discussion when it was being taken up in the Committee on Agriculture indicated the various phases, like harvesting, hauling, drying and milling. Losses at these various stages are real and have to be minimized. However, we believe there should be great flexibility in the programme. Conditions vary in different countries. For example, in the paper just cited, in paragraph 11 there is mention of storage losses for a member country due to rodents. In some countries like the Philippines, losses due to rodents when rice is just about to be harvested is staggering. The commitment of our Government to eliminate these losses has met, however, with limited success. Other countries have established concrete programmes with reference to harvest and post-harvest losses. We therefore believe the programme, when implemented, should have great flexibility to deal with concrete problems in the particular country.

Then we would like to support what China mentioned about the use of indigenous technology and methodology which have been accumulated through the ages in some countries which are not too sophisticated and can be adopted by the small farmers who harvest and store the grain. Only by introducing programmes that can be adopted by the small farmers can we hope to make the programme have lasting benefits.

I. OROZCO (México): A mi delegación ya poco le resta añadir a todo lo que han expresado los anteriores oradores. Tan solo debemos expresar la constatación de un hecho, como ya lo ha expresado nuestro colega de Filipinas, de que en realidad aquí existe un consenso sobre un aspecto que es parte medular de las actividades de la FAO, por las cuales este organismo especializado ha sido creado, y al cual todos los países miembros le prestan un apoyo continuo.

Es cierto que aquí sí hay un consenso sobre las dimensiones del problema. Es obvio que se necesita recurrir a los fondos necesarios y que ha sido, si podemos llamar providencial o al azar, que esa cuenta transitoria que había sido prevista para cambios desfavorables en las tasas de cambio, ahora constituya realmente un ahorro y debemos buscar precisamente el mejor uso que podemos dar a ello.

Es por eso que nosotros apoyamos la propuesta como ha sido hecha por el Director General para reforzar las actividades de la FAO para disminuir las pérdidas de las cosechas y posteriores a la recolección. Al hacerlo así, nosotros consideramos que es una medida equilibrada y equitativa de desprendimiento y cooperación de todos los estados miembros a la medida de la escala de su cuota.

También nosotros no consideramos que sea un criterio tan estricto o más bien una enumeración tan estricta de criterios como aparece en el párrafo 119 del informe del COAG. Nosotros estamos de acuerdo con lo expresado por el delegado de Brasil, como por otras delegaciones, de que el criterio debe ser amplio en cuanto el beneficio debe ser a los países en desarrollo en conjunto; y amplio también en el sentido de que los programas deben comprender otros aumentos además de cereales, como son los productos de interés para exportación de los países en desarrollo. Obviamente somos conscientes de la atención especial que se debe dar a los países con particulares problemas entre los países en desarrollo.

O.R. BORIN (Italie): Tout a déjà été dit par d'autres orateurs sur l'importance et l'opportunité de l'initiative du Directeur général visant à réaliser un fonds pour la limitation des pertes après récolte.

Le Directeur général a été à juste titre félicité pour cette initiative, et nous sommes heureux de joindre notre voix à ceux qui reconnaissent la validité, voire la nécessité, de donner une solution prioritaire à ce problème.

La délégation italienne est donc tout à fait d'accord avec l'initiative du Directeur général.

Certes, beaucoup de problèmes techniques devront être étudiés et résolus pour rendre vraiment efficace ce programme, par exemple il ne sera pas facile de mobiliser tous les experts nécessaires dans les différents secteurs. Toutefois, là aussi, nous pouvons faire confiance à l'esprit et à la capacité d'organisation du Directeur général.

Mais si nous nous félicitons avec lui pour cette prise de conscience d'un problème aussi important, nous devons néanmoins, à regret, étant donné la validité de l'initiative, exprimer quelques réserves sur le système de financement du fonds fiduciaire qu'il propose d'établir à ce sujet.

Le programme que l'on envisage est, tout d'abord, un programme de longue haleine, et partant il devra se développer et s'étaler sur plusieurs années. Comment sera-t-il donc possible de financer le fonds sur une longue période en faisant surtout recours aux ressources du compte d'attente qui, par sa nature, a des ressources variables dans le temps? Il y a là, à notre avis, un risque et un danger pour la réussite et la continuité du programme.

Il y a encore un autre argument: les disponibilités du compte d'attente devraient en principe être utilisées pour la stabilisation du taux de change. Nous avons accumulé il est vrai des réserves considérables à cet effet, mais nous voyons avec préoccupation l'utilisation d'un montant aussi important pour d'autres finalités. C'est une question qui a son poids comme question de principe mais, je le répète, le point essentiel est pour nous le fait que le financement du fonds par le compte d'attente n'est pas en mesure d'assurer la continuité du programme qui, dans l'avenir, deviendra aléatoire puisqu'il dépendra des disponibilités d'un compte qui, par sa nature, est variable et incertain.

Malheureusement, je n'ai pas de formules magiques à vous offrir pour résoudre le problème. Le délégué de l'Allemagne fédérale en a proposé quelques-unes qui sont très intéressantes, qui devront être étudiées, et soumises à un examen approfondi.

Pour ce qui nous concerne, j'ai voulu tout simplement vous faire part de certaines perplexités de la délégation italienne, non pas sur le fond de la question et la valeur de l'initiative, mais sur certains aspects techniques de la solution que l'on nous a proposée.

M. L. CAMERON (New Zealand): We have had a very thorough discussion on this item, and on reflection I think it is important and at once appropriate to the programme.

Many of the points that New Zealand would wish to make have already been made by other delegates. Sufficient to say it has our support, especially if the programme, especially as so many speakers have emphasized, is concerned with local, low-cost, and the very simplest solutions possible. This path would lead to quick and significant improvement, both to food supplies and the economic position of small farmers.

We would wish to comment that training in simple technology is imperative and it should be possible to be carried out in the developing countries at farmer level, as although the principles are similar everywhere they will differ in important detail.

New Zealand would be pleased to see the establishment of a post-harvest loss fund, but like a number of delegations we have problems with the proposal to finance part of the funds by the money remaining in the Suspense Account at the end of this biennium. As many other delegations have noted, this would not be good financial practice and would be unacceptable to our delegation.

However, we are sure there is a solution, and as the United Kingdom delegate has suggested, it will be possible to find a solution given more time and thought.

V. ISARANKURA (Thailand): Before we go to the next item, my delegation would like to comment on two things.

First, concerning the information given in the statement in paragraph 2.164 in document CL 71/4, this indicates that the general level of post-harvest losses in the developing countries is 10-20 percent. This is quite accurate. In the case of my country I wish to inform you that in assessing the post-harvest loss on rice - our main food crop - this was about 17 percent of total production. On this particular aspect my delegation wishes to draw the attention of the Council to the question of the need to establish an FAO fund for food loss reduction. We feel this has at present become an even more urgent matter.

My delegation would like therefore to express our total support for the establishment of the fund as well as to urge strongly that this programme be a part of the Regular Programme.

Secondly, my delegation would like to express strongly our support of the proposal for the establishing or maintaining in each FAO regional office one professional post on post-harvest loss reduction as we feel it is very important to our endeavour to reduce post-harvest losses.

Q.H. HAQUE (Bangladesh): This subject was perhaps the most important one when we discussed matters in the Committee on Agriculture. In the Committee of Agriculture, the delegation from Bangladesh very warmly congratulated the Secretariat on the documents that were presented for consideration. This was not just a courtesy felicitation, the delegation very seriously meant that for the first time the Committee came up with very concrete proposals to achieve something in concrete terms.

In the Committee on Agriculture the matters discussed were: (i) the small farmer development, and (ii) the reduction of post-harvest losses. In the Committee on Agriculture as well as in this august Council, as we see, there are no two opinions that these are two very important subjects which demand immediate attention. There are no two opinions that the programmes that have been put forward by the distinguished Director-General of FAO are very good ones. In the Committee on Agriculture as well as here we all agreed that the programme of the post-harvest losses as has been put forward is the first concrete proposal to do something in this direction.

In the Committee on Agriculture the question was raised on how much has been done to reduce the post-harvest losses. We heard a delegate say yesterday that this is not a new thing, it is an old thing, but we became very conscious of it in the 1974 World Food Conference when we saw the post-harvest loss was to the tune of 40 million tons, which is perhaps the total food deficit of the world today.

If we can reduce half of this by 1985 we could reduce the total food deficit by half. Two years have passed since the 1974 World Food Conference, We are very sorry to say that while it is not true that nothing has been done, very little has been done in concrete terms to tackle this gigantic problem.

After being conscious of this, what are we doing so far? We have found a record 40 million tons a year on post-harvest losses, but what has been done? Is FAO supposed to issue statements saying this is the extent of food losses, or is it supposed to do something in concrete terms to say what can be done and what has to be done about it?

The document presented in the Committee on Agriculture clearly showed the cost benefit ratio to tackle this problem. The losses in post-harvesting are at various stages and if we are to tackle this problem at various stages, we see it is very encouraging compared to the investment. The proposals that were put forward were to tackle these problems, but if the investment of \$10 or \$20 million is made what would be the achievement or the extent of the food loss? We represent a food deficit country and know where the shoe pinches. We understand fully what would be meant by the reduction of post-harvest losses. It would mean not only a reduction of post-harvest loss but a reduction in human suffering to that extent in the food deficit countries or in countries where the loss is very high. My colleague from Thailand has just mentioned that in his country the food loss is 17 percent. The Committee on Agriculture was informed that the range of the loss is from 10 to 23 percent. Shall we continue to be onlookers to this or should we try to do something in concrete terms?

The point was raised that further studies are necessary. While further studies are necessary it is certain that we know what is the extent of the loss and what should be done. Should we not make a modest start therefore in concrete terms. In this regard my delegation very warmly congratulates the Director-General for suggesting concrete proposals to make a good start. The point was made that we all agree that the proposals and the programme are noble. Shall we postpone it only because of some technical difficulties or should we accept this? If we do this it would be most unfortunate when we all appreciate that it is a noble and good programme. If there are technical difficulties could we not see how those difficulties could be circumvented so that the programme could be put into operation?

The head of my delegation, the Minister of Agriculture, touched on this subject and expressed his strong views that we support the establishment of a fund. A question has arisen on how the fund money will be utilized and there was apprehension that this money could be eaten up by staff, etc. My delegation feels that these are details which could be worked out and that we could put our trust in our Director-General that while creating the fund he will take care that the money in this fund is utilized mostly for projects, thus making optimum use of staff resources at every level and making only marginal provisions for staff where it is absolutely necessary. In that regard we feel that we can fully trust the Director-General to work out the mechanism for the operation of the fund.

A point was also raised about the time, the studies, etc. We have lost more than two years. Our aim was to reduce post-harvest losses by 50 percent by 1985, which means a reduction of the present loss level to 40 million tons by 1985. We have not done anything substantial. We have not done anything which could satisfy or solace those countries which suffer most to show that we are going in the right direction. Shall we wait longer? Shall we continue to be an onlooker or shall we do something concrete when there is a good proposal? My delegation strongly feels that when we all feel that there is a good proposal and a good programme with a noble aim, a programme to reduce human suffering, then we should be able to overcome the technical and bureaucratic difficulties and be able to contribute to this fund.

A question was also asked about what happens next. If we find \$10 million in the suspense account what happens after that money runs out? The belief of my delegation is, let us make a start and then we will see what we can do next. If the fund becomes operative and does some useful work in concrete terms then we believe that our donor friends will not hesitate to make further contributions in future years when necessary and when the fund is able to show some positive results, good results, from the investment we make with this fund. We believe that we will be able to overcome the technical or bureaucratic difficulties of using the money available in the suspense account which is handy. We see an amount of \$10 million which is idle. Why not use it to reduce human sufferings?

C.M. FOFANA (Observateur pour la Guinée): Vous permettez à ma délégation d'adresser tout d'abord ses vives félicitations pour l'élection des membres du Bureau que vous dirigez. Par la même occasion, nous voulons aussi adresser nos félicitations à la déclaration que le Directeur général de la FAO a bien voulu nous adresser lors de l'ouverture de cette session, en mettant particulièrement l'accent sur la question pertinente qui regarde notre Conseil; mais sur cette question précise, dont on discute, je crois qu'au départ il y a un vice de forme. Nous avons écouté attentivement certaines déclarations dans lesquelles on a tenté de transposer ici, au sein du Conseil, les fonctions essentielles que nous avons affectées aux organes subsidiaires, à savoir l'analyse des questions techniques, les grandes lignes pour définir les méthodes de travail ou, si je me souviens, la fonction essentielle du Conseil est de souligner, sur la base des rapports des organes subsidiaires, les lignes politiques essentielles que ce Conseil devrait recommander à la Conférence. J'ai été surpris d'entendre certaines délégations souligner qu'elles ignoraient encore les motivations précises, les mises en forme, les mises en oeuvre possibles que ce Programme pourrait envisager pour atténuer une question de fond extrêmement importante, notamment pour les pays en développement.

Je me suis donc permis de faire un parallèle entre les déclarations de ces délégations au sein non seulement de la Conférence mondiale de l'alimentation mais au sein également de la Conférence générale de la FAO en tenant compte des résolutions de la septième session extraordinaire des Nations Unies et là je me suis réjoui d'entendre le Représentant des Etats Unis nous rappeler que c'était un de ses anciens Ministres, le Dr Kissinger, qui avait lui-même mis l'accent sur cette question de lutte contre les pertes, mais j'ai été en même temps surpris quand j'ai entendu la suite de sa déclaration lorsqu'il a demandé que cette question soit envoyée à 1981 en vue d'étude par une Commission d'experts. Je pensais qu'en 1976, au cours de la septième session, le Dr Kissinger aurait pu peut-être dès lors souligner la composition d'une telle commission d'experts pour l'immédiat, car il s'agit d'une question immédiate. Il est vrai que cette question, qui est extrêmement importante, que le Secrétariat de la FAO a justement soulignée en nous proposant une mise en oeuvre pratique concrète et immédiate, doit être considérée de façon juste par le Conseil.

Aussi, puisque notre délégation a eu à se prononcer sur cette question, je ne me rallierai qu'à la déclaration faite par le Représentant de l'Inde qui a rappelé justement pourquoi, comment et quand ce programme? Quelles sont les méthodes que la FAO devrait adopter pour aider les pays qui sont les plus gravement touchés afin de limiter - car on parle uniquement de réduire - les pertes. Ici on ne met pas l'accent sur l'éradication totale des pertes, on dit "réduire" les pertes, cela veut dire qu'avec même la mise en oeuvre de ce programme il nous restera encore à faire des efforts, des efforts et des efforts afin de supprimer totalement ces pertes.

Là, le Représentant du Bangladesh vient de mettre l'accent sur le niveau de ces pertes, mais certainement dans un seul domaine le domaine céréalier. Il nous a dit que les pertes actuelles pourraient être évaluées à 44 ou 40 millions de tonnes. Je crois que ce niveau est extrêmement important et je sais aussi que si on arrivait à l'atteindre on limiterait les pertes en acceptant un consensus et aussi en appuyant ce consensus par la volonté politique que nous avons exprimée au cours de la septième session, qui est consignée dans des résolutions précises que nous avons reprises aussi au cours des sessions techniques des organes subsidiaires, que le Conseil est aujourd'hui amené à reconduire pour la Conférence générale en vue d'adoption et de mise en oeuvre. Et ceci est une question tout à fait juste.

Certains pays (qui s'opposent par des arguments qui d'ailleurs ne sont pas des arguments convaincants mais des arguments qui les mettent en contradiction vis-à-vis de leurs déclarations antérieures dans d'autres enceintes et à d'autres moments), devraient certainement reconsidérer leur position. Nous sommes reconnaissants envers ces pays qui se préoccupent de l'accroissement de la production dans les pays en développement, mais il y a aussi un autre facteur que nous n'avons pas suffisamment souligné: ces pertes, que nous voulons admettre alors que nous savons que nous devrions les limiter, si nous les maintenons, est-ce que ces délégations ont essayé d'estimer les pertes en vies humaines que cela peut provoquer dans la population mondiale ?

Outre ces pertes en vies humaines il y a aussi les facteurs connexes tels que les pertes d'énergie, car il serait dommage que l'on s'éreinte à faire un travail prodigieux alors que pour d'autres facteurs nous avons la possibilité de les limiter, par exemple par la lutte contre les maladies, contre les insectes, les ravageurs et aussi contre les fléaux naturels qui peuvent s'abattre subitement sur des populations ou des pays dont nous avons vécu l'exemple dans plusieurs pays ces dernières années.

Il y a aussi que ce programme sous-tend un facteur sur lequel il y a déjà un consensus à savoir qu'à travers ce programme la FAO peut procéder à un transfert de techniques et de technologie vers les pays en voie de développement. Je crois que les pays qui ont des difficultés devraient voir plus loin que le niveau des économies faites par la FAO en congelant certaines défaillances qui étaient entretenues auparavant par les prédécesseurs du Directeur général actuel et sur lesquelles il s'est penché de façon concrète, et d'ailleurs sur nos recommandations, je souligne par exemple la lutte contre le bureaucratie, les doubles-emplois, la décentralisation, qui sont des facteurs à partir desquels la FAO a réussi à faire une économie.

Maintenant il y a des gouvernements qui demandent que ce Fonds soit redistribué. Je crois que cette méthode - je m'excuse auprès de ces délégations - n'est pas une chose que nous devrions commencer aujourd'hui car si l'on devait insister sur ce facteur de redistribution selon le quota, je me demande en pratique en quoi cela pourrait changer le niveau de leur budget actuel. Un pays qui participe par exemple à 25 pour cent se retrouverait peut-être avec 2 500 dollars ou 2 000 dollars, mais est-ce que concrètement, réellement ces 2 500 dollars qui peuvent être maintenus dans ce compte d'attente et qui vont être distribués pour des programmes concrets afin de limiter la souffrance des peuples du monde, afin de réduire l'écart entre les pauvres et les riches, entre ceux qui connaissent la haute technologie et ceux qui cherchent à décoller leur propre technologie, est-ce que ces 2 500 dollars auront une réelle efficacité? Et d'ailleurs, je l'ai remarqué, je crois que ces délégations seront d'accord avec nous, avec le Conseil et tous ceux qui se sont prononcés pour soutenir ce programme. Il y a des sacrifices qu'il faut faire et quand je dis sacrifice ce n'est pas dans le sens humanitaire du terme mais dans le sens de la volonté politique. C'est pour cela que ma délégation voudrait lancer un appel afin que, premièrement, nous soyons conséquents envers nous-mêmes et que lorsqu'il y a des résolutions les volontés se joignent, se conjuguent pour les mettre en oeuvre.

La résolution proposée à l'annexe F du Document CL 71/4 est une résolution qui ne devrait pas poser de problèmes. C'est un projet de résolution que nous devrions adopter par acclamations car cela n'est qu'une mise en oeuvre des recommandations que nous avons déjà faites et cela ne pourrait certainement que renforcer la coopération, nos volontés politiques, ce qui ne remet pas en cause - car beaucoup de pays en développement l'ont souligné - les programmes nationaux éventuels dans ce secteur. Dix millions ne peuvent être qu'un renfort pour ces programmes nationaux, il faut le faire et il faut l'accepter car le moment historique le demande.

Maintenant, après cette première mise en oeuvre, nous pourrions demander au Secrétariat de nous faire une étude pour voir dans quelle mesure on pourrait élargir le programme et dans quelle mesure d'autres organisations nouvelles comme le FIDA, sur lequel on a mis l'accent, pourraient apporter leur concours à la FAO, afin, non plus de réduire les pertes mais de les radier complètement. Je pense que le facteur FIDA ne devrait pas être soulevé au sein de cette organisation car le FIDA n'est pas encore créé donc on ne peut pas dire à un homme qui meurt de faim que l'on va passer des commandes à l'autre bout du monde afin de lui donner à manger. Je crois que c'est le problème et il faut être concret.

Les problèmes que nous examinons sont des problèmes de vies d'hommes, de vies de peuples et de bien-être.

C'est cela qui doit animer notre volonté politique et je suis certain que le Conseil adoptera la proposition faite par le Secrétariat et qui est soulignée dans le projet de résolution.

S.S.M. EL FAKI (Sudan) (interpretation from Arabie): It is clear from the discussions that took place yesterday and today that all participants are in agreement as to the paramount importance of this matter, that is, reducing post-harvest losses. Everyone agrees on this and the shortfall in food production as well as the losses before, during, and after harvest, are crucial problems because, in fact what we are aiming at in any agricultural production is to have maximum production.

Therefore, the delegation of Sudan is convinced that setting up a special fund for reducing post-harvest losses is in fact the best means we can adopt now. We therefore cannot but pay tribute to the good intentions which underlie this initiative taken by the Director-General and we are convinced that a special fund for reducing post-harvest losses is vital for the very reasons we have often discussed here. Furthermore, setting up this special fund will enable FAO and its Director-General to be in a position to face any emergency. As an example, the delegate of Egypt has shown that pests reduced harvests even in the field, and there is another scourge which should also be eliminated, and that is rats and rodents because the Third World countries have been facing this scourge, the rodents which destroy the crops. And unfortunately, Third World countries did not have the necessary means to face this scourge and we are convinced that such an initiative and such a fund will enable FAO to face this kind of situation.

Some delegates have said that reducing post-harvest losses can be done bilaterally, that is, through agreements between countries, but you surely are aware of the fact that these agreements are subjected to political or economic contracts, whereas FAO, as we all know, is subject to none of these contracts: FAO as an international institution has possibility for action.

Therefore the Sudan delegation fully supports the proposal put forward by the Director-General of FAO, that is, to set up a special fund for reducing post-harvest losses; and we voice the wish that this fund be considered by all Member States. The allocation of \$10 million to this fund must be done on the basis of the suspense account, and \$10 million more should be added as participation of Member States.

N. M. MWAUNGULU (Malawi) : The Malawi delegation would like to join everyone who has spoken before that the initiative by the Director-General to reduce harvest and post-harvest losses is a practical one to deal with a practical problem. Malawi as an agricultural country is very conscious of the importance of reducing harvest and post-harvest losses. Its agricultural extension services and its very important institution in this respect, the Agricultural Development and Marketing Corporation, include these questions, and even the avoidance actually of harvest and post-harvest losses, in their operational programmes.

It is in the light of this recognition of the problem, of the importance of the subject, that the Malawi delegation gives support to the Director-General's initiative. In fact, it is clear that this initiative has been universally recognized and supported by the Council. Therefore, the establishment of the fund would appear, as far as the Malawi delegation is concerned, to require only a practical mechanism which we believe can be worked out if there is goodwill all round to deal with the problem in a practical manner.

L. LAPEBY (Gabon): Je voudrais tout d'abord remercier le Directeur général pour avoir accédé aussi rapidement à une demande qui lui a été faite par ce même Conseil, il n'y a pas huit mois. Lorsqu'il s'agit de la situation mondiale de l'alimentation, qu'il me soit permis de relever ici que l'augmentation enregistrée dans le domaine de l'alimentation en général fait intervenir plusieurs facteurs. Je ne voudrais pas, en rappelant ces facteurs, dire que la situation alimentaire n'a pas fait l'objet de commentaires, mais je voudrais qu'on examine ces facteurs et que l'on se rende compte que le document y relatif le précise, (et ce n'est pas une trouvaille personnelle, encore que n'importe qui l'aurait pensé), cette augmentation est due à la clémence du temps, c'est-à-dire à un facteur incontrôlable.

Depuis deux ans que nous avons enregistré les prix des produits agricoles en général, à telle enseigne que telles entreprises de transformation dans les pays en voie de développement ne pouvant plus s'approvisionner ont dû momentanément fermer, cette augmentation des prix a entraîné une augmentation des surfaces cultivées, et je dirais même à plus grande échelle dans les pays développés. Ce facteur est un facteur conjoncturel.

Le troisième facteur est dû, et je ne pense pas le rappeler inutilement, à l'amélioration de la conjoncture des inputs, notamment les approvisionnements en engrais. La situation paraît favorable maintenant mais que cette situation ne nous fasse pas oublier la crise que nous avons traversée. J'en viens à cette crise de l'alimentation qui a été une sonnette d'alarme et qui a incité les pays en développement à prendre comme leitmotiv: "Commencer par s'aider soi-même". Enfin, parmi les facteurs, je terminerai par la tendance à la reconstitution des stocks qui n'est pas seulement le fait de l'augmentation des récoltes mais aussi le fait, (et beaucoup semblent l'oublier) que des couches de populations n'arrivent pas à accéder aux prix actuellement pratiqués, et, par conséquent, n'arrivent pas à se nourrir suffisamment.

Ces facteurs, je tenais à les rappeler pour souligner que tout ce qui peut conduire à une augmentation des disponibilités alimentaires doit revêtir pour nous un caractère de priorité. Beaucoup de facteurs sont des facteurs qui ne sont pas le fait de l'homme tout en étant le fait de l'homme. Je m'explique. L'homme a voulu changer la nature et en changeant la nature, a., par moments, essayé de sa rebiffer si l'on peut dire, et posé des problèmes à l'homme. L'un de ces problèmes est celui que nous étudions en ce moment: les pertes après et avant récoltes. Sur le plan des engagements, si nous reconnaissons comme cela l'a déjà été dans plusieurs enceintes, que les engagements pour l'agriculture malgré leur accroissement, restent inférieurs aux estimations de novembre 1974 au Palais des Congrès de cette antique cité, historique, merveilleuse, tout ce que l'on voudra ... qui abrite notre Organisation, je voudrais que l'on se rappelle aussi que l'histoire n'est qu'un éternel recommencement et que l'on n'oublie pas si tôt les raisons qui ont amené des représentants à un très haut niveau, du monde entier, à se retrouver à Rome pour discuter des problèmes alimentaires et accepter que des mesures spéciales, (c'est le terme qui est utilisé dans la Résolution adoptée par la Conférence mondiale de l'alimentation) soient prises pour lutter contre les pertes après et avant récoltes.

Si nous reconnaissons donc que ces engagements laissent apparaître un écart nous ne serions pas logiques avec nous-même, avec notre conscience, avec nos aspirations, avec les préoccupations de nos gouvernements pour accepter, faire des éloges au programme qui nous est proposé. Mais je laisserai un "mais" quant au moyen de mettre en oeuvre tout ce programme. Je dirai même que nous ne serions pas conséquents avec nous-mêmes puisque c'est nous qui avons demandé (je parle du Conseil), une proposition concrète au Directeur général. Je dirai de plus que d'après les conclusions tirées par différents organes comme le Comité de l'agriculture, Comité du Programme, Comité financier, qui ont mieux que nous, je ne dirai pas que nous ne sommes pas compétents, il y a suffisamment de compétences ici pour étudier à fond ce programme mais ils ont eu le temps, la capacité, de projeter et de réaliser objectivement ce programme et puisqu'il s'agit de vérifications, je crois avoir lu dans le rapport qui nous est présenté, que le Comité des programmes s'est même renseigné auprès des autres organisations de la famille des Nations Unies; comment le Conseil pourrait-il ne pas accepter la solution pragmatique qui nous est offerte pour que ce programme puisse voir effectivement le jour? le Directeur général nous a proposé un programme et c'est ce que nous lui demandions mais il avait déjà annoncé en novembre un ordre de grandeur de ce programme. Cet ordre de grandeur n'avait pratiquement pas été contesté et il était le double du financement qu'il a trouvé. Il ne demande de financement à aucun pays dans le cadre du budget ordinaire. C'est un financement de conjoncture. Je suis surpris que certaines délégations veuillent demander que ces surplus dus à la conjoncture internationale soient redistribués. Soyons logiques, Monsieur le Président. Le représentant des Etats-Unis ne peut pas me dire que 2 500 000 dollars représentent pour son pays quelque chose d'important. Si nous prenons par ordre alphabétique les pays du Groupe des 77, l'Argentine ne peut pas me dire que 100 000 dollars représentent quelque chose d'important pour son agriculture ou ses finances publiques.

Nous devons nous débarrasser de quatre ans de principes, car les principes n'ont jamais abouti qu'à des oppositions entre gens bien pensants.

Je sais qu'il y a des difficultés techniques. Certains ont dit qu'on ne peut pas trouver de solution magique, c'est évident. Mais si quelqu'un trouve une solution, il est malheureux que systématiquement on trouve que cette solution n'est pas en accord avec les principes. La meilleure école est l'expérience et les leçons que l'on peut tirer de l'expérience.

Nul ne peut aujourd'hui donner son adhésion à un programme et prétendre qu'on ne peut pas lui donner des moyens financiers sous le prétexte que l'on ne voit pas où et comment il faudrait mettre en oeuvre ce programme. Je ne suis pas d'accord pour que l'on fasse encore des études. Ceux qui ont suivi les problèmes de développement dans les pays en voie de développement savent qu'il y a des moments où les dirigeants de ces pays disent: nous en avons assez de faire des études, de payer des études dont nous ne voyons pas le résultat. Soyons raisonnables, supprimons le problème des études et travaillons avec un peu de pragmatisme.

Certains d'entre nous se rappelleront peut-être les difficultés que les opérations du Sahel ont rencontrées au départ. Je pense que tous ont apprécié la tournure des événements lorsque, au fur et à mesure que se posaient les difficultés, les organisations responsables des secours mettaient en oeuvre des solutions mieux adaptées que celles que nous aurions trouvées dans cette enceinte, parce qu'elles étaient sur le terrain, parce qu'elles voyaient les nécessités et les objectifs.

Dans beaucoup de cas, nous ne sommes pas les responsables de nos productions agricoles. Beaucoup de produits que nous cultivons ont été introduits chez nous. Pouvons-nous dire qu'en introduisant ces produits, on a introduit également les méthodes, les technologies de conservation de ces produits jusqu'à l'exportation? Dans la plupart des cas, on s'est contenté des moyens qu'offrait le milieu et on n'a pas cherché à améliorer une solution qu'on ne pouvait pas prévoir puisqu'on ne connaissait pas les réactions que ces productions rencontreraient dans nos pays.

Après ces 10 millions de départ, on se demande ce qui sera fait. Mais puisque le programme rencontre notre adhésion unanime, je crois qu'après avoir utilisé ces 10 millions de dollars, cela représente pour nous un devoir historique de trouver les moyens pour continuer le programme.

Je terminerai en disant qu'il y a des moments où le plus pauvre des pauvres, comme le plus riche des riches, doit savoir garder une dignité noble sans pour autant que cette dignité sente la pauvreté ou la richesse. Je voudrais donc que le programme accepté par le Conseil soit accompagné de l'acceptation de la proposition de financement qui nous est faite par le Directeur général, sinon je garderai l'impression que l'odeur de l'argent attise les passions. Or quand il s'agit de la faim, l'argent ne devrait plus avoir d'odeur. On nous a fait des propositions courageuses. Il nous appartient de le recommander à la Conférence. J'irai même plus loin, je voudrais que notre Organisation qui a peu de moyens, qui a eu des difficultés lorsque le CNUD se trouvait lui-même en difficulté, puisse dès maintenant se prémunir et prévoir, non pas un fonds de roulement, mais une réserve qui lui permette de ne pas essayer les éblouissements d'une autre Organisation.

Notre Organisation a pour mission de faire que l'homme vive. Pour cela, je crois que tous les efforts doivent être faits. Ne mettons pas au monde un beau bébé rose si nous le laissons sans lait.

E. CHELBI (Tunisie): Prenant la parole après bon nombre d'honorables délégués, ma délégation n'insistera pas beaucoup sur l'importance et la nécessité de déployer le maximum d'efforts afin d'éviter les pertes alimentaires.

Convaincue qu'une telle action ne pourrait être menée à bien que si elle trouvait un financement individualisé, ma délégation se félicite de la proposition tendant à lui créer un fonds spécial.

Certes, les critères et les modalités d'intervention de ce fonds ne sont pas à ce stade bien définies.

Nous n'en faisons pas pour autant cornine l'honorable délégué l'Argentine, un préalable à l'approbation

du principe de création de ce fonds. Nous sommes convaincus que le directeur général nous donnera dans le meilleur délai les explications que nous attendons.

Il se trouve qu'à la fin de l'année 1977, fort heureusement, notre Organisation réalisera des économies de 15 millions de dollars dont 5 millions seraient virés au fonds de réserve spéciale. Les 10 millions qui restent seraient virés, selon la proposition du Directeur général, à un compte d'attente, et nous approuvons sans réserve la proposition tendant à verser cette somme au fonds dont on envisage la création.

Notre approbation est motivée par plusieurs raisons.

D'abord, nous estimons que la proposition du Directeur général ne va pas à l'encontre des principes de bonne gestion financière, car il s'agit, ne l'oublions pas, d'une économie exceptionnelle et il est fort peu probable qu'elle se reproduise à un niveau aussi important que celui de 15 millions de dollars.

Ensuite, la force avec laquelle unanimement toutes les délégations ont défendu le programme ne manquera pas de se traduire, du moins nous l'espérons, par une contribution des différents pays plus importante que leurs quotes-parts respectives dans les 10 millions de dollars. De la sorte, il s'agira d'une avance minimale dont l'intérêt majeur est de permettre d'accélérer l'entrée en action du programme. Il ne vous échappe pas en effet que plus tôt le programme entrera en action, plus nous éviterons les pertes et plus nous nous rapprocherons de notre objectif.

H. CUEVA EGUIGUREN (Ecuador): En la tarde de ayer y esta mañana hemos escuchado intervenciones de miembros de este Consejo que han dado múltiples razones valederas e incontrovertibles sobre la necesidad de aceptar la propuesta hecha por el Director General en orden a alcanzar la reducción de pérdidas en las cosechas y las que se sufra después de la recolección. Por ello mi delegación que hace suyos todos esos argumentos se limitará a expresar su decidido apoyo a la propuesta hecha por el Director General, así como a la creación del fondo que la hará factible.

Mi delegación estima, por otra parte, que problemas formales que puede contener con voluntad y estudio pueden ser fácilmente superados.

D. DAUGHERTY (United States of America): I apologize for asking for the floor again, but I am disturbed by the possibility that there has been some difficulty in translation in the French and the Spanish, of my delegate's statement earlier. To set that record straight I would like to quote a very few lines simply to indicate what my delegate did say so that that translation can be corrected.

He said, "FAO's model programme aimed at improving the capacity of countries to deal with the problems of post-harvest losses appears soundly based and adequate to stimulate attention and actions by Member Governments, and we heartily endorse it.

"In closing, Mr. Chairman, we believe that FAO should take steps now to ensure positive and effective follow-up of post-harvest loss activities. In this regard we propose that FAO plan to convene in 1980 or 1981 a consultation of post-harvest loss experts to evaluate progress and to recommend any needed new directions for more effective operation of the loss reduction programme".

J.C. VIGNAUD (Argentina): Lamento tomar nuevamente la palabra, pero entiendo que el delegado de Túnez hizo referencia a mi intervención de ayer y eso me lleva a hacer también alguna aclaración en relación con el alcance de nuestra intervención.

No voy a repetir todo lo que dije sino simplemente que en lo que respecta al fondo nuestra delegación expresó dudas por falta de información y conclusión, diciendo que esperaba poder contar con información adicional para poder pronunciarse en definitiva acerca de esa propuesta.

J.O. ALABI (Observer for Nigeria): My delegation is happy to note that members of the Council generally support the Director-General's programme on the reduction of harvest and post-harvest losses. We also support the programme. The only point of difference is that the method of funding is not certain.

All Council members agree that it is very urgent that we should reduce these losses. Donor countries are helping the developing countries to increase their food production by giving millions of dollars in the form of aid. Donor countries I am sure will be quite willing to help further in providing funds for this programme. We are aware that on technical grounds, money in the suspense account should go back to countries which made contribution, but in the interest of the many hungry people in the world, most of whom are in developing countries, and in view of the length of time it takes to get pledges by governments because of the difficulty and long process of taking money out of treasuries, the Council may wish to consider the Director-General's proposal that \$10 million out of the suspense account should be used to finance the programme in the first instance. We do not say that the programme should be wholly financed by the suspense account, but we believe that this will be a beginning. While we wait for response from donors to give money for the fund, the money from the suspense account could be used as a start.

If the surplus from the suspense account is distributed, probably only a few thousand dollars will go to each contributing country, but if the money is left intact we will be able to achieve our desire of preventing post-harvest losses.

I quite appreciate the concern of Member Nations regarding the use of government funds. Maybe we should find a way around the problem, as has been suggested by the Netherlands and the United Kingdom, so that we can ask the Conference to authorize that \$10 million out of the money in the suspense account should be used to finance post-harvest losses.

Let us not deceive ourselves by saying that to support the Director-General's programme it is not enough for us to support it; we have to make the money available now if we want the programme to start immediately.

If we have to wait for pledges from governments we will wait for more than two years. We are all witnesses of the long journey towards the creation of IFAD. We have had studies on the problem and we know what the problems are.

We need action now, and people are very hungry. We ask Council to consider very seriously the Director General's proposal for the funding of the programme.

S.A.H. AL SHAKIR (Observer for Iraq) (interpretation from Arabic): I shall be very brief because you have asked us to be. To begin with, I would like to thank the Director-General and the Secretariat of FAO as well as the representative of the Group of 77 for the statement that he made. My comments on his subject show the interest and importance which my country attaches to this vital matter.

The setting up of this programme to reduce the post-harvest losses has become a very necessary and urgent matter because we know that these losses can be explained away by different reasons which ... differ from country to country, and the representatives of Guinea, Gabon and China have pointed out a number of points that I was going to raise.

The importance of this programme should lead us to enable the Director-General to put the programme into operation, and this means we must give him the financial means to do so. To finance the programme would be a profitable investment, and that is why we must find means of financing it so as to be able to implement it.

With respect to the suspense account and the transfer of part of its carryover to other accounts, we think that should it be shared out amongst member countries world opinion will say that FAO is setting up in business, and is producing capital and savings while other organizations are in fact in debt and spending more than they should. So I think FAO should use this carryover to finance its other activities. Furthermore, this programme is unique, and if it is going to be financed in this way it will be financed in a most unusual and original fashion.

We do want to attain some of the objectives this Organization has set itself. Given that this programme is an economic one -and the representative of Bangladesh has given us many reasons for supporting it- we feel that to use \$10 million within the special fund will be something easier than a technical framework. We support all the proposals to carry out national campaigns drawing the attention of farmers and peasants to the need to reduce harvest and post-harvest losses.

Finally, I would like to say that we are confident that the Director-General and the Organization, our Organization, will make every effort to ensure the programme will be as beneficial to the populations of our countries as we would wish.

I. BIRSEL (Observateur pour la Turquie): L'Importance de la question de la réduction des pertes alimentaires, et surtout la tournure des débats sur cette question, m'ont incité à demander la parole.

Je serai bref, car une grande partie de ce que je voudrais exposer a déjà été exprimé, notamment par plusieurs des orateurs qui m'ont précédé. D'ailleurs, je me sens dans l'obligation d'être bref en tant qu'observateur du Conseil.

Sans nul doute l'importance et l'ampleur de la question de la réduction des pertes alimentaires n'échappe à personne dans cette salle.

Nous avons tous été d'accord au sein de différents organes de la FAO pour reconnaître l'importance de la question. En effet, la lutte contre les pertes alimentaires est une question vieille comme l'agriculture elle-même. Tout au long de l'histoire du développement agricole, tous les agriculteurs de nos pays, qu'il s'agisse des pays développés ou des pays en voie de développement, ont subi des pertes qui leur ont toujours coûté cher, qui ont coûté cher à l'ensemble de l'économie de nos pays respectifs.

L'importance du problème réside aussi dans la disparité même qui existe dans ce domaine entre les pays développés et les pays en développement. En effet, l'ampleur du problème ressort d'une simple comparaison entre les pertes subies après récolte dans les pays en voie de développement, soit 10 à 20 pour cent, et les pertes subies dans les pays développés, soit 1 à 2 pour cent.

En Turquie, pays essentiellement agricole, nous avons subi dans différentes régions et pour différentes sortes de produits, des pertes considérables par l'humidité, par la chaleur ou pour plusieurs autres raisons.

Nous sommes là pour chercher et trouver d'un commun accord, des moyens efficaces dans la lutte que chacun de nos pays livre pour éviter les expériences malheureuses que nous avons subies.

Le Comité de l'agriculture à sa quatrième session a été saisi de la proposition du Directeur général touchant l'établissement d'un programme d'action dans ce domaine; qu'il me soit permis de réitérer le plein appui de la Turquie pour le programme d'action proposé par le Directeur général. En effet, comme nous l'avons déclaré, lors de la dernière session du Comité de l'agriculture, nous nous félicitons que le Directeur général veuille faire de la réduction des pertes alimentaires un des domaines d'action prioritaires de la FAO.

La question sur laquelle nous devons nous concerter aujourd'hui est celle de savoir si nous sommes d'accord sur le principe de créer à la FAO un fonds pour la réduction des pertes alimentaires. Au lieu de parler de la création d'un fonds, on doit parler plutôt du versement d'une somme (jusqu'à concurrence de dix millions de dollars, prélevés sur le compte d'attente) à un nouveau fonds qui serait destiné à subvenir aux besoins des pays en voie de développement dans leur lutte contre les pertes alimentaires. En somme la création du Fonds consiste en une simple mesure financière, interne à la FAO. A vrai dire, ce n'est pas un Fonds qui doit être créé de toutes pièces par des versements supplémentaires des pays traditionnellement donateurs. Il s'agit d'un Fonds dans lequel se trouve une partie des contributions de tous les pays membres, qu'il s'agisse des pays développés ou des pays en voie de développement.

En d'autres termes, les pays en développement, en apportant leur appui au programme du Directeur général, ont consenti à contribuer, ne fût-ce que dans des proportions modestes, à l'établissement en partie par leur propre argent d'un fonds spécial destiné à résoudre le problème dans le domaine des pertes alimentaires après la récolte.

Voilà quelques brèves observations que je tenais à formuler. L'essentiel est qu'avant tout nous devons nous efforcer de nous entendre sur le nécessité et sur le principe de l'établissement d'un fonds spécial.

Le fonctionnement du fonds, le choix des bénéficiaires, l'étendue du programme à financer, la nécessité d'accroître ou non les ressources disponibles, sur toutes ces questions on peut utilement procéder à un échange de vues et trouver une formule qui puisse réunir l'accord de tous.

En conclusion, nous pouvons dire que tous les membres ont apporté leur appui au programme d'action proposé par le Directeur général. Il est difficile de concevoir qu'un programme d'action qui a recueilli le consensus de tous soit démuné de tout support financier. Certes, il peut y avoir différentes formules de financement de ce programme, mais la formule présentée par le Directeur général est l'une d'entre elles; elle est pratique, sage, et nous tenons à donner notre plein appui à cette formule d'établissement d'un fonds spécial, qui doit faire du reste partie intégrante du programme d'action.

B. DE AZEVEDO BRITO (Brazil): It is quite clear that we had an extremely interesting debate yesterday afternoon and also this morning and there is a basic convergence of views on the importance of this subject and the need for urgent action.

Here I want to make quite clear that it should be possible for the proposal to be approved on its specific merits and without making a precedent; I propose as a compromise first that the Council take note of the different views expressed, and second, that the Council approve the proposal presented by the Director-General and supported by the Programme and Finance Committees.

This I believe will be a fair compromise, so that the Council can take action whilst taking account of the different views expressed.

A.A.W.LANDYMORE (United Kingdom): Thank you Mr. Chairman for allowing me to speak for the second time. The delegate for Brazil has put forward an interesting solution for the conclusion of what the Council wishes to see done which in passing I would like to say I think we could have reached at least twenty speeches ago!

I would just like to recall one thing, and that is the suggestion that was made by this delegation yesterday, that the draft resolution which has been appended is susceptible to consideration and amendment in the light of principles which at least some governments are attached to, not out of wrongheadedness but out of the requirements of their actual governmental systems.

This delegation suggested that the search for acceptable formulae which would reconcile the method of financing with the principles to which they attach importance might be pursued between now and the next Council -that is to say the Council which meets before the Conference. In other words. my delegation would support the view that we approve as a Council at this stage the idea of a programme as put forward by the Director-General.

We approve the idea that the programme will need to have financial backing, but as far as the refinement of the means of financing from the suspense account is concerned we should defer a decision of that until the next Council. That was a proposal put forward by my delegation yesterday.

We believe there is a way of financing which will reconcile principle with pragmatic requirements, and we strongly recommend that should be pursued on a basis where we can perhaps by the next Council

secure not only a full consensus but even unanimity on the way of setting about things.

EL PRESIDENTE: Ya no hay ningún orador. Oiremos ahora en primer lugar al Presidente del Comité de Finanzas, luego al Director General y, finalmente, yo, que soy el Presidente del Consejo, propondré a ustedes el resumen del debate a la luz de las intervenciones que han tenido lugar.

M. BEL HADJ AMOR (Président par intérim du Comité financier): Je crois qu'il est nécessaire, Monsieur le Président, que je vous redemande la parole parce que j'ai l'impression qu'il y a pas mal de points obscurs et je ne m'attendais par du tout que le Conseil trouve quelque obscurité que ce soit dans cette proposition ou la recommandation du Comité financier.

Je dois dire que ma première remarque s'adressera d'abord à vous, Monsieur le Président, parce que j'ai voulu être discipliné et suivre la recommandation que vous avez faite au début de notre session, à savoir que la présentation des points doit être aussi brève que possible. C'est ce que j'ai essayé de faire. J'ai attiré l'attention sur la conclusion des travaux du Comité mais j'ai constaté que le Conseil veut connaître même le "background", si ce n'est le détail des débats qui ont eu lieu au sein du Comité financier et là, je vais essayer de répondre -et aux remarques saillantes qui ont été faites et aux pays qui les ont présentées.

Tout d'abord, je m'adresserai à mon ami Vignaud, de l'Argentine, qui a demandé quelles sont les motivations qui ont guidé les débats du Comité financier pour arriver à une pareille conclusion. Je dois dire que je suis très surpris d'une semblable demande, surtout lorsqu'elle émane d'une personne comme M. Vignaud qui a l'habitude des instances internationales, qui connaît les résultats de la plupart des sessions et des réunions qui ont eu lieu dans le système des Nations Unies. Là, je crois qu'il est inutile de lui rappeler ce qui a été décidé. J'attire seulement son attention sur le paragraphe du rapport du Comité financier 3-132 qui concerne les recommandations de la septième session extraordinaire de l'Assemblée générale des Nations Unies et de la Conférence mondiale de l'alimentation, recommandations qui, j'en suis certain, ont eu la collaboration de M. Vignaud quant à leur rédaction même. Maintenant, s'il veut que je lui fournisse les documents concernant ces deux sessions, je suis prêt à le faire, mais je suis certain qu'il m'épargnera quand même cette peine, en tous cas je l'espère, car je crois que quand il avait fait ses déclarations il avait dit que, de toute façon, après peut-être certaines clarifications l'Argentine pourrait éliminer les réserves qu'elle avait formulées contre cette proposition.

De toute façon, si ce n'est pas assez clair, s'il a d'autres questions à poser, je suis prêt à lui répondre et je le ferai même dans les réponses que je vais faire maintenant aux autres délégués, ce qui lui permettra certainement d'avoir d'autres clarifications.

De là, je passe à M. Weill, qui a fait, je le reconnais, quelques bonnes suggestions concernant la manière de traiter ce problème. Je dois lui dire que je sympathise beaucoup avec les points de vue qu'il a présentés, mais le Comité financier - je le dis très sincèrement - juge quand même sa proposition beaucoup plus simple.

Là, je voudrais inviter M. Bakker, des Pays-Bas, à se rendre avec moi à l'église puisqu'il a parlé de dogmes et de principes, non pas pour la messe de minuit mais uniquement pour se pencher un peu sur deux organismes de l'Eglise, et là je suis certain que Mgr. Ferrari-Toniolo va écouter avec attention. Je voudrais parler simplement de la Sacra Rota et du Concistoro. Normalement, ces deux organismes arrivent même parfois à chatouiller les principes. Je crois que j'ai répondu à votre question.

De là, j'arrive à mon voisin de table, M. Martin. Tout le monde sait que M. Martin est un optimiste. J'en suis personnellement convaincu, et je sympathise avec la perspective dont il voit la prochaine réunion des experts en 1980/81. Mais je crois toutefois que nous avons une situation d'urgence et on pourrait anticiper en attendant les résultats des travaux de cette réunion et proposer quelque chose de concret aux pays qui en ont vraiment besoin. Lorsque se tiendra la réunion, si l'on apporte de nouvelles propositions, nous sommes prêts à ce moment-là à amender la formule du Fonds spécial que recommande le Comité financier. Là aussi, j'ai beaucoup apprécié son esprit pratique. Il a parlé d'échanges de chèques. Je puis vous garantir que s'il était venu avec le chèque cette fois-ci, automatiquement, le Comité financier lui aurait rendu ce qui devait rester à la fin de ce biennium. Mais ce n'est pas possible d'obtenir le chèque; il vaut mieux se contenter de ce que l'on a maintenant, car je dois vous dire que la devise du Comité financier est la suivante: "Un tiens vaut mieux que deux tu l'auras". Je voudrais revenir maintenant au délégué des Etats-Unis. Je suis personnellement convaincu que les Etats-Unis ne perdent pas leur temps seulement en mots et que très souvent, quand ils énoncent un principe, ils s'arrangent toujours pour joindre le geste à la parole. J'ai noté avec plaisir que les motivations qui ont conduit le Comité financier à appuyer cette proposition et à la recommander au Conseil sont partagées, et même que les points présentés concernant la validité, la priorité et la nécessité de faire quelque chose pour la réduction des pertes alimentaires, ils les partagent également. Il y a les bons mots mais pas de quoi les financer. Je voudrais quand même rappeler à l'honorable délégué des Etats-Unis que le Comité financier ne propose pas quelque chose de spécial. Il est arrivé, dans cette Organisation, et certainement dans d'autres Organisations, qu'un solde qui devait être redistribué aux Etats Membres a été réutilisé avec la volonté des Etats Membres et par résolution de la Conférence, à d'autres fins. Donc, ce n'est vraiment pas quelque chose de spécial. Tout ce que je pourrai faire, c'est peut-être inviter le délégué des Etats-Unis à discuter un petit peu avec son voisin géographique, dont le représentant connaît très bien les questions financières, et je suis certain qu'il pourra lui donner énormément de détails sur certaines pratiques qui ont lieu ici, dans l'Organisation, et qui ont permis non pas la redistribution du solde qui reste à la fin de l'exercice mais l'utilisation à d'autres fins avec la volonté des Etats Membres. J'espère avoir fait le tour d'horizon et avoir répondu aux points cruciaux qui ont été soulevés par les délégués.

Il reste peut-être un petit point qui concerne la terreur que le représentant des finances semble inspirer à mon ami, M. Grabisch. Je vais donc lui dire que le Comité financier, en proposant la source de financement, s'est montré presque complice des délégués puisque j'ai toujours entendu dire, dans cette Maison, que les techniciens qui viennent ici ont toujours des problèmes avec les services financiers. Comme tout le monde est d'accord sur le principe concernant une action spéciale pour réduire les pertes alimentaires, le Comité financier a jugé qu'au lieu de compliquer les démarches et les procédures en rendant l'argent et ensuite le réclamer, on a voulu faciliter le travail des techniciens et faciliter le rapport avec les services financiers. Puisque nous avons l'argent ici, ce n'est pas la peine de faire d'autres démarches et je suis surpris qu'on n'ait pas reconnu les bonnes dispositions du Comité financier dans ce sens. Ceci dit, je voudrais conclure en disant que les principes, c'est bien, mais on ne peut pas traiter les problèmes alimentaires, donc humanitaires, uniquement avec des principes. On est obligé de temps à autre de faire des dérogations surtout quand ces dérogations sont amplement justifiées. Il est inutile que je revienne sur tous les détails pour justifier ces dérogations et je crois que nous avons une situation spéciale. Surtout, que l'on ne s'attende pas à ce qu'il y ait dans tous les bienniums un excédent de 15 millions de dollars. Donc, c'est vraiment une situation spéciale, et le Comité financier a tenu compte de cela. Nous vous proposons une dérogation parce que nous sommes conscients des textes, nous sommes d'accord et nous ne voulons pas les violer, mais je crois qu'à une situation spéciale, pourquoi ne pas proposer aussi des actions spéciales? Et c'est ce que nous avons fait. Aussi, je pense que le bien-fondé et l'invulnérabilité des considérations que le Comité financier a prises avant de prendre cette décision concernant cette recommandation ne peuvent pas être l'objet d'un doute. Maintenant, si, pour une raison de principe, on veut réfuter cela, je trouve que ce n'est pas possible, parce que le principe est une chose, mais il ne faut pas prendre seulement le

principe mais aussi prendre ce qu'il y a à côté. Il faut mettre les deux sur la balance et voir ce qui pèse le plus: l'action que nous voulons mener ou bien uniquement le principe. Ceci dit, je tiens à préciser que le Comité financier a hésité avant de prendre cette recommandation, car il s'est aperçu que la contribution des petits pays pour la constitution de ce Fonds n'est pas du tout minime et si nous faisons le compte, même par habitant, nous constatons que le petit Tunisien ou le petit Gambien paie beaucoup plus que quelqu'un des Etats-Unis ou du Canada. S'il y a d'autres questions, je suis prêt à fournir les éclaircissements nécessaires.

A.A.W. LANDYMORE (United Kingdom): Arising out of the remarks of our respected Acting Chairman of the Finance Committee, may I just put it on record that no suggestion came from Mr. Martin or from any other member of this delegation that action should be deferred until 1980-81. The only suggestion that has come from us is that certain action should be deferred until the pre-Conference Council meeting which I believe takes place in November this year.

J.C. VIGNAUD (Argentina): En primer lugar deseo señalar la particular simpatía con que mi Delegación ve el modo franco, claro y abierto en que el Sr. Bel Hadj Amor, Presidente del Comité de Finanzas en ejercicio, se ha dirigido a nosotros. Creo que este modo de hablar es constructivo porque facilita el esclarecimiento de las ideas. Sin embargo, quisiera hacer algunas observaciones en relación con lo que él dijo.

El Sr. Bel Hadj Amor, a quien conozco desde hace tiempo, quizás ha citado a Vignaud, que soy yo mismo, dos o tres veces en su intervención a raíz de nuestro conocimiento personal, pero es obvio señalar que Vignaud aquí es un accidente, aquí en esta banca está la República Argentina y lo que Vignaud pueda saber o no saber no tiene absolutamente ninguna relevancia; aquí habla el Gobierno de la República Argentina por mi intermedio o por intermedio del Delegado que esté sentado aquí.

En segundo lugar, quiero señalar que aun cuando es interesante este párrafo 3.132, creí entender que el amigo Bel Hadj Amor dijo que yo intervine en su redacción. Tengo el temor de que haya sido un error de interpretación porque yo no soy miembro del Comité de Finanzas y, por tanto, no he podido, razonablemente, participar en la redacción de este párrafo.

Tercero, deseo señalar que el informe del Comité de Finanzas y el informe del Comité del Programa y toda la documentación que la Secretaría distribuye antes de las reuniones han sido examinados con particular atención por las autoridades responsables de mi Gobierno, quienes decidieron en su momento instruir a la Delegación argentina para expresar cuanto se ha expresado aquí ayer y que en modo muy fidedigno consta en los records que ya tuve oportunidad de consultar.

G. WEILL (France): Je voudrais dire à notre ami, le Président par intérim du Comité financier, M. Bel Hadj Amor, que nous avons apprécié la compétence de sa réponse et tout l'esprit dont il a fait montre. Il voudra bien se rappeler, le Président du Comité financier, que, parlant au nom de ma délégation, je n'ai pas abordé le problème de l'utilisation éventuelle des crédits inscrits au compte d'attente. Par contre, le Président du Comité financier a bien voulu reconnaître que les suggestions qui avaient été présentées par ma délégation étaient intéressantes quant au financement de ces activités. J'ai bien dû me reporter au texte de ce fameux projet de résolution qui se réfère à l'article 6.7 du Règlement financier, et cet article 6.7 traite d'un certain nombre de fonds sous appellations diverses: fonds de dépôt, fonds spéciaux et contributions volontaires.

Cela a déjà été dit au cours de ce débat: nous ne savons pas très bien le genre de fonds qu'on nous invite à faire fonctionner. J'ai sous les yeux un des documents préparés en avance dont va avoir à connaître la Conférence à sa prochaine session. Il s'agit des comptes du Programme régulier. On trouve trois pages à tout petit interligne de "trust funds", en anglais; je crois que le terme français, est "fonds de dépôts". Alors, puisque, selon les termes de la proposition du Président du Comité financier, l'idée qui a été avancée par ma délégation et qui a été reprise également par d'autres délégations au cours de ce débat, que les propositions de financement étaient intéressantes, comme l'a dit M. Bel Hadj Amor, je voudrais, au nom de ma délégation, m'associer à la proposition du délégué du Royaume-Uni et demander que l'on reprenne la question du financement de ces activités de lutte contre les pertes, sur le principe desquelles nous sommes d'accord, que l'on reprenne la proposition de la délégation du Royaume-Uni et que l'on soumette à la prochaine session du Conseil, qui se tiendra immédiatement avant la Conférence, des propositions d'ensemble, à la lumière de la discussion qui a lieu en ce moment, qui s'achève en ce moment, et qui nous présente de façon claire les options devant lesquelles nous nous trouvons, et qui tiennent compte des différentes remarques qui ont été formulées, voilà, en conclusion, ce que je voulais dire, en appuyant la proposition de la délégation du Royaume-Uni.

M. BEL HADJ AMOR (Président par intérim du Comité financier): Je suis désolé de prolonger le débat mais il faut des précisions. Tout d'abord, en ce qui concerne M. Vignaud. Ce que je voulais dire, c'était que l'Argentine a participé aux travaux de la septième session extraordinaire de l'Assemblée générale des Nations Unies de la Conférence de l'alimentation et en tant que participant, je doute qu'un pays comme l'Argentine n'ait pas contribué à la formulation et à la rédaction des recommandations qui ont été présentées. Je crois que cela est clair et j'espère que les interprètes ne trouvent pas le débit de mes paroles trop rapide.

Ceci dit, je voudrais répondre à M. Weill pour lui dire qu'il est vrai que je sympathise avec les efforts et les propositions qu'il a faites mais j'ai précisé également que la recommandation du Comité financier est beaucoup plus pratique car on peut avoir plusieurs positions mais le Comité financier juge que la proposition qu'il a recommandée à l'attention du Conseil, donc la proposition du Directeur général, est beaucoup plus pratique et cela, je dois le préciser.

DIRECTEUR GENERAL: Je vais essayer d'être bref, car il est déjà 12 h 10. Je voudrais, néanmoins, remercier toutes les délégations qui ont pris la parole. Je crois que, si l'on compte les observateurs, c'est près de 40 orateurs qui ont traité cet important sujet.

C'est, sans nul doute, avec enthousiasme que tous les délégués ont appuyé ce programme, mais il ne s'agit pas que de cela. Il s'agit aussi du financement de cette opération. A cet égard, je voudrais d'abord préciser que ce qui est proposé est un Programme d'action; il ne s'agit donc pas d'un simple Programme de radiodiffusion, comme certains ont voulu le dire, non plus que d'une campagne de presse, ou que d'un programme de formation agricole ou de publications; de telles activités, nous en conduisons sans cesse et depuis des années dans le cadre de notre Programme Régulier. Ce dont il s'agit, c'est d'un Programme de terrain, c'est de stimuler l'action des Gouvernements en leur fournissant rapidement les moyens dont ils ont besoin, non pas sur le papier et en paroles, mais sous forme d'équipement et, s'il le faut, d'experts. C'est ainsi que nous avons présenté dix types de projets pratiques, susceptibles d'être financés; lorsque le Comité de l'agriculture a examiné ces projets, il a constaté que leur coût pouvait varier de 60 000 à 600 000 dollars.

Pour ce qui est de la thèse suivant laquelle cette opération pourrait être financée par notre programme régulier, j'ai déjà expliqué les raisons pour lesquelles ceci était impossible, des activités opérationnelles de ce type n'étant pas de son ressort.

On nous a également parlé du programme de coopération technique. Là encore, il s'agit d'un programme qui ne peut absorber cette opération. Comme je viens de l'indiquer, un seul projet pourrait absorber jusqu'à 600 mille dollars, alors que, conformément à votre décision, le programme de coopération technique ne peut dépasser 250 000 dollars par projet. Le PCT est un programme qui a pour but d'optimiser des projets en cours, de combler certaines lacunes dans d'autres opérations, et d'aider à mettre en route certaines actions, mais il ne peut absorber les activités proposées en matière de réduction des pertes de denrées alimentaires.

On a parlé aussi de la Banque Internationale, du FIDA et des banques régionales et nationales. Evidemment chaque pays peut se financer lui-même; il n'y a rien là de nouveau et c'est ainsi, par exemple, que la Banque Internationale finance la construction de silos portuaires. Je reviens de l'Inde, où le gouvernement a financé, depuis des années, la construction de silos où sont maintenant emmagasinés 18 millions de tonnes de céréales; tout ceci existe déjà.

Mais il se trouve que, dans ce cas particulier, c'est à la FAO que l'on s'est adressé, en lui demandant de proposer un programme d'action. Chaque pays peut présenter des amendements, mais, comme l'a dit le délégué du Gabon, le Conseil m'a chargé de proposer un programme de 20 millions de dollars et c'est ce que j'ai fait. Il s'agissait d'ailleurs là d'une proposition formulée à l'origine par le Groupe des 77, au cours de la seconde session du Conseil mondial de l'alimentation.

Je dois dire aussi que ce n'est pas la première fois que nous proposons un programme financé par un fonds spécial. Nous disposons déjà de plusieurs programmes qui sont ainsi financés, tels que le Programme pour le développement de la production laitière, le Programme pour la sécurité alimentaire mondiale, et le programme des experts associés. Nous avons donc l'expérience nécessaire à la bonne gestion de tels fonds. En tout état de cause, je voudrais assurer les membres du Conseil et, en particulier, ceux qui ont montré des appréhensions sur la façon dont ce fonds sera administré, qu'il sera utilisé de la façon la plus efficace et que le travail sera fait avec célérité et avec un minimum de frais administratifs. Le Comité financier s'est déjà penché sur ce problème important de la gestion du programme et il pourra l'étudier à nouveau lors de sa session de novembre.

Pour l'instant, je me limiterai à constater que la grande majorité des délégués qui ont pris la parole ont appuyé la proposition d'établir un fonds et d'utiliser, à cette fin, 10 millions de dollars prélevés sur le compte d'attente, que le Comité financier a approuvé cette proposition et qu'il a formulé un projet de résolution à cet égard.

Pour ma part, j'aurais souhaité que tous les pays membres du Conseil puissent recommander à la Conférence d'adopter ce projet de résolution. J'apprécie et respecte la position des pays qui, pour des raisons qui leur sont propres, ne peuvent pas, à ce stade, souscrire à la création du fonds. Ceux qui ont absolument rejeté la possibilité d'utiliser à cette fin partie des sommes accumulées au compte d'attente sont peu nombreux. Je dois dire, toutefois, que j'apprécie encore davantage la position de certains pays, comme le Royaume-Uni, le Canada, la Nouvelle-Zélande et les Pays-Bas, qui, sans se prononcer d'une façon définitive contre le projet de résolution proposé par le Comité financier, ont simplement dit qu'ils souhaiteraient disposer d'un temps de réflexion pour repenser et peut-être reformuler la résolution d'une façon qui puisse être acceptée par eux.

Ce que je souhaiterais, en vérité, serait que le Comité de rédaction, avec l'aide du secrétariat, puisse procéder à ce travail au cours de la présente session. Mais le délégué du Royaume-Uni, auquel je tiens à rendre hommage pour la contribution qu'il a apportée à ce débat, depuis le début jusqu'à la fin, a indiqué qu'il avait besoin de davantage de temps que les quelques jours qui nous restent. Sans doute devra-t-il contacter sa capitale pour obtenir l'autorité nécessaire pour proposer des amendements.

Je pense qu'il est juste que le délégué du Royaume-Uni, ainsi que tous les autres délégués qui se sont joints à lui, aient la possibilité de proposer des amendements pour changer la forme de cette résolution. Ce sera probablement la Commission II de la Conférence qui examinera ce projet de résolution et c'est donc elle qui constituera le lieu le plus approprié pour proposer des amendements.

Pour ma part, je ne verrais pas d'inconvénient à ce que le prochain Conseil procède à un tel examen en novembre. Il s'agit d'un programme extrêmement important et, bien que je sache qu'il est inhabituel, pour le Conseil précédant la Conférence, de revoir des problèmes particuliers comme celui-ci, je pense que la chose serait néanmoins souhaitable dans ce cas, compte tenu de l'importance de la question.

Il n'en reste pas moins que la décision de la majorité doit être respectée; je m'attends donc à ce que le rapport du Conseil indique que la très grande majorité de ses membres approuve la proposition faite par le Comité financier, tandis qu'un certain nombre de délégués, tout en ne s'opposant pas au principe du programme proposé, souhaiteraient, néanmoins, pouvoir reformuler leur point de vue en novembre prochain.

En conséquence, il me semble que votre rapport pourrait comporter une conclusion positive, tout en ménageant une ouverture qui permettrait à tous les pays qui le désirent d'amender le projet, à la condition, naturellement, que la majorité l'accepte.

Pour ma part, je terminerai en disant que je souhaite très vivement que la méthode de financement qui a été proposée pour ce programme soit acceptée, sinon tolérée, par l'ensemble des délégués. S'agissant d'un programme à long terme, je dis ici en toute liberté que j'ai besoin de l'adhésion de tous les pays membres et, en particulier, de celle des pays donateurs qui ont déjà montré beaucoup de générosité en participant au financement d'opérations similaires. C'est ainsi, par exemple, que leur contribution volontaire au programme de production laitière est importante. Je pense, en particulier, à notre ami l'ambassadeur de Hollande, qui nous a récemment remis un chèque de 10 million de florins, représentant la contribution volontaire de son pays à ce projet; auparavant, son pays nous avait fait parvenir une somme encore supérieure, à nouveau sous forme d'un simple chèque, pour notre programme de sécurité alimentaire. Je pourrais également citer à cet égard les importantes contributions du Royaume-Uni à notre programme "engrais".

Je m'adresse maintenant aux pays en développement, au Groupe des 77, pour leur dire de comprendre que j'ai besoin aussi d'obtenir l'adhésion des pays donateurs classiques. J'ai l'impression que la majorité de ces derniers pays n'est pas opposée au type de financement que j'ai proposé et qu'il s'agit surtout pour eux de respecter certains principes et de se mettre en règle avec leurs autorités financières.

Je crois qu'en leur donnant la possibilité de proposer des amendements, sans changer, évidemment, le but et les objectifs du Programme, il devrait être possible de leur offrir une ouverture susceptible d'emporter leur adhésion.

EL PRESIDENTE: Hemos celebrado un debate intenso sobre este punto. La declaración que acaba de hacer el Director General facilita el resumen que voy a presentarles. En mi opinión el Consejo apoyó unánimemente la propuesta del Director General dirigida a reforzar las actividades de la FAO a reducir las pérdidas durante y después de las cosechas. Es decir, sobre el programa, sobre el actual período, entiendo yo que hubo unanimidad entre todos los miembros del Consejo que intervinieron.

La gran mayoría de los miembros del Consejo estuvo de acuerdo en apoyar la creación de un fondo especial para llevar a cabo este programa. Igualmente la gran mayoría de los miembros del Consejo estuvo de acuerdo en que el Consejo recomiende a la Conferencia, repito, que el Consejo recomiende a la Conferencia la adopción del proyecto de resolución que aparece en el anexo F. del informe de los Comités del Programa y de Finanzas, proyecto de resolución que dispone trasladar de la cuenta transitoria 10 millones de dólares como base de financiación para el propuesto fondo especial.

Varios miembros del Consejo hicieron reservas y plantearon observaciones sobre la forma de financiación del programa. Dijeron que antes de que el Consejo recomendara a la Conferencia el proyecto de resolución, convenía revisar sus términos para tratar de reorientarlos y además agregaron ciertos elementos y ciertas ideas en relación con ese mismo asunto.

Como el Director General lo ha dicho, creo que sería razonable tener en cuenta la expresión de ese grupo de miembros del Consejo a que me vengo refiriendo y enviar estos puntos de vista al Comité de Redacción en el cual estarán representadas todas las regiones. No quiero anticipar ningún juicio sobre cuál será la representación que el Comité de Redacción podría hacer ante el Consejo, pero a la luz de lo que dijo el Director General y lo que han manifestado algunas delegaciones, podría haber dos iniciativas. La primera, que en el seno del Comité de Redacción se lograra una redacción adecuada del proyecto de resolución y en esa forma el Consejo por unanimidad puede recomendarlo ahora desde este período a la adopción de la Conferencia próxima. Esto sería lo más viable. Si esto no fuera posible, creo que, como el Director General lo ha propuesto, se incluiría en nuestro informe la opinión de aquellos miembros del Consejo que quieran volver a ocuparse de este proyecto de resolución en la sesión de nuestro organismo de noviembre próximo, inmediatamente anterior a la Conferencia.

Quisiera agregar, como observación personal, que esta propuesta, en mi opinión, es una iniciativa de gran importancia del Director General y en cuya aplicación todos debemos estar interesados con el concurso de todos los estados miembros de la organización.

Espero que con este criterio adoptarán este resumen y el Comité de Redacción tendrá en cuenta lo que yo he expresado. Si no hay ningún comentario entiendo que entonces así concluimos este tema 11.

I - INTRODUCTORY - PROCEDURE OF THE SESSION (continued)

I - INTRODUCTION - QUESTIONS DE PROCEDURE (suite)

I - INTRODUCCION - CUESTIONES DE PROCEDIMIENTO (continuación)

I - Adoption of the Agenda and Timetable (continued)

1. Adoption de l'ordre du jour et du calendrier (suite)

1. Aprobación del Programa y el Calendario (continuación)

EL PRESIDENTE: Algunos miembros del Consejo me han expresado su interés en que se introduzcan algunas modificaciones en el calendario que adoptamos el lunes por la mañana, sobre todo a la luz de que en Ginebra ha empezado a celebrarse la reunión del Consejo de Administración del PNUD y algunos de esos delegados deberán asistir a esa importante reunión. Voy a pedir al Secretario que explique a ustedes lenta y claramente cuál sería la propuesta de modificación del calendario.

SECRETARY-GENERAL: The proposed change will be as follows, this afternoon the Council would continue with Items 7 and 10 which were scheduled for this morning and if time permits start the discussion on Item 14 (b). Item 14 (b) was originally scheduled for Tuesday, 14 June, in the morning, and reads "Further developments in relations with UNDP, WFP and IFAD. Tomorrow morning we would conclude the discussion of Item 14 (b) and tomorrow afternoon the discussion of the Summary Programme of Work and Budget, Item 16, would start as scheduled. Now this means that Items 8 and 9, the Report of COFO and COFI will not have been discussed. Item 8, COFO may be taken up tomorrow morning at the end of the morning after Item 14 (b), if we have time. If not it would be postponed to next Tuesday, the 14th of June, instead of the Item 14 (b) which was taken out and COFI would also be postponed to next Tuesday or Wednesday as it is too early in the day to see how our calendar for next week will be.

EL PRESIDENTE: Si el Consejo está de acuerdo con los cambios propuestos oportunamente les distribuiríamos un nuevo calendario reorganizado.

B. de AZEVEDO BRITO (Brazil): My delegation is in agreement with the changes but I would Just like to point out that you will see the recommendations of policies on forestry and fisheries, after seeing the Programme of Work and Budget. Normally the Council should see them before. However, I understand there are practical difficulties so my remarks just for the record.

EL PRESIDENTE: Agradezco las observaciones del distinguido delegado del Brasil. Esta tarde continuaríamos entonces nuestro programa con los temas 7, 10 y 14.

H. ABDALLAH (Egypt) (interpretation from Arabic): Since we have amended our timetable or rather our time of meetings, I suggest another amendment from the 13th of June. On the 13th of June we have certain organizational matters to discuss, items 15 a, b and c. Now, the essential point, that is, the composition of the Council and its terms of reference as well as the terms of reference of the Programme and Finance Committees, come immediately after. That is why I suggest that we begin With item 20 and then have item 15. In other words, we would reverse the order of the two items down for discussion on Monday, 13th June, that is item 20 instead of item 15.

EL PRESIDENTE: Ya han oído ustedes la propuesta de Egipto y creo que no ofrece ninguna dificultad en el sentido de que el lunes, día 13 de la próxima semana, se estudie el tema 20 y luego el tema 15.

Si no hay ningún comentarlo por parte de los miembros del Consejo vamos ahora a levantar la sesión.

The meeting rose at 12.30 hours.

La séance est levée à 12 h 30.

Se levanta la~sesión a las 12.30 horas.

council

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

conseil

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

consejo

ORGANIZACION DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS PARA LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION

CL

CL 71/PV/6

Seventy-First Session

Soixante et onzième session

71° período de sesiones

SIXTH PLENARY MEETING
SIXIEME SEANCE PLENIERE
SEXTA SESION PLENARIA

(8 June 1977)

The Sixth Plenary Meeting was opened at 14.50 hours G. Bula Hoyos, Independent Chairman of the Council, presiding

La sixième séance plénière est ouverte à 14 h 50, sous la présidence de G. Bula Hoyos, Président indépendant du Conseil

Se abre la sexta sesión plenaria a las 14.50 horas bajo la presidencia de G. Bula Hoyos, Presidente Independiente del Consejo

II - WORLD FOOD AND AGRICULTURE SITUATION (continued)

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

II - SITUACION MUNDIAL DE LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION (continuación)

7. - Report of the Committee on Commodity Problems (31st Session, Rome, May 1977)

7. - Rapport du Comité des produits (51ème session, Rome, mai 1977)

7. - Informe del Comité de Problemas de Productos Básicos (51º período de sesiones, Roma, mayo 1977)

- International Agricultural Adjustment - Progress Report

- Ajustement agricole international - Rapport de situation

- Reajuste Agrícola Internacional - Informe provisional

EL PRESIDENTE: Leeremos ahora el punto 7, Informe del Comité de Problemas de Productos Básicos. El documento básico para este tema 7 es el CL 71/6 que será presentado dentro de poco por el señor Embajador Magombe, Presidente del Comité de Problemas de Productos Básicos.

Notarán ustedes que en el mismo tema 7, en el Orden del Día, figura el subtema con el título Reajuste Agrícola Internacional. Para este subtema del reajuste solo se dispone del párrafo 150 del documento CL 71/9, informe del COAG, tal como aparece en el Orden del Día.

Les propongo que, a fin de ganar tiempo y como sobre el reajuste no hay mucho que discutir sino solamente lo que aparece en el párrafo citado, tomemos conjuntamente los dos puntos que abarca el tema 7. Espero que el Consejo esté de acuerdo con esta propuesta. Si es así voy a conceder la palabra al Embajador señor Magombe, Presidente del CPPB.

G.S, MAGOMBE (Chairman of Committee on Commodity Problems): I will be very brief. It is my privilege to refer to the Council the Report of the Fifty-First Session of the Committee on Commodity Problems held in Rome from 2nd to 6th May 1977 which I had the honour to chair. The report, as has been mentioned by the Chairman, is contained in Document CL 71/6 which is before you.

This session of the CCP though reduced to only five working days in the interests of economy, was well attended and was able to discharge its mandate by reducing its agenda to the bare essentials. On the question of attendance I am happy to mention that at this session nearly all the members of this Council were represented and I am sure that this will have the effect that your work here will be very much facilitated.

In addition to taking action on a number of commodity problems arising out of the work of subsidiary bodies, the Committee also identified a number of critical policy issues which arise from the current world commodity situation and reviewed the progress of the work of FAO in these fields. On all these issues the Committee had before it documents prepared by the Secretariat and a comprehensive statement conveying the common position of the Group of 77. The Committee especially wished to draw the attention of the Council to three questions. The first was its review of international action on a number of important commodity and trade issues and its conclusions on the role of FAO. On this I should like to refer the Council particularly to paragraphs 70-79 of the Committee's report.

The second point is the proposal that the Committee should be associated with the task of monitoring the impact on trade of food standards developed by the Codex Alimentarius, and the Committee's deliberations on this proposal. Again, I should like to refer this Council to the Committee's report, especially paragraphs 65-67.

Last, but not least, there were its discussions concerning arrangements for the next session of the Committee and these are reflected in the Committee's report in paragraphs 95-96.

Mr. Chairman, before giving me the floor you mentioned in passing the question of international agricultural adjustment. With regard to the next session of the CCP the Council will note that the Committee on Commodity Problems considered the possibility of holding a short special CCP session in the autumn if it would facilitate the work of the Conference, particularly in examining the Director-General's report on international agricultural adjustment. The Bureau was asked to continue to study the question and to submit its conclusions to this session of the Council. Accordingly, I have carried out consultations and it is my conclusion that it is not possible to justify an additional unscheduled meeting especially in view of the crowded meeting schedule in the autumn and the pressure on FAO documentation services on the eve of the FAO Conference.

I said I would be very brief, but before ending these short introductory remarks I would like to thank the Director-General and his staff on behalf of the Committee for their cooperation and the excellent documents they have prepared for the Committee.

EL PRESIDENTE: Gracias, señor Embajador Magombe, Presidente del CPPB. Antes de dar la palabra a los oradores que la han solicitado tal vez conviene orientar un poco sobre este tema. Noten ustedes que tal como lo ha dicho el Presidente del CPPB en la página iv. después del índice aparecen los asuntos que requieren la atención del Consejo.

En cuanto al punto 3, el señor Presidente ha dicho ya claramente que en relación a los párrafos 95 y 96 del documento básico sobre la posibilidad de celebrar una sesión del CPPB en el otoño próximo, la posición de la Mesa es la de que no es conveniente que se celebre ese período de sesiones del otoño, por las razones que el señor Embajador Magombe expuso.

H.M. CARANDANG (Philippines): In regard to the item on Commodities now being discussed, the Philippine, delegation would like to recall a few problems which are aggravating the situation of many developing countries. The first of these is that of the terms of trade. These have been going against many developing countries. The prices of most agricultural exports of developing countries have been deteriorating in real terms. A few examples to this effect will illustrate our point. I would quote from the reports of the different Commodity meetings, and I quote first from the report of the IGG on Hard Fibres of 1976, page 7, paragraph 23:

"Production of abaca in the Philippines in 1976 was 50 percent lower than in 1975 due to lower export demand and a heavy fall in prices."

From the report of the IGG on Oil Seeds, Oils and Fats, of 1977, page 10, paragraph 36:

"The FAO price indices for oils and fats, when deflated to measure import purchasing power, indicate that the real price is well below 1964-66. The deflated index for oils and fats in 1976 is 81."

From the paper presented by the Secretariat of the Working Party on the Elements of an International Banana Agreement, the second paper, I refer to Tables 8 and 9 on pages 25 and 26: the tables indicate that there has been a drop in real terms in the export prices of bananas. This has also been the case with sugar and other agricultural exports. While there is a drop in the real export earnings of developing countries, there has been a considerable increase in the prices of imports and in the imports of manufactured goods. The unit value index of manufactured goods in these past seven years, according to official estimates, has almost doubled, according to the estimate of FAO, to say nothing about the price of energy. No wonder the balance of payments difficulties of many developing countries have worsened up to the limit of tolerance.

Our second problem, aside from that of the terms of trade, is the problem which has aggravated the conditions of many developing countries, and this is the instability of prices of agricultural commodities. This instability and this violent fluctuation of prices robs our farmers of profits precisely when and because they have increased production. A classic example of this is the price of sugar. In 1975-76, in the Philippines, for example, it increased by 60 percent but prices went down by 62 percent.

A third problem is that of market access. The efforts of developing countries to expand their earnings are often frustrated because of the restrictive measures and support policies of some developed countries. GSP up to now has limited coverage and progress towards its extension has been quite limited.

Another problem which confronts the agricultural sector of developing countries is that of competition with synthetics and substitutes, but this is a problem we may have to live with. At any rate, it certainly does not help the developing countries with their balance of payments difficulties.

With regard to Individual commodities, I would like to touch on a few points which concern our country most. With regard to oils, we support the recommendation of the IGG on Oils and Fats for the progressive reduction and gradual elimination of existing tariff and non-tariff barriers and the extension of (GSP schemes. We support the development of a comprehensive set of guidelines for international cooperation as recommended by the CCP. We believe this could help towards the balancing of supply and demand at levels that are satisfactory and remunerative to producers, and fair to consumers.

With regard to bananas, we would like to commend the work being done by the Working Party in FAO with regard to the study of the elements toward a possible international banana agreement which should aim at achieving a balanced expansion of production, consumption and trade of bananas, at price levels remunerative to producers and fair to consumers.

With regard to food standards, we support the proposal that the CCP monitor the import of food standards on food trade and the Import of these standards on the export interests of the developing countries. While we believe that food standards are not only good but are necessary to provide good and healthy food, nevertheless we think it is something like a knife: a knife that can be used to carve a turkey but could also be used to cut a human limb. Food standards are good and necessary in order to safeguard the kind of food we eat, but could also be used as non-tariff barriers against developing countries' agricultural exports. What we are asking the CCP is to see to it that these food standards are not used as non-tariff barriers to the detriment of developing countries.

We would like to commend the work being done by FAO in close cooperation with UNCTAD towards an integrated programme for commodities. And lastly, we would like to thank FAO for its study on the competition of high fructuous corn sugar and its competition with cane and beet sugar, and the effect of the same on cane and beet sugar.

DOÑA PAULINA DE CASTRO MONSALVO (Colombia): La delegación de Colombia manifiesta en general su aprecio positivo por los resultados de la ultima reunion del Comité de Productos Básicos, aunque al leer el documento CL 71/6 tenemos la impresión de que existe todavía la carencia de voluntad política de

los países desarrollados, lo cual impide que se avance en el estudio y la solución de estas importantes cuestiones.

Nuestra delegación desea insifitIr una vez mas sobre lo que ya antes expresó este Consejo acerca de la importancia de la función de la FAO en el sector de los productos básicos y en el comercio. Por ello, nos ha complacido que el Director Cenerai haya incluido /?/ actividades entre los sectores nrrioritarios del Programa de Labores y Presupuesto para el próximo bienio. Entre los cambios que están teniendo lugar en la situación mundial de los productos básicos, nuestra Organización puede desempeñar un papel importante con base en la experiencia y en los conocimientos acumulados a través de los años; pero la delegación de Colombia considera que la participación de la FAO en los problemas de productos básicos y del comercio debe ser más activa. La Dirección de Productos Básicos y Comercio de la FAO no debiera limitarse simplemente a hacer proyectos sobre la demanda, el consumo y el comercio, sino que debe estar en condiciones de hacer planteamientos de orientación política para que los puntos de vista de nuestra Organización sean adecuadamente utilizados en la UNCTAD, el GATT y todos los demás organismos que concurren en el estudio y la solución de los problemas básicos de comercio.

Finalmente, la delegación de Colombia apoya íntegramente el contenido de la declaración que en la ultima reunión del CPPB se hizo en nombre del Grupo de los 77. Nuestra delegación considera que en esa declaración del Grupo de los 7 7 se expone con claridad y franqueza la difícil situación porque atraviesan los países en desarrollo. Es lamentable, igualmente, confirmar que todas las actividades que sobre er te campo se realizan en otros organismos siguen un proceso lento y sin llegar a conclusiones positivas, como en el ejemplo reciente a muy alto nivel y en un contexto más amplio, el fracaso de la Conferencia Norte-Sur de París.

En atención a las consideraciones anteriores, la delegación de Colombia pide a este Consejo que en el informe de esta reunión se haga un llamado a los gobiernos de los países desarrollados para que cambien de actitud y puedan facilitar aun gradualmente el arreglo de los graves problemas que afrontan los países en desarrollo en materia de productos básicos y comercio.

B. de AZEVEDO BRITO (Brazil): The Group of 77 had the opportunity to develop rather extensively its views on the area of commodities, at the 51st Session of the Committee on Commodity Problems. We briefly touched also on the same question in our introductory statement to this current Session of the FAO Council. I would like to preface my comments by paying tribute, to Ambassador Magombe, who provided leadership to the very difficult and detailed discussion in the Committee on Commodity Problems in such a manner that the Committee had a session which will, I believe, go down in the history of the Committee as an outstanding one. If one reads the report of the Committee, one can easily see that, first, we have significant problems facing the international community in the area of commodities; second, that the Committee provided - perhaps for the first time in many years - very clear guidance to the inter-governmental bodies subordinated to it, and this is an extremely important development. We believe that the Committee on Commodity problems has indeed done extremely useful work.

Now I would like to echo briefly some of the comments made just before me by the de/legate of the Philippines and the delegate of Colombia. First, it is quite clear that at present we are still facing

a situation of stalemate, and impasse, in the sense that major problems in the area of commodities and international cooperation in the field of trade are still without any solution in view. Prices taken as a whole are still unremunerative in a number of vital products; in some cases, it is true, prices went up, but basically due to supply shortages. As a whole, it is nevertheless true that the very marginal gains by developing countries in export earnings, registered in 1976, were more than offset by negative trends in terms of trade. In other words, the increase in our export earnings has been more than offset by a much heavier burden in the cost of importing the goods we need for our own requirements; moreover, a number of vital products for a number of developing countries are increasingly threatened by competition from synthetics.

It is also a cause of grave concern to developing countries that the production policies and trade policies of some developed countries are increasingly imposing restrictions which affect negatively the export interest of developing countries. The report of the CCP expands these ideas; now I just want to hint at these problems.

Coming now to specific topics which we would like to bring to the attention of the Council, may I mention the case of hard fibres. It is a case in which prices are unremunerative and the producers are obliged to make enormous sacrifices in order to face the competition of synthetics. This burden is extremely heavy. We believe it is important that the international community gives support to the policy of transfer of processing facilities to producing developing countries. We also believe that in relation to hard fibres and jute we have to consider the natural product and the synthetics together in any arrangement to ensure better conditions of trade in this sector. These points of view were advanced to the inter-governmental groups which deal with the specific items and also in the 51st Session of the Committee on Commodity Problems.

In the meat sector we are facing restrictions of a very severe nature on the part of some developed countries. We are happy that the Inter-governmental Group on Meat adopted at its last session a rather comprehensive set of guidelines on production, consumption and trade of meat and meat products. Now it is necessary that we implement these guidelines. We very much hope that, at its next session, the Inter-governmental Group on Meat, will be in a position to register clear progress in the direction of the implementation of the guidelines and of the removal of the restrictions that are facing this important sector of international trade.

We are certainly happy with the fact that the recent meeting of the Group on the Elements of a Banana Agreement has made some progress. We hope progress will continue towards an early definition of the elements of such an international banana agreement.

On tea, it is very important that, as soon as possible, a comprehensive programme of action for this product be developed.

On oilseeds, we have a very important sector for developing countries and our views on the subject were advanced in detail at the time of the last sessions of the Inter-governmental Group on Oil Seeds, Oils and Fats, and of the CCP to the effect that it is urgent that restrictions on imports of these products be removed. They are affecting our export interests in an unfair and unjust manner. We believe that it is important that the Inter-governmental Group on Oil Seeds, Oil and Fats, at its next session develop a comprehensive set of guidelines to help development of more fair trade practices in this specific field.

On Rice, we believe that, while we have a situation of surplus right now, we must be extremely attentive to avoid a complete reversal of this situation; a disincentive to producers would be capable of creating a condition of acute shortage. We believe that it is important that the recommendations adopted by the inter-governmental Group on Rice at its nineteenth session be implemented fully and that the Group at its next session be in a position to register such implementation.

In hides and skins, we have an area where practically only FAO is working. We are going to have hopefully next year, 1978, the Ad Hoc Meeting on Hides and Skins. This is an important sector for developing countries and, at the same time, a sector which faces discrimination in terms of market access - in fact, not only discrimination, but reverse preference, in the sense that in some instances production of developed countries is favoured over the production of developing countries. It is a kind of CSP in reverse. We very much hope that the Ad Hoc Group on Hides and Skins will be in a position to look into the economic problems that face this sector and provide useful guidance to the development of trade.

I would also like to bring to your attention one additional area of concern for developing countries. Our colleague from the Philippines has already advanced the basic points: the question of the Codex Alimentarius. We believe that there are growing indications that food standards developed under the aegis of the Codex Alimentarius Commission are not always fully attuned to the requirements of developing countries. There are also indications that some of those standards have a negative impact, first on food industries in developing countries, second on the export interest of those countries. These are serious matters. While we believe that the Codex Alimentarius work is extremely important we also believe that the work of the Codex must be attuned to its own statutes, which state very clearly that the Codex standards must safeguard the health of the consumer and at the same time, promote fair trade practices. We believe that the time has come for the international community to take a second look at food standards to ensure that they are relevant to developing countries and at the same time do not affect our exporting interests and our food industries adversely. At the Committee on Commodity Problems the Group of 77 presented a specific proposal as a contribution to improving the work of Codex: a proposal to have the CCP assist the Codex Commission in ensuring that food standards do not bring harm to our export interests and our food industries. We made this proposal in a constructive spirit, in a way to ensure that the objectives of Codex are really met. We very much hope that the Council will be in a position to pass these recommendations to the Codex Commission so that the Commission can take a position on this matter and report to the Council on the manner it believes the CCP can assist it, as appropriate, in the performance of its tasks. I must say that the suggestion that the CCP be associated with the Codex Alimentarius Commission was made taking into account the specific competence of the Committee on Commodity Problems on trade matters. This Committee has technical competence and is therefore able to assess the impact on the economies of developing countries of food standards. We very much hope that the Council will be in a position to recommend to the Codex Alimentarius Commission to take a favourable consideration of the proposal made by the developing countries, a proposal which, I insist, was made in the interests of improving the work of Codex and in no way of detracting from it.

Briefly, I would now like to refer to the question of agricultural adjustment. We understand that a report will be put before the Conference. Of course, we very much hope that this specific report on the implementation of the guidelines on agricultural adjustment will be a comprehensive report, that although brief, will take into account the need to bring clear information on such areas as the use of national resources by developed countries in a manner compatible with the policies of adjustment; and transfer of resources, including reverse transfers, so that we have a clear view of what is really being transferred to developing countries in terms of assistance. We also hope that the report will show to which extent the production policies of developed countries really follow the policies of adjustment recommended in the guidelines. We hope that the Director-General in his report will pay attention to this specific question which is probably the essence of any policy of agricultural adjustment.

As far as the timing of the next sessions, my delegation fully concurs with the Chairman of the CCP to the effect that, given the actual situation, the report on the agricultural adjustment can go straight to the Conference, without having a specific special session of the CCP just to consider it. We believe this will be more expeditious, since we have a tight schedule of meetings in the second part of the year.

S.S. MAHDI (India): I will be very brief because a number of points which I wanted to make have already been touched upon by the previous speakers, especially the Philippines and Brazil. I fully endorse the rather comprehensive statement which was made just by Brazil. In fact, most of the things that had to be said have been said in the Committee on Commodity Problems. What we could do here is to high-light a few salient aspects, and although there might not be any factor of additionaliy to the deliberations of the CCP, let us hope that this Council will make at least one contribution to what has been done in the CCP. Here I am referring to many of the paragraphs of the report which start like with this: some delegates said this, others said that, many said this and a few said that. Let us hope that "some" will become "many" and in some cases "many" will become "all". these introductory remarks, our delegation is gratified to note that the CCP is coming of age. Of course, this has resulted in some problems which will find reflection here also but we should not be unduly worried on that account. These problems are part of the process through which CCP is undergoing and also a reflection of developments in other international fora from which it is neither possible nor right to insulate the deliberations of CCP. In this context we note with satisfaction the emphasis given by the Director-General on close cooperation between the Secretariat of FAO and the Secretariat of UNCTAD in the joint preparation and servicing of meeting on agricultural commodities.

We are also in agreement with the view expressed in the report of the CCP that the work of intergovernmental groups of the CCP should be seen in line with the set of objectives laid down in the UNCTAD 4 Resolution on Integrated Commodities Programme.

In this regard we would very much like to stress that the intergovernmental groups of the CCP should share the same sense of urgency and, if I may use that word, impatience which permeates the related fora in UNCTAD. The pace of work of some of the IGG's is rather leisurely, and here I am constrained to refer to the recent deliberations on bananas which took place last week. We had hoped that some conclusions would be reached which could be discussed in the forthcoming meeting of UNCTAD, but this did not come to pass. In our view, the work of the CCP intergovernmental groups should in no way upset the timetable set for meetings on individual commodities within the framework of UNCTAD.

With regard to the happenings in other fora, we entirely agree with the rather mildly worded conclusions in paragraph 72 of the CCP report which agreed, and this agreement was also the result of some long debates, that the progress has been slow, and serious concern was expressed over the failure so far of the international community to resolve the long-standing programmes affecting agricultural commodities, particularly those of the developing countries.

Turning to another item which has not so far been touched upon, I would like to draw your attention to the question of economic cooperation among developing countries. This matter was brought to the attention of the CCP among other items, and the conclusions of the CCP are given in paragraph 78. The subject has been under discussion in various fora for quite some time now. There are numerous General Assembly Resolutions. There was a conference which was recently held in Mexico. UNCTAD is also giving increasing attention to the matter, and if I remember aright, our own FAO Conference has also pronounced on the subject.

Agriculture being the most important sector in the economy of developing countries, we hope and expect that FAO will give evidence of a more active role in promoting economic cooperation among developing countries within the area of its responsibility. In our view, activities concerning economic cooperation among developing countries within FAO must not be confined to one or two units of economic and social departments. The contents of these activities should be provided with the involvement of all or nearly all technical units in the Organization.

No doubt FAO had earlier undertaken activities which could be brought under the category of ECDC, and it is not my intention to underrate their importance, but we think it is time now to go beyond the compilation of inventories of what has been done in the past and to draw inspiration and to have a fresh look at this matter in FAO in the light of the recent mandates of the General Assembly and our own Conference.

I shall be very brief on specific commodity matters discussed in the report. As a number of items have been touched upon by previous speakers.

With regard to Coir International, we hope that the ad hoc working party will complete its work expeditiously, and we hope further that Coir International would be set up at the earliest possible opportunity. We would like to express the same hope with regard to Jute International. In this connexion, I would like to draw attention to the competition that products like jute are facing with synthetics, we feel that parallel consideration to synthetics should continue to be given by the various intergovernmental groups. How it affects the economies of the developing countries could be illustrated by one example. Although that commodity is not within the purview of any of the intergovernmental groups in FAO, I would give the example of lac of which India is one of the biggest exporters. Now, this commodity affects the economic status of one of the most deprived sections of our population, that is, the people living in the forests. They collect and derive their living from it, but in recent years, because of the stiff competition with synthetics, the prices have been going down, and this phenomenon is affecting one of the most deprived sections of our population. This is just an illustration and this example could be applied to other things which are facing such competition with synthetics.

About hides and skins, I would again endorse the remarks made by Brazil.

Finally, about food standards: personally, I was a little baffled at the heat generated by the subject in the CCP. The Group of 77, including my delegation, was making a very simple request: . the CCP should have something to do with the work of the Codex Alimentarius insofar as it affects trade matters. This to our delegation is a very reasonable request to which I do not think any exception could be taken. What we were proposing was that the CCP should be associated in particular with the task of monitoring the impact of food standards on food and especially the impact of these standards on the export interests of developing countries. So far the work of the Codex Alimentarius Commission has been conducted in a rather cosy atmosphere. We do not want to disturb the peace, but at the same time let us face the fact that this work will come more and more under the scrutiny of developing countries and also, I must say, developed countries. In this connexion I have recent information that the group of experts responsible for standards which meets regularly under the aegis of the European Economic Commission is also saying precisely the same thing. I do not have the document before me, but in their work programme they are including an item which says: "Consideration will be given to the possibilities of developing methods of measuring the economic impact of standards and certification of international trade in certain sectors."

Therefore I will heartily endorse this suggestion which has just been made by the delegate of Brazil, because we also think food standards are too important a matter to be left only to food technicians. In a constructive spirit, we would like to offer a specific suggestion in this regard which our delegation would commend for favourable consideration and recommendation by this Council.

The suggestion is this: that the draft of each standard before it is adopted should be accompanied by a trade impact statement to be prepared by the FAO Secretariat unit responsible for Codex Alimentarius Commission in consultation with other units concerned, and especially FAO Commodities Division.

This impact statement should be considered at the stage of step 8 of the procedure for elaboration of worldwide Codex standards. Here I would refer to page 32 of the Codex Alimentarius Commission Procedure Manual. The suggestion should not sound as radical as it appears because, as I have just said, the European Economic Commission is also looking at it, their project is also practically the same, and we understand that in the United States recently a similar impact statement in relation to the environment had been introduced with regard to food standards.

We therefore feel that this request made by the developing countries in CCP which has been reiterated here is reasonable and deserves careful consideration by the Council,

A. IMTIAZI (Pakistan): My delegation has read document CL 71/6 with interest. We in Pakistan have noted with concern and regret the failure of the international community in fora such as UNCTAD, GATT and the Conference on International Economic Cooperation to resolve chronic problems affecting agricultural commodities, particularly those of the developing countries.

We attach high priority to UNCTAD's integrated programme as a step towards the new international economic order wherein the developing countries will hopefully receive fair prices for the goods and services they produce and export, and also, again hopefully, will have to pay reasonable prices for the goods and services they have to import to meet their essential development and consumption needs.

The problem of ever-deteriorating terms of trade against developing countries like Pakistan deserves urgent attention before it becomes untenable and gets out of hand. We in Pakistan have had first hand experience of deteriorating terms of trade against us when the unit prices of primary commodities we export, e.g. rice, went down sharply while unit prices of important imported items such as pesticides, agricultural machinery, equipment and even fertilizers went up. This has evidently created difficult balance of payment problems for us.

Even at the risk of over-simplification and maybe some repetition we would urge that FAO uses its good offices and influence to secure expeditious action along the following lines: (i) arrangements be devised to ensure fair and stable terms of trade for the developing countries; (ii) the share of the developing countries' exports in the markets of the developed countries be enlarged by removing or at least by relaxing the restrictions on the exports of the developing countries; (iii) relief be provided to the developing countries in the matter of their external debt burden which with every day that goes by is becoming more and more crushing; (iv) developing countries whose primary exports are experiencing competition from synthetic substitutes should be assisted by the adoption of helpful trade, monetary and fiscal policies by developed countries; (v) and last, productive efficiency of the developing countries should be improved through generous transfer of appropriate modern technology from the advanced to the less advanced countries.

L. PURMESSUR (Mauritius): I shall be very brief. The Mauritius delegation has read with interest document CL 71/6, the Report of the 51st Session of the Committee on Commodity Problems. We would agree generally with the findings and conclusions contained in the Report.

However, I would like to make some brief comments on some of the problems, especially in relation to international trade and the stabilization of prices of export commodities of developing countries. One of the major problems facing developing countries in their efforts to increase agricultural development is instability of the price of the primary exports. There is, therefore, an urgent need for basic agreement relating to the stabilization of these prices. We are conscious of the efforts that are being made by FAO in this direction, in cooperation with UNCTAD.

We welcome the successful follow-up recommendation of the sub-group of exporters of the Intergovernmental Group on Tea in April 1976 on the establishment of an international tea promotion campaign section. We hope it will be possible in the near future to work out an international tea agreement.

With regard to sugar, the Report of the 51st Session of the Committee on Commodity Problems express the hope that negotiations in Geneva for a new international sugar agreement would meet with success. Unfortunately, such was not the case. We hope in the light of further discussions and consultations it will be possible to convene another session of the conference under the auspices of UNCTAD with a view to reaching an agreement, otherwise the present trend in the ever-falling price of sugar, which is well below the cost of production, will cause a great hardship to some developing countries, which have to rely on this commodity for their export earnings.

J.C. VIGNAUD (Argentina): Deseo en primer lugar señalar el reconocimiento de la delegación Argentina por el importante trabajo que ha hecho el Comité de Problemas de Productos Básicos bajo la eficiente conducción del señor Embajador Magombe. Este documento del informe del Comité ha sido estudiado con particular atención por mi gobierno y en base a ese estudio se ha preparado una larga intervención que tengo aquí delante de mí. No obstante eso, teniendo en cuenta las prolijas intervenciones que hemos escuchado, creo que sería un aporte más constructivo al debate si en vez de leer este discurso le pido que se incorpore en las actas; que el Comité de Redacción lo tenga en cuenta en su momento y me queda solamente agregar que mi delegación apoya cuanto se dijo ayer en nombre del Grupo de los 77, que desea además expresar su satisfacción por la labor que viene realizando la Dirección de Productos Básicos y Comercio, que está apoyando con gran eficiencia tanto al CPPB como a los grupos que de él dependen.

EL PRESIDENTE: De acuerdo con las disposiciones vigentes se insertará en las actas el /?/ de la delegación de Argentina.

Antes de conceder la palabra a 6 oradores que aun están en la lista se ha planteado una moción de orden por Gabon.

G. DE BARKER (Netherlands): I would like to speak about one subject that has been discussed in the report on page 12 item (g) , Food Standards.

Before doing that I would just make a general remark that our delegation is still under the impression that the CCP, although it is perhaps one of the oldest commissions that exists in FAO, does not show any signs of getting old. Therefore, we wish it a long life. It is a very useful floor or forum for having the different viewpoints put on the floor and discussed with an open mind, also as a sort of preparation for the more negotiating work in UNCTAD and GATT, etc. So we feel this is a very good Commission.

I would like to say a bit more about the food standard issues. I am under the impression this is one of the issues which keeps the Commission young. Reading the report and also reading point 18 of the statement of the Group of 77 which was added to the report, I got the impression that the effect and impact of food standards on trade on the food industry was mostly felt in developing countries, that that was the problem, the issue, the impact on trade and the food industry in developing countries. I would like to stress the fact that this impact is felt all over.

There is certainly an influence, an impact, an effect on food standards whether they are national food standards, whether they are international, whether they are accepted under the Codex Alimentarius standards or for their bi-national or national improvement, they have also a big influence on trade, on export, on import, on consumer habits and on the food industry. So it is certainly not only a matter that affects trade and the food industry in the developing countries. Certainly not. I should like to give two quite recent examples. We are here in Italy at present. Most of us who have come here appreciate, try out and usually like that nice red drink Campari - Campari Soda. Everybody seems to think that the red comes from the grapes or something else. But that has nothing to do with it. The red colour comes from an amaranth colouring. As far as I know from reading the newspapers, though I do not know whether it is true, this has been forbidden now because it is dangerous to our health. There is a certain health risk. That means that the Campari Soda is facing a lot of problems. I am quite sure that we shall not drink Campari any more because it is no longer red and it looks like any white or non-coloured drink. I give that example only because the food standards - and this is certainly a food standard - has a big influence on our own national problems.

The second example is the big storm that blew up in the United States when all sweeteners were forbidden by the Food and Drug Administration. That is something that took the attention of the whole world. That is my first remark.

My second remark is that before forbidding anything in this world the evidence of a risk to our health, a health hazard, must be weighed against the importance of the food industry, of exports and of consumer preference. These must be weighed and it is a very difficult thing to do. One must weigh up the one-thousandth chance that I will get sick against a big export or import. This is a vast problem and it must be discussed in a forum where both voices are heard. Both sides must be weighed one against the other. Therefore, I could not say that I would go along with the idea that the CCP should be such a forum because the CCP will always stress matters of trade just like food technologists will stress the importance of a colourant or sweetener. This must be done in a forum where you have both voices and, so far as I know, the procedure in the Codex Alimentarius Commission is a careful procedure. The delegate of India spoke of eighteen steps. I do not know how many there are but it is a careful procedure in order to come to a decision. I should like to see in the Codex procedure where it is stated that the balance between the trade impact and the food industry impact is really fair and just compared with the impact on our health. We all feel that is very important.

I am glad that my turn to speak came after the Indian delegate because I was struck by his proposal at first sight. I must say that I am not an expert in the field so I am not giving a real judgment on the matter but it looked to me like an attempt to be fair in the matter by asking the Codex Unit here, the Division on Nutrition, in consultation with the Commodities Division, to come up with a statement of the impact on health and then bring that again to the Codex Commission. That seems to me to be a fairer approach than that discussed on the CCP and I should like very much to hear what the Secretariat experts sitting on their high chairs have to say. I should like to tell our Codex experts at home what they feel about it and whether this could be perhaps the solution to this very important problem.

My main point is that it is an important matter for all of us in all countries. It is important for trade, for consumers, and for ourselves sitting here but the weighing-up must be done very carefully and there must not be any overpowering by any of the groups nor by the health people. If we listened

to the health people we would not eat anything anymore. Everything in one way or another is bad for our health. If we listened to the trade people or the food industry we must eat everything. From looking at the television one would think everything is good for u. Somewhere there must be a balance and I hope that the Secretariat by giving good advice to the Codex Committee is able to give it a balance although I believe that what I like is good for me.

L. LAPEBY (Gabon): Je voudrais tout d'abord m'excuser auprès des honorables délégués de cette session du Conseil. Nous avons pris un certain retard, Monsieur le Président l'a souligné ce matin. Or nous sommes en train de parler d'un problème qui n'est pas de notre compétence: le Codex Alimentarius. Si quelqu'un a le droit d'en parler dans cette salle, c'est Monsieur Weill de la délégation française, qui a été président de la Commission du Codex Alimentarius. C'est un problème qui demande des experts. La Commission du Codex Alimentarius accepte tous les membres de la FAO ou de l'OMS, sans contribution supplémentaire, pour participer aux travaux de la Commission et de la vingtaine de comités qui existent. Parmi ces comités, il y a le Comité des produits. Je viens d'assister au Comité de l'étiquetage au Canada, à Ottawa. Nous avons eu pas mal de difficultés et nous avons renvoyé un grand nombre de problèmes au Comité des produits.

Il serait trop long de parler des problèmes du Codex Alimentarius, et avec votre permission, je souhaiterais que les délégués s'abstiennent de parler du problème des normes alimentaires et que nous nous penchions uniquement sur l'autre aspect que présente le document que nous étudions. Si nous nous aventurons dans des discussions d'un autre genre, nous risquons de ne pas intéresser un certain nombre de membres ici présents qui n'ont pas l'habitude de suivre ces problèmes qui demandent des experts en la matière.

Je crois que le délégué des Pays-Bas a été très pertinent dans son intervention en nous rappelant

par exemple le cas de l'amarante. Je rappellerai, si le délégué des Etats-Unis me le permet, le cas de la saccharine. Et combien de problèmes de ce genre se posent dans chaque pays! Par conséquent, laissons ces problèmes au Codex Alimentarius.

EL PRESIDENTE: Estoy seguro de que los miembros del Consejo tomarán nota de la declaración del colega de Gabon.

A. GISSE (Niger): La délégation du Niger félicite le Comité des produits pour son excellent rapport. En effet, ce rapport renferme les produits principaux des pays développés, donc des produits dont la baisse des prix se fait sentir sur la balance des paiements de nos pays.

J'ajouterai que la crise économique qui a secoué le monde ces dernières années a eu des conséquences plus graves dans les pays en développement que dans les pays développés. En effet, la plupart des pays en développement ont une économie faible, basée essentiellement sur l'agriculture. Elle est elle-même très aléatoire et dépend des caprices pluviométriques et des attaques des divers ravageurs des cultures.

Cette fragilité de l'économie de nos pays en développement explique l'instabilité des coûts des produits agricoles. La hausse des produits chimiques accentue le fossé entre les pays développés et les pays en développement. Nous savons tous qu'alors que les prix des produits chimiques ces trois dernières années ont triplé ou même quadruplé, les prix des produits agricoles à l'exportation ont diminué, ou s'ils ont augmenté, c'est sur la base d'une fourchette de 10 pour cent.

C'est pourquoi la délégation du Niger appuie sans réserve les recommandations du Groupe des 77 sur les propositions d'ajustement des prix des produits agricoles. Le Niger insiste pour que la plus grande priorité soit donnée à l'application du programme intégré de la CNUCED avec la participation effective de la FAO. En effet, l'accroissement de la production nécessitant l'utilisation d'engrais, de matériel agricole coûteux, il importe que les produits agricoles soient valorisés et protégés dans les pays en développement pour mieux garantir une croissance harmonieuse et équilibrée de l'humanité, un meilleur équilibre international.

Le Niger approuve également l'aide qu'apporte la FAO dans l'élaboration des politiques nationales pour un certain nombre de produits agricoles.

En ce qui concerne les autres points de l'ordre du jour, le Niger approuve les propositions du Comité des produits.

C. HIGGINSON (United States of America): I too want to commend this CCP report. It was a very good meeting. There were a number of issues and the report I believe gives a fair portrayal of the results of that meeting. I should also like to commend the Chairman of the CCP, Mr. Magombe. It is through his leadership that a lot of these issues were resolved to the extent that you see them in the report. Therefore, I do not believe that in the Council it is worthwhile going over that report word for word., Most people have commended it. I think it should be left at that position.

The report does raise a number of issues that the Committee asks the Council to look at. The principal one we are discussing here now is the suggestion that the CCP involve itself in the trade aspects of the Codex Alimentarius work. I should like to indicate that the United States Government has certain agreement with the delegate from the Netherlands and the delegate from Gabon. When we start discussing the Codex Alimentarius we are working in a very technical field in which the FAO and the WHO both have split expertise. The Codex Alimentarius meetings are open. Anybody who wishes to participate in one of those meetings may do so.

The delegate from Brazil pointed out that the Codex Alimentarius has two paramount goals - the protection of your, my and the rest of the world's health and also to ensure that there are no trade restrictions. In the past the Codex Alimentarius has worked quite successfully to meet both of those conflicting goals. If a country feels very strongly on one or the other it is up to it to participate in the Codex Alimentarius in order to express its views. Obviously not everybody can always be happy with all the decisions but they do operate by consensus so there is quite a lot of protection here. Further, I should like to point out that in GATT there is a group on non-tariff barriers. If a food standard is a very substantial barrier to international trade this international group at GATT is the very logical place, at least in the view of the U.S. Government, to raise these issues and to have them discussed.

Finally, the delegate of India had a suggestion that the Codex Alimentarius, with the help of the Commodities Division of the FAO, prepare an impact statement. The United States has this, as he pointed out, in its environmental legislation. I would just like to warn this group that I am quite sure that all of the staff of the Commodities Division - Mr. Leeks' Division - would be totally occupied in drafting up an impact statement. In fact, if it works like in the United States, I think everybody in FAO could be working on impact statements. I therefore suggest that this group consider very carefully what exactly it is suggesting in this field, and also think as to whether maybe it is not already protected. As I have said, the Codex Alimentarius is open to all participants and very definitely has as one of its paramount roles the trade effects of its food standards.

F. SHEFRIN (Canada): We do not plan to make a general statement or to repeat what has been said in this chamber during the past few days. We can also point out that, like many countries, we are not particularly happy with the international price fluctuations. We are having this current experience in the case of wheat, where not only have prices fluctuated but they have dropped, and it is a major concern to us. So we have much in common with the few, the many, the some and the severals, although at times here in the past few years I felt I should say "as a member of the Few Group I will say the following", because we are very few these days.

We find the CCP report is very clear and very well written. It was easy to read, and we like that. The points have been made very clearly and sharply, though I do understand the meeting was a very active one. We would like to deal with just one item and that is the Codex Alimentarius Commission.

We, like all countries around this table, are very much concerned that food standards can be used as trade barriers. We have argued on this and we have made our case in the GATT that countries have used food standards as trade barriers.

As far as Canada is concerned, we have had an interest in the Codex from the very beginning. As a matter of fact, I was rather fortunate to be able to attend the founding conference in Geneva, which is a very fitting place because that is where GATT meets also. We had some very interesting discussions in those days because some of the very active delegates from the developing countries even at that time stressed the danger of food standards becoming trade barriers.

So this item is not so simple as it appears in our discussions. At first it was understood that agreement on food standards must be a voluntary cooperation; there is to be no rushing into it. Ten steps were established and they have been very hard to achieve. Up to the seventh one we moved very quickly; after that it was a terrible frustration to get to the eighth, and then by the ninth we get completely stalled. The members of the Codex Committee have been from developed and developing countries.

What is interesting in Codex work is that committees are sponsored by governments, not by the FAO and in many instances governments act as host countries. Canada acts as host on food labelling and we always make a point of informing all our friends in developing countries that we are discussing food labelling.

The delegate of Brazil, in presenting his case, said he was doing so in a very constructive manner and mood. I want to assure him that we all share the constructive attitude; we would not want to be destructive in this work. So, in that sense, he and I have something in common. We think however it would be a very serious mistake to tie in the CCP with the Codex Alimentarius Commission. The CCP is a very wonderful organization. We can get together, express our views, and speak freely, whether we are experts or not. I do not agree with the delegate of India who said, the Codex has become a cosy club for experts. I have sat on some of the meetings and, as the delegate of Gabon has just pointed out, it is anything but a cosy club. I am not even clear as to how the CCP would get involved. I feel here, on the basis of our experience with Codex work that it would be a mistake to introduce the CCP into the Codex activities. As a matter of fact, the CCP is having trouble doing what it is supposed to do. I was looking at the terms of reference and I do not think we are quite living up to the objectives. I would hope all countries would become active participants in the various Codex committees. We feel that at this point it would be no advantage to the CCP or to the Codex to undertake what is proposed by the delegate of Brazil, which he says is the proposal of the 77. That may be true, but as a Group of One we have difficulty in accepting it.

K. ITANO (Japan): We appreciate the work of the CCP and we have the report of the last session of the CCP which reflects the exhaustive discussions that took place there. We therefore do not intend to go into detail at this time and wish to confine ourselves to comment on one specific point: the problem of food standards. Various opinions have been expressed by previous speakers and our delegation is of the opinion that this matter is a very specialized and technical one, beyond the competence of the CCP and also of this Council.

Therefore, in this connexion, we share the opinion expressed by the delegates of the Netherlands, Gabon, the United States and others.

A.A.W. LANDYMORE (United Kingdom): The United Kingdom delegation would like to associate itself with those other delegations that have thanked the Committee on Commodity Problems for a really excellent report. We should also like to associate ourselves in a very sincere tribute indeed to Ambassador Magombe's conduct of that meeting. We also thought that he did a magnificent job and I should like to have this within the records of this Council.

I propose to concentrate mainly on the problem of associating the Committee on Commodity Problems with the work of the Codex Alimentarius Commission. I feel that we should be very wise to take the advice of the delegate of Gabon. He has drawn attention to the technicality of the work of the Codex Alimentarius Commission and has suggested that we avoid going into the details of those technicalities. We have, of course, to take account of paragraph 67 of the CCP report which says:

"The Committee was unable to reach consensus on this subject. It agreed that this subject and its deliberations on it should be called to the attention of the Council."

Now, if it is being called to the attention of the Council, the Council can hardly avoid making some kind of remarks, even if they are not totally agreed remarks. The position of the United Kingdom remains mainly as summed up in paragraph 66 of this report. This refers to the doubts of several delegations about the Committee dealing with food standards, and these delegations pointed out that these questions involved consideration of very specialized and technical issues - a point which the delegate of Gabon stressed himself - and required certain expertise which the delegates normally attending the sessions of the Committee did not have. I think this is more than true. What is more, of course, that expertise is in very short supply.

The last point I would wish to emphasize in regard to paragraph 66 of the Report is that in our view it would be much better if the Committee on Commodity Problems were to concern itself with particular trade problems which may arise from the applications of food standards if and when they arise and this is our special point as far as the Committee on Commodity Problems is concerned • Dealing with the role of the Codex Alimentarius Commission. I think in the first place it is very important to remember that it is a joint commission of the FAO and WHO and a monitoring role for a single committee of this Council is not necessarily something that could be imposed as such.

There are a number of other factors of which in our view close account must be taken. There is the first point that the developed countries have well developed systems of food law which have taken years to build up and the task of reaching agreement on international standards within the context of domestic food legislation is a very complex one. It requires, as has been pointed out, very considerable expertise and, as I have said that is in very limited supply in all countries. We cannot bring our experts to CCP to deal with this any more than we could bring them to this Council to deal with it, and what is more, if we did I think half of what they said would be incomprehensible. It seems to us that it is sensible to concentrate the application of this expertise in the right place rather than to diffuse it ; and the Codex is the acknowledged forum for this kind of work

The second point I would like to make is that the membership of the Codex is open to developing countries and indeed, many developing countries are members of the Codex. The best way to influence events in that body would be better representation at meetings and better briefing of those who do attend.

The third point I should like to make is that the best way of meeting the problems of the developing countries, of which we are all very conscious, is not necessarily to proliferate commodity standards. The problem is to get them enforced domestically. The problem is again the necessary infrastructure for enforcement such as a corps of trained inspectors, a system of analytical laboratories and so forth, which would be there to assist developing countries in achieving the standards for export and the acceptability of those exports within the context of the domestic food legislation of the importers.

Now it is true that Codex itself has no mandate and no funds to engage in this type of work but it can and it does offer advice on the type of model legislation and on the mechanics of an effective, enforcement system. What is more, FAO and the World Health Organization are themselves involved in a wide range of food control projects in a number of developing countries. It seems to us that the Codex itself is very much aware of the problems of the developing countries. We would draw attention to the fact that coordinating regional committees have been set up for Africa, Southeast Asia and Latin America. We would draw attention to the fact that procedures of Codex allow these committees) to develop the regional standards so that the machinery already exists for the formulation of standards for commodities of interest to a particular region.

The General Codex Committee on general principles is at present considering the possibility of formulating a code of ethics for international trade in food following one of the recommendations of the United Nations Conference on the Environment 1972. It remains to be seen what success attends these efforts, and any code could in any case be no more than a palliative until such time as developing countries can set up their own enforcement systems. Any so-called "help" given to Codex as we see it would probably mean influencing the contents of standards against the better judgment of that body. It is true that Codex has trade responsibilities written into its terms of reference but that is not to be interpreted as meaning that those standards should be dropped against the interests of the consumer in the interest of simply promoting trade. We believe that that would not be help, we believe it would be hindrance. Codex itself is a voluntary body. Its standards are not mandatory and they rely for their currency on acceptance by member countries. In our view any alteration to standards would merely ensure that these standards were accepted by fewer member countries and would to that extent be less effective.

Now let me come finally on the subject of Codex to the suggestion by the delegate of India that the draft of each standard before adoption should be accompanied by a trade impact statement to be prepared by the FAO Secretariat. To start with I associate myself with what has been said by the delegate of the United States to the effect that that would probably absorb the whole time of a large part of the staff of FAO I do not think it is very practicalo

The second point I would like to make is that it does not seem to me to be very realistic to ask the Committee on Commodity Problems to consider these matters on an abstract and theoretical forecast and so I come back to the point that I made at the very beginning of this statement, and that is that it would be more realistic if the CCP were to concern itself with particular trade problems deriving from standards if and when they arise on the basis of experience and not of forecasts.

Can I now turn finally to the question of whether the CCP should have a special session before the next Conference in order to consider the question of agricultural adjustment. In this I wish to associate myself fully with the views of the delegate of Brazil, to the effect that this is neither necessary nor desirable.'

P . GUERIN (France): Ma délégation n'avait pas prévu d'intervenir sur ce point car l'objectivité du rapport de la 51ème session du Comité des produits a été soulignée par l'unanimité de nos collègues. Ce rapport reflète bien en effet les appréciations apportées au début du mois de mai par les uns et les autres sur la situation des marchés des principaux produits agricoles et les solutions à mettre en oeuvre au sein des différentes instances concernées pour parvenir à une stabilisation des marchés et à une expansion du commerce mondial, dans l'intérêt mutuel des pays en développement et des pays développés importateurs ou exportateurs.

Mais plusieurs de nos collègues ont évoqué les changements intervenus depuis cette session du Comité, depuis le début du mois de mai et certains points me paraissent devoir être relevés. A propos de la Conférence sur la coopération économique internationale, le dialogue Nord-Sud, je crois qu'il est abusif de parler d'un échec, en tous cas pour ce qui concerne les produits agricoles, puisqu'à Paris, le principe a bien été adopté de la création d'un fonds commun qui serait l'élément-clé du dispositif destiné à soutenir les actions de stabilisation des cours des principaux produits de base dans la ligne du programme intégré défini par la résolution 93(iv) de Nairobi. Il faut espérer que la prochaine conférence de la CNUCED, au mois de novembre, permettra, sur ce point, de concrétiser cet accord.

Sur un second point, le sucre, (point qui a été évoqué par notre collègue de l'Ile Maurice, il faut effectivement et malheureusement, noter l'ajourne, ent de la Conférence de la CNUCED de Genève sur le sucre. Son Président a été chargé de procéder à des consultations préalables à la reprise éventuelle, à l'automne, de cette conférence sur des bases susceptibles de recueillir un accord des principales parties prenantes du commerce international de ce produit. Mais à notre sens, ce relatif échec était inévitable à partir du moment où l'on partait d'un projet d'accord fondé uniquement sur des quotas d'exportation.

L'expérience du non-fonctionnement des accords antérieurs établis sur la même base aurait pu être mise à profit et il est regrettable à mon sens que les recommandations de la CNUCED, lors de sa session de Nairobi, n'aient pas été suivies dès le départ en recherchant la possibilité d'un accord fondé à la fois sur le stockage et l'encadrement des fluctuations de prix. Il est à noter également qu'une certaine contradiction ne pouvait manquer d'apparaître entre, d'une part, les revendications de prix minimum élevés et, d'autre part, la limitation de la production de produits de substitution comme le lysoglucose bien sûr, et l'incitation au développement de la consommation. La détermination de la Communauté économique européenne de participer à la Conférence internationale, sur le sucre ne peut être mise en doute à la fois parce que, au travers des accords passés avec les pays de la Convention de Lomé, la Communauté économique européenne garantit à ces derniers un écoulement préférentiel et stable d'une partie considérable de leur production et parce que la vocation naturelle de plusieurs de ses membres est de produire du sucre blanc recherché par un grand nombre de pays en développement importateurs.

La Communauté économique européenne a donc le devoir de participer à un tel accord à condition qu'il contribue réellement à la stabilisation des cours, à la croissance maîtrisée de la production et de la consommation, qu'il tienne compte de tous les intérêts en présence et mette en oeuvre une solidarité commune des importateurs et des exportateurs à des conditions particulières pour les pays en développement les plus pauvres.

A propos du point qui a été longuement évoqué du Codex, je ne reviens pas sur la recommandation du Gabon sur ce point, mais je dis au passage que je partage totalement l'avis de nos collègues néerlandais, anglais et de nombreux autres et nous pensons en effet qu'il ne faut pas créer sur ce point d'ambiguïté; la commission FAO/OMS du Codex alimentarius a une tâche technique très complexe et difficile à accomplir et elle s'en acquitte parfaitement et comme l'ont dit d'autres délégations sur un autre plan dans le cadre des négociations commerciales multilatérales, le problème des entraves non tarifaires aux échanges est étudié avec une spécificité reconnue aux secteurs agricoles et la discussion n'a fait que s'engager sur ce point à savoir le problème de l'applicabilité d'un code des normes à l'agriculture et il faut poursuivre bien entendu cette discussion.

Puisque j'ai évoqué les négociations commerciales multilatérales sous l'égide du GATT, je tiens à relever ce qui est dit au paragraphe 71 du rapport à propos des divergences sur la façon d'aborder dans cette négociation les problèmes relatifs aux produits agricoles. Je crois là aussi que certains événements survenus depuis la rédaction de ce rapport et notamment la Conférence de Londres et la Conférence de Paris permettent raisonnablement de dire que ces divergences de procédures paraissent surmontées et qu'un consensus est en train de se dégager pour aborder d'une façon pragmatique ces négociations dans le cadre de la spécificité reconnue du secteur agricole, en tenant compte des problèmes particuliers des pays en développement.

Sur un dernier point évoqué par notre collègue du Brésil à propos de l'ajustement agricole international, ma délégation estime que nous devons nous garder d'un excès d'ambition. Je ne parle pas de l'ambition qui est de produire de plus en plus de produits agricoles, je crois que le Brésil qui devient à ce titre le second exportateur mondial de produits agricoles est bien placé dans ce domaine pour montrer qu'il est à la mesure de ces ambitions. Je parle des ambitions des réalités économiques et politiques de chacun de nos pays. Il ne peut être question, et je crois que tout le monde en est conscient autour de cette table, que notre tribune se transforme en tribunal qui jugerait les politiques agricoles, nationales ou régionales de l'un ou l'autre. Suffisamment de défis nous sont lancés pour que nous consacrons, avant tout, nos efforts à l'augmentation de la production agricole et à la lutte contre la malnutrition en nous gardant de décourager des producteurs agricoles, où qu'ils soient, dont la vocation est avant tout de répondre aux impératifs de la sécurité des approvisionnements nationaux et internationaux.

H. ADJI ISMET HAKIM (Indonesia) : First with regard to food standards, we have heard the reasoning behind this, and I think the Group of 77 would like to have these food standards considered by the CCP. It is not merely consideration of the standard itself but it is the trade impact of the food standards they would like to look at.

We have also heard the intervention by India that in other fora in other countries, the EEC is looking at the matter of the impact on trade of food standards, so it is reasonable I think that we can at least have the matter under our review, and if that is not possible then we would like to support the proposals made by India, that at least the draft of each standard be accompanied by a trade impact statement by FAO.

We really wonder at the statement made by two of our colleagues here, that it will absorb the whole time of the FAO. We would like to ask the Secretariat whether this is so, when they are doing the jobs as proposed by India.

The second point we would like to say on this concerns the International Agricultural Adjustment, We would like to support the view expressed by Brazil concerning the preparing of the report on the monitoring development and implementation of the Commission for Agricultural Adjustment, The view expressed by the Group of 77 should be fully taken into consideration.

The next point is also that I think when we prepare the guidelines for international adjustments, we look at them as a whole and try to harmonise national policies. If we are really inclined and indeed if we would like to implement the international order, then we think that this international adjustment is a start in that direction.

The third point we would like to stress is the agreement reached by the CCP and we support it with the recommendation that the FAO should continue its collaboration with the UNCTAD Secretariat, particularly in their joint preparation and servicing of meetings on agricultural commodities in the preparation of background material for the meetings on the integrated programme for commodities, and also that when negotiations are completed in UNCTAD, FAO is likely to be Involved in some of the

follow-up actions for certain commodities.

The last point we would like to make is that the Council also did agree to increase collaboration among developing countries to stimulate their trade,

W.A.F. GRABISCH (Germany, Federal Republic of): At this juncture, I wish to limit my delegation's comments to just a few remarks. First, regarding the question of associating the CCP with the work of the Codex Alimentarius, I have not very much to add to what has already been said by Gabon, Argentina, the U.S.A., the Netherlands, Japan and others, in particular as the Codex Alimentarius is not, if I may say so - please forgive me - a closed club but open to all members, and that all members can participate in and contribute to this Committee. But I can understand that some of the countries around the table have found that certain views have not been taken into consideration as they might have wished. If I ask myself - and if I can continue the free dialogue we do enjoy here at this Council meeting - I am very glad that we have it - If I ask myself why then I feel that perhaps sometimes it might be that what occasionally happens at home, might also sometimes happen in other countries, namely some sort of lack of coordination among different agencies. In this context, I wish to highlight that the standard of qualified people involved in food and nutrition problems, namely the experts, the medical doctors, the veterinarians and other technicians, all over the world now do not differ in their capacity. They have, as we find, the same standard and more or less the same views, and therefore they do understand each other and reach conclusions. I think therefore it would be necessary to see that provisions are being made within Governments that they pay attention to those questions which member countries do wish to be taken into consideration. However, as the United States pointed out and the United Kingdom recalled to us, we have a special Group to handle this question of non-tariff barriers in the GATT where these questions can be taken up.

I must say that on the contrary to what has been said, that standards would not help trading between countries, rather I would say that in the long run, standards can, could and do further trading between countries. Just to give an example of that: following the good example given by the Netherlands who very wisely did not give an example concerning his own country, but I will not hesitate to give an example of my own country. When about 25 years ago we tried to take up the tradition of exporting some special food products from our country to the United States, namely, Frankfurter Wiirstchen, sausages from Frankfurt, special hams from the region of Oldenburg and Schleswig-Holstein in the north of my country, we were told that our standards did not meet the hygienic standards applied in that country. Of course, we were not happy about that, as you can imagine, but on second thoughts we felt that perhaps it would be good to think over our own position and to discuss these problems amongst the technicians, and finally we have heard that this helped trading. This is the same question which we also do feel is involved here, if we think about the impact to which the Netherlands referred namely, that the impact of these standards which are, after all, evolved by the International Community where all can participate, it also has an impact on all countries. I therefore feel that we should leave that question to the Codex Alimentarius and to the other proper fora in which these matters can be taken up.

My second point refers to the question of International Agricultural Adjustment. We have no strong feelings about whether before the forthcoming Conference this question should be taken up for discussion at a special session of the CCP or not. We do agree with the speakers before us who said there is no necessity in particular because we feel that a certain adjustment does take place, and in particular, if we look at Table 1, FAO index numbers of world and regional food production in document CL 71/2, there in the table which is provided to us we can see that, for example, the annual rate of change in food production in the developed market economies in Western Europe, from the average figure

given for 1961-70 which was 2.3 per cent, went down in 1970-76 - that means in the six years of the present decade - to 1.5. Now, there had, apparently, taken place a certain adjustment. On the other hand and this has been pointed out also in the Committee on Agriculture - developing countries are at the same time asked to make provision that the aid commitments are being fulfilled and that provision is being assured, so I do feel that this adjustment does take place.

A final word about the question of imports : with regard to my country, I can state that our imports of agricultural products of developing countries have doubled in terms of value during the last ten years and have reached a record level in 1976.

I. OROZCO (México): Antes de entrar en el fondo del asunto quisiera hacer una petición si para ello no hubiera inconvenientes de la Mesa y del Consejo, puesto que aquí se ha hablado de los resultados positivos de la Conferencia Norte-Sur en cuanto a agricultura, alimentos y productos básicos. Si no fuera posible contar con una información de la Secretaría acerca de las conclusiones de la Conferencia Norte-Sur, nosotros, los países en desarrollo, por la información recibida más bien nos sentiríamos desalentados, pero mi delegación apreciaría bastante esta información.

Nosotros en cuanto á la labor del Comité de Problemas y Productos Básicos no podemos menos de apoyar esas conclusiones y la forma en que ha venido trabajando, aunque obviamente somos conscientes de la complejidad de los problemas, y es por esto que también nosotros en general apoyamos los planteamientos y preocupaciones de los países miembros del Grupo de los 77, de los cuales mi país forma parte.

Nosotros también compartimos la preocupación de ese cuadro que ha sido expuesto por el delegado de Filipinas, que muestra una situación y condiciones desfavorables en los intercambios comerciales, por los ingresos que reciben los países en desarrollo por sus productos de exportación frente a los altos costos de los bienes importados provenientes de países desarrollados.

Nosotros no constatamos ninguna contradicción entre lo que se pide aquí respecto de la sugerencia valiosa que nos ha hecho el delegado de la India acerca de la función que la Dirección de Productos Básicos y Comercio de la FAO expongan su opinión sobre las repercusiones en el comercio internacional de alimentos cuando se trata de llegar a las normas del Codex Alimentarius. Nosotros no somos técnicos, no podemos hablar de la sustancia del asunto, pero al menos nos parece una sugerencia muy importante en cuanto es una información que debe ser distribuida a los miembros del Comité cuando estén en reunión y, cuando no estén en reunión, a todos los Estados Miembros y también a través de sus representantes permanentes acreditados aquí ante la FAO.

Porque es cierto que aquí constatamos un problema de complementariedad que existe entre el técnico y el humanista; parece que la labor del Comité de Problemas de Productos Básicos sería la parte humanista y el Codex Alimentarius la parte técnica. No creo que por eso se excluyan las funciones de uno y otro.

EL PRESIDENTE: Me permito informar al colega y amigo de México que oportunamente el señor Walton atenderá su solicitud sobre los resultados de la Conferencia en cuanto a agricultura, alimentos y productos básicos, y expondrá los puntos de vista de la Secretaría a ese respecto cuando llegue el momento adecuado .

A. NIKKOLA (Finland): I will be very brief. Concerning food standards, the position of my delegation is the same as those delegations that have serious difficulties with the ideas expressed in paragraph 65 of the CCP report.

Many delegations have already referred to the multilateral trade negotiations going on within the framework of GATT. The Working Party on Non-Tariff Trade Barriers is mentioned.

I would also like to remind the Council that the so-called standard code or Code of Standards is being at present discussed within the framework of GATT. The GATT Agricultural Committee dealt with this some weeks ago. If the GATT standard code is accepted and is applied to farm products that will mean the establishment of special consultation machinery, within the framework of which all complaints concerning trade impact for all food standards or other non-tariff trade barriers could be dealt with.

D. FRANTZESKAKIS (Grèce): Dans la session du Comité des produits d'avril dernier, nous avons passé en revue les grandes négociations internationales au sein de la CNUCED, du GATT et de la Conférence sur la coopération économique internationale. Evidemment, le sujet est très vaste et c'est peut-être la raison pour laquelle les progrès enregistrés ne sont pas tellement satisfaisants. En effet, on n'est pas encore parvenu à résoudre les problèmes habituels des produits agricoles.

La suggestion de confier à la FAO la lourde tâche de promouvoir des négociations sur les échanges mondiaux de produits agricoles et des accords produit par produit ou groupe de produits par groupe de produits, nous paraît être une heureuse initiative qui pourrait aider à obtenir des résultats plus encourageants. Nous félicitons aussi l'initiative du Directeur général qui a affecté les ressources nécessaires pour la pleine mise à profit de la longue et vaste expérience technique que possède la FAO en ce domaine.

D'ailleurs, les groupes intergouvernementaux de la FAO peuvent participer davantage et de façon plus efficace à l'action qui permet de suivre les divers produits, Grace aux connaissances spécialisées

qu'ils ont accumulées, ces groupes pourraient apporter une importante contribution au sein de la résolution 93 de la CNUCED.

La délégation de Grèce voudrait signaler que cette intervention parallèle ne devrait en aucun cas substituer les travaux des instances hautement compétentes habilitées à mener à bien ces négociations.

M.L. CAMERON (New Zealand): I wish to refer to items 1 and 2 under Matters Requiring Attention By The Council. We find the report of the work of the CCP and its subsidiary bodies of particular interest and value since New Zealand, like many developing countries, is dependent on the export of agricultural commodities for its economic wellbeing.

Indeed in New Zealand's case over 75 percent of its overseas earnings come from the export of agricultural products. Again, in common with many developing countries, export earnings are of paramount importance to our economy since we lack non-agricultural natural resources.

For this reason we sympathise and agree with the developing countries when they highlight the effects of fluctuating commodity prices on their export earnings and in particular when they criticize the restrictive trade practices and price support policies of some developed countries. Access restrictions to markets, high tariff and non-tariff barriers, and artificially created surpluses which depress markets, all cause us major problems just as they cause difficulties to developing countries.

However, we are unable to agree that these problems should be alleviated by providing preferential treatment for the agricultural exports of developing countries, particularly when temporary restrictions on imports are introduced. This can penalize traditional exporters unfairly, and it seems to us more equitable and more effective to concentrate on removing these restrictions on market access in a non-discriminatory and across the board manner.

We also hold the view strongly that FAO is not the appropriate forum to discuss these matters in detail, and it is certainly not the appropriate forum to negotiate on these issues. Rather, trade negotiations are best undertaken at GATT and UNCTAD, and in these fora Zealand has played an active role for a number of years in seeking the removal of barriers to trade in agriculture for all countries.

If I might comment on the second item and speak as a major exporter of milk and meat products, all of which are particularly sensitive to food standard issues, we also have difficulty with the suggestion by the spokesman for the Group of 77 that the CCP should monitor the work of the Codex Alimentarius Commission to ensure that food standards do not interfere with food trade, and in particular with the exports of developing countries.

New Zealand has always supported the work of the Codex Alimentarius Commission in the field of harmonization of food standards and elaboration of codes of hygiene practice for food production.

In our view Codex is one of the success stories of FAO and the World Health Organization, and one of the reasons for this is that it has remained a body where technical experts from both sides of the fence can resolve technical questions in a relatively non-political atmosphere. We would hope this practice could continue.

It is our belief that the development of uniform and objective food standards benefits both exporters and importers, both producers and consumers. We believe these standards facilitate trade rather than hinder it. The work of Codex reduces the differences between the import standards of countries, and in most cases this harmonization procedure lowers the unnecessarily strict standards of some countries. It

can only be of benefit to exporters to know exactly what, standards they have to meet rather than to be faced with the difficulties and expense of trying to meet the highest common denominator of many different standards.

We consider that if countries have problems or grievances with particular standards - and we can see that they may well have problems, and we too as exporters have our share - then the appropriate place for these grievances to be is within Codex itself.

We foresee one further problem with the proposal for the CCP to oversee the work of the Codex Alimentarius Commission and that is that Codex work is administered jointly by two bodies, FAO and WHO. The problem is that these two organizations have different memberships and it is unlikely that several important countries that are members of WHO and not FAO would agree to a subsidiary body of FAO having a supervisory role over the work of Codex.

To conclude, we would urge that the Council does not recommend that the CCP should oversee and supervise the work of the Codex Alimentarius Commission.

B. de AZEVEDO BRITO (Brazil): I believe it should be no surprise that I ask to speak again on the subject of the Codex Alimentarius; by the way, I must say that we Brazilians believe that in this Council, like in the Economic and Social Council and in other major bodies of the United Nations and specialized agencies, it is proper to discuss policy issues. We are here to bring our ideas and to come to conclusions, or at least to recognize our differences.

Reference has been made to the fact that Brazil, in spite of the problems of import restrictions imposed by some developed countries - and I am glad to see that New Zealand shares our feeling on import restrictions and difficulties that exporters are facing - is nowadays quite a large exporter. Such a fact reinforces and explains our interest in this particular issue. I should like first to take the point made by the Netherlands. Of course, there are always impacts from food standards. Even a favourable impact is in some cases possible. Our first concern is to see if the impact is negative and, if so, if it is unavoidable. Secondly, if the impact is unavoidable, we must see to what extent we can minimize the impact on the developing countries. Thirdly, - as developing countries have consistently said - food standards must have health as a paramount concern. The question is not of giving too much attention to health; probably too little attention has been paid. There is also the fact that the interest of the real consumer is not always taken into account. There are strong indications, that in many cases it is the trade interests of food processing industries in developed countries that really prevail. I will give one example. Was it health or considerations that dictated the reduction of the percentage of cocoa solids in chocolate from 32 percent to 25 and 18 percent? I would submit to you that it is in the interests of the consumer and his health that a high-quality product - in this case, with a high cocoa content should be kept. Thus we get, in some instances, instead of a chocolate product, a milk product with the name of chocolate. As cocoa prices go up the cocoa content in chocolate dictated by the Codex Alimentarius goes down.

The point was made that we have adequate machinery in Codex to examine these problems. May I say first that we have regional coordinating Committees. Our regional coordinating committee for Latin America is bogged down over a problem of participation. We, the Latins, want to meet alone to discuss our policies on food standards, and we are prevented from doing so by the insistence of some countries on participating in our deliberations. Are the mechanisms available in the Codex so good for us? The second point is about the substantive Codex committees. It has been said to us "you can go there and can make your point". Sure, you can make your point, but are not all the committees hosted and serviced permanently by the developed countries with all the consequences that this may have? We see standards being approved, one after the other, over our objections. Meetings curiously enough rarely take place where developing countries can easily attend, where we have delegations and full permanent representation. Those places are carefully avoided. From being the majority, which we are, we become an eternal minority and we see standards, step by step, being approved over our objections. We read a paragraph in the report about the objections of some commodity-producing countries, but are we happy with this situation? No, Sir.

When we come to the competence issue, it is true that the Codex Commission has two parents - WHO and FAO. WHO should and must take the lead on health issues and any problem on health is settled by WHO and its competent staff and bodies. Any problem on agricultural commodities should be dealt with by the competent staff and bodies of FAO. If we have a committee on commodities, competent in trade matters, there is no reason why it should not be used as far as appropriate. We are, of course, flexible; we present a proposal and we wish the Codex Commission to consider that proposal.

In relation to food aid, we have a committee on surplus disposal, which checks the effect of food aid on exporters. It is quite natural that appropriate machinery should be devised to do that kind of checking also in the domain of food standards. We suggested an already existing body for the sake of simplicity. Of course, the decision will have to be taken by the Codex Commission. The Codex Commission can use our suggestion or can set up an alternative mechanism for checking. We are always open to suggestions and to dialogue on this particular point, but we are not satisfied with the present situation. Adequate machinery for assessment is necessary; it is also necessary that there should be adequate procedures, and we believe that the suggestion by the delegate of India to have trade impact statements at a certain stage of the development of the food standards is an excellent one; it is complementary to the proposal made by our Group of 77. We suggest therefore that all the results of this discussion should be brought to the Executive Committee of the Codex Alimentarius Commission and to the Commission itself, which would then report to the Council in 1978 on the measures it has adopted in order to take into account the concerns expressed here. We believe that we have reason for grievance and that we have not been able to prevail, under the present machinery of the Codex Alimentarius, in what are reasonable, just and fair requests. It is for that reason that we brought this issue to, the major body of FAO, the Council.

M, FOFANA (Observateur pour la Guinée): Monsieur le Président, nous voudrions à travers vous d'abord remercier son Excellence l'Ambassadeur MAGOMBE qui a dirigé avec son Bureau, de façon magistrale, les travaux du Comité sur les produits de base. Nous voudrions aussi remercier le secrétariat pour l'excellent document qu'il a fourni. Puisque je ne suis qu'un observateur, je ne vais pas abuser du temps que vous m'accordez et je voudrais dire que je me rallie entièrement aux déclarations faites par les représentants des Philippines et du Brésil.

En ce qui concerne justement le paragraphe 65 traitant du Codex Alimentarius, il me semble que le représentant du Brésil vient de donner un exemple sur lequel le Conseil pourrait méditer. Mais lisant attentivement ce paragraphe, je crois qu'il fait plus que mettre l'accent sur un principe que nous devrions envisager à la lumière de toutes les difficultés que rencontrent les pays en développement en ce qui concerne les normes, lesquelles ont des répercussions évidentes sur la commercialisation des produits de ces pays.

Je voudrais vous-donner un autre exemple, à la suite de celui que vient de donner le représentant du Brésil et qui concerne les tourteaux d'arachides. Le rapport qui est accepté actuellement est de 0,50 pour cent sur le produit fini et, pour un grand producteur comme le Sénégal, ceci équivaut à une perte d'environ 15 milliards par an. Les normes qui avaient été proposées et qui étaient à la portée du Sénégal auraient été de un pour cent. De un les négociations nous ont amenés à 0,7 pour finir à 0,5 et c'est ce qui a été accepté dans le cadre du Marché commun afin que le Sénégal puisse commercialiser. Or, ce qui se passe, c'est que ces pays achètent la matière première, traitent ce produit, le commercialisent au niveau mondial et même au niveau du Sénégal qui, dans le même temps, malgré tous ses efforts perd 15 milliards sur ses productions. Cette situation a donc une répercussion évidente sur les questions commerciales.

Tenant compte aussi du niveau de technicité que chacune de nos délégations a souligné et vu la nécessité de formation et d'aide à accorder pour permettre aux pays en développement d'avoir des cadres appropriés dans ce domaine, je crois que le Conseil devrait porter son attention sur le paragraphe 65 et souligner qu'il s'agit d'apporter une aide efficace, ce qui ne diminue en rien les capacités de la FAO au niveau de l'OMS, laquelle supervise fondamentalement le Codex Alimentarius.

Donc, le Conseil devrait être un peu plus attentif au principe qui est souligné lorsqu'il s'agira des questions de technique. En ce moment, le Comité des produits de la FAO, en conjugaison avec les organes spécialisés du GATT, pourra voir de façon globale comment il faut envisager certaines normes qui ont des répercussions sur des produits spécifiques aux pays en voie de développement. De toute façon, ce dont il s'agit ici c'est d'accepter dès maintenant le principe. Au niveau des discussions techniques, nous verrons les approches nécessaires à faire, tout en tenant compte des intérêts des deux parties afin de réenvisager ces questions de normes qui sont des problèmes vraiment importants pour les pays en développement.

Concernant le paragraphe 79, je ne me rallierai qu'à la déclaration du représentant des Philippines qui a souligné les questions de prix, de marchés et aussi l'ouverture des marchés mondiaux, ainsi que de tous les autres problèmes connexes.

Je voudrais aussi souligner particulièrement au paragraphe 77, qui a trait aux négociations en cours au sein de la CNUCED sur les produits de base, le rôle important que la FAO devrait jouer à ce niveau, notamment en ce qui concerne la recherche, le développement, les techniques de production, les moyens

de réduire les coûts, l'amélioration des structures de traitement et de commercialisation, les informations de base, etc. Je crois que là aussi le Conseil devrait appuyer la FAO dans l'effort qu'elle entreprend afin d'aider la CNUCED au niveau des négociations en cours sur les produits de base.

Le paragraphe 78 met l'accent sur la coopération entre les pays en voie de développement. Je pense que là aussi nous ne pourrions que nous rallier aux recommandations faites par la Conférence de Mexico et reprendre les recommandations faites par la Conférence des pays non alignés qui ont souligné l'aspect particulier de cette question.

Pour la FAO, et dans le cadre justement de cette coopération inter-pays en développement, nous souhaitons vivement que la FAO ait des rapports beaucoup plus restreints avec les banques régionales, et pour ce qui est des pays africains, nous souhaitons vivement que la FAO consolide sur le terrain même ses rapports de travail, d'étude et d'évaluation des projets avec la Banque de développement africaine.

Ceci dit, le groupe africain voudrait attirer l'attention du Conseil sur un projet de recommandation que nous aurons à soumettre et qui concerne justement les rapports entre la FAO et la BDA.

Sur le paragraphe 78 également, nous encourageons la FAO à continuer ses études sur les autres produits qui ne sont pas encore considérés dans le cadre de la CNUCED. Ceci à la lumière de la résolution 93 (IV) de Nairobi. Effectivement, il y a beaucoup de produits importants pour les pays en développement qui n'ont pas été retenus par la résolution 93 (IV) de Nairobi, notamment le riz, les cuirs et peaux, le tabac, les épices et les fruits; et, à cette occasion, justement, nous désirons que la FAO joue un rôle assez important en nous produisant des études assez amples et très détaillées sur les conférences *ad hoc* qui doivent se tenir dans le courant des années 1978/1979 sur les cuirs et peaux et surtout sur les produits synthétiques et la répercussion des produits synthétiques sur les produits naturels.

Je voudrais donc lancer un appel au Comité, concernant principalement le Codex alimentarius, pour que, en ce qui concerne les propositions du groupe des 77, on se fonde surtout sur l'esprit de ces propositions et que le Conseil veuille recommander la participation de la FAO et de son comité aux travaux de ce Codex. Je suis certain que le Comité voudra ne pas interpréter de façon arbitraire la déclaration du distingué représentant du Gabon car il n'a abordé qu'une partie des questions qui concernent le Codex, à savoir les questions techniques qui sont réelles, mais aussi une certaine volonté et des méthodes qu'il faut remettre en cause et envisager de façon plus constructive pour les pays en développement .

D.J. WALTON (Officer-in-Charge, Economie and Social Policy Department): The delegate of Mexico asked for information about the outcome of the recently concluded Conference on International Economic Cooperation, also known as the Paris Conference, or the North-South Dialogue. At the conclusion of the recent meeting, a communique was issued which listed areas of agreement and areas of disagreement. The subject matter is divided into four groups corresponding to the four commissions of the Conference itself. The FAO was accredited as an observer in two of these commissions: those for raw materials and for development. Under the subject matter covered by these two commissions agreement was reached on the following points. On raw materials and trade:

1. Establishment of a common fund with purposes, objectives and other constituent elements to be further negotiated in UNCTAD.
2. Research and development and some other measures for natural products competing with synthetics.
3. Measures for international cooperation in the field of marketing and distribution of raw materials.
4. Measures to assist importing developing countries to develop and diversify their indigenous natural resources.
5. Agreement for improving generalized system of preferences schemes, identification of areas for special and more favourable treatment for developing countries in the multilateral trade negotiations) and certain other trade questions.

Now I come to development, and here I shall read out the points which are of direct or indirect concern to FAO only:

1. Volume and quality of official development assistance.
2. Provision by developed countries of one billion dollars in a special action programme for individual low-income countries facing general problems of transfer of resources.
3. Food and agriculture.
4. Assistance to infrastructure development in developing countries with particular reference to Africa.

Later in the communique there is a corresponding list of subjects on which agreement was not reached. Here, I think it would take up too much of the Council's time if I were to read out the points, but I would like to read out integrally the following paragraph:

"The members of the Conference agreed to transmit the results of the Conference to the United Nations General Assembly at its resumed 31st Session and to all other relevant international bodies for their consideration and appropriate action. They further agreed to recommend that intensive consideration of outstanding problems be continued within the United Nations system and other existing appropriate bodies."

The report of the Conference will therefore be officially transmitted to the United Nations and, presumably, also to FAO. Until that has been done, we are in considerable difficulties because we simply do not have the definitive, authoritative text of the report covering those points on which agreement was reached or not reached. On food and agriculture, for instance, the text in our possession might be described as a semi-final text. It contains phrases such as "the development commission recommends that". The final text which will be transmitted to us has, as far as we know, not yet been put together and issued.

Therefore we do not see how we can reproduce for the records of the Council what is not the official report of the Paris Conference. On food and agriculture, however, the text which we have covers the following points, and I can read them quite rapidly: food production; assistance to agriculture; the International Fund for Agricultural Development; fertilizers; pesticides; seeds; world food security, including the negotiation of a new International Grains Agreement; and food aid. By and large, the text corresponds rather closely to the similar texts which have been negotiated, for instance, in our own Committee on World Food Security and also in the recent preparatory meeting of the World Food Council. I think I can safely say there is no major surprise, no new element that fundamentally affects international negotiations on food and agriculture in the text as we have it at the moment, but I must really report that at this stage we are in the embarrassing position of not having a complete text, an official text, which we can make available to the Council.

EL PRESIDENTE: Gracias, Sr. Walton. Creo que el Consejo tomó nota de la información que Vd. ha suministrado a petición de la Delegación de México.

G.O. KERMODE (Officer-in-Charge, Food Policy and Nutrition Division): I would just like to refer to the discussion which has taken place on the food standards issue. The discussion itself illustrates the complexity of the subject matter of food standards and one can appreciate that in any compromise agreement on a standard there may be countries - developed or developing - that have serious concern about the possible impact of such a standard on their international trade. The Codex Commission spent a great deal of time in its earlier years developing procedures to try and safeguard the interests of all its member countries. It does seem, in the light of the discussion, that there is reason to look into this matter. If I may refer to the last statement made by the delegate of Brazil, that the Executive Committee and the Codex Commission be asked to examine these matters and consider the report of this Council Session. If the Council is in agreement, I would like to say that I believe members of the Executive Committee should have copies of the Verbatim Report so that they can have a full appreciation of the issues discussed. The Codex Commission would be asked to report to the Director-General so that at an appropriate opportunity these matters could be placed before the Council again. I believe that the issue which has been raised is in the interests of all member countries of the Commission. A number of delegates have referred to constitutional and procedural matters. It is correct that there are some members of the Codex Alimentarius Commission who are not members of the FAO. As the delegate of Brazil has proposed, it might be appropriate that the Commission itself examine these matters in full and report to the Director-General for action he considers appropriate vis-à-vis the Council. The Secretariat of the Commission would be most pleased indeed to take on this assignment, if it be the wish of the Council.

S.S. MAHDI (India): I do not know what your summary of our discussions would be, Mr. Chairman, nor do I wish to anticipate it; but if it is finally decided to refer the discussions in the Council for the consideration of the Codex Alimentarius Commission, I should like to add that the specific proposal that has been made by this delegation and seems to have support not only from a number of developing countries but, according to my interpretation, has some support from at least one developed country, should also be referred as a proposal and not as a part of the Verbatim Record. This proposal is not an alternative proposal but a supplement to what has been said by other delegations. In the meantime it will be worth while to examine the feasibility of the proposal because personally I am not convinced that half the FAO's staff will have to be engaged for making pre-trade impact statements. I think such observations do not reflect well on the excellence and competence of the members of the Secretariat.

I. OROZCO (México): Sr. Presidente, quiero agradecer por su conducto al Sr. Walton la información que solicitábamos. En realidad, confirma lo que conocíamos por la prensa y el mismo ha visto las dificultades en presentar al Consejo algo más formal. De lo que ha dicho se desprende que ésto constituiría un tema del programa para el próximo período de sesiones del Consejo; no quiero hablar prejuzgando sobre la forma en que el Consejo podría decidir, pero también sería una cuestión que la Conferencia de la FAO debería examinar, por el mandato que se implica a los Organismos especializados acerca de las materias de que son competentes.

EL PRESIDENTE: Creo que sobre este tema podríamos decir que el Consejo apoyó la alta prioridad que el Director General ha concedido en el programa de labores de la Organización a los aspectos relacionados con los productos básicos y el comercio.

El Consejo apoyó una vez más la necesaria cooperación de la FAO con la UNCTAD y los otros Organismos que concurren en el estudio y la solución de esos problemas.

Creo que también podríamos incluir en nuestro informe algunas referencias sobre las fluctuaciones de los precios en el comercio internacional, el deterioro de ese comercio en desventaja de los países en desarrollo, particularmente por la disminución de los ingresos de sus exportaciones, relacionado todo ello en cierta medida, como lo dijeron algunas delegaciones, con las actuales políticas vigentes.

Igualmente podríamos hacer referencia a las observaciones que se plantearon sobre las labores y los cometidos de los grupos intergubernamentales que funcionan en el seno de nuestra Organización como órganos del CPPB.

Sobre la propuesta del Grupo de los 77, que consiste en que, vistas las importantes consecuencias comerciales de las normas alimentarias estipuladas en el Codex, sería útil y necesario que el Comité ayudase al Codex a establecer prácticas comerciales justas, como preveían sus estatutos.

Como todos Vds. lo han presenciado, tuvo lugar una discusión intensa controvertida; se expresaron opiniones muy diversas. Creo que basadas en las últimas declaraciones que oímos podríamos incluir en nuestro informe, repito, para la tranquilidad de nuestro colega de India, algunas de las posiciones que se expresaron y que contaron con apoyo, como fué concretamente la del colega de India, que, si bien entiendo, consiste en que al adoptarse toda norma del Codex debería tenerse en cuenta sus repercusiones sobre el comercio.

Naturalmente, se incluirán también en nuestro informe, repito, algunas opiniones que se manifestaron en relación con puntos de vista diferentes respecto a las posiciones mayoritarias.

El informe de nuestro Consejo, así como las actas taquigráficas se enviarán, entonces, a los órganos rectores, a la Comisión del Codex Alimentarius y conoceríamos la reacción de esa Comisión, la opinión del Director General y decidiríamos la acción ulterior que nuestro Consejo debería tomar en esta materia.

Sobre el Reajuste Agrícola Internacional hubo pocos comentarios. Sin embargo creo que podrían incluirse algunas de las ideas que fueron expresadas, pero concretamente deberíamos decir que el Consejo tomó nota de lo que se dice en el párrafo 150 del informe del Comité de Agricultura, en espera de que se presente el informe a la Conferencia próxima.

Sobre la posibilidad de que el Comité tenga una reunión en otoño próximo, creo que no hay duda de que el Consejo acogió la propuesta del señor Embajador Magombe, Presidente del CPPB, en el sentido de que esa reunión se considera innecesaria. Solo me resta asociar a todo el Consejo al reconocimiento que se ha hecho a usted señor Embajador Magombe, Presidente del CPPB, por la forma inteligente y eficaz como presidió ese importante organismo, actitud que ha sido complementada por la manera concreta y constructiva como hizo usted su presentación, lo cual podría ser un buen ejemplo para el futuro.

A. A. W. LANDYMORE (United Kingdom): Thank you for your summing up. As usual I found it was well balanced. There is only one point on which I would like to have clarity. I have no objection to the proposal of the delegate of India going forward to the Codex Commission as has been proposed but I take it that it will not go forward as having been endorsed by the whole Council because I made my own reservations on that proposal, some other speakers did, and I would hope that it is your interpretation that that proposal will not go forward as having been endorsed by the whole Council, I would also hope perhaps, that our report might also draw attention to the fact that my delegation did make an alternative proposal and that is, that in the light of experience, the CCP might examine individual cases.

B. de AZEVEDO BRITO (Brazil): As usual your summing up was very good and in the case of the specific reference to the Codex I would not dispute the essence of your summing up. In fact I propose that the whole matter be transferred and brought to the attention first of the Executive Committee, which meets on the 12th of July in Geneva, if my memory is correct, and then the next session of the Codex Alimentarius Commission itself.

However, it is not only a question of transmitting. I want this Council to indicate also its wish to be informed of the deliberations and any action taken on proposals. All proposals made here and all points of view should be brought to the attention of the Codex with the indication that we want to be informed of the action taken, of the eventual proposals, and given an indication of action to be taken in FAO bodies. It is not just a question of transmitting the proposals.

J. C. VIGNAUD (Argentina): Las características coyunturales de los mercados internacionales de productos básicos señaladas por la Conferencia en su 18º período de sesiones en cuanto a inestabilidad de precios e ingresos de exportaciones y el reducido incremento de los ingresos globales originado en el comercio de los mismos para los países en desarrollo se han agravado.

Después de los altos precios que excepcionalmente lograron los productos básicos a comienzos de la década del 70, que estimularon el desarrollo agropecuario e industrial, el consumo y programas ambiciosos de asistencia social en nuestros países, nos encontramos, a partir de 1974, nuevamente afectados por la tendencia hacia el deterioro de los términos del intercambio. Prueba de ello es la creciente reducción de la participación de los países en desarrollo no exportadores de petróleo, en las exportaciones mundiales, del 24,4 por ciento en 1950 al 10,5 por ciento en 1975, así como el significativo aumento del endeudamiento externo, la disminución de las reservas monetarias y la caída en los niveles de empleo consumo e ingreso por capita.

Particularmente grave es la situación en el área de los alimentos frente al importante aumento registrado en los países industrializados de su propia producción agrícola y del comercio de alimentos entre ellos, a expensas de las exportaciones de los países en desarrollo y desplazándolos de sus mercados tradicionales.

Los países desarrollados, al incentivar su propia oferta de alimentos y materias primas agrícolas, dieron oportunidad a sus productores de aumentar el índice de capital y de tecnificación de sus explotaciones, en base a subvenciones que, sumadas al desarrollo de los productos sintéticos y sucedáneos, amenazan con agravar las tendencias distorsivas en la producción agrícola mundial.

La evolución reciente de los precios indica precios en alza en café, cacao, algodón, pieles y cueros, mientras continúan deprimidos los de las carnes, cereales y azúcar, entre otros, y acumulación de excedentes en productos lácteos y vino.

Frente a este panorama no podemos menos que concentrar nuestras esperanzas en que los acuerdos por productos logren una efectiva regulación del mercado asegurando la expansión de la producción en los países en desarrollo y precios justos y remuneradores para los exportadores, siguiendo el camino de los convenios del café, el cacao, mientras se concretan soluciones globales para el comercio de los productos básicos en general, en el marco del Programa Integrado de la UNCTAD.

Al respecto, es preciso señalar la necesidad de preservar la competencia originaria de los distintos foros y evitar las duplicaciones entre las actividades de los mismos,

Sin perjuicio de ello, reiteramos nuestro reconocimiento a la labor de la FAO en la recopilación de un importante universo de datos e informaciones que se ofrece a los gobiernos como herramientas sumamente útiles para la planificación de sus políticas agrícolas y nutricionales y a los organismos de negociación para completar su propio enfoque con elementos ilustrativos de la producción agrícola y la demanda mundial de alimentos.

Nos interesa particularmente la continuación de esta labor en el Grupo Intergubernamental de la Carne, aumentando su eficacia como foro para el debate de opciones normativas y medidas de cooperación en los problemas que afectan al comercio internacional de la carne.

En cuanto a la labor de los otros Comités de Productos Básicos apoyamos su acción en cereales, bananas y té en relación con la elaboración y recopilación de datos que facilitan la estructuración de acuerdos o estrategias internacionales, propiciando la ordenada expansión de los sectores. 1/

EL PRESIDENTE: Si no hay ninguna otra opinión por parte de los miembros del Consejo después de las dos últimas declaraciones que acabamos de oír y creo que yo no debo agregar nada más a mi resumen, pues al repasar fugazmente mi memoria estoy en condiciones de pensar que las dos exposiciones últimamente expresadas están contenidas en lo que yo quise decir cuando presente el resumen.

Mañana por la mañana reanudaremos nuestros trabajos. Les ruego tomen nota de cuál será el programa. Empezaremos en primer lugar con el tema 14(b) para atender la solicitud de aquellos delegados que deben viajar a Ginebra a atender la reunión del PNUD; si en el curso de la mañana terminásemos el 14(b) seguiríamos con el tema 10. Si no fuere así, de todas maneras en la tarde de mañana iniciaremos la discusión del tema 16, o sea el resumen del programa de labores y presupuesto.

The meeting rose at 17,55 hours.

La séance est levée à 17 h 55

Se levanta la sesión a las 17.55 horas.

1/ Statement inserted in the verbatim records on request.

1/ Texte reçu avec demande d'insertion au procès-verbal

1/ Texto incluido en las actas a petición expresa.

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FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

conseil

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

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ORGANIZACION DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS PARA LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION

CL

CL 71/PV/7

Seventy-First Session

Soixante et onzième session

71° período de sesiones

SEVENTH PLENARY MEETING
SEPTIEME SEANCE PLENIERE
SEPTIMA SESION PLENARIA

(9 June 1977)

The Seventh Plenary Meeting was opened at 9.50 hours G. Bula Hoyos, Independent Chairman of the Council, presiding

La septième séance plénière est ouverte à 9 h 50 sous la présidence de G. Bula Hoyos, Président indépendant du Conseil

Se abre la séptima sesión plenaria a las 9.50 horas bajo la presidencia de G. Bula Hoyos, Presidente Independiente del Consejo

III- ACTIVITIES OF FAO AND WFP (continued)

III- ACTIVITES DE LA FAO ET DU PAM (suite)

III- ACTIVIDADES DE LA FAO Y DEL PMA (continuación)

14(b) Inter-Agency Relations and Consultations on Questions of Common Interest : Further Developments in Relation with UNDP, WFC and IFAD

14(b) Relations et consultations interinstitutions sur les questions d'intérêt commun: Autres faits nouveaux concernant les relations avec le PNUD, le CMA et le FIDA

14(b) Relaciones y consultas con otros organismos sobre asuntos de interés común : Ulterior desarrollo de las relaciones con el PNUD, el CMA y el FIDA

EL PRESIDENTE: Notarán ustedes que en el Orden del Día aparece el Tema 14(b): "Relaciones y consultas con otros organismos sobre asuntos de interés común" Si antes de terminar esta sesión, como sería deseable, concluyéramos este Tema 14(b), podríamos seguir con el Tema 10, Informe del COAG y si no nos diera tiempo lo estudiaríamos esta tarde.

En razón a estas consideraciones, una vez más, ruego a los Presidentes de los Comités, a los funcionarios de la Secretaría y a los miembros del Consejo, que sean breves y concretos.

En el Orden del Día aparecen relacionados los documentos para este Tema 14(b) que espero todos tengan a la mano.

En primer lugar voy a conceder la palabra al señor Yriart, Subdirector General Jefe del Departamento de Desarrollo.

J.F. YRIART (Assistant Director-General, Development Department) In relation to item 14(b), Further Developments in Relation with UNDP, the agenda calls your attention to the reports of the Thirty-Second Session of the Programme Committee and the Thirty-Ninth Session of the Finance Committee. Though I will refer again to them, I would also like to commend to your attention chapter 5 on the field programme of the Summary of the Programme of Work and Budget 1978-79, document CL 71/3, which refers to our expectations in regard to the field programme in the next biennium. I would not like to take too much of your time repeating information which is very well summarized in paragraphs 2.99 to 2.112 of the report of the Thirty-Second Session of the Programme Committee, document CL 71/4. I will instead only update that information in cases where new developments have taken place in the last thirty days.

We reported to the Programme Committee, in accordance with the latest forecast available to us, that in 1977, FAO's total expenditure under UNDP Programmes should reach some \$90 to \$95 million, a further reduction from the 1976 total of \$100 million. The latest forecast indicates that our delivery this year will not exceed \$90 million. This is mainly because the slight overall increase in total UNDP resources comes too late in 1977 to allow the momentum of increased delivery to show up much before the end of 1977. In fact, we can still feel the effects of the cuts imposed at the end of 1975. For example, having terminated a field expert suddenly during 1976, he cannot be replaced by stroke of a pen in 1977.

The Programme Committee's report in paragraph 2.105 warns against any expectation of an ever-increasing FAO/UNDP Field Programme and describes the reasons which apart from weakness of the resource base are also due to innovations in programme policies that result in decreasing execution of the UNDP programmes by the agencies. I must say, however, that some of these innovations are most welcomed, particularly the increased participation by governments themselves in the execution of their own projects. The agencies, will ever remain ready to assist the governments under new forms such as TCDC in the execution of development projects.

On the basis of elements available and after a weak result this year, on the UNDP side, there could be an upswing to some \$120 million in 1978 and some \$140 million the following year.

As regards Trust Funds, it is believed that last year's increases will continue at a steady rate, with this year's estimated delivery of some \$46 million, followed by approximately \$51 million in 1978 and some \$57 million in 1979. This excludes the special input schemes OSRO, IFS and FSAS, International Fertilizer Scheme and Food Security Assistance Scheme. The calculations are tentative, and there could be now unknown factors which will influence the figures.

From paragraphs 2.107 on, the Report of the Programme Committee refers to several policy issues in the relations between agencies and UNDP and briefly relates the discussions which took place on them at the Programme Working Group (PWG) and Inter-Agency Consultative Board (IACB) meetings at the end of March and beginning of April last in Paris. The most important issues referred to are, first, a paper that the UNDP Administrator was to present to the Governing Council Session starting next Monday and which he has now in effect presented, on the "Role and Activities of UNDP"; secondly, the question of the establishment of an Inter-Agency Task Force at UNDP Headquarters; and thirdly, the policy paper which was being prepared, and is now finalized and being submitted to the Governing Council on the subject of Overhead Cost Reimbursement. This latter issue was discussed at the Finance Committee's Thirteenth Session, and the Committee's Report deals with it in paragraphs 3.34 to 3.40.

At the IACB meeting the Administrator requested the heads of agencies to send him further observations on a draft paper on "The Role and Activities of UNDP", which had been presented to them less than a week before the meeting. Most of the agencies did so, but in the final document the Administrator had recognized that the time available for comments was very short in view of the great importance of the issues under consideration and has now invited the agencies to speak when this item is considered next week in the Governing Council. The issues are indeed vital, since the paper submitted by the Administrator seems to be based on the premise that the UNDP should become the development agency of the UN system, while the Director-General stated in his inaugural address to the Council that "the health and tried worth of the system lie in its specialized diversity, its decentralization of initiative and its flexibility of response".

We still have some difficulties with the paper, but trust that it will be possible to resolve these on the basis of the Administrator's own statement to his own Governing Council that he recognizes, and I quote: "the integral nature of the U.N. Development System"; and again I quote: "the concept of publishing and the complementarity between the Specialized and other Agencies in the U.N. system and UNDP."

At the PWG and IACB discussions, the agencies were unanimous in suggesting that the concept of raising funds and seeing to their intelligent use is a primary role of UNDP. Again, even though now the Administrator accepts as a first point of principle that "raising and efficient management of funds for the provision of technical cooperation activities is the basic, primary task of UNDP", we consider that other preoccupations of the UNDP may be allowed to overshadow the importance of that basic, primary task.

Another controversial issue raised by the Administrator refers to his concept of UNDP's role as a funding organization. We believe that the present situation is the consequence of profound realities. The development process does not take place in a laboratory environment. This also applies to the funding of the various components of the United Nations System's collaboration in assisting governments in their development. Overall designs formally agreed to by the international community are only partially attainable at a national level. Both donor and recipient governments are seeking pragmatic solutions to contrasting objectives, forging ahead on various fronts. Recipient governments accept assistance from a variety of sources if it fits in with their own priority. The donors may, for various good reasons of their own, direct some of their external assistance funds through special channels.

The reality is that it is recipient governments and recipient governments only who can and must coordinate development inputs from many sources, and we in the United Nations System must stand ready to assist. It is not one of the Organizations of the System which will decide on the degree of coordination, or the role that the System should play in this context. Here it is the will of the recipient government that prevails. This, we think, is the reality of the development situation as compared with doctrines or theories held in some quarters.

In his paper the Administrator states that several Agencies felt "that the concept of central funding is a thing of the past and that polycentric funding has come to stay". I think that our Organization would certainly subscribe to this view, particularly as the result has been to increase the total flow of resources for technical assistance. It cannot be our concern as an Organization to devise and facilitate mechanisms the results of which would almost certainly be to limit or even to reduce that total flow.

We are hopeful that the discussion next week at the UNDP Governing Council will serve to clarify the position of the governments with regard to the issues I have referred to, and others which are of the maximum importance to the whole of the UN System. The Administrator has also said that he expects the discussion to be only a first stage in a continuing dialogue involving the governments, UNDP and the Agencies.

In regard to the establishment of an Inter-Agency Task Force at UNDP Headquarters a further meeting of several agencies designated at the IACB, among them FAO, was held in Geneva, The Report of this meeting recommends possible terms of reference and modalities of functioning of a Task Force, Nevertheless, we have not heard further from the Administrator as to whether or not he will in fact establish a Task Force.

The Director-General has clearly supported some kind of improved consultation mechanism to be organised between UNDP and the Agencies. He is ready to send his representatives to ad hoc meetings as and when subjects of interest have to be discussed between the UNDP and the Agencies. This would allow him to select the appropriate persons to represent the Organization, according to the subject to be taken up. On the other hand, the Director-General would not agree to setting up a permanent Inter-Agency Task Force at UNDP headquarters. Apart from the obvious difficulties which the smaller agencies would have in participating effectively, we in FAO have great difficulties in endorsing the view that the terms of reference of such a body have been clearly conceived or that the mechanism would work satisfactorily bearing in mind the policy importance of the wide spectrum of issues that would arise.

Finally, on the subject of Overhead Costs Reimbursement. I would like to remind you, Mr. Chairman, that paragraphs 3.34 to 3.40 of the Report of the Thirty-Ninth Session of the Finance Committee refer to the status of this issue in discussions between UNDP and the Agencies.

It would interest you to know that only last week the Administrator circulated an addendum to this paper to the Governing Council on Agency Overhead Costs referring to his consultations with the Agencies, and that the first statement he makes is that "the overwhelming majority of the Members of the Board" - he refers to the Inter-Agency Consultancy Board composed of all the Agencies' heads - "expressed the view that the present system of compensating Agency Overheads should be continued without change". He also notes that Agencies' Heads felt that he should recommend to the Governing Council that the present system should be continuous, not only in 1978 to 1979, as the Administrator suggests in his main paper, but for a longer time so that a measure of stability in planning could be maintained. This was also the view of your Finance Committee. He has not, however, made any recommendation on behalf of UNDP.

I believe that Since the last session of the Programme and Finance Committees there are no other major developments to report on our relations with UNDP.

Following your desires, Mr. Chairman, I would now say a brief word on IFAD. May I again call to your attention paragraphs 2.116 and 2.118 of the Report of the Thirty-Second Session of the Programme Committee. I would like also to remind you of the Director-General's reference to relations, close relations, with the President of the Preparatory Commission of IFAD in his opening statement to the Council.

There is after the meeting of the Programme Committee, little else to report, except that we have actively pursued with our colleagues of the Secretariat of the Preparatory Commission of IFAD, the preparation and the drafting of a Relationship Agreement between FAO and IFAD. The IFAD Preparatory Commission Chairman and Secretariat have been preparing these Relationship Agreements also with the World Bank and the Regional Banks. I can report that the conversations have been most constructive and satisfactory and we think that we should be able to arrive at a very well thought out and practical Relationship Agreement that will facilitate the involvement of competent services in assisting FAO in all aspects of what we call the Project Cycle. However, we have not quite finished drafting this Relationship Agreement.

There are a few details left over and this has prevented us from finalizing the total text and being able to submit it to the Council. We are hopeful that both IFAD and the Preparatory Commission will be able to finish the text and finalize it before the end of this Session, and then the Director-General will be able to submit it to the Programme and Finance Committees and the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters preparatory to submitting it to the Council in the November Session, and to the Conference, as the Conference has requested,

D.J. WALTON (Officer-in-Charge, Economic and Social Policy Department): I would like merely to update the information given in the Programme Committee's Report, the section starting at paragraph 2.113. The Programme Committee in its Report refers to the discussions under way between the FAO and the World Food Council Secretariat to work out an agreement which is technically called a supplementary arrangement within the framework of the overall agreement between FAO and the United Nations.

We have now worked out an agreement at the level of the two Secretariats that is satisfactory to both sides, and the World Food Council is currently awaiting final clearance of the text from the office of the Legal Counsel of the United Nations. We propose for our part to submit the text to the CCLM, the Programme Committee and the Finance Committee in the autumn.

From there it will go to the Council and to the Conference. It takes two to make an agreement, and the World Food Council will wish also to look at it.

The Rules of Procedure of the World Food Council specify that there should be appropriate arrangements concerning cooperation and coordination of the work and the servicing of the Council that the Secretary-General of the United Nations will have concluded after consultation with the Council, with the Director-General of FAO and the Executive Heads of other United Nations agencies concerned.

These consultations with the World Food Council itself regarding an agreement with FAO and possibly with other agencies will have to take place in 1978. Presumably the FAO Conference at the end of the year may wish to delegate to the Council authority to approve the final text at the end of 1978, taking account of any suggestions for modification that might emerge from the World Food Council itself. However, I would like to emphasize that this agreement with the World Food Council will not be a major policy document along the lines of, for instance, the agreement with the International Fund for Agricultural Development. Whereas the IFAD agreement will set up arrangements for effective cooperation between the two bodies, so far as FAO/World Food Council arrangements are concerned, the decisions have already been taken by the FAO Council and the FAO Conference. I would mention that at its Session in July 1976 the FAO Council - and I am quoting a few words of the report - "felt that it would not be practical at the present stage to seek a hard and fast demarcation of functions between the World Food Council on the one hand and the FAO Council together with its subsidiary bodies on the other hand. The Council felt that complementarity of action between the World Food Council and FAO could for the moment best be promoted by close consultation and cooperation at Secretarial level."

Consequently, the text which will go forward in the autumn will represent, as mentioned in the Programme Committee's report, a codification of the existing decisions and will not represent a major new policy element in the relations between FAO and the World Food Council.

The other main event which has happened since the Programme Committee met has been the preparatory meeting for the third session of the World Food Council. We have made available the report of the preparatory meeting as document CL 71/INF/11. The first part of the preparatory meeting's report consists of a series of draft resolutions which are submitted for consideration by Ministers when the World Food Council meets in Manila immediately following the conclusion of the FAO Council. These resolutions all relate to areas of direct concern to FAO. Since these resolutions are at present under consideration at the level of capitals in preparation for the Manila meeting I presume that the Council will not wish to examine them substantively and in depth, but I might draw particular attention to the resolution on nutrition because it breaks new ground in the deliberations of the World Food Council and contains, in draft form, a specific recommendation to the FAO Council and Conference.

So far as the Secretariat is concerned, we are in general agreement with the thrust of this resolution, but in the complex and rather difficult negotiation process which took place at the preparatory meeting in the completion of this text, certain elements have been incorporated in the text which seem likely both to us and to the World Food Council Secretariat to create some potential difficulties and I very much hope that these can be ironed out in the course of the discussions in Manila.

Since I have mentioned nutrition I should like also to draw attention to document CL 71/INF/10 which contains the recommendations of the ACC to ECOSOC for new institutional arrangements relating to nutrition. This will come up for specific discussion next week under item 14(d) and I am not suggesting that the Council address itself to the document at this stage but it does deal with the institutional mechanisms through which the substantive recommendations emerging from the World Food Council would be implemented and the two therefore do amount in a way to a package. However, the specifics in the new institutional arrangements for nutrition might be dealt with more appropriately next week.

R.W. PHILLIPS (Chairman, Programme Committee): In view of the fact that Mr. Yriart and Mr. Walton have already updated rather thoroughly the material contained in the report of the Programme Committee on these issues, anything in the way of detail that I might say at this moment would be an anti-climax, so I will find it rather easy to follow your Injunction, Mr. Chairman, to be brief.

I would make two or three observations, however, on the points before the Council. First, in regard to the relationships between FAO and UNDP, the Programme Committee did have a rather thorough discussion of these issues as Mr. Yriart has already pointed out. It was fully aware of the problems relating to the future of UNDP operations in relation to the availability of financial resources. Its overall assessment at the time was that the future was not too bright in this respect for the combined trends to which Mr. Yriart has referred, which would tend over the long pull to perhaps limit any expectations of any major expansions in FAO's field programme financed out of UNDP resources. That is something that is problematical, so this was only an assessment on the part of the Programme Committee of the nature of the trends that seem to be affecting the future.

On this whole question of relationships and the difficulties which are emerging and which will be discussed in Geneva next week and thereafter, I would just call your attention to paragraph 2.112 of the Programme Committee's report where it is noted that the Committee expressed its concern over several less-than-positive elements in relations between UNDP and the Agencies partially stemming from the resources crisis and partially to be found in uncertainty over their respective responsibilities within the system. The Committee expressed the hope that solutions might be found through an effective dialogue based on full consultation between UNDP and the Agencies.

With that I will leave the UNDP side and turn to IFAD to take the matters in the order in which they have thus far been presented, and I would make only one point which you will find in paragraph 2.118 of the Programme Committee's report, namely, that pending the time when IFAD is established and has its own resources, the Committee supported the provision of the necessary further support for the interim Secretariat during 1977.

Turning now to the relations between FAO and the World Food Council, I do not really need to add any information to that supplied by Mr. Walton, but I would point out that on the question of nutrition which is dealt with in paragraph 2.115 of the Programme Committee's report, this relates not only to item 14 (d), as Mr. Walton has mentioned, but also to the discussion of the Programme of Work under item 16. The Programme Committee's observations on the section of the annex of the Summary Programme of Work which is contained in document CL 71/3 on page A8 of the English version, section 2.1.6, nutrition is actually found in the Committee's report in paragraphs 2.59 and 2.60. Since this is an issue which relates directly to the Programme of Work and Budget as it involves the nutrition activities of FAO, it is probable that delegations will wish to look at the issue at that point in addition to anything they might wish to say here.

In closing I should underline that decisions in this area regarding the proposed new Committee structure within the United Nations system for coordinating activities within the nutrition field and for the servicing of those activities by FAO will directly involve the Programme of Work and Budget for the next biennium.

' M. BEL HADJ AMOR (Président par interim, Comité des Finances): Je me trouve dans la même position que Dr. Phillips, à savoir que nombreux sont les éléments qui ont déjà été anticipés concernant cette question. Cependant, je voudrais quand même mettre en relief deux ou trois points qui méritent d'être relevés.

D'abord, concernant les relations avec le PNUD, le Comité a été informé que l'une des solutions proposées par le PNUD pour ce qui est des frais généraux des agents d'exécution et le coût de soutien des projets de terrain, est qu'ils soient intégralement absorbés par les budgets ordinaires des institutions participantes et chargées de l'exécution. On peut voir les effets de cette solution si on se réfère au paragraphe 3.37 du Rapport du Comité des finances. En effet, on constate que pour le biennium 74-75, le programme ordinaire a subventionné les programmes de terrain à raison de 8,2 millions de dollars, alors que cette subvention aurait atteint 48,8 millions de dollars si le programme ordinaire avait pris en charge tous les frais de ce soutien. On peut voir les conséquences pour notre budget.

Je dois dire qu'au cours des débats, le Comité n'a pas pu s'empêcher quand même d'exprimer certaines préoccupations et c'est pour cela qu'il estime, au paragraphe 3.36 "que si l'ECOSOC et l'Assemblée générale sont appelés à examiner quelque proposition" il faudrait que les agents d'exécution participent et donnent leur point de vue concernant les futures propositions, car il faut les prendre en considération étant donné les conséquences financières.

Un autre aspect qu'il faut retenir, c'est, que toute décision qui serait prise concernant les relations avec le PNUD retentira indiscutablement sur les autres programmes extrabudgétaires. Là-aussi, la FAO doit prendre très sérieusement en considération cet aspect.

Au paragraphe 3.40, le Comité a donné son point de vue concernant le fait que si la FAO ne peut pas obtenir du PNUD le remboursement intégral des frais de soutien, il convient de conserver le taux actuel de remboursement de 14 pour cent. De toute façon, nous attendrons les résultats des consultations qui sont en cours.

Pour ce qui est des relations avec le FIDA, je n'ai pas grand'chose à ajouter, si ce n'est que le Comité a approuvé et appuyé la politique du Directeur général qui consiste à donner le maximum de soutien au FIDA. Il a également donné son accord pour l'augmentation de programmes au titre des investissements.

Je rappelle, à titre d'information, qu'en 1977, des crédits supplémentaires d'un montant de 60 000 dollars ont été également octroyés au FIDA pour les services de soutien.

Enfin, pour terminer, - et j'anticipe un tout petit peu étant donné que c'est une question qu'on étudiera quand on examinera le sommaire du programme et budget - je voudrais simplement rappeler, en ce qui concerne le Conseil mondial de l'alimentation, que pour les prévisions budgétaires de 1978-79, il n'y aura pas de prévisions concernant des frais ou des coûts pour le Conseil mondial de l'alimentation, étant donné que ces coûts seront désormais à la charge de l'ONU. Je vous rappelle à cet égard que pour 1976-77 ces coûts se sont élevés à 600 000 dollars.

EL PRESIDENTE: Les propongo que tomemos conjuntamente todo el tema 14 (b) para efectos prácticos. ¿Están ustedes de acuerdo?

W.A.F. GRABISCH (Alemania, República Federal de): Una sugerencia, señor Presidente. Nos preguntamos, si antes de iniciar el debate, no nos convendría escuchar primeramente las opiniones de los representantes de las agencias pertinentes, si estos representantes quieren agregar algo a lo que ha sido ya expresado en las introducciones.

EL PRESIDENTE: Si algún señor representante está en la sala y desea intervenir creo que el Consejo no haría ninguna objeción para escucharles. ¿Nadie quiere hacerse presente?

Gracias por su buena intención colega Grabisch.

H. PUURUNEN (Finland): I have the honour to speak on behalf of the observer delegations of Denmark, Norway and Sweden as well as on behalf of my own delegation. Firstly we note with great satisfaction that the Director-General in his opening statement very clearly emphasized the importance of the cooperation with UNDP in respect of FAO's field operations. We recognize the great significance of close and good cooperation between UNDP and FAO which we have stated at earlier occasions on behalf of all Nordic countries. We have also stressed the spirit of the consensus as a basic prerequisite for mutual understanding and action between the two organizations.

It seems to us appropriate that the Council should under this item devote some thought to a problem which has become acute in recent years, namely that of administrative overhead costs on projects financed from extrabudgetary sources, mainly from UNDP.

As the distinguished members of the Council are aware, the executing agencies of UNDP, out of which FAO is the largest in money terms, are at present reimbursed for administrative overhead costs at the rate of 14 percent ON the cost of projects executed. The level and method of this reimbursement and conversely the extent to which administrative costs would have to be covered from regular budgets of the executing agencies, has been, as we all know a subject of discussion between UN agencies for a long time. Together with the growth of extrabudgetary technical assistance the problem has grown to a dimension which has implications on the coherence of the UN Development System established by General Assembly resolution 2688 (XXV) and reaffirmed most recently by General Assembly resolution 31/171. It should be borne in mind that the same basic question arises also in connection with Funds-in-Trust arrangements, with co-operative programmes of the World Bank and other similar funding arrangements. The Administrative Committee on Co-ordination has called for more uniformity in respect of these reimbursement arrangements but no common policy has yet been arrived at.

To illustrate the magnitude of the problem, I would like to indicate that in 1975 the overhead reimbursements from UNDP to FAO were 17.3 million dollars, equalling some 29 percent of FAO's regular budget. The corresponding figures for 1976 were 15.7 million dollars and 24 percent. It can easily be seen from these figures that the problem is of considerable significance for FAO and even more so for UNDP, which in 1976 used a total of 55.4 million dollars for these costs.

The basis for reimbursement of overhead costs has always been, to a degree at least, arbitrary and not based on objective measurements or analysis of the said costs. In this connection it may be noted that while administrative budgets of both FAO and other agencies are closely scrutinized by the governing bodies, the overhead cost is generally accepted. An attempt by the ACC to introduce a cost measurement system to collect factual information on the overhead cost has not yielded satisfactory results.

The present rate of 14 percent is a temporary solution decided by the UNDP Governing Council in 1975 and will be reviewed in the current session of the UNDP Governing Council.

At the 23rd Session of the Inter-Agency Consultative Board in Paris in April this year the UNDP Administrator presented a number of options to the Executing and Participating Agencies to form a basis for a discussion on the subject in anticipation of the debate in the current Governing Council session. Most agencies pronounced themselves for retaining the present system of reimbursement.

In the view of our delegations, the problem is worthy of a debate in the Council on the various alternatives to solve this problem. There is also another aspect which gives some concern to our delegations, namely that of the coherence of the UN Development System. It has become evident that the UN agencies concerned with development should be able to work together in partnership and co-operation. For this purpose the causes of friction between them, out of which the overhead reimbursement seems at the present time to be the largest one, must be effectively removed.

We would therefore like to suggest that the Council should request the Director General to present to the FAO Conference this year a report on the implications of various alternative solutions to the overhead cost problem for FAO's management and its total administrative budget. The alternatives to be studied should include the present system, inclusion of the total overhead cost into the regular budget of FAO, arrangements for UNDP support of an agreed infrastructure level in FAO, inclusion of overhead costs in individual project budgets, and any other alternative the Director-General may deem advisable to study. On the basis of his report the Conference could then establish that FAO should proceed in this matter and contribute towards the systemwide solution of this problem.

L.H.J.B. VAN GORKOM (Netherlands): For me personally it is of great importance to attend today the debate in the Council of FAO on the relationship with UNDP, since I shall be attending next week's meeting of the Governing Council, the high-level meeting on Thursday and Friday; and it is therefore essential that I know the views on the matter expressed in this Council. What should be uppermost in our minds is, of course - and it needs to be said again and again - the vital interests of the recipient countries in technical assistance from the United Nations system. And it is our view that the interests of the recipient countries are best served if the technical assistance to be provided by the United Nations system is provided in a coherent and coordinated manner.

Now, from the opening statement of the Director-General, and also from the report of the Programme Committee and from the statements made this morning, I must conclude that although at the country level, in the field, cooperation and coordination between UNDP and FAO is apparently being executed without, I would say, any major problems, yet the general relationship between FAO and UNDP is not without problems. I regret and I do think that in the dialogue which has to be pursued between UNDP and the agencies it is imperative that a right balance be struck between the role of UNDP as described in the consensus, and the vital autonomous role - I repeat the words: autonomous role - of the agencies as defined in the Charter of the United Nations, and as further refined in the consensus and subsequent decisions.

Mr. Yriart rightly drew the attention to some conclusions and sentences in the report DP/261 which very well may become a famous report in the next two years, the report of the Administrator on the role and activities of UNDP; and he drew attention to what is stated there on the partnership role, where it is said that the paper DP/261 is predicated on conviction of the integral nature of the United Nations development system and the concept of partnership and complementarity between the specialized agencies and the UNDP. That should indeed remain our principal point of departure. I repeat that in the provision of technical assistance by the system, coherence and coordination are essential, but what is more essential is, of course, the central coordinating role of the recipient countries themselves; that should be put right in the forefront of our discussions.

Now we believe that UNDP, and in particular the resident representative of UNDP in the field can only play their role assigned to them by the Consensus. If he gets full support and if he cooperates with the country representatives, with the experts provided through the country concerned and through the system by the specialized agencies, including first and foremost FAO.

The other side of the matter is, of course, that the resident representative, acting as what has been called primus inter pares from his side fully respects the role of the agencies and their input and the importance of their input in the country programme exercise.

In the UNDP paper and in Mr. Yriart's very important introduction, by the way I am looking forward to hearing his statements on the same point next week in Geneva. In the paper and in his statement attention is given to the role of UNDP, should it become the central source of the financing or should it be the main source of financing. The position of the Netherlands government is one of principle but at the same time one of flexibility. We do note, as is being noted in the paper of the Administrator, that in the last few years a not unimportant stream of resources has been channelled into trust funds and into other sources of financing in cases where this was obviously in the interests of the individual recipient countries. Our position is that UNDP should remain the main source of financing for technical assistance but that flexibility should be left to channelling resources through other funds outside UNDP provided further that in the spending of the resources in the execution of projects still a desirable necessary measure of cooperation and coordination in the fields is carried out.

Mr. Yriart has also drawn attention to another sentence in the report of the Administrator where two principles are enunciated. The first principle is a continuing fundamental preoccupation of UNDP must be to raise and manage - Mr. Yriart added efficiently I agree - and efficiently manage funds for technical cooperation. I agree with that principle. Whether the UNDP should develop into a development agency I believe that is perhaps a matter of words. My delegation does not believe that UNDP should grow into a new big overriding development agency but we do believe that over and above the fundamental preoccupation of UNDP to raise and manage funds for technical coopération, UNDP under the Consensus and under subsequent resolutions of ECOSOC and the General Assembly does also have a policy-making role and a conceptual role. I cannot see that there should be any conflict with that kind of policy-making role of UNDP and the autonomous - I keep repeating the word 'autonomous' because I believe it is essential for the agencies - and the autonomous policy-making role of the agencies.

The Netherlands delegation does not believe that UNDP should play a major role in executing projects itself. The executing role of UNDP should in our view be limited to a minimum, a minimum of certain worldwide or regional projects for which obviously there is no other agency to carry out that same task. In the past perhaps there has been a tendency for UNDP to play too big, too overriding a role. I know, knowing the Administrator and knowing the UNDP staff, that UNDP and that the Administrator himself has a very keen and right insight into the role of the agencies and I am convinced at next week's meeting it will be possible to strike a balance between UNDP's role and the role of the agencies.

Much has been made of the financial difficulties of UNDP. I am fairly confident that these difficulties now belong to the past. I do think and I should like to stress this, that the financial difficulties should not lead to a move, to any move to affect the system of system-wide planning and system-wide cooperation in technical assistance as defined in the Consensus. My government still adheres to that Consensus, although we are fully aware that after seven years the time may have come to start thinking about certain adaptations of the Consensus.

Now by way of preliminary and tentative suggestions I should like to put before you a few points of which perhaps in due time a consensus could be adapted. First of all I believe it could be possible and it should be possible that certain types of technical assistance be financed through the regular budgets of the agencies. We could support such an adaptation, but again I repeat, provided that the central role of UNDP and that the cohesion of the system should not be affected. Perhaps the time has come that we start thinking in the agencies and in UNDP about certain criteria, criteria for what kind of technical assistance activities should better be financed by the agencies.

The second suggestion relates to overhead costs. Now so far as the decisions to be taken next week are concerned I can tell this Council already, as I shall say to the other Council next week, that we are open-minded in this matter and that we could in principle go along with any Solution which would gather the favour of the majority, such as for the time being, one, two, three years, for the time being to continue the present system but, and here I refer to the important statement just made by our Finnish colleague, we do think that the time has come to contemplate the possibility of financing agency overhead costs through the regular budget.

A third point in which the consensus might perhaps be adapted would be in the role and the nomination procedure for the resident representative. The possibility would be that the agencies be given a stronger voice in the appointment of resident representatives as representatives of the UN system. Perhaps it could be contemplated that they be appointed by the Secretary-General as representing the system.

The fourth point to which we should give attention is certainly the execution of projects by governments themselves within the framework of TCDC. We are in favour of this but we believe that there are also the agencies and UNDP should play a role of useful, mutual advisors.

So far as the inter-agency task force at headquarters of UNDP is concerned, proposed by the Administrator, I have noted very carefully Mr. Yriat's statement on the matter and the stand taken by the Director-General on that proposal. I must confess that I do see great merits in the arguments put forward, particularly the impossibility for FAO to send the whole range of broad expertise in various fields and disciplines to headquarters and the difficulty for FAO to appoint one or two people who could really deal with the whole field of FAO problems. Having said this I am not yet quite convinced and I think we must give further consideration to the matter and come back to it next week in the Governing Council of UNDP,

At this stage the point is not on the agenda but allow me just to say a few words on the Joint Inspection Unit report of Mr. Bertrand because it related immediately to the point at issue, the relationship between FAO and UNDP. Contrary to the Programme Committee, we do think that report has come at a very timely moment in our discussion on system-wide technical assistance. We do not agree with all the conclusions of the report and I should like to state straight away that together with the Programme Committee we do assign a central role, of course, it cannot be stressed enough, to the recipient countries coordinating role, but I do think that the suggestion on country programming made by the Bertrand report are most valuable and merit further consideration.

I would have hoped to go somewhat deeper into this question of country programming and the role in country programming also of the Bretton Woods Institutes, the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund, but in view of your exhortations before and in view of the fact that we are already behind schedule I will resist from this but I will have the few remarks that I wish to make circulated amongst the members of the Council.

Finally, two more words for FAO and the relationship with IFAD. We are quite satisfied both from Mr. Yriat's statement and in our own experience in the Preparatory Committee of IFAD and elsewhere that we are on the way to a very fruitful cooperation and partnership between FAO and IFAD. The Dutch instrument of ratification can be expected to be deposited within a few weeks.

Finally, on technical cooperation between developing countries I have said something about that already. We are quite ready and prepared to support the draft resolution on this matter presented by Argentina.

H, ABDALLAH (Egypt) (Interpretation from Arabic): In view of the shortage of time and pursuant to your request, Mr. Chairman, asking us to be brief, I shall say concisely what I have to say.

First, we have to express our deep thanks to Mr. Yriart for his statement, likewise to Mr. Walton for having spoken of the relations between FAO, the World Food Council and UNDP. I shall start on the subject from the very end by saying we have no substantial comments on the relations of FAO with the World Food Council, nor between FAO and UNDP and IFAD which is still under establishment, but we look forward to close cooperation between FAO and these two very important organizations or agencies. The statement that Finland delivered on behalf of the Scandinavian countries was very important, speaking on main points. I wish to express full support to his statement, particularly in suggesting that the Director-General prepare a working paper on the reimbursement of overhead costs of UNDP and to include in this statement or paper his views on the subject, and we expect this paper to be submitted at the future Conference.

As for the appointment of a responsible person to UNDP or to act as liaison between UNDP and the Specialized Agencies or each of the agencies, here we have considerable doubt on the validity of this suggestion, based on the points raised by Finland; particularly that which finds no real value in that suggestion. Likewise, we look forward to receiving the paper on policy which is to be presented by the UNDP to the governing body in June, and we hope that this paper will define very many of the points still pending between UNDP and other specialized agencies.

Likewise, we share in the opinion in connection with the role of UNDP itself, and here, I too, with other delegates, say there should be primarily a coordinating role and not an executive role, and I think the agencies should maintain their task or feature, and we feel that this statement by UNDP does really emphasize the autonomy of each of the agencies, and in our case plays an autonomous role in agriculture. We hope that on the other hand UNDP will become a centralized agency as well as at the same time that each agency will maintain its autonomy and physiognomy.

H. Adji Ismet HAKIM (Indonesia): My delegation would like to express its appreciation for the introductory statements made by Mr. Yriart and Mr. Walton concerning the relationships with the UNDP, World Food Council and IFAD. We have also heard with interest the statement made by Finland on behalf of the Nordic countries and the statements made by the Netherlands and Japan concerning the relationships particularly with UNDP.

We would like at this stage to refer only to two points that were brought forward by these countries, one concerning the type of technical assistance suited for the specialized agencies. We know that FAO has started with its Technical Cooperation Programme a kind of technical assistance in helping the developing countries in a quick and flexible manner to assist them in filling gaps and to stimulate the flow of investments and aid from financing institutions and other sources. We have been informed that this programme has already started and that 50 countries from all regions have benefited from the TCP in the form of 80 projects involving a total of some six and a half million dollars.

We understand also that this kind of technical assistance is very much appreciated by the Member Countries of FAO and in particular the developing Member countries of FAO because they realize that this kind of assistance is really the assistance that responds to the immediate needs of the developing countries. We therefore, since the inception of this Technical Cooperation Programme, have given it full support, and also in the new Programme of Work and Budget we also give full support and we would like to see this programme carried on further. In this way, FAO has already chosen its kind of technical assistance.

The second point we would like to refer to is the question of the agency overhead cost. We understand that Finland, on behalf of the Nordic countries, also requested the Director-General to prepare a report on the implications of this agency overhead cost and that it will then be submitted to the FAO Conference. At this stage, we are really in difficulties in considering this matter, because we do not have much information about the agency overhead cost before us, but anyhow, I am lucky to have some kind of information regarding this overhead cost. My delegation has been informed that the FAO in 1976 was just an executing agency for the UNDP programmes. It has executed nearly 1 384 projects amounting to \$115 million and that represents nearly 30 percent or exactly 29.3 percent of the total UNDP project expenditure for that year.

We have also been informed that the FAO will execute the same percentage of the total programme in 1977. Besides this, FAO has also executed extra-budgetary programmes, mainly under the trust arrangement covering some one thousand projects involving \$112 million. The support costs in 1974-75 totalled \$48.8 million, and it is estimated that in 1976-77 the figure will be around more than \$50 million. The Regular Programme has also contributed an amount of \$8.2 million to the support of the field programmes which means there is already a subsidy provided from the regional programme for the executing of extra-budgetary financed projects.

We also know that this 14 percent figure of the reimbursements of the total project delivery had been agreed to after a long period of consideration and on the basis of cost measurement studies especially adapted to UNDP needs.

We therefore think that it is not the time now for us to again ask the Director-General for further studies on this point, especially since we would like the money from the regional programme to really be used for the implementation of action-oriented projects at the country-level. We therefore express our concern about the financial consequences if the overhead cost is lower than the 14 percent figure and its unfavourable impact on the activities that would be carried out under the extra-budgetary funds. We think that this 14 percent overhead cost is the minimum one that should be accepted as support cost, and we also believe that this should provide as well a suitable standard not only for the UNDP but also for other extra-budgetary programmes.

Again, our basic consideration is that we wish that the regional programme funds used be as much as possible for the execution of programmes and projects at the country level, in helping to implement action-oriented projects.

We therefore would like to request the Council to consider this view of our delegation and if possible to support it, and later on we shall request that the Director-General convey these views to the Governing Body of the UNDP Governing Council.

This is our intervention at this stage, and if necessary we would like to have the right to intervene further.

Y. NARITA (Japan): Just some remarks about this item. We have carefully studied the report concerning this. My delegation has the view, as previous speakers have pointed out, that the collaboration and coordination between the FAO and the UNDP must be maintained. My delegation fully supports the view which was expressed by the Netherlands. My delegation has the impression that the report that we now have about the UNDP future is rather pessimistic. We know that FAO is the executing agency; it is the first to receive the UNDP resources, and consequently is the agency which is affected more by the UNDP financial crisis.

It is the view of my government that UNDP has recovered from financial crisis, though there remain many problems to be solved, and I think it was more or less the view shared by the Governing Council in January in New York.

Concerning the World Food Council which will be held in Manila at the kind invitation of the Government of the Philippines, we hope it will successfully be concluded, and it is the view of my government that the WFC as a Ministers' level meeting will not be the negotiating forum but will give guidance and policies to international fora on World Food Problems.

With regard to IFAD, we are satisfied by the development of the Preparation Commission and we hope that IFAD will come into existence as soon as possible. In that regard we hope all governments concerned will set up the necessary procedure to ratify the agreement.

C. HIGGINSON (United States of America): With specific regard to FAO/UNDP relations we share the Programme Committee's hope that full consultations between the Agencies will result in the resolution of what may to some appear to be insurmountable problems.

We must recognize however that the special difficulties of UNDP have created specific cash flow problems in late 1975 for specialized agencies like FAO and the results may be felt in the next biennium. However, to help restore UNDP'S solvency we are seeking to increase our contribution to UNDP for 1978 by 30 percent. This increase and other increases by major donors are reflected in Mr. Yriart'S statement as expected increases in funding from FAO in 1978 and 1979. We must recognize however that recipient governments have a large stake in determining the share which agriculture receives from total resources made available by the UNDP. Recipient governments also decided how projects will be implemented. We lay great importance on the country programming. This is even more important now that the second development decade is being considered.

In addition, we are planning a major statement in the near future on UNDP and UN Development System which we hope will ensure solid funding and promote forms which are necessary to make this assistance more effective.

Referring now more specifically to the Programme Committee Report, we are somewhat disappointed over the inclusion of paragraphs 2.107 and 2.108 of the Programme Committee's Report, particularly since these paragraphs seem to reflect concern over issues arising in UNDP but without recommendations or comments. Although the Programme Committee wishes to look further into these matters of dispute at its next Session, we think it would be far preferable for the Director-General to discuss and resolve with the UNDP and other Executive Heads these contentious issues at the Agency level.

With regard to UNDP reimbursement of overhead costs on project execution we concur with the views of the Director-General and Finance Committee that if the UNDP and ECOSOC and the UNGA are to consider any different reimbursement, these bodies should be fully aware of the views of the governing bodies of the Agencies concerned.

With regard to FAO/World Food Council relations and the Programme Committee's comments we note that matters such as WFC rental and operational costs are matters for the two Secretariats to resolve. Accordingly, we hope there will be the fullest cooperation between FAO and the WFC on these substantive matters. Each body can be helpful to the other and should work as closely as possible together.

On FAO/IFAD relations the delegations should encourage effective working arrangements between these bodies and the early conclusion of the Agreement between them. I think both these bodies should be commended on their cooperation to date.

N.M. MiAUNGULLU (Malawi): The Malawi delegation is grateful to the Secretariat for the explanations it has given on the relations between FAO and the other agencies in the United Nations system, the UNDP and the World Food Council specially. IFAD is not yet off the ground of course, but even so, the Malawi delegation looks forward to the effective functioning of this important institution which we hope will augment with vigour the Food and Agricultural development efforts of countries like Malawi.

My country concentrates its development effort on the rural sector and aims directly at the uplifting of the living standards of the people in the villages. This is why we look forward to the effective functioning of IFAD.

On the UNDP/FAO relations, the Malawi delegation feels that the existence of problems in this relationship is to the disadvantage of the agricultural field programmes, and therefore the sooner these problems are solved through appropriate and effective cooperation between the two agencies the better.

We have no particular comments to make on the WFC/FAO relations.

R. CONTRERAS CORTES (España): Voy a ser breve porque no quiero referirme a las cuestiones de las relaciones de la FAO con el PNUD, sobre lo cual hemos oído intervenciones extremadamente interesantes que habrá que estudiar con cuidado. Tampoco tengo nada que decir sobre las relaciones de la FAO con el FIDA. Quiero hacer solamente una observación en lo relativo a las relaciones con el Consejo Mundial de la Alimentación. Siempre ha sido una preocupación el que podía haber un doble empleo entre estos dos organismos, el Consejo Mundial de la Alimentación y el de la FAO. Por desgracia, parece que es preciso continuar sobre este tema. Cuando asistimos a reuniones del FIDA no vemos gran diferencia de tono con lo que se dice aquí. Incluso en la última reunión preparatoria del FIDA se ha dicho que convendría estudiar allí el tema de la Reforma Agraria, tema típico de la FAO.

En el párrafo 214 del documento 4 se habla de que se está estudiando un acuerdo suplementario para delimitar las funciones de los dos organismos. Pero el señor Walton nos ha dicho que no se pensaba hacer una línea de demarcación estricta entre los estudios de estos dos Consejos. Y además nos ha dicho que los problemas técnicos se estudian conjuntamente por ambas secretarías. Esto quiere decir que no se establecerá una demarcación clara, y además que los asuntos van a ser propuestos a los dos Consejos por el mismo grupo de técnicos, con el peligro de que se va a decir lo mismo en ambos Consejos.

Por consiguiente, yo quería únicamente expresar el deseo de mi delegación de que precisamente en la redacción de ese acuerdo suplementario se tenga muy en cuenta la necesidad de que no haya doble empleo entre la FAO y el Consejo Mundial de la Alimentación y que por consiguiente de que se redacte con un espíritu ciertamente de diferenciación estricta entre los estudios y los enfoques de los problemas de cada lugar.

A. CISSE (Niger): Nous avons écouté avec beaucoup d'attention et d'intérêt ce qui nous a été dit sur les rapports entre la FAO et les différentes Organisations internationales d'intérêt commun.

Nous notons la diminution des fonds du PNUD mis à la disposition de la FAO. De 122 millions de dollars en 1974, on passe à 90 millions de dollars en 1977 et cela en relation avec la crise économique de ces dernières années.

Les relations entre le PNUD et la FAO doivent s'établir dans les limites de compétence de chaque Organisation, Le PNUD a droit au contrôle de l'utilisation des crédits qu'il met à la disposition des institutions, et ces dernières doivent avoir assez de liberté pour mener à bien les diverses opérations techniques qu'elles ont à exécuter. On estime que le gouvernement des Etats qui reçoivent les aides doivent ventiler les projets entre les diverses sources de financement de manière à réaliser une certaine coordination. Mais il faut insister sur la nécessité d'instaurer des relations souples et non pas établir un rapport de subordination entre la FAO et le PNUD.

Au sujet du CMA, on souhaite la prise en charge des frais de location et du secrétariat du CMA par les Nations Unies, une collaboration intime entre le CMA et la FAO, une meilleure coordination des objectifs de la production alimentaire mondiale.

S'agissant du FIDA, nous félicitons le Directeur général de sa formule pour la contribution de la FAO au secrétariat intérimaire du FIDA. Nous attendons beaucoup du FIDA. Nous pensons que la FAO aura une grande part dans l'exécution de projets financés par le FIDA, et qu'une collaboration sera établie entre les deux secrétariats.

Pour conclure ce chapitre, nous notons que la diminution des fonds du PNUD aura certainement un reflet sur les activités de la FAO, mais la naissance du FIDA et surtout la participation de certains autres organismes bancaires comme la Banque africaine de développement, la Banque mondiale et bien d'autres, au fonctionnement de la FAO par le financement des activités des programmes de coopération technique permettra de trouver une ligne normale pour ses activités.

L. LAPEBY (Gabon): Je voudrais d'abord féliciter les comités qui ont étudié les documents qui nous sont soumis, remercier les responsables qui nous ont présenté les documents et tous ceux qui sont intervenus au cours de ce débat.

Je ne voudrais pas essayer de jouer au prophète mais je ne peux pas manquer de faire un rapprochement entre le fait que vous nous avez demandé de modifier notre ordre du jour et ce qui s'est passé déjà dans cette enceinte au cours d'un précédent Conseil. La proposition que vous nous aviez faite, Monsieur le Président, a été la conséquence d'une demande de certains de nos collègues pour connaître l'opinion du Conseil sur un certain nombre de faits, notamment pour ceux qui assisteront au prochain Conseil d'administration, pour avoir la température de la FAO - je ne dis pas que tous ont la même intention -vis-à-vis des propositions du Directeur du PNUD. Je voudrais cependant, étant donné la situation qui se projette et dont les chiffres des trois dernières années sont éloquents (347 millions de dollars pour 1977, 370 millions de dollars pour 1976 et 410 millions pour 1975) que cette croissance, que j'ai utilisée à l'envers parce que les années ont été prises dans l'ordre, nous édifie sur les difficultés qui se dessinent. De 1 600 et quelques experts FAO-PNUD vers la fin de 1975, nous sommes descendus à 1 200 et nous continuons de descendre. Pourtant, autant que nous puissions nous le rappeler le PNUD avait fait pression sur le Directeur général pour que la FAO augmente le volume de ses activités sur le terrain et c'est ce même PNUD qui a été à l'origine des difficultés et beaucoup de pays en voie de développement, qui avaient vu commencer des projets, les ont vu s'arrêter. Je voudrais rappeler aux différents délégués que lorsque le peintre veut apprécier le juste ton de sa touche sur sa toile, il prend du recul, s'il en a la place, sinon il se contente de l'effet que produit cette touche à la distance où il se trouve lorsqu'il l'a faite. Lorsque les responsables veulent essayer de comprendre ce qui se passera dans un certain nombre d'années ils vont faire des études, des projections parce qu'ils n'ont rien de palpable, de concret, de mesurable mais ils ont quand même besoin d'imaginer. D'aucuns dans cette enceinte, et plusieurs même, avaient critiqué le programme de coopération technique que le Directeur général avait proposé pour que le PNUD conserve sa vocation financière unique en tant qu'institution au sein du système des Nations Unies et que la FAO n'ait pas de disponibilités financières pour intervenir sur le terrain.

La situation actuelle, quelle est-elle? Elle se trouve assez délicate et je dirais même très mauvaise à long terme. Il se trouve que pour le chiffre indicatif par pays, dans le cadre 1977-1981 les bases d'accroissement ont tenu compte d'un taux d'accroissement de 14 pour cent à titre d'objectif. C'est talentueux d'avoir autorisé, lorsqu'on peut se rendre compte qu'il y a des difficultés à l'horizon, la programmation à cent pour cent et c'est le Directeur du PNUD qui a donné des instructions dans tous les programmes engagés, mais je dirais aussi qu'il est cynique de vouloir employer des fonds dont on ne dispose pas.

A ce sujet, je voudrais utiliser une simple image, il serait difficile à un responsable de formation de convoi de chemin de fer d'espérer pouvoir accrocher des wagons à un train qui a déjà démarré et pourtant le contenu de ces wagons est indispensable et peut-être primordial lorsque ce train arrivera à destination.

C'est pour cela que je voudrais espérer que les propositions du Directeur du PNUD seront heureusement redressées lors du prochain Conseil car sinon le PNUD deviendra un instrument anti-développement et c'est malheureusement cet instrument que je vois à l'horizon parce que le consensus dont nous avons pris connaissance au cours de notre Conseil semble être dépassé, je ne sais pas pour quelle raison mais peut-être uniquement pour que le PNUD devienne l'organe de développement et le développement - je crois que tous ici peuvent l'affirmer - ne peut pas être l'oeuvre d'un seul organe, soit-il des Nations Unies, comme il ne peut pas être l'oeuvre d'un seul homme et dès qu'un seul homme veut être le responsable unique - et j'utilise le terme unique" du développement - qu'il se rappelle que, uniquement pour procréer, il lui faut aussi la femme.

Le délégué de la Hollande a été dans son intervention, après le délégué de la Finlande, très constructif et comme il assistera au prochain Conseil du PNUD, je peux fonder en lui les espoirs des pays en développement, espoirs qu'ils ont mis dans le PNUD et que le PNUD décevrait si le Directeur du PNUD maintenait ses propositions.

Je voudrais rappeler que je suis un peu déconcerté - et je ne le savais pas - d'apprendre que c'est seulement maintenant que le PNUD met à l'étude, je dis bien à l'étude, un système de gestion informatique. La gestion informatique n'est pas une science nouvelle et il a fallu la crise de 1975 pour que le PNUD se rende compte qu'il lui fallait l'informatique pour éviter la crise financière qu'il a connue. A tous égards, si les difficultés qui existent actuellement ne sont pas aplanies et si le PNUD ne revient pas à des dispositions plus ouvertes, ne tolère pas et n'accepte pas que les institutions des Nations Unies gardent leur autonomie dans les décisions, - et cela est très important - ces institutions resteront mais le PNUD lui, risque de périr; la négation qui se manifeste est dangereuse. Je voudrais espérer simplement que les pays en développement ne se laisseront pas prendre au piège car l'époque est révolue où, par des chemins tordus, par des artifices, par des astuces, on pouvait jouer au Samaritain.

Maintenant je crois que les pays en développement sont plus armés et que les propositions qui sont faites par le Directeur général ne sont qu'un amalgame. A mon avis, au moment où l'aide financière ne lui est plus exclusive, le PNUD cherche à trouver une place et peut être même à diriger cette aide financière, mais nous verrons le moment venu à garder les limites entre les différents types de financement et les différents types d'aide. Qu'on ne nous dise pas que le PNUD est l'organe primus inter pares, ceci a été accepté, mais que le PNUD ne joue pas sur cela pour demander un staff qui ferait en sorte que la FAO disparaîtrait. Nous ne l'admettrons jamais.

M. FOFANA (Observateur pour la Guinée): Nous tenons d'abord à remercier tous ceux qui ont préparé les exposés et ceux qui ont souligné la question maintenant en discussion. Nous nous félicitons des précisions que nous a apportées le Secrétariat de la FAO et nous nous rallions à certaines interventions, notamment à celle de l'Indonésie qui nous a fait une analyse assez pertinente de la question. Nous nous joignons également aux délégations qui espèrent qu'entre la FAO et le PNUD une collaboration juste et équitable s'instaurera et qu'un accord se fera dans les meilleurs délais, accord qui mettra l'accent sur les responsabilités respectives de chacune de ces organisations.

Pendant la crise du PNUD, que nous avons vécue il y a deux ans, les pays en développement se sont préoccupés des incidences néfastes que nous avons ressenties sur le terrain et nous avons également évalué les dommages que certaines organisations ont subi dans leur action vis-à-vis de nos pays. On nous a dit heureusement qu'une reprise est en cours au niveau du PNUD. Nous nous félicitons de cette reprise, mais je crois que souvent il nous arrive de projeter l'histoire dans l'avenir. Il est aussi juste de se rappeler à chaque instant d'où nous venons et ce que nous étions, lorsque nous entreprenons des actions nouvelles. C'est la raison pour laquelle ma délégation s'abstiendra de faire une certaine apologie, mais nous tenons toutefois à affirmer notre conviction quant à l'avenir. Nous pensons que la décentralisation dans le cadre de l'étude de restructuration de l'ensemble du système des Nations Unies devrait être envisagée dans le sens de l'intensification des actions des organisations respectives tout en maintenant et en renforçant leur autonomie. Autonomie ne veut pas dire divorce, ne veut pas dire divergence dans l'action, l'autonomie ne veut pas non plus dire subordination d'une partie vis-à-vis de l'autre. Notre ami de l'Indonésie a souligné une initiative heureuse que nous vivons actuellement au sein de cette Organisation, action que toutes les délégations et que tous les pays membres devraient encourager, à savoir le programme de coopération technique qu'il est une expérience nouvelle qui tient compte d'un passé que chacun de nous a regretté, et les pays donateurs et les pays bénéficiaires. C'est pour cela que nous nous rallions à la proposition faite par le Directeur général de la FAO quant à la révision, du moins un examen assez juste, des relations qui existent ou existaient entre la FAO et le PNUD.

Je crois qu'à ce stade des actions respectives de toutes les organisations des Nations Unies, il serait périlleux de souscrire à un certain centralisme qui, certainement, ne correspondrait même pas aux réalités actuelles du monde; notamment, sur les questions stratégiques comme la lutte contre la faim, la malnutrition, en relation avec les structures nouvelles que nous entreprenons au niveau du nouvel ordre, économique international. C'est pour cela que j'exprime des craintes en écoutant le représentant des Pays-Bas qui souligne certains soucis ou certaines aspirations de sa délégation dans les rapports interinstitutions. Nous sommes d'accord avec lui lorsqu'il dit que nous devrions définir les relations entre le PNUD et la FAO mais nous soulignons que cette définition doit être basée sur l'autonomie, notamment pour les actions sur le terrain. Tout en maintenant un renforcement de la coopération entre ces deux organisations, (c'est le souhait de tout le monde,) l'action doit être renforcée et réaffirmée.

Nous sommes certains que les pays donateurs en tiendront compte et nous ne pouvons qu'encourager les vues de la FAO dans la définition de ses nouveaux rapports. Nous nous félicitons également de l'accord qui se dessine entre la FAO et le FIDA. Nous sommes d'accord avec le représentant de l'Indonésie lorsqu'il exprime et souhaite que la FAO soit l'Organisation principale de l'exécution des programmes que le FIDA pourrait envisager, vis-à-vis des pays, dans le cadre de ses attributions. Nous donnons notre confiance au Président du Comité préparatoire du FIDA et je crois qu'au cours de la dernière session de cette Commission il a tenu compte de ce souhait exprimé par les pays bénéficiaires. En ce qui concerne les relations entre la FAO et le Conseil mondial de l'alimentation, nous souscrivons une fois encore au souhait exprimé par le représentant de l'Égypte et le représentant de l'Indonésie et nous espérons que là aussi, même dans le cadre de la définition de la politique mondiale, le rôle de la FAO soit réaffirmé tout en consolidant également toutes les actions que pourrait entreprendre le Conseil mondial, notamment avec l'élection future, je l'espère, de Son Excellence M. Tanco, des Philippines, qui voudra renforcer toutes les actions entreprises par son prédécesseur, le Dr. Marei.

Je crois que j'ai dépassé le temps qui m'était alloué et je m'en excuse auprès du Conseil. Je suis sûr que le Conseil tiendra compte de l'intervention du représentant de l'Indonésie.

Q.H.HAQUE (Bangladesh): At this stage of the debate on this subject I think I can be very brief because most of what I should have liked to say has been covered by other speakers. With regard to inter-agency relationships we believe that the first concern should be that we do not duplicate efforts or waste the efforts of one agency when it should be the responsibility of the other. There should not be any substitution of the work but we believe that there should be a supplement, if it is necessary, all the agencies in the United Nations family work for the same goal. So, keeping the goal in mind, the main goal being service to humanity to improve its quality of life, all agencies should try to discharge their responsibilities in an atmosphere of mutual cooperation.

In this respect, besides the charter or inter-agency relationship document of the agencies, one other thing is very important: the relationship of the policy or management level officials of one agency and another, the personal relationship. In this regard I wish to mention here that the first point about FAO/UNDP relationship, we have noted that the relationship of the present administrator of the UNDP and the Director-General of FAO is very excellent. Mr. Morse was here and he underlined this point about the relationship with the Director-General of FAO. In his opening statement the Director-General of FAO also referred to his relationship with Mr. Morse. This is very important, we feel.

Even when there are defined responsibilities, it happens that when personal relationship is not very happy, problems might arise. We therefore feel there need not be any apprehension as to the relationship between UNDP and FAO; we feel they are working hand in hand in the closest cooperation. There has been no problem whatsoever so far, but while saying this, we also believe that both UNDP and FAO would be discharging their responsibilities within their charter and within their jurisdictions as defined in the instruments of creating this Organization. Again in the FAO and IFAD where there are similar things, the personal relationship between the two heads of the Organizations. Of course, IFAD does not as yet have one but it has a Chairman of the Preparatory Commission, the relationship between the two heads of Organizations is excellent. There has been no problem and we look forward to the days when there will be excellent cooperation between these two organizations.

As regards WFP and World Food Council, I do not see that there could be any problem whatsoever.

So, we believe that while inter-agency relationships should be based on their respective responsibilities, at the same time it should be tempered by a spirit of cooperation and mutual understanding. If we have that, there should not be any problem and so far we have seen that these relationships have not posed any problem, so that there is no cause for any apprehension and it has been working excellently.

A.F. EL SHAHAWY (Libya)(interpretation from Arabic): I shall attempt to be very brief. With respect to the item we are now discussing - that is the relations of our Organization with other organizations, this is a point which is very important and I should like to express the hope that it will be discussed under Items 14 and 16.

It would seem to me, owing to discussions which have taken place, that the most important point is to guarantee food supplies by all means. The final aim is to improve the food situation for all peoples, particularly the developing peoples. Despite all resolutions and despite all the funds which have been created in order to achieve these goals, despite all the recommendations which have been passed and will be passed in order to improve fruit production and vegetable production to guarantee nutritional elements for human beings and better health, despite all these factors we have not achieved very positive results. In view of the fact that I am a specialist in nutrition and in view of the fact my country is dealing with this question and has thus created an institute for development of marine and animal -resources in order to enable my country to do its duty in this field and also to plan in the field of agriculture and nutrition, as I was saying, we have thus created this institute, we are dealing with marine resources and fishery resources and we are therefore asking that this field should be studied very carefully. My country has asked the Organization to deal with the question of nutrition and improving the nutritional situation, the food situation by all ways and means and I think paragraphs 2.16, 2.58 and 2.115 contained in document CL 71/4 and document CL 71/10 reply to these questions partly. My delegation would express the hope that the Organization will attach to Resolution V the specific importance it imparts and as it will request the other specialized agencies to participate in the implementation of that resolution.

The government of Libya is convinced of the need to establish and strengthen relations with the Organization, we are convinced of that principle and thus our country has given its agreement for the strengthening of the Institute for Regional Cooperation in which we participate with a sum of \$1300 000 to put to technical assistance afforded by FAO to that project. The relations between this -organization and the Nutritional Institute of my country are ones which are very closely knit. The collaboration is based upon the training of the necessary cadres for the countries and this is in line with FAO for the creation of national planning institutes in the question of food and nutrition and thus it would be necessary to review the possibilities of cooperation between the countries of the area for the strengthening of this institute in order to enable to comply with the goals set out for it and the Organization should also define priorities for that are.

Thus we will welcome any steps which will be taken by our Organization or by the other organizations and also we would welcome any advice given by the organizations. The main thing is that we should guarantee better foods for our populations.

J.F. YRIART (Assistant Director-General, Development Department): I want to thank the Council for these very interesting views that have been expressed, that will certainly be most useful for the Director-General and for us, his collaborators, in the coming weeks when we have to represent FAO in the UNDP Governing Council.

I am also very happy to find a confirmed desire in the Council that our collaboration with IFAD be close and, shall I say, intense and this is how we have every reason to believe that it will be.

I think there is one specific point in the discussions regarding relations with UNDP on which I would like to make certain considerations and this is in regard to the suggestion that the Director-General prepare a study for submission to the FAO Conference on the question of reimbursement of the agency costs. Of course, the Director-General is very willing always to comply with the desire of the governing bodies. However, I would like to say that unfortunately the timing of such an effort on the part of the Secretariat would be the wrong time and the effort would be fruitless. Decisions are going to be made now in the UNDP Governing Council because I want to remind you that the present system of overhead reimbursement is one that was established by the UNDP Governing Council to expire this year. So the UNDP Governing Council will have to take a decision which, as I informed the Council, the overwhelming majority of the agencies hope that it will be to continue the present system and to continue it with certain stability in time, otherwise it becomes very difficult for the agencies to plan properly on the use of their resources. So there will be a decision made at the UNDP Governing Council and when the Conference meets we will be able to inform you of what that decision is and whether, because of the decisions of the Governing Council, it is indeed necessary or not that our governing bodies continue to review this matter.

You will forgive me if I make a few further remarks to this problem of the agency costs and forgive a little bit of agency affinity. We are very proud of the efficient manner in which FAO operated its cost measurement system. It was I think, and I should not say this and I hope my colleagues from other agencies do not take it badly, but it was perhaps the most detailed and effective application of the system and when the present reimbursement system in the UNDP Governing Council was established really the negotiations or the consultations between the UNDP and the Agency Secretariats were rather firmly based on the FAO cost measurement system and the figures that we arrive at are the figures that were reflected by our cost measurement system as regards the relevant time that we had to employ in delivering both administratively and technically our field programme, and these measurements have continued to be true with the only possible variation, which is quite understandable, that the volume of delivery, of course, affects the percentage cost of delivery. In other words, when the volume of delivery increases we become more efficient and costs go down and vice versa and this is exactly what happens in every agency.

Having said this there is only one further thing that I want to say and I want to thank those who have recognized this, like the delegate of the Netherlands, and stress it for those who have shown some concern, and that is that the beneficiary countries to our field programmes have every right not to be concerned about the execution of the UNDP programme projects by the agencies. Perhaps I should say that we did as good or as bad as ever but for that certainly we continue to be as close with our colleagues in the UNDP, and this goes for all the agencies, as ever, and in all the cases our aim is to execute the projects with the greatest proficiency, with the greatest technical skill, and I think, as I repeat, the delegate of the Netherlands recognized these discussions, continuing dialogue, that we have on policy matters does not affect at all at the level of execution of projects and I am glad to see heads waving in assent on the part of colleagues from United Nations Agencies.

On the other hand may I say, and this is a very personal thought, that I have always retained great respect for the quality of people when I see that they can conduct a very very frank dialogue and this I am glad to say is something that the delegate of Bangladesh in a way referred to and this is that in this very active dialogue, controversial indeed, between the UNDP and the agencies, at no time has the power of expression, the frankest expression as you can see, been curtailed because those who take part in the dialogue really have one thing at heart and if you will allow me to put the United Nations System, because the United Nations System has a concept that will be most effective in assisting the developing countries and in administering the resources that we receive from all sources and this I think is really what everybody wants to do.

EL PRESIDENTE: Concluimos así la discusión de este tema. Creo que yo mismo debo atenerme a la brevedad sobre la cual he venido insistiendo. Podría entonces decir que, en cuanto a las relaciones entre la FAO y el PNUD, el Consejo reitera una vez más la necesidad de que exista una estrecha cooperación entre esos dos Organismos dentro de un espíritu de mutua comprensión, que se reitera una vez más el apoyo al consenso, aunque se sugirió la posibilidad de que ese consenso sea revisado para adaptarlo a las nuevas circunstancias después de los 7 años de su existencia.

El delegado de Países Bajos hizo sugerencias concretas a este respecto, tal vez limité mi referencia a una de ellas, a la posibilidad de que dentro de los programas ordinarios del presupuesto regular de los Organismos se puedan financiar proyectos de asistencia técnica, lo cual dio lugar a que varias delegaciones reiteraran su apoyo al programa de cooperación técnica, actualmente como parte esencial del programa del Director General de la FAO.

Sobre el PNUD, creo que hubo acuerdo en el sentido de señalar a este Organismo como fuente principal de financiación para proyectos financiados con recursos extrapresupuestarios, reconociendo también la conveniencia de que paralelamente a los fondos del PNUD se estimulara el aporte y la afluencia de otros recursos para contribuir a esas financiaciones.

Finalmente, creo que en cuanto al PNUD el Consejo estuvo de acuerdo en los conceptos que se expresaron en el sentido de que no debe convertirse el PNUD en un organismo de ejecución, que no debe ejecutar proyectos y que dentro de las relaciones entre el PNUD y las agencias es necesario conservar la autonomía, la propia fisonomía de cada una de las agencias.

Sobre el 14 por ciento como gastos generales de reembolso hubo también algunas intervenciones. Recibió cierto apoyo la propuesta de pedir al Director General que presentara un informe en la próxima Conferencia sobre las repercusiones que en cuanto al presupuesto propio de la FAO tendría cualquier cambio o alternativa posible dentro de ese 14 por ciento.

Sin embargo, otras delegaciones no se mostraron de acuerdo y después de la explicación del señor Yriart, creo que podríamos aceptar esa situación hasta cuando el Director General esté en condiciones de referirse nuevamente a este asunto y desde luego consultar a los órganos rectores. Sobre el grupo de representantes de las respectivas agencias ante el PNUD, hubo también algunos comentarios de los cuales se ha dado traslado al Comité de Redacción para ver qué se puede presentar a este respecto.

En relación con los otros dos organismos, el IFAD y el Consejo Mundial de la Alimentación, creo que también se insistió en que es necesario que haya una estrecha cooperación entre la FAO y esos dos Organismos. En cuanto a las relaciones entre la FAO y el Consejo Mundial de la Alimentación, creo que también se destacó la necesidad de que haya una relación adecuada para evitar una duplicación de actividades. Si no hay ningún comentario por parte de los miembros del Consejo podríamos así concluir este tema y ahora voy a pedirle al señor Ministro Seneine, Primer Vicepresidente, que si es tan amable, asuma la presidencia y también al señor Embajador del Perú, Samanez Concha, Presidente del Comité de Agricultura, quien desde ayer espera con santa paciencia al fondo izquierdo de la sala, que venga a la tribuna para que presente el informe de su Comité.

S. QUIJANO-CABALLERO (United Nations): I am most grateful for having been given the opportunity at this time to make some very brief comments, since I felt that I should not remain silent on this occasion when matters of inter-agency cooperation and relationships were mentioned when this distinguished Council discussed some very specific issues, but inasmuch as very general remarks were made on the agency relationships, I felt that I should mention that perhaps, and I shall be very brief at this time, and to reassure the members of the Council that there has perhaps never been such unity of purpose amongst the different components and parts of the United Nations family as it exists today.

As you know, under the chairmanship of the Secretary-General, the ACC hold various meetings throughout the year during which matters of common concern are discussed, particularly for this purpose of maintaining the closest cooperation and coordination amongst the agencies and to serve in the best and most effective way all our Member Countries.

EL PRESIDENTE: Señores, no obstante la intención que había expresado antes al Consejo en el sentido de que dado el retardo en que nos encontramos se prosiguiera ahora con el tema 10 del informe del COAG, por razones válidas se me aconseja que es mejor que se posponga la discusión del informe del COAG para la próxima semana, y que ahora después de oír algunos anuncios de nuestra Secretaría, se levante la sesión para reanudarla esta tarde con el tema 16, que es uno de los asuntos sustantivos de este período de sesiones. Espero que el Consejo esté de acuerdo y de nuevo mil excusas al señor Presidente del COAG.

Si no hay ningún comentario levantamos la sesión hasta las 2.30 de esta tarde.

The meeting rose at 12.20 hours

la séance est levée à 12 h 20

Se levanta la sesión a las 12.20 horas

council

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

conseil

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

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ORGANIZACION DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS PARA LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION

CL

CL 71/PV/8

Seventy-First Session

Soixante et onzième session

71° período de sesiones

EIGHTH PLENARY SESSION
HUITIEME SEANCE PLENIERE
OCTAVA SESION PLENARIA

(9 June 1977)

The Eighth Plenary Meeting was opened at 14.50 hours G. Bula Hoyos, Independent Chairman of the Council presiding

La huitième séance plénière est ouverte à 14 h 50, sous la présidence de G. Bula Hoyos, Président indépendant du Conseil

Se abre la octava sesión plenaria a las 14.50 horas bajo la presidencia de G. Bula Hoyos, Presidente Independiente del Consejo

IV - PROGRAMME, BUDGETARY, FINANCIAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

IV - QUESTIONS CONCERNANT LE PROGRAMME, LE BUDGET, LES FINANCES ET L'ADMINISTRATION

IV - ASUNTOS DEL PROGRAMA Y ASUNTOS PRESUPUESTARIOS, FINANCIEROS Y ADMINISTRATIVOS

16. Summary Programme of Work and Budget, 1978-79

16. Sommaire du Programme de travail et budget 1978-79

16. Resumen del Programa de Labores y Presupuesto para 1978-79

EL PRESIDENTE: En primer lugar voy a conceder la palabra al doctor Phillips, Presidente del Comité del Programma.

R.W. PHILLIPS, (Chairman, Programme Committee): Mr. Chairman, I will keep in mind your admonition of this morning for us to be brief in introducing items. At the same time, I hope you will judge my brevity in relation to the importance and complexity of the item and perhaps allow me somewhat more time than would normally be taken to introduce an item since this is, in the minds of most, the most important item on the Council Agenda.

I would also recall that owing to the timing agreed upon for the various meetings this year there was a fairly short gap between the completion of the meetings of the Programme and Finance Committees and the present session of the Council. Therefore, the document reporting the two Committees' work, CL 71/4, was available to most only at the beginning of the Council session. In the haste there were some errors and I would recall that those are noted, at least so far as the Programme Committee's report is concerned, in Corrigendum 1 to the main document.

I might refer first to the observations of the Joint Meeting of the Programme and Finance Committees which is on the first page of the document and which occupies only half a page, where you will find that the two Committees endorsed the Summary Programme of Work and Budget as a satisfactory basis for the preparation of the final Programme of Work and Budget and have for the most part supported the substantive proposals also since the projected cost increases were about the minimum that could be anticipated to maintain the integrity of the Programme and that the overall budget level was, in the eyes of the Committees, something which the Council might endorse.

The two Committees also looked at the question of whether or not the institution of a summary programme should be continued and, as you will see in paragraph 1.2, felt that this did provide a very useful and flexible indication to the Council of what might be in the final Programme of Work and Budget in the formative stage, and while there obviously were disadvantages because it did not contain all the information that some might wish to see and have in hand, it still provided a degree of flexibility, and at the same time an indication of proposed changes, which was useful and should therefore be continued.

On the subject of brevity I think it is worth recalling that this half page report may well set some kind of a record in FAO annuals for brevity. I would also recall that at the time of our Joint Meeting when we approved this report and also dealt with one other item, we convened for a total of eight minutes.

Turning now to the Programme Committee's report, for which the same degree of brevity cannot be claimed, I will run through it as quickly as possible just highlighting some of the points which are perhaps worth mentioning for those who have not had a chance to study the document in great detail. I will skip over the section called "General" which is paragraphs 2.6 to 2.9 because basically it says the same thing as the joint report. Under "World Background", paragraphs 2.10 to 2.13, I would just recall that in the Committee's view FAO should continue to be the leading Organization for multilateral policy development and for multilateral assistance in the fields of food and agriculture, and that it should concentrate on measures for food production, food aid and food security. At the same time, the Committee felt that the long-term problems should not be neglected and that the Organization must continue to give careful attention to the basic technical and economic problems of agricultural, fisheries and forestry development throughout the world.

The Committee also concurred in the Director-General's view that the movement towards greater individual and collective self-reliance on the part of developing countries was a necessary and a welcome trend.

Under the heading "Strategy for 1978-79" which is paragraphs 2.14 through 2.17, I would highlight the point in the second of those paragraphs that the Committee agreed with the Director-General's aim of continuing the process of the review of programmes, so as to ensure the most effective use of the Regular Programme for the benefit of all Member Nations. It also welcomed the Director-General's intention to apply a zero-base rather than an incremental approach. It also agreed that the organizational changes should be kept to a minimum.

I should perhaps also mention paragraph 2.17 where the Committee, taking note of the emphasis on cooperation in paragraph 3.6 of the Summary Programme, pointed out that while in appropriate areas joint action was desirable, responsibility was clearly individual and unique to each organization except for those cases where joint responsibility was shared by two or more, and some examples are given. It also emphasized that full partnership with the United Nations Development Program remained important and should be maintained.

So the point the Committee really wanted to make is that cooperation was highly desirable where it increased effectiveness but it should not be pursued for its own sake.

Under Framework, I would mention only the final sentence of paragraph 2.20 where the Committee welcomed the intention of the Director-General not to expand the Programme and Budget unduly and to reduce the number of Headquarters posts.

With regard to investment under the Field Programme heading, you will note that the Committee found it very difficult to predict the demands for investment and, pre-investment work. I will not go into the details of that paragraph, other than to flag the point that the World Bank had given some rather clear indications of its intention to increase loans to agriculture and, in view of the various demands, including IFAD and other funds, there was general support for the Director-General's intention with regard to strengthening the investment activities.

Regarding trust funds the Committee noted with approval the recent improved procedures which had been recently instituted to ensure the coordinated and planned approach in the appraisal and approval of trust fund project proposals and in the monitoring of the Organization's overall Trust Fund programme.

Regarding UNDP, that has already been discussed; you will find some figures in paragraph 2.25 regarding the shift in the number of experts, but I will not dwell on that. In general at the end of that section you will find in paragraph 2.27 an indication - really a reminder - that the full Programme of Work and Budget would contain information on the magnitude and trends of the field programme and support costs and estimates by programmes of extra-budgetary as well as Regular Programme resources, including Integrated narratives covering Headquarters, regional and field programmes and their interrelationships. I would caution against expecting too much here because, in view of the differences in programming schedules, obviously we have to underline the word 'estimates' in that paragraph because that is all the Organization can hope to give at the time the full Programme of Work and Budget is prepared as far as the field programme is concerned.

Turning to the section on priorities, I will just flag two points. First, in paragraph 2.29 the Committee noted that the section did not distinguish between objectives, strategies and means of action, and that it dealt not only with priorities but also with some other programme changes. That is just by way of comment, looking to future documents in this series.

In paragraph 2.31 you will see that the Committee supported the general approach of paragraph 6.1 and stressed its general agreement with the detailed changes which were clearly in line with the decisions of the 69th Session of the Council. Under Objectives of Expenditure and Cost Increases, which is a matter falling largely within the purview of the Finance Committee, I would only note that with regard to documentation and meetings the Committee supported the proposed further reductions as being in line with the Council's decisions, but it cautioned against carrying this process too far, particularly in regard to useful technical publications. As regards travel in paragraph 2.37, while the Committee also supported decreases in certain kinds of travel, it flagged the need for increases if FAO was to serve adequately what might be called its world parish.

I will now move over to the programme changes and these, as you will see at the bottom of page 6 of the English version, refer to the material contained in the Annex of document CL 71/3. Many of these I need not mention but here I should point out that you have two sets of numbers: the heading numbers are those referring to the programme format as reflected in the Annex; the paragraph numbers are, of course, a continuation of the numbers in the document itself.

In paragraph 2.44 you see reference to the importance the Committee attached to the work on post-harvest losses. I will not go into that because it has already been discussed in detail under another item. Under Livestock, paragraph 2.45, you will see that the Committee expressed some concern because of the limited progress that had been made in mobilizing extra budgetary resources for the programme for the control of African animal trypanosomiasis. Also in paragraph 2.48 there is something of the same kind of concern in regard to the meat and dairy schemes, although here the concern was that there had been rather strong initial support for those activities, but the extra-budgetary resources support had tended to fall off, even though the pipeline was still quite full with projects.

Earlier, I mentioned that there was a corrigendum for the section, and one of the large omissions happens to be in paragraph 2.49. I would suggest that you look at the corrigendum before you try to interpret what that paragraph means because a whole phrase got left out, so it does not make sense unless you insert the corrigendum. I will not comment further than that.

Under Research Support, I will only mention that the Committee concurred in the transfer of the research development centre to the Office of the ADC, Agriculture Department and that with respect to CARIS, it welcomed the Director-General's rather cautious approach since obviously the value of that programme would be to a large degree dependent on the extent to which the national and regional programmes were developed both to provide material for CARIS and to make use of the output.

Under Rural Development, I think I might just pause for a moment and point out that in paragraph 2.54, where the Committee expresses some concern over use of the term 'rural development' as a title for this programme, it was not because the Committee had any concern with the importance of rural development; it was rather that the terms used here covered only limited aspects of that subject and so, what the Committee was suggesting was that there should be found some different terms to cover these rather limited aspects of the whole subject, and that the subject itself, Rural Development, be used to cover the broad scope of activities which legitimately come under that heading.

Under Nutrition, paragraphs 2.57 through 2.61, you will recall there was mention this morning of some changes in the Committee's structure within the United Nations system. These are noted in paragraph 2.58, the establishment of an ACC Sub-Committee on Nutrition and the substitution of the Protein/Calorie Advisory Group by an Advisory Group on Nutrition, both of which would have their Secretariats located in Rome and administered by FAO. Those are things that have to be taken into account in evaluating the nutrition activities of the Organization. Also, in paragraph 2.60 you will find reference to the fact that the Ad Hoc Committee on Food and Nutrition Policies which this Council set up and which the Council decided should meet in association with Council sessions, is not actually having the session which was supposed to have been held just at the beginning of this month, before the Council convened. So the Committee, taking into account the various circumstances, spelt out, felt this was an acceptable procedure, but that the Council should be aware that this was not in accord with its earlier decision. On paragraph 2.61 you will note that the Committee recalled that

both FAO and WHO proposed to provide the same level of support as in the past biennium for the joint FAO/WHO Food Standards Programme.

Under Food and Agricultural Information and Analysis, paragraph 2.62, we just flagged the fact which has already been brought to the attention of the Council, that the Committee on World Food Security had considered the progress of the Global Information and Early Warning System and had found it satisfactory.

In regard to Food and Agriculture Policy, you will see from paragraphs 2.65 to 2.69 that there is considerable reorientation of this programme, a reduction in certain types of planning assistance, the discontinuation of the country perspective studies as such and also, in paragraph 2.68, reference to the contribution FAO might make towards the United Nations exercise called "Agriculture-Towards 2000" which is, in a revised form, the old Perspective Study on Agricultural Development.

In regard to Fisheries and Forestry, I think I need only point out that there was general agreement with the priorities planned for those two areas of work, and while there are some detailed comments, I think I need make no special mention of them here.

Under Investment, to which I have referred already, you will see in paragraph 2.82 a reference to the increase to \$1.5 million for the Investment Centre, primarily to expand cooperation with IFAD, area banks and other lending institutions. Also in paragraph 2.83 there is a reference to the Committee's agreement that the regional consultant funds earmarked for investment should be transferred to the Investment Centre, since in fact they had always been administered by that Centre.

This brings me to Country Offices, paragraphs 2.84 to 2.86. The situation as it was known at the time of the session is recorded in 2.85 but the Director-General gave an up-date of that information in his opening statement. The Committee agreed that the scheme was well under way and - also in paragraph 2.86 - noted that where there would be no FAO representatives, there were several temporary options that would be pursued.

Regarding the Technical Cooperation Programme, there is only one brief paragraph, 2.87; the Committee merely provided some information regarding the extent of the staffing of the TCP Liaison Unit.

Under Support Services, I will refer only to two points. In 2.88, there is a reference to AGRIS where you will recall there was to be an evaluation before the Conference in the fall. The Committee was informed that that evaluation report had been received and that it would be made available to the Council prior to the Conference, presumably the autumn session of the Council; but that in general the report concluded in favour of the continuation of AGRIS.

Then the Committee was also assured that the resources which were provided in the Summary Programme for the purchase of books and periodicals were adequate to maintain the David Lubin Memorial Library at a satisfactory level of acquisition,

M. BEL HADJ AMOR (Président par intérim du Comité financier): Je vais essayer de suivre l'exemple de M. Phillips et d'être le plus bref possible. Bien que le sujet soit très important, je me contenterai d'attirer l'attention sur certaines recommandations du Comité financier.

Tout d'abord, l'impression générale qui s'est dégagée des débats du Comité financier est que le Comité a estimé le budget proposé réaliste et d'un niveau raisonnable, et ce, bien sûr, en tenant compte des décisions des organes directeurs de l'Organisation et de la suite qu'il faudrait leur donner, des problèmes de l'inflation, de la situation économique des États Membres et des tâches qui leur incombent, et également des efforts qui sont déployés par le Secrétariat pour réduire le nombre de postes et d'activités non indispensables.

Le Comité a également tenu compte du contexte mondial dans lequel il a fallu tracer les grandes lignes de ce sommaire du programme de travail et budget pour le prochain biennium, A cet égard, on notera au paragraphe 3.7 que le Comité a donné son approbation pour le rôle de la FAO, tel qu'il est défini dans les paragraphes 2.9 - 2.12 du document CL 71/3.

Pour ce qui est de la stratégie, le Comité, tout en approuvant les grandes lignes politiques qui ont consisté à contenir autant que possible le budget, a relevé que le Directeur général a suivi les instructions données à la 69^{ème} session du Conseil ainsi que les avis des conférences régionales. Ces avis et ces recommandations, a constaté le Comité financier, ont servi à l'établissement des grandes lignes du programme qui nous est soumis.

Toujours dans le cadre de cette stratégie, le Comité a relevé avec plaisir l'intention de continuer à réduire le volume de la documentation et le nombre des réunions. Il a apprécié à leur juste valeur les efforts qui sont accomplis pour la réduction du nombre de postes, spécialement au Siège.

De même, le Comité a approuvé le renforcement proposé des bureaux régionaux, afin de fournir le soutien technique nécessaire aux bureaux de la FAO dans les pays. A cet égard, le Comité a remarqué que la proportion des dépenses supportées sur le terrain pour l'action de terrain augmentera avec la poursuite de la décentralisation.

Finalement, vous trouverez au paragraphe 3.12 que le Comité a donné son approbation pour les réorganisations qui sont jugées nécessaires et qui sont proposées aux paragraphes 3.15 à 3.17 du document CL 71/3, d'autant plus que ces réorganisations n'entraîneront aucune dépense supplémentaire.

Concernant le cadre pour 1978-79, vous remarquerez au paragraphe 3.16 que le Comité a décidé de recommander au Conseil d'approuver le niveau proposé du budget, à savoir 206,8 millions de dollars. Le Comité a estimé que le chiffre de budget proposé est raisonnable. Là, il a remarqué qu'il été retenu un taux de change indicatif et provisoire de 900 livres au dollar E.-U., mais il reste entendu que c'est à la Conférence de décider du taux de change définitif.

Le Comité a réitéré, toujours dans le cadre pour 1978-79, sa satisfaction pour l'effort déployé pour la réalisation des économies par la réduction du nombre des postes.

Il y a un point qu'il faudra souligner au paragraphe 3.15 où, d'après les informations et les éclaircissements obtenus, le Comité a noté que le chiffre de 206,8 millions de dollars ne laissait aucune marge de sécurité. Il est arrivé à la conclusion que toute réduction de ce chiffre pourrait avoir des conséquences pour le programme.

Si on se réfère au programme de terrain, paragraphes 3.17 à 3.19, je n'aurai pas beaucoup de choses à ajouter à ce qui a été discuté ce matin, puisqu'il s'agit là des relations avec le PNUD. Il s'agit également des frais généraux pour le soutien de projets financés par des fonds fiduciaires ainsi que des relations avec le FIDA.

Tout ce que je pourrai indiquer c'est que, comme vous le remarquerez dans les deux derniers paragraphes 3.18 et 3.19, le Comité ne cesse de manifester sa préoccupation chaque fois qu'il constate que les frais généraux de soutien risquent de peser sur le budget du programme ordinaire. Il n'a pas cessé de le répéter tout au long des débats.

A présent, je voudrais aborder le chapitre qui concerne les priorités.

Vous constaterez que le Comité a examiné ces priorités parallèlement à l'annexe du document CL 71/3. Il a formulé certaines observations concernant quelques points précis. Le premier point concerne les représentants et les bureaux régionaux de la FAO.

Au paragraphe 1, vous constatez qu'étant donné que les représentations sont considérées comme une priorité, il y aura une augmentation de 5,1 millions de dollars. Le Comité a approuvé cette augmentation, tout en tenant compte du fait que, dans la préparation de ce budget, il a été pris en considération les contributions gouvernementales.

Le Comité note, au paragraphe 2, qu'auparavant il était prévu un nombre de postes organiques de 62. Pour le biennium 78-79, il a constaté avec plaisir que ce chiffre sera réduit à 47.

Finalement, pour les services de soutien technique aux représentations au niveau des pays, le Comité a relevé qu'il y aura un certain renforcement pour les bureaux régionaux, avec une modeste augmentation de 1 million de dollars.

Concernant le sous-paragraphe ii) " programme de coopération", le Comité a considéré l'augmentation proposée de 1,5 million de dollars. Il a posé des questions concernant la procédure et les méthodes de travail et d'exécution concernant ce programme. Le Comité a obtenu énormément d'éclaircissements, mais il reconnaît que le programme a démarré assez tard, c'est-à-dire, d'après les renseignements qui lui ont été fournis, vers le mois de novembre, et qu'au moment où le Comité siégeait, c'est-à-dire au mois d'avril, il n'était pas possible d'avoir une idée très précise des activités du programme.

Cependant, vous avez au paragraphe 1 quelques indications concernant le nombre de projets exécutés jusqu'à fin avril 1977, ainsi que le chiffre des sommes dépensées. Sur la base de ce qui a été communiqué au Comité, il a été noté qu'il y avait une dépense à peu près d'un million de dollars par mois et il nous a même été indiqué qu'une fois on avait dépassé ce chiffre. D'après les renseignements recueillis, c'est un programme qui répond à de nombreux besoins de pays membres. Le Comité a décidé de recommander également l'augmentation d'un million et demi pour ce programme. D'après ce qui nous a été communiqué concernant les activités, il semble que le chiffre de 20 à 24 millions de dollars pour la période biennale prochaine sera à peine suffisant.

Concernant les investissements, le Comité relève également une augmentation d'un million et demi de dollars. Là également, il a donné son approbation étant donné l'importance de ce chapitre et l'importance et le volume des activités que les services des investissements doivent fournir.

Au paragraphe 2, quelques explications concernant ces activités nous sont fournies.

Pour le chapitre "pertes après récolte", je ne vais pas du tout m'étendre, étant donné que nous avons discuté de cette question quand nous avons abordé le problème du fonds spécial.

Je désire seulement préciser qu'aux paragraphes 2 et 3, on notera que le Comité a eu une clarification concernant les fonctions et les objectifs de ce fonds, étant donné qu'il estime que ce fonds ne doit pas faire double emploi avec les autres activités des postes "pertes après récolte" qui sont inscrites dans le programme ordinaire.

A propos des autres priorités, il n'est pas nécessaire de m'étendre sur les diverses sous-rubriques. Je peux donner comme idée générale que les augmentations sont assez modestes. Ces augmentations sont proposées en tenant compte des priorités décidées par les Etats Membres et surtout des ressources limitées de l'Organisation.

Je me permets seulement d'attirer l'attention sur le développement rural où l'on constate qu'il y a une réduction pour les réunions et les documents, alors qu'on note un accroissement pour la formulation des projets.

A propos de "administration et soutien", j'attire l'attention sur deux ou trois points. D'abord, concernant le coût d'interprétation, au paragraphe 5, le Comité a de nouveau manifesté sa préoccupation pour le coût de l'interprétation des réunions des représentants permanents; il a constaté que des crédits supplémentaires ont été nécessaires et là il rappelle sa recommandation qui a été mentionnée dans le document de la soixante-neuvième session du Conseil (CL 69/4 par. 3.49). Il estime qu'il faudrait vraiment faire preuve de modération concernant ces réunions.

Sur le par. 8, je ne vais pas m'étendre, étant donné que nous aurons à discuter de cette question. Il s'agit du budget du Corps commun d'inspection, budget qui va connaître une augmentation que le Comité a jugé assez élevée. Je peux vous dire également que le Comité est assez inquiet au sujet de cette augmentation qui, à son avis, n'est pas du tout jugée indispensable.

Au par. 12, il faut noter que le chapitre Imprévus n'aura pas à prévoir pour 1978-1979 le montant de 600 000 dollars qui était affecté au coût de soutien pour le Conseil mondial de l'alimentation en 1976-1977. Je l'avais déjà mentionné ce matin - étant donné que ces coûts seront dorénavant à la charge de

l'ONU.

Enfin, j'arrive au dernier point qui concerne l'objet des dépenses. Vous constatez également ici l'approbation et l'appui du Comité concernant l'intention de réduire le nombre des postes au Siège. Au par. 3.23, on remarque qu'il y aura une augmentation concernant les crédits pour les services de consultants. Des renseignements assez étoffés ont été fournis au Comité à cet égard et tout particulièrement sur le coût des consultants. Il ressort des chiffres et de l'analyse qui a été faite que ce coût est inférieur à celui des fonctionnaires titulaires de l'Organisation. Il a été noté aussi que les services accomplis par les consultants, ne sont pas normalement assurés par les fonctionnaires de l'Organisation.

En ce qui concerne les voyages, là encore le Comité, tout en reconnaissant la nécessité des voyages pour la nature des activités de l'Organisation, n'a pas pu quand même s'empêcher de mentionner que des mesures de contrôle rigoureuses devraient être maintenues et que les dépenses devraient, autant que possible, être réduites, particulièrement celles afférentes aux réunions de niveau international.

Enfin, pour l'augmentation des coûts, d'après les informations qui ont été communiquées au Comité, ce dernier a conclu que les crédits prévus pourraient ne pas couvrir les augmentations de coût étant donné le taux d'inflation qu'on ne peut pas contrôler.

Enfin, j'attire l'attention sur le fait que le Comité a donné son approbation pour le choix d'un chiffre arrondi provisoire de 900 lires/dollar pour le taux de change pour calculer le projet de budget qui vous est soumis; comme je l'ai déjà dit auparavant, c'est à la Conférence de fixer le chiffre définitif.

Ceci dit, je suis prêt à répondre à toutes les questions et à donner d'autres éclaircissements si nécessaire:.

EL PRESIDENTE: Vamos ahora a iniciar la discusión de este Tema. Como lo anoto el Presidente del Comité del Programa, y como creo que todos lo reconocemos, se trata de un documento breve, conciso y muy concreto, por lo cual propongo al Consejo que tratemos conjuntamente la totalidad de documentos. Naturalmente, aquellas delegaciones que consideren necesaria una segunda oportunidad para hacer referencias específicas a ciertos puntos, podran hacerlo si como lo espero el tiempo nos lo permite, puesto que se trata de un punto fundamental del actual período de sesiones.

J.C. VIGNAUD (Argentina): Sr. Presidente, antes de referirme al tema que nos ocupa quisiera que rae autorizara a hacer un brevísimo anuncio que se refiere al proyecto de resolución sobre cooperación técnica entre países en desarrollo, que fue circulado ayer en inglés, en francés y en español a todos los miembros del Consejo y también a los Observadores.

A este respecto deseo que usted me autorice a anunciar que ese proyecto de resolución debe ser considerado como presentado por todos los países que integran América Latina, lo cual, por cierto, en modo alguno excluye que otros países extrarregionales puedan sumarse para copatrocinarlo.

Dicho esto, deseo ahora referirme al tema que nos ocupa.

En primer lugar, deseo señalar que los informes que nos han presentado el Comité del Programa y el Comité de Finanzas constituyen un análisis muy completo de las propuestas que se nos han presentado en relación al Programa de Labores y Presupuesto.

Afortunadamente la naturaleza de ese examen es tan completa que creo que nos releva de la necesidad de profundizar demasiado en cada uno de los capítulos en que se ha dividido el documento básico preparado para este tema de la agenda. Por ese motivo mi Gobierno desea señalar que apoya el informe de la reunión conjunta de los Comités del Programa y de Finanzas en tanto ese informe precisamente resume lo que ha sido materia de debate entre los dos Comités.

La decisión de mi Gobierno de apoyar ese informe conjunto se basa precisamente en el hecho de que, a su juicio, los lineamientos generales del programa para el bienio 78/79 siguen las nuevas políticas establecidas por la Conferencia en su 18° período de sesiones y los objetivos que se nos propusieron y que fueron ya endosados por el Consejo.

Las orientaciones dirigidas a dar preferencia a las actividades de carácter práctico y a corto plazo tendientes a obtener resultados concretos, la obtención rápida y flexible de soluciones a las necesidades urgentes, la descentralización y el acercamiento de FAO a las actividades de campo están, en general, reflejadas en la propuesta del Programa de Labores y Presupuesto.

Vemos con agrado el incremento en las inversiones totales del programa ordinario referidas directamente en/o las actividades de campo y tomamos nota con satisfacción del propósito de profundizar el proceso en esta dirección en el futuro. Es preciso que los Estados Miembros perciban directamente y en la forma más inmediata posible los resultados derivados de la acción de la FAO para que la cooperación sea vehículo de solución y no la ocasión de ejercicios abstractos, estériles y frustrados.

Es importante resaltar la disminución del cinco por ciento prevista para los gastos totales de documentación y reuniones, en cumplimiento de las recomendaciones de la Conferencia en su 18° período de sesiones, así como la reducción de los gastos en los puestos de plantilla con relación al presupuesto total y que arroja el índice más bajo del presente decenio. Particularmente, por lo que estas propuestas revelan como reversión de la tendencia en un contexto especialmente difícil caracterizados en la inflación generalizada y los aumentos de costo.

Lamentamos, en cambio, por las mismas razones, los aumentos de costos del programa de actividades interorgánicas, lo que implica la desviación de fondos hacia tareas superburocráticas que no contribuyen a la consecución de los objetivos específicos de la Organización.

Las reducciones previstas no contemplan los gastos que se derivarán del establecimiento de los 47 puestos de representantes que se proyectan establecer para fines de 1979, ni los 170 puestos de apoyo que los mismos requerirán; pero resulta importante remarcar que esos gastos se inscriben en la saludable política de dedicar menos recursos a las actividades de carácter burocrático y aumento del personal de la sede, y en cambio, otorgar mayor apoyo a la acción en los países y mejorar la vinculación entre las actividades de campo y el Proclama Ordinario, promoviendo una mayor efectividad de este último.

Deben fortalecerse, asimismo, aquellas actividades de las divisiones técnicas, en apoyo de programas de campo y en cumplimiento de la Resolución 17/75 de la Conferencia, incluir en el Programa de Labores y Presupuesto información relativa a la magnitud, características y tendencia de los programas de can-pO'y costos indirectos. El Programa de Labores y Presupuesto debe responder adecuadamente a las aspiraciones de los países miembros y la estrategia definida por el Director General en cuanto al rol activo de la FAO en el campo y como catalizador de la acción de otros organismos y la cooperación entre países.

La utilización de las instituciones nacionales, la equitativa distribución por regiones de los fondos asignados a los programas de campo y la consideración de los requerimientos manifestados por las Conferencias Regionales deben ser, a nuestro juicio, pautas constantes en la confección y ejecución del programa.

H. ABDALLAH (Egypt) (interpretation from Arabic): First I should like to thank Dr. Phillips and the Chairman of the Finance Committee for the two reports which they have just presented which are precise and which set forth the Programme of Work and Budget very clearly.

We should also like to thank the Director-General for the Programme of Work he presented, which is a balanced programme, and in accordance with the recommendations of the regional conferences, the Council and the general Conference.

We should also like to support the new trends and the new dimensions of the proposed Programme in a general way, and will also support the way in which the documents have been presented to us this time, and we should like to see the Secretariat continue to present the Programme in this summary form, taking into account, of course, the intentions of Member Countries.

We hope in future the Secretariat will make sure that the documents will have a table of establishments. We also agree with the priorities laid down by the Director-General, as shown in paragraph 6.1 of the Report, and we are very glad to see the definition of these priorities, which is a new idea. We should like the Programme of Work and Budget to be defined always in relation to these priorities.

We should also like to support the Technical Cooperation Programme which was created to meet the needs of Member Nations, and we should like to see the activities of this Programme be evaluated, first countries who are interested and involved in that Programme to give their point of view after the progress of the Programme so that the countries can benefit as much as possible from the Programme itself.

We also support the principle which was applied by the Director-General in the strengthening of the Consultants and the investment in these activities.

We agree with what Dr. Phillips said as to the Programme Committee's agreement with changing the structures in the Organization, but we feel there are some difficulties in the Agricultural Services Division. This Division when it was set up, was to include agricultural activities in general, mechanization of agricultural industries, and this has been done for years.

We think Agricultural Services - at least as far as concerns our understanding of this terminology in Arabic - includes rural activities of FAO, and that given that work coming to the era of mechanization of agriculture, and industrialization becoming an essential factor of agricultural development in developing countries, the Director-General should take this into account so that this Division should include all these activities, and get the name of Agro-industries Division.

Now I should like to mention organization at the Regional level, and as the host country of the Regional Offices and member country of the Near East Region we should like to say how pleased we are to be able to report that our relationship with the Regional Office is very satisfactory. We should like to make some comments on the organization of the Regional Offices in a general way. We would like to see relationships between the Secretariat and the Regional Offices clarified and better defined, and we should like the relationships between Regional Offices and country offices and country representatives defined much more clearly, given the importance which the Director-General gives to the role which representatives should play in the countries.

We should also like to see closer cooperation between Regional Offices on the one hand and country offices on the other.

As to the Regionalisation, which we support very strongly, when we consider the problem of decentralization we should take into account the fact that certain distinctions between Headquarters and Regional Offices should be very clearly made so that the Regional Offices should be able to develop according to a policy planned by Headquarters. Therefore disciplines concerned with strategy should be at Headquarters, such as Economic Analysis, Research, Planning, Investment Activities and Programming Activities and so forth.

All this comes under general strategy of the Organization, and the Director-General has already stressed the need for Investment Activities to be defined at Headquarters level. Therefore everything concerning strategy should be under headquarters auspices, but as regards tactics this comes within the aegis of Regional Offices.

I would like to give an example. As far as Animal Health is concerned, there is only one post covering livestock production and animal health. The post should in fact, be filled by two officers and not just one. I should like these comments to be taken into account so that Regional Offices can play their proper part concerning these very specialized activities.

Finally, I should like to say that we support AGRIS, the project which is very important; I would also encourage the Director-General in his support for this, because our country has derived more benefit thanks to the cooperation we have from the International Development Research Centre of Canada.

We should also like to ask that the number of meetings at Regional level and the Regional Commissions should be cut, particularly because there are many countries which cannot afford to send delegates especially if these Regional Commissions are held every two years; they may meet every three or four years and we hope the Director-General will soon present a full document on the decentralization policy in more detail.

C.R. FRANK (United States of America): The United States agreed to many of the priorities established in document CL 71/3. We believe these priorities complement the efforts of the Director-General, which we wholeheartedly support, to increase productivity, reduce unnecessary expenditure and guide FAO programmes towards more action-oriented activities. We believe the practice of preparing a summary of this sort should be continued so that member governments could render advice on the proposed trends before the full document is prepared.

We recognize the present summary presents a compromise between full information and flexibility to render advice before the programming process moves to a point where any major changes are difficult. We would urge, however, that the Programme and Finance Committees' reviews of the Summary and full Programmes of Work and Budget be held sufficiently far in advance of the Council or Conference Sessions to assist member governments in preparing their positions.

The new format for the Programme of Work and Budget as reflected in the Annex to document CL 71/3 is a substantial improvement over the one followed for several recent biennia because it relates more nearly to the structure of the Organization. We believe, however, that further improvements are possible.

Now allow me to turn to the substance of the Programme of Work as set out in the Annex of CL 71/3. With regard to rural development, 2.1.5, our delegation believes that the Organization should, as in other programmes and projects, attempt to ensure a high level of participation of rural people, both as decision makers and beneficiaries in the development process. In this connexion, and in particular as regards the increased priority to activities benefiting women, page A7 of document CL 71/3, our delegation believes FAO should assist governments in developing programmes and programme resources to enhance the role of women in the household, in agricultural production and distribution and in other development activities.

Of more general concern regarding the work encompassed under Rural Development, I must record our impression that the Programme content and results achieved over the years have been less than satisfactory. In our view, there is need for a clearer definition of what FAO should be doing in this area, to address the question of how these activities may be pursued with greater effectiveness, and for a more forward-looking programme. We believe the Director-General should conduct a careful study of these matters, within the House, and arrange for an in-depth discussion of his findings by the Programme Committee in the autumn. In saying this, I want to make it clear that the United States supports the Director-General's efforts to give work in this area greater vitality and relevance, with a view to improving conditions of rural life generally and especially conditions for the small farmer and rural worker.

Regarding CARIS (Current Agricultural Research Information Service), we support the cautious approach being taken by the Director-General. The future value of the work will depend largely upon the extent to which internal and external funds lead to the development of effective regional and national support, and to effective use of the output.

Nutrition, paragraph 2.1.6, is another programme area with which we have been less than satisfied in recent years. The United States supports the establishment of a new nutrition advisory group to replace the Protein Calorie Advisory Group and the provision by FAO of the Secretariat for the new group. We welcome the moves anticipated at the World Food Council in Manila /?/ assign higher priority to nutrition activities, and to FAO a leading role in relation to nutrition efforts in the United Nations system. Regarding the FAO Council's Ad Hoc Committee on Food and Nutrition Policies, we regret its repeated postponement, but can concur that the next session should be held as early in 1978 as possible, and hope that the Committee will have a review of the nutrition implications of all FAO's programmes.

We feel that the work of the draft FAO/WHO Food Standards Programme, conducted under the Codex Alimentarius Commission, is proceeding satisfactorily and should continue.

Regarding the Fisheries Programme 2.1.7., we concur generally in the priorities for investment and assistance to small-scale fishermen and to aquaculture. We support assistance to developing countries to improve capacity to negotiate bilateral and regional agreements arising from the Law of the Sea negotiations and extended jurisdictions. We feel it is also important to assist developing countries in improving their capacity to manage rationally the Fishery Resources within their zones of jurisdiction.

Regarding Forestry, we concur in the emphasis upon tropical forestry and on enhancing forestry's contribution to rural employment and rural development. We would appreciate hearing something of the FAO Secretariat's plans for work in the Agro-Forestry field, on which we place importance.

We note the steps being taken in the setting up of FAO Country Representative Offices, and the close cooperation with UNDP in this regard. During the transition period we hope FAO will be adequately represented in the field to participate effectively in the UNDP Country Programming Process. We are particularly interested in the Director-General's plan for cooperation between Country Representatives in Latin America and the Institute of Agricultural Sciences. We should also appreciate detailed information regarding the financing of the Country Representatives.

We note that a planned evaluation of the agricultural information system has been completed and favours continuation of the project. We hope that the evaluation report will be made available to Member Governments well in advance of the forthcoming FAO Conference. Pending an opportunity to carefully study that report, the United States wishes to reserve its position on this issue.

Concerning the Technical Cooperation Programme (TCP) the United States will support a continuation during the biennium 1978-79, notwithstanding our concern about a policy of using assessed budget funds to support technical assistance programmes. Our concern derives from the fact that we think the TCP could be detrimental to our overall support for development assistance efforts of the UN system in the long-term which would not be in the long-term interests of developed or developing countries.

We should recall that the TCP began at a time when the resources available from the UNDP were suddenly reduced. It also arose from the legitimate need of the Director-General for some amount of resources to meet unforeseen emergency needs and for quick reaction programmes in developing countries.

My Government believes matters have changed significantly since the TCP originated. UNDP resources which were so uncertain in late 1975 and early 1976 are once again increasing and the prospect for further growth is good. Many of the administrative shortcomings of the UNDP have been corrected, or soon will be, and improved management is evident. My Government plans to continue to increase its contribution to the UNDP and to encourage other donors to do so, while at the same time supporting FAO as the main executing Agency for UNDP-financed assistance in the fields of agriculture, forestry and fisheries.

I must say that as we have sought legislative approval for our assessed contributions to FAO and other Agencies and our voluntary contributions to the UNDP, we have encountered strong criticism of the proliferation of funding for technical assistance services. It is clear to us that if we are to be able to convince our legislature that part or all of the TCP is worthy of future support, we must find a way to take a look at how the TCP is operating, what is being accomplished, and how the TCP fits into the overall developmental effort.

We were very much pleased by the Director-General's statement of last Monday. We welcome his plans to use greater portions of TCP for emergency purposes and for quick-reaction projects in the forthcoming biennium. This undoubtedly reflects the improving financial situation in the UNDP.

We were also pleased to hear the Director-General propose an evaluation of the TCP. We believe this would be useful in helping to crystallise our thinking concerning the continuing need for a technical cooperation programme in FAO. We wholeheartedly support his efforts. We hope he can suggest procedures leading towards a Council report which will satisfy all governments that the evaluation was objectively carried out. This might best be accomplished by some combination of experts and FAO staff, but this is a matter which the Director-General will study.

We should imagine that to be most useful the evaluation would have to be completed in time for consideration by the 74th FAO Council in November 1978. Should our thinking be roughly in accord with that of the Director-General, perhaps he could advise us at the 72nd Council which meets just prior to the Conference in November, of his detailed planning for the evaluation. He wisely provided us in 1976 with criteria for the implementation of the TCP, so there is a basis to look now at what has been accomplished.

I have not mentioned a budget level for 1978-79 because we wish to give detailed study to the programme and sub-programmes of the final Programme of Work and Budget proposals which we understand will not be available until September. We will be prepared to address the budget level issue at the 72nd Council and in the Conference in November.

E. SAENZ (Colombia): En primer lugar, la Delegación de Colombia desea manifestar su apreciación positiva por la presentación del Documento Programa de Labores y Presupuesto para el bienio 1978/79 que, como se dice en el párrafo 1.3 de la Introducción corresponde al resultado de la revisión de los programas, estructuras y política de la Organización que había sido aprobada por ese Consejo en julio del año pasado.

Sobre la parte segunda, la situación mundial, aparece evidente que si bien esa situación ha mejorado relativamente, persiste una continua preocupación sobre todo por las tendencias negativas a largo plazo.

Además, el párrafo 2.3 indica que siguen sin solución los problemas a largo plazo de los cuales se ha venido ocupando este Consejo.

El crecimiento de la producción alimentaria de los países en desarrollo es insuficiente, la reciente tendencia del mercado mundial es desfavorable para los países en desarrollo. En el párrafo 2.4 se indica que la tasa de crecimiento agrícola en los países en desarrollo es muy inferior a la de los países desarrollados; todo ello conduce a dar fundamento al sentido de frustración a que hace referencia el párrafo 2.6.

Es que, Sr. Presidente, el segundo decenio de las Naciones Unidas para el Desarrollo está para terminar sin que se haya logrado la meta del 4 por ciento que fué fijada para ese decenio y ahora aparece otro objetivo del 6 por ciento, inalcanzable en las condiciones actuales, lo cual debe llevarnos a todos nosotros al interrogante de qué podía hacer la FAO para contribuir a resolver el problema alimentario mundial si los países desarrollados, que tienen los medios y los poderes, no cumplen los compromisos que adquieren.

En los párrafos 2.7 y 2.8 se habla de la constitución del FIDA. La Delegación de Colombia espera que el Fondo Internacional de Desarrollo Agrícola sea una realidad antes que concluya este año. Consideramos que la FAO debe intensificar sus esfuerzos para asistir al FIDA en su importante tarea, y particularmente ofrecer asistencia a los Gobiernos en la intensificación y preparación de buenos proyectos que puedan merecer rápida aprobación.

En el párrafo 2.10 hay una afirmación enfática que nos preocupa. Al final de la primera frase de ese párrafo se dice: "otras formas de asistencia destinadas a atender la necesidad de los países menos desarrollados y más gravemente afectados". Nuestra Delegación no se opone a que esos países sean atendidos prioritariamente, pero sí nos preocupa el hecho de que con esa redacción parece que se trata de excluir de esa asistencia a otros países que, como el nuestro, y la gran mayoría en América Latina, han alcanzado ya un grado intermedio de desarrollo pero que aún requieren apoyo externo para complementar el propio esfuerzo interno. Por ello consideramos que el efecto final del programa de labores y presupuesto debería modificarse en la redacción expresándose que "se ofrecerá esa asistencia prioritariamente a los países menos desarrollados y más gravemente afectados, pero que igualmente otros Estados que no estén catalogados dentro de estas condiciones deben también beneficiarse de asistencia adecuada".

En el párrafo 2.11 aparecen los principios que fundamentan la política del Director General. En cuanto al Programa de Cooperación Técnica nuestro país ha comenzado a beneficiarse de este Programa mediante asistencia rápida con efectos concretos y positivos. Nuestro Gobierno apoya firmemente la continuación y consolidación del Programa de Cooperación Técnica que debe ser un hecho irreversible para el beneficio de los países en desarrollo.

En cuanto a la descentralización, en el pasado mes de marzo firmamos en Colombia el acuerdo por medio del cual se estableció en nuestro país la primera oficina propia de la FAO en América Latina. El Gobierno de Colombia considera que esa Oficina propia de FAO con sede en Bogotá contribuirá a estrechar más los contactos que existen entre nuestro país y la FAO. Consideramos que en esa forma la FAO ha comenzado a actuar en nuestro país con imagen y nombre propios, aunque dentro de la acción conjunta de que habla el párrafo 3.4 de la parte 3.

Apoyamos el nivel presupuestario propuesto de 206,8 millones de dólares que aparecen en el párrafo 4.9 de la sección 4.

También apoyamos la reducción del personal en la sede y el desplazamiento progresivo de los funcionarios hacia los países.

Para terminar, nuestra Delegación reitera su apoyo al capítulo 6°, prioridades, porque esas prioridades corresponden a la posición que los representantes de nuestro Gobierno han venido asumiendo en los últimos años en los Órganos Rectores de FAO.

O. BORIN (Italia): Monsieur le Président, je crois que l'on peut dire en toute sincérité que le document qui vient de nous être présenté est un document remarquable.

En le lisant, on s'aperçoit que nous sommes en présence d'une conception unitaire, d'une vision cohérente de la fonction de la FAO. Bref, on détecte, dans le sommaire du programme du budget qui est soumis à notre réflexion, une ligne politique de cohérence et de pragmatisme réalistes.

D'ailleurs, le Comité financier et le Comité du programme ont fait un examen long et détaillé du document qui a abouti à des remarques largement positives sauf sur des questions mineures, ce qui est parfaitement normal. On ne peut pas être d'accord sur tout. Cela vaut pour nous aussi.

Mais avant d'entrer dans certains détails, je voudrais rappeler que nous sommes parfaitement d'accord avec les principaux objectifs politiques indiqués par le Directeur général et avec la nouvelle orientation qu'il entend donner à l'activité de la FAO sur le terrain en vue d'en faire un instrument plus efficace au service des pays membres.

D'autre part, nous nous rendons compte que le changement envisagé ne peut pas se réaliser d'un jour à l'autre et qu'il faut donner l'espace et le temps nécessaires pour permettre à l'action du Directeur général de déployer toutes ses implications. C'est pour cette raison que nous comprenons certaines lacunes et certains silences du sommaire qui après tout - et nous en sommes conscients - n'est et ne reste rien de plus qu'un sommaire.

Si nous avons bien compris le sens de ce que le Directeur général veut réaliser, on pourrait le résumer en disant qu'il s'agit de la projection de la FAO vers le terrain et sur le terrain, au lieu de favoriser les études comme il en a été question jusqu'à maintenant. C'est le passage de la théorie à l'action, et cela est rendu évident par les propositions qui nous sont soumises, en particulier le programme de coopération technique, la décentralisation et la réorganisation des services du Siège, le niveau du budget.

Je parlerai tout d'abord du programme de la coopération technique pour lequel on nous demande d'accepter une augmentation.

Lorsque le Directeur général, au cours de la 70ème session, nous a proposé ce nouveau programme, nous avons été parmi ceux qui ont considéré positivement sa requête. Nous disions alors que tout en appuyant le programme, nous craignons le double emploi et le manque de coordination avec le PNUD.

Le Directeur général, dans son allocution introductive à la présente session, a dit des mots rassurants sur ce point et nous en prenons acte avec satisfaction, en espérant que les préoccupations à ce sujet que nous partageons avec d'autres délégations soient présentes à l'esprit.

Il est certes prématuré de dresser un premier bilan de programme de coopération technique, mais il faut souligner que pour pouvoir juger de son utilité et en évaluer l'efficacité réelle, il n'est pas suffisant de disposer des données quantitatives qui nous ont été fournies. Il est indispensable, à notre avis, d'avoir plus d'éléments d'information pour permettre au Conseil de se prononcer en toute connaissance de cause.

Nous prions donc le Directeur général de bien vouloir soumettre à la session, de novembre du Conseil un rapport complet et aussi détaillé que possible sur le CP en vue d'en consentir l'évaluation et obtenir des éclaircissements sur Certains points d'interrogation qui planent encore sur le programme. Il sera alors plus facile de donner une réponse au Directeur général sur sa requête d'augmentation de l'allocation nécessaire.

A ce sujet, je dois dire que nous voyons avec préoccupation pour l'avenir une expansion graduelle et indéfinie de la somme allouée au programme au titre du budget ordinaire de la FAO.

J'en viens maintenant à un autre point qui qualifie la politique du Directeur général; la décentralisation et la constitution d'un réseau de représentants de la FAO dans les pays.

J'ai déjà eu l'occasion d'exprimer sur ce point l'opinion de la délégation italienne et de faire état de ses préoccupations. Je ne le répéterai pas. Je dirai simplement que la difficulté que l'on éprouve à trouver des personnes- réellement qualifiées - difficultés mises en lumière Par le secrétariat lui-même - est bien la preuve que nos préoccupations étaient fondées.

Mais si ce réseau une fois établi, prouvera son utilité pour les pays membres, nous serons les premiers à nous réjouir et à nous féliciter avec le Directeur général qui l'a conçu.

Pour l'instant, nous pensons que ce réseau entraînera dans l'avenir la mobilisation d'importantes ressources financières et d'un nombre croissant de personnel, deux facteurs que nous voyons avec préoccupation •

Pour ce qui concerne la décentralisation en général, je voudrais dire simplement que c'est à notre avis un aspect d'un processus plus large qui est celui de la rationalisation, et nous voudrions souligner davantage l'opportunité d'un effort ultérieur en vue d'une rationalisation accrue des services et de l'utilisation du personnel, tant au Siège que sur le terrain.

Ce processus pourrait amener à d'autres économies, et je citerai en exemple le secteur des voyages pour lequel on nous propose une augmentation. Cela nous paraît en contradiction avec la décentralisation et l'exigence d'un meilleur emploi de ce personnel de haute qualité dont dispose la FAO, deux objectifs qui semblaient avoir dans l'esprit du Directeur général une grande priorité.

J'en viens maintenant au niveau du budget. Personne, je crois, ne peut s'attendre à ce que nous disions que nous sommes heureux et que nous acceptons avec joie les augmentations proposées, puisqu'en réalité c'est le contraire. Il y a en effet un problème de caractère général auquel nous sommes très sensibles, problème qui concerne les augmentations de budget de toutes les organisations internationales. Bien que nous reconnaissons volontiers que le Directeur général ait fait des efforts pour contenir ses requêtes à un niveau raisonnable, le problème concerne également la FAO.

En termes généraux, nous croyons qu'il faudrait renverser la tendance actuelle d'une augmentation indéfinie des budgets des organisations pour arriver à leur consolidation et à leur stabilisation à un niveau acceptable.

Nous aurions plusieurs remarques de détails à faire, telle par exemple la question du taux d'inflation en Italie qui est pris à la base du calcul, mais je vous en ferai grâce à ce stade, puisque je dois, en tout état de cause, réserver la position de la délégation italienne, sur le niveau du budget proposé et renvoyer à un examen ultérieur de la question notre attitude finale.

Nous ne manquerons pas d'autre part, dans un esprit de coopération, de prendre en considération pour cela également le consensus général qui, éventuellement, pourrait se dégager au cours de la prochaine session du Conseil quand nous disposerons de plus d'éléments d'information.

G. SATARI (Indonesia): I want to express clearly at the beginning that I have been instructed by my Government to support the main aspects of the summary Programme of Work and Budget and that the summary forms a satisfactory basis for the preparation of the final Programme of Work and Budget. We support the substantive programme proposals and consequently the overall budget level of \$206.8 million.

Our support for the proposed programmes and budget level stems from the following consideration: first, that it was fully in line with the new policy orientation taken by the Director-General and approved by the 69th Special Session of the Council on behalf of the Conference and with the conclusions of the medium-term objectives; second, that the emphasis was on concrete action at the country level, reorienting towards the felt needs of the developing world to combat poverty, hunger and malnutrition and the search for equity, fairness and justice; third, that it reflected the thrust of the integrated policies of investment, technical assistance, decentralization at country level including the general establishment of FAO representatives and the use of national institutions and the reduction of meetings, publications and the number of new posts; fourth, that the increase of the budget in real terms was relatively small.

We understand that the new policies have been introduced and implemented during 1976-77 and that the time has come for consolidation. We agree with the Director-General that the new Programme of Work and Budget for 1978-79 should consolidate the main features of the new policies and programmes, particularly with regard to the Technical Cooperation Programme, decentralization to country level and investment; and to take concrete steps towards the implementation of a New International Economic Order, particularly by concentrating on priorities of greatest relevance in the sphere of food and agriculture development such as investment in food production, strengthening of work on commodities and trade, support for the UNCTAD Integrated Programme for Commodities, support for integration schemes and economic cooperation among developing countries and support for food security.

Let us first consider the Technical Cooperation Programme. We can talk about it because Indonesia is one of the countries that will soon benefit from it. This is for the purpose of training for transmigration. The Indonesian Government has projected to move 50 000 people per year from the densely populated area in Java to the outer islands. The Indonesian Government considers the programme for transmigration as one of the top priority programmes aiming at speeding up the development of the islands outside Java, and secondly, increasing food production, farmers' income and job opportunities. The TCP will enable FAO to give great and flexible assistance to immediate and short-term needs of member countries, to fill gaps and stimulate the flow of investment and aid from financing institutions and other sources. We are glad to be informed that already fifty countries from all regions benefit from the TCP in the form of 86 projects involving a total of \$6.5 million, which have been committed to emergencies for missions and activities in direct support of investment for small scale, gap-filling and training. The subject matter covered includes, for example, seed production, land and water development, plant protection, animal health and training of extension agents.

Further, this kind of technical assistance programme is also available in proportionately large amounts in other specialized agencies and does not duplicate UNDP or other activities. My delegation therefore cannot go along with the view to dismantle the TCP. Rather, we are of the opinion that it is necessary to consolidate further its activities. The programme has just started and the Director-General is wise in proposing a very modest increase for TCP for the next biennium.

My delegation is happy to hear of the speedy progress made in the establishment of FAO representatives; 47 official requests have been received, including one from Indonesia, and 12 agreements have been concluded and will very soon be filled with qualified and acceptable persons. There is no need for us to elaborate further on this matter. We hope that gradually and smoothly it can replace the Senior Agricultural Adviser through FAO Country Representatives and that the process of decentralization at country level and the use of national institutions can be fully implemented.

The strengthening of the investment activities of the Organization will have our support, particularly with the addition of several mission leader posts and associated travel and consultants. The increased activities of the World Bank and the new activities of IFAD should be fully matched by FAO if the Organization is to play a significant role in stimulating a substantial flow of resources to food and agricultural development in developing countries. In this regard my delegation agrees with the Finance Committee to the request of the Director-General to assist further the Preparatory Commission of IFAD to the extent of \$60,000 during 1977.

On post-harvest losses we only wish to reiterate our support for the strengthening of activities to reduce harvest and post-harvest losses, and the establishment of a special fund to reduce food losses. The urgency and importance of implementing as soon as possible the programme of action agreed by the Council considering its emphasis and impact on the availability of food for human consumption and savings need not be further elaborated.

With regard to fisheries, in view of its increased importance as a source of animal protein and of export, my delegation concurs with the view of the Committee on Fisheries on the summary Programme of Work and Budget and its agreed priorities for the major programmes. We wish that more attention be given to fisheries exploitation and utilization particularly in increasing productivity and earnings of small-scale fishermen.

On Forestry, we support the views of the Committee on Forestry that the Forestry Department should concentrate on tropical forestry. Hence, the priority proposed in the Summary Programme of Work and Budget to assist member nations receives our support, particularly in improving the productivity, management and utilization of tropical and sub-tropical forest and related resources, and the stimulation of investment and promotion of trade in tropical forest products.

With regard to programme increase in the programme on agriculture we are generally in agreement with the Committee on Agriculture. Some activities however should be more exposed and stressed-, particularly when they relate to increasing the food production and improvement of export earnings from developing exporting countries. The stress on increasing the productivity, the expansion on land and water resources and the provision of agricultural inputs and technology receives our support.

On the sub-programme for natural resources, we understand that the objectives are to improve the assessment of land and water resources and their development within the framework of appropriate farming systems. Indonesia has vast unexploited land potential which should be brought into productivity. We agree with the report of the Programme Committee that work under this programme should be directed as much as possible to achieving results for the benefit of countries.

On crops, we would like to underline the activities on reduction of post-harvest losses and seed industry development.

The sub-programme's Rural Development which contains education, extension and training, rural institutions and employment, home economics and social programmes, marketing and credit, receive our support and we wish that allocation for these activities would in the sub-programme be increased. We further wish that more attention will be given in assisting small farmers development.

On food and agriculture policy we concur with the Programme Committee that resources resulting from reorientation of the activities be used to increase work on policy studies in the framework of New International Economic Order, cooperation between countries, particularly economic cooperation among developing countries. Work on "agriculture - toward 2000" to be vigorously continued. There we see the projected benefit for member countries, including use for international agricultural adjustment.

With regard to other sub-programme changes we associate ourselves with the view of the Committee on Agriculture.

With respect to the regional offices, we noted the net increase proposed of nearly US\$ 1 million and agree that this enables them further to provide the necessary technical support to FAO country offices and for enhancing the economic cooperation, particularly in the sphere of food and agriculture in the region.

S.S. MAHDI (India): I have listened with considerable interest to the rather comprehensive statement which has just been made by our neighbour Indonesia and our delegation finds itself in agreement with most of the things that have been said. It is not my intention to repeat the specific points which have already been covered and with which we mostly find ourselves in agreement.

The Indian delegation would like to congratulate the Director-General and his colleagues for the valuable document which has been presented for discussion this afternoon. During the past two years the Director-General has made an intensive review of the priorities of FAO's work and has instituted new approaches. We broadly agree with the revised priorities and especially with the continuation of the Technical Cooperative Programme.

My delegation agrees with the conclusion that short-term improvement in the world food situation should not distract attention from the continued unsatisfactory nature of the long-term trends. The proposed annual increase of 4 percent will need tremendous effort both at the national and international levels. The important components of the programme needed to expand production are, new investment, technological advice and supporting activities.

With regard to the first, no doubt at the national level for agricultural development needs increased investment. However, for achieving the required rate of growth national efforts of the developing countries will have to be supplemented by international assistance. We welcome the stepping-up of efforts on the part of FAO to achieve this objective.

Regarding technological advance, we appreciate the importance of international and national institutions and we feel that FAO can play a very important role in providing coordination, linkages and exchange of technical information. We consider also that it is necessary to test the findings of research under field conditions and suitably modify before these are passed on to the farmers in the form of practical recommendations for improving productivity. Therefore we would welcome more emphasis given in FAO on adaptive research.

On the specific items included in the Summary Programme of Work and Budget which has been presented to us I would like to emphasize the subject of water resources. As you know, India has a vast untapped potential. We have the technical knowhow and the manpower to exploit it, but the most important constraint is the lack of financial resources. International assistance in this respect would be most fruitful. Even in the high rainfall areas of the country, control over irrigation water is necessary for rapid increase in productivity. It may, however, be mentioned that both extension work and better management of resources is a prerequisite for improving the benefit of the irrigation water and in this respect the FAO priorities that have been presented to us in the documents are most welcome.

As regards the supporting activities, we feel that credit and marketing should receive adequate emphasis. Agriculture in general is starved of investment and the small and marginal farmers are practically neglected. Unless it is possible to create and improve the basic infrastructure, these small farmers will find it difficult to improve their productivity. We find that credit supply is basic and we attach great importance to mobilizing credit from finance institutions both nationally and internationally.

My remarks about seeds and fertilizers will be very brief. We are in full agreement with what has been said in the document and we feel that regular supplies of these inputs at reasonable prices is very important. We also attach importance to the introduction of seeds and new planting material and training of personnel in this field. FAO can assist the developing countries, including our own country, in our need to find planting material of certain fruits and vegetables which can be introduced for improving their quality and productivity.

Now with regard to the food and agricultural products processing we should like to emphasize that FAO should continue to play an important role in this field in view of its rich and varied experience. Our delegation has already dwelt at some length on the subject in the course of our intervention with reference to post-harvest losses. What we would like to emphasize today is that agro-industries should receive greater attention in the activities of the Organization and this emphasis should be reflected in adequate allocation of resources for this purpose. According to our estimate about less than 3 percent of the Regular Programme Budget is devoted to this purpose out of which 0,5 percent is spent on conservation of food which constitutes over 80 percent of the diet of people in developing countries. We would wish that this percentage of 0,5 percent be increased, perhaps it could be made at least one percent.

We also feel that there is urgent need to strengthen the competence of developing countries in the selection and transfer of appropriate technology and we feel that FAO could make special efforts in this direction, it is fully equipped to do so and it could improve the capabilities of national institutions in this regard.

Now coming to rural development including agrarian reforms, we are fully in agreement with the emphasis given to the small farmers and the role of women in the development of agriculture and their training. We support the proposed activities of FAO in this regard and we feel that the problems of the rural poor which includes the small farmers and marginal farmers and agricultural labourers, should receive due attention. We would like to emphasize in this regard that small farmers do not lack enthusiasm in adopting modern agricultural practices, it is the want of organized services and supplies, of inputs, particularly lack of credit in time which proves to be the main obstacle in their efforts.

Coming to the question of decentralization we welcome the initiative which has been recently taken in the establishment of FAO country offices and I would like to inform the Council that India is one of the countries which has requested an FAO country representative. We hope to benefit from this arrangement and therefore we would fully support the policy in this regard.

Now finally, regarding the Technical Cooperative Programme, we strongly feel, that if this programme was needed in July of 1976 it is much more needed in June 1977 and it will be still further needed in future years. When the subject came up for discussion in the last Council our delegation was one which supported it very enthusiastically and we did not support it as a one-time effort because that would have been very inconsistent and would not have been conducive to deriving full benefits from a programme of this nature. The Council has already noted that even in this brief period, about 81 projects of a total value of \$6 million have already been approved and in this regard I would like to emphasize particularly the pain that has been taken in launching this programme. Very close attention has been given to its performance and I understand that the Director-General has been taking a very personal interest in each and every one of the schemes that have been approved. So in spite of all this caution if we find that so many projects have been approved we can only congratulate the FAO Secretariat for this. Hope has been expressed that by the end of 1977 about \$15 million of the resources will be committed for this purpose, and this is by no means a "small achievement in view of the innovative nature of the Programme. We are fully aware of some of the constraints in many of the developing countries in formulating the projects. Many of these countries might even need the assistance of experts in formulating the TCP project. The Programme has gained momentum and my country has no reason to doubt that the major amount of the budgeted money will be committed by the end of 1977. The question has been raised as to whether these programmes are duplicating the UNDP activities. From our brief experience we can say with conviction that such is not the case. There are a number of emergency situations which vary in type and duration as well as in size, and not all of them can be met immediately by the current machinery available in UNDP, WFP or OSRO. Therefore, we feel that there is a definite need for TCP. There is a variety of needs ranging over assessment missions, individual specialists, modest supplies of inputs, etc., which arise in such situations and call for immediate short-term responses. There are also a number of vital gaps in the on-going programmes of the developing countries which would not be otherwise met from any other source. It is in this context that the TCP of FAO plays a significant role.

My delegation would therefore wholeheartedly support this programme included in the Summary Programme of Work and Budget, and would further urge that if possible, the allocations under this Programme should be increased, keeping in mind the variety of situations in which the developing countries could call upon the FAO to assist them.

A comment has been made about the increase. In our view, the present increase proposed by the Director-General is not excessive. I think in fact it is very modest and almost insignificant.

Another point has been made about the evaluation of the TCP. Now, we entirely agree that the evaluation of innovative programmes like TCP should be made, but we would also like to emphasize that perhaps we should wait a little longer before we can evaluate a programme of this nature, and in any case, we feel that the deadline which has been given for presentation of a preliminary evaluation is rather early. We should realize that this is a programme which is different from the UNDP type of activities. It is a programme which is still evolving, and at least some time should elapse before a full evaluation is launched. All this does not mean we are not in favour of evaluation, we are very much in favour of it, but all we plead is that at least some more time should be given before to the programme to show its full potentials.

M. G. WEILL (France): Le document CL 71/3 permet une bonne appréciation des efforts déployés par le Directeur général pour adapter l'Organisation à ses tâches et en accroître l'efficacité. Sous la forme naturellement concise sous laquelle il se présente, ce document permet au Conseil de préparer le débat de la Conférence en ce qui concerne le programme de travail et de budget.

Quant au niveau du budget, il nous est proposé pour le prochain biennium de le porter à 206,8 millions de dollars, soit une augmentation de 23,8 pour cent. Nous savons que ce budget est affecté par des éléments sur lesquels le Directeur général n'a pas de prise, tels l'inflation qui sévit en Italie sans que celle-ci n'ait malheureusement le monopole de ce dérèglement économique. Je dois cependant rappeler que la rigueur budgétaire à laquelle nous sommes nous-mêmes contraints de nous soumettre dans notre pays conduit à adopter la même attitude en ce qui concerne les budgets des organismes internationaux auxquels nous participons, à savoir une augmentation maximum de 10 pour cent par an. Sur cette base, Monsieur le Directeur général, le budget de l'Organisation pour le prochain biennium passerait de 167 à 202 millions de dollars.

Je souhaiterais dire quelles sont les réactions de ma délégation sur le programme lui-même qui nous est soumis. D'une manière générale nous souscrivons aux priorités proposées et nous approuvons les restructurations qui figurent dans le document et qui se rapportent à la recherche agricole, aux engrais, et à la télédétection. Nous pensons que les mesures que propose le Directeur général vont dans le sens de l'efficacité et nous le suivons tout à fait dans ses propositions.

Je ne peux manquer de mentionner également le programme de coopération technique. Ce programme, les différentes délégations précédentes en ont parlé, n'a été institué qu'il y a à peine un an et constitue d'ores et déjà un outil d'intervention important de notre Organisation dans le cadre retenu par le Conseil, en accord avec le Directeur général. Ce programme de coopération technique tient aussi d'ores et déjà une place importante dans le Programme de travail et budget du prochain biennium. Le sommaire du Programme de travail et budget prévoyait en sa faveur une augmentation de 1 500 000 dollars. En accord avec les autres délégations qui se sont exprimées dans ce sens, nous souhaiterions, pour éclairer le Conseil et la Conférence, que le Directeur général soumette à la soixante-douzième session du Conseil un premier rapport circonstancié sur la mise en oeuvre du Programme et les opérations réalisées. Disant cela, ma délégation se gardera d'entrer dans le débat assez formel qui porte sur les modalités de l'évaluation. A ce stade, nous ne demandons pas une évaluation avec les sens divers que telle ou telle délégation attache à ce terme, mais nous demandons à disposer d'un maximum d'informations sur la façon dont ce programme a été mis en oeuvre depuis le mois de juillet, avec les indications sur les opérations et les modalités selon lesquelles elles ont été réalisées.

Nous savons les efforts qu'a fait le Directeur général pour contenir le budget. Pour attester combien nous apprécions la rigueur dont il a fait montre, je relèverai simplement l'action énergique qu'il a menée et qui doit être poursuivie pour réduire le nombre des réunions, les voyages, et pour pratiquer une politique plus sélective des publications. Nous félicitons le Directeur général de l'excellent bulletin de santé de l'Organisation que constitue à nos yeux la réduction, depuis sa prise en fonctions, du pourcentage des dépenses consacrées aux postes ouverts par rapport au budget total. Le paragraphe 7.5 du sommaire du programme et du budget, donne en effet dans ce sens des chiffres qui méritent d'être rappelés: en 1974-75, le pourcentage des dépenses consacrées aux postes ouverts par rapport au budget total était de 77,2 pour cent; durant le biennium qui s'achève, ce pourcentage est descendu de 77,2 à 63,8 pour cent et nous saluons pour le prochain biennium la continuation de ce mouvement avec une prévision de 62,5 pour cent pour 1978/1979.

C'est dire que nous savons la rigueur qu'apporte le Directeur général à une gestion de l'Organisation allant dans le sens de l'efficacité.

Quoi qu'il en soit, nous aimerions que, dans les mois qui nous séparent de la Conférence, le Directeur général, dans le sens de nos préoccupations quant au programme et au budget, veuille bien porter, entre autre, son attention sur les trois domaines suivants que je vais développer quelque peu:

Je parlerai de: "l'Agriculture-Horizon 2000", C'est à dire le sous-programme 3.2 "investissements", et enfin le sous-programme 3.4 "bureaux dans les pays".

"l'Agriculture-Horizon 2000": il est difficile au stade actuel de nos informations de disposer de beaucoup d'indications sur ce que l'on entend par là; cependant, le Comité du Programme y consacre deux paragraphes, les paragraphes 2.68 et 2.69. Ces paragraphes indiquent que le projet dont il s'agit, "l'Agriculture-Horizon 2000", là, je cite une partie du paragraphe du rapport du Comité du Programme: "ce projet "Agriculture-Horizon 2000" prolonge sous une forme modifiée l'étude prospective du développement agricole mondial le fameux EPDAM.

Ce n'est pas tellement pour nous rassurer car nous avons déjà eu, lors de sessions antérieures du Conseil ou de la Conférence, à formuler des doutes, exprimer des craintes ou des réserves sur l'intérêt pratique et sur l'impact de l'EPDAM.

Ce Comité du Programme nous apprend que cette étude "Horizon 2000" sera menée avec l'avis d'un groupe de consultants de haut niveau en envisageant deux ou trois scénarios. Le sommaire du Programme de travail et budget rattache d'ailleurs cette étude à celle qu'effectuent les Nations Unies sous la direction du professeur LEONTIEF, sur l'économie mondiale de l'an 2000. Cela est mentionné au paragraphe 2.

Quoiqu'il en soit, tout en rappelant la vocation privilégiée de la FAO d'entreprendre des études dans un domaine de son ressort, notre délégation à maintes reprises, a mis en garde contre le développement d'études de caractère trop académique, grandes consommatrices de temps, d'efforts et d'argent.

Le sommaire du Programme de travail et budget au paragraphe 2.11 rappelle d'ailleurs la réticence du Directeur général à l'égard, et là je cite: "des études théoriques diffuses et de longue haleine" ce sont les propos du Directeur général.

C'est dans cet esprit que nous attirons son attention sur le développement au sein de cette Maison, sur l'étude de "Agriculture-Horizon 2000".

Le second secteur sur lequel je voudrais attirer particulièrement l'attention du Conseil et, s'il le veut bien, du Directeur général, c'est le sous-programme 3.2 "Investissements". En ce qui concerne les investissements, l'on nous propose de procéder à une certaine restructuration du Centre des investissements en justifiant cette restructuration par le développement des activités du FIDA. Cela est mentionné à l'annexe A15 du Sommaire du Programme de travail et du budget où on lit par exemple: "l'Accord portant création du Fonds international de développement agricole prévoit une coopération étroite entre ce dernier et la FAO. Cette collaboration implique la participation du personnel technique de toutes les unités de la FAO. Avec le Centre d'investissement comme point de convergence, il faudra donc renforcer, déployer les ressources du Centre d'investissement, etc.". Un peu plus loin, on peut lire "afin de remédier au déséquilibre marqué dans la structure organisationnelle du Centre d'investissement, essentiellement tournée vers la Banque mondiale, Banques régionales, Banques nationales de développement, dans le cadre du programme FAO/Banques, Fonds arabes, etc. et pour tenir compte du travail supplémentaire au titre du FIDA, il sera nécessaire de restructurer le Centre en y créant un troisième service en transférant à un budget ordinaire le poste du Directeur et de sa secrétaire actuellement pris en charge par la Banque et en créant, au titre du programme ordinaire, un poste P-4 et deux postes d'employés de bureau".

Je voudrais simplement dire que nous avons conscience de l'importance de la collaboration de la FAO avec le FIDA. Nous savons ce que peut apporter en effet le Centre d'investissement au FIDA mais nous demandons si, véritablement, tant d'accroissement de travail dont fait état le sommaire du Programme de travail et du budget doit être supporté par le budget de notre Organisation? Nous aimerions que notre Conseil prenne une position à ce sujet, à savoir que c'est le FIDA qui devrait supporter les accroissements de dépenses qui s'avéreront nécessaires pour le Centre d'investissement et nous suggérons que le Conseil donne mission au Directeur général de négocier les arrangements appropriés en ce sens avec le FIDA.

Le troisième point que je voudrais reprendre après nombre d'autres orateurs, a trait au sous-programme 3.4 "Bureaux dans les pays". Ainsi que le rappelle le Directeur général, (cela figuré au paragraphe 2.11 du Sommaire du Programme de travail), le Conseil lors de sa soixante-neuvième session, a entériné ses propositions et a retenu comme ligne d'orientation dans ce domaine qu'il convient de s'attacher à décentraliser les systèmes de l'Organisation, notamment par l'affectation progressive de représentants dans les pays, plutôt, a déclaré le Conseil à sa soixante-neuvième session, que de développer les bureaux régionaux.

Il n'est pas question de revenir sur cette orientation. Mais il convient de s'interroger sur le rythme de l'évolution que cela implique en relation tant avec la situation des actuels conseillers agricoles, principaux représentants dans les pays, qu'avec la structure et les activités des bureaux régionaux. Actuellement, coexistent en effet les conseillers agricoles principaux représentants dans les pays selon un dispositif mis en place il y a plusieurs années, et les représentants dans les pays "nouvelle formule", nous avons en effet entendu que les négociations ont heureusement abouti avec un certain nombre de pays pour la mise en place de ces premiers représentants.

Chemin faisant, je note qu'il serait sans doute intéressant de disposer des observations des autorités gouvernementales des pays auxquels les conseillers agricoles principaux "ancienne formule" ont été affectés afin d'en dégager des enseignements s'agissant de l'orientation de la nouvelle organisation. Quoiqu'il en soit, le Sommaire du Programme de travail et budget 1978/1979 dégage les faits suivants et les chiffres suivants: il y a actuellement 62 postes de conseillers agricoles, principaux représentants dans les pays, pris en charge aux deux tiers par le budget du PNUD. Ils devraient cesser d'exister durant 1979.

La FAO propose de mettre en place, au titre du programme ordinaire, sur le biennium 1978-79, 47 représentants dans les pays, secondés par 170 agents des services généraux.

Le montant supplémentaire pour les bureaux dans les pays a plus que doublé de 1976-77 à 1978-79 passant de 4 731 000 dollars à 9 831 000 dollars, avec une augmentation de 5 100 000 dollars.

Simultanément - cela est dit au paragraphe 2 - le renforcement des bureaux régionaux se traduira par une augmentation de près de 1 million de dollars.

Sans doute, Monsieur le Président, l'augmentation du budget annoncée tient-elle, dans une large mesure, au fait que la FAO renonçant à l'arrangement actuel avec le PNUD, s'apprête à financer seule, sur le budget du programme ordinaire, le coût des représentants dans les pays.

Au paragraphe 3.12 du sommaire du programme de travail et budget, il est écrit: "...on reconsidère d'un oeil neuf et encore plus attentif le rôle et les fonctions des bureaux régionaux, afin de poursuivre "la débureaucratization" et la décentralisation à partir du Siège et de renforcer l'impact des activités au niveau des pays".

C'est en fait l'objectif que le Conseil a admis dès sa 69ème session.

Cependant, tant du fait des réaménagements envisagés à l'échelon des bureaux régionaux que de l'ampleur de la reconversion en cours en ce qui concerne les représentants dans les pays et de son impact à la fois sur les structures et sur le budget, il nous semble que la mise en place du nouveau dispositif ne pourra être que progressive. De ce fait, l'augmentation de crédits pour le prochain biennium, à savoir 5 100 000 dollars, plus 1 million de dollars, pourrait sans doute être modérée.

Je n'ai pas abordé la question que le Président du Comité financier a touchée lors de sa présentation du rapport du Comité financier. Je n'ai pas parlé de la question du compte d'attente, car je pense en effet qu'elle fera l'objet d'une discussion sur un autre point de l'ordre du jour.

Je voudrais maintenant conclure en disant, au nom de la délégation que je souhaite que le Directeur général prenne en considération notre préoccupation de limiter à 10 pour cent par an l'augmentation du budget, et les observations que lui a présentées en ce sens ma délégation.

Nous serions heureux que le Directeur général puisse tenir compte de nos préoccupations et les traduise dans le programme de travail étudié qui sera soumis à la Conférence, de façon à en faciliter l'approbation par la délégation de la France à la prochaine session de la Conférence.

H. MAURIA (Finland): In the first place, I want to say on behalf of my delegation that we regard document CL 71/3 as a good Summary document. It is brief, concise and clear, and has been of great help to our delegation.

To begin with I can say that the Summary Programme of Work and Budget for 1978/79 does not actually require lengthy comments on our part, as so much has already been said by other delegations.

We notice with satisfaction that the Director-General's strategy for the next biennium has been shortly indicated and that the general approach to programme priorities has been stated in the document. We welcome the Director-General's intentions to continue the process of concentrating on priorities as stated in paragraph 6.4 by ensuring feed-in from the evaluation process.

Regarding the feed-in from the so-called "technical committees", we would like particularly to ask the Secretariat to consider in which way and by what means the impact of these committees - I mean COAG, COFO, COFI and so on - on the formation of the medium-term projections could be improved and to take appropriate steps in this matter.

Regarding one of the important new priority areas, the Technical Cooperation Programme, we have noted the number of requests and commitments in progress. We welcome the information already received and are anticipating the first review of the Programme during the Conference next November. Under these auspices we are ready to support the increase proposed for the Programme.

The information concerning field programmes given in the summary document is of importance to Member Countries. The views of the Secretariat on the likely future development of the extra-budgetary financing of field programmes are likewise informative. As the final document, the review of field programmes, is not yet available we intend to save our comments in this matter for the Conference. At this stage we just want to announce our agreement with what is being said in paragraph 5.12 of the summary document about the spirit of participation of the UN system.

With these rather general remarks we are ready to endorse the Summary Programme of Work and Budget for 1978-79 as a basis for the final Programme of Work and Budget.

G. ESCARDO PEINADOR (España): Permítame ante todo felicitar a los Comités del Programa y de Finanzas por el sucinto, claro a la par que denso, informe que nos ha presentado. El Programa de Labores vemos que se ajusta a las nuevas directrices que orientan la política del Director General, por lo que nuevamente le felicito por ello. Desde el primer momento hemos apoyado los esfuerzos de descentralización que lleva a cabo el Director General. El reforzamiento de todas las oficinas regionales es fundamental, a las que se les debe dar el énfasis correspondiente y proporcionalmente a los fines que ha de llevar a cabo la Organización.

El Programa de Cooperación Técnica lo consideramos un acierto y encontramos que esos programas habrán de apoyarse siempre en las sugerencias de los delegados en los países y de las oficinas regionales.

Apoyamos las prioridades citadas, nutrición, pesca, montes; lo indicado por el delegado de Egipto en relación con la mecanización y lo expuesto por otros delegados en relación con el problema de los riegos. Con respecto a éste, mi país, que la base de su regadío le fue dada por la civilización árabe de lo que nos sentimos orgullosos, está siempre dispuesto a través de la Organización a devolver a éstos y otros países lo que nosotros de ellos recibimos, y creo que hemos mejorado.

Los programas de investigación subrayan lo dicho en el párrafo 251 del Informe en cuanto a las actividades de las oficinas regionales, en cuanto al establecimiento y coordinación de las redes de investigación ya establecidas o que se creen en lo sucesivo; pueden a su vez establecer los suficientes contactos entre unas y otras regiones en relación con estos programas.

En cuanto al volumen del presupuesto encontramos que se ajusta en principio de una forma muy objetiva al Programa de Labores presentado; misión nuestra, mejor dicho de mi país, es luchar ahora con nuestros respectivos ministerios para hacerlos comprender su nueva, actual misión que deberemos desarrollar a partir de este estudio en su día y que lo exponremos en la Conferencia próxima.

Y siguiendo sus instrucciones de brevedad, le doy las gracias.

CHIN FENG-CHU (China) (interpretation from Chinese): On the Programme of Work and Budget of this Organization the Chinese delegation thinks that in the light of the developing situation, items of work and the allocation of funds between them should be adjusted from time to time involving both increases and decreases. For the last year and more the proposals of the Director-General, the numerous meetings and documentation of the Organization, as well as the large increases in the staff have been cut down and this change has been welcomed by the majority of Member Nations. Certain items which are not of much practical significance to the promotion of food and agricultural production in the Third World have been appropriately reduced. This is also necessary. We shall support the Director-General in putting forward further suggestions and proper measures along these lines.

On the other hand, it is also in accordance with the requirements of the Third World to increase items which are of true benefit to the developing countries while reducing as much as possible all expenses which are not really indispensable.

Document CL 71/3, for example, lays emphasis on items concerning the establishment of a new international economic order in the field of food and agricultural development. In our opinion this accords with the present situation as well as the desire of most Member Nations. The Chinese delegation therefore endorses paragraph 3.5 of this document which gives the main priorities for the work of the Organization to the promotion of food, production in developing countries, strengthened work on commodities and trade, support to the integrated commodity programme and cooperation between developing countries.

We also think that as FAO already covers a wide range of work at present, it would be desirable to concentrate its manpower and material and financial resources to a still greater extent on the above-mentioned crucial items which are urgently needed by the developing countries.

As for items of lesser urgency it would be advisable to postpone them wherever feasible. This would surely give quicker results without, unduly increasing the budget level.

It is our consistent stand that international organizations should be as economical as possible in their financial budgets and as compact as possible in their administrative organization and staff. As regards the budget "for 1978-79 we consider that the level as stated in document CL 71/3 could be used as a basis for further study.

At the 69th session of this Council on the proposals of the Director-General and also with the support of the developing countries, this Organization established a Technical Cooperation Programme. We consider that the items envisaged by the TCP were of greater practical value to the third world countries than the items where expenses were to be cut down in accordance with the Director-General's proposal. So we spoke in favour of this Programme. As for future technical cooperative programmes, we think that the level should not be raised unduly, we should think, by reducing those items which are of little practical value to the promotion of food and agricultural production in the developing countries. In this way necessary manpower and material and financial resources would be provided for the gradual implementation of technical cooperation projects. At present this TCP is being carried out. It has won the approval of developing countries. In the Programme of Work and Budget for 1978-79 proposed by the Director-General the marginal increases envisaged for the TCP are acceptable.

A.A. SENEINA (Sudan) (Interpretation from Arabic): In the name of my delegation I should like to thank the Chairmen of the Programme and Finance Committees for having presented these documents which are under discussion. I should also like to express our appreciation for the new orientation which the Director-General is giving to the policy and activities of our Organization, as it appears in the Summary of the Programme of Work and Budget for 1978-79.

I should like to make some comments on some points which my delegation considers very important. The first concerns the creation of offices for the Country Representatives. This is a very positive initiative which will have very considerable results because this will enable the Organization to have more direct contact with the countries which the Organization is helping and it will also help the Organization to take into account the hopes and aspirations of developing countries.

The second point on which I wanted to make some comments concerns the Technical Cooperation Programme. It seemed very clear to me that the Committee hesitated as far as the Technical Cooperation Programme is concerned but I do wish to say that this Programme is a new initiative for us which is not yet very clear, nor am I exaggerating when I say that it will have a great future for us because this is the first time that we can feel that our Organization has become capable of acting, and acting swiftly, and of reacting as swiftly to requests made by developing countries, particularly in emergencies. However, I am sorry to have to say, - and in this I agree with the delegate of India - that the amount of \$20 to \$24 million is a sum which will not meet the needs of the developing countries, and if the Programme is to have special funds allocated to it, or extra-budgetary sources, this might damage the Technical Cooperation Programme which should, therefore, have guaranteed and permanent funds.

Finally, I would like to make some comments on what was stated by the delegate of Italy when he expressed his fears regarding the increase in the budget being at a rate greater than 20 percent. My delegation appreciates the Organization's difficulties, particularly the considerable rate of inflation which the Organization has to take into account, and other economic difficulties in the world situation; all these facts have forced it to increase its budgets, and the increase suggested by the Director-General seems a very modest one. While we are in agreement with him on the initiative aimed at covering the Organization's spending and making its activities more directly concerned with developing countries and to turning them into profitable activities, we think the Organization should have the means in its new policies to achieve these targets. That is why I should like to say that my delegation and my Government agree with and endorse the summary Programme of Work and Budget as proposed.

O. BORIN (Italie): Je voudrais corriger l'impression fautive qui a pu être donnée par l'intervention du délégué du Soudan. Ce n'est pas ma délégation qui a parlé d'une réduction maximale du budget de la FAO à 20 pour cent, c'est la délégation de la France. Quant à nous, nous n'avons rien proposé.

EL PRESIDENTE: Mañana por la mañana empezaremos nuestra sesión con el calendario previsto y seguiremos en primer lugar con la conclusión del Tema 16 que hemos empezado esta tarde, para continuar con el Tema 18.

The meeting rose at 17.35 hours.

La séance est levée à 17 h 35.

Se levanta la sesión a las 17.35 horas.

council

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

conseil

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

consejo

ORGANIZACION DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS PARA LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION

CL

CL 71/PV/9

Seventy-First Session

Soixante et onzième session

71º período de sesiones

NINTH PLENARY MEETING
NEUVIEME SEANCE PLENIERE
NOVENA SESION PLENARIA

(10 June 1977)

The Ninth Plenary Meeting was opened at 9.55 hours G. Bula Hoyos, Independent Chairman of the Council, presiding

Là neuvième seance plénière est ouverte à 9 h 55, sous la présidence de G. Bula Hoyos, Président indépendant du Conseil

Se abre la novena sesión plenaria a las 9.55 horas bajo la presidencia de G. Bula Hoyos, Presidente Independiente del Consejo

I - INTRODUCTORY - PROCEDURE OF THE SESSION (continued)

I - INTRODUCTION - QUESTIONS DE PROCEDURE (suite)

I - INTRODUCCION - CUESTIONES DE PROCEDIMIENTO (continuación)

2. Election of Two Vice-Chairmen, and Designation of Chairman and Members of Drafting Committee (continued)

2. Election des deux Vice-Présidents, et nomination du Président et des membres du Comité de rédaction (suite)

2. Elección de dos Vicepresidentes y nombramiento del Presidente y los miembros del Comité de Redacción (continuación)

EL PRESIDENTE: A pesar de que han pasado varios días desde que iniciamos nuestros trabajos, seguramente recordarán que aún sigue pendiente la conclusión del tema .2 sobre la elección de los miembros del Comité de Redacción.

El Embajador, señor Wadda, a quien hemos elegido como nuestro Relator y Presidente del Comité de Redacción, ha tenido a cargo gestiones que ahora parece que se han coronado satisfactoriamente y cuyos resultados yo espero que sean incluidos por el Consejo. Voy a conceder la palabra al Embajador señor Wadda.

A. TEJAN WADDA (Chairman, Drafting Committee): As you heard from the Chairman, we have now completed consultation - and this time I would say a thorough consultation, almost everyone has been consulted who is interested in the composition of the Drafting Committee.

On behalf of the Bureau I should like to repeat the original announcement made by the Chairman that the Drafting Committee shall be composed of the United States, New Zealand, Brazil, France, Gabon, Pakistan and Bangladesh - seven Members with the Chairman making eight. In other words, we are able to maintain the traditional composition of seven Members, each Member of the Committee reflecting the regional groupings that we have here.

In saying this, I must draw the attention of Council to the observation that was made when this list was announced a few days ago. The Latin American group made an observation that a Spanish-speaking Member was needed in the committee. The delegation of Egypt also made an observation that an Arabic-speaking Member was needed in the Committee if a Spanish-speaking Member was included. I am glad to announce that after lengthy consultations with the Latin American group and the Near East group, we were able to reach a compromise where the two groups have accepted this list. In saying this I must express my gratitude to the delegations of Argentina and Mexico which have helped me a great deal towards reaching a compromise with the groups. I have assured the Latin American group that the . question of language will be dealt with in this manner; that I will make sure that the delegations of Argentina and Mexico will receive advance copies in Spanish of our draft so that they can make any comments they may have and then hand it to their representative, Brazil, to bring to the Committee or directly to me. I further assure them that like any other Member of the Council, any of them with any contribution to make to help the Committee in substance is welcome to appear before the Committee and take part in our deliberations. I hope that with this explanation the Council will now approve the nomination of the seven Members.

J.C. VIGNAUD (Argentina): En función del principio de reiteración que se aplica en nuestra región le ha correspondido a Argentina en este tiempo actuar como coordinador del grupo latinoamericano y es en ese carácter que deseo intervenir brevemente ahora para hacer una exposición que se me ha pedido que formule. La composición del Comité de Redacción dio lugar a que los países del grupo latinoamericano se reunieran, pues cuando la propuesta de integración del Comité fue presentada en el plenario, nos vimos enfrentados a dos hechos que generaron cierto descontento. El primero de ellos es que se nos presentó una lista cuya composición no había sido consultada con la región. El segundo es que se omitió la inclusión de un país de habla española.

Ya tuvimos oportunidad de señalar el acierto puesto en la selección de los puestos que se proponían y que hoy se han propuesto nuevamente para integrar ese Comité, no sólo por el derecho que tienen esos países a ser designados en el Comité de Redacción, sino también por la competencia de sus representantes que están en las mejores condiciones para afrontar la pesada carga que significa desempeñarse en el Comité de Redacción.

Deseo en esta ocasión a nombre de todo el grupo latinoamericano reiterar nuestro beneplácito por esas designaciones y referirme concretamente al caso de Brasil, en cuyo país y en cuyo delegado el grupo latinoamericano no sólo se siente adecuadamente representado, sino que conoce la competencia de su jefe de redacción. No obstante, al integrar este Comité y prescindiendo del total de los países que resultaron designados, creemos que se vulneró un principio que el grupo latinoamericano reivindica, y es que no se consultó a ese grupo, no se pidieron nuestras opiniones a ese respecto y creemos, como lo ha dicho el delegado de Brasil que ni siquiera a él se le consultó. Tenemos la esperanza de que esto en el futuro no suceda.

Por otra parte, la ausencia de una delegación de habla española, que puede ser regional o extrarregional nos produjo también cierta sorpresa, no sólo por el contenido del Artículo 41 del Reglamento General, sino también porque desde hace largo tiempo observamos con preocupación que el idioma español pierde un poco de terreno en la casa.

No deseo extenderme más sobre este tema porque ya demasiado tiempo se ha perdido, demasiado tiempo ha puesto el grupo latinoamericano analizándolo, a raíz de un hecho que por cierto no le es imputable. La conclusión a la que llegamos y que acaba de señalar el propio Presidente del Comité de Redacción, la hemos aceptado con un criterio constructivo y con una vocación de cooperación, aún cuando pueda no satisfacernos plenamente desde el punto de vista lingüístico y aún cuando pueda no satisfacernos por una cuestión de principio porque hubiéramos deseado ser consultados. No obstante, no tenemos dudas acerca del rol preponderante que desempeñará el delegado del Brasil en ese Comité de Redacción.

El Presidente del Comité de Redacción ya ha señalado las condiciones o la forma en que se procederá para que los países de habla española tengamos acceso a los documentos que se vayan preparando. Ello nos satisface y deseo concluir agradeciendo la valiosísima colaboración y espíritu de cooperación constructiva que puso el Presidente del Comité de Redacción para que llegáramos a esta conclusión.

EL PRESIDENTE: Tengo todavía dos oradores. Ahora ya tres. Me permito indicarles que estamos en la discusión del tema fundamental de este período de sesiones, por tanto les ruego que sean breves y ojalá nos permitan concluir este punto lo más rápidamente posible.

S. JUMA'A (Jordan) (Interpretation from Arabic): The Near East is represented by five Member countries - Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Sudan, and Egypt. They are all Members of the Council and the composition of a drafting committee which does not provide for representation from the Near East and an Arabic speaker is, we feel, contrary to the true spirit of democracy as it should be applied by the Council. Therefore, we would like to express the hope that as Members of the Council we will be able either at the end of the present meeting or at the beginning of this afternoon's meeting to have an opportunity of indicating our position. We should also point out that certain Members of the Council have not been informed of the various changes. The representative of Jordan, for instance, was not kept informed of these negotiations and I am surprised that consultations claim to have been carried out with all Member countries when the delegate of Jordan was not consulted. I should like to repeat that we want to state our position at a later stage.

S. STAMPACH (Tchécoslovaquie): Je voudrais exprimer la satisfaction de ma délégation sur la conclusion des consultations qui permet de suivre la tradition concernant la composition du Comité de rédaction pour la session actuelle du Conseil.

Néanmoins, après une consultation avec d'autres pays socialistes, ma délégation déclare être prête à aider le Comité de rédaction pendant la session prochaine afin d'observer la règle de roulement du point de vue de la représentation de la région européenne.

I. OROZCO (México): Deseo expresar vivamente que mi delegación no dudo ni un momento en contribuir con el retiro de una candidatura que había sido propuesta por nuestro colega, el delegado de España y que dentro del grupo latinoamericano había sido ampliamente apoyada con dos propósitos.

Primero, de hacer notar y expresar que en ningún momento nuestra reserva tuvo que ver con la designación del Brasil como representante del grupo latinoamericano.

En segundo lugar, porque nosotros sí consideramos esenciales las labores y resultados del Consejo y aun cuando defendemos nosotros ese principio de la lengua y que no estamos dispuestos a dar marcha atrás, sin embargo en un espíritu de colaboración y compromiso hemos llegado a esa solución. Nosotros deseáramos que la reserva del grupo latinoamericano constara en el informe del Consejo.

A. TEJAN WADDA (Chairman, Drafting Committee): Having heard what was said I will answer only the observation made by the Jordanian delegation. Jordan was indeed consulted when the Near East group made its condition that if a Spanish-speaking Member was included then an Arabic-speaking Member from the Near East group should also be included. I discussed this matter with the Jordanian and the Libyan delegations and it was agreed that Jordan should be the Arabic-speaking Member in the event that an additional Member had to be included. I am sorry that the delegate of Jordan was not the member of his delegation who took part in that consultation but I can assure the Jordanian delegation that it was fully consulted during the process and that the Near East group regarded Pakistan as a Member of the Near East group and it agreed to Pakistan staying in the Committee as a Member of the Near East group.

I would now appeal to the Council to heed the advice of the Chairman and conclude this discussion.

H. ABDALLAH (Egypt) (Interpretation from Arabic): We have tried to facilitate the work of the Council and accepted the original composition of the Drafting Committee, but the Chairman of the Drafting Committee has raised a point of principle which is going to set a precedent in the work of the Council. He said that any delegate can appear before the Drafting Committee and that, as far as the Spanish speaking delegates are concerned, they can submit their comments to the Drafting Committee. Now, if we accept this principle, then the Drafting Committee will no longer be a Committee of seven members but a Drafting Committee of the whole Council, and this is not a good precedent to set.

The Chairman of the Drafting Committee also said that this Committee will meet under the chairmanship of the Chairman of the Council who is Spanish speaking, and that in this way the Spanish language would be indirectly represented; but with due respect to Mr. Bula Hoyos, we would like also the Arabic-speaking First Vice-Chairman to have the opportunity of participating in the work of the Drafting Committee, if this is the case. What we would like to know is whether the Drafting Committee, which is going to be open to all delegates, will really find it easy to work. In conclusion, we support what was said by the leader of the Jordanian delegation that consultations should be carried out after the morning session concerning language representation in the Drafting Committee in future.

EL PRESIDENTE: Tengo la impresión personal de que tal vez ha habido una mala interpretación, ya que entiendo que el señor Embajador Wadda en ningún momento ha dicho que yo como Presidente del Consejo vaya a presidir el Comité de Redacción. Esto no corresponde a la realidad. El Comité de Redacción será presidido por el Embajador Wadda como redactor y como Presidente, ya que yo nunca asisto a este Comité,

Con respecto a las observaciones del colega de Egipto, creo que son muy válidas porque es interés común de los miembros del Consejo preservar la eficacia y funcionamiento del Comité de Redacción; sin embargo, yo creo que todos podemos tener confianza en nuestro redactor, quién presidirá este Comité y como en el pasado trabajará muy bien, con cierta flexibilidad si fuera necesario, pero sin que se menoscabe la seriedad y la consciencia con que debe trabajar este Comité de Redacción para facilitar la labor del Consejo.

Después de estas aclaraciones sólo me resta agradecer al Embajador Wadda su colaboración en este asunto y también a todos los que han participado en esta discusión con espíritu constructivo que nos permite llegar a la conclusión de que el Consejo adopta el Comité de Redacción, cuyos países fueron leídos por el señor Reportero.

Si esto es así continuamos con el Tema que estábamos discutiendo.

IV - PROGRAMME, BUDGETARY, FINANCIAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS (continued)

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

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

16. Summary Programme of Work and Budget, 1978-79 (continued)

16. Sommaire du Programme de travail et budget 1978-79 (suite)

16. Resumen del Programa de Labores y Presupuesto para 1978-79 (continuación)

N.M. MWAUNGULU (Malawi): The Malawi delegation would like to speak briefly this morning on the subject which the Council discussed at some length yesterday, namely the Summary Programme of Work and Budget for the 1978/79 biennium. There is no doubt as to the importance of this subject. We read in this respect the relevant documents CL 71/3 and CL 71/4 with keen interest. We also listened carefully yesterday to the explanations made to the Council by the Chairman of the Programme Committee and the Vice-Chairman of the Finance Committee. Their presentations were lucid and most helpful. The Malawi delegation would like to add its voice to that of the several speakers of yesterday and reiterate its support for the Director-General's priorities and strategy which form the basis of the budgetary estimate of \$206.8 million which the Programme Committee is asking the Council to endorse. As far as we can see, there is unanimity that the Director-General's priorities are practically oriented and give FAO a new, or fresh sense of direction.

In particular we support the Director-General's basic guiding objectives to reduce too much bureaucracy in the Organization, to decentralize and rationalize its "activities, and to strengthen and consolidate the field programme. We therefore view the priorities that have been clearly defined in this respect as practical and meriting the support that they have generated.

We support specifically the establishment of FAO Country Offices because we see in this the strengthening of the field agriculture programme at national level.

With regard to the Technical Cooperation Programme, we believe very strongly that even within the short period of its life, it has clearly proved its usefulness. We find document CL 71/INF/7 entitled "Interim Report on the Technical Cooperation Programme", which came out yesterday evening, very helpful in this respect. The very wide range of agricultural projects on which the TCP has been able to embark in the short period since its establishment give it a unique operational flexibility. This is ample demonstration that the Programme fulfils existing needs in food and agriculture development in the developing countries. We would therefore like to add our strong support for the continuation of the TCP.

In this same vein, my delegation supports the strengthening and restructuring of the Investment Centre because the effective cooperation which would result thereby between the FAO, IFAD, the World Bank and other lending financial institutions, will no doubt bring about efficiency in the implementation of their agricultural activities which will come up for funding. With reference to Africa, my delegation has of course every hope that FAO will continue to cooperate closely with the African Development Bank on the basis of the cooperation agreement between the two organizations and in the context of the strengthened and restructured Investment Centre.

Also, we wish to say that we think that the Director-General's priority regarding seed industry development is a very welcome one. For us in Malawi, to ensure the availability of seed and fertilizer at

reasonable prices is considered most cardinal to our food and agricultural development. We support the vigorous implementation of this priority and the activities in this respect which have been specified. Forestry is immensely important to Malawi's development and we strongly support the proposals which have been outlined in the Committee's Report.

Malawi's agricultural development efforts concentrate on the rural sector. The many agricultural projects in the country - to mention only some major ones- like the Lilongwe Rural Land Development Programme, the Lower Shire Rural Development Programme, the Salima Lakeshore Rural Development Project, the Karonga/Chitipa Rural Development Programme - actually do effectively and directly involve and benefit the ordinary man and woman in the villages.

The Malawi government places considerable importance on the role of women in rural agricultural development. It is with this general conception of the importance of rural agricultural development -or as it is called in the report, Rural Development - that the Malawi delegation welcomes the Director-General's proposals in this respect.

On the subject of nutrition we welcome the re-affirmation that the objective of the Nutrition Programme should be to assist developing countries improve the recognized needs of their rural and urban populations. We also think it is practical in this regard to give more assistance to the development of food and nutrition programmes at national and local level. Malawi is tackling its nutritional needs with vigour and there is no doubt that the proposals to strengthen food and nutritional activities at local and national levels will find support from us. It is also felt in this connexion that the objective of strengthening and consolidating FAO's food and nutrition activities will, of course, be tackled on all practical fronts. It is the hope of my delegation that the proposal on page 8 of document CL 71/3, to abolish one of the two nutritionist posts at the Regional Office for Africa, will not impair the Organization's activities in the context of the objective before it.

L. PURMESSUR (Mauritius) : The Mauritius delegation wishes to give its full support to the proposals for the Summary Programme of work and Budget for 1978/79, These proposals as mentioned in document CL 71/3 have been conceived in the context of an integrated set of policies put forward by the Director-General and adopted by the Council, particularly with regard to the technical cooperation programme, decentralization to the country level and investment.

We also note with satisfaction that the Director-General is determined to keep every possible reorganizational change to the minimum and to restrict them to the consolidation rather than proliferation and disparation of related activities.

My delegation also wishes to support the main priorities which are embodied in the overall proposals as presented in Table 1 and Annex, specially as regards proposals for setting up efforts and participation of women in rural development and proposals for small farmers' development. My delegation considers that the proposed activities will further help mobilizing human resources for increased development in developing countries. With these brief observations I wish once again; to support the proposals of the Director-General which aim at giving a new dimension to the FAO. We strongly feel that in implementing the proposed programmes and in providing the assistance to developing countries FAO can play an effective role in meeting the challenge of increasing food production.

I.A. IMTIAZI (Pakistan): My delegation has read document CL 71/3 carefully. We would like to avail ourselves of this opportunity to felicitate the Director-General and the Secretariat on handling such a difficult and complex assignment with such competence and imagination.

Features of special interest to us are:

- (a) Reinforced emphasis on not only production but also conservation of agricultural output;
- (b) Establishment of Technical Cooperation Programme;
- (c) Establishment of FAO's representative offices at country level; and last but not the least
- (d) The whole of practical, field-oriented and action-oriented approach implicit in the Summary Programme of Work and Budget 1978-79

For giving a new look to the Programme of Work and Budget, the Programme Committee, the Finance Committee and the Director-General deserve our thanks.

Redetermination of priorities in the face of virtually irresistible and practically innumerable competing claims, is a difficult task even 'ordinarily but when one is dealing with such sensitive matters as food and agriculture, the task becomes even more perplexing. It is, therefore, a matter of some gratification to us when we find ourselves in broad agreement with the order of priorities as indicated in para 6.1 to 6.4 of document CL 71/3.

We appreciate the Director-General's efforts to economise on some of the relatively dispensable activities and to divert resources so saved to activities of direct and immediate relevance to the development of agricultural potential in the developing countries. For example, the attempt to reduce the volume of documentation and the number of meetings to more manageable and purposeful proportions, should and does have our commendation.

However, there are a few areas, which, in our view, can do with a little more of attention and emphasis, for example,

- (1) Integrated Rural Development;
- (2) Development of cooperatives;
- (3) Strengthening of agricultural research, education and extension together with farmers' training

By Integrated Rural Development we mean improvement in the economic living standards of not only the large - and medium - sized farmers, not only of the small land owning farmers but also of tenant farmers, landless labourers, village artisans and women.

Development of Cooperatives, we consider, of paramount importance not only as a means of improving agricultural productivity but also as an instrument for improving agricultural marketing in terms of stabilizing producer and consumer prices and reasonable levels; also as an instrument of improving agricultural credit facilities in terms of better savings mobilization, extensive availability, speedy disbursement, efficient utilization and economical recovery.

As for agricultural research, agricultural education and agricultural extension, we believe that there is urgent need not only to transfer appropriate modern technology from the more developed to the less developed countries but also, within the developing countries, from the research laboratories and from the educational and training institutions to the farmer in the field. To achieve this, it is indispensable to make our research adaptive, our education-cum-training practice-oriented, and our extension an effective, purposeful, live and acceptable link between the portals of knowledge and the fields of the farmers whose training must also receive due emphasis.

We are of the view that FAO has an important and useful role to play in these areas and that by virtue of its background and wherewithal, is ideally equipped to play such a role.

In sum, while by and large, we support the Summary Programme of Work and Budget as presented, we do hope that Integrated Rural Development, development of cooperatives and the strengthening of agricultural research-cum-education-cum-extension and farmers' training would receive due attention and emphasis when the detailed Programme of Work and Budget is drawn up.

A.E. HANNAH (Canada): In commenting on this important item on the Agenda of the Programme of Work and Budget we must place in perspective, of course, all of the activities and philosophy which are in this area of development and which complement what FAO is trying to do.

On May 30 1977 the leader of the Canadian delegation to the Conference on International Economic Cooperation in Paris indicated that Canada will continue to work towards a target of 0.7 percent of G.N.P. The Canadian Government intends in this fiscal year 1977 to disburse 1.1 billion dollars in aid, developmental aid, which is an increase of over 100 million dollars over the fiscal year of 1976, and this has been done despite the severe spending restrictions on virtually all domestic programmes and the Canadian Government is determined to increase its support for development assistance in the future. We will continue to support international efforts to improve the economic viability of developing countries in the most efficient and effective manner possible.

Of necessity we have to look at the overall developmental activities, as we indicated earlier. Our pattern of aid is not based on the activities of any one agency. If we propose reductions in any budget in one area or programme of work it does not mean that we are reducing our aid in total. Our concerns are for the effective use of total aid resources.

On the whole we do accept the Director-General's programme strategy. We believe it has been well thought out and is a good one. He is to be commended for clearly establishing the programme objectives for FAO and for emphasising action oriented programmes which will effectively assist developing countries to help themselves. This we feel is excellent.

We have appreciated receiving the Summary Programme of Work and Budget which is a clear statement of intent. However, the Summary is only a sketch of the total picture and while it is possible on this basis to make some general comments about the budget, we would wish to make substantive comments later on such issues as exchange rate calculations, rates of inflation and so forth, when we receive the full Programme of Work and Budget, Document CL 71/3 does not contain sufficient supportive details for as full an assessment as we would wish. We have, for instance, a number of questions in respect to the proposed rate of growth. Have funds been fully and effectively used in this biennium? Do all of the programmes have to be implemented, or could some be deferred and what are the priorities if some have to be deferred?

On the other side the proposed levels for fisheries and forestry are acceptable, although more information on the activities would have been helpful. However, in the case of agriculture and economic activities, we would have preferred to have seen a higher priority placed on, for example, work in the nutrition area,

I do not wish to repeat what others have said with respect to the details of the budget. However, I think it is worth pointing out and emphasizing some aspects of the figures. According to the budget summary the Director-General has proposed a total budget of \$206.8 millions for 1978-79 compared to \$167 millions for 1976-77, which is an increase of 23.8 percent of which about 6.8 percent represents real growth. As the 1974-75 budget included a 52.3 percent increase over 1974-75, then this proposed budget would mean a total increase of 98 percent in four years, of which approximately 35.2 percent constitute, real growth or averaged out, a real growth of about 9 percent per year.

In considering the real growth the Director-General has also suggested a 6.8 percent increase over the last biennium. However, even if one reduces the \$13.5 million for the T.C.P. and P.H.L. by the 31 percent inflation factor, used for new programmes, we calculate that FAO's real growth will be about 13 percent over 1976/77. In view of the current domestic restraint being exercised in Canada, and in many other countries, our delegation would hope that the Director-General could find additional ways and means of reducing the total budget figure proposed without detrimentally affecting the activities of FAO.

With respect to the Technical Cooperation Programme, the Canadian delegation in July 1976 emphasized that the T.C.P. was strictly an experimental programme and should be thoroughly reviewed before any decisions could be made as to its future beyond 1978/79. We still hold to that view and we were particularly pleased to know that the Director-General has also proposed a review for the next budgetary period as we strongly support him in this endeavour. We look forward to hearing from the Director-General on his views on assembling a well-balanced Commission and would look forward to hearing about his directions and instructions to that Commission.

In summary we encourage the Director-General to continue his efforts to seek further economies in FAO operations and I am sure that if he continues the good management practices which he has so ably demonstrated in the past, we are positive that further economies can be achieved.

H.L. CLAVERIE RODRIGUEZ (Venezuela): Antes de adentrarme en mi corta intervención de hoy, deseo unir la voz de mi Delegación a la de aquellos países que han felicitado tan sinceramente a nuestro amigo el Sr. Bel Hadj Amor, Presidente del Comité de Finanzas en ejercicio, por el magnífico informe que ha presentado a consideración del Consejo. Dicho informe y su presentación nos ayuda grandemente a estructurar nuestras reflexiones sobre el programa de presupuesto que nos presenta en esta oportunidad.

Evidentemente, el Documento que se ofrece a consideración del Consejo, el 71/3, "Resumen del programa de labores y presupuesto para 1978/79" es un documento que no duda la Delegación de la República de Venezuela en calificarlo como excelente. Su concepción, claridad, nivel de análisis y concreción responde a todas luces con abundancia a las razones que tuvo en su oportunidad este Cuerpo cuando meditó sobre lo necesario de su elaboración. Por todo ello, nosotros felicitamos por su intermedio, Sr. Presidente, al Sr. Director General por un logro tan positivo.

Alguien, Señor, antes que nosotros, mencionó la idea de unidad, de concreción, de visualización total de la situación financiera actual y futura de esta Casa, que se logra con la lectura y análisis del Documento que analizamos. Esto es totalmente cierto, como es también cierto en esta ocasión que dicho Documento se convierte, dadas sus características, en el instrumento básico que nos permite clarificar y ordenar nuestras reflexiones sobre el programa de labores y presupuesto presentado para el próximo bienio.

Felicitemos al Director General por la visión pragmática y realista que se adoptó a fin de diseñar las necesidades y recursos de la FAO para el próximo bienio tomando en cuenta el contexto de la situación mundial actual.

La cifra de crecimiento futuro, tanto de las economías en desarrollo como de sus sectores agrícolas, que el estudio prospectivo de Leontieff fija aproximadamente en 6.9 y 6 por ciento respectivamente, nos ha movido a una honda y preocupante reflexión, y hace que la Delegación de Venezuela particularmente otorgue un interés especial a las deducciones del análisis que nos ocupa.

Sr. Presidente, no estamos, en absoluto, en situación de condicionar la suma que el Director General propone como tope para el presupuesto 1978/79 y la cual asciende a los 206,8 millones de dólares. Las circunstancias y características del proyecto de presupuesto presentado no nos hacen dudar sobre

lo ajustado de su realismo. Habiendo seguido de cerca los diferentes niveles y áreas, el nacimiento y la implementación de la política diseñada para esta casa por el Director General desde su toma de posesión, estábamos convencidos que tal cosa a buen seguro sucedería.

La Delegación de la República de Venezuela está de acuerdo, en general, con las Prioridades que se nos han presentado, especialmente las relativas a la investigación y cooperación técnica motivan nuestro más decidido entusiasmo y respaldo. Creo que ya anunciamos en el seno de este Cuerpo la simpatía con que la Delegación de la República de Venezuela observa la creación del Fondo destinado a prevenir las pérdidas ante y post cosechas. Puede estar seguro el Sr. Director General que iniciativas como estas pueden siempre contar con el decidido apoyo de la Delegación de la República de Venezuela.

Otros aspectos que deseamos mencionar acá, de aquellos que se nos ofrecen a consideración en este documento, es el concerniente a la Cooperación Técnica. Recordamos aún las palabras y el entusiasmo con que nuestra Delegación apoyó esta política del Director General en el momento en que la anunció a esta Casa. Nos complace sobremedida constatar lo consecuente que el Sr. Director General ha sido con las mencionadas promesas; lo mismo hacemos extensivo, Señor, a los programas de descentralización de la FAO, de los cuales como testigos por lo que hemos escuchado y sabemos sobre su desarrollo. Lo apoyamos en sus orígenes y nuestro respaldo se acrecienta al constatar sus adelantos.

Debemos de nuevo mencionar aquí algunas reflexiones a las que nos mueve la creación del Fondo Internacional de Desarrollo Agrícola. A pesar de la lentitud un poco preocupante con que sus procesos de ratificación se vienen adelantando, nuestro país, tiene depositada una relevante esperanza en el FIDA, y sus objetivos y estima que algún tipo de interrelación con la FAO en lo relativo a la materia de investigación podría ser adelantado una vez entrado en funcionamiento el Fondo.

Venezuela ha participado activa y positivamente en todos los pasos que el FIDA ha dado hasta hoy y tenemos la seguridad cierta de que en su creación será realmente de una gran y estrecha colaboración con la FAO.

No deseo finalizar esta intervención si reiterar nuestro contento por la comprobación de lo que ya casi estamos convencidos: de que la FAO se está administrando con muy buen criterio, muy eficaz y positivamente, lo cual estamos seguros hará renacer en aquella parte de la comunidad mundial que lo veía con duda, la confianza en la seguridad de que el Tercer Mundo, el mundo en desarrollo, puede también llevar adelante gestiones administrativas limpias y eficaces.

No deseo terminar mi intervención, sin extender la felicitación muy sincera de la Delegación de la República de Venezuela al Sr. Phillips, Presidente del Comité del Programa, por la forma tan efectiva y brillante con que dirigió las labores de su Comité.

I. NAJADA (Niger): Nous félicitons le secrétariat pour l'excellent document qui nous a été présenté hier.

Il nous a été donné de souligner les difficultés financières que connaît en ce moment la FAO, et force nous est de féliciter le Directeur général dans son effort de décentralisation par la création des bureaux régionaux et nationaux par souci d'efficacité. Les pays en développement lui seront très reconnaissants et comprendront combien il est difficile de créer et de pourvoir des postes supplémentaires en personnel. Les relations entre la FAO et les bureaux régionaux et nationaux devront connaître une certaine souplesse afin que cette décentralisation recherchée soit effective.

Il est par ailleurs encourageant de constater que la coopération entre la FAO et les organismes bancaires se renforcent, comme cela est le cas avec la Banque mondiale.

Nous pensons également que l'accroissement du PNB de 6 pour cent des pays en développement, grâce à la modernisation de l'agriculture, sera très difficile à réaliser, si l'on sait tout l'effort à consentir d'une part et la détérioration des termes de l'échange d'autre part.

Nous appuyons les orientations proposées par le Directeur général au paragraphe 2.11 du chapitre 2 du document CL 71/3, de même que nous soutenons l'idée de création d'une division des terres et des eaux et du service des engrais, car nous savons que les terres des pays en développement ont atteint un seuil où l'amélioration de la productivité est liée à l'utilisation de l'irrigation et des engrais.

L'analyse d'ajustement du programme à l'accroissement des coûts est louable. Le nouveau budget des 206,8 millions de dollars est en relation avec les fonctions que nous voulons attribuer à la FAO dans la conjoncture économique actuelle. Nous approuvons totalement les priorités qui ont été tracées pour la période biennale en question.

G. de BAKKER (Netherlands): Thank you for allowing us to speak on this very important subject. We feel that this perhaps, together with one or two other items, is the main subject of our Council meeting of these days, and therefore I am glad that so many delegations wanted the floor for this subject.

Mr. Chairman, if you had asked me whether that was always the case with all the other items of the agenda, I would not have made this statement, the statement about all the delegations taking the floor, but in this case I feel this is very important.

Let me begin by also saying what many other delegations have said, that we do appreciate the efforts of the Director-General to already at this Council meeting present us with a paper that quite comprehensively and clearly describes his major policy. We feel that for the Council, the main thing to consider is the policy issues, the strategy he wants to follow, and then later, during the next Council meeting and during the Conference we could speak a bit more - and we have a bit more time then also - on the details of the budget and programme proposals.

We feel that this document is really in concurrence with the policy lines already discussed last year at the Council meeting, and we appreciate that this is also in line with the medium-term objectives that we accepted and adopted during the last Conference.

We must come back on a few issues later, but I will just try to restrict myself to the major items that we feel must be discussed. It is always a bit of a problem in discussions like this that you do not follow the whole paper in saying, I agree with this and I agree with that and I agree with that. That takes up too much time; it is not necessary. We wish to discuss the points that we cannot completely accept.

We are very glad that the Director-General has made his very concrete proposals in the context of the total United Nations system. The Special Adviser of our delegation, Mr. Van Gorkom, spoke yesterday about the relationship of FAO with the United Nations and UNDP, and we are glad to notice that, for instance, in your strategy chapter, Mr. Director-General, under item 3.6 this is very specifically mentioned, and we are glad that in fields such as rural development, agrarian reform, training, there is joint action with the other agencies, and when you say that FAO will play its full part in the United Nations in system-wide endeavours, the objective not being coordination for its own sake but harmonization of activities, particularly at the country level and avoidance of duplication, we can agree with this, but on the other hand, we hope that the Director-General will also succeed in playing his role in the conceptual efforts of the United Nations organs in New York where he is taking part himself or with his other staff members in several important committees.

We are glad that the study "Agriculture - 2000" has now been taken up in the Divisions. I understand that was part of the prospective studies in the past and we feel that it is very right that in this case the Director-General calls those studies useful studies as well as research. We have noticed also that the FAO has submitted to the Committee for Development Planning and the Committee on Review and Appraisal a very useful study report, and we commend the Director-General for his contribution to the work of the United Nations committees that are trying to develop a strategy for the future. Therefore, we are very eager to see the FAO study "Agriculture - 2000" and we hope that this will really be an authoritative contribution to the long-term planning of the United Nations system.

We would like to skip or not discuss all the priority items mentioned in chapter 6 under Priorities. Several of these have already been or will be discussed on the other items of the agenda next week. We would just like to mention a few, or more in general, I would like to recall to the members of the Council here who attended the Committee on Agriculture meeting, or the ones that did not attend may have seen the Report, that during the Committee on Agriculture meeting I found it quite striking that many members of that Committee mentioned on many occasions the importance of laying more stress on

education and training, on research and on extension, and I hope that in the near future there will be a possibility for the staff of the FAO as well as those of the different divisions, but also in the division where the people are concentrated on work on these matters, on these issues, that they can strengthen these very basic services that can help in many programmes to bring the best message, the best information to the farmers. We feel that this will always be a very important subject.

I would also like to commend the programme on Trypanosomiasis and - another difficult word Onchocerciasis Control Project, because in those cases there is a good cooperation between FAO and WHO. Those two very important diseases have an animal side and a human side, and we feel this cooperation is a very important matter to help to quickly solve the problem that is at hand.

I would like to stress what other people also have stressed, that in the CARIS and AGRIS projects - especially the CARIS - we hope the success of it will not only be measured by the input, by the number of countries that contribute to the system and to the computer that analyses and puts together in a classified way this information; for me it is much more important in what way the output is used, as I am not so sure it will be possible for many research workers to use this kind of information, as they will surely find their own ways. So I hope that when an evaluation is made specific attention will be paid to the extent to which this information is used by the research workers in their own planning of their own work.

We would like to say a few words on rural development. We feel this is a very important subject. It is fully justified that it has received a special priority in the programme of our Organization. It is important also that this is done in cooperation with the whole United Nations system, and that FAO in the ACC Working Group plays an important role as a leading agency. We hope that this example will be followed by others in the UN system so that we can really come to joint planning for subjects of this kind. We expect that this joint planning and joint study will improve the level of the next Conference in 1979, and we hope that this will be an example and a stimulus for other joint study groups and working groups in the system, also with the regional UN agencies.

I would like to mention the country offices. I am grateful for the information we received recently, and we can in principle be in accordance with the appointing of the country representatives in country offices. We hope that the country offices will also play a certain role in the bringing together and opening up of information channels with bilateral planning and the bilateral projects in the countries where they are situated and stationed, so that by their work in the agricultural fields stimulus will be given for better planning and coordination under the leadership of the ministries of the country where the country office or the country representative is situated.

We find that we have one reserve which we have mentioned at other times and which is well known to the Director-General. We feel it is really necessary - and we have good hopes that it will be the case - that the UNDP Regional Representative will be involved in the planning and programming of the work, and will be always informed so that he can act as the primus inter pares. What primus means among the inter pares will depend very much on the personalities of the people, but we must stress that for us when we must evaluate in a few years' time the success of the new system, the way in which your mind, Mr. Director-General, will cooperate on one side with the rapporteur of the UNDP and on the other side with the ministries involved in the countries, and with the other bilateral agencies in the countries, will itself be a very central point to judge the usefulness of this new system.

We have a little doubt as to whether it is wise to go so fast in the appointment of your officers. There are problems in the sphere of finding the right people for these posts, and also problems in transferring the people who are at present there. These problems cannot be taken lightly, they must be given due attention and more good consultation between the United Nations Development Programme officers on the one side and your people on the other side, Mr. Director-General, as we have doubts whether the amounts you estimate as necessary for the coming biennium to pay all the new country representatives are fully justified. We would like to see a little slower progress in this matter, for the reasons I have mentioned.

My next remark is on the Technical Cooperation Programme. We are grateful that this morning we received the information on the Technical Cooperation Programme in a new information background paper called Interim Progress Report on the TCP. We have had no time to study it, but we do appreciate the information it contains, and we would have liked to have received it a little earlier, and to have had more information on the different projects and what they mean. The title does give some information, but it does not give the information on what the programme really covers. We do hope for the next Council meeting we will receive a little more detail, not on the evaluation, but information on the kind of projects that are underway and are committed and are planned.

We also want to repeat again what we have said before, and what other delegates also have said, that for us we can accept the principle of this Technical Cooperation Programme, we can accept an organization like FAO which has such an emphasis on field work, and on projects executed in many, many countries, that there must be the possibility of bridging gaps between different kinds of positions. UNDP is not always able to do that, and we feel you must have some money available to give those small-scale bridging urgent activities some money.

We would like to say a word of caution in relation to your emergency projects. There are quite a number. I would just like to ask in which cases do you decide that there is a place for the TCP to step in with some money to cover some emergency situation, and in which case do you call on the United Nations Relief Organization? There is also a procedure that can act quite fast if necessary, and we would like to know whether there is some consultation in those cases and how you come to the decision of the cases in which you act and of the cases where it will be referred to UNRO. Is it a matter for the countries to decide or for you to decide? We would like to hear more about the criteria you are using in those cases. It is not we are against it, but again we are voicing some caution so that there is no duplication with other United Nations agency efforts and programmes.

My last point is on the budget level. We are appreciative of the attempts of the Director-General to slow down the growth of the organization. We have followed from close-by his struggle with the very ambitious - let us call it that, why not, as Assistant Directors-General must be ambitious otherwise they are not good - plans proposed by the departments of FAO to the Director-General for a bigger programme in their field or department, and in many many cases the proposals were all right, they were urgent and necessary. However, rightly to our minds you have put a stop on the growth of the organization here in headquarters, and that means you have to be careful in accepting new projects without cutting down all the parts of the programme. We are grateful for that, but in spite of that there is still a growth in the budget, a net growth. I believe you say it is about 6 percent. When you add to that the TCP and the proposal for \$10 million to be added to the Trust Fund, where there is money which comes from the country contributions or it goes back to the countries, then we reach a level of increased contribution of above 10 percent.

We would like to reserve our position on the total level of the budget to next November when we shall see more about the Programme of Work and Budget, and we shall see more about what is happening to this Suspense Account, and in what way this very interesting and important programme on post-harvest losses will be financed. All these matters will play a role in the position our countries will take and whether our country will be antagonistic or less antagonistic about the budget for the nextbiennium.

We hope the Finance Committee, in consultation with some members of the Council, perhaps, and perhaps being helped by some suggestions, will find a solution to this problem of the increase of the budget due to the fact which I mentioned of the \$10 million that was proposed to go to the Fund for post-harvest losses.

So overall, our comments are positive. We have here and there some question marks, and here and there some reservations. Our ultimate judgement, our last judgement, will be given when the time comes during the Conference and the Council before that, but I would like to express our appreciation of the efforts of the Director-General to try to increase the attention of all the officials here in this House to the big problems that are facing us in the future in many countries. We hope he "will see this is done by FAO as one of the agencies belonging to the greater United Nations family.

Q. H. HAQUE (Bangladesh): My delegation congratulates the Director-General and the Secretariat for the documents on Programme and Budget, CL 71/3 and CL 71/4, which are a definite improvement. I also felicitate the Chairman of the Programme Committee and the Acting Chairman of the Finance Committee for the excellent presentation of their respective reports.

The first striking thing about which we feel very happy is the enunciation of the right priorities, keeping in line with the new action-oriented role of the FAO. We agree with the emphasis on field activities in preference to headquarters where possible, at the country and regional level; with decentralization by establishing effective country offices; with the programme of technical cooperation to meet unforeseen and immediate development needs; with the strengthening of technical activities and institutions which would provide effective results at the level of small farmers at the grass roots.

We are sure that when the right priorities have been identified and emphasized by the Director-General he will find no difficulty in the execution of the programmes in the next biennium in keeping with his reputation for being a dynamic personality.

Coming to specific items, we welcome the proposed reduction in headquarter posts, the further reduction in dispensable publications and meetings and consequent increase in field activities. It is heartening to note that in the proposed summary of budget the increase in field expenditure will be double what it was in 1970-71, and 76 percent higher than at the level of 1974-75. We agree with the statement made by our colleague from Egypt that policy and strategy activities, including posts, should be at Headquarters while implementation should be decentralized so far as possible to the countries and regions.

We are happy to note the continued expansion of the Trust Fund which is presently supporting 200 projects, and 375 associate experts. We are sure that with the effectiveness of the FAO with regard to the Trust Fund projects fully established with the donor countries, the Trust Fund will further continue to increase both in volume and size.

While still on field activities, we should like to give our views on the Technical Cooperation Programme. The TCP is a new dimension in the activities of the FAO. It had a successful launching only recently. It is encouraging to note that by now as many as 81 projects and a total of \$6 million have already been committed by the TCP. We earnestly hope that by the close of the current year the Programme will be able to commit the major part of its allocation of \$18.5 million. We hope that keeping in line with the nature of the projects under the TCP, namely unforeseen development needs and projects of an immediate and emergency nature, the commitment under TCP will be expedited and if necessary the procedure of approval may be simplified.

We notice a fear that the TCP should conform to the overall development efforts by the international community and should not duplicate the efforts of other development agencies, particularly the UNDP. We entirely agree with the idea that duplication should be avoided and that TCP efforts must fit in to the framework of overall development activities. But our experience has been that while discussing TCP projects in Bangladesh the FAO and the authorities are very cautious that they do not duplicate the efforts of the UNDP. While the TCP should not duplicate any other efforts, neither should there be any bar for the TCP to finance any project on a joint or parallel basis with the UNDP or any other agency by picking up the right component which conforms to its objective. A point has been made about evaluating the TCP performance towards the end of 1978. While we agree that evaluation of any activity is helpful and such constructive evaluation always leads to improvements, as regards the TCP it is not yet the right moment. The TCP is still in its infancy and one does not judge the conduct and performance of an infant. As regards the increase of allocation under TCP, we feel that it is very marginal and in real terms in the next biennium perhaps it will not increase. We support the continuation of the Programme on a regular basis and the proposed allocation.

Coming to rural development, we feel that this is an important area where the right emphasis is being given. The main objective of rural development should be to improve the totality of rural life with particular emphasis on small farmers and landless agricultural labour. We also agree with the statement made by my colleague from the United States that particular care should be taken to increase the role of women in all fields of activity. In this context I may mention that in Bangladesh rural development is almost synonymous with the development of small farmers. After successive land reforms the present ceiling of holding per family is only 33 acres, or about 10 hectares, and the vast majority of the farmers are at the marginal level of 3 acres and below. We also have a large proportion of landless agricultural labour. We fully support the emphasis on small-farmer development. We are looking forward to the world conference on agrarian reform and rural development in 1979 which we hope will encompass the totality of rural life. We feel that elaborate and extensive preparation will be necessary to make the conference a success. We are eager to contribute our best to the success of the conference.

We agree that the field of nutrition has up till now not received the attention it should. In this field the FAO should take leading responsibility. We hope that the World Food Council meeting in Manila will come to concrete conclusions on this important subject and will also agree to FAO's leading role in this regard.

As regards Forestry and Fisheries, we agree that the programme and projects should be orientated to creating rural employment and assisting small fishermen. The emphasis should also be on assisting Member Nations in the development of the full potential and the efficient management of their fishery and forestry resources.

As regards decentralization and country offices, we have already mentioned our strong support. We hope that the establishment of 47 country offices will be completed by the end of the next biennium. A point has been made that implementation of this programme has been hampered due to lack of availability of competent personnel. We do not feel that it is so much the lack of experienced personnel which is hampering progress, we feel that there will be no lack of personnel if an attempt is made to find them in open, global competition. Bangladesh has also requested a country representative. The progress of our negotiations with the FAO is satisfactory and we hope that a country representative will be stationed in Bangladesh in the immediate future,

As regards the programme of post-harvest losses, we have already recorded our strong support for the programme and the creation of a special fund and also the initial financing of it out of the Suspense Account based on the absolute merit of the case.

Regarding inter-agency relationships and the strengthening of investment activities; while we support the view that the investment centre needs to be strengthened because of the emerging IFAD, we should be cautious that the additional facilities to be created should conform to the expected need of the IFAD. Expenditure should be incurred after definite indications are received about the requirements of the IFAD. In this connexion, we would emphasize the need to strengthen the capabilities of national and regional institutions and increased cooperation by the FAO with both national and regional institutions.

Finally, on the level of the Budget at \$206.8 million, we feel that the proposed net increase of 6 percent over 1976-1977 is modest and in real terms in the next biennium the increase would be the absolute minimum. As regards the rate of 900 lire to the dollar, we have a fear that the rate is a little high as it is higher than the present rate of exchange. While in the current biennium there was credit to the Suspense Account, in the coming biennium we should take care that there should not be any shortfall which might lead to a reduction in programme due to the fixing of a higher rate of lire to the dollar. But this aspect may be taken care of depending on the trend in the behaviour of the lire in the second half of the year.

I am sorry for this rather lengthy statement, Mr. Chairman, but we thought that it was an appropriate subject on which we should record our views on important items.

L.C.J. MARTIN (United Kingdom): I should like to join those who have congratulated the Director-General on the structure and clarity of the Summary Programme of Work and Budget, and I should also like to join in thanking the Programme Committee and the Finance Committee for the helpful work that they have done. I will not go into any kind of detail on the Programme aspects. So far as my delegation is concerned, we welcome the new trends and directions. We endorse the Director-General's priorities. ; Subject of course to our right to comment later when the full proposed Programme is before us, we are happy to give general agreement and support to what the Director-General has put forward.

However, perhaps I should say a few words about the Technical Cooperation Programme, partly because you yourself, Mr. Chairman, and one or two other people, told me yesterday that you were surprised that I did not speak in the discussion on UNDP/FAO relationships, and partly because almost exactly twelve months ago and almost exactly from this particular seat I was one of those who took on the task of trying, without the slightest hope of success, to argue that there should not be a Technical Cooperation Programme within the Regular Programme Budget.

My Government is still very much concerned with the avoidance of undue multiplicity of technical cooperation funds and money throughout the UN system. We still endorse the proposition that the correct central funding authority of the United Nations for technical cooperation should be the UNDP. But I am happy now to say that we can endorse the Director-General's proposal for technical cooperation. We have looked with considerable interest at the information which he made available yesterday in document CL 71/INF/7 and we are happy to go along with those proposals although we would endorse the remarks which were made yesterday by the representative of the United States about the need for an adequate and proper evaluation of this programme as we go along.

In very general terms on the question of UNDP/FAO cooperation with regard to technical cooperation, I think the position of my Government is not very different from that which was explained yesterday by the representative of the Netherlands.

When we come to the budget, I must say that the proposal is higher than we like and higher than we would have hoped for. My Government, like the Government of Italy and the governments of one or two other countries whose representatives have spoken, is very much concerned with the rate of growth of budget throughout the United Nations system. But, having said that, I also wish to say that we particularly appreciate the comments of the Director-General in paragraphs 3.2 and 3.3 of document CL 71/3. Nor would it be possible to describe his budget proposal as in any sense unreasonable and therefore, although, as I say, we would have liked a smaller budget, subject to further and detailed examination later on, my delegation is prepared to give support to the proposed budget level of \$206.8 million.

As I have to leave Rome at the weekend, in order to go to the UNDP Governing Council, with your permission, Mr. Chairman, I should like to finish with one or two very brief comments on the general statement made earlier this week by the delegate of Brazil on behalf of the Group of 77. It concerns

the constitutional questions. Very briefly, my delegation accepts that there must be an increase in the size of the membership of this Council. We are inclined to look favourably on the proposals which have been made regarding the Programme and Finance Committees. The delegate of Brazil told us that the Group of 77 concur with the principle of the re-eligibility of the executive head of the Organization, and my delegation also agrees with that principle.

My last comment concerns the question of how one goes about electing a Director-General. I agree fully with what was said on behalf of the Group of 77, that all Member Governments must be allowed to express their choice without limitation. By that I understand that all Member States must be able to make nominations and that all Member States must participate at a general conference in the actual process of election. I believe, however, there might be merit in between those two things in allowing this Council to undertake some kind of sifting process, as happens in Unesco and elsewhere, and to go to the Conference with a recommendation. I believe there are some aspects of the election process at the

last General Conference which were perhaps less good than they might have been, and I would recommend that thought be given to this sifting process which the Council should undertake.

I am sorry to have digressed, Mr. Chairman, and I am grateful for your indulgence.

E. CHELBI (Tunisie): Je voudrais d'abord joindre ma voix à celles des honorables délégués qui m'ont précédé afin d'exprimer notre satisfaction et nos félicitations quant aux documents présentés par le Directeur général et les comités du Programme et des finances et qui font l'objet de nos discussions actuelles.

Le budget global proposé pour le biennium 1978/1979 et qui se monte à 206,8 millions de dollars révèle une augmentation due d'abord au Programme de 11 400 000 dollars soit 6,8 pour cent et une augmentation due à des fluctuations monétaires et aux coûts qui, elle, porte sur 17 pour cent du volume du biennium actuel.

Notre Conseil, par ailleurs, a approuvé le renforcement d'actions existantes et l'introduction d'actions nouvelles telles que les bureaux dans les pays et le Programme d'assistance technique. Ces deux dernières actions, de fait, ont pu connaître un début d'exécution au cours du biennium actuel. Mais le niveau était dicté certainement, et nous en sommes conscients, par le niveau des économies qui ont pu être réalisées et non pas par un besoin de démarrage de ces actions. S'agissant d'économies, le niveau ne peut constituer une base d'appréciation de coûts. Il faudrait, dès lors, si nous nous en tenons à la bonne pratique de l'analyse financière, constituer une base d'analyse et d'appréciation. Si nous éliminions les augmentations dues à ces deux programmes, nous constaterions que l'augmentation à prix constant du budget se trouverait ramenée de 11,4 millions à 4,8 millions de dollars, soit 2,5 pour cent. Ce n'est pas là une augmentation très grande; on peut même dire qu'elle est en deçà des besoins, si l'on tenait compte de la vigueur avec laquelle beaucoup de délégués ont exprimé leur désir de voir renforcer certaines actions de la FAO.

Je m'en tiens là en ce qui concerne l'analyse du Sommaire du Budget qui nous a été proposé. Je ne voudrais pas, pour répondre aux vœux du Président de notre Conseil, étayer beaucoup cette idée mais j'aimerais conclure et faire une petite remarque concernant le développement rural, en particulier le paragraphe 2.54, où le Comité, et je cite: "s'est déclaré préoccupé par l'emploi du terme développement rural comme titre de ce Programme. Certes, nous sommes conscients que la FAO n'a pas à intervenir dans des programmes détaillés de routes ou d'hôpitaux ou d'écoles. Mais ma délégation n'est pas préoccupée par le terme "développement rural" parce que nous sommes absolument convaincus qu'il va sauvegarder l'unité et le caractère intégré de toutes les actions de développement rural.

Il est certain que s'agissant d'un programme intégré, il fait contribuer plusieurs départements, plusieurs spécialités, et personne à mon avis n'interprétera cela comme étant une exigence pour la FAO, d'intervenir dans toutes ses actions. Elle se limitera aux actions qui sont liées directement à l'augmentation de la production, de la productivité, des revenus du monde rural mais cela ne devrait pas nous empêcher de maintenir le caractère intégré et par voie de conséquence, la terminologie du développement rural.

K. ITANO (Japan): Our delegation wishes to express the most sincere appreciation to the Director-General for his efforts to cut unnecessary expenditure. In paragraph 3.3 of document CL 71/3 it is clearly described:

"the Director-General was not interested in obtaining per se a large budget increase nor in strengthening Headquarters, nor in creating posts without being satisfied that they were indispensable in that they would result in useful services rendered to the agricultural community. Furthermore, the Director-General intended to continue to reduce documents and meetings".

Our delegation feels that this is a sound and encouraging approach. We hope that other agencies will also follow this example. We also appreciate another policy of the Director-General, namely putting priorities among the activities of FAO. If resources are limited, it is rational to put the priorities in some concrete action or programme to ensure the best utilization of the resources.

So far as cost increase ratio and exchange rates are concerned, our delegation holds the view that the figure proposed by the Secretariat is more or less acceptable. Having said this, our delegation has to say that despite the efforts made by the Director-General, the programme increase of 6,8 percent is rather high. So before my Government can take a final position about the desirable budget increase our delegation needs to have some clarification on several points.

First, when the 1976/77 budget was approved, the exchange rate was one dollar equal to 670 lire; now the present rate is near 880 lire to the dollar. Based on this fact, one might be able to assume that this favourable situation for the expenditure of lire has contributed to absorb the cost increase. The question is to what extent this situation favours the total expenditure in the 1976/77 biennium. If this is not made clear, it would be rather meaningless to recast the budget level of \$167 million over previous years and use it as a base for the calculation of the next budget.

Secondly, to finance country programmes of FAO, a net increase of \$5.1 million is proposed which I suppose is the biggest net increase among programmes like some previous speakers mentioned, our delegation also wants to know how and to what extent the new FAO Country Representative system has contributed to FAO field activities, and also when the decentralisation was discussed in the special Council Session, the relations between FAO Country Representatives and UNDP Regional Representatives was the concern of many countries. In this connexion our delegation wants to know what the concrete agreement is between FAO and UNDP.

So far as the funds which would be allowed to Country Representatives for the employment of local consultants is concerned, it is the view of our delegation that caution must be exercised in order to avoid the misuse of limited resources so that adequate modalities for the use of this Fund must be studied.

Thirdly, concerning the TCP our position is quite clear: those activities must in principle be financed by extra-budgetary resources. Now we have TCP on an experimental basis. Our delegation also wants to know what would be the result of the balance sheet of TCP under the current biennium. So we support the idea to have an evaluation procedure to clarify the position.

We appreciate the programme interim report on the TCP. Our delegation however would like to make its final position after obtaining much more information on the result of the evaluation in the November session of the Council.

Fourthly, with regard to the strengthening of the Investment Centre, we welcome the positive attitude of FAO to cooperate with IFAD in the execution of projects. We understand that the negotiations between FAO and IFAD are under way. If we are not informed of the results of it, especially the financial arrangements such as overhead costs, we are not able to decide whether the proposed budget for the Investment Centre is enough or not.

Lastly, so far as the fund for the reduction of post-harvest losses is concerned, we have expressed our views already, so I will not repeat now. We just want to ask for a small clarification about the increase of \$450 thousand mentioned in Annex, page 4.

Having made these points, we appreciate the efforts of the Director-General and the Secretariat for preparing the budget for the next biennium.

W.A.F. GRABISCH (Germany, Federal Republic of): Allow me first a few remarks on Chapter 2, on the World background of document CL 71/3 before us. The document rightly states that there has been a distinct immediate improvement in the world food and agricultural situation. From document CL 71/2 we noted with satisfaction that for the first time in this decade the annual average increase of 4 per cent of the food production in the developing countries has been achieved during the last two years. This is a significant step towards meeting the 4 per cent target called for in the International Development Strategy and reconfirmed by the World Food Conference. I think this positive development should be emphasized since the chapter refers also to the disappointment about slow progress.

As to Chapter 3 my delegation appreciates the clear statement of the Director-General concerning the strategy for 1978/79. We broadly share the Director-General's view with regard to the main priorities for the forthcoming biennium and we are with him of the opinion that the new Programme of Work and Budget should consolidate the on-going work in the current biennium.

While we support the Director-General's strategy on the programme side we encounter some specific problems with regard to the time schedule for carrying out some actions and concerning the proposed financing of the necessary activities. At this juncture of the deliberations on the forthcoming Programme of Work and Budget, we wish to take up only some of the specific issues. The Director-General's orientation of FAO towards the reinforcement of field activities meets with our full support.

With regard to the TCP as part of the Regular Budget, the basic position of my Government has not changed. We still have problems with this way of financing development aid through assessed

contributions. As my country's delegation stated at the last two Council sessions, the financing of technical assistance within the United Nations system should in our view basically be the task of UNDP through its established channels and methods. In this context, I wish to mention that my Government increased its contribution to UNDP this year by 25 per cent as compared to our support given to it in 1976. My Government, however, did not object to the consensus reached in the Council on the establishment of TCP, subject to its continued evaluation and a later decision about its continuation. We intend to have a close look at this action in the future. We expect that only such projects are considered for implementation under the TCP, which do not overlap with overall UNDP activities and which do fit, as the delegate of Bangladesh had just pointed out, into those activities.

We reserve our position and our judgment on the TCP until an evaluation has been made. In this context we support what was said on evaluation by the United States delegation yesterday. We recognise on the other hand that for the time being, due to the short duration of the Programme, such an evaluation cannot easily be done. We are looking forward, however, to an interim report as asked for, also by the delegates of Italy and France, which should be made available to the next Conference.

With regard to the proposed level of TCP, my delegation must reserve its position because on the basis of the little information available so far, my Government has not yet reached a conclusion.

With regard to the decentralization effort, and in particular to the establishment of FAO Country Representatives, we note in the Summary Programme of Work and Budget that the proposed figure is by far the highest increase of a single item in the budget. The amount of US\$5.1 million is, as stated by the Programme Committee, based only on a projection. In view of the amount of resources and the complexity of the problems involved, my delegation has no doubt that the Director-General will proceed with great care, trying to keep the cost for each Country Representative as low as possible. This would include, in our view, making use of all facilities and services which can be offered by the host countries and by other United Nations Agencies already established in these countries. What needs to be avoided is, in our view that debureaucratization at Headquarters is outweighed by the creation of new bureaucracies, regardless at what levels. We suggest that the Director-General keeps the Council informed about the implementation of this action, so that the Conference can give its judgment on this subject on the basis of up-dated and detailed information. This would then allow the Conference to see whether in this area there is room for reduction, as the delegates of France and Italy seem to have felt yesterday.

With regard to the technical backstopping of FAO Country Representatives and actions at country level, we feel that on the institutional side one should and could be rather flexible. High qualified technical expertise is rare and difficult to get. Such expertise should therefore be used in the most efficient way. The expert's location is a secondary matter, may it be in Headquarters, at regional offices, at regional or sub-regional level. My delegation mentioned on previous occasions that we would also like to see them being located at regionally-located international research centres. What counts is the efficiency which includes the best use of the financial resources.

The proposed programme on post-harvest losses has already got the support of the Council when discussing this question under item 11. Also my delegation expressed its support to this programme. The financing of it will be in accordance with the deliberations on item 11 to be taken up again at the next session of the Council previous to the Conference.

On the proposed use of the resources accumulated in the Suspense Account for this programme, my delegation has already given its view during that discussion.

With regard to the proposed budget level for the next biennium, we wish to thank the Director-General for the early presentation of this Summary Programme of Work and Budget. The proposals as a whole seem to be quite reasonable and in accordance with the general efforts to limit the budget increase of

international organizations. My Government too, like several other delegations, would prefer a lower growth rate. This would contribute in our view to a system wide consolidation of expenditure of United Nations Agencies.

We share the opinion of other delegations that in order to give a definite judgment concerning the level of the next budget, the final version of the Programme or Work and Budget as well as the financial situation of the Organization must be known and is needed. Only when we know the details one can see if there may be other areas where cuts could be made without curtailing high priority action: oriented activities. My delegation, therefore, can give the definite position of my Government only at the 72nd Council session and at the forthcoming Conference.

M.B. MESSAUDI (Libya) (interpretation from Arabic): My delegation considers that the work carried out by the Programme and Finance Committees is a positive piece of work which my delegation would like to support, that is what was contained in the report of these two Committees. We should also like to say that the Director-General was right in trying to clarify the new trends and strategies of the Organization. The Director-General is sincere to try to help us in our work by giving us this Summary Programme of Work and Budget in accordance with the recommendations at the last General Conference of our Organization. The Director-General also took into account the comments made by various, delegations at the Council at its previous session and also took into account the recommendations of the Regional Conference to provide this document.

All this is encouraging, and what is even more encouraging is that the programmes and projects which are suggested to us will be put into effect. This is what we expect and this is what developing countries expect. One of the main objects of these projects and programmes is an increase in agricultural production in developing countries and the bridging of the gap which separates these countries from developed countries. How we can reduce the differences between developed and developing countries when we see this gap in many cases is enlarged for certain reasons; for instance, help with technological assistance in developed countries, and development of technology is a problem for us. We also know that developing countries cannot utilize this technology to increase their capacity for agricultural production. My delegation would like to stress here the fact that certain factors which make it difficult for developing countries to increase their production still exist, i.e. the stability of man in his home land to produce and succeed, and we must fight against these difficulties and everything which prevents developing countries from increasing their agricultural production.

For all these reasons we must make efforts jointly to overcome obstacles which prevent us from improving our production and our productivity, and try to put advanced technology at the service of the countries of the Third World and to make sure that production factors are made available to developing countries.

My delegation would like to thank the Spanish delegation for the comments he made yesterday when he said that Arabic technology in certain fields of agriculture has helped mankind to make a step forward in agriculture, and we should like all nations of the world to make available to mankind whatever they have of advanced technology in their own possession.

We support the Technical Cooperation Programme, and this programme should be pursued because we are sure it will achieve the objectives laid down for it, objectives which are positive ones.

My delegation would also like to say that there should be a reduction in spending, particularly spending on certain meetings and documentation. We also think there should be cuts in Headquarters expenses and we think that the working programme which has been presented to us takes these recommendations which have been made previously into account. Therefore, we support the new orientation the Director-General gives to FAO's activities.

As for priorities, we also agree with these priorities as set out in paragraph 6.1 of document CL 71/3, and we hope that nutrition and the Increase in the level of development of rural areas will be two items which will also be taken into account under research headings.

As far as concerns decentralization and country offices, my delegation thinks that these offices in member countries fit in with the hopes expressed by my delegation at more than one meeting, and that setting up these offices will help in the fight against bureaucracy in international organizations and will help the Organization to achieve this objective through field activities. We should like the suggested 47 offices in the countries, to make it possible to improve the Organization's services in helping the development of mankind.

As far as concerns the budget, we think the basic point is that this budget will make possible the putting into action of the programmes which will also make it possible to increase agricultural production and improve the standard of living in developing countries, particularly in the developing countries.

Finally, my delegation is satisfied with the work of the Programme and Finance Committees and also welcomes the efforts made by the Director-General which have enabled the Secretariat to present us with a Summary of the Programme of Work and Budget for 1978-79 and which gives us an idea of this programme which will in fact be presented in more detail at the next Council session.

B. de AZEVEDO BRITO (Brazil): My delegation would like to take this opportunity to express its agreement with the programme and budget proposals presented by the Director-General. We feel that these proposals are fully in line with the general orientation set forth at the time of the 18th session of the FAO Conference and, in particular, with the policy decisions adopted by the Council at its 69th session. The Group of 77 has already advanced its views - which my delegation fully shares - on the need for the organization to proceed expeditiously to implement policies of the de-centralization, de-bureaucratization and of emphasis on work at the country level. My delegation feels that such policies are the best guarantee at this stage that FAO will be able to play an effective role in ensuring greater agricultural and food production in the developing countries in the years ahead.

While we believe that it is crucial for FAO to have a practical orientation in its work, we also feel strongly that the organization must have a leadership role in devising the strategies and policies required to ensure that the agricultural production in the developing countries will meet the requirements of the New International Economic Order. Therefore, we pay special attention to the work of analysis and planning that FAO can do in support of agricultural policy formulation and planning in the developing countries.

At this stage of the debate, when many speakers have already advanced ideas, many of which we share, I will be brief in my specific comments. We believe that the proposed level of the budget should receive our approval, since, in fact it represents a very modest increase that barely covers the increase of costs due to inflation. We congratulate the Director-General on being able to present a very useful and comprehensive programme of activities within the proposed budget, level.

I will now comment on the different topics of the programme. In relation to crops, I will just say that my delegation agrees with the emphasis on food crops and, at the same time, shares the views expressed by many delegations that the activities to reduce harvest and post-harvest losses deserve the highest priority. In fact, not only do we support the establishment of the Fund as proposed by the Director-General, including the use of 10 million dollars from the suspense account of the current biennium, but would also have liked to see a greater share of the regular budget devoted to this set of activities. As far as the manner of conducting programmes in this area, we feel, that the concept of pilot projects is a useful one, and could perhaps be explored further.

In relation to livestock, my delegation would like to lay emphasis on the work of the organization on integrated development of tropical pastures. We feel also that the International Scheme for the Coordination of Dairy Development and the International Meat Development Scheme have shown very encouraging results. We believe that these schemes can, inter alia, serve as useful vehicles for cooperation among developing countries and we would suggest that, in the future, activities of both schemes be construed so as to facilitate such cooperation.

In relation to research support, my delegation would like to make three points: First, the importance of using national institutions of developing countries in evolving programmes of research; second the role that FAO can play in promoting cooperation among national research institutions of developing countries; third, the importance of developing programmes and activities in such a way that there is a clear link between research and extension.

In relation to rural development, my delegation would like to emphasize the importance of agricultural training and of integrating women in development. Both aspects are essential for improving conditions in rural areas in developing countries. While we support the increased attention that the organization is giving to the specific problems of the small farmer, we also feel that the emphasis on small farmers must not be to the detriment of alternative models of production suited to the generation of exportable surplus on the basis of the advantages of economies of scale.

In relation to nutrition, my delegation fully shares the view of the Director-General that the main objective in this area should be to assist developing countries in improving the nutrition of the rural

and urban poor. In this connection, however, we are inclined to believe that this objective is not necessarily compatible with a significant share of resources earmarked in this chapter of the programme of work to the development of food standards.. At this stage we would have preferred to see a smaller fraction of the regular budget devoted to food standards, an area which could well be increasingly financed by voluntary contributions.

Concerning food and agricultural policy, my delegation feels that the renewed attention to agricultural development and food production in developing countries calls for new approaches and new policies in such fields as: agricultural planning, agricultural management, commodity planning and trade, and cooperation among developing countries. This is probably the area where FAO can best assert its creative role in the development of the general framework of the New International Economic Order. We believe that work in this area must be undertaken in close cooperation with UNCTAD, and its Integrated Programme on Commodities, and must be geared both to the definition of FAO's contribution to the strategies of the third development decade and to the evolution of concepts and ideas that ensure a more just and equitable distribution of the benefits of development in agriculture. I would not like to conclude my observation on the question of food and agricultural policies without laying special emphasis on the work of the organization on commodity policy at the country level. We believe that activities in this regard can be extremely useful to developing countries and can produce concrete and timely results.

The question of economic cooperation among developing countries must influence the development of all activities in the organization, not only in the area of policy formulation, but also in particular, in practical programmes. In our view, all programmes and activities should be checked, in order to see to which extent national institutions can be utilized and in which manner cooperation among developing countries can be promoted.

With respect to fisheries, we would like to support the shift of emphasis proposed by the Director-General from planning and data collection activities to the exploitation and utilization of fisheries. We feel that it is urgent to assist developing countries to make adequate use of their own resources in fisheries.

With respect to forestry I would just like to observe that, while supporting the proposed activities, my delegation would also like to see a greater emphasis on the specific problems of forestry development in equatorial areas. Support by FAO to research geared to developing appropriate technologies for forestry in equatorial ecosystems would be particularly welcome.

Finally, my comments relating to the development support programmes. It is our feeling that the Director-General in his programme and budget proposals has correctly given emphasis to this sector of the programmes of FAO. As other members of the Group of 77 have already pointed out, the technical cooperation programme, in particular, as well as the investment oriented activities of FAO, can make a very positive contribution to the development efforts of our countries. The Brazilian delegation not only supports the proposed level of funding of TCP but would, in fact, suggest that further efforts be made, if necessary by the reallocation of resources, to strengthen TCP. The same comment applies, as I have already suggested, to activities related to the prevention and reduction of harvest and post-harvest losses.

Concerning the format of the final budget, we would be very pleased if in the document that is to be put before the Conference an indication is given of the degree of decentralization of regional activities, in such a way that there is a clear indication not only of the resources earmarked in a given programme-area to regional offices, but also of the resources in headquarters directed to the support of regional activities.

As a concluding remark, my delegation would like to congratulate the Director-General for presenting to the Council a set of proposals which we feel are fully in line with the kind of role we expect FAO to play in the promotion of the New International Economic Order.

E. CAKAJDA (Tchécoslovaquie): C'est avec une sincère satisfaction que mon gouvernement a pu noter que le Directeur général n'a pas hésité à soumettre au Conseil un projet du programme et du budget de l'Organisation pour le prochain biennium dans une forme et un contenu qui ne sont pas traditionnels mais établis dans le meilleur des sens positifs.

Ma délégation s'en félicite et n'éprouve aucune difficulté à y donner son appui. En tout premier lieu, nous souscrivons à l'effort à faire pour concentrer l'utilisation du potentiel financier et des services organiques afin de parvenir à un but positif avec, si possible, un effet immédiat.

Ma délégation apprécie que le Directeur général, malgré une augmentation d'environ 14,1 millions de dollars, ait cherché à proposer un budget qui, non seulement supporterait d'être comparé avec ceux des autres organisations internationales, mais qui est pour nos ministres des finances relativement plus acceptable que d'autres budgets au sein du système des Nations Unies,

A cette occasion nous sommes obligés, une fois de plus, d'insister sur l'importance de l'économie, de l'austérité et de la lutte contre toute prolifération de la bureaucratie en vigueur dans le système des Nations Unies, et nous espérons que la FAO donnera dans ce sens un exemple positif aux autres.

Dans cet espoir, nous référant aussi aux conclusions des deux comités du programme et des finances, ma délégation se déclare prête à supporter le niveau proposé du budget et du programme-cadre de l'Organisation.

Nous avons pu retenir des observations faites par certaines délégations que probablement nous pourrions inclure, dans la forme administrative qui sera encore étudiée, les fonds extraordinaires prévus, mais nous estimons qu'inscrire les tâches de la FAO dans le domaine particulièrement important, du point de vue de l'intérêt des pays en voie de développement - comme la lutte contre les pertes après récolte, ou le programme de la coopération technique - est hors de doute.

La Tchécoslovaquie souligne l'importance d'une étroite coopération de la FAO avec le PNUD et une fois élue au Conseil directeur de cet organisme, elle soutiendra le rôle de la FAO s'agissant du principe selon lequel il convient d'utiliser les ressources du PNUD dans une proportion maximum pour les projets techniques de développement et minimum pour les services administratifs.

En cette occurrence, nous aimerions faire connaître que la décentralisation, que les pays en voie de développement ont faite, recevra l'appui de mon gouvernement.

Nous sommes d'avis également qu'il est d'un intérêt vital de réserver au Siège les activités directrices et de planification qui sont essentielles pour une politique globale commune dans l'agriculture mondiale.

Ensuite, nous estimons que l'objectif d'utilisation des institutions nationales, soutenu par le Conseil, devrait s'inscrire, non pas séparément, mais dans le cadre de la décentralisation de certaines activités de notre Organisation.

Mon gouvernement, ainsi que chacun des autres pays socialistes membres de l'Organisation, a pu déjà sincèrement apprécier que le Directeur général mette l'accent sur la nécessité de tenir compte dans les programmes et les progrès de notre Organisation de l'intérêt de tous les pays membres. Etant donné qu'en Europe, une situation beaucoup plus favorable s'est manifestée après la Conférence d'Helsinki pour une coopération dans la recherche, la normalisation et tous autres secteurs inscrits dans les documents concernant l'agriculture et l'alimentation, nous espérons que la FAO en profitera pour suivre les intérêts de cette région et aussi s'efforcera d'assurer toujours un meilleur transfert des expériences et du potentiel des pays européens au service du développement mondial.

Doña C.I. DOMINGUEZ (Panama): La delegación de Panama felicita a los Presidentes del Comité del Programa y de Finanzas por la excelente presentación del documento CL 71/4 y consideramos que el trabajo realizado por ambos Comités nos facilita la discusión.

En lo que se refiere a las normas generales para el Programa de Labores y Presupuesto para los años 78-79, vemos con satisfacción que el Director General ha tenido en cuenta las recomendaciones del 69 período de sesiones del Consejo y las necesidades de los países en vías de desarrollo aplicando los principios de un nuevo orden económico internacional en el Programa de Labores y Presupuesto en lo referente al desarrollo alimentario y agropecuario.

Apoyamos el presupuesto de 206.8 millones de dólares propuesto por el señor Director General. Al apoyar el nivel de presupuesto, nuestra delegación está convencida de que el aumento del presupuesto será utilizado para programas específicos tendientes a aumentar la producción agropecuaria en los países en vías de desarrollo. En general apoyamos las prioridades; estamos de acuerdo con la política de descentralización y consideramos que el aumento de 5.1 millones de dólares para las oficinas de la FAO en los países, es adecuada.

Estamos de acuerdo igualmente con el aumento de 1.5 millones de dólares para el Programa de Cooperación Técnica por la importancia que tiene este Programa. Nuestra delegación está de acuerdo con las observaciones expresadas en el informe del Comité de Finanzas sobre la presentación de un informe detallado de la marcha del Programa. Estamos de acuerdo en que este Programa es muy reciente y por lo tanto esperamos que el Comité de Finanzas en su próximo período de sesiones analice detalladamente los resultados de los distintos proyectos.

Mi delegación está en favor de incrementar los fondos del PCT por considerar que el Programa puede dar respuesta inmediata a los problemas de incremento de la producción agrícola en nuestros países.

Apoyamos, igualmente, el aumento de 1.5 millones, esenciales para el Centro de Inversiones, para que ese Centro de Inversiones pueda realizar con eficiencia sus tareas y prestar el apoyo necesario al FIDA, a los bancos regionales, instituciones de crédito y misiones del Programa de Cooperación Técnica,

Para terminar deseo reiterar nuestro apoyo a la reducción de gastos de publicación y a la reducción de las plantillas en la sede.

I. OROZCO (México): Mi delegación, al igual que otras que lo han hecho anteriormente, desea sumarse a las observaciones de claridad y concisión que hacen del documento resumen del Programa de Labores y Presupuestos presentado por el Director General un documento excelente y que nos proporciona pautas alentadoras también por su equilibrio y atinencia entre los costos y las prioridades y distintos aspectos de los programas. Por ello felicitamos al Director General, así como a los Comités del Programa y de Finanzas, por el excelente trabajo realizado y que ha sido bien dirigido por sus expertos Presidentes .

Estamos de acuerdo con la recomendación de estos Comités en cuanto consideramos que el resumen constituye un avance adecuado para la preparación del texto final del Programa de Labores y Presupuesto.

Nuestro asentimiento en esta instancia a la cuantía del presupuesto sugerido, es en el sentido de que junto con el Programa forma un todo como referencia indicativa para el texto final del Programa completo de Labores y Presupuesto del Director General y, además, porque pensamos que refleja factores ineludibles como la inflación y un impulso razonable al programa ordinario.

En particular la delegación de México desea expresar su satisfacción por la continuidad y eficacia del Programa de Cooperación Técnica que se garantizará con la partida asignada y al que nuestra Delegación reitera su apoyo entusiasta.

Igualmente nos damos cuenta de la importancia que tiene para los países en desarrollo la cuestión de los representantes de FAO a nivel nacional que contribuirá a vigorizar los programas de campo y acercarán más a la FAO los sectores beneficiarios permitiendo un conocimiento y aprecio mayor de sus altos objetivos.

En esta apreciación del Consejo sobre los distintos aspectos de que trata el resumen se han expresado diversos matices de preferencia que atribuyen un mayor o menor énfasis a renglones determinados. Mi Delegación tendrá oportunidad de referirse a cuestiones específicas cuando se examinen los restantes temas del programa para este período de sesiones del Consejo,

EL PRESIDENTE: Son las 12,30 y debemos respetar el horario previsto. Quedan aun once oradores en la lista. En esa forma cada vez se hace más seria la posibilidad de que debamos tener por lo menos una sesión nocturna o, de lo contrario, si el tiempo sigue bueno y se sigue contando con el sol de hoy, podríamos mañana, sábado, por la mañana encerrarnos a trabajar aquí para tener una sesión adicional.

The meeting rose at 12.30 hours

La séance est levée à 12 h 30

Se levanta la sesión a las 12.30 horas.

council

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

conseil

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

consejo

ORGANIZACION DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS PARA LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION

CL

CL 71/PV/10

Seventy-First Session

Soixante et onzième session

71° período de sesiones

TENTH PLENARY MEETING
DIXIEME SEANCE PLENIERE
DECIMA SESION PLENARIA

(10 June 1977)

The Tenth Plenary Meeting was opened at 14.55 hours G. Bula Hoyos, Independent Chairman of the Council, presiding

La dixième seance plénière est ouverte à 14 h 55 sous la présidence de G. Bula Hoyos, Président indépendant du Conseil

Se abre la decima sesión plenaria a las 14.55 horas bajo la presidencia de G. Bula Hoyos, Presidente Independiente del Consejo

IV - PROGRAMME, BUDGETARY, FINANCIAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS (continued)

IV - QUESTIONS COLICERNANT LE PROGRAMME, LE BUDGET, LES FINANCES ET L'ADMINISTRATION (suite)

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

16. Summary Programme of Work and Budget, 1978-79 (continued)

16. Sommaire du Programme de travail et budget 1978-79 (suite)

16. Resumen de Programa de Labores y Presupuesto para 1978-79 (continuación)

EL PRESIDENTE: Conviene, dentro de lo posible, que los miembros del Consejo se atengan sobre este punto a un máximo de diez minutos en sus intervenciones. Para los observadores sigue vigente, inflexiblemente, el límite de cinco minutos. Ojalá nos sea posible acoger esta propuesta para que podamos continuar nuestros trabajos satisfactoriamente.

V. ISARANKURA (Thailand): I shall refrain from going into further details myself on the various topics that have been discussed in this Agenda item since they have been well covered by my colleagues from the developing countries. It suffices for me to state that my delegation is fully in agreement with the majority of the views expressed by our colleagues, especially those expressed by Bangladesh, Brazil, China, India, Indonesia and Sudan. However, my delegation wishes only specifically to point out our position on the subject of the TCP to which we attach great importance.

To be very frank, when the Director-General first presented his idea regarding the TCP our attitude was skeptical. How could a few thousand dollars applied here and there have much of an impact compared to the multimillion-dollar development project that all our countries have in progress. Well, a few months back our duck breeding industry was suddenly threatened by a killer virus. It was wiping out thousands of ducks everyday, and with them, the livelihoods of farm families. A request by our Minister of Agriculture to FAO for TCP assistance elicited immediate reaction from the Organization. The FAO Regional Office sent its Animal Husbandry Officer to assist us especially in tracking down the virus. While the vaccines were hastily purchased on the recommendation of the FAO Regional Specialist, the TCP unit in Rome gave the green light for a 90 thousand dollar TCP project. This included the services of two consultants in epidemiology and underwrote the necessary laboratory equipment to manufacture the necessary vaccines in Thailand. The timeliness of the assistance has certainly done much to reinforce our confidence in FAO. It has established even more firmly its credibility. But timeliness is not the only quality of the TCP. If we look at its guidelines closer we see that it places great emphasis on training at the grassroot level. Nowhere perhaps more than in Asia do we have as many small farmers in need of such grassroot training. In my own country we have now a TCP project, albeit a small one for training rural people. We have the land, we have the experimental farm, but we are lacking the training expertise. This is now provided to us through this project.

The word "duplication" has been used with reference to the TCP. It has been suggested that TCP projects duplicated or would duplicate UNDP projects. In our opinion, in the final analysis, the point to be considered is not duplication or non-duplication of the projects, but rather whether these TCP projects meet the needs for the urgent requirements of the recipient countries as well as produce the results expected of it. Further, the assistance TCP projects can provide for the development of larger projects, for maximizing the effectiveness of others, for promoting investment, is fast becoming a matter for the record.

The TCP projects also have a human dimension to them. Most important, they do away with paternalism as, at the same time, they promote self-reliance. TCP projects truly come as an answer to a government's request; they are not projects "suggested" by donors, as has so often been the case in the past. Their heavy emphasis on training promotes self-reliance; their modest inputs provide the seeds for national development.

In its first year the Technical Cooperation Programme has already proved itself. Not only does my Government fully support TCP; it would like to see it strengthened further and its resources increased.

Finally, my delegation strongly supports the policy for the appointment of FAO representatives in member nations. In fact, my country is one among the countries that have submitted requests to be included in the list of 47 representatives. We therefore sincerely hope that our request will in due time be given favourable consideration.

S. JUMA'A (Jordan) (Interpretation from Arabic): I wish to join the other delegates who have thanked the Director-General and the Secretariat for preparing these documents on the Summary Programme of Work and Budget that are being submitted to the delegates at this session. I likewise wish to thank the Chairman and members of the Budget Committee for all the efforts they have undertaken in studying the Programme of Work and Budget and clarifying certain aspects and methods with which the delegates should be well acquainted before discussing the subject in general.

As far as the Programme Committee is concerned, I do not think I can address any thanks even to its Chairman or members because I was a member of that Committee. I will leave this to some other participants at this session.

For the first time in the history of the budgets prepared by international organizations, we find that there are a few savings or economies in posts and jobs either at Headquarters or at the Regional Offices with the exception of a few particular cases, and for the first time, the excess is less than called

for by the developed countries themselves, for we know that in the preparation of budgets nowadays, the budgetary increase is usually 10 percent, whereas we find out that the increase for the next biennium is far below this level of 10 percent. Therefore, while supporting the figure shown in the budget summary for the 1978-79 biennium, we nevertheless fear that these figures or these amounts may not be sufficient for the implementation of the various programmes covered by the working paper. Nevertheless, we do sincerely hope that the Director-General would be able to revise the distribution of roles within Headquarters and the Regional Offices so that the present representatives could well undertake the required work within the available budget. This may seem difficult, yet this is the least we could request the Secretariat to do at present.

It is my belief that the main point in the Programme of Work and Budget are the following: first, the Technical Cooperation Programme. It is well-known that this programme has been operative since the end of the last year and it has been going on for barely one year. Therefore we can hardly say that this probationary or experimental period is sufficient. I find that the Secretariat now has the very difficult task of assessing the Technical Cooperation Programme, whereas it would have been far better to ask those countries that had benefited from the Technical Cooperation Programme to make this assessment, for I know that my country itself, Jordan, that has benefited from the Technical Cooperation Programme is in a far better position to assess this programme. Likewise, all other countries that have benefited from the Technical Cooperation Programme can confirm what I say, and the TCP to our mind has a positive effect and should rather continue. It is our hope, therefore, that there will come a day when FAO could make larger budgetary allocations to TCP in order to be better able to serve developing countries in practical fields and not only in research and service as have been undertaken in the past in developing countries.

It is worth mentioning here that a large organization such as FAO was little known in the developing countries except through the World Food Programme, and had it not been for the World Food Programme very many of the countries of the developing world would never have known anything about FAO. Therefore, the new trend by the Organization under its new Director-General wishes to move from the field of service and study to other research and study of a practical nature and away from decentralization, which to my mind is the best that could be adopted to serve the developing countries and FAO itself.

The other subject for consideration and attention in the Programme of Work and Budget is the proposal for the setting up of the special fund for post-harvest losses or even pre-harvest losses. This is the subject that was discussed at the COAG meetings and was taken up by specialists on the subject. Their recommendations came as positively positive recommendations and we find some difficulty in understanding why certain delegates do not see eye to eye with the specialists. Most probably there is an apprehension that the Organization may widen its work in this field, which certain delegates do not approve of. However, most of the members of FAO find in this fund some hope in order to overcome the difficulties they are facing in agriculture development.

Everybody is speaking of doubling agricultural production, but we know that unless we can benefit from the special fund for post-harvest and pre-harvest losses, we shall never save the 25 percent we are losing in the post-harvest fields. Therefore, what we could do is start immediately on such a programme and not confine ourselves to the distribution of agriculture and agricultural equipment, because the benefits will not be to the level established in most countries of the world. The fact is that through simple operations and simple training we can indeed save 20 to 25 percent of the agricultural produce, if we bear in mind what we are really losing in the pre-harvest or post-harvest stages. This is why we support this project totally, and we hope that this be the recommendation of the Council and that we can have a draft resolution for adoption by the Conference towards the end of the year.

My third remark on the Programme of Work and Budget is that FAO is now actively implementing decentralization through the setting up of offices in developing countries and in concentrating on the use of national institutions for the survey and implementation of the various projects. In our view this action would indeed materialize the decentralization we have been claiming for over ten years and we are very keen to see that the Council will endorse this new trend. Yet, we should say that the selection of a sufficient number of staff to occupy the various posts in the different offices, as mentioned by the Netherlands, would be difficult. Still, we hope that the Director-General in cooperation with the countries concerned will be able to overcome this difficulty. I believe there are several qualified persons that could be mobilized by the Organization to staff these regional offices or centres.

With all these positive aspects of the Programme of Work and Budget there are nevertheless a few negative ones which we would rather have wished to see avoided in the Programme of Work and Budget, particularly "Agriculture - 2000". This project does indeed remind us of certain slogans adopted by the Organization in the studies which have become so obsolete that they are mere clichés that are barely used by anybody and therefore we find it strange that FAO should prepare a programme or another survey for this gigantic task. However, we find consolation in the fact that member countries have never called for such a service or study. Most probably this has been imposed on the Secretariat by the United Nations General Assembly. Here we should not forget that those who meet in New York are politicians who know very little about the facts of life as known by the societies in the developing countries. In certain developing countries it is not possible to set up a survey for three years, whereas we are envisaging developing programmes until the year 2000. This is impossible and there is no need for such studies.

We cannot say anything about the indicative world programme, and Mr. West himself remembers very well what was said. We hope we shall not come to a day where we shall have to change our minds about the proposed new survey.

The Programme of Work and Budget on the whole is sound and good, and we are waiting for the Secretariat to provide us with details of the programme so it can be submitted to the Council at its next session preceding the Conference.

In conclusion, I wish to apologize for not being able to attend this session since its beginnings, for special reasons, and I hope to be able to continue to be present here until the closing of the session so as to cooperate with my colleagues in evaluating and deciding on the role of FAO for the next biennium and its adoption of its Programme of Work and Budget.

EL PRESIDENTE: Vd. siempre es muy bienvenido al Consejo, Sr. Ministro Juma'a y nos complace el que esté con nosotros el resto del período de sesiones.

E. HRAOUI (Liban) (interprétation de l'arabe): Je serai très bref car le Ministre de l'agriculture de la Jordanie a épuisé le sujet, il me semble. En ce qui concerne la délégation du Liban, après avoir lu le rapport du Comité du Programme et du Comité financier et avoir écouté tout ce qu'ont dit les Présidents du Comité du Programme et du Budget, rapport qui était très complet, très clair, je prendrai maintenant l'occasion qui m'est donnée pour les en remercier.

Nous appuyons pleinement le Sommaire du Programme de travail et Budget qui nous est proposé pour 1978/1979 par le Directeur général. Nous tenons à remercier le Directeur général et le féliciter pour le style nouveau qu'il a adopté. Dans cette nouvelle préparation, on a mis l'accent sur les politiques prioritaires. Nous accueillons avec satisfaction le Programme de Coopération technique et le Fonds spécial. Le projet de Programme de travail et Budget nous paraît modeste à cette date et nous espérons que le Programme ultérieur fera preuve d'une nouvelle dimension et d'une nouvelle ambition. Nous espérons que la politique actuelle aboutira à des résultats positifs et favorisera le développement des pays en développement, pays qui ont besoin d'être aidés pour améliorer leur production et relever leur niveau de vie.

L. LAPEBY (Gabon): Le Sommaire du Programme de travail et Budget 1978/1979 qui nous a été proposé est, je crois, l'un de ces documents que nous souhaiterions que le Secrétariat continue de nous présenter, tout en y apportant éventuellement quelques perfectionnements.

Nous ne nous attendions pas à ce que: certains points de détail mineurs fussent évoqués, tant les documents nous paraissaient précis, concis, surtout après les remarques d'introduction des Présidents des Commissions et Comités du Programme et Comité financier qui nous ont, une fois de plus, démontré qu'ils avaient la maîtrise des problèmes de leurs Comités,

Nous voudrions tout d'abord exprimer au Directeur général et à ses collaborateurs nos félicitations pour l'esprit rationnel, la vision cohérente dont il a fait montre pour nous présenter un document aussi concis.

Nous appuyons sincèrement et énergiquement les efforts du Directeur général pour le Programme qu'il nous a présenté et le niveau du Budget. A ce stade de nos débats, si nous apprécions l'objectivité de certaines observations pertinentes que le Directeur général n'aura certainement pas manqué de noter tant il a à coeur de servir les Etats Membres, nous nous permettrons de relever quelques points.

Tout d'abord, nous nous permettons de manifester notre satisfaction pour l'attitude qu'ont manifestée les délégués vis-à-vis des documents qui nous ont été présentés, tant il est vrai qu'aucune délégation n'a émis de réserve formelle concernant l'augmentation du chapitre des "voyages". C'est la urte de mes premières observations. Je voudrais indiquer que ces membres ont proposé déjà au moins deux augmentations des tarifs aériens entre la fin de l'année 1976 et le milieu 1977. La dernière augmentation fixée en avril est entrée en vigueur le 1er juillet 1977 et se situe au minimum de l'Ordre de 20 dollars par passager suivant les parcours.

Il est évident que, si l'on compare le niveau proposé de ces chapitres à celui de 1975, l'augmentation peut paraître importante mais, quand on fait des comparaisons, il apparaît opportun d'essayer de comprendre et d'en rechercher éventuellement les causes; En ce qui concerne le PCT, 88 projets ont bénéficié de ce Programme pour un engagement d'environ 7 millions de dollars. C'est à notre avis une performance digne d'éloges et nous nous permettons ici de les adresser au Directeur général; mais malheureusement cette performance ne peut pas être appréciée de tous si ce n'est des pays bénéficiaires. Bien sur, je suis sûr que le Directeur général ne souhaite pas cela. Il serait plus aisé de faire apprécier le PCT à sa juste valeur sur la base de résultats concrets plutôt que sur des chiffres. Le Directeur général, disais-je, souhaiterait éventuellement montrer non point les chiffres qui n'ont pas une valeur dans le cadre de ce Programme, mais plutôt les réalisations qui, malheureusement, ne peuvent être appréciées à longue échéance. . Pour l'heure, vous me permettez de rappeler le caractère dynamique immédiatement disponible de ce Programme dont l'impact ne peut être le même dans tous les cas, et par rapport à la globalité dans chacun des projets, tant elle est liée à des caractéristiques spécifiques aux domaines qu'elle touche car la plupart des effets ne sont mesurables que plusieurs années après.

Il nous paraît honnêtement impossible de mieux juger la valeur du PCT en novembre que maintenant. En, d'autres termes, nous ne pourrions pas, même si nous avons les éléments d'information chiffrés, apprécier la valeur exacte de ces chiffres. En effet, ce Programme n'injecte pas des moyens considérables pour engendrer des effets spectaculaires. Il ne s'applique pas à des objectifs palpables ou à effet immédiat; dans la plupart des cas, si en juillet 1976 le PCT était jugé nécessaire par le Conseil, il l'est aujourd'hui et le sera davantage demain lorsque l'information des pays en développement, ment sera plus complète. Il est vrai que nous sommes persuadés qu'il faut être nécessairement confrontés aux problèmes les plus défavorisés des pays en voie de développement; ou éventuellement à un stade intermédiaire, aux mini-problèmes qui sont nombreux et divers à la fois. En ce qui concerne les conseillers principaux, nous voudrions rappeler que notre délégation, depuis toujours et à chaque fois que l'occasion lui aura été donnée, a critiqué cette formule. Il n'est pas possible pour l'heure de trouver dans les archives de la FAO quoi que ce soit entre le conseiller principal et notre pays. Nous avons eu personnellement l'occasion de le rencontrer de temps en temps et, parmi les ministres de l'agriculture que j'ai, eu l'honneur de connaître, je ne crois pas qu'il y en ait qui aient su un jour que nous disposions d'un Conseiller technique principal. Le Ministre des affaires étrangères n'en était pas plus informé. Si le représentant résident du PNUD connaissait son existence, toujours est-il qu'il n'a rien fait pour le faire connaître ni pour, éventuellement, le "secouer" pour employer un terme assez vulgaire.

J'en viens à l'augmentation du budget. Les Nations Unies ont une nécessité de coexistence qui ne peut survivre avec des diktats et des mises en garde bien enrobées pour être digestives. Les pays en développementregistrent une érosion constante des termes de l'échange de leurs produits agricoles. La seconde décennie du développement n'a pas atteint le taux projeté de croissance. Les conférences dans les pays développés et les pays en voie de développement se succèdent sans résultat et notre Organisation, battue en brèche, a survécu. Pour une fois, il est souhaitable que les membres du Conseil, unanimes à féliciter le Directeur général à des titres divers dans leurs exposés, n'essaient pas en même temps de jouer à cache-cache avec le niveau du budget et de freiner les efforts qu'ils appuient d'autre part. On ne peut pas d'un côté mettre la main sur un des plateaux de la balance et laisser l'autre plateau fixe pour obtenir un équilibre.

Certains font état de taux et souhaitent que la FAO essaie de tenir compte de ce taux de croissance pour son budget. D'autres, sous des prétextes divers, renvoient la question à une date ultérieure. D'autres enfin voudraient d'abord connaître le détail du programme avant de discuter du niveau du budget. Tout cela est beau, mais comme je serais heureux de voir le plus éminent des techniciens d'un pays développé dans le fauteuil du Directeur général se montrer aussi dynamique, enthousiaste, cohérent et rationnel!

Les richesses agricoles, forestières, minières, sans oublier l'exploitation humaine, des pays en voie de développement, ont toujours été frustrées de l'accès à l'épanouissement par des procédés dilatoires. Nous voudrions que cela cesse et que notre Organisation, qui est l'Organisation de la vie, si l'on peut dire, puisse non seulement recueillir les félicitations quant aux efforts qui sont faits pour de meilleurs résultats, mais aussi bénéficier des moyens nécessaires pour atteindre ces résultats.

Le Dr. Phillips, dans sa présentation, a souligné fort justement que le niveau du budget proposé ne comprenait pas de marge de sécurité, que toute réduction risquerait d'avoir des conséquences.

Personnellement, nous souhaiterions que cette déclaration ne fut pas perdue de vue et, comme l'a suggéré le Comité financier et le Comité des programmes, nous recommandons que le Conseil essaie de faire les efforts nécessaires non seulement pour appuyer le programme, reconnaître son objectivité et son orientation vers l'action, mais aussi pour fournir au Directeur général les moyens, nécessaires pour que ce programme puisse se concrétiser.

A, GRAY (Trinidad and Tobago): On this occasion we can be very brief indeed. Since we have heard today over 20 speakers we can dispense with our rather long, prepared statement on this item, especially as general support seems to be forthcoming for the Director-General's proposals in the area of the Programme and Budget. The fact that we do have a prepared statement on this matter is because the documents arrived in good time and were clearly set out and concise. We find this commendable.

My delegation would also like to address special thanks to certain departments in the Secretariat which cooperated with our delegation by providing additional data, background information, and so on. This was very helpful in answering many of the questions we had while preparing for this item. We also wish to thank the Programme and Finance Committees for their splendid efforts in connexion with this item.

As to the substance of the item on the Programme of Work and Budget, we shall confine ourselves to a single remark to the effect that the main thrust of the proposed Programme of Work and Budget and the consequent proposals relating to the Budget are fully acceptable to our delegation. We refer particularly to chapters VI and VII of the document. We also wish to endorse initiatives being taken in the field of post-harvest losses.

S. A. H. AL SHAKIR (Observer for Iraq) (Interpretation from Arabic): I shall be very brief in view of the shortage of time and considering that the subject has been exhaustively discussed. However, I find myself compelled to express the views of my country in supporting the Director-General and the Programme of Work and Budget, particularly in speaking of the very comprehensive report on the subject. We all wish to support the statement of the Group of 77 very warmly, particularly as we participated in the drafting of the general outlines of that statement. We also approve the complementary statements made by the delegates of Egypt, the developing countries and other countries. This is in line with the strategy adopted by the technical committees and constitutes support for the continuity of the principles

adopted by this Council at its 69th Session, to control bureaucracy, reduce the theoretical services and studies and implement the decentralization and autonomy of the organization, particularly within the framework of TCP.

This is a sound programme indeed. It is in line with the new international economic order. My country, because of its faith and belief in the principle of decentralization has supported the appointment of a national representative in every country and has supported the contribution to the national offices. Here we would like to comment on what has been said by the delegate of Germany to the effect that national representatives constitute a new bureaucracy at lower levels. I wish to assert here that we are not in favour of, rather we are totally antagonistic to, bureaucracy, but we have a belief and conviction that the presence of a national representative with all the duties, functions, authority and support of headquarters, and with an understanding of the problems of the country, will certainly work for agricultural development in the countries where he represents FAO.

We also support the implementation of decentralization by giving wider authority to the regional office of the Near East, particularly in the three sectors of animal health, soil, and palm and beets. I hope that the FAO will continue this trend with respect to other activities.

As for TCP, we supported this principle last year and my delegation cannot this year abandon that support. We have to continue our support for this operation and not prevent the organization from carrying out its specialized programmes of technical cooperation in line with most other organizations in the world. My country is about to benefit from this programme through the implementation of our fish resources and I am very happy to say that assistance from a multilateral source is the first we have received.

The details of the Programme of Work and Budget do reflect the activities at headquarters and at regional and at national levels and in the Near East Region where we rely on dry farming we have indeed benefited from this and can give our wholehearted support to activities in the sectors of soil, fisheries and irrigation.

A. TEJAN WADDA (Gambia): Like the previous speaker, I shall try to be very brief. My delegation would like to thank the Programme and Finance Committees for the very clear and concise review presented on the Director-General's Programme of Work and Budget. My delegation supports most of the Committee's conclusions and endorses the Director-General's Programme of Work and Budget which is close to the organizational policies and priorities outlined at the last FAO Conference and recently by the 69th Session of the Council.

Having said that, my delegation will refrain from commenting substantively on the main body of the paper except on two points. I share the Programme Committee's concern over the limited progress being made in the mobilization of extrabudgetary funds for the programme for the control of trypanosomiasis. This disease is a problem that affects both cattle and human beings in our continent and is of great health and economic importance. My country, and other countries in the region are doing a lot of work on this subject within the limits of their resources and any help given on this matter will be appreciated. A British research institution in my country, the Medical Research Council, is cooperating closely with our Veterinary Department and is conducting research on trypanosomiasis.

Secondly, my delegation also welcomes the strengthening and restructuring of the Investment Centre. We hope that this Centre will be doing a lot more work in Africa considering that 18 of the 26 least-developed countries are in our region and that the African Development Bank, the World Bank and Arab funds are increasingly ready to increase their allocation to the agricultural sector. In fact, the African Development Bank alone will be devoting 33.5 percent of its commitments to the agricultural sector during the next 5 years and will be cooperating closely with the FAO in the designing and general study of projects. Added to this, will be the numerous programmes that will be emerging from the CILIS conference as a result of a series of CILIS technical meetings which culminated at the Club des Amis Conference recently held in Ottawa, Canada.

Having said that, I will just repeat that my delegation supports in general the Programme as presented by the Programme and Finance Committees,

C. M. FOFANA (Observateur pour la Guinée): Ma délégation voudrait exprimer son soutien ferme aux propositions faites par le Directeur général quant au programme de travail et de budget.

Si je n'avais pas été observateur, j'aurais fait certainement des commentaires beaucoup plus longs pour chacun des chapitres, mais je tiens à souligner que nous souscrivons particulièrement aux priorités des pays au paragraphe 6. Dans ce paragraphe, il est dit que la FAO mettra l'accent sur les activités hors Siège, notamment au niveau des sous-traitants. Nous souhaiterions que la FAO consolide ce rapport avec la Banque de développement africain.

Nous avons attentivement écouté certaines craintes exprimées par exemple vis-à-vis du programme de coopération technique, et nous nous associons aux délégations qui se sont déjà exprimées sur l'essence de ce programme et surtout la justesse de ce que les pays en développement attendent de ce programme, tout en restant confiant que le secrétariat de la FAO sache utiliser ce programme afin de combler les difficultés que nous pourrions rencontrer au niveau des programmes de développement des pays de notre région, sans que cela ne suscite de double emploi avec d'autres Organisations.

Nous voulons cependant affirmer avec force que les pays en développement tiennent à ce programme et lorsque nous avons discuté hier des rapports entre la FAO et le PNUD, nous avons souligné combien ce programme est important pour les pays donateurs et les pays bénéficiaires, et combien ce programme devrait être soutenu et même élargi au cours des exercices futurs.

Nous nous félicitons en particulier du programme d'investissements souligné par le Directeur général. Nous y souscrivons entièrement, et nous espérons que ce programme d'investissements ne pourra que consolider la coopération entre les Organisations de financement internationales d'une part et les Organisations sous-régionales et régionales d'autre part.

En ce qui concerne la lutte contre certaines maladies et certains fléaux, nous ne pouvons qu'appuyer le programme proposé par la FAO, tout en lançant un appel aux autres Organisations internationales, notamment l'OMS, pour assister de façon concrète à la réalisation des programmes qui nous sont proposés par la FAO.

Il serait vraiment souhaitable que certains pays développés, au niveau bilatéral, contribuent à assister les programmes de la FAO sur le terrain. En ce qui concerne la lutte contre l'onchocercose, nous voudrions souligner une expérience que nous avons vécue dans notre pays; la République fédérale d'Allemagne nous a aidés à faire des études sur cette maladie et d'autres encore. Nous serions donc très reconnaissants si les pays donateurs assistaient la FAO au niveau de ce programme contre la trypanoso-miase qui est une maladie qui affecte non seulement les animaux mais aussi les populations.

Nous souscrivons également à la partie du paragraphe 6 qui concerne les semences et les engrais, et nous sommes certains que la FAO sera en mesure d'aider les programmes de recherche nationaux, notamment en ce qui concerne les semences à grand rendement.

A travers ces programmes, on aurait souhaité que la FAO, dans ses activités, consolide ses rapports de coopération entre les pays en développement au niveau régional, sous-régional et même national.

Il serait utile également que la coopération entre la FAO et les diverses unités soit renforcée dans le domaine des engrais qui est un facteur très important du programme de développement de nos pays. Pour les pêcheries, nous souscrivons entièrement aux propositions faites par la FAO.

En terminant mon exposé, j'aimerais que le Conseil réfléchisse beaucoup à la participation des observateurs. Nous aurons à parler de cette question lorsque nous discuterons du rapport soumis par le groupe de travail du Conseil.

G. HIDVEGI (Observer for Hungary): The document before us, CL 71/3, is a very concise one which clearly outlines the Director-General's ideas and proposals aiming at redimensioning FAO. My Government agrees with the Programme of Work and Budget included in this document. In particular we are in full agreement with the fundamental ideas outlined in paragraph 2.11 of the document that closer and more fruitful contacts should be developed between Member Nations and FAO and, furthermore, that efforts should be made for elaboration and implementation of more practical programmes which more closely affect the population of rural areas and which include more training at the level of the masses living in these areas.

We attach especially great importance to the training of the agrarian people in the developing countries. We support the ideas outlined in paragraphs 4.6 and 4.7 saying that among the current and future activities we have to concentrate on those which are the most effective, and that much greater use should be made of national institutions.

As to the priorities outlined in Chapter VI, we agree with the proposals included in paragraph 6.1 saying that especially those technical activities should be strengthened which provide effective results for the small farmers. Furthermore, we fully agree with the proposals in paragraph 6.2, concerning the attack on post-harvest losses and with those concerning rural development including agrarian reform, small farmers, credit, women in development, and training.

In connexion with the new strategy of the Director-General, I would like to state that Hungary wishes to take an active part in the new programmes initiated by the Director-General and outlined in the document before us. My Government agrees with the concept of the Director-General that the assistance provided for developing countries should be organized and implemented in a quicker and more effective manner than so far.

The Hungarian National Committee at its last session dealt in detail with the Director-General's new proposals and, on the basis of these, with the possibilities for increasing cooperation between Hungary and FAO, especially in those activities which provide benefits to the developing countries. The Hungarian proposals connected with this have been forwarded in writing to the Director-General.

O.L. ECHEVERRIA (Observador de Chile): Mi delegación ha pedido la palabra con objeto de formular algunos comentarios con la mayor brevedad sobre determinados aspectos del Programa de Labores y Presupuesto que considera de importancia.

La delegación del Gobierno de Chile apoya plenamente el programa sometido a la consideración del Consejo, en particular las prioridades del señor Director General asignadas a ciertas actividades de la Organización y que se consignan en el resumen del Programa de Labores y Presupuesto para 1978/79. Nos parece que todas estas actividades merecen una atención preferente y el hecho de reconocer su importancia orientará la acción de la FAO hacia aquellos campos que son del más alto interés para todos los estados miembros.

A mi delegación le complace mucho la circunstancia de que entre las actividades prioritarias se encuentren incluidos programas de tanta relevancia como el destinado a reducir las pérdidas de las cosechas y el programa de Cooperación Técnica. El Programa de Cooperación Técnica presenta, indudablemente, numerosas virtudes ya que su finalidad es proporcionar asistencia a los países para ayudarles a solucionar problemas urgentes y de emergencia con efectos positivos y rápidos en el sector agrario.

Los procedimientos para la obtención de esta asistencia son suficientemente expeditos como para asegurar que la ayuda solicitada sea recibida con la oportunidad deseable. La asignación de recursos financieros es moderada y el Programa utiliza en gran medida los recursos humanos y las dependencias de la FAO incurriendo en gastos administrativos de muy escasa cuantía.

En el curso de los debates se han expresado ciertas reservas sobre el Programa principalmente porque no se cuenta con informaciones detalladas sobre la marcha del mismo, y se ha solicitado por lo tanto que se lleve a efecto evaluaciones sobre los resultados. Y ello se explica, ya que el Programa sólo se inició oficialmente en noviembre de 1976 y por lo tanto es difícil que tales informaciones se encuentren disponibles en estos momentos en forma muy detallada.

Precisamente porque se han planteado estas reservas, mi delegación ha querido hacer uso de la palabra, puesto que mi país tiene ya experiencia en cuanto a la marcha del Programa de Cooperación Técnica por ser beneficiario del mismo y no nos cabe duda sobre el gran valor que tiene la asistencia que estamos recibiendo y aprovechamos la oportunidad para agradecer al Director General la favorable acogida que dio a nuestra solicitud.

Efectivamente en la temporada 1976 la producción de trigo en Chile se vio seriamente afectada por una plaga y el Programa de Cooperación Técnica en estrecha colaboración con nuestras organizaciones nacionales, ayudó a formular y ejecutar un proyecto integrado para su combate; ello permitirá restablecer los niveles normales de la producción de trigo a corto plazo.

Nuestra experiencia nos induce a instar al Consejo a que se acepte la proposición del Director General en orden a consolidar el Programa de Cooperación Técnica y además abrigamos la esperanza de que se acojan todas sus propuestas financieras.

J.O. ALABI (Observer for Nigeria): So much has been said in support of the Programme of Work and Budget for 1978-79 that I do not wish to waste the time of the Council by repeating what has been said eloquently by many members of the Council. We support the priorities set out in the Programme and we congratulate the Programme and Finance Committees and the Director-General of EAO for the well

laid out Programme. We consider the level of the budget set at \$206.8 million as very reasonable. With an expanding Organization such as FAO and with the expansion of different programmes being carried out, the 5 percent increase in expenditure is really commendable.

We are happy to note that the FAO Representatives will continue to participate in the planning and operation of FAO UNDP field programmes. We will appreciate if action will be taken so that an FAO Representative may be hosted to my country soonest because there is at present no senior agricultural Adviser to coordinate FAO activities in the country, and these are very many.

DIRECTOR-GENERAL: You will not be surprised to hear me say that I am very happy with this debate.

But I am happy, not only because of the very constructive and useful views, comments and suggestions which have been made - and to which I listened with great attention and interest - but also because of the harmony, the near consensus which has been expressed. In fact, I do not recall such a degree of harmony about the general policies and Programme of Work and Budget existing in the past. I think that the delegate of the Netherlands has very well illustrated the difficulties I had to face in this regard when I could not accept all the suggestions and requests which were made to me many times, not only by my friends and colleagues, but also by several FAO bodies.

I was conscious of the need to make the Programme of Work and Budget a true reflection of the new policies you approved last July and of the needs of our time. You have recognized, and confirmed this faithful approach.

I was careful to observe the financial framework which I proposed in November last, in recognition of the difficult financial situations in which many countries, including developing countries, find themselves. You have nearly all accepted that and I intend to adhere to it.

I tried to pay full attention to the programmes and priorities actually desired by Member Governments as expressed in the many recommendations of the main Council Committees and Regional Conferences, while presenting a balanced and reasonable package. You agree that I have done this. At the same time, you have given me the benefit of your experience and your appreciation of national and regional situations in suggesting various emphases which could be applied in the processes of final formulation and implementation.

There were only a few points which might cause some difficulty. For example, there were the suggestions by the French delegation for cutting certain programmes, for which I am duly grateful. To him and others, I would point out that, on FAO Representatives, the implementation of an establishment of 47 is already graduated during 1978-79. It will only be in 1980-81 that the full effects will be felt.

As I have mentioned in my opening statement I have already received requests from almost 50 countries for the establishment of FAO Country Representative offices.

On investment in IFAD, I cannot at this stage prejudice the outcome of negotiations with Ambassador El Sudeary, but I can say that I consider this to be essential for the Regular Programme to be able to provide support to IFAD, just as FAO has already supported activities in association with the World Bank and the Regional Development Banks. I am sure that the great majority of the Council agree with this, as indeed with the general conception that IFAD should use FAO's competence and facility to the greatest possible extent.

As regards "Agriculture-Towards 2000", there was some feeling in the Programme Committee that not enough resources were being provided, but I have also listened with great care to the remarks made on the subject by His Excellency, the Minister of Agriculture of Jordan. As you know, FAO has to participate in the formulation of the United Nations Third Development Decade and it has been agreed that "Agriculture Towards 2000" would be our contribution to that preparatory work. However, and although its title is, indeed, "Towards 2000", this study will, in fact, concentrate mostly on the next ten years, let us say from 1980 to 1990, while still keeping in mind the perspective of the year 2000. I have already proposed, last July, considerable cuts in the budget of this project, which had been approved by the previous Conference, and I do think, therefore, that the appropriations are now reasonable and that this study, far from being a mere theoretical exercise, will actually be geared towards development.

I might also say, for H.E. the Minister of Jordan, that a new inter-agency task force is now at work endeavouring to prepare The Third International Development Decade, with a view to reconciling all the various development targets proposed. There is, for instance, the United Nations' study known as the "Leontieff report" which puts forward certain targets, there will be the FAO paper on "Agriculture Towards 2000", which will propose other targets, and there are still many other targets which have been approved in various fora, such as the United Nations General Assembly and other world meetings.

The delegation of China - whose wise intervention was most interesting and instructive - can be sure that I will do my best to control theoretical studies and documentation. As a matter of fact, the need not to carry such cuts too far was mentioned in the Programme Committee and has been repeated by some delegates here, who have warned us that, otherwise, we would be left without publications at all. However, I assure you that I will continue to keep an eye on this problem and see that all the documentation we produce is really useful.

Before saying something about FAO Representatives and the TCP, I should like to refer to another interesting programme point raised by the USA. This was about agro-forestry and agri-silviculture. It is indeed an important subject. Some 30 percent of the world's exploitable soils are used for shifting cultivation, providing food for some 250 million people in developing countries. Shifting cultivation implies the cutting/burning of vegetation and the cultivation of food crops for 2-3 years, until the soil fertility is exhausted, and the site is abandoned.

Fortunately, over the years, techniques have been evolved that permit the production of food at the same time and on the same areas as permanent forest crops, through systems which have come to be known as "agri-silviculture". These systems, however, need to be improved and better adapted to the specific needs of countries and sub-regions.

The activities programmed in this area come under the overall programme of forestry's contribution to rural development and will be implemented through and in close cooperation with national institutions.

I have noted what has been said about Nutrition and Codex and I am glad to see that honourable delegates think we are now finally on the right path.

As regards the FAO Representatives and the TCP, I have been impressed by the most constructive and reasonable approach on all sides - from those who had some reservations and, at the other extreme, from those who think my proposals are too modest.

It was gratifying that what was said in my opening statement was carefully noted and approved. I mean what I said and I hope to receive an appropriate response from New York as well as on the ground. Moreover, delegates on all sides had further wise things to say yesterday about relationships with UNDP, which I think have impressed delegations as well as myself.

On the question of the TCP, a sort of skeleton report has already been issued - INF/7. I shall be happy to up-date this for November.

As for an evaluation, I have noted carefully what has been said. I still adhere to the view - which applies also to UNDP projects - that ultimately the only form of evaluation which will be acceptable, is one which respects the responsibilities of the Member Nations directly involved in selecting and implementing projects. I also feel that we cannot embark on an evaluation with a selective and theoretically subjective approach, such as whether or not the same results might have been achieved by using some other hypothetically available source of funds. In any case, I think it would also be very difficult to find genuinely "independent" evaluators or really expert "experts" who could satisfy all the members of the Council and Conference of their understanding of agricultural operations and local situations in countries, as well as their real objectivity on the justification for the TCP.

For me, the question is not to make an evaluation in order to see whether what the TCP is doing could also be achieved by UNDP. The TCP is different from UNDP and its objectives are to stimulate, to be an incentive, to act as a catalyst.

On the other hand, I do recognize the need to justify the expenditures on the TCP in terms of adherence to approved criteria and procedures and effectiveness. I will, therefore, now consider what would be the best way to set up a satisfactory evaluation process which could provide a suitable report to the Council in 1978.

Let me say again, Mr. Chairman, how pleased and grateful I am for the generously constructive response on all sides to my proposals and for the very useful comments and advice, which I will take into account and which enable me successfully to complete the full Programme of Work and Budget in the next few weeks.

Finally, there is the famous question of the budget level. The great majority of you accepted it as necessary and reasonable. In this connection, I do not want to hide the fact that I am very grateful to those countries which, although providing a large contribution to our budget, are not seeking to receive any assistance from us, are not yet even represented on FAO's staff, and who, nevertheless, have supported the budget level I proposed. I need not mention those countries; they are well known. I am very grateful to them for their support at this stage and I am sure that others will show the same understanding in November, when the full Programme of Work and Budget will be presented.

I hope, and in fact I think that the latter delegations will be able, in the light of this debate and of the further information they will obtain from the full Programme of Work and Budget, to resolve any doubts or hesitations they may now have about the budget level; and that accordingly, in the 72nd Session of the Council and in the Conference itself, we will reach the consensus which I and, in fact, all of you prefer. Indeed, since there was unanimity, however unenthusiastic, on the budget level at the last Conference, I dare to hope that there will be a genuine and warm unanimity at the forthcoming Conference.

EL PRESIDENTE: Gracias, Sr. Director General. Después de casi tres sesiones completas, en las cuales han intervenido 40 oradores en total, creo que yo debo limitar mi intención de resumen a aquellos aspectos de orden general que fueron destacados durante las discusiones sobre este tema.

Creo que el Consejo estuvo de acuerdo en que para la discusión de este tema se le presentó un documento excelente, breve y concreto, que facilitó la discusión.

El Consejo reconoció y apoyó los esfuerzos del Director General por presentar un programa realista, sólido, bien concebido, con prioridades definidas basadas en las orientaciones que habían sido aprobadas por este Consejo en sus dos sesiones del año pasado.

El Consejo destacó igualmente el hecho de que la forma como se presentó el resumen del Programa de Labores y Presupuesto representa un nuevo enfoque acertado dirigido a la acción pragmática y positiva, particularmente en favor de los países en desarrollo.

El Consejo estuvo de acuerdo en que se proponía un nivel razonable del presupuesto que fue aprobado por la gran mayoría; unas pocas delegaciones dijeron que más adelante adoptarán su posición definitiva sobre ese nivel, posiblemente en el Consejo de noviembre antes de la Conferencia o durante la Conferencia que deberá aprobar definitivamente ese nivel.

Yo creo que puedo interpretar el sentimiento de todos los miembros del Consejo al compartir con el Director General su esperanza de que se pueda lograr una unanimidad a ese respecto.

La gran mayoría de los oradores que intervinieron en el debate apoyaron plenamente el Programa de Cooperación Técnica y sobre la evaluación que fue planteada por algunas Delegaciones, en uno u otro sentido, tengo la impresión de que el Consejo podría estar satisfecho con la respuesta que el Director General acaba de dar a esas propuestas.

Naturalmente, aparte de estos aspectos fundamentales se hicieron muchos comentarios y observaciones y me haría interminable si quisiera referirme a ellas. Creo que lo más conveniente es que las Actas pasen al Comité de Redacción para que, en la medida de lo posible y hasta donde sea adecuado, se reflejen esos comentarios y esas observaciones en el Proyecto de informe.

Si no hay ningún otro comentario creo que ahora podríamos concluir este tema y les ruego que organicen sus documentos para que pasemos al tema siguiente.

18. Other Programme, Budgetary, Financial and Administrative Matters - Work of the Thirty-Second Session of the Programme Committee, and the Thirty-Ninth Session of the Finance Committee, including in particular:

18. Autres questions concernant le Programme, le budget, les finances et l'administration - activités de la trente-deuxième session du Comité du programme et de la trente-neuvième session du Comité financier, notamment:

18. Otros asuntos del Programa y asuntos presupuestarios, financieros y administrativos: Labor del 32° periodo de sesiones del Comité del Programa y del 39° período de sesiones del Comité de Finanzas, en particular:

- Programme and Budgetary Adjustments

- Ajustements au programme et au budget

- Ajustes del Programa y del Presupuesto

M. BEL HADJ AMOR (Président par intérim, Comité financier): Tout d'abord, étant donné que j'ai l'occasion de prendre la parole juste après la fin des débats concernant le point 16, je voudrais très sincèrement remercier le Conseil d'avoir exprimé son appréciation pour les résultats des travaux de nos deux Comités.

Ceci dit, je voudrais inviter le Conseil à se pencher sur la rubrique concernant les ajustements et les virements budgétaires. C'est le premier sous-paragraphe inscrit dans le point 18. Le Conseil trouvera les observations du Comité financier dans les paragraphes 3.29 et 3.30. On relève qu'un virement à l'intérieur d'un chapitre a été effectué du bureau du Sous-Directeur général chargé du Département de l'agriculture, à la Division de la mise en valeur des terres et des eaux. Ce virement a été effectué dans le souci de rationaliser et centraliser les activités concernant les engrais.

Au paragraphe 3.30, le Comité note qu'il y a eu également deux virements effectués à partir du chapitre des Imprévus. On trouvera les détails concernant ces deux virements au chapitre B de l'annexe B au paragraphe 15. Je dois préciser qu'une partie des crédits qui ont été virés du chapitre "Imprévus" a servi à alimenter l'assistance fournie en 1976 à la Commission préparatoire de l'IFAD.

EL PRESIDENTE: Acaban Vds. de escuchar la declaración del Presidente en Ejercicio del Comité de Finanzas sobre este primer subpunto del tema 18, Ajustes del Programa y del Presupuesto. Las preferencias están en los párrafos 3.29 y 3.30 del Informe del Comité de Finanzas.

Si no hay ningún comentario, entiendo que el Consejo está de acuerdo con la posición adoptada por el Comité de Finanzas y pasamos al subpunto siguiente.

- Annual Report of Budgetary Performance, 1976

- Rapport annuel sur l'exécution du budget, 1976

- Informe anual sobre ejecución del presupuesto en 1976

M. BEL HADJ AMOR (Président par intérim, Comité financier): Juste avant d'aborder le rapport annuel aux Etats Membres sur l'exécution du budget, je voudrais donner un complément d'information concernant le point précédent: à savoir que le Comité du Programme a également examiné ce point et que ses observations se trouvent au paragraphe 2.5.

J'invite à présent le Conseil à considérer le Rapport annuel aux Etats Membres sur l'exécution du budget, rapport dont les détails sont mentionnés à l'annexe B. Au sujet de ce rapport, le Comité note que les dépenses et engagements de 1976 n'ont représenté qu'environ 40 pour cent du budget biennal.

Cela est dû au fait que certains programmes n'ont commencé qu'assez tard, à la fin de l'année 1976, après l'approbation par le Conseil à sa soixante-neuvième session. On constate que, d'après les débats que nous avons eus, hier et aujourd'hui, les chiffres qui sont indiqués dans le paragraphe 3.32 concernant le Programme de coopération technique sont largement dépassés. Il faudrait se référer au document CL 71/INF/7 pour avoir la situation exacte concernant les dépenses et le reliquat sur les crédits du Programme de coopération technique.

A propos du paragraphe 3.33, le Comité relève que l'évolution des changes a été constamment favorable et qu'en 1976, un gain de changes de 5,9 millions de dollars a été réalisé. Si cette tendance continue, le Comité a été informé que ces gains de changes pourraient atteindre à la fin du biennium le montant de 15 millions de dollars. A ce propos, je voudrais ouvrir une parenthèse pour attirer l'attention du Conseil sur une proposition qui concerne l'utilisation de ces 15 millions.

Vous nous rappelez que nous avons déjà discuté de l'utilisation d'une partie de ce reliquat de 15 millions de dollars et là, je mentionne le Fonds spécial pour les réductions des pertes après récoltes. Normalement, il nous restera sur ce compte d'attente qui devrait être clos à la fin du biennium, la somme de 5 millions de dollars. A cet égard, le Comité a été saisi d'une proposition concernant l'ouverture d'un nouveau compte d'attente. Je précise que le Comité a jugé que le terme de compte d'attente utilisé jusqu'à présent ne correspond pas réellement à l'usage que l'on fait de ce compte, et il a estimé qu'il vaudrait mieux parler d'un compte de réserve spéciale.

Je dois préciser également que le Comité a relevé deux aspects dans le nouveau compte de réserve spéciale dont la création est proposée pour le prochain biennium. Vous trouverez ces deux points au paragraphe 3.127.

Au paragraphe 3.128, vous trouverez les observations du Comité à ce propos: " le Comité

reconnaît que le nouveau compte devrait servir également à financer les dépenses non inscrites au budget qui résultent de l'inflation et toute autre dépense imprévue, sous réserve d'un examen préalable par le Comité financier et de l'approbation du Conseil."

G. WEILL (France): Monsieur le Président, en suivant l'ordre du jour de notre séance, je crois comprendre qu'après nous avoir présenté le premier sous-point, nous abordons le rapport annuel sur l'exécution du budget, et le document qui nous a été distribué ce matin indique les paragraphes que nous avons à considérer, c'est-à-dire 3.31 et 3.33.

Or, je crois que le Président du Comité financier est en train de traiter un autre problème. Je voudrais bien que nous soyons exactement au clair et que l'on nous dise quelles sont les questions que nous discutons.

M. BEL HADJ AMOR (Président par intérim, Comité financier): En présentant ce point, quand je suis arrivé au compte d'attente qui devait être clos, j'ai bien précisé que j'ouvrais une parenthèse pour mentionner la proposition qui a été faite pour l'utilisation des 15 millions de dollars que l'on prévoit comme économie à la fin du biennium. J'avais bien précisé que j'ouvrais une parenthèse et j'étais en train de donner des détails concernant cette parenthèse, car j'estime que le point que j'ai expliqué maintenant peut bien cadrer avec le paragraphe qui concerne le compte d'attente, puisqu'on parle d'un compte d'attente que l'on va clore, et j'ai parlé aussi de la proposition concernant l'institution d'un nouveau compte d'attente.

Si le délégué de la France préfère que l'on parle de ce sujet dans un point à part, je suis d'accord sur cette procédure. Cela ne me gêne pas du tout.

EL PRESIDENTE: Yo creo que el siguiente subpunto del tema 18, Informe Anual sobre Ejecución del Presupuesto, está contestado como se indica en el orden del día en los párrafos 3.31 y 3.33.

Entiendo que el Presidente en ejercicio del Comité de Finanzas hizo el paréntesis a lo que se refiere porque ciertamente al final del párrafo 3.33 se cita la referencia a otros párrafos del Comité de Finanzas, 3.126 - 3.135. ¿Satisfecho el delegado de Francia?

Está abierta la discusión. ¿Quién desea intervenir? ¿Nadie? El Consejo entonces está de acuerdo con el informe del Comité de Finanzas y pasamos al tercer subpunto.

Financial Position of the Organization

Situation financière de l'Organisation

Situación financiera de la Organización

EL PRESIDENTE: Creo que lo mejor para mantener un poco de orden en las discusiones es que nos atengamos al orden del día de hoy y luego, como en el pasado, se discuta lo que quede pendiente del Informe del Comité del Programa y de Finanzas.

M. BEL HADJ AMOR (Président par intérim, Comité financier): J'aborde à présent la situation financière de l'Organisation.

Je dois dire que le Comité a été agréablement, surpris de constater que la situation peut être considérée satisfaisante.

A propos de cette situation, je dois préciser que les chiffres qui sont présentés dans le rapport CL 71/4 sont dépassés, étant donné qu'ils se réfèrent à la date du 3 mai 1977. Or, vous avez un complément d'information dans le document CL 71/LIM/1 et vous avez à la page 2 de ce document la situation arrêtée à la date du 31 mai 1977. Il faudrait ajouter à la liste des pays qui figurent à la page de ce document: Cuba, Guinée Bissau et Luxembourg qui viennent d'effectuer le versement de leurs contributions.

Le Comité, tout en exprimant sa satisfaction de constater que le taux de recouvrement de contribution a été beaucoup plus élevé que dans les années précédentes, a tenu également à exprimer sa satisfaction de constater que certain pays, parmi les plus grands, et surtout le principal bailleur de fonds, ont également hâté le versement de leurs contributions.

Malheureusement, cette satisfaction ne peut pas être étendue aux pays dont les arriérés de contribution sont manifestes. A cet égard, le Comité a exprimé sa profonde préoccupation, et il recommande au Conseil d'exhorter lesdits Etats à régulariser leur situation le plus tôt possible, et surtout avant la 19ème session de la Conférence qui se tiendra en novembre prochain, sinon il y a toujours le risque pour ces pays de perdre leur droit de vote. Aussi, le Conseil voudra-t-il attirer l'attention de ces pays afin qu'ils règlent les arriérés de leur contribution.

Concernant la situation du budget et des dépenses de 1976-77, vous constatez au paragraphe 3.59 que sur un budget de 167 millions de dollars, les dépenses et les engagements ont atteint 124,2 millions de dollars au 31 mars 1977. Il est certain qu'à la date d'aujourd'hui, ce chiffre est certainement changé,

Les mouvements de trésorerie ont eu également droit à la satisfaction du Comité étant donné que le taux de recouvrement des contributions qui n'a pas cessé de s'améliorer a permis aux recettes cumulatives de dépasser les dépenses.

Concernant la situation du fonds de roulement, on relève, au 31 mars 1977, le montant de 6 384 146 dollars. Dans ce paragraphe, le Comité rappelle une question qui a déjà été évoquée dans le document CL 69/4 et qui concerne le paiement à partir de l'excédent en espèces de 1974-75 du montant de 112 854 dollars qui a été tiré du fonds de roulement pour fournir une aide d'urgence à l'occasion d'une attaque de fièvre aphteuse en Turquie.

Pour les recettes accessoires, il y a un mouvement optimiste, à savoir que le Comité note que les montants recouverts dûs ou échus au titre des recettes accessoires ont dépassé le montant inscrit au budget pour l'exercice 1976-1977.

Concernant le compte Frais des agents d'exécution du PNUD, le Comité a constaté que les remboursements au titre des frais généraux durant la période de janvier à fin mars 1977 sont inférieurs aux dépenses. Cependant, d'après les prévisions, on compte que la cadence des remboursements au titre des frais généraux sera plus élevée sur l'année toute entière que durant le premier trimestre.

H. ABDALLAH (Egypt) (Interpretation from Arabie): The situation is far from clear as regards the procedure we are to follow in examining the report of the Finance Committee following the introduction by the Chairman. What procedure will we follow, then, and how will we proceed with our debate?

EL PRESIDENTE: Quisiera aclarar al distinguido colega de Egipto que yo entiendo que la discusión del informe del Comité de Finanzas en esta ocasión se hará como en ocasiones anteriores. Si usted nota, en el orden del día de hoy, al final del encabezamiento del tema 18 dice: "en particular", o sea que hoy, en este momento, vamos a discutir los párrafos citados en este orden del día. Más adelante se discutirán aquellos otros asuntos que aún queden pendientes no solo del Comité del Programa, sino del Comité de Finanzas. ¿Esto es satisfactorio para usted?

H. ABDALLAH (Egypt) (Interpretation from Arabic): Thank you. Does that mean that we are going to examine the paragraphs on the Order of the Day beginning with the Programme and Budgetary Adjustments, then the Annual Report, etc., in that order until we come to the Appointment of External Auditor? Are we going to follow in that order?

P.J. BYRNES (United States of America) : I just wanted to comment in relation to paragraph 3.62 in the remarks of the Acting Chairman of the Finance Committee.

Miscellaneous Income in this year has been accruing far in excess of the rate that was anticipated. The figures are given as at 31st of March and I would like to see these figures updated as at June of this year. What has accrued? Could we obtain some idea of what has been projected throughout the remainder of the year?

M. BEL HADJ AMOR (Président par intérim, Comité financier) : Je pourrai m'informer et fournir le chiffre à M. le délégué des Etats-Unis.

EL PRESIDENTE : Entiendo que el colega de Estados Unidos acepta esa explicación y si no hay ningún comentario sobre el subpunto referente a la situación financiera de la Organización, entiendo que el Consejo toma nota de esa situación y tal vez quiera, como en el pasado, acoger la recomendación del Comité de Finanzas al incluir en nuestro informe un llamado a aquellos países que están en atraso con sus cuotas, a fin de ver si es posible que regularicen sus posiciones antes de la próxima Conferencia. Entiendo que así se decida.

- Scale of Contributions 1978-79

- Barème des contributions de 1978-79

- Escala de cuotas para 1978-79

M. BEL HADJ AMOR (Président par intérim, Comité financier) : Comme vous devez le savoir, c'est une question de routine. On sait que le Comité financier étudie d'une manière continue le barème des contributions et adresse au Conseil des recommandations concernant toute modification à y apporter.

A cet égard, le Comité, après avoir examiné le document relatif au barème des contributions que l'on trouve à l'annexe D de notre document, recommande au Conseil de soumettre à la Conférence le projet de résolution qui figure au paragraphe 3.65.

Il faut dire également que le Comité fait observer au Conseil que les différences que présentent les contributions de certains Etats Membres dans le barème de la FAO pour 1976-77 et le barème proposé pour 1978-79 sont dues à celles que présentent aux Nations Unies le barème pour 1974-75 qui a servi de base pour le barème de la FAO pour le biennium actuel et le barème de 1977 qui servira de base à nos calculs pour le prochain biennium.

EL PRESIDENTE : ¿No hay ningún comentario sobre este subpunto? Entiendo que estamos de acuerdo también con la opinión del Comité de Finanzas y que transmitiremos a la Conferencia el proyecto de Resolución que aparece en este Informe.

- Personnel Matters

- Questions de personnel

- Asuntos de personal

EL PRESIDENTE : En primer lugar vamos a oír la presentación del Presidente en ejercicio del Comité de Finanzas, y luego seguidamente al señor Presidente del COAG que explicará la vinculación de este tema con el informe del Comité de Asuntos Constitucionales y Jurídicos.

M. BEL HADJ AMOR (Président par intérim, Comité financier) : Il y a plusieurs questions qui sont traitées dans les paras. 3.79 à 3.90. D'abord, il y a la question des modifications au barème des traitements et indemnités du cadre organique et des catégories supérieures. Le Comité financier, qui a déjà eu à examiner les recommandations de la Commission de la fonction publique internationale à sa précédente session, a été informé des décisions prises à cet égard par la Commission concernant le classement de Rome aux fins de l'ajustement de postes. Le tableau (par. 3.79) illustre ce classement. Le Comité a relevé également que l'Assemblée générale des Nations Unies a approuvé toutes les recommandations de la Commission de la fonction publique internationale, sauf deux, à savoir : l'extension du paiement de l'indemnité pour frais d'études aux cas des enfants fréquentant une université dans le pays d'affectation du fonctionnaire, et également l'institution d'un "versement de fin de service".

Concernant le traitement du personnel des services généraux, le Comité a noté que des augmentations de traitement sont échues en septembre et décembre 1976 ainsi qu'en mars 1977 et cela est dû à des hausses de l'indice des salaires servant à ajuster les rémunérations entre les enquêtes; il est prévu une autre augmentation dans le courant de ce mois.

Concernant l'indemnisation des accidents survenant entre le domicile et le lieu de travail pour l'ensemble du personnel, le Comité a pris connaissance du rapport concernant le fonctionnement de ce plan d'indemnisation. Il a été informé des critères employés pour déterminer ce genre d'accident. Il a également noté que le coût de l'indemnisation des accidents survenus pendant cette période est relativement modeste.

Enfin, le Comité, pour des raisons pratiques, a également donné son approbation pour le maintien de l'intervalle quadriennal entre les évaluations actuarielles du Fonds de réserve du plan d'indemnisation. On estime que la prochaine évaluation sera faite à la fin de l'année prochaine.

Le dernier point qui concerne cette rubrique, du moins du point de vue financier, concerne les émoluments du Directeur général.

A cet égard, on sait que les recommandations de la Commission de la fonction publique internationale concernant les barèmes de traitement et les conditions d'emploi du personnel du cadre organique ont automatiquement des conséquences sur les émoluments de tous les cadres organiques, y compris le Directeur général. C'est pourquoi le Comité propose que le Conseil recommande à la Conférence d'approuver le texte de la résolution qui figure au par. 3.90.

O.R. BORIN (Président du Comité des questions constitutionnelles et juridiques) : Les implications juridiques de ce qui vient d'être dit par le Président du Comité des finances sont fort simples.

A sa soixante-dixième session, le Conseil a autorisé le Directeur général à amender les statuts du personnel de la FAO afin que les recommandations de la Commission de la fonction publique internationale soient mises en oeuvre, telles qu'approuvées par l'Assemblée générale des Nations Unies. Or, conformément à l'Article 301.133 du Statut du personnel, le Directeur général est invité à rendre compte à la session suivante du Conseil des ajustements ainsi apportés au Siège et à proposer les mesures de financement y relatives.

Le CQCJ estime que la clause concernant le financement des ajustements appliqués aux traitements qui figurent actuellement dans l'Article 301.133 du Statut du personnel serait mieux à sa place dans le Règlement général de l'Organisation à l'Article XXIV.3 (k) relatif aux fonctions du Conseil et à l'Article XXVII.7 (s) relatif aux fonctions du Comité financier, étant donné qu'elle est liée aux incidences financières prises par la Commission de la fonction publique internationale, question qui relève du mandat du Conseil et du Comité financier.

En conséquence, le CQCJ recommande au Conseil les amendements aux articles XXIV.3 00 et XXVII.7 (s) du Règlement général de l'Organisation qui sont indiqués au par. 59 du document CL 71/5.

EL PRESIDENTE : Espero que hayan ustedes entendido la presentación del señor Presidente del CACJ, documento CL 71/5. No figura en las referencias la discusión de este tema, pero está clara la presentación que ha hecho el Embajador Borín. Si no hay ningún comentario sobre este punto entiendo que el Consejo está de acuerdo en recomendar a la Conferencia la adopción de la resolución que aparece en el Comité de Finanzas y la recomendación de modificar el Reglamento General de la Organización a la luz de las explicaciones dadas por el señor Presidente del CACJ.

- status and Use of Languages in FAO

- suite et utilisation des langues à la FAO

- Situación S y empleo de los idiomas en la FAO

R.W. PHILLIPS (Chairman, Programme Committee): The material regarding the Status and Use of Languages in FAO is to be found in document CL 71/4 in paragraphs 2.186 to 2.189. This relates to an amendment to the rule which is properly in the province of the CCLM. It came before the Programme Committee, however, because of the programme implications, and on reviewing the matter the Committee came to the conclusion that this rule in itself would not entail any change in the present practice concerning the use of languages in FAO. It also considered that the elimination of the reference to "official" and "working" languages as well as to the use of the phrase "working languages for limited purposes" was a desirable change since the implications of these distinctions had never been possible of definition. Since they could not really be defined in practice, they did not serve any useful purpose. Therefore the Committee felt that the proposed change was a desirable one from the standpoint of the working activities in the Organization.

It noted also that the proposed increase in capacity for the Arabic translation work would enable FAO to meet the needs and requirements repeatedly stated by the Arabic-speaking countries and would permit production in Arabic of all important Council and Conference documents. I think that is all I need to say by way of introduction on the programme side.

CHIN FENG-CHU (China) (Interpretation from Chinese): The Thirteenth FAO Regional Conference for the Near East made suggestions for the amendment of Rule XLI of the General Rules of the Organization regarding the languages of the Organization. Accordingly, the Director-General prepared document CL 71/20 for the deliberations of the Council. This involves the use of the Chinese language as well.

The Chinese delegation fully supports the recommendations of the Regional Conference for the Near East for the amendment of Rule XLI. We also endorse the interpretation made thereof in paragraph 11 of document 71/20, that is to say the amendment text will not affect the decisions of the Conference taken at its Fourteenth and Fifteenth sessions on the provision of German and Portuguese interpretation at relevant conferences and meetings, in the manner already agreed.

In the light of the past and present use of Arabic and Chinese in this Organization, we regard it as entirely reasonable to do away with the distinctions between these languages and other languages as laid down in the GRO. It is therefore to be hoped that the amendment initiated by the Near East Conference will be approved by this Council session.

EL PRESIDENTE: Antes de conceder la palabra a los oradores que lo han solicitado, les ruego que me permitan que se la conceda primero al señor Embajador Borín.

O.R. BORIN (Président du Comité des questions constitutionnelles et juridiques): Ici aussi, la question juridique est fort simple. La question de l'utilisation des langues à la FAO a été soulevée à la treizième Conférence régionale de la FAO pour le Proche-Orient, qui s'est tenue à Tunis en octobre 1976. La Conférence régionale a noté à la suite d'un amendement à l'Article XLI du Règlement général de l'Organisation que l'arabe est devenu une langue officielle de la FAO ainsi qu'une langue de travail d'emploi limité (je cite). L'Article XLI, en effet, est ainsi libellé "L'anglais, l'arabe, le chinois, l'espagnol et le français sont les langues officielles de l'Organisation, l'anglais, l'espagnol et le français sont les langues de travail et l'arabe est une langue d'emploi limité".

Ayant examiné cette disposition, la Conférence régionale a estimé qu'il convenait de modifier le libellé actuel de l'Article XLI afin d'éliminer toutes les distinctions entre les cinq langues de l'Organisation. Elle a recommandé en conséquence de modifier comme suit l'Article XLI: "L'anglais, l'arabe, le chinois, l'espagnol et le français sont les langues de l'Organisation".

Conformément à cette requête, le Directeur général a soumis à l'examen du Conseil la proposition d'amendement à l'Article XLI qui a été libellé par la Conférence régionale du Proche-Orient. Le CQCJ estime donc que toute proposition d'amendement de l'Article XLI doit tenir compte des conclusions qui précèdent.

Nous avons examiné quatre solutions possibles: i) conserver tel quel l'article XLI; ii) amender l'article XLI dans le sens recommandé par la Conférence régionale; iii) amender l'article XLI mais d'une façon différente de celle recommandée par la Conférence régionale; iv) supprimer purement et simplement l'article XLI.

Nous avons estimé opportun d'écarter la première et la quatrième solutions et d'adopter la deuxième, c'est-à-dire d'amender l'article XLI dans le sens recommandé par la Conférence régionale. En conséquence, le COCJ décide de recommander au Conseil, en vue de son adoption finale par la Conférence, l'amendement à l'article XLI proposé par la Conférence régionale du Proche-Orient.

Si la proposition d'amendement à l'article XLI est adoptée, il faudra aussi apporter quelques amendements aux textes fondamentaux. Le Comité soumet donc à l'examen du Conseil, s'il les accepte, les projets d'amendement que nous avons proposés et qui sont contenus au par. 45 du document CL 71/5, aux pages 11 et 12 du document en question.

G. SATARI (Indonesia): Having read documents CL 71/4, CL 71/5 and CL 71/20, my delegation fully concurs with the view of the CCLM to amend the present wording of Rule XLI of the GRO in the way proposed by the Thirteenth FAO Regional Conference for the Near East. My delegation therefore requests the Director-General to take the necessary steps for submission of the proposed amendment to the Nineteenth Session of the FAO Conference, with a view to its adoption.

B. de AZEVEDO BRITO (Brazil): My delegation would like to put on record our full support of the just and fair request of the Near East Regional Conference to bring equality among the languages of the Organization. We should also like to record at this stage our hope that in the not far distant future the Portuguese language, spoken by a growing number of countries within our Organization, will also be included so that equality is re-established among us,

I.A. IMTIAZI (Pakistan): The Pakistan delegation would like to avail itself of this opportunity to endorse the recommendation made by the CCLM and to associate itself fully with the proposal made by the delegation from China.

S. JUMA'A (Jordan) (Interpretation from Arabic): On behalf of the Arab countries attending this meeting, and on behalf of those who are not attending, whether they be North African countries or Near Eastern countries, I wish to thank all those delegates who have supported this proposal which will enable this Organization to increase the services it renders to the Arab speaking countries, especially as regards the preparation of Council documents and documents for the General Conference. This will enable the delegates of the Arab States attending the Conference of the Organization to achieve serious and effective participation, on the same footing as delegates of other countries. I trust that delegates taking the floor on this matter will do so in order to second this request.

J.C. VIGNAUD (Argentina): Mi Delegación desea sumarse a lo que ya se ha dicho, en el sentido de que apoya la recomendación de la Conferencia Regional para el Cercano Oriente, que ha sido refrendada por el Comité de Asuntos Constitucionales y Jurídicos, no solo con el argumento del Presidente del Comité del Programa, sino además por las relevantes razones que nos ha señalado el Sr. Ministro de Agricultura de Jordania y también porque hemos tenido oportunidad de examinar en el Informe del Comité de Finanzas que los eventuales gastos que implicaría introducir esta modificación en los textos quedan perfectamente absorbidos por las economías que se han hecho en el Programa de Publicaciones, traducción y documentación que son más de 200 000 dolares. Nuestra Delegación apoya decididamente la propuesta.

J. BERTELING (Netherlands): My delegation can certainly accept the proposed amendments. However, I should like to have some clarification as to the consequences this change will have on the FAO system of verbatim records. These documents use the official languages: are they in the future going to be issued in five languages?

EL PRESIDENTE: Se le responderá oportunamente al Sr. Delegado de Países Bajos.

S.S. MAHDI (India): Like the delegates of Pakistan and China, this delegation also supports the amendment proposed in the light of the recommendations of the Near East Conference.

W.A.F. GRABISCH (Federal Republic of Germany): I should also like to point out that my delegation has no objections to strengthening the use of Arabic and thus also to establishing two two additional posts for Arabic interpreters. With regard to the wording of Rule XLI of the General Rules of the Organization, I wish to stress that my delegation fully supports the pragmatic procedure so far applied by FAO which it would appreciate being maintained. In concrete terms it means that we do not have any objections if Rule XLI is amended in the way proposed by the Thirteenth FAO Regional Conference for the Near East and as set out in paragraph 130 on page 2 of the document before us.

At the same time, my delegation would very much welcome it if Rule XLI could contain a sentence referring to the necessary pragmatic handling of the language question as has been done in the past. If this proved not to be acceptable to the other Council members, we would like to see a sentence to this effect recorded in the Council's Report.

H. ABDALLAH (Egypt) (Interpretation from Arabic): Having seen the adoption of the Arabic language in FAO ten years ago, I can assure the delegates of the Netherlands and of the Federal Republic of Germany that the Arab countries have done their utmost to ensure that the introduction of Arabic is carried out progressively and patiently, that this operation is carried out as effectively as possible, and that the commitments of the Organization are respected. We have taken into account its budget and the limitation of its Programme. For this reason we have taken ten years. We might have got this done more quickly, but we preferred to work patiently. We know that Arabic is a new language in International Organizations, it is a language nevertheless which needs to be used on the same footing as the other languages of the Organization.

For this reason I would like to tell delegates that the Arabic countries are keen on this pragmatic aspect which has been referred to. Some Arabic countries have provided financial aid for promoting the use of Arabic in the Organizations. So I would like to say that we have taken into account all such aspects as regards what the delegate of the Netherlands said on verbatim records. I could tell him that we accept the fact that our interventions should be recorded in the languages used, some Arabic delegates use French or English, and we would agree to the verbatim records being in these languages, in English and French. So at this time we will maintain the verbatim records as they are issued at present.

As I was saying, we are willing to show patience until the day comes when Arabic will be really fully used in our Organization.

As regards the amendment referred to by the delegate of the Federal Republic of Germany, the amendment to be introduced in the Basic Texts concerning the pragmatic aspects he referred to, I think that this amendment weakens the position of the Arabic language which is spoken by 150 million people. It is also a language which has a religious significance for some 600 million people and I would like him not to insist on that aspect.

When the Minister of Agriculture of Jordan spoke on behalf of the Arabic delegations he thanked the international community and the delegates for their support for the Arabic language and the use of this language, and I should like to add to what he said, that I should like to give special thanks to FAO and those who are responsible for this within this Organization. I would like to thank the previous Directors-General and the present Director-General, because I can say this because Arabic is his mother tongue and I am also doing this for his prompt action on the recommendations of the Regional Conference. I should like to take this opportunity, on behalf of the Arabic delegations, to thank all who have struggled to arrange for Arabic to be used in this Organization. I would like to pay tribute to Mr. Mandfield who was the Director of the Publication Division, who has become Assistant Director-General, I would like to thank him for his understanding and support to the Arabic language, and we would like to give him our sincerest thanks for that particular reason.

DIRECTOR-GENERAL (Interpretation from Arabic): I should like to tell you how satisfied I am with the welcome given to my proposal, which is based on the recommendation of the Regional Conference for the

Near East. This recommendation, was aimed at making Arabic an official language and working language of our Organization (Continued in English); There are about 20 Member Countries which have Arabic as their official language and about the same number for which Spanish is the official language. Yet we are spending three times more for our translations and publications in Spanish than in Arabic, I want to assure you that we will gradually increase the use of the Arabic language. In this connexion, I greatly appreciate the constructive position which has been taken by the delegate of Egypt and I am sure that it is shared by all Arabic speaking countries.

EL PRESIDENTE: Si no hay ningún otro comentario entiendo que el Consejo está de acuerdo en recomendar la enmienda al artículo 41 de acuerdo con la recomendación de la Conferencia Regional del Medio Oriente y a la luz de los textos legales del CACJ, Seguimos, entonces, el Orden del día.

M. ABDALLAH (Egypt) (Interpretation from Arabic): I thought that the meeting was going to be adjourned, but I had a question on the two resolutions E & F appended to the report of the Programme and Finance Committees, the one dealing with the fund for post harvest losses and the resolution on the setting up of a special reserve account.

EL PRESIDENTE: Tal vez convenga, una vez más, aclarar al distinguido colega de Egipto que en este momento, como lo dice el final del encabezamiento del párrafo 13, estamos tratando en particular de los asuntos específicos que aparecen en los distintos subpuntos del tema 13. Las cuestiones restantes de los informes del Comité del Programa y de Finanzas se tratarán más adelante oportunamente. Creo que ahora conviene terminar los dos subpuntos aun pendientes del tema 18.

W.A.F. GRABISCH (Germany, Federal Republic of): I said at the beginning when we started considering languages that my delegation has no objection to strengthening the use of Arabic and thus also to establishing an addition to the force of Arabic interpreters, and I also supported the proposal made by the Regional FAO Conference. I am glad that the explanation we then got underlined that a gradual increase is expected and that if in accordance with the record of the Programme and Finance Committees where it says all important Council and Conference documents are foreseen on a gradual basis to be translated. Now I do not insist that the question I raised should be included in the General Rules, but if it were just explained the pragmatic way and the gradual way of handling the matter would be included in our report I should be grateful.

That is my first point. My second point is that it is the understanding of this delegation that what is spelled out in the second part of paragraph 11 of document CL 71/20, namely in particular the decisions taken by the Conference at earlier times for the introduction of German interpretation at sessions of the Conference as well as the Regional Conferences for Europe, for German or in other words that the last part of that paragraph is not going to be affected by the changes in Rule XLI.

B. de AZEVEDO BRT.TO (Brazil): My delegation did not think it was necessary to spell out this point, but of course we also share the interpretation given by the Director-General in the second part of paragraph 11 of document CL 71/20 to the effect that the change which we fully supported on the wording of Rule XLI would not affect decisions already taken in relation to German and Portuguese. Naturally, we very much hope that one day we will have Portuguese also among the official languages of the Organization.

EL PRESIDENTE: Entiendo que el Consejo decide recomendar la enmienda al artículo 41 del RGO y luego veremos cómo se redacta el Proyecto de informe en cuanto a las últimas declaraciones.

- Amendment to Article XXII of the FAO Constitution-Authentic Chinese Text- of the Constitution

- Amendement de l'Article XXII de l'Acte constitutif de la FAO-Version officielle chinoise de l'Acte constitutif

- Enmienda al Artículo XXII de la Constitución de la FAO-Texto chino autentico de la Constitución

EL PRESIDENTE: Recordarán Uds. que se trata de la propuesta que hizo la Delegación China, propuesta que es muy clara y muy sencilla consistente en que se agregue la palabra "chino" al actual artículo 22 de la Constitución que dice: "Los textos en chino, español, francés, inglés y árabe de la presente Constitución tendrán igual fuerza legal". En la lectura del Artículo XXII ya yo agregué la palabra "chino" de acuerdo con la propuesta de China, a la cual concedo la palabra.

CHIN FENG-CHU (China) (Interpretation from Chinese): The Chinese delegation would like to make the following intervention on the amendment of Article XXII of the Constitution of FAO. Chinese has always been one of the official languages of FAO. Article XXII of the Constitution, however, stipulates that the Arabic, English, French and Spanish texts of the Constitution are equally authoritative. This means that of the five official languages of the Organization only the Chinese text of the Constitution is not equally authoritative.

Due to causes that are known to all, China was unable to participate in FAO activities for quite a long time. Consequently this question was not solved in the past. We know that in order to make the Chinese text equally authoritative certain preparations must be made. Therefore, after our country joined FAO activities again we did not immediately raise the question to change the situation. The Secretariat of FAO has made the necessary preparations over the recent years so we consider it as appropriate and necessary to amend and perfect Article XXII of the Constitution. Hence, we propose that Article XXII of the Constitution be amended to read as follows: "The Arabic, Chinese, English, French and Spanish texts of the Constitution shall be equally authoritative." We suggest that the Council endorse this amendment with a view to recommending it to the 19th Conference for approval. This amendment will not affect the Programme of Work and Budget of this Organization in any way. Recently we consulted with many delegations and responsible members of the Secretariat. Many delegations thought the amendment is reasonable. We believe that this proposal of ours will be endorsed by the current Council session.

S.JUMA'A (Jordan) (Interpretation from Arabic): This proposal confirms the fact, a fait accompli and

follows a line of logic which is observed by all our organizations attended by the People's Republic of China so this request is one of a procedural nature and we should like to support this request. I seize this opportunity to thank the People's Republic of China who was among the first speakers to support a strengthening of the use of the Arabic language. I should like to thank him and I would like once again to say that we support his request to amend Article XXII

B.de AZEVEDO BRITO (Brazil): My delegation would like to put on record its full support for the just and fair proposal of the People's Republic of China.

S.S. MAHDI (India): My delegation also likes to put on record its support for the Chinese proposal.

I.A. IMTIAZI (Pakistan): Very briefly, the Pakistan delegation would like to go on record as having supported and endorsed fully the very reasonable proposal made by China.

A. CISSE (Niger): Je voudrais ajouter ma voix à celles des délégations qui m'ont précédé pour dire que le Niger appuie la proposition chinoise.

Y.NARITA (Japan): My delegation in principle has no objection to this proposal but I just want to mention a legal point, I wanted to raise some technical legal matter, because if Chinese is becoming an authentic language of the Constitution, we think that translation must be equal to what we have in English or in Arabic or in French or Spanish and I wonder there is some legal point as to whether this Chinese will be as equal as other languages, so my delegation wants to know the opinion of the Com-'mittee on Legal Matters.

EL PRESIDENTE: Al terminar la decision de los miembros del Consejo el señor Mandefield explicara al delegado japonés lo que le ha solicitado.

I. OROZCO (México): Nosotros, al igual como ya lo han expresado otras delegaciones, queremos expresar nuestro apoyo a la propuesta de la delegación China de que el chino constituya, al igual que los idiomas que se mencionan en el artículo de la Constitución, igual fuerza legal. Tal vez porque a veces los acontecimientos superan la capacidad de mi delegación no nos referimos cuando estuvimos tratando del idioma árabe. Nuestra delegación también quiere expresar que respecto a ese punto damos nuestro más caluroso apoyo.

J.L. TOFFIN (France): La délégation française veut ajouter sa voix à celles des autres délégations pour appuyer la proposition d'amendement concernant la langue chinoise. Cet amendement nous paraît très logique et nous l'appuyons volontiers.

E. CHELBI (Tunisie): J'aimerais joindre la voix de ma délégation à celles des délégations qui m'ont précédé pour appuyer très chaleureusement la requête consistant à amender l'Article XXII de l'Acte constitutif de la FAO, estimant qu'il s'agit là d'une requête juste. Elle ne devrait être subordonnée à aucune condition. Quoique je ne pense pas qu'il y ait de problèmes juridiques, je crois que nous devrions résoudre ces problèmes s'ils existaient.

A.A. SENEINA (Sudan) (Interpretation from Arabic): I should also like to say that our delegation agrees with all those who have supported the proposal made by China.

SRA. M. PANIZA DE BELLAVITA (Panamá): La delegación de Panama apoya la propuesta de China.

CHIN FENG-CHU (China) (Interpretation from Chinese): I thank the various delegations for their very sincere support of the Chinese proposal. As for the question raised by Japan, I would like to say a few words. Japan asked concerning the amendment to Article XXII whether it will affect the use of Chinese. I am afraid that he has not read Article XXII very carefully. That Article stipulates that the Constitution should have authentic texts in four of the five languages and the amendment is about the Chinese language so it has nothing to do with the use of the languages. We have just now passed the change about languages, so our proposal has nothing to do with the rest of the languages in the Organization, it is just about Article XXII of the Constitution.

H.W. MANDEFIELD (Sous-Directeur général, Département des Affaires générales et de l'information): Le représentant du Japon a demandé s'il y avait des aspects juridiques. S'il n'est pas présomptueux de ma part de lui répondre, je pourrais apporter les éléments d'information suivants:

La procédure d'amendement prévue par l'Acte constitutif lui-même à l'Article XX, paragraphes 3 et 4, est la suivante:

Paragraphe 3: les amendements sont présentés soit par le Conseil soit par un Etat Membre.

Il est clair qu'en l'occurrence le Conseil vient de reprendre a son compte le voeu exprimé par le représentant de la République populaire de Chine, et par conséquent, "soit par le Conseil, soit par un Etat Membre" se traduira, nous le supposons, par un rapport de ce Conseil proposant l'amendement précis.

Au paragraphe 4 du même article de l'Acte constitutif, il est dit que l'inscription de l'amendement à l'ordre du jour de la Conférence doit être notifiée aux Etats Membres 120 jours au plus tard avant l'ouverture de la session".

Notre 19^{ème} session de la Conférence commençant le 12 novembre, la lettre circulaire aux Etats qui sera distribuée par le Directeur général pour donner effet aux décisions de votre session, partira par conséquent avant le 14 juillet prochain.

Nous avons, en ce qui concerne les aspects juridiques de cet amendement, un précédent relativement récent puisqu'il ne remonte qu'à 1969 pour l'adoption du texte arabe authentique de l'Acte Constitutif. C'est encore le Conseil lui-même qui a proposé d'amender l'article XXII.

Il semble qu'il y ait lieu de suivre cette même procédure qui, depuis 1969, nous pouvons le constater, n'a soulevé aucun problème de caractère juridique ni même pratique.

La lettre circulaire qui transmettra à tous les Etats Membres la proposition d'amendement que le Conseil est en train de prendre à son compte transmettra également le texte chinois, dont a parlé M. le Représentant de la Chine, qui a été préparé par le secrétariat au cours des trois dernières années. Ce texte figure dans les 16 premières pages des Textes Fondamentaux en chinois publiés par la FAO, dont des exemplaires sont à la disposition des délégations que cela peut intéresser au comptoir de distribution.

Le texte chinois de l'Acte Constitutif sera donc joint à la lettre circulaire transmettant la recommandation du Conseil. Cela permettra à certains Etats, qui disposent des moyens linguistiques et juridiques nécessaires, de contrôler et de vérifier la fidélité de la traduction et de proposer éventuellement des améliorations au moment de la Conférence. C'est ce qui s'est passé en 1969. Nous n'avons pas, je le répète, rencontré d'obstacles de caractère juridique.

Dans la lettre de transmission de cet amendement, avec le texte chinois de l'Acte constitutif, il sera également précisé que le volume complet des Textes Fondamentaux est disponible et la question sera inscrite à l'ordre du jour de la Conférence.

M. le Représentant de la Tunisie a bien voulu dire qu'il ne pensait pas qu'il y ait de problèmes juridiques mais que, s'il y en avait, il fallait les examiner; j'espère que je lui ai donné satisfaction.

Y. NARITA (Japan): I am sorry to have to intervene again and I hope that China will not misunderstand our idea about this problem. We are not objecting to the proposal of China. We are just concerned about the legal point and the explanation has clarified this matter. I just wonder if the translation of the Constitution is going to be submitted to the Conference for approval to check that the Chinese is duly translated into Chinese.

H. W. MANDEFIELD (Sous Directeur général, Département des Affaires générales et de l'information): La réponse est affirmative. Le texte sera transmis à tous les Etats et fera partie par conséquent de la documentation préparatoire de la Conférence.

EL PRESIDENTE: El Consejo reemienda a la Conferencia la enmienda al artículo XXII de la Constitución. • Esa decisión se induirá en nuestro Informe y el Director General procederá de conformidad en cuanto a la notificación a los gobiernos.

- Appointment of External Auditor

- Nomination du vérificateur extérieur des comptes

- Nombramiento de Auditor Externo

M. BEL HADJ AMOR (Président par intérim, Comité financier): Il s'agit là également d'une question de routine car on sait que normalement le Conseil propose la nomination du vérificateur extérieur des comptes de l'Organisation. Depuis 1951, c'est le contrôleur et vérificateur général des comptes du Royaume-Uni qui a été nommé à ce poste. Le Comité a décidé de recommander le renouvellement de cette nomination.

A cet égard, le Comité a reconnu les services combien valables rendus par le contrôleur et vérificateur général des comptes du Royaume-Uni au poste de vérificateur extérieur des comptes de l'Organisation, et il recommande sa nomination pour le prochain biennium,

Cependant, tout en appréciant ses services, le Comité a estimé qu'il est de l'intérêt de l'Organisation de faire appel à l'expérience et à la compétence d'autres vérificateurs généraux des Etats Membres. A cet égard, il recommande au Conseil d'inviter le Directeur général à lui soumettre un choix de propositions à l'occasion des nominations ultérieures.

Finalement, le Comité recommande au Conseil d'adopter le texte de la résolution qui figure au paragraphe 3.124.

J. M. SCOLAR (United Kingdom): First of all may I thank the Chairman of the Finance Committee for those kind words, and we are glad to see the Finance Committee has such confidence in the Comptroller and Auditor General. I need hardly say we support the resolution, it would be surprising indeed if we did not.

My point in intervening at this stage is to hope when the Director-General considers the alternatives he includes among those alternatives continuation of the services of the Comptroller and Auditor General.

P. J. BYRNES (United States of America): My delegation would like also to concur in the reappointment of the Comptroller and Auditor General in the United Kingdom for a further two-year term as External Auditor of the Organization.

At the same time, we would like to express our appreciation for the valuable services he has rendered to the Organization in the past. In particular, we have appreciated reports he has made on management and administrative issues which he has observed in the course of auditing the financial accounts. Over the years these are becoming increasingly useful.

We have certainly no objection to the Finance Committee presenting alternative choices for consideration in future years. We hope in doing so they will carefully weigh the proficiency and integrity of the choices presented.

EL PRESIDENTE : Si no hay ningún otro comentario entiendo que el Consejo decide adoptar la resolución que aparece en el párrafo 3.124 e igualmente la recomendación que aparece en el párrafo 3.123 sobre las propuestas alternativas en el futuro, incluyendo entre éstas la posible reelección del actual Auditor Externo.

- proposal for Measures to Protect the Programme from Adverse Currency Fluctuations and Unbudeeted Inflationary Costs and for the Creation of a Special Fund for Reduction of Food Losses
- Mesures proposées pour préserver le programme des fluctuations de change et dépenses supplémentaires résultant de l'inflation et non inscrites au budget Création d'un fonds spécial pour réduire les pertes d'aliments
- Propuesta de medidas "para proteger el Programa de fluctuaciones monetarias adversas y costos inflacionistas no presupuestados y para la creación de un Fondo Especial destinado a reducir las pérdidas de alimentos

M. BEL HADJ AMOR (Président par intérim, Comité financier): Je voudrais revenir à une question qui a été posée par le délégué de l'Egypte concernant les annexes E et F, et je voudrais lui demander s'il désire avoir d'autres éclaircissements concernant les débats du Comité financier. Je suis prêt à répondre à toutes les questions que ce soit celles de Monsieur le délégué de l'Egypte ou d'autres membres du Conseil.

EL PRESIDENTE: Acaban ustedes de escuchar la declaración del Presidente en ejercicio del Comité de Finanzas. Deseo preguntar a los miembros del Consejo si quieren alguna aclaración sobre el apéndice E: "autorización para crear una cuenta especial de reserva", y sobre el apéndice F: "Fondo especial para reducción de pérdidas alimentarias".

F. SHEFRIN (Canada): These days it is easier to put a man on the moon than to get the mail delivered on time. I know these documents are prepared on time by FAO and the staff and by Mr. Mandefield and others, but when it comes to mailing them it becomes difficult. We received the New Year's cards which were supposed to arrive on January 1st, but they arrived on May 1st. It is nice to have New Year greetings in the middle of the year.

EL PRESIDENTE: Son las seis de la tarde. Hemos trabajado duro y tengo todavía varios oradores. Creo que podríamos adoptar un compromiso en base a mi propuesta anterior y a la que ha hecho el delegado de Egipto en el sentido de que aplacemos la discusión de este asunto para el próximo lunes o para un momento adecuado en la próxima semana.

F. SHEFRIN (Canada): With Mr. Landymore's permission, as he has set his flag up, I am sorry there has been a misunderstanding as to what has been said. The fact I know many things about FAO is very important, but what is more important is the instruction one gets from one's own government. My opinion was merely based on the fact we did not have the document in Ottawa, we did not have the chance to consult with our colleagues. Our delegation is not going to be in any position one way or the other to take a decision.

I as an individual may take up many suggestions which are acceptable to the Finance Committee and the delegates, and the Chairman has to live with it But this is one which should be based on the Canadian Government.

We hope by giving us a little more time we can have a better discussion, because I do not want to have any misunderstanding, our appeal was made on the basis that we did not receive this document before leaving Ottawa for Rome. That is the only basis for our appeal.

G. WEILL (France): Je voudrais poser une question pratique. Vous savez qu'aux termes de ces délicates négociations, la France fait partie du Comité de rédaction et l'on nous a distribué les premiers documents sur lesquels nous devons travailler, y compris le document sur les pertes après récoltes. J'ai retenu de la discussion sur les pertes après récoltes, à l'occasion de laquelle le problème du Fonds a été amplement débattu, qu'en raison de la grande incertitude dans laquelle nous nous trouvons notamment parce que nous avons eu le document qui formule des propositions concrètes seulement au milieu de la semaine précédant le Conseil, sinon à notre arrivée ici, j'ai retenu, disais-je, de ces débats, que le Conseil à sa soixante-douzième session serait saisi de l'ensemble des éléments d'appréciation qui lui permettraient de formuler une proposition à la Conférence, de telle façon qu'elle puisse en débattre et en décider en toute clarté. Je crains donc que l'on remette en question ce qui a été, me semble-t-il, décidé lors de la discussion de ce point et dans ces conditions, je me demande comment le Comité de rédaction peut accomplir sa tâche si la question est à nouveau ouverte en ce qui concerne le Fonds pour les pertes après récoltes.

EL PRESIDENTE: Tengo tres oradores en la lista desearía insistir, cordialmente, en que se adopte la propuesta que hice. Parece que el colega del Reino Unido desea intervenir. Después daré alguna explicación sobre la última intervención del colega de Francia

A.A.W. LANDYMORE (United Kingdom): I do not propose to keep this Council sitting very much longer. My first point is in regard to Appendix F. We had a debate on that subject. The Director-General responded to that debate in a manner which countries like mine thought very helpful. You, yourself, Mr. Chairman, summed up on that debate. My delegation does not think any of that should be reopened now. We dealt with that.

My second point is that as regards Appendix E we should accept your proposal to think about it next week.

EL PRESIDENTE: Después de la declaración del delegado del Reino Unido, yo creo que podemos concluir la sesión de esta tarde.

The meeting rose at 18.00 hours

La séance est levée à 18 h 00

Se levanta la sesión a las 18.00 horas

council

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

conseil

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

consejo

ORGANIZACION DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS PARA LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION

CL

CL 71/PV/11

Seventy-First Session

Soixante et onzième session

71° período de sesiones

ELEVENTH PLENARY MEETING
ONZIEME SEANCE PLENIERE
11ª SESION PLENARIA

(13 June 1977)

The Eleventh Plenary Meeting was opened at 9.45 hours Bula Hoyos, Independent Chairman of the council, presiding

La onzième seance plénière est ouverte à 9 h 45 sous la présidence de G. Bula Hoyos, Président indépendant du Conseil

Se abre la 11ª sesión plenaria a las 9.45 horas bajo la presidencia de G. Bula Hoyos, Presidente Independiente del Consejo

V - CONSTITUTIONAL AND LEGAL MATTERS

V - QUESTIONS CONSTITUTIONNELLES ET JURIDIQUES

V - ASUNTOS CONSTITUCIONALES Y JURIDICOS

20. Report of the Working Party on the Composition and Terms of Reference of the Council, the Programme Committee, the Finance Committee and the CCLM:

20. Rapport du Groupe de travail sur la composition et le mandat du Conseil, du Comité du Programme, du Comité financier et du CQCJ

20. Informe del Grupo de Trabajo sobre la Composición y el Mandato del Consejo, el Comité de Programa, el Comité de Finanzas y el Comité de Asuntos Constitucionales y jurídicos

EL PRESIDENTE: Vamos ahora a iniciar los trabajos de nuestra segunda y última semana de reuniones. Habrán visto en el Orden del día, siguiendo el orden de nuestro calendario, que nos ocuparemos del tema 20, Informe del Grupo de Trabajo sobre la composición y el mandato del Consejo, el Comité del Programa, el Comité de Finanzas y el CACJ. Hay tres documentos citados en el Orden del Día, sin embargo, yo creo que dos son los Documentos básicos: El CL/71/12, que es el Informe del Grupo de Trabajo que se ocupó de esta cuestión y el CL 71/5 que es el Informe del CACJ. De manera que habrá dos presentaciones.

En primer lugar voy a conceder la palabra al Sr. Velay, Vicepresidente del Grupo de Trabajo para que nos presente el Documento CL 71/12.

L. VELAY (Vice-Président, Groupe de Travail sur la composition et le mandat du Conseil, du Comité du Programme, du Comité financier et du CACJ): Je vous remercie de m'avoir délégué l'honneur de présenter le rapport du Groupe de travail au Conseil car c'était un privilège qui vous revenait puisque vous aviez présidé les travaux de ce groupe. Vous vous souvenez que le groupe avait déjà présenté un certain nombre de conclusions lors de la soixante-dixième session du Conseil. Nous avons, depuis cette date, repris nos discussions au cours d'une cinquième réunion du groupe qui s'est tenue à Rome du 28 mars au 1er avril 1977. Le résultat des travaux se trouve dans le document CL 71/12, que vous avez maintenant devant vous. C'est un document, à première vue, assez rébarbatif, car d'une part les questions qui ont été abordées par le Groupe étaient fort complexes, et d'autre part nous devons reconnaître que nous ne sommes pas toujours parvenus à des vues communes sur les différents points.

Je voudrais donc simplifier au maximum pour le Conseil la présentation des problèmes et l'organisation des débats que le Conseil va entamer tout à l'heure.

Tout d'abord, vous avez remarqué que les différents problèmes dont s'est préoccupé le Groupe et dont l'ensemble figure en Annexe A du document CL 71/12, ont été regroupés en trois groupes: la partie A, la partie B et la partie C.

Nous pouvons passer très vite sur la partie A. Il s'agit de propositions de bon sens, présentées par le Groupe, sur notre façon de travailler. Je pense que le Conseil pourra facilement se déclarer d'accord avec ces recommandations. Ensuite, c'est au Président indépendant du Conseil, et au Directeur général de l'Organisation, qu'il appartiendra de les mettre en oeuvre.

Nous pouvons aussi nous débarrasser très vite de la partie C du rapport. Dans cette partie, sont évoquées en effet des questions que le Groupe n'a pas pu examiner complètement. Sans doute, avions-nous été un peu présomptueux en arrêtant un programme de travail trop chargé. Je crois qu'il n'est pas nécessaire que le Conseil s'étende beaucoup sur les questions évoquées dans la partie C, puisque, encore une fois, le Groupe n'a pas pu aller très loin dans les conclusions.

Finalement, je propose au Conseil de s'intéresser surtout aux quatre problèmes qui figurent dans la partie B. Ces quatre problèmes ont une importance considérable. Ils ont trait aux problèmes suivants:

D'abord, le problème des conférences régionales et de la désignation des membres de ces conférences.

En second lieu, les modifications à apporter à la façon de désigner les membres du Comité du programme et du Comité financier.

En troisième lieu, l'étude d'une proposition concernant le rôle du Conseil et de la Conférence dans l'élection du Directeur général.

Enfin, le quatrième point concerne le nombre et la distribution des sièges au Conseil.

Je vais reprendre la présentation de ces quatre problèmes successivement.

En ce qui concerne les conférences régionales, le problème est étudié aux paragraphes 10 à 12 du document. Une certaine unanimité s'est dégagée au sein du Groupe pour estimer qu'il était légitime que les pays en développement de chaque région puissent discuter entre eux de certains problèmes ayant une notation politique prédominante. Mais le Groupe n'a pas pu se mettre d'accord entièrement sur les modalités. La majorité du Groupe a estimé que la participation à chaque conférence régionale devrait être réservée aux Etats Membres appartenant à la région en cause. Cette majorité a donc recommandé que la participation des Etats Membres à chaque conférence régionale soit décidée à chaque conférence régionale de 1978, c'est-à-dire les prochaines conférences régionales, par les pays qui appartiennent effectivement à la région en cause.

Certains membres du Groupe, tout en reconnaissant qu'il existait des questions que les pays en développement souhaitent débattre entre eux, ont estimé qu'il conviendrait cependant de laisser les conférences régionales ouvertes aux autres pays qui désireraient contribuer à l'étude du développement de la région, et que ce serait un appauvrissement pour les conférences régionales d'en exclure ces pays, surtout dans les domaines technique et économique. Ces pays ont suggéré qu'au sein de chaque conférence régionale les pays en développement constituent une formation spéciale, un groupe spécial qui leur serait réservé, dans lequel pourrait avoir lieu la discussion des questions présentant un intérêt politique prédominant pour ces pays en développement.

Je passe au deuxième problème, celui du Comité du programme et du Comité financier. Je peux dire, que, sinon l'unanimité, du moins une assez large majorité s'est dégagée sur ces problèmes.

Tout d'abord, le Groupe a proposé une solution un peu transactionnelle entre ceux qui étaient partisans de maintenir le système actuel, c'est-à-dire de désigner des personnalités pour faire partie des deux comités, et l'opinion de ceux qui pensaient que les membres de ces deux comités devaient être des délégués gouvernementaux. En fait, la solution qui est présentée dans le paragraphe 13 du Rapport est un peu une solution mixte, en ce sens que les candidats à ces deux comités seraient présentés par les Etats Membres. Ils seraient des représentants des Etats Membres mais les gouvernements qui désirent présenter des candidats devraient, avant l'élection, fournir un curriculum vitae détaillé des candidats qu'ils présentent.

En même temps, un certain consensus s'est dégagé sur le nombre de sièges au Comité du programme et au Comité financier, et d'une façon générale les membres du Groupe ont paru souhaiter que ces comités voient leurs effectifs légèrement augmenter pour permettre un meilleur équilibre interne, équilibre entre régions, équilibre aussi entre pays en développement et pays développés.

C'est pourquoi le Groupe a envisagé la possibilité de porter à 11 membres le Comité du programme et à 9 membres le nombre des membres du Comité financier, étant entendu que ces deux chiffres que je viens de citer incluent le président de chacun des comités.

En revanche, le Groupe a proposé de ne plus élire de suppléants pour ces deux comités.

Pour assurer une répartition équitable au sein des comités, on a envisagé la formule de faire procéder à l'élection en deux temps, aussi bien pour le Comité du programme que pour le Comité financier.

Prenons, par exemple, le Comité du programme. Dans un premier temps, on élirait huit membres appartenant aux régions: Afrique, Asie, Proche-Orient, Amérique latine. Dans un deuxième temps, seraient élus trois membres qui appartiendraient aux régions: Europe, Amérique du Nord et Pacifique du Sud-Ouest.

De la même façon, pour le Comité financier, on élirait d'abord six membres appartenant aux régions que j'ai citées tout à l'heure, puis dans un deuxième temps trois membres appartenant aux régions: Europe, Amérique du Nord et Pacifique.

J'oubliais de dire, mais ceci n'est pas nouveau, que le président de chacun des deux comités serait élu avant le scrutin portant sur les autres membres, et que, bien entendu, l'appartenance du président à une région donnée diminuerait d'autant le nombre des sièges à élire par les régions concernées.

J'en arrive au troisième problème examiné par le Groupe et qui concerne les paragraphes 14 à 19 du Rapport du groupe. Il s'agit du rôle du Conseil et de la Conférence dans l'élection du Directeur général.

Le Groupe de travail avait été saisi, lors de sa dernière réunion, d'une proposition formulée par l'un des pays membres du Groupe, et que vous trouverez intégralement reproduite en Annexe B du Rapport CL 71/12 page 2 du texte français.

Selon cette proposition, le Conseil devrait être aujourd'hui invité à recommander que l'Acte constitutif de l'Organisation soit amendé de façon à confier au Conseil la charge de proposer un candidat unique à nommer par la Conférence pour un mandat initial de six ans, sans fixer de limite au nombre des renouvellements possibles.

Cette proposition a été longuement débattue au sein du Groupe du travail, et je dois dire qu'il n'y a pas eu d'objection fondamentale jusqu'à présent quant à cette double proposition. Mais un certain nombre de pays ont fait remarquer que les dispositions actuelles qui règlent ce problème avaient été adoptées seulement en 1971, c'est-à-dire il y a peu de temps. D'autres délégués au Groupe ont fait état du fait qu'ils ne disposaient pas encore d'instructions de leurs gouvernements, et qu'ils ne pouvaient donc pas présenter de propositions définitives. Les autres membres du Groupe, au contraire, ont considéré qu'ils n'avaient pas d'objection à accepter cette double proposition. En effet, ils ont pu constater, comme le disait l'auteur de la proposition, que les Règles en vigueur à la FAO différaient profondément de celles qui avaient été retenues par la plupart des autres Organisations de la famille des Nations Unies.

Ici, je voudrais que les membres du Conseil puissent se reporter à l'Annexe A du Rapport CL 71/5 qui est le rapport de la dernière réunion du CQCJ. Ils y trouveront deux tableaux, la tableau A7 et le tableau A8, qui donnent dans le détail les dispositions en vigueur dans les autres Institutions de la famille des Nations Unies. En ce qui concerne la rééligibilité du Directeur général qui figure à l'Annexe du document CL 71/5, on peut constater que dans toutes les institutions, sauf la FAO, la rééligibilité est de règle.

Quant au rôle du Conseil dans la désignation du Directeur général, le tableau A7 montre que dans presque tous les cas le Conseil, ou ce qui en tient lieu, joue un rôle très important dans les propositions présentées à la Conférence.

En ce qui concerne la présentation par le Conseil d'un candidat unique, il n'y a pas grand' chose à ajouter.

En ce qui concerne la rééligibilité, certains membres du Groupe, tout en étant favorables au principe de la rééligibilité du Directeur général en exercice, tout en se montrant favorables au renouvellement par périodes successives de son mandat, ont estimé qu'après une période de six ans, les périodes suivantes devraient être des périodes de quatre ans. Donc, six ans pour la première période après la première élection, et ensuite renouvellement possible par périodes successives de quatre ans.

J'en arrive au dernier point de la partie B qui concerne le nombre et la distribution entre les régions des sièges au Conseil.

Vous pouvez constater, dans les paragraphes 20 et 21 du Rapport, que la discussion a été très difficile sur ce nombre des membres du Conseil, puisque vous êtes saisis de six propositions différentes. A la vérité, on peut un peu simplifier le problème puisque les propositions que vous avez devant les yeux vont du simple maintien du statu quo, c'est à dire 42 membres, jusqu'à une augmentation maximum de 11 sièges, ce qui porterait à 53 le nombre des membres.

Le Groupe de travail a eu beaucoup de difficultés sur ce problème, car il s'agissait de dégager autant que possible une répartition équitable entre les régions. Au cours de ses travaux, le Groupe a constaté que chaque région avait d'excellents motifs pour revendiquer une représentation plus large, mais en fait, les arguments qui étaient donnés par l'une ou l'autre région étaient généralement très différents, et certains membres du groupe ont pensé qu'il fallait proposer une formule assez pragmatique et que la perfection n'était pas possible dans un tel domaine. Donc, une majorité des membres du Groupe, sans pour autant engager leur pays ou leur région, ont cru pouvoir recommander la formule qui comporterait la fixation du nombre de membres du Conseil au chiffre de 49 se répartissant comme suit: 3 sièges supplémentaires à la région Afrique, 1 siège pour la région Asie Extrême-Orient, 1 siège pour la région Europe, 1 siège pour la région Proche-Orient, 1 siège pour la région Amérique latine.

Je le répète, ce n'est pas une proposition unanime. C'est pourquoi nous avons tenu à ce que les six formules qui ont des partisans soient présentées au Conseil. Mais c'est une indication émanant de la majorité du Groupe, selon laquelle la formule de 49 membres pourrait constituer à ce stade un compromis raisonnable.

Voilà ce qu'on peut dire comme introduction au débat de ce jour. Bien entendu, je suis à votre disposition et à la disposition des membres du Conseil pour apporter les éléments complémentaires qui s'avèreraient nécessaires. Mais je crois qu'avant de le faire, il serait bon que le Président du CQCJ, à qui on avait demandé d'étudier les aspects proprement juridiques des différents problèmes évoqués dans le rapport du Groupe, puisse apporter les précisions qu'il est prêt à nous donner.

O. BORIN (Président, Comité des questions constitutionnelles et juridiques): Les questions examinées par le Groupe de travail qui sont susceptibles d'entraîner des amendements à l'Acte constitutif, sont les suivantes: mode d'élection du Directeur général, question de sa rééligibilité et augmentation du nombre de sièges du Conseil.

Le Comité a été d'avis que, lorsque à propos d'une même question, le Groupe a suggéré plusieurs suggestions possibles, c'est au Conseil qu'il appartiendrait de déterminer laquelle il souhaite recommander à la Conférence et que lorsque des alternatives précises ont été énoncées par le Groupe de travail celles-ci seront, en conséquence, reflétées dans les textes juridiques à soumettre par le Comité.

J'en viens maintenant au mode d'élection du Directeur général. A propos de cette question, le Comité a noté l'observation du Groupe de travail selon laquelle, contrairement aux organes directeurs correspondants des autres organisations du système des Nations Unies, le Conseil de la FAO n'a pratiquement aucun rôle à jouer dans l'élection du Directeur général. Comme il ressort de l'Annexe A (sur laquelle j'attire l'attention du Conseil) au présent rapport qui résume l'état du droit et de l'usage dans d'autres organisations du système des Nations Unies, les organes directeurs comparables au Conseil de la FAO jouent un rôle beaucoup plus actif dans la plupart des autres organisations. On pourrait même dire que c'est la plus grande majorité qui a ce pouvoir. Au BIT et à la Banque mondiale par exemple ces organes nomment en fait le Chef du Secrétariat; à l'AIEA et à l'OMCI ils nomment le chef du Secrétariat sous réserve de l'approbation de l'organe directeur suprême; aux Nations Unies, à l'Unesco et à l'OMS ils soumettent une candidature unique à l'organe directeur.

Rééligibilité: Le Comité a le sentiment que les propositions qui ont conduit à la rédaction actuelle de l'Article VII n'ont pas tenu compte de l'état du droit et de l'usage des autres organisations. Cela peut expliquer pourquoi on ne s'est pas entièrement rendu compte à l'époque que la FAO optait pour une solution sans équivalent dans le système des Nations Unies, par laquelle son organe directeur suprême se privait à l'avenir de la faculté d'exercer un libre choix entre des candidats possibles, attendu que l'Acte constitutif interdisait désormais la réélection du titulaire dont le mandat arrivait à expiration. C'est un cas unique comme l'a souligné à juste titre le Président du Groupe de travail. Comme il est indiqué dans les propositions soumises au Groupe de travail, les textes fondamentaux des autres organisations du système des Nations Unies ne concernent aucune disposition excluant a priori la réélection du Chef du Secrétariat quand son mandat arrive à expiration.

Nous avons donc noté qu'au par. 18 du rapport du Groupe de travail il est justement dit que la majorité a fait sien le principe selon lequel les Etats Membres de la FAO ne doivent plus être privés de l'importante faculté qu'ils ont au sein d'autres organisations des Nations Unies de décider, s'ils le désirent, de confier un ou plusieurs autres mandats au Directeur général.

Le Comité a donc examiné un tableau, reproduit à l'Annexe A du rapport que vous avez sous les yeux (CL 71/5) d'où il ressort que les actes constitutifs de la plupart des organisations du système des Nations Unies ne fixent pas de durée limitée au mandat du Chef de secrétariat.

Le Comité a noté en particulier qu'il ressort de l'Annexe B que la FAO est la seule organisation dont les textes fondamentaux contiennent une disposition prévoyant que le chef du Secrétariat n'est pas rééligible.

A ce propos, nous avons donc examiné les régies fondamentales des textes qui devraient être changées en conséquence des décisions du Conseil.

Au cours du débat sur le rôle respectif de la Conférence et du Conseil, le Comité a noté que certains membres du Groupe de travail avaient suggéré que le Conseil pourrait soumettre à la Conférence plus d'une candidature au poste de Directeur général. Le Comité observe à ce propos que cette dernière

solution présente certains inconvénients en ce sens qu'il faudrait procéder à des élections d'abord au Conseil puis à nouveau durant la session de la Conférence. Il note en outre que l'on pourrait mettre au point des pratiques - comme l'ont fait d'autres organisations - permettant de consulter officieusement au sujet des candidatures soumises, avant d'entreprendre la procédure officielle d'élection, les Etats Membres qui ne font pas partie du Conseil. Il estime donc qu'il ne lui incombe pas de préparer un autre projet d'amendement pour tenir compte de cette possibilité.

A la lumière des considérations exposées les projets d'amendements aux Articles IV et V de l'Acte constitutif sont soumis au Conseil pour qu'ils servent de base à l'examen des questions de principe qu'il devra trancher. En particulier, nous avons souligné que le Conseil soumette à la Conférence une proposition de candidature au poste de Directeur général de l'Organisation ainsi que des propositions relatives aux conditions d'engagement du Directeur général conformément aux dispositions de l'Article VII du présent Acte et sous réserve des règles établies par la Conférence.

En ce qui concerne la question distincte de la rééligibilité du Directeur général, il faudrait amender les paras. 1 et 3 de l'article VII. Le Comité a noté, comme il ressort de l'Annexe C, que la durée du mandat du Chef de Secrétariat est de quatre à six ans dans la plupart des organisations. Comme les sessions ordinaires de la Conférence, au cours desquelles le Directeur général est normalement nommé, se tiennent tous les deux ans, son mandat devrait logiquement durer un nombre pair d'années, c'est-à-dire quatre ou six ans. Reste à savoir si la vraie rééligibilité doit être limitée à cette durée, ou s'il faut envisager la possibilité de renouveler le mandat plusieurs fois. Nous avons suggéré l'amendement suivant au texte:

"L'Organisation a un Directeur général qui est nommé par la Conférence, sur proposition du Conseil, pour un mandat de six ans et aux conditions approuvées par la Conférence. Le Directeur général est rééligible (une fois)".

Le Comité a conclu qu'il faut amender aussi plusieurs dispositions du Règlement général de l'Organisation pour donner effet aux amendements proposés à l'Acte constitutif. Les amendements pertinents sont indiqués aux paras 24 - 32 du présent rapport et sont résumés dans l'Annexe C du document CL 71/5. En particulier, nous attirons votre attention sur les amendements à l'Article XX (4.5) du Règlement général de l'Organisation. Nous avons suggéré à titre d'amendement le texte suivant:

"Le Conseil soumet à la Conférence une proposition de candidature au poste de Directeur général de l'Organisation ainsi que des propositions relatives aux conditions d'engagement du Directeur général conformément aux dispositions de l'Article VII du présent Acte et sous réserve des règles établies par la Conférence".

Quant à l'Article XXV du Règlement général, il faudrait aussi proposer un autre texte. Le Comité suppose que le Conseil désignera le candidat à présenter à la Conférence lors d'une session précédant immédiatement celle pendant laquelle la Conférence doit nommer le Directeur général. S'il s'agit d'une session ordinaire de la Conférence, il semble que le Conseil devrait logiquement s'acquitter de cette tâche à la session qu'il tient toujours immédiatement avant chaque session de la Conférence.

Pour ce qui concerne l'Article XXXV du Règlement général, il ne semble pas nécessaire d'amender l'Article, mais l'introduction du paragraphe devrait être amendée, de façon à bien indiquer que la procédure d'élection précédant la nomination est appliquée par le Conseil et non par la Conférence. Nous avons suggéré et soumettons à l'examen du Conseil, le texte révisé suivant:

"Au cours de sa session précédant immédiatement la session de la Conférence mentionnée à l'alinéa ci-dessus, le Conseil tient une ou plusieurs séances privées pour examiner les propositions de candidature au poste de Directeur général qui lui ont été soumises. A l'issue de cet examen, il vote au scrutin secret sur la candidature qu'il proposera à la Conférence".

Si c'est le Conseil qui est chargé de désigner les candidats, il semble opportun de prévoir une disposition distincte couvrant la nomination du Directeur général par la Conférence et nous avons proposé le texte suivant:

"La Conférence examine la candidature proposée par le Conseil et statue à son sujet. Si le candidat proposé par le Conseil obtient l'approbation de la Conférence, il est déclaré élu."

Il faut toutefois envisager une possibilité, c'est-à-dire l'éventualité du rejet par la Conférence, soit de la candidature, soit du projet de contrat proposé par le Conseil. Le Comité estime qu'il serait opportun de prévoir la possibilité de convoquer à nouveau le Conseil afin de permettre à la Conférence d'étudier des propositions nouvelles ou révisées et de statuer à leur sujet.

Voilà donc le texte que nous proposons:

"Si le candidat (ou le projet de contrat) proposé par le Conseil n'obtient pas l'approbation de la Conférence, le Conseil est convoqué à nouveau et il propose à la Conférence, dans les quarante-huit heures, une autre candidature (ou un projet de contrat révisé selon le cas)".

Les projets d'amendement que je viens de vous citer sont tous résumés dans l'Annexe C du document que vous avez sous les yeux. Le Comité rappelle enfin que la Conférence a toujours eu pour pratique d'adopter les amendements aux textes fondamentaux de l'Organisation par le biais d'une résolution dont le projet lui est d'ordinaire soumis par le Conseil. Désirant faciliter le travail du Conseil, le Comité propose un projet de résolution de la Conférence qui pourrait être conçu comme il est dit au par. 32 du document que vous avez devant vous.

Pour ce qui concerne l'augmentation du nombre de sièges du Conseil, le Comité n'a pas de problèmes puisqu'il s'agit simplement de changer le nombre que vous pourrez décider après les débats, comme conséquence de ceux-ci à l'Article pertinent des textes fondamentaux.

EL PRESIDENTE: Muchas gracias señor Embajador Borin.

Se trata de un tema importante que conviene discutir con el mayor orden a fin de facilitar la claridad con que se expresen las decisiones del Consejo. Debido a que hay numerosos asuntos mezclados en estos dos documentos y a fin de evitar confusiones que dificultan la delimitación de los puntos de vista en los miembros del Consejo sobre cada uno de estos asuntos, propongo al Consejo el siguiente método de discusión sobre estos dos documentos. Les ruego que tengan a la mano los documentos 5 y 12.

Creo que sería conveniente que celebráramos primero una discusión limitada al asunto más importante que es común a los informes del Grupo de Trabajo y del CACJ; o sea que si el Consejo está de acuerdo podríamos, repito, celebrar una sola discusión limitada al apartado A del documento CL 71/5; "Método de elección del Director General". Esto quiere decir que sobre el documento 5 en la primera intervención los miembros del Consejo deberían limitar sus declaraciones a los asuntos contenidos en los párrafos 7 a 32 del Documento 5. Ese mismo asunto del método de elección del Director General, en el otro documento CL 71/12, está comprendido en los párrafos 14 y 19. Si el Consejo estuviera de acuerdo con esta propuesta de orientar nuestros trabajos, más adelante seguiríamos con el otro asunto que es común a los dos informes y que trata del número de puestos del Consejo. De esta forma habríamos casi agotado el documento 5, ya que otros asuntos que aparecen en el informe del CACJ han sido discutidos bajo otros puntos o lo van a ser próximamente. Finalmente tomaríamos todos los asuntos que quedaren pendientes del documento 12, o sea del informe del Grupo de Trabajo, esto lo veríamos más adelante.

Quiero insistir en que, por favor, limiten sus primeras intervenciones al apartado A, párrafos 7 al 32 del documento 5 y párrafos 14 a 19 del documento 12.

F. AHMED (Bangladesh): On behalf of the delegation of Bangladesh, I would first like to thank the Chairman of the CCLM for a clear introduction to this item based on the report of the 34th Session of the CCLM. I should like to express my thanks to members of the CCLM. They have considered the matter submitted to them comprehensively and dispassionately and have submitted their analysis and conclusions for the consideration of the Council.

Thanks to the work of the CCLM, it is the view of my delegation that the action before us is clear and will help us avoid any protracted debate.

In this intervention, I am addressing myself to the second part of the CCLM report dealing with the method and question of eligibility of a Director-General for re-election.

My delegation would like to thank the Working Party for having brought into focus one of the basic constitutional responsibilities of the Governing Bodies of FAO, and that is the election of its Director-General. The Director-General is the chief executive of this Organization, subject to overall supervision and guidance of the Council and Conference. When the Council and Conference are hot in session, he personally represents the authority of the Organization.

The report of the CCLM shows that the Governing Bodies have changed on a number of occasions the procedures for nomination, selection and election of the Director-General. The Governing Bodies must have had good reasons for these repeated changes. However, it must be recognised that all these reasons were expedient only in the circumstances prevailing at that time and, therefore, need not be considered as valid at all times.

And at no time were decisions on procedures taken with due regard to the practices prevailing in the other organizations of the United Nations system. It is imperative, therefore, that we now take full account of the procedures and practices that we - the same Member Governments - follow in the other organizations of the United Nations system, and retain for FAO the best of the procedures and practices that we have decided upon in other sister organizations.

Coming specifically to the question of re-eligibility we can all agree that there is nothing final about the present constitutional provision which limits the office to a single non-renewable term of 6 years. The CCLM report shows clearly that the term of office was determined ad hoc for the first 16 years of our Organization. Thereafter, the constitutional provision has been amended twice. The fact that it was repeatedly amended, surely demonstrates that this was done to suit the circumstances or personalities of the time, and not on any inviolable theory or principle, and without any apparent consideration of the law and practice of other organizations in the United Nations system. As the report of the CCLM shows, FAO's practice is unparalleled in the United Nations system. Our supreme Governing Body precludes itself from exercising a free choice among possible candidates, by preventing itself from even considering re-electing the incumbent. There is no rhyme nor reason for this artificial limitation and abdication of responsibility. In no other organization of the United Nations system do we, the Member Governments, exclude a priori the re-election of the executive head upon completion of his term of office. Why do we have to deprive ourselves of an option which we exercise in other UN organizations to which we belong, that is, to decide whether or not we allow an incumbent to seek re-election. Are there any factors peculiar to the food and agriculture sector which demand that a Director-General be ineligible for a further term of office if so desired by the supreme Governing Body?

Mr. Chairman, this anomaly must be corrected. We, the Governments who make up this Organization, are sovereign. We can of course choose to be different from other Organizations. But logic clearly requires us, in this case, to be consistent with our own laws and practices in the other Organizations of the UN system, and therefore ensure that the provisions of our Basic Texts are suitably amended to make them consistent with those of other organizations. I, therefore, urge that we unanimously recommend to the Conference, the adoption of a Resolution providing for the re-eligibility of the Director-General.

Finally, I wish to stress that this action should be taken now. The matter has been analysed in depth. The case is proven. To take action now is the only honest course. By deciding now we neither prejudice the candidacy of the present Director-General, nor prejudice the right and claims of any other eventual candidate or candidates.

B. de AZEVEDO BRITO (Brazil): My delegation would like first to thank M. Velay for presenting to us the report of the Working Party on the Terms of Reference and Composition of the Council and related matters. My delegation would also like to thank Ambassador Borin for introducing the report of the last session of the CCLM.

Mr. Chairman, following your recommendation, my delegation will confine its intervention at this stage to the two points you indicated to us: eligibility for re-election of the Director-General and procedures for election of the Director-General.

Regarding the first point, eligibility for re-election, this question was touched upon in our opening statement by the Group of 77, the statement reproduced in document CL 71/INF/9, and I will call the attention of members of the Council to paragraph 17, where the views of our Group are stated, thus: In relation to the election by the Conference and tenure of the Director-General it is our feeling that governments should be allowed to express their choice without any limitations. We concur with the principle of the re-eligibility of the Executive Head of the Organization. In effect, our basic aim is to ensure free and ample choice by governments and to avoid any harmful effects on the development of the policies and programmes of the Organization. My delegation fully concurs with the views of the Group of 77 on these specific points and in fact, my delegation would like to associate itself with the comments made by Bangladesh. We believe that the Council should be in a position to recommend to the Conference to amend the constitution of the Organization accordingly.

Coming to the second point, procedures for election, my delegation is inclined to share the view expressed in paragraph 15 or, to be more specific, one of the views expressed in paragraph 15 of the Report of the Working Party to the effect that the Conference should retain the actual power of selecting to candidates, including the right to exercise, a choice among candidates, of course, our views on this particular point would not exclude a role of the Council that would not preclude the actual choice being made finally by the Conference itself.

Mr. Chairman, these are the views of my delegation on these two subjects which you pointed out for our consideration. Of course, I will intervene again on other aspects of this particular item later on.

G. ESCARDO PEINADOR (España): Ante todo quiero agradecer al Sr. Velay y al Grupo de Trabajo por el esfuerzo y metódico estudio que han llevado a cabo en todos los aspectos que tratan, pero vamos a ceñirnos, siguiendo sus instrucciones, Sr. Presidente, al problema planteado sobre la reelegibilidad del Director General, así como a lo expuesto por el Embajador Borin sobre los aspectos jurídicos que ello entraña.

Mi Delegación estima que el Director General de la FAO puede, y hasta debe, ser reelegido; y no sólo por una razón de equidad con lo que ocurre en la mayoría de las restantes organizaciones de la familia de las Naciones Unidas, sino que no hay que olvidar que los problemas que ocupan a nuestra Organización, la agricultura, el desarrollo, la nutrición, no se resuelven más que, en el mejor de los casos, a un medio plazo. Limitar, por tanto, el mandato de un Director General es limitar la vida de sus ideas, de sus proyectos; es imposibilitarle a llevar felizmente a buen fin el programa que él ha trazado.

Se exponen las distintas variaciones que ha sufrido la Constitución en el caso de la reelegibilidad; sin embargo, yo creo que el gran salto que dio la Organización coincide precisamente con un largo período en el cual ocupó la Dirección General una misma persona. No debemos privar a nuestra Organización, por un frío precepto constitucional, de la capacidad y del esfuerzo de un hombre que ha dedicado seis años de su vida profesional a la FAO y que posiblemente su reelección le dará nuevos bríos y nueva vida para poder llevar a cabo la excelsa misión que le es encomendada.

Estimamos que debe ser el Consejo el que proponga a la Conferencia un único candidato para un período inicial de seis años, pero sin limitación alguna en su renovación o su reelección. Ello ocurre con otros organismos internacionales y creo que precisamente uno de los organismos en que se necesita una mayor continuidad de acción no debe ser privada de esta fórmula y el Consejo, que estudia con mayor detenimiento que la Conferencia los programas, que conoce, por tanto, mejor la labor que viene desarrollando un Director General, el debe ser el que asuma la responsabilidad plena de proponer a la Conferencia el nombre de este Director General. Y caso de que la Conferencia no estuviese de acuerdo, conforme con lo que ha dicho el Comité de Asuntos Constitucionales y Jurídicos, deberá reunirse inmediatamente el Consejo para proponer el nuevo nombramiento; pero la propuesta debe de partir del órgano que más directamente estudia y es responsable de la acción de la FAO.

B.M. SAID (Libya) (Interpretation from Arabic): In the name of the Group of Arab countries, we wish to express our deep thanks and appreciation to the CCLM for this valuable study or report which they have submitted to us. The proposal put forward by the Committee for the Re-election of the Director-General is a proposal in line with the practices of other United Nations Organizations. It is likewise in line with some democratic principles, a fact which leaves the Group of Arab countries to support this proposal.

A. DAS (India): At the outset, our delegation would like to comment on the question of eligibility of the Director-General of FAO for re-election. As we all know the FAO is perhaps the only Organization in the United Nations system in which Member Governments are deprived of the privilege of re-electing the Executive Head. We strongly feel that the Member Governments should be allowed to express their choice without any constraint or limitations.

We therefore fully support the principle of eligibility of the Executive Head of FAO for re-election, in conformity with similar provisions in other United Nations Organizations.

Our views in this respect are also fully in line with a statement made earlier in this Council by our esteemed friend the Chairman of the Group of 77, and also other countries like Bangladesh and Libya and other Arabic countries. The Group of 77 had formulated its views in this respect after careful consideration of the various aspects of the question, and we hope that it will find full and wide support from other Member Countries of this Council.

I.A. IMTIAZI (Pakistan): Mr. Chairman, I thank you for giving me the floor to express the position of Pakistan Delegation on the important question of whether a sitting Director-General of FAO should or should not be eligible for re-election. We have noted that during the 1945-61 period, the Director-General of FAO's term of office was determined on an ad hoc basis, and that during the 1961-71 period too the position in this regard remained indeterminate. It was only in 1971 that the FAO Conference decided to fix for the Director-General a single non-renewable 6-year-term of office. For this, there may have been some justification in 1971 but none seems to exist at present. As such, Pakistan Delegation supports the recommendation that a sitting Director-General, of FAO be as much eligible for re-election as any other eligible candidate. Firstly, because this is so in every other organization in the UN system and secondly, because the existing arrangement whereunder a sitting Director-General, FAO is not eligible for re-election after serving a non-renewable 6-year-term of office, unduly and unnecessarily precludes FAO Conference from exercising in a fully free and unfettered manner, the option to choose from amongst all possible candidates. Member Governments of FAO should have full and free choice to elect Director-General without excluding a sitting incumbent of Director-General's office.

However, as regards, the procedure for the election of the Director-General, we would favour the existing arrangement whereby the FAO Conference is solely and directly responsible for the election of the Director-General.

A. Cisse (Niger): Le Niger félicite le Groupe de travail du CQCJ pour l'excellent travail précis et concis qu'il nous a présenté. Notre délégation appuie sans réserve l'amendement de l'Article VII de l'Acte constitutif en vue de permettre la rééligibilité du Directeur général. En effet, comment peut-on comprendre que le Directeur général de la FAO soit le seul de tous les Chefs de service des Organisations des Nations Unies à n'être pas rééligible? Cela ne peut s'expliquer, et d'autant plus que cela ne veut pas dire /?/ facto que le Directeur sortant est élu, mais cela présente davantage de pouvoir reconduire le mandat du Directeur général dans le souci d'un meilleur suivi des programmes vitaux de développement harmonieux des pays développés et en développement; ceci fait que la FAO se trouve dans le concert des organisations, avec tous les problèmes qu'implique le nouvel ordre économique international. Il est essentiel que les membres du Conseil se ressaisissent et se rendent compte que cette ouverture est nécessaire et pleine de souplesse car elle permet au Conseil de pouvoir disposer encore des services d'un Directeur général compétent ce qui ne serait pas le cas si nous refusions d'adopter le principe de la rééligibilité dans notre Organisation.

C'est donc la survie de l'Organisation, sa continuité à un moment de son histoire qui sont en jeu; il faut lui apporter une solution heureuse: c'est-à-dire adopter le projet de résolution de rééligibilité du Directeur général de la FAO. Quant aux procédures juridiques, nous estimons que le Conseil, qui est l'organe technique de la Conférence, doit présenter un candidat à la Conférence.

J. Berthelings (Netherlands): I would like to associate myself with others to thank Mr. Velay and Mr. Borin for presenting these two documents. My delegation studied the reports very carefully, but find it quite difficult to arrive at a final solution.

On the matter of the re-election of the Director-General, my delegation is of course aware of the situation in other Organizations, but we were aware of that fact also four years ago, and still it was felt necessary at that stage to change the FAO Constitution - in my delegation's view, for a very good reason. We therefore do not see much merit in changing the present rules again, and it is not really necessary to change the Constitution this year.

It was explained to us that the Working Party has not discussed and studied the question thoroughly enough, and I do not think having heard the statements made up to now that all questions and problems involved in the matter have been thoughtfully discussed.

One of the connected problems discussed - and the Working Party has gone into that problem - is the term of office, and especially how often and for how many years and Director-General should be elected. My delegation would, therefore, propose to discuss the question further before formal amendments to the Constitution are presented to the Conference. There is time enough.

In these discussions the role of the Council in the election procedure is of course important. As has been explained to us there are different modalities.

We have heard different views on the matter, and can only say at this stage that my Government sees merit in giving an important role to the Council, but there are different modalities and they have to be discussed in the Working Party, and may be further in the Council.

Also on that matter I would like to say that the FAO Council should not compare itself too much with the Governing Bodies of other Agencies; the structure of all the Agencies is quite different. This matter should be discussed only in connexion with the merits for FAO.

Finally, we would like to see this discussion going on, but it should not be decided now as to whether final amendments should be proposed to the Conference.

J.L. TOFFIN (France): Je voudrais parler tout d'abord de la question de la rééligibilité du Directeur général.

Sur ce point, la délégation française est pleinement d'accord en ce qui concerne la proposition qui nous est faite par le Groupe de travail sur la composition et le mandat du Conseil et par le Comité des questions constitutionnelles et juridiques.

A notre avis, cette question de la rééligibilité doit être examinée en faisant abstraction de toute considération personnelle, mais en fonction de l'intérêt général de l'Organisation. Or, de ce point de vue, il n'y a aucun avantage à priver les Etats Membres de leur liberté d'action, au cas où ils estimeraient qu'il serait conforme à l'intérêt de la FAO de renouveler le mandat d'un Directeur général qui leur donne satisfaction.

Nous estimons aussi que nous ne devons pas nous priver, le cas échéant, des avantages d'une continuité plus grande dans la gestion de notre Organisation. On a rappelé d'ailleurs qu'une telle manière de voir était adoptée dans l'ensemble du système des Nations Unies, qu'il s'agisse de l'Organisation même des Nations Unies, que de toutes les autres institutions spécialisées. La FAO se trouve en cette matière être la seule institution qui fasse exception à cette règle générale. Nous ne voyons aucune raison de persister dans cette anomalie.

On a pu remarquer peut-être que la règle actuelle concernant la non rééligibilité n'a été adoptée par la FAO qu'à une date assez récente, en 1971, et qu'il serait peut-être bon d'attendre les leçons de l'expérience avant d'en envisager la modification.

En fait, l'argument ne nous semble pas convaincant car, si on se réfère aux indications données sur la façon dont a été introduite la règle actuelle, il est clair qu'il ne s'est agi à l'époque que d'une décision de pure circonstance. Dans ces conditions, nous ne pouvons que confirmer la position favorable adoptée par la France, tant au sein du Groupe de travail sur la proposition et le mandat du Conseil qu'au sein du Comité des questions constitutionnelles et juridiques.

Quant au mode d'élection du Directeur général, comme il ressort du Rapport du Groupe de travail et des explications qui nous ont été données, les divergences manifestées par les divers membres du Groupe sur la question du mode d'élection du Directeur général prouvent que sur ce point la réglementation actuelle n'est pas satisfaisante. Certes, nous sommes d'avis que le Directeur général devrait être élu par la Conférence, à la fois parce qu'il nous paraît normal que tous les Etats Membres participent à cet acte essentiel de la vie de l'Organisation et parce que ce mode de désignation nous paraît de nature à renforcer l'autorité du Directeur général.

Mais il nous paraît anormal, comme l'ont souligné le Rapport du Groupe de travail sur la composition et le mandat du Conseil et le rapport du CQCJ, que le Conseil, qui groupe les Etats qui sont, par la force des choses, les plus étroitement associés aux activités de la FAO, ne joue aucun rôle dans cette désignation. A notre avis, il s'agit là d'une anomalie d'autant plus évidente que dans la quasi-totalité des autres institutions spécialisées un rôle important dans le choix du chef du Secrétariat, incombe à l'organe directeur qui correspond dans cette Organisation au Conseil de la FAO.

C'est pourquoi la délégation française est favorable à l'adoption d'une règle analogue à celle en vigueur à l'Unesco ou à l'OMS qui confierait au Conseil le soin de sélectionner un candidat unique au poste de Directeur général, la Conférence étant naturellement libre d'approuver ou de rejeter cette candidature. Une telle mesure permettrait, à notre avis, de dépolitiser à un certain point la désignation du Directeur général et de fournir les meilleures garanties quant au choix d'une personnalité présentant toutes les qualifications souhaitables.

C'est dans ce sens que la représentation de la France s'est déjà prononcée au sein du Groupe de travail. Elle est en mesure d'aujourd'hui de confirmer sa position.

L. LAPEBY (Gabon): Monsieur le Président, vous me permettez tout d'abord de remercier dans l'ordre M. Velay pour la présentation éloquente du Rapport du Groupe de travail du Conseil, et son Excellence l'Ambassadeur Borin qui, une fois de plus, n'a pas failli à sa tâche. Très sincèrement, la délégation gabonaise tient à rendre hommage au Comité des questions constitutionnelles et juridiques et au Groupe de travail dont nous espérons la continuité. En effet, le CQCJ présente au Conseil un document clair, complet, net et précis sur chacun des points traités. Cela est l'évidence même mais, permettez-moi, parmi les points exposés, de n'en traiter pour le moment qu'un seul. Vous me permettez de l'énoncer sous forme d'une question simple, directe, à laquelle on ne peut répondre que par oui ou par non: le Directeur général de la FAO devrait-il être rééligible?

En posant cette question, je ne voudrais pas faire abstraction du passé mais, comme l'a dit tout à l'heure l'Ambassadeur de France, il faut examiner le problème dans l'intérêt de notre Organisation.

Si je traite tout d'abord et seulement cette question, c'est parce qu'elle ne comporte aucune embuche technique, elle ne comporte pas d'incidence financière, et aussi parce que pour y répondre en toute objectivité, en toute logique, il faut nous placer dans un contexte approprié. Fort heureusement le Président du CQCJ dans son document nous présente la seule démarche valable. Le CQCJ nous a rendu un fier service, collectif et personnel, car il a su judicieusement synthétiser sous la forme la plus rapidement compréhensible, dans un tableau clair, des informations peut-être connues de la majorité, mais que nous n'avions jamais sérieusement examinées.

Je ne dois pas être le seul à avoir pensé que, très étrangement, à la FAO, nous étions arrivés à ne plus réélire notre Directeur général. Mais permettez-moi de poser la question à haute voix à l'attention de mes collègues: pourquoi, a-t-il été décidé que le Directeur général de la FAO ne devait plus être réélu? La nature de ses fonctions le condamne-t-il inexorablement à voir ses capacités intellectuelles et physiques diminuer à l'échéance de son mandat au point d'être contraint d'abandonner son poste ou de se retirer?

Monsieur le Président, permettez que je m'en étonne, surtout ayant connu Monsieur Sen, d'une part, et d'autre part, depuis la création de notre Organisation, il me semble que tous les directeurs généraux qui se sont succédé ont été réélus. Je n'ai pas souvenance d'un cas autre que celui de M. Cardon qui fut contraint de démissionner pour ce qu'on appelle généralement un cas de force majeure, en l'espèce pour raison de santé.

En 1971, un changement profond est-il brusquement intervenu dans la nature des responsabilités du Directeur général, au point d'amener la Conférence à amender l'Article VII?

Déjà, l'amendement de 1961 n'était pas heureux, et en 1971, dix ans après, on discriminait encore plus le Directeur général de notre Organisation. Nul ne peut prétendre que diriger la FAO soit une petite affaire, un jeu d'enfant. La tâche demeure lourde et difficile aujourd'hui comme elle l'était hier. Mais je ne pense pas que diriger l'OMS ou l'Unesco soit une tâche facile.

Monsieur le Président, au point où nous en sommes, je voudrais que ce problème soit bien examiné. Il y a quatre ans, nous connaissions la situation des autres organisations, et c'est là peut-être notre grosse erreur. Je n'étais pas là en 1971 mais je pense que la Conférence a fait la faute de n'avoir pas su dire non à la discrimination inadmissible, inacceptable, qui frappait le Directeur général. Pourtant, lorsque l'on considère les autres organisations, qu'il s'agisse de l'OMS, de l'UNESCO ou même du Secrétariat général des Nations Unies, non seulement leurs dirigeants ont, pour la plupart, exercé plusieurs mandats mais, s'ils sont éprouvés, ils ne sont pas pour autant usés. J'ai l'impression, et mon gouvernement avec moi, que ces dirigeants accomplissent d'autant mieux leur mission et avec d'autant plus de sagesse qu'ils ont une très grande expérience.

Monsieur le Président, qui ne préférerait miser sur une valeur sûre plutôt que d'être acculé par le jeu d'un amendement dont les implications n'avaient pas été suffisamment examinées ou l'avaient été trop hâtivement? Qui donc ne préférerait miser sur une valeur sûre, éprouvée, plutôt que d'être acculé systématiquement à parier sur l'inconnu?

Nous devons nous donner les moyens de réélire un homme dont nous avons apprécié les qualités, qui nous a présenté un programme, et qui se propose de le mettre en oeuvre. Sinon, nous ne ferons que changer périodiquement de programme sans jamais aboutir.

Hélas, en 1971, je l'ai déjà dit, nous n'avons pas eu l'occasion de nous prononcer sur cette question. // Honneur et l'agréable devoir, Monsieur le Président, de pouvoir le faire aujourd'hui et de proposer, au nom du Gouvernement de la Rénovation de la République gabonaise, que le Conseil, unanimement, recommande à la Conférence d'amender l'Article VII de manière à introduire la disposition suivante en cinq mots:

"Le Directeur général est rééligible".

Comme je l'ai dit au début, il y a plusieurs points sur lesquels la discussion devrait être axée. Je viens d'en évoquer un, et je me permettrai de demander la parole ultérieurement.

G. SATARI (Indonesia): I have listened very carefully to the remarks of the Vice-Chairman of the Working Party, the Chairman of the CCLM and the speeches already made this morning. I consider that the two Chairmen should be warmly thanked for their excellent work which helps us to bring FAO up to date constitutionally as well as in other respects.

My delegation thinks that our task this morning on behalf of the Conference can be made very easy by first concentrating on the one issue which is clear and simple, namely the re-eligibility of the Director-General without complications about the number or length of successive terms, just straight re-eligibility.

We are unequivocally in favour of this. It is logical, it is realistic and it is common practice in the United Nations system. It is fair in that it gives a free democratic choice among whoever can offer his services to the Organization and is supported by member countries. To my mind this is the essential issue, not the method of election. It is on the question of re-eligibility that we should take action. There is no reason for hesitation or delay. It is such a simple and clear issue that one can easily declare whether one is in favour or not. There is nothing unusual or complicated about the principle or the implementation of the principle. Hence the Council should recommend to the Conference the required amendment to the Constitution.

In view of the excellent work done by the CCLM it is relatively easy, even for a non-jurist, to see how the principle of re-eligibility can be effected by a simple amendment to the Constitution. In fact, I have dared to use the report of the CCLM to extract from it the elements necessary to prepare a draft resolution which the Council could transmit to the Conference for adoption and which would give effect to the principle of re-eligibility. With your permission, Mr. Chairman, I should like to speak again a little later this morning in order to introduce the draft when I have put the finishing touches to it.

R. TANABE (Japan): As the Director-General pointed out correctly in his general statement, the items which we are discussing now may have political implications. Nevertheless, it is the view of my delegation that these matters must be treated as far as possible in a very objective manner and in the light of obtaining the most useful system for all the Members and for FAO as a whole. My delegation would like to make some remarks following the principles which I have just mentioned.

So far as the method of election of the Director-General is concerned, my delegation supports the procedure by which the Council nominates one candidate for appointment by the Conference.

Next, on the re-eligibility of the Director-General, my delegation feels that this matter must be considered from a historical point of view.

Paragraph 12 of the report of the CCLM describes this point but I should like to add that the Sixteenth Session of the Conference adopted the present Article VII of the Constitution to the effect that the Director-General shall not be eligible for reappointment and that the present Director-General is the first to whom this provision is applied. The Report of the CCLM mentions that when this Amendment was proposed it had not taken into account the practices of other organisations. My delegation has some doubt as to the reasoning because the roles or functions of each agency differ from one another.

At any rate, this Amendment was proposed and discussed for the first time in the Fifth Working Party in March, so we have a time limit if we have to discuss the proposed amendment of the Constitution in the next Conference. It is the view of my delegation that it is premature to make recommendations to the next Conference.

In this connection my delegation fully shares the views of the delegate of the Netherlands; if we take into account the fact that we have sufficient time to consider the matter, it might be possible to give this item further study.

H. MAURIA (Finland): I shall briefly deal with those matters ruled by the Chairman this morning. As regards the method of election of the Director-General, my delegation has studied the views expressed in the report of the Working Party as well as in the considerations of the CCLM. Our view in this matter is that the appointment proper should be made by the Conference and not by the Council. It is in our view important that all member nations should have an equal right to take part in the election.

The view of my delegation on the matter of eligibility for re-election is clear; we support the proposal made regarding the possibility of re-election of the Director-General; this would be better in line with the ruling in the other United Nations organizations. I can also say that in this matter I am authorized to inform the Council that the other Nordic countries share our view.

M. BEL HADJ AMOR (Tunisie): Nombreux sont les aspects que ma délégation voulait évoquer concernant les questions que nous sommes en train d'examiner et qui ont déjà été présentés par les orateurs précédents.

A cet égard, ma délégation ne peut s'empêcher de s'associer aux multiples observations énoncées dans ce forum. Aussi, me suffit-il de souligner notre approbation à la position des 77, définie à cet égard dans la déclaration du Groupe au début de notre session et d'apporter notre appui au principe de la rééligibilité du chef du Secrétariat de la FAO et ce conformément aux pratiques de la plupart des autres organismes du système des Nations Unies et compte tenu des considérations du rapport du CQCJ en la matière, notamment des paragraphes 12 et 13.

Je voudrais profiter de cette occasion pour apporter également notre adhésion au projet de résolution que le délégué de l'Indonésie a l'intention de présenter un peu plus tard comme il l'a mentionné dans sa déclaration.

Par ailleurs, je voudrais poser une question à la suite des déclarations de certaines délégations qui ont parlé d'une question de maturité. Cette question est la suivante: quels sont les critères pour juger s'il est opportun qu'une question soit étudiée ou non au sein de ce Conseil.

A.E. HANNAH (Canada): The Canadian delegation has studied the reports of both the Working Party and of the CCLM. We commend these bodies for their very fine efforts on our behalf. From our point of view it is quite appropriate that a large organization such as FAO reexamine its procedures and rules at any time that it is necessary and change these rules and procedures accordingly as necessary.

With respect to the specific issue under discussion, that is, the procedure of appointing a Director-General and the elaboration of the terms of office for that individual, the Canadian delegation supports the principle that the best possible candidate should be in a position to be appointed Director-General, and this could include the present incumbent.

Therefore, the Canadian delegation could support the proposed changes in FAO procedure to permit the reelection of an incumbent if the Council so recommends. This would, if deemed appropriate, make FAO procedures more in accord with other organizations of the United Nations.

LI YUNG-KAI (CHINA) (interpretation from Chinese): The Director-General of this organization plays an important role in implementing Conference and Council decisions, making policy recommendations, carrying on activities in accordance with the Constitution of the Organization, and organizing and coordinating the work of the Secretariat. The incumbent Director-General as well as any other candidates should have an equal chance to run for this office. There need not be any restrictions on this matter. Hence we stand for an appropriate amendment of the provisions of the Constitution concerning the election of the Director-General so as to make the office of Director-General renewable.

M.A. PAPAGEORGIOU (Grèce): En étudiant le document CL 71/5, le rapport du CQCJ, j'ai eu l'impression que c'est un document clair et complet. En ce qui concerne plus particulièrement la rééligibilité du Directeur général, permettez-moi de féliciter le CQCJ ainsi que le Groupe de travail d'avoir fourni des informations concrètes et fort intéressantes. Comme il est indiqué dans la proposition soumise au Groupe de travail et comme il est dit aussi aux paragraphes 18 et 19 du rapport de ce Groupe, les textes fondamentaux des autres organisations des Nations Unies ne contiennent aucune disposition excluant à

priori la reelección del Chef du Secrétariat quand son mandat arrive à expiration. Le CQCJ a examiné un tableau qui figure dans l'Annexe B du document CL 71/5, d'où il ressort clairement que les actes constitutifs de presque toutes les organisations du système des Nations Unies ne fixent pas de durée limite au mandat du Chef du Secrétariat; de même, il ressort de ce document que la FAO est la seule organisation dont les textes fondamentaux contiennent une disposition prévoyant que le Chef du Secrétariat n'est pas rééligible.

La FAO, comme toute autre organisation internationale, est une machine énorme, une machine qui est aussi dotée d'une certaine inertie. Il faut du temps, il faut de la persévérance pour y introduire des changements. Lors de sa nomination, le Directeur général hérite d'un programme de travail et budget forgé par son prédécesseur et il doit s'en accommoder pour ne pas avoir à se livrer à des acrobaties afin d'y apporter quelques modifications. Par ailleurs, au point de vue pratique; nous croyons que les Etats Membres de la FAO doivent avoir le droit de préférer une valeur sûre plutôt que d'être acculés tous les six ans à parier sur l'inconnu.

C'est pour cela que mon Gouvernement croit que de toute façon les Etats Membres de la FAO ne doivent

plus être privés de l'importante faculté qu'ils possèdent au sein d'autres organisations des Nations Unies de décider s'ils désirent confier un ou plusieurs mandats au Directeur général, et c'est pour cette raison que j'aimerais vous dire que le Gouvernement de Grèce - pensant que nous devons lever la discrimination qui frappe tout Directeur général de la FAO quel qu'il soit - propose comme amendement à l'Article VII de l'Acte constitutif d'introduire la rééligibilité du Directeur général.

H.L. CLAVERIE RODRIGUEZ (Venezuela): Al iniciar mi comentario relacionado con el informe del CACJ y del Grupo de Trabajo que elaboro el Informe sobre el funcionamiento del Consejo, desearía agradecer,

Señor Presidente por su intermedio al señor Embajador Borin y al Sr. Velay por los claros y eficientes trabajos que se nos ofrecieron a consideración.

Teniendo presente su válido consejo seré lo más breve posible en nuestros comentarios sobre el tema de la reelección del Jefe de esta Casa.

Mi Gobierno, señor Presidente, ha analizado con detalle esta materia, la ha enmarcado en el contexto de los lineamientos que rigen en general en el marco de las Naciones Unidas y sus Organismos especializados, y ha considerado conveniente instruirnos en el sentido de formular a este Grupo la información de que Venezuela no se opone al hecho de la reelección del Director General de la FAO, aunque guarda sus reservas en relación al período que correspondería a esta reelección. Consideramos que la ortodoxa aplicación de los principios democráticos dan la libertad más amplia a todos los países para decidir sin limitaciones sobre el hecho de quién debe dirigir sus funciones.

En lo que se refiere a qué órgano debe decidir esta reelección, el Gobierno de la República de Venezuela estima que en atención a los mismos principios democráticos señalados ya, el Director General debe ser elegido por la Conferencia de la FAO que es la que deberá igualmente presentar los diferentes candidatos. Consideramos que de esta manera la decisión que se adopte estará no sólo libre de presiones de todo tipo, sino que la misma será el resultado de la voluntad total del mundo representado en esta Casa.

Esto es todo lo que la delegación de Venezuela considera útil y necesario decir en esta ocasión sobre el tema.

L. PURMESSUR (Mauritius): The Mauritian delegation wishes to comment on the question of the re-eligibility of the Director-General. In this regard my delegation wishes to congratulate Ambassador Borin, Chairman of the CCLM as well as members of that Committee. The comprehensive and comparative study which they have made leaves no doubt in the mind of my delegation as to the absolute necessity of normalizing a situation which is unacceptable both for the Member Nations of the FAO and for the Director-General himself. How indeed can we in FAO accept depriving ourselves of an option, a right which is exercised everywhere in the United Nations as well as in other organizations, other organs of the United Nations. Why should we deprive also the Director-General of a right which we know is available everywhere else in the entire United Nations family organization. We do not accept such discrimination.

In conclusion, my delegation supports the proposed amendment of the Constitution so as to enable the Director-General of the FAO to be re-available for a further term of office, as it is to all the executive heads in the United Nations system.

I. OROZCO (México): Hemos estudiado con cuidado y con reflexión los informes que nos presenta el Grupo de Trabajo sobre mandato y composición del Consejo y sus Comités y sobre el Informe del Comité de Asuntos Constitucionales y Jurídicos. Apreciamos la labor de estos dos órganos del Consejo y felicitamos a las excelentes Presidencias por la forma en que nos han dado un resumen interesante sobre sus conclusiones.

Nosotros deseamos expresar la opinión de nuestra Delegación en lo que se refiere a uno de los extremos de la propuesta, a saber: el órgano que lleva a cabo el nombramiento del máximo jefe ejecutivo de la Organización.

Nosotros consideramos que la Conferencia debe seguir siendo el órgano que lleve a cabo nombramiento tan importante y de tan amplias repercusiones para el futuro de la Organización. Es la Conferencia el órgano de representatividad global en donde todos los Estados Miembros están representados. Por tanto, nosotros, estamos en contra en cuanto a cualquier cambio que pretenda modificar el sistema actual de la Constitución en cuanto al nombramiento del Director General.

Respecto del primer aspecto, el de la reelegibilidad, ya el Grupo de los 77 en su declaración ha hecho saber cuál es su opinión.

C. HIGGINSON (United States of America): I wish partly to agree with the delegate from Gabon who pointed out that this question can be answered quite simply with a yes or no. The United States is in favour of re-election of a Director-General of FAO. However, this really only starts the problem, in our view. What you want, or at least what we would like to see, is to assure that there is a capable, positive leadership in the FAO, and the term has to be long enough so that he can put his programmes into effect. The other side of the equation is, from management studies in the United States we have come to the conclusion that a man is most effective in a job in the first few years and that his new ideas will come forward in that period of time, and then he needs time to put them into effect. In the United States we have realized also that an incumbent has great influence on future elections, therefore there is a certain amount of rationale in having some limit to the term in office, or the number of times someone can be re-elected. Therefore, we feel that these issues also have to be considered by the Council in making a decision on this point.

I bring your attention to the CCLM report 71/5, Appendix C, Article VII, this is what we are really talking about, "there shall be a Director-General of the Organization who shall be appointed by the Conference" - then this underlined material, meaning it could be added - "on the basis of a nomination made by the Council". The United States would support and thinks that this is a preferred change for the FAO. Then it says "for a term of six years". Then the present version says "after which he shall not be eligible for re-appointment." If you make him eligible for re-appointment you should then re-consider the original term, should it be six years, should it be four years. In the United States view a period of four years and then re-appointment for a period of four years would be the most logical for the FAO, I am not talking about individuals, I am talking purely in principle, how to make sure the FAO has a certain number of changes of Directors-General and that these people do not get into the office and just sort and stay there forever. We want people with ideas.

I will now refer personally to the present Director-general He has, and we have all noted and we have all commented favourably on the many changes he has made in the first few years. We like to see the situation. We like to see that this is possible in the FAO. Therefore, as I say, my country would prefer to see a Director-general appointed by the Conference on the basis of nomination by the Council for a term of four years and he should be eligible for re-election for another term of four years. I would like parenthetically to add, of course, this change in the original term of Director-General would not apply to the present incumbent.

S. STAMPACH (Tchécoslovaquie): La délégation de la Tchécoslovaquie, après avoir consulté d'autres pays socialistes, membres de la FAO, voudrait joindre sa voix à celles des délégations qui appuient le principe de rééligibilité du Chef exécutif de l'OAA. Parler d'une simple comparaison par rapport aux autres organisations internationales ne serait pas juste vis-à-vis du CQCJ ou au Groupe de travail, ainsi que du Président indépendant du Conseil, dont la Tchécoslovaquie en est un des membres. Cette comparaison pourrait diminuer l'importance de ce point que nous jugeons non seulement juridique mais aussi hautement politique et ce, dans le meilleur sens du terme.

L'argument essentiel et primordial, pour notre délégation, est de ne pas priver les Etats Membres de la FAO de l'action d'assurer, le cas échéant, une continuité plus grande au poste de Directeur général de l'Organisation, s'ils le jugent souhaitable, au cours d'une nouvelle élection.

Dans l'histoire du système des Nations Unies, il y a de nombreux exemples de principe de rééligibilité au niveau du Secrétaire général, que ce est objectivement utile pour la pratique démocratique au sein des Nations Unies, spécialement dans les moments les plus difficiles. Ce principe ne prive, d'autant plus, aucun pays de l'avantage de présenter son candidat.

En ce qui concerne le mode d'élection du Chef suprême, nous estimons que c'est à la Conférence, en présence de tous les Etats Membres de la FAO, que l'on devrait réserver la libre décision finale pour l'élection du candidat.

J. BUDARARA (Burundi): Merci de me donner la parole. La délégation du Burundi félicite le Président et les membres du Comité des questions constitutionnelles et juridiques pour la proposition visant, en matière d'élection du Directeur général, à aligner les pratiques suivies à la FAO, sur l'usage en cours dans les autres Organisations des Nations Unies.

Comme la plupart des délégations qui ont pris la parole avant nous, nous avons le sentiment, dans la situation actuelle, que les pays membres de la FAO sont privés de la faculté d'exercer un libre choix entre les candidats possibles, sans exclusion a priori de la réélection d'un chef du Secrétariat quand son mandat arrive à expiration. Cette situation n'est pas satisfaisante.

Les Etats Membres ne doivent plus être privés de la faculté qu'ils ont au sein de notre Organisation des Nations Unies de confier, s'ils le désirent, un ou plusieurs autres mandats au Directeur général. C'est pour cette raison que ma délégation appuie la proposition d'amender la Constitution en vue de permettre la rééligibilité du Directeur général. Il s'agit en fait d'abolir une double discrimination; à savoir, la première vis-à-vis du Directeur général de la FAO, puisqu'il est le seul Directeur général d'une Organisation des Nations Unies qui ne soit pas rééligible.

La seconde discrimination se situe au niveau des pays membres de la FAO qui ne disposent pas de la liberté de réélire le Directeur général alors qu'ils sont libres de le faire partout ailleurs dans les autres organisations des Nations Unies. Le rapport établi à ce sujet par le Comité des questions juridiques et constitutionnelles ne permet pas d'avoir la moindre hésitation quant à la nécessité de recommander à l'unanimité cet amendement à la Conférence générale. En ce qui concerne le rôle du Conseil et de la Conférence dans l'élection du Directeur général, nous sommes convaincus que la Conférence générale doit être l'organe qui doit prendre la dernière décision. Toutefois, nous pensons que le Conseil pourrait jouer un rôle très important dans la désignation du candidat à la Conférence générale.

Sra. D^a. M. IVANKOVICH DE AROSEMENA (Panamá): La Delegación de Panama desea felicitar al Sr. Velay, lo mismo que al Doctor Borin, Presidente del Comité de Asuntos Constitucionales y Jurídicos por el excelente trabajo realizado.

Mi Delegación considera que las actuales disposiciones de la Organización no van de acuerdo con lo establecido en los otros Organismos de la familia de las Naciones Unidas que permiten la reelegibilidad de su Jefe ejecutivo. Por este motivo, la Delegación de Panamá considera que la Constitución de nuestra Organización debe enmendarse de manera que se establezca el principio de la reelegibilidad del Director General.

Nos preguntamos por qué la Conferencia debe renunciar al derecho de poder reelegir a un Director General si considera que es la persona adecuada para ejecutar las políticas y programas aprobados en la Conferencia. A este respecto consideramos que la Conferencia debe tener la posibilidad de elegir, si lo cree conveniente, un nuevo Director General o, por el contrario, disponer del instrumento legal que le permita la reelección. Creemos que es éste el momento oportuno de que el Consejo recomiende a la Conferencia la enmienda de los párrafos que regulan la materia en estudio.

La Delegación de Panamá confirma su apoyo a la declaración del Presidente del Grupo de los 77, que consta en el documento CL 71/INF/9, sobre el principio de la reelección del Director General en el entendimiento de que será la Conferencia, de acuerdo con el sistema vigente, la que designe al Jefe ejecutivo de la Organización.

S.H.A, MOTALÂB (Sudan) (Interpretation from Arabic): I should like to thank the Working Party for the work it has done on the problem before us and also the CCLM that has thrown light on the amendments required to FAO's constitution to bring it into line with the usage in other organizations of the United Nations family. My delegation should like to associate itself with those who have spoken in favour of amending FAO's constitution in order to permit the re-election of the Director-General.

J.C. VIGNAUD (Argentina): La opinión de mi Delegación en relación con el tema que nos ocupa ha sido perfectamente interpretada por la declaración que hace algunos días se hizo en nombre del Grupo de los 77, de manera que no voy a insistir sobre ello.

Sin perjuicio del contenido de esa declaración, que apoyamos por supuesto, quisiera hacer unos brevísimos comentarios en relación con las consideraciones que se tuvieron en cuenta en Buenos Aires para asumir esta actitud.

En primer lugar, se pensó que éste es un tema que debe analizarse con total y absoluta abstracción de las personas y que es un problema de índole institucional y jurídica. Se pensó, asimismo, que debíamos reiterar cuanto hemos manifestado en el seno de este Consejo en otra oportunidad en la que tuvimos ocasión de analizar una propuesta semejante, en el sentido de que mi Gobierno es partidario de sostener la inalterabilidad de la vigencia de las normas.

Sin perjuicio de ello se pensó asimismo que este principio puede ceder frente a la posibilidad de mejorar, o frente a una norma que es perfectible, es decir, frente a la posibilidad de mejorar el enunciado de una norma jurídica.

Siguiendo con este razonamiento, se tuvo en cuenta que la reelegibilidad tiende a permitir que los países puedan apoyar o no a un Director General evaluando los resultados de su desempeño. Por este motivo se estimó que no hay razón alguna para privar a los Gobiernos de ese derecho, o de esa posibilidad de apoyar o no a un Director General si ha realizado un buen desempeño.

Por otra parte, se estimó también que la posibilidad o que la reelegibilidad podría evitar una suerte de politización interna que muchas veces quienes han tenido la oportunidad de seguir a través del tiempo los trabajos de FAO han tenido oportunidad de observar y esa politización interna muchas veces ha sido en detrimento de la eficacia de la propia Organización. De manera que está claro que el Gobierno de la República Argentina está en favor de la modificación de la cláusula constitucional que examinamos en el sentido de que el Director General pueda ser reelegido.

En relación con el otro aspecto del problema que analizamos, es decir, si debe ser el Consejo o la Conferencia quien elija al Director General, mi Gobierno estima que debe permitirse a todos los Países miembros de la Organización que puedan expresar su elección sin limitación alguna. Lamentablemente, el Consejo no está integrado por todos los países de la Organización y, por tanto, el permitir que fuera el Consejo quien se exprese a este respecto a través de la proposición de un candidato implicaría en cierto modo introducir un sistema de voto calificado que es contrario a los principios que deben regir la comunidad internacional.

Por este motivo mi Gobierno piensa que debe continuar siendo la Conferencia quien elija al Director General porque es a través de ella que todos los países miembros pueden expresar su opinión.

S. JUMA'A (Jordan) (Interpretation from Arabic): My colleague, Libya, spoke on behalf of the Arab countries of the Near East and has supported the proposal, so I will not add anything to what he has already said. Nevertheless, I should like to comment on a few matters that have been the object of controversy, and in particular I should like to mention that one of our distinguished colleagues said that a study had been carried out in his country on administration. However, our colleague did not state whether these studies were carried out on insurance companies, on banks, on motorcar manufacturing companies, or on international organizations. All this obviously means that what is done in one country is not necessarily applicable to all the countries of the world. Moreover, one Member Country said that a Director General may control the results of an election. Well, we should remember that last year exactly the opposite happened in India, in the United States, in Israel and in Turkey, that is to say, the party in power lost their power and the executive in office was not re-elected. This means that what is true in the one country will not be true in another. Therefore, a Director General will not be in a position to control or influence the votes or attitudes of all the 144 Member Countries of the Organization. He may be able to influence some but certainly not all.

Another comment I should like to make arises out of what Japan and the Netherlands said. We were told by those delegations that this question has not been gone into in enough depth. Nevertheless, in referring to the documents before us I see that the studies that have been carried out are more than sufficient, and we do not think that Ambassador Borin and the members of the Working Party can really add anything to what is already contained in the document. I do not believe the Working Party can go any further, and for this reason I find this request for a further study or a new study rather strange. I think that the question is a simple one and does not require a study covering several years. As I said, the question is to decide whether or not it is possible to re-elect the Director General, and I have no hesitation in replying to this question. I think that to delay any further and to discuss problems which can be solved in a minute is just a waste of time. This is how we should proceed if we wish to be objective.

It has also been said, I think it was perhaps by Gabon, that the last amendment introduced in 1971 was a bad amendment. The amendment introduced in 1971 was considered to be the best solution, and we accepted it at that time because it enabled us to make other proposals. The Constitution is not a sacred work. It may be amended whenever we feel we need to. Therefore, when we accepted the 1971 amendment, we did so because we felt it to be a transitional measure because we were convinced that in subsequent years this amendment would be amended in its turn.

To my mind, the time has come at this session to re-examine the question. If we do not decide now we shall not decide it until 1978, because any amendment to the Constitution will have to be notified to Member Countries 120 days before the Council meeting, so if we do not take a decision now, this question will not be examined until the General Conference of 1979. This would perhaps give rise to manoeuvres and to controversies within the Organization, because the Secretariat would find itself in a rather difficult situation. We have seen what has happened in the past, and therefore we think it would be better to take a decision at this Session to enable the Conference and at its next Session to take a final decision on this matter.

The proposal before us has several positive factors. First of all, if a Director-General feels that he has the necessary qualifications to continue his services to the international community, he has the right to express this opinion. This is so in the other Organizations of the United Nations family and this was so in our own Organization in the former years. It is very difficult for us to accept the view that would deprive the Director-General of the possibility of presenting himself for re-election.

Having said this, of course, the last word remains with the Member Countries of the Organization and not with the Director-General. It is for Member Countries to accept or re-elect the Director-General or not, as they see fit. To my mind, the present term of office of six years is not long enough and does not enable the Director-General to terminate the programme he has prepared and worked out, so we would find it difficult to reject this proposal. On the contrary, we support it wholeheartedly and we hope the Council will adopt it unanimously.

I repeat, I hope that the Council will take a unanimous decision on this matter, and that the Conference will be enabled to take a final decision on this without having to discuss the matter at any great length, because in general unanimous decisions submitted by the Council to the Conference are dealt with very rapidly.

N.M. MWAUNGULU (Malawi) : The Malawi delegation would like to thank the Chairman of the Working Party and the Chairman of the CCLM for the introductions they have respectively made to documents CL 71/12 and CL 71/5. The reports that these documents present are concise and make very clear reading; they are well prepared reports.

First, the Malawi delegation would like to say that it finds no difficulty in going along with the proposal to increase the role of the Council in the election of the Director-General. It would appear from the findings of the CCLM in document CL 71/5 that the widespread procedure in the United Nations system is to give the Council a not-too-small recommending role to the Conference in the election of the Executive Head of the FAO. We therefore feel that the grounds for supporting the Draft Resolution on page 8 of the document CL 71/5 exist probably incontestably, and it should therefore be submitted to the Conference for consideration and approval.

Of course, the tenure of the office - the initial term and the second term - should be discussed more fully to avoid an executive head being in office for too long - the initial term of six years and the second term of four, or to change it to four and four, or six and two, whichever is the more practical tenure-term arrangement.

As to the eligibility or non-eligibility of the Director-General for election or to stand for a second term of office, my delegation feels the proposal marks another stage in FAO's constitutional development, in this case regarding the procedures affecting the election of the Executive Head of the Organization. The element of prohibition which exists, that an incumbent executive head cannot stand for re-election, would appear not to be in line with the commonly accepted practices within the United Nations system.

As a majority of speakers before me have indicated, it is not in the interests of continuity and is obviously not to the advantage of the work of FAO, especially where Member States may feel strongly about re-electing the incumbent head. My delegation therefore supports the eligibility for election of the Executive Head of FAO.

A.A.W. LANDYMORE (United Kingdom): First of all, the United Kingdom delegation would like to associate itself with the other delegations which have thanked Mr. Velay as Rapporteur of the Working Party and Ambassador Borin as Chairman of the CCLM for the admirable clarity with which they have presented the issues to this Council.

Mr. Chairman, with your permission and indulgence Mr. Martin, as leader of the United Kingdom delegation at the conclusion of our discussions last Friday and in anticipation of this present item, presented certain views on this subject, and it will not be my purpose to repeat those views this morning. I would only request that those views as expressed should be regarded as part of the present discussion, and of course that is addressed not only to this Council but also to the Drafting Committee.

As practically every delegation has stressed, there are two questions: one is the re-eligibility of the Director-General and the other is the role of the Council. The delegate of Indonesia has suggested, and I think rightly, that the trend of the present debate suggests that we should concentrate on the matter of re-eligibility, and we would associate ourselves with that view.

I would only like to recall one thing in regard to the question of the role of the Council before -passing on to the main question, and that is this: obviously the role of the Council does require further reflection. One of the points which came up a number of years ago in connexion with the decisions that were then taken about the election of the Director-General was the point that some procedures forced on candidates an undue amount of electioneering. I say that enforces it on all candidates.

It may be when we reflect on these matters we shall find some kind of preparatory procedures which will among other things relieve candidates of those undue pressures on themselves, but this is something that has to be reflected on later on, because obviously there is no very great unanimity on what the role of the Council might be in this connexion. We are all agreed the last word has to be left with the Conference, but in the meantime perhaps we should give ourselves time for reflection on the Council's role in helping in the preparation of that work.

Going back to the question of re-eligibility, it is the view of the United Kingdom we should come to a decision on this now. We have to ask ourselves why not do it now? As pointed out by the delegate of Indonesia, there is no reason for delay. Moreover, the procedures of this Organization which require changes in the Constitution of the Organization rightly are such as to require a good deal of deliberation. We should think over these questions by going over the various arguments and thinking them over very carefully. My delegation would feel it would be right to re-establish the principle of eligibility now, because it is something that can be got out of the way at the next Conference, and in this we can go along with the delegation of Indonesia and others who have spoken. It would therefore be our hope that we shall be able to associate ourselves with a suitably-worded Draft Resolution on this subject.

A. GRAY (Trinidad and Tobago): When the delegate of Brazil spoke earlier, both in his capacity as Chairman of the Group of 77 and in his capacity as delegate of Brazil, he expressed certain ideas in connexion with the principle of the eligibility for re-election of the Director-General, as did the delegate for Bangladesh in a comprehensive statement.

In this connexion, our delegation would like to do no less than endorse their views as they relate to the re-eligibility.

As regards the procedures of selecting the individual who would become Director-General, we would prefer for the time being at least to have the existing practice continue so that the Conference which is the sovereign body of FAO, establish the organ responsible for making the selection.

We also recall the reasons given by the delegate of Mexico in his representation which were to allow access to all countries of the Organization.

There is another aspect, and we understand and we say no more, that there are certain problems of a practical nature that could be avoided by having the Conference - the General Assembly of the Organization - make the selection, and these problems arise from the nature and structure of the political system of Organization like FAO, particularly as regards the structures for aggregation and articulation of interests.

We see problems of a practical nature. We understand there are certain difficulties for candidates who sometimes have a dilemma as regards who they will represent - shall they vote on the basis of

directions contained in their briefs from their governments, or according to directions or point of view expressed in their respective regional councils? We think that apart from the very good reason of allowing each member country to have a say in this very important matter we should continue with the practice of having the Conference, the sovereign body, make the final choice.

V. ISARANKURA (Thailand): The Thai delegation would like to express its viewpoint on the question of the eligibility of the Director-General for re-election. In essence our position is similar to many delegates- who have already stated their position, that is, we agree with the proposal that the Director-General should have the right to stand for re-election.

Our position is based on our understanding that any rules, regulations or written sets of conduct to be both effective and constructive must necessarily be perceived objectively in relation to the changing needs of reality. Interpretation and concession with regard to the basic text in absolute terms will not only invite self-imposed stagnation on the part of our Organization but will reduce it to mere abstractions.

In view of the above-mentioned we feel that the most positive measures to redress the present -unsatisfactory and undemocratic practice presently existing in our Organization with regard to the question of the Director-General's right to seek re-election would be to make the necessary amendments to the Constitution. We therefore endorse the proposal already put forward by various delegations concerning the right of the Director-General to seek re-election in accordance with accepted democratic practices.

W.A.F. GRABISCH (Germany, Federal Republic of): Before turning to the two issues recommended to us for consideration, I wish to make a general remark. From the report of the Working Party on the composition and terms of reference of the Council which had to hold five meetings before it produced the results now before us, my delegation draws the following conclusions, namely, that the Council as such - that is to say all its members - should in future discuss important policy and institutional matters instead of delegating them. The views of all Council members around the table are equally important and, expressed in free and open dialogue, give the best assurance that decisions to be taken are based on the broadest possible exchange of information and experience.

With regard to the proposal for re-eligibility of the Director-General, it needs to be seen also, we feel, in connexion with the term of office. My Government is flexible but feels that some principles should be taken into consideration as possible, namely, first, the Constitution should be changed only if there is a need for it; secondly, rotation; and thirdly, equality of chance for all candidates.

In particular the last two principles led to the present provisions in the Constitution The question of equal footing for future candidates must be taken into consideration if a decision is to be taken on the duration of a second term of office. In our view this question has not been discussed deeply enough. But if the majority of the Council is of the opinion that this question does not merit further consideration, contrary to what was expressed by the delegates of Venezuela, Mexico, the United States of America, Argentina, Malawi, and perhaps some others, my delegation could go along with the view that a decision should be taken at this Council Session.

With regard to election procedures, my delegation, like other speakers before me, would give preference to the present system being continued, namely, that the Conference should also have in future freedom to choose between several candidates if there were several candidates. With regard to facilitating the election my delegation would like to see, instead of costly and time consuming election campaigns, that all candidates give, at an early stage, clear policy statements, which should in our view be circulated to Member Governments. Apart from this, we would like to see candidates being given a chance to present themselves to the Council session just prior to the Conference at which an election of the Director-General will take place.

H.A.I. HAKIM (Indonesia): Mr. Chairman, thank you for allowing my delegation to speak for the second time following the statement made by the leader of our delegation. We should like at this stage to propose a draft conference resolution to the Council concerning the term of office of the Director-General. We have been able to consult only some delegations at this Council session due to the time available. I regret that not all delegations were able to be consulted by my delegation but the consultations have enabled us to bring forward this draft resolution which is now sponsored by the following countries: Indonesia, Pakistan, Lebanon, Egypt, Sudan, Jordan, Libya, Tunisia, Brazil, Panama, Gabon, Gambia, Bangladesh, Greece, United Kingdom, Spain, India and Czechoslovakia. With this in mind and having heard the views expressed on this matter we would like to propose the following draft conference resolution, copies of which have been given to the Secretariat and we hope that the Secretariat will be able to distribute copies to members of the delegations at this Council meeting. In the meantime, the draft resolution reads as follows:

"THE CONFERENCE,

"Recalling its Resolution 3/75 1/;

"Having noted that the Working Party on the Composition and Terms of Reference of the Council, the Programme-Committee, the Finance Committee and the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters, established by the Council at its Sixty-Eighth Session, had found that the constitutional provisions of FAO concerning the term of office of the Director-General were essentially different from the law and practice prevailing in other organizations forming part of the United Nations System;

"Convinced that the constitutional provisions of FAO governing this matter should be more consistent with such law and practice;

"Concurring with the view of the Council that it would be in the best interests of the Organization if Member Nations of FAO were not precluded from re-electing a Director-General if they should so desire;

"Having examined the draft amendments to the Constitution and the General Rules of the Organization, recommended by the Council at its Seventy-First Session;

"Adopts the following amendments to paragraphs 1 and 3 of Article VII of the Constitution 2/:

Article VII

The Director-General

1. There shall be a Director-General of the Organization who shall be appointed by the Conference for a term of six years [after which he shall not be eligible for re-appointment]. He shall be eligible for re-appointment.

3. Should the office of Director-General become vacant [during the above-mentioned term of office] prior to the expiry of his term of office, the Conference shall, either at the next regular session" or at a special session convened in accordance with Article III, paragraph 6 of this Constitution, appoint a Director-General in accordance with the provisions of paragraphs 1 and 2 of this Article. However, the duration of the term of office of the Director-General appointed at a special session shall expire at the end of year of the third regular session of the Conference following the date of his appointment.

1/ Resolution 3/75, III, para. 9

2/ Proposed deletions appear within square brackets; proposed additions are underlined.

We would like therefore to insert some words in paragraph 1 and 3 of Article VII of the Constitution and delete several other words. I hope that all members of the Council have received a copy of the draft resolution that the Indonesian delegation proposes and we hope that it will be agreed upon by the Council unanimously.

EL PRESIDENTE: Espero que los miembros del Consejo estén recibiendo ahora el texto del proyecto de resolución de Indonesia.

Creo que lo más indicado es conceder la palabra a los oradores que todavía están pendientes y luego veremos qué curso se le dará a la propuesta de Indonesia.

H. ABDALLAH (Egypt) (interpretation from Arabic): We support the draft resolution just presented by the delegate of Indonesia. In the light of the contents of the draft resolution and since it is in conformity with the practice and customs of international organizations, and also given the unanimity which has come to light within the Council, the support given to the draft resolution as well as the other considerations expressed by the delegate of the United Kingdom, to the effect that we ought to arrive at a decision at this session, we support the draft Conference resolution presented by the delegation of Indonesia and we should like it to be adopted by the Council.

H. CUEVA EGUIGUREN (Ecuador): Mi Delegación quiere, en primer término, unirse a aquellas que han suscrito la propuesta presentada por Indonesia y la apoya definitivamente ya que estima que, dados los problemas que debe estudiar y resolver la FAO, como son la alimentación, la agricultura, la nutrición, etc. se necesita un plan que tenga la debida continuidad, no pudiéndose, pues, limitar el tiempo de las funciones del Director General que tiene en marcha un buen plan que deberá dar sus mejores resultados a un mediano plazo.

Con esto, mi Delegación apoya el principio de la reelegibilidad. Por otra parte, estima que debe ser la Conferencia, libremente, quien elija al Director General, dando así la oportunidad a todos los Gobiernos para que puedan expresar su elección sin limitación alguna.

Por ello, Sr. Presidente, mi Delegación apoya el proyecto de resolución presentado al Consejo por el Sr. Delegado de Indonesia y apoyado por numerosos Países miembros de este Consejo.

L. LAPEBY (Gabon): Lorsque l'honorable délégué de l'Indonésie a pris la parole, il vous a dit que le Gabon était parmi les pays qui avaient été consultés sur cette résolution. Par conséquent, ma délégation ne peut l'appuyer que très fortement. Ma délégation appuie cette résolution, et seulement cette résolution, parce qu'au cours de nos discussions et au stade où nous en sommes, il est clair que l'unanimité s'est presque dégagée (à part deux membres du Conseil), afin de reconnaître que le Directeur général devait être rééligible. Toutefois, dans notre première intervention, nous n'avons pas abordé les autres points qui sont traités dans les documents CL 71/5 et CL 71/12. Nous estimons que ce problème devrait être réglé séparément et qu'il ne devrait pas interférer avec les autres. Ce point maintenant réglé, nous espérons que les délégations qui ont fait valoir le fait qu'au bout de six ans, le Directeur général pourrait être quelque peu fatigué, et qu'il aurait moins d'allant, si l'on peut dire, tiennent compte de ceci: si elles estiment qu'au bout de six ans le Directeur général aura moins d'allant et qu'il faut lui donner un mandat réduit de quatre années, elles oublient que, psychologiquement, de facto, elles conditionnent son élection.

Or, nous avons dit que "rééligibilité" ne voulait pas dire "réélection". Pourquoi? Parce que, ne connaissant pas un nouveau candidat, la Conférence peut être amenée à se contenter de l'ancien Directeur général pour une plus petite durée, renvoyant à plus tard l'examen du problème dans son entier et le délégué de la Jordanie a cité les exemples flagrants de ces dernières années afin de répondre à certaines délégations qui ont manifesté leurs craintes que le Directeur général n'influence sa réélection. Je crois que l'Histoire nous montre que l'exécutif n'a pas toujours pu mettre la main sur le législatif, en général du moins.

En conséquence, je vois mal comment le Directeur général, à moins que nous ne soyons des larbins, pourrait influencer une aussi grande assemblée? L'argument ne tient pas.

J'en viens à un autre point: il s'agit de l'alternance que certains ont évoquée pour justifier la limite qu'il faudrait mettre à la rééligibilité. Je comprends ce processus d'autant plus que, personnellement, je suis attaché aux principes de la démocratie mais est-ce que pour autant nous devons en faire une règle intangible? Je ne le pense pas puisque tous les pays démocratiques, si je ne m'abuse, autorisent leurs dirigeants à courir leur chance, au moins une fois sans que la période soit raccourcie, et ce, car il a déjà exercé les mêmes fonctions. Je ne l'ai jamais vu dans aucune Constitution. Ce qui veut dire que nous n'avons pas ici à réduire le mandat du Directeur général et à mettre des conditions à cette éventuelle réélection. Notre proposition est contenue dans la résolution et je voudrais que le Conseil évite de créer de nouveaux carcans mais qu'il se base sur la logique simple. La rééligibilité en soi ne nous enlève pas la liberté de choisir. Pour ceux qui ont évoqué les qualités que devraient présenter les candidats, je puis dire qu'il faudrait revoir cette situation dans toutes les constitutions du monde, car le parti au pouvoir a toutes les possibilités de contrôler les élections et de guider la population ou l'assemblée à choisir le candidat déjà au pouvoir. Or nous venons de vivre des cas très importants.

Je crois qu'il y a là, pour tous, la nécessité de prendre conscience, et c'est très important, du fait que le titulaire, pour briguer une réélection doit, plus que le nouveau, l'inconnu, satisfaire ou avoir satisfait les pays membres de l'Organisation; par conséquent, il doit avoir été à la hauteur de sa tâche car dans le cas contraire, il est perdant dès le départ. Dans chaque compétition on a l'habitude de dire: "Que le meilleur gagne", le fait que le Directeur général soit connu n'est pas un point en sa faveur car il aura subi des critiques; il n'y a que ceux qui ne font rien qui ne peuvent être critiqués; ce n'est pas pour autant que dans notre communauté il aura pu donner satisfaction à tout le monde. Ceux qui estimeront à ce moment-là qu'il n'est pas à leur mesure, auront la liberté de choisir l'inconnu. Si l'on estime que son mandat est trop long, ils auront le loisir de choisir l'inconnu. Mais comment voulez-vous qu'un inconnu nous présente un programme de travail? A moins qu'il ne soit habitué à nos assises mais nous ne sommes pas tous membres du Conseil en permanence. Je ne vois pas comment nous pouvons nous permettre de présenter des programmes qui soient faciles à accepter pour tous. Nous ne voulons pas non plus priver notre Organisation de l'équilibre nécessaire entre l'adaptabilité et la continuité.

Je pense que nous avons intérêt à adopter la résolution qui nous est présentée par notre collègue de l'Indonésie.

J.C. VIGNAUD (Argentina): En cuanto que el proyecto de resolución que ha presentado la Delegación de Indonesia coincide con los lineamientos de nuestra intervención anterior, lo apoyamos.

F. AHMED (Bangladesh): Bangladesh is of course a sponsor of the resolution submitted by Indonesia. It is the view of the Bangladesh delegation that this has been discussed in depth. As I have said earlier, we should not deny our own right to continuity and stability in the choice of leadership and we must have an option, nor should our hands be tied. We therefore feel that action should be taken now and that this resolution should be adopted.

I. A. IMTIAZI (Pakistan): I will not tax your patience or that of other colleagues on the Council, I will content myself by saying it is quite clear to us that almost all the speakers who have spoken have spoken in favour of the principle of re-eligibility, except for perhaps two or three, and a clear consensus has emerged. For the reasons given by me earlier and for the reasons so lucidly and

elaborately presented by speakers this morning, my delegation fully and wholeheartedly supports the amendment mooted by the delegate of Indonesia.

EL PRESIDENTE: Les ruego que sean muy breves, por favor, porque es evidente lo que han afirmado las dos últimas Delegaciones en el sentido de que hay mayoría en favor del principio de reelegibilidad, que es la esencia del proyecto de resolución de Indonesia.

A. GISSE (Niger): La délégation du Niger appuie le projet de résolution présenté par l'Indonésie et qui correspond aux vues que le Niger a défendues.

J. BERTELING (Netherlands): I asked for the floor before Indonesia introduced the Draft Resolution. I will have to adapt my comments and my paper a little bit.

I must say I am very glad for the discussion we have had so far and I feel that sometimes, by some delegations, we might have been misunderstood because we asked for a more careful study, and also for more careful discussion, especially for the connected problems, the problem of the Council's role in electing a Director-General and the terms of office. We have absolutely nothing against the principle of re-eligibility. However, we are now faced with a Resolution in which the other elements are also mentioned. I could have certainly gone along with the principle of re-eligibility. The two major problems, the problem of the Council's role, is not important, and should be discussed so that the problem is not in a Resolution but is only behind us.

What I would have said before the Draft Resolution was introduced was that the inclination of my delegation was to support the view most clearly expressed by the American delegation that a Director-General should be elected for a term of four years and that he is re-eligible for one more term of four years. This Resolution does not spell out, the possibility to elect a Director-General, I presume for the same term of office, for six years and again six years, and so on, maybe, maybe not. That is the autonomous wish of the Conference. However, we have a strong preference in fact because of the reasons mentioned by the American delegation that at least a second term is the last one and it should be confined to four years.

J.L. TOFFIN (France): Ma délégation appuie dans son principe la résolution de la délégation de l'Indonesie puisque nous sommes pleinement d'accord sur l'éventualité d'une réélection du Directeur général. Nous exprimons le regret que le projet de résolution, contrairement à ce qui avait été préparé par le Comité des questions constitutionnelles et juridiques ne fasse qu'une allusion au mode de désignation du Directeur général et aux possibilités de donner un rôle accru au Conseil dans la procédure de désignation qui était appuyée par un grand nombre de délégations.

T. TANABE (Japan): The United States have suggested four years for terms of office and I think this is very important and we should further discuss this Draft Resolution, together with the United States suggestion.

H. A. I. HAKIM (Indonesia): We think that our Resolution is concentrating on the term of office of the Director-General, so we do not put in this Resolution the procedure of the election and the authority of the Council. It will be tackled in the other Resolution.

On the second point I want to say just this, to the list of delegations, we have consulted the Indian delegation, that is the first one we have consulted so we would like to put India next to Indonesia.

EL PRESIDENTE: Señores, tres observadores han esperado pacientemente toda la mañana, voy a concederles la palabra con dos minutos y medio para cada uno de los observadores.

I. MOSKOVITS (Observer for Malta): In view of the guillotine you have established against the Observers, I have very little to say now! We are pleased, since we cannot support, because we have not the right to support, but to say a word to the Resolution, we are pleased with the Resolution proposed by Indonesia.

O. LUCO ECHEVERRIA (Observador de Chile): Dada la brevedad de tiempo que ha sido concedida trataré de ser lo más escueto posible. Además gran parte de lo que se tenía pensado decir por parte de mi delegación ya lo han dicho otros oradores que rae han precedido en el uso de la palabra.

Electivamente, la delegación del Gobierno de Chile desea expresar su opinión acerca de este importante asunto sometido a la consideración del Consejo. Para ello, creo conveniente hacer una distinción clara entre los dos aspectos incluidos en el tema, a saber: el procedimiento para la designación del

Director General y la posibilidad de su reelección. En cuanto al primero de estos puntos, mi delegación estima que la elección del Director General continúe siendo de la competencia exclusiva de la Conferencia. Por tanto, no deberían alterarse las normas vigentes sobre esta materia, La ésta la única manera de asegurar a todos los Estados Miembros de la Organización el ejercicio de un derecho, del cual no puede legítimamente ser privado.

En cuanto se refiere a la posibilidad de reelegir al Director General, la delegación del Gobierno de Chile no ve razones para mantener la situación actual, que no sólo difiere de la imperante en el seno de las demás instituciones de las Naciones Unidas, sino que además nos parece que es contraria a los intereses de la Organización. Cuando la Conferencia decide sobre el nombramiento del Director General debe aquilatar los méritos personales de los candidatos presentados hasta donde dichos méritos sean cabalmente conocidos por los Estados Miembros. Si el Director General que finaliza su mandato ha demostrado en el hecho y en forma evidente para todos que posee las capacidades y experiencias necesarias para conducir la marcha de la institución en forma satisfactoria, no se divisa el motivo para excluirlo de la posibilidad de continuar prestando servicios importantes a la Organización, pero es necesario que este juicio sea emitido por todos los Estados Miembros de la Conferencia.

En resumen, primero, el Gobierno de Chile apoya las modificaciones que permiten la reelección del Director General de la FAO. Segundo, estima que la elección del Director General de la FAO debe continuar siendo atribución de la Conferencia. Y, por lo tanto, piensa que en este aspecto no deben introducirse modificaciones a las normas vigentes. En consecuencia, la posición de mi delegación es coincidente con el Proyecto de Resolución presentado por el representante de Indonesia.

S. M. RICHARDS (Observer for Liberia): Unfortunately we do not have time to speak on this very important topic. My Government has studied the two Council documents presented before us. On the matter of the procedure for electing the Director-General, it is my Government's feeling that the present system should be maintained for the simple reason that not all Member Countries of FAO are in fact Members of the Council. Now we can see exactly in this form how that is treated. Therefore it is my Government's strong suggestion that the present system be maintained.

Now on the basis of the re-eligibility of the Director-General, we have no difficulty in that direction, but our only problem is that we want some clarification on the second term of office for the number of years that the Director-General is to serve for. A Resolution has been presented to us by the delegate of Indonesia. Now if this Resolution is to come forward to the Conference, it is our opinion that there could be coincidence in the light of the last sentence, and that should be amplified. The last sentence reads "he shall be eligible for re-appointment". Now, it does not state for how many years and we should like some clarification on that.

O. BORIN (Président, Comité des questions constitutionnelles et juridiques): Je me permettrai simplement de rappeler au Conseil qu'à l'Article XXX, par. 4, de l'Acte constitutif, il est dit:

"Aucune proposition d'amendement à l'Acte constitutif ne peut être portée à l'ordre du jour d'une session de la Conférence à moins que la notification n'en ait été donnée par le Directeur général aux Etats Membres et aux Membres associés, 120 jours au plus tard avant l'ouverture de la session".

Par conséquent, toute proposition que le Conseil voudrait présenter à la 19ème session, doit être formulée 120 jours avant l'ouverture de cette session.

EL PRESIDENTE: Hemos llegado así al final del debate sobre este tema. Creo que el resumen es muy claro y vuelvo a hacerlo en forma breve. La gran mayoría de los miembros del Consejo se han expresado en favor de la reelegibilidad. Por lo tanto el Consejo acoge el texto del Proyecto de Resolución presentado por Indonesia y numerosos países, para que sea presentado en nuestro informe y así el Director General dé el curso legal subsiguiente a las observaciones adecuadas que acaba de hacer el Presidente del CACJ. Naturalmente, creo que todos somos conscientes de que dos o tres miembros del Consejo plantearon algunas observaciones, que podrán ser examinadas por el Comité de Redacción, del cual es parte uno de sus miembros del Consejo, para que las observaciones que deban reflejarse se acuerden de la forma conveniente.

Sobre el método para la elección del Director General, no quiero hacer un inventario numérico de cómo se orientaron las intervenciones, pero sí quisiera recoger el comentario último de Francia en el sentido de que tal vez convendría pasar al Comité de Redacción los argumentos que se esgrimieron en favor de que el Consejo de la FAO pueda desempeñar cierto papel en la escogencia de las candidaturas a Director General.

Creo que esto podríamos incluirlo en el texto de nuestro Informe y así tendrían lugar las discusiones sucesivas. Naturalmente, todo esto está a la discreción de la mayoría del Comité de Redacción y a refrendación final de los miembros del Consejo. Yo sólo trato de canalizar y reorientar las opiniones que fueron expresadas por ustedes.

C. HIGGINSON (United States of America): Maybe I misunderstood but I thought the delegate of Indonesia was going to present another Resolution to the Council, and if so, I think this should be considered at the same time.

EL PRESIDENTE: El Grupo de Redacción, en mi opinión, podría considerar los argumentos que se expresaron en ese sentido y decidir si fuera del caso presentar un nuevo Proyecto de Resolución, y si no se presenta esa recomendación en el texto del Proyecto de Informe, yo entiendo y creo que es una cuestión que no envolverá ninguna decisión precisa. Yo creo que tal vez sería más conveniente limitarnos a que eso se expresara en el texto del Proyecto de Informe. Naturalmente, se incluiría en el texto del Comité de Redacción.

The meeting rose at 13.00 hours.

La séance est levée à 13 h 00

Se levanta la sesión a las 13.00 horas.

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ORGANIZACION DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS PARA LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION

CL

CL 71/PV/12

Seventy-First Session

Soixante et onzième session

71° período de sesiones

TWELFTH PLENARY MEETING
DOUZIEME SEANCE PLENIERE
12ª SESION PLENARIA

(13 June 1977)

The Twelfth Plenary Meeting was opened at 15.00 hours G. Bula Hoyos, Independent Charman of the council, presiding

La douzième séance plénière est ouverte à 15 h 00, sous la présidence de G. Bula Hoyos, Président indépendant du Conseil

Se abre la 12ª sesión plenaria a las 15.00 horas bajo la presidencia de G. Bula Hoyos, Presidente Independiente del Consejo

V - CONSTITUTIONAL AND LEGAL MATTERS (Continued)

V - QUESTIONS CONSTITUTIONNELLES ET JURIDIQUES (suite)

V - ASUNTOS CONSTITUCIONALES" Y JURUDICOS (contimiacion)

20. Report of the Working Party on the Composition and Terms of Reference of the Council, the Programme Committee, the finance. Committee and the CCLM : (continued)

20. Rapport du Groupe de travail sur la composition et: le mandat du Conseil, du Comité du Programme, du Comité financier et du CQCJ: (suite)

20. Informe del. Grupo de Trabajo sobre la Composición y el Mandato del Consejo, el Comité de Programa, el comite de Filialisas y el Comité de Asuntos Constitucionales y Jurídicos: (continuación)

EL PRESIDENTE : Vamos a empezar la sesión de esta tarde como lo habíamos convenido esta mañana. Conviene que sigamos este punto que es importante y que pertenece igualmente a los dos informes, al del Grupo de Trabajo y al del CACJ. El aumento del número de puestos del Consejo lo encontrarán en el documento CL 71/5, párrafos 33 a 35 y el del Grupo de Trabajo está en los párrafos 20 y 21, como ya lo dijo el señor Velay, Presidente en Ejercicio del Grupo del Trabajo. Notarán ustedes que en el párrafo 20 del documento 12 aparece la alternativa sobre el número y Jistribución de los puertos del Consejo. Después de numerosas discusiones el Grupo resolvió como posibles medidas de compromiso, apoyar la solución que aparece en el párrafo 20 apartado D, o sea aumentar a 49 miembros el Consejo, con la distribución que aparece en el mismo apartado D del párrafo 20.

Una vez más les ruego que sean breves y concretos para ver si logramos evacuar este punto de la manera más rápida y constructiva posibleé

A.A.W. LANDYMORE (United Kingdom) : I shall be very much in line with what you have just. said.

The United Kingdom, delegation lays a great deal of stress on keeping the Council to a manageable size. As a rule of thumb, we would have: considered that a Council should not consist of more than one-third of the members of the Organization. Thus, on the present membership this would give the Council 44 members. The United Kingdom delegation believes that under that criterion a minimum of one more seat should go to the European region.

It would far prefer to go along with suggestion (c) in paragraph 20, but at the very most we can accept paragraph (d) which is the one to which you have drawn attention.

H. ABDALLAH (Egypt) (Interpretation from Arabic) : We share the view expressed by Mr. Landymore, the Representative of the United Kingdom. It is necessary that the Members of the Council be restricted to a minimum as far as possible, but in this context we would point out that the number of Members of the Council should be divisible by three, because every year a third of the Members of Council conclude their mandate. This is the reason why we think that paragraph 20(c) is in fact the most appropriate, as 48 is a number that is divisible by three.

It also seems that in (b), Africa 2, and Near East 1, it would appear that there is a mistake because in paragraph (c) it says that Africa has 3 seats and the Near East does not have a seat at all.

We think, then, that for paragraph 20 (a) there should be the following distribution : Africa 2, Near East 1, Asia and the Far East 1, Europe 1, Latin America 1.

Q.H. HAQUE (Bangladesh) : This particular issue has also been discussed at length before the formulation of these alternatives in sub-groups. We feel the same way as my colleague from the United Kingdom, that as far as possible the number of seats in the Council should be kept to the minimum and of a manageable size.

At the same time, however, we thought that East Asians should have representation in the Council in order to put forward their views. In that context, we are agreed on a number where each region should have at least one seat. We would go along with the alternative in paragraph 20 (b) which would increase the number to 49, giving at least one seat to each region.

J. BERTELING (Netherlands) : May I say very briefly on the subject of the number of Council seats that my delegation welcomes the normally very active participation of Observers in Council meetings, especially on important and substantive items.

It was mentioned just now that there should be not more than one-third of the Member States as Council members, and for these reasons and because the number of Council seats was accepted in 1971, my delegation has a strong preference for (c) which means no difference in the number of seats and no change in the regional distribution.

H. MAURIA (Finland) : We are also very much in favour of the wise words mentioned by the delegate of the United Kingdom as to keeping the number of seats in the Council at a manageable number. However, we know that there is also a need for a little enlargement, and for that purpose' we would be ready to go for alternative (c) in the report of the Working Group, or may be if needed even alternative (d), but we would prefer alternative (c).

I.A. IMTIAZI (Pakistan) : My delegation supports alternative (d) of paragraph 20 of document CL 71/12. In our view such an arrangement would lead to a more equitable geographical distribution of Council seats than at present.

J.L. TOFFIN (France) : La délégation française est d'accord sur le principe d'un élargissement du Conseil qui correspondrait plus ou moins à l'augmentation du nombre des Etats Membres de l'Organisation survenue au cours des dernières années. Quant au nombre et à la distribution des sièges supplémentaires, notre préférence va à la solution (d) qui prévoit 49 sièges, avec la répartition qui est indiquée dans le document.

R. TANABE (Japan) : As to the number of members of the Council, my delegation also thinks that the increase should be as small as possible. However, it seems to my delegation that paragraph (c) or (d) would be most likely to be agreeable to the majority, and we would have no difficulty in accepting this conclusion.

A. JANHA (Gambia) : As much as I would like to keep the Council to a manageable size, we would also like to see it being fully representative of the Governments which are represented at FAO. As a result, the Gambia delegation feels that the African group is under-represented, and as such we would like to see paragraph (e) adopted by the Conference. In the next three months we are expecting some new members of the Council most of whom will be from the African region - Angola, Mozambique, Sao Tomé ect, - and we should like this to be fully reflected. Preference (e) will be quite acceptable to my delegation, therefore, but at the very worst; we would accept preference (d) .

C. HTCGINSON (United States of America) : This problem was given to the Ad Hoc. Committee on the restructuring of the Council emphasizing the importance of efficiency and effectiveness. If we use these two criteria in judging our position on this issue, a Council of 42 - in other words no change - is clearly more efficient than a Council any larger. Admittedly the African region does have fewer seats to their number of countries than other regions in the Organization and therefore alternative (b), which is the second smallest increase in the Council, should also be considered by the Council.

S. STAMPACH (Tchécoslovaquie) : Il est évident qu'à chaque augmentation du nombre de sièges au Conseil on renouvelle la discussion sur la justice d'une représentation géographique. Ma délégation pense ainsi que d'autres pays socialistes, que le plus important est d'aller dans le sens d'une demande de représentation géographique juste. Je ne voudrais pas proposer à notre Conseil de suivre l'exemple du Conseil mondial dans d'autres domaines, mais en ce qui concerne la représentation de notre sous-groupe des pays au Conseil mondial de l'alimentation des Nations Unies, qui parmi les 36 membres du Conseil compte cinq pays socialistes tandis qu'ici, malgré tous nos efforts et notre travail au Conseil, nous ne pouvons pas assurer la continuité du travail du Conseil parmi les pays socialistes.

En conclusion, nous sommes d'avis que le nombre de sièges au Conseil devrait rester limité au minimum pour que le Conseil puisse rester efficace mais, en même temps, un minimum qui permette d'assurer une représentation géographique équilibrée et juste. C'est pourquoi ma délégation suggère un siège au plus pour l'Europe, région où il y a plusieurs systèmes différents les uns des autres dans différentes organisations. Il est donc bien difficile de laisser représenter un sous-groupe par un représentant de notre système sous-régional.

En second lieu, nous sommes favorables à un usage qui assurerait, pour les pays socialistes, une représentation de demandes au Conseil.

C'est pourquoi notre délégation apporte son soutien (dans une mesure limitée et même à titre exceptionnel) à la solution d) du paragraphe 20 du Rapport du Groupe de travail sur la composition du mandat du Conseil.

W.A.F. GRABISCH (Germany, Federal Republic of): In order to be brief and to help you, Mr. Chairman, I wish to state that my delegation shares the views expressed on the subject before us by the delegation of the United Kingdom.

A. DAS (India): As regards the number of seats of the FAO Council, our delegation feels that it is only logical and appropriate that the number of seats of the Council should be increased to reflect the increase in the membership of FAO which has taken place over a number of years. In this matter since we have to take a balanced view between the view expressed by some of the earlier delegates that it is necessary to keep the number of members of the Council to manageable proportions and also keeping in mind the need to allow at least one additional seat to the different regions, namely, Asia and the Far East, Europe, the Near East and Latin America and also at least three seats to Africa which is going to have a number of other countries coming in to that group of countries, our delegation is of the view that the requirements of both, that is keeping the number to the minimum and also providing the necessary absolutely essential increase for the different regions, can be met by alternative (d) in paragraph 20 of the Working Party's Report which would be the most appropriate and under which Africa would get three additional seats, Asia and the Far East would get one additional seat and Europe, the Near East and Latin America would get one additional seat each. In our view that would be the most appropriate solution.

N.M. MWAUNGULU (Malawi): With reference to the increase of seats on the Council, the question of equitable representation should be paramount. It is practical, of course, not to overly increase the size of the Council, but for the African region more countries are going to seek membership of the Council in the near future. That being the case, the Malawi delegation is of the view that at the least the option proposed in (d) is the most practical although we would really prefer the option proposed in (e).

E. HRAOUI (Liban) (Interprétation de l'arabe): Selon le principe de l'équité, nous voulons corroborer la proposition formulée par le délégué de l'Inde et nous voulons donner notre accord au sous-paragraphe d) du paragraphe 20 de ce document et ce, pour que toutes les régions soient équitablement et justement représentées.

J.S. CAMARA (Observateur pour la Guinée): J'espère que je n'abuserai pas de votre temps et que vous n'aurez pas à m'interrompre. Toutefois, si je dépasse le temps imparti, je vous prierai de me laisser continuer mon intervention car je ne parlerai pas seulement en mon nom mais au nom du Groupe africain que la Guinée a eu l'honneur de présider.

Lorsque nous avons fait cette proposition au nom de la région africaine, ce n'était pas parce que nous voulions limiter l'efficacité du Conseil mais parce que nous avons estimé que l'accord de forces nouvelles de pays jusqu'ici dominés par d'autres ne pouvait qu'être conforme à l'instauration du nouvel ordre économique, ordre dont tout le monde parle du bout des lèvres.

C'est pour cela que le Groupe africain estime que, même si l'on devait adopter l'une des propositions contenues au paragraphe 20, la région africaine ne serait jamais équitablement représentée autant que le sont les autres régions.

Dans l'un des documents dont est saisi le Conseil, il est dit que de nouveaux Etats africains, qui sont libérés de la domination étrangère, vont rejoindre la communauté des nations libres. Il y en a cinq. Ce qui fait qu'aujourd'hui, si nous sommes 37 dans notre région, nous serons 42 lors de la Conférence générale. Même si nous faisons une répartition actuelle, l'Afrique se trouverait très loin par rapport aux autres régions. La région qui se rapproche le plus de nous, c'est le Proche-Orient. Il est donc juste que l'Afrique exige qu'il y ait au moins quatre sièges supplémentaires au Conseil. Ce n'est pas le nombre de sièges qui reviendra à l'Afrique qui diminuera son efficacité mais, bien au contraire, c'est en entendant ses pays que l'on pourra connaître la réalité des problèmes qui se posent à notre continent. Car, comme tout le monde le sait, tout le monde ne peut pas parler à ce Conseil. Mais si nous arrivons à être 13 pays, nous pourrions refléter le même point de vue de tout le continent africain. Le Groupe africain demande donc au moins quatre sièges.

N'étant pas membre du Conseil, je n'aurai plus à intervenir mais les autres pays africains qui défendent nos intérêts au Conseil sont prêts à accepter un compromis qui ne limiterait pas la participation africaine au Conseil. Nous tenons à réaffirmer ici que nous rejetons les déclarations de ceux qui disent que le Conseil soit limité et le nombre de sièges ne soit pas augmenté car cela affaiblirait l'efficacité du Conseil.

Notre position est claire depuis fort longtemps. Nous voulons une représentation équitable, or certaines régions sont surreprésentées. Nous ne voulons pas les indiquer mais tout le monde les connaît. Nous ne pensons pas que ces pays aient le droit de dire ici que l'Afrique doit avoir une représentation juste et équitable conforme à sa participation dans l'Organisation. Sur ce point, nous sommes de l'avis que le Proche-Orient, l'Amérique latine et l'Afrique doivent avoir des sièges supplémentaires au Conseil car à l'heure actuelle ils sont sous-représentés.

S.A.H. AL SHAKIR (Observer from Iraq) (Interpretation from Arabic): I should like to take this opportunity of repeating the need to increase the number of seats on the Council because such an increase will, first and foremost, enable the Council membership to reflect the increasing number of FAO Member States. Secondly, such an increase is due to the expansion of the responsibilities of FAO. Thirdly, I would say that the mandate could be restricted and we could arrange for a faster rotation so that Member States could participate more frequently in Council. For all these reasons we would support sub-paragraph (d) which would give three extra seats to Africa, one to Asia and the Far East, one to Europe, one to the Near East and one to Latin America.

Sra. I. DE GIOVAN DE SUAREZ (Argentina): Mi delegación desea expresar en nombre del Grupo Latinoamericano su apoyo a la iniciativa de aumentar el número de miembros del Consejo, a fin de permitir una adecuada representación de las distintas regiones que integran la FAO, especialmente atendiendo a las naturales aspiraciones de los países africanos.

Sin embargo, el Grupo Latinoamericano considera que la adecuada representación geográfica debe tener en cuenta no sólo el número de países que pertenecen a cada región, sino también una debida proporción entre las representaciones de las distintas regiones que constituyen la comunidad internacional. La preocupación de América Latina es que un excesivo énfasis puesto en el número de países que constituyen cada región signifique paralelamente la disminución o la minirepresentación de otras regiones, como es el caso de la nuestra.

Por eso consideramos que si bien estaríamos dispuestos a apoyar la alternativa d), es decir, tres para Africa, uno para Asia y Lejano Oriente, uno para Europa y uno para el Cercano Oriente, el Grupo Latinoamericano tiene la aspiración de que esta alternativa sea modificada y se otorguen tres puestos para América Latina. En este sentido, reitero que la preocupación de nuestra región es mantener una adecuada representación de las regiones, so pena de que el Consejo dé un espectro distorsionado de los intereses en juego.

EL PRESIDENTE: ¿No hay más oradores? Si nadie más quiere hacer uso de la palabra, creo, y la Secretaría parece confirmarlo, que la mayoría de las delegaciones que intervinieron estuvieron básicamente o como alternativa en favor de la propuesta del Grupo de Trabajo, contenida en el Apartado f) del Párrafo 20, o sea, en aumentar el número de miembros del Consejo a 49, con la distribución geográfica que aparece en ese Apartado(d). Naturalmente, las consideraciones adicionales que fueron hechas por otras delegaciones, podrán reflejarse en el texto del Informe. Entiendo que esta es la conclusión del debate sobre este punto.

Podemos ahora revisar un poco los dos documentos básicos de las discusiones de hoy.

19. Report of the CCLM (34th Session, Rome, May 1977)

19. Rapport du CQCJ (trente-quatrième session, Rome, mai 1977)

19. Informe del CACJ (34° periodo de sesiones, Roma, mayo 1977)

EL PRESIDENTE: En primer lugar, el CL 71/5. Les ruego que lo tomen a la mano porque yo también estoy tratando de controlarlo. La Sección III del 71/5, Situación y uso de los idiomas de la FAO, ya fue tratada cuando discutimos el Tema 18 (si me equivoco le ruego al Presidente del COAC que me corrija). La sección IV, Mantenimiento en funciones de la dependencia común de inspección, entiendo que será tomado bajo el punto 14,(c); y, finalmente, la sección V, Enmiendas al estatuto del personal y al Reglamento General de la Organización, entiendo que se trató ya bajo el tema 18.

Si fuere así, en cuanto al CL 71/5 ahora, en este momento, no tendremos ya más que hacer y podremos ponerlo un poco aparte.

20. Report of the Working Party on the Composition and Terms of Reference of the Council, the Programme Committee, the Finance Committee and the CCLM: (continued)

20. Rapport du Groupe de travail sur la composition et le mandat du Conseil, du Comité du programme, du Comité financier et du CQCJ: (suite)

20. Informe del Grupo de Trabajo sobre la Composición y el Mandato del Consejo, el Comité de Programa, el Comité de Finanzas y el Comité de Asuntos Constitucionales y Jurídicos : (continuación)

EL PRESIDENTE: Pasamos ahora al CL 71/12. Sobre este documento, tal como lo explicó esta mañana el señor Velay, tenemos varias partes. Tal vez conviene empezar por la Parte A, que es sencilla, al menos así lo espero. La Parte A del documento CL 71/12 que tiene por título Funciones de la Comisión del Pleno, espero que todos estén ahora identificados con el curso de nuestras labores y que si lo desean puedan hacer comentarios sobre esta parte A.

Sin embargo, como dijo el señor Velay esta mañana, se trata de recomendaciones que si son acogidas por el Consejo podrán ser puestas en práctica particularmente por el Director General y también por los futuros presidentes del Consejo. Si no hay ninguna observación sobre esta Parte A, creo que podríamos entonces adoptarla, y pasamos a la Parte B. La Parte B comprende esencialmente ahora, después de las discusiones de los miembros del Consejo, dos asuntos, pero creo que podrían tratarse conjuntamente con la esperanza de que no haya muchas discusiones y se pueda facilitar la conclusión de los debates.

Si están de acuerdo podríamos tratar ahora Conferencias Regionales, punto sobre el cual espero que no habrá mucha discusión y, al mismo tiempo, Comité del Programa, Comité de Finanzas y CACJ. Quienes intervengan conjuntamente sobre estos dos puntos les ruego lo hagan en forma breve, clara y concisa, que facilite el desarrollo de nuestros trabajos. Esta mañana el señor Velay, a nombre del Grupo de Trabajo, explicó el alcance de estas recomendaciones que espero aparezcan bien claras para que puedan ser consideradas por los miembros del Consejo. Entonces vamos ahora a tratar la Parte B del documento 12, o sea, de los párrafos 10 hasta el párrafo 13. ¿Quién desea intervenir?

I.A. IMTIAZI (Pakistan): My delegation has a few comments to offer on part B of Document CL 71/12. While we generally support the recommendations contained therein, in particular we should like to stress the need for letting the Regional Conferences play a more effective role than heretofore in formulating FAO's regional policies, programmes and priorities, and in promoting cooperation amongst Member States. We also endorse the view of the Working Party that participation in Regional Conferences should be confined to Member States actually belonging to that region, and that such participation should be decided by countries belonging to the region concerned at the 1978 Regional Conferences. We should, however, like to point out that in so doing the special situation of those member countries of FAO who are currently members of more than one region should be given special attention. Such membership is normally based upon the peculiar geographical location and ecological conditions of those countries and the existing flexible and practical arrangement in such cases must, in our view, not be disturbed because it is linked directly with a benefit that these countries expect to derive from the membership in the FAO and, as such, is in line with the objectives of the Organization.

As regards the Programme Committee, the Finance Committee and the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters, we support the view that a moderate increase in membership as recommended is desirable. We also agree to the formula proposed by the Working Party to ensure equitable geographical distribution of seats on these committees. However, one aspect that we should like to stress in particular is that my Government and my delegation are clearly and strongly of the view that these committees must be composed of the representatives of Member Nations rather than of individuals in their personal capacity.

A. DAS (India): We should like to make some observations both on parts A and B. As the report of the Working Party covered a large number of items, we shall give our comments on a few selected issues only. We should like to point out at the outset that a number of items which were originally included in the agenda of the Working Party but could not be covered due to shortage of time also deserve close attention, and we shall be interested in knowing how it is proposed to deal with them. Kindly allow us, Mr. Chairman, to endorse the conclusion of the Working Party concerning the method of selection of the Council members, and the Working Party's decision not to pursue the suggestion regarding alternate members of the Council.

Coming to part A of the report, we should have liked to get a better glimpse of the discussions regarding the role of the Secretariat and related services, and implementation of the decisions of the Council. These are important matters, most of which definitely lie within the responsibility of the Director-General. At the same time, the Council may wish to consider as to how its members could take a more active initiative in formulating the agenda of its meetings within the framework of the relevant Basic Text provision.

As regards implementation of the decisions of the Council, while we would support the present system of compliance reports, we would also urge that: 1) Thought should be given to further improve the quality and content of these reports which should be made available to the members much more in advance than is the case at present; and, 2) the Council's agenda should include a separate item specifically dealing with the matter, namely compliance with the decisions of the Council. We should also like to add that while we are not unaware of the tight schedule of the meetings of the subsidiary bodies of the Council, we feel that there is call for improvement in the timing of the circulation of the reports. We would particularly like to draw attention to the need for circulating the reports of the Finance and Programme Committees at least two weeks in advance of Council Meetings so as to enable the member countries to come here prepared to participate in fruitful discussions and give valuable suggestions.

With reference to part A of the Working Party's report, we would suggest that not only the Council but also its subsidiary bodies should formulate their decisions as clearly and concisely as possible. In this regard we would welcome the procedure adopted by the Committee on Food Security and certain other committees.

Coming to part B of the report with respect to the Finance and Programme Committees, we support the view that their membership should be increased and that these committees should be composed of representatives of the Member Nations.

J. BERTELING (Netherlands): My delegation thinks it would have been worthwhile if the Working Party would have reported on other solutions on the membership of the Programme Committee and the Finance Committee, especially what kinds of solutions were discussed and why they were found not to be acceptable. I would like to see the Chairman or Vice-Chairman of the Committee elaborate on these things.

What in our mind is more important for these Committees is preparing the work of the Council and the Conference in these two small expert groups. How then should the members be selected? Besides the solution proposed by the Working Party my delegation sees three other solutions. In the first case we can keep the present situation, that is clear enough. I have no need to elaborate on that. Secondly, the Council can select the Member States that have the right to appoint an expert. Of course, these States should have made known the name of their expert beforehand. Thirdly, one could give a right to appoint the Members of the Programme and Finance Committees to the Regional Conferences. They have the same right with the appointment of Members of the Consultative Group on Agricultural Research, and of Consultative Group on Food Production Investments. This possibility, which has not been studied very carefully as far as my delegation is aware, gives much more possibilities to select groups and representative experts for all regions. My delegation has some preference for the last solution and we should like to hear comments from the other delegations on this possibility.

Sra. I. DI GIOVAN DE SUAREZ (Argentina): Con relación a los temas de la parte B Conferencias Regionales y Comité del Programa, el Grupo latinoamericano ha pedido a la delegación de la Argentina que como su coordinador hiciese las siguientes observaciones respecto a las Conferencias Regionales.

El Grupo Latinoamericano ha analizado los párrafos 10, 11 y 12 del documento CL 71/12, relativo a Conferencias Regionales llegando a las siguientes conclusiones.

Primera. Está de acuerdo con lo opinado por el Grupo de Trabajo sobre la composición y mandato del Consejo en el sentido de que la participación en las Conferencias Regionales debe limitarse a los estados miembros que pertenezcan de hecho a las regiones en cuestión.

Segunda. Pide al Director General que a partir de la próxima Conferencia Regional para América latina se invite en calidad de miembro única y exclusivamente a los países que sean atendidos por la Oficina Regional de América latina, invitando a los otros países en calidad de observadores.

Tercera. Esta decisión no comprometerá en manera alguna el derecho de otras regiones respecto a la participación de los estados miembros a las Conferencias Regionales.

Con relación al Comité del Programa y Comité de Finanzas, el Grupo Latinoamericano se ha pronunciado favorablemente respecto al aumento de los miembros, haciendo presente su aspiración de que se tenga presente el criterio de equilibrio regional en el Comité del Programa.

Asimismo está de acuerdo con la fórmula contenida en el párrafo 13 en el sentido en que los candidatos al Comité del Programa deben ser presentados por sus gobiernos. Algunos países del Grupo Latinoamericano han indicado su preferencia en el sentido de que los miembros de los Comités del Programa y Finanzas actúen a título personal considerando que si representan a sus países en esos Comités, éstos se transformarían en una innecesaria duplicación del Consejo, pues los miembros del Comité del Programa y de Finanzas actuarían según instrucciones de sus Gobiernos y esto traería aparejado más rigidez y politización a cuerpos de expertos, como deben ser los citados Comités.

J.L. TOFFIN (France): Je voudrais parler tout d'abord de la question des conférences régionales. Cette question a déjà fait l'objet d'un long débat lors de la dernière réunion du Conseil, c'est pourquoi je serai assez bref à ce sujet.

Je rappellerai simplement que cette question a son origine dans une recommandation de la conférence des pays de l'Amérique latine qui a eu lieu l'an dernier à Lima. Il avait été proposé d'élaborer un nouveau règlement qui aurait réservé la participation des conférences régionales aux Etats appartenant exclusivement à la région en cause.

La proposition dont nous sommes saisis aujourd'hui, qui est celle qui a été défendue par la majorité du Groupe de travail, est légèrement différente dans la forme, en ce sens qu'elle vise à confier aux conférences régionales elles-mêmes le soin de décider de leur propre composition. Mais en fait, ainsi qu'il ressort du Groupe de travail, son objectif ne paraît pas avoir beaucoup changé; il s'agit toujours d'écarter de la participation à ces conférences, du moins de la participation à part entière, les Etats dont on estime qu'ils n'appartiennent pas effectivement à la région intéressée. C'est la raison pour laquelle la délégation française est obligée de maintenir les réserves qu'elle avait émises l'an dernier sur ce même sujet. Sur le plan juridique, je dirai simplement qu'il ne nous paraît guère justifié d'empêcher un territoire de participer pleinement aux activités de coopération régionale sous prétexte qu'il fait partie d'un ensemble qui déborde la région intéressée. Mais c'est surtout sur le plan pratique et sur celui de l'efficacité qu'il nous semblerait regrettable de refuser à certains Etats développés, tels que la France, dans le cadre de la Conférence de l'Amérique latine, une pleine participation à certaines des conférences dont ils sont actuellement membres, ces conférences constituent en effet les instances d'une organisation, la FAO, dont l'objet est avant tout économique et humanitaire et leur objectif essentiel est de contribuer à développer la production agricole et à lutter contre la faim et la malnutrition.

Il n'est pas douteux que les Etats développés qui en sont membres pourraient apporter, dans le cadre de ces conférences régionales, une aide utile en faveur du développement agricole et faire profiter de leur expérience les autres Etats Membres. A cet égard, nous ne voyons pas très bien l'intérêt qu'il pourrait y avoir à restreindre les possibilités de coopération et de dialogue entre pays développés et pays en développement qu'offrent aujourd'hui ces conférences régionales. Ce serait, à notre avis, aller à contre-courant des efforts qui sont accomplis un peu partout pour développer la coopération internationale, principalement entre pays développés et pays en développement, dont la nécessité apparaît toujours avec plus d'évidence dans le monde d'aujourd'hui.

Cela dit, nous reconnaissons bien volontiers que les conférences régionales peuvent avoir à débattre des questions qui intéressent de façon spécifique les Etats qui appartiennent exclusivement à la région en cause. Il en est ainsi en particulier, de tous les problèmes qui peuvent avoir un aspect politique. Nous comprenons très bien que les Etats en cause souhaitent rester entre eux pour en discuter, aussi la délégation française a déjà suggéré, au sein du Groupe de travail et reprend aujourd'hui cette suggestion, que les pays en développement, membres d'une conférence régionale, aient la possibilité de se réunir en formation spéciale pour traiter des sujets qui les intéressent spécifiquement et qui peuvent être, le cas échéant, de nature politique. Telle est d'ailleurs la politique suivie par la CEPAL (c'est-à-dire la Commission économique des Nations Unies pour l'Amérique latine). Nous pensons que les conférences régionales de la FAO, en particulier la Conférence de la FAO pour l'Amérique latine, pourraient utilement s'inspirer de ce précédent.

Telles sont les principales remarques que la délégation française désire présenter sur ce point et dont elle souhaiterait qu'il fut tenu compte dans le rapport du Conseil.

Quant à la question du mode d'élection et de la composition du Comité du programme et du Comité financier, la délégation française est d'accord sur les propositions du Groupe de travail, quant aux nouvelles modalités de la désignation des membres de ces comités, qui nous paraît réaliser un compromis heureux entre les nécessités d'une répartition géographique et les nécessités de faire appel à des personnalités qualifiées. Nous approuvons également l'élargissement des deux comités à onze et à neuf membres, respectivement, sur une base géographique équilibrée.

Sra. M. IVANKOVICH DE AROSEMENA (Panama): La delegación de Panama reitera su apoyo a la declaración hecha por la delegación de Argentina en nombre del Grupo Latinoamericano.

Mi delegación considera que las Conferencias Regionales deben preferentemente examinar y formular propuestas concretas relativas a las políticas regionales a fin de obtener un mayor desarrollo agrícola e incrementar la producción de alimentos en los países miembros de la región.

Estamos de acuerdo con que la participación de pleno derecho en las Conferencias Regionales deben limitarse exclusivamente a los estados miembros que pertenezcan a las regiones, tal como lo expresaron la mayoría de los integrantes del Grupo de Trabajo cuando examinaron el documento de referencia.

En relación con el párrafo 13 sobre los Comités del Programa, Finanzas y Asuntos Constitucionales y Jurídicos, estimamos que la función de los Comités deben permanecer invariables y que estos Comités continúen siendo órganos consultivos del Consejo y del Director General. Asimismo consideramos que las candidaturas deben ser presentadas por los Gobiernos a título personal, teniendo en cuenta una adecuada distribución geográfica.

Mi delegación no se opone a un adecuado aumento de los puestos en los Comités.

H. MAURIA (Finland): We are ready to support the proposed change in membership of the Programme and Finance Committees so that the members should be representative of Member Nations instead of serving in their personal capacities, as heretofore. We have nothing against a moderate increase in the membership of these Committees, according to the formula proposed by the Working Party.

C HIGGINSON (United States of America): The United States has sympathy with a number of the arguments put forward by the delegate of France on the question of participation of non-regional members in FAO Regional Conferences. However, as most of the people in this room remember, this subject has taken up a considerable amount of time and therefore the United States accepts the view of the Working Party that the countries belonging to the region concerned should decide the participation in the respective regional conferences. However, the United States hopes that the regional conferences will follow the recommendations of the Working Party and (a) leave participation open to other countries that wish to contribute to the study of development in the region and (b) establishment machinery which could be used when there are issues which the developing countries wish to discuss solely amongst themselves.

Now I would like to turn to the composition and size of the Finance and Programme Committees. The United States believes in general that the Finance and Programme Committees have served the Council well. We think this is because of their relatively small size and because their members participate in a personal capacity. The United States believes the recommendations of the majority of the Working Group would endanger the effectiveness of the Finance and Programme Committees. Eleven Programme Committee Members cannot possibly be as effective in reviewing detailed matters and reaching a consensus as can seven equally qualified people. Likewise, nine Finance Committee Members would have greater difficulty in examining in detail the many financial and administrative personnel issues which concern that Committee. My delegation hopes that these views will be taken into consideration by the Council.

We also believe it is unwise to recommend the election of government representatives rather than experts. Decision-making can only be more difficult under such a system, and we would have governmental representatives in the committees recommending to governmental representatives in the Council. In effect, the Committees as proposed would be mini-Councils. This would likely result in considerable duplication of effort.

As presently constituted, the Programme and Finance Committees can be compared somewhat to the heads of government advisory panels which render their judgment on matters within their competence but leave decisions to the Director-General and the Council.

B. de AZEVEDO BRITO (Brazil): As my delegation participated in the deliberations of the Working Group, I believe that I can be briefer than other members of the Council. However, I would like to elaborate on the two points which we are discussing.

First, on regional conferences: the recommendation made in the name of the Latin American Group already advanced the criterion which we believe should be applied in selecting the countries to be invited to the Conferences. May I just elaborate on the point by saying that such a criterion applies, in our view not only to the Regional Conferences of FAO but also to the regional conferences which are within FAO and are basically geared to the consideration of policy issues. There are other conferences which are convened within FAO which have rather a policy scope, and the same criterion should apply, in our view, for the selection of countries to be invited as full members to these conferences.

Coming now to the second point, the Programme and Finance Committees, we agree, as indicated by Argentina, with the criterion of the governments indicating representatives, in other words the representation of governments. We would also like to stress however - and this is the point I would like to put on record - that in our view the formula presented in Section A of paragraph 13 is a correct and balanced one, in the sense that governments would indicate beforehand whom they expect to appoint in case of election. By that formula we believe that we ensure at the same time governmental representation and what one can call technical capacity. Once the countries are elected and the representatives appointed, then, of course, we understand that such representatives are expected to transmit the views of their governments, and this is important. We believe that we have programmes of increasing complexity, that we have a kind of governmental screening in detail of all programmes and budgets. We believe that these government inputs in the Programme and Finance Committees are for the good of the Organization. These are the points of view of my delegation in this respect.

S. JUMA'A (Jordan)(Interpretation from Arabic): With respect to this question of regional conferences, I should like to point out here that my delegation is against the viewpoint stated that one may not invite governments to attend regional conferences as Observers. I am compelled to state that such a viewpoint and such a stand might lead to consequences which we certainly can do without, particularly as all countries of the world today are attempting to reach agreement and understanding, and particularly as there have been negotiations in the past with respect to cooperation among developing countries and developed countries.

I therefore think that obstacles are created concerning the participation of developed countries in regional conferences which group together as developing countries and might have a negative influence and consequences.

I also think that the world, or should I say the distances between countries of the world have grown smaller thanks to means of communication and transportation, and therefore it is not possible for any country whatsoever for any region to live in an isolated manner separately from the international community. Thus I note with regret that certain trends might be very negative for the Organization and far its activities in the future and might further create difficulties or confrontation between developing countries. We have already encountered this fact and we might encounter it again, but I think we should avoid it because we firmly believe in cooperation at all levels and in all situations. As I have said, no country can possibly live in an isolated manner, be it regionally or on a worldwide basis.

There have never been any purely regional problems, because even problems which could be described as being regional have consequences which directly influence the events occurring in other regions, and that is why we can never state that, for example, the increase in agricultural production in a given region is of concern only to that region. We know full well that the increase of agricultural production in a given region may be of concern both to developing and developed countries, be those in that area or outside that area, and that is why I would like to express the hope that the Council should not take a final stand on this subject, and that is why we should leave this point for further discussion in the regional conferences and thus the countries from each of these regions may be able to express their viewpoints very clearly on the matter.

I also think that the Council should not impose its viewpoint on the Member Countries of a region and that we should be enabled ourselves to discuss this problem regionally, and after that we can discuss the matter again in the Organization itself and in the Council. Now this is what I have to say on regional conferences.

Coming to the question of the various Committees, the Programme Committee, the Finance Committee and the CCLM, experience in the past has shown us that these committees have done work in a good manner, have successfully accomplished their tasks, and we know that the Programme Committee, the Finance Committee, and the CCLM have made efforts and have achieved very positive results. I recall that only yesterday there were many delegates who had expressed their thanks to the Members of the Programme Committee and the Finance Committee for the very detailed and objective reports which have been submitted to the Council by them. If we are pleased with the work of these two Committees, why are we asking for changes? Why are we asking for new structures?

Some Members feel that the increase in the number of members of these Committees might increase the efficiency of these committees, but I do not share that view at all. We also think that the members of the committees who were elected upon the basis of proposals of their governments would not work as independently perhaps as Members who are appointed on the grounds of their own personal qualifications. We know that it is in this second case that members of those Committees can work efficiently, whereas if the members are to merely represent their governments in the Programme or Finance Committee, that member or those members will perhaps run the risk of not being able to work independently. They will always be there as representatives of their governments and will not be really free to act. I therefore think that the proposals which have been made to us in this document are ones which we can neither accept nor reject.

However, we are ready to accept the following: increase in the number of members of the Programme Committee from seven to nine, and not to eleven, because we think that the figure of eleven is too large a figure for the Programme Committee.

We also accept an increase in the number of members of the Finance Committee from five to seven and not from five to nine, because it is difficult to find specialists in the financial field on a very high level and who could also represent the different regions and areas. We think that the proposed intermediary solution would be seven, which could be an acceptable figure to everyone, but we accept the increase in the number of members of the Programme and Finance Committee only if the members of those two Committees continue to be members appointed on the basis of their personal qualifications and not appointment by governments.

We could also state that this problem has already been debated more than once, and those who raised this problem were those who were candidates to these different Committees and who never succeeded in being elected; that may be why the subject is being dealt with once again today. If there had not been these precedents and if there had not been the failure of these candidates who did not manage to get elected as members of these Committees -- I repeat if there had not been this failure of these candidates, perhaps we would not have to study the matter again, that is, the question of extending the number of members of the programme and finance Committees.

We think that if we go along those lines, this might be harmful to the Organisation, and I would like to call the attention of the Members of this Council to this harmful trend.

Q.H. HAQUE (Bangladesh): First, on regional conferences, we feel that regional conferences should have an increased role in the formulation of the programmes and policies of the FAO. We all know that in regional conferences the best solution is taken on a very high level. At the regional conferences that were held since July 1976, in most cases the delegates who attended were at the ministerial level and if one goes through the reports of these regional conferences, one is convinced of the amount of interest that was generated in these conferences. Each of these conferences came out with a declaration and very excellent documents. For this reason, we feel that the recommendations and viewpoints of the regional conferences should attract increased attention of the formulation of our programmes and policies.

As regards participation in Regional Conferences, we are of the view that while Member Nations in the regions have immediate and general interest in the conferences, at the same time other views may also help in formulating recommendations. This matter could be left, we feel, to the Regional Conferences to be held in 1978 to decide on this issue of who is to be invited to participate in Regional Conferences. In this regard we agree with the United States delegation.

Coming now to the composition and size of the Programme Committee-- as regards size, for the same role we had in the previous item where we have agreed to increase the number in Council, we believe that increasing the size of the programme and Finance Committees also demands attention and consideration.

We feel the size of both the Finance and Programme Committees should be increased to the extent that may be functionally fit. Increase of these Committees also involves finance. In that regard we are for a marginal increase of the size of both the Finance and programme Committees. The recommendation of increasing the programme Committee by 4 to 11 and the Finance Committee by 4 to 9 could be approved, but if the Consensus is the lesser figures of 9 and 7 we would have no objection. We would even go along with 11 and 9.

As regards the method of election of members, whether they should be representing their governments or should be elected in their personal capacities, we feel there could be a synthesis of the two when considering certain candidates, their suitability for a certain committee, their merits for serving on the committee and experience should be taken into consideration. At the same time, the viewpoint of the Member Nations who are represented in this Organization should not be completely overlooked. In this connexion the recommendation in paragraph (a) has been formulated, and we are in support of this recommendation.

When the governments are considered for election the individual governments have to name the personalities they would like to be nominated for their representatives. That should be kept in mind when election takes place.

G. ESCARDO PEINADOR (España): Con respecto al primer punto Conferencias Regionales, entendemos que están perfectamente definidas en el párrafo 10 del documento 12,

Respetamos, como es lógico, el que sean los países componentes de la Región en sus respectivas Conferencias de 1978 los que regulen las modalidades de la asistencia de los Observadores, pero apoyamos lo expuesto por algún miembro del Grupo de Trabajo en el sentido de que las Conferencias Regionales debían estar abiertas a otros países que quisieran contribuir al estudio del desarrollo de la región.

En relación con los Comités del Programa, Finanzas y de Asuntos Constitucionales y Jurídicos, estamos conformes en que sus funciones deben permanecer invariadas y ser órganos consultivos del Consejo y del Director General. Entendemos que precisamente por ser órganos consultivos del Consejo y del Director General los miembros de los mismos no deben ser designados por los Gobiernos, sino que deben ser independientes de estos para que puedan estar por encima de los intereses particulares de los Gobiernos. Se trata de buscar unos expertos que conozcan perfectamente bien los problemas de los programas, de las finanzas y de los asuntos constitucionales de la Organización; y si cuando reunimos un grupo de expertos para estudiar determinado aspecto técnico se designan por sus méritos personales sin que entre para nada su país de origen, no veo por qué unos miembros de unos Comités eminentemente técnicos deben de ser propuestos por los Gobiernos y no elegidos a título personal.

Tampoco somos partidarios del aumento del número de sus componentes. Los tres Comités han venido funcionando perfectamente hasta ahora; yo no recuerdo jamás una crítica a los mismos, siempre han recibido toda clase de felicitaciones, ¿por qué tratar ahora de mejorarlos? No olvidemos que el enemigo de lo bueno es lo mejor.

Estamos de acuerdo con lo que se expone en los apartados e) y f) del párrafo 13.

S. STAMPACH (Tchécoslovaquie): Ma délégation voudrait exprimer l'avis qu'une augmentation du nombre de sièges aux deux comités, selon la formule proposée par le Groupe de travail au paragraphe 13b) et c), permettrait une participation plus large des différents Etats Membres aux fonctions directives du Conseil et de ses organes subsidiaires, à condition que la règle de roulement prévue par la Constitution soit retenue par l'Organisation au cours des élections de Conseil et de ses organes subsidiaires. Le nombre total élevé proposé pour les sièges au Conseil, au Comité du Programme et Comité financier, ne représente pas moins de la moitié du nombre des pays membres de la FAO.

Cela veut dire que nous désirons prendre en considération l'ensemble de la représentation au Conseil et aux comités et peut-être, indirectement, même au Conseil mondial avant de poser les candidatures de chaque pays membre de l'Organisation, ce qui stimulerait sans doute une approche plus active et plus fréquente de tous les gouvernements membres.

En ce qui concerne les conférences régionales, la Conférence européenne y compris, nous sommes de l'avis que ce sont en tout premier lieu les pays membres de la région, qui sont responsables du développement de leurs régions respectives et c'est pourquoi il appartient à ces pays de décider du programme régional.

A.A.W. LANDYMORE (United Kingdom): The general views of the United Kingdom delegation are in principle very close to those expressed in the statesmanlike intervention of the delegate of Jordan. It seems to us he had an overall view which very much requires to be taken into account when looking at these questions.

First of all, if I may touch on the question of attendance at the Regional Conferences, the delegate of Jordan puts very well the concept of one world which even though we do have separate conferences must pervade our approaches to these things.

As far as the United Kingdom is concerned as a metropolitan power, we long ago solved this problem for ourselves unilaterally. As a matter of policy, the United Kingdom attends Regional Conferences other than those of the European region with only Observer status. In doing this, however, in attending with Observer status, the United Kingdom is able to include officials of those territories which remain dependent, to include those representatives as members of the United Kingdom delegation. I explained this point with some care at the last Session of this Council. I explained that the constitutional relationships between our dependent territories and the metropolitan power were very varied indeed, depending on the circumstances of the individual territories.

This is something which has obviously been understood by our friends from Jordan, and I hope will be particularly appreciated by the Members of this Council who also represent countries within the Commonwealth of Nations. This is of particular importance to us, because those individual constitutional relationships are heavily dependent not so much on the obligations of the territories to the United Kingdom as a metropolitan power, but more and more nowadays are related to our obligations, which are very real and which we take seriously, towards our dependent countries.

If the right to attend certain Regional Conferences as Observers is taken away from us, then we run the risk of losing the opportunity of having those territories explain their positions on matters of regional policy. Maybe it is not necessary to have those territories speak as members of the metropolitan power, but it is essential that these voices should be heard within the regions to which they belong, and we feel some arrangement must be made for these voices to be heard.

This is the position as far as we are concerned on the question of attendance at Regional Conferences. We do hope that this consideration will be taken account of by this Council very carefully, and we do feel that it will be preferable for this consideration and for the answers to it to be dealt with centrally by the Council. If it is the decision of the Council to leave matters for adjudication by each individual Regional Conference, then we do hope that this appeal will not go unheard by those Regional Conferences. This, we feel, is a question of fair play.

If I may now turn to the question of the Programme and Finance Committees, basically our position is very much in line, as I have said, with the position that has been enunciated by the delegate of Jordan and the other delegations. We recognize however that there are always compromises being made and that we may need to seek compromise. If the majority of this Council feels therefore that the actual functions of the Committees should remain unchanged and that they should continue to be consultative organs of the Council and of the Director-General then we would hope that that would be a unanimous view of the Council.

As regards a moderate increase in the membership of the Programme and Finance Committees, we can go along with that if that is a majority view, subject to one or two points of detail which I shall deal with in a moment.

As to the suggestion in paragraph 13(a) that the Programme and Finance Committees should be composed of representatives of Member Nations on the understanding that governments would indicate the qualifications and the name of the representative, then again we can go along with that with one proviso, and that is, that we feel that the Council if that decision is taken will have to give consideration to including a provision that should that representative cease to hold his position in his own government then that government should be able to change that representative again of course on the basis of appointing a properly qualified one and giving details of it to this Council.

As regards paragraph 13(b) we have the suggestion that the number of members of the Programme Committee should be increased by four, bringing the total membership to eleven including the Chairman. A similar provision is made for the Finance Committee to increase its membership by four, bringing the total membership to nine including the Chairman.

I have two points on this: the first is that we seem to be increasing the sizes of these Committees in order to make provision for some form or other of regional representation. On the whole we think that is putting the cart before the horse and it would be much better to keep the numbers smaller. But if it must be done, then there are two questions: the first is that we are told in sub-paragraph(g) that in electing the members of the two Committees, the Council should bear in mind the principle of securing an equitable geographical distribution on the Committees. To ensure this the Working Party proposed that elections to these Committees be conducted in two stages. Would the Chairmen of these Committees be separately elected as is the present case? That seems to us to be a vital decision in deciding on any two-stage process. I would suggest that we need a three-stage process if we do go into this -election of the Chairmen as at present and then for further elections as are proposed here. We do not like any of it very much but if it is to be done at all we would think there would for practical reasons have to be a three-stage process if in particular this question of some form of regional representation is to be observed.

The second point that I have to make about these totals is quite simply that we would not regard a representation of three for the developed countries as by any means adequate. This is particularly true if you have the case of eleven to three in the Programme Committee. We would feel that some increase in these ratios, particularly in relation to the Programme Committee, would only represent fair play.

I think that covers the points that we need to cover except that we would agree that no change should be made to the present membership and functions of the CCLM.

I am aware, of course, that sub-paragraph (f) of this paragraph states that the Council would first elect the Chairmen of the Programme and Finance Committees from among the candidates submitted by their governments. To that extent the question is answered but I consider that sub-paragraph (g) needs to be brought into line with what is said in sub-paragraph (f), in particular in its application to a three stage process for observing the principle of regional distribution.

A. Cisse (Niger): La delegation du Niger estime que la Conference régionale doit être ouverte aux autres pays, notamment aux pays donateurs qui participent à des programmes régionaux ou sous-régionaux du développement des pays en développement. Il en est de même pour un pays en développement qui souhaiterait s'inspirer de certaines expériences des pays développés. Il est tout à fait normal que ces pays en développement puissent être mis au courant des méthodes utilisées dans les pays développés.

Nous revenons au point a) du paragraphe 13, à savoir que les Etats Membres doivent désigner les représentants en fournissant le curriculum vitae de ceux-ci. En effet, ce n'est pas au Conseil qu'il nous est possible d'entrer dans le détail des comités techniques qui précèdent les réunions du Conseil. Il est nécessaire que les membres de ces comités aient l'aval des Etats Membres afin que les discussions en Conseil puissent être réduites au strict minimum. Et l'on discuterait encore beaucoup moins en Conférence, étant donné que les comités techniques auraient fait l'essentiel du travail. Pour nous dans la plupart des cas, il suffit simplement d'approuver l'excellent travail qu'ils ont effectué. Jusqu'à présent, nous n'avons qu'à nous féliciter du très bon travail exécuté par les comités techniques.

Le Niger pense donc qu'il n'est pas nécessaire de recruter des experts. Il est préférable que ce soit les Etats Membres eux-mêmes qui désignent les représentants qui seront choisis au vu de leur curriculum vitae.

En ce qui concerne le nombre de sièges aux comités, nous pensons que s'il faut maintenir une augmentation, elle doit être très faible, étant donné qu'un trop grand élargissement du comité amènerait des discussions très longues. Il est donc préférable, pour obtenir plus d'efficacité, de s'en tenir à la proposition du point b) c'est-à-dire 11 membres.

M. BEL HADJ AMOR (Tunisie): Mon intervention va se limiter à la question qui concerne le Comité du Programme et le Comité financier. A cet égard, elle sera assez brève, surtout après avoir entendu l'excellente intervention de Monsieur le Ministre Juma'a, dont l'expérience pour plusieurs d'entre nous ne fait aucun doute au sein de cette maison.

Je voudrais ajouter uniquement ceci: il faut d'abord supprimer un quiproquo parce que plusieurs délégués ont parlé de représentants de gouvernements.

A cet égard, je voudrais préciser que les candidats qui ont été ou qui sont actuellement au Comité financier ou au Comité du Programme, sont présentés par leur gouvernement. Ce ne sont pas des gens qui se sont présentés chez nous par hasard. Leur candidature est approuvée par leur gouvernement et le Conseil les a élus. Donc, je ne vois pas bien la différence.

En second lieu, il faudrait surtout éviter de faire de ces deux comités techniques une sorte de comité Intergouvernemental. Cela pourrait réduire la technicité de ces comités et les politiser, surtout si les délégués ne parlent pas en leur nom personnel en utilisant leur qualité technique, mais s'ils parlent au nom d'un pays ou au nom d'une région. Il faudrait éviter d'accentuer ces aspects, de façon à ne rien enlever à l'efficacité de ces deux comités.

Pour finir, je réitère mon appui et mon adhésion à ce qu'a déclaré Monsieur le Ministre Juma'a, délégué de la Jordanie.

H. ABDALLAH (Egypte)(interprétation from Arabie): I should like first of all to say how much I support the proposal made by His Excellency Mr. Juma'a, Minister of Agriculture of Jordan who is at the same time a member of the Programme Committee.

As regards the regional conferences, we are of the view that most of the delegates here from developed countries have cooperation programmes, bilateral programmes, with our developing countries. In this context, therefore, contact is very important. Similarly, the new dialogue, especially the Euro-Arab dialogue, the Arab-African dialogue and the North-South dialogue, this new spirit that is in the air, is a means of ensuring that there is participation by all Member States whatever their technical standing. In this Case we must also coordinate activities between the national programmes and the regional programmes in order to make sure that we eventually achieve our aims.

In the same spirit the regional conferences are still independent and may, if they wish, hold exclusively regional meetings excluding outside observers.

But over and above this we come to the question of the two Committees, the Programme Committee and the Finance Committee and this brings me to speak first and foremost of representation in these two Committees. I think representation should be restricted. Representation should be either in a personal capacity or as a governmental representative. I would refer to Rule XXVI of the General Rules for the Conference which stipulates that this Committee shall be composed of six members and two Chairmen to be chosen by the Council and that they are to be chosen from among Member Nations which express the wish to participate or to be members of these Committees. Therefore, if a representative of a Member country wishes to be a member of the Programme Committee he is in that capacity a representative of his country. So any delegate here is representing his country because it is his country which gives him the mandate and sends him to attend the meeting; in other words, support of the government is implicit.

Now, as regards the personal merits of the candidates and their personal capacity, I would like to quote the example of Dr. Phillips, Chairman of the Programme Committee. We are acquainted with the United States position but the candidature of Dr. Phillips was a candidature in an individual, personal capacity. No one objected to the candidature of Dr. Phillips to the Programme Committee.

Again, we feel that the governments' support is implicit and personal merits should prevail in any question of selection of candidates. Again, we are convinced that the curriculum vitae of prospective candidates are of vital importance as enabling us to choose among candidates. We would agree to what was said by the delegate of Jordan.

A. E. HANNAH (Canada): My comments will be brief, as many of the other delegates have emphasized the points that we would have wished to make. With respect to the Regional Conferences, I would only wish to endorse the view that has been expressed so well by the delegate of Jordan, and that is the view of "one world". Regional Conferences are, of course, a communication mechanism but certainly if we wish to provide food for the world, it must be considered - as he has indicated so well - as "one world".

With respect to membership on the committees, it would be our preference that there be no change in the membership and that it be maintained at the same number. As has been indicated earlier, these people should be chosen for their qualifications and their respective merits to serve on those committees, and regional considerations should be secondary in this respect. However, if it is considered necessary by the Council that these committees be enlarged to work more effectively and to have effective activities within the membership of the committee, I would suggest that the proposal made by the delegate of Jordan is one which the Council could consider favourably, and we would support that move.

I should also like to suggest that the delegate of the United Kingdom has raised some very pertinent points which merit much further serious consideration, and we would like to support him in asking for this consideration.

N. M. MWAUNGULU (Malawi): As far as proposals concerning Regional Conferences go, my delegation supports the majority view of the members of the Working Party that Regional Conferences should broadly confine participation to the members of the region. At the same time we feel that it is important that Regional Conferences should be open to participation by other countries that can contribute and want to contribute to the delegations of the Conference, especially in the technical and professional fields. The manner or form in which this participation can come about or take place could be left for the Regional Conferences to decide.

My delegation also supports the proposals made by the Working Party to increase the membership of the Programme Committee and the Finance Committee. The proposed increases of eleven and nine respectively will enable more effective representation in the committees, we believe, by all the regions of FAO. Equitable representation does not and should not mean or imply a reduction in the efficiency of the working of the committees. It is clear that only properly qualified persons are appointed to serve on the committees.

H. L. CLAVERIE (Venezuela): Mi delegación no tenía la intención de intervenir en este tema, puesto que ya la señorita representante de la Argentina había comunicado a la sala la opinión del Grupo latinoamericano en relación con el tema que estamos tratando. Mi delegación, particularmente, respaldaba en todo la intervención de la representante de la Argentina; pero a lo largo de la fructífera discusión de esta tarde han sido traídos a la mesa algunos tópicos que a la delegación de Venezuela le ha causado preocupación por una parte y, por otra, le ha ampliado un poco el criterio en cuanto a los puntos que estamos tratando.

Pienso transmitir en estos momentos mi opinión humilde, la opinión de un delegado al Consejo de la FAO sobre materias que le son de interés específico, de una importancia radical; y estamos muy lejos de querer dar una lección magistral ya que creemos que las lecciones magistrales se deben dejar para otras instancias, las instancias universitarias y académicas y no aquí en que los gobiernos solo debemos ocuparnos del bienestar y del futuro de las poblaciones que estamos representando.

En ese sentido mi delegación tiene como cuestión de principio salvaguardar la soberanía, la independencia y la autonomía de unas regiones en temas que les son específicos, en materia que son objeto de su propia responsabilidad.

Posiblemente puede que sea que los latinoamericanos tenemos a flor de piel una cierta sensibilidad desarrollada por los acontecimientos históricos que para nosotros han sido particularmente dolorosos.

En este sentido el problema de las Conferencias Regionales se ha convertido para nosotros en una cuestión específica. Venezuela lo hemos mantenido, y también lo expresó la representante de Argentina; en este momento no era su intención intervenir en la opinión de las demás regiones, hemos dejado bien claro que es la opinión de la región latinoamericana; cada región puede opinar lo que quiera y puede tomar la decisión que pueda ser del caso de cada región; pero en América Latina preferiríamos, preferimos y preferiremos que los asuntos de la propia región relacionados con la FAO sean tratados independientemente, en exclusividad por los países que pertenezcan a la Región.

La intervención de la representante de Argentina en nombre del Grupo Latino Americano, fue suficientemente clara y, por lo tanto, no voy a extenderme en este sentido; solamente quería dejar claro en este punto este principio venezolano en cuanto a que miembros de la Región latinoamericana han preferido y prefieren que en las Conferencias Regionales de América Latina no intervengan sino los países que pertenezcan a esta región y que se invite en otra instancia, a fin de oír su valiosa experiencia que no dudamos que la tengan, a aquellos países que tengan la voluntad de ayudar con su experiencia a los programas, a los proyectos que se puedan desarrollar en colaboración con América Latina.

Repito que no estoy dando una clase magistral, sencillamente doy la humilde opinión de mi delegación en este punto.

En cuanto a los candidatos a los Comités del Programa y de Finanzas, mi delegación considera que en realidad no hay candidatos personales; candidato es, de hecho, una persona que se presenta y se manifiesta como una persona que representa a su Gobierno ya que creo que no hay ningún caso en la historia en que se haya traído a una persona de la calle; creo que todos los candidatos que han gozado de pertenecer a los Comités del Programa y de Finanzas son miembros de esta Casa que están respaldados por sus Gobiernos, tienen su beneplácito y gozan de un curriculum que los acredita ante esta Casa y ante sus miembros para desempeñar el cargo que les ha sido concedido.

En cuanto al número para aumentar dichos Comités, he oído diferentes criterios, uno de ellos es el de que ha venido funcionando bien hasta ahora con el número que tiene, ¿Por qué no puede seguir funcionando bien? ¿Por qué se va a mejorar lo que es bueno? Repito que la experiencia la tomamos como viene, como experiencia, pero no podemos pretender que sea el sumum de la lógica, ni el sumum de la verdad completa. La experiencia tiene un valor; pero creemos que todo es proclive a mejorar y si estamos aquí discutiendo, intercambiando opiniones, es porque creemos que hay algo que debe mejorarse y si hay algo que debe mejorarse tenemos la responsabilidad de mejorarlo y estamos llamados a mejorarlo. Por lo tanto no veo el por qué del aumento de cuatro miembros más en los Comités del Programa y de Finanzas, ya que induciría a pensar que la labor de estos Comités pudiera desarrollarse en un ambiente negativo, en un ambiente entorpecedor. Pensamos todo lo contrario y en ese sentido quiero manifestarlo.

No tengo más que decir en relación con este tema y le doy las gracias, señor Presidente por darme la palabra.

W.A.F. GRABISCH (Germany, Federal Republic of): Speaking on the issue of the composition and functions of the Programme and Finance Committees, my delegation is open to any good solution which would, of course, entail that the Council knows as clearly as possible on what the decision is being taken. Mr. Velay, when introducing the issue before us, recalled that the proposals put forward to us are compromise solutions, compromise proposals. Now, compromise solutions and proposals are generally good, but sometimes they tend to lead to a certain lack of clarity. This seems to be the case if we look at what is spelt out in the beginning of paragraph 13 and then compare it and look later on what is in the middle and at the end of that paragraph. Paragraph 13 says "it was agreed that the functions of the Committees should remain unchanged and that they should continue to be consultative organs of the Council and the Director-General". Now, if the function then is to remain, it is the

view of my delegation that it would be necessary to keep on with the present system, and if any increase in membership were to be accepted at all, then it should be a very small increase in both Committees. Now if the Council and the Conference wish the two Committees to become intergovernmental bodies, then, their functioning will change.

I will try to explain that briefly, if you will allow me, on a personal basis, as I have been privileged to serve as a member of the Programme Committee to the Council. I must say here quite frankly that the acting of those members on a personal basis gave them the strength and the help to be as constructive in their technical advice to the Council and to the Director-General, and it is my feeling that if the Council were to change that system then it would possibly deprive itself of that function and that advice in the way it had received so far. In this context I would just like to recall that Committee members did not sit behind a flag but they were just sitting there as individuals, and they did discuss proposals and arguments put forward regardless by whom they were made; not put forward by regions or by individual countries, but just arguments and views which were considered on a technical basis, mostly until a consensus was reached. And if some positive remarks in the past had been made also at previous Council sessions about the functioning of these Committees, then I think one of the reasons was that in most cases they came out with a pretty good consensus and thus helped the Council because the Council, of course, could not take up many of those issues in a technical discussion.

Therefore, I do feel that these views which were also expressed by some other delegations, and in particular by the delegate of Jordan, should be kept in mind before a decision is being taken for a change.

Having said that on a personal basis, I would just end by giving you the view of my delegation that we could hardly agree to seeing the proposals which are made in a later part of that paragraph being pursued because they do seem also to us not to give enough representation to member states which belong to the so-called developed countries.

Now my last point on (h) of that paragraph is that we do feel that no change should be necessary as to the membership and functions of the CCLM.

M.A. PAPAGEORGIU (Greece): As far as participation in regional conferences is concerned, we feel that regional conferences should remain open to other countries which to contribute to the state of development in a region. We feel that, of course, collaboration is the best way to elaborate development.

As far as the increase of the membership in the Programme Committee and Finance Committee, we think there should be only a moderate increase in the membership of the Programme and Finance Committees. Of course, think that in electing the members of the two Committees, the Council should bear in mind also the principle of securing an equitable geographical distribution on the Committees. I wonder also if the members of these Committees should be exclusively members of the Council or preferably should not belong to the Council, in order not to influence twice the decision of the Council

I. OROZCO (Mexico): Mi Delegación desea ser muy breve acerca de los aspectos que estamos considerando de la parte B, a saber: Las Conferencias Regionales, y sobre esto no necesito extenderme demasiado puesto que ello está condensado en la posición del grupo Latino Americano que ha sido expresada por la distinguida Delegación de Argentina hace unos momentos. Consideramos que refleja un deseo justo e irre-nunciabile de la Región Latino Americana que presenta características particulares y que seguramente todas las Delegaciones aquí presentes han apreciado.

En cuanto a la cuestión de los Comités del Programa, de Finanzas y del CACJ nosotros también deseamos decir lo que sentimos y lo que pensamos respecto de lo que constituye un mínimo de acuerdo acerca de las deliberaciones que llevó a cabo el Grupo de Trabajo sobre esta cuestión. Nosotros estamos de acuerdo con las conclusiones del Grupo que reflejan ciertamente nuestra posición, de que esos Comités deberían ser del mismo nivel que el Consejo en cuanto a la calidad de sus representantes, o sea, a nivel gubernamental; deberían ser Comités intergubernamentales. Pensamos que aquí se han referido y se ha hecho una superevaluación de las cualidades individuales que parecen convertir a todos sus miembros en unos superhombres; yo creo que aquí se ha menospreciado también un tanto la labor de la Secretaría, porque yo soy consciente, y estoy seguro que todos compartimos esta opinión, de que tenemos una Secretaría muy capaz y muy competente en todos los aspectos que se refieren a los Comités de Finanzas y del Programa,

Vemos cierta tendencia a un mayor énfasis en esta Casa a las personalidades, a las individualidades en cuanto que estamos aquí porque actuamos a nivel de Gobierno y con instrucciones de nuestros Gobiernos, siendo representantes intergubernamentales. Nosotros no negamos, obviamente, las capacidades técnicas, la experiencia de cada uno de los miembros de los Comités y de los que vayan a ser electos en el futuro; por tanto consideramos que debe mantenerse ese mínimo de representación intergubernamental que se refleja en el inciso a) del párrafo 13.

Igualmente, respecto del aumento, estamos de acuerdo en los aumentos propuestos y en la forma del procedimiento de elección que se menciona en el inciso g) de este mismo párrafo 13.

E. SAENZ (Colombia): En realidad, nuestra Delegación está muy de acuerdo, como lo ha estado desde el principio de la reunión del Grupo Latino Americano, con las palabras de la Delegación de Argentina como vocera del grupo Latino Americano en cuanto a la determinación de la Región Latino Americana, concretamente en lo que se refiere al párrafo 11, parte B del documento 71/12, y no vemos por qué haya un temor y excesiva preocupación por una determinación de una región cuando, en realidad, nosotros decimos que a las Conferencias Regionales para América Latina se invite únicamente a los miembros de esta Región y como Observadores al resto de los países miembros sin que esta determinación de América Latina quiera decir que comprometa a otras regiones, como también se dice en el documento expresado cuando reza: "Esta decisión no comprometerá, de manera alguna, al derecho de otras regiones para tomar decisiones respecto a la participación de los Estados Miembros en sus Conferencias Regionales".

Nuestra Delegación hace un llamado especial al Consejo para que esta determinación de América Latina se cumpla y podamos llevar a efecto en 1978 las reuniones de Conferencias Regionales.

En cuanto al aumento de los miembros en el Comité del Programa y de Finanzas, estamos de acuerdo en que este aumento se lleve a cabo por cuanto un aumento en el número de miembros traerá mayores experiencias y conocimientos para todos. No se trata de un cambio de este Comité, sino simplemente de un aumento para llevar mayores luces a todos.

I. MOSKOVITS (Observer for Malta): The role of Observer is extremely difficult not only because you are giving them only five minutes but because when they are listening and following the discussions, nearly everything has been done and it is difficult to give additional ideas to those which have already been given.

As regards the Finance and the Programme Committees, we see that there is a majority that wishes to increase the number of the members of the Committees and that it should become a governmental committee, there should be representatives of governments. In this respect we share absolutely the view of His Excellency the Minister Juma'a from Jordan, the maximum size should be given as he indicated it, an increased maximum by two.

As regards the governmental character of the Committees, I would like to draw your attention to the fact that in the paper there is no mention of whether the members of the Committee should be members of the Council or selected from outside the Council. In case those bodies are composed of members of the Council, they will have twice the opportunity of influencing the decisions of the Council, as has been rightly stated by Greece. Perhaps it would also be worthwhile to examine whether it would not be preferable to elect the chairmen of these bodies by the Conference itself in a personal capacity whereby, of course, the nationality would not be taken into account when the members of the Committees would be selected by the Council. We consider these bodies of the working mechanism of the Council of particular importance. They may eventually be constituted as an executive committee with strictly defined terms of reference from the large Council and to make work more manageable.

As regards regional conferences, we wish to point out only one issue. We consider the regional conferences as purely FAO conferences and therefore I think irrespective of which members of the Council are invited to regional conferences, they should be purely organized and run by FAO itself.

C. M. FOFANA (Observateur pour la Guinée): Ma délégation pense également, ainsi que l'a souligné le Groupe latino-américain, et en tenant compte de l'expérience que nous avons eue au niveau de l'Afrique pendant la Conférence régionale qui s'est tenue à l'Île Maurice, que les conférences régionales devraient être réservées essentiellement aux pays membres de cette région.

Cela veut dire également que les pays qui voient leurs experts qualifiés transformés en observateurs, peuvent tout autant développer la coopération au niveau de l'expérience et des échanges des connaissances techniques avec la même région. Nous en avons eu l'exemple en Afrique et cela n'a pu que consolider les rapports nouveaux qui se sont institués entre certains pays et nous.

En ce qui concerne la qualité des membres du Comité des programmes et du Comité financier, nous pensons qu'ils devraient être des membres de gouvernement. Nous voulons rappeler l'exemple du Codex qui est un Comité hautement technique. Je crois qu'à ce jour tout le monde se félicite du travail que ces experts effectuent au niveau de ces comités. C'est pour cela que nous estimons qu'il serait bon de tenir compte de la représentation au niveau des gouvernements tout en soulignant à chacun des gouvernements les critères nécessaires pour assurer un travail efficace au sein de ces comités.

Aussi et enfin, nous souscrivons à l'élargissement au niveau d'une représentation équitable des différentes régions dans ces deux comités.

G.S. MAGOMBE (Observer for Tanzania): I want to apologise to the members of the Council, and as you have noticed it has been the practice of my delegation not to intervene in your deliberations because we strictly wanted to observe the role of being Observers, but I thought since you are discussing this very important issue which I hope will come to the Conference, there our delegation will have an opportunity to give its point of view in detail, but in spite of the fact that we shall give our position in detail at the Conference, I thought that since we are Observers and the matter is of grave importance, my delegation should give its preliminary observation on the matter.

First of all, on the question of regional conferences, we have had a number of regional conferences in Africa, and out of that experience we have always felt that the presence of Observers from other regions is of great importance, so my delegation in its Observer capacity will really appeal to those members, especially in the African Region, that we should invite as many Observers as possible.

My country is going to host next year's regional conference, and we are already preliminarily discussing the arrangements of the conference. Quite a few countries feel that at the regional conference, opportunity will be taken to have as much consultation as possible on a number of problems and even arrangements for providing for donor-recipient countries pledging the conference on a number of projects. Therefore we hope and we feel that Observers from other regions should be invited. This is the point of view of Tanzania.

Regarding the proposals on the Programme and Finance Committees, we tend to agree with the proposals which have been put forward. However, we are also a little bit cautious about allowing individuals who are not government representatives to take a very active part in some of the FAO Committees. We do realise that FAO was actually established a very long time ago, and probably the practice then was alright, but as time goes on we feel that there is a need for a fundamental change not only of other structures of the FAO but even of its own constitution. If we agree that FAO is an inter-governmental organization whose membership is of those of governments, my country would really prefer that all the important Committees of this Organization should draw their membership from government delegations. We would even go as far as saying that membership in these committees should be on a country-to-country basis, not on individuals, so as to avoid personalities, as one of the members of the Council has mentioned, and it should be the sovereign right of that member who has been elected as a member of the committee to designate and nominate its own delegation.

As I said, this might be a departure from the usual practice within FAO, but at the same time and as it has been agreed even during the last Conference, the establishment of this Working Party we believe has just touched some of the aspects which need change in this organization. We hope that at the Conference my delegation will be able to give its detailed views especially on the structure of the Organization and also on its own constitution. We strongly feel that there is a need and probably the time has come for a fairer, wider review of the structure and the constitution of the FAO.

As I said, I am sure I will never ask for the floor again and I will allow the members of the Council to finish their deliberations for the rest of the items on the Agenda.

EL PRESIDENTE: Este ha sido un debate intenso, variado y controvertido. Es difícil tratar de presentar un resumen porque algunas de las declaraciones que hicieron ustedes fueron amplias, como la misma naturaleza del tema, y son susceptibles de interpretaciones diversas. Tal vez por eso ahora invoque la disposición contenida en los métodos de trabajo del Consejo para recordar a ustedes que el resumen que voy a tratar de hacer no obliga al Comité de Redacción, sino que simplemente puede ser tenido en cuenta si así lo considera el Comité de Redacción, como una guía para preparar el Proyecto de Informe.

En el primer caso de las Conferencias Regionales, creo yo que los miembros del Consejo estuvieron de acuerdo en destacar la importancia de las conferencias regionales, especialmente en cuanto a su función esencial de formular políticas y de hacer recomendaciones de interés para los miembros de las regiones y que consideraron conveniente que en esas conferencias regionales participaran como miembros u observadores representantes de todos los estados miembros de la FAO que crean poder contribuir a la solución de los problemas agrícolas y alimentarios de los países de las respectivas regiones.

La mayoría de los miembros del Consejo apoyo las recomendaciones del Grupo de Trabajo contenidas en los párrafos 10 y 11. Creo que todos sentimos respeto y simpatía por la posición particular expuesta por el delegado de Pakistán. Afortunadamente, el párrafo 11, en su parte final, reconoce que esas decisiones serán tomadas en las respectivas conferencias regionales del año entrante entre los países de cada region y teniendo en cuenta las características especiales de cada region. Espero que esto satisfaga al delegado del Pakistán y que los derechos de su país puedan ser salvaguardados.

Otras delegaciones, tal vez pocas, estuvieron también de acuerdo en que en el párrafo 12, que comienza por "Algunos miembros " se exponía alguna opinion en relación con la participación de los Estos dos Miembros en aquellos asuntos de orden tecnico y economico.

El Comité de Redacción tratará de encontrar la manera de reflejar también esta opinion. En cuanto a los Comités del Programa y de Finanzas, creo que todo el Consejo estuvo de acuerdo en que debían hacerse esfuerzos para preservar la función seria, competente y adecuada de esos tres comités, incluyendo también el COAG. Que la condición esencial para ser parte de esos comités del Programa y de Finanzas en particular deberían ser las capacidades y los méritos personales. Hubo opiniones diversas sobre la representación a título personal, la representación a título de gobierno, el aumento limitado o sujeto a lo que recomiende el Grupo de Trabajo pero en mi opinión, y el Secretario lo confirma así, la mayoría de los miembros del Consejo apoyó las recomendaciones del Grupo de Trabajo. No quiero entrar en detalles que tal vez corresponderían al colega Velay, pero él se abstiene de intervenir por su discreción y por la misma competencia con que ha manejado este asunto, pero tal vez quisiera referirse a un sólo punto que fue suscitado por la delegación del Reino Unido en relación con las tres etapas que deberían adoptarse para la elección del Presidente y los miembros del Comité del Programa y de Finanzas.

Creo que el colega Velay esta mañana cuando hizo la presentación ya se refirió a esas tres etapas. En efecto, la etapa f), del Apartado f), que dice que los Presidentes serán elegidos de antemano, complementa las dos etapas a que se refiere el apartado g).

En cuanto a otro asunto, que también fue suscitado por algunas delegaciones si los miembros de esos comités deberían o no ser miembros del Consejo, éste es un asunto que no fue discutido en nuestro Grupo de Trabajo, y entiendo yo que en este momento todos estamos de acuerdo en que se mantenga la posibilidad de que los miembros de esos Comités puedan o no ser miembros del Consejo. Con respecto al CACJ, entiendo que no hay problemas en que se mantenga tal como está.

Sólo me queda agradecer muy cordialmente a los colegas y amigos, al señor Velay, Presidente en Ejercicio del Grupo de Trabajo, al señor Embajador Borin, Presidente del CACJ, por su valiosa colaboración para la discusión de este asunto; pero tal vez el Secretario me anota que estaba adelantando más de la cuenta. En realidad, todavía falta un punto que creo sea de menor importancia al final del documento 12, la parte c), Otros Asuntos. ¿Ningún comentario sobre la parte c), Otros Asuntos? Si no hay ningún comentario sobre esta parte entonces el Consejo toma nota de las opiniones del Grupo de Trabajo.

¹ " INTRODUCTORY - PROCEDURE OF THE SESSION (continued)

I - INTRODUCTION - QUESTIONS DE PROCEDURE (suite)

I - INTRODUCCION - CUESTIONES DE PROCEDIMIENTO (continuación)

1. Adoption of the Agenda and Timetable (continued)

1. Adoption de l'ordre du jour et du calendrier (suite)

1. Aprobación del Programa y Calendario (continuación)

EL PRESIDENTE: Voy ahora a conceder la palabra al Secretario para unos asuntos y luego quiero agradecer a los miembros del Consejo la cooperación que nos han ofrecido hasta ahora a fin de evitar que tengamos sesiones extras, pues con la forma práctica y positiva como han intervenido están facilitando el desarrollo oportuno de nuestros trabajos.

Sin embargo, justamente para compensar esa posibilidad de retardo será necesario, muy a nuestro pesar, introducir algunas modificaciones en el calendario para los días que restan a nuestro actual período de sesiones. Les presentamos nuestras excusas por estos cambios, pero son en favor del funcionamiento del Consejo y, al respecto sobre los cambios en el calendario, el Secretario también los explicará lentamente a los miembros del Consejo y mañana será distribuido un calendario que espero sea el último, en el cual ustedes encontrarán el itinerario definitivo y final de nuestras sesiones.

SECRETARY-GENERAL: I will read slowly the proposed calendar schedule of meetings. To-morrow, Tuesday, the 14th June, in the morning we would begin with item 10, the report of COAG, and then we would continue as scheduled on document CL 71 /INF/12., our revised calendar with item 14(a), (c) and (d). That is the whole of the remaining items on Inter-agency Relationships and Consultations.

In the afternoon we would take item 17 again as originally scheduled. This is the review of the Field Programmes.

On Wednesday, the 15th June, here are the big changes. In the morning we would take the whole of item 15, Preparations for the 19th Session of the Conference. This would be followed by item 12, proposal for an "A. H. Boerma Activity", and the rest of the one sub-item left of item 18, which is the Appendix E to document CL 71/4, the Report of the Programme and Finance Committees. Appendix E is the Draft Resolution on Authority to Establish a Special Reserve Account.

On the afternoon of Wednesday we would finish our Agenda by taking item 13, the World Food Programme, item 8, the report of COFO, item 9 the report on COFI, and two very short items, item 21, Any Other Business, and item 22 Date and Place of the next Council.

On Thursday, we can begin the adoption of the sections of the Draft Report. On Friday we would continue with the Adoption of the Report.

The meeting rose at 17.35 hours.

La seance est levée à 17 h 35.

Se levanta la sesión a las 17.35 horas.

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CL

CL 71/PV/13

Seventy-First Session

Soixante et onzième session

71° período de sesiones

THIRTEENTH PLENARY MEETING
TREIZIEME SEANCE PLENIERE
13ª SESION PLENARIA

(14 June 1977)

The Thirteenth Plenary Meeting was opened at 10.10 hours G. Bula Hoyos, Independent Chairman of the Council ,presiding

La treizième seance plénière est ouverte à 10 h 10 sous la présidence de G. Bula Hoyos, Président indépenndant du Conseil

Se abre la 13 sesión plenaria a las 10.10 horas bajo la presidencia de G. Bula Hoyos, Presidente Independiente del Consejo

EL PRESIDENTE: Vamos a comenzar nuestra sesión de esta mañana. Se les ha distribuido el nuevo y último calendario; estoy seguro que todos Vds. aportarán su contribución para ver si logramos conservar libre la tarde del jueves, como está previsto en ese calendario.

Tenemos en primer lugar el tema 10, "Informe del Comité de Agricultura", documento CL 71/9. Voy a conceder la palabra al Sr. Embajador del Peru Samanez Concha, quien presidió el Comité, para que presente el Informe.

III - ACTIVITIES OF FAO AND WFP (continued)

III - ACTIVITES DE LA FAO ET DU PAM (suite)

III - ACTIVIDADES DE LA FAO Y DEL PMA (continuación)

10. Report of the Committee on Agriculture (4th Session, Rome, April 1977)

10. Rapport du Comité de l'agriculture (4ème session, Rome, avril 1977)

10. Informe del Comité de Agricultura (cuarto Período de Sesiones, Roma, abril de 1977)

S. SAMANEZ CONCHA (Presidente del Comité de Agricultura): Me es grato presentar al Consejo el Informe del Cuarto período de sesiones del Comité de Agricultura celebrado en la sede de la FAO del 20 al 28 de abril del año en curso. Dicho Informe consta en el documento CL 71/9. En la página 4 de dicho Informe aparece una lista de las cuestiones que requieren la atención del Consejo; por lo tanto, haré muy breves comentarios adicionales, pero antes de ello quisiera agradecer, en nombre del Comité de Agricultura, al Director General de la Organización por la alusión que hiciera en su declaración sobre los resultados obtenidos en el Cuarto período de sesiones del COAG. Ello fue posible únicamente gracias a la activa participación de todos los miembros, que en este momento son más de 80 de los que integran el COAG.

Los temas tratados fueron los siguientes: En primer lugar Examen del Programa de Labores de la FAO y ejecución del Programa 1976/77. Consta en los párrafos 6 a 39 del Informe.

Es la primera vez que se examina la ejecución de los programas bienales.

El debate se centró en las líneas generales de la labor y no en una revisión detallada de todas las actividades. El Comité consideró que este examen debería continuar en los próximos períodos, reflejándose más claramente los sectores prioritarios y efectuar un análisis y evaluación más detallados de los resultados, ampliándolo a las actividades de las Oficinas Regionales.

En el curso del debate se dio especial énfasis a los obstáculos encontrados.

El segundo tema es "Las perspectivas a medio y largo plazo del desarrollo agrícola y alimentario". Consta en los párrafos 40 a 50. El Comité pide al Consejo que, con la asistencia del Comité del Programa, examine las cuestiones del contenido y presentación futura del documento sobre las perspectivas a medio y largo plazo y su relación con otros documentos.

En tercer lugar tenemos el resumen del Programa de Labores y Presupuesto 1978/79, párrafos 51 a 103. Las decisiones del Comité fueron tomadas en consideración por los Comités de Programa y de Finanzas quienes las han tenido en cuenta al elaborar su Informe y este tema ya fue tratado por el Consejo al discutir el tema n° 16.

Se establecieron las principales prioridades sobre la pérdida de alimentos después de las cosechas, tripanosomiasis y enfermedades transmitidas por las garrapatas, semillas y fertilizantes, desarrollo rural, caris, productos básicos y seguridad alimentaria, etc.

El cuarto tema fue "Reducción de las pérdidas de alimentos posteriores a las cosechas", párrafos 104 a 124.

El tema ya fue presentado por el Sr. Bommer y contó con el apoyo de los Comités de Programa y de Finanzas. Es de esperar, como lo dijo Vd., Sr. Presidente, al formular el resumen después del debate, que el Comité de Redacción al revisar el proyecto de resolución y formular su informe encuentre una fórmula que sea aprobada por todos los miembros del Consejo y se haga una realidad la creación de dicho Fondo.

El quinto tema fue el "Desarrollo de los pequeños agricultores", párrafos 125 a 142. El Comité tomó nota que habiéndose previsto la celebración de la Conferencia Mundial sobre Reforma Agraria y Desarrollo Rural en julio de 1979, el problema de los pequeños agricultores debería constituir uno de los principales temas de examen de la Conferencia; y teniendo en cuenta la resolución 3/71 del 16º Período de Sesiones de la Conferencia, se propuso que el Comité examine los aspectos relativos al desarrollo rural y en particular la reforma de las estructuras agrarias y proporcione un asesoramiento efectivo.

Dado que el Comité de Agricultura se reunirá nuevamente recién en 1979 a pocos días de la Conferencia Mundial, el Consejo, de acuerdo a sus atribuciones, puede crear el Subcomité, un Grupo de Trabajo, o bien autorizar al Director General para que constituya un Grupo de Expertos a fin de que lo asesoren en la organización de la Conferencia.

Asimismo, el Consejo puede autorizar al Director General para que realice los cambios presupuestarios necesarios a fin de que se pueda disponer de los recursos financieros adecuados.

El sexto tema fue el Informe de las actividades realizadas desde el tercer período de sesiones. Se trataron los temas de extensión y capacitación agrícola.

El Comité solicitó mayor información sobre algunos extremos de las actividades, se hizo hincapié sobre la capacitación de la mujer en la producción y extensión agrícola, se informó al Comité que un grupo interdireccional de la FAO formula y promueve la participación de la mujer en el desarrollo rural. Mejora de la producción en ambientes poco favorables se observó que se habían logrado pocos progresos y se solicitó de la FAO que presente un informe más concreto para un mejor análisis de los resultados.

Luego se analizaron los temas a tratar en el quinto período de sesiones del COAG. Muchos miembros del Comité han apoyado la propuesta para que en su 5º Período de Sesiones, el Comité examine los temas siguientes: Uso del agua en las poblaciones agrícolas y la mecanización agrícola y sus efectos en el empleo y distribución de los ingresos.

Tal vez los miembros del Consejo deseen hacer algunas observaciones sobre estos puntos propuestos y existe la posibilidad de que puedan sugerir nuevos temas.

Para concluir, debo manifestar que en el futuro sería de desear que en el COAG se estudie y analice un mayor número de temas y problemas, pues en cada período de sesiones se estudian y analizan únicamente dos temas y a este paso tendrán que pasar varias decenas de años antes de que el COAG vuelva a tratar temas que fueron discutidos en reuniones anteriores. Someto esto a la consideración de los Sres. miembros del Consejo. Yo creo que los problemas en agricultura son sumamente numerosos y sería conveniente que en futuras reuniones del COAG se analice un mayor número de temas.

Eso es todo, Sr. Presidente y estoy a vuestra disposición.

EL PRESIDENTE: Gracias, Sr. Embajador Samanez Concha por su presentación, a través de la cual, en forma muy clara y concreta, Ud. ha indicado al Consejo los puntos sobresalientes del Informe del COAG sobre los cuales conviene que se pronuncien Uds., Sres. miembros del Consejo.

Igualmente, como lo indicó el Presidente del Comité de Agricultura, Sr. Samanez Concha, al comienzo de este documento están señaladas aquellas cuestiones que requieren en particular la atención del Consejo.

Se abre el debate sobre este tema, ¿quién quiere intervenir?.

I. OROZCO (México): Queremos felicitar al Presidente del Comité de Agricultura por su presentación concisa y vigorosa que habla precisamente de la conducción que imprimió al Comité de Agricultura en su pasado período de sesiones.

México es un país eminentemente agrícola en donde estamos dando cada día mayor importancia al problema del desarrollo rural y a la implementación día a día de un proceso de reforma agraria que ya llevamos varios decenios de aplicarlo.

Es por eso que hemos leído con interés este interesantísimo informe que nos presenta el Comité de Agricultura y que pasa una revista sobre los aspectos que inciden en la producción agrícola y de la alimentación así como los problemas relacionados con el desarrollo rural.

Ya hemos tenido oportunidad de referirnos al importante programa de la reducción de las pérdidas de las cosechas y post-cosechas y del apoyo que hemos dado a la creación de este Fondo para este importante problema, que requiere una solución inmediata.

Nos ha llamado la atención en la presentación que ha hecho el Presidente del Comité de Agricultura lo que expreso sobre la formación de un Subcomité que había quedado pendiente por razones de tipo administrativo o porque aún no se tenía conciencia suficiente de la importancia que el Comité de Agricultura debería de dar a las cuestiones de desarrollo rural y de reforma agraria, como una de sus partes integrales y fundamentales.

Ahora tenemos las perspectivas de la Conferencia Mundial sobre Reforma Agraria y Desarrollo Rural que ha sido aprobada por el Consejo y prevista para tener lugar en julio de 1979. A nuestros ojos resalta la fundamental importancia que un grupo o que un órgano de este género podría tener para los preparativos de esa importante Conferencia, que para mi país constituye un jalón histórico dentro de los programas, dentro de la concepción y filosofía de esta Organización. Por ello, al escuchar la exposición del Presidente del Comité de Agricultura y al leer las partes pertinentes del Informe, creemos que la formación de ese grupo, como él señalo de un Subcomité o Grupo de Trabajo como órgano asesor que prestara precisamente sus orientaciones para la preparación de la Conferencia al Director General en lo que se refiere a los preparativos de documentación, reuniones subsidiarias, seminarios de todo tipo, sería de fundamental importancia. Por eso nosotros deseamos proponer que obviamente el Consejo, en virtud de sus funciones y de su competencia, decidiera la creación de este Grupo, como he dicho, para las funciones importantes de preparación de la Conferencia y que, obviamente, se dispusieran las partidas presupuestarias o los ajustes presupuestarios necesarios. Hemos leído con interés la asignación que se hace ya por parte del Director General para los preparativos de esta importante Conferencia y, tal vez, sea cuestión nada más que de ajustes.

RAMADHAR (India): My delegation would like to commend the report of the Fourth Session of COAG for endorsement by this Council Session. The Fourth Session of the Committee on Agriculture was significant from many points of view. I would, however, like to mention only two items at this stage which were discussed by the Committee on Agriculture in a realistic and practical manner. These relate to the proposal to set up a \$20 million fund to reduce post-harvest losses and suggested practical measures intended to improve production and efficiency in the small farmers sector. The first item relating to the proposal to set up a fund to reduce post-harvest losses has been considered in detail by this Council and there has been a general support of the programme. I would not therefore like to take the time of the Council on this item.

My delegation notes with satisfaction that the Committee on Agriculture made a detailed analysis of the problem of small farmers and reviewed the alternative approaches to programmes and drew attention to the role of FAO in giving assistance in this field. My delegation fully endorses the emphasis given to the social and economic conditions of the small farmers. The need for improvements in the productivity and in the income of the small farmers make it essential that the new potential be opened up for the use of new appropriate technology. Such technology would have to be developed or adapted to the special conditions of the small farmers.

My delegation would like to welcome the initiative taken by FAO in organizing the World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development to be held in July 1979. We agree with the recommendation of the Committee on Agriculture that the problems of small farmer development should be a major issue for discussion in the World Conference since in most developing countries the small farmers comprise the majority of the population. The need for comprehensive and careful preparation by the Secretariat and the Member Governments for this Conference, particularly in the context of the small farmers, can be hardly over-emphasised. The documentation should also analyse the growth rate of the production of the small farmers in various parts of the world including the measures undertaken and the policy instruments specifically geared to improve the conditions of the small farmers.

While agreeing broadly with the priorities for development indicated in the document CL 71/9, my delegation would like to suggest a more comprehensive discussion of on-farm use of water as a major item for discussion at the next COAG meetings. Irrigation water, as everyone knows, is a very important basic resource. National governments are laying great emphasis on the creation of irrigation facilities. Much investment has gone into these projects. But it is equally or even more important to use the water judiciously to maximize the production per unit or per unit volume of water. The requirements of water for various crops, the time of its application during the different stages of plant growth and the method of application are important aspects of irrigated farming. It would therefore be highly appropriate that a comprehensive study is made of the on-farm use of water and this becomes a regular agenda item for all the future sessions of the Committee on Agriculture.

Another area which should receive greater attention by the Committee on Agriculture is in the field of vegetables and fruits. In some of the developing countries some fruits and vegetables are as significant as staple food items. Fruits and vegetables also provide much needed vitamin, iron and calcium requirements. It is therefore necessary that the Committee on Agriculture discusses this in its future sessions. FAO should make available the technical expertise in drawing up development plans and in accelerating investments in development of fruit and vegetable cultivation.

DONA P. DE CASTRO MONSALVO (Colombia): La delegación de Colombia quiere referirse solamente a las cuestiones que requieren la atención del Consejo para pedir a este organismo que ofrezca la mejor y más seria atención a esos asuntos a fin de estimular la función del importante Comité de Agricultura.

La delegación de Colombia apoya la propuesta para la creación de un grupo de expertos que asesore al Director General en la preparación de la Conferencia Mundial sobre Reforma Agraria y Desarrollo Rural.

La delegación de Colombia participó en el Cuarto Período de sesiones del Comité de Agricultura. Por lo tanto, está en condiciones directas de destacar el excelente trabajo, la forma inteligente y eficaz como el Señor Embajador del Perú, Sr. Samanez Concha, cumplió esas amplias funciones de Presidente.

N. HINTIKKA (Finland): First, my delegation would like to express its satisfaction with the obvious success of the last session of COAG. The meeting produced good results which will give useful guidance to FAO in its future work. The purpose of my intervention is to touch upon one very important aspect of the Committee on Agriculture report, the question of integrated rural development and small farmers' development. My country, as well as other Nordic countries, has always strongly emphasized the importance of such FAO activities which directly benefit the rural poor in the developing world. We therefore note with satisfaction that COAG in its last session not only supported rural development as one of the six • main priorities for FAO during the next biennium but also put forward a number of useful recommendations on the future work in this field under the title "Small Farmers' Development". My delegation fully supports the ideas presented by COAG in this matter.

Although it is not appropriate here to go into details in this very broad and complicated question, I would like briefly to mention some points. The subject of "Small Farmers' Development" is so far-reaching and complex that an integrated approach within the United Nations system, in other words, a close cooperation between the different United Nations agencies, is necessary if programmes aimed at small farmers are to have the desired impact.

I refer in this connection also to the "Basic Needs Strategy" adopted by the ILO at the 1976 World Employment Conference. In our view, the leading role in the United Nations system in the small farmers' development belongs to FAO, and we welcome the steps taken by the Secretariat in this direction. Many of the constraints of small farmers' development can only be removed by the developing countries themselves. These governments themselves must take at the political level the decision and action necessary for better economic and social justice.

The role of women in agriculture must strongly be emphasized. In some developing countries as much as 70 percent of agricultural labour is women's work. In spite of that, extension services are still directed towards the male farmers, in fact more or less neglecting the role of women.

The coming World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development, which will be held in July 1979 is going to offer a good opportunity for an exchange of experiences between countries. My country will carefully prepare its participation in the Conference. In our view, the experiences of many developed countries, for example in the field of land and agrarian reform, could be of great use also to many of the developing countries.

SRTA. C.J, DOMINGUEZ (Panamá): La delegación de Panamá, después de haber estudiado con atención el informe del cuarto periodo de sesiones del Comité de Agricultura, documento CL 71/9, desea hacer las siguientes consideraciones. En los párrafos 47 al 58 se habla sobre la necesidad de incrementar la producción agrícola en los países en desarrollo. Siendo Panamá un país predominantemente agrícola, el Gobierno nacional concede una gran importancia a este sector, haciendo grandes esfuerzos para incrementar la producción.

Estamos convencidos de que este incremento representará, tal como lo dice el documento, un mejor servicio de comercialización, transporte y almacenamiento, al mismo tiempo que una capacitación mejor del personal. A pesar de la poca disponibilidad de recursos financieros, hemos logrado incrementar la producción a través de los asentamientos campesinos, cooperativas agrícolas, juntas agrarias, pero queremos hacer hincapié en el papel que debe desempeñar la FAO mediante asistencia técnica a los países en desarrollo, con el fin de que podamos utilizar mejor nuestros recursos e incrementar así la producción agrícola.

Nuestra delegación apoya la sugerencia constructiva que formuló el Comité de Agricultura en el último período de sesiones sobre el pequeño agricultor. Una de las iniciativas tomadas por mi Gobierno en este sentido es la creación del Banco de Desarrollo Agropecuario, que a pesar de contar con pocos recursos ayuda al financiamiento de los proyectos que presentan los pequeños agricultores y les garantiza la asistencia técnica necesaria.

Nuestra delegación opina que un papel importante de la FAO es contribuir al desarrollo de las instituciones nacionales ya operantes en los países en desarrollo, que de esa manera, a corto plazo, se puede aumentar la producción de alimentos.

Debido a la importancia que mi Gobierno brinda a la reforma agraria y al desarrollo rural integrado, abrigamos la esperanza de que la próxima Conferencia Mundial sobre Reforma Agraria y Desarrollo Rural Integrado, examine los aspectos esenciales del desarrollo rural y se llegue a conclusiones positivas que eleven el nivel de vida de la familia campesina, evitando así el desplazamiento del hombre del campo hacia las áreas urbanas.

Es a este propósito que queremos apoyar la propuesta hecha por el Presidente del Comité de Agricultura con relación a la creación de un grupo de expertos que asesore al Director General en la preparación de la próxima Conferencia Mundial sobre Reforma Agraria y Desarrollo Rural Integrado.

A. BAOUA (Niger): Après examen du document CL 71/9 relatif au rapport de la 4ème session du Comité de l'agriculture que félicite ma délégation, le Niger approuve et soutient, comme il l'a déjà fait pour la réduction des pertes d'aliments avant et après récolte, les perspectives à moyen et à long terme du développement alimentaire et agricole pour garantir un mieux être à l'humanité.

En effet, le rôle primordial de toute agriculture est d'abord de nourrir celui qui la pratique, et ensuite de dégager un surplus de production afin de lui procurer par la vente de ses produits un revenu monétaire suffisant. Or, depuis quelques années, à la suite des calamités abattues sur le Sahel, à savoir la sécheresse et les ravageurs de cultures, nos pays ont été contraints d'importer, grâce à l'aide des pays amis et des Organisations internationales, beaucoup de vivres pour faire face aux besoins des populations.

En raison de ces dures épreuves, notre politique agricole actuelle est axée sur l'amélioration de la production par l'aménagement des terres irrigables, le développement des projets de productivité, une meilleure utilisation des eaux de surface et de sous-sol, et enfin par la reconstitution du cheptel décimé par de longues années de sécheresse.

Nous nous efforçons donc d'accroître notre production agricole, tant pour satisfaire les besoins présents que futurs, face au taux de notre croissance démographique.

Pour ce faire, nous pensons que: 1) l'information et la formation des paysans afin de les mettre au courant des progrès techniques pour qu'ils les appliquent sur leurs exploitations afin de tirer le maximum de profit; 2) l'instauration d'une saine politique d'approvisionnement du monde rural en intrants agricoles; 3) l'accès facile au crédit agricole par les petits agriculteurs et éleveurs,

priment et retiennent notre attention.

Pour nous, il faut amener le paysan à prendre en charge ses propres affaires et lui faire prendre conscience de son propre développement économique et social. D'où l'idée d'autogestion et d'auto-encadrement des structures paysannes partout où elles s'y prêtent. C'est évidemment une oeuvre de longue haleine, mais qui mérite d'être soutenue.

C'est pourquoi, Monsieur le Président, nous avons foi dans les objectifs 1985 et 2000 des programmes de notre Organisation sous-régionale, le Comité inter-Etats de lutte contre la sécheresse dans le Sahel, et appuyons les propositions du Directeur général et du Comité de l'agriculture telles qu'elles sont présentées dans ce document (paragraphe 47 à 58).

Pour ce qui est du paragraphe 59 du même document, nous sommes d'avis que le Conseil examine, avec le concours du Comité des programmes, la question du contenu et de la présentation future du document sur les perspectives à moyen et à long terme et de ses relations avec d'autres documents.

Dans les questions diverses, nous souscrivons à l'inscription à l'ordre du jour provisoire de la prochaine réunion du COAG les termes proposés au paragraphe 156/1: l'utilisation de l'eau à l'exploitation, surtout pour évaluer les relations sol-eau-plantes, en vue de déterminer les besoins en eau des cultures, mais aussi les doses d'arrosage suivant les cultures et les propriétés agrologiques des terres.

Le paragraphe 156/2 traite de la mécanisation agricole et les effets sur l'emploi et la répartition des revenus. La mécanisation est en effet un des facteurs d'amélioration de la productivité du travail humain qui se traduit par un gain de temps et une économie de l'effort fourni par l'homme. Une telle approche nous permet de dégager l'apport de la mécanisation et de résoudre certains problèmes de son utilisation sur les petites exploitations.

Comme il est dit au paragraphe 158, d'autres thèmes comme l'approvisionnement du monde rural en engrais, pesticides et matériel agricole, peuvent aussi être étudiés surtout pour les pays comme les nôtres, sans littoral, où le coût du transport pèse gravement sur nos prix de vente qui sont le plus souvent hors de la portée des paysans sans subventions de l'Etat.

S.H.A. MOTALAB (Sudan) (Interpretation from Arabie): I should like to pay tribute to the Committee on Agriculture for the excellent report it has put before us. We support the Director-General's strategy to develop agriculture in the developing countries, and express the hope that these efforts will be successful.

I should like to stress some of the points which we feel to be of particular importance and which are related to agricultural research and development in developing countries.

As regards aid to small farmers, this is a very felicitous step that the Organization has taken, and we hope that FAO will continue its efforts in order to assist small farmers and to help them to bring about an integrated development in the sector of agriculture, and will continue to help them to consolidate their land holdings in order to improve production. This can also be done by introducing improved seed and by the introduction of fertilizers and pesticides

Secondly, I should like to say that I share the opinion of the Committee on Agriculture that research is one of the very foundations of agricultural development, but in the developing countries we need applied research much more than purely scientific and academic research. We therefore hope that FAO will stress the importance of applied research, and will also stress the importance of pilot projects.

Thirdly, in the proposals before us, we see no mention of the very important aspect of pastures and arid lands, because as you know most developing countries need to develop this sector of pastures. In Sudan, for example, 90 percent of the land is pasture land, and it is therefore an absolutely essential factor in providing us with our needs in meat, and I think the same applies to Ethiopia, Kenya, Syria, Iraq, etc. Although this is not a sector which is very costly to maintain or which needs large funds to be given by governments, in general governments and organizations do not pay much attention to this sector nor do they devote the efforts to it that it deserves.

We feel, therefore, that here FAO could play a vital role in developing and improving this sector. It could carry out the studies necessary to determine the best type of conditions suited to this sort of land, and could set up pilot projects and extension units, for example, that would enable the population of these areas to make the best possible use of the conditions which prevail in these areas and which would enable them to participate in their countries' development.

Lastly, I should like to refer to natural resources. FAO in its future programme, intends to develop forestry and fish sectors but there are other matters which are of considerable importance as well but to which FAO has not devoted its attention, and here I refer to wildlife and natural pastures. Natural pastures in most developing countries were badly hit by the drought and the fact that there was no cultivation led to a spread of desert in these areas.

The United Nations, through UNESCO and FAO, had this brought to its attention, and in particular its attention was drawn to the deterioration of pasture land throughout the areas which suffer from drought which hit Western Africa particularly badly recently. The United Nations, UNESCO and FAO have devoted attention to this matter, and have been making efforts to develop this sector. Decisions have been taken to increase fodder production and to introduce conservation policies and other policies to make better use of land and water resources.

As a result of the studies undertaken in this connexion, a group was set up which held its first meeting in February 1975. The 73 members of this Programme, which is the EMASAR Programme, studied the problems related to this question. They defined the problem and expressed their concern at the deterioration of these natural pastures.

I believe that Resolution 15/75 stressed the importance of the Programme, so we express the hope that this Programme will be given a new lease of life and that funds will be allocated to it to improve the areas of natural pasture land and the arid zones. The question of wildlife is again a very important aspect of the overall agricultural situation which has been subject to various disasters, and we believe that FAO through technical cooperation programmes could attempt to solve this problem.

I am sorry for speaking at such length, but we believe that FAO should try to make the effort to concentrate its attention on the problems of those Member Countries, particularly the developing countries, and to help them to solve them.

M.B. MESSAUDI (Libya) (Interpretation from Arabic): On behalf of my delegation I should like to congratulate the Chairman of the Committee on Agriculture on the Report he submitted to us on the Fourth Session of this Committee contained in document CL 71/9. As you know, we are members of the Committee on Agriculture. We believe this is an extremely important report, and we welcome the results which COAG has obtained.

We do not think the Committee on Agriculture could have dealt with many more problems than it has already considered, and we therefore feel that the Committee on Agriculture has achieved real success.

We welcome the stressing by FAO of the need to increase agricultural production, to improve productivity, and increase income. We also welcome the measures that have been taken to prepare the World Conference on Land Reform and Integrated Rural Development, which will take place in 1979. We welcome, too, the stress laid on the need to reduce post-harvest losses, and the appeal made to national institutions in this field.

My delegation attaches considerable importance to the agricultural sector, and we devote very large sums to the development of this. For this reason, we follow the work of the Committee on Agriculture very closely, and we keep a close eye on the results it achieves.

I would like to associate myself with the speaker from the delegation of Sudan when he referred to the EMASAR Programme. Resolution 15/75 indicated the measures to be taken to implement the EMASAR Programme, but which unfortunately are not reflected in COAG's Report, and we hope the Secretary will give us some information on this point.

H.L. CLAVERIE RODRIGUEZ (Venezuela): Seré muy breve en la intervención de esta mañana por lo concreto de las reflexiones que quiero transmitir relacionadas específicamente con la reducción de las pérdidas de las cosechas y con la Conferencia de Reforma Agraria.

Antes de comenzar mi intervención quiero presentar nuestra felicitación al Presidente del Comité, Embajador Samanez Concha, que tan óptimamente efectuó su labor al frente de este Comité.

En esta ocasión mi delegación considera necesario apoyar calurosamente las observaciones introducidas en el apartado destinado a analizar la reducción de las pérdidas de alimentos con posterioridad a las cosechas y, como en otra ocasión anunciamos, el total apoyo de la delegación de Venezuela al Fondo que se piensa crear proyectado por el Director General para solucionar en gran parte las pérdidas que en dichas cosechas se pueden prever.

En cuanto a la Conferencia de Reforma Agraria, la delegación de Venezuela quiere dejar constancia de la importancia tan extrema que nuestro país ha venido concediendo desde hace mucho tiempo a la reforma agraria como solución, como coadyuvante al problema de los pequeños y medianos agricultores, ya que la experiencia de Venezuela en este campo es amplia. Nuestro proyecto de Reforma Agraria ha sido bastante avanzado y bastante analizado a nivel mundial y consideramos que hoy tenemos una experiencia que puede ser un valor, un soporte para el análisis y la corrección de las medidas que tiendan a llevar adelante planos de mejoramiento a nivel del campesino.

En este sentido apoyamos calurosamente las iniciativas que viene tomando esta Casa para implementar la Conferencia Mundial de Reforma Agraria, y damos también nuestro apoyo a la creación del Comité de Trabajo, del Comité de Expertos que tienda a estructurar y a diseñar el trabajo final de esta Conferencia.

Reitero que nuestra delegación considera útil poner a la disposición del Director General de la FAO la experiencia que Venezuela tiene en este campo y oportunamente estará en condiciones de, tal vez, aportar nombres para este Grupo de Trabajo.

M.A. PAPAGEORGIU (Greece): The Greek delegation wishes to express its congratulations to the Committee on Agriculture for their excellent work and the complete report presented to us. Our delegation has taken into consideration the Committee's conclusions and, after examining the implementation of the current programme and the medium and long-term problems recognizes the importance of an increase in production in developing countries and of bringing world food reserves to a safe level. We notice the difficulties that field Programmes have recently been faced with by lack of human, financial, and material resources, especially the serious lack of trained manpower at all levels. We think that they could be overcome in the future by strengthening efforts within the framework of the new orientation adopted for preparing the programmes of the 1978/79 biennium.

In this respect we endorse the Committee's views that marketing, transport and storage facilities should be developed simultaneously with the increase in agricultural production. Land reform could provide a more solid basis for inducing efforts towards increasing production and serves to create more investments to which we attribute great importance for medium as well as long-term agricultural development. So far as technology is concerned, our delegation believes that a transfer of appropriate technology should take place after a careful examination of the social and economic conditions of each developing country. Research institutions must be established in developing countries in order to promote and adapt technological advancement. Education, training and ex-station service activities relating to teaching farmers new technology are fundamental for agricultural development. The complexity of agricultural development is fully recognized and therefore top priority should be given to it at the international level.

So far as the summary programme of work for 1978/79 is concerned, we fully support the priorities chosen by the Director-General and the related proposals on programme changes. On the reduction of post-harvest food losses we agree, as we have already stated, with the Committee's endorsement of guidelines presented for future activities of all involved parties. We also recognize the difficulties in the application of the existing remedies by Member Countries, difficulties connected with lack of information, infra-structure and finance. We feel that it is necessary to initiate the preparation of a list of loss reduction activities as well as of the resources devoted to them regarding all Member Countries and the aid agencies.

We agree with the Committee's view of supporting the principle of the action programme proposed by FAO, adjusted as necessary to meet local requirements, training in post-harvest technology and practice at all levels, and this is considered by our delegation as an item of high importance.

As regards the required criteria and the proposed mechanism for the approval of projects proposed by FAO, our delegation supports them, considering that they will serve mainly the developing countries.

Finally, we recognize the importance attributed to the development of small farmers for the benefit of agricultural progress in many countries and regions. We welcome the Committee's views that the problem of the development of small farmers should be a major issue for discussion in the forthcoming World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development. We sincerely hope that the conference will find a proper solution to this highly important problem.

A.J. PECKHAM (United Kingdom): I should like to make two observations if I may. One concerns the report of the Fourth Session of this Committee and the other looks to the future concerning the preparations for the forthcoming Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development.

Firstly, I should like to associate myself with what others have already said about the production of this admirably workmanlike report and to recall what the Director-General said in his opening statement last week that the last Session of the Committee was perhaps the most successful since its inception. The report underlines the importance and value at these meetings of a thorough examination of the various aspects, particularly the technical aspects of the Committee's work and because of that the need for strong multi-disciplinary representation. The key to success I venture to suggest is in the level of expertise which is brought to bear on these matters.

Secondly, looking to the future, we firmly support the stress which the Committee has placed on the importance of accelerating the improvement of rural living standards and we agree with the Director-General that the 1979 World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development will provide an opportunity for a fruitful discussion of practical measures of help for the small farmer. We shall be very happy to assist in whatever way we can in the preparations for this extremely important event.

Q.H. HAQUE (Bangladesh): We express our great satisfaction at the success of the Fourth Session of the COAG in which we participated with great interest. I also congratulate the Chairman of the COAG for his very efficient handling of the Committee Session and excellent presentation of the report this morning.

At the very outset I want to mention that we support the Director-General's strategy and priorities for the development of agriculture in the developing countries.

In the Fourth Session of the COAG two issues attracted most attention in the Committee. They were (a) harvest and post-harvest losses and (b) development of small farmers. As regards harvest and post-harvest losses we have already given our views wherein we very strongly supported the Director-General's programme. As regards the development of small farmers, I should like to mention a few efforts that we are making in our country in this regard.

As members will know, in Bangladesh 85 percent of the people are farmers or, in other words, depend on agriculture. The vast majority of that 85 percent are small farmers for the simple reason that at the present moment in Bangladesh the ceiling of land holding per family is only 33 acres, and of that, the vast majority of the farmers have three acres and less, and those we call marginal or subsistence level farmers. We have also a great number of people who are landless agricultural labour. For this reason, whatever the government does for the development of agriculture is for the development of the small farmer. My Government attaches the highest priority to agricultural development and the development of small farmers.

In this regard two aspects are very important. One is the supply of agricultural inputs and the other is the supply of credit. For the supply of agricultural inputs like fertilizers, seeds, pesticides, power pumps, tubewells, etc., we have a Government Corporation called the Agricultural Development Corporation of Bangladesh which operates throughout the country in villages to make sure that they make available the agricultural inputs at the door of the small farmers and, in the case of many of the inputs, at subsidized prices.

As regards credit, we have an agricultural bank which engaged full time in supplying credit to the farmer. Besides this, other scheduled banks are under obligation to set apart a major part of their credit for farmers. These are the institutions we have in Bangladesh which are engaged in the development of small farmers.

One interesting point I recall is that in the Committee on Agriculture and particularly during the adoption of the report when we were discussing paragraph 139 on page 19 which talks about government officials being in touch with the small farmers so that the administration could get to know the problems of the farmers better, a point was made whether somebody said this or not. Our point of view was that this is a very good thing to say, so even if nobody said it, we should incorporate it.

I want to mention in this Council that in Bangladesh not only officials at whatever level, even the President, visit farmers and villages and stay with them for a number of period in the month.

The Permanent Secretary is under obligation to spend ten days of each month with the small farmers to know what are their problems and then to get back to headquarters to tackle them. My colleague, Mr. Salahuddin Ahmed who is presently the Secretary for Internal Affairs, also has to go and spend ten days per month in the village with the farmers to get acquainted with their problems.

As regards rural development, we attach great importance to it. As long as we are conscious of this problem of rural development, and we understand improving the quality of rural life in all its aspects. We have a Department of Rural Development and besides we have an academy for rural development. We hope that by the end of the 1970's the entire country will be covered by our programme of integrated rural development which aims at improving the quality of life of the farmers. We attach great importance to the coming World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development and are looking forward to it. We are eager to contribute our best for the success of the Conference. We feel that in order to make it a success, elaborate and extensive preparations are necessary. We feel that it is a very good idea to constitute a committee or advisory body to aid and advise the Director-General in the preparation of this conference, so that it is a great success. We support the idea of constituting a committee or an advisory body to aid and advise the Director-General.

E. CAKAJDA (Tchécoslovaquie): Ma délégation voudrait souligner le rôle de la FAO dans la préparation de la Conférence mondiale sur la réforme agraire et le développement rural qui aura lieu en juillet 1979. Ma délégation, ainsi que d'autres pays socialistes, accorde une importance capitale à la solution du problème de la réforme agraire et c'est pourquoi je voudrais suggérer non seulement la constitution d'un groupe ad hoc restreint mais aussi inviter tous les offices régionaux de la FAO à recueillir les informations et les expériences utiles sur le plan régional et sous-régional.

En ce qui concerne la préparation de la Conférence sur la réforme agraire, j'aimerais attirer l'attention du Conseil sur le fait qu'au cours de la dernière conférence de l'OAA, une conférence Unesco/FAO/OIT sur l'éducation dans l'agriculture a été prévue pour l'année 1978; la première ayant eu lieu au Danemark

Après avoir écouté les observations des délégués du Niger, de l'Inde et de plusieurs autres encore qui ont mentionné l'apport de la formation agricole et de l'accès aux informations au niveau des petits paysans, je me demande si la prochaine Conférence de novembre ne devrait pas réexaminer l'idée de prévoir une date mieux appropriée pour cette conférence: idée que ma délégation a approuvée depuis le commencement puisque'elle a même offert de tenir la Conférence sur l'éducation agricole en Tchécoslovaquie.

Permettez-moi d'exprimer certains doutes sur l'efficacité de traiter avec succès et avec tous les détails nécessaires les questions de l'éducation de formation (qui représentent des problèmes spécifiques) à la conférence de 1979.

I.A. IMTIAZI (Pakistan): While generally endorsing the recommendations of COAG - 4th Session - as contained in document CL 71/9, there are two points we would like to emphasize, in particular:

- (a) The role of cooperatives as a means of promoting small farmer development; and
- (b) The special need for improving productivity in the relatively less well-endowed, low - or no -rainfall areas.

On the cooperatives, I had spoken earlier also while intervening in the discussion on Summary Programme of Work and Budget - 1978-79 and I shall be extremely brief on this point. My Government attaches great importance to the formulation and extension of cooperatives as a methodology, especially suited to help the farmers, particularly small farmers, get access to physical inputs, modern know-how, credit, storage, transportation, marketing and so on. We would commend to FAO to examine and explore the possibilities of promoting cooperatives as a means of helping the small farmer in the developing countries. Of course, while doing so, the experience gained both in the developed and the developing countries would be relevant and useful. So far as our own experience with cooperatives in Pakistan, is concerned, we shall be glad to provide whatever information we may have and whatever information FAO may ask for, in this field. As to the need for productivity in relatively we 11-endowed, low-rainfall or no-rainfall areas, we are glad to note that in para 147 of the report under consideration, COAG has taken note of the work done by our Punjab Barani Commission, in this regard. However, the Punjab Barani Commission report covers only a part of the country. The enormity of the problem would be evident from the fact that out of some 200 million acres which constitute my country's total geographic area, only less than 50 million acres are cultivated. Even if we were to leave out 50 million acres, regarded as unfit for cultivation, we are still left with almost 100 million acres which need being attended to, in order to secure their productive use. It is true water is a major constraint in such areas, but it should be possible for human ingenuity to evolve suitable range management policies, plans programmes and projects which would permit productive use of such areas for human good.

Here, we would like to endorse the point made by the distinguished delegate from the Sudan, for early and effective action by FAO.

We are of the view that FAO has an important role to play in relation to such hithertofore neglected areas, and we do hope and trust that FAO in its short-term and medium-term plans will give to these areas the importance and the attention, they deserve.

S. JUMA'A (Jordan) (Interpretation from Arabic): I think that this question has been studied at sufficient length by previous speakers and shall therefore content myself with a very few brief comments. To begin with, I support the statement made by the delegate of Sudan and also what was said by the delegates of India, Bangladesh and Pakistan with respect to small farmers, scientific research and so on. I think that FAO can supply effective aid by providing training and aid to those countries that have no scientific research centres of their own, it being understood that developing countries cannot carry out scientific research on an academic basis, involving vast expenditure. That is why we feel that applied research ought to be stressed, since this has particular effect on production and development in developing countries.

FAO could also provide a considerable role for developing countries through training farmers and providing agricultural extension services. It might even help in setting up agricultural development banks in developing countries or supporting those that have already been set up, because it is through agricultural development banks that the Organization can serve farmers by granting them loans on favourable and long-term conditions. In this way the small farmer may develop his own resources and his own potential in the long run; this is something he is unable to do when he turns to a commercial bank for loans.

That is why it is the duty of our Organization to provide aid to developing countries, especially when it comes to setting up agricultural development banks or consolidating those banks that already exist.

The second point I wanted to stress was the matter of agrarian reform and rural development. We know that a United Nations Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development will be held in 1979. It is quite natural for that type of a Conference to deal with such difficult and complicated problems that sometimes contain political aspects. It would therefore be useful for us to prepare ourselves for this Conference as from now so that it is not allowed to deviate from its principal aspects into a morass of political discourses.

We therefore support the proposal to set up a committee of experts to help the Director-General in drawing up guidelines for the Conference and the agenda items that it will discuss. This will ensure that the Conference stays within the framework that we have set for it and pursues the correct objectives. The Committee on Agriculture at its last meeting in Rome dealt with one vital subject: harvest and post-harvest losses. When we were involved in the work on this subject we supported the Director-General's proposal that a fund be set up to aid developing countries control harvest and post-harvest losses. We would like to confirm here and now the stand we took in COAG and we would wish the Council to take a decision according to the guidelines that we have provided.

Several colleagues have spoken of the problem of aid that should be given to small farmers. I do not deny the quantity of aid that should be given to small farmers but that should not lead us, developing countries, to overlook the fact that to concentrate on small farmers might mean cutting down productivity and production because small farmers are not in a position to use modern technology in agriculture because their means are limited. That is why, if we are always stressing the importance of and concentrating on small farmers, we would be stressing under-development and upholding under-development. What we must try and do is involve the small farmer in units or cooperatives. We cannot concentrate on each and every small farmer individually. In this way we would just prolong the life of underdevelopment .

My country is facing up to the problems of small farmers, and the dismemberment of agricultural properties. We are trying to regroup small farmers into cooperatives. I think this is the type of aid that should be given to small farmers. We should not encourage them to work on an individual basis. On the contrary, we must try and unite them in cooperatives that will become highly productive, otherwise we, the developing countries, will remain developing countries until the end of time and we cannot base our production on a proper competitive and commercial basis in this fashion. We shall only be able to stand up to competition in agricultural production if we do otherwise. We therefore propose that at its Fifth Session the Committee on Agriculture study the problem of the splitting up or dismemberment of agricultural property in certain developing countries and the ways and means it should be used to control this dangerous phenomena which acts as a brake on the increase of agricultural production in many developing countries and in particular in those of the Near East.

Among some of the reasons that we give for the splitting up of property there is the question of inheritance, when the father dies the children share the few acres he may have possessed amongst themselves and this leads to continuous reduction in the size of small holdings which makes the establishment of a rational and coherent form of agriculture impossible. That is why I would like the Committee on Agriculture to tackle this question at its next session, since it is one of our major obstacles to the development of agriculture.

N.M. MWAUNGULU (Malawi): We would like to thank the Chairman of the Committee on Agriculture for the clear presentation he has made of what is a very good report.

My delegation supports the emphasis that the Committee has placed on the improvement and the consolidation of food programmes and projects. We welcome the clear re-identification of the major constraints to agricultural development. Especially we feel that the problem of the serious lack of trained personnel or manpower in the developing countries must be given sustained and vigorous attention. This problem is crucial for development, agricultural development. We therefore welcome the increased emphasis that the FAO places on the training for agricultural development at all levels, especially at the grass roots level where the need is greatest. My Government places a great deal of emphasis on the solution of this problem at all fronts and welcomes every assistance that FAO continues to provide.

We welcome also the emphasis that has been placed by the Committee on the training of women for agricultural production and extension. Malawi again places great emphasis on the role of women in agricultural development. We believe that unless due recognition is given to this role agricultural development will be difficult to come by.

My delegation welcomes the initiative by FAO to give priority to small farmers development. We support the practical measures which have been proposed to improve the small farmers in the fields identified. In Malawi we concentrate on rural development and therefore development of the condition of the rural farmer. My government strongly believes in the will to develop and in hard work in the fields, in the rural areas as well as everywhere. It welcomes, therefore, FAO's assistance in this respect. It is our view that adequate preparation should be made concerning the World Conference on Agricultural Reform and Rural Development. Such preparations will ensure, of course, the success of this important Conference. We feel in this respect that the proposal by Mexico to establish a working group or a subcommittee is practical and merits my delegation's support.

B. de AZEVEDO BRITO (Brazil): My delegation is very pleased to see the report of the Fourth Session of the Committee on Agriculture which shows that this Committee has proved its new viability under the very effective leadership of Ambassador Samahez Concha of Peru. We would like to congratulate him and put on record our satisfaction with the manner in which he was able to bring new life to the Committee on Agriculture.

That being said, we would like to refer to some basic aspects discussed during the time of the Committee session and reflected in the Committee's report. First, in relation to the medium and long-term outlook for food and agricultural development, our views were already advanced, not only at the time of the Committee session but also in the general debate on the food and agricultural situation. We would just like to repeat here that actual levels of agricultural growth have not reached the target indicated in the International Development Strategy for the Second United Nations Development Decade, which is, of course, a cause for concern. It is true that the target of 4 percent growth seems to have been reached in 1976, but the average for all developing countries for the first years of the decade shows that we barely exceeded two and a half percent, if calculations are correct. Of course, in the developing countries we realize the importance of our own efforts and I believe that the Committee's discussions showed quite clearly that developing countries have in fact placed the highest priority on agricultural development for some years past. These internal efforts, are not enough, for if we do not find an adequate external environment our efforts will not be fruitful, or at least will not produce all the expected results. As we indicated before we believe that it is important that flows of resources to support developing countries be kept at the level called for in the International Development Strategy. The fact that flows of external resources in support of agricultural production, after some growth in 1974/75, seem to have levelled off since 1976, is a reason for concern. Another reason for concern, as we indicated before in the general analysis of the agricultural situation, is that the external environment is also negative in the sense that production policies of some developed countries with a high degree of subsidization have resulted in distortions in patterns of trade and restrictions on the exports of developing countries. We hope that such restrictions will urgently be removed.

Now, if you allow me to touch very briefly on some aspects of the substantive deliberations of the COAG at its fourth session I would like to refer first to food losses. Of course, we have already had an interesting debate on this issue. We fully agree with the Director-General on the emphasis he has placed in the programming of the activities of FAO in reducing harvest and post-harvest losses. In fact not only do we support his proposals for the regular budget in this respect, but we feel that resources within the budget for this particular section of activities should be increased. We also fully support, as we said, his proposal to establish a special fund, on the basis the utilization of \$10 million from the current Suspense Account. As we also indicated in the debate, we very much hope that the activities of the FAO in relation to food losses will be broad enough to include not only staple foods, roots and tubers but also other products and perishable foods. We also hope activities

in this field, as we indicated before, will provide for research and extension related to tropical and equatorial agriculture. We also believe that activities to prevent food losses must be approached in an integrated manner from harvesting to actual processing and marketing; we cannot see one aspect of the problem of food losses in isolation.

On rural development, we fully support the emphasis placed on small farmers. We are convinced that in developing countries, a great deal of the improvement of rural conditions depends on better conditions for the small farmer, whose efforts must be supported in many ways through policies of subsidization of inputs, including fertilizers, price support, cooperatives, and rural credit designed in a manner that reaches the small farmer. It is easy to devise a policy of rural credit, but it is not so easy to make it effective in reaching the small farmer.

I must say I very much appreciated the comments just made by my colleague from Jordan about the importance of cooperatives to make the work of the small farmer more effective and to put him in a better position to face commercial competition. I must also say that while Brazil gives great importance to special programmes to help the small farmer, we also believe we have to develop models of agriculture in a balanced manner so that the attention to the small farmer does not cause the neglect of complementary models in which large-scale agriculture is developed. After all, we have to see beyond subsistence; we have to create opportunities for export. Therefore, it is important that we also pay adequate attention to large-scale agriculture often more suited to produce exportable surpluses.

Still on rural development, as my delegation indicated during the COAG meeting, we attach much importance to improvement of conditions of women in rural areas. We believe FAO can play a very useful role in suggesting and creating new programmes to help the situation of women both as participants and beneficiaries in the development process.

We also support the great importance given not only to the work of FAO in commodity policies, - and these issues are reflected rather extensively in the COAG report, - but also to research support. We believe that it is important that FAO, in developing programmes and activities in research support, endeavours to make full use of national institutions. We feel that it is also important to promote cooperation among developing countries, and that FAO can play a role there by stimulating cooperation among research centres in developing countries. Finally, we think that all the research support and research support activities within FAO must be clearly linked with extension and training.

These are the brief remarks that we wish to make at this stage on the debates on the COAG report, and I would like to reiterate what I said in the beginning, that we feel that the Fourth Session of COAG proved the usefulness of the committee, and we are very happy with this development.

E. DIAZ BUSTADAD (Observador por Cuba): Nuestra delegación desea expresar su apoyo a lo expuesto por el Presidente del Comité de Agricultura en su informe a este Consejo y, en particular, en lo que respecta a la creación de un Grupo de Expertos a fin de que asesore en la organización de la Conferencia Mundial sobre Reforma Agraria y en la elaboración de los documentos, dando una mayor importancia a la evaluación de los progresos hechos en los programas de Reforma Agraria y desarrollo rural llevados a cabo por los Estados Miembros.

Nuestro país, desde el primer período de sesiones del Comité de Agricultura, ha reiterado la necesidad de abordar este problema de la Reforma Agraria en nuestros países. Esto se hizo evidente una vez más en el 4º período de sesiones del COAG, al analizar el tema sobre "el desarrollo de los pequeños agricultores".

Solicitamos por medio de usted, señor Presidente, que esta declaración se haga constar en las actas de este período de sesiones del Consejo.

I. MOSKOVITS (Observer for Malta): First of all, I would like to thank you, Mr. Chairman, for giving me the floor and the Chairman of COAG who so ably helped to run the meeting and also presented the conclusions in an excellent manner. This delegation attended not only the Fourth but also the previous sessions of the Committee on Agriculture, and we have to state that it was a tremendous improvement. We analyzed why this improvement occurred, and we find that this meeting was much more concrete and practical than the previous ones which were working very much in a vacuum and in a theoretical way.

We would very much like to thank the heads of the two departments and the staff who organized and prepared the session.

The COAG is a unique organ in FAO. As you well know, in the Organization, agriculture and social and economic programmes are divorced. This is perhaps a unique occasion, for the economic and social aspects of technical projects and programmes to be considered together by the same experts. COAG is also an excellent forum to translate the Director-General's ideas and directives in well-defined work programmes, and in this respect it was a great improvement that we had the draft programme of work falling within the competence of the COAG before us, which was not the case in the previous sessions.

But we must note that FAO does much more than what is indicated in the work programme. There are several statutory bodies of FAO which are working on technical matters and falling within the competence of COAG. They are mainly regional bodies, but it would be extremely useful to coordinate these activities and also to make known to the experts from one region what is happening in the other in order that they could organize a collaboration and create a much broader basis for the work initiated in one or the other regions.

Another aspect which is very important is the preparation for major conferences and undertakings in which COAG has excellent possibilities.

I would like to close my remarks by analyzing the future work of COAG and its relation to the Council. According to the statutes of FAO, COAG is an organ to assist the Council, to assist it on matters which belong in its field of competence. Therefore, we think that in future it would be very advantageous, in order to repeat much of what has been said both at the meetings of the COAG and the Council and to elevate the task of the Council, if COAG would make concrete proposals, policy recommendations or policy considerations and the Council would discuss only these aspects of the work resulting from the COAG session.

I think that this is all I would like to say at this moment. I think that the work could be economized in the Council if these ideas were to be accepted.

J. GARCIA E. (Observador por El Salvador): En primer termino deseamos felicitar al Embajador Samanez Concha de Perú, por su eficacia y constructiva labor al frente de la Presidencia del Comité de Agricultura en su 4 período de sesiones.

Con relación al informe del Comité de Agricultura, nuestra delegación desea expresar su más decidido apoyo al desarrollo de los pequeños agricultores en sus aspectos integrales como uno de los temas sustantivos de la Conferencia Mundial sobre Reforma Agraria y Desarrollo Rural a celebrarse en Julio de 1979. Durante la celebración del 4 período de sesiones del COAG fue ampliamente debatida la problemática que ello conlleva y tal como lo ha sugerido el Presidente del Comité en su informe del Consejo, sería procedente la constitución de un Grupo de Expertos a fin de que se asesorase en la organización de la Conferencia Mundial y en la elaboración de los documentos, planteamiento que ha sido apoyado por las delegaciones de México, Colombia, Panamá, Venezuela y otros.

El Director General en su discurso de apertura en el actual período de sesiones manifestó que el desarrollo de los pequeños agricultores debe constituir la base de un fructífero debate en la Conferencia Mundial sobre Reforma Agraria y Desarrollo Rural. Compartimos este sentir y para ser consecuentes opinamos que debe autorizárselo para que se realicen los ajustes necesarios presupuestarios a fin de que disponga de los recursos suficientes.

G. VASTA (Observateur pour l'OCDE): Je voudrais mettre en évidence la sympathie et l'intérêt avec lesquels la Direction de l'agriculture de l'OCDE suit les travaux de la FAO, en particulier ceux du Comité de l'agriculture. J'ai eu le plaisir et l'honneur de participer à cette séance du COAG et je voudrais féliciter S.E. l'Ambassadeur Samanez Concha pour sa compétence et la façon exquise avec laquelle il a présidé ce Comité. Je voudrais féliciter le Comité lui-même, et surtout le Secrétariat, qui par modestie s'efface et auquel on doit presque toujours les excellents documents qui nous sont soumis, résultat de nombreux travaux et sacrifices.

Ce matin j'ai eu l'occasion d'écouter une vingtaine de délégations parler de l'importance des travaux du COAG et je me permets de vous dire que je m'attendais à entendre un mot qui n'a pas été prononcé ce matin, il s'agit de la nutrition. Si je me permets d'insister sur ce problème, c'est que j'ai constaté, au sein du COAG, un intérêt particulier et même souvent presque une certaine euphorie qui s'installeraient au sein du Comité, mais je pense qu'il s'agit là d'un problème qui requiert tout l'intérêt du Conseil. La nutrition est un problème de santé et de bien-être. C'est un problème qui s'inscrit dans un contexte un peu plus vaste, que beaucoup d'économies et de gouvernements pourraient résoudre si effectivement

quelqu'un se préoccupait de l'éducation alimentaire et accordait à la nutrition la place qui lui revient. L'OCDE, dans la mesure du possible, dans le cadre du développement, fait ce qu'elle peut mais j'insiste encore sur le fait qu'il ne s'agit pas exclusivement d'un problème concernant les pays en développement, c'est un problème qui concerne tous les pays en général, même les plus développés.

C'est pourquoi je lance un appel à ce niveau et j'espère que même au sein du Conseil mondial de l'alimentation, qui va s'ouvrir d'ici quelques jours, ces problèmes seront finalement étudiés de la façon la plus réaliste et la plus sérieuse possible et j'espère que cette flamme pourra être ranimée et qu'à l'avenir on évitera qu'elle ne s'éteigne.

M. FOFANA (Observateur pour la Guinée): Comme observateur, ma délégation voudrait adresser ses sincères félicitations à S.E. l'Ambassadeur du Pérou qui a conduit les travaux du COAG de façon magistrale et je dirai même avec panache. Par la même occasion, je voudrais aussi souligner le rôle combien important joué par le secrétariat à travers les excellents documents qu'il nous a fournis.

Aussi, après l'écoute attentive des autres interventions, je voudrais m'appesantir sur certains secteurs des questions que nous avons à examiner. Nous souscrivons à toutes les propositions faites par le Secrétariat, notamment en ce qui concerne l'accroissement de la production et à ce niveau je crois que nombre de pays en développement ont souligné la nécessité qu'il y avait de renforcer les ressources, non seulement extérieures mais internes, tout aussi bien pour les intrants, le transfert de technologie et de technique, la formation, l'assistance concrète à la recherche appliquée, l'aménagement des terres et des eaux et, bien sûr, la question que vient de souligner le représentant de l'OCDE, à savoir l'appui ferme qu'il faudrait apporter au programme sur la nutrition.

En ce qui concerne la réforme agraire, nous nous félicitons très sincèrement du projet d'une Conférence mondiale en juillet 1979 sur cette question importante qui n'est autre que la base même de l'instauration d'un nouvel ordre économique interne au niveau des nations. Nous souscrivons donc et appuyons fermement la proposition qui tend à créer un comité d'experts qui voudra bien assister le secrétariat de son expérience et bénéficiera aussi des leçons utiles tirées par certaines nations plus avancées dans le cadre de la réforme agraire, afin que les travaux de cette Conférence sur la réforme agraire soient couronnés de succès.

Nous ne terminerons pas sans mettre l'accent sur le problème des femmes. Je crois que la plupart des délégations qui avaient assisté au Comité de l'agriculture ont ouï dire par ma délégation l'expérience que nous avons envisagée au niveau de notre pays quant à la formation et à la promotion de la femme. Nous avons alors souhaité vivement et encouragé, d'une part l'action entreprise par le Directeur général au niveau de l'intégration effective et, d'autre part, la réhabilitation des femmes au niveau des programmes de terrain. Nous avons souhaité également, au niveau du Siège même, que la promotion de la femme soit effective et nous avons salué le Comité intersectoriel qui avait été créé afin de donner dans le programme de cette organisation un rôle beaucoup plus important à la femme, notamment au niveau de la décision. Bien sûr, cela ne peut être qu'un appui à la demande que les pays en développement espèrent de la FAO pour assister leurs programmes nationaux de promotion de la femme.

EL PRESIDENTE: De acuerdo con las disposiciones vigentes la delegación de Rumania entrego un texto a la Secretaría, texto que será incluido en las actas.

M. DIMITRIU (Observateur pour la Roumanie): Au nom de la délégation roumaine, permettez-moi de transmettre des remerciements cordiaux à Monsieur le Directeur général pour la compréhension manifestée et l'appui expéditif accordé à l'agriculture roumaine, qui fut affectée par la séisme du 4 mars 1977. En même temps, je désire transmettre des remerciements aux pays membres de l'Organisation, aux observateurs et aux organisations internationales qui ont transmis à mon pays des aides sous différentes formes.

Au sujet des problèmes soumis à être examinés, je voudrais souligner en particulier l'exposé de notre estimé Directeur général, Monsieur Saouma, exposé riche en idées et nouvelles orientations et qui, d'après notre opinion, apporte sa contribution à l'augmentation du rôle de la FAO, en ce qui concerne la résolution des problèmes majeurs, qui préoccupent l'humanité à présent.

Je ne veux pas répéter ce que Monsieur le Directeur général a déjà souligné, mais je désire rappeler que, d'après notre opinion, la mise à l'écart du sous-développement et la création d'une économie prospère peuvent être réalisées seulement dans les conditions d'un développement multilatéral de l'industrie, de l'agriculture, des transports, des services au niveau national, ainsi que chaque zone en particulier.

Tenant compte de la complexité des problèmes qui préoccupent à présent l'entière humanité dans le domaine de l'alimentation nous apprécions qu'il serait nécessaire que la FAO intensifie sa participation aux efforts visant l'instauration d'un nouvel ordre économique international, en entreprenant quelques actions concrètes de la part de l'Organisation, ayant comme but l'appui direct des pays en voie de développement, dans leurs efforts de développer leur agriculture et d'augmenter substantiellement la production agricole alimentaire.

La délégation roumaine apprécie comme positives et encourageantes les mesures entreprises dans ce domaine par la FAO, surtout à l'initiative du Directeur général, reflétées dans le programme de travail et budget pour les deux années suivantes et considère que pour les définitiver il faut mettre l'accent sur le développement et la consolidation des programmes ayant un caractère opératif. Dans ce sens nous pensons que les actions prévues dans le cadre du nouveau programme de coopération technique, ainsi que les ressources prévues à être allouées pour le développement de l'agriculture dans les pays en voie de développement, soient augmentées dans une plus grande mesure.

Dans ce sens, on pourrait présenter des recommandations concrètes en vue d'être adoptées par la Conférence générale.

L'intensification de la coopération internationale dans le domaine de l'agriculture parmi les pays européens et parmi eux aussi les pays d'autres zones du monde en vue du développement de l'agriculture et de l'amélioration humaine, représente une autre direction, dans laquelle la FAO peut mieux actionner du point de vue technique et matériel. Dans ce sens, on pourrait avoir en vue l'organisation de quelques réunions de spécialité, des symposiums ou des séminaires, des cours de perfectionnement dédiés à l'identification et l'acceptation de quelques mesures et programmes concrets avec une application immédiate, ayant comme but l'augmentation de la production agricole dans les pays en développement.

En ce qui concerne les programmes regardant les domaines concrets de coopération, au niveau régional ou sous-régional, la délégation roumaine considère qu'à leur élaboration on doit tenir compte du spécifique de chaque région ou sous-région, conformément aux recommandations des conférences régionales. Dans ce sens, la délégation roumaine propose que, pour la zone européenne, à l'élaboration des prochains programmes on doit avoir en vue les recommandations de la dixième Conférence régionale de la FAO pour l'Europe, spécialement, à celles comprises dans le document présenté par la Roumanie à cette conférence.

Pour que les produits alimentaires puissent avoir un plus large circuit, en vue de satisfaire les besoins de consommation dans une série de pays en développement, l'agriculture et l'industrie alimentaire doivent participer et s'intégrer intensément aux actions internationales, qui ont la tâche de mettre les pays en voie de développement dans la situation de mieux mettre en valeur les propres ressources et de créer des possibilités de participation, à l'échange mondial de produits et de valeurs matérielles.

Nous apprécions qu'il est nécessaire de concentrer les efforts en vue de créer dans ces pays de grandes bases économiques, ayant un caractère complexe, de production et de recherche, bien dotées et équipées, pour leur assurer une base technique-économique sûre, leur permettant de s'autofinancer et en même temps d'attirer les moyens financiers intérieurs et extérieurs, pour le développement de la production agricole-alimentaire.

Nous considérons que la FAO, la plus grande institutions spécialisée de l'ONU, peut et doit apporter une contribution remarquable dans ce sens.

C'est justement pour cela que nous apprécions d'une manière particulière les mesures entreprises par l'initiative du Directeur général, dans la direction d'une nouvelle orientation dans l'activité de la FAO, pour que cette organisation devienne plus efficiente pour qu'elle augmente sa contribution en vue de solutionner les problèmes de l'alimentation, pour le développement de la coopération internationale parmi tous les pays du monde.

En ce qui nous concerne, nous sommes décidés d'actionner, en collaboration avec d'autres pays, pour le renforcement du rôle de la FAO dans la résolution des problèmes d'intérêt majeur 1/.

V Texte reçu avec demande d'insertion au procès-verbal.

EL PRESIDENTE: Sobre el énfasis que se ha dado a la conveniencia de vincular a las mujeres a las actividades del desarrollo agrícola, el Secretario general del Consejo, que es aficionado a las estadísticas, observa que en el plano intelectual, en este Organismo se está poniendo en práctica esa participación de la mujer pues en esta ocasión seis mujeres son miembros de distintas Delegaciones, lo cual constituye un récord en relación con las sesiones anteriores.

S. SAMANEZ CONCHA (Presidente del Comité de Agricultura): Ha habido numerosas intervenciones y los distinguidos Delegados han hecho hincapié sobre los diferentes puntos tratados en el Cuarto período de sesiones del COAG. Se han sugerido temas de vital importancia para que sean estudiados y analizados por la Organización y se vea la posibilidad de que sean incluidos en las próximas reuniones del COAG, tales como el problema de las verduras y frutas, la importancia de la investigación aplicada, el problema de los pastos, la depredación de los terrenos en las zonas áridas, el estudio de los recursos naturales y la fauna, el grave problema de la concentración parcelaria y las medidas a adoptar para frenar la difusión del minifundio, la organización de los agricultores en cooperativas como un medio de lograr el incremento de la producción y hacer llegar a ellos la asistencia requerida. En fin, una serie de propuestas concretas y recomendaciones. Estoy seguro que la Dirección General toma debida nota de todos estos puntos y en la preparación de la próxima reunión del COAG gran parte de estos puntos estoy seguro que serán analizados y discutidos por el Comité.

También debo manifestar que es muy placentero que todos los distinguidos Delegados hayan hecho mención y enfatizado la importancia de la próxima Conferencia Mundial de Reforma Agraria y Desarrollo Rural y la creación del Grupo de Expertos. Yo estoy convencido que en ese foro se van a obtener resultados altamente positivos para el desarrollo rural y se reafirmará una vez más la tesis de que resolver el problema de las estructuras agrarias es una condición básica e indispensable para lograr el desarrollo rural en los países en vías de desarrollo.

Para concluir, quisiera agradecer a todos los técnicos de la Organización por la preparación de los documentos y la organización de la Cuarta Reunión del Comité de Agricultura. Yo creo que si este Comité ha tenido algún éxito ha sido por los magníficos documentos presentados y, como dije, por la activa participación de todos los integrantes del Comité. Estoy seguro que las palabras vertidas por los Delegados serán un estímulo para los funcionarios de la Organización a fin de que las próximas reuniones del COAG sean más fructíferas y podamos elevar la producción y la productividad.

D.J. WALTON (Officer-in-Charge, Economic and Social Policy Department): The discussions of small farmers' development in COAG and subsequently in this meeting have been a very stimulating first-run, as it were, in concentrating on one of the main substantive issues that will be coming up at the World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development, roughly in two years' time. It has from the beginning been the intention of the Secretariat to draw heavily on outside expertise in the preparation of the Conference. The Director-General, therefore, welcomes the suggestion that has been advanced to go a stage further and establish an expert group to advise him on the technical inputs for the Conference, the conceptual work that will go into it, the preparation of the documents, etc.

I would like to say a few additional words on the context, the set of arrangements, that are being made to prepare for the World Conference. There will, of course, be a Secretary-General for the World Conference, who will work with a small staff. He will be able to draw on the whole resources of the Organization in the preparatory work for the Conference. Not only this, he will be able to draw very extensively on other agencies of the United Nations system.

At the last count, no less than twelve other bodies in the United Nations system had expressed a desire to participate in the work of the preparation of the World Conference - agencies, organizations and smaller units, various development programmes and so forth. We have already had one formal meeting of an inter-agency committee to prepare for the Conference, and we shall have further meetings before the Conference is held.

The FAO Council itself, will, of course, be playing a key role as the preparations proceed, but I would also like to draw your attention to an item which the Council has not yet tackled in this Session, and that is the Draft Agenda for the forthcoming Conference Session. In the proposal before the Council, agenda item 15 of the FAO Conference would be Review of Arrangements for the World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development. Furthermore, nine months, roughly, before the World Conference itself is held, there will, as already decided by this Council, be a preparatory meeting to examine the documentation and to lay the groundwork for the discussion at the actual Conference itself. The contribution of a high level expert committee can, in this process, be very useful and the Director-General will therefore proceed as suggested in the establishment of such a group and will certainly be in consultation with various governments regarding the selection of suitable experts.

I should like to mention one other matter which was raised by the representative of Czechoslovakia. He is perfectly correct in recalling that there was a plan to hold a further world conference on agricultural education and training as a follow-up to the Conference held in Copenhagen some years ago. However, education and training will figure very heavily in the World Conference we have been discussing, and it was the unanimous feeling of the secretariats of the three sponsoring agencies of the former conference, the Copenhagen Conference, namely, FAO, ILO, and Unesco, that it would not be useful to launch another world conference on such a closely related subject at this juncture. We therefore see the World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development as providing at this stage the necessary impulse for a follow-up of the Copenhagen Conference. However, that is where the matter stands at the moment and for the slightly remoter future the question will of course need to be examined again.

D.F.R. BOMMER (Assistant Director-General, Agriculture Department): There has not been a reply to the question from the representatives of Sudan, Libya and Pakistan, on EMASAR or on the programme in the organization on rangelands and forestries specifically for the semi-arid areas. The Director-General puts considerable importance on the improvement of this important land resource, specifically in semi-arid area countries and the provisions made in the Programme of Work and Budget are quite appropriate. COAG received a brief report in the documentation on the implementation of the Programme of Work and Budget for 1976/77. I should just recall here that the programmes now being formulated on projects are operating already in five countries of the Near East, North Africa and the Sahel, related to the subject of the improvement of semi-arid rangelands and we are eager to react to further requests from countries to assist them in formulating appropriate projects and to seek finance for their operation. In addition, in collaboration with UNEP there is considerable activity in the so-called Phase II of the EMASAR programme in providing the necessary information for training specifically and guidelines for country agencies for the management of semi-arid grasslands and we are continuing our collaboration with Unesco in the man and biosphere programme which concentrates on subject matter three of this programme on such related questions. May I say very briefly that the subject of wild life receives attention in related programmes in the Forestry Department.

EL PRESIDENTE: Debido al estado de nuestro trabajo creo que podría limitarme a presentarles un resumen muy breve sobre este tema.

Entiendo que el Consejo estuvo de acuerdo en destacar la gran importancia que tendrá la Conferencia Mundial sobre Reforma Agraria y Desarrollo Rural que se celebrará en 1979. Que el Consejo considero que la preparación adecuada de esa Conferencia constituiría la base del buen resultado que se espera.

A ese respecto, el Consejo apoyo los esfuerzos y la participación del Director General de la FAO en la preparación de esta Conferencia. Particularmente se hizo hincapié sobre la conveniencia de que la asistencia a los pequeños agricultores fuera uno de los temas de los cuales se ocupara esa Conferencia; e igualmente se expresaron ideas acerca de la conveniencia de buscar mecanismos adecuados para que, en realidad, esa asistencia pudiera ser benéfica en favor de los pequeños agricultores respecto a los cuales se sugirió, entre otras, la posibilidad de que las cooperativas podrían ser uno de esos medios que contribuyeran a mejorar el nivel de vida de los pequeños agricultores y a que esos pequeños agricultores hagan el mejor uso de las nuevas tecnologías y de los recursos en favor del incremento de la producción agrícola.

El Consejo estuvo de acuerdo en recomendar la creación de un Grupo de Expertos que asesoren al Director General en la preparación de esa Conferencia Mundial. A la luz de las disposiciones vigentes el propio Director General, en consulta con los Estados Miembros, o también el Consejo puede autorizar al Director General a crear ese Grupo de Expertos.

Se presentaron numerosas ideas sobre los temas de los que debería ocuparse el COAG en el futuro. Creo que no debo entrar en detalle; todo esto pasará al Comité de Redacción para ver la forma en que pueda presentarse en el Proyecto de informe.

Finalmente, quiero asociarme, en nombre del Consejo, al reconocimiento que se ha hecho al Embajador Samanez Concha por la forma inteligente, competente y eficaz en que presidió el Comité de Agricultura.

LE DIRECTEUR GENERAL: Comme l'a dit mon collègue, M. Walton, j'accueille avec plaisir la création de ce comité d'experts et je ne manquerai pas de consulter les gouvernements intéressés dans le choix de ces experts. En fait, je dois dire franchement que j'ai anticipé cette demande, puisque j'ai déjà commencé à établir des contacts officieux à cet égard; c'est vous dire combien je suis prêt à aller de l'avant en cette affaire.

Je crois comprendre, à moins que vous me disiez que j'ai mal interprété votre résumé, que je devrais consulter le Conseil; bien entendu, ce sont les gouvernements que je consulterai et non pas le Conseil.

EL PRESIDENTE: Lamento que haya entendido mal lo que yo dije, Sr. Director General. He dicho con base en los textos legales que, de acuerdo con el párrafo 4 del artículo VI de la Constitución el Director General en consulta con los Estados Miembros, puede crear el cuadro de expertos; el párrafo 5 del mismo artículo VI dice: "La Conferencia, el Consejo o el Director General mediante autorización de la Conferencia o el Consejo, pueden crear esos cuadros de expertos". Son las dos posibilidades legales de las que Vd. puede hacer uso, de cualquiera de ellas, y me complace que se haya anticipado a esa propuesta que ha contado con la mayoría de los miembros del Consejo.

Si no hay otro comentario, terminamos este tema. Creo que podríamos aprovechar los últimos minutos para pasar al siguiente punto del Orden del día. Se trata del tema 14 a).

14. Inter-Agency Relations and Consultations on Questions of Common Interest (continued)

14. Relations et consultations interinstitutions sur les questions d'intérêt commun (suite)

14. Relaciones y consultas con otros organismos sobre asuntos de interés común (continuación)

- (a) Developments Regarding the Ad Hoc Committee on the Restructuring of the Economic and Social Sectors of the United Nations System,
- (a) Faits nouveaux intéressant le Comité ad hoc sur la restructuration des secteurs économique et social du système des Nations Unies.
- (a) Novedades relativas al Comité Especial sobre la Reestructuración de los Sectores Económico y Social del Sistema de las Naciones Unidas.
- (d) Other Questions Arising out of the UN General Assembly, ECOSOC and ACC.
- (d) Autres questions découlant des travaux de l'Assemblée générale des Nations Unies, de L'ECOSOC et du CAC.
- (d) Otras cuestiones derivadas de la Asamblea General de las Naciones Unidas, el Consejo Económico y Social y el CAC.

EL PRESIDENTE: Les ruego que tomen los documentos. Señores, les propongo que continuemos por unos minutos más y que sobre el tema 14 tomemos conjuntamente el apartado a), "Novedades relativas al Comité Especial sobre la Reestructuración de los Sectores Económicos y Social del Sistema de las Naciones Unidas" y también conjuntamente el apartado d) "Otras cuestiones derivadas de la Asamblea General de las Naciones Unidas, el Consejo Económico y Social y el CACJ", Repito, tomaremos conjuntamente el apartado a) y d) del tema 14. Voy a conceder la palabra al Dr. Phillips, Presidente del Comité del Programa.

R.W. PHILLIPS (Chairman of the Programme Committee): I need make only two or three very brief comments which relate only to sub-item (a). Here the Programme Committee has tried to keep in touch with the developments regarding the proposed restructuring because of their possible impact on the Organization. However, as will be seen from the three paragraphs which are before the Council we had practically no information and the best we could do was to agree that in our autumn Session in the light of new developments we would try to review the situation at that time in relation to its impact upon FAO. Therefore, like other Members of the Council I can only await with interest what Mr. Walton may have to tell us about new developments since the Programme Committee met at the end of April and beginning of May.

D.J. WALTON (Officer-in-Charge, Economic and Social Policy Department): I should like to be in a position to meet Dr. Phillips' hope that I could shed some light but I am afraid that light is still beyond the horizon. All I can do is update what has been happening without, I am afraid, giving any indication of substance. The report of the Programme Committee referred to the probable final session of the ad hoc Committee on restructuring scheduled for May. At that meeting the ad hoc Committee failed to reach any agreement and the May meeting therefore will not be its final session. The Committee will continue its efforts through informal contacts to reach a consensus on the outstanding issues. On the basis of those informal contacts the Chairman of the Committee will prepare a revised draft report. The ad hoc Committee will then hold a formal session from 6-9 September in order to finalize its report. The Committee's report will then go to the resumed session of ECOSOC in the autumn and to the Thirty-second Session of the General Assembly.

If this timetable is adhered to, the Programme Committee should be able to review the ad hoc Committee's recommendations when it meets at the end of September. There will, however, be no opportunity to bring the recommendations of the ad hoc Committee to the attention of the Council or the Conference before they are considered by ECOSOC and the General Assembly. It might therefore be useful at this stage to indicate very briefly to the Council the Director-General's contribution to the work of the Committee.

The Director-General appeared before the Committee at an early stage of its deliberations and shared with it some of his thoughts on restructuring. Subsequently he made a substantive contribution to a paper prepared by the Administrative Committee on Coordination - the ACC - entitled "Options and possible courses of action in respect to the problem areas identified by the Committee", which was submitted to the ad hoc Committee in April of last year. More recently, and subsequent to the discussion in the Programme Committee, the Director-General responded to an invitation of the Committee to the executive heads and made additional comments on three of the eight problem areas selected by the Committee which are of direct importance to the Organization, namely: inter-agency coordination, Secretariat Support Services, and operational activities.

In his presentation the Director-General generally stressed the unity and inter-dependence of the system and the need to avoid proliferation of new bodies. While the United Nations should provide the impulse for the whole system, the principal technical organizations should be enabled to take the lead in their respective sectors. On inter-agency coordination he has suggested to the Committee that ECOSOC instead of reviewing the activities of all the agencies could concentrate on how to harness more effectively the efforts by the United Nations system to handle multi-disciplinary activities and programmes. The adoption of the lead agency principle could avoid the proliferation of new bodies and create confidence that the members of the United Nations system could handle any issue on development by cooperation among themselves.

At the Secretariat level, the Administrative Committee on Coordination should continue to be the main instrument for inter-agency coordination. Certain adjustments in its working procedures were suggested to increase the impact of its contribution.

On coordination with regard to programming and budgeting, the Committee has been asked to make a clear distinction between, on the one hand, harmonization and evaluation of medium-term plans and programme budgets, and on the other hand joint programme planning and implementation. Improvements of the former are possible, while the implementation of the latter is beset with practical difficulties.

With regard to Secretariat support services, suggestions have been made that the General Assembly, as head of the United Nations System, and ECOSOC, with its charter coordinating functions, should lead the way in making maximum use of the expertise and experience of the components of the system. They could increasingly remit to the specialized agencies the preparatory work on a number of matters including those requiring an inter-agency approach, by using the principle of lead agency.

With regard to personnel matters it would be appropriate for the ad hoc Committee to remit the issues to the International Civil Service Commission for study in depth. With regard to operational activities, the Director-General is generally not in favour of consolidation of operational activities and funds. The imminent establishment of the International Fund for Agricultural Development demonstrates vividly the potential capacity of a separate fund to attract new resources. In broader terms, the existence of a variety of funds is a source of dynamism and of stimulation to the system as a whole. Unification would increase the vulnerability of the whole system and would greatly magnify the impact of a crisis such as the one which affected UNDP some 18 months ago.

It has also been suggested that the UNDP should abandon its centralizing tendencies including the direct execution of projects. Both donors and recipients rely on the technical support for operational activities provided by the executing agencies. The links between technical and operational aspects of projects should be strengthened in order to improve the technical quality of operational activities.

Finally, in any further discussions on the subject before the final report of the ad hoc Committee becomes available, the Director-General intends to put forward similar views, taking into account any that might be expressed by the Council. I have been able to give you the views put forward by the Director-General but not yet the views formulated by the ad hoc Committee on Restructuring. It remains for governments through their consultations in New York and perhaps Geneva to formulate definitively the recommendations of the ad hoc Committee which we hope to have in September.

Perhaps you will allow me now to say a few very brief words under Item 14(b), Other Questions; here we are limited to one specific subject, the document contained in CL 71/INF/10, namely the recommendations of the ACC regarding new institutional arrangements relating to nutrition. I am not proposing that the Council engage in a substantive discussion of this matter to which, by the way, I already referred when the World Food Council relationship was under discussion, and the same subject has been mentioned by some delegates in connexion with the Programme of Work and Budget. It is, however, essential that when the question comes before the Economic and Social Council in a few weeks' time, delegations to ECOSOC be fully informed on all aspects of the subject. The proposals of the ACC put forward last year fell through in ECOSOC in large part because the delegations present were not fully briefed on the subject and the document was circulated relatively late. I should be happy to answer any questions that members of the Council may have on CL 71/INF/10 but I do not think it is necessary for me to summarise it.

I would, however, like to draw attention to one related recommendation put forward by the Programme Committee. This recommendation appears in the Programme Committee's report on relations with the World Food Council, but it does in fact specifically relate to FAO's activities, and it occurs in paragraph 2.115.

The Programme Committee recommended the postponement of the second session of the ad hoc Committee on food and nutrition policies because the timing originally envisaged, which would have been immediately before this Council Session, did not appear to make very much sense when both the substantive and the institutional arrangements for nutrition were just about to be discussed in the World Food Council and the Economic and Social Council, respectively. It is therefore envisaged that the ad hoc Committee on food and nutritional policies will meet early in 1978 to examine the follow-up to the decisions of the World Food Council and the Economic and Social Council, and I venture to hope that this will be endorsed by the Council.

EL PRESIDENTE: Si alguien quiere intervenir sobre los temas 14 a) y d), tal vez lo más conveniente es que lo haga al comienzo de esta tarde, debido a lo tardío de la hora, y les ruego que quien desee intervenir esta tarde lo exprese a la Secretaría o si no procuraremos limitarnos a tomar nota de los informes actualizados que nos ha transmitido el Sr. Walton.

Tengo ahora dos oradores inscritos, que son Países Bajos y Estados Unidos. Jordania también. Entonces, dejemos para esta tarde la cuestión del tema 14 a) y d) con los oradores Países Bajos, Estados Unidos y Jordania.

The meeting rose at 12.40 hours

La séance est levée à 12 h 40

Se levanta la sesión a las 12.40

council

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

conseil

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

consejo

ORGANIZACION DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS PARA LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION

CL

CL 71/PV/14

Seventy-First Session

Soixante et onzième session

71° período de sesiones

FOURTEENTH PLENARY MEETING
QUATORZIEME SEANCE PLENIERE
14ª SESION PLENARIA

(14 June 1977)

The Fourteenth Plenary Meeting was opened at 14.55 hours G. Bula Hoyos, Independent Chairman of the Council, presiding

La quatorzième séance plénière est ouverte à 14 h 55, sous la présidence de G. Bula Hoyos, Président indépendant du Conseil

Se abre la 14 sesión plenaria a las 14.55 horas bajo la presidencia de G. Bula Hoyos, Presidente independiente del Consejo

EL PRESIDENTE : Señores, vamos a empezar nuestra sesión de esta tarde. Tenemos pendiente todavía el apartado (c) del párrafo 14, pero conviene primero concluir los apartados (a) y (d), sobre los cuales se hicieron presentaciones esta mañana.

14. Inter-Agency Relations and Consultations on Questions of Common Interest (continued)

14. Relations et consultations interinstitutions sur les questions d'intérêt, commun (suite)

14. Relaciones y consultas con otros organismos sobre asuntos de interés común (continuación)

(a) Developments Regarding the Ad Hoc Committee, on the Restructuring of the Economic and Social Sectors of the United Nations System : (continued)

(a) Faits nouveaux intéressant le Comité ad hoc sur la restructuration des secteurs économiques et social du système des Nations Unies : (suite)

(a) Novedades relativas al Comité Especial sobre la Reestructuración de los Sectores Económico y Social del Sistema de las Naciones Unidas ; (continuación)

(d) Other Questions Arising out of the UN General Assembly, ECOSOC and ACC (continued)

(d) Autres questions découlant des travaux de l'Assemblée générale des Nations Unies, de l'ECOSOC et du CAC (suite) (d) Otras cuestiones derivadas de la Asamblea General de las Naciones Unidas, el Consejo Económico y Social y el CAC (continuación)

J. BERTELTNC (Netherlands) : I would like to recall the statements of my delegation under items 14.b and 16. They are of particular relevance, also to this item and especially on the important role of FAO within the United Nations system. We hope that especially the project "Agriculture Towards 2000" will be of value for the preparation of a new development strategy. I shall participate on this question in the Economic and Social Council and in the preceding meetings and the joint meetings of the Committee on Programme Coordination and the Administrative Committee on Coordination in July. This project can only be of great value. It provides real leadership in the United Nations which now is lacking. Our attitude also within the Ad Hoc Committee of the General Assembly on restructuring, on which I myself represent the Netherlands Government, is especially directed to the importance of this leadership, of course without jeopardizing the position of the Specialized Agencies.

I may indicate here that my delegation has always been and is still in favour of the presence of agencies at the Committee's deliberations. Unhappily enough, this is not possible.

I welcome FAO's growing participation in many fields of inter-agency activities, e.g. the FAO's leading role in rural development. This growing participation is also clear from the letter of the Director-General to the Ad Hoc Committee on Restructuring which Mr. Walton has read in his Introduction this morning. Active and constructive participation of FAO in these fields does really contribute to the important conceptualizing role of the United Nations.

And, finally, I welcome the Report of the ACC meetings on Nutrition. As the Secretariat is aware, my delegation preferred another solution in the Meeting of the Protein and Calory Group last January in New York, and it was supported, by or it did support, the FAO representative on the Secretariat issue and on the intergovernmental organs. However, another solution was preferred, and the ACC accepted that one which is now under consideration in document CL 71/INF/10.

At this stage, I am glad to announce that my Government will support the proposed arrangements on Nutrition, and will do so next month in the Economic and Social Council.

P.J. BYRNES (United States of America) : I know, Mr. Chairman, you were, anxious to conclude this sub-item this morning, and as one of those who held up your work, I apologise.

I would like to make a few brief comments on the Ad Hoc Committee on the Restructuring of the Economic and Social Sectors of the United Nations System. I am very grateful for the views of the Director-General which Mr. Walton explained this morning, and we will study these carefully as they appear in the Verbatim Record. We would hope since the views have been presented here this morning that it would be possible for the governments who desire it to submit perhaps additional comments for the Director-General to consider as he follows up his representations with the Ad Hoc Committee.

We agree with our Dutch colleague that FAO should be involved directly in the work of this Committee, and we hope the Director-General will find means, perhaps through consultation with the Chairman of the Ad Hoc Committee, of keeping Members informed of the developments as they proceed in this Ad Hoc Committee work.

- S. JUMA'A (Jordan) (Interpretation from Arabic) : I believe that it would be appropriate and suitable that the Council should express its regret that the Ad Hoc Committee could not arrive at any definite recommendations which it could submit to the ECOSOC at its next Session next month. Likewise., this FAO Council will not be in a position to study these recommendations or to comment thereon as there would come at such a late stage that it will no longer be possible or practical to introduce any amendments to these recommendations or to make any comment on them. Therefore, the work of such Committees will be incomplete, because the result thereof is submitted at an inappropriate time to the specialized agencies for them to comment on them within a reasonable period:

Nevertheless, I believe that the remarks expressed by Mr. Walton in the name of the Director-General are remarks which are worthy of serious attention, and I do hope that these remarks will be submitted to us in the form of an official document of the Council, and that we do not confine ourselves to having them put on the Verbatim Record, as it would be unsuitable for such remarks by the Director-General to be taken as if they are coming from the Council itself.

The Jordanian delegation is very happy to give its full support to what we have heard from the Director-General, and we hope the Organization, through the Director-General will be given the opportunity of participating at such conferences as may clarify the position of the Organization with respect to joint subjects and joint projects with specialized organizations.

Therefore, I would welcome it, Mr. Chairman, if you could explain to us where we can obtain this information, tomorrow if possible, so that we may officially declare our support of the contents of it.

S.S. MAHDI (India): Like the previous speakers I would also wish to express the appreciation of our delegation for the very brief and very concise statement submitted by Mr. Walton to the Council. We agree that this statement should be circulated as a Council document, but perhaps we should not go to the extent of expressing our complete endorsement of the entire contents of the document, for the simple reason that the matter is still, so to say, sub judice in a Committee of the General Assembly, and also of course the Council has not been able to apply its mind to the various aspects that have been touched on in the document.

This does not mean that we do not find ourselves in harmony with a number of points that have been made in this statement given by Mr. Walton, but perhaps, and I would repeat, to go to the extent of endorsing the entire document by the Council may not be correct because this is a matter which is still under consideration. Having said this, I would suggest that the Council should take note of the statement, and also, if it so wishes, may underline a few aspects which have been raised in the brief statement submitted by Mr. Walton.

As far as our delegation is concerned, we would like to underline two concepts which have been discussed in the statement - first, the concept of a lead agency. This is a valuable concept, and we feel that its full potentials are yet to be explored by the United Nations system. It often happens that Whenever a system is faced with a new problem, or an old problem with renewed intensity, we find the easiest way of creating a new institution, which may not always be very healthy. The concept of lead agency will help in avoiding proliferation of agencies in the United Nations agencies.

The second point that this delegation would like to emphasize is that there are risks and dangers in consolidation of operational activities or funds. I cannot express it in a better way than has been already done by Mr. Walton. We agree that consolidation of funds increases the vulnerability of the whole system to pressures, and also we feel that on a selective basis in appropriate cases, new funds become a source of additional. Perhaps we should not lose these inherent advantages. On the other hand, maybe the tendency to proliferate small funds, must be discouraged. In principle however, we are not in favour of unification of all the funds in the United Nations system.

These are the two points which I wanted to underline in the statement which has been made, and now I will pass on to another subject, the Institutional Arrangements for Nutrition. We do realize this is again another matter which is sub judice and which could be considered by the next session of ECOSOC, but we cannot refrain from saying these arrangements are the result of very prolonged negotiations between all the parties concerned, and it has taken more than a year to arrive at the delicate balance which is reflected in the information document circulated to us. We would be ready to support it, if there is an occasion for us to support it.

At the same time, we feel that the institutional arrangements only provide a framework, and the contents will be provided by further strengthening the nutritional activities of FAO, especially in the context of the new responsibilities which will devolve upon FAO in the light of these arrangements.

EL PRESIDENTE: Creo que sobre el primer apartado a) las novedades relativas al Comité Especial sobre la Reestructuración, podríamos en primer lugar tomar nota de la decisión del Comité del Programa, Comité que dice en su informe que no pudo ocuparse a fondo de esta cuestión, debido a las incertidumbres de la próxima reunión de ese Comité sobre la Reestructuración, fecha sobre la cual nos habló el Sr. Walton esta mañana.

Podríamos también, si el Consejo está de acuerdo, recoger lo que expuso el Sr. Ministro, Sr. Juma'A, de Jordania, en el sentido de que lamenta que la decisión del aplazamiento de esta reunión coloque en posiciones difíciles a los órganos rectores de las agencias. Igualmente creo que el Consejo está de acuerdo en que sería útil buscar la forma práctica y conveniente de la participación de la FAO en las reuniones de ese Comité sobre la Reestructuración.

Creo que en términos generales, también el Consejo comparte los comentarios que a nombre del Director General manifestó el Sr. Walton esta mañana. El Sr. Walton ha dicho que su declaración está disponible y que si los miembros del Consejo esperan podrá ser distribuida. Espero que esto no nos ofrezca problemas .

Sobre el apartado d), es un documento para información, el CL 71/INF/10. Creo que por ahora corresponde al Consejo tomar nota del contenido de este documento en espera de la nueva disposición institucional que tomará el ECOSOC. También creo que convendría saber qué resulta de la próxima reunión del Consejo Mundial de la Alimentación, que tendrá lugar en Manila y que se ocupará de la nutrición, y todo ello justifica, como aceptó y recomendó el Comité del Programa, que se aplase la reunión que debía celebrar el Comité Especial de Políticas Alimentarias y Nutrición. Creo que así podríamos terminar los apartados a) y d) del tema 14.

I. OROZCO (México): En primer lugar, le pido disculpas por haber llegado un poco tarde y haber perdido parte del interesante discurso de los temas que acaban de pasar. No me pareció escuchar si ese informe que se ha preparado acerca de las últimas novedades en materia de nutrición será transmitido al Consejo Mundial de la Alimentación. Nosotros consideramos que sería un documento básico que debería el Consejo Mundial de la Alimentación examinar y tomar nota.

D. J. WALTON (Officer-in-Charge, Economic and Social Policy Department): At the time of the Preparatory Meeting of the World Food Council the document CL 71/INF/10 had not yet been published, so it was not available when the Preparatory Meeting took place here. It could be reproduced as a background document for the ministerial meeting in Manila and this question I can take up with the World Food Council secretariat because it is up to them to decide on it. But it would in any event only be a background document to the discussions. I do not think that the Ministers will in any formal sense review it. They are only called upon to look specifically at the draft resolutions that have been submitted to them.

EL PRESIDENTE: Espero que esto satisfaga la adecuada observación de México y que oportunamente se tome la decisión correspondiente. Podemos pasar ahora al apartado c) del tema 14. Parece práctico que sobre este apartado c) que comprende cuatro subpuntos, nos ocupemos en primer lugar de los tres últimos subpuntos que figuran en el orden del día conjuntamente. Es decir, de los tres Informes de la Dependencia Común de Inspección y dejemos para el final la continuación de la Dependencia Común de Inspección. O sea, espero esté claro. Nos ocuparemos en primer lugar de los documentos 71/14 y el Suplemento 1 de ese mismo documento; CL 71/15 y el Suplemento 1 y CL 71/16. Al final trataremos separadamente la continuación del DCI.

(e) UN Joint Inspection Unit Reports

(c) Rapports du Corps commun d'inspection des Nations Unies

(c) Informes de la Dependencia Común de Inspección de las Naciones Unidas

- Fellowships in the United Nations System
- Bourses octroyées par les organismes des Nations Unies
- Programas de becas en el Sistema de las Naciones Unidas

- Country Programme as an Instrument for Coordination and Cooperation at Country Level
- La programmation par pays, instrument de la coordination et de la coopération au niveau des pays
- Programación por países como instrumento de coordinación y cooperación en el plano nacional

- Technical Cooperation Provided to Integration Movements in Asia and the Pacific,
- Coopération technique fournie aux mouvements d'intégration en Asie et dans le Pacifique
- Cooperación técnica prestada a los movimientos de integración en Asia y el Pacífico

R. W. PHILLIPS (Chairman, Programme Committee): I shall do my best to deal with these three reports in turn. Taking first the report on Fellowships and beginning with paragraph 2.144 of the document, you will see that the Committee did not have time to study the comments of the executive heads fully because they had not been completed in time but they had no hesitation in endorsing recommendation 45 which related to the establishment of an Ad Hoc standing group. Incidentally, the Committee had some trouble in understanding what an Ad Hoc Standing Group is.

As for the report itself, the Committee felt that it contained a great deal of useful factual information about present procedures that were being followed in the planning and execution of fellowship programmes. The report contains a large number of recommendations and as you will see from the end of paragraph 2.146 the Committee was informed that all of these recommendations had been carefully reviewed by the fellowship officers in the UN system and that to the extent they were considered feasible they were being implemented. The Committee wished to focus on what it considered to be the most important single recommendation, that is the recommendation which proposed that there should be a reorientation of training activities to country and regional levels.

Turning then to the report on Country Programming as an Instrument for Coordination and Cooperation at the Country Level, there was some feeling in the Committee that it was inopportune to have this taken up at a time when the whole question of country programming was under review in the UNDP Governing Council itself. On the other hand, it is perhaps useful for the Council to be aware of the problems that are being discussed currently at the Governing Council meeting in Geneva.

You will see from paragraph 2.152 that the Committee felt that the most objectionable aspect of this report was that except for a few passing references it virtually ignored the fact that it was governments which formulated their own development plans and took the decisions regarding the sources and types of external assistance and coordinated such assistance.

Also, in paragraph 2.153 the Committee pointed out that the Inspectors appeared to advocate a monolithic structure at the country level. I think I need say no more than that and just point to that paragraph for your attention.

In paragraph 2.156 you will see that reference is made to a number of comments of the executive heads which were before the Committee in draft form and which they generally endorsed, but there are a number that are listed there which the Committee considered to be of special importance. Again, I will not take the Council's time to repeat those but only to bring them specifically to your attention.

Turning then to the report on Technical Cooperation Provided to Integration and Cooperation Movements in Asia and the Pacific, the Committee found that this report provided useful information on the existing regional and sub-regional organizations and made a useful contribution by focusing attention on some of the possibilities for an expanded programme of assistance to the integration and cooperation movements in that region. The Committee felt that the report suffered from some inadequacies which are mentioned at the end of paragraph 2.158.

With respect to the Inspector's recommendation that the system should provide assistance in strengthening the secretariats in a number of ways the Committee felt that FAO should adopt a less formalistic and more pragmatic approach. The Committee also felt that this report did not give adequate recognition to the FAO efforts that were already under way giving support to these integration and cooperation movements in the region. There was also a recommendation that focal points be designated within the various organizations to deal specifically with matters of integration and cooperation. Here too, the Committee felt that this could be handled within existing structures and that new support units should not be necessary for that purpose. I think that is all I need to say on these three reports.

EL PRESIDENTE: Al conceder la palabra al Sr. Bel Hady Amor, Presidente en ejercicio del Comité de Finanzas, quiero, en nombre del Consejo, dar la más cordial bienvenida al Presidente titular del Comité de Finanzas, al Sr. S. Ahmed, colega y amigo, quien debido a las altas funciones oficiales que cumple en Bangladesh, su país, no pudo estar con nosotros la primera semana. Todos lo conocemos y apreciamos ahora su presencia en el Consejo.

M. BEL HADJ AMOR (Président par intérim, Comité financier): Je voudrais d'abord faire une remarque générale en ce sens que bien que des quatre rapports qui nous sont soumis un seul ait des implications financières directes pour l'Organisation, je dois souligner que le Comité n'a pas manqué de consacrer des débats assez longs à tous ces rapports.

J'en viens maintenant au rapport concernant les bourses.

Le Comité a retenu que ce rapport contient un ensemble d'informations utiles sur la planification et l'exécution des programmes de bourses. Il a relevé avec satisfaction que les diverses observations de l'inspecteur concernant la FAO pour ce qui est des programmes de bourses et de formation collective sont favorables.

De même, le Comité a donné son approbation à l'avis des chefs de secrétariat concernant la recommandation 45 sur la coordination inter-secrétariats. Il considère que le moyen le plus efficace, et surtout le plus économique, d'assurer la coordination est de prévoir des réunions régulières des fonctionnaires responsables des bourses.

Le Comité s'est penché également sur les deux recommandations qui concernent respectivement l'évaluation des activités consécutives, ainsi que la nécessité de réorienter les programmes de bourses en faisant une large place à la formation au niveau national et régional. A cet égard, le Comité estime qu'un système automatique d'évaluation des bourses est essentiel. De même, il retient comme objectif prioritaire la formation au niveau du pays et de la région, la formation des formateurs et le renforcement des institutions nationales et régionales.

Enfin, à propos de ce rapport, le Comité a exprimé ses regrets pour le fait que le secrétariat n'ait pas fourni un commentaire des sections du rapport où la FAO est explicitement citée. Il a recommandé que cela soit fait à l'avenir pour tous les rapports du Corps commun d'inspection intéressant l'ensemble du système des Nations Unies.

Concernant le rapport sur les activités de coopération technique en faveur des mouvements d'intégration et de coopération en Asie et dans le Pacifique, le Comité financier a considéré ce rapport utile mais non exhaustif. Il note que ce rapport ne rend pas justice aux efforts présents et passés de la FAO en faveur des dispositions d'intégration et de coopération de la région.

Aux paragraphes 3.105 et 3.106, le Comité fait siens les observations et les avis exprimés par le Directeur général concernant ce rapport.

Enfin, au paragraphe 3.107, concernant la désignation au sein de la FAO de centres de coordination pour les questions relatives à cette matière, le Comité estime que ces centres de coordination sont nécessaires, mais qu'en tout cas il faudrait éviter de créer un service indépendant.

Me référant au rapport sur la programmation par pays, instrument de la coordination et de la coopération au niveau des pays, je dois souligner qu'on peut prendre note de ce rapport, sans pour autant se prononcer, étant donné que les questions y relatives font actuellement l'objet de discussion. Cependant, je me permets de signaler les points de vue exprimés par le Comité durant les débats préliminaires qu'il a eus au cours de sa dernière session.

Il faudra noter que le Comité partage les opinions qui ont été exprimées par les chefs de secrétariat. Nous trouvons cela aux paragraphes 3.110 et 3.111.

De même, le Comité relève dans ce rapport un certain nombre de défauts assez graves. Ces défauts et ces lacunes sont signalés au paragraphe 3.112. Je note en particulier le fait que le Comité ne peut pas accepter le postulat fondamental des inspecteurs, à savoir que la programmation par pays ne devrait être considérée que comme un instrument de coordination et de coopération au niveau des pays, visant à renforcer la conception unifiée du développement.

De même, le Comité a relevé que le rapport présente une incohérence dans sa conception des relations entre le PNUD et les institutions. Car cette conception semble être en conflit direct avec celle d'association consacrée par le consensus de 1970.

J'attire l'attention du Conseil sur le paragraphe 3.114 où le Comité déplore l'emploi par l'Inspecteur de termes catégoriques dans sa critique de la programmation par pays. Il relève que cette critique, en ce qui concerne notre Organisation, ne repose pas sur des faits exacts et ne favorise pas l'amélioration des relations au sein du système des Nations Unies. Il a estimé également qu'il se peut que ces critiques soient expliquées par la conception fondamentale de la programmation par pays, de la part des inspecteurs, à savoir qu'il s'agit d'un instrument de la planification globale du développement et, comme je l'ai dit auparavant, le Comité n'a pas accepté cette conception.

Enfin, je souligne le paragraphe 3.115 dans lequel le Comité estime que la réorientation des politiques et programmes de la FAO proposée par le Directeur général et approuvée par le Conseil correspond d'ailleurs aux besoins des pays en développement que la plupart des propositions contenues dans le rapport du Corps commun d'inspection.

EL PRESIDENTE: Han oído ustedes las dos presentaciones sobre estos tres informes. Al iniciar la discusión tal vez convenga recordar que, como en el pasado, todos los miembros del Consejo que así lo deseen pueden referirse ampliamente a los textos mismos de los informes, pero podría ser conveniente que de manera específica también se refirieran a los comentarios del Director General y como los Presidentes del Programa y de Finanzas han hecho a su vez comentarios a este respecto, sin duda pondrá a los miembros del Consejo en condiciones prácticas para intervenir en este debate.

J. BERTELING (Netherlands): During the debate on Item 14 (b), the Special Adviser of our delegation said he would have preferred to go deeper into the question of country programming. If you will allow me, I shall now make these remarks that he promised to circulate. They refer especially to the Joint Inspection report on country programming.

My Government sees the issuance of the Joint Inspection Unit report as a very timely one and generally agrees with the analysis. However, there are a number of shortcomings and the recommendations do not always very clearly fit into the analysis. Furthermore, as has been said earlier by my delegation, the vital role for country programming has to be played by the recipient countries; on that part we certainly agree with the Programme and Finance Committees.

The first point we should like to make is that country programming should be considered as an instrument for making the support of the United Nations system for national development plans, programmes and projects as effective as possible. A country programme should be established within the development framework set by the national authorities, but there can be no doubt that the United Nations system has its own responsibility in the sense that its contribution, if desired by the national authorities, to the total national development effort should be optimal.

Second, in the light of this basic aim, country programmes should not only consist of UNDP contributions but should be established on a system-wide basis, so as to prevent a possibly scattered and uncoordinated effort from the different organizations and agencies within the United Nations system. Therefore, besides UNDP projects, World Bank group programmes and projects, the programmes of the agencies and the various special funds should also be included. Finally, it would also seem desirable for bilateral aid to be put within the framework of this comprehensive programme in order to ensure that this aid, together with multilateral aid, is geared in a coordinated and efficient way towards the needs of the developing country in all relevant fields, as expressed by the country programme.

Third, a comprehensive country programme is not a static concept: it needs constant adapting to changing circumstances, ideas and instruments. Therefore, periodic consultations should be held between all participants who work, together in formulating, executing and evaluating the programme at the country level, under the chairmanship of the competent minister in the developing country. Critical monitoring would seem to be particularly necessary.

Fourth, in order gradually to improve the extent of integration of the work of the different participants of the United Nations system at the country level, they should all work as partners in a common endeavour of the entire United Nations system, under the leadership of a single United Nations representative, preferably appointed by the Secretary-General in his capacity as Chairman of the ACC and operating as a single United Nations team in which the vast and diversified knowledge existing within the United Nations organs and organizations can be effectively pooled.

Fifth and last on this matter, the general spirit of the conclusions of the report of Inspectors Ilic and Bertrand seems to be correct and they provide a first impetus towards reorganization at the country level, although the report could have laid more emphasis on the important role the World Bank group and the bilateral donors should play in the country programming exercise.

I should now like to make one or two remarks on the Joint Inspection Unit reports on technical cooperation in Asia and the Pacific. In paragraph 12 of the Director-General's comments it is said that FAO and ESCAP were carrying out negotiations. While supporting the attitude of the Director-General, my delegation would like to know the results of these negotiations.

Secondly, in line with what I said on country programming, my Government is of the opinion that, in accordance with the principles of self-reliance and technical cooperation between the developing countries, more use should be made of regional organizations outside the United Nations system. My delegation can therefore subscribe to the comments of the Director-General and the Programme and Finance Committees.

EL PRESIDENTE: Oportunamente se responderá a la cuestión planteada por el delegado de Países Bajos.

M.L. CAMERON (New Zealand): I wish to refer to the last of the sub items, technical cooperation provided to integration movements in Asia and the Pacific, and particularly to the South-West Pacific region, and of course to the South-East Asia region, as there are very close links and we work together very closely. The Director-General commented on the differences in cultures and ethnic groups and so on, in these regions; and this is very true. Many of them are island nations with vast distances between them; some are small and new nations. I think on this question it is equally important to remember that the cooperation movements are relatively young. Integration is important but I think that we need to have some patience, to let them develop their roles and settle in. And, of course, too, the bilateral programmes add another dimension to this. I can sympathise with anyone who has difficulty in maintaining an overview of all the various organizations and their programmes in order to make an effective contribution when work programmes are being developed in the various bodies; we certainly do. We would also support the Director-General's view that FAO should take a lead role in agriculture. The dilemma, I think, is that we now see rural development, the production systems, the infrastructure, education, health and so on, as being part of a whole, as all requiring simultaneous attention if we are to make real progress; and in some ways the specialization of agencies can create difficulties, especially when you get down to the small farmer level where the changes have to take place.

We do not see an easy solution to these problems. In many ways we are captives of the institutions that we have created, but I do think there are two things that we can do, and the first is this. I think we have to keep the institutional boundaries quite flexible. We need to accept that the lead role can come from various sources and that the other organizations should fall into line and play their part. If we try to institutionalise everything, I think we will continue to have troubles and I think it is wise also to remember that there are finite limits to the resources that are available for these programmes; and if we do not make a real effort to make them work, to make them efficient, then those who benefit from them will benefit less.

The second thing that I think we can do - and Dr. Phillips referred to this in his comments - is that in the final analysis, the countries themselves are in the best position to see what can be done, where there is a need for coordination, where the right priorities can be set. And I am quite sure myself that very important - and in the final analysis, the best - results will come when the countries themselves can see that they have a very important, a very active part to play in integration and coordination.

P.J. BYRNES (United States of America): I would like to comment on two of the reports, first that of Fellowships in the United Nations system. My delegation agrees, as the Programme and Finance Committees concluded, that the JIU Report on Fellowships will be useful particularly to the fellowship officers throughout the United Nations system. It is understandable to us that such a comprehensive review might include questionable references or implications but these should not affect the overall usefulness of this document. We have somewhat uncertain views on the proposed creation of the ad hoc standing working group. However, the conflict might be in regard to that title.

Instead of this mechanism for ensuring standardization of fellowship procedures my delegation would favour a course of periodic meetings of those fellowship officers in various agencies and exchange of information as appropriate. In this regard we notice that executive heads have spoken of annual meetings. We would recommend some flexibility here so that it be not too rigid one, so the meetings may not be held if not absolutely necessary.

With regard to country programming, although we note that the Programme and Finance Committees appear to have been somewhat critical of the inspector's report, we think the document has contributed to fresh dialogue on country programming and is timely in view of the discussions that are either underway or soon scheduled in various United Nations bodies. We think it unfortunate that the joint comments of the executive heads were not made available to us prior to coming here to Rome. We look forward to studying these in detail, as we will study the comments of the delegation of the Netherlands which he will make available.

Since these matters are under consideration in other bodies, in view of the importance of the item and the expectation that additional views will be available to us later on, we would concur with the view of the acting Chairman of the Finance Committee on this particular item. We might merely note the study, note the views of the various committees and return to it at a subsequent date in the light of additional information that will then be available.

M.P. MASUD (Pakistan): Very briefly I would like to draw attention to paragraphs 37 to 46 of document CL 71/16 regarding regional cooperation for development. Agriculture is one of the largest sectors in the region in terms of numbers of people employed, its contribution to national income and share in foreign trade. It has been observed that the typical backwardness and poverty of the agricultural sector relevant to others demand that it be directly included in the joint action of countries to improve the condition of the people and that it would be unfair to exclude people dependent on agriculture from the direct benefits of integration. We would urge the Council to give this matter its most sympathetic consideration.

B. MIYET (France): Je serai moi aussi très bref sur ces deux questions. Au sujet des rapports qui nous ont été soumis, nous voudrions dire, en ce qui concerne le premier rapport sur les bourses, que nous sommes d'accord avec les conclusions du Comité financier et du Comité du programme pour reconnaître qu'il s'agit là d'un document très utile.

Quant au deuxième rapport, dont nous regrettons comme les autres qu'il soit arrivé un peu tard et que nous n'ayons pas eu ainsi suffisamment de temps pour les étudier en détail, nous sommes d'accord avec le Comité lorsqu'il dit qu'il faut en prendre note et remettre leur étude plus détaillée à plus tard. Cependant, nous voudrions faire remarquer que, comme nous l'a dit M. Bel Hadj Amor et M. Phillips, le problème du rôle des gouvernements a peut-être été mal perçu par les Inspecteurs. Cependant, le document nous paraît très intéressant et nous voudrions associer notre pays aux remarques qui ont été formulées par les Pays-Bas sur cette question.

F. REDA (Egypt)(interpretation from Arabic): I shall not take much of the time of the Council but I am merely interested in dealing with two main subjects. First, is training in connexion with fellowships and then the second is decentralization. We find that in dealing with such systems as training or decentralization the concept may vary from one organization to another, particularly because of the role that such organizations play in the development of human society and considering that there is no fixed system, nor can we arrive at such a system easily, therefore, we support the conclusions of the Programme and Finance Committees in connexion with their preference for holding one annual meeting of a shorter period, so that we may have a standing committee to deal with fellowships and in the same way we support the present policy of the Director-General in regard to decentralization and the conversion of present regional office representatives into country representatives in the future.

J.P. BHATTACHARJEE (Director, Policy Analysis Division): I will deal very briefly with the few points raised on the JIU report on the integration movements in Asia and the Pacific and Mr. Sager will deal with the other questions on the other reports.

I was very much pleased with the sort of views that have been expressed by a number of the delegates here on this report. In particular, the representative of New Zealand I think put the situation of the integration movements in this region in its proper cultural, linguistic and general social perspective. This view has been exactly reflected also in the way the Director-General has examined the report and offered his comments. I think the Director-General makes it clear in his comments that for the reasons that the representative of New Zealand mentioned it is important for FAO and in fact for all the United Nations agencies to take a pragmatic view about their relative role and this pragmatic view goes along fairly well with the flexibility that the representative of New Zealand was asking for in regard to the relative roles, jurisdictions, etc., of different agencies. So I believe the comments of the representative of New Zealand are perfectly in harmony, if not in support, of the view taken by the Director-General. Also in this connection there can be no question about the extent to which the movement can succeed because of the restraints on resources, both within the region as well as at the level of the United Nations system agencies also and of course the Director-General believes as much and as strongly, as the representative of New Zealand said, that it is up to the countries themselves and their governments to decide on the pace, nature and extent of progress they would make in the direction of cooperation and integration movements.

Having said this I take it from the comments that the general view of the Director-General on this particular report is fairly well endorsed here at least as far as we can judge from the comments.

Before I conclude there is only one other point on which very specific information was sought by the representative of the Netherlands. This puts me into a bit of an awkward position because there is going to be at some stage, possibly in the next meeting of the Council, a separate report by the Director-General on the negotiations at present in progress between FAO and the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific. The negotiations are going on and they are more than half way through and the Director-General expects that the final agreement which will lead to the exchange of letters will be reached in a few weeks, certainly within the next few months, and therefore a report on this probably will come to the next meeting of the Council. Given this I can only provide informally one or two points of information without in any way tying the future report that the Director-General is going to present.

At this stage there has been the general agreement between the two organizations, that cooperation between FAO and ESCAP should be on a wider basis than the very narrow base of the joint provision that existed before. Now in view of the expanding role of ESCAP in the field of agriculture, in other words activities which cover not only agriculture but even technical fields, the past arrangements have ceased to be appropriate. Accordingly, the new line which the Director-General proposed and which we believe the Secretary-General of ESCAP agrees, is that in future the cooperation between the two bodies should pass through the larger framework of the FAO regional offices and not through the joint division. Accordingly, steps have been taken to wind up the joint division and arrangements for joint programming discussions have not only been instituted but are in progress. But as I said, this is just a very little advance information and I would suggest that the Council in this matter may better await that the Director-General should present his full report on it, possibly at the next session.

J.F. YRIART (Director General Adjunto, Departamento de Desarrollo): Muy breves palabras, simplemente en relación con el informe en cuanto a la programación por países. Solamente quisiera decir, como queda bien claro en la respuesta conjunta preparada por el sistema, que el Informe en efecto fue oportuno; lo que ocurre es que desde el punto de vista de las Agencias y PNUD tiene dos defectos principales: Primero, que los comentarios son desproporcionados al ejercicio a hacer programación por países, porque los comentarios se basan en un ejercicio que estaría dedicado a una planificación del desarrollo en el país y eso no es lo que hacen las Naciones Unidas; eso lo hace el Gobierno; nosotros cooperamos en la planificación de utilización de los insumos y de la técnica, así es que hay una desproporción.

Segundo, que, como se ha mencionado en el Consejo y lo han dicho muy bien los Comités del Programa y de Finanzas, creemos que no hay una cabal comprensión de la autoridad de los Gobiernos. Es decir, los cometidos que ellos tienen y que nosotros no podemos ejercer por ellos; pero aparte de eso el Informe es útil, llega en un momento oportuno en que estamos, como hablamos el otro día al tratar de las relaciones con el PNUD, en un intenso diálogo, especialmente entre el PNUD y las Agencias sobre las relaciones mutuas.

Un capítulo importante de ese diálogo es el de la programación en los países. Creo que las breves acotaciones que han hecho los distinguidos señores Delegados sobre esa materia son también una buena contribución que nos orientará en las conversaciones que continuaremos en el ámbito de las discusiones del PNUD y posiblemente alrededor del documento que discutimos el otro día sobre el rol y las funciones del PNUD.

La única que me queda por decir es que queremos, en efecto, que la programación por países, en cuanto que tiene que ver el sistema, sea un trabajo de cooperación entre todos, PNUD y Agencias; pero, repetimos, que allí la nota, el tono en cuanto al ámbito que se puede cubrir, lo completo de este ámbito eso lo marca el Gobierno y en esa programación sólo podremos considerar aquellos insumos y aquellas metas que el Gobierno esté de acuerdo en considerar.

EL PRESIDENTE: Creo que, en general, los miembros del Consejo se manifestaron de acuerdo con las opiniones del Director General y de los Comités del Programa y de Finanzas sobre estos tres informes de la dependencias común de Inspección. Naturalmente, se expresaron algunas opiniones que constan en las actas y serán utilizadas adecuadamente por el Comité de Redacción. Sin embargo, quisiera hacer una breve referencia a cada uno de los tres Informes en relación con los puntos que fueron destacados por algunos miembros del Consejo.

En relación con las becas, entiendo que el Consejo está de acuerdo en que son útiles y que deben celebrarse con flexibilidad las reuniones entre los funcionarios de los Organismos interesados cuando esas reuniones sean necesarias.

En cuanto a la programación por países creo que el Consejo está de acuerdo en que debe ser el propio país beneficiario, aquel que tenga la función principal en esa programación el que debería incluir otros programas, así como la ayuda bilateral y que esa programación debería cumplirse bajo coordinación y vigilancia adecuadas, que será conveniente que las Agencias de las Naciones Unidas actúen en forma integrada a nivel del país.

Sobre la cooperación técnica creo que todos estamos de acuerdo en que, como lo ha dicho el Director General y fue apoyado por Nueva Zelandia y otras Delegaciones, la FAO debe ser la Organización líder en el campo de la agricultura y que debería tratarse también de que a través de esta cooperación técnica se transmitieran beneficios directos a los agricultores.

Creo que esto es lo esencial y si el Consejo está de acuerdo podríamos, entonces, pasar a lo que nos resta del tema 14, o sea la continuación de la DCI.

- Continuation of the JIU

- MãTntîêiTdu CCI

- Continuación de la PCI

EL PRESIDENTE: Además del documento básico CL 71/17 recordarán Vds. que hay algunas referencias también en el CL 71/5, el Informe del CACJ, y hay comentarios también en el CL 71/4 que es el Informe de los Comités de Programa y de Finanzas. Espero que las presentaciones que harán los tres Presidentes de estos Comités situarán adecuadamente a los miembros del Consejo en cuanto a esta discusión.

En primer lugar, voy a conceder la palabra al Sr. Embajador Borin, Presidente del CACJ, quien se referirá a la Sección 4ª del documento CL 71/5, párrafos 46 a 55.

O.R. BORIN (Président du Comité des questions constitutionnelles et juridiques): Le Comité des questions constitutionnelles et juridiques a noté que l'Assemblée générale des Nations Unies a sa trente et unième session a décidé de maintenir le corps commun d'inspection et a approuve pour cet organisme un nouveau statut prenant effet au 1er janvier 1978.

En approuvant ce nouveau statut, l'Assemblée générale a invité les organisations du système des Nations Unies à notifier dès que possible au Secrétaire général leur acceptation du statut et à prendre les dispositions voulues pour utiliser ces services du corps commun d'inspection.

Le Comité rappelle à cet égard que le Conseil, à sa soixante-dixième session, a prié le Directeur général de soumettre un rapport sur les incidences qu'aurait pour la FAO l'acceptation de ce nouveau statut. Ce rapport a été soumis au Comité en raison de ses aspects juridiques et constitutionnels et de manière à ce que le Conseil puisse être saisi des recommandations de tous les trois Comités.

En examinant le nouveau statut du corps commun d'inspection, le Comité juridique est particulièrement attentif aux points suivantes:

Premièrement, la procédure constitutionnelle que doit appliquer la FAO pour accepter le statut et, deuxièmement, la question de savoir si l'on peut estimer valide le paragraphe 2 du statut et compatible avec la constitution de la FAO.

A cet égard, le Comité prend note des observations du Directeur général énoncées au paragraphe 3.10 de son rapport.

Le Comité des questions juridiques et constitutionnelles fait sienne l'opinion du Directeur général selon laquelle l'acceptation du statut doit être examinée par la Conférence étant donné qu'il s'agit d'une question relevant de l'article 12, paragraphe 2 de l'Acte constitutionnel en vertu duquel les accords déterminant les rapports entre l'Organisation et les Nations Unies sont soumis à l'approbation de la Conférence. Le Comité souscrit également à la suggestion du Directeur général selon laquelle les opinions du Conseil devraient être enregistrées sous forme d'une recommandation soumise à la Conférence lors de sa dix-neuvième session.

En ce qui concerne le premier paragraphe du supplément au rapport du Directeur général où est consignée la proposition prise par le CQCJ sur cette question savoir si une action ne pouvait pas être proposée en raison des différences existantes entre les dispositions constitutionnelles des diverses organisations et que, par conséquent, des décisions devraient être prises par leur organe directeur respectif et que le Comité devrait en prendre note.

Le Comité est également d'avis que le corps commun d'inspection tel qu'il a été établi par l'Assemblée générale ne relève pas de l'article 6, paragraphe 2 de l'Acte constitutif de la FAO, ce dernier ne contenant aucune disposition qui permette de considérer le corps commun d'inspection comme un organe subsidiaire des organes directeurs de la FAO.

Le CQCJ a été informé de l'opinion, qu'il a pu entièrement exprimer par les Comités des programmes, qu'un organe tel que le Corps commun d'inspection ne peut pas être à la fois indépendant des organes directeurs de la FAO et être un organe subsidiaire ou subordonné en même temps.

Enfin, le Comité est d'avis que le fonctionnement du corps commun d'inspection et le maintien des relations appropriées entre celui-ci et les organisations participantes ne souffrirait en rien si la FAO et d'autres organisations qui se heurtent à un problème constitutionnel analogue n'étaient pas en mesure d'accepter cette disposition particulière du statut.

Pour ces raisons, le Comité approuve les conclusions du Directeur général telles qu'elles figurent au paragraphe 10.29 du document CL 71/17 selon lesquelles les organes directeurs lorsqu'ils adopteront le statut devraient exprimer cette réserve que la FAO n'est pas en mesure de donner effet à la seconde phrase de l'article I, paragraphe 2.

Le Comité est d'avis qu'une telle réserve serait acceptable pour les Nations Unies étant donné qu'elle ne peut pas nuire au fonctionnement du corps commun d'inspection.

R.W. PHILLIPS (Chairman, Programme Committee): Let me begin by calling attention to one sentence in paragraph 2.134. That sentence reads: "There appeared to be a clear and continuing need for a completely independent inspection body in the UN system, and by its very existence, the Joint Inspection Unit, at least in part, met this need". I make that point at the beginning to emphasize that the Programme Committee was in no way calling into question the desirability of having a Joint Inspection Unit.

On the other hand, you will see from the remarks of the Committee that the Committee did not feel that an inspection unit should itself be above being inspected as regards the nature and quality of its work.

The Committee noted that the reports which had been issued, many of which were of considerable length, had varied widely in quality and in the relative importance of the subject matter and in the viability and feasibility of the recommendations.

The Committee also observed that one of the characteristics of the reports was the degree to which they appeared to reflect the particular interests and approaches of individual inspectors. In the earlier years, they had been directed largely to field projects; more recently they had tended to emphasize system-wide matters such as programme planning, budgeting and so on, and they had selected some subjects which were in the Committee's view not of priority importance or which dealt with matters already under examination at the inter-agency level.

One common theme was evident in many reports; that was coordination and the establishment of a variety of mechanisms to achieve it. On several occasions in the past, the Committee has called to the attention of the Council the Unit's preoccupation with coordination seemingly as an end in itself. In looking over the work of the JIU during the last nine years, the Committee could not avoid coming to the conclusion that it had to express some disappointment at least in respect to the contribution that the Unit had made in practical and discernible ways to the work of FAO and had expressed the hope that there would be an improvement in the services rendered by the JIU in the future.

Regarding the question of subsidiary organ, there is no disagreement between the view of the Committee and that expressed by the Chairman of CCLM. I would call your attention to Paragraph 2.138 in the first line; at least in the English version there is an error. It should refer to Paragraph 2 of Article 5, not Article 3. And in this Article, the Committee wished to question in particular the emphasis on coordination and strongly recommended that the Council again reiterate its opposition to the adoption of coordination as a major aim in itself; no objection to coordination where it is desirable and increases the effectiveness, but there does seem to be an undue preoccupation with it in the Unit at present. I think it is fair to say that there is at least some danger of a burgeoning of the function and staff and cost of the Inspection Unit, which of course would be of concern to the Council as it looks down the road.

Also directly related to costs and perhaps equally important is the question of the length of the reports. The Committee has found as it reviewed these that many of them were unduly long, and a little inspection of the length of the reports would be a useful exercise for the JIU to undertake.

The Committee considered that it was important for FAO's governing bodies to maintain the work of the JIU under continuing review to satisfy itself if the investigations and evaluations carried out were not duplicative or in conflict with other activities and were commensurate with the direct and indirect costs involved, but with these qualifications and reservations the Committee recommended the acceptance of the statute on a de facto basis for a two-year period commencing 1 January 1978

M. BEL HADJ AMOR (Président par intérim, Comité financier): Pour ma part, je dois dire que le Comité financier a considéré ce rapport avec un oeil beaucoup moins favorable que celui du Comité des programmes. Je suppose que cela est très compréhensible, étant donné que ce statut ne manquera pas d'avoir des implications financières pour notre Organisation.

A cet égard, je voudrais souligner le fait que le Comité financier a fait siennes les observations et les recommandations du Directeur général à propos de l'acceptation de certaines dispositions, mais avec des réserves. Je voudrais souligner à ce propos surtout l'article 1, paragraphe 2 du statut et l'article 5, paragraphe 2, relatifs au rôle du corps commun d'inspection dans la coordination, ainsi que l'article 12.

Je pense qu'il faut surtout attirer l'attention du Conseil sur le paragraphe 3.96 du rapport du Comité financier, qui exprime les préoccupations du Comité concernant les incidences financières quant à l'acceptation de ce statut pour l'Organisation. Le Comité n'est pas du tout convaincu que des arguments suffisants aient été présentés pour démontrer de manière irréfutable que le rapport coût/bénéfice de la participation de la FAO aux dépenses afférentes à ce corps justifie les augmentations progressives du budget du corps commun et des contributions de l'Organisation à ce dernier. De même, le Comité a fait part de ses préoccupations quant à l'expansion des activités du corps commun et de l'accroissement des effectifs. A propos de ces activités, le Comité craint qu'elles ne puissent faire double emploi avec celles d'autres organes chargés de procéder à des enquêtes et à des évaluations.

Cependant, le Comité a été enclin à recommander aux organes directeurs de l'Organisation l'acceptation de ce statut, compte tenu de ses préoccupations et des réserves formulées par le Directeur général.

J. BERTELING (Netherlands): Since item 14 was divided into separate sub-items, I have to apologize for requesting the floor again, but I would also like to make a number of comments on this issue.

Two years ago I believe the Council and the Conference decided to favour the continuation of the Joint Inspection Unit. I note now that this position has not been changed. Mr. Phillips made this very clear in his Introduction. The discussions in the Fifth Committee of the General Assembly last autumn on the Draft Statute have taken quite some time. There were inputs from the Joint Inspection Unit, from the Programme Coordination of the United Nations, from the Administrative Committee on Coordination and from the ACABO, and all the interested parties could make statements on the different draft texts.

Therefore, I am so amazed now to learn from the comments of FAO that the particular paragraph raises some difficulties. I know that the FAO representative in New York was specifically requested more than once to intervene on this subject. He never did, and now the text is accepted by all our governments. I may specifically draw the attention of the Council to paragraph 50 of the Report of the CCLM in which it is said that neither the ACC nor the ACABO has submitted proposals on this very question. I have been informed that the Legal Counsel of the United Nations has given an explanation of this Rule implying that it is not contrary to the constitution of any of the agencies.

Mr. Chairman, for this reason also I do not believe that this is a major question. The question does not, as it is said in a different document, affect the working relations between the FAO and the Joint Inspection Unit. My delegation, however, is against any reserve on the part of FAO, but can accept an interpretative statement like the one of the Legal Counsel of the United Nations that the Joint Inspection Unit is not a subsidiary organ of the FAO under Article XII of the Constitution.

With such an interpretative statement, my delegation feels there would be a notification on behalf of FAO of its acceptance of the present Statute. FAO has not intervened in New York in time, and has therefore lost, in the view of my delegation, and I do not feel it has a moral right to go beyond this.

A.E. HANNAH (Canada): I would just like to make a few comments on behalf of the Canadian delegation. The Government of Canada has observed with great interest the work of the Joint Inspection Unit since it was established on an experimental basis by the Resolution of the 21st Session of the United Nations General Assembly. The role established for the Joint Inspection Unit at that time, of course, was a laudable one, and one which is much needed in a large international or national organization.

In 1976, as the delegate for the Netherlands has point out, the Fifth Committee recommended the adoption of a Resolution establishing the Joint Inspection Unit on a continuous basis. This Resolution was adopted, and as well they increased the mandate to include programme evaluation functions. Although the Joint Inspection Unit has not been as effective as Canada would have wished, and in fact serious questions have been raised as to the utility of its continuation, the validity of its intended role remains, and our delegation recommends that FAO del nuevo estatuto, nos permitimos hacer simple-question of the Joint Inspection Unit as a subsidiary body, Article 1 paragraph 2 of the Statute, we do not object to the Director-General's proposal that reservations be entered.

We would also support a review of the decision to participate in a Joint Inspection Unit in 1979. This is consistent with the Canadian delegation's stated view to the United Nations General Assembly, where they question some aspects of this Statute.

I. OROZCO (Mexico): Nosotros debemos confesar nuestra falta de un conocimiento más profundo que hubiéramos deseado tener en estos momentos para hacer una aportación más útil al debate. Sin embargo, de la lectura tal vez superficial de los informes que a este respecto se nos han presentado, tanto por el Director General como por los Comités del Programa y de Finanzas, acerca de la Dependencia Común de Inspección y su aceptación por la FAO del nuevo estatuto, nos permitimos hacer simplemente una observación muy general.

Nosotros quisiéramos ver una apreciación más positiva de la aportación que podría hacer la Dependencia Común de Inspección para hacer de los organismos especializados, no como leemos aquí en uno de los párrafos de los informes, hacer de la coordinación como un fin en sí mismo. Nosotros no pensamos que se haya tenido en mente hacer de la coordinación un fin en sí mismo cuando se creó la Dependencia Común de Inspección. Por eso nosotros más bien preferiríamos un enfoque más positivo y hacer un mayor uso de ella.

Nosotros hemos visto las aportaciones bastante considerables que hace la FAO para su Presupuestación de la proporción que le corresponde y nosotros percibimos que hay muchas áreas de acción donde la propia Dependencia Común de Inspección podría tener un papel muy útil.

Tenemos una serie de novedades muy interesantes que nosotros obviamente respaldamos dentro de la Organización, y en esto respaldamos al Director General, y una serie de innovaciones, como el Programa de Cooperación Técnica.

Nada más deseo mencionar entre otras áreas, por ejemplo, el área de la nutrición donde hay otras agencias que tienen una participación también conjunta al lado de la FAO y una serie de cuestiones; que nosotros quisiéramos ver una participación más positiva de coordinación, no como fin en sí misma, sino como un medio que nosotros consideramos en ese sentido y si es cierto, si me disculpa vuelvo un poco atrás sobre mis ideas del Programa de Cooperación Técnica, en donde se ha hablado del PNUD como un organismo de desarrollo, que nosotros, desde luego, consideramos muy ambicioso, que el PNUD puede ser un organismo de desarrollo, sí le corresponde formular estudios de esa naturaleza, que permitirían tener una apreciación general de conjunto y en el que la Dependencia Común de Inspección podría proporcionar informes muy valiosos.

Los aspectos de desarrollo y como los distintos organismos especializados están interconectados vis a vis el PNUD como un órgano de financiación en el sistema de las Naciones Unidas. Si cito este ejemplo puedo citar el de la nutrición y de otros que irán surgiendo a medida de las necesidades. Ciertamente sí es claro que hay aspectos constitucionales, como se aprecia aquí a lo largo de los informes, y que el próximo período de sesiones de la Conferencia tendrá una mayor oportunidad de analizar. Nosotros quisiéramos dar un respaldo más positivo a las labores que realiza la Dependencia Común de Inspección y también dejando a salvo si en la Conferencia resulta que hace esa reserva, pues hacerlo cuando llegue la oportunidad. En todo caso, tendremos una mayor ocasión de hacer un análisis de la Dependencia Común de Inspección y de todas sus implicaciones.

W.A.F. GRABISCH (Federal Republic of Germany): On the subject before us, I have just a few comments. First, my delegation notes with satisfaction that the continuation of the Joint Inspection Unit is not being questioned. It seems to be the general feeling that an independent inspection and evaluation system within the United Nations is needed.

Secondly, concerning the work of the Joint Inspection Unit, my delegation can subscribe to many of the useful comments concerning that issue put forward in the Report of the Joint Meeting of the Programme and Finance Committees, and recalled by the Chairman of the Programme Committee.

We too feel that the work can be improved, in particular by shortening the reports, by better timing when inspections and meetings are being held with different agencies and perhaps also by dealing in a more precise way with some of the issues which are taken up.

Thirdly, with regard to the constitutional question my delegation would also recommend that FAO accepts the statute of the Joint Inspection Unit and, if the recommendation made by the delegate from the Netherlands is accepted with an interpretative statement by the Director-General, perhaps the difficulty spelt out also by the CCLM could be overcome. We would favour this. If this were not possible then we would say that in giving an answer on behalf of FAO, FAO should spell out that it will continue to make use of the Joint Inspection Unit for its governing bodies as in the past.

My fourth and last point is that we have sympathy with what was said by the Chairman of the Finance Committee mainly that a positive cost/benefit ratio is difficult to see and to work out so far but, on the other hand we must say in this context that this applies also to national evaluation services and we should not overemphasise that point.

B. de AZEVEDO BRITO (Brazil): We have been silent thus far in this debate and will be intervening only briefly on this point knowing that a decision has been taken by the General Assembly in relation to the continuation of the JIU. However, in order to bring a proper balance to the comments of the Council I think it would be appropriate to utter some cautionary words. Some years ago my delegation commented in the Economic and Social Council that the JIU reports had one record - the record of not being read. They were very voluminous documents and very seldom read. Even today it is interesting to note that the different speakers and practically all the agencies differed substantially from some major trends in the reports now before us.

Of course, we understand that in this case FAO has no alternative but, to go along with a decision of the General Assembly which, I understand, was taken by consensus. However, it is important that this Organization uses these reports in a very critical way. It is also important that the financial resources of the Organizations are not unduly burdened by costs which might not prove to be justifiable.

Therefore, we should like to put on record our caution that while making use of the JIU reports and following the practices of the United Nations System, in the utilization of the JIU reports there should be a selective approach to the contributions of the JIU in the future.

P.J. BYRNES (United States of America): My delegation strongly supports the continuation of the Joint Inspection Unit although I should frankly state that we think the reports have not been uniformly good; neither have they been uniformly bad - some of them have been quite good.

To a somewhat lesser degree than the Programme Committee we admit to disappointment over the Unit's work in the last nine years but we conclude, as did that Committee, that there is a clear and continuing need for a completely independent inspection body in the UN System.

With regard to the question of the stature of the JIU as a subsidiary body we were prepared to accept the report of the CCLM concerning this, but having heard the views of the delegate of the Netherlands here this afternoon and being apprised of developments in New York, we would like, if at all possible, to find a way of avoiding having some reservation made by the Director-General or the Conference concerning the recommendation that this be a subsidiary body. Perhaps the interpretative language which the Dutch representative mentioned would be our way out. We would strongly urge the Legal Adviser of FAO to work with the United Nations to see if something along these lines could not be concluded between now and the time of the Conference.

We think, as did the two Committees, that the JIU should not place an undue burden on staff time, interfere with the work of the Organization, or require financial demands not justified by the end product. We believe, however, that such issues can be avoided largely by some greater degree of mutual and sincere cooperation between the unit and the specialized agencies.

I should like to make a brief comment now about the views expressed by the delegation of Brazil. It is quite right that the Joint Inspection Unit reports are not read as fully as they should be. There are several reasons for this. One is the structure by which the reports are presented. They first go to Agencies before being sent to governments. This results in delay and sometimes because of this they have not been timely. The Committees and delegates have also mentioned that the reports in the past have been too lengthy and that the recommendations should be more concise so that delegations can address themselves to the specific recommendations. We would hope that in the future our own Committee in commenting on such reports would try to present their recommendations more briefly to us so that we can also focus upon them when we come here. Frequently although the Joint Inspection Unit reports are issued far in advance, we do not have the views of the executive heads in time and most frequently do not have the reports of the two most important committees of our Council sufficiently in advance of the Council.

Mrs. A. AUGUSTE (Trinidad and Tobago): My delegation has studied with some interest the documents that are before the Council on the continuation of the JIU. Whatever the arguments that might be advanced in the abstract as to the need for an independent inspection unit serving the entire United Nations System, certainly we could not escape the conclusion that the predominant view of the JIU that emerges from the Director-General's report, as well as from the reports of the Programme Committee and the Finance Committee is that the JIU is almost some kind of a nuisance that the Organization has no choice but to live with and even pay for to the tune of \$200 000 a year in the forthcoming biennium which the Organization should also strive to ignore as far as possible.

We would be tempted of course, to discuss the merits or demerits of the JIU but as has already been pointed out in the brief discussions that we have had in this Council, a decision has been taken in the Fifth Committee and at the level of the General Assembly and by that decision the JIU is a permanent feature of the UN. Therefore, in all honesty, we doubt whether this Council on this occasion could make any significant contribution to the future life of the JIU. In the circumstances, therefore, we propose simply to confine ourselves to accepting the recommendation which emerges from all the reports and all the statements that we have heard so far that the statute of the JIU be accepted with the reservation of the FAO as regards paragraph 2 of Article I in whatever way that reservation can properly be expressed, be it by a formal reservation or by some kind of interpretative statement, as was suggested this afternoon, and also with the understanding that in 1979 the Council will engage in a further debate to try to evaluate the work of the JIU.

F. REDA (Egypt) (Interpretation from Arabic): I should like to start where the Chairman of the Programme Committee left off with regard to the need to take into account cooperation and coordination between the different United Nations agencies. As a number of delegates have said, the various reports which have been submitted on this subject are reports which contain recommendations which we could have done without in most cases. The report of the CCIA is also one which is usually presented at an inopportune moment. I think that we might also refer to paragraph 2 which indicates that the Joint Inspection Unit is free to choose the subject with which it is to deal and to study in detail. We cannot oppose this choice of subject.

The last point I want to make is on the finance which is provided by our Organization for the JIU which represents about 16 percent of the total finance of the Unit. We feel that the share paid by our Organization has been calculated on the basis of a distribution of costs which was fixed beforehand. That will need to be revised because all the other agencies should pay at the same rate.

S.S. MAHDI (India): It is a fact of life that nobody likes inspectors, least of all those who are inspected, and even less those who have to pay for it. But it is equally true that some kind of an independent body is required for a complex system such as ours. Therefore, we endorse the conclusion of the Finance and Programme Committees, however grudgingly arrived at, that there is a need for the continuation of the Unit and that FAO should subscribe to it. In this connexion, a number of criticisms have been levelled at the working of the Joint Inspection Unit. One of them is that it concentrates too much on coordination. I am not perturbed by this because, by definition, a unit which is common to the whole system and to which all the agencies subscribe has to give more attention to coordination. The fact that on many occasions the reports of the Joint Inspection Unit have not been found satisfactory should be balanced against the fact that on many other occasions these reports have been very useful. Sometimes they have provided insight into the working of the entire system, and sometimes they have been a useful as compendiums of information about the system which is not available at any one place.

Therefore, I am a little disturbed with the predominantly negative tone of the report of the Programme and Finance Committees. In fact, it is true that we have sometimes to evaluate the evaluators, but maybe this should be done with adequate preparation.

Another argument has been given about the expensiveness of the Unit and in this connexion the question of cost/benefit has been raised. First of all, we should like to see how much of the cost increase is due to general inflationary factors everywhere. I realise that the cost has increased because of the addition of three inspectors also, but I assume that most of the cost has been increased because of inflation and we should also see, when we talk of about \$400 000 as to what percentage this amount represents of the total budget of FAO. If the percentage of the expenditure for the Joint Inspection Unit has increased for the last four to five years as the total of the percentage of the FAO budget, then perhaps there is some cause for concern. But even then it may not be so easy to arrive at cost/ benefit ratios for an item such as the Joint Inspection Unit.

Another point has been made by the delegate of Brazil that the Joint Inspection Unit reports are not read. We cannot blame the Joint Inspection Unit for this. We should do our homework and read these reports, and we should give our comments on them. Having said this, I agree that there is need for improvement in the working of the Joint Inspection Unit and their reports. Let us remember that this is a rather recent institution which was recommended by a history-making committee of the United Nations in which all of us participated. So let us give it a chance. If we have any suggestions about improving the working of the Joint Inspection Unit or its reports, we are free to do and we should do so. In fact, we should take more interest in this work because after all this Unit is supposed to report to the governing bodies of the different agencies and, as such, it has the potential of providing assistance to the work of the governing bodies not only of FAO but others as well.

We should also like to know from the Secretariat as to what has been the approach at least of other major agencies in this regard, what difficulties they have faced in continuing to subscribe to the Joint Inspection Unit, and about the cost. Again on the cost, a point has been made that FAO has to pay about 13 or 16 percent of the cost of the Joint Inspection Unit. I certainly know that this is built in, it is according to some kind of CCAQ formula according to which costs of joint ventures like the Joint Inspection Unit are shared by various agencies according to their size, their budget and their staff; so perhaps there is not much flexibility there.

I should now like to turn to a few points which have been raised in the report before us. First of all, about the Joint Inspection Unit being a subsidiary body of FAO: I must admit that this is a highly technical question and we have no competence to give any opinion. Usually in this respect we are guided by our Legal Counsel. Here also I find that there is some divergence of opinion between our legal advice and the advice that has been rendered by the United Nations Legal Counsel. I treat this as a purely technical matter which does not affect the working relationship of the Joint Inspection Unit with FAO, and this should be resolved in the best possible technical way that could be devised. So here I have no particular opinion. Of course, if it militates against our own Constitution, then I will be the last to insist that it should go as it is; but if some way could be found we would be very happy.

Secondly, in the document before the Council attention is drawn to certain gratuitous remarks in the Statutes which, if they are interpreted too strictly, do not properly reflect on the executive heads. We are not very happy with this kind of wording in a solemn document such as the Statutes, but perhaps they are addressed to all the executive heads and perhaps they make a situation explicit where it does not need any explanation. About that also, if the Council feels that we should give "a piece of our mind" to the Joint Inspection Unit, I will go along with that.

Lastly, I wish to emphasize two points: that the quality of the work of the Joint Inspection Unit depends on the quality of the inspectors. As has been said from the podium, sometimes the personalities of the inspectors do find reflection in "the reports and to our regret we have found that in certain reports that is the case. In this respect we find that the new statutes are slightly different from the old ones, where the executive heads were consulted in a more meaningful way by the Secretary-General in the appointment of the inspectors.

We understand that the Secretary-General has the intention even now to continue such consultations and we should like to emphasize - and if the Council agrees, this could find reflection in the report also - that within the mandate which is given in the Statutes, the Secretary-General should make every effort to consult the executive heads in the appointment of the various inspectors.

Secondly, to make up for the neglect of the reports we have not read, and all that, we can exercise our minds and we could suggest ways and means of improving the reports. Also this governing body could suggest items on which the Joint Inspection Unit should concentrate. They should respond to the felt needs of the governing bodies of different organizations, and there we would have to take a more active rather than a passive role.

J.M. SCOLAR (United Kingdom): Like India, we in the United Kingdom delegation start from the premise that inspectors - any inspectors anywhere - are never a popular body of men. They are distrusted, looked upon with suspicion, they are never loved anywhere, any time. So when we consider the future of this small but slowly growing band of outcasts, the first question that comes to our minds is: do we need the JIU to continue at all? The answer, I think, must be: yes, it has, in a body like the United Nations system, a real function to perform. If we are agreed on this, then the next question is: do we agree with the new Statutes? Do they represent a proper updating of the previous situation? Again, this question was, we understand, exhaustively discussed and the delegate of the Netherlands, for example, gave a resume of the number of expert bodies that had already looked at this question.

From our reading of the Statutes, with their imperfections they still represent a fair degree of progress. Therefore, we on our part would support the recommendation of the Programme Committee that the new Statutes be accepted on an effective basis from January, 1978.

L. VELAY (France): Ma délégation a déjà fait savoir qu'au total elle estimait positif l'apport du Corps commun d'inspection. Donc, nous sommes heureux de l'appui que les trois comités de l'OAA concernés ont apporté au maintien de cet organisme.

En ce qui concerne les aspects institutionnels de la question, nous pensons qu'il suffirait certainement, comme l'ont fait remarquer plusieurs délégations, en particulier celles des Pays-Bas et de la République fédérale d'Allemagne, d'accepter le statut tel que l'a adopté l'Assemblée générale en lui adjoignant une déclaration interprétative précisant que le CCI ne peut pas être considéré comme étant un organe subsidiaire de l'OAA.

A.H. SAGER (FAO staff): I will leave to the Legal Counsel the question of the legal aspects of the Joint Inspection Unit being a subsidiary organ of FAO, but I would like to clear up one misunderstanding raised by the Netherlands and repeated, I think, by Germany. It is true that there were, in a sense, exhaustive discussions at the Fifth Committee about the Statutes. Prior to that, however, there had been exhaustive interchanges of views between executive heads, and their views on the new Statute were presented to the Fifth Committee in a document from ACC. Also, before the Fifth Committee was a version of the Statute prepared by ACABQ; and also before the Fifth Committee there was a version of the Statute prepared by the Joint Inspection Unit itself.

From the beginning the Joint Inspection Unit had pressed for the idea of the Unit becoming a subsidiary organ of the General Assembly of the United Nations. With this none of the executive heads had any questions. It was only during the debate of the Fifth Committee that it came to our knowledge that the Joint Inspection Unit was itself proposing that it be a subsidiary organ of the legislative bodies of the participating organizations that we then explained, indeed by telephone, through to the Chairman of the Committee, through our office in New York and to the Chairman of ACABQ that this Organization from a legal point of view would have serious difficulty and the fact that we, like at least one other organization, would have legal difficulty, was registered at the debate of the Fifth Committee.

Now this is a legal matter, but we have never considered, the Director-General has never considered it a serious one. The fact is the Legal Counsel will inform you that it is not possible for the Joint Inspection Unit to be, in the legal sense, a subsidiary organ of this Council or of the Conference, but at the same time the fact that it is not a subsidiary organ will in no way affect our relations with the Joint Inspection Unit, will in no way jeopardize harmonious relations, the efforts of the Secretariat to cooperate with the Inspection Unit. As the Council may know we are cooperating with the Joint Inspection Unit beyond that of many other organizations, by seconding a member of our staff for nine months to Geneva to participate with them in a study on the role of experts. It is the Director-General's intention to cooperate as fully as possible with the Joint Inspection Unit and he can do so and we will do so whether or not this body is a subsidiary organ so from this non-legal point of view it is to us an issue of no importance whatsoever. Further than that we have reason to believe that the General Assembly will have no question, will raise no question were our governing bodies to accept the statute with this reservation in view of the fact that it will not affect our relations.

The delegate of India has, I believe, responded to the question raised by the delegate of Egypt. It is true that the 14 percent, the contribution we make to the Joint Inspection Unit, is based upon a formula which governs our contributions to all similar inter-agency bodies. This is a formula that has been arrived at by the CCAQ and it is based upon the revenue from each organization from all sources of funds. This means that we contribute, we are the second largest contributor to the functioning of other inter-agency bodies like the International Civil Service Commission. We are second to the United Nations which contributes, I believe, something of the order of 40 percent. This is not a flexible arrangement and it would not I believe be appropriate were the smaller agencies to contribute at the same level as the larger organizations.

I think I should make it clear that the Director-General, reflecting the wishes of this Council at all of its previous sessions and the Conference, has always supported the Joint Inspection Unit and I would like to make it also clear that we have always cooperated fully with the Joint Inspection Unit. There were some remarks about the delays in this Council receiving reports from the Joint Inspection Unit. I can say, as I have been responsible for these reports, that the Secretariat has always followed the procedures established for the study, the timing and the study of the reports and we have submitted them to you. True they have arrived to you sometimes late, but we are under instructions to study reports within a certain period of time and to submit them to governing bodies within that period of time. That may coincide even with a meeting of the Programme Committee or Council.

One final remark, and I do not mean to mention this in any negative term, in any negative way, the Joint Inspection Unit between the 1st July and the end of December this year will issue 13 reports, notes and reports, 10, perhaps 11 of these will have to come to you, to the Programme and Finance Committees and to this Council. I mention this as only in support, shall I say, of the Programme Committee's suggestion that these reports and notes, if they are to be properly studied should, if at all possible, be reduced in length. With the growth in the Joint Inspection Unit's staff, 11 instead of 8 inspectors, certainly we can be sure that you are going to receive more reports. It is our hope that these reports, these studies will be addressed to matters of importance and of concern and it is equally our hope that the reports themselves will be sufficiently short and are directed to policy matters so that you can study them. We in the Secretariat do feel that many of the reports that have been issued in the past have been unnecessarily lengthy which in large part accounts for the indirect costs of our participation in the Unit.

LEGAL COUNSEL: As a result of the observations made by the delegate of the Netherlands, several other delegations, in particular those of the Federal Republic of Germany, of India, of France and of the United States have taken position on the Director-General's proposal that acceptance of the new statute of the Joint Inspection Unit should be accompanied by a reservation regarding Article I, paragraph 2.

Tying on to what Mr. Sager said, I would say, to start with, that it is not really a question of a difference of opinion between the United Nations Legal Counsel and the FAO Legal Counsel. I have read the legal opinion given by the United Nations Legal Office and I must say that it was very cautiously worded. Occasionally, I have myself been in a position to give an interpretation of the United Nations Charter or of the WHO Constitution in some meeting where questions were put, and I may assure you that it is with considerable trepidation that I engaged in this task. All the more so even must it have been with the United Nations Legal Office to give a collective interpretation of all constitutions or basic instruments of the participating organizations. It is, for another reason, not a question of divergence of opinion between the Legal Counsels. You have before you, and the Chairman of the CCLM has explained in some detail, a study that the CCLM made of the constitutional implications of the proposed provision regarding the status of the JIU as the subsidiary organ of the FAO and other participating organizations. FAO is in a somewhat particular position, although it is shared with certain other organizations as Mr. Sager said, precisely because a specific provision on the establishment of bodies or organs jointly with other intergovernmental organizations is contained in its Constitution. This provision may be regarded as exhaustive and therefore we have reached the conclusion that it would not be correct legally to consider the Joint Inspection Unit an integral part of FAO in the sense that it would be a subsidiary organ of its governing bodies, that is of the Conference or the Council. As has been pointed out, none of the functions of the Joint Inspection Unit in relation to FAO, nor the channelling of its reports or their consideration by the governing bodies will in any way be affected by the definition of its status.

I would say that it is to some extent at least a question of terminology, whether the Conference, if it decides to accede to the statutes of the Joint Inspection Unit, will request the Director-General to express a reservation, or a declaration of interpretation as was suggested, and we shall certainly, in further discussions in the Secretariat and with the Director-General, examine the possibility of substituting an interpretative declaration for a reservation, if that formula were more acceptable to the Council and to the Conference.

S. S. MAHDI (India): Just a brief word to set the record straight about the JIU being the subsidiary body of FAO, the Indian position is not the same as that of the Netherlands and the Federal Republic of Germany. What I said is that it is a highly technical and legal matter and we hope that this will be resolved in the best possible way which may include entering a reservation also on this matter as has been suggested in the Secretariat document.

EL PRESIDENTE: Después de la declaración del Sr. Asesor Legal, creo que no habrá dificultad para concluir este tema.

W.A.F. GRABISCH (Germany, Federal Republic of): First I wish to make clear that my delegation did not speak on the comments so far given by the FAO Secretariat to the United Nations Secretariat on the constitutional question. It was not my delegation that spoke on that question.

Secondly, my delegation notes with satisfaction that the Legal Counsel is prepared to come out with a proposal which might overcome the difficulties and hopefully will lead to a consensus on this question being reached at the forthcoming FAO Conference.

We are glad that the Legal Counsel mentioned that whatever this proposal will be and whatever the interpretative statements would contain, it would by no means affect the continuation of the use made so far of the Joint Inspection for FAO, in particular as regards the channelling of the reports, the consideration of the report by its governing bodies, etc. We thank the Legal Counsel for this clarification.

EL PRESIDENTE: Creo que no hay duda de que el Consejo está de acuerdo en apoyar la continuación del c). Se hicieron sugerencias actuales sobre la manera cómo se podía mejorar la función de esta tendencia, particularmente con la elaboración de informes breves y recomendaciones concisas que facilitarían la lectura y las consideraciones de los informes por los representantes de los gobiernos.

No hay duda de que el Consejo apoya la continuación de la Dependencia Común de Inspección, sobre la cual se hicieron útiles sugerencias en el sentido de mejorar esa Dependencia, tal como la conveniencia de que se elaboren informes breves con recomendaciones concisas que puedan facilitar la lectura, comprensión y estudio de esos informes por los representantes de los gobiernos en los órganos rectores de las distintas organizaciones.

En resumen, el Consejo recomienda a la Conferencia, de acuerdo con la posición del Comité del Programa, que se acepte el Estatuto de la Dependencia Común de Inspección para el período de dos años, a partir del primero de enero de 1978.

El punto más debatido en relación con la segunda frase del Artículo I, párrafo 2, sobre si la Dependencia puede ser o no un órgano subsidiario de los órganos rectores de la FAO, creo que la declaración del Asesor Legal facilita su solución. Entiendo que la mayoría de los miembros del Consejo están en favor de que se acepte el Estatuto tal como se ha propuesto y que desde ahora hasta la Conferencia, que será el organismo superior que tendrá la decisión definitiva y el Asesor Legal de la FAO, en consulta con el Asesor Legal de las Naciones Unidas, y desde luego todo bajo la vigilancia del Director General de la FAO, encontrará la fórmula de una posible declaración interpretativa que ponga a salvo la posición de nuestra Organización. ¿Es esto aceptado por todos?

IV - PROGRAMME, BUDGETARY, FINANCIAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS (continued)

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

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

17. Structure and Content of the Review of Field Programmes (including Section on Technical Cooperation amongst Developing Countries)

17. Examen de programmes de terrain: Structure et contenu (y compris la coopération technique entre les pays en développement)

17. Estructura y contenido del Examen de los Programas de Campo (incluida una sección sobre Cooperación Técnica entre Países en Desarrollo)

R.W. PHILLIPS (Chairman, Programme Committee): The Committee reviewed a proposed outline for the review of field programmes, and that outline is reproduced in paragraph 2.93. The Committee after having studied this agreed that it represented an acceptable balance between a broad sweep over the entire spectrum of field activities carried out by FAO and a critical examination of carefully selected segments for more substantive discussion in the Conference.

The Committee also wished to note and call to the attention of the Council the fact that the 1976-77 review would attempt to bring into focus the relationships between the regular programme and extra-budgetary activities in relation to training, investment promotion and the TCP, The broader relationships between these two sides of FAO's programmes would be covered in the presentation of Programme of Work and Budget.

I will just pass over quickly paragraph 2.96, but you will note there an expression that was brought to the attention of the Committee that FAO had not pursued with sufficient vigour the promoting of technical cooperation amongst developing countries. The Committee did not agree with this impression and felt that it should be corrected.

In regard to the section of the proposed review on training, the Committee recommended that owing to the growing importance of milk and meat production in developing countries, the training associated with animal health and production programmes should be handled in a separate section.

Also, the Committee felt that to the degree possible, the review should provide some indications on future trends in FAO's field programmes.

I think that is all I need say by way of introduction from the Programme Committee's side.

J.F. YRIART (Director General Adjunto, Departamento de Desarrollo): Respecto al bosquejo del examen de los Programas de Campo, no tengo nada que agregar a los comentarios hechos por el Comité del Programa, que fueron formulados hace apenas un mes y son perfectamente actuales. Permítame, sin embargo, referirme al párrafo 2, punto 96 del informe del Comité del Programa, al cual también se ha referido el Presidente del Comité y en el cual se dice que en ciertos sectores, o se cita, la opinión de ciertos sectores en el sentido de que existe la impresión de que la FAO no ha perseguido con vigor el objetivo de promover la cooperación técnica entre los países en desarrollo.

El Comité del Programa en el mismo párrafo, da una explicación de por qué podría existir esa impresión, que en el fondo no la juzga exacta. Pero en este momento se realiza una discusión doble en la reunión del PNUD en Ginebra sobre la cooperación técnica entre los países en desarrollo, sobre la cual creo que debo informar sucintamente al Consejo.

En este momento está reunido el Comité del Consejo de Administración del PNUD sobre Cooperación Técnica entre Países en Desarrollo y la semana pasada se reunió el Grupo Interagencial sobre Cooperación Técnica entre los Países en Desarrollo encargado de la colaboración con el PNUD para la preparación de la Conferencia de las Naciones Unidas y debo decir que salimos de la reunión del Grupo Interagencial considerablemente desilusionados y preocupados. La reunión fue breve. Fuimos informados de la documentación para la Conferencia que se celebrará en Buenos Aires, como se ha anunciado, ha sido ya contratada con consultores internos y las agencias del sistema tendrán la oportunidad de comentar, sólo de comentar, sobre los borradores de esa documentación en la segunda reunión de la Comisión Preparatoria de la Conferencia, que tendrá lugar en Nueva York el 12 de septiembre próximo.

A pesar de la deferencia que siempre las delegaciones gubernamentales muestran a las representaciones de los organismos intergubernamentales, no escapará a su fina percepción que no vamos a poder monopolizar una reunión intergubernamental para comentar exhaustivamente los documentos preparatorios para la Conferencia. Así que tenemos aquí un problema sobre el cual debo llamar la atención del Consejo, pues es posible que el Consejo desee que la representación de la FAO haga tentativos nuevamente para buscar canales mejores de colaboración en la preparación y celebración de la Conferencia.

Por otra parte, contrariamente a la impresión que se cita en el párrafo 2.96, al que ya he aludido, nosotros tenemos la impresión de que nuestra Organización está efectivamente muy activa en materia de cooperación técnica entre países en desarrollo, y realmente prácticamente activa. Quiero recordar que el examen de los programas de campo anterior, de 1974/75, ya incluyó un capítulo especial en el cual hablamos de aquellas actividades de la Organización que tenían elementos específicos de cooperación técnica entre países en desarrollo. Quiero ahora llevar a vuestro conocimiento que estamos en la fase final de un ejercicio importante, en el cual han colaborado todas las Divisiones de la Organización, todas las Oficinas Regionales, por lo cual hemos buscado de compilar conocimientos e iniciativas en los sectores de la agricultura, de la pesca y de los montes sobre actividades que se prestaban especialmente para la promoción de la cooperación técnica entre los países en desarrollo en sí.

Debo también informar que en las reuniones de París, que mencioné el otro día, de los grupos del PNUD, la FAO anunció que preparaba esta contribución, que consistirá en una serie de iniciativas estudiadas y compendiadas que podrán tomarse de base para actividades concretas de cooperación técnica en los sectores agrícolas.

Hasta el momento debo decir que tenemos unos catálogos si usted quiere de 101 propuestas, que en este momento se está terminando su análisis previo a la formulación, que posiblemente como somos exigentes sobre la viabilidad de estas ideas las rebuscaremos algo, pero que esto es lo que la FAO ofreció dentro de su sector como de utilidad para la Conferencia Mundial. Sin embargo, en la forma en que se prepara la Conferencia Mundial hasta el momento sólo se atacan problemas conceptuales. Evidentemente, esto es muy importante también, pero no es exclusivamente lo que hay que hacer y por nuestra parte tenemos que sería incompleto que la Conferencia, y en la preparación de la Conferencia, además de los problemas conceptuales y aptitudinales sobre la cooperación técnica entre países en desarrollo, los países no tengan también la oportunidad de discutir claros ejemplos que, como fruto de la experiencia que tienen las Agencias, les puedan presentar de actividades concretas que podrían desarrollar.

Esto es a lo que nos gustaría de alguna manera poder contribuir. Quiero decir que la FAO, además, siguiendo las instrucciones de sus órganos rectores, como ha informado el Director General, está empeñada en una labor de utilización de las instituciones nacionales, tanto en el ámbito de las actividades del Programa Regular como del Programa de Campo. A nuestro juicio, el fortalecimiento, cuando es necesario, de actividades nacionales es un prerrequisito para la promoción de la asistencia técnica entre países en desarrollo. En muchos casos es sólo cuando existen instituciones nacionales de excelencia que es posible desarrollar actividades de cooperación entre los países en desarrollo.

Además, creemos que al concentrarse el sistema de las Naciones Unidas en la utilización de las actividades nacionales les va de esta manera también a facilitar, cuando es necesario, medios que suelen no tener, no medios intelectuales, pero en algunos casos recursos financieros, recursos de material e información sobre las actividades de instituciones en otros países y que de la utilización por los Organismos Internacionales, en este caso la FAO, de las instituciones nacionales les facilitaría también irse preparando para después de ellas poder cooperar de institución a institución entre países. Creemos, por tanto, que la política de la FAO sobre la utilización de las instituciones nacionales es un paso no sólo eficaz, sino que es imprescindible para que las instituciones nacionales entren en lo que podríamos llamar el mercado internacional, es decir, que ellas puedan colaborar entre sí en el desarrollo de proyectos de cooperación técnica entre países en desarrollo.

Evidentemente, esto resultará, y así lo mencioné el otro día, en que será uno de los motivos por los cuales, como Agencia ejecutora de programas de cooperación técnica, vamos en futuro no lejano a ejecutar menos proyectos, por ejemplo del PNUD, pero bienvenido sea el que ejecutemos menos proyectos que están siendo ejecutados por los Gobiernos o por las Entidades nacionales; ya estamos empeñados en buscar fórmulas diferentes y flexibles para poder seguir al servicio en cuanto puedan requerir asesoramiento técnico, de alguna manera esas Instituciones que serán las propias ejecutoras de sus propios proyectos.

Está claro para nosotros, por el estudio que estamos terminando de análisis que se han hecho dentro de la Organización sobre ejemplos clásicos que se prestan a la cooperación técnica entre países en desarrollo, que vamos a presentar ideas de proyectos en los cuales tenemos buena experiencia, y quiero mencionar brevemente algunos de los rubros en que vamos a presentar proyectos: por ejemplo, control de la langosta, control de plagas y enfermedades vegetales y animales, investigación agrícola en materia de cultivos, el desarrollo de cuencas fluviales que se prestan especialmente para cooperación entre países, y la utilización conjunta de recursos hídricos. En materia de pesca: intercambio de plasmats, de acuerdos de productos, de adiestramiento y educación tanto en pesca como en agricultura y materias forestales, en materia de políticas a formularse en cuanto a ajustes agrícolas, etc. Proyectos muchos de ellos que al ejecutarse como parte de cooperación entre países en desarrollo, tendrán también el posible efecto secundario beneficioso de ir promoviendo ya en la práctica una cierta armonización de políticas y de puntos de vista.

Creo que en este momento vamos a ganar verdaderamente una orientación que nos es necesaria por el estado de la preparación de la Conferencia de las Naciones Unidas sobre Cooperación Técnica entre Países en Desarrollo, pues la Organización en esta materia ha estado trabajando activamente, como he dicho; pero en cuanto a Buenos Aires lo hemos hecho bajo la autoridad e iniciativa del Director General y querríamos oír si el Consejo comparte los puntos de vista del Director General en cuanto a la verdadera cooperación y la más útil colaboración que la Organización puede dar a esa Conferencia.

R.A. CURA (Argentina): Permítaseme, señor Presidente, comenzar diciendo que lamentablemente me he visto obligado a llegar con retardo a este 71 período de sesiones del Consejo, pero he venido siguiendo con mucho interés el desarrollo de los debates pues he estado permanentemente informado del curso de los mismos.

En este sentido deseo expresarle señor Presidente, mi honda satisfacción por la aprobación general prestada por las delegaciones aquí presentes al Programa de Labores y Presupuesto lo cual demuestra que el mismo contempla adecuadamente las nuevas políticas establecidas en la Organización y las aspiraciones de los países miembros en cuanto a la orientación de las actividades de la FAO.

Con relación a la propuesta para evitar pérdidas de cosechas, a la vez que confirmo cuanto ha dicho mi delegación, confío en que el Comité de Redacción sabrá encontrar una fórmula que satisfaga a todas las delegaciones sobre su financiación y permita la aprobación inmediata y total de esta propuesta que tanto interés y entusiasmo ha concitado entre los participantes de este Consejo.

En relación con el examen de los programas de campo, mi delegación opina que el documento que se nos ha presentado representa un buen equilibrio entre lo que podría ser un exhaustivo análisis de todas las actividades de campo realizadas en el bienio actual, y un juicio crítico sobre algunos sectores seleccionados.

Mi delegación está de acuerdo en que al efectuar el examen de las actividades de campo, se ponga bien de manifiesto las relaciones que existen entre el Programa Ordinario y las actividades extrapresupuestarias, en relación con cuestiones de capacitación, inversiones y programa de cooperación técnica.

Con alguna preocupación hemos analizado la opinión del Comité del Programa en el sentido de que puede quedar la impresión de que la FAO, no ha perseguido con vigor el objetivo de promover la cooperación técnica entre los países en desarrollo. Por ello consideramos que se deberían adoptar medidas concertadas para modificar esa impresión teniendo en cuenta el creciente interés que sobre este tipo de cooperación tienen los países en vías de desarrollo, y la prioridad que se ha atribuido al uso de instituciones nacionales. En definitiva, creemos que debe hacerse una evaluación objetiva de cuanto se viene trabajando en este campo que abarque en lo posible a todas las regiones en desarrollo.

Deseo referirme ahora, señor Presidente, al Proyecto de Resolución que mi país ha presentado dentro del tema 17, sobre cooperación técnica entre países en desarrollo. Ante todo me es grato aclarar que el Proyecto de Resolución aludido debe ser considerado como una propuesta del grupo Latinoamericano que ha manifestado una unidad de criterio respecto a la iniciativa de apoyar esta idea de la cooperación entre países en desarrollo en el ámbito de la FAO.

Mi delegación se complace en destacar este hecho demostrativo no sólo de una positiva solidaridad latinoamericana, sino particularmente de la conciencia que existe en toda la Región sobre las amplias posibilidades que el tema encierra y el rol importante que el mismo augura a los países de América Latina que han avanzado y siguen avanzando en forma sostenida en el desarrollo de la producción agrícola.

Por cierto señor Presidente, que nos complacería que otras delegaciones quieran unirse a América Latina para copatrocinar este Proyecto de Resolución.

La cooperación técnica entre países en desarrollo constituye una nueva dimensión en el terreno de las relaciones económicas multilaterales. Hasta el presente, la asistencia técnica del sistema de las Naciones Unidas ha sido realizada de manera tal que se ha concentrado en el traspaso de servicios de expertos, consultorías, becas, pasantías y suministros de maquinarias y equipos a los países en desarrollo, provenientes de los países desarrollados.

Sin embargo, el crecimiento que los países en desarrollo han alcanzado en general, en base a sus propios esfuerzos y a la aplicación de la tecnología que han recibido, los ha llevado a una nueva etapa de maduración y comprensión de los problemas internacionales que les ha demostrado la conveniencia y necesidad de intercambiar entre sí sus experiencias y sus capacidades técnicas de manera de contribuir en forma concreta a mejorar sus posibilidades de asegurar un nivel de vida más digno a sus poblaciones .

Este esfuerzo constructivo, señor Presidente, nos permitirá a su vez participar en forma más activa en las relaciones internacionales de cooperación técnica y económica.

Fue la percepción de los hechos apuntados arriba, lo que indujo a mi país a presentar en el vigésimo séptimo período de sesiones de la Asamblea General, la Resolución que lleva el número 2974 por medio de la cual se introdujo el tema de la cooperación técnica entre países en desarrollo, como una prioridad en el accionar de los organismos internacionales del Sistema de las Naciones Unidas y del Programa de las Naciones Unidas para el desarrollo.

La FAO, a nuestro entender, tiene un importante papel que jugar a este respecto, ya que por sus importantes actividades está en estrecho contacto con las instituciones gubernamentales y privadas de los países en desarrollo en la esfera de su competencia.

En efecto, consideramos que una de las áreas prioritarias para esta nueva forma de cooperación, es el campo agrícola y el de la producción de alimentos. Hasta el presente las soluciones avanzadas en los foros y organismos internacionales no han alcanzado los resultados esperados. Por ello estimamos que la participación creciente de los países en desarrollo en los proyectos de cooperación técnica de esta organización, constituirá un nuevo paso en un área que aun brinda grandes posibilidades para una acción que, encarada con vigor, sumará esfuerzos a los que estos vienen realizando por cuenta propia y llenará vacíos en la asistencia otorgada por los países desarrollados.

Sabemos que el Consejo, salvo casos excepcionales, no aprueba resoluciones y lo habitual es que iniciativas como la sometida en esta ocasión sean motivo de un párrafo en el informe.

Sin embargo, nos permitimos insistir en que la misma sea objeto de una resolución independiente a fin de que constituya la piedra fundamental de un proceso de promoción de las actividades de cooperación técnica horizontal dentro de la FAO, en el cual avizoramos importantes logros para los países en desarrollo, y a la vez permita a mi país circularla desde ahora entre todos los países del mundo que participarán en la Conferencia de Naciones Unidas sobre Cooperación Técnica entre países en desarrollo.

Estamos seguros que la FAO así lo concibe y que no escatimará esfuerzos durante los preparativos de la Conferencia de las Naciones Unidas sobre Cooperación Técnica entre los Países en Desarrollo que tendrá lugar en mi país en el año 1978, a fin de asegurar que la misma sea todo lo exitosa y efectiva que esperamos.

Por ello, al mencionar la próxima realización de la Conferencia sobre el tema de nuestro país, aprovecho también esta oportunidad para extender a todos los distinguidos Delegados y representantes de la Secretaría nuestra más cordial bienvenida a la República Argentina.

EL PRESIDENTE: Gracias Sr. Delegado de Argentina. Estoy seguro de que el Consejo quiere agradecer al Sr. Viceministro de Relaciones Exteriores, Sr. Cura, de Argentina, la amable invitación que ha hecho a los representantes de los Gobiernos y registramos aquí complacidos la presencia del alto funcionario del Gobierno Argentino.

B. de AZEVEDO BRITO (Brazil): The Group of 77 has consistently indicated the importance it attaches to cooperation among developing countries. In our joint statement at the beginning of this session of the FAO Council we made precisely that point. We are conscious also of the importance of promoting cooperation among developing countries in the fields of food and agricultural production. We are aware, moreover, of the importance and scope of the United Nations Conference on Technical Cooperation which will be held in the capital of Argentina, Buenos Aires. On that point I should as the Brazilian delegate, like to indicate specifically our satisfaction with the initiative of the Government of Argentina to host this conference.

That being said, I should like now, in the name of the Group of 77 to indicate our support for the initiative of the Latin American Group presented by the representative of Argentina moments ago on the draft resolution to be adopted by the Council.

Sra. P. DE CASTRO MONSALVO (Colombia): Quiero expresar el apoyo de mi Delegación a la importante intervención que acaba de realizar el Delegado de Argentina, Sr. Subsecretario de Relaciones Económicas Internacionales, Sr. Racura. En particular, deseo dejar aquí constancia de nuestro reconocimiento por los importantes esfuerzos que la Delegación de ese hermano país ha realizado tanto aquí como en otros foros de las Naciones Unidas, tales como la Asamblea General, en materia de cooperación técnica horizontal.

Coincidimos plenamente con él cuando señala que dicha forma de cooperación representa un importante paso al frente en la historia de las relaciones internacionales de cooperación técnica y económica. Por ello consideramos que los Organismos del sistema de las Naciones Unidas, especialmente la FAO, no pueden permanecer ajenos a esta importante nueva prioridad de los países en desarrollo destinada a maximizar sus esfuerzos de apoyo mutuo y colectivo con el fin de asegurar un orden internacional más justo y equitativo.

Creemos que el Director General de la FAO debe participar activamente en los preparativos de la Conferencia y estamos dispuestos a apoyar cualquier iniciativa que sea presentada a esos efectos para su aprobación por este Consejo.

Finalmente, la Delegación de Colombia desea reiterar sus agradecimientos al Gobierno de la República Argentina por el interés que ha concedido a este asunto y por las facilidades que estamos seguros ofrecerá para el buen éxito de esta reunión.

EL PRESIDENTE: Creo que conviene ahora que la Secretaría lea el texto del proyecto de resolución que fue presentado originalmente por Argentina, copatrocinado por todos los latinoamericanos y apoyado por el Grupo de los 77 según ha dicho su Presidente.

SECRETARY-GENERAL: I will read the draft resolution.

DRAFT RESOLUTION ON TECHNICAL COOPERATION AMONGST DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

THE COUNCIL,

Noting the important remarks and suggestions made during the discussion; Aware of the importance of the United Nations Conference on Technical Cooperation amongst Developing Countries (TCDC) which will be held in Argentina at the beginning of 1978; Bearing in mind General Assembly Resolutions 2794 (XXVII) of 4 December 1972, 3251 (XXIX) of 4 December 1974, 3461 (XXX) of 11 December 1976 and 31/179 of 21 December 1976, which requested inter alia the coordination of the activities of the organizations of the United Nations system with respect to technical cooperation among developing countries,

1. Expresses its gratitude to the Government of Argentina for its offer to host the forthcoming United Nations Conference on Technical Cooperation Amongst Developing Countries,
2. Requests the Director-General to ensure active and substantial participation in the preparations for the Conference in order that due account be taken of agriculture and food aspects,
3. Requests the Director-General to bring paragraph 2 of this resolution to the attention of the Second Session of the Preparatory Committee of the United Nations Conference on Technical Cooperation amongst Developing Countries,
4. Further requests the Director-General to submit to the Conference at its Nineteenth Session, through the Council at its Seventy-Second session, a report regarding FAO participation in the above Conference and FAO's programme of action on TCDC including measures taken or contemplated to make appropriate adjustments in policies, procedures, and programmes of the Organization to accelerate TCDC in all its aspects,
5. Invites the Conference to give priority consideration to the report of the Director-General mentioned in paragraph 4 above and for this purpose to include in its provisional agenda an item entitled: "Technical cooperation amongst developing countries in the field of agriculture and food."

EL PRESIDENTE: El texto leído será distribuido para mañana en que continuaremos la discusión del tema 17.

The meeting rose at 17.55 hours.

La séance est levée à 17 h 55.

Se levanta la sesión a las 17.55 horas.

council

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

conseil

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

consejo

ORGANIZACION DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS PARA LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION

CL

CL 71/PV/15

Seventy-First Session

Soixante et onzième session

71° período de sesiones

FIFTEENTH PLENARY MEETING
QUINZIEME SEANCE PLENIERE
15ª SESION PLENARIA

(15 June 1977)

The Fifteenth Plenary Meeting was opened at 9.50 hours G. Bula Hoyos, Independent Chairman of the Council, presiding

La quinzième séance plénière est ouverte à 9 h 50 sous la présidence de G. Bula Hoyos, Président indépendant du Conseil

Se abre la 15ª sesión plenaria a las 9.50 horas bajo la presidencia de G. Bula Hoyos, Presidente Independiente del Consejo

EL PRESIDENTE: Buenos días, señores. Vamos a iniciar la sesión de esta mañana. Me permito insistirles una vez más en la conveniencia de que terminemos hoy aunque sea un poco tarde la discusión de los temas restantes de nuestro programa, pues será conveniente disponer de la mañana del día de mañana para que todos tengamos así la ocasión de estar libres y reorganizar un poco nuestras ideas, antes de empezar la discusión del Proyecto de Informe. Les ruego que sean breves y concretos y que me ayuden en este propósito.

Vamos a seguir con el Orden del Día, Tema 17: "Estructura y contenido del examen de los Programas de Campo (incluida una sección sobre cooperación técnica entre Países en Desarrollo)" Espero que todos hayan tenido el texto del Proyecto de Resolución latinoamericano contenido en el documento INF/8-Rev.1.

POINT OF ORDER

POINT D'ORDRE

PUNTO DE ORDEN

El representante de Gabón tiene la palabra para un punto de orden.

L. LAPEBY (Gabon): Croyez que je suis vraiment désolé de vous interrompre, Monsieur le Président, et je voudrais m'en excuser à l'avance auprès des membres du Conseil, mais j'ai eu la désagréable surprise de voir, en venant ce matin, que l'on était en train d'apposer des affiches sur les enceintes de la FAO et je suis navré d'avoir à soulever encore ce problème ici mais il doit retenir notre attention.

Hier, je me plaisais à faire l'éloge de S.E. Monsieur Borin, qui n'a jamais cessé d'apporter à nos travaux une contribution efficace. Ces éloges, je ne les retire pas, mais je suis désolé d'avoir à m'adresser à M. Borin, non plus en tant que M. Borin au sein de ce Conseil, mais en tant que représentant du Gouvernement de l'Italie, car je suis persuadé qu'il n'apprécie pas lui-même ce qui se fait.

Si des éléments incontrôlables doivent, par des inscriptions en gros caractères, mettre notre Organisation dans une situation qui, vis à vis du peuple italien, mettent en doute la démocratie qui y règne, permettez que pour une seconde fois - puisque je l'ai déjà fait - je demande à M. Borin d'être notre interprète auprès du Gouvernement italien pour que celui-ci respecte ses engagements. Je ne tolérerai pas qu'on dise "Vive la démocratie, à bas la dictature ou l'autoritarisme". Nous sommes ici tous désignés par la Conférence de la FAO pour apprécier s'il y a démocratie ou autoritarisme dans notre Organisation et je voudrais, lorsque je sortirai de cette enceinte - sinon le problème sera posé en des termes plus vigoureux - que les affiches que j'ai vu coller en venant ici n'y soient plus.

O. BORIN (Italie): Je prends note avec regret des mots prononcés par le Représentant du Gabon. Puisque je n'ai pas la prescience de tout ce qui se passe actuellement à la FAO, je vois mal en quoi le Gouvernement italien en serait responsable. Je peux en prendre note comme représentant de ce pays, mais nous ne sommes pas responsables de ce qui s'est passé. S'il y a des questions intérieures, propres à la FAO, c'est au Directeur général qu'il faut s'adresser. Nous sommes là pour l'aider, pour observer nos engagements envers la FAO et nous les avons toujours respectés. C'est tout ce que j'ai à dire et je réitere que l'on porte à l'attention du Conseil une question de cet ordre.

EL PRESIDENTE: Creo que el Consejo toma nota de las dos declaraciones que se han hecho esta mañana.

LE DIRECTEUR GENERAL: Demain après-midi, j'aurai l'occasion de rencontrer les chefs de délégations en séance privée. Peut-être pourrais-je parler, à cette occasion, du problème qui vient d'être évoqué par le Représentant du Gabon. Sans plus attendre je voudrais, toutefois, rendre immédiatement hommage au Gouvernement italien et, tout particulièrement à l'Ambassadeur Borin, qui ont toujours respecté leurs engagements vis-à-vis de la FAO, représentée par son Directeur général. Si vous en êtes d'accord, vous aurez donc l'occasion de m'écouter demain sur ce sujet.

EL PRESIDENTE: Gracias Señor Director General.

Creo que el Consejo comparte su declaración y reitera su estimación y aprecio al colega Borin como representante da Italia.

Podemos seguir ahora con el Tema 17. Concedo la palabra al representante de la India.

IV - PROGRAMME, BUDGETARY, FINANCIAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS (continued)

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

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

17 - Structure and Content of the Review of Field Programmes (including Section on Technical Cooperation amongst Developing Countries) (continued)

17 - Examen de programmes de terrain: Structure et contenu (y compris la coopération technique entre les pays en développement) (suite)

17 - Estructura y contenido del Examen de los Programas de Campo (incluida una sección sobre Cooperación Técnica entre Países en Desarrollo)(continuación)

S.S.MAHDI (India): It is my understanding that at the moment we are not having any substantial discussion on Technical Cooperation among developing countries. I shall therefore confine my remarks basically to some of the issues raised yesterday in the statement from the podium and the points arising from the draft resolution so ably presented by the honourable delegate from Argentina. Also at the outset let me take this opportunity to congratulate Mr. Yriart, whom I do not see here this morning, for his introductory statement which we found both candid and inspiring. For the sake of clarity we should try to distinguish between two separate though inter-related issues.

The first issue is FAO's participation in the preparation for the forthcoming United Nations Conference on TCDC. The second issue is FAO's own programme and activities in the field of TCDC which would and should have been continued and accelerated and augmented irrespective of whether or not there was a decision regarding holding the United Nations Conference in Buenos Aires.

As regards the first issue, we have noted from the brief account given by Mr. Yriart that there have been certain problems regarding FAO's fuller participation in the preparation for the Conference. In our view, this is not a very happy situation and it certainly does not contribute to utilization of the inter-agency mechanism that has been set up by UNDP for providing elements of decision by the Preparatory Committee for the Conference. We hope that the conclusions of this Council as well as the provisions in the draft resolution will help in getting across the appropriate message and will facilitate FAO's substantial and active participation in the preparations for the Conference.

We do not know how final the list of topics for the Conference is. We would, however, wish that the views of FAO, which is responsible for a sector like agriculture, should be fully taken into account. We would also add that there should be meaningful consultations with the Agencies in the preparation of the draft documents on various subjects for the Conference. In addition, if necessary, it should be possible for the documentation prepared by FAO to be available as background documents for the Conference.

Now, about the second issue, our attention has been drawn to paragraph 2.96 of the Programme Committee's report in which impressions about FAO's lack of vigour in pursuing objectives of promoting TCDC have been noted and have been denied. Perhaps the impression about lack of vigour reflects a disappointment in relation to expectations; perhaps the rejection of this impression is also justified in a certain measure and reflects what it is practical to do as of now. We would like to adopt a forward-looking approach. We should take note of what has been done and we should ask that further possibilities of action should be explored and implemented. It will be recalled that the

last Conference gave a clear mandate to FAO in this regard. Paragraph 337 of the report of the last Conference clearly says, and I quote, "Though UNDP has been given a central promotional and coordination role, FAO initiatives should assist in ensuring that priorities of the agricultural sectors receive due attention in TCDC". Mr. Yriart yesterday mentioned 101 ideas that have been tossed up by the Secretariat. The number is both interesting and very encouraging and we look forward to hearing more on this subject at the forthcoming FAO Conference, as requested in the Draft Resolution.

In the report to the next FAO Conference we also hope to hear more about the recommendations in paragraph 337 of the report of the last Conference which deals with better utilization of expertise and equipment and training services available in the developing countries. We understand that in accordance with the General Assembly. Resolution, UNDP arranged for a report on the subject which was completed last November, and the reference to this report is DP 229. We would like the recommendations of this report also to be taken into account in the report that has been requested in paragraph 4 of the Draft Resolution before the Council.

Finally, I would like to quote a sentence from the opening paragraph of the Kuwait declaration on TCDC which was adopted exactly ten days ago. It says: "TCDC may be facilitated or hindered but it cannot be stopped." We are sure that this Organization, particularly under the new leadership, is on the side of facilitating and accelerating TCDC.

J. BERTELING (Netherlands): Taking into consideration the lack of time, I shall be briefer than I originally intended to be. This is also possible since my delegation made clear policy statements under item 14 which were highly related to this matter.

My delegation can easily agree with the report of the Programme Committee on this matter. One of the important parts, of course, is the relationship between the Regular Programme and extra budgetary activities. This is the more true since the TCP activities are exercised under the Regular Programme. The emphasis on field activities given by the Director-General gives my delegation full confidence that this relationship and also the relationship between field and other multilateral and bilateral activities will be strengthened even more.

FAO has already contributed to it by preparing complementary programmes to UNDP projects and those financed bilaterally. The Netherlands will continue to support FAO herein. We, like the Programme Committee in paragraph 2.15, therefore also note with satisfaction the implementation of Resolution 17/75 adopted by the Conference two years ago.

My delegation also supports the request of the Programme Committee for an indication of future trends in FAO's field activities. We can go even more into the substance at the forthcoming Conference, while now already commending the Director-General for his active policy in this matter.

My delegation indicated already last Thursday its support for the Argentine Draft Resolution contained in document CL 71/INF/8. The revised version is, of course, also acceptable to my delegation. I agree with Mr. Yriart - we presume he is now in Geneva for the meeting of the governing body of the UNDP - that FAO and all other Agencies concerned should have the opportunity to give all the inputs they can give in interagency and intergovernmental meetings. Paragraph 27 of the Draft Resolution seems to take care of that.

A. Cisse (Niger): Tout d'abord, j'apporte le soutien de la délégation du Niger au projet de résolution présenté pour que la Conférence sur la coopération technique entre les pays en développement se tienne en Argentine en 1978.

Je demanderai aussi que le Directeur général lui apporte tout l'appui voulu pour un plein succès.

En ce qui concerne le programme de terrain, la délégation du Niger pense que la FAO riche de l'expérience passée (où les programmes de terrain piétinaient en raison des difficultés de coordination entre le PNUD et la FAO), doit maintenant avec son programme de coopération technique, le FIDA, les fonds judiciaires, les donateurs, etc. et surtout grâce à la décentralisation par les bureaux régionaux et locaux, avoir beaucoup plus d'impact et d'efficacité dans ses interventions sur le terrain.

Le Directeur général, conscient de tous ces problèmes, a donc présenté un plan très détaillé renfermant tous les contours nécessaires à une bonne mise en oeuvre. Il appartient maintenant aux pays donateurs et organismes bancaires de faire en sorte que le programme ne souffre pas dans son exécution d'un manque de financement pour ces opérations qui sont hors programme ordinaire.

S'agissant de la coopération entre les pays en développement, la FAO peut la stimuler et l'accélérer dans le domaine de la formation en organisant des visites et des séminaires dans des pays en développement où les problèmes de développement rural sont résolus (visites de périmètres d'irrigation ou de coopération agricole) et ceci pour les techniciens des pays en développement chargés de l'encadrement des paysans la FAO peut utiliser à la fois les institutions nationales ou régionales pour financer des études de projets comme c'est le cas pour la Banque Africaine de développement, en ce qui concerne la région Afrique.

Pour ce qui est de l'élevage, le Niger en tant que pays d'élevage apprécierait beaucoup l'aide de la FAO dans le circuit des collectes et de distribution du lait de même que dans la formation des éleveurs.

Nos pays en développement disposent de plans nationaux basés sur des périodes allant de 3 à 10 ans. La FAO pourra s'inspirer de tels plans pour établir ses perspectives moyennant des ajustements de coûts dus à l'évolution économique normale.

Il lui sera alors possible d'accueillir les aspirations des pays qui reçoivent son aide tout en ayant un outil de travail plus adapté.

P. J. BYRNES (United States): Most members of this Council would no doubt agree that it is desirable that FAO's management and its governing bodies be given information, on both regular and field programmes, in sufficient detail to enable the Director-General and Member Governments to judge whether FAO's activities are achieving desired results and if they are doing so in an efficient manner. A soundly designed programme of evaluation is essential to both a review of field programme activities and those financed under FAO's regular budget.

Such an evaluation can improve the operational effectiveness and development relevance of FAO activities; it can suggest alternatives to ensure viability of current policies and strategies; and hopefully it can indicate and provide a better understanding of the developmental process. It can also reveal how to make this process go forward in more satisfactory ways.

For these reasons, our delegation attaches high importance to the work being done by the Secretariat in preparation for the "Review of Field Programmes for 1976-77".

The United States agrees generally with the proposed outline as presented to the Programme Committee and we agree with the Programme Committee's observations regarding this outline.

The proposed chapter on the flow of aid to agriculture will no doubt be informative and useful to the Conference. However, since it is understood that the Consultative Group on Food Production and Investment is undertaking a quantitative analysis of the same kind, we would suggest the Consultative Group's analysis be drawn upon to the fullest extent practicable. It would be desirable to indicate in this chapter the extent of internal as well as external commitments to agricultural development.

The United States welcomes the intention to have the forthcoming Review bring into focus the relationship between the Regular Programme and extra-budgetary activities, particularly those in training and investment promotion. Looking to future reviews, the United States is of the view that the usefulness and objectivity of such evaluation would be enhanced if a sustained effort is made to ensure that Regular Programme activities as well as field programme projects are designed with clear statements of objectives, whenever possible, and with indications of how performance and progress towards these objectives may be measured; wherever practicable, in quantifiable terms. Similarly, we believe that more use might be made of outside consultants participating along with FAO's staff in country level • assessments on Field and Regular Programme effectiveness. We also believe that provision should be made for evaluation in the initial design of future projects and problems and for the results of these evaluations to be transmitted quickly to and utilized by FAO's programme development and operating divisions.

Looking to the FAO Conferences in 1979 and beyond, the United States welcomes the fact that in accord with plans which are already in train, the Conference will have before it a companion Review of the Regular Programme.

While attaching great importance to the effective evaluation of both the Regular and Field Programmes, we recognize there must be a reasonable balance between expenditures on evaluation and on those spent on the execution of programmes. In this regard, the United States has some concern as to whether the proposed level of resources planned for the Evaluation Service in 1978-79 are adequate to permit effective attention to the evaluation of both the Field and the Regular Programmes.

We believe this is an area where a transfer of funds might be most useful. We have supported the technical cooperation amongst the developing countries in the past, and attach considerable importance to this matter.

We certainly support the resolution which has been submitted by Argentina and which has the support of the Latin American members of the Council, and hope that the Director-General will include the requested discussion in the provisional agenda of the forthcoming conference.

S. JUMA'A (Jordan) (Interpretation from Arabic): Since you appealed to us to be brief, I will just make two comments, the first concerning Item 17, Field Programmes. In this connexion I would like to say that my delegation gives its support to the recommendations made in paragraphs 2.93 to 2.98 of the report of the Programme Committee.

With regard to the Draft Resolution presented by the Latin American countries, it is clear that we are in agreement with the Draft Resolution, and we would be glad if our Organization were to play an important role in the preparation of this United Nations Conference on Technical Cooperation amongst the Developing Countries. The role of FAO must be an essential one in the preparation of this Conference, and we would like to be considered as more important than the role played by the Organization in the preparation of the first World Food Conference. I would like to see the Director-General of FAO enabled to mobilize all the resources of this Organization so that it can participate in a concrete and efficient way in this United Nations conference.

In this connexion we would like to thank the Government of Argentina for having invited the Conference to be held in Argentina next year.

F.J. PRIETO (Observador de la OEA): Es para mi Delegación un gran honor el poder hacer esta breve intervención en la 71ª reunión del Consejo de la FAO.

La Organización de los Estados Americanos en su calidad de Observadores de esta reunión quisiera, en primer lugar, dejar la debida constancia sobre el profundo interés con que nuestra Organización sigue los progresos que se están logrando en los distintos campos de actividades de la FAO, particularmente aquellas iniciativas referidas a la cooperación técnica, actividades cuya significación para el desarrollo del sector agropecuario de la Región es de tan indudable importancia. Este interés se manifiesta concretamente en el deseo expreso de la Secretaría General de la OEA por reforzar los vínculos que existen entre nuestras instituciones, y por ello hemos tomado nota de los debates que están teniendo lugar en este Consejo, así como de los documentos aquí presentados.

Adicionalmente, Sr. Presidente, nos permitimos destacar ante este Consejo la presencia de la Oficina Regional para Europa que mantiene la Secretaría General, de la OEA y que tiene su sede en Ginebra. Esta Oficina sostiene, entre otras actividades, un contacto regular con todas las misiones diplomáticas de los países miembros de la OEA, tanto en Ginebra como en Bruselas, con el objeto de apoyar a las mismas en los importantes trabajos que realizan ante las Naciones Unidas y la Comunidad Económica Europea, respectivamente.

Paralelamente, se lleva a cabo un esfuerzo muy especial por intensificar nuestros contactos con las principales Agencias de las Naciones Unidas que tienen sede en Europa, a fin de mantener debidamente informada a nuestra Secretaría General de lo que allí acontece.

Si me permite, Sr. Presidente, quisiera aprovechar esta oportunidad para ofrecer los servicios, tanto de nuestra Oficina en Europa, así como los de la Secretaría General en Washington, a las distinguidas Delegaciones aquí presentes como un elemento que pueda ayudar a lograr una coordinación más estrecha y eficiente entre nuestros programas y los de FAO.

Para finalizar, quisiera agradecerle, Sr. Presidente, muy encarecidamente por la gentileza que ha tenido para con nuestra Organización al permitirnos intervenir en el curso de esta Sesión. Muchas gracias, Sr. Presidente.

CM. FOFANA (Observateur pour la Guinée): comme les autres orateurs, nous voudrions appuyer pleinement le programme de terrain proposé et recommandé à notre session par le Comité du Programme. Concernant la coopération technique entre les pays en développement, nous ne pouvons que nous féliciter de la

prochaine conférence qui se tiendra en Argentine et qui fait suite à la conférence de Mexico tenue en 1976 et issue des recommandations venant des différentes conférences des pays non alignés. Nous nous félicitons sincèrement que ces recommandations soient reprises par les Nations Unies en vue de la réunion de cette prochaine conférence.

En ce qui concerne le rôle des institutions de la famille des Nations Unies, nous pensons ainsi que le représentant de l'Inde, que les mécanismes actuels qui sont appelés à aider à la préparation de cette conférence, ne sont pas aussi dynamiques, à savoir que la spécificité de chacune des institutions n'est pas précisée et qu'il serait souhaitable que chaque organisme de la famille des Nations Unies, dans les domaines qui lui sont impartis, puisse jouer un rôle plein et dynamique pour que cette conférence soit couronnée de succès.

A ce titre, nous tenons à nous rallier entièrement à la résolution proposée par le groupe latino-américain, que le Groupe des 77 a appuyée par la voix de son Président et nous sommes certains qu'au cours de la Conférence de la FAO, le Secrétariat pourra nous faire des suggestions utiles afin que le rôle de notre Organisation soit mis en valeur au cours de cette conférence en Argentine.

Il serait souhaitable que la FAO dans son domaine, mette aussi l'accent sur l'apport éventuel que les pays développés pourraient offrir à cette conférence afin de renforcer cette coopération entre les pays en développement.

I. BIRSEL (Observateur pour la Turquie): Notre délégation a pris connaissance du projet de résolution présenté par le délégué de l'Argentine sur la coopération technique dans les pays en développement. La Turquie est un pays en voie de développement qui attache une importance toute particulière au développement de la coopération technique dans tous les domaines d'intérêt commun entre les pays ayant des problèmes économiques similaires sinon identiques. Nous avons constaté l'heureuse expérience d'une telle coopération depuis longtemps, au sein de la RCD (Coopération régionale de développement), ainsi que le Pakistan et l'Iran. Nous avons développé les types de coopération technique dans divers domaines d'intérêt commun dont les résultats ont été appréciés. La Turquie est ouverte à toute coopération avec les pays en développement et ne manque pas de préconiser de resserrer davantage les liens de coopération technique dans toutes les enceintes internationales. Nous sommes persuadés que le renforcement de ce type de coopération technique entre pays faisant face aux mêmes problèmes de développement économique ne pourrait avoir d'autre objectif que la concertation de nos efforts dans nos luttes respectives.

Conscients de l'importance des questions à la lumière de l'expérience que nous avons acquise, nous avons contribué aux travaux de la CNUCED dans le domaine de la coopération technique et régionale entre les pays en voie de développement.

Voilà autant de raisons pour lesquelles la Turquie exprime son appui au projet de résolution et nous tenons à présenter nos félicitations au gouvernement de l'Argentine pour son heureuse initiative quant au rôle de la FAO à la conférence. Nous pensons que la participation active de la FAO aux travaux préparatoires de la conférence est importante. Nous voudrions souligner que la contribution de la FAO serait une des conditions essentielles au succès de la conférence.

W.A.F. GRABISCH (República Federal de Alemania): En vista de que los puntos que mi Delegación iba a tratar sobre el examen de los programas de campo ya fueron tocados por otras Delegaciones, me voy a limitar en este punto de nuestro debate a lo siguiente: La Delegación de mi país acoge con mucha simpatía la iniciativa tomada por el Gobierno de la República Argentina con el fin de que la Organización de las Naciones Unidas para la Agricultura y la Alimentación contribuya en forma adecuada a la Conferencia para la Cooperación Técnica entre Países en Desarrollo.

Personalmente quiero agradecer en particular la muy cordial invitación que la Delegación argentina ha expresado a todos los países.

I. OROZCO (México): Usted me ha dejado un paquete, porque no sé si va a ser más claro que el español de nuestro amigo Sr. Grabisch, a quien felicito por el buen conocimiento de nuestro idioma. Sin embargo, trataré nada más de expresar la felicitación de mi Gobierno a la iniciativa tomada por el Gobierno de Argentina para hospedar esta importante Conferencia de las Naciones Unidas sobre Cooperación Técnica

entre Países en Desarrollo, y obviamente mi declaración breve es únicamente para apoyar, como ha sido indicado, como uno de los países latinoamericanos, en el Consejo el proyecto de resolución que ha sido presentado a este respecto. Nosotros estamos convencidos de que la FAO indudablemente juega un papel importante y habrá de desempeñar un papel cada vez mayor en el campo de la cooperación técnica entre países en desarrollo.

La FAO tiene la experiencia, la FAO tiene todas las medidas y tiene todas las facilidades de adquirir toda validez entre los países en desarrollo para ser una realidad más tangible y más expandida. Es todo lo que deseamos expresar.

B. S. MAHAJAN (FAO Staff): In the discussion there has been no question about the outline of the review and the recommendations which the Programme Committee has made. I do not think there is any point which needs a reply there except the point made by the delegate from the United States about the flow of aid.

I can assure him we are in touch with the CGFBI and only last evening we received an advance copy of their paper and we will be relying quite heavily on that as well as on the additional data we get from OECD and other sources.

The bulk of the discussion has been on the TCDC I notice. Two main issues have arisen and one is the FAO's participation in the World Conference. Here the Director-General has already taken a very positive and firm stand on contributing as best we can within the constraints outlined by Mr. Yriart in his opening statement yesterday, and it is our intention to bring this to the notice of the UNDP which is acting as the Secretariat for the World Conference, first at the UNDP Governing Council session in Geneva on the 29th when they will be discussing this question but much more definitively at the time of the second meeting of the Preparatory Committee for the World Conference on Technical Cooperation amongst Developing Countries which is scheduled to take place in New York on 12 September.

While we recognize the very great importance of this Conference in creating increasing awareness and providing an exchange of information on the modalities of technical cooperation amongst developing countries, this will not in any way restrain us even if our participation is limited in any way because of the other incidental arrangements for this Conference, from pursuing FAO's own programme in the field of promoting technical cooperation amongst developing countries in the fields of food, agriculture, forestry and fisheries. The Director-General on several occasions has already given evidence of his very firm commitment to this subject.

So far as the draft resolution is concerned, there is only one point which I hope will be clarified. It asks for a separate item to be put on the agenda. Most of the work that we will be doing will be reflected in the Review of Field Programmes and I hope it will be acceptable to delegations if this particular item is put as a sub-item in the Review of Field Programmes when the discussion takes place. I have no more comments to make.

S.S. MAHDI (India) I have listened very carefully to the suggestion made by Mr. Mahajan in this regard. I suggest a compromise on this matter. Our delegation would not agree to putting it as a subsidiary item. We would like this to be an item in its own right because although we also discussed the TCDC earlier, the discussion has always been incidental. To give it high visibility therefore and to have a fuller discussion we would suggest that it should be a separate item. But this is different for documentation. If it is creating any problem for documentation appropriate solutions could be found because I understand that in the item on the Review of Field Programmes there will be a separate chapter on the TCDC. For this item therefore we can use the same documentation that will have been prepared. Our problem also is that in the field programmes usually field activities are covered while under the TCDC both field and development programme activities are expected to be covered.

EL PRESIDENTE: Creo que así llegamos al final de este punto. En cuanto a las referencias sobre la Estructura y Contenido del Examen de los Programas de Campo, creo que el Consejo apoyó las recomendaciones del Programa de Campo. Tal vez se podrían agregar algunas referencias a la importancia que el Consejo atribuye al servicio de evaluación, tanto en las actividades de campo como en las del Programa Ordinario.

Y en relación con la Conferencia de las Naciones Unidas sobre Cooperación Técnica entre Países en Desarrollo, el Consejo estuvo de acuerdo en que la FAO debe desempeñar un papel importante en esta Conferencia.

El Consejo reconoce la labor que la FAO viene desempeñando en favor del incremento de esa cooperación, y considera que nuestra Organización está en condiciones de seguir cumpliendo una labor efectiva en este campo. Para el buen éxito de la Conferencia, se atribuye importancia a la preparación y la documentación y entiendo que algunos miembros del Consejo sugirieron que la FAO preparara la documentación básica y, si fuera necesario, en consulta con otras organizaciones que concurren al estudio de este tema.

Parece indudable que el Consejo apoya la adopción del proyecto de resolución presentado por Argentina y copatrocinado por los países latinoamericanos.

En relación con el punto 5 de ese proyecto de resolución, en el cual se pide que en la próxima Conferencia haya un tema con el título de "Cooperación Técnica entre Países en Desarrollo en materia de Agricultura y Alimentación, el Sr. Mahajan había expuesto la exposición del Director General, creo yo basada en las propias recomendaciones de la Conferencia, que ha pedido que se limite al mínimo el número de temas de cada una de las reuniones de la Conferencia.

Sin embargo, la intervención última del delegado de India parece indicarnos que el Consejo quiere que éste sea un punto adicional en el programa de la próxima Conferencia. Si es así, terminamos este punto.

J. VIGNAUD (Argentina): Muy brevemente deseo llamar la atención del Consejo en relación con la unanimidad de criterios que se ha expresado en relación con este tema, y creo que esa unidad de criterios debe destacarse como un hecho demostrativo y una positiva solidaridad entre los países.

Segundo, deseo agradecer el apoyo de todas las delegaciones que se han manifestado en favor de este proyecto de resolución del grupo latinoamericano y aún a aquellos que, aunque no han tenido oportunidad de manifestarse en el seno de nuestras deliberaciones, no han hecho conocer su apoyo y simpatía oficiosamente.

Tercero, deseo acoger con satisfacción la decisión que nos ha comunicado la Secretaría de participar con vigor y energía en la preparación del material vinculado con la cooperación técnica entre países en desarrollo.

Y, por último, ver con simpatía y apoyar lo que ha dicho el delegado de la India en el sentido de que éste sea un tema que esté en la Agenda de nuestra próxima Conferencia. Por cierto que si es un tema sustantivo o un subtema, nosotros preferiríamos que fuera un tema sustantivo, pero más que eso en lo que le daría importancia más bien, yo le daría importancia al interés que las propias delegaciones presten a este tema en la agenda para discutirlo, porque el tema va a ser importante no por el relieve que se lee en la agenda, sino más bien por la atención que le presten las delegaciones, y yo tengo la esperanza de que todas las delegaciones que asistan a la Conferencia puedan hacer aportes en relación con la discusión de este tema.

III- ACTIVITIES OF FAO AND WFP (continued)

III- ACTIVITES DE LA FAO ET DU PAM (suite)

III- ACTIVIDADES DE LA FAO Y DEL PMA (continuación)

15. Preparations for the Nineteenth Session of the FAO Conference

15. Organisation de la dix-neuvième session de la Conférence de la FAO

15. Preparativos para el 19° periodo de sesiones de la Conferencia de la FAO

EL PRESIDENTE: Pasamos ahora al punto 15 "Preparativos para el 19° período de sesiones de la Conferencia de la FAO". Tiene tres subpuntos. En primer lugar, vamos a tomar el subpunto (a), la organización del período de sesiones, y Programa Provisional de la Conferencia.

(a) Arrangements for the Session, and Provisional Agenda for the Conference

a) Organisation de la session et ordre du jour provisoire de la Conférence

(a) Organización del período de sesiones, y programa provisional de la Conferencia

Espero que todos tengan ahora a la mano el documento CL 71/11. Parece que no hay necesidad de presentación. Sin embargo, naturalmente funcionarios de la Secretaría, particularmente los señores De Ca-prona y Tedesco., estarán a disposición de los miembros del Consejo. Este documento 71/11, como siempre se hizo en el pasado, contiene los arreglos para la próxima Conferencia. Notarán ustedes que se proponen las mismas tres comisiones de siempre; las composiciones de las delegaciones y que a partir del párrafo 7, Calendario, ya se indica la fecha de la reunión del 72 período de sesiones del Consejo, que se propone sea del 8 al 10 de noviembre y, en general, contiene informaciones útiles: el Programa Provisional, el Calendario, los criterios para las resoluciones, etc. ¿Quién desea intervenir?

P. J. BYRNES (United States of America): A few brief comments: My delegation concurs generally in the arrangements for the Conference as set out in Document CL 71/11. We note these conform to established past practice. The Provisional Agenda of the Conference as set out in Appendix A is also quite acceptable. With regard to the proposed timetable, my delegation wishes to suggest that Item 11, "Review of Field Programmes", should be considered prior to discussing Item 10, "Programme of Work and Budget". We say this because of the important relationship which the regular budget has for the adequate conduct of field activities. We think this would produce a more productive debate on the Regular Programme.

We would like to suggest also that it might be possible for the Director General to find a way in the timetable to discuss Item 15, "Review of Arrangements for the World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development", at a somewhat earlier stage. We say this because of the importance of the item. It is listed extremely late in the present timetable.

We should be grateful also if we could have some indication from the Director-General how he intends to deal with the request made by the Eighteenth Session of the FAO Conference in Resolution 10/75, paragraph 5. I quote: "...that information on progress and projections on the integration of women in all FAO programmes be submitted periodically to the Council and Conference in such reports as the Review of Field Programmes and the Medium-Term Objectives".

S. JUMA'A (Jordan) (Interpretation from Arabic): I should like to recall that the Adha feast is going to occur during the next Conference Session between 20 and 22 November, and, as you know, Islam is the official religion of more than 30 Member Countries. It might therefore be preferable if a free day were to be provided for during these feast days because we could not participate in the work of the Conference during these days for religious and national reasons. We would therefore like the Secretariat to take this into account. Perhaps it might be necessary to take a decision on this subject during the Conference and, if Adha were to occur on a Saturday or a Sunday, then of course there would be no need to stop the work of the Conference, to hold it up. But I think it would be preferable to bear this in mind and to plan for a free day in case the feast should not fall on a Saturday or Sunday.

On page 8 of document CL 71/11, reference is made to the fact that the Director-General is going to invite the African Liberation Movements and I should like for it to be noted that an invitation should also be extended to the Palestinian Liberation Organization, in line with the practice of the other United Nations Agencies. As you know, the PLO has been invited to participate in the last Conference of FAO as an Observer, and I should like this practice to be repeated this time.

LE DIRECTEUR GENERAL: Je remercie Monsieur le Ministre de la Jordanie qui vient de prendre la parole pour indiquer qu'il fallait mentionner dans le document que l'Organisation de libération de la Palestine devrait être invitée.

Il va sans dire que l'Organisation de libération de la Palestine sera invitée, puisqu'elle a déjà été admise comme Observateur par la Conférence. Si ceci n'a pas été spécifiquement mentionné, ce n'est pas à la suite d'une erreur, mais parce que tous les Observateurs sont automatiquement invités. Je ne sais pas si les Organisations de libération africaines ont le statut d'Observateur, mais je sais que l'OLP a ce statut et vous comprendrez que nous ne puissions pas indiquer chaque fois le nom de tous les Observateurs qui seront invités. Je tenais, toutefois, à rassurer à cet égard la représentation de la Jordanie.

Quant à la possibilité d'interrompre les travaux de la Conférence pendant une journée, il est évident qu'il s'agit là d'une question qui doit être tranchée par la Conférence elle-même, mais le Conseil pourrait peut-être émettre un avis à ce sujet. Techniquement, la chose serait possible, par exemple

en travaillant un samedi et en ne travaillant pas un lundi, si la fête en question était célébrée le lundi 21 novembre. De même, si cette fête tombait le mardi 22 novembre, on pourrait ne pas travailler ce jour là et compenser en travaillant le samedi 26 novembre.

Je voulais simplement donner ces indications pratiques à Messieurs les délégués, membres du Conseil, à qui il appartient de prendre une décision à ce sujet.

SECRETARY-GENERAL: In relation to the point raised by the United States delegate, I wanted to recall that the Conference in 1975, acting on the recommendation of the Council, decided that Commission II should discuss the Programme of Work and Budget, the Review of Field Programme, and the Medium-Term Objectives, in that order; so this is a reversal of the Conference decision which is proposed.

S. JUMA'A (Jordan) (Interpretation from Arabic): I wish to thank the Director-General -through you Mr. Chairman- for the clarifications he has just given in connexion with the invitation of the PLO. I believe that if we take note of this in the Verbatim Record, that will be sufficient; and he was perfectly right when he said that Observers are usually invited without specifically giving the name of each of them.

EL PRESIDENTE: Entiendo que el Consejo agradece la actitud constructiva del Ministro de Jordania. Ya otra vez en el Consejo tuvimos un caso semejante y con flexibilidad y mucha comprensión por esos respetables países se pudo arreglar la situación. Así espero que suceda en la próxima Conferencia.

Si no hay ningún comentario entiendo que el Consejo está de acuerdo con el contenido de este documento sobre los preparativos para la próxima Conferencia.

N. RAHUMA (Libya) (Interpretation from Arabic): In connexion with the invitation to be addressed to the Liberation Movements, we are satisfied with the clarification of the Director-General. However, we wish to join His Excellency the Minister of Jordan in connexion with working on the Adha holiday. We wish that the Council will bear this in mind.

EL PRESIDENTE: Creo que sobre las observaciones planteadas relacionadas con el Tema 15, lo más conveniente es que la Secretaría tome nota de esta propuesta y tratará de tenerla en consideración.

Si no hay ningún comentario, aquí concluimos el apartado(a) del Tema 15 y podemos pasar al apartado(b): "Propuestas de candidaturas al cargo de Presidente y otros miembros de la Mesa de la Conferencia".

(b) Nomination of the Chairman and Other Officers of the Conference

(b) Nomination du Président et des autres membres du Bureau de la Conférence

(b) Propuestas de candidaturas al cargo de Presidente y otros miembros de la Mesa de la Conferencia

Como recordarán seguramente muchos de ustedes este tema se trata siempre en una reunión privada entre los Jefes de Delegaciones o sus representantes. El Director General y yo les proponemos que esta reunión privada, repito, de Jefes de Delegaciones o sus representantes, tenga lugar mañana jueves a las 6 de la tarde en la Sala de Filipinas. Este anuncio, entiendo, que aparecerá también en el diario del Consejo para la sesión de mañana.

Si no hay ningún comentario por parte de los miembros del Consejo, creo que así se decide sobre este apartado.

(c) Date for Nomination for the Independent Chairman of the Council

(c) Délai de présentation des candidatures au poste de Président indépendant du Conseil

(c) Fecha para la presentación de candidaturas al cargo de Presidente Independiente del Consejo

Podemos pasar ahora al apartado(c): "Fecha para la presentación de candidaturas al cargo de Presidente Independiente del Consejo". Hay un documento breve, CL 71/19, en el cual se tienen en cuenta los factores que en el pasado han concurrido a determinar la propuesta de esa fecha. Se propone a la

consideración del Consejo que el lunes 5 de septiembre de 1977 a las 17.00 horas, sea el término del plazo para la presentación de candidatura y que el lunes 19 de septiembre de 1977 sea la fecha en que las notifique el Secretario General.

Creo que esto está claro para los miembros del Consejo. Si no hay ningún comentario adoptamos la recomendación que se propone en este documento CL 71/19.

Concluimos así el tema 15.

12. Proposal for an "A.H. Boemia Activity"

12. Proposition en vue d'instituer une "Activité A.H. Boerma"

12. Propuesta para la institución de un "Premio A.H. Boerma"

Pasamos al Tema 12: "Propuesta para la institución de un "Premio A.H. Boerma". Además del documento CL 71/13, que es muy breve, hay alguna opinión en el documento 71/4. Particularmente el Comité del Programa expresó algún comentario en los párrafos 2.190 a 2.194

Me parece que el Presidente del Comité del Programa puede decir algo al respecto.

R. W. PHILLIPS (Chairman of the Programme Committee): The Programme Committee reviewed this proposal in considerably more detail than is reflected in the length of its Report. I would only point out that it agreed with the proposals as set out in CL 71/13 for the making of this award in non-Conference years, and in general with the arrangements in relation thereto. It did have some observations on the eligibility criteria which you will find set out in paragraph 2.191. Also, and I will not go over those - you can see them, they are very brief - that every effort should be made to ensure that the widest possible circulation of prize-winning articles, both in the original languages and in translation, should be made.

Also, I would call your attention in particular to paragraph 2.192 where the Committee felt quite strongly that articles should qualify for consideration for the award if they are apt to focus public attention, at either the national or the international level, on important aspects of world food production.

I think that is all I need to say by way of introduction. There was certainly no problem in the minds of the Programme Committee regarding the desirability of this award.

J.C. VIGNAUD (Argentina): Consideramos que la propuesta que se nos formula es particularmente satisfactoria. Pensamos que el premio que se otorgue a un periodista, o a periodistas que mediante un artículo o artículos hayan contribuido a concentrar la atención pública en aspectos importantes del problema alimentario mundial en especial, o relacionados con el desarrollo agrícola y rural de los países en desarrollo, nos parece que es positivo y que debe merecer nuestra atención ya que viene a rendir homenaje a los esfuerzos que hizo el doctor Boerma y asimismo a los esfuerzos que actualmente se están realizando para llamar la atención de los Gobiernos y de la opinión pública en general sobre la situación alimentaria mundial.

Mi delegación, sin embargo, quisiera someter al Consejo una sugerencia que ya está contenida en el párrafo 2.193 del informe del CPPB, en el sentido de que quizá se podría reducir a los periodistas el monto del premio a otorgar y que se agregue a esa suma un pasaje y otras facilidades para que los periodistas o periodista seleccionados por su trabajo puedan visitar países en desarrollo. Creo que muchos países estarían dispuestos a facilitar estos viajes. Mi Gobierno me ha autorizado para que en nombre de Argentina, desde ahora, ofrezca la posibilidad de poner a disposición de la persona que sea elegida un pasaje para visitar Argentina y dar facilidades para que sea huesped del Gobierno durante su permanencia en el país.

Esto lo hacemos porque creemos que el periodista, o los periodistas premiados podrán observar in situ los distintos aspectos del desarrollo agrícola y del problema alimentario en donde exista. Esto podría tener, desde el punto de vista de la discusión de esta problemática, un efecto multiplicado, porque además del artículo inicial que dé lugar al otorgamiento de este premio, seguramente se sucederían otras publicaciones hechas por esos mismos periodistas una vez que hayan tenido un contacto directo con la realidad de los países en desarrollo.

Con estos argumentos dejo planteada esa propuesta.

A.E. HANNAH (Canada): The Canadian delegation would like to add its support for the very worthy proposal to honour one who has done so much for FAO in the past. Dr. Boerma had indeed, as has been indicated before, rendered signal service to the peoples of the world. One of the terms of reference as indicated for this award indicates a candidate should be a working journalist who in the preceding biennium published an article or articles in newspapers or magazines of general circulation, the subject of which was related to one or more of FAO's areas of concern.

I think this is a very worthy cause to bring to the attention of the world the food problem and some of the solutions which can be implemented and they should be aware of this. However, in this day and age I would suggest that the written word is not the only way of making the world aware of the food problem and some of the solutions which are being solved and developed by FAO. I would like to suggest then for the consideration of this Council that the award of the A.H. Boerma Award should extend to all the media used in drawing attention to all the world food problems, therefore we would be broadening the terms of reference of the award for those of the electronic media as well because they do have a very great role to play in making the world aware of the food problems and some of the solutions that are being found.

The second suggestion I would like to make is that perhaps more than one candidate could be selected for an award each year. It seems to me that one individual or more than one individual may be worthy of such an award in any one year and therefore I would suggest to the Council that this would be a worthy consideration and that it should be taken into consideration that more than one individual should be chosen for this award each year, if it seems appropriate.

P.J. BYRNES (United States): My delegation agrees fully with the establishment of this award and we can very well accept the suggestion that has just been made by Argentina and Canada. We do have a slightly differing view concerning how this award should be presented and know the recommendation has been made that by presenting it in the off-year of the Council this would bring attention to the Council. We think this is correct but we also think that by grouping this award with those already scheduled for the opening of each biennial conference would have exactly the same effect since minister would be present at that time and greater attention would be brought to the award. Therefore we suggest adopting that the award be presented at the Conference rather than at the Council. We recognize this poses a time problem and would involve a slight delay since the award could not then be presented until 1979 but we think this would make the award much more significant and would allow additional time in which to establish adequately the award, taking into consideration some of the suggestions made here this morning and determining a rightful recipient, or, as has been suggested, several recipients.

F. REDA (Egypt) (Interpretation from Arabic): I wish to announce that my country approves of this Boerma award and all we can point out is that as presented the award will be restricted only to journalists working within the journalistic field and therefore I suggest that we offer the same opportunity to all those working in the agricultural sector thus making it, possible for more than a restricted category to obtain the prize but if we restrict it to a journalist only then we would lose the benefit for which we have established this award. Therefore agricultural specialists, scientists and so on should be given the opportunity of winning this award and this will enable us to have a wider campus of opinion in connexion with the award.

CM. FOFANA (Observateur pour la Guinée): Par rapport aux critères qui nous sont proposés, on dit de "publier un article dans une revue ou un journal à grande circulation", mais il y a aussi le facteur de langue qui se pose, car souvent il y a des articles de fond qui paraissent en anglais ou en français qui ne sont pas lus dans certaines régions justement à cause de la langue. Ce critère pourrait-il être ajusté lui aussi vis-à-vis des langues?

Egalement, lorsqu'on dit "les journaux ou revues à grande circulation", je pense que ce facteur touche principalement une certaine presse dans le monde et souvent la presse des pays en développement n'est pas à grande circulation, alors que des articles de fond peuvent y paraître. Nous savons aussi, qu'au niveau d'une certaine presse, des articles venant des pays en développement ne sont pas repris dans leur essence même. Là aussi, je crois que ce facteur se pose et le Conseil devrait peut-être en tenir compte.

Par ailleurs, lorsqu'il est dit d' "élargir aux autres moyens d'information, par exemple la presse parlée' ", comme l'a proposé le représentant du Canada on pourrait demander à un journaliste, après qu'il ait fait une émission parlée, de l'écrire aux fins d'information, mais nous pensons que le critère de l'écriture est très valable et doit être fondamental, en tenant compte toutefois des langues et des moyens d'information entre les pays en développement et les pays développés et je pense que ces remarques peuvent être utilement considérées par le Conseil.

EL PRESIDENTE: Si no hay ningún otro orador creo que el estado de nuestros debates es el siguiente:

Espero haber entendido bien la propuesta del colega y amigo de Argentina quien, en apoyo de las recomendaciones del Comité de Programa, propone que dentro del límite de los 10 000 dólares que se destinarán cada dos años se reserve el valor correspondiente a un pasaje para que el favorecido pueda viajar a los países en desarrollo y que se busque la manera de estimular la recepción por parte de los Gobiernos de los países en desarrollo y la vinculación de esa persona a la divulgación de las actividades de la FAO.

Se propuso también originalmente por Canadá, y fue apoyado por otras Delegaciones, que se amplíe el campo más allá del límite de lo publicado en periódicos a otros medios de difusión; creo que esto ofrece dificultad.

Igualmente, Canadá, apoyado por otra Delegación, propone que pueda existir la posibilidad de más de una candidatura, o sea, que podría dividirse el premio, si lo entiendo, y creo que esto ocurre en algunas ocasiones, en cuanto al Premio Sen para los expertos. Creo que esto tampoco ofrece dificultades.

Finalmente, el Delegado de Estados Unidos propuso que la presentación del premio se haga ante la Conferencia. Creo que él dijo "conjuntamente con los otros premios ya existentes".

Si esto es así y si no hay ningún otro comentario, creo que ésta será la conclusión del debate. Así se acuerda.

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

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

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

18- Other Programme/Budgetary, Financial and Administrative Matters - Work of the Thirty-Second Session of the Programme Committee, and Thirty-Ninth Session of the Finance Committee

18 - Autres questions concernant le programme, le budget, les finances et l'administration - Activités de la trent - deuxième session du Comité du programme et de la trente-neuvième session du Comité financier

18 - Otros asuntos del Programa y asuntos presupuestarios, financieros y administrativos: labor del 32º periodo de sesiones del Comité del programa y del 39º periodo de sesiones del Comité de Finanzas

EL PRESIDENTE: Podemos pasar ahora al tema 18. ¿El Sr. Presidente del Comité de Finanzas quiere decir algo sobre el Apéndice (e) del documento 71/4?

M. BEL HADJ AMOR (Président par intérim du Comité financier): comme vous le savez, j'ai déjà eu l'occasion d'effleurer le contenu de cette question. J'y reviens pour le moment en invitant le Conseil à se référer aux paragraphes 3.125 à 3.130, ainsi qu'à l'annexe E. On sait que par la résolution 35/75 il a été créé un compte, d'attente dont la clôture est prévue pour la fin de l'exercice en cours.

Grâce au taux de change favorable de la lire italienne on s'attend à ce qu'à la fin de ce biennium on ait une réserve de 15 millions de dollars. On sait également qu'il y a deux propositions pour l'utilisation de cette réserve: à savoir, 10 millions seraient à verser comme montant initial sur le Fonds spécial pour la réduction des pertes après récoltes et que le reliquat de 5 millions servirait à créer un nouveau compte d'attente dont l'appellation sera "Compte de réserve spéciale".

A cet égard, le Comité recommande au Conseil d'adopter la création de ce compte de réserve spéciale et de recommander à la Conférence l'adoption de la résolution qui se trouve à l'annexe E.

J. BERTELING (Netherlands): Like some other delegations who have spoken on this matter last week, my delegation is at this moment not in a position to support the proposed draft resolution. Before my Government can make a final decision on it, we would like to think of some other possibilities, for example, a reserve account with the same terms of reference as the present Suspense Account, and secondly, in fact there is not really much difference with the functions of the Working Capital Fund, and we could think of a separate earmarked account within the Working Capital Fund, and therefore my delegation would like to hear some comments on this and defer, as suggested by Canada last week, a Council recommendation to the Conference at its November session.

G.W. THOM (United Kingdom): Following Conference Resolution 35/75, a Suspense Account has been maintained, and the object, as I understand it, is that funds would be available to cover unbudgeted costs stemming from currency fluctuations, and part of this Resolution was to the effect that on 31st December 1977, any funds in the Suspense Account would revert to the general fund.

Now, there are two proposals before the Council for taking a different course. One of these was discussed last week, and we need not go into that any further now. The second proposal is the one that is before us, namely, that the Director-General should be authorized to transfer \$5 million from the Suspense Account to a new special Reserve Account. The purposes of this new account appear to be to have funds available firstly to meet unbudgeted extra costs due to adverse movements of currency exchange rates, secondly, to meet unbudgeted inflationary costs, and thirdly, to meet such eventualities as the Council may determine.

The first of these purposes is, I think, exactly the same which the present Suspense Account serves. • The others are rather different purposes. I will make comment on this in a moment.

The leader of my delegation last week invited attention to the terms of Conference Resolution 35/75 which quite clearly indicated that monies in the Suspense Account should revert to the General Account at the end of this year, and he observed that any departure from this could be queried on the grounds of financial soundness.

I do not wish to enlarge on this aspect now, but in the absence of instructions from my Government, I can only say like the Netherlands delegation that I must reserve our position on the proposition that we should set aside a resolution made under two years ago.

May I just say a further word about the purposes of the new account. The first purpose is exactly the same as the purposes of the existing Suspense Account: to meet unbudgeted extra costs due to adverse movements of currency exchange rates. Insofar as this was accepted in 1975 as a justification for maintaining a Suspense Account, I see no objection to this in principle, but I am less clear about the other purposes of the proposed account. I cannot fully understand why there is a necessity to make provision for unbudgeted inflationary costs. I was under the impression, which may be mistaken, that a quite adequate allowance had already been made for inflation in the budget. It is not quite clear to me why it is necessary to make additional provision, and I can only wonder what the other eventualities are which the funds in the proposed accounts might meet.

In short, my delegation is not quite convinced that this proposal has been fully justified. I would therefore like to suggest that we should not attempt to arrive at a conclusion on it now, that we should, if possible, be given a rather fuller justification for the proposal than we have received already which we can discuss with the various interests concerned in our capitals with a view to arriving at a conclusion at the next meeting of the Council in November.

A.E. HANNAH (Canada): I would just like to reiterate what Canada had said last week, that we are not at this point in time in a position to make any decision on this proposed resolution. We have not had sufficient time to discuss it with our Government and we would like to suggest that this be held over till the next Council so that we can make some positive suggestions- as to some alternatives as to accomplishing this same idea.

As pointed out by the United Kingdom, there are a number of questions which we would like to see resolved before making any definite proposal or alternative suggestion on this resolution.

K. ITANO (Japan): We have received the proposal on the special Reserve Account rather recently and have not had enough time to consult the authorities concerned, so we are not in a position at the moment to subscribe to the proposal and would like to reserve our decision until the next Council session. Nevertheless we would like to make some preliminary remarks.

First, paragraph 1 of the draft resolution authorizing the transfer of an amount not exceeding \$5 million from the Suspense Account to this Special Reserve Account. As our delegation has pointed out, we have discussed the transfer of resources from the Suspense Account to the proposed Special Reserve Account. Our delegation wishes to recall the fact that according to Resolution 35/75 the resources remaining in the Suspense Account should go into the common fund. Second, paragraph 2 of the Resolution referred to the case in which the funds in the Reserve Account should be used whenever the Working Capital Fund is insufficient to finance budgetary expenditure.

The understanding of our delegation is that the Working Capital Fund is an account of reserve, so it sounds curious and inappropriate to have a special reserve to finance another reserve. It is the view of our delegation that by calculating carefully the capital fund we would be able to avoid such a case as mentioned in the sub-paragraph (a). Sub-paragraph (b) refers to financing from this reserve in the case of movements of currency exchange rates. Our delegation has the view that considering the recent currency situation there ought to be no need to have a reserve for such purpose.

Sub-paragraph (c) refers to unbudgeted extra costs due to unforeseen inflationary trends, to the extent that such costs cannot be met through budgetary savings or such other purposes as the Council may decide.

When the Conference decides the effects of cost increase factors, that should be interpreted as much as necessary.

In summary and from this point of view, our delegation is not quite convinced for the need of the establishment of the new Special Reserve Account.

G. ARMENTO (Italie): La semaine dernière, M. l'Ambassadeur Borin s'était réservé certaines considérations concernant l'utilisation du compte d'attente. Je ne voudrais pas répéter ces arguments mais je tiens à formuler certaines considérations au sujet du projet de la Résolution qui a été soumise. En effet, je dois dire que ma délégation n'est pas en mesure d'appuyer ce projet et que, par conséquent, elle doit se réserver. Nous estimons que l'utilisation de 5 millions de dollars que l'on devrait extraire du compte d'attente n'est pas tout à fait le but que nous recherchons.

Tout d'abord, on nous dit au paragraphe 2 a) que les cinq millions de dollars devraient être utilisés afin de faire face à des dépenses dans la mesure où le fonds de roulement ne serait pas suffisant. Je voudrais attirer l'attention des autres délégations sur le fait qu'au paragraphe 3.61 de la page 48 du document qui nous est présenté, on peut constater qu'à la fin de mars 1977, le fonds de roulement avait une consistance de plus de six millions de dollars. Or les cinq millions de dollars que l'on estime devoir être utilisés à partir du compte d'attente ne feraient que se substituer au Fonds de roulement.

Je voudrais attirer l'attention de cette assemblée sur le fait que, au paragraphe 3.48 du document en question, on peut lire que le taux de recouvrement des contributions au 3 mai 1977 est fort heureusement de 48,31 pour cent contre 19,63 pour cent pour l'année 1976. Or je vois mal comment à partir de ces éléments on peut demander 5 millions à ce compte.

De plus, je voudrais évoquer le paragraphe 3.59 du document dont il est question, qui indique qu'on aurait encore une disponibilité de 42,8 millions de dollars.

Donc, pour cette raison, ma délégation réserve sa position.

Mais puisque j'ai la parole, je voudrais en profiter pour poser certaines questions.

Premièrement: quelle est, à l'état actuel, la consistance du fonds de réserve ordinaire?

Deuxièmement: quelle est la consistance du fonds de roulement, puisque plus de deux mois ont passé depuis le 31 mars?

Troisièmement: compte tenu du fait qu'après utilisation des cinq millions de dollars, le compte d'attente sera épuisé à la fin de l'année, nous sera-t-il proposé pour 1978 la reconstitution du compte d'attente dans le même but?

A. CISSE (Niger): La délégation du Niger pense que le Conseil doit aider le Directeur général à résoudre le problème du Programme de coopération technique plus efficacement dans les pays en développement. Nous devons éviter de retomber dans la situation actuelle du compte d'attente où se trouvent bloqués 10 millions de dollars.

C'est pourquoi nous devons créer ce compte de réserve et le rendre accessible au Directeur général pour financer selon les cas les différentes opérations. Ce crédit pourra servir aussi bien aux pertes dues aux variations de change qu'aux autres programmes. Il faut bien reconnaître que nous ne sommes pas capables de savoir à moyen et à long terme la nature de ces variations. Il serait plus sage d'utiliser ces fonds pour le développement actuel de nos pays.

C'est pourquoi le Niger pense que le Conseil doit adopter la résolution.

J.L. TOFFIN (France): Ma délégation se trouve dans une position analogue à celles de plusieurs délégations qui se sont exprimées jusqu'ici sur ce point. En fait, le document relatif à la création de ce nouveau compte n'est parvenu dans notre capitale qu'à la veille de cette réunion. Il n'a donc pas été possible d'avoir les consultations nécessaires à son sujet avec le ministère intéressé.

Comme il s'agit en effet d'une modification fort importante d'une décision de la dernière Conférence, nous préférons avoir le temps d'y réfléchir davantage, et si possible de recueillir quelques renseignements supplémentaires concernant la nécessité de cette mesure.

C'est pourquoi nous souhaitons réserver pour l'instant notre position sur cette affaire, et nous exprimons le souhait qu'une décision définitive sur ce point soit reportée à la prochaine session du Conseil.

S. JUMA'A (Jordan) (interpretation from Arabie): I would like to state here that the Council is not the authority, the body, to take a final decision on this matter. It is up to the Conference to do that, and the Conference will hold its session towards the end of 1977 and will then arrive at a decision. That is why those delegates who cannot at present take any decision on this matter will have sufficient time to study the question when they get back to their countries, and they will have an opportunity of discussing it when the problem comes before the next session of the Conference, in Commission and in Plenary.

That is why, fully respecting of course the various points of view expressed by the Netherlands, France, Italy and Canada, we can see that all the delegates I mentioned will have enough time to study the question in their own countries, and that they will also have an opportunity of discussing the problem when it comes before the Conference. Therefore, the excuse that has been adduced does not seem a realistic one to me, and I think we do not need to give particular attention to these arguments.

We believe that the Council should make a very clear recommendation either to accept the opening of this Fund or to reject it, and leave it to the Conference to take a decision. Although many delegates who spoke before me have expressed reservations and stated clearly that they did not agree with this idea of opening a special Reserve Account, it seems to me that such an attitude might also be encountered during the next session of the Council, as some of the delegations already have made up their minds. The same points of view may simply be repeated when the question comes up in the countries of the various delegates who have made their recommendations here.

What the Director-General has asked us to do here is to my mind something which is logical and realistic, because it is impossible to see why it would be wise to note that the Organization has certain funds and that the Director-General cannot make use of them even though he may need urgently certain funds for the financing of activities of the Organization, because in this way the Director-General will have to exclude certain activities which are of the greatest importance for the developing countries. I think it would be wiser to authorize the Director-General to make use of these funds so that he can have a greater mobility of action, especially since the Director-General can certainly not take any decision alone. He must do so in cooperation with the Finance Committee. He will only be able to use these funds if the Finance Committee and the Council authorize him to do so. We think these are sufficient safeguards concerning the utilization of these monies.

With regard to inflation, the delegate of the United Kingdom said why, a special budget item provides for allocations to cover losses due to inflation. The Director-General gives a figure of 20 percent annual rate of inflation, but if this rate were to go up to 24 or 25 percent what would the situation

be in such a case? The Director-General would have to limit certain programmes and reduce certain activities, and the delegates of member countries, especially of developing countries, will certainly criticize him if he limits certain expenditures and programmes. I really do not think it is equitable that the Director-General should always be placed in such a position where he is open to criticism, and at the same time is asked to find solutions to all the problems that arise.

It seems to me that FAO, contrary to the practice in other United Nations agencies, has what is really limited capital, a working capital fund which does not make it possible for it to play its full role and carry its full responsibilities for agricultural development. The Council of the Organization cannot expect the Director-General, or ask him, to carry out a programme if this programme is not already provided for in the budget, and in certain cases especially in non-conference years certain circumstances may arise and make it necessary for the Director-General to respond to the wishes of the Council and to carry out certain activities.

Let us suppose, for instance, that the General Assembly of the United Nations were to decide on the convening of a World Conference on Development, and the Secretariat of the Director-General of our Organization were to be asked to participate in the preparation of this Conference. The budget which has already been adopted has not provided for such an activity. Is the Director-General to refuse or is he to limit certain other expenditures in order to be able to carry out these new activities? Why should it not be possible for us to permit the Council to determine the amounts within this special Reserve Account which could be used by the Director-General in order to meet unforeseen expenses for unforeseen activities?

I believe that all those who have spoken on this point with the exception of the delegate of Niger, have made reservations or have rejected the idea of the creation of this Reserve Account, such as the delegate of Japan, who simply stated he rejects this idea but at the same time asks for more time for reflection. If we accept the idea that this question is going to be re-examined during the next session of the Council and that a decision will be taken at that time, who is to guarantee that at the next session we are not going to have exactly the same situation - that is to say, a delegate will tell us he has not received prior instructions from his government and, therefore, cannot arrive at a decision. We know that there are 42 Council members while the membership of the Organization is more than 142,

At the Conference we may also be told that this matter has not been discussed with all the competent ministries. That is why I believe this kind of argument does not weigh very heavily. I feel that the Council at its present session should arrive at a recommendation, a clear recommendation, and should submit this to the next conference session. But if we are asked not to look at this question now because the documents arrive too late or because governments were not consulted before hand we all know documents have very often arrived late, ever since 1946, over the last thirty years in fact. Sometimes FAO documents are very late. Nobody says that this is an excuse for rejection or for delay in the discussion of a subject we consider to be very important. All of us will have an opportunity to express our points of view during the Conference. That is why I have a great deal of understanding for the proposal made by the Director-General and I should like to give my support to it.

I also associate myself with the comments made by the Finance Committee. The Finance Committee went into the detail of the question and also asked the Secretariat for a number of clarifications which were given, as is shown by the report of the Finance Committee which is now before us.

The question was studied in detail. It is a clear one and it certainly does not need prolonged debate nor does it need to be discussed at a future session. I believe that members of the Council should take a decision at the present session.

EL PRESIDENTE: Antes de conceder la palabra a dos oradores que aún tengo en la lista, voy ahora a pedirle al señor Bronsema, Director de la División del Servicio de Finanzas, que intervenga.

A.J. BRONSEMA (Director, Financial Services Division): The first point which I may make is that the Organization is dealing for the 1978-79 biennium with a budget of about \$200 million. It is impossible, as has already quite clearly been stated by the delegates of Jordan and Niger, to foresee the developments that will take place in the 1978-79 biennium. This relates particularly to costs like currency exchange rates. If the Italian lire should move in the opposite way from the way it has been moving now there will be additional costs. It is also impossible to envisage with precision what the inflationary costs will be. Admittedly, there is a provision for inflationary costs in the budget but

that provision may not be adequate. In the 1976-77 biennium that provision put in the budget for inflation proved to be inadequate and it is likely that an amount of approximately \$3 million will have to be saved in order to cover in the biennium 1976-77 the unbudgeted inflationary costs.

The Secretariat, together with the Finance Committee, has looked into various ways of meeting such additional unforeseen costs as may arise in the 1978-79 biennium. The Secretariat has compared the means at the Director-General's disposal in FAO with the means at the disposal of the Director-General of the other agencies. Perhaps I may refer first to the question of the Working Capital Fund. The nominal level of the Working Capital Fund at this time is \$6.5 million. In terms of the 1976-77 budget that is 3.9 percent of the Programme of Work and Budget. In terms of the proposed 1978-79 budget it is just over 3 percent. FAO's Working Capital Fund in relation to its budget is the lowest of the large agencies. As examples: the Working Capital Fund of ILO represents 11 percent of its current budget; for Unesco it is 7.5 percent; WHO 4.3 percent; and in the United Nations it is 6.2 percent. In relation to the other large agencies therefore the Director-General of FAO is in a much worse position.

What other means are at the disposal of the Director-General? Borrowing powers? Borrowing powers exist in ILO, in Unesco and in WHO, but the Director-General of FAO does not have borrowing powers. Budget reserves? Certain agencies like Unesco and ILO have budget reserves to cover unforeseen expenditure. Apart from the Suspense Account which, as the Chairman of the Finance Committee has already mentioned, is assumed will reach a level of \$15 million at the end of this biennium, there are no budget reserves available to the Director-General. Then, other agencies have possibilities of having supplementary estimates approved by their governing bodies in the course of the biennium. In FAO, supplementary estimates may be approved only by the Conference.

In this light, a proposal for the establishment of a reserve account to cover unbudgeted costs relating to unforeseen exchange rate developments, inflation and other eventualities of \$5 million in relation to a budget of \$200 million does not seem a very large sum. I should add, that in the case of Unesco, Unesco has an appropriation reserve of \$13 440 000 in its 1977-78 biennium budget.

As regards the reserve, therefore, as I said, in relation to a \$200 million budget a reserve of \$5 million does not seem excessive. Within the Suspense Account adequate funds will have accumulated by the end of the biennium to fund that reserve and in the circumstances it appeared to the Director-General that the simplest solution would be to propose that this reserve account should be funded from the Suspense Account.

The delegate of the Netherlands spoke of the possibility of establishing a Suspense Account on the same terms as the present one. But the present one covers only exchange rate fluctuations, it does not cover inflation. As I mentioned, the inflation in the 1976-77 biennium will exceed the amount budgeted. The delegate of the Netherlands also proposed that there might be a possibility of looking at a separate earmarking within the Working Capital Fund but in light of the low level of the Working Capital Fund, with all due respect it would then be necessary to increase the Working Capital Fund to a higher level than at present.

The delegate of Japan, in relation to the function of the proposed new reserve account as a working capital fund, asked why this should be in addition to the Working Capital Fund. The Working Capital Fund serves more purposes than one and it might happen that the rate of collection of contributions would not be adequate to meet current expenditures. In that event it would be necessary to revert to the Working Capital Fund in order to finance the excess of expenditure over income and therefore funds will not be available in the Working Capital Fund to cover unbudgeted costs.

The delegate of Italy asked three questions. I think I have already answered the question, what is the amount in the Working Capital Fund? It is \$6.5 million. That is the nominal level. An amount of \$100 000 has been withdrawn from it so it is in fact \$6.4 million at this moment. The second question was, what is the amount of the ordinary reserve fund? The Organization has no ordinary reserve fund. All the funds over and above the budgetary funds available at this stage are those that have accumulated in the Suspense Account but they may be used to cover only currency exchange losses. The third question of the delegate of Italy was, will the Suspense Account be set up again? The Finance Committee has recommended that instead of setting up a new Suspense Account in 1978-79 the account should be termed a reserve fund. We have no such fund at this moment and the reserve fund proposed for 1978-79 can be funded as I said from the current Suspense Account with Conference approval.

I hope I have answered all of the questions that have been raised, but I shall be happy to answer any further questions if such should be desired.

W.A.F. GRABISCH (Germany, Federal Republic of): It will be the Conference which decides about the setting up of a new Suspense Account or, as is said here in Appendix E of document CL 71/4 which is before us, a special reserve account. We see no need therefore for a decision to be taken at this Council session. We have just heard from Mr. Bronsema that it is very difficult to foresee the financial developments for the next biennium. The closer we come to the beginning of the next biennium therefore the better we will know the financial position of the Organization and probably we will also be able then to prejudge better future developments. My delegation agrees therefore with those who feel that we should not take a decision at this Council session but should examine the issue before us again at the next Council session prior to the Conference.

There were several alternative proposals made. We feel that some of them merit more thought and we also have the further information provided just now in the intervention made by Mr. Bronsema. My delegation would like to have the time to reconsider all these questions in our capital, particularly since an examination of the proposal before us could not take place before we left Bonn for Rome prior to this Session. A deep study could not be made and we could go through the issue only on a preliminary basis. Having done that, I can say my delegation would probably have difficulty with the terms of reference spelled out in paragraph 2(c) of the Draft Resolution and also with paragraph 3. Therefore, my delegation is not in the position to support the draft proposal before us.

F. REDA (Egypt) (Interpretation from Arabic): I should like to start my statement by repeating the stand taken by my delegation when this question was discussed last week, namely that we give our support to the two proposals in the appendix concerning the creation of an account for financing post-harvest and pre-harvest losses, and also the setting-up of a special reserve account to make use of the money coming from fluctuations in exchange rates. At a future meeting of the Council we may run into the same difficulty; we may have delegates making reservations. We of course fully respect what has been said by those who have spoken on the subject, and, in order to facilitate a conclusion of our discussion on this matter, I wish to recall what was said by the Minister of Agriculture of Jordan: that this proposal, this draft resolution, should be a resolution to be taken by the Conference and not by the Council. I would suggest that we conclude our discussion by transmitting these draft resolutions to the Conference and I hope that the various delegations who expressed reservations will have enough time to study the question and to come to the Conference convinced of the need to give their support to this proposal.

G. SATARI (Indonesia): My delegation supports the proposal to establish a special reserve account accessible to the Director-General to use the funds in the reserve account. My delegation associates itself with the logical view expressed by His Excellency the Minister of Agriculture of Jordan. My delegation therefore agrees with the draft resolution contained in Appendix E of CL 71/4.

P.J. BYRNES (United States of America): There is not a member in this Council who would not wish to see FAO protected adequately in a financial sense. However, like others who have spoken this morning, we do not think FAO should act in haste, and certainly the Council should not do so. In my country, when things get messed up - and it happens quite often unfortunately - we have a saying: "let us go back to the drawing boards". I think some of the comments here this morning have revealed that perhaps, in all sincerity, this is where we ought now to go.

If some countries have expressed a position that they cannot, because of lack of instructions, speak on this item, it seems to me futile to press on with it today. I would suggest that we ask the Finance Committee to take another look at this and try to come back with additional justification along the lines suggested by Mr. Bronsema, and certainly to come back with greater clarity as to what is really intended for the use of this fund, particularly since we note that expenditures are expected to cover three different kinds of situation arising in the future. If possible, I would hope the Finance Committee would suggest to us some alternate proposals.

I.A. IMTIAZI (Pakistan): My delegation finds no difficulty in endorsing and supporting the draft resolution as given in Appendix E in document CL 71/4 and that we are before the Council to endorse this draft resolution to the Conference where, of course, the final decision can take place.

SRA. DOÑA M. PANIZA DE BELLAVITA (Panamá): Ladelegación de Panamá va a ser muy breve ya que este tema se trató la semana pasada.

Queremos apoyar la propuesta que aparece al final del documento CL 71/4.

M.A. DA FONSECA COUTO (Brésil): Juste pour apporter l'appui de ma délégation aux propositions exprimées par l'Indonésie et le Pakistan.

C. BINOBANZI (Burundi): La délégation burundaise tient à s'associer aux vues exprimées par le Ministre de la Jordanie tendant à appuyer la résolution émise à l'Annexe E. Il me semble que l'on pourrait donner l'occasion au Directeur général d'utiliser les cinq millions de dollars du Compte de réserve spéciale, parce que, comme on l'a déjà indiqué, sur un budget de 200 millions, qui est le budget de la FAO, cinq millions ne représentent pas, j'en suis certain, une somme fort importante.

I. BIRSEL (Observateur pour la Turquie): La délégation turque appuie pleinement la proposition du Directeur général quant à la création d'un compte de réserve. Nous avons déjà fait savoir au Conseil notre attitude sur cette question lors des discussions que nous avons eues sur la création du fonds spécial pour la réduction des pertes alimentaires. C'est la raison pour laquelle nous nous associons à l'exposé très documenté présenté par le Ministre de la Jordanie, qui a exposé d'une façon très claire les motifs de la création de ce fonds de réserve. En tous cas, nous pensons que les délégations qui ne s'estiment pas en mesure aujourd'hui de prendre une attitude définitive sur cette question, pourront reconsidérer leur position à la lumière des informations présentées et pourront ainsi contribuer d'une manière positive à la création d'un fonds de réserve à la Conférence.

CM. FOFANA (Observateur pour la Guinée): Ma délégation appuie très fermement le projet de résolution de l'annexe E.

Nous tenons à faire une remarque qui nous a frappés: certaines délégations disent qu'elles n'ont pas reçu d'instructions quant aux problèmes de fonds mais qu'elles sont d'accord sur la nécessité de prendre des mesures concrètes pour pallier à certaines difficultés qu'e notre Organisation rencontre. Ces délégations n'étaient peut-être pas prêtes à participer au Conseil. Lorsque l'on participe au Conseil, on prend des décisions sur des questions de fonds comme le budget et tout ce qui se rattache au budget et au programme. Ma délégation s'étonne d'une telle déclaration. Nous nous rallions à la proposition de l'Egypte qui nous demande de recommander ces deux résolutions; ainsi, d'ici la Conférence, les délégations qui n'ont pas eu d'instructions pourront peut-être s'informer auprès de leurs gouvernements et les exprimer pendant la Conférence.

E. HRAOUI (Liban) (Interprétation de l'arabe): Nous avons eu des explications très concrètes sur la question. A la suite de ces explications, nous ne pouvons que réitérer le propos du Ministre de l'agriculture de la Jordanie à savoir qu'il serait souhaitable d'adopter les deux projets de résolution contenus dans le document.

M. BEL HADJ AMOR (Président par intérim du Comité financier): Je suis désolé de reprendre la parole mais je peux vous promettre que je ne serai pas long. Ce que je voudrais surtout mettre en relief c'est le fait que le Comité financier comprend très bien que certains délégués aient émis des réserves pour une raison ou une autre. Je crois que la raison fondamentale c'est qu'ils n'ont pas d'instructions et qu'ils n'ont pas eu le temps d'examiner la question. Je voudrais assurer le Conseil que le Comité financier, avant de recommander cette proposition au Conseil et à la Conférence, a étudié la question sous toutes les coutures.

Bien sûr, les détails de débat ne sont pas mentionnés dans ce rapport mais je pense que le paragraphe 3.126 du rapport illustre bien la situation et surtout les grandes lignes du "background" qui a inspiré le Comité financier à faire cette recommandation. Le Comité financier a estimé qu'il faudrait donner une sauvegarde à l'Organisation pour qu'elle puisse mener à bonne fin les tâches et les activités que les Etats Membres eux-mêmes lui ont assignées. C'est dans ce uouci qu'il a fait cette recommandation pour l'adoption de la proposition du Directeur général.

Quant à ceux qui ont demandé des éclaircissements étoffés, je pense que ceux-ci leur ont été fournis. D'autres, ont simplement formulé des réserves et malheureusement ils n'ont pas fourni de solutions. Je dois préciser qu'ils n'ont pas fourni de solutions qui tiennent compte des objectifs dont le Comité financier estime qu'ils doivent être assurés par un nouveau compte de réserve spéciale. Je répète que le Comité financier est à la disposition du Conseil et des Etats Membres pour étudier et examiner toute suggestion comme l'a demandé le délégué des Etats-Unis. Cependant, il faudrait qu'il y ait des orientations qui, je le précise, devront tenir compte des objectifs que nous voulons donner à ce compte de réserve spéciale.

EL PRESIDENTE: No hay más oradores. Se trata de un debate técnico-económico sobre el cual no puedo sino limitarme a hacer un inventario estadístico de las intervenciones. Previa cuidadosa anotación de las Delegaciones que intervinieron, el resultado es el siguiente: 8 Delegaciones proponen que se aplase la consideración de este Proyecto de resolución hasta la reunión del Consejo inmediatamente anterior a la Conferencia; Conferencia que deberá tomar la decisión definitiva. 9 Delegaciones están en favor de que ahora, en este período de sesiones, el Consejo recomiende a la Conferencia próxima la adopción de este Proyecto de resolución.

En estas condiciones creo que está clara la voluntad mayoritaria de los miembros del Consejo. Naturalmente, las observaciones y los comentarios de aquellas Delegaciones que expresaron reservas en cuanto a tiempo disponible, constarán en el Informe de nuestro Período de Sesiones.

En esta forma terminamos el Programa previsto para la mañana de hoy. A fin de asegurarnos que podamos concluir todos los temas de fondo de nuestro programa, creo que nos conviene continuar uno o dos minutos. Organicen sus documentos y vamos a prepararnos para el tema siguiente.

III - ACTIVITIES OF FAO AND WFP (continued) III - ACTIVITES DE LA FAO ET DU PAM (suite) III - ACTIVIDADES DE LA FAO Y DEL PMA (continuación)

13. World Food Programme

13. Programme alimentaire mondial

13. -Programa Mundial de Alimentos

- Second Annual Report of the Committee on Food Aid Policies and Programmes to ECOSOC, the FAO Council and the World Food Council and Preparation for the highth Pledging Conference.

- Deuxième annuel du Comité des politiques et programmes d'aide alimentaire à l'ECOSOC, au Conseil de la FAO et au Conseil mondial de l'alimentation, et préparation de la huitième Conférence des contributions.

- Segundo informe anual del Comité de Políticas y Programas de Ayuda Alimentaria al ECOSOC, al Consejo Mundial de la Alimentación, y preparación de la Octava Conferencia de Promesas de Contribución.

EL PRESIDENTE: Espero que tengan todos el documento CL 71/18 para el tema 13, "Programa Mundial de Alimentos". Voy a conceder la palabra para la presentación de este documento al Sr. Ustun, Director Ejecutivo Adjunto del PMA.

F.M. USTÜN (World Food Programme): The paper before you, CL 71/18, deals with the Programme activities since the last report to this Council. It covers the period 8 May 1976 to 27 May 1977, the last day of the Third session of the CFA. I will briefly review its contents and provide where necessary, additional information and clarification.

The Programme ended the December 1975/76 biennium with pledges totalling US\$677 million against a target figure of \$440 million, while the figure for the current biennium, that is to say 1977/78, which has changes since the document before you was prepared, now stands at \$579 million, representing some 77 percent of the \$750 million target.

During this period ending 27 May 1977 the Programme has approved 74 new projects, including expansion, for a total commitment of \$421 million, while 861 projects were completed; 264 projects are currently operational in 82 countries.

A further 33 emergency relief operations at a total cost of \$63.2 millions were approved by the Director-General of FAO during the 12-month period ending 27 May 1977, \$8.7 million of which were charged against the International Emergency Food Reserve Scheme. The emergency allocation placed by the CFA at the disposal of the Director-General of FAO for 1977 remains at \$40 million, unless a review becomes necessary at the Fourth Session because of any unforeseen developments.

The Committee welcomed the decision of the Government of the United States of America to pledge up to 125 000 metric tons of food aid towards the 500 000 metric tons International Emergency Food Reserve in company with other donor countries which have still to agree to contribute. It noted with appreciation the new contributions made to the Reserve by the EEC, Federal Republic of Germany and Sweden which increased the total quantity announced to be channelled through the Programme, until the end of 1977, to 156 000 metric tons announced by the USA as confirmation is still awaited from that Government as to the quantities to be channelled through WFP. Of the 156 000 metric tons mentioned above, the Programme has already utilized 120 000 metric tons in terms of cereals and 800 metric tons of canned fish by providing food aid to the needy people in emergency stricken areas.

The Committee, while thanking the various donors who had announced their contributions to the Reserve within the framework of the Resolution of the Seventh Special Session of the UN General Assembly, urged all potential contributors also to make timely announcement of their contributions to the Reserve so that the capacity of the Programme to respond in crisis situations could be enhanced.

The CFA further noted with serious concern that the minimum food aid target of 10 million tons of cereals has not yet been fulfilled, and urged traditional and potential aid giving countries to make maximum efforts to achieve this target, and early enough to allow the most careful allocation of these resources. It also stressed the need for diversifying the food aid basket with a greater variety of basic commodities apart from cereals, and for channelling more food aid through multilateral agencies and in particular the World Food Programme. The Committee also urged that food aid be given on more favourable terms and its grant component progressively increased to reduce the debt burden of developing countries.

The Committee agreed that the 10 million ton target, which had been accepted at ministerial level at the World Food Conference, should be taken as the starting point for assessment of future global food aid needs. It desired that the approach to be adopted for such an assessment should be simple and pragmatic, and avoid the need for long and complicated studies. A methodology for assessing these needs will be sent for comments to Member Governments and an interim report on the available results will be submitted to the Fifth Session of the CFA next spring.

The services of the Programme continue to be utilized by various Agencies of the United Nations and several bilateral donors in connexion with the purchase of foodstuffs out of funds placed at the Programme's disposal and their shipment for the feeding of needy people in emergency stricken areas or to MSA countries. In line with the recommendation of the CFA and the established policy of the Programme in connexion with commodity purchases from its own funds, efforts are always made to effect purchases from developing countries.

A review of the Programme's General Regulations, made necessary by the additional responsibilities devolving upon it in consequence of steps taken towards the implementation of recommendations of the World Food Conference, has been completed. The revised text of all paragraphs other than paragraph 14, which concerns eligibility for WFP aid, has been approved by the CFA. Paragraph 14 will be discussed further at the next CFA session in the autumn to reach agreement on an acceptable wording which is consistent with the Programme's policies and procedures and in full accord with the intent of UN General Assembly resolutions on aid to liberation movements.

The Executive Director proposed a pledging target of \$950 million for 1979-80. Some delegates felt that very careful consideration of this level was necessary, taking into account prospects of attainment of the target of \$750 for the current biennium; the absorptive capacity of recipient countries; effectiveness of resource management by WFP; relative emphasis of food aid within overall development assistance and the scope and limitations of coordination among the different sources of food aid. Other delegates, however, felt that having regard to the proven ability of the World Food Programme to handle effectively and efficiently resources placed at its disposal and the ever-growing needs of the developing countries for food aid to accelerate the pace of their social and economic development, the proposed target seemed not only realistic but attainable. In view of the divergences of opinion, the Committee decided to postpone decision on the target until its Fourth Session in the autumn.

Meanwhile, the Executive Director pointed out that, in view of commitments made in 1976 totalling over \$600 million, a target of \$950 million was essential firstly to enable WFP to meet the disbursement requirements resulting from the commitments already entered into, and secondly to allow WFP a level of \$300 million for new commitments during 1977-80. Anything less than a \$950 million target and attainment thereof would force a corresponding lowering of the commitment level during this period.

The document before the Council includes an annex which contains a draft resolution for consideration by the General Assembly and the FAO Conference requesting the convening of a Pledging Conference in early 1978. I request the Council to approve the draft, subject to the target for 1979-80 being inserted later on when the recommendation of the CFA is known.

EL PRESIDENTE: Han oído ustedes la presentación del Sr. Ustun sobre este tema, Como lo ha señalado él, en el documento CL 71/18, a partir del párrafo 25, aparece el capítulo sobre medidas que se requieren del ECOSOC y del Consejo de la FAO. Al final está el Anexo que contiene el Proyecto de Resolución sobre el que se pide la adopción del Consejo, en el sentido de que las cifras se dejarán en blanco hasta cuando de ello vuelva a ocuparse el cuarto período de sesiones del Comité. ¿Quién desea intervenir? Si nadie desea intervenir creo yo entonces que el Consejo agradece la presentación del Sr. Ustun.

I. OROZCO (México): No es para referirme al contenido mismo del informe y en la forma excelente en que lo ha presentado el Subdirector Ejecutivo del Programa Mundial de Alimentos, sino simplemente para hacer una pregunta que fue suscitada por uno de los párrafos del Anexo, el que se refiere al Proyecto de Resolución: el párrafo 2 operativo en donde se menciona a miembros asociados de la Organización. Si fuera usted tan amable o por intermedio de la Secretaría desearía saber cuál es la situación de los estados miembros asociados, es decir, cuál es su número, qué es lo que sucede y si lo vamos a dejar en ese proyecto de resolución o qué sucedería.

F. M. USTUN (World Food Programme): As you know, the World Food Programme has two parent bodies. One of them is the United Nations, the other is the FAO. In the latter case, the members of FAO and associate members of FAO come into the picture when the recommendations have to be endorsed and subscribed.

I believe that Mr. De Caprona would be in a better position to give the Council who are the present associate members of the FAO.

EL PRESIDENTE: Sí, el Sr. De caprona me anotaba ya que actualmente la FAO no tiene miembros asociados, pero esto no puede impedir que pueda tenerlos en el porvenir, y como ha dicho el Sr. Ustun, esto es un proyecto de resolución que va dirigido a Naciones Unidas y a FAO. Tal vez convenga aclarar el texto de este párrafo 2, porque creo que por lo menos en castellano el delegado de México tiene razón.

Entiendo que con la redacción actual se refiere a los miembros asociados de la Organización de las Naciones Unidas, o sea de la FAO. Tal vez convenga aclarar esto para evitar equívocos, ¿Nadie más quiere intervenir? Si nadie más desea intervenir entiendo que el Consejo decide recomendar la adopción del proyecto de resolución que aparece como Anexo a este documento y entiendo que las cifras se fijarán cuando sea discutido nuevamente por el cuarto período de sesiones del Comité.

Así se decide. Levantamos la sesión hasta las 2.30.

The meeting rose at 12.35 hours.

La sèance est levée à 12 h 35.

Se levanta la sesión a las 12.35 horas.

council

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

conseil

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

consejo

ORGANIZACION DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS PARA LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION

CL

CL 71/PV/16

Seventy-First Session

Soixante et onzième session

71° período de sesiones

SIXTEENTH PLENARY MEETING
SEIZIEME SEANCE PLENIERE
16ª SESION PLENARIA

(15 June 1977)

The Sixteenth Plenary Meeting was opened at 15.00 hours, G. Bula Hoyos, Independent Chairman of the Council, presiding

La seizième seance plénière est ouverte à 15 h 00 sous la présidence de G. Bula Hoyos., Président indépendant du Conseil

Se abre la 16ª Sesión Plenaria a las 15.00 horas bajo la presidencia de G. Bula Hoyos, Presidente Independiente del Consejo

III - ACTIVITIES OF FAO AND WFP (continued)

III - ACTIVITES DE LA FAO ET DU PAM (suite)

III - ACTIVIDADES DE LA FAO Y DEL PMA (continuación)

8. Report of the Committee on Forestry (3rd Session, Rome, November 1976)

8. Rapport du Comité des forêts (troisième session, Rome, novembre 1976)

8. Informe del Comité de Montes (Tercer período de sesiones, Roma, noviembre de 1976)

EL PRESIDENTE: Tenemos ahora el tema 8, "Informe del Comité de Montes". El documento es el CL/71/8, Los funcionarios de la Secretaría estarán dispuestos a responder las observaciones que se planteen sobre este documento. Podrán Vds. ver al inicio del documento que se dice que no hay ningún asunto que exija decisión del Consejo y solamente asuntos para conocimiento del Consejo. Además, recordarán Vds. que cuando discutimos el resumen del Programa de Labores y Presupuesto ya algunos miembros del Consejo se refirieron a los aspectos forestales en relación con ese tema anterior.

Creo que es todo cuanto puedo decir por el momento y declaro abierto el debate sobre este tema 8. ¿Quién desea intervenir?.

RAMADHAR (India): My delegation is in agreement with the conclusions of the first session of the Committee on Forestry contained in CL 71/8, The need to give higher priority to the forestry community, development reorientation of national policies, attention to educational, organizational and technical aspects and FAO's role in collecting and collating the relevant information, these are some of the recommendations of this Committee which are very timely and welcome. My delegation notes with satisfaction that the FAO's Committee on Agriculture is fully alive to the challenges of time. This realization must lead to some concrete and action-oriented measures so that forestry becomes an integral part of community life. Tropical forestry development should be linked with forestry's important role in food production through agri-silviculture. In this connexion, my delegation would like to suggest the following programmes to be taken up on a priority basis by FAO:

1. Development of guidelines for social benefit/cost analysis in the field of forestry and standardization of methodology for quantification of intangible benefits such as control of soil erosion, and preserving climatologica! and ecological balance.
2. Evolution of methodology for establishing forward and backward linkages of forestry programmes so that forestry programmes could be presented on that basis.
3. Supplying information on the suitability of tropical species, particularly pines, and assistance in procurement of seeds.
4. Assistance to the developing countries in improving their capacity to process their own raw materials and marketing of finished products internationally; special attention to the development of small pulp and paper mills.
5. Special studies on specific minor forest products to assist the rural population with continued means of employment, particularly in view of the recent trend of competition from synthetics.
6. Establishment of regional research institutions for investigating properties for tropical timber species for various uses and strengthening of selected existing institutions.
7. Establishment of regional training centres for sub-professionals for mechanical wood-processing industries.

My delegation appreciates the efforts being made by FAO for careful preparation of the Eighth World Forestry Congress to be held in October 1978 in Indonesia with the principal theme "Forest for people". We hope that some of these items will receive careful consideration by the next session of the Committee on Forestry, and also by the Eighth World Forestry Congress.

H. MAURIA (Finland): We have a few points on the report of the Third Session of the Committee on Forestry. In general, we are ready to support the priorities chosen by COFO as regards the forestry programmes. Also, we feel that the concentration of limited resources on fewer priority areas recommended by FAO is justified and sensible.

As to the various programmes, it is not necessary here to go into details. We only have a few remarks to make. First, we believe that forestry development in local rural communities could make a significant contribution to the rural people as well as to their social/economic development in rural districts in many countries. We are particularly satisfied that this problem has been taken up in the Forestry Department of FAO and that COFO voted for high priority to this programme. Our point here is that FAO may be able to include appropriate forestry development aspects at the rural community level when approaching problems in the context of integrated rural development. This is in our view important, so that forestry matters and the potentiality of forestry be duly recognized and balanced with regard to other agricultural considerations in the rural development context.

We also support the COFO's recommendation that high priority be given to the development of small-scale mills in the field of saw mills, wood-based panel mills, as well as small and moderate-scale pulp and paper mills. The concrete steps already taken by the Forestry Department here, aimed at • developing concepts and designed to small-scale, labour intensive mills are, in our view, commendable.

Regarding the pulp and paper industries, development programme, we concur with COFO's support of and stressing the need for a continuation of this programme. Finally, we agree strongly with COFO that the main thrust of FAO's work regarding forestry institutions should be in the sector of forestry education and training.

L. VELAY (France) : Je dois avouer, à propos du rapport du Comité des forêts, que je ressens des sentiments quelque peu mitigés. Si vous le permettez, je dirai d'abord les motifs de satisfaction et ensuite j'aborderai le chapitre des préoccupations que me pose ce rapport.

Parmi les motifs de satisfaction, je voudrais dire combien j'ai apprécié la qualité tout à fait exceptionnelle du rapport qui nous est soumis sous le numéro CL 71/8, et je voudrais en féliciter à la fois les membres du Comité des forêts et le Secrétariat. C'est une présentation excellente, et je suis également heureux de m'associer pleinement, au nom de mon pays, aux recommandations du Comité et aussi aux domaines prioritaires qu'il a fixés.

Parmi les nouveautés, ou les demi-nouveautés, j'ai noté en particulier l'attention donnée à l'installation de petites unités de pâte, l'importance recommandée pour les travaux d'agro-sylviculture et j'ai noté avec grande satisfaction la nécessité de procéder à des études régionales pour évaluer les besoins en matière d'éducation et de formation. Donc, à toutes ces orientations proposées par le Comité s'attache un intérêt à mon avis capital pour de nombreux pays en développement.

Je cesse d'être heureux, et je deviens préoccupé, lorsque j'arrive dans la lecture du rapport au paragraphe 53, qui dit ceci :

" Le Comité s'est déclaré favorable aux nouvelles orientations du programme établi par les Organes directeurs de la FAO. Il s'est toutefois déclaré très inquiet de la réduction constante de la part attribuée aux Forêts dans le budget total de la FAO au cours des derniers exercices."

Lisant cela, j'ai d'abord pensé que, comme tous les spécialistes, les forestiers avaient tendance à surévaluer leurs besoins. Mais je me suis reporté aux chiffres, et j'ai essayé de comparer la part consacrée au département des forêts dans le biennium 1975/76, et celle qui est prévue pour le projet de programmes et de budget pour le biennium 1978/79. J'ai alors constaté que le pourcentage des dépenses forestières sur l'ensemble des dépenses de la FAO passait d'un biennium à l'autre de 4,2 pour cent à 3,5 pour cent. Par conséquent, cette situation ne peut manquer d'être préoccupante en raison de l'importance que revêtent les six domaines prioritaires proposés.

Je n'ai pas été du tout rassuré par le paragraphe 91, page 13 du texte français, où l'on fait observer que le Comité avait regretté que "beaucoup de projets forestiers dans lesquels les gouvernements coopérants avaient Investi beaucoup d'efforts et d'argent" avaient dû faire l'objet de sévères compressions au cours des 12 derniers mois, et même qu'on avait dû mettre un terme brutal à certains d'entre eux.

Je suis parfaitement conscient des difficultés budgétaires et financières, et je sais parfaitement que pour arriver à faire un budget équilibré, on ne peut pas tout favoriser à la fois.

Mais ce qui m'inquiète - et Je m'en ouvre aux membres du Conseil - c'est que je me demande si la FAO et notre Conseil lui-même ont suffisamment pris conscience jusqu'à présent que la foresterie n'est pas un monde à part, spécial. Comme l'a dit le délégué de l'Inde il y a quelques instants, la foresterie fait partie intégrante du problème rural et du problème agricole. Il y a de nombreuses raisons à cela, et je voudrais en souligner au moins trois.

Le premier motif, c'est que, pour beaucoup de pays, les activités de la foresterie sont indispensables s'ils veulent conserver en bon état leur sol arable. C'est le cas pour de nombreux pays à tendance semi-aride ou aride, et c'est vraiment une condition de l'avenir de l'agriculture dans ces pays que la foresterie y soit développée.

La deuxième raison, bien connue, c'est que par la forêt les pays en voie de développement peuvent à la fois augmenter leurs ressources et créer des emplois intéressants, et par conséquent, à mon avis, elle fait partie intégrante du développement rural.

La troisième raison est peut-être plus neuve, mais je crois qu'elle est susceptible de grand développement dans le proche avenir, c'est que les pays en développement, en particulier dans les zones tropicales et équatoriales, peuvent tirer un grand parti de l'énorme réserve d'humus qui a été accumulé dans ces forêts, non seulement pour produire du bois, mais pour produire en même temps des aliments ou des fourrages. Bien sur, de nombreuses recherches sont à faire dans cette direction, mais dans certains pays on a déjà une expérience concluante de ce que peut être l'agro-sylviculture.

Pour ces trois raisons au moins, et il y en a d'autres, je souhaite beaucoup que notre Conseil, d'une part, et que la Direction générale, d'autre part, prennent conscience que les activités de foresterie sous toutes leurs formes sont vraiment liées au développement rural, et même au développement de la production agricole des pays en développement. Je crois que si l'on a bien conscience de ce fait, on peut souhaiter qu'à l'avenir la part réservée aux dépenses du Département des forêts ne continue pas à se détériorer d'année en année. Tel est le vœu de ma délégation pour l'avenir.

I. NAJADA (Niger): Ma délégation tient à remercier sincèrement le Secrétariat pour l'excellent rapport présenté dans le document CL 71/8. Nous avons en effet étudié avec grand intérêt cette question primordiale pour les populations des zones tropicales, et plus particulièrement celles des zones arides où l'arbre est un élément très précieux dans un environnement perpétuellement menacé de dégradation.

Tout en félicitant les auteurs de ce document pour leur objectivité, nous nous faisons néanmoins un devoir d'attirer l'attention du Conseil sur un certain nombre de points qui nous ont particulièrement, frappés.

Nous avons accueilli avec satisfaction les déclarations de M. King qui a indiqué la possibilité de soulager la misère des paysans pauvres des pays en développement en modifiant radicalement les conceptions de la FAO en matière de développement forestier. En effet, il est temps que l'on se rende compte que le secteur forestier a toujours été le parent pauvre, sans que son importance dans le rôle qu'il joue soit mise en doute.

Nous appuyons énergiquement les recommandations formulées aux points 16, 17 et 18 relatifs à l'intégration de la foresterie dans le développement communautaire dans un monde rural préalablement sensibilisé. C'est en effet au niveau de l'acceptation par les pays qu'un bon nombre de projets forestiers connaissent des difficultés, car les terrains humains sont souvent mal préparés et affichent une indifférence qui frise quelquefois le sabotage parce qu'ils sont insuffisamment ou pas du tout motivés. Il serait donc heureux que la FAO fasse un effort pour remédier à cet état de choses.

Notre attention a également été retenue par les points 40, 41 et 42, traitant de la commercialisation du produit des forêts tropicales. Nous pensons que c'est sciemment que le mot "produit" a été mis au singulier, parce qu'on n'a voulu s'intéresser qu'aux bois tropicaux, seules denrées censées faire l'objet d'une transaction commerciale.

Ce serait à notre sens une grave erreur de négliger les autres produits ou sous-produits forestiers non ligneux, même s'ils sont dits secondaires, si l'on sait qu'ils représentent pour les pays qui les produisent la matière essentielle forestière entrant dans les structures commerciales internationales. C'est le cas de la gomme arabique dans les pays sahéliens au sud du Sahara, depuis l'Atlantique jusqu'à la mer Rouge. Dans cette zone, l'arbre gommier, à l'instar de la plupart des autres ligneux, joue un rôle multidimensionnel et doit donc être développé.

Enfin, ma délégation souscrit en faveur de la position du COFO pour la priorité élevée accordée à la conservation dynamique du reste de l'environnement, notamment en région aride ou semi-aride, et nous fondons notre espoir sur ce que la FAO pourra faire pour aider ces pays à lutter contre la, défertilisation de terres arides, surtout par la stabilisation des dunes mobiles qui posent aux populations de ces zones l'épineux problème de l'ensevelissement des cultures et des habitations.

Pour terminer, il me reste à espérer que le Congrès forestier mondial qui doit se tenir à Djakarta en novembre 1978 fera en sorte que la forêt soit mise réellement au service de l'homme.

N. SALTAS (Greece): I would like to express briefly the views and the remarks of the Greek delegation on this item. As you are aware, our country is mainly mountainous and suitable for forestry. We have a forest coverage of approximately 20 percent only and at the same time we import more than 20 percent of our needs in industrial wood and pulp. So our interest in forestry is very great.

Coming to the Report of the Third Session of the Committee on Forestry, first I would like to mention that we fully agree that high priority should be given to local community development. Forestry, in close connexion with agriculture and animal breeding, can play a significant role in the economy of remote communities and could be beneficial to both Forestry and local economy by assuring skilled labour supply and adequate forest protection.

In the field of logging operations, besides training, all economic and social conditions of forestry workers must be examined and better living standards, more comfortable work and permanent employment should be assured. The problem of work mechanization in unfavourable mountainous areas should also be seriously considered. As far as forest industry development is concerned, we think that apart from the efforts of utilization of tropical wood, attention should also be given to utilizing small diameter timber from temperate coppice forest which has been used as fuel. Today fuel wood consumption is steadily declining, making the utilization of this kind of wood problematic. In the same item, FAO's new re-orientation towards the promotion of actual establishment of forest industry, although requiring some clarification, attracts our interest and concern. We also appreciate and support FAO's efforts on small scale industries. A considerable part of our industry depends upon imported tropical logs. We believe that through FAO and in cooperation with the Inter-African Organization on Forest Economy and the Trade of Wood, good partnership between the producers and the consumers can be established.

Talking about conservation, an important point should be further stressed. The greatest peril of our forests is fire. Other countries are also faced with this serious danger. Regional and international cooperation in this matter is highly desirable.

In respect to forestry field programmes, we support the concept that knowhow and experience must be acquired after careful investigation of local conditions. Furthermore, we think that the final aim should be the formation of local experts by providing training and scholarships.

Finally, we wish to express our cordial thanks to the Government of Belgium and the Netherlands for broadening their Associate Expert Scheme and in particular to the Government of Indonesia for its offer to host the next World Forestry Congress.

A.J. PECKHAM (United Kingdom): We would like to associate ourselves with the observations of the representative of India. We regard Forestry equally as important and I would also like to say that we share the French government's concern over the apparent decline in the percentage of FAO's resources which are devoted to Forestry, I would like to refer particularly to the recommendation in paragraph 52 of the report which says, that future sessions of COFO should be provided with precise figures for expenditure in the current biennium and a clear indication of future trends under detailed sub-heads. We think it is a very reasonable suggestion and we hope the Secretariat will be able to meet this request in future.

A. STOFFELS (Pays-Bas): Je suis tout à fait d'accord avec les orateurs qui m'ont précédé et qui ont exprimé leur appréciation sur le travail du Comité des forêts.

Comme forestier d'origine, et comme mes amis de la France et de la Finlande, j'ai eu l'honneur de participer à la dernière réunion du Comité.

Je ne demande pas la parole pour prier le Conseil de ne pas accepter les recommandations faites par le Comité des forêts mais, au contraire, ma délégation est d'avis de souligner quelques points très essentiels des discussions du Comité.

En premier lieu, il y a la question du rôle des forêts dans le développement communautaire local. Je crois qu'il sera impossible, sans des investissements très vigoureux, de suivre les recommandations faites par le Comité des forêts.

En second lieu, je crois que le développement des industries de la pâte et du papier sera favorable pour un grand nombre de pays en voie de développement. On ne peut pas faire évoluer la sylviculture sans en même temps s'occuper du développement de l'industrie de la pâte et du papier. C'est ce qui est dit dans la recommandation du Comité des forêts en vue de stimuler l'établissement de petites fabriques de pressage.

Pour terminer, je n'ai aucune objection à accepter les recommandations faites par le Comité des forêts.

D. DAUGHERTY (United States of America): I will be very brief, but because of my country's continuing interest in forestry problems, I simply want to say that the United States generally supports the six areas of concentration on forestry endorsed by the Committee on Forestry. While the intensity of our interest varies from one area to another, we generally support the concentration of a small number of forest problem areas.

I would also like to take this opportunity to inform the Council that the United States is prepared to lend its assistance where appropriate in some of these problem areas, particularly in the areas of training and statistics, analysis and planning.

I.A. IMTIAZI (Pakistan): We have read the report of the Committee on Forestry of April 1977, that is, document CL 71/8, with considerable interest. We have found the report well formulated and containing useful information on issues afflicting forestry, particularly in the developing countries. We have no hesitation in endorsing the recommendations contained in the COFO report under consideration.

As I have said earlier on, also, the situation in Pakistan calls for special attention. We in Pakistan have much land mass potentially capable of productive use but actually awaiting such use. For example, at present out of a total of about 200 million areas in Pakistan, hardly 4 per cent is under forests as against 20 per cent to 25 per cent recommended by our ecological experts. The point we are trying to make is that there is not only great need but also equally great scope for the development of forestry in Pakistan and in countries like Pakistan. We look to FAO to provide active and positive assistance to us in forestry development with particular reference to the following: one, strengthening of research and training programmes of the Pakistan Forestry Research Institute, second, provision of training facilities in forestry development and logging, extraction, processing and transportation of various products, third, the establishment of a paper and pulp laboratory in the Pakistan Forestry Institute, four, development of pastures or range management, five, watershed management, six, development of sirculture. The list is by no means exhaustive but only illustrative, and we hope that FAO will be able to make provision for our forestry problems, taking due account of the significant importance of forestry correctly brought out by COFO in its report under consideration.

S.H.A. MOTALAB (Sudan) (interpretation from Arabic): On behalf of the Democratic Republic of Sudan, I should like to congratulate the Committee on Forestry for the report it has submitted to us. I hope that the Organization will make every effort to implement this programme, because many developing countries count on forestry to consolidate the development of their economies. Therefore this is an important aspect of our economy, and we must ensure that our forests are not exploited erroneously.

I should like to draw your attention to some points which I believe to be important. First of all, we have got to preserve the ecological balance. When preserving forests, we have got to take account of the other resources like pastures used by wildlife and so on, Niger referred to the importance of gum arable, which is important for our economies. This is another example of an important forest product. Developing countries attach particular importance to it in the arid and semi-arid areas.

The question of the encroachment of the deserts which threatens and jeopardises those areas in which gum arabic is produced is a matter of serious concern to us, and we hope that FAO will take adequate measures to preserve us from this phenomenon.

A. POLYCARPOU (Assistant to Assistant Director-General, Forestry Department): We have listened with great interest to the views and wishes expressed by the Council, and we are grateful for the clear and constructive comments which were made. I assure you that the Secretariat will take them into account when elaborating further the programme of work in the Forestry sector.

The Secretariat is also grateful that the Council has endorsed the recommendations of COFO, particularly as these recommendations are the basis of FAO's work in forestry, which has been programmed for the coming biennium. Several delegates referred to the programme on forestry for local community development. I wish to assure them that this programme is being developed in cooperation with other departments in FAO and in very close cooperation with member countries. In fact, next week there will be a two-day meeting in Rome to elaborate this programme further. I wish to assure India that his valuable suggestions which he made so clearly will be taken into full consideration.

We are grateful for some encouraging statements made by some delegations, particularly France and the United Kingdom.

One other point which perhaps I should say something about is that Niger and the Sudan emphasized that attention should be given to the needs of the arid and semi-arid zones. I wish to assure them we have special programmes for arid zones like the Sahel and the Near East in order to contribute to the control of those situations.

With these few concluding remarks, I wish to thank you, Mr. Chairman, and the Council for your most constructive contribution.

EL PRESIDENTE: Yo creo que el Consejo, en general, estuvo de acuerdo en apoyar las recomendaciones en las prioridades señaladas por el Comité de Montes. Se expresaron algunas ideas muy pertinentes y constructivas de las cuales, como lo ha dicho el señor Polycarpou, la Secretaría ha tomado nota. Creo que un punto esencial fue planteado por la delegación de Francia y apoyado por otras delegaciones, en el sentido de que conviene destacar la vinculación de las actividades forestales al desarrollo de los países en desarrollo y, por lo tanto, esas delegaciones manifestaron alguna inquietud por el decrecimiento de los recursos asignados a la silvicultura.

Naturalmente, como dije antes, la Secretaría ha tomado nota de otros asuntos que no son del caso repetir.

M.B. MESSAUDI (Libya) (Interpretation from Arabic): I am very sorry to ask for the floor at this stage, but there seems to be some misunderstanding. I waved my flag right at the beginning of the Session, but I am afraid you did not see me, Mr. Chairman. I would have liked to speak before Mr. Polycarpou made his concluding comments, but if the Chairman will allow me to do so, I would now like to speak and give my country's comments on this paper.

We support this document and we welcome its contents. We feel that it is very important to set priorities in the field of forestry, particularly as regards training and forestry institutions. Moreover, a country like mine, a small country, has founded a training centre. This training centre is now growing and we now intend to set up a forestry development centre and to train forestry experts. Moreover, we are consolidating with the institute in Syria and Cyprus, and we believe that these centres will play a Vital part in our region.

We also welcome the approach to integrate forest -activities with activities of the economy in general, and this is noted in paragraph 53. The World Forestry Congress will have an important role to play, as is stated in paragraph 100 of the document.

As for the conservation of natural resources and the dangers inherent in certain over-exploitation, as is mentioned in paragraph 85, and the importance of pastures, we find that these are all very important points and that more attention should be devoted to these questions in FAO.

My country welcomed the setting up of a centre in our country for the control of desert encroachment, and we welcome this move. We must use all the soil we have available. We must fight against desert encroachment. We must develop our pastures, and this centre is at the disposal of neighbouring countries in the Near East. This is as regards the programmes that have been drawn up.

My country attaches particular importance to forestry and to the conservation of natural resources. For this reason, we have allocated considerable sums to this area. We plant about 40 million trees a year, and we have made considerable efforts in this field which we believe will be of benefit to mankind as a whole.

Finally, I would like to say that in general we agree with the recommendations and conclusions reached by the Committee on Forestry, and we too express the hope that more attention will be paid to the problem of the arid and semi-arid areas, and we hope that forestry will be included in development efforts as a whole, as a contribution to economic and social development as a whole,

I would like to congratulate once again the Committee on its excellent work.

EL PRESIDENTE; Muy cordialmente presento mis excusas al colega y amigo de Libia y puedo asegurarle que fue un error involuntario al no ver su tablilla. Desde luego sus opiniones serán tenidas en cuenta.

S, STAMPACH (Tchécoslovaquie): La position de ma délégation concernant l'activité de la FAO dans le domaine de la foresterie ne diffère guère du point de vue exprimé par le délégué de la France, Je voudrais cependant vous demander, M, le Président, de faire figurer au procès-verbal un bref commentaire à ce sujet,

EL PRESIDENTE: Sus declaraciones serán insertadas en las actas,

S. STAMPACH (Tchécoslovaquie) : Ma délégation voudrait exprimer sa satisfaction pour les activités du Comité des forêts et du Département forestier de la FAO et souligner l'importance particulière que nous accordons à ce domaine dans le programme actuel et futur de l'Organisation.

La Tchécoslovaquie a été honorée par l'élection de son Ministre adjoint des forêts, M. A. Mistrik comme vice-président du Comité des forêts.

Mon pays, auquel le rôle de la sylviculture en rapport avec l'agriculture et l'environnement est traditionnellement reconnu, souhaite contribuer à son développement sur le plan international. Nous sommes d'avis qu'une intensification de l'exploitation des forêts tropicales est possible dans une brève perspective et pourrait considérablement contribuer en même temps à l'économie nationale mais aussi à la réalisation du concept, lequel nous avons commencé à définir comme l'"agro-sylviculture".

Néanmoins, nous voudrions souligner la partie du rapport qui concerne l'inventarisation des forêts du point de vue quantitatif ainsi que qualitatif. Dans ce domaine, nous avons une grande expérience et à ce sujet je ne voudrais pas omettre de mentionner la très bonne collaboration entre les institutions tchécoslovaques et le Centre technique forestier tropical français.

Ma délégation tient à offrir une possibilité d'organiser en Tchécoslovaquie différents cours ou séminaires, etc., toujours dans le cadre financier de la contribution volontaire de mon Gouvernement au PNUD

Sur le plan bilatéral et multilatéral, les entreprises de transformation du bois et les entreprises d'Etat du commerce extérieur ont déjà préparé et elles sont en train de réaliser des projets communs avec les pays en voie de développement, avant tout en Afrique occidentale, y compris un transfert avantageux de la technologie progressive et la formation professionnelle.

A cette nouvelle occasion, ma délégation voudrait supporter l'idée d'élargir la composition du Comité des forêts tropicales en vue d'assurer une assistance de la part de tous les pays qui sont à même de l'effectuer 1/

1/ Texte reçu avec demande d'insertion au procès-verbal.

9. Report of the Committee on Fisheries' (11th Session. Rome. April 1977)

9. Rapport du Comité des pêches (onzième session, Rome, avril 1977)

9. Informe del Comité de Pesca (11° período de sesiones, Roma, abril de 1977)

EL PRESIDENTE: Podemos así concluir este tema y pasar al siguiente. Se trata del Tema 9: "Informe del Comité de Pesca". El documento es el CL 71/7. Se nos indica que no hay presentación de este documento, pero, naturalmente, funcionarios de la Secretaría estarán aquí presentes para responder a las observaciones de los miembros del Consejo. En la página III de este documento aparecen las cuestiones que requieren la atención del Consejo. En la parte A. están las cuestiones para decisión y en la parte B. las cuestiones para conocimiento del Consejo.

Sra. D. DI GIOVAN DE SUAREZ (Argentina): La Delegación de Argentina desea expresar su satisfacción por los esfuerzos realizados por el Comité de Pesca en sus actividades específicas y a través de los programas de investigación y capacitación que en general han recibido siempre el apoyo y el estímulo de los miembros del Comité de Pesca.

En particular deseamos apoyar las principales propuestas de actividades futuras para el Departamento de Pesca contenidas en el documento CL 71/7, en los párrafos 95 a 102 en los que se refieren fundamentalmente al mejoramiento en las capturas y la reducción de las pérdidas en la misma, la preservación de los recursos vivos y la protección contra la contaminación. Deseamos, asimismo, expresar la importancia que la delegación de Argentina asigna a la atención que ha prestado el Comité a los aspectos socioeconómicos e institucionales de la pesca.

En especial deseo ratificar las recomendaciones expresadas en el seno del Comité en el sentido de que en las actividades del mismo se tomen debidamente en cuenta los ordenamientos jurídicos internacionales existentes, los aspectos políticos contenidos en los mismos, y asimismo, las regulaciones jurídicas que resulten del nuevo régimen internacional de los Océanos, que seguramente serán consecuencia de la Conferencia sobre Derechos del Mar.

I. OROZCO (México): Nosotros, en realidad, no deseábamos hacer ninguna observación de fondo aunque sí deseamos reiterar la importancia que tiene dentro del nuevo régimen del mar que está delineado y cuyos puntos de acuerdo han sido ya hechos en uso de sus facultades de soberanía por parte de algunos estados como ha sido el caso del mío, a saber: el régimen de la zona económica; en ese sentido nosotros apoyamos las actividades que se realizan y que se realizarán tomando en cuenta esta nueva proyección del derecho del mar y las necesidades que deben cumplir los países en vías de desarrollo para generar nuevas fuentes de proteínas a través de sus recursos marinos.

Precisamente a nosotros nos extrañó no ver en la parte del informe que se refiere a los apéndices una declaración o un discurso pronunciado por el orador invitado a la reunión del Comité de Pesca que hubiera sido, creemos nosotros, de interés para conocimiento de todos los Delegados. Ahí se hablaba precisamente de esa nueva dimensión del derecho del mar acerca de la zona económica y acerca del papel importantísimo que FAO tiene y tendrá en el futuro a este respecto. No es únicamente este el apéndice que falta, sino todos los demás excepto el A.

Deseo llamar la atención de la Secretaría sobre esta irregularidad, si es que es así, o ruego se me dé una explicación de qué es lo que ha sucedido.

EL PRESIDENTE: Espero que oportunamente la Secretaría pueda responder a las observaciones del colega de México.

A.E. HANNAH (Canada): I will keep my comments brief, but I do not wish this to be any reflection of my Government's interest in this very useful COFI report. The Canadian delegation participated very actively in the last session of COFI and we wish to recall that we found it a most useful session. Such crucial issues as the future of COFI and of regional bodies were discussed, and I believe pertinent decisions were reached. The Canadian delegation is happily in the position of being able to support fully this Committee's report.

I would like to draw to the attention of the Council the suggestion contained in the COFI report, paragraph 113, concerning the next meeting of the Committee on Fisheries. As a result of the ongoing changes in fishery issues and particularly those deriving from the Law of the Sea discussions, it was suggested that COFI should meet once a year at least for the next few years'. The Canadian delegation strongly supports this proposal, and it is hoped the Director-General will be able to convene such a meeting next year, preferably in the spring, considering the important developments occurring in these areas particularly in the fisheries section, and the implications fisheries have on food supplies and protein supplies in the future for the world.

The Canadian Government places a very high priority on fishery programmes, and we would not like to see the meeting put off for another year.

A. DAS (India): My delegation would like to urge upon the FAO the urgent need for the optimum utilization of the living resources in the exclusive economic zones declared by the coastal nations, based on the emerging trends of the United Nations Conference on the Law of the Seas.

We consider that the time is ripe for the FAO to take a more active role in identifying and promoting investment opportunities in developing countries which might lead to organization of mutually advantageous joint venture operations in fisheries. While joint ventures, with expertise and vessels from developed fishing nations, would substantially assist and accelerate programmes for the development of fisheries of the coastal States, it would also help maximum utilization of the available unused capacity of the distant fishing nations who have idle capacity of their vessels side by side with inadequate availability of fish for the consumption of the people.

My delegation is also anxious that the Indian Ocean's resources, which are comparatively less exploited by the littoral States, should be brought up to the optimum level of utilization. The Food and Agriculture Organization could provide considerable assistance in this matter through active liaison with the international and regional financing institutions, and by way of supply of timely technical support for identification and preparation of fishery projects suited to the requirements of the littoral States.

With respect to inland-fisheries, opportunities for exploiting the vast resources of reservoirs, flood plains and aquaculture exist, and this is an area where the assistance of FAO would be most welcome. Similarly, the small-scale fisheries sector needs to be strengthened in order to uplift the economic conditions of the fishermen.

R. TANABE (Japan): As the largest fishing nation in the world, Japan participated in the eleventh meeting of the Committee on Fisheries with great interest. The meeting revealed the main features in recent world fisheries. One of them, in my view, is the fact that the world total catch from conventional species is approaching the limit of production. On the other hand, the growing world population requires more protein from fish and other marine resources.

In order to cope with that possible protein shortage, the following three activities should be taken into consideration: the first, better management of fishery resources; second, development and exploitation of new resources; third, better use of fish and fishery products. These three items are equally important, and were fully discussed at the last meeting of COFI.

Another feature is the development of a new Ocean Regime. Although the final outcome of the Law of the Sea Conference has not yet been brought before us, we discussed many questions relating to the possible new Ocean Regime, including future functions of regional bodies, FAO, and COFI under the new Regime. Since the result of the discussions in COFI are seen in the report before us, I will not reiterate them. I would simply like to stress that my delegation appreciates very much that the Committee on Fisheries has served in identifying and analysing the trends, features and problems involved in the world fisheries. My delegation is of the view that such activities must have been helpful to us in finding out the direction of solving a lot of difficult problems in world fisheries.

Coming to the concrete proposals submitted to the Council by the Committee on Fisheries, the first one is related to the expansion of the area of competence of CECAF. My delegation still feels a little hesitant in accepting this proposal. The area in question has already been under the competence of another Organization, that is ICSEAF - the International Commission for South East Atlantic Fisheries - and similar activities have been conducted there through the Commission. My Government has some fears that there might be duplication of effort and work as well as discrepancies and inconsistencies of activity between the two Organizations if CECAF expands its area to the south. It will be like a country with two governments.

Therefore, my delegation appealed at the eleventh session of COFI that FAO should consult with ICSEAF before we decide on the matter. Nevertheless, if the region for each Organization is determined as it is proposed, my delegation would like to stress there must be a close-consultation and coordination between CECAF and ICSEAF to avoid duplication or discrepancy, otherwise countries such as Japan which are members of two organizations would be confused and get into some trouble.

Finally, as to the second proposal relating to the creation of a Fisheries Commission for the Near East, my delegation does not see any difficulty in agreeing to the proposal.

N. SALTAS (Greece): As Greece has a developed fishing industry much attention is being given to the importance of the Committee on Fisheries which is congratulated for its comprehensive report. The Greek delegation supports the proposal to increase catches directly consumed as food, hoping that the deficit in the world demand for animal protein will thus be reduced. The proposal for encouraging the sector on Aquaculture is also welcomed because we believe that the extension of this activity will offer a significant quantity of much needed, highly nutritious protein to humanity. Our country believes that the reasonable exploitation of living resources and avoidance of over-exploitation are of basic importance to the world. We therefore support FAO's efforts in this respect and agree with the need for closer cooperation between FAO and other related international organizations.

The idea of joint ventures, although new as a concept, has already been accepted by our country which is now successfully negotiating the setting up of such ventures with several coastal countries. We believe FAO's role in encouraging and developing this new concept is very important and we fully support it.

N. HINTIKKA (Finland): Permit me on behalf of the Nordic countries to say a few words about the views expressed by the COFI, that in regard to the results of the changes in the regime of the sea, which we consider to be a matter of great importance, should meet once a year for at least the next few years. The Nordic delegations would like to bring this view to the attention of the Council and would like to endorse this decision taken by the COFI.

As I have the floor there is one other issue I should like to raise and that is the issue of the future activities of COFI. COFI agreed, after an extensive debate, that the work of the Committee should be concentrated on a few major tasks at each session so as to allow a thorough and in-depth discussion to take place. The Nordic delegations would like to put on record that they share this view as it appears in paragraph 84 of the Report of COFI.

F. REDA (Egypt) (Interpretation from Arabic): I should like to go along with all those who have congratulated the Committee on Fisheries for the excellent piece of work that it has done as is seen from the report that has been presented to us. In this respect I should like to support the proposal that a Fisheries Commission be set up for the Near East. We would like to reiterate our support for this proposal on the basis of the resolution passed during the regional conference in Tunis.

My second point concerns the request made by Arabic-speaking members that there should be interpretation into Arabic at the meetings of the Committee on Fisheries and that Arabic should become an official language of the Committee on Fisheries.

H. WATZINGER (Assistant Director-General, Fisheries Department): I should like first to make a comment to the delegate of Mexico. Normally we do not annex presentations of guest speakers to the Council documents in order to keep Council documents down. However, it is being annexed to the full Report of the Committee on Fisheries which will be in print at the end of the month. We have copies available, however, so anyone who may be interested in the very interesting statement of the guest speaker, Ambassador Casteñeda, can have this from us tomorrow.

With regard to the Indian reference to assistance to maximize utilization of the new exclusive economic zones, I am informed that during the forthcoming session of the Indian Ocean Fishery Commission which meets in Cochin in October 1977 there will be a special item on the agenda on the consequences of the decisions from the Law of the Sea Conference particularly with regard to how coastal developing nations can utilize the new opportunities in the extended zones. We will also have a workshop in Gambia, in Banjul, in the fall of 1977 on legal and administrative aspects of the extended economic zones and we have this as a major part of our programme for clarifying this subject.

With regard to the reservation expressed by the delegate of Japan with regard to the southern boundary of CECAF, I can briefly inform the Council that the Director-General has already sent a cable to the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Angola consulting on this subject and that we have also informed the United Nations Council for Namibia on this recommendation. It is quite obvious that there will be very close consultation with all Member States concerned and involved so that we will not have any conflict between the ICSEAF and CECAF Commissions.

Apart from those comments, there are no further comments from our side. I deeply appreciate the support given to our programmes and to maintaining a steady opportunity for consultations on fishery matters in maintaining a number of COFI sessions during the biennium.

EL PRESIDENTE: Espero que la declaración que acaba de hacer el Sr. Watzinger satisfaga las observaciones de los miembros del Consejo en relación con las tres cuestiones para decisión que aparecen en la página III. Creo que se aclaró debidamente lo relacionado con las dos primeras y que el Consejo está de acuerdo en la recomendación del Comité que acoge favorablemente el uso del idioma árabe en los períodos de sesiones del Comité.

Por lo demás, en general, el Consejo estuvo de acuerdo con el contenido de este Informe del Comité de Pesca. Naturalmente, se expresaron algunas ideas de todas las cuales la Secretaria ha tomado nota para tratar de reflejarlas en el Informe.

M. FOFANA (Observateur pour la Guinée): Je crois que je peux m'abstenir de présenter mon intervention car les réponses données par M. Watzinger me donnent satisfaction.

VI. OTHER MATTERS (continued)

VI. AUTRES QUESTIONS (suite)

VI. OTRAS CUESTIONES (continuación)

21. Any Other Business, including:

- Invitations to Non-Member Nations to Attend FAO Sessions

21. Autres questions, notamment:

- Invitations adressées à des Etats non membres d'assister à des sessions de la FAO

21. Otros asuntos, en particular:

- Invitación a Estados no miembros para asistir a reuniones de la FAO

EL PRESIDENTE: Si es así, y no hay ningún otro comentario por parte de los miembros del Consejo podemos pasar, entonces, al tema 21, "Otros asuntos; invitaciones a Estados no miembros para asistir a reuniones de la FAO". El documento es el CL 71/LIM/2. Al final de este documento, que es muy breve, se indica la invitación que se ha hecho a los Estados Miembros para asistir a determinadas reuniones que están descritas en este documento. Creo que se trata simplemente de que el Consejo tome nota de estas invitaciones.

Desde luego, si hay comentarios por parte de Vds. también podrán hacerlos.

Si no hay ningún comentario entiendo que el Consejo toma nota del contenido de este documento.

22. Date and Place of Seventy-Second Session of the Council

22. Date et lieu de la soixante-douzième session du Conseil

22. Fecha y lugar del 72º periodo de sesiones del consejo

EL PRESIDENTE: Nos queda ahora el tema 22, "Fecha y lugar del 72º periodo de sesiones del Consejo". La fecha la decidimos ya esta mañana cuando discutimos el tema 15, los preparativos para la Conferencia. Será del 8 al 10 de noviembre el próximo periodo de sesiones del Consejo y el lugar será, como siempre, Roma.

Hemos terminado así los temas de nuestro programa. Hubiera sido deseable seguir esta misma tarde dentro de nuestro afán de terminar cuanto antes con la discusión del Proyecto de Informe, pero se nos informa que el Comité de Redacción está reunido y naturalmente necesitamos aquí la presencia del Relator para discutir el Proyecto de Informe. Por lo tanto no me queda sino agradecer a los miembros del Consejo la colaboración que me han ofrecido hasta ahora para cumplir con nuestros programas, esperando que se prolongue este espíritu constructivo a través de la discusión del Proyecto de Informe y que el viernes a hora temprana podamos haber cumplido con nuestros deberes.

Nos reuniremos mañana en la tarde a las tres para empezar la discusión del Proyecto de Informe.

The meeting rose at 16.15 hours.

La séance est levée à 16 h 15.

Se levanta la sesión a las 16.15 horas.

council

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

conseil

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

consejo

ORGANIZACION DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS PARA LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION

CL

CL 71/PV/17

Seventy-First Session

Soixante et onzième session

71° período de sesiones

SEVENTEENTH PLENARY MEETING
DIX-SEPTIEME SEANCE PLENIERE
17ª SESION PLENARIA

(16 June 1977)

The Seventeenth Plenary Meeting was opened at 15.15 hours G. Bula Hoyos, Independent chairman of the council, presiding

La dix-septième séance plénière est ouverte à 15 h 15 sous la présidence de G. Bula Hoyos, Président indépendant du Conseil

Se abre la 17ª sesión plenaria a las 15.15 horas bajo la presidencia de G. Buñà Hoyos, Presidente. Independiente del Consejo

ADOPTION OF REPORT
ADOPTION DU RAPPORT
APROBACION DEL INFORME

EL PRESIDENTE: Como está previsto, comenzaremos la discusión del proyecto de informe. El Corniti de Redacción, bajo la Presidencia de nuestro Relator, el Embajador Wadda, quien ahora nos acompaña en el podio, ha cumplido una intensa y dura labor trabajando casi todos los días hasta altas horas de la noche.

Creo que todos estamos interesados en que el Informe de nuestro período de sesiones que está para concluir refleje de la mejor manera las conclusiones a que hemos llegado. El Relator estará aquí con nosotros para ayudarnos con la discusión del Informe, y también los miembros del Comité de Redacción que por haber participado directamente en esas discusiones estarán en condiciones de privilegio para asistir igualmente a los demás miembros del Consejo y a la Presidencia.

Quiero recordar que terminó ya la etapa de los discursos. Que no es posible ahora, a estas alturas, introducir cuestiones de fondo que no hayan sido presentadas antes durante las discusiones. Se trata simplemente de que el Informe refleje lo que aquí se ha dicho. Igualmente les ruego que eviten hacer correcciones lingüísticas o de forma, salvo que sean sustanciales y que afecten al fondo de la redacción, porque como es de suponer, estos textos se han elaborado bajo la presión del tiempo y, naturalmente, más adelante se ajustarán todos los idiomas.

Cuando un miembro del Consejo no está de acuerdo con alguno de los párrafos del Informe, no bastará que diga simplemente que no le gusta ese párrafo, debe indicar como quiere enmendarlo presentando un texto claro y concreto de su propuesta e indicando exactamente dónde desea que se agregue la propuesta que haga. Les ruego tengan en cuenta estos principios que son esenciales para la mejor discusión de nuestro informe.

El Orden del Día de hoy indica que tenemos cuatro documentos; sin embargo han salido más, el REP/5 y el REP/6. Sería deseable que alcanzáramos a evacuar todos para procurar no terminar demasiado tarde mañana.

Finalmente quiero recordarles lo que ya habrán visto en el Orden del Día, en el sentido de que esta tarde a las 18 horas tendrá lugar la reunión de las delegaciones o de sus representantes en la Sala de Filipinas, a fin de tratar el Tema 15 (b), que aún está pendiente en nuestro programa,

DRAFT REPORT OF PLENARY - PART I

PROJET DE RAPPORT DE LA PLENIERK - PARTIE I

PROYECTO DE INFORME DE LA PLENARIA - PARTE 1

EL PRESIDENTE: En primer lugar tenemos la: "Situación mundial de la agricultura y la alimentación".

PARAGRAPHS 1 to 8

PARAGRAPHES 1 à 8

PARRAFOS 1 A 8

G.W. THOM (United Kingdom): A very small point: paragraph 6; the final sentence of that paragraph is not really in the right place. I think it should be the second sentence in the paragraph.

EL PRESIDENTE: Si he entendido bien la propuesta del colega del Reino Unido se ha referido al párrafo 6 y propone que la última frase que comienza por: "s relaciones de intercambio", se coloque como segunda frase del párrafo 6 o sea después de "ningún progreso", que es el final de la primera frase del párrafo 6.

¿Es esto aceptable? Parece que sí y que podría ser lógica la propuesta del colega ¿el Reino Unido.

S.S. MAHDI (India): On paragraph 6, the last present line: here we would like to add at the beginning of the last line "the current extension of the agreement" instead of "the current agreement".

EL PRESIDENTE: ¿Sería usted tan amable de indicar claramente cuál es su enmienda, teniendo en cuenta que la actual última frase del párrafo 6 ha pasado a ser la segunda frase de ese párrafo?

S.S. MAHDI (India): It is not the last sentence but the beginning of the last present line, where it says, "before the expiry of the current agreement", here we would like to add "before the expiry of the current extension of the agreement,"

EL PRESIDENTE: Ahora sí está clara la enmienda de India. A la actual penúltima frase del párrafo 6 él propone la enmienda siguiente: Que al final de esa frase se diga: "sobre cereales antes de que expire la prolongación del acuerdo vigente".

Paragraphs 1 to 8, as amended, approved

Les paragraphes 1 à 8, ainsi amendés, sont approuvés

Los párrafos 1 a 8, así enmendados, son aprobados

Paragraphs 9 to 11 approved

Les paragraphes 9 à 11 sont approuvées

Los párrafos 9 a 11 son aprobados

PARAGRAPHS 12 to 20

PARAGRAPHES 12 à 20

PARRAFOS 12 a 20

S.S. MAHDI (India): Paragraph 14, the first sentence: instead of "The Council noted", we would like to see "The Council urged."

EL PRESIDENTE: Entiendo que el colega de India ha propuesto que en la primera frase del párrafo 14 en vez de "el Consejo señaló", se diga "el Consejo instó". En castellano esta redacción no sé si tendría sentido. El reportero dice que tampoco en inglés tendría sentido.

¿Quiere usted aclararnos su idea?

S.S. MAHDI (India): I realised the difficulty which you had pointed out, but in the debates which were held on this item it was not only a question of noting that this kind of situation exists at the moment, but there were many speakers, including our delegation, who asked that since this opportunity exists it should be used for food security purposes. This was the sense of my amendment.

If the amendment is creating terrible problems, then perhaps we could enlarge on the sentence to convey the full sense of what I have just mentioned.

EL PRESIDENTE: Parece que India desea aclarar algo.

A.T.WADDA: (Chairman, Drafting Committee): The fifth line there starting with "it, therefore urged developing countries and other potential donors to provide food, financial and technical assistance to developing countries for implementing their programmes" - I think provides for what the delegate of India is asking.

EL PRESIDENTE: Antes de dar la palabra a dos oradores que tengo en lista tal vez podría satisfacer al representante de India si pudiéramos en la primera frase del párrafo 14 lo siguiente:

"El Consejo enfatizó" ¿enfatizó sería satisfactoria para usted?

S.S. MAHDI (India): I should like to thank the Rapporteur, through you, for the explanation given Just now, but these are two different ideas. The idea in the fifth line is to ask the developed countries to provide assistance, while the idea that I want to present is that the developed countries should earmark a portion of the stock that is available for the food security purposes. This is an idea which has been discussed in the Preparatory Committee of the World Food Council also.

EL PRESIDENTE: Parece que está de acuerdo el delegado de India. ¿Algún otro comentario sobre los párrafos 12, 13 y 14?

Si no hay ningún comentario pasamos a los párrafos 15 y 16.

B. de AZEVEDO BRITO (Brazil): With regard to the first sentence of paragraph 17, my delegation would like to put on record we reiterate our reservations in relation to the International Undertaking on World Food Security, as well as in relation to the constitution and functioning of the Committee on World Food Security.

EL PRESIDENTE: Si no hay ningún otro comentario sobre los párrafos 17 y 18, la reserva del delegado del Brasil constará en actas.

G. SCHMIEDEL (Germany, Federal Republic of): I would like to propose in the fourth line after the figure " 1977" there should be a comma. It is the fourth line in paragraph 17 and it should read

"1977, if possible, all countries should define ...", This is in accordance with the report of the Second Session of the Committee on World Food Security.

EL PRESIDENTE: Se pondrá la coma que ya aparece en el texto castellano. ¿Ningún comentario sobre los párrafos 17 y 18?

M.P. MASUD (Pakistan): This is regarding the first line of this sentence: "the Council stressed the importance of early implementation of the principles of the International Undertaking ...". This was discussed in the Drafting Group, at which time Brazil had not expressed a reservation. Now it expresses a reservation. I suggest we delete "principles" and state simply: "the Council stressed the importance of early implementation of the International Undertaking on World Food Security...".

EL PRESIDENTE: Yo reconozco el espíritu constructivo de la intervención de Pakistán, pero si he entendido bien, Brasil se limita a que su reserva conste en actas, pero acepta el texto del proyecto de informe, de manera que es mejor conservar esta transacción que como usted dijo se logró en el Comité de Redacción.

M.P. MASUD (Pakistan): That is exactly the point. In the Drafting Committee, an attempt was made to accommodate the delegate for Brazil. He expressed a reservation, and "principles" had been incorporated as a compromise.

Since he now expresses a reservation we would like to suggest deleting "principles" and leaving the sentence as drafted by the Secretariat.

B. de AZEVEDO BRITO (Brazil): First, you are right when you said I just asked to put it on record. The second point is, the first sentence in paragraph 17 we drafted in the way it appears on the draft report. Not only Brazil, but many other countries have not subscribed to this. It is not only a question of Brazil, and therefore that particular way in which the sentence was drafted was found in order to accommodate all countries, and not only Brazil, which are not in a position to subscribe to the undertaking. I also wish to make this point very clear.

M.P. MASUD (Pakistan): I do not want to get involved in a detailed debate on this issue, but since reservations have been expressed on the question as a whole, it really does not matter whether it states "in principle" or "the implementation of the principles" or "implementation of the International Undertaking". For him, it is the same; he has expressed reservations as to the principle as well as the International Undertaking.

B. de AZEVEDO BRITO (Brazil): I read the sentence very carefully, and I can read it if you wish so that our colleague from Pakistan has the first part of my sentence. With regard to the first part of paragraph 17, my delegation would like to put on record that we reiterate our reservations about the International Undertaking on World Food Security. Then we commented on the Committee's constitution and functions.

EL PRESIDENTE: Creo que adoptaremos los párrafos 17 y 18 como los ha presentado el Comité de Redacción y que la reserva de Brasil constará en Actas; en Actas, repito.

G.W. THOM (United Kingdom): Paragraph 19, the last sentence: I propose that in the second line of that sentence there is a fullstop after "Agreement", and that the rest of the sentence should be deleted. Instead, we should substitute the following: "the Council broadly agreed that an important element of this agreement should be a new Food Aid Convention." I have taken that wording from paragraph 12 of the report of the Second Session of the Committee on World Food Security. Perhaps I should add that I now speak both with a national voice and with the voice of the European Economic Community.

EL PRESIDENTE: En primer lugar, quisiera rogarle a Vd. que repita lentamente su enmienda puesto que no la captamos aquí en la Presidencia.

G.W. THOM (United Kingdom): After "a new International Grains Agreement", put a fullstop. Delete the remainder of the sentence and substitute the following - I will slightly change what I have said - "It was also broadly agreed that an important element of the Agreement should be a new Food Aid Convention".

EL PRESIDENTE: Espero que ahora todos los miembros del Consejo tengan el texto que propone el colega del Reino Unido, en el sentido de que se pondrá un punto después de "Acuerdo Internacional sobre Cereales", en la última frase del párrafo 19, y se agregará el texto que él ha leído.

S.S. MAHDI (India): Since the delegate of the United Kingdom, in support of his amendment, is perhaps quoting from the conclusions of the Committee on World Food Security, I am a little at a loss, because if my memory serves me right the conclusions of the Committee on World Food Security included a number of elements which are in the second part of this sentence, especially the question regarding price and supply stability. Therefore, we can go along with this amendment as an addition to this paragraph as a separate sentence, but not as a substitution for the later part of the sentence.

G.W. THOM (United Kingdom): In fact, I would not object to a reference to the International Grains Agreement making some provision for price and supply stability. There are a number of members who do not think such an agreement should provide for food aid and there are a number of members who have reservations about the "international system of nationally held grain reserves." That is really why I would like that bit out, but as for price and supply stability I see no objection at all.

EL PRESIDENTE: ¿Ningún otro comentario?. Tal vez puedo pedir al Secretario que lea la adición propuesta por el Reino Unido después de la última frase del párrafo 19 para ver como la centramos.

SECRETARY-GENERAL: The last sentence would read "the Council also stressed the need for an early conclusion of a new International Grains Agreement which should provide for food aid as well as an international system of nationally held grain reserves for ensuring food security, and for price and supply stability. It was also broadly agreed that an important element of the agreement should be a new Food Aid Convention." End of paragraph.

EL PRESIDENTE: ¿Cómo les suena esta redacción al Reino Unido, a India, a los demás miembros del Consejo y al Relator? ¿Sería aceptable?

G.W. THOM (United Kingdom): I would not welcome the retention of, in particular, the words "which should provide for food aid" and I would prefer not to see the words "as well as for an international system of nationally held grain reserves". That is my opinion. I would not mind if after the words "International Grains Agreement" we were to say "which should provide for price and supply stability." and then go on to add the addition which I have already proposed.

S.S. MAHDI (India) : We want to be helpful and we do not want to delay the work of the Council. The rationale behind the United Kingdom amendment is that we should not go beyond what has been agreed in CFS, in other words, that the conclusions of the CFS should be reflected and no more. I will go along with that because we did not have any substantial discussion in the Council in carrying forward the discussions in the CFS another step. What I would suggest, therefore, and here with your permission, Mr. Chairman, I would seek the help of the Secretariat, is that these two sentences, the sentence which is here at the moment and the sentence which has been suggested, should be compatible with the draft of the CFS. That is the principle that I am presenting to you without any specific suggestions here.

D.J. WALTON (Officer-in-Charge, Economic and Social Policy Department): If the Council desired to follow the suggestion of the Representative of India the sentence could read as follows: "the Council also" - and here we go on with the wording of the Committee on World Food Security -"stressed the need for an international agreement which would envisage the building up of reserve stocks appropriate for ensuring food security as well as price and supply stability." I can read that more slowly if you wish. That would then be followed by the additional sentence: "It was also broadly agreed that an important new element should be a new food aid convention." that has been accepted I understand.

Perhaps I should read again the last sentence of paragraph 19 as it now stands: "The Council also stressed the need for an international agreement which would envisage the bulding up of reserve stocks appropriate for ensuring food security as well as price and supply stability."

EL PRESIDENTE: Y luego se agregaría el texto que propuso el colega del Reino Unido. ¿Es Esto aceptable para todos? ¿ Japon y Pakistán no desean intervenir? ¿Aceptan este texto? Gracias.

M.P. MASUD (Pakistan): Since we are so faithfully sticking to the proceedings of the Committee on Food Security, I think that these aspects were considered somewhere or other. I do not have the report with me at the moment, but I could dig up the reference to both an international system of nationally held grain reserves and the necessity for food aid. To take one part out of the report and not take the other part into consideration in any place would mean weakening this sentence far too much.

EL PRESIDENTE: Como estamos al comienzo de nuestras labores en materia de discusión dal Proyecto de Informe podríamos, tal vez, dejar por ahora la redacción de esta parte del final del párrafo 19 para verla más adelante cuando la Secretaría y los interesados puedan lograr un texto que satisfaga a todos. Si están de acuerdo, dejamos pendiente esta parte y si sobre el párrafo 20 no hay ningún comentario podríamos así concluir el REP/1. Naturalmente, volviendo luego al párrafo 19..

Paragraphs 12 to 18, as amended, approved

Les paragraphes 12 à 18, ainsi amendes, sont approuvés

Los párrafos 12 a 18, así enmendados, son aprobados

Paragraph 19 not concluded

Le paragraphe 19 est en suspens

El párrafo 19 queda pendiente

Paragraph 20 approved

Le paragraphe 20 est approuvé

El párrafo 20 es aprobado

DRAFT REPORT OF PLENARY - PART II

PROJET DE RAPPORT DE LA PLENIERE - PARTIE II

PROYECTO DE INFORME DE LA PLENARIA - PARTE II

PARAGRAPHS 1 to 10 PARAGRAPHES 1 à 10 PARRAFOS 1 a 10

H. PUURUNEN (Finland): I do not want to reopen the debate concerning paragraph 9 but I have some points which I want to stress here. My remarks concern the last three sentences of paragraph 9 beginning "The Council concluded that the Organization" and so on. We feel that this formulation does not reflect the actual discussion that was going on when this matter was handled. We also feel that your summary, Mr. Chairman, was very clear and concise. We feel that it was fully discussed and so we have a new formula for the last three sentences of paragraph 9. The basis of this formula is your summary, Mr. Chairman, after that debate. I will read our proposal for these sentences slowly: Instead of "The Council concluded" we would say "The Council noted that this proposal obtained some support whereas some delegations expressed a dissenting opinion. It was pointed out that the present situation cannot be accepted until the Director-General is in a position to revert to this matter after consultation with the advisory organs. This view is also supported by the recent UNDP decision taken in Geneva to continue the present formula for two more years allowing thus for a deeper analysis of the question as a whole.

A.T. WADDA (Chairman, Drafting Committee): When the Drafting Committee looked into this we had a lengthy discussion. We reviewed all the opinions that were expressed here and we examined also your summing up, Mr. Chairman, as a guidance to the Committee. But it was felt that the paragraph reflected the majority of the opinions to say that "The Council concluded that the Organization" submit the request. I was particularly concerned that the view of Finland and the other countries which share that view should be reflected in this draft and for that reason we stated "Some delegations suggested that the Council should request the Director-General to present to the FAO Conference a report on the implications of various alternative solutions to the overhead cost problem for FAO's management and its total administrative budget." We felt that that one sentence did indicate the desire of those who were not in agreement with the conclusion of the Council. But, the draft now being suggested by

Finland is denying that the majority of the Council concluded and I do not think that the majority of the Drafting Committee, or at least the consensus that was reached in the Drafting Committee agrees with the formulation given by Finland.

H. PUURUNEN (Finland): I want to point out that this formula does not reflect the discussion and there was no such strong conclusion as is expressed here in the last three sentences. I must say therefore that it is not agreeable to my delegation and the other Scandinavian delegations for the formula to be like this.

M. BEL HADJ AMOR (Tunisie): Je voudrais me référer aux remarques qui ont été faites par le délégué de la Finlande.

S'il juge que le texte que nous avons devant nous ne reflète pas ce qui a été dit au Conseil, je suis contraint d'estimer que l'amendement qu'il a proposé ne reflète pas non plus l'esprit qui s'est dégagé des débats de ce Conseil.

Le Président du Comité de rédaction a déjà exprimé ce que je voulais dire, mais je voudrais aussi préciser qu'à ma connaissance - et j'ai été présent à tous les débats - il ne me semble pas qu'il y ait eu une opposition au maintien du système que nous avons.

Pour respecter certaines opinions, on peut peut-être ajouter un mot ou deux au texte que nous avons devant nous mais nous ne devrions pas faire une autre phrase, comme l'a proposé le délégué de la Finlande, d'autant plus que dans cette phrase, si j'ai bien compris l'interprétation, il avait dit que la proposition a obtenu "un certain appui". Je dirais plutôt "a obtenu un appui certain".

J.C. VIGNAUD (Argentina): A estas alturas de lo que se ha dicho sólo quería expresar nuestro acuerdo con el punto de vista manifestado por el Relator.

S. JUMA'A (Jordan): I should like to propose the deletion of two or three words in the second line of the same sentence so that it will read: "The Council concluded that the Organization should request the continuation of the present arrangements" without saying "over a period of years". Just to say "The continuation of the present arrangement" without mentioning how many years, or anything like that.

EL PRESIDENTE: Han oído Vds. ahora la propuesta del distinguido colega de Jordania que propone decir en la frase controvertida "el Consejo llegó a la conclusión de que la Organización debía pedir que se mantuvieran los acuerdos actuales".

¿Podría esto satisfacer al colega de Finlandia en atención a que, como ya lo señaló el Relator, la frase anterior que empieza por "Algunas Delegaciones" trata de reflejar la opinión que expresaron ciertos miembros del Consejo a este respecto? Parece que no es satisfactorio.

G. DE BARKER (Netherlands): You may remember, Mr. Chairman, that on this matter our Special Adviser, Mr. van Gorkom, took the floor some length and explained that for the Dutch delegation this is an important matter and, although not fully agreeing with the Finnish proposal that this matter be studied again and referred to another Council session, our Special Adviser did mention quite clearly, I think, that he could not go along with the idea of continuing the present arrangements for an indefinite period. I think he said in the last of his speeches that for a short interim period he could agree, and that is just what is going to be discussed now in the UNDP. I therefore feel that this is what is called for here, in the text of the Finnish delegate, that a dissenting opinion should be expressed somewhere in the text. We are not going to repeat the discussion, nor are we trying to convince each other; that is not the intention of the discussion we are having now. The intention is only that delegations who have made a substantial contribution during the debate do find some of their opinions expressed in the report. We must say that the wording here in the report proposed in the last sentences of paragraph 9 of item 14(b) is not satisfactory to our delegation.

I would therefore support the sentences proposed by the Finnish delegation, though perhaps I would change it a little by saying that "The Council noted that this proposal received some support". I think it is fair to say "much support" because most delegations did support the proposals from the Director-General and some delegations expressed a dissenting opinion. If that sentence could be added, I would be satisfied. I think that the reference to the UNDP decision/or the UNDP discussion is better because there is not a decision yet: the UNDP discussion - should also make it a little more specific.

In short, my proposal is that the sentence be added according to the proposal of the Finnish delegate, but saying: "The Council noted that this proposal obtained much support, whereas some delegations expressed a dissenting opinion", and then the rest follows as proposed by the Finnish delegate but, instead of saying "the recent UNDP decision" to say "the recent UNDP discussion". I hope we do not repeat the discussion we had the other day; that is not my intention.

DIRECTOR-GENERAL : I am sorry to have to intervene on this subject. I am not trying at all to change anything in the text. However, the matter is so important that I feel obliged to remind you that, in my introductory statement to you, I stressed the importance of this matter and requested you to give me very clear instructions on it. I think, therefore, that the text which has been suggested by the delegate of Finland - and we have here the minutes of all the statements - does not reflect the discussions which took place. I fully agree with the Chairman of the Drafting Committee and I am, frankly, very surprised and puzzled by the position now taken by some governments on this issue. Perhaps it is a lack of understanding of what is at stake. What is at stake is that, if UNDP decides, and if this Council or the Conference decides, that FAO has to absorb the 14 percent overhead costs, we would then have to add to our budget, or cut from our programme, \$14 million every year; \$28 million for the-biennium! It would destroy my whole programme - your whole programme - and this is just impossible. As a matter of fact, Mr. Morse himself has also realized that FAO cannot contemplate doing this.

This is a situation which I really do not understand and which could have grave consequences. I think Mr. Yriart pointed out that, under such circumstances, all our Trust Fund projects could also be deprived of the 14 percent overhead costs, as any donor country could then say: since you are covering UNDP overhead costs, why do we have to reimburse them to you? So the yearly loss would not only be \$14 million but \$20 million. This is why we are insisting on continuing to receive 14 percent overhead costs.

The next question is: to which governing body should I refer? It is now proposed to say: "The matter, after consultation with the proper organ" etc... I recognize this Council as one of my Governing Bodies but I have nothing to do with that of UNDP; the organs to which I have to refer are this Council and our Conference. We have discussed this matter at length with UNDP and I think it has now been decided, at the UNDP Governing Council, to leave this matter on abeyance for the next two years, pending further discussion. I cannot, therefore, understand the attitude here which amounts to favouring another organization and to asking us to include in our budget \$14 million more per year, to pay for UNDP. Who is going to be hit? FAO, certainly. In any case, I hope that, whatever decision you take, it will be a clear one, so that I know exactly what you want me to do. But a sentence like the one proposed here is really not clear at all; at least, I do not understand it.

G. WEILL (France): J'espérais, mais ne sais pas si après l'intervention du Directeur général ma proposition aboutira bien à cela, faciliter votre tâche en proposant, si le Conseil en décide ainsi, qu'en tenant compte de l'amendement de la Jordanie et également de la position de la Finlande et des Pays-Bas nous disions: "le Conseil" ou bien "le Conseil dans sa majorité conclut néanmoins". Si nous mettons "néanmoins", nous nous référons à la phrase précédente sur laquelle le Président du Comité de rédaction a attiré notre attention pour montrer qu'il y a une opinion divergente: le reste du texte restant ce qu'il est présentement.

G. DE BARKER (Netherlands): I can assure you, Mr. Chairman, and also the Director-General that our delegation really does its best to understand the issue; that is why we are here. We always listen very attentively to the explanations, the reasoning and the arguments, but what I said is that we are not going - at any rate it is not our intention - to repeat the argument. We are trying to reflect here as best we can the discussions and although I am not sure that the word "concluded" was used in his summing up by the Chairman - perhaps it was, I am not sure - I am not even objecting to the word "concluded". But what I do object to is the fact that some dissenting opinions are not reflected in the report. We do not consider that this is a small, unimportant matter, because it is quite an

important matter and we therefore wish it to be reflected; and perhaps a lot could be achieved by saying: "A great majority of the Council nevertheless concluded" etc. Then it makes it clear that it is not the full Council, and if that is better acceptable to a number of delegations, then I think, in a will to compromise, we could accept that. But certainly this is not a completely fair reflection of the discussion.

Just to say a word in reply to the plea of the Director-General not to deprive him of \$14 million, I can really assure him that that is the last thing we want. We did make it clear that the intention of our Government is to increase the possibilities for FAO, and not to decrease them. So there must be a solution found in that case. It is more a matter that we feel FAO should have the full amount of money available for its own expense as well as in the field. It is more a matter of principle than of cutting down the budget of FAO by \$14 million. I am discussing now what I do not want to do. It is just a matter of asking for a reflection of the discussion.

So perhaps again in a spirit of compromise, "The Council nevertheless in great majority concluded" is perhaps the best solution, and reverting then to the UNDP discussion of the two years.

EL PRESIDENTE: Antes de conceder la palabra a tres oradores que tengo en mi lista, tal vez convenga que el Secretario lea lentamente la proposición francesa.

LE SECRETAIRE GENERAL: On commencerait la phrase par: "Néanmoins, le Conseil dans sa majorité conclut que l'Organisation, etc.".

EL PRESIDENTE: Yo creo que eso daría satisfacción a lo que acaba de decir el colega de Bakker, de Países Bajos. ¿Podría ser esto aceptable? ¿Finlandia estaría satisfecho? Se acepta, entonces, la propuesta de Francia. ¿Finlandia quiere intervenir?

H. PUURUNEN (Finland): I do not want to hurt anybody and I do not want to alter UNDP or FAO work. I hope the best, of course, for FAO and for the Director-General but I agree with my Netherlands colleague who said that there were some dissentive opinions which should be reflected in this, but anyhow the French proposal is quite acceptable to us but we want to delete this sentence, the words "over a period of years of the present". So what we want to stress is a temporary solution which should be studied more and that a permanent solution will be reached. That is why we are raising the question at this moment.

EL PRESIDENTE: Yo creo que la frase anterior, que empieza por "algunas delegaciones...." podría dar satisfacción al colega de Finlandia y a sus compañeros y podríamos adoptar la frase siguiente propuesta por Francia y aceptando también la supresión de las palabras "durante algunos años" que había sido hecha por el colega de Jordania. ¿Sería aceptable así para todos ustedes el párrafo 9?

S. JUMA'A (Jordan): I think my proposal still stands but I would like to add one other sentence to this particular sentence. After saying "14 percent of delivery until new agreement is finally reached between UNDP and the agencies." So that we delete "over a period of years" and add to the sentence "until a final arrangement is agreed upon by UNDP and the agencies". So this might go along with the proposal of the delegate from Finland.

EL PRESIDENTE: Tal vez convenga que el Secretario lea la frase de Jordania.

SECRETARY-GENERAL: It would be to add at the end of that sentence, after "at 14 percent of delivery" the following words "until a final arrangement is agreed upon between the UNDP and the agencies".

E.M. WEST (Assistant Director-General, Office of Programme and Budget): I would like to explain with regard to the last suggestion that we have been in that situation of waiting for a final arrangement for as long as I can remember, from biennium to biennium and I do not think the FAO Council could be saying anything new or anything helpful in this regard if it said that. Obviously any decision which is going to be reached eventually will have to be reached by a number of governing bodies and we are a long way from that stage because the governing bodies equivalent to the FAO Council in other agencies have not been able to discuss the administrative proposals to the present session of the Governing Council. They have not had the advantage of being able to pronounce in advance of the Governing Council's decisions. They will have the advantage of being able to pronounce in the light of whatever emerges, which is not final. The Governing Council has not adopted its report. We do not know for certain what the Governing Council is going to decide. They will have the disadvantage, of course, of having to pronounce upon their own views after the Governing Council has frightened everybody into listening to its own point of view - perhaps I should not have said that. If there was any point of discussion, and we are reporting something which happened before the Governing Council put up this question, it would be to indicate that the wish in this body is to reach a certain solution which lasts. Now this may or may not be accepted in the long run but it is the point of view at this time which the FAO Council has expressed and which can be taken into account by the Governing Council before it reaches its own conclusions in a week or two. So I am afraid I am suggesting that the Jordanian amendment is not as helpful as I am sure it was intended to be.

EL PRESIDENTE: Creo, señores, que podemos adoptar el párrafo 9 con la propuesta de Francia, con la supresión de las palabras "durante algunos años", que fue propuesta originalmente por Jordania, y se agregue la última adición de Jordania sobre el párrafo 10. ¿No hay ningún comentario?

Paragraphs 1 to 10, as amended, approved

Les paragraphes 1 à 10, ainsi amendés, sont approuvés

Los párrafos 1 a 10, así enmendados, son aprobados

PARAGRAPHS 11 and 12

PARAGRAPHES 11 et 12

PARRAFOS 11 y 12

LEGAL COUNSEL: In the first sentence of paragraph 11 the impression is created that there will be a supplementary arrangement between FAO and the World Food Council. It will not be so. The supplementary arrangement will be between FAO and the United Nations and it will concern the relations between FAO and the World Food Council. If I may I would, therefore, suggest keeping the sentence as it is with only the insertion of the following words: after the words "supplementary arrangements" insert "concerning the relations between FAO and the World Food Council".

EL PRESIDENTE: Creo que esta aportación legal de nuestro Asesor no ofrece dificultades para ser adoptada. ¿Ningún otro comentario sobre los párrafos 11 y 12?

Paragraphs 11 and 12, as amended, approved

Les paragraphes 11 et 12, ainsi amendés, sont approuvés

Los párrafos 11 y 12, así enmendados, son aprobados

Paragraph 13 approved

Le paragraphe 13 est approuvé

El párrafo 13 es aprobado

M. BEL ADJ AMOR (Tunisie): Je désire simplement attirer l'attention sur les paragraphes 14 et 15 où il faut remplacer le mot "Comité" dans la version française, par le mot "Conseil".

DRAFT REPORT OF PLENARY - PART III

PROJET DE RAPPORT DE LA PLENIERE - PARTIE III

PROYECTO DE INFORME DE LA PLENARIA - PARTE III

Paragraph 2 approved

Le paragraphe 2 est approuvé

El párrafo 2 es aprobado

Paragraphs 3 and 4 approved

Les paragraphes 3 et 4 sont approuvés

Los párrafos 3 y 4 son aprobados

Paragraph 5 approved

Le paragraphe 5 est approuvé

El párrafo 5 es aprobado

Paragraphs 6 to 8 approved

Les paragraphes 6 à 8 sont approuvés

Los párrafos 6 a 8 son aprobados

PARAGRAPHS 9 and 10

PARAGRAPHES 9 et 10

PARRAFOS 9 y 10

LEGAL COUNSEL: It concerns the introductory phrase to paragraph 10. It is stated here "The Council endorsed the Committee's recommendations and approved the following amendments to Staff Regulations and General Rules". First of all, in the preceding paragraph both the Finance Committee and the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters have been mentioned and it would be therefore desirable to refer to the two committees.

Secondly, the procedure for giving effect to Staff Regulations and General Rules of the Organization is not the same. In one case the approval is given by the Council; in the other case the adoption is made by the Conference.

In order to reflect this, I would venture to suggest that the introductory sentence in paragraph 10 be amended as follows. It would consist of two sentences, which, if you will permit me, I shall read at dictation speed. "10. The Council endorsed the amendments recommended by the two Committees. It approved the amendment to Staff Regulation 301.133 and recommended to the Conference the adoption of the draft amendments to rules XXIV and XXVII of the General Rules of the Organization, as set forth below."

Then follows footnote 2 and the text given for the rest of paragraph 10.

EL PRESIDENTE: Se trata de cuestiones de orden legal que corresponden a los objetivos de cada uno de los órganos rectores respectivos. De manera que creo no ofrecerá dificultades.

Paragraphs 9 and 10, as amended, approved

Les paragraphes 9 et 10, ainsi amendes, sont approuvés

Los párrafos 9 y 10, así enmendados, son aprobados

Paragraphs 11 and 12 approved

Les paragraphes 11 et 12 sont approuvés

Los párrafos 11 y 12 son aprobados

Paragraph 13, including draft resolution, approved

Le paragraphe 13, y compris le projet de résolution, est approuvé

El párrafo 13, incluido el proyecto de resolución, es aprobado

Paragraphs 14 and 15 approved

Les paragraphes 14 et 15 sont approuvés

Los párrafos 14 y 15 son aprobados

Draft Report of Plenary - Part III, as amended, was adopted

Le projet de rapport de la plénière, - Partie III - ainsi amendé, est adopté

El proyecto de informe de la Plenaria - Parte III, así enmendado, es aprobado

DRAFT REPORT OF PLENARY - PART IV

PROJET DE RAPPORT DE LA PLENIERE - PARTIE IV

PROYECTO DE INFORME DE LA PLENARIA - PARTE IV

PARAGRAPHS 1 to 7

PARAGRAPHES 1 à 7

PARRAFOS 1 a 7

G.W. THOM (United Kingdom): Paragraph 2: At the end of the second line, a comma followed by "and as endorsed by the Committee on Agriculture". I thought that might be worth saying.

EL PRESIDENTE: Entiendo que el colega del Reino Unido propone que en el párrafo 2, en la tercera línea después de CL 71/9, se ponga una coma, y diga cómo se acepto en el Comité de Agricultura.. Es aceptable esta adición que propone Reino Unido al párrafo 2? Parece que sí.

Paragraphs 1 to 7, as amended, approved

Les paragraphes 1 a 7, ainsi amendés, sont approuvés

Los párrafos 1 a 7, así enmendados, son aprobados

Paragraph 8 approved

Le paragraphe 8 est approuvé

El párrafo 8 es aprobado

Paragraphs 9 to 11 approved

Les paragraphes 9 à 11 sont approuvés

Los párrafos 9 a 11 son aprobados

Paragraph 12 approved

Le paragraphe 12 est approuvé

El párrafo 12 es aprobado

Paragraphs 13 to 17 approved

Les paragraphes 13 à 17 sont approuvés

Los párrafos 13 a 17 son aprobados

PARAGRAPHS 18 to 21

PARAGRAPHES 18 à 21

PARRAFOS 18 a 21

S.S. MAHDI (India): The third sentence of paragraph 20: my amendment is "The Director-General was requested to submit his report on such an evaluation to a future session of the Council".

EL PRESIDENTE: Espero que los miembros del Consejo hayan entendido la propuesta de India. Si he entendido bien, se refiere a la tercera frase del párrafo 20. India propone que esa tercera frase del párrafo 20 diga: "el Consejo pidió al Director General que presente su informe sobre una evaluación en un futuro período de sesione".

P.J. BYRNES (United States of America): You may wish to refer to the Rapporteur on this, but I think it was my Government that specifically asked that this be submitted to the autumn 1978 session.

Beyond that, I have another little point. My colleagues on the Drafting Committee tells me that in that same sentence on line 5 of paragraph 20, a typographical error has crept in: "submit his report" should read "the report".

EL PRESIDENTE: ¿Quiere alguien ahora referirse a la propuesta de India sobre la cual el Delegado de Estados Unidos ha dicho que fue su propio país el que propuso que esa evaluación se celebre en la sesión del otoño de 1978? ¿Nadie quiere intervenir?

J.C. VIGNAUD (Argentina): Sin tener la intención en absoluto de abrir una discusión, la pregunta es si realmente de acá a nuestra sesión del otoño será posible tener una evaluación que permita hacer un juicio crítico objetivo sobre lo que está pasando con el Programa de Cooperación Técnica.

Perdón: veo ahora que es en 1978, no había observado eso. Retiro lo que dije. Estaba pensando en 1977.

EL PRESIDENTE: Si no hay otra intervención, podríamos tal vez, combinar las dos posiciones diciendo después de "otoño 1978, en la medida de lo posible".

¿Satisfaría esto a India, a los Estados Unidos y al Director General?

DIRECTOR-GENERAL: I hope there is no misunderstanding between the representative of the United States and myself when he said "the report". I mean my report. I hope he does not mean that this report is to be prepared by somebody else. What we are talking about is the report on the evaluation which will be carried out by the Director-General and, therefore, the report of the Director-General to the Council; so, to me, "his report" and "the report" are one and the same thing!

S.S. MAHDI (India): I will defer to the United States to reply to the Director-General's remarks first, and then I will make my point.

A.T. WADDA (Chairman, Drafting Committee): The Committee did ask for the Director-General's report. We put there "his report", and in answer to the question of the United States, yes, the representative of the United States did prove to the Committee that his delegation requested that the report be submitted in autumn 1978. There were other delegates that were in sympathy with the request of the United States. So as to bring out the consensus, the Committee agreed on this formulation, but the suggestion made by India reflects more what was said in Council, I regret to say, than what we have put.

India is suggesting that "The Director-General was requested". Here we put "The Council requested". I think it is truer to say that "The Director-General was requested" since the United States request was backed by some delegations, which is a minority, but still we felt that it should be reflected in the report, so if India insists on his amendment, I will go along with it -- only as far as the 1978 is

included, because this was the Committee's undertaking with the United States delegation. If the Indian delegation will accept this: "The Director-General was requested to submit his report on such an evaluation to its autumn 1978 session".

S.S.MAHDI (India): The point of my amendment is not whether this sentence should be put in an active form or a passive from the grammatical point of view. I am prepared to withdraw the earlier part of my amendment, and I would go along with "the Council requested" which is a fairer form of expression. However, I would still suggest instead of a deadline of 1978, which was not generally approved, to reflect the sense of the discussion, we could say "to a future session of the Council"; and after that we have another sentence which gives further details of what is being requested from the Secretariat for the Seventy-Second Session.

Therefore I could accept "the Council requested the Director-General to submit a report on such an evaluation to a future session of the Council", followed by what has been said about the Seventy-Second Session. This is a truer reflection of the debate in the Council.

EL PRESIDENTE: ¿Qué piensa Estados Unidos?

P.J. BYRNES (United States of America): I am not quite sure what problem the delegate of India has. This request was made and the Director-General stated he was going to arrange for this evaluation, so that he has no problem, as I understand it. In the forthcoming session of the Council he will advise how he proposes that it would be carried out and how he would submit it. If he is prepared to undertake this, and I think that was the conclusion of the Council, I am not sure why the point is being raised.

On the second item where it is suggested this should read "the report", I think this is reasonable. The proposal was made that an evaluation be conducted, and it was agreed this could and should be done. I wonder if it would meet the Director-General's point of view - we are probably talking in semantics, if it should read that he should submit the report along with these comments?

DIRECTOR-GENERAL: I have in front of me the text of my declaration on this matter, and if you will allow me, I will read it. "As for an evaluation, I have noted carefully what has been said. I still adhere to the view - which applies also to UNDP projects - that ultimately the only form of evaluation which will be acceptable, is one which respects the responsibilities of the Member Nations directly involved in selecting and implementing projects. I also feel that we cannot embark on an evaluation with a selective and theoretically subjective approach, such as whether or not the same results might have been achieved by using some other hypothetically available source of funds. In any case, I think it would also be very difficult to find genuinely "independent" evaluators or really expert "experts" who could satisfy all the members of the Council and Conference of their understanding of agricultural operations and local situations in countries, as well as their real objectivity on the justification for the TCP.

For me, the question is not to make an evaluation in order to see whether what the TCP is doing could also be achieved by UNDP. The TCP is different from UNDP and its objectives are to stimulate, to be an incentive, to act as a catalyst.

On the other hand, I do recognize the need to justify the expenditures on the TCP in terms of adherence to approved criteria and procedures and effectiveness. I will, therefore, now consider what would be the best way to set up a satisfactory evaluation process which could provide a suitable report to the Council in 1978".

If you talk about "the report", it means that you would like me to appoint a group of experts who would go about checking the performance of the countries, whether they have done the job well, whether they have used the funds we have provided properly, as it is largely national institutions which are going to do the work. Then I would have to submit "a report" which would include all criticisms, founded or unfounded, of the countries concerned. I really cannot do that.

I accept that, as Director-General, I may submit "a report" to the Council. I take it that some members are asking me to make plans to present this evaluation to the 72nd Session of the Council. I am not compelled to do so; it is up to me to judge whether it is necessary or warranted. However, I am ready to provide you with a report in 1978, so I suggest that the delegate of India withdraws his amendment which says "if possible" .

Otherwise, you should appoint a Commission of the Council, which would carry out the evaluation and report to you.

S.S. MAHDI (India): After the explanation given by the Director-General I will not insist very much on the deletion of his deadline of Autumn 1978, but I will again insist that this sentence should reflect the sense of the discussion. Therefore, it should say instead of "the Council requested" - now I am amending it - "the Director-General was requested", then the rest of the sentence could remain as it is, as was suggested by the Rapporteur.

S. JUMA'A (Jordan): May I suggest the deletion of the last sentence of this paragraph, which starts with the words "Some members..." until the end of it.

A.T. WADDA (Chairman, Drafting Committee): I would like to appeal to the delegate of Jordan to withdraw his amendment. As we have just heard from the Director-General, here we are expressing the opinion of the minority, and the Director-General made it very clear that it is up to him to say if he can or if he cannot provide this. I am in the Drafting Committee, and we have tried where possible on critical issues to reflect the dissenting opinions, and this is one of the cases where we have spent more than two hours on this issue, in spite of the compromise we have reached so as to get a consensus for the report.

I appeal to the delegate for Jordan to withdraw it, and leave it entirely in the hands of the Director-General who will decide whether he can provide this information at a requested time or not.

EL PRESIDENTE: Después de la declaración del Director General y de la aclaración del Relator tal vez yo quisiera extender mi llamado también al colega de la India para que adoptásemos el párrafo 20 tal como está. ¿Puede ser esto aceptable?. ¿Se adopta así el párrafo 20?.

S.S. MAHDI (India): I do not want to sound very insistent, but various explanations have been given, and the Rapporteur himself has clarified the situation. The whole purpose is that we should reflect what has been discussed in the Council at this stage, and that is why I refrained from going into the merits of the matter, which I have done in my intervention when this question was discussed, and this was which Fund I supported in the Council.

I still think, unless this is creating any specific problems for any delegate or the Secretariat, that this formulation in which the Director-General was requested to submit his report on such an evaluation to the Autumn 1978 session would be a correct explanation of the debate.

I did support the United States desire for an evaluation of this programme, but the only thing I said was it is too early - even two years would not have passed before we started evaluating this programme. I said, let some time pass, let some experience be gathered, then by all means we can evaluate it. It is not a question of one or two parties, a number of countries are also involved, A number of countries who have just started receiving TCP would not like to have an evaluation before some projects have come to a conclusion or shown a result in relation to other projects. In any case, I do not want to go into the merits of the matter, I just say this sentence should reflect the sense of the discussion in the Council, and as suggested by the Rapporteur, if you put it like this: the Director-General was requested..." etc. etc., this would be a correct reflection of the debate instead of saying "the Council requested" , as the Council did not request. It did not request unanimously.

A.T. WADDA (Chairman, Drafting Committee): I am sorry, have to come in again, but I just want to clear one point. The evaluation that is being requested is not the TCP programme as a whole which stated clearly that "The Council noted the statements of several members whose countries had already benefited from TCP projects... The Council recognized it was too early to evaluate the effectiveness of the TCP since few projects had yet been completed." This was understood, and is reflected in the report.

The evaluation sought from the Director-General is of certain selected projects on the TCP that have been completed. We are talking about projects, and not the TCP programme as a whole.

With that explanation I hope India will be satisfied.

P.J. BYRNES (United States of America): This is indeed proving to be a very unpopular paragraph: I quite agree with the Director-General's request and with the wording that has been suggested by the Rapporteur; I would make one further comment however. In proposing this evaluation my Government did speak of an independent evaluation, and we thought this would be the way to find an objective evaluation which in the words of the Director-General "was satisfactory to all concerned". It is certainly not the intention of my Government, or any government, to find an evaluation which is going to be critical of any country. This is not the intention at all. The intention is to find a sound basis on which we can make a decision regarding the continuation of technical cooperation in future years. This would be extremely helpful to my Government.

With regard to how this would be conducted and carried out, the latter part of this paragraph 20 speaks of the detailed planning which the Director-General will present to the Council at its Seventy-Second Session. My Government was relying on this detailed planning - and still is - to prevent any evaluation which does reflect unnecessarily against any country or is unfair or unconstructive.

We see this as a very constructive exercise, and in order to ensure that it is acceptable to all Governments we wanted to ensure it would be an objective and independent report, and one on which the Director-General would provide, his views. However, if it is not the consensus of the Group, for the text to read "the report", I would accept that it should read "his report".

EL PRESIDENTE: Tengo tres oradores en lista. Sin embargo, antes de concederles la palabra quisiera preguntarles si están de acuerdo en que se adopte el párrafo 20 diciendo: "Se pidió al Director General que presente su Informe", el Informe del Director General.

Si esto no es aceptable para alguno de los miembros del Consejo, les ruego que de nuevo pidan la palabra. Si nadie la pide entiendo que adoptamos así el párrafo 20.

Paragraphs 18 to 21, as amended, approved

Les paragraphes 18 à 21, ainsi amendés sont approuvés

Los párrafos 18 a 21, así enmendados, son aprobados

Paragraphs 22 to 25 approved

Les paragraphes 22 à 25 sont approuvés

Los párrafos 22 a 25~"son aprobados

PARAGRAPHS 26 to 37

PARAGRAPHES 26 à 37

PARRAFOS 26 a 37

S.S. MAHDI (India): On the last sentence of paragraph 34 our amendment is: "It was also urged that" and instead of the words "agro-industries" the words "food and agricultural products processing industries" should be added and then after the word "mechanization" instead of the words "would be given sufficient emphasis" we insert the words "should be given additional emphasis". Should I read that out again? The last sentence would read: "It was urged that food and agricultural products processing industries and also mechanization should be given additional emphasis."

S. STAMPACH (Tchécoslovaquie): Je pense que l'intervention du représentant de l'Inde risque de limiter la portée de ce que nous avons pensé sous le terme "agro-industries" parce qu'il ne s'agit pas seulement de transformation, mais aussi par exemple de la production des fourrages, etc. , Cela veut dire qu'il s'agit d'un complexe plus large que de la seule transformation des produits alimentaires.

F. REDA (Egypt) (interpretation from Arabic): I am sorry I cannot agree with my colleague from India when he speaks of food and agricultural processing industries. This concept of agro-industries is quite different from processing industries, so I would prefer to maintain the word "agro-industries" instead of saying "food processing industries".

EL PRESIDENTE: ¿Después de las dos últimas declaraciones, entiendo que el colega de India permite que adoptemos el párrafo 34 como está?

S.S. MAHDI (India): I have taken full account of what has been said by my colleagues from Czechoslovakia and Egypt and I fully appreciate the points that they have made. I withdraw my suggestion for substituting the words "agro-industries" with the words "food and agricultural products processing industries". Therefore, "agro-industries" in our view may remain but there were also other suggestions in this paragraph and if they are acceptable I will go along with the suggestion made by Czechoslovakia and Egypt.

EL PRESIDENTE: ¿El Secretario podría leer ahora el texto? Suprimiendo la referencia a los términos que preocupan a Checoslovaquia y a Egipto?

SECRETARY-GENERAL: The sentence would, as far as I understand it, read thus: "It was also urged that agro-industries and mechanization be given additional emphasis."

M.P. MASUD (Pakistan): It would read "...agro-industries development and mechanization"

S. JUMA'A (Jordan): I think we had better retain the word "sufficient" because when you say "additional" it does not mean that it is sufficient. So I would prefer to see the word "sufficient" retained.

EL PRESIDENTE: ¿Se puede aceptar, entonces, la enmienda de India con la aclaración de Pakistán y aceptar el término "suficiente" propuesto por Jordania? ¿Se adopta así el párrafo 34?

Paragraphs 26 to 37, as amended, approved

Les paragraphes 26 à 37, ainsi amendés, sont approuvés

Los párrafos 26 a 37, así enmendados, son aprobados

Paragraphs 38 and 39 approved

Les paragraphes 38 et 39 sont approuvés

Los párrafos 38 y 39 son aprobados

Draft Report of Plenary - Part IV, as amended, was adopted

Projet de rapport de la pleniéré - Partie IV, ainsi amendé, est adopté

El proyecto desinforme - Parte 4, así enmendado, es aprobado

DRAFT REPORT OF PLENARY - PART V

PROJET DE RAPPORT DE LA PLENIERE - PARTIE V

PROYECTO DE INFORME DE LA PLENARIA - PARTE V

Paragraphs 1 to 17 approved

Ees paragraphes 1 á 17 sont approuvé

Los párrafos 1 a 17 son aprobados

Paragraph 18 approved

Le paragraphe 18 est approuvé

El párrafo 18 es aprobado

PARAGRAPHS 19 to 24

PARAGRAPHERS 19 á 24

PARRAFOS 19 a 25

K. ITANO (Japan): I have a very small point in paragraph 21. In the first line of the first sentence, instead of the word "unanimously" we propose the word "generally".

A.T. WADDA (Chairman, Drafting Committee): In examining and reviewing the verbatim record of the deliberations which took place in Council we did not find anywhere where a delegation had registered its objection to the eligibility. As a result of that the Committee unanimously agreed to state in the report that the Council unanimously agreed to recommend to the Conference to amend the resolution appointing the Director-General to include eligibility without any restriction. I am surprised that the delegation of Japan is amending the word "unanimously" by substituting the word "generally". If at any time it had been made clear to the Committee we would never have adopted the word "unanimously". If I go by the earlier statement made by the Chairman that substantive statements that were not made during plenary should not be introduced now in the discussion of the report, then I would appeal to the delegate of Japan to concur with the Committee's recommendation that the word "unanimously" should be retained. We have tried, as I said earlier, on controversial issues or on issues where people have certain feelings or reservations, to accommodate minority views and, in the case of the question of electing the Director-General, the Committee debated this for many hours and what we have here is the best compromise and one which reflects the general feeling of plenary. I repeat my appeal to Japan, therefore, to drop its amendment and to retain the word "unanimously" .

K. ITANO (Japan): Do not misunderstand our position. I am not opposing this matter, but in the discussion in plenary our delegation said that this matter needed to be studied further. So our position is like this and it is for this reason that I proposed what I proposed just now.

EL PRESIDENTE: Después de la declaración que hizo el Sr. Relator, podría tal vez pedirle al delegado del Japon que acepte el texto del párrafo 21 tal como está, antes de conceder la palabra a tres delegaciones que la han solicitado.

M.P. MASUD (Pakistan): The concern which the delegate of Japan has just expressed is a catered for in paragraph 22 which states "A few members felt", etc. As has just been said by the delegate of Japan himself there is no opposition to re-eligibility. He said: please do not misunderstand us, we do not oppose it. Therefore, there is unanimity on this point.

M.R. LEAR (New Zealand): I do recall that two delegations had problems with this particular issue; mine was not one of them. However, I think it would be more accurate to strike out "unanimously" and just put "The Council agreed". I think that is sufficiently strong and it is more accurate. I do not think it is quite true to say that there was completely unanimous agreement and, furthermore, you do have an obvious contradiction, it seems to me, with paragraph 22 where you express the reservations of some members; and if some reservations are expressed, then how can you have a unanimous opinion?

I therefore think that just "The Council agreed" would be sufficiently strong.

A.T. WADDA (Chairman, Drafting Committee): The reference I wanted to make has been pointed out by the delegate of Pakistan: paragraph 22 caters for the Japanese view and that of the other delegations. It was New Zealand, in fact, who drew the attention of the Committee to these two delegations, but after examination of what was stated, it was clear that these two delegations were not opposing re-eligibility.

But if it is now felt by the Council and by these members that they are not prepared to go along, their statement was an implied lack of support for re-eligibility and it would then be correct to state "generally" and accept the Japanese version; but to be fair and to be correct, we have reflected here what we have seen in the verbatim and there was no opposition. However, we are prepared to accept "generally" in place of "unanimously".

F. REDA (Egypt): (interpretation from Arabic): I fully agree with the delegate of Pakistan when he said that during the discussion of this matter in plenary no reservation or opposition was expressed as to the re-election of the Director-General, and paragraph 22 of this report provides some clarification respect to the difficulties that some delegates felt and pointed out during the discussion.

I. OROZCO GUZMAN (Mexico): Consideramos que si suprimimos la palabra "unanimidad", como ha sido sugerido por Nueva Zelandia, daría un equilibrio al informe acerca de esta cuestión. Consideramos que en la primera frase lo que se desea es que la Conferencia reexamine la cuestión de la reeligibilidad, porque en español dice "prevea la posibilidad". Tal vez nada más sea una diferencia de enfoque. Para nosotros sería recomendar que la Conferencia reexaminara la cuestión de la reelegibilidad del Director General.

Tengo otra observación al párrafo 21 en el sentido de que donde dice "la inmensa mayoría del Consejo apoyo plenamente la legitimidad de "asegurar la elegibilidad, no sé si esa inmensa mayoría del Consejo desearía efectivamente "asegurar", Yo diría "permitir". Para nosotros es una diferencia de grado que el español lo permite. O sea "permitir" la elegibilidad donde dice "asegurar".

A. Cisse (Niger): Je crois que le problème a été scindé en deux; en un premier temps, on a vu le problème sous l'angle de la rééligibilité et par la suite, on a parlé de réduction du second mandat du Directeur général. Et sur ce point-là, après la proposition des Etats-Unis qui a proposé ces deux points, le Japon et la Hollande se sont accordés avec le point de vue des Etats-Unis. Si le Secrétaire général veut faire apparaître les conclusions du Directeur général sur ce débat, on peut le vérifier.

M.P. MASUD (Pakistan): Mr. Chairman, I would just recall the earlier ruling you gave when we started on this, that no substantive issues were to be raised; and if this is not a substantive issue, I have yet to come across one.

Secondly, there was total unanimity, and even now, the delegate of Japan has said his delegation had no opposition to this; and if they have no opposition then why not unanimity.

B. de AZEVEDO BRITO (Brazil): My delegation had understood the intervention of Japan as being in terms of the modalities of eligibility for reappointment but no diversions from the main issue. That is the first point.

The second point is the fact that we had a debate and when a decision was taken, that decision, as far as I remember hearing from you, Mr. Chairman, was a unanimous decision. I think you used the specific word, notwithstanding whatever comments might have been made before; and that is an important point.

Third point: I would be inclined to believe that the word "generally" in this case would be misleading. "Generally" would usually be employed with other connotations and would be quite different from what is really unanimity.

K. ITANO (Japan): As I stated before, we are not opposing this but we suggested further study on this matter, nor are we at the moment in a position to subscribe to this. For this reason, I propose again to delete "unanimously" and to say just "The Council agreed". That expression would be acceptable for us.

A.T. WADDA (Chairman, Drafting Committee) I hate to intervene again, but I would like guidance from the Chair. As I have said earlier, there was unanimity in the Committee that the wording to be used in this report was: "The Council unanimously agreed". What the delegate of Japan has raised is a substantive issue and if I may recall what you said earlier, Mr. Chairman, new substantive issues cannot be raised in the discussion of the report. So, I regret and I am surprised that the delegate of New Zealand - himself a member of the Drafting Committee - will not concur with the use of unanimity and is suggesting to change it to "generally".

In my earlier intervention I said that if these countries did say during the plenary that they were opposed, then we should accept "generally", but since the Committee is of the view that there was no opposition, we arrived at unanimity.

If the delegate of Japan is not prepared to give in to our appeal, I would ask that a ruling be made somewhere; but I would rather prefer the delegate of Japan to recognize the effort of the Committee. We have debated at length and tried to accommodate the views of the Japanese. We have refused in many cases to include in this report one delegation's own view and we have provided in paragraph 22, almost verbatim the view of Japan. For that sake I am appealing again to the Japanese delegation to withdraw their amendment.

T. MINKOUE (Gabon): Notre délégation commence à penser que, dans cette assemblée, il y a des mots tabous tels que "unanimité", tels que "le Conseil a appuyé" ou les remplacer à la majorité de ceci ou de cela... Nous avons tous admis ici le principe de la rééligibilité, comme l'a souligné le Pakistan appuyé par le Niger et d'autres délégations. Il est question de voir quelle durée de mandat il sera donné au nouveau Chef du Secrétariat. Mais n'ayons pas peur des mots: "unanimité" est bien un mot qu'il faut utiliser ici. A moins que l'on nous dise qu'à partir de maintenant on n'emploiera plus de tels mots.

EL PRESIDENTE: Antes de dar la palabra a los cuatro oradores que tengo en la lista tal vez convenga recordar al Consejo que justamente el objeto de disponer de un Comité de Redacción es el evitar la manera de presentar unas conclusiones antes de que venga a la Plenaria, a fin de no reabrir discusiones sobre los temas que ya se discutieron antes.

J.C. VIGNAUD (Argentina): Lamento que se esté reproduciendo este debate, ya que lo tenemos que analizar en la medida en que el informe lo refleje, que es lo que se discutió. Lo que se discutió fue el principio de la reelegibilidad como institución jurídica y luego quien debía decidir acerca de la elección de un Director General en el futuro.

En relación con el primer tema de la reelegibilidad, desde el punto de vista institucional y jurídico, este tema ya se discutió y no hubo ninguna oposición; por eso planteo el cierre del debate y que se apruebe el texto tal como se ha reproducido, salvo en el caso de que usted, señor Presidente, convenga en que se va a reabrir la discusión.

K. ITANO ' (Japan): After hearing the explanation given by the Rapporteur and other speakers we withdraw our proposal in paragraph 21 with the understanding that in paragraph 22 our opinion is reflected.

EL PRESIDENTE: Gracias por su actitud constructiva sobre el párrafo 21. Entiendo que México había planteado una inquietud en relación con la palabra "asegurar la elegibilidad". Si he entendido bien él propone cambiar el término "asegurar por "permitir".

¿Quiere insistir el delegado de México sobre esto? Parece que no.

Paragraphs 19 to 22, as amended, approved

Les paragraphes 19 à 22, ainsi amendés, sont approuvés

Los párrafos 19 a 22, así enmendados, son aprobados

Paragraph 23, including draft resolution, approved

Le paragraphe 23, y compris le projet de résolution, est approuvé

El párrafo 23, incluido el proyecto de resolución, es aprobado

Paragraph 24 approved

Le paragraphe 24 est approuvé

El párrafo 24 es aprobado

Draft Report of Plenary - Part V, as amended, was adopted

Le projet de rapport de la plénière - Partie V - ainsi amendé, est adopté

El proyecto de informe de la Plenaria - Parte V, así enmendado, es aprobado

DRAFT REPORT OF PLENARY - PART VI

PROJET DE RAPPORT DE LA PLENIERE - PARTIE VI

PROYECTO DE INFORME DE LA PLENARIA - PARTE VI

Paragraphs 1 to 3 approved

Les paragraphes 1 à 3 sont approuvés

Los párrafos 1 a 3 son aprobados

Paragraph 4 approved

Le paragraphe 4 est approuvé

El párrafo 4 es aprobado

Paragraphs 5 and 6 approved

Les paragraphes 5 et 6 sont approuvés

Los párrafos 5 y 6 son aprobados

Paragraphs 7 and 8 approved

Les paragraphes 7 et 8 sont approuvés

Los párrafos 7 y 8 son aprobados

PARAGRAPHS 9 to 19

PARAGRAPHES 9 à 19

PARRAFOS 9 a 19

Q.H. HAQUE (Bangladesh): The last line "Arabic, Chinese, English, French and Spanish" we suggested that it should be "shall be the languages of the Organization" but the Legal Counsel was to consult the text and could explain.

B. de AZEVEDO BRITO (Brazil): I would like to indicate that the reason for the doubt in our Drafting Committee between 'shall' or 'are' was the fact that there were some exceptions referred to in paragraph 13, languages, German and Portuguese and therefore I hope the Legal Counsel when deciding takes into account the exceptions.

A.T. WADDA (Chairman, Drafting Committee): I think the delegate of Bangladesh as a member of the Drafting Committee is right, we did agree to include 'shall' because this is the normal terminology but after consulting with the Legal Adviser, he advises me that instead of 'shall' "are the languages" is the correct form and since this was only a point of legality I agree 'shall' should be replaced by 'are'. Unfortunately there was not enough time to inform the other members of the Council that I have agreed to these changes. The reasons behind the changes can best be explained by the Legal Adviser himself.

EL PRESIDENTE: En atención a que el Relator ya transmitió la opinión del Asesor Legal, tal vez el colega de Bangladesh pueda aceptar la explicación, ¿o quiere oír al Asesor Legal?

LEGAL COUNSEL: The language which is now in Rep. 6 is the language which is being put forward as a proposal by the CCLM. The Legal Counsel would perhaps be ill advised to suggest a solution which would depart from the collective wisdom of the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters. I honestly believe that the use of one or the other of the formulae will not make much difference in practice. It is preferable to have "are the languages" because, as has been pointed out, some other languages are also used in the Organization. On the other hand, this has already been done in the past, namely that other languages were used, and, nevertheless Rule XLI as it is on the books now uses the normative form "shall be". I would therefore express preference for maintaining the words, "are the languages" but if the Council felt that there is a strong case for "shall be" on account of the fact that most other provisions of the General Rules use the normative wording, I think from the legal point of view there would be no strong objection.

Q.H. HAQUE (Bangladesh): As the Legal Counsel correctly pointed out in the present rule GRO reads "Arabic, Chinese, English, French and Spanish shall be the official languages of the Organization. English, French, and Spanish shall be the working languages, and Arabic shall be a working language for limited purposes". So with the present rule when it is positive the language used is "shall be" but I do not know, in the present rules also it is "shall be". Why are you going to make it different. And we think it is most appropriate to use the words "shall be".

J.C. VIGNAUD (Argentina): Sin perjuicio de que me complace esta discusión jurídica tan refinada, diría que yo creo que en tanto las resoluciones que adopte la Conferencia tienen ejecutoria desde el momento en que son aprobadas, no hay inconveniente en que se use el presente. Quizá en nuestras reglas fundamentales estaba en futuro en tanto que fueron las reglas que se dictaron cuando se creó la Organización y entonces debieron aplicarse cuando la Organización empezó a funcionar, pero ahora la situación ha cambiado y esa resolución sirve para ejecutar inmediatamente después de su aprobación. No veo inconveniente en que se diga en presente, pero es una cuestión de purismo jurídico.

EL PRESIDENTE: Veo que Bangladesh tiene cierta validez en su argumento, pero quisiera preguntarle si puede adoptar el presente.

Paragraphs 9 to 19 approved

Les paragraphes 9 à 19 sont approuvés

Los párrafos 9 a 19 son aprobados

Paragraph 20 approved

Le paragraphe 20 est approuvé

El párrafo 20 es aprobado

Paragraph 21, including Resolution, adopted

Le paragraphe 21, y compris la résolution, est adopté

El párrafo 21, incluida la Resolución, es aprobado

PARAGRAPHS 22 to 25

PARAGRAPHES 22 à 25

PARRAFOS 22 a 25

J.C. VIGNAUD (Argentina): Desearía que se excluya una palabra en el párrafo 23 que en español tiene una connotación muy desagradable. Dice: "se advirtió la necesidad de mantener el Consejo con un número de miembros manejable". "Manejable" en español tiene una connotación muy desagradable, de manera que propongo que se ponga otra palabra que la sustituya.

EL PRESIDENTE: Se puede poner "acceptable".

Paragraphs 22 to 25, as amended, approved

Les paragraphes 22 à 25, ainsi amendés, sont approuvés

Los párrafos 22 a 25, así enmendados, son aprobados

PARAGRAPHS 26 to 30

PARRAFOS 26 a 30

I. OROZCO GUZMAN (Mexico): Es una mera cuestión de idioma. En el tercer renglón del párrafo 30 se dice "los países que están"; preferiríamos que fuera "son". A los miembros del Consejo de habla inglesa les parecerá raro pero en español hay diferencia entre ser y estar.

EL PRESIDENTE: La enmienda de México es sencilla. Al final del párrafo 30 donde se dice "a los países que están atendidos por la Oficina Regional," decir "a los países que son atendidos por la Oficina Regional". No hay ningún problema.

Paragraphs 26 to 30, as amended, approved

Les paragraphes 26 à 30, ainsi amendés, sont approuvés

Los párrafos 26 a 30, así enmendados, son aprobados

Paragraphs 31 to 37 approved

Les paragraphes 31 à 37 sont approuvés

Los párrafos 31 a 37 son aprobados

Paragraphs 38 and 39 approved

Les paragraphes 38 et 39 sont approuvés

Los párrafos 38 a 39 son aprobados

Draft Report of plenary - Part VI, as amended, was adopted

Le projet de rapport de la plénière - Partie VI, ainsi amendé, est adopté

El proyecto de informe de la Plenaria - Parte VI, así enmendado, es aprobado

The meeting rose at 17.45 hours.

La séance est levée à 17 h 45.

Se levanta la sesión "a las 17.45 horas.

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consejo

ORGANIZACION DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS PARA LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION

CL

CL 71/PV/18

Seventy-First Session

Soixante et onzième session

71° período de sesiones

EIGHTEENTH PLENARY MEETING
DIX-HUITIEME SEANCE PLENIERE
18ª SESION PLENARIA

(17 June 1977)

The Eighteenth Plenary Meeting was opened at 9.50 hours, G. Bula Hoyos, Independent Chairman of the Council, presiding

La dix-huitième séance plénière est ouverte à 9 h 50 sous la présidence de G. Bula Hoyos, Président indépendant du Conseil

Se abre la 18ª sesión plenaria a las 9.50 horas bajo la presidencia de G. Bula Hoyos, Presidente independiente del Consejo

ADOPTION OF REPORT (continued)

ADOPTION DU RAPPORT (suite)

APROBACION DEL INFORME (continuación)

DRAFT REPORT OF PLENARY - PART VII

PROJET DE RAPPORT DE LA PLENIERE - SEPTIEME PARTIE

PROYECTO DE INFORME LA PLENARIA - PARTE VII

Paragraphs 1 to 8 approved

Les paragraphes 1 à 8 sont approuvés

Los párrafos 1 a 8 son aprobados

PARAGRAPHS 9 to 12

PARAGRAPHERS 9 à 12

PARRAFOS 9 a 12

A. T. WADDA (Chairman, Drafting Committee): I would like to point out certain omissions and changes in text.

Paragraph 9, the third line should read: "... the services rendered to the Organization by its previous Director-General" instead of "former".

At the end of paragraph 10, after "Finance Committee", in brackets could we put "4/" referring to the bottom where it will be "4/ CL 71/4 para. 3.139".

On paragraph 12 of the same page, sub paragraph c) "after "... necessarily be confined to the written word but, within the constraints of a practical nature, ..." should be inserted: "... should be extended". That is after the comma.

EL PRESIDENTE: Espero que todos hayan tomado nota de las observaciones que ha planteado el Relator sobre los párrafos 9, 10 y 12 de este tema 12. Creo que esto mejora el texto; en el castellano se han introducido estas modificaciones.

Si están de acuerdo adoptamos los párrafos 9, 10, 11 y 12.

Paragraphs 9 to 12, as amended, approved

Les paragraphes 9 à 12, ainsi amendés, sont approuvés

Los párrafos 9 a 12, así enmendados, son aprobados

Paragraphs 13 to 15, including draft resolution, approved

Les paragraphes 13 à 15, y compris le projet de résolution, sont approuvés

Los párrafos 13 a 15, incluido el proyecto de resolución, son aprobados

Paragraphs 16 to 23 approved

Les paragraphes 16 à 23 sont approuvés

Los párrafos 16 a 23 son aprobados

Paragraphs 24 to 26 approved

Les paragraphes 24 a 26 sont approuvés

Los párrafos 24 a 26 son aprobados

Paragraphs 27 to 29 approved

Les paragraphes 27 à 29 sont approuvés

Los párrafos 27 a 29 son aprobados

Paragraphs 30 to 33 approved

Les paragraphes 30 à 33 sont approuvés

Los párrafos 30 a 33 son aprobados

Paragraphs 34 to 39 approved

Les paragraphes 34 à 39 sont approuvés

Los párrafos 34 a 39 son aprobados

Paragraphs 40 and 41 approved

Les paragraphes 40 et 41 sont approuvés

Los párrafos 40 y 41 son aprobados

Paragraphs 42 to 45 approved

Les paragraphes 42 a 45 sont approuvés

Los párrafos 42 a 45 son aprobados

Paragraph 46 including Resolution, adopted

Le paragraphe 46, y compris la résolution, est adopté

El párrafo 46, incluida la Resolución, es aprobado

Paragraphs 47 approved

Le paragraphe 47 est approuvé

El párrafo 47 es aprobado

Paragraph 48 approved

Le paragraphe 48 est approuvé

El párrafo 48 es aprobado

Draft Report of Plenary - Part VII, as amended, was adopted

Le projet de rapport de la plénière, septième partie, ainsi amendé, est adopté

El proyecto de informe de la Plenaria - Parte VII, así enmendado, es aprobado

DRAFT REPORT OF PLENARY - PART VII (Sup. 1)

PROJET DE RAPPORT DE LA PLENIERE - SEPTIEME PARTIE (Sup. 1)

PROYECTO DE INFORME DE LA PLENARIA - PARTE VII (Sup. 1)

EL PRESIDENTE: Seguimos con el REP/7 Sup. 1. Es un documento breve que se refiere al resultado que se obtuvo ayer tarde en la reunión privada con los jefes de Delegaciones del Consejo. La forma en que se redacta este párrafo es la usualo

Paragraph 1 approved

Le paragraphe 1 est approuvé

El párrafo 1 es aprobado

Draft Report of Plenary - Part VII (Sup. 1) was adopted

Le projet de rapport de la plénière, septième partie (Sup. 1), est adopté

El proyecto de informe de la Plenaria - Parte VII (Sup. 1), es aprobado

DRAFT REPORT OF PLENARY - PART VIII

PROJET DE RAPPORT DE LA PLENIERE - HUITIEME PARTIE

PROYECTO DE INFORME DE LA PLENARIA - PARTE VIII

Paragraphs 1 and 2 approved

Les paragraphes 1 et 2 sont approuvés

Los párrafos 1 y 2 son aprobados

Paragraphs 3 and 4 approved

Les paragraphes 3 et 4 sont approuvés

Los párrafos 3 y 4 son aprobados

Paragraphs 5 and 6 approved

Les paragraphes 5 et 6 sont approuvés

Los párrafos 5 y 6 son aprobados

Paragraphs 7 to 10 approved

Les paragraphes 7 à 10 sont approuvés

Los párrafos 7 a 10 son aprobados

Paragraphs 11 to 13 approved

les paragraphes 11 á 13 sont approuvés

Los párrafos 11 a 13 son aprobados

Paragraphs 14 to 27 approved

Les paragraphes 14 à 27 sont approuves

Los párrafos 14 a 27 son aprobados

PARAGRAPHS 28 33 INCLUDING DRAFT RESOLUTION

PARAGRAPHERS 28 A 33 Y COMPRIS LE PROJET DE RESOLUTION

PARRAFOS 28 A 33 INCLUIDO EL PROYECTCTPE RESOLUCION

G. WEILL (France): Je n'ai pas l'intention de ralentir le rythme satisfaisant de l'adoption de ce rapport mais je voudrais enlever une petite contradiction qui m'apparaît entre le paragraphe 31 et le paragraphe 33.

Le paragraphe 31 indique qu'un certain nombre de membres ont souhaité en substance que le Conseil reprenne l'examen de la question lors de sa prochaine session. Le paragraphe 33 refaisant abstraction de ce qui est dit au paragraphe 32 dit que la majorité a appuyé le paragraphe 33 faisant totalement abstraction de ce qui est dit au paragraphe 31, dit en conséquence "le Conseil décide de présenter à la Conférence le projet de résolution".

Alors, pour la cohérence de ce texte, je propose l'amendement suivant: "En conséquence" c'est le texte actuel, et l'on insérera le membre de phrase suivant: "nonobstant le point de vue exprimé par un certain nombre de délégations suivant lequel la soixante-douzième session du Conseil devrait en délibérer à nouveau"; et le reste demeure tel que le texte présenté. Voulez-vous que je relise cet amendement?

EL PRESIDENTE: Han oído Vds. la enmienda que Francia propone a la introducción del párrafo 33. ¿Quién desea intervenir?

S.S. MAHDI (India): In our view, the draft as it stands takes fully into account the points that have just been made by the delegate of France. The sequence of logic is this: a number of members felt, but the majority supported, and therefore the Council transmitted the following Draft Resolution. In view of this, in our view, the insertion of what has just been said sounds a little repetitious.

A. T. WADDA (Chairman, Drafting Committee): I cannot agree more with what the delegate from India has stated. The Committee looked into this matter and the point of view that has now been expressed by the delegate of France, a member of the Drafting Committee, was expressed during the the Committee's deliberations, and a paragraph was to be included in addition to what has already been stated in paragraph 31. If one reads paragraph 31 one will see that what France is asking for has been adequately provided there. If France will bear with me, I will read the paragraph loud enough for everybody to see that what France is asking is already stated there. Paragraph 31: "A number of members felt that inadequate time had been available for the problem to be looked into thoroughly and that it was impossible for them to adopt a decision at this Council session. Whilst fully recognizing that the Director-General's Programme of Work and Budget for 1978-79, once approved by the Conference, should be protected against demands stemming from exchange rate fluctuations and inflation in excess of that budgeted for and that such developments could not be foreseen, they were of the opinion" - I repeat again - "they were of the opinion that the problem should be considered further by the Finance Committee, that additional justification should be given, and that the matter should be further discussed at the Council's next session". That is exactly the opinion France is asking should be put into the report. But as one reads the report one will see that the majority opinion is not given, it is said only that the Council agreed. The reasoning behind the majority point of view has been left out, but to accommodate minority views we decided to include this. If France wants to re-state what is already contained in paragraph 31, then I am afraid we would have to re-write the whole paper because the majority point of view would need to be portrayed here giving the reason why it was decided to transmit the Draft Resolution to the Conference for adoption.

For this reason. I appeal to France as a member of the Drafting Committee to keep to the agreement that was reached in the Drafting Committee and allow the Council to adopt this draft Resolution as presented here,

S. JUMA'A (Jordan) (Interpretation from Arabic): I should like the representative of France to comment on what has just been said by the Chairman of the Drafting Committee, and then I should like either to speak again or not, depending on what he says. Perhaps, therefore, the representative of France would be good enough to comment.

G. WEILL (France): Monsieur le Président, je ne veux pas vous donner raison, et je ne veux pas qu'il soit dit que la délégation de la France va prolonger inutilement les débats.

Je regrette que le Président de notre Comité ait pris la peine de lire le paragraphe 31. Je l'avais lu moi-même, je peux vous l'assurer, et pour écouter le débat, pour éviter même peut-être à notre ami de la Jordanie de recommander la position du délégué de la France, ayant fait cette proposition je la retire, en regrettant cependant que le souci de rechercher avant la Conférence une solution concrète aux problèmes qui étaient très bien exposés dans le rapport du Comité de rédaction, ne permette pas au Conseil à sa soixante-douzième session de retoucher, si nécessaire, le projet de résolution pour parvenir plus facilement à un accord.

Mais Monsieur le Président, puisque le sentiment général paraît être de conserver le texte du paragraphe 33 dans sa présente rédaction, je vous fais le plaisir, je crois, de retirer ma proposition.

EL PRESIDENTE: Gracias amigo, Gerard Weill por su actitud conciliatoria. Adoptamos el párrafo 33 como está y así hemos terminado el REP/8 y concluido también nuestro Programa del Trabajo para esta mañana.

Paragraphs 28 to 33 including draft resolution, approved

Les paragraphes 28 à 33 y comprisele projet de resolution, sont approuvés

Los párrafos 28 a 33, incluido el proyecto de resolucion, son aprobados

Draft Report of Plenary - Part VIII was adopted

Le projet de rapport de la plétilère, huitième partie, est adopte

El proyecto de informe de la Plenaria - Parte VIII, es aprobado

Draft Report of Plenary as amended, was adopted

Le projet de rapport de la plénière, ainsi amende, ftsfc adopté

El proyecto de informe de la Plenaria así enmendado, es aprobado

CM. FOFANA (Observateur pour la Guinée): Nous tenons tout d'abord à adresser nos vives félicitations au Conseil qui a effectué un travail excellent dans un record de temps.

Nous tenons à remercier le Comité de rédaction qui a eu l'honneur d'être présidé par un membre éminent du groupe africain, et nous étions certains, en l'élisant, qu'il aurait dans la mesure du possible tout mis en oeuvre pour mériter de façon pratique la confiance que nous lui avons accordée. Nous tenons donc, au nom du groupe africain, à remercier le Conseil d'avoir fait confiance au groupe africain qui lui a délégué un de ses membres.

Cependant, nous sommes aussi contraints d'exprimer un certain regret à propos d'une certaine pratique que nous avons vécue au cours de ce Conseil, notamment en ce qui concerne le rôle des observateurs.

Il n'a pas toujours été aisé pour les observateurs de contribuer aux travaux du Conseil, même si ces observateurs étaient animés du même esprit que les membres du Conseil.

Depuis six ans, j'ai l'honneur de représenter mon gouvernement au sein de cette Organisation. Nous avons eu l'honneur de participer à toutes les Conférences importantes. Nous avons eu l'honneur également de représenter la majorité des membres de l'Organisation au Conseil et dans d'autres Comités parmi les plus importants. Notre délégation a toujours estimé qu'au sein de ces réunions, les observateurs avaient un rôle à jouer. Tant que nous étions à la place que certains occupent aujourd'hui, nous étions l'une des délégations qui se sont battues afin de permettre aux observateurs de s'exprimer en particulier sur les questions qui regardent la souveraineté des Etats.

Je crois que ce Conseil n'a pas voulu user de la même bienveillance vis-à-vis des observateurs, et cela nous le regrettons très sincèrement et fermement. Le rôle d'observateur est éphémère et ceux qui sont aujourd'hui membres de ce Conseil peuvent demain se trouver au poste d'observateur.

Nous tenons tout de suite à vous adresser personnellement, Monsieur le Président, une remarque que vous voudrez bien considérer avec bienveillance. Dans le règlement intérieur de l'Organisation, il est indiqué qu'il faut user d'une certaine souplesse vis-à-vis des observateurs.

Nous connaissons, en tant que représentants d'Etat, le rôle que nous devons jouer, à savoir que nous ne devons pas abuser de la patience des membres du Conseil du bureau. Nous en sommes conscients. Mais notre souci a été d'intervenir sur les questions fondamentales pour apporter notre contribution. Il y a des observateurs qui sont venus de très loin et il est regrettable qu'ayant siégé pendant deux semaines ils n'aient pas eu l'opportunité de s'exprimer sur des questions qui tiennent à coeur à leurs Etats.

Nous espérons qu'à la prochaine session du Conseil les membres du Conseil voudront bien tenir compte de cette remarque et qu'à l'avenir on puisse définir de façon claire quelle est la place des observateurs. Le règlement intérieur dit que l'on doit considérer leur position avec souplesse. Nous nous rendons compte que quelquefois cette souplesse n'a pas été observée et nous la regrettons.

Nous tenons à ce que cette intervention figure au procès verbal pour que les prochaines sessions, et notamment le Groupe des 77, en tiennent compte, en ce qui concerne les observateurs des pays en développement.

En terminant, je voudrais remercier le Secrétariat qui a fourni des documents excellents, et tous ceux qui ont contribué à faire que cette session soit un succès pour les questions fondamentales que nous avons examinées. Nous espérons que le même esprit pourra se refléter dans les sessions futures, avec toujours beaucoup de bienveillance vis-à-vis des observateurs.

I. MOSKOVITS (Observateur pour le Malte): Je voudrais m'associer complètement à ce qu'a dit notre distingué collègue et ami de Guinée, et je me permettrai d'ajouter une observation.

Je voudrais savoir sur quelle règle ou réglementation des Textes fondamentaux se base la limitation du temps de parole à deux ou cinq minutes en ce qui concerne les observateurs.

Dans les Textes fondamentaux il y a seulement les documents et les réglementations adoptés par la Conférence, et je crois que la Conférence, qui est l'organe majeur de l'Organisation, est seule autorisée à définir le rôle des observateurs durant les réunions.

EL PRESIDENTE: Gracias. Creo que el Consejo toma nota de las declaraciones que acaban de hacer los Observadores de Guinea y de Malta cuyos textos contarán en las Actas. Personalmente me complace que sean justamente estas dos delegaciones las que hayan presentado este punto porque Guinea y Malta durante estas dos semanas han sido nuestros clientes más habituales, nuestros clientes más constantes en pedir hacer el uso de la palabra y sus solicitudes yo siempre las he acogido con benevolencia y escuchado con gran complacencia. Espero que' los miembros del Consejo estarán de acuerdo conmigo en que yo he tratado de aplicar los métodos de trabajo que fueron adoptados por nuestro Organismo y dentro de la flexibilidad posible cumpla la función de Presidente, siempre con el propósito fundamental de preservar la más eficiente tarea de los miembros del Consejo que, naturalmente, su función es diferente a la de los observadores.

C. HIGGINSON (United States of America): I also wanted to make a note to be included in the provisional verbatim records and that is that I think this Council has a good deal to thank the Chairman of the Drafting Committee Mr. Wadda for, and I think the success of his work was shown by the speed with which this Council has gone through the debates. I was a member of the Drafting Committee - I think I have to say an active member of the Drafting Committee -- and he acted with great impartiality and also firmness and I have nothing but praise for the way he handled it, and I think the report shows it.

B. de AZEVEDO BRITO (Brazil): Now that we have finished the adoption of the report, my delegation would also like to put on record our feeling that a great deal of the success of preparing the draft report which the Council approved with such ease, was due to the leadership and effective role played by

Ambassador Wadda. He conducted the work of the Drafting Committee in an admirable manner, always trying to find a consensus in the middle of heated discussions, and we believe therefore that we are really indebted to him for the manner in which the report was prepared.

That being said, my delegation would also like to comment briefly on the overall work of the Council at this session. We believe that we have in the Council, during this session, done very important and useful work in the preparation for the Conference in November. The Council went through the Programme and Budget proposals of the Director-General, reviewing priorities and different suggestions for specific programmes. We are very happy to see that, at the time of the Conference, it will be possible to approve a Programme of Work and Budget which will be fully in line with the New International Economic Order and the requirements of the developing countries, even though resources are limited.

We are particularly happy to see that the Council was in a position to take action on a very important proposal made by the Director-General in respect to food losses. We are also very happy to see in this Session of the Council the consolidation of the Technical Cooperation Programme to which Brazil and all the developing countries attach very special importance.

We also had in this Session an extremely useful review of the subsidiary bodies of the Council. We had a very interesting discussion on Commodities, and particularly the Codex Alimentarius, which I believe was discussed in a constructive manner that should permit improvements in the work on food standards. We also think that in reviewing the work of the Committee on Agriculture the Council was in a position to review in a very positive manner important policies related to agriculture, especially in relation to small farmers, and we are happy that the Council was in a position to address itself substantially to these kinds of issues. We believe and we hope that in future sessions such a trend will continue, so that we can really discuss the substance of the matters relating to agricultural production.

Similar comments can surely be made in relation to the Committees on Forestry and Fisheries. The review of the work of these four Committees, Commodities, Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries shows that this Organization is full of vitality and new ideas are coming forth. New programmes are being defined and action is taking place, and we are happy with that.

I believe also that this Session of the Council is extremely important for the future of the Organization in relation to the constitutional aspects it considered and decided upon. We took a very fundamental decision in deciding to re-establish the re-eligibility of the Director-General as one basic criteria for the life of the Organization. We are confident and we are sure that this very important decision will have very positive effects on the future of the Organization. We believe also that the Council took very important decisions in relation to its own enlargement. The enlargement of the Council should ensure greater representation and therefore strengthen the Council.

The decisions taken in relation to the Programme and Finance Committees also are in our view very fundamental. We are bringing in line the institutional framework of the Organization in line with the new dimensions and the new requirements of programmes and activities of the Organization.

In short, my delegation believes that this session of the Council did extremely good work in preparation for the coming session of the Conference.

As far as the point raised by the observers of Guinea and Malta, my delegation would like to put on record that we have always defended a flexible approach, with reference to the participation of observers in the United Nations bodies, allowing as much as possible the participation of countries who are not members at a particular moment. I am speaking on this particular point, of course, as a delegate for Brazil only.

J.C. VIGNAUD (Argentina): Estoy seguro de poder hablar en nombre de los países que integran la región latinoamericana y expresar la satisfacción del grupo, pero estoy seguro de interpretar el sentimiento de ellos y le felicito a usted, señor Presidente, por el modo eficiente y cordial como ha dirigido nuestros debates. Eficiente y cordial, y enérgico a la vez, ese modo enérgico quizás es lo que ha permitido que nuestras deliberaciones se concretaran dentro del plazo previsto en nuestro calendario, y además que se llegara a conclusiones concretas, que, como dijo recientemente nuestro delegado de Brasil, seguramente van a ser una eficiente contribución para facilitar las labores de la Conferencia.

Nos damos cuenta de que en aquellos casos en que usted ha tenido que intervenir con alguna energía, y restringir en el tiempo las intervenciones, particularmente de los observadores, a cuyas contribuciones damos la bienvenida en los debates, nos damos cuenta de que usted en algún momento ha tenido que restringir en el tiempo sus intervenciones. Esto ha sido no por desconocer el derecho de expresar a los oradores sus opiniones, sino más bien contenido por el poco tiempo de que algunas veces disponíamos para cumplir nuestros debates.

Deseo también agradecer las contribuciones que ha hecho el Director General y todo el personal que le acompaña, tanto por sus intervenciones, que han sido esclarecedoras muchas veces, y especialmente por los documentos que nos ha presentado con propuestas que en general han merecido la aquiescencia de todos los miembros del Consejo, y eso no es un hecho causal, sino que es porque nos ha presentado propuestas que no contenían aspectos controvertibles, sino que eran suficientemente aceptables para todos nosotros. Y cuando agradezco al personal de la Secretaría que ha estado trabajando con nosotros, también lo hago al personal que no se ve, los intérpretes, pero que facilitan muy valiosamente nuestras labores.

Quiero, asimismo, unirme a lo que ya ha dicho en relación con la eficiencia que ha demostrado el Presidente del Comité de Redacción, el Sr. Wadda, Embajador de Gambia, y no sólo a su eficiencia, sino también al empeño constructivo de todas las Direcciones que integraron este Comité, porque la velocidad con que hemos aprobado el informe final es una prueba más evidente del trabajo valioso que ellos han realizado.

G. WEILL (France): Je manquerais à une obligation si au nom de ma délégation je ne commençais à mon tour à exprimer à l'Ambassadeur Wadda, toute la satisfaction que nous avons quant à la façon dont il a dirigé nos travaux au Comité de rédaction. Ce Conseil a donné à ce dernier une tâche particulièrement difficile en commençant par réduire la durée de son travail, étant donné les conditions dans lesquelles ce Comité a été constitué. Cependant, nous avons eu des séances animées, positives et je ne surprendrai peut-être qu'une partie de nos collègues en disant que la délégation française n'a pas été des plus faciles dans la discussion, mais ces discussions ont été franches, et je crois constructives. Je n'en veux pour preuve que la façon dont le Conseil a accueilli le rapport qui lui a été présenté.

Il m'est agréable également, après avoir remercié l'Ambassadeur Wadda, notre Président, de dire que lorsque nous avons été par trop embarrassés, nous avons eu, et nous l'avons fait avec profit, à nous reporter aux résumés impartiaux du Président du Conseil.

Merci, Monsieur le Président, de la façon dont vous avez dirigé nos débats et facilité le travail. Je dois dire aussi que nous avons été admirablement servis par le Secrétariat du Comité de rédaction, comme aussi par tous les membres du Secrétariat qui, à l'image du Directeur général, s'attachent à l'efficacité du travail de notre Organisation.

Il ne m'appartient pas de formuler les remerciements finals; vous le faites, je crois, habituellement beaucoup mieux qu'aucune de nos délégations prises isolément, mais, au nom de ma délégation, je voulais donner le témoignage de notre satisfaction.

A. T. WADDA (Chairman Drafting Committee): Having listened to what has been said I feel that I could respond on the part of the Drafting Committee. As my colleague the delegate from France pointed out, we started with a sticky wicket - I do not think he plays cricket, I do, and I know what it is like. It was difficult when we started. We started late and this Council has referred to us one of the most important decisions to be taken by the next Conference. I will not go into details about this. We are all very familiar with it. A member of the Drafting Committee has already made a very brief summary of the work we undertook and I would like to pay my tribute and my congratulations to the delegate of Brazil for having seized the opportunity to express, I would say on the part of the Committee, the Programme of Work which we have carried.

During the work of the Committee, I would be only honest to say, I was very fortunate to have with me a team that was dedicated and devoted to the work that was given to us by Council. We started with different opinions but we were all clear in our minds that our objective is to reflect honestly and frankly what has been said in Council. Throughout the discussion I tried very hard to provoke thoughts and where possible to seek advice from the Secretariat and whatever leadership I gave I would say it was what the Committee deserved. They were very tolerant. Sometimes I was very rough and I was told, I remember, from outsiders who came to plead with me, that I was being very tough to the Committee and if I was not careful I would disrupt the work of the Committee, but I think the outsiders who came and tried to pull me down were not aware of the atmosphere which prevailed in that Committee. I am saying this to give a picture to Council that our work was not easy. I am saying this for Council to realise, that in the spirit of cooperation and in the search for solution there is anything possible, there is nothing impossible if the various people are prepared to have patience and to listen to one another.

The ballot which took place in our Committee produced the result which you have now accepted and I would like to say once again that I owe this mainly to the members of the Committee. In saying this I will not forget the efficient manner of the Director-General and the entire Secretariat of the FAO

staff who were so dutiful in their service to us. It was a very efficient service. We have difficulty in languages and I would say again, the interpreters were most helpful. They have carried out their duty in a very efficient manner and we are all very proud of them. Last but not least, I would like to express the Committee's appreciation for the manner in which you always summed up every discussion in this Council. Whenever we were at a loss, as the delegate of France has said, we always resort to the summing up of the Chairman which we find always very balanced and concise. To Council, on behalf of the Drafting Committee, I would like to express our sincere thanks for the confidence you have had in us and the manner in which you received our report to show us that we have carried out our duty to your satisfaction.

N. RAHUMA (Libya) (Interpretation from Arabic): On behalf of my delegation and on behalf of the Arab group in this Council I should like to take this opportunity to express our very warm appreciation and our sincere thanks to the Chairman of the Council for the admirable way in which he has chaired our discussions and for the way he has been able to overcome our difficulties. Unquestionably our Chairman has been the linchpin in the success of our discussions because this session of the Council dealt with extremely important questions, particularly since this present session is preparing for the next session of the Conference.

We should also like to take this opportunity to congratulate the Director-General for all the efforts he has put in to preparing the work of this session of the Council in the best possible way.

Mr. Chairman, the developing countries turn to FAO and in fact they place all their hopes in our Organization.

I should also like to congratulate the Chairman of the Drafting Committee as well as the members of the Drafting Committee and the Secretariat and the interpreters who have all contributed to the success of our work.

Once more, Mr. Chairman, I should like to thank you, Sir, and to congratulate you.

F. REDA (Egypt) (Interpretation from Arabic): It is an honour and a pleasure for me on behalf of my colleagues of the African group, both members and observers, and on behalf of my colleagues, the permanent representatives of their countries to FAO, to thank the Chairman of the Council most sincerely for all his efforts in chairing our discussion and which have been most successful and have contributed to the success of our session.

I should also like to thank the Director-General of FAO for his constant efforts which are reflected in the documents before us. These documents were extremely useful to us in our work, and they are all the more useful in that they prepare the way for the general Conference, and in particular, we should like to mention the Summary Programme of Work and Budget: which was presented in an admirable way. I should also, on behalf of the African group, like to thank all the members of the Secretariat for all the work they have done. We should also like to thank the Chairman of the Drafting Committee, the Chairman of the Programme Committee, the Chairman of the Finance Committee and the Chairman of CCLM for all the documents and work they submitted to us.

Once more, Mr. Chairman, we should like to thank all those who have contributed to the success of our meeting, and we hope that we will see each other all again at the next session.

A.E. HANNAH (Canada): The Canadian delegation would like to associate itself with many of the comments which have been made by other delegates. However, if I may be permitted, since this is my first visit to this Council and having the honour of participating in this body, I would like to record some personal impressions, the first being that the Council is doing its work in a very constructive and cooperative manner, and I think it is due to your ability and your cooperativeness, Mr. Chairman, and I would like to commend you for it. My feeling is that the Council did a lot of work in a very short time and did effective work. The second impression I had, Mr. Chairman, is that I am impressed with the way the Director-General and the Secretariat worked with a very cooperative and constructive attitude within the Council. I am sure that such efforts will augur well for the future of FAO, and the Director-General is to be commended for fostering such an attitude. These are my impressions, and I wish to thank you and the others for a very fine Organization.

K. ITANO (Japan): On behalf of our delegation, Mr. Chairman, I would like to express our attitude to you for your very excellent leadership in conducting the meeting. I would also like to express our thanks to the Chairman of the Drafting Committee and its members for their very excellent work which facilitated our work in the meeting. I would also like to express our sincere thanks to the Director-General and other staff of the Secretariat for their very good preparation for this meeting as well as all other staff, interpreters, messengers and other members of the staff for their contribution to our work.

G. SATARI (Indonesia): Mr. Chairman, it is an honour for me indeed to listen and to participate in this 71th Session of the Council. The discussions at the sessions have been fruitful, constructive, frank and very enjoyable. This is due to your leadership, Mr. Chairman; you have conducted the sessions with great flexibility; also due to the ability of the Drafting Committee to formulate the Draft Report in an efficient way, and last but not least, of course, to the cooperative effort of all members of the Council. Therefore, I would like to express on behalf of the Indonesian delegation our greatest appreciation and sincere thanks to the Chairman of the Drafting Committee, to all members and observers of the Council and also to all members of the Committees. May I also on behalf of my Indonesian delegation express our confidence and warm congratulations, gratitude and appreciation to the Director-General and his entire staff for his constant and constructive efforts, for his new ideas and for his programme of actions which will be carried out at the grass roots level.

A. DAS (India): I would like to associate the Indian delegation with the high appreciation expressed by a number of the member countries of the Council about the leadership shown and the role played by the Independent Chairman, the Director-General and the Chairmen of the Programme and Finance Committees, the CCLM and the Drafting Committee. We also fully share the views expressed here about the excellent role played by the Secretariat in the preparation of very informative and detailed data and information, and we are also proud about the role played by the interpreters for the success of this Council. This particular session of the Council has impressed us most, as we have found in this session a high degree of cooperative spirit among the member countries and the brotherly feelings and relations of cordiality which we feel is one of the greatest achievements of this forum in the body of the United Nations. Apart from solving the food and agricultural problems of the member countries, the greatest achievement I would say, is to foster brotherly relations among all the Member Nations of this Council.

I thank you once again, Mr. Chairman, and also as a member country we feel that we very much consider it our duty to express a high degree of appreciation to the role played by the present Director-General in showing a new dynamism and leadership in the functioning of this great Organization. Thank you once again, Mr. Chairman.

M.P. MASUD (Pakistan): I would simply like to associate my delegation and my colleagues from the Asia group with all the good things that have been said about all the good people over here. Thank you, Sir.

G.W. THOM (United Kingdom): Mr. Chairman, I too simply wish to associate my delegation with all the kind words which have been said by a number of delegations in the past few minutes. I think that it has been a good meeting. My experience of FAO Council meetings is limited, but this has certainly been as satisfactory as any I have attended, and I have no doubt at all that this is not solely due to the wisdom and tolerance of myself and other distinguished delegates around the table. We also owe a great deal to, in particular, our Chairman, who I think has shown remarkable vigour in driving us on, not letting us waste too much time, and very considerable tolerance. The Chairmen of the various Committees of the Council have also in our view done well, and we owe them our congratulations. We would also like to express our warm thanks to the Director-General and the members of his staff for the excellent documentation which we have had to assist us, and we would also like to thank those people whom other delegates have referred to as being behind the scenes and in particular the interpreters who have to put up with our no doubt rather slipshod language and turn it instantaneously into other languages, which they do with enormous success.

N.M. MWAUNGULU (Malawi): I too on behalf of the Malawi delegation would like to join the previous speakers, especially those from the African group, and take this opportunity to thank you, Mr. Chairman, for your very able chairmanship over the Council deliberations. I would also like to take this

opportunity to thank the Director-General for his openness and candour whenever this has been required. It has been most helpful; as far as I have been able to observe, he has to a great extent been a catalyst. Also I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Chairman of the Drafting Committee who I think has done a very good job and most of all the Secretariat for its most impressive assistance wherever we have sought this. Especially, Mr. Chairman, I think the documentation has been excellent.

DIRECTOR-GENERAL : After this long and solid session, I am sure that you do not want to hear a long and elaborate speech from me. And I do not propose to make one. I think that the results of the session speak for themselves. But I can assure you that I have duly noted and am very grateful for the support I have received, both for the Organization and personally.

There are, of course, a few loose ends for the next Council to tie up, and in any case, final decisions on important questions have to be taken by the Conference.

Perhaps the term "loose ends" is too much of an understatement to describe financial issues which involve our financial friends in the capitals of your countries. On the other hand, I hope that unnecessary emphasis on the technicalities of financial procedures will not be allowed to obscure the essentially simple, logical and equitable character of the issues. I stress the word equitable since it applied not only to the proposals, but also to their effects on all member governments.

To those who had strong instructions and have faithfully followed them but who have found themselves in a minority, I would stress that we have not had a Council in which the great majority has simply imposed its voting strength on the minority. This is not FAO's way.

There has been throughout a respect for the merits of the arguments and a wish to try and achieve consensus. The desire to achieve consensus sometimes tends to produce long and heated debates in drafting committees, but in the end we were able to come out with something which is a respectable basis on which delegations can explain events in the Council when they return home.

I wish to take this opportunity to thank Ambassador Wadda for the splendid work he has achieved, together with the members of his committee, under very difficult circumstances. We know that the task of Rapporteur is a very difficult and delicate one, but it seems to me that Ambassador Wadda is becoming especially experienced in this field, since I know he has served recently as Rapporteur at a very important international conference, just before coming to Rome.

I very much hope, therefore, that all delegations will be able to return to the Council and Conference in November not only with full instructions, but also with positive positions: on that basis we should be able to have fruitful discussions and clear decisions, reflecting at least a consensus, if not unanimity. I will certainly do what I can to facilitate this.

I have been speaking mainly of financial issues. There are other issues where the dividing line between countries is not so obvious. They are certainly not issues where one can make facile distinctions between developed and developing, rich and poor. I have in mind, for example, the problems which might arise in persuading the possibly crucial sessions of ECOSOC and other bodies concerned with the UN system, to recognize the unique contribution which the Specialized Agencies can make as development agencies in their own right, to the efforts of the UN system as a whole, to assist countries in their never-ending struggle for progress.

As we go forward into the long, hot summer and autumn, I will feel encouraged and sustained by you. We will meet again in November. Until then, I thank you warmly on behalf of the Secretariat and myself, for your outstanding work on many important issues in this Council, in faithful discharge of the trust which your governments have placed in you, and with great understanding for, and sympathy with the ideals and aims for which the Organization stands.

I would also like to thank the Chairman who has presided most successfully over your debates with his customary skill and even, at times, with touches of humour which have eased your path. I wish him a safe journey and those of you who are not going to Manila a safe and happy return to your homes.

Arrivederci a Roma.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

EL PRESIDENTE: Señoras y señores: Al llegar al final de nuestro Período de Sesiones me siento sinceramente muy conmovido por las generosas palabras de Vds. y del Sr. Director General.

Durante las dos últimas semanas los he oído a todos Vds. con mucha paciencia; ahora les ruego que me permitan a mí decir unas pocas palabras y para ser consecuente me atenderé al límite de cinco minutos.

Quiero agradecer muy de veras a los dos Vicepresidentes y a todos los miembros del Consejo la eficaz colaboración que me ofrecieron para terminar antes del tiempo previsto y con excelente rendimiento el período de sesiones del Consejo que concluye esta mañana. Mil y mil gracias a los Sres. Dr. Phillips, Presidente del Comité del Programa; S. Ahmed, Presidente titular del Comité de Finanzas; al Embajador Borin, Presidente del CACJ; al Sr. Bel Hadj Amor, Presidente en Ejercicio del Comité de Finanzas; al Sr. Velay, Presidente en Ejercicio del Grupo de Trabajo y a los Embajadores Magombe de Tanzania y Samanez Concha del Perú, Presidente del CPPB y del COAJ, respectivamente, por las adecuadas y objetivas presentaciones que hicieron de los Informes de sus Comités.

La magnífica tarea cumplida por el Sr. Embajador Wadda y sus compañeros del Comité de Redacción ha sido ya destacada por todos los oradores que intervinieron antes; yo quiero asociarme a ese reconocimiento.

Como lo dijo el Sr. Director General, en esta ocasión el Comité de Redacción tuvo una función particularmente excepcional al lograr acuerdos y compromisos que facilitaron la discusión del Proyecto de Informe en el seno del Consejo. Mil gracias Sr. Embajador Wadda y sus colegas.

Gracias a Vd., Dr. Saouma, Director General y a todos sus colaboradores por el apoyo que me ofrecieron para el buen funcionamiento del Consejo. Permítame, en particular, que exprese mi agradecimiento a los colegas de la Secretaría que ocupan puestos a mi izquierda, Sres. De Caprona, Secretario General de la Conferencia y del Consejo; Tedesco, Secretario General Adjunto; Solé Leris, Secretario General del Comité de Redacción; Linley, y Burroughs y a todos a quienes yo también desearía mencionar si no me hiciera muy largo porque sé que todos ellos aportan benéficas contribuciones por su trabajo silencioso y discreto; a las secretarías, los intérpretes, los traductores, las mensajeras y todos los que de una u otra forma son la base de nuestras actividades.

Personalmente me declaro muy satisfecho. Este ha sido un buen Consejo. Nos reunimos aquí para intercambiar opiniones en nuestra función de asesorar al Director General. Esta vez no hubo debates excitantes ni agudas controversias; sin embargo, las opiniones de unos y otros miembros del Consejo se expresaron libre y francamente a través del normal procedimiento democrático en plena cooperación, sin confrontaciones, inspirados todos en el deseo de apoyar al Director General para que la FAO trabaje cada vez mejor en favor de todos los Estados miembros.

De ese intercambio de puntos de vista ha surgido el informe cuya aprobación adoptamos hoy; Informe que será instrumento útil para que Vd., Sr. Director General, interprete y trate de dar cumplimiento, en la medida de lo posible, a la voluntad de los representantes de los Gobiernos de los Estados miembros.

En cuanto a Vds., como miembros del Consejo, sinceramente creo que pueden sentirse muy satisfechos. Han cumplido a cabalidad la tarea que les corresponde. A quienes regresen a sus países, muy feliz viaje, con todos mis mejores deseos por el progreso de sus Estados, el bienestar de sus pueblos y porque al retornar encuentren bien y felices a los miembros de sus familias. A todos Vds., queridos colegas y amigos, la reiteración de mi agradecimiento, incluidos los amigos observadores de Guinea y Malta, colegas y amigos Fofana y Moskovits.

Si en alguna de mis actuaciones o presentaciones de los resúmenes fui injusto o me equivoqué, lo hice de buena fe; trato siempre de actuar exclusivamente en función de lo que Vds. piensan y dicen; esa será mi inflexible línea de conducta hasta cuando los acompañe desde este sitio en noviembre próximo inmediatamente antes de la Conferencia, en que espero verlos a todos Vds.

Sr. Director General, con sincera honestidad yo quiero reconocer que, además de la cooperación de mis colegas del Consejo, el buen éxito de nuestras reuniones se debe a la forma inteligente, eficaz y constructiva como Vd., Dr. Saouma y sus colaboradores, me asisten en todos los momentos. Personalmente estoy muy feliz porque el Consejo, en forma general y bastante unánime, haya aprobado sus propuestas; así Vd. sentirá una vez más que detrás de la acción dinámica, positiva y constructiva que realiza como Director General, cuenta con el apoyo de los representantes de los Gobiernos de los Estados Miembros. Permítame que me levante y que en nombre de todos los miembros del Consejo le dé la mano para felicitarle.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

Gracias de nuevo y hasta noviembre próximo.

The meeting rose at 11.10 hours

La séance est levée à 11 h 10

Se levanta la sesión a las 11.10 horas